



# Lawrence Historical Society

P.O. Box 6025, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

SPRING NEWSLETTER.... 1994

## Christmas At Port Mercer

The house was beautifully decorated to greet one and all who came to enjoy the holiday season with us. Bill Manning successfully sold beautiful Christmas trees, wreaths, maple syrup, etc. that he brought from Vermont. Many of us enjoyed an added specialness to our holiday season because of Bill. The Board of Trustees is most appreciative to all who helped assure the success of our "Christmas at Port Mercer."

## Annual Meeting

Due to poor weather, the annual meeting was postponed. Our guest speaker, Dr. Guthrie, will be rescheduled for another time. The Board of Trustees for 1994 is as follows:

President	Robert Glover
Vice President	Nicholas Loveless
Treasurer	Milton Levin
Asst. Sec. & Treas.	David Kimzey
Trustees (1 Year):	Ruth Barringer
	Kevin Connell
	Denise Hall
	Frances McCarthy

There are several vacancies on the Board at this time. If anyone is interested in serving for the balance of 1994, contact Bob Glover (evening) 609-987-8196.

## Hill House

Denise Hall undertook the project of trying to find someone interested in saving the Hill House. Joe Pintinalli purchased the property and was unsuccessful in pursuing rehabilitation of the house for a commercial purpose. The building was too far gone to make it financially feasible. Denise and Frances checked to see if the house could be moved to Port Mercer. Only conceptual plans have been presented, to date, by the developer of houses at Port Mercer. Limited open space is available due to wetlands. In the event existing structures need to be relocated, priority must be given to houses already in Port Mercer. In view of all this, the project to move the Hill House to Port Mercer has been dropped. Moving the house to the Brearley tract was also rejected as total effort must be given to the Brearley House at that site. Joe Pintinalli, Denise Hall and Frances McCarthy have worked closely with the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee to save the house from demolition. Alison Roth, handling public relations for the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee successfully attracted several interested parties. May 11th is the deadline to receive information from interested people willing to move the house and restore it. At this time of writing, three inquiries have been received. The most qualified person will become the new owner of the Hill House.

## Hill House Update

A successful conclusion was reached at the May 11th meeting of the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. Jim Male, a New York City landscape artist, will be the proud new owner of the 19th century Hill House. The house will be moved to a 100 acre fruit farm in the heart of New York's rural Hudson Valley. The farm in Columbia County, New York, is situated on the original Livingston Grant and is within the designated view shed of the Olana Scenic district. Olana is the 19th century home of landscape painter, Frederick Church, and is a National Historic Landmark. Mr. Male has been searching for three years for a suitable house to accompany a massive barn on his property. The Hill House will be restored to be used as Mr. Male's home. His goal is to have the property looking like the 19th century as if the house had always been there. Needless to say, Denise and Frances, as well as Joe Pintinalli, the current owner, are tickled pink at the successful conclusion to this project!

## Painting Project

Maintenance Committee members, David, Denise and Frances report that it is time to paint the Canal House, repair the foundation with the finishing touch being the installation of new shutters. The house has the distinction of being the first historic house to be restored in Lawrence Township to serve the public. Members can be very proud of many accomplishments undertaken by the Society but we can't afford to rest on our laurels! We need help financially. Every dollar counts. Can you help?

When I was a little girl my Mother at times would say,

"Helene and Jo sitting on a fence,  
Trying to make a dollar out of ninety-nine  
cents."

Helene is my older sister and I, Frances, am Jo. Jo is my family nickname. Anyone brought up in the depression era knows that every penny counts. Every dollar will count towards the painting project. We hope to undertake this in the Fall of 1994. Just around the corner!

## Sunday Afternoon By the Canal

Circle your calendar for Sunday, June 12th, from 1-4 p.m. The house and garden will be open for tour. Join the fun in making homemade ice cream. Refreshments will be served. Syd, our Mercer County parrot, enjoyed herself so much last year, she will return for an encore. The Broom Squire will demonstrate broom making as well as sell them. The Howell Living History Farm will demonstrate corn threshing. Lois Richard and Evelyn Cranstoun will demonstrate lap quilting. If interested in canoeing the canal, contact the Township Recreation Department. Canoeing the canal is an annual event planned by the Cultural and Heritage Committee. Bring family and friends to enjoy an old fashioned Sunday afternoon by the canal.

## Membership

A reminder to those who have not sent their dues for 1994. It would be appreciated if you would take the time to do so today. If a two-year lapse in membership occurs, your name is removed from our mailing list.

## Remember Us

Thanks to the late Ethel Dettman, the public can enjoy her family furnishings which are appropriate for the canal house. Her family carried out her last wishes that her things be enjoyed by others. Remembering your local historical society in your will helps to maintain the importance of a local organization which serves the community in preserving its history. Articles appropriate to the house are appreciated. Money never goes out of style!

## Docent Committee

David Kimzey will take over the Docent Committee as Chairperson. This committee was formed to be able to contact people interested in helping out at our two annual open houses. Anyone interested, contact David (caretaker of the house) weekends at 609-243-9108.

## It's Time to Say Goodbye

Frances, Denise and her husband, Ron, are moving to Nantucket. Frances has been a charter member since the Society was organized in November, 1974. She served as Vice President for eight years. Denise followed as President for seven years. Both want to thank one and all for the loyal support given through the years to assure growth of the Society. Accomplishments have been many and very rewarding. Nantucket offers new opportunities to pursue other goals and develop their artistic talents. Twenty-six miles of ocean provides a natural barrier against development. Nantucket offers a slow paced life - the island doesn't even have a traffic light!

State Commission  
Honors Society's  
Leaders

The Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission honored former Society Presidents, Frances McCarthy and Denise Hall at its May meeting. Commission Executive Director, James Amon, recognized Frances and Denise for their long term leadership of the Society's efforts to restore and enhance the Port Mercer Bridge Tender's House, a New Jersey and national historic landmark structure which serves as the Society's headquarters. Commission Chairman, Benjamin Kirkland presented Frances and Denise with Certificates of Appreciation to acknowledge their achievements in building restoration, interior improvements as well as the addition of the gardens and outhouse.