

1996

# Lawrence Historical Society

Formed November 28, 1975  
Incorporated June 15, 1976

P.O. Box 6025 - Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, from 1-4 PM at the Canal House. Traditional wassail and cookies will be served, and gift items will be available for sale. Gingerbread people will be sold, and can be decorated. The house will be decorated for the holidays and will look festive.

ANTIQUÉ FURNITURE on loan is displayed on the first floor. Be sure to take note when you come to the Holiday Open House.

BREARLEY HOUSE The Board of Trustees reported to you that Town Council on April 17, 1996, unanimously passed a Resolution stating that if the Lawrence Historical Society would raise a total of \$175,000 by the end of 1996, Town Council would apply for a matching grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust to secure the necessary funding to restore the 1761 Brearley House.

There has been much activity of the Fund Raising Committee to raise funds:

- \* An appeal letter was sent widely throughout the Township and immediate surrounding areas, and the response has been encouraging.

- \* A talk about the project to the Colonial Heights Civic Association.

- \* Slide show regarding the Brearleys and the House were given by Mary Tanner to the Rotarians, 3 Senior Citizens Clubs, and the Sons of Colonial Wars.

- \* Guided public tours of the Brearley House were given in July, August, September, October and November, and the last one this year will be Saturday, December 7, at 10 AM. Dress warmly. The number of people attending has increased each time, and some Brearleys have come.

- \* GIFTS IN MEMORY OF GRETEL GATTERDAM, former Lawrence Mayor and Councilwoman have been received since her untimely death in July, and these have been dedicated to the front door and front hallway of the Brearley House where, we're sure, she would have been a gracious hostess. Gretel cared deeply about restoring the Brearley House and creating a trail on the property. She regularly came to Society functions, Open Houses and Annual Meetings, and her enthusiasm and support will be missed. Her family requested memorial donations in her name be given to the restoration fund.

- \* A table at Terhune's Apple Day allowed displays, and brochures about the project were handed out. Copies of an original sketch of the Brearley House were given to children to color.

- \* A table at Community Day provided the opportunity to distribute literature and talk about the project.

- \* A member of the Fund Raising Committee, Candice Brearley, contacted Brearley listed in telephone books across the country asking for donations and/or furnishings. The response has been good, and two have sent family geneological charts showing their ancestors as descended from the Brearley who erected the 1761 Brearley House.

- \* Candice was interviewed on cable in September, and this ran for several times.

\* A grant from the National Recreational Trails Funding Act, to be added to by the Township, will ensure the trail from the Brearley property across the Shipetaukin Creek to the towpath of the D & R Canal State Park. This will be enjoyed by many: birders, hikers, naturalists, botanists, school students studying ecology, and other uses. A pedestrian bridge will span the Shipetaukin Creek. This was a concept of the late Gretel Gatterdam.

\* Halloween Cemetery Tour of the 3 Lawrence cemeteries with guides for each was sold-out, and several cars followed the donated bus as the tour went from one place to the other. Afterward the group had cider and doughnuts at the Presbyterian Church in Lawrenceville.

\* Twilight at the Theophilus Phillips House on November 17 was the setting for the major fund raising effort. The present owners, Bob and Vicki Trainer, were a gracious host and hostess, the food was from Acacia in Lawrenceville, period flute music was provided, and antiques for sale were provided by the Gilded Lion. It was socially and financially a most successful evening.

\* A \$10,000 advance from the restoration funds, together with Township funds, provided for an archeological dig at the 1761 Brearley House, and the foundation of an outdoor kitchen was discovered. Three school classes came and participated in the dig, and many adults came to see what was discovered.

\* The second designed T-shirt is available for sale to raise funds. T-shirts will be available on December 8 at the Canal House or by calling Colette Coolbaugh at 771-0711.

GOOD NEWS - To date the many efforts have resulted in raising a total of \$114,000. But the end of the year is approaching all too fast.

HOW YOU CAN HELP- DONATIONS ARE NEEDED - AND/OR A PLEDGE FOR 1997 - Do you know someone in a corporation or foundation that the Fund Raising Committee can contact? The slide show of the Brearleys and the Brearley House is available for programs. Call Mary Tanner at 921-8696. Would you volunteer to help? Do you have experience in fund raising that you can share with the committee? Call Ruth Barringer at 883-3462.

TAKING CARE OF A 160+ OLD CANAL HOUSE requires diligence and money. Over last winter and spring it was necessary to spray for termites - and then repair the damage in the downstairs back kitchen floor. This fall it was necessary to replace front porch railings and base of posts due to rotten wood. There never seems to be an end of work necessary to maintain an old house.

THE SOCIETY LOST ANOTHER GOOD FRIEND. Iona Fackler Myers, co-founder of the Historical Society, died in November. She was always a loyal and interested life member and came to Society events. In October she was photographed as she presented a \$1,000 donation from the North Lawrence Citizens Association, another group she co-founded. Her family requested that donations can be made in her name and sent to the Society. She was proud of the restoration of the Canal House in which she worked, and she endorsed the restoration of the 1761 Brearley House.

ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY AWARD this year was awarded to Mona Girotra. Congratulations!

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1996

TIME: 1 - 4 PM

WHERE: CANAL HOUSE, PORT MERCER

FREE ADMISSION

Location of five original pen and ink sketches by the late Harry Pratt donated by his daughter, Ruth Pratt Fenner

Antiques on loan for display

Holiday and gift items for sale

1761 Brealey House T-shirts for sale in adult and children sizes

Gingerbread men for custom decorating available for sale

Exhibit of donations to museum of Lawrence Historical Society

Wassail Bowl

Holiday Cookies