

Places In Time

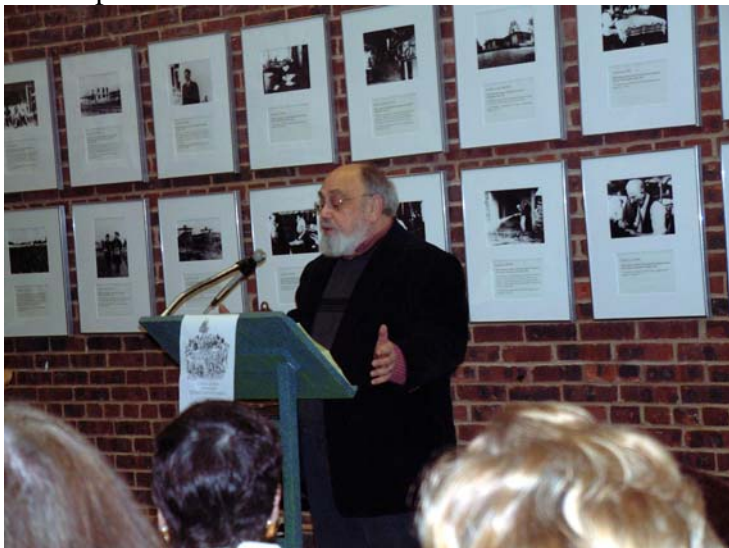
LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter Issue 2006

Annual Membership Meeting to be Held Sunday, February 26th, 2005 at 2 PM

The Lawrence Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, February 26th in the lower meeting room of the Lawrence Municipal Building. History will be made as well as celebrated. Arthur Shapiro (pictured below) will be the featured speaker and discuss the history of Borough of Roosevelt in Monmouth County.

Exactly how old is the Lawrence Historical Society? Accounts differ. Just as it is hard to pin down exactly when Shakespeare was born (we have only the date he was baptized), so it is difficult to name one date for the founding of the Lawrence Historical Society. On November 18, 1975, Winona Nash and Iona Fackler invited their fellow citizens to form a group to preserve the D & R Canal, the Princessville Inn, and other Lawrence sites. One month later, there were 104 dues paying members. The Society was incorporated as a 501c(3) non-profit on either March 15, 1976 or June 16 1976, depending on whose records one consults. At any rate, the Board of Trustees has decided to celebrate our 30th birthday in February 2006 at our Annual Meeting. The slate of Board nominees for 2006 can be found on page 2. Come sing "Happy Birthday" and have a piece of cake!



LHS President Janet Bickal (left) recognizes fellow Board members (left to right) Eleanor Horne, Ruth Barringer, Chantal McCarroll and past Board member Mary Tanner at the Dollars for Scholars Program

On November 18th, Lawrence Historical Society was recognized by Dollars for Scholars for its programs involving students of Lawrence Public Schools. Several Board members attended and received a Certificate of Appreciation and an engraved clock. For seven years LHS cooperated with the Middle School for the archeological program at the Brearley House site for 8th grade students. Hunter Research provided the professional supervision, and the Society provided volunteers to work with the students, docents to give a tour of the 1761 Brearley House for the students, and provided monetary assistance.

In addition, members of the Society, in period dress, have visited 2nd grade students at the elementary schools to interpret life in 1761 for girls and boys their age. Members of the Board have met with school administration and supervisors to provide assistance with various programs for students. This included being in the planning of the new high school credit course, Our History Ourselves. The Society continues to involve itself in programs for school students.

Brearley Archeology Project On Hold While Being Reviewed

Since the late 1990s, all the eighth graders of Lawrence Middle School have visited the Brearley House to work on an archeology project supervised by professional archeologists from Hunter Research, Inc. In the early years of the project, the students dug exploratory holes and, later, larger squares, in which they found thousands of artifacts dating from colonial to prehistoric times. More recently, the students worked in groups to clean, examine, label, and record the artifacts found in the digs, just as the professionals do. All students received tours of the 1761 Brearley House when they visited the site.

In the fall of 2005, the project was put on hold while teachers and administrators from the middle school evaluated the educational results of the project. Members of the LHS board and Hunter Research met with the middle school's new principal, Andrew Zuckerman, in December to discuss the archeology project's benefits and how to proceed. Mr. Zuckerman is now in the process of working with his staff to reach consensus on how the school can use the project to meet its educational goals.

Board Members Nominated...

The LHS Nominating Committee has submitted the name of the following to serve on the Board of Directors for 2006.

William Agress	Carolyn Kozlowski
Ruth Barringer	Thomas Ledwith
Janet Bickal	Laura Nawrocik
Bruce Bitcover	Chantal McCarroll
Paul Gatterdam	Dan Oberst
Richard Graja	Karen Perkins
John Halvorsen	Robert Smit
Jacqueline Haun	James Washburn
Eleanor Horne	James Williams

A formal vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting.

Tours of the Brearley House are offered on the first Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon. The Port Mercer Canal House is also available for tours. Call Vicki Chirco at 609-924-5705 for more information. The LHS is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to get involved with the Society, please call 609-896-0782.



Author Tom Kindre talks about the *Boys from New Jersey* at the 2nd Mary Tanner Lecture Series last fall.



Margaret Gordon attended Santa's Workshop on Dec 3rd at the Brearley House.

About the Annual Meeting Speaker... Arthur Shapiro, Ed.D, has been a special educator on local, county, and state levels for over forty years. He currently holds Full Professor Emeritus at Kean University and is an adjunct faculty member at Rutgers University. Shapiro received his BA from Rider University, MA from The College of New Jersey, and Doctorate from Rutgers University. He began his career as a teacher in the Roosevelt and East Windsor School systems. He will be the featured speaker at the 30th Membership meeting of the Lawrence Historical Society on February 26th.

Places in Time is the official newsletter of the Lawrence Historical Society. It is published twice a year. Contributors to this issue: Chris Lahoda, Janet Bickal, Jim Williams, Ruth Barringer and Paul Gatterdam.

The official website of the LHS is www.TheLHS.org. Dan Oberst is the LHS webmaster.

Hogmanay—Blazing the Way to a New Year!

On a dreary New Years Eve, over 300 folk of all ages, made the pilgrimage to the Great Meadow in Lawrence to witness the ancient rite of Hogmanay. The expectant multitude gathered in the moor like ambience around the teepee of wood plankings and other assorted burnables created by Firemaster Logan and his able assistant Tom Ledwith. As the edifice was lit and flames quickly reached skyward in streaks of reddish-orange hues, the revelers gasped in delight and soon many of the small “fry” were merrily encircling the ring of fire. Graham Kronk appropriately costumed with bagpipe in hand, filled the damp air with the distinctively haunting drone-like sounds of the instrument, offering up traditional Scottish songs including “Auld Lang Syne”.

Young and old would occasionally fling “forget it notes” into the evolving inferno causing startling popping and cracking noises. As the fiery tinder subsided, many of the slightly toasted viewers ambled over to the 1761 Brearley House, while others remained, faces framed by the glow of the ebbing embers, perhaps just enjoying the solitude of the moment or privately reflecting on thoughts of the year nearing its final hours. Inside, the historic house, some merrymakers were provided tours of the rooms while others sipped hot chocolate and cider and sampled scrumptious edibles. In the background could be heard the catchy sounds of folk music and familiar tunes provided by piper Graham Kronk turned fiddler.



Gratitude to the following members and friends who made possible the pre-New Year celebration: Martha Logan, Chantal and Bill McCarroll, Carolyn Kozlowski, Jean Wardle Janet Bickal, Bill and Marge Thomas, Laura Nawrocik, Jim Williams, Mike Milewski, Dan Oberst, Paul Gatterdam and fire masters Joe Logan and Tom Ledwith.

LHS Receives LCF Grant

The Society recently received a \$2,000 grant from the Lawrence Community Foundation for an upcoming oral history project on the Lewisville section of town. The funds will pay for videotaped interviews of residents and those tapes will be transcribed to provide a written companion text. The Lewisville area of town has been selected because it is one of the oldest settlements in the township and because of its rich African-American history. According to an article written by Winona Nash for the book *Celebrating 300 Years*, Lewisville attracted many African-Americans seeking jobs at the Lawrenceville School and may also have been a Native-American settlement area. The Society is considering embarking on more oral history projects in the future.

PNC and the Princeton Area Community Foundation Continue to Support LHS

Once again, the PNC Bank in Lawrenceville, through the Princeton Area Community Foundation, has generously donated \$1,000 to the LHS for general operating purposes. Our thanks to Lawrence Township Branch Manager Terese Fernandez for her encouraging support of the Society and the archeological project in particular.



William Shakespeare the 15th (left) and William Shakespeare the 16th were guests at a recent wedding at the Brearley House... and YES they are related to the author by the same name.

Join the Lawrence Historical Society!

Join the society today or renew your membership! Members receive the society newsletter, and notice and discounts of society events. The society is a non-profit, charitable organization.

Name _____ Tel (____) _____

Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Is this a renewal? _____

- Student \$5
- Family \$35
- Lifetime \$250
- Senior \$5
- Patron \$50
- Business \$50
- Individual \$15
- Benefactor \$500

Mail to:
Lawrence Historical Society
PO Box 6025
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

I am enclosing a special contribution to commemorate _____

Birthday and anniversary cards can be sent if you supply us with an address.

2006 Calendar of Events

Sunday, Feb. 26th Annual Meeting 2 pm
Lawrence Municipal Building

Saturday, May 6th May Fair 10 am-3 pm
Great Meadow

Sunday, June 11th Garden Party 1-4 pm
Port Mercer Canal House

Sunday, Oct. 8th Mary Tanner Lecture
Speaker: Rear Admiral Paul Tobin
2 pm Location: To Be Announced

The Lawrence Historical Society will jump aboard this year's township celebration of the 225th birthday of our namesake, Captain James Lawrence, at the third **Mary Tanner Lecture**.

On **Sunday, October 8th**, Rear Admiral Paul Tobin, of the Navy Historical Center in Washington, DC, will speak on the role of the man who gave the US Navy its slogan, "Don't Give up the Ship."

The Lawrence Historical Society
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