

Places In Time

LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2003

LHS Annual Meeting

Bickal Elected, Williams Honored

The annual meeting of the Lawrence Historical Society was held on Sunday afternoon February 9th, 2003 in Lawrence Township Hall.

President Paul Gatterdam welcomed fifty members and guests and gave a brief review of LHS activities for the year. He reported on the LHS's most popular events including "Christmas at the Brearley House" and "Hogmanay". Other events included participation in the Main Street Jubilee, Community Day, Canoe the Canal Day and Port Mercer Canal House tours and continuation of archeological digs for 8th graders in Lawrence Township.



Past-President Paul Gatterdam and Incoming President Janet Bickal

The President estimated that 1,400 visitors had toured the Brearley House in the past year (2002) and that 3,800 have visited since May of 2000. The Brearley House continues to be open on the first Saturday of every month from 10 AM until 12 noon. He also noted that two weddings were held in the Great Meadow in 2002 and that a 300 attendee corporate picnic was also held on the site.

Several individuals received recognition including long standing Board Member Mary Tanner. Ms. Tanner was published in New Jersey Heritage Magazine. The article featured Joseph Brearley and the campaign to conquer to Canada in 1776. Mr. Gatterdam also thanked Greg Whitehead of Lawrence Township and his staff for continued cooperation. (continued on p.6)



Lawrence Township Public Works Commended...

Since the Brearley House was officially rededicated in May of 2000, employees of the Lawrence Township Public Works Department have been assigned a variety of grounds keeping responsibilities. Under the direction of Greg Whitehead and Joe Longo, six acres of the Great Meadow are manicured by Public Works staff from spring to fall.

LHS Past-President Paul Gatterdam commended the efforts of the Township at the Society's recent annual meeting. Noted physical improvements to the grounds include a new Brearley House sign installed at the "V" between Meadow Road and Princeton Pike. A similar sign has been installed at the Port Mercer Canal House. Steve Groger and Ziggy Zigarski were instrumental in the construction and design of both signs.

Another improvement was the installation of an early 20th century lamp post in the rear yard by the Brearley parking area. The lamp was installed using underground conduit. Joe Silwinski and Kevin Johnson were responsible for installation. Similar lampposts are located at the new Township Hall.

The Lawrence Historical Society wishes to publicly acknowledge Department of Public Works for their level of commitment to keeping the Great Meadow and the Brearley House proud Township icons.

2003 Calendar of Events:

Saturday, June 15th **Canoe the Canal Day**
Complimented by the Garden Party at the Port Mercer Canal House (1-4 PM). Free ice cream and music

Sunday, June 22nd "Road to Monmouth"
picnic in Lambertville

Saturday, June 28th **Road to Monmouth Bus Tour** leaves at 10 AM from the Lawrence Shopping Center (near Burlington Coat Factory). Return by 6 PM

Saturday, July 5th Tour of
10 AM-12 Noon Brearley House

Saturday, August 2nd **Tour of the Port Mercer Canal House** 9:30 AM. (Meet at the Canal House followed by a tour and a walk to the Brearley House). Tour of the Brearley House 10 AM until 12 noon.

Saturday, September 6th Tour of
10 AM-12 Noon Brearley House

Saturday, October 4th Tour of
10 AM-12 Noon Brearley House

Sunday, October 5th Lawrence Township
Community Day

Saturday, November 1st Tour of
10 AM-12 Noon Brearley House

Saturday, December 6th Tour of
10 AM-12 Noon Brearley House

Sunday, December 7th **Christmas at the Brearley House**
2 PM-5 PM
Enjoy pre-holiday activities all afternoon.

Wednesday, December 31 **Hogmanay:**
6 PM New Year's Eve Bonfire at The Great Meadow by the Brearley House.

On The Inside...

The Year in Pictures.....p. 4

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Battle of Monmouth
Bus Tour Registration..... p. 7

May Fair Draws Crowd to Meadow...

On Saturday, May 3rd, the Lawrence Historical Society held its first annual May Fair Celebration in the Great Meadow. The free, family-centered celebration of spring featured entertainment and activities typical of the eighteenth century. Over the course of the day, approximately 250 people participated in events, enjoyed performances and toured the Brearley House.



At ten in the morning, Mayor Greg Puliti opened the festivities. Five year old Daisy Girl Scouts of troop 1527 and Junior Girl Scouts of Troop 1071, both led by Holly Goldberg, danced around the Maypole, their performance choreographed by LHS Board Member Caryn Goldenberg. Then the first of three performances of Punch and Judy puppet show took place to a delighted crowd of all ages. At 10:30, members of the staff of Trent House lead children in 18th century games.



At 11, a live pony carousel stepped into motion for the next three hours. Many children were able to enjoy multiple rides atop four well-mannered ponies. At 12:30 the Lawrence Repertory Theater performed "Johnny Appleseed", directed by Leona Mafei.

At 1:30, the Millstone River Morris Dancers (below), led by Curtis Hoberman, did their ancient celebratory dances.



For most of the afternoon, archeologists from Hunter Research conducted a demonstration dig. The afternoon was capped with a presentation by Pennsylvania rifleman Paul Donahue who demonstrated his weapon and its' use.

During the day, the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church Quilters, the Princeton Weavers Guild, silhouette cutter Ruth Grabner, felt maker Sandy Mellblom, and plant crafter Marie Saladarini demonstrated their skills inside the Brearley House. Girl Scouts sold snacks and beverages throughout the day. Docents in period dress greeted everyone as the Brearley House also celebrated the third anniversary of its restoration.

Hunter Research spent 6 hours at the Great Meadow dig site (pictured right) during May Fair after spending the week with 8th graders from Lawrence Junior High School.

Funding for the May Fair event was generously provided by Cine-Merion Productions, Borden Perlman Insurance, Dr. Bruce Bitcover, Bossio's Deli, Candela's Restaurant & Pizzeria, Doerler Landscapes, Inc., Four Star Video, Groendyke Associates, Growthquest Management, Lawrenceville Fuel, McGrath Pharmacy, Richards Hair and Beauty, Synergy Express Center, Terhune Orchards, Varsity Pizza & Subs, Vecere Jewelers, Village Barber Shop, Willis Greenhouse, Dr. Denise Wilson and several anonymous donors.

Visit www.TheLHS.org, the Lawrence Historical Society's state of the art website. The award winning "Lawrence's Georgian Gem" can be viewed via high speed internet access.

Eighth Grade Spring Digs...

David Mason, Chair of the History Department for Lawrence Township Public Schools and Nancy Pitcher, Principal of the Middle School, displayed and explained selected artifacts from the "Brearley Digs" this past April. Items included fire cracked rocks and projectile points used by the Lenni Lenape Indians. Bits and pieces of useful items from the 18th and 19th centuries were also displayed, including a milk pan, slate pencil, English porcelain, Chinese porcelain, a marble, button, a coin from the reign of George the Second, tobacco pipe stems and a pipe bowl with the initials of the London manufacturer.



Historic Documents Requested...

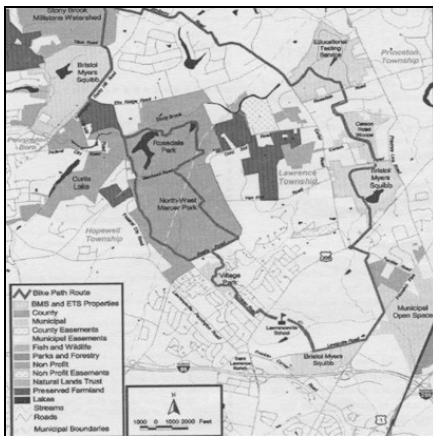
The Lawrence Historical Society is seeking photographs, documents and other materials pertaining to the Brearley House, Port Mercer Canal House or other historic structures or events within Lawrence Township.

The Society is seeking to assemble items for a Historic Photograph—Document Album. Items furnished for this project will be copied/scanned and returned to the individual.

Please contact the Society at 609-895-1728 if you have materials for consideration.

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS SURROUND GREAT MEADOW...

The Lawrence-Hopewell Trail, a proposed twenty mile path that will loop through Lawrence and Hopewell Townships. The Trail will be constructed on both public and private land and brush against Meadow Road. It will allow cyclists to come down Lewisville Road (slated for major improvements in 2004) or up Princeton Pike and access the Great Meadow-Brearley Trail which connects to the D&R Canal.



This new link will be ideal for mountain bikers from the region. LHS Board Member Eleanor Horne is credited with helping make the trail concept a reality.

In addition, NJDOT work has begun on the pedestrian overpass on US 1, just west of the 295/95/US1 intersection that will allow safe crossing to both walkers and bikers.



The overpass eliminates the need to hop over middle-of-the-road barriers or a walk/ride down the shoulder of US1 until you can cross at Franklin Corner Road (always challenging). The pedestrian bridge will allow D&R canalers to proceed all the way to Olden Avenue in Trenton along the towpath.

BREARLEY'S GARDEN MASTER

Good news for the kitchen garden in back of the Brearley House! Historical Society member Mary Louise Hartman, a Master Gardener, has volunteered to rescue the garden. The 18th century style beds were created several years ago by Eagle Scout Paul Nicholas with lots of assistance from his fellow Scouts from Troop 28. Mary Louise completed the rigorous training to qualify as a Master Gardener, and she has generously offered her expertise and her labor, but she really needs helpers. Her first priorities are to clean up the beds and to lay out a composting site. Anyone willing to lend a hand, please call the Society number, 895-1728, and Mary Louise will get the message.

Lawrence Historic Properties Featured

WZBN—Channel 25 produces and broadcasts a weekly programming segment called "A Moment in Time" for their Monday newscast. This winter, the Port Mercer Canal House was featured. LHS Treasurer and Past President, Ruth Barringer, gave an excellent on camera presentation which featured stories of former bridge tenders and previous residents. She also highlighted recent improvements to the grounds and the structure thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the State of New Jersey.



Channel 12, a public television station, knocked on the door of the Brearley House at 6 am on a chilly April morning. Within a matter of minutes, crew and broadcasters were set up and three live reports were fed through a satellite equipped truck to the TV 12 morning show. The broadcast was used to promote the black tie (for both pets and peoples) S.A.V.E. May fund raising event. That event was held at the Brearley House on May 10th.

HAMILTON, JEFFERSON ATTEND GATTERDAM GALA

LHS Board members, family and friends of Paul Esch Gatterdam traveled to the "Cock and Bull" restaurant in Lahaska, Pennsylvania to pay tribute to the three term President of the Society.



Dr. Bruce Bitcover served as the "Master of Ceremonies" while incoming President Janet Bickal and former LHS Board Member Joe Logan had kind words for Mr. Gatterdam. Paul obviously enjoyed the setting and the company.

Among the dignitaries invited to the dinner, which featured 18 century bill of fare, were Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Mr. Hamilton had the misfortune of being interrogated by LHS Board Members Tanner and Washburn about his philosophies, policies and personal trials and tribulations.



Alexander Hamilton shares a moment with Martha and Joe Logan

All told, over thirty people, met to celebrate the contributions of an agricultural chemist turned antiquity who will remain on the board.

LHS Retains Events Coordinator...

Former LHS board member Alison Roth has been hired to coordinate the rental of the Brearley House for special events. Questions? Call Alison Roth at 609-530-0953.



The Great Meadow's favorite fiddler and bagpiper, Graham Kronk.



LHS Members gather for the Annual meeting each February.



The Pedestrian Bridge over US 1 will safely join both sides of the D&R Canal. It will open in 2004.



Thomas Jefferson observes as Paul Gatterdam is honored in Lahaska, PA.



Willis Greenhouse has decorated the Brearley House each holiday season



The Pennsylvania Rifleman and James Brearley share a conversation at May Fair



This new lap post illuminates the parking area behind the Brearley House. It was installed by the Lawrence Township Public Works Department.

The
Communicator



Honorable Mention

C. James Williams-Cine Merion Ltd
Lawrence Historical Society

"The Brearley House - Lawrence's Georgian Gem"

LHS Board member Jim Williams was honored for his 2002 production: "Lawrence's Georgian Gem".



James Brearley and his wife on the front porch during May Fair.

**Winona Nash
Lawrence Township Historian 1989-
2002**

(The following is narrative excerpted from a "Tribute to Winona Nash" presented by Mary Tanner to the Lawrence Historical Society membership on February 9, 2003)

Winnie Nash was the very personification of our Township's history, so it is especially appropriate for us here at Lawrence's 306th birthday party to remember her many contributions to the preservation of our historical record.

Lawrence Township Council appointed Winona Nash as Lawrence Historian in January, 1989. The Lawrence Room, which became Winnie's domain, was established at the Mercer County Library on January 30, 1993. The collection was opened to the public on February 28th of that year. Always accurate with records, Winnie notes that she had spent 4, 655.5 hours there.

When she assumed the task, she was confronted with piles of disorganized historical material (which had been saved by the first historian, Bob Immordino). Winnie spent hours sifting through papers, deciding which to save, how to catalog, and securing the acid free receptacles for permanent preservation.

Winnie thought that there should be a map showing the boundaries of the lands owned by the residents of Maidenhead in 1776. When she conceived the plan for the map, she expected to present it to the township on July 4, 1976 as part of the bicentennial. The complex project, undertaken by Winnie and her assistant, Terry Ford, took a year longer. They started from scratch, looking for deeds under the names of settlers who signed a 1703 land-buying agreement. Information was gleaned from deeds, tax records, road surveys and scattered collections of historical materials. When pieces of the puzzle were complete, a historical cartographer volunteered to put the map together. The map shows the locations of farms, their owners, original roads, streams and historic notes. Recently, she was instrumental in compiling, indexing and contributing to

the pictorial history celebrating 300 in Maidenhead and Lawrence.

Winnie believed that the historical record should become available to students and researchers, and she was very helpful to all who came to her for information in the Lawrence Room, which is truly her legacy.

Winnie was creative, practical and a visionary. At her suggestion, the \$50,000 realized from the sale of the Township owned Monroe historic house was applied to the future restoration of the Brearley House.

Numerous town officials have their special memories of working with Winnie—pauper's cemetery, Princeton Pike cemetery, insistence on an accurate Township seal and preservation of the Brearley Oak.

Winnie's service to the community was not limited to Lawrence and its history. She was a member of the D&R Canal Commission, the Mercer County Agricultural Development Board and Township Planning Board.

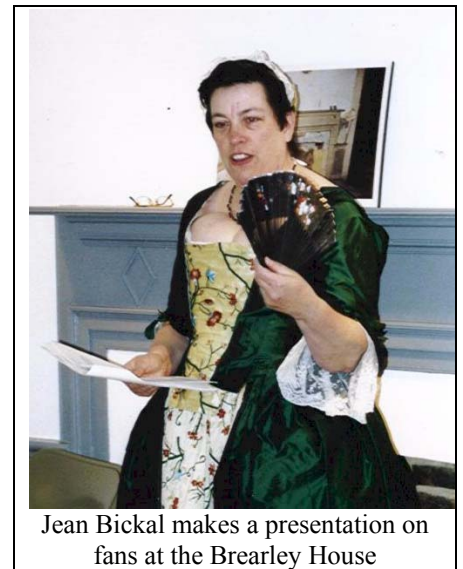
There is much more but these highlights are indicative of the depth and reach of her dedication. For the love of history; for her love of township; we cherish the memory of Winona Nash.



**LHS Board Member Receives
Research and Travel Award...**

This spring, Caryn Goldenberg, a second year LHS Board member, received the Williams Welles (research and travel grant) Award from The Lawrenceville School. In June, for 10 days, Ms. Goldenberg will be in England to further research the Brearley family. She will visit a records office in Liverpool, the College of Arms in London and a few small towns in Yorkshire.

Attercliffe is one of her destinations. It is where the father of Sarah Wood (John Brearley's second wife) lived before coming to the City of Burlington in 1678. Final site selections will be made after initial research in Liverpool. She leaves on June 8th and will be accompanied by her mother.



Jean Bickal makes a presentation on fans at the Brearley House

Places in Time is published twice a year by the Lawrence Historical Society. It is printed courtesy of Educational Testing Service (ETS). Articles were prepared by Mary Tanner, Chris Lahoda, Janet Bickal and Paul Gatterdam. The majority of photographs were taken by Jim Williams and Paul Gatterdam. Dan Oberst is the www.TheLHS.org webmaster. Don Meisel is the editor of *Places in Time*.

Annual Meeting... Continued

Mr. Gatterdam also thanked Eleanor Horne and ETS for their role in having the LHS Newsletter printed, Donald Meisel for editing the newsletter, Karen Perkins for the assistance and cooperation of Photohaven and Dan Oberst for maintaining the www.TheLHS.org website (pictured below).



The President also announced that the LHS has entered into a Professional Services Contract with former board member Alison Roth to promote and manage special events at the Brearley House.

Treasurer Ruth Barringer reported that the LHS had an income of \$22,832.23 and \$13,823.68 in expenses for a net income for the fiscal year ending 12/31/02 of \$9,008.55. She also announced that 2002 membership totaled 219 including 34 new members.

Ms. Janet Bickal formally acknowledged the contributions to the Society of outgoing President Gatterdam. Mr. Gatterdam is completing his third one-year term and will remain on the LHS Board. She presented Paul with a box of imported chocolates and a plaque. Mr. Gatterdam dedicated his years of service to dedicated volunteers that preceded him including wife Gretel and Lawrence Township historian, Winnie Nash.

Mr. Gatterdam called on Board Member Jim Williams to explain the "Honorable Mention" he received from "The Communicator" for his film "The Brearley House—Lawrence's Georgian Gem".

Mr. Williams also received an autographed photo of Finola Hughes of "All My Children", a special invitation to a luncheon hosted by Ms. Hughes

and a \$150 gift check for use at Photohaven given to him by LHS members for Mr. William's many contributions to the Society over the past year.



Nominating Committee Chair Bruce Bitcover presented the Nominating Committee's slate of Officers and Board member nominations. Officer nominations--Janet Bickal as President, Bruce Bitcover as Vice-President, Alice Jones as Secretary and Ruth Barringer as Treasurer. Board members nominations: Bill Agress, Caryn Goldenberg, John Halvorsen, Paul Gatterdam, Eleanor Horne, Chris Lahoda, Donald Meisel, Dan Oberst, Karen Perkins, Frank Spiegle, Jim Washburn and Jim Williams.

Mayor Greg Puliti was introduced and proceeded to swear in LHS Board.

The "Road to Monmouth Partnership" was then introduced. Mr. Richard Walling, President of Friends of Monmouth Battlefield, Mr. John Fabiano, Allentown Town Historian and Charlie Dietrich, Chair of the Kingston Greenway Association made a presentation on the events leading up to the "Battle of Monmouth" in 1777. Mr. Dietrich noted that had the French Navy arrived a week earlier in the summer, Sandy Hook would have become the "Yorktown" of the Revolutionary War. All told, there were over 20,000 troops involved in the battle which lasted over 4 days.

Newly elected President Bickal announced the LHS will be sponsoring a bus trip to the "Battle of Monmouth" on Saturday, June 28th from 10 AM until 6 PM. Members and guests were encouraged to sign up early for the event which has a capacity for 50 people. The tour bus will leave from the Lawrence Shopping Center.

You are invited...

to the June 15th Sunday afternoon Garden Party at the Port Mercer Canal House. In addition to house tours as part of "Canoe the Canal Day", free music and home made ice cream will be served on Father's Day from 1 until 4 PM. A new ice cream maker has been purchase exclusively for this event.



Volunteers Needed

In addition to monthly house tours, there are numerous other activities at the Brearley House. Docents are always needed, especially during special events such as archeological digs, weddings and picnics.

Docent training is available and hours are flexible. Items for resale at the gift shop are always welcome. There is also the need for individuals to help with routine maintenance of the apple orchard and the garden.

Please call 895-1728 if you would like to get involved.





LHS Sponsors Bus Trip to the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth

On Saturday, June 28th, the Battle of Monmouth will be re-enacted at Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Hundreds of re-enactors and thousands of observers will converge on the site to witness the “battle” and enjoy colonial music, crafts, troop encampments, drills and living history. The 1777 engagement involved over 20,000 troops, approximately 10,000 from each side over four days. A definitive winner of the battle has yet to be decided—each side claimed victory. However, had the French Navy and colonial ally arrived during instead of after the encounter, some historians feel that Sandy Hook would have been the “Yorktown” of the revolutionary war.

The Lawrence Historical Society has chartered a bus for the event. It will leave from the Lawrence Shopping Center (near Burlington Coat Factory) promptly at 10 AM for the battle site. There are approximately 50 seats and the cost is \$30 per person for LHS members and \$35 each for non-members. A box lunch is included in this offering—no food or beverages are allowed on the bus. The bus is scheduled to return by 6 PM. Please fill out and sign the form below if you would like to be a participant.

For additional information, call 609-895-1728 (voice mailbox 4) or visit www.TheLHS.org.

----- Clip and Mail -----

Name: _____ Phone: _____ **(Please fill out one lunch request per person)**

Address: _____

Total number of Seats requested: _____ Members @ \$30 ea. _____ Non-Members @ \$35 ea. _____ Total Enclosed

Please make checks out to the Lawrence Historical Society and mail it with your reservation and box lunch selection to: Dr. Bruce Bitcover, 2030 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Choice of Sandwich: _____ Heavenly Ham _____ Smoked Turkey _____ Road Turkey _____ Roast Beef
 _____ Turkey Salad _____ Tuna Salad _____ Chicken Salad _____ Ham Salad

Choice of Bread: _____ French Loaf _____ Croissant _____ Whole Wheat _____ Multi-Grain _____ Rye

With: _____ American cheese _____ Swiss cheese _____ Lettuce _____ Tomato _____ Onion _____ Mayonnaise _____ Gourmet Honey Mustard
 _____ Mustard _____ Pickle on side

Choice of Side: _____ Potato Salad _____ Cole Slaw _____ Macaroni Salad _____ Pasta Salad _____ Pretzels _____ chips

Choice of Dessert: (Cookie or Fruit)
 _____ Chocolate Chip _____ Oatmeal Nut Raisin _____ Heath Bar Crunch _____ Macadamia Chocolate Chunk _____ Peanut Butter or
 (Fruits: _____ Apple _____ Fruit Cup _____ Banana)

Choice of Beverage: _____ Coke _____ Diet Coke _____ Pepsi _____ Diet Pepsi _____ Sprite _____ Diet Sprite _____ Orange
 _____ Ginger Ale _____ Dr. Pepper _____ Cherry Coke _____ Diet Cherry. Coke _____ Root Beer _____ Diet Root Beer _____ H2O

Snapple Flavors: _____ Ice Tea _____ Diet Ice Tea _____ Raspberry Ice Tea _____ Kiwi Strawberry _____ Lemonade _____ Peach Tea



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

The Lawrence Historical Society
P. O. Box 6025
Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648

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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.

The Brearley House Guestbook...

Since Summer 2002, several hundred guests have visited the Brearley House. Below is a list of addresses, aside from Mercer County, visitors left behind...

New Jersey Towns

- Bedminster
- Berkley Heights
- Bridgewater
- Browns Mills
- Burlington
- Clarksburg
- Cranbury
- Dover
- Edison
- East Millstone
- Flemington
- Griggstown
- Hillsborough
- Kendall Park
- Lambertville
- Manahawkin
- Manville
- Mt. Holly
- Mt. Laurel
- Pittstown
- Ridgefield

New Jersey Towns

- Roebling
- Skillman
- Somerville
- Summit
- Whiting
- Whitehouse Station

Out-Of-State

- Allentown, PA
- Benton, KY
- Bucks Co., PA
- Cazenovia, NY
- Columbus, OH
- Levittown, PA
- Merion, PA
- Minneapolis, MN
- Rockville, MD
- Sudbury, VT
- San Francisco
- San Jose, CA
- South Hero, VT
- Yardley, PA