



LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

Places in Time

SPRING 2018

Lawrence Township At The 1964 World's Fair

by Laura Nawrocik

World's Fairs were a popular gathering held during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Their purpose was mainly to showcase technological inventions but they also included cultural and art exhibits, as well as standard fair attractions like rides, midway shows, and food. Host cities would typically do something spectacular to attract visitors from around the world, with the fair being the main reason for building such landmarks as the Eiffel Tower (1889 Paris), the Ferris Wheel (1893 Chicago), and the Space Needle (1962 Seattle). The exhibitions also showcased new inventions, such as the X-Ray machine (1901 Pan-American Exhibition in Buffalo), IMAX movies (1970 Expo Japan), and the Ford Mustang (1964 New York). Along with the Mustang, the 1964-65 New York World's Fair hosted a one-day expo of Lawrence Township, billed as Lawrence Township Day.

The 1964-65 New York World's Fair was the city's second time hosting the event and this one took place at Flushing Meadows in Queens. Tennis fans will recognize one of the main attractions, as the fairgrounds later converted into the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, home of the U.S. Open. The main large structure built for the fair was the Unisphere, a 140 foot tall stainless steel globe that still sits in its original location on the site. The first Louis Armstrong Stadium at the tennis center was once the Singer Bowl, which had served as one of the main venues at the fair. It was in use until 2016, when it was demolished to make room for the new Louis Armstrong Stadium set to open in 2019.

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Right: A one-day pass to the fair for Lawrence Township day, along with a New Jersey Tercentenary Pavililion sticker and button from the fair.



Dr. Brooke Hunter Named Township Historian

Brooke Hunter, who teaches history at Rider University, has been named the Lawrence Township Historian by Lawrence Township Council. She replaces Dennis Waters, who resigned earlier this year. He had served as Township Historian since 2006.

Dr. Hunter also serves on the Lawrence Historical Society's board of trustees as its recording secretary, and has written several articles about Lawrence Township history.

At Rider University, she teaches a range of courses including, Native American history, the American Revolution, New Jersey history. She is the director of American studies.

Dr. Hunter said she is thankful that Mayor Christopher Bobbitt and Township Council have given her the opportunity to serve as Township Historian. The Township Historian's job is to serve as an advocate and resource for Lawrence Township history through research and publication, as well as through outreach to the public and the schools.



"I enjoy getting out of the traditional classroom and working with the public to advocate the value of history," Dr. Hunter said. "I also see this as an opportunity to strengthen ties between Lawrence Township and Rider University, and to model civic engagement for the students."

Dr. Hunter said she plans to continue the projects developed by Mr. Waters, such as the 4th grade history tour, coordinating events for Lawrence Township History Month in October, and delivering the Township Historian's annual lecture.

Another goal is to complete an online catalog of the Lawrence Township archives, and digitize some of the materials to allow them to be accessible to the public, she said.

Dr. Hunter earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of California-Irvine, and master's and doctoral degrees in history from the University of Delaware. She has taught at Rider University since 2002.

Dr. Hunter has made a variety of contributions to research on Lawrence Township history. She has delivered two Mary Tanner Lectures, one on slavery and a second on prohibition in the township. Dr. Hunter also prepared a prohibition article and article about Lewisville Road for the NJ 350 series published by the society (available at www.thelhs.org) in 2014. The later was also adapted into an information panel in the 1761 Brearley House.

Places in Time is published four times a year by the Lawrence Historical Society. Back issues are available at the LHS website -www.TheLHS.org. We can be contacted at the following address: webmaster@thelhs.org This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Mercer County Division of Culture and Heritage, in partnership with the New Jersey Historical Commission, Division of Cultural Affairs/ Department of State.

Local Photography Expert To Give Lecture on 19th Century Mercer Co. Photographers

Gary D. Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist and renowned photographer, will give a lecture, "19th Century New Jersey Photographers: Mercer County", on Wednesday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch, Mercer County Library System.

Of the approximately 3,000 different photographers who were active in New Jersey before 1900, more than 250 lived or worked in Mercer County, most of them in Trenton. In a slide lecture, Saretzky will profile these pioneers, including Edward H. Stokes who lived in what is now the William Trent House, and discuss them within the larger context of New Jersey photography in the nineteenth century. As seen in the slides, these photographers documented the people and places of their times but, in addition, their individual histories provide insight into social conditions of their era.

Gary D. Saretzky, archivist and photographer, has worked as an archivist for more than forty-five years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Educational Testing Service, and the Monmouth County Archives, where he has been County Archivist since 1994. Saretzky taught the history of photography at Mercer County Community College, 1977-2012, and



coordinated the Public History Internship Program for the Rutgers University History Department, 1994-2016. He has published more than 100 articles and reviews on the history of photography, photographic conservation, and other topics, including "Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Photographers," in the journal, *New Jersey History*, Fall/Winter 2004. In 2012, he received the Maureen Ogden Award for Lifetime Achievement in *New Jersey History* at the New Jersey History Issues Conference. Saretzky's bio may be found in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in American Art*. For more information on Gary Saretzky, visit saretzky.com.

The lecture will be presented by Lawrence Historical Society and The Friends of the Lawrence Library. For more information about Lawrence Historical Society, please visit www.thelhs.org. The Lawrence Headquarters Branch is part of the Mercer County Library System, see www.mcl.org for more information.

This program has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or NJCH.

This program is made possible in part by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission and the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

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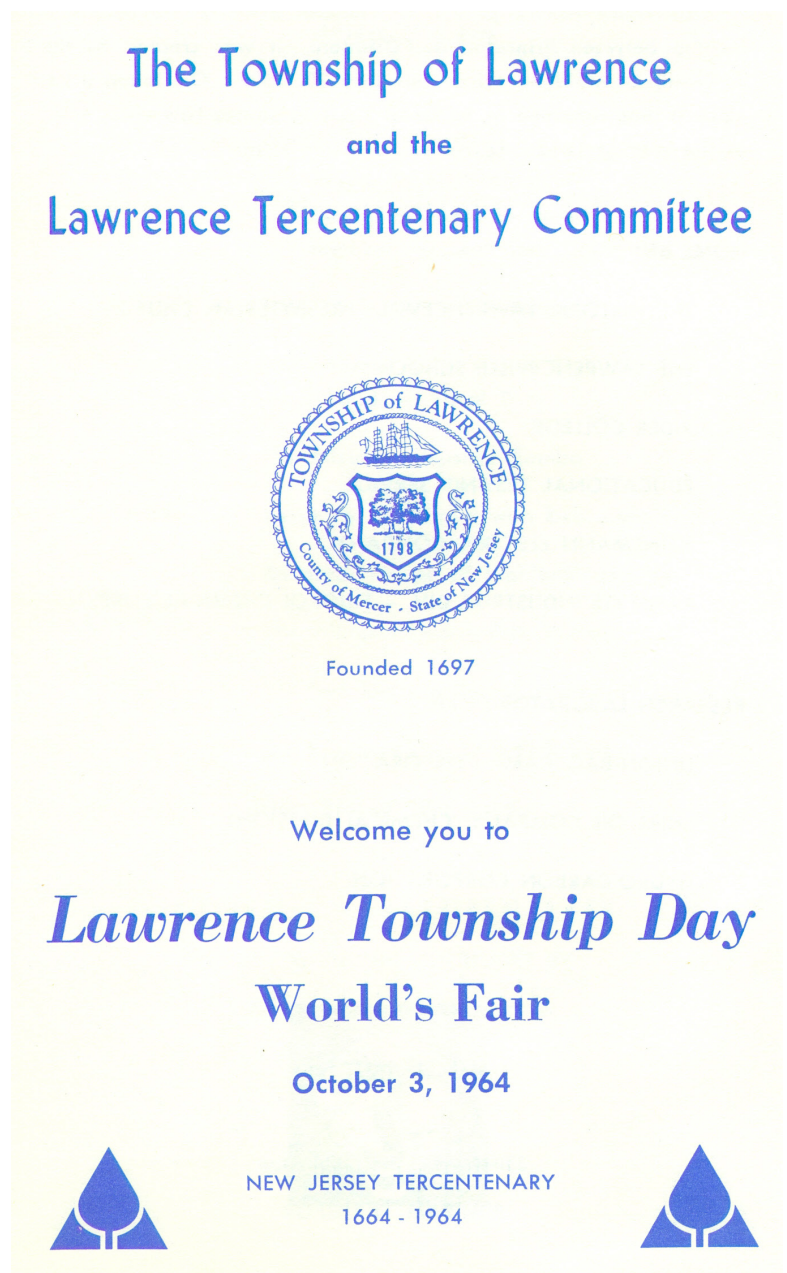
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Held on October, 3, 1964 at the New Jersey pavilion, the day dedicated to Lawrence featured live musical performances, displays about the township, and other cultural exhibits. The day was part of a larger celebration taking part in the pavilion, as the state was celebrating its tercentenary in 1964. According to the New York World's Fair website (www.nywf64.com), New Jersey had 21 small buildings in its exhibition space and used the area to bring the history, culture, and industry of New Jersey to the world. The state exhibit had the theme of "For Three Centuries: People, Purpose, Progress". One aspect of this theme was to invite the state's towns to provide programming for a day during the fair, which opened in April 1964 and closed in October 1965.

By the time the fair opened, the main focus of the events had shifted from being an industrial showcase to one that focused on bringing the world's cultures to visitors. Fitting with this theme, the Lawrence Township program focused mostly on local artists performing a short program or displaying their work.

An official program of performances was held on stage and emceed by township resident Robert Marince. Mayor Owen Healey started the program with opening remarks a little before 1:00 p.m. The performers included musical and dance acts such as the Star Dusters Orchestra, Notre Dame Father's Glee Club and the Mel-lo-Maids, The Mixers (musical combo), Sam Floyd with Richi Corbin, the Balmoral Troupe of Highland Dancers, The Villager Two (folk), The Four-Evers (jazz), and Nate Practico's Big Band. Fred LeCompt and Alan Bosley filled the time between performances with organ music. The program lasted over 6 hours on a busy Saturday at the fair and more than six buses of township residents turned out to celebrate "the center of the county, the center of the state".

Right: The cover of the program. The inside included a list of the performers for the day. The back cover included a map of New Jersey with a star indicating Lawrence's position and the two township slogans at the time - "Where Nature Smiles for 22 Miles" and "Center of the County, Center of the State".





Above: Balmoral Highland Troupe dancer. Left: Nate Pratico's Big Band. Lower Left: Mello-Maids and Notre Dame Father's Glee Club. Lower Right: Sam Floyd on piano with Robert Marince



Intern Shares Views on Experience Working For Society

by Victoria Paganos

For the past two months I have been interning with the Lawrence Historical Society and it has been a really amazing experience. I was given a list of jobs to complete over the course of the semester and I am learning a lot already through them. My largest job has been to conduct research for the sign for the garden at the historical 1761 Brearley House. This job has taught me a lot about colonial gardens that I never knew before. I learned why they were arranged the way they were, what was typically in them, and what they used those plants for. Another job I have had is to sort through the pictures in the archives. I have seen some really cool old pictures that show what Lawrence used to look like. I did not think that I would see such old pictures, but I even found a few from the late 1800's. This was particularly interesting to me because that part of history is actually one of my favorites to study. The last job I had was to index ten years of obituaries from microfilm of *The Lawrence Ledger*. The newspaper is not indexed and the obituary index will be helpful to researcher, particular genealogists. While recording one of the obituaries I noticed that my former priest performed the service. I never knew that he worked in Jersey before coming to Long Island until working on this project. From looking through the old newspapers and reading old headlines I learned what was happening in Lawrence at that time. This has given me an even greater appreciation for history and helped me to finally realize what I want to do with my life. History was always my favorite subject in school and it seemed to be the only thing that ever interested me. My time at the Historical Society has really opened up my eyes and showed me the possibilities in the field of history. When thinking about what to do with an American Studies degree after I graduate in May, this is something that never initially crossed my mind, but now I know there is whole world of possibilities for me out there.

Victoria Panagos is a senior majoring in American Studies at Rider University. She has been working in the Nash Room at the Lawrence Library with materials in the township's historical collection. Students are welcome to contact the society about unpaid internships and volunteer hours for community service.



2018 Annual Meeting



Left: Mayor Christopher Bobbitt swears in member of the Board of Trustees. (L to R): Martin M. Bloomenthal, Katherine Meeker-Cohen, Judy Salcewicz, and Priscilla Taylor.

Below: Vice President Jane Fetter



Above: The crowd listens to Township Historian Dennis Waters deliver his lecture, "Lawrence: Love It or Leave It, the Millham Secession and Other Disatisfactions."

Right: President John Halvorsen



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Return Service Requested



**Check Out Our Improved Website -
www.thelhs.org**

The Lawrence Historical Society recently launched our new and improved website. The new site features all the same content as the old website in a more modern presentation, along with some new features designed to bring more of the township's history to you.

The area dedicated to the 1761 Brearley House and Port Mercer Canal House have been expanded with a new page dedicated to archaeology at 1761 Brearley House. Here you will find photographs and information about the various professional and student digs that took place at the house prior to renovation and through the early 2000s.

The history pages contain our society and other public domain publications; photographs from the society and township collections; and will soon include a guided resource page for locating information about the town's past. We also plan to expand our coverage of items in the Township Historian's Lawrence Historical Collection, so stop by often to check out what's new.