

# Places In Time

## LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### WINTER 2010

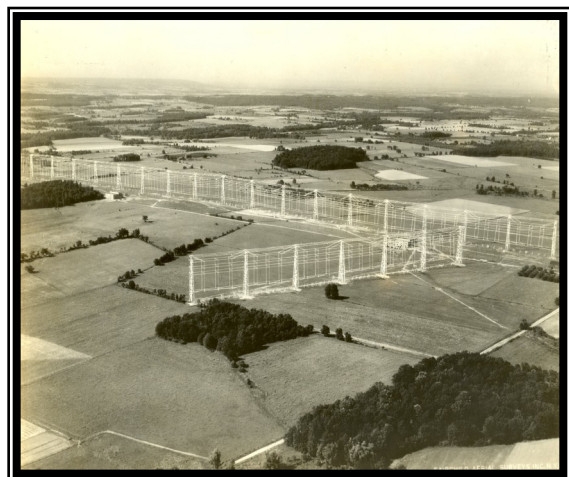
#### 2010 LHS Annual meeting:

##### *'Hello London! Lawrenceville is Speaking'*

It has been almost 35 years since AT&T's international shortwave station in Lawrenceville stopped operating. Lots of visitors to Mercer County Park Northwest still call the site "the pole farm," though many do not know exactly why. Your opportunity to find out why happens on Sunday, February 21st, at the annual meeting of the Lawrence Historical Society.

Township Historian Dennis Waters will present a free public lecture titled 'Hello London! - Lawrenceville is Speaking' - The Story of AT&T's "Pole Farm" 1929-1975. Learn the newly-uncovered history of the unique short-wave radio facility that for a time made Lawrence the high-tech telecommunications hub of North America.

Then join the Historical Society in celebrating the 313th birthday of Lawrence Township with free birthday cake and refreshments. The annual meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 21st, at the Community Training Room in the Township Police & Court Building at 2207 Lawrence Rd (across the parking lot from the Municipal Building).



*1929 photo of the pole farm*

*Photo courtesy of AT&T Archives and History Center*

#### Plaque and Flagpole Honor Former Lawrence Historian

Lawrence's 48th Annual Colonel Hand Historic March took place on Saturday, January 2nd, and included a special tribute to the march's originator, former Township Historian Robert B.

Immordino, who died in 2009.

A plaque and flagpole in his honor (suggested by LHS trustee Bill Agress and underwritten by Roma Bank) were unveiled on the grounds of Notre

Dame High School near the banks of the Shabakunk Creek, where the annual march stops to fire a cannon. This was the site of the most significant skirmish of Colonel Hand's delaying action of January 2, 1777, when his Pennsylvania Riflemen kept Cornwallis and his troops from reaching Trenton until nightfall, thus permitting Washington's overnight escape. 2010 was one of the rare years in which the Colonel Hand March - scheduled for the first Saturday of January - actually took place on the anniversary date of the Colonel's action.





Close to 200 people attended our fall events, with an additional 300 at the annual Hogmanay bonfire on New Year's Eve. In 2010, LHS will be offering more unique events to highlight Lawrence history and appeal to the whole family. Keep an eye on our website, [www.thelhs.org](http://www.thelhs.org), for an up-to-date calendar or look for our fliers around town.

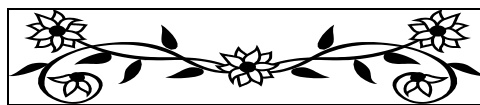


Almost 100 people gathered at Rider University to hear Howard Green and Richard Hunter talk about the Delaware and Raritan Canal. The duo covered the history of the canal, its use today and what the future looks like for the canal and its preservation.



The October Cemetery Tour was a hit, despite the rainy weather. About 30 people joined us for a tour of Lawrence's five cemeteries. The group is seen here listening to Anthony Cermele talk about the history of the Princessville Cemetery on Princeton Pike.

Skip Conover and Ruth Barringer also led tours and Melissa Hasbrouck told ghost stories at Brearley House.



Last November, Gwen Southgate, author of *Coin Street Chronicles*, enthralled a standing room only group in the Lawrence Library as she read from and discussed her book. Ms. Southgate told of the poverty-stricken Coin Street neighborhood where she grew up and of her sudden removal to the countryside the day that World War II was declared.

If you missed the talk and want to pick up a copy of the book, LHS has some available in the Brearley House gift shop.

The event was the second such presentation co-sponsored by LHS and the Friends of the Library. It is hoped that the two groups will continue their cooperative ventures.

## Col. Kale Honored By Commission

Col. (Ret.) Donald W. Kale of Lawrenceville was honored at the November 21, 2009 conference of the New Jersey Historical Commission at the Trenton War Memorial. Col. Kale received an Award of Recognition for "his role as the curator of the Lawrenceville branch of the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey and for his dedicated efforts in preserving the military history of citizen soldiers of New Jersey and increasing the public's awareness of that history."

Pictured left to right: Col. Kale, Dr. Joseph Salvatore (Historical Commission member), Dr. Peter Mickulas (Historical Commission staff)



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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. Membership fees are tax deductible.

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Bruce Bitcover	Mike Milewski
Skip Conover	Laura Nawrocik
Paul Gatterdam	Karen Perkins
John Halvorsen	Dennis Waters
Jacqueline Haun	Jim Williams

## **Save The Date!**

2010 marks the 10th Anniversary of the restoration of the Brearley House. To celebrate, we are hosting two events on May 21st and 22nd. Friday evening features a benefit party and Saturday will be a family fun fair. All proceeds from the events will go toward ongoing restoration projects for the house, such as re-plastering of the interior walls, and educational programming held at the house.

*Places in Time* is published four times a year by the Lawrence Historical Society. Back issues and color editions of our award winning newsletter are available at the LHS website—[www.TheLHS.org](http://www.TheLHS.org).

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