

Places In Time

LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2010

19th Century Photography of Mercer County

On November 21 at 2:00pm at the Lawrence Library, township resident and professional archivist Gary Saretzky will give a presentation on New Jersey photography of the Nineteenth Century, with a focus on Mercer County. Mr. Saretzky's presentation will include a slide show of a variety of photos from the era and he will discuss the photographers and their art.

Scanning Day: Bring Your Historic Lawrence Photos

We want to add to our historic photo collection. If you have photos of Lawrence township and wish to share, bring them to the photography lecture on November 21 and we will scan them for our collection. As a thank you, we will burn a CD of the photos for you. We are looking for pictures of all eras and centuries. Any photos of people, events and the landscape are welcome. In particular, we are interested in community events and buildings that are no longer standing, such as the Cherry Tree Lane canal house. If you have a large collection or cannot attend scanning day, but wish to share your photos, please contact us at 609-895-1728 or by e-mailing us at webmaster@thelhs.org.

Urgent Legislative Action: D&R Canal Commission

The D&R Canal Commission was established at the same time as the state park to oversee park planning and regulate use of the parkland. Recent proposals at the state level have advocated abolishing or reducing the authority of this regulatory body, which would have an impact on how the park is cared for and preserved for light recreation and educational uses. Please contact your state representatives and urge them to preserve the canal commission in its current form. Note that tax dollars do not fund the commission, it is financed through fees charged to developers.

Hogmanay Returns December 31, 6:00pm

Join us in the Great Meadow for our popular Hogmanay bonfire. Don't forget to write out your lists to toss into the fire to banish all the bad things that happened in 2010. As usual, light refreshments will be served and visitors will be able to tour the house. We also need help at this event, please contact us at 609-895-1728 or e-mail us at webmaster@thelhs.org to volunteer.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MARY TANNER LECTURE

Historian Maxine Lurie and the cartographer Michael Siegel discussed their work on the first atlas of New Jersey in 100 years on Sunday, October 10 at Rider University. Lurie and Siegel were editors of *Mapping New Jersey: An Evolving Landscape*, which includes authoritative texts by 33 contributing scholars and 195 maps, satellite images, graphs and illustrations. The book has been called “a treasure trove of information about our most densely populated state, encompassing the 400 years from Colonial times to the present.”

Lurie is Chairman of the Department of History at Rutgers University, co-editor of *New Jersey Encyclopedia*, and recipient of the Richard J. Hughes Award for scholarship and service, from New Jersey Historical Commission.

Siegel is Staff Cartographer in the Geography Department at Rutgers University. He has created maps for many of the books by his Rutgers colleagues. He says that maps have the “power to explain complex information in a picture.”

The Mary Tanner Lecture honors one of the founders of the Lawrence Historical Society, the first woman to serve on the Lawrence Town Council, and a passionate lover of American history for all of her more than ninety years.



Maxine Lurie, left, and Michael Siegel, right, talk about the aspects of New Jersey’s geography that helped shape the state’s history. During the lecture, the pair spoke about the history of New Jersey maps and a variety of cultural, political and social topics that have been expressed in maps since pre-colonial days.

BREARLEY FAMILY CHAIR

At last, the beautiful 1761 Brearley House has a piece of furniture that belonged to the family. At the tenth anniversary celebration last May, a magnificent Chippendale-style chair was presented as a long term loan from Mrs. Jean Mahan Koeppel of Pennington. Mrs. Koeppel is a direct descendant of George Brearley, whose father James built the house. The chair, one of twelve, was a wedding gift to Ann Gillingham and George Brearley. The couple had twelve children, and the set of chairs was dispersed among family members over the years.

The chair was made in Philadelphia ca 1780 by the noted cabinet maker Benjamin Randolph. It may now be seen in the museum room upstairs in the Brearley House. The Lawrence Historical Society gratefully thanks the Koeppel family for sharing their treasure with the history-loving community.

Writers Needed

LHS recently launched a blog and we need writers. You don't need any technical background to help us out, just a love of history. Writers would need to create 2-3 paragraphs, average, of text on a specific subject in Lawrence history. We will do the posting to the blog for you. Contact us if interested in writing for our blog.

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NASH AWARD GOES TO HENN

Each June, the Lawrence Historical Society presents the Winona Nash History Award to the Lawrence High School senior demonstrating excellence in history, as determined by the faculty. This year's award winner is Erin Henn right, receiving the award presented by Society Trustee John Halvorsen on Senior Awards Night. Erin received a copy of the Gordon Wood book *Empire of Liberty*, a Certificate of Achievement, and a check for \$250.00. Erin will begin her freshman year studies at Dartmouth this Fall.

