Volume X. Number 2

SPRING 2005

Lambertville Historical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The coming of a new year means a new set of officers and trustees for the Lambertville Historical Society. I would like to thank Lou Toboz, David, and Sharon Burd for their positions on the 2004 board. After many years of participation on the board, some members have moved on. Kathleen Amon, Rich and Mary Freedman, and Norm Weiner have all spent several years on the board and have made many valuable contributions. Their help will be missed. Janet Hunt stands alone as the longest serving member of the board. She will no longer be on the board, but happily she will continue her role in organizing the Lambertville Historical Society Art Show described elsewhere in this newsletter. Lastly, I would like to personally thank Roger Morrison for his four years of tireless service as our treasurer.

Continued on page 2

Quilts Take Center Stage for Marshall House Opening Ceremony

One of the Society's greatest treasures is its collection of antique quilts. Six of these quilts will be displayed from April 22nd until May 31st. The exhibit will be kicked off with an opening celebration at 7:00 PM on April 22nd with a presentation on antique quilts. "Design, Preservation, and Restoration of Quilts of the 1800's" by Judy Roche at the Baptist Church will be followed by a viewing of the six Historical Society quilts across the street at the Marshall House. There will be no charge but, of course, donations are always welcome.

A presentation "Design, Preservation, and Restoration of Quilts of the 1800's" by Judy Roche at the Baptist Church will be followed by a viewing of the six Historical Society quilts across the street at the Marshall House.

Judy Roche is a quilt historian who has been involved with collecting antique quilts for over forty years. During that time she has also taught courses on quilts and judged shows. Some of her antique appliqué quilts will be featured in the Vermont Quilt festival in June and then move on to various museums. She presently works for a fabric company in New York City reproducing historic fabrics.

Less than 1% of all antique quilts are both signed and in their place of origin. The Lambertville Historical Society is very lucky to have two such quilts. The quilt whose recent restoration inspired this exhibition is the John and Abigail Lambert quilt from the 1840's. This quilt was donated to us by their descendants, John Clifton Lambert Jr. and his daughter Ms. Marjorie Lambert Hopkins. The fabric of the quilt was extremely fragile, however, making its future questionable. With monetary help from the New Jersey Questers, Hunterdon County Historical Commission, and the Lambertville/New Hope Rotary Club, we were able to send the quilt to the Textile Conservation Workshop, which did over $3000 worth of work on the quilt, cleaning and stabilizing the fabric.

Continued on page 5

The Marshall House
1816
"Bridging Lambertville's Past with it's Future"

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Caroline Armstrong

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *continued from page 1*

Luckily, as we lose some hard working and valuable board members, there are new board members ready to join our efforts. Debbie Wean will take on the role of Vice President while continuing to work with Caroline Armstrong on Programs. Ursula Mento will take on the job of Secretary and Debbie Monigan, that of Treasurer. Carol Sassman is our new Fund Raising Chairman. Other new board members are Dick Cushing, Don Hart, Gene Lelie, and Bitsy Recupero. Two other seminal positions without board responsibilities are those of Newsletter Editor, Jann Kniskern and Web Master, Don Colombo. I must say that with such a strong cast, I have great confidence in our continuing success over the next year. Couple this board with a refreshed list of people willing to volunteer in various capacities, and the sky's the limit!!!

One focus this spring will be a membership drive. Our members are what keep the society afloat with dues and proof of support for our activities. During our membership drive your neighbors will be getting membership appeals. A word of support and enthusiasm from you, our present members, about LHS would be appreciated. A variety of our activities are described in this newsletter, from our quilt exhibit to our architectural scavenger hunt for elementary school children.

Besides members, we are looking to expand the number of volunteers who are involved with Society activities.

LHS has helped establish and promote the ambience of Lambertville and has the opportunity to continue to shape the town and its lifestyle. Besides contributing to the Lambertville community, those of us who volunteer with LHS gain by growing individually, meeting others of the community, and having fun while we do it. It's also an opportunity to learn about the history of Lambertville. There are volunteer opportunities that range from a one-time 3 hour stint as a docent at the Marshall House, to a board position and everything in between. We need envelop stuffers, painters, program organizers, fund-raisers, and archivers for data entry into PastPerfect. Please do not hesitate to call the Marshall House at 397-0770 if you are interested in helping out. We will do our best to fit our needs to your interests and schedule. *SB*

LHS and Coryell Gallery Present Twenty-Fifth Annual Juried Art Show

Janet Hunt March, Director of the Coryell Gallery at the Porkyard since 1981, has once again generously volunteered her time and energy to present the juried art exhibition (February 6 - March 20, 2005). The show, titled "Lambertville and the Surrounding Area," included 60 paintings and drawings. This year the LHS selected a pastel titled "December Afternoon" by artist Mike Filipiak (pictured above), as its fund raising raffle piece. The drawing that took place Saturday, March 19 was won by Karen Taylor of Furlong, PA.

This year, the LHS award for outstanding work went to James A. Hamilton III for his painting titled "March Snow in Lambertville". Awards presented at the opening went to Judith Sutton, Beatrice Bork, Tom Chesar, Ed Adams, Joannne Augustine, Barbara Watts, Vincent Ceglia and Michael Budden. *JK*

House Tour 2005 Needs Your Help Now!

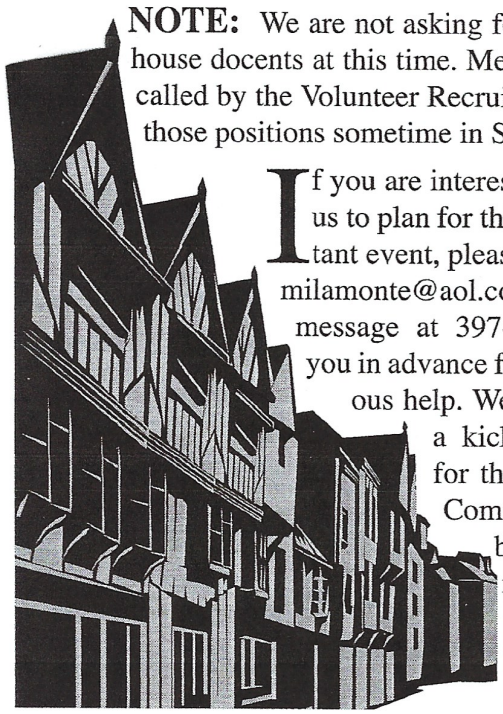
Carol Sassman and Mila Montemayor –
Co-chairs, 2005 House Tour

In a continuing effort to plan for another successful house tour, we invite you to please volunteer your expertise and your time to help us plan for the next LHS House Tour, our 23rd year!

The 2005 LHS House Tour is scheduled for Sunday, October 23, but the publicity, promotion and house tour booklet planning needs to be started now.

Can you help us plan or work on one of these major tasks: Publicity? Publication of the house tour booklet? Poster distribution? or Booklet ads? To get started, we do have written procedures based on prior tour experience to assist in the planning but we need you to help implement them. This is a great opportunity to get involved with fellow members and also make an important contribution to your Society.

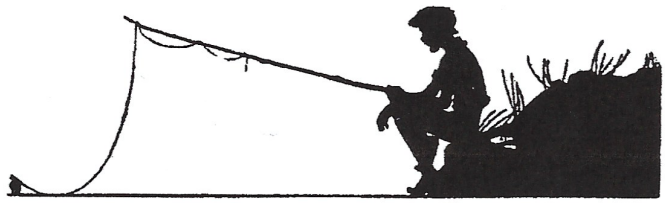
"The 2005 LHS House Tour is scheduled for Sunday, October 23, but the publicity, promotion and house tour booklet planning needs to be started now."



NOTE: We are not asking for day-of-tour house docents at this time. Members will be called by the Volunteer Recruiting Team for those positions sometime in September.

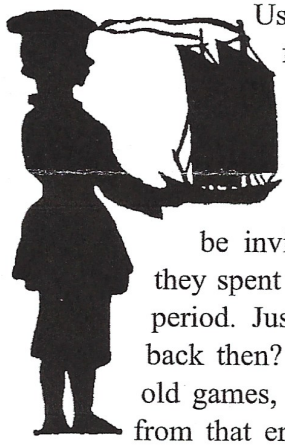
If you are interested in joining us to plan for this very important event, please email me at milamonte@aol.com or leave a message at 397-5227. Thank you in advance for your generous help. We are planning a kick-off meeting for the House Tour Committee Members sometime in April.

CS&MM



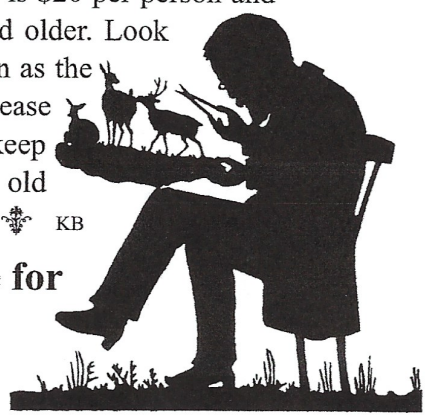
REMEMBERING LAMBERTVILLE: GAMES AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY

The latest in our continuing series of Remembering Lambertville programs will be on Thursday, June 9, from 6 pm to 9 pm at the YMAC at 65 Wilson Street. The theme is "Games and Leisure Activities in the Mid-20th Century." The program will focus mainly on the 1940's through the 1960's.

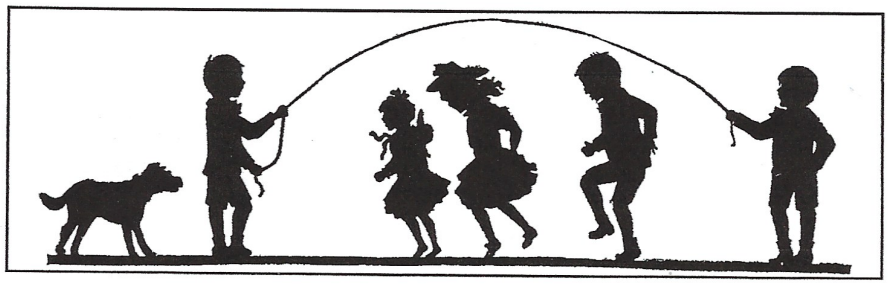


Using old photos and slides from the LHS archives as a springboard for memories, and encouraged by Master of Ceremonies Bambi Kuhl, members of the audience will be invited to reminisce about how they spent their leisure time during that period. Just how different were things back then? Displayed on tables will be old games, toys and sporting equipment from that era. Pictures of the old Music Circus, sledding down Goat Hill, the Rotary Club and the firehouses will be available for viewing.

Beginning with dinner, including an entrée and dessert with coffee/tea, the evening will continue with a slide show and conclude with what promises to be a lively discussion. The cost is $20 per person and $15 for those 65 and older. Look for more information as the date gets closer. Please come and help keep the memories of old Lambertville alive! ⚜ KB



See next page for registration form



Games and Leisure Activities in the Mid-20th Century Reservations

Reservations for the evening including dinner will be available for $20 per person (or $15 per person for those sixty years old or older) and can be made by filling out the form below before June 1 and mailing it to: Lambertville Historical Society, P.O. Box 2, Lambertville, N.J. 08530 along with a check made out to Lambertville Historical Society. For further information, contact Caroline Armstrong at 397-7786 or Debbie Wean at 397-9752.

Reservations for Remembering Lambertville Games and Leisure Activities in the Mid-20th Century

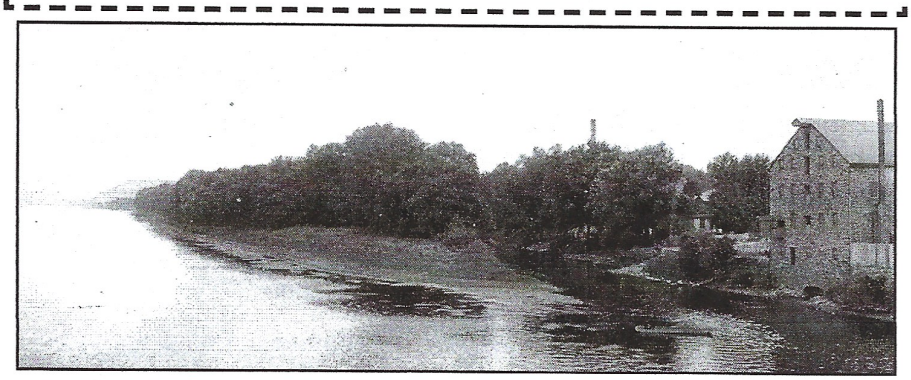
Thursday June 9 - 6 pm • YMAC at 65 Wilson Street

Name_____

Number of reservations at $20/person_____ $ _____

Number of reservations at $15/person_____ $ _____
(***For ages 60 and older***)

Total Enclosed $ _____



Lewis Island as it was in 1906. The site of local shad fishing today.

SHAD FEST 2005

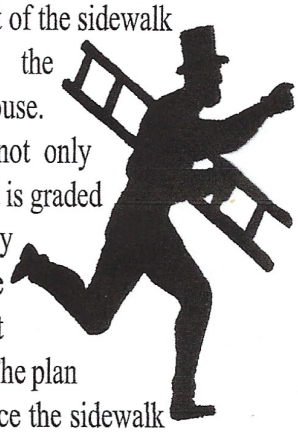
The Marshall House will be open Saturday and Sunday (May 21 and 22) during Shad Fest from Noon to 5 PM.

Walking Tours are being offered both days from the Marshall House at 1 and 3 PM.

Planned Improvements to the Marshall House

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the Marshall House, two activities are planned. The first is a relatively simple project; the second is more involved. The first activity will be on Saturday, April 9, when the Marshall House Maintenance Committee will coordinate a painting party. A team of interested and dedicated people will paint the parlor, the last space in the house to be redecorated in the last few years. Anyone interested in participating in this effort should contact Ron Todd by phone at 773-0290 or via email at rd.todd@verizon.net.

The second planned activity will be the replacement of the sidewalk in front of the Marshall House. The sidewalk not only shows its age, it is graded improperly relative to the stone staircase at the entry way. The plan will be to replace the sidewalk with appropriate grading to make entry into the Marshall House easier and safer. The work on this project will be done by a team provided by Carol A. Sassman of Sassman Masonry Company. We will provide additional information on this effort as it moves forward. RT



Martin Luther, 1947-2005: Renaissance Man

The list of people who never met a person they didn't like is undoubtedly very short: Marty Luther was indeed on it. When he died suddenly on February 14th, 2005, our community was stunned and the hole in our hearts will never quite heal.

He was active in The Chamber, Artsbridge, Concordia Chamber Players; The Michener, Copper Penny Players, Phillips' Mill Theater and of course The Lambertville Historical Society.

At his tribute held at The Inn At Lambertville Station Saturday, February 26, a beyond capacity crowd of friends and family shared touching, funny and oh-so-Marty stories.

The Society can add a bit more. Once when he displayed the drawings of our annual House Tour homes in Dresswell's window, I noticed that they were hard to see from the sidewalk. After mentioning it to him, he immediately came out, looked, and raced back. Next thing, he had practically restyled the whole window so that they were more than prominently displayed. His pleasure was pleasing me!

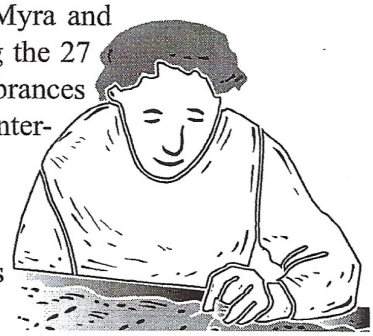
Every year he sold tickets for the house tour. And every year, when Rich McDonough came to collect the receipts his question to would be, "how much has [so and so] sold so far?" He prided himself on selling more than any body else.

That's the kind of guy he was. He wanted everybody to succeed. Maybe that's why he was such a successful human being. Thank you Marty, and our hearts go out to Marcia Chapman, his business and life partner, and his family. *Polly Dorman*

Quilts continued from page 1

The second signed quilt in the Society collection is signed by Reuben P. Ely and dated 1847. A search through our archives for Reuben P. Ely revealed that he is a descendant of John Holcombe, signed a receipt in 1882 as a resident of Lambertville, and died in town on December 4th, 1899. This quilt with bright colors and firm stitching probably owes its good condition to less frequent use than the Lambert quilt and the use of dyes lacking any acidic components. The dyes used in the Lambert quilt did contain acid, which actually eats away the fabric - thus the need for de-acidification.

Yet another quilt that will be displayed is the Friendship Quilt, dated June 5, 1843, the first wedding anniversary of Myra and Martin Coryell. Their signatures are among the 27 included on the quilt. The signed remembrances captured in cloth and thread recall the intertwined lives of the Lamberts and Coryells.



Please join us as we celebrate the cleaning and stabilization of the Lambert quilt along with our fabulous quilt collection! SB

Marshall House Director's Corner

Spring is finally upon us and so is the opening of the Marshall House! For our opening, we are planning an exhibition of our quilt collection, much of which hasnever been displayed before.We hope to see you all there!

Anyone who is interested in being a docent on the weekends please speak up! **ALL** help will be greatly appreciated.

Preservation Week at the Lambertville Public School is coming up rapidly, and the coloring book project is almost complete. I will keep extra copies here for members who would like to see the coloring book artwork as interpreted by South Hunterdon Regional High School art students.

We are also in the process of upgrading our museum software so that our archival records will be available on our website. We are hoping to complete the archiving by the fall. How exciting!

In closing, members, don't be strangers! Come by and introduce yourself to me! Maybe we could even find some work for you to do around here! *Victoria Rudd*

Coryell Grandfather Clock Strikes Again...In Lambertville

You can visit the Coryell Grandfather clock-still in pristine condition-as it sits inside Lorvinic Antiques LLC at 15 North Union Street. The cherrywood Chippendale is engraved with the name of Philadelphia clock maker extraordinaire, John Wood (1736 - 1793).

A note typed and found inside the clock traces its long and winding road of ownership and homes through out the United States. JK

Lambertville Historical Society
P.O. Box 2
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"BRIDGING LAMBERTVILLE'S PAST WITH ITS FUTURE"

LHS Calendar of Spring Events

Please check our web site for more information

www.lambertvillehistoricalsociety.org • Marshall House: 609-397-0770

LHS BOARD MEETING: THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH: MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER at 7:30 PM

All LHS Members are welcome!

APRIL	WALKING TOURS	MAY	JUNE
Friday, April 22 Marshall House Opens with Quilt Exhibit 7pm Details page 1	Special group tours available throughout the year. Guided one hour walking tours leave the Marshall House the 1st Sunday of each month at 2 PM. April to October	May 21 - 22 Shad Fest Walking Tours and Marshall House OPEN! Details page 4	Thursday, June 9 th 6 PM to 9 PM Remembering Lambertville YMAC Details page 3