

Lambertville Historical Society 2022 Year-in-Review

For 2022, the Board of Trustees of Lambertville Historical Society (LHS), a non-profit, had 4 Officers and 10 Trustees for 14 total voting members. The Advisory Board (non-voting) has 7 members. We have a full slate of Trustees and Officers for election to the 2023 Board of Trustees at our next Annual Membership Meeting on January 15, 2023.

As of October 31, 2022, LHS had 203 paid memberships and an additional 11 memberships by not-for-profit organizations. This is an increase of 7 paid memberships since the beginning of the year. As many memberships are couples, and some are family memberships, as of October 31, 2022 there 330 members, an increase of 14 since the beginning of the year.

For 2022, LHS received operating support grants of \$7,199 from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, with funds from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State. LHS received a grant payment of \$42,097 from the Hunterdon County Open Space and Historical Preservation Trust Program for the restoration of the interior of Lambertville's Old Jail.

Marshall House Museum

The Marshall House Museum was open every weekend from late April through October 2022.

In April, the Marshall House Museum inaugurated an extensive exhibition of 58 examples of the work of Lambertville's first photographer, John A. Anderson. The exhibit includes incredibly clear and detailed photographs of late 19th and early 20th century Lambertville scenes and residents. In addition, visitors can review scrapbooks, compiled by Mr. Anderson during the late 1800s and early 1900s, containing hundreds of articles and other documents related to Lambertville's history. The exhibit was curated and prepared by Mike Menche, Ed Hoag and Lauren Rosenthal-McManus.

627 individuals visited the Marshall House Museum in 2022.

Community Programs and Services

At our January 16, 2022 Annual Membership Meeting, the Board reviewed our accomplishments and plans. The Narducci Award was presented Dina and Marc Fanelli to recognize the excellence of the renovation of their house on North Union Street. The meeting also featured a presentation by Jeffrey Apoian, Mike Menche and Lou Toboz regarding the art and techniques of John Anderson's photography, and stories behind the places and people he photographed.

On April 10, 2022, local historian Marilyn Cummings and timber dendrochronologist Michael Cuba presented a lecture entitled "How Old is That Building Anyway," detailing research into the ages of the houses and barns on the several 18th century Holcombe farmsteads located in Lambertville and Delaware Township. The gave particular attention to dating the Holcombe House and 18th century outbuildings located on North Main Street. Approximately 40 people attended the presentation.

On June 5, 2022, LHS hosted a member social attended by almost 50 members who enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at the Kalmia Club and in Mary Sheridan Park. Mike Menche presented on the history and renovation of Lambertville's Old Jail, and Lou Toboz and Jeff Campbell presented on the history of the Civil War monument and Civil War cannon located in Mary Sheridan Park.

On September 11, 2022, 45 members attended LHS' second member social of the year at the house of Dina and Marc Fanelli on North Union Street. Attendees enjoyed lively socializing, delicious snacks, and a variety of beverages. Added attractions were a self-tour of one side of the house and a guided one of the family residence. Franta Broulik was the winner of a challenging Lambertville trivia contest.

On October 22, 2022, Lou Toboz and Bambi Kuhl led a group of 25 on a Weird Lambertville Walk, highlighting some of the most peculiar, mysterious and curious stories of Lambertville's past. The walk was conducted in conjunction with the ACME Screening Room's Lambertville Halloween Film Festival. We hope that this becomes a regular event on our annual calendar.

On October 23, 2022, LHS conducted its 39th House Tour. More than 900 participants toured 8 locations, including six current residences, Washington's Headquarters, and the Kalmia Clubhouse. Special thanks go to the House Tour's sponsors, the House Tour Committee, and to the more than 100 volunteers who made the event a resounding success.

On October 30, 2022, LHS past president Mike Menche took 50 interested walkers on a tour of Mt. Hope Cemetery. Mike covered the cemetery's history and took participants on a journey through Lambertville's past with a selective stroll to headstones and monuments memorializing the lives of some of our city's most important and interesting residents from the past 150 years.

On November 13, 2022, LHS member Joe Donnelly, Deputy Executive Director of Communications of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, gave an entertaining and educational presentation entitled "An Enduring Crossing: The 208-Year History of the New Hope - Lambertville Bridge" at the ACME to a standing-room-only audience of 66 people.

In 2022, we resumed our normal schedule of conducting free walking tours on the 1st Sundays, April through October, and for Shadfest. We thank this year's tour guides, Kate Breuning, Loren Hurwitz, Jim Mastrich, and Lou Toboz, for making this popular service possible.

2022 marks the 11th year that LHS has organized and presented a holiday music concert series. We held three holiday concerts – on December 7 at Havana in New Hope, on December 15 at the Kalmia Club and on December 18 at the Elks Lodge in Lambertville. Total attendance was about 125.

In November 2022, for the first time, we organized the production of a new, original, collaborative song and video celebrating the holidays and Lambertville. On December 10, we hosted a video watch party, complete with live music and refreshments, at the ACME Screening Room. Approximately 30 people attended.

On December 21, 2022, LHS and Roxey Ballet Company presented at Music Mountain Theater the second annual "A Very Lambertville Holiday Celebration." This artistic collaboration featured holiday song selections from local artists, bands and joyful dance choreography by Roxey Ballet Company.

In 2022, LHS continued its supervision of the restoration of Lambertville's Old Jail, circa 1840, a City-owned central landmark in Mary Sheridan Park. The exterior work was completed in 2021. The current work relates to restoration of the interior of the jail and will be funded by a grant from the Hunterdon County Open Space and Historical Preservation Trust Program. On November 21, 2022, LHS was awarded a grant for this work. When completed, the building will be a flexible space for a variety of cultural programs.

Lambertville Historical Society offers bronze historic district plaques for any structure within the Lambertville Historic District as designated by the National Register of Historic Places. The oval plaques state “National Register of Historic Places (year built) Lambertville Historic District.” During 2022, LHS issued six plaques for structures within the historic district.

For 2022, the total number of visitors, on-site, off-site, and virtual, including website and social media, was 37,665. We continue to be active on Facebook and our website continues to receive periodic upgrades. Features include an interactive map, an active calendar, an index of our archive collection, and historical and membership information.

During 2022 a variety of repairs and maintenance was performed on The Marshall House, including further efforts to minimize water seepage into the basement.

During 2022, LHS added numerous items to its archive collection, including: two 1949 Lambertville centennial commemorative plates; eleven 1967 Kodachrome color slides of the demolition of properties adjacent to the Marshall House; a Holcomb family blanket chest dating to the late 18th or early 19th century; an 1881 book on the history of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties; pre-World War II ledger books, a billhead, and a lease from the Groginski store in Lambertville; and various postcards, black and white photographs, and other documents.

For 2022, four editions of “The Nugget,” Lambertville Historical Society’s quarterly newsletter, were published and sent to members and friends with stories of local history, items regarding James Wilson Marshall, and news of member events. Special thanks to Fred Eisinger, the longtime editor of “The Nugget,” for providing this excellent publication to our members.

Jeffrey Campbell, President, Lambertville Historical Society, January 2023