75th Anniversary
Historical Society of Plainfield
- presents -
75 Treasures of the Museum
Sundays 2 - 4 PM
May 5 through September 1, 1996
Drake House
250th Anniversary
The human heart has hidden treasures
In secret kept, in silence sealed.

"Evening Solace" -- 1846
Charlotte Bronte

The Drake House Museum is the heart of the Historical Society of Plainfield, and it too has hidden treasures. But rather than keeping them a secret, the Historical Society of Plainfield, in honor of its 75th anniversary, presents these 75 Treasures of the Drake House Museum.

Some are old friends, some have not been displayed recently, and some are items you may ordinarily miss during a visit to the museum. Since the Society has a widely varied collection, we have tried to incorporate items from different sources into our display. From fine art to toys, from books to decorative arts, from furniture to tools, we hope to give the viewer a glimpse at the many facets of our past.

A treasure can be many things, but what they all have in common is that we value them. And because we value them, we also share them rather than keeping them a secret or sealing them in silence.

Program Committee

Harry Allister
Paul Chapin
Caroline Everhart
Sandra Lawrence
Jean Mattson

In The Gallery - Items 1 through 69......

1. The Drake House

2. Star Quilt
   Mid 19th century. A fine example of a pieced or patchwork quilt. Pieced quilts were often everyday quilts.

3. Dolls
   Circa 1900. All are from Germany. Two have porcelain heads with kidskin bodies, while the smallest has a bisque body.

4. Sealskin Coat
   Doll's coat made of sealskin. Not dated. Sealskin was very chic in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

5. Mechanical Bank

6. Pull Toy
   Late 19th century. A wagon with clowns.

7. Child's Tea Service
   Circa 1890. Gilded heavy metal tea service from China

8. Book by Thomas Paine
   Published 1794. Titled The Rights of Man

9. 3 Dollar Note
   Issued by a Union County bank in September, 1859. Prior to the establishment of the Federal Reserve System, banks printed and issued their own currency.
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<th>Item</th>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>&quot;Scrap&quot; Fan</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Photograph of Dr. Stillman</td>
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<td>Lincoln Mourning Rosette</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Friendship Quilt</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Tall Case Clock</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Leather Chest</td>
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<td>Photographs of Stillman Gardens</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Local Bottles</td>
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| **27. Lighting fixtures** | a. Rush lamp, circa 1750. The pincers held a burning piece of fat-soaked rush.  
|   | b. Wrought iron candle spike or Farmer's Lamp. Could be jammed into a beam or hung.  
|   | c. Whale oil lamp, circa 1800s. |
|   |   |
|   | Both are circa 1900. |
|   |   |
| **30. Portraits of** | Painted in 1841. Cornelius Boice (1808 - 1864) was the first permanently settled lawyer in Plainfield and was for many years the only lawyer in Plainfield. He represented the Central Railroad Co. and was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. |
| **31. Cornelius Boice and His Wife, Sarah Ann Cadmus** |   |
|   |   |
| **32. Photograph of the Boice Estate** | Circa 1858. The Boice estate included Tiers Pond, where the old Macy's store is now located. |
|   |   |
| **33. Ambrotype of the Boice family** | Circa 1858. Notice Cornelius and his wife; also the eldest daughter who appears in the portrait with Mrs. Boice. An ambrotype is an early photographic image on glass. |
|   |   |
| **34. Painted Silk and Ivory Fan** | Circa second half of the 19th century. Ostrich plumage would have topped the painted silk body. Feather remnants can be seen. |
|   |   |
| **35. Flower Holder** | Circa 1870. Cornucopia vase which would be filled with fresh flowers and carried by a woman. Used in the same manner as a corsage would be used today. |
|   |   |
| **36. Chatelaine** | Circa 1860. Silver perfume bottles, writing pad, compact, and snuff box hanging from a common chain. A Lady would have this suspended from a holder attached to her waistband. |
|   |   |
| **37. Cut Paper Picture** | Circa 1800s. A quillwork frame surrounds the cut out floral picture. This is a fine example of a lady's fancywork. Quillwork is thin strips of paper curled into designs. |
|   |   |
| **39. Courting Mirror** | Circa 1700. Heavily carved with floral and vine motif. A young man would present this to a young lady and then stand behind her as she opened it so that his reflection would appear in the mirror. |
|   |   |
| **40. Wedding Band China** | Circa 1830. Empire period compote with latticework design. Manufactured in Paris. Shrimp dishes are patterned to resemble seashells. The saucer shows the distinctive gold wedding band motif. |
41. Battle of Cedar Creek
   Circa 1880. A study by Julian Scott of a painting which hangs in the rotunda of the Capitol building in Vermont.

42. M1766 French Musket
   Made in Mauerge, France in 1766. Also known as a Charleville musket, it was imported in 1777 by the State of New Hampshire for its State troops; specifically the 3rd Battalion, No. 253. This information is found on the breech of the barrel.

43. Shingle Maker's Bench and Tools
   Similar to what would have been used when the Drake House was originally shingled. The shingles displayed were original to the house.

44. Oil Lamp
   Circa 1870. An Astral lamp which has since been electrified.

45. High Chair
   Circa 1780. Crafted in the Windsor style.

46. Christening Gown
   Cotton lawn with “Broderie Anglaise” embroidered cutwork at hem, fine tucking and floral embroidered yoke.

47. Wedding Breakfast
   Circa 1870. A Victorian rendition of an 1820s wedding breakfast, constructed of wax and porcelain.

48. Doll Bed with Rag Doll
   Circa 1840. Canopy bed.

49. Rocking Chair

50. Sampler
   Made in 1791 by Frederica Herman when she was 7 years old. Samplers were a common practice piece for young women learning to sew. They learned their letters and numbers while learning their stitches.

51. Sheet Music
   From 1884. The Netherwood, dance music from the Netherwood Hotel, written by Franz Carove.

52. Document
   From 1863. Titled Address to the Executive Committee of Merchants for the Relief of Colored People. Copy of the original. Refers to the Draft Riots in New York City during the Civil War.

53. Folding Chair
   Circa 1885. Manufactured by George Hunzenger of New York City.

54. Stove Pipe Hat
   Circa 1860. Fine beaver hat in the style commonly worn by President Lincoln.

55. Cane
   Circa 1902. Given to Robert Cook by the May term of the Union County Grand Jury.

56. Gentleman's Leather Hat Box
   Late 19th century. For storing or transporting a hat. Interior is custom fitted to the top hat.
57. Postcards
Local postcards of Plainfield. Note the two images of the Baptist Church (one being an earlier one than the other), and how they are different.

58. Pair of Mirrored Sconces
Circa 1900. From the Harberger family, who owned the Drake House after the Drake family.

59. Portrait of Max Tepper
Circa 1964. The Tepper name is associated with the fine department store in Plainfield.

60. Pair of Delft Vases
Circa 1880. Porcelain vases with decorations of figurines and floral designs.

60. Shawl
Circa 1840. Fine wool Kashmir shawl. When they went out of fashion, they commonly were draped over pianos because of their very large size.

61. On the Banks of the Raritan

63. Warming Plate
Circa 1880. A ceramic and metal plate which holds warm water to keep food warm.

64. Pitcher
Circa 1850. Milk pitcher in pink lustreware.

65. Pastille Burner
Circa 1830. Staffordshire figure in the form of a castle.

66. Presentation Pitcher
Presented to Charles Reed, President of the Senate, 1899.

67. Melodeon with Bench
Late 19th century. Relative of the piano.

68. Hair Wreath
Circa 1830. Each flower contains a number which corresponds to a list indicating the person whose hair was used. The list no longer exists.

69. Eagle Banner
Circa 1800. Displayed at City Hall, New York City, about 1810. It was owned by Judge Jacob Roome, who owned a farm along the Green Brook.

...And Elsewhere in the House
In the Dining Room
70. Captain's Chest
Circa 1770. This oak chest was used for carrying liquor during a sea voyage. The chest contains both decanters and glasses. It was originally purchased by Captain Luke Mills of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, while in England.

71. Dining Table
Circa 1750. Walnut wood hand pegged table in the Queen Anne style. Purchased from the Plainfield chapter of the DAR.
In the Living Room

72. Heath Hen
Circa 1880. The Heath Hen was once a plentiful food source in this area. The species is now extinct.

In the Bedroom

73. Tree of Life Quilt
Made in 1777 by the daughter of John Hart, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In the Hallway

74. 1832 Map of Plainfield
The oldest known map of the city.

75. The Library
A replica of John Harberger's library circa 1880. Among the items in the room are The Death of General Sedgewick by Julian Scott, the Eastlake fireplace mantel, a pair of late Empire bookcases, a Turkish arm chair from the estate of author Stephen Crane, an "Aladdin" style student oil lamp, a bust of Daniel Webster, and a photograph of John Harberger. The room is an excellent example of a snapshot of history, right down to the period wall and ceiling coverings.

Drake House Museum
602 West Front Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-755-5831
"There are moments when one person makes a special difference that no one else can make."
Memories of a golden day - memories that will linger long in the minds of more than 500 people who discovered something unforgettable lovely about Plainfield.

And all because you cared.

Affectionately,

Alice

Thank you very much.
The Historical Society of Plainfield

DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM
602 West Front Street
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060-1004
(908) 755-5831

FEBRUARY 1997

Recent Additions to the Collection
By Paul Chapin

Among the recent additions to the collection of the Historical Society of Plainfield are the following...

- Two banners from the Plainfield Chapter of the Kiwanis Club International, as well as the bell which was used to open and close their meetings
- A beautiful paisley coverlet, brought from Paris at the turn of the century
- A book on the history of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties, published in 1881
- An Atlas of the City of Plainfield and the borough of North Plainfield, published in 1894
- A daguerreotype of a boy in a Civil War cape, circa 1865
- A wedding ensemble from 1933, which includes a picture of the bride on her wedding day
- Several postcards of Plainfield

Many of these items are not currently on display. If you would like to see any of them, please telephone and leave a message for the Chair of the Museum committee.
The Genealogy Committee of the Plainfield Historical Society serves two main purposes. First, the members collect the histories of Plainfield families and second, this information is used to answer inquiries sent from all over the United States by those researching their roots. In order to fulfill these goals, the committee is now in a period of expansion. A computer was purchased by the Society last year and we expect, in time, to have a complete file on our family histories.

In October of last year the Committee was able to enlist the aid of two members of the Society who are known for their research on the early families. Russell Vail has compiled an impressive amount of material on the Vails and Thomas Ricketts has done the same with the Drake family. They will continue to be an important link to the early period.

This year we have a new goal. Realizing how difficult it can be to reconstruct those histories one hundred years, or more, after the fact, we have recruited another group of volunteers to research family histories in the twentieth century. There are still people living in Plainfield who have been here for most of the century and we would like to have their stories.

We also want to build on the information we collected for the Black History program at the Drake House last February when we highlighted African-Americans from Plainfield who had achieved at the local, state or national level. In addition it is time to contact people who have been arriving in town since the middle of the century principally from the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa. Volunteers for this committee are Mary Vic Griswold, Eric Deering, Adrian Mapp and PRB trustee Nancy Smythe McCarty, who will be working with regular committee members Mary Della Sala, Nancy Piwowar and Jean Mattson, Chair.

We have decided to call this effort Project 2009 as we hope to come up with a portrait of Plainfield's families by the turn of the century. If you are interested in working on the project or have information we can use you may leave a message on the Drake House phone or contact Jean Mattson evenings at (908) 769-8636.

Recollections of Plainfield

Excerpt from an informal talk delivered by Van Wyck Brooks at the 70th Anniversary celebration of the Plainfield Public Library November 11, 1921

I have an early memory of Job Male, because I lived across the street from him when I was about three years old, on Crescent Avenue, in my grandfather's house. He had a fence that had pickets in it that weren't ordinary pickets, but bulged at the sides. It struck me that those bulges ought not to be there, and I got a hatchet and crept across the street and got to work

(Continued on page 4)
on those bulges. I took off one and probably two, and then the door opened and there was Mr. Job Male, looking down at me. I was caught red-handed. I didn’t have a chance to tell a lie: there was the hatchet.

March 16, 1997
Nellie Dixon - Historical Plainfield on Postcards

April 20, 1997
Eileen Meyer - Plainfield History Through the Eyes of a Postcard Collector

To Be Announced
Dr. Thomas Brown - Civil War Currency

June 1, 1997
Chubb Insurance - Insuring Your Collectibles

All Program Times - 3:00 to 4:00
In the Drake House Gallery

The Drake House Museum Is Open Sundays
2:00 to 4:00
Dear Friend and Neighbor:

Preservation and restoration are important words in today's Plainfield. They are words that will surely play a part in Plainfield's future growth.

Back in 1933, the Historical Society of Plainfield began its own preservation movement when it saved the Drake House from being torn down to make way for a housing development. As a result, the Historical Society now maintains one of the finest restored home museums in the State.

In this our 80th anniversary year we invite you to become part of the Drake House Museum by becoming a member of the Society. Membership benefits are quarterly newsletters, meetings, lectures and trips to historic sites and museums. Can't you complete and mail the membership form today?

We invite you to an open house at this city-owned museum on March 28th from 2 to 4 P.M. Bring your friends and join us for a guided tour and refreshments. Call the museum at 751-6981 and let us know that you are coming.

Sincerely,

Betty Kenting
Mrs. Garrett R. Kenting
President

MEMBERS OF
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION - MUSEUMS COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY
NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
The Historical Society of Plainfield cordially invites you to a reception honoring Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Detwiler, Jr.

Thurs. May 7, 1987, 4:30 p.m.

Drake House Museum
602 W. Front St.
Plainfield, New Jersey
I, Ethel M. West, am an interested candidate for the exchange program with the City of San Francisco. I am willing to be a delegate with the exchange program with the City of San Francisco to the Historical Society of N.J. I understand that I will represent not only the Historical Society of N.J., but also the League of Historical Societies of Plainfield. I also agree to help with the four day visit of delegates from San Francisco to New Jersey next May.

I would be a good choice as a delegate because:

1. Over 20 years of volunteer experience to develop programs that bring the value of history, particularly of the Drake House Museum, to the attention of the public in the Plainfield area.
2. Started the first volunteer guide program for the Drake House Museum.
3. Experience in working with local schools in developing programs for different age groups in the Museum as well as in the schools.
4. Responsible for developing the first budget that included municipal funds. Developed the first capital improvement budget for the museum.
5. Experience in working with both county and state historical organizations in administrative positions.

Mag Kolaya

I wish to be considered because:

1. have been actively involved in setting this exchange up and went to see it through.
2. as President, I could bring information back to this society that would facilitate our organization’s operation and planning.
3. have served the society for 14 years in many different areas, including terms as Vice President in charge of the museum’s upkeep, Education Chairman, Nominating Chairman, Long-Range Chairman, Recording Secretary, Store Manager, Treasurer for Guides, Newsletter and Publicity.
4. have been active in all areas of the society including exhibit preparation, financial management, public relations, heritage workshops, school and adult tours, luncheons, training and writing of training materials, program preparation and contacts with other groups, such as with the April League visit.
5. background with degrees in American History and Library studies with an emphasis in archival studies as well as 12 years as member of Brigade of the American Revolution. This adds other dimensions to my interest and commitment.
Sincere congratulations to our curator, Jeanne Turner, for receiving a $5,000 grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to preserve the Society's costume collection. The doll room has been converted for storage, complete with shelving and acid-free materials. The tower room is becoming a work studio. Jeanne will lead a workshop at 10 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Volunteers are needed to repair, wash, label, photograph and inventory the collection. All are invited to become part of this exciting and challenging project.

We have been selected by the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey as one of only three societies to participate in a pilot exchange program with the City Guides of San Francisco. Our delegates, Meg Kolaya, Betty Keating and John Grady, will participate from October 9th to 12th along with delegates from Princeton and Acorn Hall in Morristown. Next May nine delegates from San Francisco will visit New Jersey spending a day with each of the selected societies.
The Historical Society announces its calendar of activities for this year:

On Saturday, October 17th the Drake House joins other vendors at the COLOR SYMPOSIUM at Grace Church, 600 Cleveland Avenue, Plainfield. The event is from 9:30 to 4:30 and will feature Elizabeth Pomada and Michael Larsen, authors of Painted Ladies and Daughters of Painted Ladies and also Roger Moss, author of Victorian Exterior Decoration. Advance registration of $20 ($25 at the door) is suggested and will include a hot luncheon prepared by the Drake House volunteers. For more information call 755-4635.

During the month of November the display case of the Plainfield Public Library will feature our Museum shop, The Eagle's Nest. Stop by and preview items that are perfect for Christmas gifts.

Our Christmas Open House, THINKETS, TINSEL AND TRIMMINGS, will be held on Sunday, December 6th from 1 until 4 o'clock at the Museum. Our display will represent Christmas decorating throughout the existence of the Drake House.

In the Spring the Historical Society will SHOWCASE THE SHOWHOUSE. We will coordinate special events at Cedar Brook Farm, the 1988 Designer Showhouse of the Auxiliary of Muhlenberg Hospital.

The fruit of labor of the costume workshop will be exhibited at the Museum in May. SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW . . . . a spring wedding at Drake House, will be a month-long exhibition on Saturdays and Sundays from 2 until 4 o'clock.
DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM NEEDS YOU

The Historical Society finds that it is necessary to take responsibility for staffing the House during the hours that it is open to the public: Saturdays from 2 until 4 o'clock.

The plan is for two members of the Society to serve together each Saturday. If you do not feel qualified, you will be paired with someone who is. In fact, we will even train you - and those who are a little rusty. Painless training sessions will be held at the Museum at 2:00 on Saturday, November 7th and Saturday, March 5th. The Museum will not be open after the Christmas program on December 6th until March 5th. It is open during the summer.

If we all support this plan we will each have to serve only two or three times per year. We want to present the Museum to our visitors in a cordial manner and we thank you for your cooperation. Please return the slip below to the Drake House. (If you don't, we'll find you anyway.)

I will be able to greet visitors to the Drake House Museum:

NAME: ________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________

PHONE: ____________________________

PREFERRED SATURDAYS: ____________
Congratulations to the Special Yearbook Committee for their publication of Plainfield – 300 Years. The Committee is a group of Plainfield residents who freely gave of their time and talents to produce a beautiful and complete history of the city. Those who love history and Plainfield congratulate and thank them for their noteworthy accomplishment. The first 1000 copies were sold immediately. The book is now in its second printing and will be ready in mid-November. It will be available at Swain's Galleries at a cost of $30.00.

The Museum telephone has a new answering machine making routing of calls to Museum personnel much easier. If you require information on any matter please call 755-5831.

We ask members for loan of items for the Christmas exhibit: crazy quilts, 19th century Christmas tree ornaments, Santas, sleighs and toys. Please call Jeanne Turner at the Museum.
Mark your calendar for Thursday evening, April 21st when we will "showcase the showhouse". Our visual presentation will preview the opening of Muhlenberg Auxiliary's 1988 Designer Showhouse. Their project is historic Cedar Brook Farm, also known as the 1717 House and the Martine House. Please join us that evening as we bring to life the personal history of this fine structure. Our presentation will take place under the Tent at 7:30 p.m.

As the Showhouse remains open to visitors, the Historical Society will sponsor craft demonstrations each Thursday. Exhibits will be under the Tent from 2:00 to 4:30, with a lecture at 3:00. You may attend these demonstrations without admission to the Showhouse.

April 28th - Bernice Swain will demonstrate arranging dried flowers

May 5th - Herbert O'Brien, Jr. will demonstrate carving duck decoys

May 12th - Marti Samek will lecture on quilts and will identify quilts before the lecture

May 19th - Arlene Weiseman will lecture on Shaker furniture

May 26th - Barbara Chaifkin and Barbara Finch will lecture on costume and linen restoration

During the month of May we will be welcoming visitors from San Francisco. Members of the San Francisco City Guides will visit New Jersey as part of the "People to People" exchange that our society took part in last fall. We have wonderful things in Plainfield to show them.

We thank all who participated in any way in our Presidents' Party. The response was heartwarming. We can't thank you enough for your generous support. The dinner was a sell-out. Those who couldn't come sent donations. Many non-members came. And those who came made it a very festive, enjoyable evening. It was also a financial success. Thank you.

By now many of you have received a schedule for staffing the House during open hours. We appreciate your support in this important matter. We anticipate many visitors to the Museum because of the costume exhibit and we need the House adequately staffed. Please advise Meg Kolaya of any changes in the schedule. If you are available to staff the House for a two hour period, please let us know. Thank you.

We are also in need of additional volunteers for our guide group. Their responsibilities include giving a slide-lecture in the class-room and guiding school groups through the Museum. Each guide works approximately six hours per month, four months per year. Call Mary Della Sala at 757-5034 for more information.
COMMMUNIQUE

May we remind you to send in your May house exhibit "Hook-a-Boy," membership cards for those members whose last date for dues for 1968. The following are enroled with this committee for those members whose cards are encosed with membership cards:

Dona Voss
Dorothy Felton
Jeanette Griffin
Emmett Strocking
Allice Roberts
Constance Mason

We welcome the new members of the Historical Society of Plantation.

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW . . .

Moments before the wedding . . . Guests gather for a turn-of-the-century wedding. The bride catches a last glimpse of herself in the bedroom mirror while the groom waits nervously in the library. Meanwhile, a small guest eyes the wedding cake with great anticipation.

Please join us for the opening of an exhibition of wedding attire on May 1st from 2 to 4 o'clock. Wedding cake and punch will be served. The exhibition will be open on Saturdays during May and June and on Sunday, May 15th and 22nd.

The exhibit is the result of many hours of work by our costume workshop volunteers under the supervision of our curator, Jeanne Turner. We are well under way with the cataloguing and repair of our extensive costume collection. We welcome additions to the collection now that we have proper storage facilities thanks to our New Jersey Historical Commission grant. Call the Museum if you have items for our experts to examine.

APRIL 1968
It is with great sadness that we report the death of Charles H. Detwiller, Jr. on Saturday, May 11th in South Harwich, Massachusetts. Det's presence will always be felt through the many projects he pursued in Union County. Our own Drake House Museum would not exist if it had not been for Charlie's preservation effort. He lovingly restored the building in the 1950s and had been our consultant ever since even as recently as January of this year. Det will be sincerely missed and we extend our sympathy to his family.

"OUR BOUNTIFUL EARTH"

The last of our 1990-91 series, "Our Bountiful Earth", will open on Saturday and Sunday, June 1st and 2nd, from 1 until 4 o'clock. This fourth exhibit of the series centers on "The Flowering World". The highlight of this exhibit will be the second floor ballroom. We hope to transform this ample Victorian space into a tableau "Garden Party" complete with appropriately attired mannequin "guests". The gowns have all been restored through our costume restoration workshops. The setting will feature a selection of fine Victorian wrought iron lawn furnishings and other embellishments. To bring life into this display the Plainfield Garden Club will present a demonstration on the art of topiary led by Mrs. John Madsen and Mrs. Robert Hackman. "Tussie-mussies", a forgotten Victorian flower arrangement form is also on the menu of instruction.
A broader inventory on the first floor will include interpretations of flora as applied to practical, decorative and fine arts. Antique painted-serving ware, old Paris pieces, sterling flower baskets and silver will be on view with period flower arrangements. The dining room centerpiece will be donated by Nancy Kroll of the Plainfield Garden Club. Quilts and fabrics in botanical themes will be displayed in the bedroom.

Marianne Brady, director of the after-school program, will instruct children in adaptations of Victorian crafts. Refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be open the remaining Saturdays through June from 2 until 4 p.m. A one dollar donation is requested of non-members.

ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Historical Society Of Plainfield are invited to the annual meeting to be held at the Drake House on Sunday, June 2nd at 1 o’clock. The purpose of the meeting is to elect trustees. In turn the trustees will elect officers.

Betty Matthews and her nominating committee present the following slate to be voted on at the annual meeting.

To be elected:
James Eberle
John Hotopp
Joseph Priester
David Willis

To be re-elected:
JoAnn Ball
Mary Della Sala
Betty Matthews
Nancy Piwowar
Nancy Smythe
Jeanne Turner
Michael Wroble

OFFICERS 1991-93

President
Barbara Fuller
1st Vice President
Arthur Strawbridge
2nd Vice President
Julian Haner
Recording Secretary
Mary Della Sala

MANY THANKS

After many years of dedication to the Historical Society and The Museum, Ginnie Brown, Anne Louise Davis and Marc Neid will no longer continue to serve in the capacity of trustees. We owe them our gratitude for all that they have accomplished for the House. Please join us at a reception in their honor at the Drake House following the annual meeting on Sunday, June 2nd at 1 o’clock.

FRIENDS IN KENTUCKY

On April 2nd representatives of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church, the Rev. Dr. James A. Brix, Midge Baracine, Jim Kullman and Paul Stevens, presented a most appreciated gift to the Drake House Museum. They, along with Bill and Jewell Kachler of May’s Lick, Kentucky, donated a wagon jack to the Museum. In 1788 a group of families left Scotch Plains and traveled to the wilderness of Kentucky. Included were Abraham, Cornelius and Isaac Drake and their families. They founded May’s Lick and later the Baptist Church. We had occasion to meet members of the present May’s Lick congregation and the Scotch Plains congregation when they had a reunion here last year. It is most generous of them to present so appropriate a gift to us and we thank them very much. Although it cannot be documented that this particular wagon jack traveled with the Drakes to Kentucky, the gesture of returning it to the Drake plantation is very symbolic of the connection between the Drake House, the Scotch Plains Baptist Church and the people of May’s Lick.
Curator, Jeanne Turner, wishes to thank the following people for donations to the Drake House Museum:

Lucy Rose - various metals, papers and historical Plainfield books
John McDonald - Netherwood papers
Bill and Jewell Kachler - wagon jack
John Grady - display box
Barbara Sandford - metal plaque
Lyn Pfefferkorn - c. 1920 rose robe
Jody Handerson - c. 1920 dress
Bernice Swain - ermine collar
Dorothe Pollard - book, From the Neck Up
John Bicknell - melodeon and stool
Anne Marie Seybolt - antique shawl dress
James Soriano - picture of May 30, 1920 celebration by Paul Collier

Edith Tyler Noss - wedding dress, breeches and coat. The bridal gown dates to 1869. The bride who wore it was Mrs. Noss's grandmother, Eliza Margaret Schroeter. Eliza married Colonel Mason Whiting Tyler who fought in the Civil War. Eliza's grandfather, Elija Boardman (1760-1823) was a U.S. Senator from 1821 to his death in 1823. His white satin breeches and coat and the wedding gown will be on display in our up-coming exhibit.

May 1991
Homeowners’ devotion to small details pays off

When they first got married, Jim and Diana Downs wanted a fireplace in their apartment. Today, in their restored Victorian home in Plainfield, they have four.

House is credit to century-old craftsmanship

A newlywed, Diana and Jim Downs had a yearning for a fireplace in their apartment. They even created a false hearth to satisfy their longings. Little did three years later, the Downs couple realize that they were on their way to restoring a period Queen Anne. "You get the blend of the columns and the Palladian windows, plus the tower and the gables." In talking with a previous owner, the couple found that the home originally had stained glass windows decorated in gargoyle frames.

The Downs home in Plainfield is graced by King Neptune and a pair of gargoyles.

Homestyle

Judith Hampson, Courier-News Writer
When they first got married, Jim and Diana Downs wanted a fireplace in their apartment. Today, in their restored Victorian home in Plainfield, they have four.

House is credit to century-old craftsmanship

Alas, newswriters, Diana and Jim Downs had a yearning for a fireplace in their apartment. They even created a false hearth to accent their furnishings.

Less than three years later, the Plainfield couple has not one, but four fireplaces in the three-story Victorian house, which they bought in 1967.

In the early 1880s, Mr. Downs, then a bachelor living in New Providence, "discovered" Plainfield and bought a vintage multi-family home that needed renovation.

"I fell in love with the architecture of the town, the historic preservation, and the general pioneer spirit," he said. Today he and his wife live at the former Plainfield Civic Club, the Plainfield Social Club and the Plainfield Business Association.

Before Plainfield, Mr. Downs, a contractor and developer in the New Jersey area, saw his own home in Plainfield. He knew that the Victorian house would be a good investment for his family.

Within a year, the couple had found their home in Plainfield.

"We drove around and saw many homes, but we chose this one," Mrs. Downs said. "It was clean, well-maintained, and it had a fireplace. We fell in love with the house and decided to buy it."

The house was built in 1889. It was a transitional from the Revival period to Queen Anne. It has a blend of the ornate and the Palladian windows, plus the lower and the upper windows.

In talking with a previous owner, the couple found that the house originally had stained-glass windows designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Twelve of those panels have been removed, but some of the stained glass has been replaced.

The house was basically in very good condition, Mrs. Downs said. "But we've done maybe $50,000 worth of work on the house in the last two years, so we've been busy." Wherever possible, the couple has preserved and enhanced the historic architectural features of the house.

One of the highlights of the house is the intricate woodwork in the dining room, which features a double-chambered entry, where a small vestibule features the original ceramic-tile flooring and partial marble walls. A portion of the leaded-glass panels covered with stained glass, which separates the vestibule from the hallway.

At the front of the house, the balcony is flanked by two parlors. Both of those rooms, as well as the bedrooms above, have fireplaces.

One of the parlors, which may have been the home's library originally, features extensive use of the neoclassical design. The other front parlor, which the Downs use as their living room, forms the base of the three-story tower. Here the couple have treated a cozy social area by combining old and new furnishings.

The building was updated with new furnishings in the 1990s, including a new roof and new plumbing. The Downs have added a second floor to the house, which now has four bedrooms and three bathrooms.

One feature of the spacious dining room is a window seat built under a bay window, complementing the wood trim of the room's other ornate pieces.

A small Chinese-style rug with pastel tones repeats a floral theme in the living room's walls. The woodwork and ceiling are painted white, emphasizing the original moldings and detail of the fireplaces.

Next to the fireplace is a century-old organ, which dates back to the 1880s.

The kitchen and bathrooms were modernized about 50 years ago, although the current owners hope to maintain those rooms with a Victorian look within the next year.

The house is fairly big, but they (the Victorians) took up a lot of space with entry halls," Mrs. Downs said. "When I think about how long it would take me to build a stairwell like this, and carve the columns, I decided to buy this house."

"We have a lot to do," his wife said. "But it's going to be exciting!"

The stairwell of the Victorian home of Diana and Jim Downs in Plainfield.
TEDDIES GALORE

The holiday season at Drake House Museum will be officially opened the weekend of December 10th with an "Edwardian Christmas Celebration" from 2 – 4 pm, on Saturday the 10th, and Sunday the 11th.

Edwardian? Yes, the period between the end of Queen Victoria's reign and before the First World War, a span of twelve years that historians see as a gay, almost carefree time when England threw off the primness of Victorian manners and embraced the cosmopolitan outlook of its new king, Edward.

Join us for a holiday celebration reminiscent of that era. On display will be a special collection of a toy that made its debut in the Edwardian period, the teddy bear. The house will be decorated for the season, and fancy sweets and sandwiches will be served.
HOLIDAY WEEKEND

We feel very fortunate to be able to exhibit a fine collection of teddy bears and bear memorabilia. "Teddy's bears" (as they were first named) were introduced to the American public by a Brooklyn shopkeeper in 1902 who kept in touch with the news of the day.

Picking up on a popular political cartoon depicting President Theodore Roosevelt protecting a little bear, Morris Michtom had his wife Rose quickly stitch up two plush toy bears for their window display. Michtom wrote the President and asked for permission to name his new toy after Roosevelt. The President approved, and teddy bears became the new hit toy.

TO TAKE HOME

As a part of the afternoons' festivities, children will be invited to join our junior guides in making an ornament of their very own to take home.

Our holiday boutique will also offer some unusual and charming presents for your gift list. Bears will be available as ornaments (of tin, fabric, patchwork, and gingerbread), in miniature watercolors, and other incarnations. All sorts of stocking stuffers for both adults and children, as well as some handmade items by artist Patricia Bramnick, will be available.

PLEASE COME

So do join the fun on either Saturday, December 10, or Sunday, December 11th, for our Edwardian holiday celebration. (And if you have a favorite teddy that would like to be part of the exhibit, please bring him along too!) Society members and bears free, $1.00 admission for non-members.

THANKS

Curator Lyn Rupp wishes to thank all those who loaned samplers and needlework for our fall exhibit. It was a marvelous show in both diversity and quality of handwork displayed, and was possible only because of the continued cooperation of members and friends. Thank you!

WELCOME

The Historical Society welcomes new members who joined in 1983:
Lea Allen
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Cameron
Mr. & Mrs. Steven A. Caputo
Francesco Cohen
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth F. Drake, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Henry III
Mrs. Henry Blashman
Dr. & Mrs. Richard F. Neblett
Mrs. Doris Schaefer
Ben H. Well
YOU CAN JOIN TOO

Anyone with an interest in preserving the historical heritage of Plainfield is encouraged to join the Society. We maintain the Drake House Museum, a home dating from 1746 and frequented by General Washington during the Revolutionary War. To promote the museum we conduct classroom lectures and museum tours for schoolchildren, tours and museum luncheons for adults, and an afterschool program for junior guides.

In addition, the society meets three times a year for special programs and lectures, and takes occasional trips to places of mutual interest.

There are a variety of memberships in the Society, as listed. You can join by filling out the form below, and sending it with a check to: Historical Society of Plainfield, 602 W. Front St., Plainfield, NJ 07060.

NAME ________________________________

ADDRESS ________________________________

____________________________ ZIP _______

TELEPHONE __________ DATE __________

FEE ENCLOSED (AMOUNT) __________________

Membership fees:
student/senior citizen....$5.00
active member ............$7.50
contributing..............$15.00
corporate..................$25.00
sustaining..............$50 and over
The Historical Society of Plainfield is unfurling spring this year in a ruffle of lace with its March/April exhibit titled "... Of Christenings, Cradles and Silver Spoons...". This romantic collection of christening gowns, infant apparel, bonnets and other finery, mostly restored at the Museum, will open Saturday, March 4th from 2 to 4 p.m. Embellishing the presentation, silver framed baby pictures from days gone by, rattles, spoons and other sterling accessories will be at hand. Examples of baby carriages and vintage cradles have been loaned for this occasion as well as an assortment of antique dolls which will, in some cases, serve as models for the delicate ensembles.

For this exhibit the Museum will be open on Saturdays and Sundays during March from 2 until 4 o'clock. Closing for Easter weekend, April hours will resume on a Saturday only basis. Special group tours may be arranged and the Museum is available for private luncheons. Admission is free for members, otherwise a one dollar donation per adult is requested. Refreshments will be served on both days of the opening weekend.
Fraktur, a German term indicating a kind of curlicued type of text, is also the term used for a birth announcement in the Pennsylvania Dutch style. The "fraktur" is typically primitive and colorful with symbols of life and home and hex-like designs surrounding the name and the date of birth. A program for children, under the guidance of Marianne Brady, will be conducted on both days of the opening weekend. Outlined facsimiles of "fraktur" will be available for children to complete with their name and birthdate.

Curator, Jeanne Turner, requests members to lend articles reflecting the theme of the exhibit. Provisions for their care will be taken. Please call Jeanne at the Museum. She also requests white, 100% cotton sheets for storing items in our textile collection. Thank you.

We are very proud of Marianne Brady who conducts our wonderful after-school program for children's groups. The program consists of a tour of the House with the Junior Guides and a craft demonstration which produces an article for each child to take home. Marianne's very able assistants are our marvelous Junior Guides:

MERVIN BOURNE
LOGAN GAMBLE
COELLE KOCHANSKI
CINDY MACKNOWSKY
THERESA MACKNOWSKY
JASON PATNISH
We thank you all.

We anticipate that the exhibit will bring many visitors to the Museum. We ask your cooperation in adequately staffing the House. Please consider staffing for a two hour period during open hours. Contact Meg Kolaya if you would like to assist. Thank you.

Membership cards are enclosed with this Communiqué for those members who have paid their dues for 1989. May we remind you to send in your dues if you haven't done so.
We gratefully acknowledge recent donations of artifacts and costumes to the Drake House Museum. Many thanks to:

Maryellen Doldouras
Marjorie Elliot
John Grady
Connie Mason
Dorothy Reinker
Anne Marie Seybold

Our Presidents' Toasting Party is to be held on Saturday, February 25th. We do hope that you have sent in your reservation or donation. This is our single fund-raising event of the year. Thank you very much for your support.

COMMUNIQUE

The Historical Society of Plainfield
DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM

602 WEST FRONT STREET
PLAINFIELD
NEW JERSEY • 07060
(201) 755-5831

February 1989
Open House Scheduled At Museum

The Historical Society of Plainfield and North Plainfield will hold an old-fashioned Christmas open house Sunday at 3 p.m. in Drake House Museum featuring a display of antique toys.

Bernard M. Barenholz, vice president of Creative Playthings, Inc. of Princeton and collector of antique toys will be guest speaker. Owner of one of the outstanding tin toy and mechanical bank collections in the country, he will illustrate his talk with some of the toys.

Mrs. Webster Sandford and Charles H. Detwiller Jr., will display their personal collections around an old-fashioned tree in the GAR room.

All the rooms in Drake House will be decorated in authentic colonial Christmas fashion. Mrs. William Rupp and Mrs. Raymond Clark, attired in colonial gowns will be hostesses, and Mrs. Prentice C. Horne in charge of refreshments.

The toys will be exhibited through Dec. 14 and the exhibit will be open to the public during regular museum hours, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 2-5 p.m. Mrs. Horne, Mrs. Garrett Koating and Mrs. Alden de Hart are in charge of arrangements.
Historical Society of Plainfield

Mrs. Webster Sanford

is an Sustaining member of this Society and is entitled to all the privileges of membership.

Dues paid for 1990

M. Kolaya, Membership
‘Scottish Christmas’ spins yarns of the past

By BERNICE PAGLIA
Courier-News Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD — One piper piping outside Drake House Museum yesterday helped draw about 300 people to a “Scottish Christmas” open house with historic plaids and paisleys as its theme.

Michael Bradley, in full piper’s regalia, solemnly marched across the lawn of the city-owned museum on West Front Street as visitors arrived to see authentic tartans as well as shawls that were woven in Paisley, Scotland.

To quell clan pride, the English prohibited Scotsmen from wearing tartans in 1746, a year after Nathaniel Drake built the house that is now the museum. After the ban was lifted in 1822, it became customary just to wear the lower half, or kilt, which Brady donned yesterday as part of his uniform.

Scottish heritage brought many Plainfield families to the exhibit and even enticed a family with 10 children to come all the way from Wayne, said Meg Kolaya, president of Plainfield’s historical society, which staffs and manages the museum.

“I’m exhilarated to see the large number of people attending,” said Kolaya, considering competition from Hanukkah, Christmas and community events yesterday.

Inspired originally by an 1858 plaid dress in the museum’s costume collection, the display was a reflection of a Victorian fascination with all things Scottish. Plainfield resident Ann Hibshman donated another plaid dress created in the early 1800s and worn to a party for the “Van Buren girls” — daughters of President Martin Van Buren.

Paisley shawls and the elaborate Kashmir fabrics that inspired them were draped and hung throughout the museum. They included examples of the original Indian goats’ wool shawls, which were sewn together from as many as 1,500 pieces, and the large, light Scottish shawls made in one piece on harness looms. All had the jewel-toned, sinuous designs that have made paisley a classic element in fashion.

A Kashmir ladies’ evening coat and silky, white wedding shawls also were displayed.

Kolaya expressed thanks to both lenders and donors of the precious textiles, an increasingly strong part of the museum’s collection.

For children, there was a chance to design bold plaids with construction-paper strips or curvy paisleys with inked sides of their fists.

Besides helping to restore and prepare textiles for the exhibit, volunteer members of the Historical Society of Plainfield also made sample Dundee Cake, shortbread and “gingerbread husbands” to carry out the theme.

New members, Kolaya said, always are welcome to join the historical society, which has won wide recognition for its educational efforts and special programs.
The annual meeting of the Historical Society of Plainfield will be held on Sunday, May 21st at 2 o'clock at the Museum. At that time the membership of the Society will vote on the trustees to be elected and the Board of Trustees will elect the new officers for the Society. We look forward to a good turn out for this meeting.

A special program is planned to follow the business portion of the meeting. We are pleased that the Ars Musica Antiqua will be with us to perform. This unique group is known throughout the State for their rendition of Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Colonial musical programs. Their music, all written before 1800, is performed mostly on instruments that are authentic reproductions of those existing in the colonial era. Costumed members of the group welcome you to come to listen and to ask questions about their instruments and music.
The members of the group are both professional musicians and singers and talented amateurs. We welcome you to come and enjoy a most fascinating musical performance. There is no charge.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and by a grant from the Plainfield Foundation.

THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge recent donations of artifacts and costumes to the Museum. Thank you to:

Jim Eberle
Helen Gawron
Connie Mason
Jeanette Morse
Toddy Pond
Process Materials
Ted and Tom Ricketts
Anne Marie Seybold
Virginia Wieczorek

We thank everyone who participated in any way in our Presidents’ Party, especially Lila and Bill Davis for opening their home. It was a wonderful evening that included congenial company, entertaining toasts, clever prizes and tasty food and drink. Thank you all for making the evening a social and financial success.

Thank you to the hearty group who braved the wet weather on April 16th for planting/clean-up day on the Museum grounds. We thank you for your hard work and the satisfying results.

Julian Scott is the artist who painted "The Death of General Sedgewick" which hangs in the Harold Bergier Library. During the month of September there will be an exhibit of his work at the Didden Center for the Arts, Johnson State College, Johnson, Vermont. The exhibit will include our study of "The Battle of Cedar Creek." The larger, final painting of this work hangs in the Vermont State House in Montpelier.
FROM THE CURATOR, JEANNE TURNER:

Costume Workshop ... Update

April 6th we all became Mad Hatters as we went to work on our hats under the supervision of Gina Biana from Helene Von Rosenstiel, Inc., Restorers from Brooklyn. We learned to repair, restore, steam (set off the fire alarm and were visited by the Fire Department) and make hat forms. We were given acid-free board from Process Materials and two 1840's hats from Tom and Ted Ricketts.

We will work on the hats and other costumes until June 1st. A thank-you luncheon will be held June 1st for our costume volunteers, following which we break for the summer.

We have a lot to be thankful for:

1) Thanks to the Costume Workshop ladies we have had 3 textile exhibits since May of 1983: the May Wedding in 1988, "Plaids and Paisleys" in December 1988 and Christenings in 1989.

2) Thanks to Marilyn Bowlin, Mary Della Sala, Marianne Brady and Lee Hackett for extra help in costumes and the last exhibit.

3) Thanks for all the wonderful donations, loans for the exhibits and for the hours of work from our volunteers and trustees.

During the summer the Museum and the gift shop will continue to be open on Saturdays from 2:00 until 4:00.
Visions of Yesteryear

The Historical Society is pleased to present the publication of its 1990 calendar as its major fund raiser. The calendar, entitled "Visions of Yesteryear", is a compilation of vintage photographs depicting life in Plainfield. It is a handsome 13 month calendar printed in sepia ink on buff stock and it a must for every member. It also makes a perfect holiday gift for family, friends, teachers, etc.

The cost of the calendar is $6.00. It may be purchased at the Museum during open hours on Saturday from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. or from any Trustee. It may also be ordered by mail by sending a check for $8.00 ($6.00 plus $2.00 postage and handling) to The Historical Society of Plainfield, 602 West Front Street, Plainfield, N.J. 07060. Be sure to include your name and address.
“Twas the Night Before Christmas”
Open House

Mark your calendar and come to our annual Christmas open house. We’ll be open for two days so that you can’t miss it - Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The theme is “Twas the Night Before Christmas . . .” based on the poem by Clement Moore. Come and see the children nestled in their beds, papa in his nightcap and perhaps Santa, too. There will be special activities for the children under the direction of professional artist, Marianne Brady. There will also be a story-teller to be enjoyed by all ages. Refreshments will be served.

While there is no admission charge for members, a donation of $1.00 is requested (children 12 and under are free). The gift shop will be open for holiday shopping - gifts, baked goods, wreaths, etc. The Christmas exhibit and gift shop will remain open Saturdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. through December 16th.

The Program Committee requests the loan of items for the Christmas exhibit. If you have old books about Christmas and copies of “Twas the Night Before Christmas”, old Christmas stockings, mice of any form and size, reindeer, old Santas of any form and size (ornaments, statues and pictures), cookie cutters, cookie tins, etc., please call Curator, Jeanne Turner at the Museum and bring your items to the House.

Gift Shop

There are many new items for sale in our gift shop. Many would be ideal holiday gifts and others might be used for holiday decorations. Stop in the gift shop during the open house or any Saturday afternoon.

Thanks

The History Society wishes to thank Marguerite Morgan for her assistance at a workshop on lace identification and restoration. We also wish to thank the following for their donations to the Drake House: Gerry Barton, Miss Bristol, Ginny Brown, Vera Corcoran, Nancy D’Amato, Dorothy de Hart, Marie DeMair, Mary Griswold, Pam Kobyra, Connie Mason, Jeanette Morse, and Anne Marie Seybolt.
Coming Events

Monday, November 27th, 12:00-2:00 p.m  
*Bring items for the Christmas exhibit.*

Wednesday, November 29th at 10:00 a.m.  
*Help us decorate the Museum for the Christmas open house. Please bring clippers and greens from your yard.*

Saturday, December 2nd, 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 3rd, 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
*Join us at the Christmas open house “Twas the Night Before Christmas . . .” The exhibit will also be open Saturday December 9th and 16th.*

Saturday, March 3rd, 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, March 4th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
*There will be an exhibit of photographs and costumes which will run through the month of March.*

New Trustees  
Arne Aakre, Constance Mason, and Dorothe Pollard were elected last spring to serve as new trustees until 1992.

Franklinia Tree  
A Franklinia Tree has been planted on the museum grounds dedicated to the memory of Barclay Johnson.
Clockwise from left: Mary DellaSala of Plainfield restrings beads onto an antique cape; a volunteer delicately works with needle and thread; Jeanne Turner, Drake House Museum curator, puts the finishing touches on an 1890s velvet ball gown.
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NAME: king
DATE: 5/4/92
ADDRESS: 
CITY: 
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BLACK AND WHITE 
KODACOLOR FILM 
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ONE ROLL PER BAG
NO. OF PRINTS
FROM EACH NEG.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
PRINTS MADE: 14

PRICE:
DEV. 2.10
PRINT 4.34
TOTAL 6.44
TAX 0.45
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Drake House May 1991

Victor King donated the box brushes
WILLARD-BUDD COLLECTION

A special program co-sponsored by the Plainfield Public Library and the Plainfield-North Plainfield Historical Society will be seen Nov. 23 at the Plainfield library at 3 p.m.

Mr. Robert Budd Gibby of Hillside will discuss the historical events depicted in his collection.

The life of George Washington from age 6 to his last birthday is depicted in this collection of engravings, lithographs and etchings which Mr. Gibby has assembled.

One of the engravings shows the wedding day of Martha Washington's grand-daughter, Nellie Custis, at Mount Vernon on Feb. 22, 1799, which also was Washington's last birthday.

Another picture portrays the Rev. James Caldwell of the Springfield Presbyterian Church giving the soldiers pages from the church hymnals during the famous Battle of Springfield on June 23, 1780, and exhorting them to "Give them Watts, boys." Issac Watts was an English hymn writer in the pre-Revolutionary period and the pages of the hymnals were used as wadding in the guns.
The collection has been gathered by Mr. Gibby, assisted by his wife, the former Anne Willard, over a period of 25 years. The family names of Mr. and Mrs. Gibby were combined to give the memorabilia its name, the Willard-Budd collection. A member of the Willard family was a well-known engraver in Hartford, Conn., in the 1800's. The Budd family was the first to settle in Chatham.

The collection consists of more than 40 pictures, all framed, some in their original condition, others hand colored, ranging from book plate size to approximately 42 by 32 inches. It includes engravings published during Washington's lifetime as well as in later years.

Mr. Gibby says that pictures of Washington were most popular from 1840 to 1860, when they were displayed in many homes. Ultimately, many were destroyed and, as years passed, the remainder became difficult to find.

The Willard-Budd collection has been on display at the N. J. State Museum at Trenton and on exhibit at the N. J. Historical Society in Newark.

The collection will be on display at the Plainfield Library gallery from Nov. 3 to Nov. 23 from 3-5 p.m. Monday thru Saturday and 7-9 p.m. on Monday nights.

CHRISTMAS WITH DOLLY MADISON

Save Sunday, Dec. 14 for the Drake House Christmas program based on a paper in

the Drake House files. A continuing observance in our Bicentennial celebration, we will feature foods and crafts of the first quarter of the 19th Century. In the dining room, Mrs. Drake will tell how President James Madison and his wife Dolly observed their first Christmas in the White House at a gala dinner. Drake House will be open from 2-4 p.m. and at 3 p.m. there will be a special program of period music. There will also be an exhibit of events, people and discoveries of the early 1800's between our country's 25th and 50th birthdays.

NEWS PROGRAMS

Historical Society activities will be highlighted on Channel 70, Plainfield Cable Vision Wednesday evening news programs on Nov. 5, Nov. 19 and Dec. 10. Hal Marts, Plainfield Bicentennial chairman, hosts a news segment on local Bicentennial events.

Mr. L. A. Moore, director of the Plainfield Public Library, will appear on Nov. 5 to discuss the Willard-Budd Collection exhibit at the library. Historical Society representatives will appear on Nov. 19 to talk about Mr. Richard Gibby's slide lecture, and on Dec. 10 to tell of the Drake House Christmas program.

Charles H. Detwiler, Jr., has designed a Drake House logo. Using the Colonial Eagle from over the Drake House door and the Victorian-style architecture of the Museum, the logo represents
not only the blend of the Drake and Harberger families, but spans the history of the Museum.

FLASH...FLASH

Grounds Chairman Barbara Sandford has completed planting myrtle on the front bank of the Drake House grounds. Assisting her was Michael Lane and the Junior Woman's Club of the Monday Afternoon Club.

The Drake House guides were active participants in the Monday Afternoon Club Antique Show on Oct. 20, 21 and 22. The Heritage Craft program was demonstrated. The Drake House Sampler was introduced at this show. Originated by Jean Schaeffer and designed by Deborah Lane, and implemented by Lyn Rupp and Meg Kolaya, this 10" x 13" cross-stitch sampler is a complete kit, which includes a history of the Museum. There is a limited, numbered edition of 200 and each kit sells for $10. Stop by the House for your kit, or call the House to reserve one.

The Drake House Museum has been represented in two Bicentennial Fashion Shows, one in Scotch Plains, the other in Clinton. Although our costume collection is well represented with period clothing, we lack accessory pieces. If you have any hats, shoes, gloves, etc. in good condition, and would like to donate them, please call the House, 754-5831 or Lyn Rupp, 356-2985.
Historic House Burns in Christmas Tree Fire

Neighbors watched in horror as one of Plainfield's historic houses was suddenly engulfed in flames on a freezing January evening. Fire companies from Plainfield, Fanwood and Piscataway responded quickly but needed three hours to get the blaze under control. The 100-year-old residence, located on 9th Street in the Van Wyck Brooks Historic District, has been the home of Charles Wendell and family since 1966.

The fire was caused by a candle flame igniting the family's Christmas tree. Tree candles had been a family yule tradition for the family for forty years. After their marriage the Wendells lived in Europe for two years, and Dr. Wendell worked in Germany. It was here that the young couple first saw Christmas tree candles and decided to incorporate the tradition into their own family celebration. This year the tree was too dry at the time of the candle lighting and disaster resulted. The smallest of breezes shifted the flame, first igniting a single branch. Then, as Dr. Wendell went to smother the fire, it suddenly spread, and the tree exploded in a mass of black smoke.

Dr. Wendell and two of the firefighters were injured and taken to Muhlengen Medical Center. In addition to first and second degree burns, Wendell suffered a near lethal dose of carbon monoxide poisoning, causing the doctors to put him on oxygen for three days. In rescuing his daughter and leading her down the staircase, he reports that the smoke began to roll up the stairwell, making normal breathing impossible.

Neighbors rushed to help, comforting and housing the family members. Wendell, his daughter, and their Housekeeper stayed with neighbors for two weeks, until they were able to relocate to the family's beach house. "They were unbelievable," Wendell commented. Some returned the next morning to safeguard furnishings and personal possessions. They salvaged undamaged items from drawers and closets and covered everything with tarps.

Many furnishings were lost in the fire, and the furnishings in the Sun Room and Dining Room were incinerated beyond recognition. But Wendell tells a remarkable story of one priceless antique with great sentimental value. In the earliest years of their marriage, when money was especially scarce, Mrs. Wendell bought their first piece of fine furniture, an 1825 caned Bergere chair. It survived the January fire, because it was out at a furniture shop being re-caned.

See related story on the history of the Wendells' historic home.

Have You Seen This Woman?

Nancy Prwower, longtime member of the Historical Society of Plainfield, became the city's top crime fighter as she single-handedly launched a successful campaign to recover two historic lampposts. The 10 ft. tall lighting fixtures were stolen from in front of the Main Post Office in late October, 1995.

The theft went unnoticed for a few days because of the ramp construction and facade modification project at the Post Office...
Historic Architecture of Plainfield

In each quarterly newsletter, the Editorial Committee plans to feature one of Plainfield’s historic buildings. Readers are encouraged to suggest structures for inclusion (even their own), and are urged to submit black & white photographs and some background information.

The Murray/Kyle/Wendell House

The distinctive house at 205 W. 9th Street was built in 1895 by prominent Plainfielder William Murray on the occasion of his marriage. The Murray family owned considerable property along Madison Avenue at the time. The decidedly non-Victorian house is of a “Shore Cottage” design, with a double gambrel roof that was popularized in the mid-eighteenth century. Current owner, Dr. Charles Wendell, describes it as having the best attributes of the Victorian structures but without the “fussiness.” Its clean lines are hallmarked by its wide, deep moldings and the use of clear, leaded glass, rather than stained glass.

The two-and-a-half story house, which is listed on the National Register, has three fireplaces: one in the Library, the center Hall, and the Master Bedroom. The top floor consists of a full bath, a bedroom, and the attic. Some changes have occurred through the years, with each of the three owners having had a hand in shaping the house.

In 1912 the Murrays made modifications to the outside porch, enclosing it and adding a screened Sleeping Porch above. The original tin roof can still be found beneath the carpeting of the upper porch. The Master Bath was updated at about this same time.

In the 1940’s the house sold to Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Kyle. Dr. Kyle was an anesthesiologist at Muhlenberg Hospital; Mrs. Kyle, who was active in the Garden Club, was the grand daughter of a respected English landscape architect. During their ownership, the Kyles lightened up the house by painting some of the wood surfaces. Charles Wendell suggests that if this had not been done, “the house interior would be so dark you’d need a flashlight to go through it.”

The Wendells became the third owners in June of 1966. Originally, the floors had been parquet in some rooms, pine in others. During upgrades in the late 1960’s, the pine floors were replaced with 1/4” oak parquet. The Master Bath was remodeled again during this period.

The house has been open for two historic house tours, and therein lies the first of Charles Wendell’s intriguing tales:

During one tour, Dr. Wendell Kyle was so impressed with the way the Wendells had kept the house, he knew the doors must be returned to their rightful home.

Charles Wendell tells an equally intriguing tale about the Dining Room wallpaper. Although many of the rooms had been lightened up over the years with grasscloth wallpaper, the Dining Room had been left intact because of the beauty of the original wallpaper. The pattern was a peacock design, hand screened in fourteen jewel tone colors of sapphire, emerald, and ruby colors against a white background. Over the years the paper had darkened and needed to be replaced. After months of searching, the likelihood looked bleak, until Dr. Wendell discovered that the original manufacturer in San Francisco had recently reissued the paper. An even more amazing discovery was that this identical pattern was used in the Jacob Wendell House (ca 1789), a historic home in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The wallpaper in question hangs in the Dining Room.

According to Dr. Wendell, his home is “built like a ship - solid!... Otherwise it would never have survived the fire.” Despite the 1996 fire, the family intends to remain in Plainfield and restore the home. Wendell adds: “I can’t live with the idea that this 100-year old house would be destroyed under my stewardship.”
Four Centuries in a Weekend
By Pat Turner Kavanaugh

Drake House Museum is only one of 17 historic homes spanning the length and breadth of Union County as well as 400 years of American tradition open to the public free during “Four Centuries in a Weekend,” Saturday May 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday May 18, noon to 5 p.m.

A special feature at Drake House is an encampment and recruiting station, which will occupy the parking area of the Museum, set up by members from the 15th NJ Infantry, Co. E Civil War reenactment unit. Soldiers may attempt to recruit visitors as they enlighten them about military life. Reenactment civilians will demonstrate everyday activities including cooking and bandage rolling. United National Bank helped fund the presentation.

The event, which in 1994 attracted 3,000 visitors, is timed to coincide with National Historic Preservation Week.

That day and any day between now and June 15, visitors will earn a “Time Traveler Certificate” from Union County when they obtain a “PassPort” to tour the county’s historic house museums. The certificate and passport are designed to encourage local residents to enjoy the treasures in their own backyards.
The boundaries of present-day Union County match those of the original Old Elizabethtown. Founded in 1664, Elizabethtown has the distinction of being New Jersey's first permanent English settlement and the first seat of colonial government. Today's 21 municipalities are the original neighborhoods of this early New Jersey settlement.

The museums featured during Four Centuries and the larger promotion range from a 1680 city mansion in Elizabeth to a 1740 farm house in Westfield, to Victorian homes of grandeur in Berkeley Heights, Plainfield and Scotch Plains, through a 1910 neighborhood store in Hillside. Youngsters in kindergarten through sixth grade must visit three to earn their certificates, those in grades seven to twelve four locations and adults five.

An activity kit, the PassPort and a brochure about "Four Centuries in a Weekend" are all available from the Office of Cultural Affairs, 2452 Rahway Ave., Elizabeth, 07202. Telephone (908) 558-2550. TTD relay users dial 1(800) 852-7899 during business hours. Brochures and PassPorts are also available at the sites.

In addition to Drake House, houses open for the weekend are: Littell-Lord Farmstead in Berkeley Heights; Dr. William Robinson Plantation, Clark; Crane-Phillips House, Cranford; Belcher-Ogden Mansion and Boxwood Hall (Boudinot Mansion), Elizabeth; Woodruff House/Eaton Store Museum, Hillside; Deacon Andrew Hefield House, Mountainside; Saltbox Museum, New Providence; Merchants and Drovers Tavern, Rahway; Abraham Clark House, Roselle; Osborn Cannonball House, Scotch Plains; Cannonball House, Springfield; Carter House, Summit; Caldwell Parsonage, Union; Miller-Cory House Museum, Westfield; and the newly opened Roselle Park Museum.

Reminder... THE LECTURE SERIES

"Insuring Your Collectibles" Given by Chubb Insurance on Sunday, June 1st, 3pm to 4pm in the Drake House Gallery.

The Elizabeth Keating Education Program

By Barbara Fuller

The Historical Society extends deep sympathy to Dr. Garnett Keating and his family on the death of Elizabeth Keating. Betty instituted the Society's educational program which has brought thousands of area school children to the Drake House over the past thirty years. In order to honor Betty and her dedication to education, the Historical Society has named the new educational program currently being developed as "The Elizabeth Keating Education Program".

The Historical Society will soon hire an Educational Programs Coordinator to expand the concept of the original program. This professional staff person, who will develop new educational programming for both school children and adults, will also open the museum during weekday hours. We look forward to professionalizing the program founded by Betty and continued by our volunteers.

Historic Preservation Commendations

The 10th annual Historic Preservation Commendations for Union County were held on March 12th at the Elizabethtown Gas Company building in Union, New Jersey. About 200 people from throughout the County were on hand for the occasion, which recognizes people in the county who have been active in the continuing efforts to maintain our rich cultural resources. This year we were proud to have two Plainfield residents honored by the committee: John Grady and Nancy Priswarr were honored in the Leadership category. The Society wishes to congratulate John and Nancy, as well as the other award winners in the County, for all their hard work.
Members Tea

The Historical Society of Plainfield will hold a Members Tea on June 1st at 4:15 p.m. at the Drake House Museum. The Tea will follow a lecture by a representative from Chubb Insurance Company on insuring your collectibles. Please watch the mail for your invitation. We were pleased with the wonderful response to last year’s Members Brunch, and hope to see even more of our members at this year’s Tea. Reservations are requested. Hope to see you on June 1st!

Spring Cleanup Scheduled

The Grounds Committee will hold its annual spring cleanup on Saturday, May 10th at 9 a.m. at the Drake House Museum. It's time to give our Museum grounds that “manicured” look. The committee will plant annual flowers, edge the gardens, weed, and generally spruce up the area, both for the coming summer months and also so our grounds look their best for the Four Centuries in a Weekend visitors.

If you wish to help us, bring your gardening tools and come to the Museum. There is no scheduled rain date, so let’s hope for a warm and sunny morning! Hope to see you there.

Around Town...

The Plainfield Garden Club Presents

SHAKESPEARE IN BLOOM

A Tour of Plainfield’s “Award-Winning” Shakespeare Garden With a Choice Selection of Unusual Plants and Garden Accessories For Sale. Noted Garden Specialists to Speak. Saturday, June 7th, 10am to 4pm

Rain or Shine
Message from the President
by Jean Mattson

As the new president of the Historical Society of Plainfield, I hope to carry on in the tradition of excellence I feel has prevailed in the past. In the last few years the first and second floors of the Drake House Museum have been renovated. Paint, wallpaper, carpeting and a lot of hard work has transformed these areas and provided gallery space and an office. Plans for continued improvements have been made. There have been many fine programs highlighting Plainfield’s past history and the grounds of the museum have been upgraded with new plantings and cleanups. With these examples of the capabilities and will of the Board of Trustees, I am confident we will continue this fine work.

In addition, the Society is in the process of hiring a coordinator for the administration of an educational program to be named in memory of Elizabeth Keating, a past president of the Society, who was instrumental in the development of educational programming for the Museum.

I am assuming office in a very exciting time as we near the end of the century -- a time when many people sense that Plainfield is poised to move forward. It is
the Historical Society of Plainfield can work with other institutions in pulling together the history of the city in this century. We will be asking for your help in this effort in the coming months. With your cooperation, we can be sure that the Historical Society of Plainfield will continue to be a vital force in the city as we move forward into a new century and a new millennium.

Welcome New Board Members

The Historical Society of Plainfield extends a warm welcome to the latest newcomers to the Board of Trustees.

Molly Banta
Molly has been a resident of Plainfield for two years. Although she grew up in Westfield, Molly has had a life-long connection with this city. Her parents were born and raised in Plainfield and she spent many years visiting grandparents and other relatives here.

Molly received a BA degree in history from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland and an MA degree in Irish history from the University College Dublin, Ireland. For the past five years she has been a history teacher at Plainfield High School, following in the footsteps of her grandfather, Henry Banta who taught American history and was chairman of the history department for many years. Molly is also the advisor to the Plainfield High School chapter of the National Honor Society which is named for her grandfather.

Molly's interest in Plainfield's history stems from her background, love of beautiful architecture and desire to stimulate her students' involvement in local history activities.

Cassell Wood, Jr.
Cassell Wood, Jr. is a native of Plainfield and a graduate of Plainfield High School in 1965. His family has lived in Plainfield since the 1920's and have distinguished themselves in public life - his father served on the City Council and his uncle was a Union County judge.

Cassell majored in History at the University of Rochester and then earned his law degree from Columbia University and at the same time received an MA in International Relations. Following graduation he clerked for a judge, worked in the Union County Public Defender's office, and for TWA before joining his father's law firm in Plainfield.

Mr. Wood has a keen interest in history, especially American, Classical and East Asian history. He is married to Carmen Rodriguez who teaches history at Plainfield High School.

Victor E. D. King
Victor King was born in Bound Brook but moved to Plainfield in 1941. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Michigan Law School. He is a partner in the law firm of King, King, Goldsack and since 1972, he has also served as attorney for the Plainfield Board of Education. He has been active politically and in civic activities in Plainfield since 1966.

Mr. King's interest in history is reflected in his search for his own family's roots as well as in leisure time spent in reading American history with a focus at present on the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

Mary Burgwinkle
Mary Burgwinkle is a native of Clinton, Massachusetts and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Massachusetts and Rutgers Law School, Newark. She is currently employed as senior counsel at PNC bank where she is an
in-house lawyer with a specialty in commercial lending.

Mary and her husband Greg Haworth have lived in Plainfield since 1982 and have taken an active part in many civic activities. She served on the board of the YWCA from 1988 to 1994 where she chaired the auction among other duties. She is also a member of the Plainfield Symphony Auxiliary Board and for the last four years has chaired the annual “Between the Bars” fund raiser.

**Fall Program**

In October the Historical Society of Plainfield will salute the 120th anniversary of Muhlenberg Hospital (now Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center) by co-sponsoring a lecture and exhibits on the history of the hospital and early medical practices.

The exhibit will open on Sunday, October 12 and continue till Sunday, November 23. On display will be a collection of early medical instruments, photos and other items pertaining to the history of Muhlenberg.

On Sunday, October 19 at three o'clock a lecture entitled *One Hundred Twenty Years of Medicine at Muhlenberg* will be presented by Dr. Garrett Keating in Centennial Hall at the hospital. It will be followed by a reception.

Chairing the committee for the program are Margaret and John Kolaya who are working with Dr. Keating as advisor.
The Historical Society of Plainfield

ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, June 3, 1997
8 PM
Drake House Museum

TRUSTEES - returning to the Board of Trustees
To be elected by the members of the Historical Society
JoAnn Ball 1997-2000
Nancy Smythe McCartney 1997-1998
Sandra L. Lawrence 1997-1998
Nancy A. Piwowar 1997-2000

TRUSTEES - New term
To be elected by the members of the Historical Society
Molly Banta 1997-2000
Mary Burgwinkle 1997-2000
Victor King 1997-2000
Cassell Wood 1997-2000
Casey Woodruff 1997-1999

OFFICERS
To be elected by the Board of Trustees
President ..................... Jean Mattson 1997-1999
1st Vice President ............ Robert Darden 1997-1999
2nd Vice President ............ Harry Ailster 1998-1999
Recording Secretary ........... Caroline Everhart 1997-1999
Assistant Treasurer ............ Patricia Turner Kavanaugh 1997-1999

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Sandra L. Lawrence 1997-1998

The above slate of trustee and officers is submitted by the Nominating Committee,

JoAnn Ball
Joseph DaRold
Bernice Swain, Chairman
PHS History Students Visit Drake House Exhibit

Plainfield High School history students who are researching Plainfield veterans of four wars paid a visit recently to the Drake House to see the current exhibit. Trustee Harry Ailster took eighteen students of Tiffany Corbett’s social studies class on a tour of the Museum. Accompanying them were Trustee Nancy Piwowar, and Plainfield letter carrier and Vietnam veteran Ed Fernanders, members of the committee to erect a war memorial in Plainfield to honor the dead of the four wars.

The students found most particularly interesting the section of the exhibit on the Vietnam War veterans who died in the war. It was put together last year by the third grade students of Ms. Veronica Hudson and is on loan from Barlow School. There was much discussion on the photographs displayed and comparing of notes from Ms. Hudson’s class and Ms. Corbett’s class. In May, both classes plan to gather together at the Drake House for a discussion of the Plainfield Veteran’s Memorial project.

Prior to the visit to the Drake House the students had traveled to the New Jersey Vietnam Memorial in Holmdel, to privately tour the Educational Center. While there the group found that the research of the PHS students on Plainfield’s veterans was more extensive than what was in the center’s records. The students’ biographies of these veterans will become part of the NJ center’s records in the future.

Volunteers Needed

The HSP is looking for volunteers to help Bernice Swain research some of the genealogy requests that periodically arrive from all over the country from families whose ancestors at one time lived in the city. Many of these requests are extremely interesting and if you enjoy poking into the past this is just the job for you. Most of the research can be accomplished at the Plainfield Public Library either with the Courier News on microfilm which goes back to the late 19th century or with the City Directories which also date to that period and list families alphabetically giving address and occupation of each. Other volunteers are needed for tours of the Museum that are given on Fridays at the request of schools and organizations. The tours generally last an hour or less and training as a tour guide is available.
PLAINFIELD 1960-1980: CHANGES, CHANGES, CHANGES

The fourth in a series of exhibits celebrating Plainfield's history in the 20th Century is now on view in the Drake House gallery. It covers a period when there were many changes in the city but also showcases the clothing and memorabilia of the period. Do you remember wearing bell-bottoms or owning a lava lamp? Did you start cooking with a wok? Or maybe you owned a pet rock. Well, anyway, even if you were well past that sort of thing, it is a fun exhibit and informative as well.

Dorothy Henry, former principal of Woodland School and Donald Van Blake, former shop teacher and tennis coach at PHS, researched the civil rights movement in Plainfield for which Dorothy produced a time line that has evoked many favorable comments. People who moved here after the 1960's have found it especially helpful in understanding the period. In addition three of the six families we have been following through the century, the Van Blakes, the Griswolds and the Sacher/Bernsteins, took part in various ways in the movement.

Another highlight is an exhibit, on loan from Barlow School, commemorating the men from Plainfield who died in the Vietnam War. This was put together by the third grade class of Ms. Veronica Hudson. The young students became interested when they heard about the effort to raise money to erect a monument to these brave men. They raised almost $500.00 through cake sales and donations to help the cause. The monument committee has since broadened the goal and will now list the name all those who died in World War I, World War II and Korea as well as in Vietnam.

In 1968, the rock group Parliament/Funkadelic gave their first concert in Plainfield and last year George Clinton, Bernie Worrell and other members of the group were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Mr. Worrell has loaned us some of the costumes he wore while performing back in the late 60's and early 70's along with pictures of the performers. These form a third section of the exhibit.

A large portrait of former Mayor Paul O'Keeffe, on loan from the Library, highlights the portion devoted to city happenings. Mr. O'Keeffe who served as mayor during most of the 1970's is a member of the O'Keeffe family whose history we have been following through the century in each of the exhibits. On loan from United National Bank is a large architectural rendering of one of the first buildings meant to occupy the Park/Madison site after it was cleared in the late 1960's. And don't forget to stop as you come up the stairs and look at the slides loaned by Barbara Sandford that are projected on the wall outside the office. These were taken in the 1960's and show the fine work accomplished by the Plainfield Beautification Committee.

The exhibit will remain on view until Sunday, June 11th to give those who have not seen it a chance to do so at the annual Member's Luncheon.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FUNDRAISING DRIVE

AS OF APRIL 22, 2000, the Executive Director Fundraising Drive is only a few weeks old and we are gratified by the response to date.

The Society Board of Trustees has decided that Trustee individual contributions will be made on an anonymous basis, but we can share that the aggregate pledges from the Trustees total nearly $5,000.00 to date.

The following list of contributions from members and foundations is presented in alphabetical order and we thank all of the members who responded so promptly. We must, however, give special thanks to the C. Northrop Pond and Alethea Marder Pond Foundation for its very generous gift of $4,000.00 and to Barton Brown and Todd Clark, our top individual member contributors as of this date.

Barton Brown and Todd Clark
Emilia Garcia Carlson
Peter and Daragh Carpenter
Martha Clifford
Mary Della Sala
James Eberle
Barbara and Gordon Fuller
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mnich
Elizabeth C. Morse, in memory of
Past President Harold Morse
Joan and Edward Pagan
C. Northrop Pond and Alethea Marder Pond Foundation
Robert and Rosemary Schlosser
Charlotte Sibley and Leif Magnusson

Thank You
THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 7)

$50 to $99
Sally Beckwith
Carol and James Bicket
Martha and Charles Clifford
Valerie Cummings
David Drake
Marjorie Farber
Barbara and Gordon Fuller
Robin Gates
John Grady
John Hotopp
Pete and Jocelyn Jones
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Lola Reed
Mrs. Thomas E. Ricketts

$25 to $49 (cont)
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Bernice Shults
Sara Shrager
Maggie Sluyter
John and Aurelia Stella

(Continued on page 9)
THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

THE HSP DEPENDS solely upon membership dues and contributions in order to continue its programming. We appreciate the contributions of all of our members, regardless of the level of membership renewal. We especially thank those members and institutions who contribute at a level that make our activities possible.

Following is a list of contributors who have donated $25 or more so far this fiscal year. Our fiscal year is July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000. This listing covers July 1, 1999 through April 22, 2000.

This column will periodically appear as we make our way through each fiscal year. Please make an effort to renew at the highest level you can manage, and take advantage of matching funds programs which may be available where you work. Please let us know if we have inadvertently omitted your contribution. Thanks again!

Special Thanks

Turrell Foundation
C. Northrop Pond and Alethea Marder Pond Foundation
E.J. Grassmann Trust
Plainfield Cultural and Heritage Commission
The Plainfield Foundation
McCutchen Foundation
Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs

$200
Bart Brown and Todd Clark
Paul Chapin and Peter Simone

$150
Jo Ann and Richard Ball
Barbara Sandford

$125
Jean Jensen

$100
Mary Burgawinkle and Greg Haworth
William Collins and Sandra Lawrence
Nancy Edwards
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Maiatesta
Jean Mattson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Neblett

(Continued on page 8)
The Historical Society of Plainfield
Drake House Museum

TRUSTEES – Returning to the Board of Trustees
To be elected by the Members of the Historical Society

Margaret Thomas 2001 - 2005
Charles Wendell 2001 - 2005

TRUSTEES – New Term
To be elected by the Members of the Historical Society

Phyllis Alexander 2001 – 2005
Paul Chapin 2001 – 2005
Sandy Gurshman 2001 – 2005
Phyllis Mason 2001 – 2005
Terry Moroney 2001 – 2005
Barbara Zeh 2001 - 2005

OFFICERS
To be elected by Trustees

President JoAnn Ball 2001 - 2003
1st Vice President Wendy Dore 2001 - 2003
2nd Vice President Harry Ailster 2001 - 2003
Corresponding Secretary Bernice Swain 2001 - 2003

The Nominating Committee submits the above slate of Trustees and Officers
Bernice Swain
Charles Wendell
Sandy Lawrence, Chairperson
Current Exhibit
A Hit

The exhibit, Plainfield’s Ragtime Era: 1900-1920 opened March 1 with a large crowd in attendance and has continued to draw many viewers each Sunday. Of particular interest are the large maps of each ward showing Plainfield as it was in 1906 complete with houses and names of owners. On the opposite wall you will find framed collections of snapshots of six families who came to the city early in the 1900’s or even in the previous century. They are: the O’Keeffe, Busher, Swain/Loizeaux, Sacher/Berstein, Van Blake and Stevens/Griswold families. They will be followed through the century as we present Plainfield’s history two decades at a time.

There are also many interesting items belonging to other residents. Among them is a tool chest that was made by the grandfather of Thelma Lambert and brought to Plainfield from Bermuda years ago. Ruth Dobson’s baby book and a photo of the house where she was born in 1913 and still lives accompanies a likeness of her as a baby. The birthday greetings, created for the late Webster Sandford by his uncle each year, are illustrated with small drawings reminiscent of the period. There is a photo of the original Netherwood station, before it burned, when it was two stories high (did you know that?). Sophia Dickson whose father was stationmaster for many years loaned it.

This exhibit which will remain at the gallery until June 30 will bring back a lot of memories for long-time residents and gives newcomers a chance to catch up on the city’s history. We welcome any additional information you can provide about the period and invite you to participate in the coming exhibits that will be mounted each fall and spring for the next two years. It also serves to help us gather the history of the City in this century as we near its end.