



## The Hetfield House

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www.mountainsidehistory.org

### When this GRAND OLD HOUSE was a TEA ROOM

The next time you visit the Hetfield House, take a minute to linger in the Victorian Room and consider what it might have been like when it was a tea room in the late 1920s. Better yet, talk to Louis Vitale, and relive those years through the recollections of this sprightly 97-year-old.

Lou worked there when just a lad, and his future mother-in-law, Nora Griner, was a waitress, when the Tea Room was a thriving business along what is now Route 22. This was the hillside location before the house was moved to its present location. Lou's role was a kind of everyman who tended the fireplace, stacked wood, took out the ashes and made sure the place was clean and comfortable. He'd see that Nora got home OK to the Vauxhall area of Union and then back to work for her duty hours. Eventually, Lou married her daughter, Helen, and the couple still reside in Mountainside.

"In those days, tea was often served with more than just tea, if you know what I mean," says Lou. "Prices were kept low, around 20 cents a cup. Whiskey and Sherry



A photograph of Louis Vitale as he looked during his Navy days. Lou once worked in the Hetfield House, during the 1920's, when it served as a Tea Room.



This old photo, probably taken in the early 1940's, shows the Hetfield House as it looked on a snowy day. It is taken at its former location on the west-bound side of what is now Route 22.

were hard to get and some of the customers preferred a tot along with tea, which added a bit to your bill, although you couldn't get away with that these days. Mostly, though, the teas were served with crumpets, cookies, small sandwiches or cakes. The tea selection came from all over as I recall.

"Most customers were older couples with as many men as women. They were locals from Westfield, Springfield and even up to the Oranges. Some were transients, stopping in from New York on their travels along what was then Route 29. The locals used the room as a gathering place, sitting at tables for four or eight, with a big table in the center of the room seating 28 or so. The table settings were a lot like the ones in the room today. The women were all in long dresses and, of course, the men all wore fedora hats." According to Lou, the place was always active, warmed by the fireplace and vibrant with social exchanges. Music in the background was courtesy of Victrola, although 'talk' was the main entertainment

Spending time with Lou is like slipping back in time. Remember vaudeville? Well, Lou and his sister were dancers and their mother was also their manager. He counts Irving Berlin as an old friend and casually drops names such as Mickey Rooney, and Rooney's father Joe Yule. His vaudeville days are like a tap dance back in time.

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### From the CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL



Following are some of the many activities and announcements from the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee during the year. You are encouraged to take advantage of any of these programs and help support Historic Preservation in Mountainside.

**COOKIE AND HOT COCOA SALE AT MOUNTAINSIDE TREE LIGHTING:** On Saturday, December 4, beginning at 4:00 pm, stroll on over to Mountainside Borough Hall for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting. While you're there, stop by the Rescue Squad building for some hot cocoa and home baked cookies and treats. Every year, the volunteers from the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee are there to offer some warmth and sweetness to a brisk and festive evening. Once you're there, you will enjoy holiday songs sung by the Mountainside Girl Scouts

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### “ MISSION STATEMENT

The Mountainside Restoration Committee and the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee were established to preserve the Borough's links to the past. The premier venue is the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, our circa 1760 building, preserved by these two committees whose volunteers share membership. We strive to focus attention on our heritage through tours, newsletters, videos and many events during the year. Our mission includes maintaining the Hetfield House property in perpetuity.

## The ARTHUR J. BRAHM Historic Preservation Scholarship Award



*Historic Preservation Committee Chairman, Scott Daniels, presents the 2010 Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award to Shannon Compton.*

At the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation Ceremony for Deerfield School, held on Tuesday, June 22, Scott Daniels, Chairman of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee presented the Annual Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award. This award is presented to the graduating eighth grader who demonstrated excellence in a written essay depicting some aspect of Mountainside's history. The 2010 award was presented to Shannon Compton for her essay on Mountainside's John Egan – Vietnam MIA. Contest entries are on display at the Hetfield House for all to read.

## GINGERBREAD CREATIONS Display



The Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee is holding the fourth Annual Gingerbread Open House on Sunday, December 12 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Held at the Historic Deacon

Andrew Hetfield House, the open house will feature lots of holiday activities. During this open house, we will feature the Gingerbread talents of our friends and neighbors. If you have a Gingerbread Creation that you would like to share during our Gingerbread Open House, please bring it to the Hetfield House (located on Constitution Plaza near the Mountainside Library) on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Your creation will be displayed for all to see and admire. (Creations may be picked up between 4:00 - 4:30 pm on Sunday, Dec. 12). For further information or to make alternate arrangements for drop-off or pick-up, please call 789-9420.

## CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL

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and Cub Scouts as our magnificent Rt. 22 tree is lit for the season.

**BRICK FUNDRAISER:** To purchase bricks for the next dedication, please pick up a flyer at the Mountainside Library, Borough Hall or go to [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org). The next brick dedication will take place in 2011. These bricks make up the path leading to the front door of the Hetfield House. The MHPC began this walkway to raise funds to write and publish an updated history book of our Borough's history from 1945 to present. Now that the book has been published, the Committee will continue to sell bricks to raise funds for the upkeep of the Hetfield House.

The original History of Mountainside by Jean Hesketh-Hershey covers the history until 1945 (copies are available for \$10 each, call 789-9420).

**HETFIELD HOUSE NOTECARDS FOR SALE:** Classic ivory-colored, folded note cards are available for sale in sets of 12 with envelopes. They feature the Harry Devlin sketch of the Hetfield House on the front with a brief history on the back. The inside is blank. Anyone interested in purchasing these

cards can do so at Borough Hall or stop by the Hetfield House during any open house or event. They are being sold for \$7.00 per set of 12 and make a great gift or stocking stuffer!

**SCHEDULED OPEN HOUSES:** Generally, the Hetfield House is open to the public during most months from September through June on the third Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The public is invited during these times to tour the house and gain insight into Mountainside's historic past. Specially scheduled events will be planned during some of these Open Houses: Dec. 12, 2010 – Gingerbread Open House (see back cover for details) and May 1, 2011 – Tea & Strings.

**HETFIELD HOUSE IS AVAILABLE FOR USE:** The Deacon Andrew Hetfield House is available for use by community groups for meetings or tours. It is also available for rent to individuals or organizations for other events. For information on availability, please contact Lenore Toner at 233-7260.

For further information on the activities of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee and updates on the Hetfield House happenings, please call 789-9420 or visit [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org).

*Scott Daniels - Chairman, Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee*

## DRAWING WINNERS announced

Each year, the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee holds a Spring fundraising drive for the upkeep of the Hetfield House. This year, the funds were used for an upgrade to the house's electrical system. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser – the Hetfield House really does need your support! A drawing was held on May 2, 2010 from names submitted during this fundraiser. Following are the winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Maureen Goense (\$300 gift card to ShopRite)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Georgia Varcarols (\$200 Gift card to Lord & Taylor)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Cindy Hann (Certificates to Dillon's Publik House, Spanish Tavern, Cioffi's, Mountainside Deli, Rejuvenations and NBD Fitness)
- 4<sup>th</sup> place: Mildred Beatrice (Certificates to Shop-Rite, Stop & Shop, A&P and Trader Joe's gift basket)

Congratulations winners and thank you all for your support!

## HOUSE was a Tea Room

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“We played the Empire Theatre in Newark, at one point, along with many other ‘gigs’ in Vegas and other locations. For years, I kept in touch with Irving Berlin and other headliners in dance and music. I’d like to see Mickey the next time he’s in town,” Lou adds.

Lou is on the far side of the ‘Greatest Generation,’ those men who served during WWII. He proudly points to his years with the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946 and the time he spent in the Philippines. As you might expect, Lou and company put on many a show for shipmates since dancing was as much in his blood as seawater. You can see his service mementoes in the Veterans Room at the Hetfield House on the second level.

Lou's mother-in-law, Nora, was one of two or three waitresses who worked the Tea Room. She was an employee there for almost ten years. So, when you stand in what would have been the early splendor of this room, you are carried back to Prohibition, the Jazz age, Flappers, Tap Dancers and that venerable beverage, tea (before it came in bags!).

*--This article was written by Don Jeka, a Historic Preservation Committee member, and a fan of Earl Grey.*

## SUCCESSFUL EVENTS held at Hetfield House

Since last November, the Historic Preservation Committee has hosted several very successful public events at the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House.

**GINGERBREAD OPEN HOUSE:** A wonderful Gingerbread Open House was held on Sunday, December 13, 2009. Hundreds of people visited the house and enjoyed music, crafts, delicious holiday treats, a display of our community's talents at Gingerbread Creations, and Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Don't miss this year's Gingerbread Open House on Sunday, December 12, 2010 from 1:00-4:00 pm. Scheduled performances include a volunteer flute pair at 1:10 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Children's Choir at 2:00 pm, the Deerfield School Woodwinds Ensemble at 2:30 pm and the Deerfield Middle School Chorus at 3:00 pm.

**TEA & STRINGS:** On Sunday, May 17, the Hetfield House was the site of a wonderful event entitled *Tea & Strings*. Dozens of visitors enjoyed a civilized afternoon of beautiful string music with hot and cold tea and delicious home-baked sweets. Please mark your calendars and join us Sunday, May 1, 2011 for the next Tea & Strings.

**HISTORY'S WHEELS CAR SHOW:** Residents cruised down in their historic hot rods and other antique classics for the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee's first-ever *History's Wheels* Car Show held on Sunday, April 18, 2010. Two dozen cars proudly parked in the commuter lot adjacent to the Hetfield House for a show of some of the areas automobile beauties. In the end, the spectators voted and the winner was Paul Cammarato and his 1956



*Pictured with his first place pink 1956 Studebaker, is Paul Cammarato (right) and Don Jeka, event organizer, of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee during the "History's Wheels" car show held in April.*

Studebaker after a tie for first place with Miles Feigenbaum, featuring a splendid 1966 Mustang pony car, was settled by a coin-toss.

**25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE HETFIELD HOUSE MOVE:** On Sunday, June 6, 2010, Hetfield House celebrated 25 years since its move from Route 22. It was the summer of 1985 when the entire house was moved from a perch overlooking the highway to its current site by the Mountainside Library. Many who remember the day, recall that the highway was shut down to allow for the house to slowly roll westward toward Constitution Plaza.

During the celebration, Mayor Mirabelli was present as the London Street lamp, illuminating the house's walkway, was dedicated in memory of Anne Hose who was instrumental in securing the Hetfield House for the borough of Mountainside. Her grandson was present to witness the dedication.

**PIE-BAKING CONTEST:** On Sunday, October 17, 2010, in conjunction with the Union County Four Centuries in a Weekend festivities, the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee held its third annual Pie Baking Contest at the historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House. The judges included: Jayne Salomon, Food Writer for the Westfield Leader; Raymond DeRosa, owner of the J&M Market formerly in Mountainside center and Carol Goggi, Committee Member. After tasting and scoring, the judges tallied up their scores and 3 winners were announced. They were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Debbie Boehner for her Helen's Fresh Blueberry Pie; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Bill Quick for his Apple Pie; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Karen Massa for her Caramel Pecan Streusel Apple Pie. The winning recipes may be viewed at [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org). At the conclusion of the judging, slices of the pies were sold to raise funds for Mountainside's Historic Restoration Committee.

The Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee wishes to thank all the wonderful



*Blue ribbon awarded at Mountainside's Second Annual Pie Baking Contest held on Oct. 17, 2010. From left to right: 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, Debbie Boehner; Debbie's Mom, Helen; and judge Carol Goggi, Committee Member. Debbie's pie, "Helen's Fresh Blueberry Pie" was her mom's recipe.*

bakers, judges and Andrea Rizzo (organizer) for their time and efforts to make this pie baking contest a great success. We look forward to next year.

## A History of Mountainside 1945-2007 - IT WAS ONLY YESTERDAY... Now Available

After many years of fund raising, research, interviews and poring through photographs, the newest edition of Mountainside's history was published and released in March. Written by Mountainside's own Connie McNamara, the book was launched with much fanfare and positive critical review. One reader and long-time Mountainside resident said about the book, "I enjoyed reading it so much, I was sad when it ended!" A newer Mountainside resident indicated, "I had no idea that Mountainside had such a rich history, I'm proud to say I live here."

Copies of the book are available for sale @\$19.99 at the Mountainside Library (checks payable to Mtsd. Restoration Comm.), during any Hetfield House event, or, from any Committee member. Also details on ordering by mail are available at [www.mountainside-history.org](http://www.mountainside-history.org). For further information on book availability, please call 789-9420.



*Author, Connie McNamara during one of the celebrations launching the sale of "A History of Mountainside - 1945-2007 - It Was Only Yesterday." The book is now available for sale.*

### Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

Scott Daniels, *Chairman*  
Ruth Goense, *Vice Chair*  
Carol Clark, *Treasurer*  
Maureen Giannone, *Secretary*  
Carol Goggi, *Newsletter Editor*

Alice Cowell, Donald Jeka, Thomas McGee, Eleanor Pfeifer, Diane Ruggiero, Nancy Spadaccini, Lenore Toner, Sandra VandeMeer, Cynthia West.

Jeffrey Wass, *Borough Council Liaison*

*Hetfield House Special Events Committee:* Mary Faella, Sharon Green and Mary Jo Stearns

The members and officers of this committee are also the members of the Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc. which was formed to acquire and expend funds for the preservation of the Hetfield House and other historical purposes.

**Gingerbread  
Open House**  
The Hetfield House  
Constitution Plaza,  
Mountainside  
Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Join us for Kids' Crafts, Refreshments, Live Music, Mr. & Mrs. Claus, Community Gingerbread House Display and more!  
Suggested Donation: \$3 per person  
Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the needy.

Enrich the Holiday Season with a visit to an authentically-decorated, centuries-old home. Stop by for a visit and feel the warmth of the holidays as they once were. Bring your cameras for photos with Mr. & Mrs. Claus!

Sponsored by the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee - For Info., Contact: (908)789-9420 or visit [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org)

**Become a MEMBER of the HETFIELD HOUSE!**

Membership is available in a variety of categories. Benefits include:

- Free admission to Hetfield House events (when a fee is charged)
- Free one hour genealogy session
- Yearly Newsletter
- 10% discount in the Gift Shop

Membership categories

- Individual - \$30/yr     Students & Seniors - \$20/yr
- Family - \$50/yr     Lifetime - \$500/individual or couple

Please enclose check made out to the "Mountainside Historic Restoration Committee" and mail to Sandy VanderMeer, 1033 Ledgewood Road, Mountainside, NJ 07092 (also contact Sandy if you would like to be a Hetfield House volunteer!) A membership card will be mailed to you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your dollars make it possible for floors and windows to be restored, rooms to be painted and the endless upkeep of maintaining a historic house. Donations are tax deductible and are always welcome in any amount.

- \$35.00     \$50.00     \$75.00     Volunteer     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Many companies match donations made by their employees. Please check with your employer to learn if your gift qualifies for a match.

Bequest – Remembering the Hetfield House as you plan for the future will help ensure that this historical site remains a vital and living part of our shared history in Mountainside for generations to come.

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