



Published by the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee - November, 2008

Hetfield House room features VETERAN memorabilia

Mountainside has its own history of World War II and it's not in the Library, although you can see it from there. It is an archive that resides in an upper room within the Hetfield House, just across Constitution Plaza. Walk into that small room and you can almost hear the rumble of artillery, the drone of aircraft, and the crack of small arms fire as you are surrounded by the memorabilia of that turbulent era decades ago. More wars would follow and bits and pieces of those conflicts are here too.

Yellowing copies of old newspapers follow the tide of war from the early '40s with stories of local boys caught up in the maelstrom. Fading magazines like *Life*, *Time*, and others bring the war home in pictures. A plaque honors Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10136 for a membership drive and a large notebook carries letters and other Post business. On the WWII home front, civilians were sharing the war's impact through food and fuel rationing and a couple of example ration books reside behind glass frames. A single set of dog tags rests beside them. An Honor Roll lists the Mountainsiders serving their country.

All of this from six decades ago, as time takes its toll on memories. But those who served will never be forgotten; constantly reminding us that freedom is not free.

Much of the material in this room was gathered and preserved by Dick Tims, since deceased. As he passed, so did his dedication to this archive and it remains much the same over the years.

Bob Farley, currently with the Mountainside Borough Public Works, and VFW Post 10136 Commander, picked up the mission but readily admits that it has fallen on neglected times. He says, "We are encouraging our citizens to either loan or donate items from their own families veterans to help round out our collection. It can help tell the story of



A table in the Hetfield House's "Veterans' Room" displays wartime magazines.

how Mountainsiders contributed to all the wars including WWII. Also we are looking for glass display cases to better preserve our collection and to keep it secure."

The Library of Congress has a program titled Veterans History Project that collects stories from veterans for archiving. It estimates that between 1500 and 2000 veterans are passing every day and their stories pass with them. The Borough of Mountainside is doing its small part in preserving wartime history.

A portrait of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, WWII wartime President, looks out from a wall of this small sanctuary. He seems to be contemplating how quickly we forget and how little we learn from the horror of wars repeated.

For a step back into history, visit this room the next time you are at the Hetfield House and let your imagination transport you back to how it was then, and add a silent prayer for all those fallen soldiers.

contributed by Don Jeka

From the CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL



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

BRICK FUNDRAISER: A fifth set of sixteen bricks was dedicated and placed in the walkway on Sunday, October 19th. Bricks were purchased and dedicated by/to the following: Haase Family, Vitale Family, John and Louisa Bataille, Farrington Family, The Fenns, Stony Brook Farm, Neil and Nancy, Sandy Fleischer, Elizabeth Mullin, Elise L. Doyle, Nancy Mullin Fertakos, R. Bruce Mullin, Barbara Jean Mullin, Barbara F. Mullin, Simonson and Root Families, and Arline Cowell. All who have purchased bricks in the past are encouraged to write a short story or

(continued on page 2)

“ 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.

CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL

(continued from page 1)

explanation (1-2 pages) concerning their brick for the Hetfield House's "brick scrapbook." Write-ups may be mailed or dropped off at borough hall, Attn: Hetfield House. The Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee thanks all who have supported our brick program by purchasing bricks for this "Walk of History." To purchase bricks for the next dedication, please pick up a flyer at the Mountainside Library, Borough Hall or go to www.mountainsidehistory.org. The next brick dedication will take place in the fall of 2010. Through the sale of these bricks which make up the path leading to the front door of the Hetfield House, the MHPC is raising funds to write and publish an updated history book of our Borough's history from 1945 to present. The original *History of Mountainside* by Jean Hesketh-Hershey covers the history until 1945 (copies are available for \$5 each, call 789-9420).

TV-35's WELCOME TO THE HETFIELD HOUSE: The third episode of "Welcome to the Hetfield House" was produced and aired for TV35 in the spring of 2008. Entitled "Jane" and narrated by Don Jeka, it features psychic and ghost investigator, Jane Doherty. Ms. Doherty guides the viewer through the house as she describes her feelings about the presence of ghost activity in the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House. Copies of the DVD may be borrowed from the Mountainside Library or viewed at the Hetfield House during Open House events.

HETFIELD HOUSE NOTECARDS FOR SALE: Classic ivory-colored, folded note cards are available for sale in sets of twelve 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 twelve 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 3rd 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.

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.

The ARTHUR J. BRAHM Historic Preservation Scholarship Award

At the 8th grade Graduation Ceremony for Deerfield School, held Wednesday, June 25th, 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 2008 award was presented to Stephanie Cataldo for her essay on Dr. J. Ackerman Coles and entitled the "Coles Memorial Home" - Congratulations Stephanie! Stephanie's and other entries will be on display at the Hetfield House for all to read.



Historic Preservation Committee Chairman, Scott Daniels, presents the 2008 Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award to Stephanie Cataldo.



PLANTING SUNSHINE! At the front entrance to the Hetfield House, members of the Mountainside Department of Public Works help to plant 100's of daffodil bulbs donated by the Rake & Hoe Garden Club.

UPDATE on Mountainside's WRITTEN HISTORY

The updated History of Mountainside is coming to its final edits with the selection of photographs to be included in the book. Connie McNamara's years of research and dedication to the project will result in our town's best compilation of history from 1945-2007. The future publication entitled, *It Was Only Yesterday: History of Mountainside (1945-2007)*, should be available in 2009. Details will be made available on how to purchase this book when it is published.

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.

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 will be used to repair or replace significant architectural elements in the Hetfield House's Victorian Parlor. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser - the Hetfield House really does need your support! A drawing was held on May 20th from names submitted during this fundraiser. Following are the winners

\$500 Gift Certificate: Tom Buniello
\$300 Gift Certificate: Robert Winchurch
\$100 Gift Certificate: Paul Zavodny
\$100 Gift Certificate: Diane McCurdy

Mr. Winchurch generously donated his winnings to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. Congratulations winners and thank you all for your support!



Mr. & Mrs. Claus welcome visitors to the 2007 Hetfield House's Gingerbread Open House.



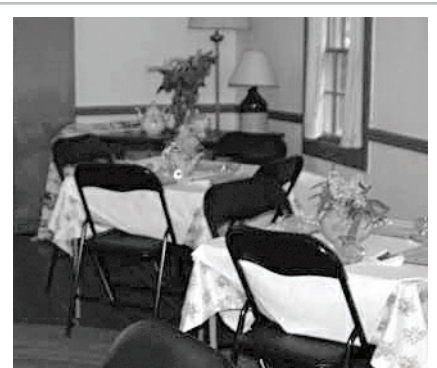
Winners and judges at Mountainside's First Annual Pie Baking Contest held on Oct. 19, 2008. From left to right: judge Elena Bentley, 1st place winner Anjali Mehrotra, 3rd place winner Art Mezzo, judge Frank Geiger, 2nd place winner Joan Barna and judge Effie Jones.

Three SUCCESSFUL EVENTS held at Hetfield House

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

GINGERBREAD OPEN HOUSE: The first was the wonderful Gingerbread Open House held on Sunday, December 16th, 2007. Hundreds of people visited the house and enjoyed music, crafts, delicious holiday treats, hot cider and a beautiful display of our community's talents at Gingerbread Creations. The star of the day, was the beautifully-decorated Hetfield House. Hours and hours of loving care went into decorating the house for this event. The house's exterior borrowed its theme from Gingerbread Houses while the interior featured rooms of decorations themed by the four centuries witnessed by this historic house. Don't miss this year's Gingerbread Open House on Sunday, December 14, 2008 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

TEA & STRINGS: In the spring, on Sunday, May 18th, the Hetfield House was the site of a wonderful event entitled "Tea & Strings." Nearly a hundred visitors enjoyed a civilized afternoon of beautiful string music performed by the Westfield Volunteer String



The Hetfield House is beautifully decorated and awaiting guests for last spring's Tea & Strings event.

Ensemble with hot and cold tea and delicious home-baked sweets. Tables were adorned with homemade tablecloths and teapot flower arrangements. It was a huge success which the Committee will repeat on Sunday, May 17, 2009. Please mark your calendars and join us!

PIE-BAKING CONTEST: On Sunday, October 19, 2008, in conjunction with the Union County *Four Centuries in a Weekend*, the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee held its first ever Pie Baking Contest at the historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House. Eighteen enthusiastic bakers submitted their delicious pies to be judged by the three judges. The judges included: Elena Bentley, Life Skills Teacher at Deerfield School in Mountainside; Effie Jones, Owner of Pies by Design Café in Cranford and Frank Geiger, former owner of Geiger's Cider Mill and Bakery (now Principal of Columbia Middle School in Berkeley Heights). After about an hour of tasting and scoring, the judges tallied up their scores and three winners were announced. They were: 1st Place - Anjali Mehrotra for her Apple Pecan Crumb Pie; 2nd Place - Joan Barna for her Peachy Butterscotch Pie; and 3rd Place - Art Mezzo (8th grade) for his Autumn Cranberry-Pear Pie. The winning recipes may be viewed at 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 bakers and judges for their time and efforts to make their first pie baking contest a great success. We look forward to next year's contest.

Show off your GINGERBREAD CREATIONS



The Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee is holding the Second Annual Gingerbread Open House on Sunday, December 14th from 1:00 to 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, December 13th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Your creation will be displayed for all to see and admire. (Creations may be picked up between 4:00 to 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 14th). For further information or to make alternate arrangements for drop-off or pick-up, please call (908)789-9420.

Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

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

Alice Cowell, Sharon Green, Don Jeka,
Thomas McGee, Eleanor Pfeifer,
Diane Ruggiero, Nancy Spadaccini,
Lenore Toner, Cynthia West.

Glenn Mortimer, *Borough Council Liaison*

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.

Events Committee Established

The Historic Preservation Committee has established an "Events Committee" to help plan and execute the many new events that now take place at the Hetfield House. The members of the Events Committee are Mary Faella, Mary Jo Stearns and Sandy VanderMeer.



Friends of the Hetfield House
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Annual Membership:

- Individual Friend - \$5.00
- Very Special Friend - \$10.00 or more

I would like to volunteer my time.

Call me at this number: _____

Make Checks Payable to:
Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc.

And, mail along with this form to:
Carol Clark, Treasurer
308 Summit Road, Mountainside, NJ 07092

MOUNTAINSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07092
POSTAL PATRON

WESTFIELD, N.J.
PERMIT NO. 524
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
STANDARD
PRESORTED

Borough of Mountainside
Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee
1385 Route 22
Mountainside, New Jersey 07092