



## The Hetfield House

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www.mountainsidehistory.org

### SMITH WILLIAMS House: Another Historic Charm linked to Hetfield House

The Hetfield House has charm, most would admit. If it were a real 'charm' it would be displayed on the bracelet of Mountainside history, but it would not be the only one. It would share a spot with the 1790s historic building which resides close to Arirang restaurant along the west side of Route 22. That would be the building known as the Smith Williams House.

But, hold on, the charms may be linked, since the structure was supposedly built by Deacon Andrew Hetfield for one of his daughters as a wedding present. So the two properties have something in common since both were built by the same master of this affluent family. The daughter, Abigail, married Smith Williams, a shoemaker and leather tanner. They had two daughters, Phoebe and Ann, and Ann lived in the house all 95 years of her life.

Documents tell us that the property was sold around 1918 to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rumpf and in 1959 sold to Egan, Fickett & Co., Florida fruit distributors. After several owners, in 2003 it was sold again to Todd Evans who currently owns the building which houses his company, Rivendell Media Company.

In 1929, the property saw a ditch widened to accommodate new larger bridge abutments



*The Smith Williams house on Highway 29 West (now Route 22), as it looked in 1945, was the residence of Mountainside's mayor, Frederick Rumpf*

from the old county bridge which had crossed the then Route 29 to a newer bridge. The excavation uncovered old leather tanning vats in which Williams tanned his products. Various other improvements followed and the handsome structure stands today, modified but still bearing the outer vestiges of a centuries-old structure. Inside, its labyrinthine passageways remain, despite modernization.

The façade may have changed to a lesser degree but the 'old bones' are still there. Mr. Evans is an admirer of historic structures having restored a property in Westfield and sought to preserve the look and feel of this old building. An L-shaped addition was made to the rear of the structure where his office is located. He is president and CEO of a media relations company. A psychic medium, Linda Lauren, shares space in the building and is also a business partner of Mr. Evans.

During renovation, an old chimney was uncovered, since removed, and Mr. Evans donated the old wrought iron cooking fixtures to the present Hetfield House where they were installed in the restored kitchen fireplace, thus establishing another link between the two historic properties.

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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 3, beginning at 4:00 pm, stroll on over to Mountainside Borough Hall for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting. While there, stop by the Rescue Squad building for some hot cocoa and home baked cookies and treats. Every year, volunteers from the Mountainside Restoration Committee are there to offer some warmth and sweetness to a brisk and festive evening. Once there, you will enjoy holiday songs sung by the Mountainside Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts as our magnificent tree is lit for the season.

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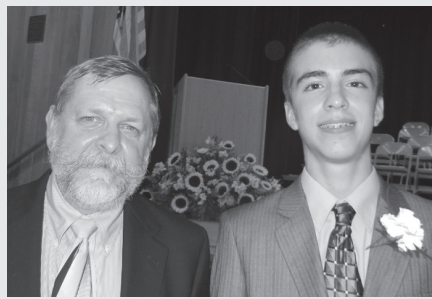
### “ MISSION STATEMENT

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.



*Smith Williams house as it stands today - a more modern-looking structure which shares the parking lot near Arirang Restaurant on Route 22 West*

## The ARTHUR J. BRAHM Historic Preservation Scholarship Award



*Historic Preservation Committee Chairman, Scott Daniels, presents the 2011 Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award to Ryan Bonk*

At the eighth grade Graduation Ceremony for Deerfield School, held on Wednesday, 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 2011 award was presented to Ryan Bonk for his essay on Mountainside's historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House. Congratulations Ryan! Contest entries are on display at the Hetfield House for all to read.

## SMITH WILLIAMS House

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"I tried in most cases to preserve the buildings' authentic exterior look, maintaining its amazing condition for its age. We installed new eyebrow windows along the top storey, and eliminated the air conditioning units which were an intrusion of style and certainly did not fit the period," Mr. Evans explained. Records show that the original stairway in the house was unusual. It was made of San Domingo mahogany, with no nails being used. The tread was a separate board with dove-tailed edge into which the balusters were placed. Other quality woods and joinery form the white pine floor boards, fluted columns and carved mantels. Designs were beveled out by craftsmen's hands. Most of those treasures had to go during the renovation to make way for the more modern office facility; but some still lie hidden.

So the next time you head west on Route 22, give a glance at this handsome building at number 1248 and a nod to Mountainside's rich history.

*--This article was written by Don Jeka, a member of the Mountainside Restoration Committee*

## CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL

*(continued from page 1)*

**BRICK FUNDRAISER:** The latest set of bricks, including many veteran tributes, were laid and dedicated on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2011. For those who may have missed purchasing bricks for this 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 2012. These bricks make up the path leading to the front door of the Hetfield House. Originally, this walkway was begun 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.

**HISTORY BOOKS FOR SALE:** The newest version of Mountainside's History *The History of Mountainside (1945-2007) - It Was Only Yesterday* are available for sale. This book, written by Mountainside's own Connie McNamara is available for \$19.99 at the Mountainside Library or during Hetfield House events.

The original *History of Mountainside* by Jean Hesketh-Hershey covers the history until 1945 (copies are available for \$10 each, call 789-9420). Either of these books would make great gifts for anyone who has ties to Mountainside.

**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 one of the many scheduled events throughout the year or by appointment. The public is invited during these times to tour the house and gain insight into Mountainside's historic past. Upcoming special events will occur on December 11, 2011 - Gingerbread Open House (see back cover for details) and on May 6, 2012 - Tea & Strings. For appointments to visit and tour the house, call (908)789-9420.

**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*

## VOLUNTEERs needed

The Hetfield House is a successful historic house, thanks to our wonderful volunteers who are a vital part of our organization. Volunteers keep the house maintained and allow us to provide so many wonderful events and services to our community. Areas where we could use some help include: Archives, Membership, Events, Exhibits, Fundraising, Housekeeping and Gardening. As an added benefit to our students (ages 13 through 18), volunteering at the Hetfield House provides the opportunity to fulfill community service requirements. No experience necessary! Please contact Sandra Vander Meer at [hetfieldhouse1@yahoo.com](mailto:hetfieldhouse1@yahoo.com) or call 789-9420 and leave a message which will be promptly returned.

## GINGERBREAD CREATIONS Display

The Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee is holding the fourth Annual Gingerbread Open House on Sunday, December 11 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, December 10 between 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, December 11). For further information or to make alternate arrangements for drop-off or pick-up, please call 789-9420.





## SUCCESSFUL EVENTS held at Hetfield House

**GINGERBREAD OPEN HOUSE:** A wonderful Gingerbread Open House was held on Sunday, December 12, 2010. Hundreds of people visited the house and enjoyed music, crafts, delicious holiday treats, hot cider, a beautiful display of our community's talents at gingerbread creations, and Mr. & Mrs. Claus.

Don't miss this year's Gingerbread Open House on Sunday, December 11, 2011 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. We hope to have performances by our local school and church music and chorus groups throughout the afternoon.

**TEA & STRINGS:** On Sunday, May 1, the Hetfield House was the site of a wonderful event entitled "Tea & Strings." Dozens of visitors enjoyed a civilized afternoon of beautiful string music performed by The Workshop Strings Ensemble with hot and cold tea and delicious home-baked sweets. Please mark your calendars and join us Sunday, May 6, 2012 for the next Tea & Strings.

**HISTORY'S WHEELS CAR SHOW:** The second Annual Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee's "History's Wheels – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lap" Car Show was held on Sunday, April 10, 2011. More than two dozen cars proudly parked in the commuter lot adjacent to the Hetfield House for a show of some of the area's automotive classics. Visitors voted for their "People's Choice" award which went to Keith Turner for his Black 1970 Chevy Nova SS. Congratulations Keith!

**GARAGE SALE FUND RAISER:** Sunday, September 18 was the day of a huge garage sale held on the lawn of the Hetfield House.

### 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, Diane Ruggiero, Lenore Toner, and Sandra Vander Meer.

*Sub-committee members:* Mary Faella, Mary Jo Stearns, Nancy Spadaccini, George Urban and Cynthia West.

Jeffrey Wass, *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.



Committee members show off antique bathroom fixtures during the Garage Sale fundraiser held on Sunday, September, 18. Pictured (l to r) are front row: Maureen Giannone, Carol Clark and Tom McGee; back row: Sandy Vander Meer, Alice Cowell and Carol Goggi.

This was the day of the Mountainside Newcomers Club's Townwide Garage Sale and the Hetfield House was one of the 50+ garage sale sites in Mountainside. Hundreds of items were for sale – many coming from the Hetfield House and others donated by contributor friends. Featured were toys, jewelry, lighting, linens, housewares, clothing, furniture – many antiques. The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Junior Girl Scouts manned the bake sale, snacks and beverage table. Fun was had and moneis were earned for the Historic Restoration Committee!

**FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND:** On Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16, 2011, in conjunction with the Union County Four Centuries in a Weekend festivities, the Hetfield House was abuzz with activity. On Saturday, Girl Scout Troops 40443, 40468 and 40754 delighted visitors with their demonstrations of Colonial Rag Doll making and colonial games such as jacks, Jacob's ladder, marbles, cup and ball, pick-up sticks, spinning tops and shut-the-box. Participants went home with their own hand-made rag doll and an appreciation for classic games of the past.

Both days brought an influx of visitors, new to the Hetfield House, who were treated to tours and the unique atmosphere of our true historic home. Unfortunately, because of a lack of entries, the Annual Pie Contest had to be cancelled; but, we hope to offer another contest next year!

### In MEMORIAM

This past June, we lost two former members of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee. Former member, Bill Biunno, passed away on June 15, 2011; and member, Sharon Green, passed away on June 30, 2011. Both Bill and Sharon were vital members of our Committee who will be missed. May they rest in peace.



Pictured receiving his first place trophy is Keith Turner, who was the "People's choice" winner at the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee's "History's Wheels" car show held in April.



On Saturday, October 15, Mountainside Girl Scouts helped visitors make colonial rag dolls and play colonial games.

## 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 plumbing and 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 1 from names submitted during this fundraiser. Following are the winners:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Judy Dietz (\$300 gift card to Lord & Taylor)

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Violet Rodgers (\$200 gift card to Kings)

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Glenn Mortimer (Pamper and dining certificates to local restaurants, salons and gyms)

4<sup>th</sup> place: Kathleen Ruggeri (Sampler certificates to local supermarkets)

Congratulations winners and thank you all for your support!

**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 Restoration Committee" and mail to Sandy Vander Meer, 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.

**Gingerbread  
Open House**  
The Hetfield House  
Constitution Plaza, Mountainside  
Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Join us for Kids' Crafts, Refreshments,  
Live Music, Boutique, 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)

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

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