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## Mountainside - a RESPITE for SUMMER'S CHILDREN



*The Children's Country Home on New Providence Road, as it appeared around 1900, is now Children's Specialized Hospital.*

During the early days of Mountainside, specifically in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Mountainside was a destination for needy children seeking a summer home in the desirable countryside. Three children's homes or orphanages were located in Mountainside, which was mostly forested and farmland and generally undeveloped then.

All of these homes had a common thread ... the Coles family. Jonathan Ackerman Coles and his sister Emilie S. Coles were both instrumental in creating and financing these children's homes. J. Ackerman Coles, a resident of Scotch Plains, was a successful physician in Newark. His sister, Emilie who was an author, was influenced by her family's philanthropy and continued their mission by spearheading efforts to create the Highland Home for Orphans in memory of her father, Abraham Coles.

*The Children's Country Home:* In 1891, twenty four women representing Westfield churches, began planning a country home where underprivileged children from nearby cities could stay during the summer weeks. This



*The Coles Memorial Home for Orphans, as it appeared in the early 1900s, was located in the area where Brighton Gardens is now.*

home was originally located at the corner of New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue in the Levi Cory house. When the Levi Cory house became too small for the numbers of children served, the women purchased a home and ten acres of property from the John Drew estate located on New Providence Road in 1896 and relocated the children's home. By 1897, the Children's Country Home had begun taking in children with physical disabilities. In those years, Dr. J. Ackerman Coles was instrumental with medical care, advice and funding. Several additions were later made to the original structure as space was needed. By 1922, the home was operating year-round focusing on the care of children with disabilities. In 1962, the Children's Country Home was renamed as Children's Specialized Hospital and still operates today on New Providence Road. It is the largest Children's Rehabilitation Hospital in the United States.

*The Coles Memorial Home:* Located on what is now Route 22, near where Brighton Gardens is situated, Dr. Jonathan Ackerman Coles gifted land and a large house to the Newark Orphan Asylum in 1905. The home originally

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## From the CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL



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

**YOUR WHEELS CAN SAVE HISTORY:** Recently, the Historic Committee has partnered with CARS, Inc. to raise funds by collecting unwanted vehicles. Anyone with unwanted cars, trucks, motorbikes, RVs, trailers, heavy equipment, etc. should consider donating to help the Mountainside Restoration Committee. The vehicle doesn't have to be in working order and will be picked up from wherever it is. Vehicle donations are tax-deductible. To donate your

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### MISSION STATEMENT

The Mountainside Restoration Committee (aka the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee) was established to preserve the Borough's links to the past. The premier venues are the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House (circa 1760) and the Levi Cory House (circa 1818), both restored and continually maintained by this Committee. 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 and Levi Cory House properties in perpetuity.

## SUMMER'S CHILDREN

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featured 125 beds, farmland, orchards and woods. Dr. Coles furnished and equipped the home for all the children's needs. Children from the Newark Orphan Asylum spent their summers in the home - gardening, horseback riding, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking and enjoying the country. With the exception of one year during wartime in 1943, the Coles Memorial Home for Orphans served children for many summers before it was closed by 1950.

*The Highland Home for Orphans:* In 1907, Miss Emilie S. Coles, sister of Dr. J. Ackerman Coles, gave to the "Association to Maintain a Home for the Friendless" of Newark a house and 30+ acres of land located at Coles Avenue and New Providence Road in Mountainside. This home which Miss Coles furnished and outfitted, opened in 1912, and was used as a summer residence for children from the Newark orphanage. The facility, nestled among nature, included a dormitory and a chapel. Chapel Hill, the street, was later



*The Highland Home was a summer home for orphan children and was located near the intersection of Coles Avenue and New Providence Road.*

developed in 1963 and named for the chapel on this property.

Both the Coles Memorial Home and The Highland Home became obsolete by the 1950s and early 60s when the state closed orphanages in favor of the foster home system. Each property was later sold to developers. These three homes were shining examples of how Mountainside has always been a welcome haven for those seeking a special place of peace and beauty.

## CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL

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vehicle, go to [mountainsidehistory.org](http://mountainsidehistory.org); or call (855)500-7433.

**MRC ESTATE SALES:** A new division of the Mountainside Restoration Committee has formed to conduct estate sales in the Mountainside area. Trusted, Mountainside-based antique and estate sale experts, who are Committee volunteers, will run the sales. All commissions benefit the preservation of Mountainside history. Call (908)789-9420 for MRC Estate Sales.

**BRICK FUNDRAISER:** To purchase bricks, please pick up a flyer at the Mountainside Library, Borough Hall or go to [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org). These bricks make up the path leading to the front door of the Hetfield House and will be expanded to the Levi Cory House. The Committee will continue to sell bricks to raise funds for the upkeep of the Hetfield House and restoration of the Levi Cory House.

**HISTORY OF MOUNTAINSIDE BOOKS:** The most recent history of Mountainside: *A History of Mountainside - 1945-2007 - It Was Only Yesterday* by Connie McNamara is available for purchase at \$19.99 in the Mountainside Library. The original *History of Mountainside* by Jean Hesketh-Hershey covers

the history until 1945 (copies are available for \$20 each, call 789-9420).

**PUT A PLAQUE IN THE LEVI CORY HOUSE:** Individuals, groups and businesses can show their support of the Levi Cory House move and restoration by "putting a plaque in" the Levi Cory House. These plaques will indicate your sponsorship of the architectural features contained within the house such as doors, windows, fireplaces, stairways, or entire rooms! You can show your support with a sponsorship, a dedication, an honor or a memorial. Each plaque will be a forever reminder that you helped save and restore this historic house. Plaque forms can be found at [mountainsidehistory.org](http://mountainsidehistory.org)

**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 Diane Kontra at (908) 397-2472.

For further information on the above-mentioned activities of the Mountainside Restoration Committee and updates on the Hetfield House and Levi Cory House happenings, please call (908) 789-9420 or visit [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org).

Scott Daniels - *Chairman, Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee*

## The ARTHUR J. BRAHM Scholarship Award



*Mountainside Restoration Committee Chairman, Scott Daniels, is pictured with the 2016 Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award recipient, Emily Berkow. The award is given each year to a graduating Deerfield Eighth Grader. Contest entries are on display at the Hetfield House for all to read. Scholarship criteria announcements for the 2017 award are available through the Deerfield School Guidance office.*

## LEVI CORY HOUSE update

During 2016, the Levi Cory House (circa 1818) which was moved from New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue in 2013, has undergone a transformation. The bow window was removed from the front of the house to restore it to its original state. New cedar siding was installed to replace missing and damaged siding. Inside the house, most of the walls and ceilings on the first floor were replaced and painted along with trim thanks to a grant from the Watts Mountainside Foundation.

Much remains to be done before the house can open as a museum for children's interests - including installation of electric, heat and plumbing. These will be completed as funds become available. Plans also include the addition of porches on two sides of the house which existed on the original house in 1800s.

For further information on the Levi Cory House or to donate toward its restoration, please visit [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org); or call (908)789-9420.



*The bow window has been removed from the Levi Cory house in order to restore it to its original state.*

# The YEAR in REVIEW

(February, 2016 – February, 2017)...

**COLONIAL DINNER:** Held on February 28, 2016, the Hetfield House served as the backdrop for an authentic Colonial Dinner featuring a colonial cooking demonstration in the kitchen hearth with costumed servers.

**FOUNDERS' FESTIVAL:** On Sunday, May 1, a Founders' Festival and Spring Cleaning Swap Meet sale was held. Due to the rainy weather, all activities were held in the Boro Hall Community Room and the First Aid Squad building. The highlight was the Chicken Plop Bingo game which was a huge hit.

**SPRING & FALL PLANT SALES:** Sales of beautiful Spring plants were held in May and a Fall mum plant sale was held in September.

**GARAGE LAWN SALE:** On Saturday, September 17, the Hetfield House lawn

was taken over with garage sale items during the Newcomers' Club town-wide garage sale. Proceeds of the sale benefited the Mountainside Historic Committee.

**DEERFIELD FIFTH GRADE FIELD TRIP:** On October 12, for a second year, 98 fifth graders, with their teachers and chaperones, walked to the Hetfield House from Deerfield School for a field trip where they toured the house, learned some local history and created historic figure scarecrows for decorating the house.

**UNION COUNTY'S FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE:** During the weekend of October 15-16, visitors from all over the County and beyond enjoyed the Hetfield House tours and a miniature reenactment of the Revolutionary War Battle of Short Hills.

**VETERANS LUNCHEON:** In honor of Veterans' Day on November 11, the Hetfield House hosted a luncheon for our Veterans. Nearly forty veterans and guests enjoyed lunch provided by the VFW and served by Historic Committee volunteers.

**VILLAGE SHOP HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE:** On several November and December weekends, the Hetfield House was the site of a Holiday Boutique. Many shoppers enjoyed the unique holiday items and curiosities offered.



Scarecrows representing historic figures line up in front of the Hetfield House after they were created during Deerfield's Fifth Grade field trip in October.

**COOKIE & HOT COCOA SALE:** During the Annual Borough Tree Lighting on December 3, the Committee sold Cookies and Hot Cocoa, along with gifts and ornaments, to hundreds of Girl Scouts and Mountainsiders.

**GINGERBREAD OPEN HOUSE:** Gingerbread Open Houses were held on Saturday & Sunday, December 10 & 11. Adults were invited on Saturday afternoon for a wine and cheese reception. Sunday's open house hosted many families who visited the house to enjoy music, crafts, delicious holiday treats and hot cider with Mr. & Mrs. Claus.

**DOWNTON ABBEY DINNER:** Recently, on February 24, the Hetfield House was transformed for an authentic Downton Abbey-inspired dinner. Guests arrived in Edwardian attire for a Pimm's Punch reception, 5-course dinner and Downton Abbey Trivia contest.

## 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, Education, Research, Publicity & Marketing, Events, Exhibits, Fundraising, Grant-writing, Clerical, Housekeeping and Gardening. As an added benefit to our students aged 13 through 18, volunteering at the Hetfield House provides the opportunity to fulfill community service requirements. Please contact us at [hetfieldhouse1@yahoo.com](mailto:hetfieldhouse1@yahoo.com) or call 789-9420 and leave a message which will be promptly returned. A volunteer application can also be downloaded at [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org)

## Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

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

Alice Cowell, Bob Gardella, Diane Kontra, Thomas McGee, Jim Toner, George Urban and Sandra VanderMeer.

Wendy Fech-Caccamo, *Borough Council Liaison*

## 2017 Restoration Committee CALENDAR

Unless specified otherwise, all events are at the Hetfield House

April 29 — Annual Spring Cleaning Sale & Swap Meet; and Chicken Plop Bingo game (9am - 2pm)

May 4, 5, 6, 7 — Geranium and Spring Plant Sale (9am - 4pm)

May 21 — "Blast from the Past" Open House event (1 - 4pm)

September 14, 15, 16, 17 — Mum and Fall Plant Sale (9am - 4pm)

September 16 — Garage Sale (9am - 2pm)

October 21-22 — "Four Centuries in a Weekend" Open House event (Sat. 10am - 4pm; Sun. 12 - 4pm)

November 11 — Veterans' Day Luncheon

December 2 — Cookie & Hot Cocoa sale at Borough Tree Lighting (4:15-5:15pm)

December 9 — Adult Gingerbread Open House (2-4pm)

December 10 — Family Gingerbread Open House (1-4pm)

## RAFFLE WINNERS announced

Each year, the Mountainside Restoration Committee holds a Spring fundraising drive for some needed project in the Hetfield or Levi Cory House. In 2016 the funds were earmarked for exterior painting of the Levi Cory House. A drawing was held on May 1. Following are the winners:

1st prize — 7 nights in a Florida vacation villa: Angelo Inguinato

2nd prize — GoPro Hero4 Mountable-Wearable Camera: Evelyn Holcomb

3rd prize — \$230 in local Restaurant Gift Certificates: Hann/Pristasch family

4th prize — \$75 in Supermarket Gift Cards: Sandy Wilson

Congratulations winners and thank you all for your support! Please support this year's Spring fundraising drive by donating and for another chance to win great prizes. See letter on page 4.



The Hetfield House



Levi Cory House

## MOUNTAINSIDE RESTORATION COMMITTEE, INC.

1385 US Highway 22, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092

April, 2017

To Mountainside Residents & Friends:

In 2013, the historic Levi Cory House (circa 1818) was saved and moved to Borough property on Constitution Plaza. The house move was a big event in Mountainside and paved the way for a full restoration of the structure so that it can, one day, open as a museum for children's interests

We are making this annual appeal for donations to help the Mountainside Restoration Committee raise funds toward the restoration of the 200-year old Levi Cory house. Our next big project is the installation of electricity. Yes, the house currently has no electric service and requires an electric upgrade and utility connection. Your donation of \$20 or more will help us fund the installation of electric service. You will also be entered into a drawing to win one of the following prizes:

- 1st Prize:** LG 55" 1080p 60Hz Smart TV—valued at \$529.99
- 2nd Prize:** Google Home Wireless Assistant—valued at \$129.99
- 3rd Prize:** Certificates for Echo Tap & Grill, Stage House Tavern, GrilleStone Restaurant and Spanish Tavern—valued at \$125
- 4th Prize:** Certificates for Shop-Rite, Stop'n Shop & Acme—valued at \$75

On the yellow stub, please fill in your contact information, and include your donation of \$20 or more. Checks can be made payable to the "Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc." (a 501(c)3 charity). These items **should be returned no later than May 4, 2017** to *Carol Clark, 308 Summit Rd, Mountainside, NJ 07092*. The **drawing will be held on Sunday, May 7 at 12:00 pm** at the Hetfield House on Constitution Plaza adjacent to the Library (winners need not be present).

Thank you and we invite you to participate in our events as outlined in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

*The Mountainside Restoration Committee*



### *Spring Cleaning Sale & Swap Meet with Chicken Plop Bingo*

SAT. APRIL 29, 2017  
9AM-2PM

DEACON ANDREW HETFIELD HOUSE  
CONSTITUTION PLAZA,  
MOUNTAINSIDE

GROUPS, INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVITED TO SECURE A SPACE AT THE SPRING CLEANING SALE & SWAP MEET  
TABLE SPACE IS LIMITED—RESERVE EARLY

Table space is \$20 each  
Sale/Swap Meet participants should provide their own tables.  
(a limited number of 5-6 ft. oblong lightweight tables are available at a cost an additional \$10 each)

Examples of participation include: New or used household items, toys, games, equipment, tools, sports items, clothing, etc.—all resulting from your Spring Cleaning. New giftware, cosmetics, jewelry, crafts, artwork, etc.  
You are responsible for staffing your table and for swapping or selling your own items. You or your group keeps profits from the swapping or sale of your items. Individuals, families or community groups are welcome to participate.

In there is rain, the sale will be held in the Fire House Garage.  
For registration forms, go to: [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org); call (908)789-9420; or pick up forms at the Mountainside Borough Hall or Public Library.

Sponsored by the Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc.

DURING THE SWAP MEET AND SALE, THE COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT ONGOING CHICKEN PLOP BINGO GAMES. ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SALE/SWAP AND BINGO.