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www.mountainsidehistory.org

MOUNTAINSIDE celebrates 125 years ... IT ALL BEGAN IN 1895

HISTORY OF MOUNTAINSIDE

A brief history by the late Rowene Miller

For many years, the late Rowene Miller was a member of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee and a trustee of this committee. Rowene prepared this article on Mountainside at the time of the Borough's Centennial in 1995.

Mountainside separated from Westfield on October 22, 1895. Water supply, street-lights, sewers, and the taxes relating to them were the precipitating concerns that led to the split. The "Freeholders" of that area of Westfield voted affirmatively on September 24, 1895. Following that, an election of Borough officers was held on October 22 at Beaman's Blacksmith Shop, behind present-day Mountainside Drug (*now Publick House*). Joseph W. Cory, the first mayor, held that position until 1901. He

served again from 1906 to 1909. In addition to a mayor, councilmen, clerk, and treasurer, elected officials included a constable, a surveyor of highways, a commissioner of appeal, and an overseer of the poor. After the organization of the government of the borough, departments necessary to conduct governing functions – such as police, fire, and education and public welfare – were gradually added.

In 1910 Mayor C. A. Baechtold asked Robert Laing about organizing a Volunteer Fire Department. A large group worked on the idea, and in May 1915 the department was incorporated as a non-profit organization. A used chemical engine found in Westfield (purchase price: \$35) was pulled by a horse and buggy belonging to Henry Weber. This unit was used until 1918, when Charles Heckel bought a Reo truck with an engine containing two seventy-gallon chemical tanks. Later a Ford chassis was built into the equipment. The total cost for this customizing amounted to \$1,500. Mountainside's Fire Department now operates state-of-the-art equipment out of a modern Fire House located on New Providence Road.

An ordinance by the Borough Council in 1934 created a Police Department; Charles Honecker was appointed first chief. Prior to that, chief marshals, justices of the peace, and recorders looked after affairs pertinent to this area. A new building to house the Police Department was completed in 1996.



In 1938 the Fire Department began planning for rescue work in case of accidents, illness, or other emergencies, and in December of that year a Rescue Squad was fully organized after the training of police and firemen in first aid. The Rescue Squad now has its own building near the Borough Hall and

modern ambulances.

In the days before Mountainside became a borough with its own government it was part of the Township of Elizabethtown, which was organized in 1693, covered a wide area, and included the West Fields, The Locust Grove, Branch Mills, and Baltusrol sections of the West Fields, rural communities composed mostly of farmers, which later became Mountainside. The Dutch preceded the English in some areas of New Jersey, but the majority of settlers here were English. Descendants of some early pioneers still live in the area.

Some early eighteenth century houses are still standing in Mountainside but others have given way to modern buildings, both residential and commercial. One of the earliest homes, built by pioneers James and John Badgley in 1738 near where Trailside Museum now stands, became a garage for the Union County Parks Commission. An arson destroyed it in 1984. The Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, built about 1760, was used by the Hetfield family or in-laws until 1936. From then through the early 1980's it was an antique shop called the Dutch Oven. When developers bought

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc. was established in 1985 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. These volunteers strive to focus attention on Mountainside's heritage through tours, newsletters, videos and many events during the year. This mission includes maintaining the Hetfield House and Levi Cory House properties in perpetuity and saving/archiving artifacts and documents important to Mountainside's history.

From the CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL



The last months have certainly challenged us all with the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of the Mountainside Restoration Committee activities and fundraisers have been cancelled since March. The Levi Cory House Village Shop remains closed. Our Spring Plant Sale, the semi-annual Tour of Mountainside Gardens and the wedding gown exhibit were cancelled. We are unsure of upcoming activities, although, we do plan to hold the Fall Plant Sale and re-open the Levi Cory House Village Shop. See these announcements in this newsletter. These events are important fundraising events for the Committee which help us to raise funds for the upkeep of the Hetfield and Levi Cory Houses.

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

YOUR WHEELS CAN HELP SAVE HISTORY: The committee has partnered with CARS, Inc. to fund raise by collecting unwanted vehicles. Anyone with unwanted cars, trucks, RVs, motorbikes, trailers, heavy equipment, etc. should consider donating to help the Mountainside Restoration Committee. The vehicles don't have to be in working order and will be picked up from wherever they are. Vehicle donations are tax-deductible. To donate vehicles, go to mountainsidehistory.org; or call (855)500-7433.

MRC ESTATE SALES: A 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 while the homeowner profits, as well. Several very successful MRC Estate Sales have been held. 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

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The ARTHUR J. BRAHM Scholarship Award



Mountainside Restoration Committee Chairman, Scott Daniels, is pictured with the 2019 Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award recipient, Hannah Tao. Hannah's winning essay was written about Mountainside's parks.

The 2020 Essay winner is Anika Gupta who wrote about volunteers in Mountainside and the Children's Country Home. Because the award ceremony was virtual, a photo of Anika is not available.

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.

LOOKING BACK... The YEAR in REVIEW

(March 2019 – August 2020)...

SPRING & FALL PLANT SALES: Sales of beautiful Spring plants were held in May 2019 and a Fall mum plant sale was held in September 2019.

GARAGE LAWN SALE: On Saturday and Sunday, September 20-21, 2019, 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 15, for the fifth year, 5th graders, 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 figures scarecrows for decorating the house.

UNION COUNTY'S FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE: During the weekend of October 19-20, more than 120 visitors from all over the county and beyond enjoyed Hetfield House tours and a miniature reenactment of the Revolutionary War Battle Springfield.

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

THE VILLAGE SHOP: On several weekends during the Fall, Winter and Spring, the Levi Cory House Village Shop opened to the public. Many shoppers enjoyed the unique holiday items and curiosities offered.

COOKIE & HOT COCOA SALE: During the annual Borough Tree Lighting on December 7, the Committee sold cookies and hot cocoa to hundreds of Girl Scouts and Mountainsiders.

GINGERBREAD OPEN HOUSE: Gingerbread Open Houses were held in the Hetfield House on Saturday and Sunday, December 14-15. Adults were invited on Saturday afternoon for a wine and cheese. Sunday saw many families visiting the house to enjoy music, crafts, delicious holiday treats and hot cider with Mr. & Mrs. Claus.

DOWNTON ABBEY STYLE COCKTAIL PARTY: The last event held before the pandemic took place on February 28, 2020 — a "Downton Abbey...The Titanic Connection" cocktail party held at the Hetfield House. With hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, trivia game, a presentation on the Titanic, and guests and volunteers dressed to the nines in Downton Abbey attire, the evening was a huge success.

Mountainside Restoration Committee

Scott Daniels, *Chairman*

Ruth Goense, *Vice Chair*

Carol Clark, *Treasurer*

Jason Pastore, *Secretary*

Carol Goggi, *Newsletter Editor*

Alice Cowell, Bob Gardella, Diane Kontra, Valeri Shafer, John Sharkey, Jim Toner, George Urban and Ethel Ward.

Rachel Pater, *Borough Council Liaison*

Newsletter design and layout Anjali Mehrotra

MOUNTAINSIDE celebrates 125 years *(continued from page 1)*



The Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee float participating in the Mountainside Centennial Parade in 1995

the property in 1984, they planned to demolish the house. Fern Carter Hyde, chairman of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee, persuaded the Borough Council to save it, and on June 29, 1985, the house was moved to Constitution Plaza near the Mountainside Library. The Hetfield House is now on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Many early residents, such as Andrew Hetfield, Ichabod Clarke, and Jonathan Woodruff, served in the Revolutionary War. Residents also served in both World Wars. After World War II, a portion of Route 22 was named Blue Star Drive in honor of the military.

Education has been important to Mountainside residents since the eighteenth century. Locust Grove School District Number 15, established in 1760, was housed in a white schoolhouse along Springfield Road, later called Route 29, and finally identified as Route 22. In 1900 a red brick schoolhouse was built by the Town of Westfield and the Borough of Mountainside Boards of Education at a cost of \$3,448. The two boards separated in 1904. The schoolhouse was remodeled in 1924, and an additional building was constructed next to it. Known as the Echobrook School, it became the headquarters of the Board of Education when decreasing school population forced its closing as a school. Subsequently, two schools, Deerfield on Central Avenue and Beechwood on Woodacres Drive were added. At present, only Deerfield is in use (*Beechwood School was later renovated and reopened in 2004*). Echobrook was demolished in 1995 to make way for renovations

to Borough Hall, which was located as an addition to the original building, and Police Department headquarters, located on the original site. Over the years Mountainside's high school students have attended Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights or Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield.

Edwin Downer, Jr., son of Samuel, organized the first Sunday school in Westfield Township in 1818 with Mrs. Abigail Badgley. It met at her home on New Providence Road behind what is now the Trailside Museum. Around 1825 the Sunday school was moved to the schoolhouse later known as the Bee Hive. When the Bee Hive became unfit for use, a new schoolhouse was built, but the Sunday school was discontinued. On February 26, 1871, the Sunday school reorganized as the Locust Grove Sunday School under the auspices of the Westfield Baptist Church. When that church felt it could no longer maintain it, it became a Union School. In 1891 Mrs. Kate B. High donated the land upon which the Locust Grove Chapel stood for many years. Funds were raised for construction of a chapel. The building cost about \$2,500 and was dedicated in September of 1901. When Route 29 was widened in 1929 to incorporate a westbound lane, Mountainside Union Chapel became an island. Services were still held there until the 1970's, when the Chapel was forced to move because of State plans to ultimately widen and improve the highway. A new building was constructed on Spruce Drive, and with a change of name to Mountainside Gospel Church, it was dedicated on April 28, 1974. Twenty years earlier, in 1954, a survey of

residents showed that another Protestant church was desired, and the Community Presbyterian Church was built. In 1961, Our Lady of Lourdes was built to accommodate Mountainside's Catholic population, and an elementary grade school was also established.

Since a major thoroughfare, Route 22, bisects Mountainside, this has influenced the way the borough has been developed. Industries have been established on both sides of the highway and on some of the streets leading from it. Most of the borough north of the highway, except for the area immediately adjacent to it, is residential. Mountainside Center has valuable establishments serving the needs of the community: a drug store, bakery, delicatessen, cleaners, beauty parlor, grocery store, gift shop, flower and gift shop, restaurants, insurance office, service stations, and liquor store. The furniture repair shop run by Don Maxwell is one of the oldest businesses in the borough. Bliwise Liquors (*now Vine Republic*) was originally a general store and has an 83-year history. Mountainside Center was upgraded during the Centennial Year with new sidewalks, new lighting, and an improved system of traffic lights at the intersection of Mountain Avenue and New Providence Road.

The library had its beginning in the old school on Springfield Road, but now has its own building on Constitution Plaza and is computerized. Special reading programs for children are offered and the Friends of the Library sponsor musical programs and hold annual book sales. Proceeds help to support the purchase of special library equipment and other needs.

The Recreation Department sponsors ski trips, theater trips, trips to baseball games, and bus trips to places north and south. It also supervises the community pool and tennis courts and publishes a monthly newsletter. The Borough had a Baseball Youth League which was active during the spring and summer.

Mayor Robert F. Viglianti believes one of the reasons for Mountainside's success is the 'tremendous amount and quality of men and women we have had over the years giving so much of themselves for their community.' (*sadly Mayor Viglianti passed away in 2009 after serving as mayor for 21 years.*)

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MOUNTAINSIDE celebrates

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Among those who volunteer their time, in addition to the members of the Borough Council, the Fire Department and Rescue Squad, are members of the Historic Preservation Committee, the Bestowers (*now defunct*), and organizations like the Parent Teacher Association, Mountainside Music Association (which puts on a biennial musical show, the proceeds of which are used for scholarships and equipment for the schools - *also defunct*), Friends of the Library and other organizations that in one way or another add to the quality of life in Mountainside.

One of the special places in Mountainside is the Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH). It is the epitome of volunteer endeavor as well as a caring institution. Established in 1891 as the Children's Country Home (*once located at the corner of New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue and moved in 2013 to Constitution Plaza by the Mountainside Restoration Committee as the Levi Cory House*), CSH moved to the Thomas Drew Farmstead on New Providence Road in 1896. It began by giving urban Newark children an opportunity to enjoy country air during the summer months. Gradually, CSH changed from a summer home for underprivileged children to a place for the treatment of infantile paralysis, and ultimately, to the rehabilitation of both children and adults whose motor abilities are affected by accidents or illnesses. From the beginning, people from Westfield and Mountainside have contributed countless hours to helping patients and raising funds for equipment and other needs of the hospital.

The Centennial Year of 1995 offered many varied events for the residents of the borough to celebrate. A gala ball, a parade and picnic, a golf outing, and a heritage festival with a fair, a dine-around, fireworks, a circus, and the opening of the time capsule from the 75th anniversary were among the planned events. In December the contents of the time capsule were displayed at the Hetfield House, drawing record crowd. A large committee worked enthusiastically for two years to plan and organize the events of the Mountainside Centennial Year. They were thanked at a special meeting of the Borough Council in January 1996 at which time items were collected for a time capsule to be opened in 2020.

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 2019, the funds were earmarked for the painting of the Hetfield House which was completed this past Spring, 2020. A drawing was held on May 5th, 2019. Following are the winners:

1st Prize:

Time-share villa for 7 nights—
William Delaney

2nd Prize:

Ring Doorbell—Linda Beatrice

3rd Prize:

Restaurant Certificates—S. D. Darlen

4th Prize:

Supermarket Certificates —
Pat Taeschler



Thanks to the funds raised from last year's Spring mailing, the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House has been newly painted

Congratulations winners and thank you all for your support! Please support this year's fundraising drive by donating and for another chance to win great prizes. See letter on page 6..

Outstanding ESTATE SALE fundraiser

The MRC Estate Sales Division of the Mountainside Restoration Committee will be holding an estate sale liquidating the contents of an incredible home in the Elmora section of Elizabeth. The sale will take place on September 11-12 from 9am-3pm. Check our website the week prior for the address and more details (www.mountainsidehistory.org). A percentage of sales and all commissions benefit the Mountainside Restoration Committee.

The former home of an established Elizabeth family, this estate houses an outstanding collection of 18th and 19th Century furniture, including a Brokaw tall-case clock with moon phase dial, English tall case clock, Hepplewhite sideboard, hunt table, oyster veneer secretary, tilt-top tea table, tapestry fire screen, sterling silver, knife box, early brass lighting fixtures, early oriental rugs, corner cupboards, three Philadelphia side chairs, three remarkable four poster beds, paintings, tons of porcelain, linens, glass, books, etc.

Mark your calendar for this not-to-be-missed sale. Social distancing measures will be in place including temperature checks, face masks are required, and limited numbers will be allowed inside at a time.



Recently, in order to earn a badge and community service hours, Boy Scouts from Mountainside Troop 177 worked to clean up, plant and mulch the area behind the Hetfield House along New Providence Road. Thank you to these scouts and their leaders for working with our Alice Cowell to spruce up our community. The boys who participated are: Jack Huss, Pat Huss, Keegan Healy, Garrett Jancourtz, Daniel Lopes, Kevin McCauley and Luke Zuzovskiy

Like and follow us on FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/hetfieldhouse.mountainside>

2020 Restoration Committee CALENDAR

(dates for indoor events are tentative depending upon pandemic restrictions)

September 4-5 – Levi Cory House Village Shop Open (10am-3pm)

September 11-12 – MRC Estate Sale Fundraiser in Elizabeth

September 17-20 – Fall Mum and Plant Sale (9am-4pm)

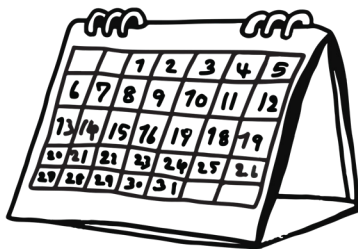
September 18-19 – Levi Cory House Village Shop Open (10am-3pm)

October 9-10 – Levi Cory House Village Shop Open (10am-3pm)

October 17-18 – Union County's Four Centuries in a Weekend (tentative)

October 23-24 – Levi Cory House Village Shop Open (10am-3pm)

November 6-7 – Levi Cory House Village Shop Open (10am-3pm)



November 11 – Veteran's Luncheon (tentative)

November 20-21 – Levi Cory House Village Shop Open (10am-3pm)

December 4-5 – Levi Cory House Village Shop Open (10am-3pm)

December 5 – Mountainside Tree Lighting and Cookie/Hot Cocoa Sale (Borough Hall)

December 12-13 – Gingerbread Open House Weekend (tentative)

December 18-19 – Levi Cory House Village Shop Open (10am-3pm)

CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL

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go to 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 (908)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

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 visit www.mountainsidehistory.org; or call (908)789-9420.

*Scott Daniels – Chairman,
Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc*



The Levi Cory House Village Shop will reopen for shoppers from 10am to 3pm on —
September 4, 5, 18, 19
October 9, 10, 23, 24
November 6, 7, 20, 21;
December: 4, 5, 18, 19.

Face masks will be required and the number of shoppers allowed in at a time will be limited.

Thanks to a grant from the **Watts Mountainside Community Foundation**, the front porch has been built on the Levi Cory House. The front porch was an original feature of the house around 1900 and has now been restored.



The Annual Fall Mum & Plant sale fundraiser will be held from Thursday through Sunday, September 17-20 from 9am-4pm on the Hetfield House lawn. Social distancing will be practiced, and face masks are required.

VOLUNTEER with us!

The Hetfield House and Levi Cory House are successful historic houses, thanks to our wonderful volunteers who are a vital part of our organization. Volunteers keep the houses maintained and allow us to provide so many wonderful events and services to our community. Areas where we could use help include: Archives, Education, Research, Publicity and Marketing, Events, Exhibits, Fund-Raising, Grant-writing, Clerical, Housekeeping, Shop Staff 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 or call (908)789-9420. A volunteer application can also be downloaded at www.mountainsidehistory.org



MOUNTAINSIDE RESTORATION COMMITTEE, INC.

1385 US Highway 22, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092



August, 2020

To Mountainside Residents and Friends:

During this 125th Anniversary Year for the Borough of Mountainside, the Mountainside Restoration Committee volunteers are proud to have accomplished so much toward the preservation of the history of our great town. The circa 1818 Levi Cory House and the circa 1760 Deacon Andrew Hetfield House are the pillars of the restoration efforts of this Committee and its donors. These houses represent the centuries of proud history enjoyed in Mountainside. In the spirit of Mountainside's Quasquicentennial, we hope you will help us to continue the upkeep on these historic houses.

We are making this annual appeal for donations to help the Mountainside Restoration Committee with much-needed repairs inside and outside on the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House which is a historically designated landmark and symbol of the history of Mountainside. Your donation of \$25 or more will help us fund the much-needed repair of our beloved Hetfield House. You will also be entered into a drawing to win one of the following prizes:

1st Prize: 7 nights lodging: 1 or 2 bedroom time-share villa located in Florida, the Carolinas or other U.S. destination (based on availability). Travel must be completed by December 31, 2021
Transportation not included. (Value: \$1500)

2nd Prize: A Ring Video Doorbell (Value: \$250)

3rd Prize: Restaurant Certificates for The Stage House, Ferraro's, Mosaico, Hung's Shangai and The Spanish Tavern (Value: \$190)

4th Prize: Supermarket Certificates for Shop-Rite, Stop'nShop and Acme Markets (Value: \$75.00)

On the yellow ticket stub, please fill in your contact information, detach, and include your donation of \$25 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 September 15, 2020** to Carol Clark, 308 Summit Rd, Mountainside, NJ 07092. The **drawing will be held on Sunday, September 20 at 12:00 noon** 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 announced in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

The Mountainside Restoration Committee

