

from



the Hetfield & Levi Cory houses

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WWW.MOUNTAINSIDEHISTORY.ORG

DOWN MEMORY LANE

“A WALKING TOUR OF MOUNTAINSIDE CENTER IN THE EARLY 1920s”

by, Harriet Wentlandt Carmichael (1907-2000)

This article takes the reader on a journey through a section of Mountainside in the 1920s with long-time resident Harriet Wentlandt Carmichael who wrote her story in 1983.

Approaching the “corner of New Providence Road, Mountain Avenue and Woodland Avenue. You know, people call this ‘Bird’s Corner’ . As we came around the bend on Mountain Avenue, after passing Chestnut Street, I should have called your attention to the names on the mailboxes on the left. The names are Beaman, Palmer, Coles and O’Donnell (*present day locations of former Bank of America and Maxwell’s shop*). The O’Donnells live nearest to New Providence Road across from the Maxwell house. The Maxwell house is the last house on the right before arriving at Woodland Avenue.

Now, before we start walking down New Providence Road, let’s walk down Woodland Avenue for about 110 feet to the Hamilton Farm. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton (Henry & Minnie) live in that house back past the barns. I knew that when I saw most of the cows at the fence that Mrs. Hamilton would soon be out here. Here she comes wearing a long apron. Watch now, in a minute you will know why. See her untie the apron and put it

over her head. Aren’t those funny sounding hoots that she is making as she hops around? Now watch the cows. They know just what the hoots mean. See them scurrying back to the pasture. When it is milking time and the cows are slow in coming to be milked, Mrs. Hamilton makes different hooting sounds. Again, they know just what to do. They come quickly. Those children on their way here with milk cans are coming for their family’s daily milk supply. They always come early. They like to see how the cows react to Mrs. Hamilton’s hoots.

On the right, is the house that the Hamiltons rent to tenants. It was built in 1763. The family now occupying it is the Kellerman family, that is, occupying the front part of it. The side door at the back end of the house is the Hermanse entrance.

I think, because of the time, we’ll forego sampling the very cold, refreshing water from the Hamilton’s ‘Old Oaken Bucket’ well here. Before we leave, though I would like you to notice the large, long wooden trough by the well. The Hamiltons keep it filled with water all day long for the cows.

It was right here at Hamilton’s Farm that Mary Pickford

made two of her first moving pictures in 1910. I have seen the pictures, and this ‘Old Oaken Bucket’ well and this 1763 house are very identifiable in the pictures. The titles of the movies are ‘Arcadian Maid’ and ‘Child of the Ghetto’.

And now, as we are about to leave the Hamilton Farm, there is an interesting fact that I must tell you about Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, Henry and Minnie. They gave ox teams to the city of Newark, New Jersey, before the Civil War. I believe this gift is recorded in the Newark, New Jersey historical archives. Who knows how the generosity of this noble Mountainside couple who live right here, Henry and Minnie Hamilton, may have changed the history of Newark, New Jersey, and or the progress of the Civil War. Mountainside can well be proud of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton.

See those children walking so slowly toward Mountain Avenue? There is a reason for their tarrying. The Clarks live in the white house next to us here. A relative of the Clarks married into the Capone family. The children are hoping as they pass by to see Al Capone and his limousine. He visits here occasionally. Who knows? Maybe we’ll see him!

(continued on page 3)



Whalen’s Tavern, formerly the Clark house, at the corner of Mountain and Woodland Aves.



Bird’s Corner, 2 New Providence Road. Now, the Levi Cory House moved to Constitution Plaza.

MISSION OF THE MOUNTAINSIDE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

The Mountainside Restoration Committee (aka the Mountainside Historic 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.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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 & 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 be downloaded at www.mountainsidehistory.org

These last 2 years have been difficult for us all. Many of the Mountainside Restoration Committee activities have resumed or switched to outdoors. The Levi Cory House Village Shop has reopened. Our Spring and Fall Plant Sales have resumed. Unfortunately, the semi-annual Tour of Mountainside Gardens has been postponed. The annual Gingerbread Open House was reimagined last year to become a crafting event on the front lawn with Hot Cocoa and Cookies prior to the Town Tree Lighting.

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 regular fundraising activities for the Mountainside Restoration Committee. You are encouraged to take advantage of any 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. Many very successful MRC Estate Sales have been held. Call (908)789-9420 for MRC Estate Sales.

PUT A PLAQUE IN THE LEVI CORY HOUSE:

Individuals, groups and businesses can show their support of the Levi Cory House move & 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 & Levi Cory House happenings, please visit www.mountainsidehistory.org; or call (908)789-9420.

Scott Daniels – Chairman, Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc

2022 Events Schedule

Levi Cory House Village Shop Open:
May 20, 21 and June 3, 4, 17, 18; 11am-3pm
Garage Sale Fundraiser at the Hetfield House
Dates in September TBA
Fall Mum & Plant Sale
Dates in September TBA
Four Centuries in a Weekend Open House
Oct. 15-16, 12-5pm

MOUNTAINSIDE HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Mountainside Restoration Committee Chairman, Scott Daniels, is pictured with the 2021 Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award recipient, Julie Rialdi. Julie's winning essay was written about Mountainside's parks.

The award is given each year to a graduating Deerfield 8th grader. Contest entries are on display at the Hetfield House for all to read. Information on the 2022 scholarship is available from the Deerfield School Guidance Office.

EVENTS

During 2021 and early 2022, the Mountainside Restoration Committee has held a variety of events unlike those held in the past because we've held them outside on the beautiful lawns or porches of the historic Hetfield House and Levi Cory House.

Of course, we've held our usual Spring and Fall Plant Sales and the Annual Garage Sale fundraiser on the lawn of the Hetfield House.

We've pivoted from the customary indoor Gingerbread Open House in December to holding a Hot Cocoa and Cookies along with a "Gingerbread" craft event on the Hetfield House Lawn—luckily the weather cooperated for all these lawn event.

Equally successful, was the recently held "Tea on the Porch" event held on the 2 new porches on the Levi Cory House. These porches were recently added because they were original to the circa 1818 Levi Cory House. In order to restore the house to its original structure, the porches were restored. This work was done thanks to grants from the Watts Mountainside Community Foundation for which the Committee is very grateful.

Our tireless volunteers continue to maintain the shop and hold open dates at the Levi Cory House Village Shop. See the upcoming opening dates on the schedule on page 2. We encourage all

to visit and check out the shop and the house.

The fall mum and plant sale, and the spring geranium and plant sale have been very successful with plants selling out. We thank our loyal customers for supporting the Mountainside Restoration Committee by purchasing these beautiful plants and we look forward to another successful sale in September.

We look forward to a time when we can hold our usual indoor events where we can enjoy the incredible historic homes we've had the pleasure of restoring and maintaining.

Mark your calendars for the Four Centuries in a Weekend Open House event on October 15-16 and visit.



Committee Members Diane Kontra, Carol Goggi, Alice Cowell and Scott Daniels assist crafters during the Gingerbread crafting event last December.



Ethel Ward and Carol Clark hold down the fort at the Levi Cory House Village Shop and prepare for Tea on the Porch.

DOWN MEMORY LANE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now that we are at the Clark house, let's stand and look at it for a few minutes. Notice how broad it is with the open front porch running across it. Notice the tall windows downstairs. They go from the floor almost to the ceiling. The windows upstairs are quite low. At either end of the house are fireplaces. See the large chimneys. Notice, too, the wooden sidewalk that starts at Woodland Avenue and leads up to the house.

All the families who lived here during my childhood, the Ross Edwards, the Clarks and the Whalens, who ran a tavern here, have always been very proud that they lived here. It is said that his house, because of its

nearness to Springfield Road, was used as a stagecoach stop in Colonial Days.

I see some of you looking at that large tent pitched in the field near Maxwell's house (across from Maxwell's shop). I'll bet you are wondering why it is there. An evangelist is conducting services there every night this week. Many people attend the services. (The location of the Clark house later became the Hoff's gas station, then Friendly's, and now Valley Bank)

Now as we cross Mountain Avenue, we pass on the right on the corner of the first house on New Providence Road. It was

built in 1818. It is now the Edwards family (no relation to the Ross Edwards family). Because members of the Theodore Bird family formerly occupied this house at the intersection of Mountain Avenue, New Providence Road and Woodland Avenue, early Mountainsiders always referred to the corner as 'Bird's Corner'." (This house is currently known as the Levi Cory House and was moved to Constitution Plaza in 2013 by the Mountainside Restoration Committee to save it from demolition).

This is part 1 of this story which was written in four parts. To read it in its entirety, please visit our website at www.mountainsidehistory.org

MOUNTAINSIDE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

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 Bob Gardella
 Diane Kontra
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The Hetfield House

Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc.

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Mountainside, New Jersey 07092

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LEVI CORY HOUSE

May, 2022

To Mountainside Residents & Friends:

Greetings, and we hope you are all well. Over the past 2 years, despite the pandemic situation, needs of the Mountainside Restoration Committee have been addressed while the volunteers have continued to work to upkeep the circa 1818 Levi Cory House and the circa 1760 Deacon Andrew Hetfield House which are the pillars of the restoration efforts of this Committee and its donors. These houses represent centuries of the proud history enjoyed in Mountainside.

We are making this annual appeal for donations to help the Mountainside Restoration Committee with raising funds to install gutters on the Levi Cory House—home of The Village Shop. The Levi Cory House was moved in 2013 to save it from demolition. The circa 1818 house was the original Children's Country Home—now Children's Specialized Hospital. Your donation of \$25 or more will help us fund the gutters on the Levi Cory House. You will also be entered into a drawing to win one of the following prizes:

1st Prize: *Two Nights in a Cape May NJ Bed & Breakfast Inn plus 2 tickets to tour the historic Emlen Physick Estate in Cape May. Transportation not included. (Value: \$720)*

2nd Prize: *2 Tickets to a PaperMill Playhouse production with dining Certificate for the Carriage House (Value: \$200)*

3rd Prize: *\$100 Credit for a Wonder Truck in-home dining experience (Value: \$100)*

4th Prize: *Supermarket Certificates for Shop-Rite, Stop'nShop & 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 June 3, 2022** to Carol Clark, 308 Summit Rd, Mountainside, NJ 07092. The **drawing will be held on Sunday, June 12 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 "From the Hetfield and Levi Cory Houses" Newsletter.

Sincerely,

The Mountainside Restoration Committee