Hamill House, known as "Old Blue," was constructed in 1814 using stone quarried from nearby Cherry Grove Farm as the lone schoolhouse of the Maidenhead Academy. Known as the Schoolhouse, or “the dwelling house,” it was the home of Head Master Isaac Van Arsdale Brown, and contained student dormitories and class- room space. Eventually, Hamill House was named for the third Head Master of the school, Dr. Samuel McClintock Hamill, Lawrenceville’s longest serving Head Master. The Hamill House motto is E tenui casa saepe vir magnus exit, which means, "Often a great man emerges from a humble cottage."

SAMUEL MCCLINTOCK HAMIL

Samuel McClintock Hamill came to Lawrenceville as a Classics Master, having just graduated from Jefferson College in Pennsylvania. Principal for nearly 50 years, Dr. Hamill named the School Lawrenceville Classical and Commercial High School and co-directed the institution with his elder brother the Reverend Hugh Hamill. Under the Hamills' care, the School flourished and student enrollment grew from 18 boys in 1837 to 68 boys and a faculty of six in 1849. Ten years later, Lawrenceville boasted a student body of nearly 100, a number that temporarily dropped during the Civil War years. In 1879 Dr. Hamill sold the School for $25,000 to the beneficiaries of the late John Cleeve Green, a first cousin to Mrs. Matilda Hamill and one of the first students of the School at its 1810 founding. Dr. Hamill agreed to continue directing Lawrenceville until a new principal could be secured. Upon leaving the school in 1883, Dr. Hamill moved to Trenton and passed away on September 20, 1889. He is buried in the Lawrenceville cemetery, located on Route 206.

HAMILL HOUSE FLAG

The Hamill House flag is cut from a flag pattern called "swallowtail with tongue," with three points; a design usually reserved for battle standards. The flag is blue and white, with a horseshoe, a star, and the year the house was constructed, 1814. The horseshoe symbolizes luck and perseverance while the polar star is a symbol of the lofty aspirations of Hamill boys—a nod to the expression "hitch your wagon to a star," coined by poet and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson.
Hamill House received the Foresman Trophy, the Head Master’s Cup (for sportsmanship) and the Cloney Cup (for inter-House debate) several times—but is most notably a competitor for The Crutch, an annual football game against Kennedy House. In 1947, Kennedy player Sandy Souter ’49 tackled his coach, John ‘Jack’ Chivers, breaking Chivers’ leg. A few games later, Souter tackled Hamillite Jeb Wofford ’49, and the two tumbled into Chivers, breaking his crutch. Kennedy and Hamill have competed for the broken crutch ever since.

Other Hamill traditions include Hamill Hoops, a game of midnight basketball, and Meatsplosions, an eating competition. There is rumored to be a secret room and passage way in Hamill House, sealed off behind a closet on the fourth floor.

Notable Hamill Housemasters include Alton Rufus Hyatt ’22, Assistant Head Master and 40 year veteran of Lawrenceville, and former Head Master Bruce McClellan H’12 ’57 ’60.

Notable Hamillites include Michael Eisner ’60, Chairman and CEO of the Walt Disney Company from 1984 to 2005 and pop music star Huey Cregg ’67, lead singer of Huey Lewis and the News.

HAMILL HOUSE CHEER

“Hamill! Hamill! Hamill!”
(beginning quiet and growing louder)
(repeated three times)
“Go Big Blue!”

Above: Hamill pride at House Olympics 2016.