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Passaic County Historical Society

Museum and Headquarters
LAMBERT CASTLE
Garret Mountain Reservation
Paterson, N. J.

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Robert P. Brooks, Editor

Old Mansion Street, Paterson

MANSION STREET! Yes, and in the center of the town.

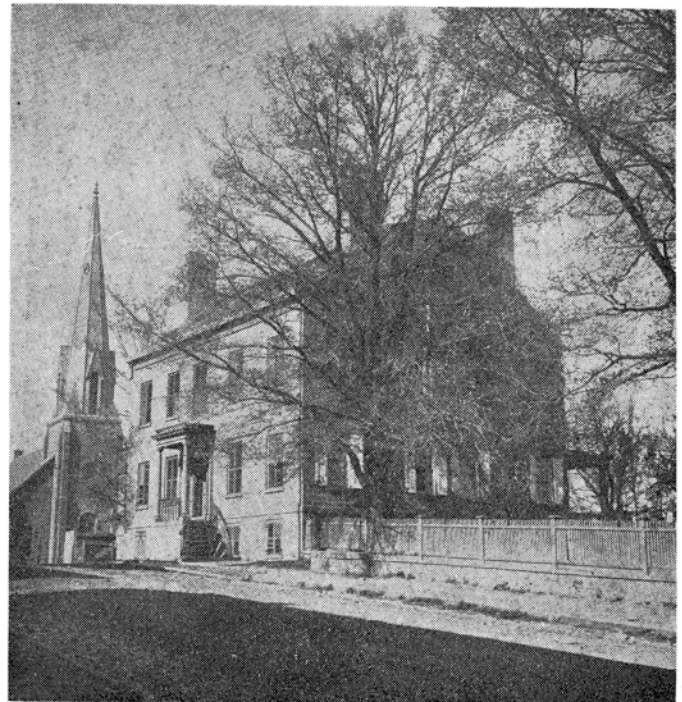
It is unlikely that any person remains who walked this ancient street; and very few, if any, recall even a portion of the sand hill—one of several in the town which had been formed by glacial drift. The hill in question formed a large portion of the plot bounded by present-day streets Main, Broadway, Church and Ellison.

On this particular sand hill, during the years 1811 to early 1813, Mr. Peter Colt erected a commodious residence¹ on its summit from which there was an unobstructed view in all directions. The house, constructed of stone, faced the west and a large, sloping lawn extended down to Main Street. A large porch at the rear faced eastward. Here Mr. Colt's gardeners laid out a garden which extended to present day Church Street. Flowers, vegetables, shrubs, fruit and shade trees eventually adorned this area. This very imposing structure was the largest and most handsome residence in the town. Indeed, in the eyes of the four thousand inhabitants, it was a mansion.

Mr. Colt moved into this mansion on July 4, 1813. He was aged 69 and devoted his time to the supervision of the S.U.M. and assisted in fencing the open lots on the hill and in cutting away brush and brambles on his property.

Mr. Colt's son, John, returned from an extensive business trip to Europe in the summer of 1812 and lived with his father and mother on the hill the next year. Here also, he brought his bride, the beautiful Elizabeth—daughter of Judge Elisha and Catherine Smith Boudinot—of Elizabethtown in the spring of 1814. This was the Colt family residence for many years.

It seems quite probable that the carriage entrance to this hill property was a narrow carriage-way on the extreme western side of Hamilton Square which passed Ellison Street and continued up the hill to the mansion property. This drive way, if it actually existed in this location, later became the narrow Hamilton Street. (Hamilton Square was the area bounded by the streets later



THE COLT-PENNINGTON MANSION
In the early 1860's

called Hamilton, Ellison, Colt and Market. The S.U.M. had set this open lot aside for a town square. In 1826, St. Paul's Episcopal Church was built on the southern portion of the square.)

Between the years 1835 and 1842, a street was cut through the sand hill beginning at Ellison and continuing towards Broadway but ending at a dead-end on the line of East Van Houten or, Williamson Street as it was sometimes called. This new street

1. Much of the material used in the erection of this house was removed from Paterson's first permanent stone structure—the four-story cotton mill which burned in 1808. The cut sandstone was used on the west and south sides of the Mansion; the northern and eastern sides were of field stone.

Peter Colt died here in March 1824 at aged 80. John Colt remained here as head of the Colt family for several years. Fisher's Census of 1832 lists the residents as 4 males, 19 females (9 of these being under age 16). There were also two colored servants.

(Continued on Page 104)

cut right through the front lawn of the Colt residence close by its front entrance. Now the Colt family residence, which was formerly on Main Street, became located at Nos. 12-14 MANSION STREET. It was the only residence ever erected on the east side of Mansion Street. The town of Paterson thus created MANSION STREET about the year 1840 and this name existed for a quarter of a century, until 1870.

Soon after this street was cut through, some houses were built on the west side of the street; and, by 1850, there were six buildings from the Ellison Street corner to the street's dead-end. Here many prominent people of the small town resided and carried on their activities. A map of the town in 1850 also shows five dwellings and business establishments on the north side of Ellison Street between Main and Mansion.

In this row, at 51 Ellison Street, on the northwest corner of Mansion Street, Dr. John C. C. Robertson lived and had his office. Here Doctor Robertson practiced medicine from 1824 or earlier until about 1867. He was a busy physician and a Mason of note. He was a member of Joppa Lodge, No. 29, F. & A. M. Also, the grandfather of the late Dr. Gordon G. Walton, another well known physician of Paterson and, for many years, District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic fraternity.

At the rear of the Robertson lot on Mansion Street, there stood in 1850 a small, square building. This was probably used as a shop or warehouse by Richard Chiswell. It was No. 19. Adjoining this property was the residence² at No. 17 Mansion Street of Richard Chiswell. Mr. Chiswell lived here from the middle 1850's to the Civil War period. During this time, he conducted a cordage and mill supply house next door to Dr. Michael Moss's pharmacy at 113 Main Street.

The next property northward at No. 15 was the large residence of James W. Hewson, one of the leading merchants of the town. The Hewson store was on the northwest corner of Main and Van Houten Streets at the Continental Hall³ building. Mr. Hewson was also interested in real estate and he helped develop the eastside section of Paterson.

Then came the large, double house. This was one of three large stone houses erected by Barney Hartley in Paterson. This occupied the lots 11-13 Mansion Street. It was occupied just prior to the Civil War, by William Cundell.⁴ Mr. Cundell had an old establishment at No. 99 Main Street, opposite Van Houten before 1837. This was a brass, copper and tin shop. Mr. Cundell lived at No. 13,

the southern side of the house. Prior to Mr. Cundell's occupancy, this portion of the building was used as a boarding house which was operated by Edward S. Beardsley. Here in 1855 many prominent men of the town boarded. Among others were Dr. E. S. Mc Clellan, Daniel A. Ray, A. K. Williams, James Rogers. The latter, Mr. James Rogers, then kept a Select School at Main and Oliver Streets.

The map of 1850 shows a house of medium size standing at No. 9. A few years later this house was used as a boarding house, very likely managed by Mrs. Margaret Hart. Among those boarding here in 1855 were: A. E. King, William L. Thompson (the station agent of the Erie Railroad who subsequently lived at No. 17 Mansion) and Houseman De Baun, tailor and clothing and dry goods merchant of Main Street.

The last house on the street was No. 7. This was the residence of Mr. Samuel C. Hossford⁵ until the middle 1860's. After the Hossfords vacated their home on Mansion Street, George S. Chiswell occupied it. This was also the home of Mrs. Mary Chiswell, widow of Robert Chiswell, until 1870.

Beyond No. 7 were open lots running to Broadway on the north and to Main Street on the west. Here William Cundell had his shops and factories; and on this location, the first iron passenger railroad car was made in 1859.

On the eastern side of Mansion Street, very probably until the year 1850, the only building was the Colt Mansion. Here the Colt family resided until about 1841 when John Colt removed his family to a much more pretentious home at No. 9 Market Street, at the corner of old Colt Street.

The former Colt residence on Mansion Street became the property of John Colt's son-in-law, Aaron S. Pennington, Esq. Mr. Pennington married Catherine Colt, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Colt in January 1835. Aaron Pennington was the son of William S. Pennington, Governor of New Jersey from 1813 to 1815 and the brother of Governor William Pennington (1837-1843). After the Penningtons became the occupants of the Mansion on Mansion Street, their property was known for many years as "The Pennington Mansion."

During the years 1855 (perhaps a few years earlier) to 1863, a building stood south of the Pen-

4. William Cundell (1804-1879) was one of the few "pioneers who were "workers in brass and copper" as well as in tin and iron. See *THE BULLETIN* 35th Anniversary Number, Vol. V, No. 5. W. A. Lucas is the author.

5. Mr. Hossford came to Paterson in 1853 or 1854 from Connecticut where he had been teaching.

The school committee of the East Ward placed him in charge of a school on Division Street (Hamilton Avenue of today). When the East Ward School, also known as No. 1, was established Mr. Hossford was placed in charge at a salary of \$900—a very substantial salary for that day. Mr. Hossford served as principal for fifteen years. In May 1871, he was appointed Superintendent of Schools for a three-year term. He resigned that office in September 1873 to take the principalship of School No. 2 which he held until his death on June 27, 1875.

2. Richard B. Chiswell was a brother of George S. Chiswell of Chiswell & Wurts, the publishers of the *Paterson Press*. Richard Chiswell was the township assessor in 1850; town clerk in 1853; sheriff in 1857, 1858, 1860; assemblyman in 1857. He was one of the organizers of The First National Bank of Paterson in 1860.

3. Continental Hall stood on Main Street until 1902. In this building the *Paterson Guardian* was published.

nington residence from No. 16 to 20 Mansion Street. Here Garret A. Hopper had a livery stable. In these buildings were living quarters, carriage houses and stables for Hopper's livery and later on owned by P. H. Doremus.⁶ This was Mansion Street before, during and after the Civil War. In the spring of 1867, however, this street was to witness many changes.

The Board of Aldermen in 1867, authorized the removal of the sand hill on which the Colt-Pennington mansion had been built. Also, East Van Houten Street was to be extended to the westward and joined with Van Houten Street at Main and Mansion Street was to be cut through to Broadway.⁷

Mr. Pennington⁸ disposed of his property holdings on the east side of Mansion Street. They were purchased by the realty firm of Tuttle, Brown & Crooks who sold the mansion house and lots to the City of Paterson and the property south of this, running to Ellison Street, to the newly organized First National Bank.

When the hill was cut down to the level of the surrounding land, a new story was built under the Colt-Pennington mansion to compensate for the removal of the hill. This building underwent other remodeling that it might serve as the office of the Mayor, as a City Hall and a Recorder's Court. The old mansion served in this capacity from May 1, 1870 until July 6, 1896 for on this latter date a new City Hall was dedicated. This new structure occupied the site once known as "Hamilton Square" and the street lines of Hamilton and Colt were changed.

That portion of the Pennington property south of the mansion was purchased by the First National Bank.⁹ On this property at the southeast corner of Mansion and Ellison Streets, their banking building was erected. It opened for business in 1871. The banking activities were conducted on the second floor; on the ground floor was the Post Office

6. Mr. Doremus was known as "Phil Hen" Doremus. During the years 1871 to 1874, he maintained a livery stable at No. 2 Hamilton Street, on the second lot north from Market Street.

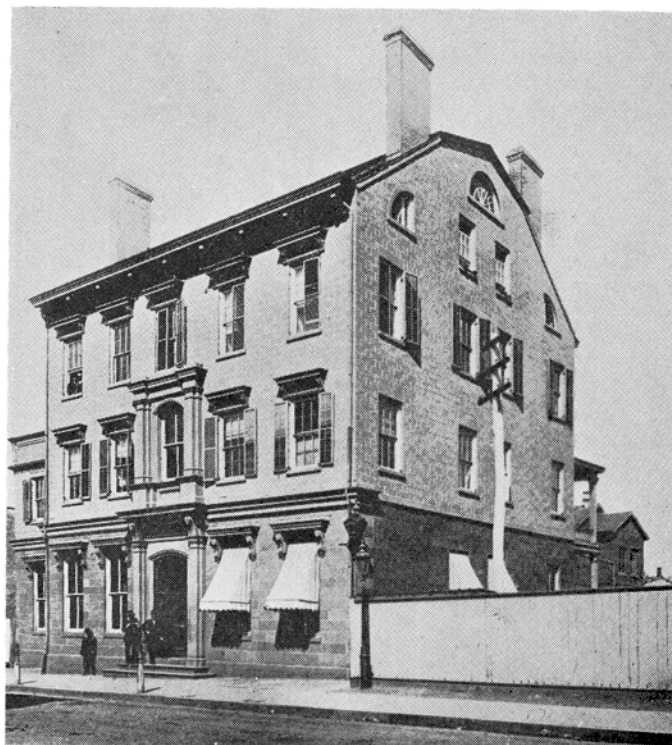
7. In order to connect Mansion Street with Broadway, St. John's Masonic Hall had to be torn down. This hall stood on ground a few feet west of Mansion on the south side of Broadway. This well known building was taken down in May 1867 and the corner stone was removed. Later it was installed in the Masonic Temple on Broadway where it may be viewed from the lobby.

In old St. John's Hall, the second floor was the lodge room of Paterson Orange Lodge No. 13, F. & A. M. On the floor below, for various periods over forty years, there was a hotel, a school, a dancing academy and various other activities. In the basement, at one time, there was a bakery.

8. Mr. Pennington moved to a home on the Little Falls Road in the fall of 1869. This house had been erected and used by Roswell L. Colt as his residence. It stood near the river on a tract used by him as a farm. Mr. Pennington was living there in 1871 at which time he had a file factory on his property.

The Pennington house was torn down by the City of Paterson who had purchased the property in April 1912. This property was later created into "Pennington Park" and on the high ground, on which formerly stood the house, a war memorial now stands.

See Vol I, No. 3, September 1, 1928 and Vol. IV, No. 2 of the publications of the Society for more information on the Pennington Park mansion.



PATERSON'S CITY HALL
In early 1870's

and the office of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Old Mansion Street, during the years of 1867-1868, ran from Ellison Street northward to Broadway. That portion of the street extending from Broadway to River Street continued to be known as "Washington Street." Both Mansion and Washington Streets maintained their individual names until 1870.

During 1870, the entire street running from Ellison northward to the river became Washington Street.

There was, however, a short street, which for many years, bordered St. Paul's Church property at Hamilton Square on the west. This street ran from Market to Ellison and in the 1870's was called "Hamilton Street." By 1893, Hamilton Street crossed Market Street and ran south as far as Ward Street. In so doing, it replaced the name "Hotel Street" of earlier days; by 1896, Hamilton Street extended from Ellison to Grand. Then about 1905, that portion of Hamilton Street, lying between Ellison and Market Streets took the name, "Washington Street" while Hamilton Street continued from Market southward to Grand Street.

ROBERT P. BROOKS.

9. Upon the organization of this bank in 1864, the banking rooms were located at 240 Main Street in what had formerly been the parlors of the three-story residence of Cornelius G. Garrison. On February 1, 1866, the banking quarters were moved into a building which occupied the site of old Congress Hall on the northeast corner of Main and Market Streets. Here they remained until their new building was completed in 1871.

SECOND ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

The second essay contest, sponsored by the Society and the *Paterson Evening News*, for high school students residing in the county, resulted in fifty-four entries. This year, the theme was "An Episode in Passaic County History." The purpose of this project is the creation of local historical interest in the youth of the county.

The entries this year were in greater number and from a wider share of the high schools. Boys and girls from Wayne, St. John's, St. Bonaventure's, Paterson, Clifton and Passaic high schools participated. The essays submitted were good and showed evidence of considerable historical research. Topics were varied and most interesting such as,—How the Townships Received their Names, The Origin of the City of Clifton, Paterson's Big Fire of 1902, Early Newspapers of the County, Paterson's Public School System and many others. Among the biographical essays were those of such outstanding persons as Nathan Barnert, Dean William Mc Nulty, Captain Abraham Godwin, Garret A. Hobart.

Papers submitted by Ronald Gregilovich of Central, Victor Gundersen of St. John's, George Lipsitz of Eastside and Theodore Smallitz of Central all of Paterson and by Rory Remer of Passaic and Eileen Zotlava of Clifton won "Honorable Mention." Robert Shimshak's essay on "The Great Fire of 1902" was awarded fifth place. Robert is a student at Eastside, Paterson. Fourth place was won by Susan Beards of Wayne High School for her presentation of "The Morris Canal." Among the several outstanding essays contributed by students of the Passaic Senior High were those which the judges unanimously awarded third place, second place and first place.

Leonard Kline, who had scored a high rating in the 1961 contest, placed third in this contest for his paper entitled, "Acquackanonk in the Revolution" while a newcomer, Simon Olstein, won second place for his treatise on "The Elimination of Grade Crossings in Passaic."

The most outstanding essay, in the opinion of the judges, was that submitted by the 16-year-old Junior from the Passaic school, Arthur H. Barabas. Arthur was a contestant in the first contest, having won third place for his essay on "The General," a famous locomotive from the Roger's Works made in 1856 and destined to play a most historic part in Civil War history.

In the second contest, he submitted a most outstanding paper entitled, "The Ringwood Mines" which won him **FIRST PLACE**. (This essay has been published, with several other prize-winning papers, by the Society and may be obtained at Lambert Castle, headquarters of the Society.)

Arthur Barabas is the second son of Mr. and



ARTHUR H. BARABAS

Mrs. Henry Barabas of Orth Avenue, Passaic. His chief interests are history and science. He is an active feature writer of the *Hill Top*, the high school newspaper and has participated in the Junior Great Books Program for four years. He is a member of the History Club in his school.

In the field of science, he was president in his Sophomore year of the Biology Club. During much of his vacation in the summer of 1962, he was a student in space science at the Newark Museum. Since entering Senior High School, Arthur has been particularly interested in collecting minerals and research in growing artificial crystals in the laboratories in his school. He is an active member of the Phy-Chem Club and of the Science Seminar.

This young man plans to matriculate in one of the outstanding schools of technology in the country upon graduation and hopes to enter the field of physical chemistry eventually. His inheritance, interest, dogged persistence and intellectual ability should result in a successful achievement of his aspirations. Best wishes, Arthur, for a very successful career.

EARLY MASONRY IN PASSAIC COUNTY and ST. JOHN'S HALL

During the latter part of the Eighteenth century, there lived, in the neighborhood of the Great Falls of the Passaic, a few Dutch farmers who were Freemasons. Their nearest lodge was in "far away Orange." By the year 1793, a small group of Masons assembled to consider the advisability of constituting a Masonic lodge in the vicinity of the Falls. On June 24th of this year Messrs. Joseph Wallace, Joseph Scott, William Matthews and others petitioned the Grand Lodge for the institution of a lodge to be known as the "Paterson Orange Lodge."

It was not until January 12, 1796, however, that a warrant was issued to the Freemasons of the Paterson vicinity for the constitution of Paterson Orange Lodge No. 13. The first lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of Passaic County met in Exchange Hall located on Market and Union Streets and later in the Old Hotel kept by James Mc Nally also on Market Street.

These quarters soon became too small and the S.U.M. through Mr. Colt made available a plot on the south side of Broadway, between Main and Church Streets. Here they proceeded to erect a building which would include a lodge hall to be known as "St. John's Hall." "The corner stone of St. John's Hall was laid by W. M. and Brethren of Paterson Orange Lodge, No. 13 (later No. 43) on May 31 A.L. 6823, A.D. 1823. On that occasion, Mr. Charles Kinsey, a congressman from the district, delivered the oration. The occasion was so unusual that the utmost solemnity pervaded the inhabitants who poured forth in large numbers to witness the laying of the cornerstone," wrote the late William H. Belcher.

The *Paterson Chronicle* of September 17, 1823 carried the following notice:

"The officers & members of Paterson Orange Lodge, Number 13 intend to dedicate their new hall on the ensuing anniversary of St. John the Evangelist at 10 A.M. The Brethren of neighboring lodges in this state and the city of New York are respectfully invited to attend. The address will be delivered suitable to the occasion. Dinner will be served in the new hall after the ceremonies have closed.

By order of the Worshipful Master."

This dedication was carried out by first convening the lodge who then marched in procession to the First Presbyterian Church where the Rev. Dr. Feltus (?), Grand Chaplin of the State of New York delivered an address. Three odes were sung which were led by Ira Mosier. Upon completing the exercises, the procession again formed and moved back to the hall where a sumptuous dinner was waiting, having been prepared by Captain E. Saunders.

Reference has already been made to St. John's Hall in the notes of the Mansion Street story. As was stated this hall stood in the way of progress. When the City of Paterson decided to cut Mansion Street through to Broadway, the hall had to be removed; and to continue with Mr. Belcher's narrative he says: "Just prior to May 18, 1867, four calls were issued to Benevolent Lodge, No. 49, Joppa Lodge, No. 29, Paterson Orange Lodge, No. 43 and Falls City Lodge summoning their members to meet on 18 May for the purpose of receiving the corner stone of old St. John's Hall.

Pursuant to the call, these lodges met and marched in procession to Church Street, thence to Broadway and to the spot where the Hall had been located. W. M. Fyfe of Paterson Orange Lodge was the Master of Ceremonies. Speaking to the Masons he said, 'We are assembled here in order that we may recover and safely keep the corner stone deposited by our ancient brethren when they erected the edifice for Masonic purposes.'

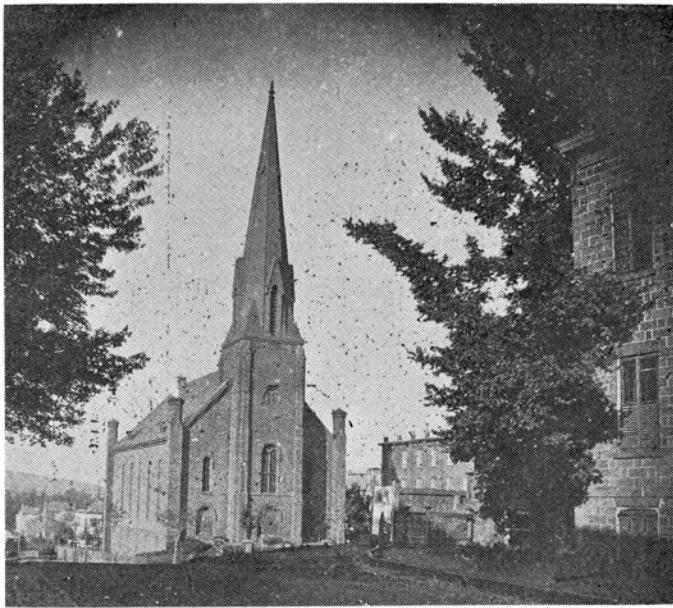
He then directed that J. W. Joseph Hallowell 'try the stone'. Being found plumb, he ordered the S.W., E. M. Weiss, to test it. The Senior Warden found it to be level. The Master then applied the working tools of his office and he pronounced it square. The W.M. then made a formal declaration, that, having been found plumb, level and square, it was recognized as that which had been deposited by the brethren and he took possession of it by authority vested in him as Master of the Lodge.

At a signal, the stone was slowly lifted and as it began to rise, the band struck up 'Auld Lang Syne.' The stone was deposited on a dray drawn by white horses; the procession re-formed and, with the dray in the center, the procession proceeded down to Main Street, to Water, thence over the West Street bridge to the lodge room where the stone was delivered to a committee whose chairman was Bro. E. W. Weiss. After that, there were several shiftings of the stone until it was finally imbedded in the Masonic Temple on Broadway where it may be seen from the lobby.

From a manuscript by the late
Wm. H. Belcher.

SOCIETY RECEIVED S. U. M. RECORDS

In December 1962, the Plant Management Commission of Paterson, through the good offices of Mayor Graves, turned over to the Society priceless records, documents, letters, and maps concerning the long history of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufacture. This large collection, in conjunction with the documents previously received by the Society, and known as the "Gledhill Collection" make a nearly complete record of Alexander Hamilton's great experiment in American manufacturing and the development of the town of Paterson.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, PATERSON
1860 - 1902

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PATERSON

In the very early 1820's there were but a handful of Baptists residing in the area of Paterson. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Fisher stated, in his census¹⁰ first taken in 1824, that there were 47 heads of families who were Baptists in 1825. Before the Baptists organized a church, they worshipped at the Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed and other churches in the village.

By 1823, several of the Baptists arranged to hold meetings in their homes and in the autumn of that year the Rev. William Parkinson, a Baptist minister in New York, came here to baptise Thomas and Catherine Coombs in the Passaic River at the foot of Mulberry Street. Another favorite site used for the rite was in Dark Brook, quite likely near the end of Godwin Street where there was a clump of willow trees.

On January 1, 1824, some Baptists met at the Academy Building on the southeast corner of Market and Union Streets for the purpose of organizing a Baptist church in Paterson with the result that "The First Particular Baptist Church of Paterson" was organized. There were seventeen members who selected the Rev. William House, a resident of Bergen County and an occasional preacher in Paterson, as their first pastor.

This congregation met at first in a room of a private school building, known as "The Yellow House" and formerly a tavern and located on Broadway, opposite the Washington Market. In 1825 or 1826, lots were purchased on the north side of Broadway between Main and Mulberry Streets and here a meeting house was erected. The

building was very small, only 48 x 36 feet. With the growth of the town from about 5,000 in 1825, the number of Baptists increased; by 1836, the church building was too small and an enlargement was made. Here the Baptists worshipped until the Civil War period. In 1855, the church obtained the Rev. Rufus Babcock, D.D. as their eleventh pastor. Doctor Babcock was able, energetic and greatly beloved and a man of considerable influence in the community.

The chief event in Dr. Babcock's pastorate was the erection of a new church building on ground once owned by the Godwin family. The church lots were on Broadway's south side and extended up the sand hill as far as East Van Houten Street with its west line at Mansion Street. The church, being the second building, was 100 feet long by 63 feet wide and was constructed of brick. Its auditorium, one of the finest in the city, seated over 800 persons. One of the most distinguishing features of the building was its 170-foot steeple—the first in the city. The tower was frequently used for sight-seeing, for from its high windows, one could view the entire city. In this tower, the church bell was mounted, which not only called its parishioners to worship, but was also used to signal public events—civic, state and national.

The church edifice stood on the northeast corner of East Van Houten Street at Mansion Street and faced East Van Houten Street. (Note in the picture the houses on Broadway in the background; the East Ward School on the east; the edge of the Mansion house in right foreground.) The church garden and beautiful lawn, on which two ancient pear trees stood, were at the rear of the church building and extended down the slope to Broadway. An entrance to the church property on Broadway enabled the congregation from the north side of the town to approach the church by the pathway extending through the lawn and garden. However, the approach by carriages was made through Church and East Van Houten Streets or from Market and Mansion Streets.

This church was dedicated on January 31, 1860; its bell rang for the last time on February 9, 1902 to awaken the townfolk to the danger of the great conflagration which ruined so much of the city on the 9th and 10th of February. The fire swept over 26 blocks burning over 500 buildings. Five churches were destroyed. Among these was the First Baptist.

10. This book containing the Census of Paterson during the years 1824 to 1832 inclusive, in alphabetical listing, is very helpful to the student of local history. It may be purchased at Lambert Castle.

The great epidemic of cholera struck Paterson in 1849. Between May 30 and Sept. 10 one hundred and two persons died of that malady.

EAST WARD SCHOOL, PATERSON

On August 1, 1854, the school committee for the East Ward, purchased from Jane Van Saun a plot of ground 75 x 95 feet lying on East Van Houten Street's north side for \$1,500. (This site is now occupied by Central Fire Headquarters.) On this lot the three-story, brick school was erected and dedicated with impressive exercises in September 3, 1855.

On this occasion all of the school children of the city paraded to the Island where the exercises were held including much singing and speechmaking. It was a great gala day and long remembered. Mr. Samuel C. Hossford was its principal with Miss Tanner, Vice-Principal of females. This school was the only grammar school of the town and the boys and girls were segregated. In the fall of 1860 it was the high school but early in 1871 the high school department was transferred to the newly erected School No. 6.

It is rather interesting to note that, up until 1869, there were four terms in the school year beginning with February 1, May 1, September 1 and November 1 with vacation only in August. In 1869, July was added to August as the summer vacation. The holidays up to 1869 were: Dec. 25 through Jan. 1; July 4 and Thanksgiving Day.

The East Ward School had a bell—the first school bell in Paterson. This was obtained from the Paterson Rail Road Company, which had used it for nearly a quarter century, to ring out notice to the people of the town of the departure of the cars for New York. It had hung on a pole at the corner of Main and Market Streets. (This bell had a most interesting history, see *Bulletin* Vol. IV, No. 7 for picture and description.)

The terrible fire of February 1902, destroyed the East Ward School and its bell. The school was never rebuilt.

**"DEAD SHOT SCOTT"—
PATERSON'S FRONTIERSMAN**

Passaic County has supplied many interesting characters during its history. One of these unusual men was H. M. Bennett, who lived on Hamburgh Avenue, Paterson before the Civil War, a personal friend of "Buffalo Bill," General George Custer and other noted frontiersmen.

Bennett served his country well as a scout during the Civil War and at its close, he continued scouting on the Western Frontier where he was known, among the Indians and the frontiersmen as "Dead Shot Scott." His skill as a marksman was remarkable and many stories have been told about the wonderful way in which he handled the rifle during his heyday as a scout in the 1870's and 1880's.

Contributed by E. M. Graf.

HISTORICAL LECTURE SERIES

An innovation adopted by the Society will begin this spring and continue periodically throughout the summer. This will be a series of talks on a variety of historical topics very fully illustrated by pictures projected on a large screen.

These historical programs will be held in the Art Gallery of Lambert Castle on Sunday afternoons at 3 o'clock. Advance notice of the dates and topics will appear in the daily press. Every one is invited to attend. They are free.

MARKET STREET M. E. CHURCH

The old Market Street M.E. Church was organized in 1860 and worshipped first in Continental Hall (the site of Grant's store). The church building was dedicated on April 14, 1861. In 1871, the spire was added to the structure. This building survived the great fire of 1902 but was demolished in 1921.

This old house of worship occupied the western shore of the "Button Mill Pond". Here stood a button factory of Allen (Daniel K.), Edge (probably Thomas) and Co. where, in 1832, 28 hands were employed. This is the site on which Sears store now stands.

The Historical Society has, among other objects once used in the old Market Street church, a pew, the pulpit desk, communion table, silver communion service, collection boxes and the corner stone.

"Button Mill Pond" received its water from the "Dunker Val" or Dark Brook which began at two springs, known as the "Boiling Springs," which arose in the marsh lands near the corner of Madison and 22nd Avenues. The brook flowed nearly parallel with the present line of the Erie almost to Grand Street where it was joined by "Railroad Spring Brook." This united stream ran underneath the Dale mill and the Hamill mill, then crossed Market Street a few yards west of Paterson Street. At Market Street, it passed under a wooden bridge and formed a pond in the low land. The pond was approximately 150 feet long and about 60 feet at its widest point.

In August 1854, the Freeholders took up the matter of rebuilding the Market Street bridge; also, at that time it was decided to reconstruct the bridge over the brook at Ellison Street. Then, Ellison Street was graded from Church Street to Paterson Street.

In 1874, the Dark Brook was diverted into a sewer and the brook bed was filled in.

Originally, the "Button Mill Pond" was about 110 feet east from Church Street and came to within 50 feet of Ellison Street.

RESIDENTS OF PATERSON IN 19th CENTURY RETURN

Our Society frequently receives gifts and bequests from persons far removed from Passaic County. The most outstanding bequest was received from Mrs. Helen Sterrett Mc Burney of Atlanta who willed the contents of her lovely home in that city to the Society. Another prized gift came to us recently from Denver. It consisted of two lovely portraits in oil from a very renowned portrait artist, Francis Alexander. They are the gifts of Mrs. De Witt Robinson and the portraits are those of John Duckworth Shorrock and his wife, Mary Hadcroft Shorrock the grand-parents of Mrs. Robinson.

The Shorrocks were both born in Oldham, Lancashire, England. They were married in the fall of 1833. John ran away from home when a lad of seventeen; shipped on a sailing vessel bound for New York. After a perilous voyage lasting three months the vessel landed in New York.

John made inquiries concerning the time of departure of the stage to Paterson for his uncle, Ralph Shorrock lived in that small town and he desired to visit his uncle. He was told that the stage had just left New York and that the next one would be leaving in two days. The youth asked the distance to Paterson and when he learned that it was in walking distance, he threw his bag over his shoulders and set out on foot, saying to himself, "What's eighteen miles for an English lad?"

Shortly after John Shorrock's arrival in Paterson, he secured a job as an apprentice painter. After learning the trade he went into the painting business in 1838. This business undertaking developed into the largest painting and decorating business in Paterson which he owned and operated until his death in 1873. After his death, his widow operated the business until she passed away two years later. But this well established business was continued by a son-in-law of the Shorrocks, John Norwood whose wife was Mary Ellen Shorrock.

For many years, the Shorrocks lived in one of the best homes in the town at No. 18 Elm Street; but in the early 1860's, Mr. Shorrock built a new home at No. 35 Ward Street. (This site is presently a part of the Salesian Sisters' Kindergarten.) The Shorrocks had three daughters and all of them married prominent men of the town. As has been said, Mary Ellen married John Norwood. Adeline became the wife of James Booth, prominent silk manufacturer of the firm, Hamil & Booth; while Annie, the youngest, became betrothed to Dr. J. Bidmead Wright and the two were married at the Booth residence on Broadway, Paterson.

Dr. and Mrs. Wright's daughter, Mary Adelaide, became Mrs. De Witt Robinson of Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Robinson had the lovely portraits of her

grand-parents for many years but she decided that they belonged to the city where her grandfather and grandmother had spent the greater part of their lives. They now hang, in their new, gold leaf frames, well lighted and in a prominent place in the Art Gallery of the Society at Lambert Castle.

Between the two portraits, Curator Graf procured brass plate on which is inscribed:

John Duckworth Shorrock Mary Dadcroft Shorrock
1809 - 1873 1816 - 1875
Painted by Francis Alexander
1800 - 1880
Gift of Mrs. De Witt Robinson, 1963.

This Society greatly appreciates Mrs. Robinson's most generous gift and is honored to display one of the most successful business men, of Passaic County's early days, and his lovely wife.

Data supplied by Edw. M. Graf,
Curator.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE BASEBALL STORY?

This is the story of one of Paterson's famous citizens—Mike Kelly—"King of Baseball". With the advent of spring and baseball, this most interesting story of Kelly of "Slide, Kelly Slide" fame written by Alfred P. Cappio and published by the Society last year is heartily recommended for your reading. It may be obtained at the Castle. The price is fifty cents.

A NEW PUBLICATION

A most unusual story, which was characterized on the floor of Congress as "one of the most hazardous, daring and courageous acts of the American Revolution" is just off the press. This is the second in a series of pamphlets published by the Society. It is entitled, "The Daring Mission of John Champe" and was written by your editor. The time of the mission is October 1780; its place of origin is Wagaraw (Fair Lawn).

This pamphlet is also on sale at the Museum, Lambert Castle.

An old map of Paterson, made in 1840, shows that a log house stood on the triangle of land formed by River, Bank and Parke (lower Main) Streets, Paterson.

The Society would like to receive more information concerning John Otto Lose's patent granted in 1885 for a "Unicycle." Mr. Lose resided in Paterson.

Also, information to add to our files of the interesting work done by brothers Charles and John Grieder who lived and worked on a bi-plane at their home 146 Spring Street, Paterson, during the period, when much attention was devoted to flying, back before World War I.