

JOHN GASTINEAU

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

LAMBERT CASTLE
PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 1729, PATERSON, NEW JERSEY 07509

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May 1969

Members of the Society, no doubt, were pleased to read in the daily papers the announcement that "1776" had been selected as the best musical play to appear on the Broadway stage this season. This musical which tells of the events at Philadelphia leading up to the Declaration of Independence won wide acclaim from patriotic Americans as well as from the drama critics.

Although tickets for the show are at a premium, the Society was able to purchase a block of fifty mezzanine seats for the evening of June 11, 1969. These tickets were offered to the members in attendance at the annual meeting at a price of ten dollars per ticket. This price also includes transportation to and from Lambert Castle and the 46th Street Theater on a bus leaving at seven o'clock.

Thirty-three tickets were sold at the meeting, and seventeen remain unsold. As long as they last, these are being offered to our members on a first-come, first-served basis. Members wishing to take advantage of this offer should contact the Society as soon as possible. Checks should be made out to the Passaic County Historical Society. Since the Society will actually lose money on each ticket sold, this will not be a tax deductible item.

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On May 1st, 1969, the New Jersey Bank and Trust Company celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its founding with a luncheon served in the main hall of Lambert Castle. One of our members, Mr. Norman Brassler, Chairman of the Board of the Bank, presented the Society with a gift of \$2000.00 to mark the occasion. Our thanks go out to the New Jersey Bank and Trust Company for this generous gift which will be used by the Society in a program that will honor the New Jersey Bank and Trust Company.

Among the members of the Society in attendance was one of our vice-presidents, Captain Andrew T. Derrom. It was pointed out that his grandfather, Colonel Andrew Derrom was elected vice-president of the Bank when it was organized in 1869.

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Since our last bulletin was issued, a new gallery was opened to the public to house the Bertha Schaefer Koempel Souvenir Spoon Collection. At the program dedicating the new gallery, the Trustees of the Bertha Koempel Foundation made a further contribution to the Society of \$3000.00. Although there were no strings attached to the gift, it was the hope of the Trustees that the money would be used to augment the spoon collection.

Since it was opened, this collection has been drawing many collectors to our museum and has evoked much praise from all who have seen it. A well known New York collector, Mr. W. T. Olsen volunteered the information that this is the largest collection of quality spoons in America.

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We are indeed grateful to the Trustees of the Bertha Koempel Foundation for this gift and for the money to maintain it on permanent exhibit in our museum.

It has been suggested that a traveling exhibit of some of the spoons in the collection be assembled and loaned to other museums throughout the country. The Board of Trustees will study this suggestion at future meetings. Such a traveling exhibit would not only keep alive the memory of Mrs. Koempel but would also bring further recognition to our Society.

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Three new members were elected to the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting to serve for terms of three years each. Mrs. Austin Drukker of Passaic and Glen Ridge, Mr. Raymond Dey of Wayne and Mr. Jerome Nathans of Wayne and Paterson. Mrs. Drukker is a consultant on the Botany Village Renewal Project in Clifton and a Montclair Junior League Volunteer at the Dey Mansion in Preakness. Mr. Dey is the Curator of the Dey Mansion and a member of the Wayne Historical Committee. Mr. Nathans is a Paterson business man and a member of the Wayne Commission. We welcome them to our official family, and look forward to many constructive suggestions towards the improvement of our program from each of them.

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Retiring Trustee Robert P. Brooks was presented with a plaque naming him an Honorary Life Trustee of the Society "For his long and meritorious service to the Society." A similar presentation will be made to Mrs. Esther I. Schwartz who also retired from the Board in the near future. Previous awards were made to Doctor Robert De Groat, Harry B. Haines, and James A. Sweeney.

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It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of Mrs. Florence Roberts Dickson and John J. Sweeney. Both contributed articles to our fortieth anniversary bulletin. Mrs. Dickson, for many years the Secretary of the Paterson Public Schools Banking Association, wrote of the early days of that Association. Mr. Sweeney, editor of the Morning Call for many years, wrote of George Burke whose columns in the Call described the Paterson scene of fifty years ago.

Both will be missed by their many friends in this area.

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From time to time, your officers have been approached by members of the Society who desire to help our officers carry on some of the Society's many programs. At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, it was decided to issue a call for volunteers who would be willing to give of their time and effort to the task of making ours a better Society.

There are many chores that need doing;- serving as guides and receptionists for our visitors, typing and copying genealogical records, pasting obituaries and news stories on filing cards and in scrap books, filing pamphlets and documents, helping to arrange exhibits, cataloguing and indexing the Isabel Hayward collection of watercolors and pastels, completing an inventory of our possessions, assisting with the arrangement of the spoon collection on exhibit boards, carrying on historical research, writing articles for publication, assembling our collection of old postcards into categories for exhibit purposes, - these are but a few which quickly come to mind.

The letter below, received from our First Lady, Mrs. Richard M. Nixon, is self explanatory. We look forward to a visit from her in the future.

THE WHITE HOUSE

May 14, 1969

Dear Mr. Cappio,

You were most thoughtful to write and tell us about the Passaic County Historical Society spoon collection. Our souvenir spoon collection is enjoyed by all of our family and we were happy to learn about the Bertha Koempel exhibit.

We shall look forward to the time when we may have an opportunity to visit with you and examine the treasures on display at historical Lambert Castle.

In the meantime, best wishes from all of us to you and your associates,

Sincerely,

Leticia Buford

Mr. Alfred P. Cappio
President
Passaic County Historical Society, Incorporated
314 Valley Road
Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Probably our greatest needs at present are for guides and receptionists to assist Miss Peterson on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays when the crowds are the largest and for typists to assist Mr. Graf and Mr. Quackenbush in their work. Regarding typists, there is no need for their being fast, just accurate and neat.

The hours of work can be arranged to suit, and can be as few or as many as the member wishes to put in. This is the first call we have made for volunteers in many years, and it is hoped that enough members will respond to help us in the task of arranging the vast amount of historical material we possess into shape for presentation to the visiting public and for use by students and authors. We ask your help in this worthwhile program. A self addressed post card is enclosed for your reply.

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The first of the 1969 series of historical lectures conducted by the Society will be held at Lambert Castle on Wednesday evening, June 25th at eight o'clock and will present Trustee Raymond Dey as the featured speaker. Mr. Dey's topic will be "The Infiltration of the Dutch into the Passaic and Bergen Areas." This will be a most interesting topic and will relate the story of the first settlers into this region.

The second lecture will be held on Wednesday, July 23rd, and will present Mr. T. Robert Kramner of Saddle River in a talk on the Revolutionary War in the Passaic Valley. Mr. Kramner, a former president of the Bergen County Historical Society, was the first chairman of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, and a frequent speaker at Revolutionary Round Table meetings in the Metropolitan area.

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