

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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



Volume 5 - Number 1

April, 1973

The occasion of the 90th birthday of Trustee Andrew Derrom prompted the Board of Trustees to confer upon him the title of "Honorary Life Trustee". The same honor was recently conferred upon Trustees Ed Graf and D. Stanton Hammond in recognition of their many years of valued service—and dedicated devotion to the SOCIETY. May they enjoy this honor for many years to come.

Our thanks to Mr. Donald Day, Old Sayreville, Conn., for the contribution of a volume of the *Paterson Intelligencer*. The volume covers issues from September 12, 1827 to March 4, 1829 as well as single copies of April 5 and 19, 1843 and a copy of the *Paterson Guardian*, January 12, 1900.

Our thanks to Mrs. Ida Doremus Hayden of Florida for framed photos of the Paterson flood and fire of 1902.

Curator Ed Graf reports that 1972 figures show 25,263 persons signed the Museum register from 46 states and 40 foreign countries.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Frederick Neuberger. Born and raised in Paterson, Mr. Neuberger passed away at his Monroe, N.Y. home Feb. 24, 1973. Founder and president of the Frederick Neuberger Co. of Paterson, he was a member of the SOCIETY for many years.

A unique and valuable art collection which Mary Bartlett Cowdrey, Douglass College '33, is presenting to Rutgers University will be featured in a dual show at the Rutgers University Art Gallery from Sunday, April 15, through Sunday, May 20.

"The Mary Bartlett Cowdrey Collection of Art: An Alumna's Gift to Rutgers University" will be exhibited in conjunction with "Whistler, Hassam and Cassatt: Three American Printmakers in Paris" at the Art Gallery in Voorhees Hall.

Dr. Cowdrey, a resident of Clifton, is a well-known scholar of American art, specializing in the 19th Century. The author of several books in American art, she also is a critic with close to 100 articles and book reviews in major American art journals to her credit. Dr. Cowdrey is a trustee of the Passaic County Historical Society.

Previous to presenting her art collection to Rutgers, Dr. Cowdrey had enriched the University Library with a collection of over 1,000 art monographs, histories and exhibition catalogues.

Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sundays, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The University Art Gallery is located in Voorhees Hall - Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

For an article on the Passaic Falls to appear in *Remembrances*, the SOCIETY is seeking an aerial view of the Passaic Falls. Anyone possessing such a photo, please contact the Editor.

A timely article 'The Mayor and the Machine', (Vol. 1970-No. 3), written by Gary Nathans gives some insight into the coming-into-being of the 'strong Mayor' form of government in Paterson. A letter written by Mr. Edward F. Merrey, Sr. shortly after the publication of the article is included elsewhere in this issue.

Editor's Note: The *Newsletter* and *Remembrances* have not been published for some time due to the Editor's suffering a heart attack and his relocation of a 50 year old family business from Paterson. Your patience and understanding have been most appreciated. It is hoped that we will return to a normal schedule very soon.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1972

Balance per check book Dec. 31, 1971		\$3759.67
<u>Income 1972</u>		
Passaic County Park Commission	\$8000.00	
Interest & Dividends	2640.80	
Sales	893.12	
Contributions	2087.00	
Dues	963.00	
Miscellaneous	54.00	14637.92
		<u>\$ 18397.50</u>

Disbursements 1972

Museum Expenses	2510.20	
Salaries	5492.55	
Withholding Tax	955.90	
Office Supplies	436.85	
Telephones	142.58	
Library Books	31.12	
Flowers	17.30	
Insurance	895.11	
Miscellaneous	410.00	
Re-sale Items	593.66	
New Jersey Unemployment Tax	278.49	11763.76
Balance per check Book Dec. 31, 1972		<u>\$ 6633.83</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Helen L. Malcolm

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

Paterson had a short call from being called Livingston. Governor Livingston passed away in 1790. William Paterson resigned from the U.S. Senate and succeeded Livingston as governor. Had he lived it might have been Livingston rather than Paterson. In 1776 New Jersey elected Livingston the first American governor, he was the first American governor to pass away in office.

Lawrence Barrett was born in Paterson in 1831 in the West Broadway, Totowa Ave. area.

In 1939 a Cooks locomotive manufactured in Paterson, sold to a northwestern railroad and preserved after it was outdated, ran through Paterson under its own power, it was enroute to the New York World's Fair 1939-1940.

In 1902 the late William Hughes, a Congressman and U.S. Senator, defeated Col. William Barbour, father of the late Senator W. Warren Barbour. During his early years Hughes worked in the Barbour Thread Mill and as time went on worked his way up. He attended a business school, became a court clerk and secretary, studied law and was admitted to the Bar. When notified that he had defeated Barbour, his former boss, he was asked to join in a parade around Barbour's factory. Hughes admitting he didn't have a good pair of shoes, didn't participate.

James Entwistle was fleet engineer of Dewey's Fleet in the Battle of Manila Bay. He reposes in Cedar Lawn Cemetery.

William Paterson, a governor and U.S. Senator, later a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, was the only foreign born governor of New Jersey. Of four foreign born U.S. Senators, all Irish born, William Paterson was one of the other three, were William Hughes, a resident of Paterson, others were William Sevell of Camden and David Baird also of Camden. Paterson lived in New Brunswick.

Foreign born delegates and congressmen:

Ireland -

Charles Stewart, Flemington (1784/5); William McAdoo, Jersey City (1883/91); *Edward McDonald, Harrison (1890/92); John T. Dunn, Elizabeth (1890/3); William Hughes, Paterson (1903/5, 1907/12); Eugene Kincaid, Jersey City (1909/14); Frank McNulty, Newark (1923/25).

Scotland -

John Witherspoon, Signer of the Declaration of Independence (1776/9, 1780/2); Thomas Peddie, Newark (1877/79); Robert G. Bremner, Passaic (1913/14).

Canada -

Archibald C. Hart, Hackensack (1912/13, 1915/17); Charles A. Eaton, North Plainfield (1925/53).

England -

Josiah Hornblower, Belleville (1785/6).

Holland -

Dow Drukker, Passaic (1915/19)

Italy -

Peter A. Cavicchia, Newark (1931/37)

Howard E. McConnell
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

In January 1907 the Board of Aldermen had practically all the governing power in the City of Paterson. This Board consisted of two Aldermen elected in each Ward. The Mayor had little authority. Early in 1907 the Taxpayers Association felt that the system was not a good one. The leaders in this Association were John W. Ferguson and Oakley Fayerweather. They employed four lawyers to prepare a new form. These lawyers, two Republicans and two Democrats, were John W. Griggs and Francis Scott, William B. Gourley and Michael Dunn. They prepared three separate laws; one for a Board of Finance, one for a Board of Public Works, and one for a Fire and Police Commission. Each Board was to consist of four members, no more than two were to belong to the same political party. These bills were passed by the Legislature. John Hinchliffe was the Senator from Passaic County, and the Assemblymen were all Democrats (Henry J. Earle, Abram Klenert, William A. Merz, Frank A. Pawelski, John O. Van Blarcom) John Johnson was the Mayor, and he appointed important businessmen to these Boards. An attack was made in the Courts on the ground that the laws creating these Boards was unconstitutional, but the laws were upheld.

Mayor Johnson died during the year and Dr. Andrew F. McBride became Mayor on January 1, 1908. He reappointed the men Johnson had appointed.

Originally it was not intended that the Mayor was to have any governing power, but as time went on the Mayors have taken over the principal power, leaving the members of the Boards with little control.

At the time the new form of government was instituted, I was City Counsel and had to spend much time organizing it and advising the members of the three Boards about their powers and duties.

Edward F. Merrey, Sr.
Paterson, New Jersey

(This letter was written some time ago in response to our Article "The Mayor and the Machine", Vol. 1970, No. 3, and has not been published heretofore.)

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following who have recently become members:

Sustaining

David Ackerman Descendants, Waldwick, N.J.
Dr. Russell Brancato, Roseland, N.J.
Mr. Robert R. Cook, Orange, N.J.
Dr. Roger C. Laauwe, Paterson, N.J.
Miss Dorothy Shearn, Hawthorne, N.J.
Mr. Peter J. Van Norde, Clifton, N.J.

General

Mr. Bernard H. Bromberg, Hawthorne, N.J.
Mr. Norman F. Brydon, Essex Fells, N.J.
Dr. Nicholas G. Lippoczy, Passaic, N.J.
Mr. Howard E. McConnell, Montclair, N.J.
Miss Harriet Murphy, Paterson, N.J.
Miss Grace E. Rugar, Lodi, N.J.
Mr. Michael R. Spozarsky, Fairlawn, N.J.
Mr. Walter H. Tomasal, State College, Pa.

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Alfred Cappio, *President*
Helen Malcolm, *Treasurer*
George Maseker, *Secretary*
Edward M. Graf, *Curator*
Jerome Nathans, *Editor*

Membership Categories:
General, \$5.00 annually
Sustaining, \$10.00 annually
Contributing, \$25.00 annually
Special Student, \$2.00 annually

MUSEUM HOURS:

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
1 - 4:45 P.M.
Saturday and Sunday
11 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.
Admission is free at all times
Telephone: (201) 523-9883.