

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

LAMBERT

VALLEY ROAD
PATERSON, N.J. 07503

CASTLE

In Memoriam: Dr. D. Stanton Hammond 1887 - 1982

By E. A. Smyk, County Historian

Almost five decades ago, a noted critic once said that "The soundest definition of what one means by a cultivated mind is probably the most familiar: To know the best that has been thought and said in the world." Such a noble statement could have been easily applied to Dr. D. Stanton Hammond, the last surviving organizer of the Passaic County Historical Society, who died at his Paterson home on January 22, 1982. In the 60 years that he played an active role in his beloved historical avocation, Dr. Hammond was more than just an antiquarian collector of books and facts. He was a teacher, a school principal, a genealogist, a map maker and a creative force behind the writing and publishing of Passaic County history.

Daniel Stanton Hammond III was born in Brooklyn, New York on September 22, 1887, the son of D. Stanton and Helena (Scott) Hammond. He was one of five children and his tradition-conscious parents named him after Daniel Stanton, a Quaker missionary forebearer. When the young boy was just about pre-school age, the Hammond family moved to Ridgewood, then known as Orvil Township. Here in this small village, D. Stanton attended the local grammar and high school. Shortly after graduation, young Hammond thought he would like to become either a lawyer or physician, but family finances changed that. He enrolled at Trenton Normal School with the intention of entering the teaching profession and graduated in 1905 at the age of 18. An opening for the budding instructor came about in the Montvale, Bergen County school system. He was interviewed and the school authorities hired him at a weekly salary of \$10.00. On the first day of class, the elder D. Stanton took his son over to Montvale in a horse and rig. His class consisted of 45 pupils and he taught all the grammar grades.

He remained at the Montvale school for three years, living frugally and boarding with a farm family, and then returned to his high school alma mater to accept a better paying position.



Dr. D. Stanton Hammond, from an early photo.

At Ridgewood High, he taught arithmetic, bookkeeping and commercial law from 1908 to 1910. In the meantime, the future Doctor of Jurisprudence enrolled at New York University in order to secure his Baccalaurate degree. With a persistence that was one of his distinguishing characteristics throughout his adult life, D. Stanton Hammond attended the University part-time, nights, weekends and in the summer, finally earning his Bachelor of Science in Pedagogy in 1912. Other teaching positions were offered him across the state. He became principal of the Lebanon Township school in 1910, and after a year's residence, was transferred to the Flemington school in Hunterdon County.

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Accepting another appointment in Englishtown, young Hammond moved on to a supervising principalship in Norwood. Then in 1918, he learned that examinations were being given for a similar position in Paterson. Eagerly, he took the examination, came out first among 12 other aspirants, and was hired. The young educator soon discovered that he was slated to be appointed principal of old Public School No. 1, then located at Fair and Washington Streets in the venerable "Silk City." Mr. Hamond was somewhat shocked when he first saw the school, commenting many years afterward: "If I realized what School 1 was like, I think I would have never taken the appointment; but it was too late. I'd already resigned in Norwood." He candidly recalled his experience at the weathered, brick school: "It was dreadful. The worst factory I'd ever worked in. There was never sunshine in the building. We were separated only by an areaway from a silk mill. All day long, some of our teachers worked with the constant clacking of the mill machines in their ears."



Nonetheless, the young principal still nourished his childhood ambition of studying for the legal profession. Once, again in his spare moments and free time, he commuted to New York University. His efforts were rewarded in 1923, when the faculty of the Washington Square College and Law School awarded him a Doctorate in Jurisprudence. Mr. Hammond served his clerkship, but personal difficulties prevented him from taking the bar examinations. At his retirement dinner in 1954, he stated philosophically: "The good Lord apparently didn't intent for me to become a lawyer."

In February 1926, the now Dr. Hammond was transferred to Public School Number 20 as Principal and here he remained for 28 years until his retirement from the profession on February 1, 1954. An estimated 2,300 pupils received their diplomas from School Number 20 during the years of Dr. Hammond's administration. Many of those youngsters became leaders in their respective communities and it appears that Dr. Hammond left a strong, if not indelible, impression upon them. David Waks, now a Paterson attorney and Wayne Councilman, who was one of Dr. Hammond's young charges,

paid this public tribute to him some years ago: "It is difficult to express briefly the feeling that all of his students have for him, except to say that he took the time, as a parent would, to care about all of us."

Throughout his life, many persons would ask how D. Stanton Hammond became interested in local history and genealogy. with a twinkle in his eye, Dr. Hammond would explain that his interest started with a visit to two elderly aunts. Both ladies showed Dr. Hammond a genealogy of his own family. The 15-year-old youth was excited to learn that one of his ancestors was Roger Williams. He found the subject so absorbing that he never lost his interest, and it stands to reason that the study of law, with its emphasis on the exacting interpretation of old deeds and land titles, was an extension of his historical curiosity.

Every man or woman, who has a passion for things intellectual, will explain how their lives are culturally nourished and enriched. So it was with Dr. Hammond. History became more than just a mere hobby, or second vocation. It was, simply, a vital ingredient in his long and productive life. During the 1920's, there was considerable discussion among historically minded citizens for reviving the Passaic County Historical Society, an organization which had disbanded decades before. Most of those who identified with this movement were mature Paterson educators — men such as Dr. Hammond, Charles E. Dietz and Robert P. Brooks. In addition, Paterson printer and brilliant historian of the American Revolution, Albert H. Heusser, placed his tireless organizational abilities at the Society's disposal. The first public meeting of the revitalized Society was held amid great enthusiasm on March 10, 1926. Nearly one month later, on April 5th, the first 20 member-elected trustees affixed their signatures to the Certificate of Incorporation. Dr. Hammond was selected to head the Society's Topographic and Historic Genealogy Committee in deference to his wide knowledge in this area, and the September 1928 issue of the Society's *Journal* carried an article from his pen that outlined the new Association's history.

Nine years after the incorporation, Dr. Hammond was elected President and served until 1964 — the longest of any of the Society's chief executives. During his tenure, which was made more difficult because of the depression years, Dr. Hammond witnessed and actively encouraged the growth of all the Society's holdings — an immense collection of paintings, object d'art, books, manuscripts and other invaluable memorabilia. In his own inimitable manner, Dr. Hammond, acting as the Society's library agent, was personally responsible for the choice acquisition of countless volumes and rare documents. Such materials are now irreplaceable at any price. But perhaps the greatest triumph for the Society was Dr. Hammond's leading role in persuading the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders of the necessity of extending financial support to the Lambert Castle Museum. Beginning with a small appropriation in 1944, the Freeholders have continued their subsidy over the years. Also under Dr. Hammond's leadership and with considerable assistance from the late Harry B. Haines, publisher of the *Paterson News*, the Freeholders provided funds for the construction of a large vault on Castle property for holding the nearly complete file of historic county newspapers.

One of D. Stanton Hammond's other interests was the preservation of the historic Dey Mansion in Preakness, which had been General George Washington's headquarters during 1780 and 1781. His desire to see this gracious, Georgian-style mansion restored for public use can be traced to 1921. At that period, Dr. Hammond was deeply involved with the Sons of the American Revolution, Captain Abraham Godwin Chapter. (He later served as President of the state chapter). In 1928, he received an appointment from Governor Morgan Larson to the Dey House Washington Headquarters Commission. This official body was authorized by special legislation to determine the feasibility of purchasing and restoring the Dey Mansion as a public museum. Although the Commission was frustrated in its attempts to obtain the property because of a lack of an appropriation, the Mansion was purchased by the Passaic County Park Commission, and now ranks as one of the most excellent 18th century house museums in the United States. Dr. Hammond never neglected the needs of the Dey Mansion and maintained an active association with the Park Commission until his death. Appointed to the Park Commission in 1963, he served for 10 years and after his term concluded, the Commission unanimously appointed him as the agency's official historian.

In his lifetime, D. Stanton Hammond received numerous appointments to municipal and county commissions. A grateful community honored him as Historian for the Paterson George Washington Bicentennial Commission (1932), Passaic County Centennial Commission (1937), Paterson 100th Anniversary Commission (1951), Passaic County Tercentenary Commission (Chairman, 1964-65), and Passaic County Heritage Commission, (Chairman 1969). His most recent service was as a member of the Paterson Bicentennial Committee (1971-1977).

In recognition for his devoted interest in the history of the American Revolution, Dr. Hammond was awarded the McArthur Silver Medal (1964) and gold medal (1971) of the New Jersey Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

During the winter of his life, Dr. Hammond frequently mentioned his beloved wife, who equally shared his interest and zest for local history. He married the late Mary Catherine Davison on July 9, 1919, and they were the proud parents of three children: Daniel Stanton, the late Eugene Davison, and Lois Eva.

Future historians will not have to ask what legacy Daniel Stanton Hammond left his community. The Lambert Castle Museum, its collections, and the Dey Mansion remain as his enduring monuments. For those who knew him personally, he left us with a need to continue the work he started. Five years ago, in his last major newspaper interview, Dr. Hammond said; "You know, history is really the story of people — not places, dates, or things. Who are the people? That's what you've got to find out."

Yes, that is what we in the historical fraternity desire "to find out." But in doing so, the trustees of the Society he helped organize, and his associates all over the state, will sadly miss the presence of the courtly gentleman from the old school, really the last of his generation, who communicated a fascination with local history that defies written expression.

Max's Report: Fireman's Herald

Among the many treasured volumes in the library of the Passaic County Historical Society is a bound collection of 42 editions of *The Fireman's Herald*, published in 1882. This weekly newspaper, printed in New York, contains many informative articles and advertisements about the science of fire fighting as well as details about the operations of many large 19th century American fire departments. It was obviously a useful and widely read periodical in its time.

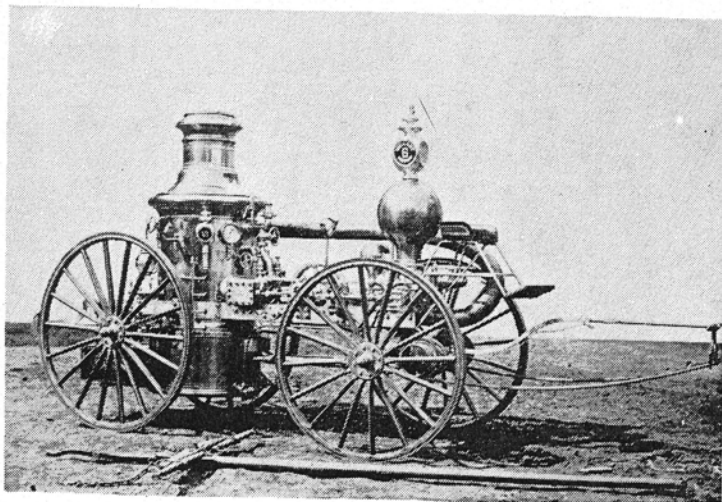
One hundred years later, *The Fireman's Herald* is a valuable resource in understanding the background and organization of Paterson's fire department in the 1800s. Fortunately for us, the "Silk City" had its own regular correspondent in the *Herald*, under the pen name of "Max."

In the first edition of the paper dated January 5, Max traced the origin of the fire department back to July 4, 1815 when Passaic Engine Company One was organized. Over the next few years, additional units were created, and in 1858 the Paterson Aldermen began paying each company on a fixed rate basis each year. In 1882, there were a total of 900 firemen divided among light steamer, truck and hose companies. The superintendent of Fire Alarm Telegraph had jurisdiction over Paterson's 42 street alarm boxes. The fire chief at that time was a local machinist, Leonard Garrison. Max reported that he was paid \$600 per year. His assistants, James Kearney and Daniel W. Leonard, a printer, received an annual stipend of \$300 each. All the other firefighters were unpaid. Paterson's annual subsidy to their companies was used for gas, oil, and other such supplies.

According to Max, hand-operated engines were used until 1865, when the first "steamer" was brought into service. By 1880, the earlier type of fire apparatus had been completely phased out.

Max had a very high opinion of the local fire squads. He boasted that "as a volunteer department this ranks A No. 1, and although we have over sixty thousand inhabitants, the service is so prompt and efficient that it will be many years before a paid force will be organized."

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NEWS AND NOTES .



"Women In Silk"

The Passaic County Historical Society Annual Meeting on May 11, 1982 will feature a showing of "Women In Silk," a 30 minute documentary produced by Terence Ripmaster, associate professor of history at William Paterson College. The film presents some of the history of girls' and womens' work in the silk industry of Paterson.

Appearing in the film are four women who discuss their experiences as silk workers. Emilia Marchese, an 87 year old Italian immigrant, explains some of the conditions she met in the mills as a young girl in the first decade of this century and later as a young widow and mother in the 1920s. Lini deVries, the daughter of Dutch immigrants and author of *Up From the Cellar*, recalls work during World War I when she began work illegally at the age of 12. Louise Delling Branthwaite, a former warp maker, discusses her experiences as a young woman in trade unionism during the 1920s. And finally, Bertha Engels, a weaver in one of Paterson's remaining silk mills, tells about her years "in the silk" and her work today.

The film photographically depicts work in the early silk mills and presents information about wages, unions, strikes and personalities involved in the history of the silk industry.

This documentary is produced in cooperation with the New Jersey Historical Commission, the Passaic County Historical Society, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, William Paterson College of New Jersey and Kalstein Silk Mills, Paterson, New Jersey.

Annual Beefsteak Dinner Dance

On September 25, 1982, the Passaic County Rotary Clubs will sponsor the Second Annual Beefsteak Dinner Dance to benefit the Passaic County Historical Society. The dance will be held at the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Hall in Little Falls, and again will feature swing era music by the seventeen piece Saddle River Big Band. For more information contact Catherine Keene at 345-6900.

Annual Meeting May 11th

The Passaic County Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 11, 7:30 PM, at the Lambert Castle Museum. In addition to the business meeting and election of trustees and officers, the meeting will feature a showing of the film "Women in Silk." The raffle drawing for a new 1982 Cadillac will also be held at that time. We hope to see you all there.

Limited Raffle Drawing Planned

As part of our ongoing fund raising effort, the Historical Society is holding a "Limited" raffle, with the drawing to be held at the Annual Meeting on May 11. Raffle sales are limited to 1,000 tickets, at \$25.00 each. The lucky winner will receive a new 1982 Cadillac Coupe De Ville, with a retail value of \$15,734.00. The funds raised by the raffle will be used to operate and maintain the Historical Society and Lambert Castle Museum. Because only 1,000 tickets have been printed, purchases may be made only by ordering through one of the committee members or directly from the Society office. If you wish to order a ticket contact Catherine Keene at the Historical Society or Russ Frignoca, c/o Prospect Park Savings and Loan Association, 396 Haledon Avenue, Haledon, NJ 07508.

Thursday Afternoon Teas

"Thursday Afternoon Talks and Tea in the Library" is a free lecture series given by the staff of **The New Jersey Historical Society**: Mar. 25, "Gems from the NJHS Map Collection"; Apr. 29, "Recent Trends in the Study of Social History: Implications for Genealogy"; May 27, "Preserving Your Heirloom Prints and Photographs." Phone registration is required. Contact: **Carmel Pallante, Library Secretary, (201) 483-3939.**

Fireman's Herald

(Continued from page 3)

Each fire company elected three members to the Firemen's Benevolent Association which, in 1882, had a balance in its treasury of \$5000. From this coffer, weekly benefits of \$5 for disabled firemen and annual benefits of \$50 for widows was drawn.

Much of the social life of Paterson's firefighters and their families centered around the companies they belonged to. The annual Fire Department Parade held on September 19 was, in Max's words, "the finest this city has ever seen." The spectators were treated to the "stirring music of six brass bands." A November meeting of the Passaic Engine company One concluded with the "usual clam chowder" for the "boys" followed by dancing and a Shakespeare recitation!

Thank you, Max, for your report and for your diligent efforts along with the other members of Paterson's early fire companies. Your dedication and bravery in protecting lives and property will always be remembered.

Bill Wurst



Mrs. Isabelle Shattuck Lambert.

Parasols and Petticoats

Next in our series of rotating exhibits will be a display of 19th century costumes. A selection of day and evening dresses, wedding gowns, capes and shawls will comprise the major portion of the show. Silk, satin, velvet, lace, and other luxurious materials which today are rare and expensive are well represented in this collection. Shoes, parasols, purses and walking sticks, as well as other accessories, will accent the costumes. Throughout the show, numerous contemporary fashion illustrations will provide a backdrop for the various displays. Among the more outstanding articles to be seen are an elegant silk and lace parasol with folding ivory handle, and a two piece silk dress worn by Mrs. Lambert.

The exhibit is scheduled to open April 7, 1982. For more information contact the Society office at 345-6900.



Hints To Society's Sinners

Excerpts from Bad Breaks in Good Form — A Few Hints to Society Sinners, Edited by one of the Four Hundred, 1889.

The wearing of rings on the outside of a gloved finger, or of bangles or bracelets on a gloved wrist is in exceedingly poor taste.

Ladies wear cloth gowns for morning or afternoon walks; cocottes, silk and plush. Carriage costumes are permitted to be richer than those for street wear, but how many women do we see in the Park afternoons, rolling along in their carriages, who look as though they were on their way to the opera?

Gold handled canes ought to be the exclusive property of politicians and circus managers. They are always "tokens of esteem." A plain, natural wood stick is always in good taste.

A women's conceit and ignorance may be told by the height of her heels and the shape of her shoe. The broader the shoe the broader the mind, and the higher the heel the more lack of balance — mental and physical.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Apr. 3** "Anatomy of a Streetcar Suburb." American Labor Museum, Haledon. Contact John Herbst at 483-3939.
- Apr. 7** Exhibit: Parasols and Petticoats: Fashions from the Victorian Era. Lambert Castle Museum, Paterson. Admission. Wednesday through Sunday 1-4 PM. Through July.
- May 8** "Acres of Diamonds in Your Backyard." New Jersey Studies Resources Conference. William Paterson College, Wayne.
- May 11** Annual Meeting of the Passaic County Historical Society. 7:30 PM, Lambert Castle, Paterson.
- May 24** "Historic Preservation: The Local Initiative." Technical Seminar for Historical Agencies. Georgian Court College, Lakewood.
Paterson Museum. Exhibits on Paterson history. Monday through Friday 1-5 PM, Saturday 10-12, 1-5. Free. 881-3874.

MEMBERSHIP

- Student \$ 3
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(more than 25 employees) \$100

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