

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

LAMBERT

VALLEY ROAD
PATERSON, N.J. 07503

CASTLE

50th Anniversary Issue

From the president . . .

What a dynamic and exciting year is forthcoming, as the Passaic County Historical Society celebrates its fiftieth year at Lambert Castle!

Those of you who attended our Christmas party at the Castle on December 11 can readily attest to the tremendous strides Cathy Keene and her volunteers have made toward restoring the Castle to some semblance of its former glory. The restored dining room, where the refreshments were served, featured Lambert's original dining table and chairs, plus the impressive gesso plaster and gilt walls, enhanced by solid walnut trim and beautiful parquet floors, which all contributed to the ambience of a delightful, Victorian Christmas.

Even bigger strides are in the offing; for April will see a magnificent exhibit, "The Life and Times of Silk City: The Mill Owner" part of a tripartite exhibit under the aegis of the Labor Museum (Botto House), the Paterson Museum, and the Passaic County Historical Society, the result of a \$96,000 federal grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Cathy and her crew are also now hard at work moving the remaining library from the dining room to more spacious quarters on the third floor, thus freeing the dining room for receptions and social occasions.

Our big hope, at the moment, is that the much-needed, new roof will be speedily put in place, so that seeping water will no longer destroy our treasures, as it has been doing for far too long!

Save on your calendars June 9 from 10:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., the date of the Society's great, Fiftieth Anniversary, Black-Tie Gala to be held at the Castle.

Delight Dodyk and her committee are busily at work on the Gala, the motif of which is the Victorian Era. The Victorian motif will be carried out in the music, the dances, entertainment, and food.

At 50, Lambert Castle has come alive! Do come to visit us and, especially, plan to attend our Fiftieth Anniversary Gala.

As I said upon taking office, it is **your** Society. Come and be a deeply involved part of it! Tremendous things have already been done for the Society by the Rotarians, the Board of Freeholders, the volunteers, the Director, and last, but certainly not least, the trustees.

The Society is enjoying a re-surgence of excitement and dynamism, so come out and make it even better!

Ruth Kane Fern, President



Alvin Blau, presenting \$7,000.00 donation from the Passaic County Rotary Clubs to Ruth Fern, President, and William Adthead, Secretary of the Passaic County Historical Society.

Rotary raises \$7,000 for PCHS

On October 1, 1983, the Rotary Clubs of Passaic County sponsored the Third Annual Beefsteak Dinner-Dance for the benefit of the Passaic County Historical Society. Once again, everyone enjoyed the delicious beefsteak dinner and dancing to the Saddle River Big Band. The affair, which was especially well attended this year, raised a whopping \$7,000 for the conservation of collections.

This year's Rotary donation is particularly important to the PCHS as the money will be used to restore a large painting which sustained water damage last summer and to return the Lambert Castle dining room to its former splendor. Since the painting was part of Lambert's art collection and is one of the few pieces of Lambert's we own, it is very important to the museum that this painting be restored.

The Passaic County Rotary Clubs' donations have allowed us to make many improvements in the care of our collection. Although much of the work is not apparent to museum visitors we have been working behind the scenes to improve storage conditions and the accessibility of the collection to researchers. Marty Williams has been working on the overhaul of our photograph storage area. Our collection includes thousands of rare period photographs, so this is one of our most important projects. Marty has sorted the photographs by size and subject matter and is now storing them in archival boxes. This storage method will protect the photographs from damage by light and dirt.

Continued on page 2

A letter from the director

As the museum moves into its 50th year in Lambert Castle we have many exciting events to look forward to. We are planning a full schedule of lectures, tours, concerts, and special events to help us celebrate our Golden Anniversary. Many of these will relate to the "Life and Times in Silk City" exhibition, while others are simply to help us celebrate with a bang. Read more about these events in this special edition of the Castle Lite.

We have a lot to look forward to, but we have also made some major advances. The Board of Freeholders gave us a Christmas present on December 21 when they voted the money for the new Castle roof. Work should begin early in the Spring. As soon as the roof is on we will begin cleaning, painting, and sprucing up the interior of the Castle. We must also thank the Passaic County Rotary Clubs for their generous donations. We have made great strides in caring for the collection with their help.

I would especially like to thank our members and volunteers for all your support. We would not be able to carry on any of our programs without your enthusiasm and good will. I hope all our members will join us for the exhibitions and special events this year.

Gala soiree planned at the castle on June 9th

What could be more gala than a party in a castle and gala it certainly will be. The occasion is the benefit celebration of the 50th year of the Lambert Castle Museum.

Planned for June 9, 1984 the soiree will be a festive party in the style of Catholina Lambert and the turn-of-the-century. Guests will be treated to the wonderful music of the period for dancing and listening, provided by The Garrett Mountain Troubadors and Gina Vitale, vocalist. The Castle will be sparkingly lighted and decorated for the occasion, and guests will be served delectable savories, sweets, and wines.

Each party-goer will receive a copy of the 50th Anniversary Journal being prepared by the Gala committee. This special publication will include the many early scenes of the Castle interior and grounds by photographer John Reid. It will also feature newly prepared histories of the Lambert Family, the Castle, and the the Passaic County Historical Society.

Serving on the Gala Committee are Delight Dodyk, Chair, William Adshead, Flavia Alaya, Alvin Blau, Jo Ann Cotz, Ruth Fern, Fletcher Fish, Russell Frignoca, John Herbst, Catherine Keene, Stanley Lacz, Edward Lenik, Robert Macfarlan, Christine Riedl, Barbara Rivolta, Norman Robertson, William Storch, Stephan van Cline, and Raymond Zardetta. If you would like to get involved in the preparations, call Delight at 652-4440.

The soiree is planned as an after-dinner celebratrrion from 10 to 1 in the evening. So mark your calendars now for June 9, get out your finery, and round up your friends for a very special evening out. The tickets will be priced at \$50 per person with proceeds benefitting the Endowment Fund of the Passaic County Historical Society.



Members of the Z Club of Paul VI High School served as hostesses at the Christmas Party.

Z Club members, other volunteers assist PCHS staff members

We are delighted to report the addition of several new volunteers to the PCHS staff. Elizabeth Van Hook of the New Jersey Bank has joined us as a museum guide on Sundays.

In July, Nina Browne of Paterson was a tremendous help. She cataloged spoons, worked in the museum office, and much more. Also joining us in July was Eliud Troncosco, a student in the Paterson Community Education Program.

During the month of August, Laura Neal of Wyckoff helped to organize the Charcot collection of silk designs and did research on Catholina Lambert for the "Life and Times in Silk City" exhibit. Also working on this exhibit are researcher Jim Ward and genealogist Annita Zalenski.

The Z Club of Paul VI Regional High School in Clifton has taken on the Lambert Castle Museum's gift shop as their service project for this year. Every Sunday the gift shop is staffed by two Z Club volunteers. They also served as hostesses for the Annual Christmas party. Their graciousness added to everyone's enjoyment.

Many thanks to Dee's Florist of West Paterson for the beautiful Christmas greenery. The PCHS especially appreciates all of the interest and care that Dee's has expressed towards the Lambert Castle Museum.

Rotary raised \$7,000

Continued from page 1

The PCHS Collection of Charcot silk designs has also benefitted from Rotary money. The collection includes several thousand water colors by Frank and Florence Charcot. The designs, which date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, were used as the basis for jacquard silk patterns. Volunteer Laura Neal helped catalogue and transfer the collection to archival storage boxes.

Thank you, Rotary Clubs of Passaic County, for the wonderful work you are doing for the PCHS! For further information about next year's dance call 881-2761.

Volunteers needed

As the PCHS/Lambert Castle Museum has taken on more activities and responsibilities, Barbara and Cathy find that they are in need of more help. 1984 promises to be a landmark year for the society. Some of the activities planned include: a major exhibit - "Life and Times in Silk City", the Fiftieth Anniversary Gala Celebration, participation in the Museum Assessment Program, and more. Your help, even as little as one afternoon per month, will mean a great deal to the Society and contribute much towards our success. Badly needed and open volunteer positions include:

Office Managers - typing, filing, bookkeeping, etc.

Museum Guides - help the public to understand our county's heritage.

Gift Shop Managers - inventory, sales, buying for the Victorian Emporium. Proceeds help support the museum's operation.

Inventory and Cataloging - learn about our collections as you help us to give them the best possible care.

Storage Organizers - a very responsible position for someone who likes to get his/her hands dirty. Put our collections in the best possible condition.

Museum Maintenance - dusting, sweeping, polishing. Keeping the museum objects sparkling will help to make the visitor's experience pleasant and keep our treasures in good condition.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call Mrs. Annita Zalenski at 595-7684 or 881-2761.



Fred Dilzell, classical guitarist, performing at the Annual Members Christmas Party.



Edison machines restored

The Passaic County Historical Society's collection of Edison phonographs were recently restored to working order by a grant from the Charles Edison Fund. The phonographs, including a Gem, Home, and early (1870's) tinfoil machine, are now on display at the Lambert Castle Museum where they can be heard as well as seen. Several of the machines bear tags identifying them as sold by James K. O'Dea, an entrepreneur who had phonograph shops in Paterson, Passaic, and Middletown, N.Y. during the 1980's and early 1900's. Photographs of O'Dea's Paterson store are also on exhibit.

On loan from Mr. Charles Hummel, the Edison Fund's restorer, is the Nipper Dog, symbol of the Victor Talking Machine Co. (now RCA Victor). The Nipper Dog, who sits almost three feet high with ear cocked towards the voice of his master, sat in the window of a Market Street, Paterson, record shop for many years. The exhibit will run through the end of February and can be seen Wednesday through Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

50th anniversary book planned

A fiftieth birthday is an ideal time to take a fresh look at the past and that is what is being done for the 50th Anniversary Book. New research on the Lambert family and the castle has been undertaken by Dr. Flavia Alaya, former president of the Society with the assistance of Annita Zalenski and Jessica Peters, Society genealogists and Ed Smyk, County Historian. This research will be accompanied by John Reid's original photos of the castle. The anniversary book will be a valuable and comprehensive source of information for those interested in knowing more about Lambert Castle. It will be published in the Spring in time for the Gala Soiree and afterwards will be on sale at the Castle.



Water damaged painting undergoing restoration. Note white areas covered with mulberry tissue "band-aids."

Note: On July 21, three paintings hung in the old entrance hall at the Lambert Castle Museum were water damaged during a torrential downpour. Two very large paintings, possibly 17th or 18th Century English manor paintings, were once part of Catholina Lambert's art collection and were mounted in the ceiling where Lambert had displayed them. One of the paintings was severely damaged and is now being restored by van Cline & Davenport, Ltd., Franklin Lakes, N.J. The other two sustained only minor damage. They are: "Ascending Angel and Child" — the painting from Lambert's collection — and "Sheep Entering Fold," a 19th century French painting by Charles Emil Jacque. Rotary funds are being used to restore the severely damaged painting. The other two will be in storage at Lambert Castle until money can be raised to restore them. You can help to restore these two fine paintings. Send contributions to: Painting Restoration, PCHS, Lambert Castle, Valley Rd., Paterson, N.J. 07503. Make check payable to Passaic County Historical Society.

Close-ups of cleaned test patches. Observe the contrast between the light areas which have been cleaned with the surrounding uncleaned painting.



Water damages painting

During the summer a fine 17th or 18th Century painting of a classical subject — possibly Diana the Huntress — was delivered to our emergency room here at van Cline and Davenport, Ltd.

You may recall the painting and its companion on the ceiling of the old entrance hall to the Castle. Rain from the leaky roof finally penetrated to the ceiling above the pictures and gave them quite a soaking.

Upon arrival we set about applying the mulberry tissue "band-aids" you see in the photo to the areas where water had loosened the paint to such an extent that it was about to fall away. Then we proceeded with tests to prepare for cleaning the more secure areas of the piece. We found that it had been cleaned many years ago and that three layers of varnish had been applied since then. We are now in the midst of the cleaning procedure, have ordered extra heavy raw linen with which to reline the piece and an expansion bolt stretcher for the final mounting.

After cleaning, the painting will be removed from the old stretcher, permeated with a wax resin formula and the new canvas stretched on a larger stretcher and that bound to the back of the old canvas for strength. The picture will then get its final cleaning, the missing areas filled and color matched to the surrounding original paint. It will be stretched on the new expansion bolt stretcher and get about 20 ultra-thin layers of varnish.

The process of restoring the painting should take approximately one year. Afterwards, it will be back at its home at Lambert Castle where you will be able to see it, in splendid condition, once again.



Everything you ever wanted to know about Lambert and were too awed to ask

Did you know that Catholina Lambert was nicknamed "the little minister" on his emigrant voyage from England in 1851? That this last tycoon of silk, art-collector and Castle-builder extraordinary, was inclined at soirees to sing and accompany himself at the piano? That for some seven years he and his family wintered in a little house on Straight Street and had their heat piped in from the Dexter, Lambert Mill? That during the famous 1913 strike, when he was pushing eighty, Lambert almost came to blows with a fellow manufacturer over management strategy?

We didn't know it either, or somebody — a different somebody in each case — knew it and hadn't told. Now, with the fiftieth anniversary of the Lambert Castle Museum coming up, Dr. Flavia Alaya, as editor of our anniversary book, is getting everybody to tell her everything they know. These stories, and dozens more (with as much as we can muster of their whys and wherefores), will be incorporated into a new biographical essay on Lambert and his Castle to be published in time for our spring gala. They will also help provide background for the forthcoming "Life and Times in Silk City" exhibition, while the abundant source materials turned up in the process will be gathered into a single collection for the use of future researchers.

Dr. Alaya, a longtime trustee and former president of the Historical Society, is a Ramapo College professor and a scholar of the Victorian period. She has volunteered her skills as a biographer for us before, authoring the study of Gaetano Federici that accompanied our major exhibition of the sculptor's work in 1980. Just as she did on the earlier project, she is relying now on the research talents and energies of numerous other people in the Museum community — perhaps even more so than before, owing to a back ailment that kept her hospitalized for nearly three weeks in November.

Principal helping hands — and feet — and wheels — have been those of Annita Zalenski, Society genealogist, who among many other things has discovered the last surviving Lambert grandson, Stanley Lambert; Society Director Cathy Keene and Assistant Barbara Rivolta, who have turned over hundreds of pieces of memorabilia in our collections in search of previously unexploited material; and Passaic County Historian Ed Smyk, who has generously opened his own collections and those of Lambert's first biographer Edward Graf to supply all kinds of missing links.

When the results of these cooperative efforts are finally published in June, 1984, "the old boy himself . . . (with) his head full of castles" (to quote poet William Carlos Williams) will, we hope, be with us again, conjuring up all the rich, turbulent vitality of his life and the mixed poignancy and glamor of the era he made of silk.

"Life and Times in Silk City" exhibit opens in April

On April 14, 1984 a major exhibition will open at the Lambert Castle Museum, the American Labor Museum and the Paterson Museum. Called "Life and Times in Silk City," it will give a comprehensive view of the silk industry in turn-of-the-century Paterson and its importance to the lives of the residents of "Silk City." The exhibit will run through April 1985.

The life-styles and concerns of the silk mill owners will be interpreted at the Lambert Castle Museum. Period photographs, objects and works of art which once belonged to some of the city's industrialists will be on display in the "court" and music room. Of course, the centerpiece of the exhibit will be Lambert Castle itself, the former home of Catholina Lambert, Dean of Paterson's silk industry. Restoration of Lambert's once magnificent dining room, now the PCHS library, will be completed by April 14 so that museum visitors can enjoy this ornate and richly decorated room during the exhibit year and beyond.

Using photographs as well as working machinery, the Paterson Museum will explain the process of silk manufacture from sericulture through finished cloth. A "hands-on" children's section will also be included in their exhibit component.

The lives and experiences of the mill workers will be portrayed at the American Labor Museum located in the Pietro Botto House, restored home of the immigrant silk worker and leader of the 1913 silk strike. Photographs, artifacts and period rooms will be on view.

The exhibition, for which the American Labor Museum has received a grant of \$96,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is cosponsored by the American Labor Museum, the PCHS/Lambert Castle Museum, the Paterson Museum and the Great Falls Development Corporation. The close cooperation among the sponsoring institutions is a unique and exciting development in the museum field which has already drawn a good deal of interest both state-wide and nationally. "Life and Times in Silk City" is sure to focus much public attention on Paterson and its historic sites. It is an important, informative and exciting exhibition. You will not want to miss it!

Calendar of 1984 Events

- April 14* — Opening of "Life and Times in Silk City" with gala benefit for the three museums.
- April 15* — Museums Open House for "Life and Times in Silk City," at Lambert Castle Museum, American Labor Museum, Paterson Museum.
- May 16* — Annual Meeting honoring 50 years of the Society's residence in Lambert Castle.
- June 9* — 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration at Lambert Castle.

Note: Workshops, film and lecture series, and other special events are being planned in conjunction with "Life and Times in Silk City." A schedule of events will be available in April.



Museum to receive \$600 grant

We are proud to announce that the Passaic County Historical Society/Lambert Castle Museum has been chosen to receive a Museum Assessment Grant of \$600 from the Institute of Museums Services, a congressionally mandated agency dedicated to assisting the nation's museums.

The Museum Assessment Program under which the grant was made, will provide the Lambert Castle Museum with an independent assessment of its programs and operations. The assessment, which will be carried out by an independent and experienced museum professional, will take place in the fall of 1984. It will include a self-study questionnaire, an on-site survey by a museum consultant, and the consultant's final written report containing observations and recommendations.

The PCHS is delighted to receive this recognition from the IMS. We are confident that the Museum Assessment Program will help us to improve Lambert Castle Museum's programs and to better our service to the public.

Additional funds for roof repair

On Wednesday, December 21, the Passaic County Board of Freeholders approved \$75,000 in additional funds to repair the crumbling and decaying roof of Lambert Castle. The freeholders had initially allocated \$180,000 for the repairs but the lowest bid for the job was \$287,777 submitted by the firm of Schtiller and Plevy. Additional grant money, which would have been used by the Park Commission to rehabilitate Goffle Brook Park, will also be used for the Castle roof in order to make up the difference in cost.

Because of the skylight and the old construction techniques used in building the roof, its repair is now a costly and intricate job which will take about six months to complete. According to Park Commissioner Ronald Dooney, it is "probably the most unique roof in the area". Since Lambert Castle itself is probably the most unique building in the area, we are glad that we will soon get a new roof and that this historic building will be saved from further deterioration.

Lecture series continues

The Henry J. Browne Lecture Series, given by the Great Falls Development Corporation and co-sponsored by the Passaic County Historical Society, the American Labor Museum, and the Paterson Museum, will be held Saturday, May 5 at The Brownstone in Paterson. Entitled "Perspectives on a Nineteenth Century Industrial City", this year's lecture series will feature speakers Paul Johnson of Princeton University; Richard Margrave of South Yorkshire, England; Clement Price of Rutgers University; and moderator Daniel Walkowitz of New York University.

The lecture series includes luncheon at The Brownstone as well as a bus tour of the three museums' exhibit "Life and Times in Silk City". For more information and pre-registration call Great Falls Development Corporation at (201) 279-1270.

Thanks and best wishes

Thank you and best wishes for a happy and healthy new year to all our trustees, volunteers and staff:

Trustees

- Alvin Blau
- Delight Dodyk
- Russell Frignoca
- Stanley Lacz
- William O. Storch
- Jo Ann Cotz
- Ruth Fern
- John Herbst
- Robert Macfarlan
- Edward J. Lenik
- Flavia Alaya
- William Adshead
- Fletcher Fish
- Norman Robertson

Staff

- Jim Levendusky
- Jim De Sopo
- Virginia Peterson

Volunteers

- Jessica Peters
- Annita Zalenski
- Jim Ward
- Verah Links
- Elizabeth Van Hook
- Frances Peacock
- Harriet Frederickson
- Nina Browne
- Eliud Troncosco
- Laura Neal
- Miriam Kurinsky
- Z Club of Paul VI
- Regional H.S.
- Dee's Florist, West Paterson
- Raymond Zardetto

From: Cathy and Barbara



LAMBERT DINING ROOM TO BE RESTORED. DETECTIVES AT WORK TO FIND MISSING PIECES. CAN YOU HELP?

On January 7, the room which now houses the PCHS library will begin a transformation. As the library books are removed and carried to their new home on the third floor of Lambert Castle, the room, once Catholina Lambert's magnificent dining room, will embark on a trip back through time. The beautiful inlaid and parkay floor will be refinished and the remaining pieces of Lambert's dining room furniture moved back in. When completed, in time for the "Life and Times in Silk City" exhibit, the restored room will help to tell the story of one of Paterson's most colorful historical characters.

After Lambert's death his household furnishings and remaining art collection were sold at auction in 1925 in

Paterson. Pieces sold from the dining room included two sideboards, dining table and chairs, an oriental screen, a large black turtle which hung over the door to the pantry, and a number of Chinese vases. The dining table, chairs and bottom half of one of the sideboards were given back to the museum as a gift. We are now looking for the missing pieces or similar period pieces to replace them. We are particularly interested in finding a replacement for the opulent chandelier which hung from the center of the coffered and gilded ceiling. If you have or can help us locate items for use in the restored dining room, please call Barbara or Cathy at 881-2761.

Plans to restore the drawing room, pictured opposite and below, are also in the beginning stages. Everything is needed — from carpets to draperies. If you can help in any way, please call us at 881-2761.



BOOKS AVAILABLE . . .

- _____ copy(ies) De Vries, **Up From the Cellar** at \$5.00
- _____ copy(ies) Alaya, **Gaetano Federici: The Artist As Historian** at \$10.50
- _____ copy(ies) Rydings, **Country Walks in Many Fields** at \$10.50
- _____ copy(ies) Lucas, **From The Hills To The Hudson: A History of Paterson and Hudson River Rail Road** at \$25.00
- _____ copy(ies) Heusser, **The History of the Silk Dyeing Industry In The United States** at \$32.50
- _____ copy(ies) Hammond, **Reverend Samuel Fisher's Census: Paterson, N.J. — 1824-1832** at \$3.00
- _____ copy(ies) New Jersey Historical Society,

The Rogers Locomotive Catalog, 1976 at \$7.95

- _____ copy(ies) New Jersey Historical Society, **Pleasures of Colonial Cooking** at \$7.95
- _____ copy(ies) New Jersey Historical Society, Bishop & Simpson, **The Victorian Seaside Cookbook** at \$8.95.
- _____ copy(ies) Reproduction of **In the Park**, a painting by William Merit Chase at \$15.00. Proceeds to benefit Friends of the Paterson library and PCHS.

Note Please add \$1.00 per book to cover the cost of shipping and handling. Make checks payable to PCHS, mail to PCHS, Lambert Castle, Valley Rd., Paterson, N.J. 07503.

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