

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

LAMBERT

VALLEY ROAD
PATERSON, N.J. 07503

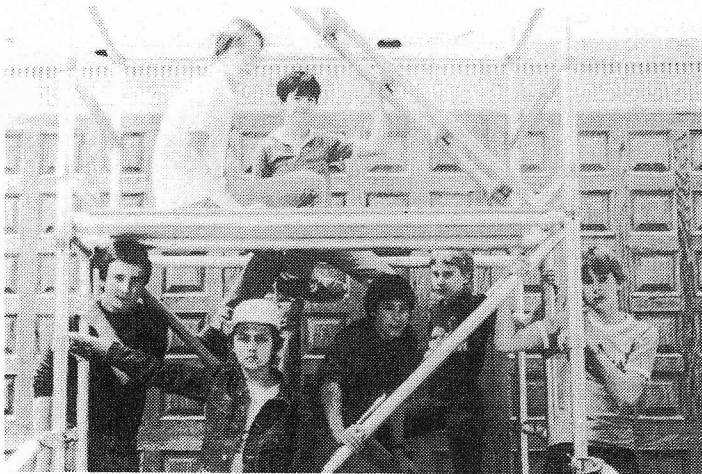
CASTLE

Grant Awarded To PCHS

The Passaic County Historical Society/Lambert Castle Museum is a recipient of a Conservation of Historic Collections grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. The one year grant will allow the society to continue documenting and preserving its historic clothing collection.

The over four hundred items in the collection range in date from 1812 to 1945 and include thirty Victorian and Edwardian two piece gowns, Victorian christening dresses, menswear dating from 1824, laces, Victorian sleepwear and undergarments, military uniforms from four wars, and various accessories. Of particular interest are two Parisian made gowns worn at the McKinley Hobart Inaugural in 1897, a gown of Lambert silk owned by Mrs. Lambert, and a fine collection of elaborately embroidered handkerchiefs.

The grant monies will be used to hire a textile consultant to assess the museum's collection and to acquire temperature and humidity control equipment for installation in a new clothing storage area.



Members of Scout Troop #107 Wayne after a day volunteering at the Castle.

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have a few spare hours each week or month? Do you have an interest in old things? Would you like to meet new and interesting people? If so, we could use your help as a museum volunteer. Help is needed with Tours, the Museum Shop, Library, Office, Exhibits, Special Events, and the care of museum collections. For more details, please contact Susan Pumilia at 881-2761. Join the growing corps of Passaic County Historical Society volunteers.

Dublin: Paterson's First Neighborhood

by JoAnn Cotz

*I know it has charm, I've heard people say
No matter how far one might wander away,
He might travel the East, or roam through the West,
His mind would revert to the scenes he loved best;
Should Fortune in kindness her gifts to him bring
He'd take one more trip to the old Dublin Spring.*

(from "The Old Dublin Spring" by Catherine Scanlan Pier in *The Morning Call* 1931)

If you ask about Dublin among Paterson old timers they tell stories not about Ireland, but about the residential area surrounding the earliest mills in Paterson. Those oral histories about a community called Dublin are further verified by written records from the 19th century. A picture of how this community grew, expanded and changed through time can be drawn from documentary history sources such as newspaper accounts, census records, city directories, deeds, maps and photographs or engravings. Combining all these sources of information together gives a clearer picture of who lived in Dublin, what they did for a living, what their homes were like and what they did for recreation. Placing this information on social history into the larger context of what was happening in the city, the state, the country and the world, shows that often an examination of history in a microcosm will reflect the larger picture as well.

19th Century Dublin

In the 19th century as today, people moved to a certain community or area for particular reasons. The first European people to occupy the area south of the Passaic Falls were Dutch farmers and hotelkeepers. In 1791, Alexander Hamilton initiated the incorporation of the Society for the Establishment of Useful Manufactures (SUM). Their plan to harness the natural energy of the Falls in a series of channels to power mills dramatically changed the community.

Hamilton believed that the newly formed nation needed an industrial base which would make it self-sufficient rather than dependent upon imported finished goods. The operation of scattered farmsteads periodically interrupted by tourists coming to view the romantic setting of the Falls was changed as SUM purchased land adjacent to the Falls for mill sites and worker housing.

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Castle Notes

Victorian topics will be the focus of a four part lecture series this spring at the Passaic County Historical Society/Lambert Castle Museum. The series will address the social life and practices and aesthetic of Nineteenth Century American society

Sunday, May 12, In celebration of Mother's Day, Jeanne H. Watson of the Morris County Historical Society will present a slide talk on "The Victorian Lady: Life in a Doll's House". The varied roles of the Victorian woman as mistress of the house, devoted wife, and mother will be discussed as they are reflected by the different rooms of a Victorian mansion.

Sunday, May 19, The elaborate dining practices of the Victorian period will be the subject of a talk the following week. Professor David Cowell of Drew University will speak on "Dining in the Nineteenth Century" and will show actual examples of period table settings.

Sunday, June 2, The series resumes the weekend after Memorial Day with "Queen Anne to Craftsman: The American House from 1880 - 1915". T. Robins Brown, Historic Preservation Officer of the Bergen County Office of Cultural and Historic Affairs, will be the guide of this slide tour of the various styles and types of domestic architecture popular in the late Nineteenth century. Particular emphasis will be placed on examples from Northern New Jersey and Passaic County.

Sunday, June 9, The series concludes with "Pleasure Grounds: Gardening in the Victorian Age". Charlotte Stokes of the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, a 1859 villa in suburban Philadelphia, will discuss the changing taste and philosophy behind garden design in the Nineteenth century.

All lectures will begin at 2:30 pm. Admission to the entire series is \$10.00, single lecture admission is \$3.00. For more information call 881-2761.

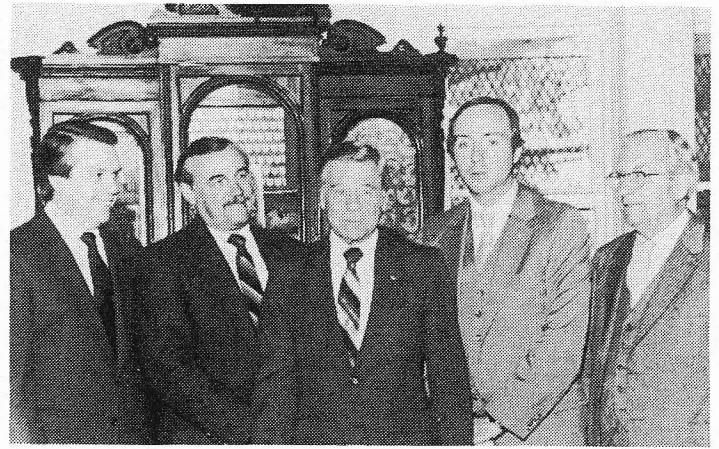
An Evening At The Castle

Join the Passaic County Historical Society for "An Evening at the Castle," Friday evening, May 31 from 6 to 8 pm and help celebrate the 51st Anniversary of the Historical Society at Lambert Castle.

Tour the recently restored interior of the stately home of silk magnate Catholina Lambert and view an ambitious exhibit devoted to the history of the silk industry in Paterson.

Wine, Perrier, and hors d'oeuvres will be served as visitors enjoy a panoramic view of the Paterson and New York City skyline.

Tickets for this special evening are \$25.00 per person, and proceeds will support the museum's continued operations. For ticket information, please call the society at 881-2761.



Rotarians Norman Robertson, Fletcher Fish, Al Blau Bill Smith and Rev. Paul Speicker after presenting a check for \$8,000 to the Society.

Rotary Club raises \$8,000 for PCHS: The Passaic County Rotary Clubs raised \$8,000 for the Historical Society at their fourth annual beefsteak dinner last September. Once again everyone enjoyed the delicious beefsteak dinner and dancing to the Saddle River Big Band.

The Rotary Club donation will be used for the conservation and care of the Historical Society collection. The money will help to restore several paintings, to purchase archival supplies for the costumes, photographs, and documents, and to rebind some rare volumes in the library. We are very grateful to the Rotary clubs for their kind donations. We would not be able to do this work without their help.

For more information on next year's dance, call 881-2761.

Life and Times in the Silk City: "Life and Times in Silk City" a cooperative exhibition with the Paterson Museum and American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, has been a resounding success. Thus far, over 12,000 people have visited the museum as a part of a three site interpretive tour program. Among the visitors were many area school groups, university clubs, and community organizations. And still **more** groups are scheduled to visit this spring.

"Life and Times in Silk City" closes on June 9th. If you haven't seen it, please make plans to do so soon. Don't forget to see the "Process" component at the Paterson Museum and "The Worker" at the American Labor Museum in Haledon.

Great Falls Paintings on display: Ten paintings from the Passaic County Historical Society collection were recently on view at the Ben Shahn Gallery of William Paterson College in Wayne, NJ. The works were part of an ambitious exhibit entitled "Nineteenth Century Paintings of the New Jersey Landscape" which focused on painting as an important expression of the natural beauty and vitality of the New Jersey Landscape. Among the works loaned by the Society were nine views of the Great Falls and a distant view of Paterson. An illustrated catalogue of the exhibit will be available soon.

This Newsletter is published as a membership privilege of the Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Valley Rd., Paterson, New Jersey 07503. Telephone (201) 881-2761. Office Hours are Monday through Friday (9:00 - 4:00). President: Ruth Kane Fern; Director: Catherine A. Keene.

Dublin: Paterson's First Neighborhood

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The industrial experiment started slowly, suffering from inexperience and economic depression. By 1815 there were only eleven cotton mills along with small machine shops and 74 dwelling houses. The workforce was composed of skilled and semi-skilled English and Irishmen as well as New Englanders, many of whom were familiar with textile manufacturing. Houses were built directly adjacent to the mills on a series of streets laid out in a square, compact unit by French engineer Pierre L'Enfant, who had also designed the original raceway system to carry water to the mills.

By 1832 the industrial base had tripled, a residential community was defined by the Morris Canal, Garrett (Weasel) Mountain and Main Street and a separate commercial area was apparent at Market Street. The population was just over 9,000, there were 841 dwellings and 20 cotton mills, many with machine shop annexes. The Morris Canal, opened in 1829, had provided not only a transportation link with the west and east, but had brought a number of unskilled laborers, mostly Irish, into the settlement as well.

The Dublin community, which included 48.6% of the total population in 1832, reflected the diverse composition of the period. Machine shops, originally associated with textile manufacturing, moved into specialized activities like locomotive building by 1837. Silk manufacturing began at this time as well and cotton manufacturing diversified as technology advanced. The adjacent Dublin residential community included workers of each level in the industries. Dublin was populated by manufacturers, skilled and unskilled workers, from John Ryle - father of the silk industry - to unskilled Irish canal laborers, to English and Scottish weavers who operated looms in their homes. There seems to be very little social differentiation in this period, with both worker and manufacturer living close to the work place. The ethnic composition was also mixed Irish, English, Scottish and German.

After 1850 Paterson, chartered as a city the next year, experienced tremendous population expansion, both in Dublin and in the growth of other city neighborhoods. The city population had nearly doubled in 1860 to 20,000. Dublin, which had doubled in the number of dwellings since 1832, included 40% of the total population and formed the South Ward of the city political structure. Much of this expansion was a product of increased emigration to America, particularly by the Irish who suffered economic and political hardship in their own country. By 1870 the Irish were the dominant foreign-born population in the city and one-sixth of the total 33,500. While no specific numbers have been reconstructed for Dublin, the Irish influence as political block was particularly significant and resulted in the continual restructuring of wards and gerrymandering of districts during the last quarter of the 19th century to circumvent their power.

The early Dublin neighborhood was identified particularly with a spring located in the middle of Mill and Oliver Street called the "Big Spring". By 1839 it became known as the "Dublin Spring". Oral traditions record a tale about the spring which promised that the one drinking of its waters would return to Paterson to drink again. Stories included figures such



Dublin circa 1930.

as soldiers leaving for the Civil War, sweethearts parting, and neighbors moving away. The spring was closed in the 1890's because of health hazards, but the traditions were still alive in 1931 when a commemorative ceremony was held at the spring dedicating a specially commissioned sculpture by Paterson sculptor Gaetano Federici on the site.

During the last half of the 19th century community support institutions such as churches, volunteer militia, and fire departments, men's clubs, neighborhood bars and commercial establishments were developed. Most visual of these was the building of the Irish Catholic St. John's Cathedral at Grand and Main Street between 1865 and 1870, marking the eastern boundary of the neighborhood.

The city's population continued to expand at the end of the century reaching about 1000,000 at 1900. A shift in the ethnic composition of foreign born had occurred by this time, however, with English-born moving to the dominant group. As the silk industry grew and expanded it continued to attract skilled Englishmen and began to draw skilled Italian textile workers in large numbers as well. Many of the Italian immigrants clustered in the early original Dublin Area, particularly on Cross (now Cianci), Market and Mill Streets. This area continues today as a transitional Italian community, while much of Dublin above Market Street is occupied by the newest immigrant group in Paterson, Hispanic populations.

Work Progresses On Clothing Collection

The collection of the Passaic County Historical Society is now being catalogued and stored properly thanks to the time and effort of museum volunteer, Mrs. Jan Reeder. Since September, Mrs. Reeder has been helping museum staff to sort, catalog, and research the over four hundred items which comprise the museum's collection.

Mrs. Reeder has just begun the process of renumbering items, cleaning them, and storing them in acid free boxes. There is much work yet to be done! If you would like to work on this important project, please contact Susan Pumilia at 881-2761.

Tracing Your Passaic County Roots

Since many of our Society members are researching their family histories, we have decided to include a column in this newsletter on what's going on in our very active genealogy department. For the past two years our staff genealogists, Annita Zalenski and Jessica Peters, have been trying to publicize the fact that our Society has an excellent local genealogical collection. They encourage researchers to use their collections asking only that an appointment be made in advance. At the present time we have two reserachers using our resource library regularly: Christina M. Pirard of Paterson is researching the Blauvelt surname. She is working in collaboration with her mother, Dorothy Moos, who is the official genealogist of the Association of Blauvelt Descendants. The Association is in the process of updating "The Blauvelt Family Genealogy" that was published by this association in 1952. Mrs. Moos would like to have as many New Jersey Blauvelt families as possible included in the update; Gerard R. Case of Jersey City is researching early Passaic County residents for an upcoming publication, "American Industrial Revolution Immigrants, 1793 to 1830." Be sure to read Gerry's query in the Folk Finder Column.

Annita and Jessica have been invited to the March meeting of the Bergen County Genealogical Society to give a talk on the genealogical resources available at the Passaic County Historical Society.

The Researchers Card File, started one and a half years ago, now has 190 cards in it. We have, in this short time, already had twelve instances where we have been able to put people working on the same family names in contact with each other.

We would like to bring to your attention the following list of contributions made to our genealogical collection by Society members:

Mrs. P.C. Schaffer, family sheets on the Rice and Royle families.

Alfred A. Hagedorn, extensive information on John Hamilton and his wife, Margaret VanHouten plus a bound copy of the genealogical pages of William Nelson's "History of Paterson."

Gus Grotz, copies of Dunbar, Britten, Roswell and Neuman family bible records.

W. Jerome Hatch, copies of two Yeoman family bible records.

Phil O'Leary, family sheets for Stur, Pulis and Masaker families.

Doris V. Lindstrom, a copy of the Ryer family bible and of her compilation on the Ryer Family of Bergen and Passaic Counties.

Jeanette O'Brien, family sheets on the Gallagher and Miller families.

Also donated to the Society by interested parties:

Hulick family bible records, donated by Mary Ann Hulick.

Information on **Peter Casparszen Van Naerden** and the **VanZile Family**, donated by Mrs. Shirley Coleman.

The Ancestors and Descendants of Simon Van Ness and Hester DeLamater and a copy of "A Second

Riker Family," donated by the compiler, David H. Riker. **New Jerseys First Citizens and State Guide**, Vol. VI, donated by Mrs. Dorothy Ihde on behalf of the Friends of the Little Falls Library.

Descendants of Thomas William Randall, donated by the compiler, Katherine R. Randall.

LeGall Family, donated by compiler, Leonard F. LeGall.

Genealogy of the Makepeace Families in the U.S., donated by Marie Makepeace.

Our primary source for expanding our library is through donations such as the ones listed for bible records, family sheets, compiled family histories etc.

Anyone out there researching Passaic County families, please contact us — we might be able to help you and you might be able to contribute information to our ever expanding genealogical files.



Susan Pumilia on tour with Girl Scout Troop #107.

Pumilia Joins Staff Of The Historical Society

The Historical Society is pleased to announce the appointment of Susan J. Pumilia to the position of Curator of Education. She joined the staff of the society January 15.

Ms. Pumilia graduated with honors from the University of Pennsylvania where she majored in American Civilization. This past December, she completed her master's degree at the Cooperstown Program in History Museum Studies, a museum training program co-sponsored by the New York State Historical Association and the State University of New York at Oneonta.

Ms. Pumilia's previous museum experience includes an internship at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and curatorial work for both the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion in Germantown, PA and the Cornelius Low House in Piscataway, N.J.

Ms. Pumilia's duties at the society will deal primarily with educational programming, museum outreach, and supervision of the volunteer program. In addition, she will also assist the director with curatorial and administrative functions of the museum.

The society welcomes her to the staff.

Mill Owner — Mill Worker

The New Jersey Historical Commission and the Passaic County Cultural Commission have awarded the American Labor Museum grants to support a joint interpretive project with the Historical Society. The project, "Mill Owner - Mill Worker" will reinterpret the two headquarters sites, the Lambert Castle and the Botto House National Landmark. The two Museums will jointly develop new interpretations of the two distinct families who built and occupied the houses, encouraging the public to compare and contrast the lifestyles and values of the Botto and Lambert families. Several prominent historians and museum professionals noted for their work in social history programs will be brought in to contribute to the project.

"Mill Owner" will focus on Catholina Lambert, prominent silk mill owner who built a lavish mansion on Garrett Mountain in Paterson. "Mill Worker" will focus on the Pietro Botto family who were skilled mill workers. They erected a modest multi-family home in Haledon. During the 1913 silk industry strike, Lambert was staunchly opposed to the organized labor effort in the city. On the other hand, Pietro Botto, himself a striker, provided use of his house and property as a haven to the strikers for free speech and assembly. Thus, these two families were linked by ties to the silk industry and by their opposite and visible roles during the dramatic labor struggles that gripped Paterson.

Project Director of "Mill Owner - Mill Worker" will be John A Herbst, Director of the American Labor Museum. He will head a project team of Museum professionals including the Museum's Education Coordinator Bart Roselli; Catherine A Keene, Director of the Passaic County Historical Society; Susan Pumilia, Curator of Education, also of the Passaic County Historical Society and JoAnn Cotz, cultural historian who will serve as chief interpreter for the joint program.

Museum advisors for the project will be Dr. Kenneth Job, William Paterson College; Dr. Amy Gilman Srebnick, Montclair State College and Delight Dodyk, a Drew university professor of women's history who heads the Education, Collections and Exhibits and Museum Committees of the two museums.

Project consultants who will actually create the public program are Dr. Steven Golin, Bloomfield College who is currently writing a major work on the 1913 silk strike. Dr. Thomas Schlereth is the head of Graduate Studies at Notre Dame University. Dr. Schlereth is considered a foremost authority on material culture and has extensively advised museums on cultural programming. He is the author of a recent article in *History News* which deals with the presentation of "conflict" in museum programs. Maud Coyle is Coordinator of Teacher Training at Old Sturbridge Village where she has developed educational materials and role playing exercises. Nancy McCoy is the Director of Education at the Woodrow Wilson House, a National Trust property in Washington, D.C. Ms McCoy directed a re-interpretation program grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the Woodrow Wilson House and has extensive experience in interpreting a stately home.

Teacher consultants will participate in program planning and have their students pilot activities and interpretive strategies for the project. They are Jane Barrecchia, Haledon Public

Schools; Ronald Spinella, Cranford High School; Thomas De Stefano of John F. Kennedy High School, Paterson and Emma Fantone, retired media professor of Montclair State College.

"Mill Owner - Mill Worker" will ultimately provide an unprecedented look at the culture and lifestyles of two families representing opposite ends of the social and economic spectrum in turn-of-the-century Passaic County.

Folk Finder

The "Folk Finder" column is devoted to helping genealogical researchers locate Passaic County ancestors/descendants. We invite readers to submit requests for help, inquiries about family names, or queries concerning the exchange of family information. If you can help any of our submitters, please contact them directly, or call Annita Zalenski at (201) 595-7684.

1. **Mr. Gerard R. Case, 129 Carlton Ave., Jersey City, N.J., 07306**, is writing a book concerning early emigrants from Scotland, England, Ireland, France, Germany, the Caribbean, etc., to northern New Jersey, arriving between the years 1790-1830. Mr. Case would like to update information on these individuals. He is also interested in photographs of the early immigrants and/or their first descendants.

2. **Lawrence F. Kienle, M.D., 25 East Centennial Drive, Marlton, N.J., 08053**, is researching the **Courter** family of Paterson. Dr. Kienle is interested in obtaining information concerning the ancestors of **John Martin Courter** and his wife, **Phoebe Jane Clark**. He also would like to establish John Martin Courter's exact date of birth (circa 1841) and date of death.

3. **Mrs. Natalie R. Bain, 172 Alexander Avenue, Nutley, N.J., 07110**, great-granddaughter of **Catherine Fannon Besnier**, is compiling a family history. Mrs. Bain is trying to locate descendants of **John Anderson** and his wife, **Catherine (Carrie) Reidy**. John and his four sons owned the Anderson silk mill which was located at Grand and Day Streets in Paterson. The last notice Mrs. Bain has of the Anderson family is the announcement of the marriage of George B. to **Mary Rafferty**. Mrs. Bain will gladly share her research with any Anderson descendant.

4. **Elinor Shank, 4926 S.W. Corbett, Portland, Oregon, 97201**, is a grandniece of **Miriam Phillips**. Miriam was the wife of **Nathan Barnert**. Miriam's parents, **Henry Lewis and Jane Phillips** immigrated to the U.S. from England. Ms. Shank is researching the Phillips family and would like to determine the birthplace, birthdate, and names of parents for both Henry and Jane Phillips. It is believed this couple died prior to 1900. Ms. Shank is very willing to share information she has obtained from England concerning other children and grandchildren of Henry and Jane Phillips.

5. **George H. Cooke, Sr., RR1, Box 51, Lows Hollow Road, Stewartville, N.J., 08886**, is seeking information about **William Cook** and his wife **Catherine**. They resided at 211 Mill Street, Paterson, in 1859. The 1840 census lists their children as: Mary, William, Henry, Hewlet (?), Peter, David, and James. Mr. Cooke would like to establish Catherine's maiden name, birthplace and correct date of birth (circa 1802).