

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

LAMBERT

VALLEY ROAD
PATERSON, N.J. 07503

CASTLE



Alvin G. Blau, Chairman of the Passaic County Rotary Committee, presents this year's Rotary donation to Delight Dodyk, President of the Historical Society as Ruth Fern, Fletcher Fish and John Marshall look on.

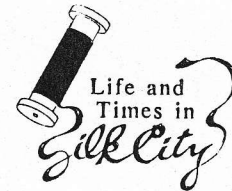
Rotary Clubs raise \$6500 for the Society

The 5th Annual Rotary Club Beefsteak Dinner Dance was held on September 28, 1985. The affair raised \$6500 for the Historical Society's conservation fund.

Over 200 people enjoyed a delicious beefsteak dinner and danced to the delightful tunes of the Saddle River Big Band. This year's guests also had the opportunity to see the Rotary donation at work in a slide and panel exhibit of conservation projects funded by the Rotary gift.

This year's Rotary donation is of particular importance to the Historical Society as the money will be used to match a federal grant to sort and store the society's silk collection properly. The society has over 60,000 samples representing the output of 13 silk manufacturers, 4 dye works, and six designers in Paterson from 1848 to 1934. The society is pleased that this unique collection will receive treatment thanks in part to Rotary funds.

The Historical Society would like to thank the Rotary Club Committee for all its hard work in making this year's beefsteak, once again, a resounding success.



Silk City honored

"Life and Times in Silk City," a collaborative exhibition sponsored by the Historical Society, the American Labor Museum, and the Paterson Museum, was given an "Award of Merit" from the American Association for State and Local History.

The exhibit, which examined the impact of the silk industry on Paterson, N.J., included components at each museum. These components explored "The Silk Elite," "The Worker," and "The Process."

The exhibition was made possible by a \$96,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities with support from Hoffman LaRoche, First National State Bank of N.J., and the Universal Manufacturing Company.

The exhibit drew 17,000 visitors to the three museums and included displays of operating textile machinery, historical photographs, and a range of artifacts relating to the silk industry.

The project team was headed by John A. Herbst, Director of the American Labor Museum and included Bart A. Roselli, the museum's education coordinator, Catherine A. Keene, Director of the Historical Society, Thomas A. Peters, Director of the Paterson Museum, and Russell Titus, Curator of the Paterson Museum.

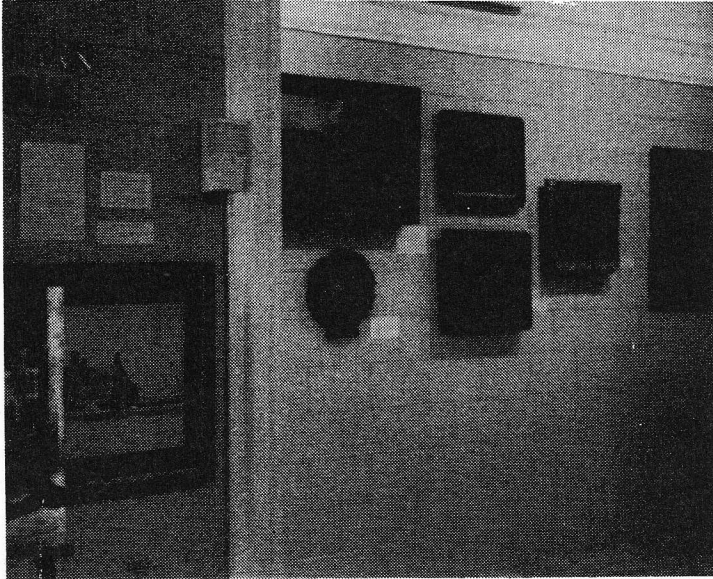
"Life and Times in Silk City" was the theme of a year-long calendar of events which included concerts, labor and ethnic film festivals, ethnic cuisine courses, joint tour programs, seminars and conferences. A gala weekend of opening events was funded through the efforts of a committee headed by Arlene Greenbaum of Glen Rock and Cipora O. Schwartz of Ridgewood.

The American Association for State and Local History is the parent organization of more than 8,000 historical museums, sites and societies in the United States and Canada. The Silk City project is one of 23 awards of merit given to nominees from all over the country this year.

The Historical Society would like to thank all of you who helped make "Life and Times in Silk City" a reality.

Congratulations!

Passaic County treasures on display



Some of the paintings now on exhibit at the Lambert Castle Museum.

Notable Passaic County women to be discussed by panel

On Sunday afternoon, March 2, the Passaic County Historical Society will host a panel discussion presented by The Women's Studies Project at Drew University in collaboration with The Women's Project of New Jersey on "Notable Women in Passaic County History." The program will be held at 2 p.m. at the Society's museum at Lambert Castle.

The program is one of a series of twelve presentations being offered this winter and spring by The Women's Studies Project at Drew University and The Women's Project of New Jersey through generous funding by the New Jersey Humanities Grant Program.

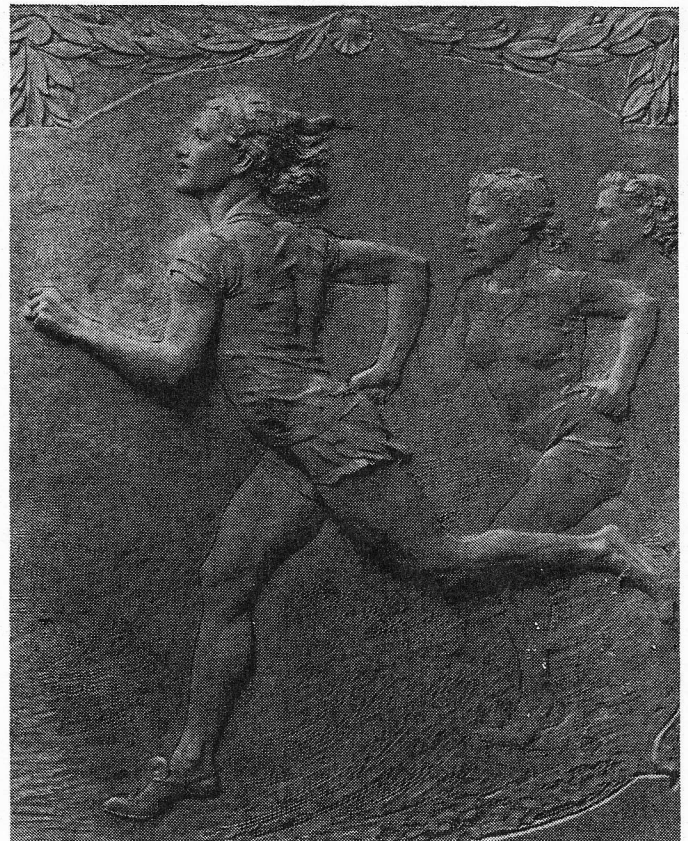
Delight Dodyk, Lecturer in History at Drew University and Board member of the Women's Project of N.J. will moderate the panel presentation. Her subject will be Jennie Tuttle Hobart, second lady of the McKinley Administration and a prominent citizen of Paterson in the early 20th century. Presenters for the panel discussion include JoAnn Cotz, a cultural historian and museum consultant. Mrs. Cotz will speak on Mary Augusto, co-founder of the *La Voce Italiana*, a local Italian American newspaper. Hannah Silverman, a prominent figure in the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913, will be the subject of Steve Golin's presentation. Mr. Golin, a Professor of History at Bloomfield College, is a leading authority on the 1913 Strike. Thomas Jable, Professor of Physical Education at William Paterson College, will speak on Eleanor Egg. Ms. Egg was a nationally acclaimed track star in the 1920's.

Admission to the panel discussion is free to Historical Society members and \$2.00 for non-members. This price includes an informal reception following the presentation and admission to the society's museum. Tickets are available by advance subscription and will be available at the door. For further information, please call 881-2761. Help us celebrate Women's History Month on March 2.

An exhibit of paintings from the Historical Society Collection is now on display at the Lambert Castle Museum. The exhibit called "Passaic Country Treasures: Paintings from the Collection" features some fine examples of local portraiture and landscapes.

One of the best represented artists in the exhibit is Julian Walbridge Rix (1850-1903). Rix was an important landscape painter of the late nineteenth century who had a studio in Paterson in the 1880's. The exhibit shows the range and diversity of the artist's work from oils to watercolors, from engraved illustrations to burnt wood panels, and from the pastel emphasis of impressionism to the dark and foreboding style of luminism.

Also included in the exhibit is a large 18th century mythological painting from the original Lambert Collection. The painting was mounted in the ceiling of the entry hall until it was removed several years ago for conservation. The painting had been damaged severely by water leaking through the old roof at the castle. Stephan Van Cline, of Van Cline and Davenport, a painting conservation firm in Franklin Lakes, N.J., stretched and relined the canvas, cleaned it, and filled in areas of paint loss. The painting can now be seen at the Lambert Castle Museum, Wednesdays through Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.



Relief sculpture of Eleanor Egg by Gaetano Federici.

Conservation seminar well-attended

The society's fall seminar "Hidden Treasures: Identifying and Preserving Your Family Heirlooms" was held Saturday, November 2. Over 50 people from all over the North Jersey area attended at least one of the three lectures offered during the course of the day.

The first lecture was given by Barbara Finch on the care of historic clothing. Mrs. Finch, a costume consultant at the Monmouth Museum in Lincroft, N.J., explained the deteriorating effect the environment has on historic clothing and how to prevent this deterioration. Professor Rick Mitchell of Cook College, Rutgers University, then spoke on identifying and caring for historic photographs. Professor Mitchell showed seminar participants examples of the wide variety of photographic processes used during the 19th and early 20th centuries and discussed their conservation needs. The third and final lecture of the day was on the care of oil paintings and was given by Historical Society Trustee, Stephan Van Cline. Mr. Van Cline, a painting conservator, showed examples of paintings in need of repair and answered participant's questions about the pros and cons of restoration.

In conjunction with the all day seminar, the Historical Society also sponsored an appraisal day.

The success of the program was very gratifying, and we would like to thank everyone in making it a wonderful day. We look forward to next fall's seminar.

RECENT DONATIONS

Women's clothing, c. 1880's - 1900.

Barbara Goldberg, Glen Rock.

Child's silk dress, c. 1930,

Women's clothing c. 1910-1920.

Nancy Baker Schwartz, Paterson

Certificate naming Isaac Von

Wagoner as Surrogate of

Passaic County, 1870.

Helene Taylor, Largo, Florida

Silk Calculation: A Practical

Manual for Construction of Silk

Fabrics and Silk Calculation

Diane Mirinda, Lodi

Photographs of Paterson,

c. 1880-1900.

Robert C. Demarest, Naples, Florida

The Descendants of Thomas Dale

of Springfield, Mass.

Seth P. Holcombe, North Granby, Connecticut

Painting of Robert Barbour

Mrs. Robert Barbour, Englewood

Postcards, c. 1910's

Mrs. Robert Johnson in the name of the late Henry Beetz, Clifton



Donna Ostraszewski working on silk samples.

Conservation work to begin on silk samples

The society's fine collection of Paterson silk samples is now being conserved and documented due to a grant from the Conservation Project Support Program of the Institute of Museum Services and matching support from the Passaic County Rotary Clubs.

The over 62,000 samples in the collection represent the output of thirteen silk manufacturers, four dye works, and six individual designers in Paterson from 1848 to 1934. The collection includes numerous fancy ribbon and broad silk examples, commemorative ribbons, shoe pulls, hat bands, belts, and fringe, and they illustrate several different weaving techniques.

The grant enabled the society to hire Donna Ostraszewski as a curatorial assistant for this project. Ms. Ostraszewski received her B.A. in History from Douglass College, Rutgers University and earned her master's degree from the Museum Studies Program at the University of Toronto, Toronto Canada. Her previous museum experience includes an internship in the Education Department at the Whitney Museum of American Art and curatorial work for the Malcove Collection at the University of Toronto where she developed and installed a storage system for their Byzantine and medieval artifacts.

As part of this conservation project, Ms. Ostraszewski will plan and implement a safer storage system for the silk collection, treat individual samples, and research the collection. Treatment will include vacuuming to remove surface dust, mold, mildew growth, and storing cleaned samples in special archival boxes to prevent further deterioration.

The entire conservation process should take several months to complete. Once finished, it will make the society's collection more accessible to researchers and more available for future exhibition.

Holiday festivities at the Castle



Holiday revellers and supporters of the Historical Society enjoyed an evening of delicious food and festive entertainment at "Festivities at the Castle: A Holiday Party to Benefit the Passaic County Historical Society." The December 13th party raised \$2235 for the society's general operating fund.

Guests mingled amid the beautifully decorated rooms of the castle and were treated to the delightful tunes of a strolling violinist and the humorous antics of a mime. To provide an added measure of holiday flavor, the Allistair Sim version of Dickens' classic story *A Christmas Carol* played on the large screen television throughout the evening.

Historical Society Trustees and members of Passaic County Rotary Clubs admire the recently restored painting from the Lambert Collection. Left to right: Robert Johnson, Rev. Paul Speicker, Norman Robertson, Annita Zalenski, Stanley Lacz, Alvin G. Blau, Catherine Keene, Delight W. Dodyk, Robert Macfarlan, Fletcher Fish, John Marshall, John Hovey.

The success of this evening would not have been possible without the generous support of the following individuals and corporations:

Benefactors

Broadway Bank and Trust Company
 Thomas Dayspring, M.D., Charles Macaluso, M.D.
 and their Families
 Evans, Hand, Allabough and Amoresano
 Midlantic National Bank/North
 Prospect Park Savings and Loan Association
 William J. Vernay and Sons — Moving & Storage

Sponsors

John Ambrose, M.D.
 Delight and Paul Dodyk
 C. J. Vanderbeck

Supporters

AEP Associates
 William Conklin
 Mr. Malcom V. Macfarlan
 Mr. and Mrs. Norman Robertson

Patrons

Fletcher and Mae Fish
 Dr. James Houston
 Cipora and Philip Schwartz



Mime, Lavinia Plonka and Don Reeder.



Dick and Jan Pumilia, members of the Historical Society, enjoy the antics of mime Lavinia Plonka during the Holiday Festivities at the castle.



Guests enjoying the Holiday Party. Mae Fish, Maria Macfarlan, Fletcher Fish.

Local history and genealogy corner

The Society's Local History and Genealogy Library is now located on the third floor of Lambert Castle. Below is a listing of recent donations to the library:

Alfred H. Brower — **The Brouwer or Brower Genealogy**
Michael Healy — Pedigree charts and associated records on the Healy family of Paterson.

FOLK FINDER

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

1. Mr. Phil O'Leary, 1269 Jakse Drive, Eastlake, Ohio 44094 is seeking information concerning **Roland Hill** and wife **Mary Walker** or **Wheeler**. This couple married in 1764 in Bergen County. Mr. O'Leary is also interested in information concerning the following families who resided in Paterson in the 1900's: **Fasteneck, Fink, Hammersmith, Parkinson, Tabernest** and **Weller**.

2. Mrs. Georgia E. Dent, 23522 Via Calzada, Mission Viejo, California 92691, is seeking any information on **James Kearney** (died 1831) and his wife **Rachel** (died 1870). This couple lived in Harrington Township, Bergen County and are buried at the Auryansen Cemetery, Closter.

3. Mr. Joseph Catalana, 6504 Wilson Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32210, is searching for information concerning **Jennie Borzellino/Rotondi** who resided in Paterson in the 1920's.

4. Mrs. Karen LeValley, 125 Sherwood Drive, Ramsey, New Jersey 07446, is researching the LaRue family of Paterson. She is particularly interested in the ancestors of her great-grandfather, **John William La Rue**, born October 1847, died May 1913. John William La Rue married **Mary Menzel**.

5. Mr. Frank V. Phelps, 253 Bernard Drive, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406 is preparing a biographical entry on Miss **Elizabeth "Bessie" Holmes Moore**, for the Women's Project of New Jersey's book, *Out of the Garden: Lives of New Jersey Women*. "Bessie" Moore was a tennis champion at the turn of the century and resided in Hohokus, NJ. Mr. Phelps is particularly interested in background information concerning Miss Moore's parents and her life in maturity other than her tennis accomplishments.

6. Mrs. Katherine R. Hendrickson, 9 Bromley Place, Scotia, New York 12302 would like to locate a member of the **Abraham Reamer** family. Mr. Reamer was born in New Brunswick, N.J. in 1823 and died at Pompton Lakes in 1890. He had seven children. Frank Courtlandt, a son, was Mrs. Hendrickson's grandfather.

Morris G. Levy, Jr. — Family sheets on the Louis Levy and Arndt Goldstein families of Paterson

Doris V. Lindstrom — A genealogy of the first four generations of the Ryers family of Passaic County.

Robert C. Lydecker — **Lydecker Descendants, Ryck Lydecker 1650.**

Adrian and Judith Roberts — Family sheets tracing Mr. Roberts descent from Joris Brinkerhoff, born 1604 in Holland.

Janet T. Riemer — Copies of her articles on "The Early Spier Family" and "Some Descendants of Daniel Sigler."

Susan Schwinn — Family sheets on the Isaac K. Stenchever family of Paterson.

A Beginners Course in Genealogy, taught by the Society's staff genealogists, Annita Zalenski and Jessica Peters, in September, drew an enthusiastic response from the 35 people attending. This group was introduced to the basics of tracing their ancestors and were given a beginner's packet of useful information. A more comprehensive beginner's workshop will be sponsored by the Society's Genealogy Club in the Fall of 1986.

The newly formed **Passaic County Historical Society Genealogy Club**, which has a charter membership of 25 people, has been meeting on the fourth Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Lambert Castle Museum. The Club's acting officers are: President, **Carol Harris Weber**; Vice President, **Annita Zalenski**; Treasurer, **Betty Van Hook** and Secretary **Delores Van Rensalier**. The Club membership consists of researchers with varying degrees of experience, from novice to one member who has been doing genealogy for over 30 years. Two of the Club's more experienced members have already given lectures to the membership — **Carol Harris Weber** talked on "Name Changes in Colonial America" in November and **Thomas Peters** discussed "Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor" in January. Following is the Club Calendar for the remainder of 1986:

1986 Calendar

Genealogy Club of the Passaic County Historical Society

February 22 — Mrs. Carol Post — "Tracing Your Family Through the LDS Facilities"

March 22 — Anthony Fantozzi, Speaker for the National Archives — "Genealogical Research at the National Archives, New York Branch"

April 26 — William Ware — "Computers and Genealogy"

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.

Society Friends plan varied activities

Members of the Society who are interested in community service are invited to join the new Friends group which meets on the Second Wednesday of each month excluding June, July and August. Meetings are held at the Museum at 7:30 p.m. Officers of the group are: Janet Cozzolino, President; Jessica Peters, Vice-President; Marsha Cheff, Secretary; Peggy Robertson, Treasurer.

The activities of the Friends are varied and it is not necessary to donate actual volunteer hours at the Society in order to join the organization. The Friends can benefit from your support in many other ways. In January, members participated in a market research project which generated funds for the treasury; another fundraiser planned for the autumn is a Willowbrook Mall "Shopping Spree" raffle. Plans are underway for a summer bus trip to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Castle Clinton. On March 9th the group will host an open house for all librarians and museum personnel in Passaic County; and on April 6th will sponsor a talk on Philip Mazzei by Dr. Salvatore Dangelo. Philip Mazzei, an Italian who immigrated from Europe in 1773, was a contributor to the philosophy behind the American Revolution and The Bill of Rights. Mazzei was a man of many talents; in addition to being a political philosopher he was also a merchant, horticulturist, surgeon, diplomat and writer. This lecture will be free to members of the Passaic County Historical Society; there will be a small fee for non-members.

Some Friends are interested in "hands on" projects, and therefore the first Wednesday morning of every month has been set aside as "Spoon Day." Those interested in this type of activity meet from 10 a.m. to noon and assist the staff with cataloging the Society's unique spoon collection. For additional information about the Friends and their activities, call Annita Zalenski, 595-7684, or Susan Pumilia, at the PCHS Office, 881-2761.

In October, Professor Steve Golin of Bloomfield College came to the castle and spoke on the Great Paterson Silk Strike

Volunteer happenings

This fall was a busy one for Historical Society Volunteers. In September, guides underwent a full day training session with Botto House staff for the upcoming "Millowner-Mill Worker" tour program. The morning session was held at the Botto House in Haledon. John Herbst, Director of the Museum, began the day's program with an explanation of what the new tour program hoped to accomplish. He stressed the importance of telling the story of the Lamberts and Bottos within the social context of late 19th century Paterson. Bart Roselli, Education Coordinator at the Botto House, then spoke about effective guiding techniques. He emphasized the museum guide's role as a "bridge builder" by helping the visitor make connections with exhibits. Following a tour of the Botto House and a delicious traditional lunch, the group reconvened for the afternoon session at Lambert Castle. Susan Pumilia, Curator of Education at the Historical Society, gave a slide talk on the Lamberts and distributed information about the Historical Society. The day was capped off by a Victorian treat of tea and scones.

of 1913. Professor Golin has been researching the strike for a book he is presently writing. To illustrate the issues of the strike, Professor Golin assumed the roles of both the silk worker and silk manufacturer and recreated the dialogue heard throughout the 1913 strike. His theatrical presentation helped us all to better understand the emotional issues behind the strike.

In December, it was time to celebrate the hard work and effort of the volunteer staff. A field trip was made to the Ballantine House in Newark, N.J. Part of the Newark Museum, the Ballantine House is an 1885 upper class Victorian home and quite similar in taste and style to Lambert Castle. Lucy Vorhees, Asst. Director of Education at the museum, gave our group a wonderful tour of the house and explained their tour program. After a delightful morning of touring, carloads returned to Lambert Castle for a Holiday luncheon.

The Historical Society would like to take this opportunity to welcome new volunteers Carlene Bishop, Karl Esmark, Florence Griffin, Marilyn Kane, Tere Kurpick, Elsie Thomas and Jean Wardle.

New Friends

Auger, J. C. — Ridgewood, N.J.
Ambrose, John, M.D. — Totowa, N.J.
Balistrer, Paul - Paterson, N.J.
Bianco, Pauline T. — Totowa, N.J.
Brower, Alfred H. — Elmwood Park, N.J.
Burrock, Richard J. — Lodi, N.J.
Burns, Diane W. — Morris Plains, N.J.
Caldrone, Mrs. Lilla F. — Newport News, VA
Cheff, Marsh — Totowa, N.J.
Cozzolino, Janet M. — Totowa, N.J.
Cusack, Martha — Totowa, N.J.
Farina, Diana M. — Totowa, N.J.
Firrincieli, Frances — Paterson, N.J.
Frederick, Marion D. — Totowa, N.J.
Gates, Jill — Glen Ridge, N.J.
Griffin, Florence — Glen Rock, N.J.
Hall, Helen M. — Wayne, N.J.
Hannan, Joseph F. — Pompton Lakes, N.J.
Hopper, Helen — Clifton, N.J.
Ihde, Dorothy — Little Falls, N.J.
Kienle, Dr. L. F. — Marlton, N.J.
Kuepfer, Jack W. — Clifton, N.J.
Kunis, Mr. and Mrs. Gustave — Bloomfield, N.J.
LeValley, Mrs. Karen — Ramsey, N.J.
Mobay Chemical Corporation — Haledon, N.J.
Palicia, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin — Wayne, N.J.
Perry, Doris H. — Butler, N.J.
Pontier, Mrs. Grace — Franklin Lakes, N.J.
Roberts, Adrian S. and Judith P. — Bloomfield, N.J.
Tompkins, Mr. and Mrs. John O. — Wayne, N.J.
C. J. Vanderbeck and Son, Inc. — Paterson, N.J.
Van Rensalier, Dolores — Paterson, N.J.
William Vernay and Son, Inc. — Paterson, N.J.
Wardle, Jean — Paterson, N.J.
Weber, Carol Harris — Wayne, N.J.