

THE CASTLE LITE

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

LAMBERT

PASSAIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE

VALLEY ROAD, PATERSON N.J. 07503

Holiday Boutique at the Castle

Paterson County

Beautiful dolls made of porcelain, Victorian wreaths that adorn mantelpieces. These are just two the many handcrafted items that will be available for sale at the Holiday House Boutique at Lambert Castle this November.

The show will be under the direction of Alexandra Di Francesco of Nutley and her partner Nancy Davis of Glen Ridge. This is the 11th year of the Boutique and Di Francesco noted that "Holiday House Boutique 88" will be by far the most ambitious show they have presented.

The wares of more than 250 artisans will be displayed in the five main floor rooms of Lambert Castle. Among the talented N.J. craftspeople represented will be Helen De Genaro of Ramsey and her lovely cross stitch items. Lauren Ennist of Hillsdale and her unique muslin dolls, Anthony Margontonda of Kearny and his miniature doll house furniture, and Pauline Applegate of Jamesburg and her Victorian ornaments. There is sure to be something to delight every Holiday Shopper.

The Boutique opens Saturday, Nov. 12 and runs through Sunday, Nov. 27th. Hours will be Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Day. Admission is \$2.00 and includes two return visits. Proceeds benefit the general operating fund of the Historical Society. For more information about the show, please call 881-2761.

SPECIAL BOUTIQUE PREVIEW

A special preview of Holiday House Boutique 1988 will be held Friday evening, November 11 from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Lambert Castle Museum. Guests will be able to shop early for their Holiday gifts needs, meet some of the participating crafters, and enjoy some lite refreshments. Tickets for this event are \$10.00 and include two return visits to the boutique. All proceeds from the preview benefit the Historical Society. For tickets, please call 881-2761.

Passaic County celebrated the 150th anniversary of its formation in 1987, but if some residents of Paterson had their way in 1828, Paterson County and not Passaic County would be 160 years old in 1988.

During February 1828, residents of Paterson held several public meetings at Ira Munn's hotel to discuss "the Act of Incorporation of the Town of Paterson" and other important topics. At their last meeting, they decided to file an application with "the Legislature" for the erection of a new county, to be called the County of Paterson, and to be composed of parts of the counties of Essex, Bergen and Morris."

Paterson's residents needed the support of the surrounding townships, in order to petition the legislature to create the county of Paterson. A public notice, signed by "A. CITIZEN," appeared in the *Paterson Intelligencer* and invited "the inhabitants of the townships of ACQUACKANONK, CALDWELL, PEQUANONK [sic], POMPTON and SADDLE RIVER . . . to meet at Munn's Hotel in Paterson on Thursday, the 14th day of February . . . to take into consideration the propriety of setting off the above named Townships into a new County." The inhabitants met "agreeable to public notice" and established the boundary lines of the new county. They also formed "a committee to obtain signatures to a petition" of those in favor of the new county.

An article advocating "the formation of a new county," appeared in the *Paterson Intelligencer* on February 20, 1828. The author wrote, "This measure appears to be loudly called for by a dense and numerous population, suffering all the inconveniences of a location far removed from their seat of justice..." He also stressed that "no time should be lost by our citizens in taking the necessary preliminary steps" to gain their intended object.

(continued next page)

PATERSON COUNTY *(continued from first page)*

The *Intelligencer* also printed a "NOTICE" that announced "an application will be made to the Legislature of the State, at their present session, to pass a law to set off and erect parts or the whole of the Townships of Aquackanonk, Caldwell, Pequanonk [sic], Pompton and Saddle River, into a new County, by the name of the county of Paterson. . . ." The population of each township in 1820 appeared with the notice. Adding an estimated increase of 25 percent, the "population of the proposed County of Paterson" was estimated to be 17,884 in 1828.

The next meeting convened at Mrs. Weller's residence on February 20, 1828. The citizens received the reports of the different township committees and proposed "to do any other business deemed requisite to further the object."

"A General Meeting" of the citizens interested in forming Paterson County assembled again at Mrs. Weller's house on February 27th, and adopted "such measures as are necessary for the transmission of the Petitions for that purpose to the Legislature for their immediate consideration." The petitioners explained how the establishment of the county of Paterson would be advantageous to them and could be "effected without any inconvenience or disadvantage to other parts of the state."

Paterson, with its "two banks, above thirty shops . . . and other appendages of a thriving and improving town," seemed to be the logical choice for the county seat. The inhabitants of the surrounding townships already had business connections "with the inhabitants of the said town [of Paterson] and would find great advantage from the Courts of justice being held" there.

The bill to create Paterson County received little support in the legislature. On February 4, 1829, the *Intelligencer* reported that the bill to create the county of Paterson "was read and postponed." Bergen County legislators, fearful they would lose portions of Pompton and Saddle River townships to the new county, presented their own petition "against the new County of Paterson."

Southern legislators also opposed the bill, because the new county would upset the balance of power between the industrial northern and rural southern counties. A legislative power struggle ensued, with the southern faction blocking any attempt to form a new county in the northern part of the state.

The struggle continued until "a delegation from Paterson and Acquackanonk Townships . . . journeyed to Trenton to . . . petition the legislature" in January, 1837. A compromise was reached, which maintained the balance of power in the legislature. Atlantic County was created in South Jersey and Passaic County was created in North Jersey; thus, ending a nine year struggle to form the county of Paterson.

— Donald Charles Lotz

Book Sale

An antiquarian and used book sale will be held on the grounds of Lambert Castle on Saturday and Sunday, September 24th and 25th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please note that this is a change in the date of the sale.

Among the books for sale will be histories, children's books, novels, science and medicine books, and religious titles. Old issues of *Time* and *Newsweek* will also be available for purchase.

If you would like to donate books for the sale or would like to volunteer to help at the sale, please contact Susan at 881-2761.

Tour Historic Tarrytown, N.Y.

The Friends of the Passaic County Historical Society are sponsoring a bus trip to Historic Tarrytown, N.Y. on Saturday, October 15, 1988. The one day tour includes a visit to Phillipsburg Manor, a 17th century mill restoration; Van Cortlandt Manor, an 18th century historic site; and Sunnyside, the 19th century home of author Washington Irving. A delicious luncheon will be served at Anton's of Westchester.

Tickets for this special tour are \$40.00 and include lunch and all admissions. Join us for a lovely Autumn day in the country by returning the reservation form below. Reserve now as seating is limited. Remember, cancellations are non-refundable.

PLEASE CUT OUT AND RETURN

FRIENDS BUS TOUR TO HISTORIC TARRYTOWN

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

OF TICKETS _____ AT \$40.00 EACH

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$ _____

MENU SELECTION:

Filet of Sole _____ Breast of Chicken _____

Return To: P.C.H.S.
Lambert Castle
Valley Road
Paterson, N.J. 07503

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. Harold W. Daniels, 14 Heatherstone Drive, East Longmeadow, MA 01028, seeks information concerning DANIEL CORNELL RIDER, b. 10 Oct. 1838, Cornwall, NY, and his wife LYDIA JACKSON, b. 6 April 1836, Newburg, NY. Daniel Rider and Lydia Jackson lived in Paterson, NJ. Any other data on Paterson RIDERS and JACKSONS would be welcomed.
2. Daniel J. Mathews, 169 Rafkind Road, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403, seeks information about FREDERICK K. MATHEWS, b. 20 September 1801, d. 10 April 1865. At the time of his death Frederick K. Mathews resided in West Milford Township, NJ.
3. Elaine E. Johnston, 3205 Falcon Lane #117, Wilmington, DE 19808 is searching for information concerning JOHN D. FREELAND of Pompton who purchased land in Macopin in 1808. John's son, RICHARD I. FREELAND, married ELIZABETH DECKER. Mrs. Johnston is also trying to ascertain the parents' names of PETER SPEAKER, b. 1791 and his wife, RUTH BUGBEE, b. 1789 in NY. All correspondence will be answered.
4. Evelyn J. Harden, Associate Professor of Russian, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1S6, Canada, is writing a book and wishes to obtain letters and journals of people who knew Major GEORGE WASHINGTON WHISTLER and his wife when they lived in Paterson from 1831 to ca. 1833. During these years Major Whistler was involved with the Paterson and Hudson River Railroad. In 1842, the family moved to Russia where George Washington Whistler supervised the building of a railroad. Major and Mrs. Whistler were the parents of artist James A. McNeill Whistler whose best-known work is an oil painting of his mother entitled "An Arrangement in Grey and Black," commonly called "Whistler's Mother."
5. Susan Schwinn, 86-26 94th Street, Woodhaven, NY 11421, is seeking information on the parents and brothers/sisters of MARGARET ELIZABETH HOPPER, b. 31 August 1862, Paramus, NJ. Margaret was the daughter of JAMES HOPPER (blacksmith) and MARGARET E. VANDERBECK (?). Possible older brother and sister were BERTHA and FRANK HOPPER. Frank lived in the Oakland/Franklin Lakes, NJ area. Mother Margaret d. 7 Sept. 1863 and the children were raised by an aunt in Hawthorne, NJ. Margaret Elizabeth Hopper m. ISSAC STENCHEVER of Paterson in 1877.
6. Erma B. Cornell, 35211 Adams Lane, Yucaipa, CA 92399 is researching the lineage of her g-g-grandfather, CORNELIUS VAN GEISEN and his wife ELLEN LAKE. Their children were MARTHA, b. 18 Aug. 1823; ELLEN, b. 18 Dec. 1825; and JOHN, b. 8 April 1827. Any help would be most appreciated.

Genealogy Club News

The Genealogy Club of the Passaic County Historical Society started its new season of "second Saturday of the month" meetings on September 10. Richard Drake talked about his recent trips "Digging Up Ancestors In New England," and the schedule of meetings for the balance of the year was presented. The schedule includes the following programs:

- 8 October "Tapping the Hidden Resources of Our Library"
(Diane Solomon, Local Historian Librarian, Library of Morristown and Morris Township)
- 10 November "Dating Your Family Photographs"
(Tom Peters, Director, Paterson Museum)
- 14 January "Paterson - A Slide Presentation"
(Grace George, Paterson Tour Office Guide)
- 11 February "Living Stones of the Paterson Diocese"
(Father Kupke, St. Joseph RC Church)
- 11 March "Oral History — A Tool for Genealogy?"
(Muriel Berson, Parsippany)
- 8 April Field Trip to National Archives, Bayonne

Please join us if you have an interest in your family and its heritage. The meetings are held in Lambert Castle and start at 10:00 a.m.

Volunteer News

The Society welcomes new Volunteers Lovita Stafford, Ann Carlson, Susan Wright and Albert Pecci.

Calendar:

Sunday, Sept. 11 — Volunteer Picnic at Lambert Castle, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 22 — Volunteer Meeting, 11:00 a.m.

December — Annual Holly Walk Field Trip to Morristown, N.J. (Date to be set)

This Newsletter is published as a membership privilege of the Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson, New Jersey 07503. Telephone (201) 881-2761. Office Hours are Monday through Friday (9:00 - 4:00). President: Norman Robertson; Director: Susan Pumilia.

BOOKS AVAILABLE...

_____ copy(ies) De Vries, **Up From the Cellar**
at \$5.00

_____ copy(ies) Alaya, **Gaetano Federici: The
Artist As Historian** at \$5.00

_____ copy(ies) Rydings, **Country Walks in
Many Fields** at \$10.50

_____ copy(ies) Keene, **At The Sign Of The
Brass Dog** at \$2.00

_____ copy(ies) Hammond, **Reverend Samuel
Fisher's Census: Paterson, N.J. — 18
24-1832** at \$5.00

_____ copy(ies) Alaya, **Silk and Sandstone
The Story of Catholina Lambert and
His Castle** at \$4.00

_____ copy(ies) Herbst and Keene, **Life and
Times in Silk City** at \$5.00

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, NJ 07503.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to support the work of the Passaic County Historical Society. Please give me a membership in the following category:

_____ **Student**\$ 5.00
 _____ **Senior Citizen**\$15.00
 _____ **Regular**\$20.00
 _____ **Family**\$35.00

_____ **Sustaining** \$ 50.00
 _____ **Benefactor** \$100.00
 _____ **Corporate** \$150.00

Enclosed is my membership fee of _____ plus a donation of _____ Total enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to the Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson, N.J. 07503

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LAMBERT CASTLE — VALLEY ROAD
PATERSON, NEW JERSEY 07503

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