



PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER


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**PASSAIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

CASTLE
VALLEY ROAD, PATERSON N.J. 07503
**SOCIETY ANNOUNCES
HONOR ROLL**

The Passaic County Historical Society is pleased to announce the 1991 Honor Roll Awards. This year's recipients are Stanley J. Lacz and Annita Zalenski. The awards will be presented at the Society's Annual Holiday Party on December 15.

The Honor Roll Award is given to individuals and/or groups in recognition of their outstanding support of the Society and its mission to preserve and interpret the history of Passaic County.

Stanley J. Lacz, of Little Falls, served as a Society Trustee for over ten years. During his tenure, he was Society Vice President for one term and President for three years. A local architect and planner, Mr. Lacz provided much needed technical expertise to the Board, and was instrumental in the Society's transition to a professional organization.

Mrs. Zalenski, of Totowa, served on the Board for six years. She helped found the Genealogy Club and Friends Group and as Society Treasurer for three terms, overhauled the Society's financial records system. Both Mr. Lacz and Mrs. Zalenski provided invaluable assistance to the Society. The Society congratulates them on their award.

**SOCIETY INVITES
BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS**

To mark its 65th anniversary, the Passaic County Historical Society is offering a new category of membership, **The Enterprise Subscription**, especially for area businesses.

The Society invites local businesses to sample an array of new benefits that have been created for this special category. These unique benefits include quarterly listing in the *Castle Lite*, a corporate pass for free employee admission, use of the museum for corporate functions, one outreach program, photo-reproduction and research services in the Society's extensive collections, museum shop discount, and a complimentary copy of *Silk and Sandstone*.

Subscription rates are based on the firm's number of employees and are renewable on an annual basis. If your business is interested in joining, please contact the Society at (201) 881-2761.

STAFF NEWS

Susan Pumilia announced her resignation as Director of the Society at the October 11 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Susan came to the Society in January 1985 as Curator of Education. She developed special school tours for elementary

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and junior high school students, and prepared the *Discover Passaic County New Jersey* packet for elementary school students working on the New Jersey Studies Curriculum.

In 1987, Susan became Society Director. During her tenure, she refocused the Society's attention on its remarkable collections. She led the Society through the crisis of the leaking storage vault and spearheaded the drive to move the collections to a safer location. To support the Society's increased level of activity, she coordinated a phonathon which more than doubled the Society's membership, and she helped bring in the craft boutique to raise much needed operating expenses.

Susan will be moving to the suburbs of Chicago, where she has accepted the position of Director of the Arlington Heights (Illinois) Historical Museum. In submitting her resignation, she stated "I want to thank everyone at the Historical Society for all their help and support during my seven years of work for the Society. I will always have fond memories of Lambert Castle."

Susan will work for the Society through the end of November. Society Curator Andrew Shick will serve as Acting Director until a successor is named. The Society wishes Susan the best of luck with her new position.

SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES

At their October meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society welcomed two incoming trustees. Toby Bizub of Little Falls, and Marie Modarelli, of Clifton. The Society welcomes them to the Board and wishes them a long and successful term of service.

This newsletter is published as a membership privilege of the Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Valley Rd., Paterson, N.J. 07503. Telephone (201) 881-2761. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00-4:00. President: Thomas D. Dayspring; Director: Susan Pumilia.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Lambert Castle Museum will re-open following the Fall Craft Boutique on **Saturday, December 14** at 1 P.M. The holiday exhibit "**Through a Child's Eye: A Look at Christmas Past**", a display of antique toys in a holiday setting, will be on view. The exhibit runs through February 2, 1992.

On **Sunday, December 15**, join the Historical Society in celebrating the Holiday Season at the **Annual Members' Party from 1-4 P.M.** Tour the Holiday display and enjoy the sounds of the *Christmas Troubadour* in the freshly decorated Museum. Refreshments will be served. Society members are free. Guests: \$5.00. For reservations, please call (201) 881-2761.

On **Saturday, December 21**, the Society will hold its **Ornament Workshop** for Children. Children will be taught to make paper reproductions of Victorian holiday ornaments. Suggested for children ages 6-12. Members: \$3.00, Non-Members: \$3.50 (includes all materials) Class I: 10-11 A.M. CLASS II: 11:30-12:30 P.M. CLASS III: 1-2 P.M. Pre-registration is required. Registrants are requested to bring a pair of safety scissors. To enroll your child, call (201) 881-2761.

COLLECTIONS UPDATE

Dear Katie Ann - I'm working in the basement of Lambert Castle. There's a skull on my worktable, and a secret cupboard full of swords in the back. Love, Aunt Kate

The Lambert Castle basement is as dark and gloomy as any medieval dungeon, not an ideal place for historical documents and artifacts. But, as I noted in this postcard to my niece, it is also full of mystery and surprise. The Society's collections are a treasure trove; every day something old and exciting turns up.

I came to the Society in August, to continue the project interrupted by Andrew's injury; packing

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COLLECTIONS UPDATE - continued

the most valuable and unique items in the collection and moving them to the off-site storage unit where they will be preserved in a clean, dry, stable and fire-proof environment. Thanks to the help of Doug Broadbent, a student at Bergen Community College, and long-time Society Researcher Jim Ward, all of the photographs and documents originally kept in the basement and notorious storage vault are now safely housed in special archival boxes in the storage unit, and we are beginning work on the Society's collection of costumes and silk samples.

Although we have to work quickly, to get the collections to safety as soon as possible, it is hard not to be distracted by some of the things we run across. Among the gems that have come to light are: placards and photographs from 1960's civil rights marches, a 1799 newspaper announcing George Washington's death, maps of the Morris Canal, lots of railway memorabilia - maps, timetables, tickets etc. (Doug was engrossed by these), 18th-century letters to the S.U.M. from various villages promoting themselves as the perfect location for the Society's activities - Paterson won, court records for the mortgage of Catholina Lambert's art collection, and an 1898 letter written on hardtack (sailor's bread) which, as a former maritime museum curator, I find particularly endearing.

The Society's collections are a priceless resource for Passaic County. But preserving them for future generations of residents and scholars takes time and money. Consider investing in that future by upgrading your membership or making a special contribution so your Society can buy acid-free storage materials and continue to pay the rent on the off-site storage unit.

Kate Gordon, Consulting Curator

GENEALOGY CLUB

The next meeting of the genealogy club will be January 11, 1992. Howard Lanza will speak on "Cedar Lawn Cemetery and its Famous People". The meeting starts at 10 a.m. at Lambert Castle.

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.

1. Virginia L. Devine, 140 Boyle Ave., Totowa, N.J. 07512 seeks confirmation that Mareytje (Spier) Kindt and Symon Kindt, also known as Marite (Speer) Kent and Simon Kent (m. circa 1738), had at least three children, Hendrick (b. 1739), Elias (bapt. 1747), and Jacob. Jacob, a Rev. War soldier, died June 31, 1841. Mareytje's mother was Sarah Dey, daughter of Theunis Dirckzen Dey.

2. Lucile H. McFee, 7284 Old Sauk Rd., Madison, Wisconsin, 53717 is searching for information/descendants of a Nieuwenhuize/Newhouse family who immigrated from Zeeland, Holland to the Passaic area circa 1901-3. The immigrants were Pieternella (Santee) Nieuwenhuize, widow of Hubregt, and her children Cornelius Pieter b. Feb. 21, 1876 m. Lena Van Veen, Pieter b. October 13, 1877 m. Johanna Pieternella Okkerske, and Jozias, b. March 23, 1881.

3. Mrs. Evelyn Mullen, 14 Washburn Place, Caldwell, N.J. 07006 seeks the name of parents and birthplace of Samuel Payne (Paine) who married Patience Oldfield in Goshen, N.Y. Samuel was listed in the Pompton Township Tax roll in 1820.

4. Mrs. James Collins, Route 1, Box 117, Flandreau, S.D. 57028 would like to correspond with descendants of Peter Decker b. 1760's and lived in West Milford circa 1840's. Father of Aaron, James, Andrew, William, Frederick, John, Jeremiah, and Peter, Jr.