

# PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## LAMBERT

PASSAIC COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## CASTLE

VALLEY ROAD, PATERSON N.J. 07503

### Ahoy There Mates!

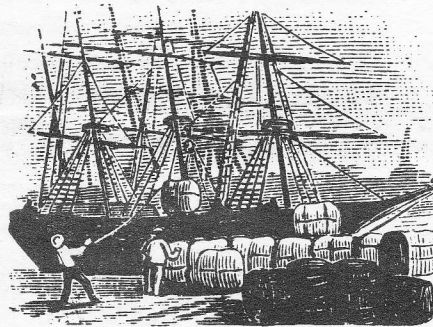
*Come with us to the  
South Street Seaport Museum!*

Saturday, September 26, 1992 the PCHS Friends Club is sponsoring a bus tour to New York's famous South Street Seaport Museum. Tall ships, historic buildings and splendid artifacts bring to life the history of this country's door to the world—the Port of New York. The Museum is the heart of the South Street Seaport, once a bustling neighborhood of markets, counting houses, wharves and seamen's dives, now a thriving shopping and dining center.

We will start at Lambert Castle at 10:30 am. After a brief welcome and orientation, buses will take us to South Street Seaport. On arriving, we will have time to explore a bit and sample the many restaurants and eateries. You can eat lunch in one of the Seaport's many restaurants, or "graze" among the food stalls in Fulton Market and Pier 17.

At 1:00, we will be given a guided tour of the Museum. As a special treat, our Director, formerly a curator at the Seaport Museum, has arranged a for it to include a behind-the-scenes look at the work on the full-rigged ship Wavertree, which is being restored by a dedicated team of volunteers. The tour will last about an hour. After the

tour you will be given VIP passes to explore the museum further, or you can take advantage of the Seaport's shopping facilities. Buses will leave the Seaport at 4:00, and we should be back at the Castle by 5:00 pm.



We will be doing quite a bit of walking, so wear comfortable shoes and bring an umbrella in case of rain. Tickets are \$16 for members of PCHS, \$18 for non-members. Call the Society at (201) 881-2761 for tickets and information.

### Jaqua Lectures

*"By the Falls of the Passaic"*

PCHS is pleased to announce the creation of a new lecture series, the Jaqua Lectures, named for the Jaqua Foundation, which has generously funded our educational programs since 1986. This will be an annual series of three free lectures on a stated theme to be given each October. This year, the theme will be "By the Falls of the Passaic."

We will examine the history of settlement by the Great Falls from early Native American villages to Paterson's industrial heyday.

On Thursday, October 1, archaeologist Ed Lennik will speak on "The Prehistoric People of Paterson." Prehistoric Native Americans lived in the Paterson area for thousands of years prior to the arrival

*(continued on page 5)*

### Castle Restoration Funds Approved!

On August 12, the Passaic County freeholders approved the restoration program for Lambert Castle, thus assuring that the County would receive the \$1.1 million matching grant from the State that had been approved under the New Jersey Historic Trust bond grant program two years ago.

The freeholders unanimously supported Freeholder Director Norman Robertson in agreeing to spend about \$1.5 million, to be appropriated through a three-year bond expenditure next year.

Given the current economic situation, the freeholders decided not to go for the initial full-scale restoration of the castle and grounds, which would cost about \$5.6 million. Instead, they voted

on a scaled-down version that will cost about \$2.6 million.

The freeholders have not yet determined how the money will be spent. We are hoping that they will start with the Castle's infrastructure. The plumbing, wiring and heating systems are all in poor condition, and are capable of causing a great deal of damage if something goes wrong with them. They are also "boring" jobs, that are hard to fund privately. It is much easier to get private funding for the more visible and glamorous aspects of the restoration.

Please be an angel and write to the freeholders thanking them for their support, especially if you live in Passaic County. It is very important to reassure them that the project has wide public appeal. Among the themes we are stressing is that the Castle is an attraction that brings tourists to the County (tourism is one of New Jersey's main industries), that the restoration work will create jobs in the County, that the State grant will refund 50¢ on each dollar they spend maintaining an existing County facility, that the Castle is a beloved and important County landmark (if you had your wedding pictures taken here, say so!), and that hundreds of County schoolchildren come to the Castle when they are studying New Jersey history.

## **Genealogy Club Schedule**

The PCHS Genealogy Club has a developed an exciting schedule of programs for the 1992-93 season. On September 12, Susan Milton will discuss the "Prodigy Computer Program and Genealogy." In October, Evan Stohlbach talk about "Immigration and Jewish Genealogy" and in November, George

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*Wednesday, September 9*

Friends Group meeting, Lambert Castle, 8:00 pm.

*Saturday, September 12*

Genealogy Club meeting, Susan Milton on "Prodigy Computer Program and Genealogy", 10:00 am-12:00 noon, Lambert Castle.

*Saturday, September 26*

Bus trip to South Street Seaport Museum, 10:30 am-5:00 pm, Start at Lambert Castle, Tickets: \$16.00 members, \$18.00 non-members. Call the Society for reservations.

*Thursday, October 1*

Jaqua Lecture, Archaeologist Ed Lemik on "The Prehistoric People of Paterson", 7:30 pm, Lambert Castle, free.

*Saturday, October 3*

Genealogy Club Library Clean-up, part 2, painting, etc., 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Call the Society to volunteer.

*Thursday, October 8*

Jaqua Lecture, Archaeologist Ed Rutsch, "Early Days of Industrial Archaeology in Paterson", 7:30 pm, Lambert Castle, free.

*Saturday, October 10*

Genealogy Club meeting, Evan Stohlbach on "Immigration and Jewish Genealogy", 10:00 am-12:00 noon, Lambert Castle.

*Thursday, October 15*

Rotary Beefsteak Dinner, Brownstone Restaurant, dinner and dancing in support of PCHS collections, 7:00 pm, \$35.00. Call the Society for tickets.

*Wednesday, October 21*

Friends Group meeting, Lambert Castle, 7:30 pm.

*Thursday, October 22*

Jaqua Lecture, Vincent Waraske, "200 years of Paterson Progress", 7:30 pm, Lambert Castle, free.

*Monday, November 1—Friday, November 13*

Museum Closed—Holiday Craft Boutique installation.

*Friday, November 13*

Sneak Preview, Holiday Craft Boutique, 7:00-10:00 pm, Craft door prizes, wine & cheese, Tickets \$10.00 (include two return visits). Limited to 100 guests. Call the Society for Reservations.

*Saturday, November 14—Sunday, November 29*

Holiday Craft Boutique opens. Monday-Friday, 10:00 am-8:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Admission \$2.50 (ticket includes two return visits, non-transferrable). Closed Thanksgiving Day.

*Saturday, November 14*

Genealogy Club meeting, George Sellmer on "Vernon Royle, Inventor, Manufacturer and Photographer of Paterson", 10:00 am.

*Wednesday, November 18*

Friends Group meeting, Lambert Castle, 8:00 pm.

*Monday, November 30—Friday, December 11*

Museum Closed—Exhibit installation

*Wednesday, December 9*

Friends Group meeting, Lambert Castle, 8:00 pm.

*Saturday, December 12*

Museum Reopens

*Sunday, December 13*

Museum Xmas party, Lambert Castle, 1:00-4:00 pm.

*Saturday, December 19*

Children's Ornament Workshop, 11:30-12:30 or 1:00-2:00. Call the Society for information and reservations.

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Sellmer will give a talk entitled "Vernon Royle, Inventor, Manufacturer and Photographer of Paterson."

After the holidays, Mike Brennan will speak on "Passenger Ship Records." At the February meeting, Lin Foster will describe "Genealogy Research at the Morristown & Morris Area Library. As usual, the March meeting will be a work session, bring you questions and any books you wish to share. Also bring any old documents to display. In April, Marion Harris will discuss "New York, New York Research." In May the Club will take its annual trip—destination to be announced.

The Genealogy Club meets the second Saturday of the month, September–May, except December, at 10:00 at Lambert Castle. Membership is open to all members of the Historical Society. Visitors and prospective members are welcome to attend two meetings before joining.

## Holiday Craft Show Returns!

PCHS is pleased to welcome back Holiday House Boutique for its fifth annual Holiday Craft Boutique. Beginning Saturday, November 14, and running through Sunday, November 29, the Castle will be transformed into a holiday fantasy land. Wreaths, candle holders, santas, angels, sleigh bells, furniture, jewelry, antiques and more. The fine, hand-crafted items created for the Boutique are inspired by country, Victorian and many other traditions. You will be sure to find the unique presents and holiday decorations you have been looking for!

Show-hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends. Admission is \$2.50 per person (children under 12 free) and each ticket will give you two return visits during the run of the show. Closed Thanksgiving Day.

If you would like first choice of these distinctive offerings, come to the Holiday Boutique Preview on Friday, November 13, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Shop while enjoying a glass of wine and tidbits of cheese. Tickets are \$10.00 per person, and reservations are required: call the Society at 881-2761.

## Beefsteak Dinner

The Passaic County Rotary Clubs are sponsoring a Beefsteak Dinner to raise funds for the Historical Society. Rotary Club support has been vital in helping us preserve the Society's unique collections. Funds from previous Rotary Beefsteak dinners have made it possible to restore the stained glass window in Lambert Castle, clean and repair paintings, and purchase archival tissue paper and boxes for documents and objects in our collections.

This year, the dinner will be held at the lovely Brownstone Restaurant on West Broadway, Paterson on Thursday, October 15, at 6:30 pm, and will feature dinner and dancing to "Golden Oldies." Tickets are \$35.00 each and can be obtained through the Historical Society office. See you there!

## Forgotten Servants

*Paterson's mayors have worked to lead their city through good times and bad. Yet many are only remembered today as street names. In this bicentennial year, PCHS will highlight some of Paterson's "forgotten servants."*

**William H. Belcher** (Henry to his family) was born in 1851 on the family farm in Eagle Valley, Orange Co., NY. He was the ninth of fourteen children born to John and Eleanor Ann (Kelley) Belcher. In 1860, his father moved the family to Paterson, NJ, giving up farming to become a mason.

Belcher was enrolled in the Ninth Ward School in Paterson, but left school at the age of 13 to go to work as a store clerk. In 1868, at 16½, he married Abbie Morgan, who was 20. They lived in Paterson before moving to the Town of

## In Memoriam

*The Society notes with sadness the passing of two dear friends, Robert Macfarlan and Josephine Migliorino.*

*Josephine Migliorino of Clifton was one of our most faithful volunteers. Every Friday, she could be seen in the Museum, helping visitors and taking care of the gift shop.*

*Robert Macfarlan, of Ridgewood, served on the Board of Trustees from 1982 to 1988. An energetic member of the Board, he was instrumental in helping the Society obtain funding for its educational programs from the Jaqua Foundation.*

*They will both be missed.*

Shawangunk in Ulster Co., NY. There Belcher continued his education and developed an interest in the law. He began his law studies in the office of Louis Hasbrouck in Wallkill. When he moved back to Paterson in 1886, he continued his studies in the offices of Eugene Emley and Peter Ryle, and was admitted to the New Jersey bar in 1890.

Belcher became a solicitor, specializing in handling financial matters. His practice grew, as did his network of friends and business associates. In 1899, his wife died. A little over a year later he remarried. His second wife was also named Abbie, Abbie H. James.

Despite the fact that he had no experience as an elected official, Belcher decided to run for mayor of Paterson in 1903 on the Republican ticket. The Democrats had been in power for a dozen years and the Republican party was not united. Belcher successfully fought for the nomination, and then engineered a stunning upset. When he took office on January 1, 1904, he was beholden to no one. Belcher's administration of Paterson's affairs

gave general satisfaction. Unfortunately, he did not get to hold office for a complete term.

In mid-1905, Belcher was accused of defrauding a number of his clients. To avoid arrest, he fled. After being on the run for a year, he returned to Paterson to "take his medicine." He pleaded guilty, against his lawyer's advice, and was sentenced to twelve years in prison. This harsh sentence was widely decried.

On his release, about 1915, he made his home in Kingston, NY, and resumed the practice of law. In 1917, he returned to the Paterson area. His second wife died in 1925. He retired about 1933 and moved to Smithtown, Suffolk Co., NY. He died at St. Johnland Nursing Home in King's Park in 1939, just short of his 88th birthday. He is buried in the James plot in Wiltwyck Cemetery, Kingston, NY.

Belcher had a great interest in local history. He joined the Passaic County Historical Society when it was founded in 1926, and became its associate curator. He had an excellent memory, and contributed many articles to the Paterson papers based on his recollections. About the time he was mayor, he was the proud owner of the Dey Mansion—Washington's headquarters in Wayne, New Jersey, now a Passaic County Parks Department museum.

*James Ward, Research Associate*

Derrom was vice-president of the Society for a number of years. We recently completed an initial organization of the collection, dividing the material according to which of the Derroms it belonged to, and roughly sorting it by subject category so that it will be easier for future researchers to study the material.

The collection documents the life of Mr. Derrom's grandfather, Andrew Hamilton Derrom (1817-1892), very well. He was a very successful engineer, mill-builder, businessman and civic leader in Paterson in the late 1800's. During the Civil War he served as a Colonel, and we have memorabilia from his service days. We also have a model for a pre-fabricated modular worker's cottage which Derrom took to Venezuela as part of US reconstruction aid following an earthquake there.

There does not appear to be as much material about the middle generation, represented by Andrew Hamilton Derrom, Jr. (1854-1916). So far, we have determined that he was an officer during the Spanish-American war, and served in Cuba in 1884. He also formed an architectural firm with his father that designed a Centennial Hall for Paterson's bicentennial. The hall was to be used for balls, assemblies and other public affairs. However, it never got beyond the drawing board, as the city fathers decided to rebuild City Hall instead.

The last of the three Derroms, Andrew Theodore Derrom (1882-1973), was an industrial products salesman and a veteran of World War I. The collection includes a number of maps and diaries relating to his experiences in France during the War. He was also a prolific writer to political and business leaders, and to government agencies and the Press. This was especially true where his war-time buddies

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## Enterprise Class Subscribers

*Here is a list of the current Enterprise Class members. Many thanks to these companies and organizations for their support.*

Dr. John Ambrose, Totowa  
Beth Israel Hospital, Passaic  
Drs. Thomas Dayspring &  
Charles Macaluso, Wayne  
Hallock & Amann, West  
Caldwell  
Passaic County Medical Society,  
Clifton  
Radiology Imaging Associates,  
Wayne  
Harish H. Shah, MD, Wayne

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## The Derrom Collection

The Society has been in possession of the personal papers and memorabilia of three generations of the Andrew Derrom family for some years. They came into our hands through a series of donations from the family, the last being after the death of Andrew Theodore Derrom in 1973. Andrew T.

were working. He was very active in veterans' affairs and was a local representative to State and regional transportation companies. As an active member of the Society, he was responsible for donating his father's and grandfather's records to the Society.

*Gunnar Berg, Volunteer Archivist*

### Jaqua Lectures - cont.

of Europeans. Indian settlements and campsites have been documented along the Passaic River, by the Great and Little Falls and on nearby mountains and valleys. Lennik's informative slide show and lecture will unfold the story of the lifeways of these first Americans from the artifacts and other evidence they left behind.

On October 8, industrial archaeologist Ed Rutsch will recount the "Early Days of Industrial Archaeology in Paterson," when he and his crews investigated the workings of Paterson's industrial heritage threatened by storm water running off Garrett Mountain and Route 80. They excavated the middle and lower raceways that carried water to power Paterson's early factories, and the Rogers locomotive assem-

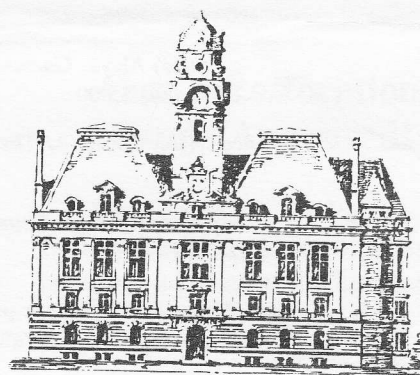
bly area. As a result of their efforts, the storm drains for Route 80 were placed in a tunnel rather than a trench, so as not to disturb further archaeological deposits and the city went on to carry out other archaeological and preservation projects in what became a registered Historic District.

On October 22, Vincent Waraske will commemorate the birthday, in 1817, of John Ryle, father of Paterson's silk industry, with a lecture entitled "200 Years of Paterson Progress." Waraske will draw from his vast storehouse of photographs and anecdotes to describe the rise of Paterson as an industrial center, and also as a vibrant community in which people lived, worked, played, fought, worshipped and studied.

All the lectures will be held at the Castle, on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, and will last approximately one hour. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served. Call the Society for more information.

## A Landmark's Woes

Paterson's new City Hall project was a hotly debated item in 1893. Four plans were seriously considered by the City Commissioners. When the design by the New York firm of Carrere & Hastings was approved, a howl of protest went up. The architects were not local, and their plan was said to lack originality. The tower, famous today, was modeled after the one on the city hall in Lyon, France (another silk city) and the flanking "pavilions" (dormers) were copied from those on the city hall in Paris before the "Commune". The cost was also decried. Original estimates called for a building costing \$250,000. The plan, as approved, would cost over \$300,000!



THE ACCEPTED DESIGN (TO BE ALTERED SOMEWHAT)

*Original design for City Hall, from Paterson Pencilings, vol. III, no. 19, January 28, 1893. PCHS Collections.*

Finally, the Commissioners bowed to public opinion and sent the plans back to the architects for simplification. The "pavilions" were eliminated in favor of a cheaper flat roof, rounded columns were flattened and other trimmings dropped. Only the tower was stubbornly kept unchanged. Today, few could think of the city's skyline without it. Then, many wondered if they could live with it.

*Andrew Shick, Curator*

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## Folk Finder

*The Folk Finder Column is devoted to helping genealogical researchers locate ancestors and descendants in northern New Jersey. We invite you to submit requests for help, inquiries about family names or queries concerning the exchange of family information. If you leads for any of our inquirers, contact them directly, or call the Society at (201) 881-2761.*

1. Nancy A. Casey, 107 Rocky Hill Rd., Hadley, MA, 01035 is trying to trace **James Kenny CASEY**, a Liverpool, England corn merchant who came to Paterson around 1818 with his wife Anna Marie, five daughters and one or more sons. One son, John Charles Cases, was admitted to West Point from Paterson in 1824; another, Henry Park Casey, was born that same year. By 1833 the family moved to New York City.

2. Mary Pagel, 82 E. 11th St., Fond du Lac, WI, 54935 is looking for information on **William Ramage** and his wife **Jessie Chambers**, who were married in Paterson on 8/4/1854, and had children Jane, James (b. 1/13/1856?), Christina, and William (b. 8/29/1861).

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