

The Castle Light

The Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, 3 Valley Road, Paterson, NJ 07503

(201)881-2761

Stop That Wrecker!: Historic Preservation for Individuals & Communities The 1994 Jaqua Lectures

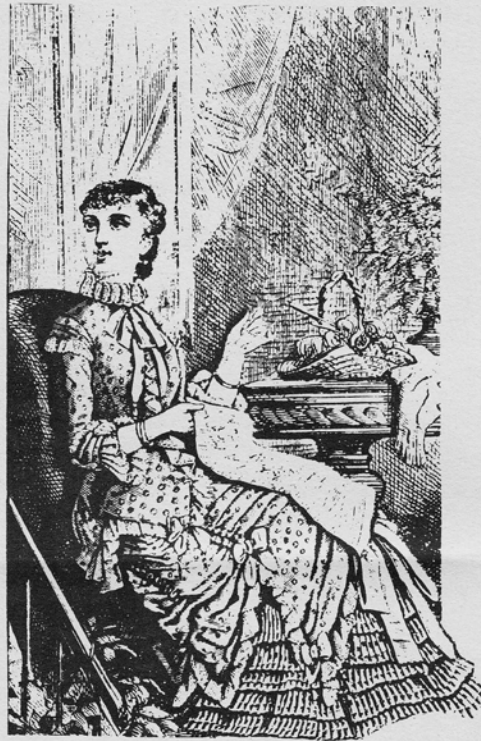
The 1994 Jaqua lectures will explore the techniques of preserving historic buildings, sites and homes with a special focus on preservation projects in Passaic County. The lectures will be held on three successive Wednesdays in October, the 12th, 19th and 26th, here at the Castle from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

"Landmark Decisions: Preserving Community Treasures" is the title of the first program, scheduled for October 12th. The keynote speaker is Charles Scott, from the New Jersey Office of Historic Preservation. He will describe the various federal, state and local programs that exist to help communities preserve sites and buildings of historical significance. He will also discuss ways in which historic sites find new uses and new economic viability.

After Mr. Scott's presentation, four local historical groups have been invited to describe their projects: the Paterson Historic Preservation Commission, the Wayne Township Historical Commission, and the recent effort in Passaic to preserve the Aycrigg Mansion (Passaic Masonic Temple).

The second program, "From the Ground Up: Grassroots Preservation in Action" will be given by Marion Harris, Chair of the Morris County Trust and a trustee of Preservation New Jersey on October 19th. A lively speaker, her talk will focus on the community initiatives which are crucial to the success of any historical preser-

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A Needle for Her Brush: Women's Textile Arts 1810-1930

The Society's winter exhibit, "A Needle For Her Brush," will feature our extensive collection of quilts, samplers, embroideries and other examples of women's needlework skills.

PCHS has assembled one of the largest collections of women's textile arts in Passaic County and Northern New Jersey. Embroidery, crochet and other techniques adorn quilts, coverlets, samplers, pillows, linens, dresses and many other items. Because of their fragility, many of these works have seldom, if ever, been displayed.

In addition to finished examples, the exhibit will also contain samples of

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Craft Show Returns!

Once again, the Museum is about to be transformed into a holiday wonderland this November. Hand-crafted Santas, reindeer, wreathes, and ornaments will cover the walls and crowd the aisles from November 12 through 27. Gifts, decorations, clothing, jewelry, antiques and more...there should be something special for everyone on your holiday shopping list.

You can visit our Holiday House Boutique seven days a week, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on weekdays, and 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekends. In addition, we will be serving refreshments in a special Museum Café on weekends, so that you can catch your breath and enjoy a cup of coffee and some holiday pastries. Craft Show tickets are \$3.50, and are good for three visits (non-transferable), so you can come back with a friend.

If you are very eager, there are two opportunities to preview the show this year. On Friday, November 11, there will be a preview tea from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, and a preview wine & cheese party from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Tickets to each party are \$10.00 each, and must be purchased in advance. They are going fast, so send in your reservation soon.

The Boutique is one of our major fund-raising events of the year, and all proceeds from the previews, admissions and raffles benefit the Historical Society. We hope to see you there!

Calendar of Events
Fall 1994

October

- Saturday, 8th
10:00 am **Genealogy Club Meeting:** "A Pictorial History of Paterson", presented by Gerasimos K. Livitsanos, Photographer. Free.
- Wednesday, 12th
7:30 pm **Jaqua Lecture:** "Landmark Decisions: Preserving Community Treasures" Keynote Speaker: Charles Scott, Preservation Specialist, NJ Historic Preservation Office, plus representatives from four preservation projects in Passaic Co. Free.
- Wednesday, 19th
7:30 pm **Jaqua Lecture:** "From the Ground Up: Grassroots Preservation in Action" Keynote Speaker: Marion Harris, Chairwoman, Morris County Trust and Trustee, Preservation New Jersey, plus representatives from four preservation projects in Passaic Co. Free.
- Wednesday, 26th
7:30 pm **Jaqua Lecture:** "My Old House: Preserving and Living in an Historic Home" Keynote Speaker: John Bruce Dodd, AIA, Preservation Architect. Free.
- Oct 29th-Nov 11th **Museum Closed** for craft show installation

November

- Friday, Nov. 11th
2:00-5:00 pm OR
7:00-10:00 pm **Sneak Previews:** Preview the Holiday House Boutique craft show at an afternoon tea, or an evening wine and cheese party. Tickets: \$10.00 for either event, good for two additional visits to the craft show. Call the Historical Society for reservations.
- Saturday, 12th
10:00 am **Genealogy Club Meeting:** Record Keeping and Orientation to the PCHS Library. Free.
- Saturday, 12th-
Sunday, 27th **Holiday House Boutique craft show:** Hours are Monday-Friday, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm, Saturdays & Sundays, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. Closed Thanksgiving Day. A Museum Cafe will serve holiday treats on Saturdays and Sundays during the craft show. Tickets: \$ 3.50, good for two additional visits (non-transferable).
- Nov 28th-Dec 9th **Museum Closed** to install new exhibit.

December

- Saturday, 10th
1:00-4:00 pm **Annual Holiday Party.** Preview the new exhibit, enjoy holiday treats, live music, and a special cancellation of the 1994 Holiday Stamps. **PCHS Members Free.** Guests: \$3.00 adults, \$2.00 seniors, \$1.00 children.
- Sunday, 11th
1:00 pm **Museum reopens:** "With a Needle for Her Brush," an exhibit of quilts, samplers, lace and other women's textile creations from the Society's collections. Hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Closed Dec. 25 & Jan. 1. Admission: \$1.50 adults, \$1.00 seniors, children. **PCHS Members free.**
- Saturday 17th
11:30 am-12:30 pm
OR 1:00-2:00 pm **Children's Ornament Workshop:** Children 6-12 make traditional Victorian scrap ornaments and gifts. All materials are provided, but children should bring scissors. Choose the morning or afternoon session. Cost: \$2.50 per child (**PCHS Members' children \$2.00**). Call the Society at (201) 881-2761 to register.

January

- Saturday, 14th
10:00 am **Genealogy Club Meeting:** Workshop session, bring your triumphs and tribulations to share! Free.

Mark your calendar now! Our Gala Valentine's Ball will be held Saturday, February 11th. Plan to bring someone special.

Update: Castle Restoration May Begin this Spring!

Good news! It looks as if the long-awaited restoration of Lambert Castle could well begin this spring.

In 1990, you may remember, the County was awarded a 1.1 million dollar matching grant by the New Jersey Historic Trust to restore Lambert Castle.

The grant provided funds to remove the infill ceiling between the first and second floors and restore the central atrium to its full height, to install fire stairs and an elevator in the old servant's areas, to replace the current bathrooms with modern accessible ones and a small kitchen, and to modernize the plumbing, electricity and climate control systems. The original proposal also included restoring the exterior stonework, restoring some of the main rooms on the ground floor, and landscaping the Castle grounds. Due to many pressing needs within the County, the Freeholders were not able to act upon the award immediately, since it required a dollar-for-dollar match.

This summer, the Historic Trust told the Freeholders that the funds would be reallocated to other projects if the Castle restoration did not proceed in a timely fashion. As a result, the

Freeholders have agreed that work will begin on March 1st, 1995. The precise details still have to be worked out, but the situation looks promising.

One final detail: the Freeholders still have to vote formally on a bond issue for the money to match the funds from the Historic Trust. This vote will be taken after the elections in November. Please take a moment to write to the Freeholders and encourage them to continue their support for this project. The Freeholder Director is John Morley, and the other Freeholders are Michael Adamo, Charles Delahanty, Richard DuHaime, Walter Porter and Norman Robertson. The address is Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Grant Street, Paterson, 07505.

The construction, when it begins, will have a major effect upon the Society's operations for two to three years. We are in the process of making plans to safeguard the collections and library, continue our events and programs, and develop travelling exhibits so that we can remain a strong and vital organization while our home is under construction. This is a splendid opportunity to reach out and involve all the communities in the County, and we look forward to your support as we face this new and exciting challenge.

Thank You!

Your response to our request for various items in the last issue of the Castle Light was magnificent. Thanks to the generosity of friends and members, we now have a floor polisher, a vacuum cleaner, a cordless phone and a working computer on every desk! We are extremely grateful, and would like to thank David N. Beckwermert, John H. Berkenbush, Claire Dykstra, Howard Lanza, Andrew Shick, and William Ware for their contributions.

Over the past year, many other individuals, organizations and companies have also made in-kind donations of goods and services to the Society. This generous support is vital to our operations, and we greatly appreciate their gifts.

Our 1993 Harvest Festival received contributions from Bizub-Quinlan Funeral Homes; City of Clifton, Department of Recreation; Entenmann's Bakery; Kate Gordon; Keonig's Art Supply; Little Falls Savings Bank; MidLantic Bank; Marie Modarell; Norman Parker Funeral Home; Paterson Sangerbund; Anne R. Sia; Paulison Rentals; PCHS Friends, Volunteers, Trustees & Staff; John Pullara; T.M. Ryback & Assoc., Architects & Planners; Sabretts Hotdog Co.; Super Sellers; and Sweet Sisters Bakery.

Holiday greens and flowers for the Castle were contributed by Dee's Florist, who have brought their special holiday spirit to the Society each year for many years.

In February, our Gala received support from Dee's Florist, Bob Smith's Florist, Benkendorf's Bros., Leonard A. Schnieder, North State Growers, Anne R. Sia and Judith Tilton, all of whom who provided flowers and table decorations to help create the proper romantic mood for a Valentine's Ball.

This summer, the Connecticut Valley Paper & Envelope Co. provided printed envelopes for our press releases and other bulk mailings and we also received a carpet for the central portion of our Library from Mrs. Donald Gordon.

Most recently, the North Jersey *Herald & News* has arranged to print the brochure describing our programs for school and community groups. And the cover photo for the brochure was supplied by their photographer, John Munson.

This outpouring of support is extremely heartwarming, and helps to stretch our dollars so that we can care for our collections and share our County's rich history with you, with our children, and with generations to come. Thank you all very much.

The Castle Light

The Castle Light (formerly *The Castle Lite*) is the newsletter of the Passaic County Historical Society, a private non-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in the history and heritage of Passaic County. The newsletter is published quarterly, and distributed without charge to members of the Society.

PCHS Trustees: President, Mathew Witecki; Executive Vice President, Toby Bizub; Vice President, Elliott Collins; Treasurer, John Pullara; Secretary, Judith Tilton. Dominic Bucci, Joseph Hannan, Raymond J. Hovey, Howard Lanza, Robert Masiello, Elbertus Prol, Anne R. Sia, Ed Schumacher, Richard Wein

Staff: Kate Gordon, Director; Andrew Shick, Curator; Pauline Zliceski, Secretary

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Castle Tales: Thekla Panasiuk, Second-floor Maid

The Historical Society is grateful to Mrs. Helen Bilyk of Teaneck for sharing her memories of her mother-in-law with us.

In 1905, a fifteen-year-old girl left her friends and family in Czarist Russia and embarked for America alone—one of millions of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe who flocked to the United States between 1880 and 1914.

Thekla Panasiuk was born in 1890, in a small village near the Ukrainian capital, Kiev. She left at her mother's urging, to join a sister already living in Newark, New Jersey and start a new life in America.

Like most immigrants, Thekla traveled in steerage—the cheapest accommodations, down in the lower decks of a steamship. She suffered terribly from seasickness, but she suffered even more from fear of the unknown. Yet her strength and quick mind were equal to both the journey and the future.

Thekla's first taste of America was the immigration station on Ellis Island, where an immigration official renamed her "Tillie," probably because he thought it easier to spell.

Taking the ferry from Ellis Island to Hoboken, Thekla's next challenge was to find her sister. She spoke no English, but she did have a paper with her sister's address on it. Somehow she met a man with a wagon who took her down the Plank Road to Newark.

Unfortunately, there was no joyous reunion with her sister. Her sister had contracted tuberculosis and been sent to a sanatorium for "consumptives." But Thekla was lucky, her sister's former roommates were other Ukrainian girls, and they took care of her. They helped her to get her first job in America, working as a seamstress in a factory.

We don't know how Thekla, living in Newark, learned about a job in Paterson, at Lambert's Castle. Possibly through the informal network of

families and friends that tied immigrant communities together. At any rate, in 1908, she was hired as a second floor maid by Florence, Catholina Lambert's second wife. (After the death of Lambert's first wife, Isabelle, in 1901, he married her widowed younger sister.)

When Thekla became one of the servants at the Castle, the era of glittering, gala events was already over. The boom years of the 1890's were



Thekla Panasiuk Bilyk, Courtesy Mrs. Helen Bilyk

past, and the industrialists of America's gilded age were retrenching as they aged and the economy contracted. Nevertheless, the estate still housed one of the finest art collections in America, as well as elegant furniture, formal gardens and more.

Thekla's duties at the Castle included caring for Mrs. Lambert's wardrobe and taking care of the bedrooms. For this, she received a modest salary, plus room and board at the Castle and one day off a week. She quickly established a warm relationship

with both her employers that lasted throughout the five years she worked for them. Mrs. Lambert helped her improve her English. Her strong personality endeared her to Catholina Lambert, who probably recognized her as a kindred spirit. Like Thekla, Lambert has come to America in his youth to seek a brighter future.

When Mr. Lambert came home every night, he would take the loose change from his pocket and put it in a bowl sitting on a table by the front door. Thekla was allowed to grab a handful of this change for pocket money on her weekly day off. She practiced picking up change in her room at the Castle, so that she could get the biggest handful possible. She used the money to go to the Ukrainian Hall in downtown Paterson. Such ethnically-based organizations were thriving centers of immigrant life in America. There, newcomers could speak their own language with those who shared a common culture.

At the Ukrainian Hall Thekla met Feyodor (Frank) Bilyk. The pair had grown up within miles of each other in the Ukraine, but did not meet until they came to America. When Thekla told the Lamberts she planned to get married, they insisted on meeting her prospective groom to see if he was suitable! Feyodor borrowed a suit and went to meet them, though rather unhappily.

The Lambert's paternalistic attitude towards Thekla was not unusual. Servants were considered in some ways to be a part of the family, and were therefore under both their protection and their control. Apparently the interview went smoothly, for the Lamberts presented the couple with a crystal vase when they married in 1913. The vase is still a family heirloom.

Soon after her wedding, Thekla left the Lambert's service. Few women

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Help Wanted

Please be an angel and contribute a few of hours of your time to help us with the Craft Show. We need help during the week to staff the admissions booth and raffle desk, and also on weekends to help us with the Café. Weekend shifts are from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, 12:30 to 3:00 pm and 3:00 to 6:00 pm and 10:00 am to 1:30 pm, 1:30 to 5:00 pm and 5:00 to 8:00 pm on weekdays.

Volunteers get free admission to the Craft Show, and it's a great way to meet people, spread the word about the Historical Society and do your holiday shopping all at once. If you would like to volunteer, please call the Historical Society at (201) 881-2761 on weekdays between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, or leave a message on our answering machine and we will get back to you. Thank you so much.



Enterprise Class Members

Many thanks to these companies and organizations for their support:

Dr. John Ambrose; Beth Israel Hospital; Car-Mart; General Hospital Center at Passaic; J.W. Holding Group; Hallock & Ammann; Lerch, Vinci & Higgins; L.M.C. Corp.; Passaic Co. Medical Society; Radiology Imaging Associates; Harish H. Shah; MD; and The Steel Agency.

The Enterprise Class of membership offers many benefits to corporations including free museum admission for all employees and use of the Castle for corporate functions. If your company is interested in joining, please call the Historical Society at (201) 881-2761.

Song, Stamps & Sewing: Holiday Festivities at the Museum

Come to the Historical Society's annual Holiday Party on December 10th for an afternoon of song, stamps and sewing. The songs will be provided again this year by the Clifton High School's award-winning madrigal singers. If you did not hear them last year, don't miss them this time. They are wonderful. The young men and women deck themselves out in renaissance costume and sing traditional carols and madrigals. They will completely revive your holiday spirits.

The stamps come from the United States Postal Service. Under the aegis of Paterson Postmaster Bill Ferry, a temporary postal station will be set up at the Museum during the party to issue a special Lambert Castle cancellation of this year's holiday stamps. There are three stamps: a stocking full of children's toys, a Santa, and a reproduction of a 1663 painting of the Madonna and Child by Elisabetta Sirani. The painting, from the collections of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, ties in with the

theme of the Society's winter exhibit: "A Needle for Her Brush: Women's Textile Arts, 1810-1930." Historically, women found an outlet for their artistic and creative impulses through sewing and needlework. Only a privileged few were able to take up painting or sculpture. This exhibit showcases some of the most splendid examples of Passaic County women's needlework in the Historical Society's collections.

In addition to the exhibit, the Castle's period rooms will be decorated for the holidays, and some of our 19th-century toys will be arranged around the tree in the parlor.

The party will be held here at Lambert Castle on Saturday, December 10th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free for members of the Historical Society, guests and members of the public will be asked to pay a small admission fee of \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for senior citizens, and \$1.00 for children.



Children's Ornament Workshop

Snowflakes, scrap ornaments and laughter. The Society's annual holiday ornament workshops for children will be held on Saturday, December 17th here at Lambert Castle. Children will make traditional 19th-century gifts and holiday ornaments based on materials that can be found around the house. The workshop is intended for children aged 6 to 12. There will be two classes, one at 11:30 am and one at 1:00. The cost of the workshop is \$2.00 for members of the Historical Society (\$2.50 for the general public), and all materials will be provided. Children should bring scissors. Call the Historical Society at (201) 881-2761 for reservations, or for information about scheduling a special session of the workshop for groups. This workshop is made possible through the generosity of the Jaqua Foundation.



Heirlooms: Quilts

The second in a series of articles intended to help you preserve and enjoy your family's history.

Quilts are very popular now, due in part to the "country" look in interior decorating. Because of this, the value of antique quilts has skyrocketed, and modern, foreign-made copies of old designs are widely available.

If you are fortunate enough to inherit or buy an antique quilt, here are some guidelines for protecting and enjoying your treasure.

When displaying your quilt, keep it out of direct sunlight, or it will fade. With some fabrics, twenty hours of sunlight will start the fading, and the damage is cumulative and irreversible. Florescent lights can also cause fading, they should be shielded with UV filters or avoided altogether.

In Memoriam

The Society notes with sadness the passing of two dear friends, Constance Polyak and Evelyn Orr. Mrs. Polyak was a long-time member of the Society and active in our Genealogy Club. Mrs. Orr joined the Society as a volunteer in 1983, and became a loyal Museum guide and an enthusiastic supporter of all our activities. They will both be greatly missed.

Memorial gifts have been made to our library renovation fund by friends of Mrs. Polyak. Friends of Mrs. Orr have contributed funds to our efforts to publish Howard Lanza's guide to Cedar Lawn cemetery, where she is buried. If you would like to make a contribution or bequest to the Society in memory of these two friends, or of other loved ones, please call or write to us.

Quilts can be displayed flat, as on a bed (furry friends keep off!), or hung on a wall. If you hang them, don't just tack them up. The weight of the quilt should be distributed evenly. You can make a tube of cotton and sew it to one edge of the quilt to hold an enamelled metal curtain rod, which then rests on brackets attached to the wall. Or you can sew the fuzzy side of Velcro® to the edge of the quilt, and staple the hook side to a board which is fastened to the wall. Use silk or 100% cotton thread for sewing, polyester thread can damage the quilt. Both hanging methods support the quilt properly, and allow air to circulate behind it, protecting it from damp or dirty walls, peeling paint, or acidic wood panelling.

When the quilt is not on display, and some experts recommend giving it a rest after three months, it should be protected from acids, molds, mildew, light, dust and its own weight. Carefully fold the quilt, and pad the folds with acid-free tissue paper. Periodically refold it, changing the location of the folds. It should then be wrapped lightly in unbleached muslin, old cotton sheets or acid-free tissue paper. Plastic will block air circulation, trapping moisture that can lead to mildew, and it gives off harmful fumes that can damage the quilt. Don't stack quilts, it crushes the fabric. Keep them in acid-free boxes, rather than conventional cardboard boxes. Ordinary cardboard will burn and stain the quilt over time. Take the quilt out periodically to air and inspect it.

Cleaning quilts is difficult and risky. Some quilts, such as crazy quilts, with their mix of different types of fabric and embroidery, were never meant to be cleaned. Velvet and silk, in particular, are virtually impossible to clean. If the quilt is very ornate or valuable, don't try to clean it yourself, seek the help of experts. With simpler quilts there are two risks. One is the fabric may bleed or run if it gets wet (dry cleaning can also affect the dyes on some older quilts). The other is the

weight of the wet quilt will break the stitching or cause the fabric to tear.

Before trying to wash the quilt, see how much dirt you can remove with a brush or vacuum cleaner. To vacuum, take a square of window screening about 24" square and cover the edges with duct tape. Lay this down on the quilt and vacuum through it. Reduce the suction on a powerful vacuum cleaner somewhat by tilting the nozzle so that some air leaks in.

If you feel the quilt really needs washing, think again. If it is valuable or has strong family associations, *don't risk it*. Save your pennies and take it to a professional textile conservator. If it's an old quilt once used as a dog bed, you can try to revive it, but be careful.

First test for colorfastness by dampening an inconspicuous spot with a cotton swab to see if any color comes off on the swab. Each color or fabric in the quilt should be tested. Intense colors, particularly red, will often bleed (even with modern dyes). If it passes this test, then wash it *very* gently in a mild soap solution, with many rinses of clear water. Wash it in the bathtub, gently pressing the water through it, and pressing all the water out before you and a helper lift it out. Don't scrub and don't wring it out. If your water is hard, don't wash it at home. Dry it flat. Spread it out on sheets in a shady spot, turning it occasionally until its nearly dry, and then hang up to air.

You will probably never get all the stains out, but don't worry, think of them as part of the quilt's history. Proof that it has been loved and used from generation to generation. Enjoy it, care for it and pass it on.



Sources for acid-free boxes and tissue paper:

University Products, 517 Main St., Holyoke, MA 01041 (800) 762-1165 Free catalog

Talas, 213 West 35th St., New York, NY 10001 (212) 736-7744

Folk Finder

Elizabeth Olmstead Carroll, 1254 Hague Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104 seeks more information on her maternal great-grandparents, Charles MORRIS (1812-1888) and his wife Sarah H. ALLEN BALL (1820-1902), resided "Hilltop," Ringwood, NJ. Who was Sarah's first husband, Mr. Ball, and what became of their son, ?Henry. Charles' parents were John (1780-1854) and Rebecca BIRD (1781-1864). Who were John and Rebecca's parents? Any information would be appreciated.

Mary R. Pierce, 8714-26 Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115 seeks the parents and birth/death records for Robert RAY, who married Sarah Augusta SPEAR in Paterson, May 12, 1881. Their daughter Elbertha (Alberta) Viola, born 5/27/1882 in Paterson married a John Edward POST and died 8/20/1945 in Newark, NJ. Any information on the Ray family would be appreciated.

Stop that Wrecker (cont.)

-vation program. She will be followed by representatives from several county grassroots preservation organizations including the Friends of the Morris Canal Park in Clifton, the East Side Neighborhood Association in Paterson, the Friends of the Long Pond Iron Works in Ringwood, and the High Mountain Park Project in Wayne.

The final presentation, "My Old House: Preserving and Living in an Historic Home," will be held on October 26. The speaker will be John Bruce Dodd, AIA, one of New Jersey's pioneer preservation architects. Mr. Dodd will discuss the various pitfalls and delights encountered by owners of older homes, and the necessary balancing act between authenticity, affordability, practicality, appearance and livability.

"I believe these programs will fill a real need," said Society Director Kate Gordon, "People often call us when local landmarks are threatened. But by then its usually too late. The most effective preservation comes from advance planning and community support. We hope that this series of lectures will help people preserve the features which make their neighborhoods special, and put them in touch with other successful groups within the County."

This marks the third year of the Society's annual Jaqua Lectures, named in honor of the Jaqua Foundation which has provided generous support for the Society's educational programming since 1986. Among the programs made

possible through the generosity of the Jaqua Foundation are school programs, such as Mill Owner/Mill Worker tour and the "Neighbors Along the Passaic" classroom outreach, and children's programs such as "Games of Yesteryear" and "Holiday Ornaments." The Society is extremely grateful to the Foundation for its ongoing commitment to our efforts.

Needle for a Brush (cont.)

the tools women used to create their masterworks, such as sewing machines, work boxes and bags, needle cases, etc. These items illustrate the importance of textile work in women's everyday lives during the Victorian age. Finally, photographs of some of the women who created the works in the exhibition, and samples of patterns and other sources of inspiration from the Society's rich archives will bring their world to life.

This exhibit is a rare opportunity to gain a new appreciation of our grandmother's and great grandmother's lives.

In the 19th century, women were allowed little sphere for creativity, since men dominated the worlds of culture, business and politics. Women were relegated to the home, where they were expected to create a cozy, morally uplifting atmosphere for the family. Idleness was a sin, and mother was expected to set a good example. When she was not sewing clothes, bed linens or other utilitarian items, she occupied herself with fancy needlework, making or embellishing items that would add beauty and comfort to her home.

Design and expression were as important as the utility of the item being made. Some women were as adept with their needles as any artist with a brush and palette.

Thekla (cont.)

domestics continued to work after they married, unless their husband worked for the same family. She left in a crucial year, 1913, when the Great Silk Strike hit Paterson and Lambert suffered financial difficulties.

For the next few years, Thekla and her husband also struggled. Feyodor broke his leg in 1915 and it was set poorly (he limped for the rest of his life). While he was out of work, Thekla opened a penny candy shop in Hoboken to make ends meet. Even though money was tight, she still managed to save fifty cents a week in the bank.

Eventually, hard work and thrift paid off. Thekla, Feyodor and their two sons, John and Matthew, moved from Hoboken to Jersey City. They bought a house and that all-American status symbol, an automobile—a Packard. Sadly, John was killed in World War II, but Matthew went to college. He later taught at both Stevens Institute and Johns Hopkins University.

Thekla died in 1965. Her family remebers her as a strong, authoritative person, sometimes highly opinionated, but always much loved. Her life typifies the immigrant experience in America.

—Andrew Shick