

# The Historic County

Newsletter of The Passaic County Historical Society

March 2004 Volume 6 - Issue 1

LAMBERT CASTLE, 3 VALLEY ROAD, PATERSON, NJ 07503

PHONE: 973-247-0085 FAX: 973-881-9434 WEB: <http://www.lambertcastle.org>

## Hinchliffe Stadium and School #5 Designated a School Renaissance Zone



Hinchliffe Stadium, Paterson, NJ

In recent years Hinchliffe Stadium, the Art Deco stadium perched above the Great Falls in Paterson, has fallen into serious disrepair and is no longer in use. Graffiti abounds. It appeared as though the well-known stadium was destined for demolition; however, the City of Paterson and the Paterson School Board developed a strategy to include the stadium and School #5 as part of the renovation of the Great Falls area. As a result, last fall Governor McGreevey designated Hinchliffe Stadium and School #5 as a "School Renaissance Zone." Through the targeting of existing public, private and non-profit resources, the School Renaissance Zone program is based on the concept that new school facilities can serve as catalysts for redevelopment and investment. Renovation plans for the stadium include construction of an indoor skating rink and a sports business education academy.

Hinchliffe opened in 1932 as a school stadium for the City of Paterson primarily serving the athletic programs of Eastside and Central (now J. F. Kennedy) High Schools. Through the years, it has provided a venue for several professional and semi-professional baseball teams. In 1936, the New York Black Yankees took up residence at Hinchliffe and played there for almost a decade. It has also been home of the Paterson Silk Sox team and the Paterson Phillies. Major boxing tournaments and daredevil car races attracted large crowds, and celebrities including Patersonian Lou Costello, Babe Ruth, and Jack Dempsey made appearances at Hinchliffe.

Spectacular fireworks emanating from the stadium and rising high above the city are well remembered by Passaic County's long time residents. Some folks who climbed the hill next to the stadium to watch athletic events, auto racing, or fireworks (*sans an admission*) fee affectionally referred to the hill as *Scotchman's Hill*.

The current hope is that the existing facade will be retained, but plans are still being developed. At present there is no timetable to begin work on the renovation.

### President:

Maryjane Proctor

### 1st Vice Pres.:

Annita Zalenski

### 2nd Vice Pres.:

Robert Hazekamp

### Treasurer:

Dorothy Decker

### Secretary:

Alice Booth

### Trustees:

Doris Bauer

Michael Blanchfield

Kenneth Brino

George Decker

Arlette Keri

Sydney Lockwood

Edward Smyk

Clifford Swisher

William Ware

### Honorary Life Trustees:

Norman Robertson

Edward Smyk

### Honorary Trustees:

Hazel Spiegelberger

Carol Blanchfield

Michael Wing

**Richard Sgritta**  
Director

*The Historic County*  
is published quarterly.  
Annita Zalenski, Editor  
e-mail: [pchslc@aol.com](mailto:pchslc@aol.com)

*The Passaic County Historical Society is a private, membership-supported, non-profit 501 (c) (3) educational institution that owns and maintains an extraordinary collection of historical artifacts, archives, and genealogical records. The Society operates and manages Lambert Castle, a 19th century mansion owned by the County of Passaic.*

## 2003 Holiday House Boutique

Nancy Davis worked her magic again this past November and transformed the Castle Museum into a dazzling boutique with a wide variety of crafts, antiques, and holiday gifts. Among the items for sale were toys, ornaments, wreaths and decorations, jewelry, collectibles, and country and Victorian inspired gifts

The Society sincerely thanks Nancy, her staff, and the PCHS volunteers who worked many hours to make this event successful. We also extend our thanks to the advertisers and boosters who contributed to the small booklet that was distributed to every patron, and to all who purchased raffle tickets. In keeping with tradition, a large basket containing a variety of gifts donated by Nancy Davis was raffled on Sunday, November 30, 2003, the last day of the show. The winner of the raffle was Gabriel Falsetto of Glendale, New York.



Pulling the Lucky Raffle Ticket

## Sydney Lockwood Joins the PCHS Board

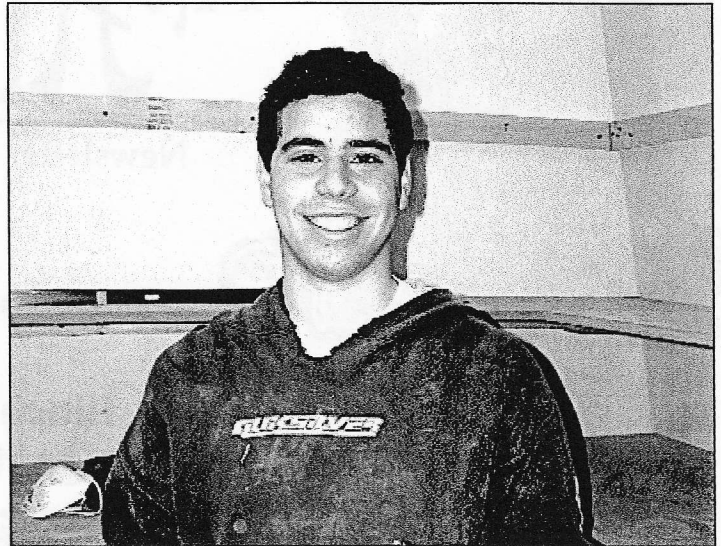
Sydney Lockwood was recently elected to the Board of the PCHS. A native of Passaic, Sydney, retired from the Passaic Public School System after forty years of service. He has had a continuing interest in the City of Passaic throughout most of his adult life.

Sydney is the author of *Passaic - the Glory in the Glass*, a book about how the churches of Passaic became a showcase for world class German and American stained glass in the 20th century.

Now a resident of West Paterson, Sydney has become involved in that town's civic life. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Alfred Bauman Library and is in the process of organizing a one-man show, *The Art of Joseph Mayer*.

Sydney fills the position vacated by Herbierto Rivera.

## Eagle Scout Project



Nicholas Stambuli - Eagle Scout Candidate

An archival shelving project in a Lambert Castle 3rd floor storeroom was constructed by Nicholas Stambuli, Eagle Scout Candidate from Clifton Boy Scout Troop #3. He was assisted by scout volunteers Matt Kida, Bob Ventimiglia, Josh Van Eck, Nat Van Eck, Matt West, Steve Kovalchik, Kurtis Wiersma, and Aaron Moore. Ken Kida served as Professional Carpenter Advisor, and Joe Stambuli was the parent volunteer.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. The Eagle Scout Candidate must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project which must be completed by the Scout's 18th birthday.

We sincerely thank Nicholas and all those who worked with him to transform an underutilized space in the Castle into a well-organized storage area.

## Janette Pardo to Digitalize SUM Documents

PCHS member Janette Pardo responded to our recent request for volunteer help in the library. Janette is a librarian with archival training, and is well versed in archival and preservation principles. Also, she is an archival consultant for the C.A.P.E.S. program sponsored by MARAC and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Janette's first project is digitalizing the PCHS collection of historic papers of the Society for Useful Manufacturer's (S.U.M.). These documents are of national importance since they pertain to the development of Paterson, the "Cradle of American Industry."

When the digitalizing process is completed, the papers will be accessible to researchers on CD roms.

# The Queen of Fibers: Silk and Its Industry in Paterson

## A New Exhibition at Lambert Castle Museum



Silk Day Dress Circa 1900

A new exhibition recently opened at Lambert Castle Museum that explores the preeminence of silk in Victorian America as well as that fiber's important role in the development of the City of Paterson as the "Silk City."

In the new exhibition *The Queen of Fibers: Silk and Its Industry in Paterson*, many rare examples of silk garments from 1830 to 1930 are on display. Highlights include the silk wedding slippers of Isabella Lambert, wife of Paterson's "Silk Baron" who built Lambert Castle and an early nineteenth century opera cloak that belonged to Helen Sterret McBurney, of a once prominent Paterson family. Other garments in the exhibition includes women's dresses; a wedding dress, men's tail coat and shirts; infant clothing; and accessories such as undergarments, stockings, purses, neckties and shoes.

The exhibition will also feature examples of nineteenth century silk sample books and skeins of silk that show the variety of colors and possible designs incorporated into the textiles. There are hand-embroidered quilt squares along with several fine examples of American folk art made from silk, including a "crazy" quilt and patriotic panels.

It was the ancient Chinese who discovered silk over 4,000 years ago, and the appeal of silk has endured to this day as the "Queen of Fibers." According to legend, it was Chinese Empress Si-Ling-Chi who noticed a caterpillar spinning a cocoon of silk on a mulberry tree and realized its potential as a fiber. She unwound the cocoon, collected threads from many others, and wove a fabric more beautiful than any she had ever seen. Si-Ling-Chi became known as the "Goddess of the Silkworm." The secret of silk making was carefully guarded by the Chinese for over 2,500 years, and silk became the most precious export to India and Europe via the "Silk Road." Knowledge of silk production eventually reached Japan, India, and finally Constantinople in the Byzantine Empire (*now Istanbul in Turkey*). From there the secret traveled to Italy and the rest of Europe.

Paterson, America's first planned industrial city, was founded in the 1790s by Alexander Hamilton. He believed that the United States could achieve true independence from Britain only by manufacturing its own

goods. The first factory to use the water power of the Passaic River was a mill for spinning cotton. Christopher Colt established the first silk mill in Paterson in the 1830s. When this mill failed, John Ryle purchased the machinery from the mill on behalf of George Murray, and became superintendent of Murray's plant. In three years Ryle became a partner, and six years later he bought full control of the firm. By 1860, Paterson was home to a half-dozen silk companies, including its first silk dye works. From then until the 1930s, Paterson was the primary silk manufacturing city in North America, surviving even the devastating 1913 silk worker's strike. During World War II, supplies of raw silk were curtailed, and production never returned to its prewar levels. Some firms survived by converting to rayon, but Paterson's days as "Silk City" had ended.

All of the historical artifacts contained in the new Silk exhibition are from the collections owned by the Passaic County Historical Society, the non-for-profit educational organization that operates Lambert Castle Museum. The Museum is conveniently located off Route 80 at Exit 57A atop Garret Mountain overlooking the City of Paterson. The Museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 1 to 4 PM. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for senior citizens; \$3 for children ages 5-12; and free to Passaic County Historical Society members. For more information, please call (973) 247-0085 or visit [www.lambertcastle.org](http://www.lambertcastle.org).



Ribbon Sample Circa 1920

## Victorian Trade Cards

A favorite pastime during the Victorian era was collecting small, illustrated advertising cards that are now referred to as "trade cards." These cards were frequently pasted into a treasured scrapbook that often had a place of honor in the Victorian parlor.

Trade cards were distributed as advertising souvenirs at all of the major expositions during the late-Victorian period. They also came packaged in tins of foodstuffs such as tea, coffee, and baking products. Manufacturers used them to advertise many other household goods including thread, tobacco product, and patent medicines. Also advertised on the cards were much larger items such as farm equipment, stoves, sewing machines, etc.

Local merchants frequently advertised their shops on "stock" cards, i.e., cards with no advertising. The shop owners then added their address and advertising message. Customers were given the colorful cards with their purchase or the cards were left on sales counters free for the taking. Some cards were even handed out by noisy "drummers," who walked the streets looking for potential customers while "drumming up some business."

Trade cards first appeared in London during the 17th century. They were printed in one color by the woodcut or letterpress method and often contained maps directing customers to the advertisers' shops. (*At that time there was no formal street numbering system.*) In the 1830s, lithography using several colors became the preferred method for producing the cards. It was an expensive and slow process; at that time lithography was done on stones. Metal plates replaced the stones in the 1850s. As the printing process improved, trade cards became more plentiful and more colorful. By the 1880s the cards had become a major method of advertising in the United States; however, they almost completely faded away by the early 1900s when other forms of advertising in color, such as magazines, became more cost effective.

The cards shown on this page are from the PCHS collection; all were distributed by local Paterson merchants.



Charles Nadell Trade Card

**THESE ARE FACTS!!**

**CHARLES NADELL,**  
**Hatter & Gents' Furnisher**

242 MAIN STREET,

Offers for sale a FINE DERBY HAT for \$1.50 warranted to be as good as any \$2.50 Hat in town. Give him a call and you will find it is no humbug but a real fact.

You will also find a large assortment of Men's Fine Underwear at Very Low Prices.

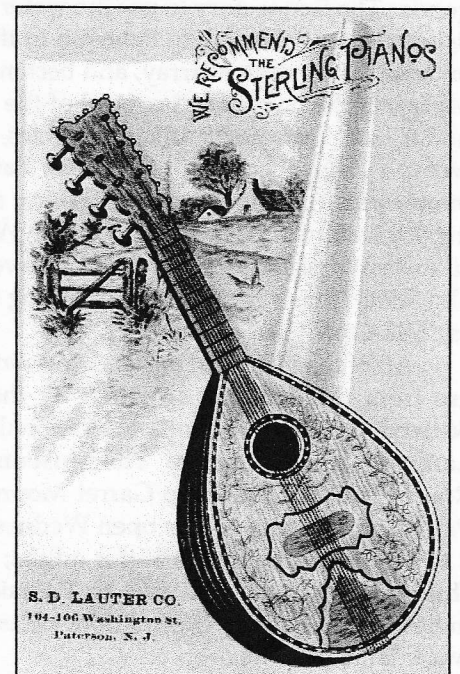
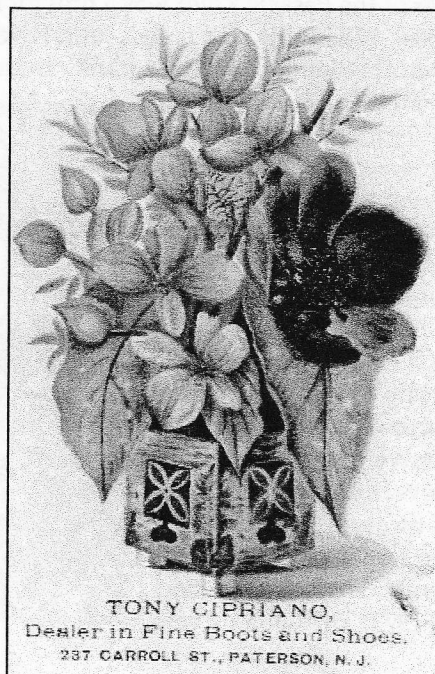
A BEAUTIFUL MATCH SAFE GIVEN AWAY WITH EVERY HAT.

DON'T FORGET THE PLACE,

**CHARLES NADELL,**  
**HATTER AND GENTS' FURNISHER,**  
242 MAIN STREET,  
One door below Market Street, PATERSON, N. J.

Agency for Troy Laundry, Collars and Cuffs at 1 1/2 cents each.

Reverse of Nadell Trade Card



# "Pop" Farley: Notre Dame Immortal

By E. A. Smyk, Passaic County Historian

The Rev. John Francis Farley is now a forgotten figure in his native Paterson, yet at the turn of the 20th century, he was known as one of the Silk City's up-and-coming athletes. Tall, wiry, and with an inexhaustible store of energy, Farley was one of the most accomplished players of St. John's "Entre Nous" rugby-football team. Attired in striped uniforms, and wearing no headgear, face guards or padding, Farley and his teammates charged across the gridiron, sounding the battle cry of "Crickets, Crickets, White and Blue, Hurroo, Hurroo for the Entre Nous!"

After graduating from St. John's, Farley decided to enter the priesthood. In 1897, he headed west to the University of Notre Dame, and then completed his studies at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Ordained to the priesthood on July 23, 1907, Rev. Farley began a career that spanned more than four decades. Returning to Notre Dame, Rev. Farley served as dormitory rector, where he ruled over his exuberant charges with a firm but benevolent hand. The students he coached in baseball and other sports regarded him with respect, admiration, and a touch of fear, as well. When he died in 1939, "Pop" Farley was a campus legend.

The Farley story began in the Paterson of the late 1860s. By the mid-19th century, thousands of Irish immigrants had swelled the population of cities like Paterson. They had left a nation that had been reduced to poverty, where daily life had become a dismal, if not intolerable, existence. Settling in a section of Paterson called Dublin, the newcomers found work as laborers and mill hands. The "sons of the Emerald Isle," as one Paterson newspaper dubbed them, did much of the backbreaking work when the first rail lines were placed through the city.

John Francis Farley was born into a large family, a situation not the least unusual for the time. His Irish immigrant father worked as a laborer. Edward and Ann Farley had five sons and three daughters. Within a decade Ann Farley was widowed. Three of her children were toiling in the city's silk mills, and although life was difficult for the Farleys, there was an intense solidarity among Irish families, and they forged a firm identity with Catholicism.

Farley entered Notre Dame in 1897, and two years later he was a seminarian. He excelled in football and baseball, and ran track. When Notre Dame faced Indiana in 1900, the rugged athlete caused a sensation on the gridiron. Playing left end, Farley was injured but refused to leave the field. According to one account, Farley "played his usual spectacular game in the third and fourth quarters by getting off long kicks and by smashing off tackle for long gains." As a result, Father John was the idol of two universities.

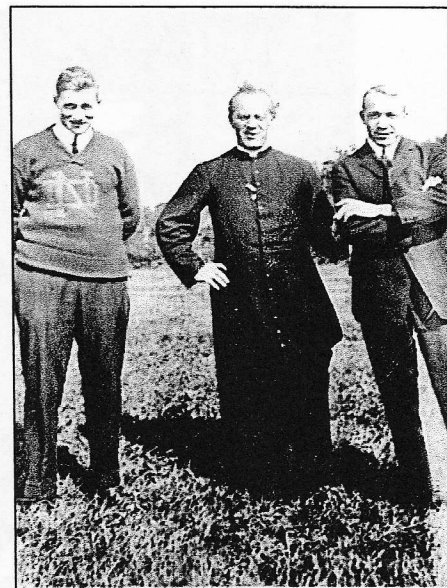
Farley undertook his administrative duties at Notre Dame with similar gusto. As a disciplinarian, Farley frightened incoming freshmen. He strutted around campus like a military officer with shoulders erect, wearing his familiar black cassock and biretta. From 1907 until 1914, Farley was

in charge of Corby Hall, another dormitory. He discovered some of his students had been using a tunnel in the basement to sneak out after the nightly bed check had been completed. Farley came up with a practical solution.

The February 1976 *Notre Dame Scholastic Magazine* recounted the incident, saying, "After some students had made their escape into town one night, Father Farley sabotaged their means of re-entry by coating the walls of the tunnel with grease, a tactic that produced obvious and effective results." Farley's running abilities also served him well - he would sprint after dormitory students. The legendary coach Knute Rockne and Farley were contemporaries at Notre Dame. When an old football fan began to reminisce about what an agile runner Farley had been during his student days, Rockne quipped, "He's pretty good. He chased so-and-so four miles the other day and beat the daylight out of him."

Farley had an abiding affection for Paterson, and returned to spend summer vacations in the Silk City. In a 1930 interview, he said New Jersey was a "great state," asserting that "lots of good men come from there." Good and not-so-good times brought Farley back home. When coal supplier Daniel Dowling's nephew drowned off the coast of Atlantic City in August 1931, it was Father Farley who officiated at the youth's funeral. Six years later, the Notre Dame priest suffered a paralyzing stroke that resulted in the amputation of his right leg, but Farley still managed to attend football practice by pushing himself across campus in a wheelchair. "Pop" Farley - the nickname came from his students - died on January 15, 1939. An estimated 3,000 students lined the route of his funeral procession.

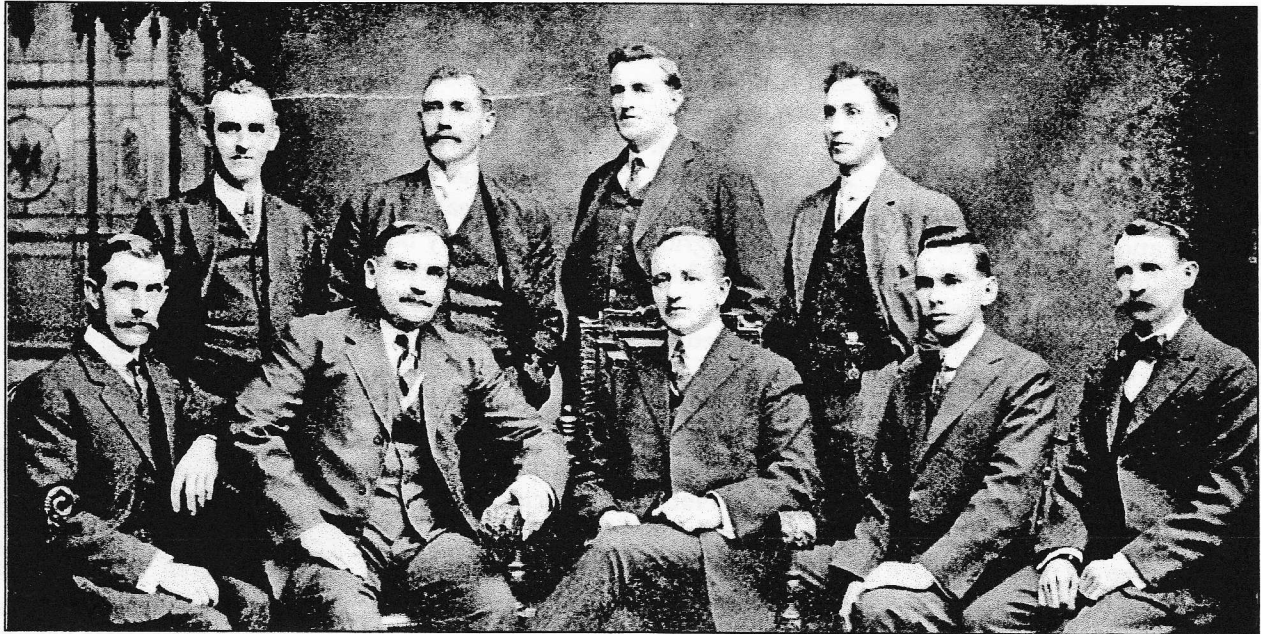
The 1920s are often called the golden age of sports, and the decade found a worthy voice in Grantland Rice. The sportswriter called the 1924 Notre Dame backfield the "Four Horsemen." Rice also penned a memorable line that could apply to Rev. John Francis Farley: "When the Great Scorer comes to write your name, He marks not that you won or lost, but how you played the game."



The Rev. John Francis "Pop" Farley, center, is seen with Notre Dame University coach Corby "Al" Feeney, left, and the legendary Knute Rockne in this 1920s photo. (Courtesy University of Notre Dame)

# The Borough of West Paterson

*Extracted from the Borough of West Paterson Anniversary Book, 1964*



Back Row: Patrick J. McMahon , Councilman; James J. Tierney, Councilman; Samuel Simpson, Councilman; Andrew J. Donnelly, Councilman. Front Row: Edward G. Roome, Collector; John Dowling, President of Councilmen; Anthony M. Ferrary, Mayor; Edward Mulroony, Clerk; David Smith, Assessor.

**T**axation without representation, a battle cry of the American colonists in their struggle with Great Britain, was also the battle cry of the residents of the West Park Section of Little Falls Township. They felt they were "assessed to the limit" and were receiving "no benefits," while their township neighbors "received all the cream" and "West Park paid for it."

Added to the fact that they felt they were not receiving needed improvements, the West Park residents were concerned that practically all the township officials were elected from Little Falls and few, if any, were from West Park.

Agitation for the creation of the new borough started in about 1905, with bills being unsuccessfully introduced in the legislature in 1908 and 1909.

On November 19, 1912, twelve men from West Park met in the offices at Ferrary Bros. Reed and Harness Mill on Squirrelwood Road to form an organization to fight for the creation of a borough. The second meeting a week later was attended by the twenty-one men. On that evening, they elected Morris Kammelhor chairman. Meetings continued to be held at the Ferrary Brothers Mill and the movement gained momentum. Thirty-five members attended the two December meetings. On January 7, 1913, with about fifty people present, the group formally moved that the proposed borough be named the Borough of West Paterson. Messrs. Downey, Ferrary, Niblo, and Kammelhor volunteered to travel to Trenton when called upon to support the bill for the proposed borough.

In March 1914, State Senator Peter J. McGinnis introduced legislation providing for creation of the borough. On March 25, 1914, "An Act to incorporate the Borough of West Paterson" received final approval, and was signed by Governor Fielder. This act set the boundaries of the borough, and called for an election among the voters of West Park.

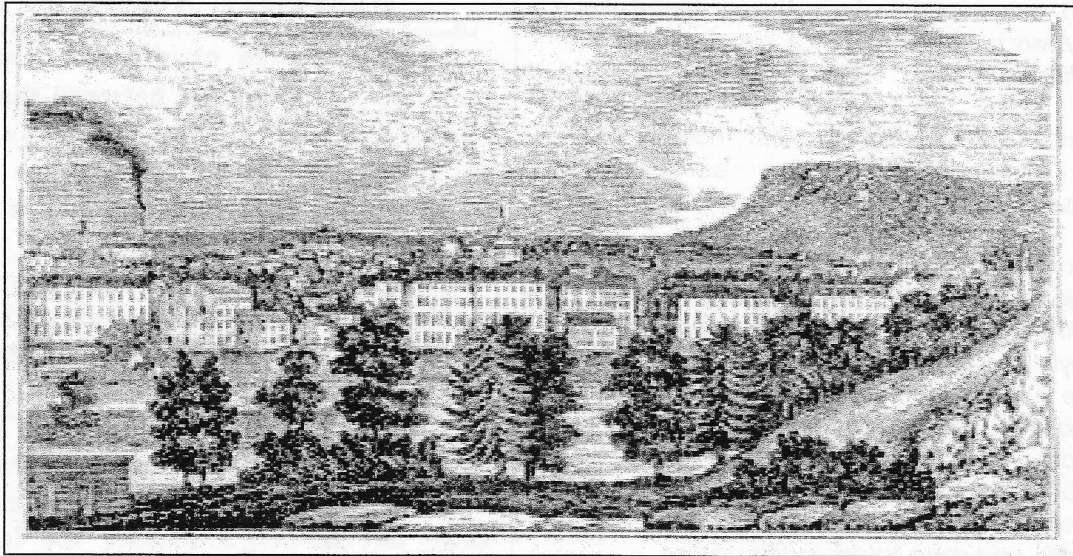
Newspaper accounts say that upon hearing of the passage of the law Judge Kammelhor leaped out of his seat in his courtrooms and said, "We are victorious at last! Up with the flags in the new borough, we will now have harmony and peace after this continuous fighting!"

The election for the creation of the borough was held on May 1, 1914. Newspaper reports predicted a one-sided victory. When the polls closed at 9 p.m. on May 1, 1914, the voters of the district had voted 194 to 20 to approve the new borough. Fireworks, horns, torches, the Totowa Fife and Drum Corps, and a parade of borough residents led by Mr. Kammelhor marked the victory at the polls.

As directed by the County Board of Elections, an election was held on May 16, 1914. Elected to office were: Anthony M. Ferrary, Mayor; Andrew J. Donnelly, John W. Dowling, James J. Tierney, Patrick J. McMahon, Joseph Niblo, and Samuel Simpson, Councilmen; David Smith, Assessor; Edward G. Roome, Collector; William Hoyt and Frank Reinhart, Justices of the Peace; Amos I. Glass and Samuel Whitty, Constables.

The first ordinance passed in the town was to change the name of Little Falls Turnpike to McBride Avenue.

## The 19th Century Paterson Children's Strikes



View of Paterson, NJ , 1845 edition *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey*, by John W. Barber and Henry Howe, depicts early Paterson mills along the Passaic River.

Paterson's population increased from 4,787 to 9,085 during the years 1824 to 1836. This was in direct correlation to the increase in the number of mills during this time period; there were 12 mills in 1824, and 21 in 1832.

The practice in Paterson was to employ both families and individuals. The established Dutch residents in the area had no interest in sending their children to work in the factories; therefore, mill owners often hired workers from New York's almshouses. They preferred Irish families because they "had large numbers of children."

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY,**  
**SIX, WOOL SORTERS (1 or 2 with families of 3 or 4 Children,) to whom liberal wages will be given, and Cash paid every Saturday night. Inquire of the subscriber. • W. STEWART. 136 Paterson, July 28, 1835.**

1835 Ad in the *Paterson Intelligencer*

By the mid-1820s, about one-half of Paterson's mill workers were children eight to sixteen years old. Many came from the families of weavers and journeymen; however about one-fourth of the child laborers were fatherless. Many widows with children moved to Paterson because of employment opportunities for themselves and their offspring. This large child labor force created a problem because it lowered wages for heads of households. As a result, more families had to send their children to work.

Middle class reformers were concerned about the working-class children's "rowdiness." They charged that three hundred "licentious and dissipated youths" were let loose each Sabbath, and their parents did nothing to dis-

courage this behavior. The reformers felt that it was society's responsibility to socialize the working-class children. They proposed Sunday school as the solution.

The parents strongly disagreed and felt it was their responsibility to provide moral guidance for their children, not the reformers. They said the children needed free time for recreation; for many youngsters Sunday was their only day of rest. As the controversy continued, the workers strengthened their resolve to guard and control their non-working hours. In 1836, when a public school was proposed, the working-class viewed it as a means to force another wedge between them and their children. This complex social problem was not easily resolved.

Six strikes took place in Paterson between 1823 and 1836. Two of these specifically involved children. The first "Children's Strike" occurred in 1828. Both child and adult laborers went on strike when the mill owners changed the lunch break from 12 noon to 1 p.m. In addition, workers demanded a 10-hour workday. Although the strike was settled three weeks later and the noon break was eventually restored, employers ignored the 10-hour workday.

By 1835 conditions became intolerable. Over two thousand workers, children and adults, participated in the second "Children's Strike." This large and bitter strike lasted for six weeks. At that time, the average mill hand worked 12 to 14 hours a day 6 days a week. Workers were permitted ½ hour for breakfast and 45 minutes for lunch. Punctuality was strictly enforced; workers were fined twenty-five cents if they were not at their job before the start of the day. To protest the fine meant immediate dismissal.

In an effort to bargain with the mill owners and provide better working conditions for their children, parents formed the *Paterson Association for the Protection of the*

*Laboring Classes.* The parents claimed that long working hours prevented their children from obtaining even a minimal education. Their children, they said, were being confined like criminals without "fresh air and time for health recreation." Mill owners refused to discuss the striker's demands. The Association prepared a circular and published it in the *Paterson Courier*.

As parents, we should see that those great principles should be early impressed upon the minds of our offspring, viz: independence and the love of liberty. In losing sight of these invaluable rights, we have placed ourselves within the power of the few whose hearts are unyielding to the cries of humanity.... We are in favor of domestic manufacturing and internal improvements so long as they are within limit. Any system of monopoly or one that throws the balance of power into the hands of a few capitalists and speculators, is derogatory to the interests of a free people.

The Newark Trades Union helped to publicize the strike. As a result, the strike evoked nationwide sympathy. Laborers throughout the country sent funds to help support unemployed laborers. The mill owners lashed back at the adverse publicity. Newspaper articles expressing their point of view were published in local papers. The manufacturers explained that in the winter months, the children worked a shorter day of 11 ½ hours, and they insisted that Paterson workers were among the highest paid in the nation.

The strike ended six weeks later. Although the demands for an 11-hour day were not met, the workday was reduced to 11-1/2 hours. Some mill owners blacklisted the children of the Paterson Association organizers, and some docked the strikers a week's pay.

## THE INTELLIGENCER.

PATERSON,

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1835.

After six weeks of idleness, arising from an unhappy disagreement between the mill-owners and a portion of the mill-hands, relative to the time of working, our town has again resumed its wonted cheerfulness, and is now a scene of industry and contentment.

Most, if not all the factories have started, and are in partial operation—but it will probably be some little time before those of the hands who left town to seek employment, will return. Until then the factories must operate such portions of their machinery as they may have hands to operate; and as in all probability many have entirely left the neighborhood, the inducement of a certainty of constant and profitable employment offers itself to respectable young women to remove here.

The weekly wages paid to cotton mill hands, in this town, are estimated at upwards of 4,000 dollars. There has consequently in this unfortunate strike been an entire loss of 24,000 dollars, which would otherwise have been directly paid to the hands, and thence passed through all the advantageous currents of trade, shedding its comforts at every step. Long may it be ere we are again so afflicted.

The time which the hands now make per week, is 69 hours, or 11½ per day.

[Information for the above article was extracted from *The Children's Strikes: Socialization and Class Formation in Paterson, 1824-1836*, by Clay Gish, *New Jersey History*, Fall/Winter 1992 - Volume 110, Numbers 3-4, published by the New Jersey Historical Society, and the *Paterson Intelligencer*.]

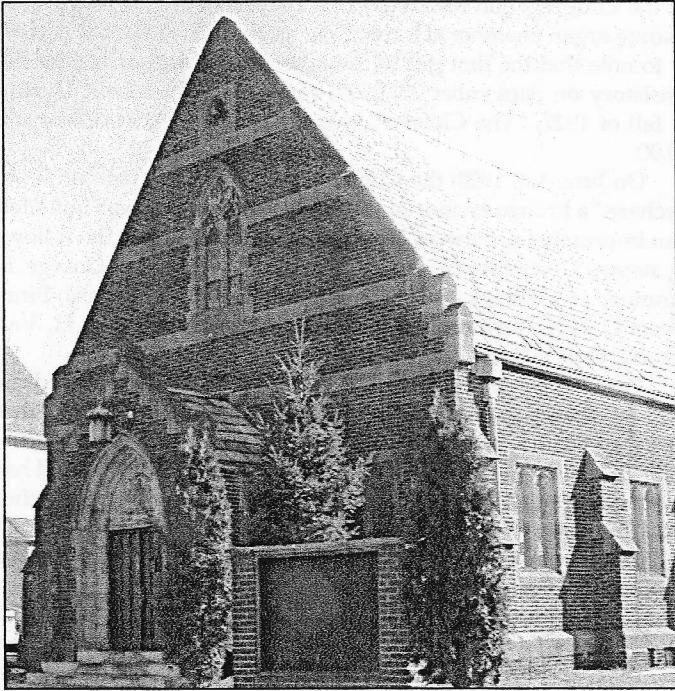
### Did You Know That.....



**Daniel Webster** visited Paterson on Monday, October 23, 1836. Immediately upon arrival, he was given a tour of all the major manufacturing facilities in the city. After the tour, he returned to Congress Hill, where he was loudly cheered by a large group of people that had gathered there in his honor. He spoke to the crowd for about twenty minutes and then had dinner with several local dignitaries at Congress Hall. He returned to New York in late afternoon "highly gratified with his visit to Paterson."

# History of the Church of the Covenant, Paterson, NJ

*These Forty Years, The Fortieth Anniversary Sermon*  
Delivered by Rev. Arthur H. Voerman D.D. Minister  
Sunday, May 1st, 1955



Church of the Covenant, Paterson, NJ

On the evening of September 25, 1914, the Consistories of the First Reformed, Second Reformed, Riverside Reformed and Broadway Reformed Churches of our city, met in the chapel of the Broadway Reformed Church. Mr. Peter Quackenbush, the late proprietor of the well known Quackenbush store, called the meeting to order. The Rev. Thomas Vernoll, of the First Reformed Church, (now Central Reformed) was elected chairman of the meeting. Mr. Frank A. Post, was elected as secretary. In well chosen words, Mr. Quackenbush stated the object of the meeting. For a long time, he and others had felt the possibility and advisability of founding a new Reformed Church in the eastern section of Paterson. Those who were present discussed this possibility with care. The meeting closed after a committee from the four Consistories present, was appointed to look further into the matter.

A number of meetings followed. Some of them were held at the home of Mr. Quackenbush. As interest in the project grew, others were held at Collegiate Hall, corner of 14th Avenue and East 26th St. (now Zionist center).

On Tuesday April 20, 1915, a petition signed by 75 people was presented to the Classis of Paramus. In it, the petitioners asked for permission to organize a new Reformed Church in the eastern section of Paterson. The Church would be known as "The Church of the Covenant," based on the words of Jeremiah 50:5, which read:

*They shall ask their way to Zion with their faces thitherward and saying: Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual COVENANT, that shall not be forgotten.*

The Classis of Paramus granted the petition and the new Church was formally organized on May 2nd, 1915, at Collegiate

Hall, with eighty charter members. The first Consistory elected by the Congregation, consisted of Elders Peter Quackenbush, Alvin M. Smith, Henry Kip, M.D., and William H. McBain, Deacons: Frank A. Post, James B. Bergen, Augustus Mowell and George B. Dunning. The first to serve the new Congregation was a senior student from our Theological Seminary at New Brunswick N.J. Mr. John H. S. Putnan served the Church during the summer months of 1915. Regular Services were held at Collegiate Hall. The Sunday School was organized on Sunday May 30th, 1915.

On June 7th, 1915, the Consistory appointed a committee to find a suitable plot of ground on which to erect a House of Worship. Mr. Quackenbush reported that a piece of ground, consisting of five and one half city blocks on the corner of Broadway and East 27th Street, was available and suitable. A week later, on June 15th, he presented the Congregation with a deed to this property. Plans for the erection of a Church and Chapel were submitted to the Consistory on June 30th, 1915, by the firm of Lee and Hewitt, architects. Those plans called for the erection of a "Church with a seating capacity of 475, and a Chapel to seat 333 on the main floor." Because of the prohibitive cost, it was decided to erect the chapel first. Unforeseen circumstances have made it impossible to erect the Church building as planned, to this day.

Ground for the Chapel, in which the Congregation now worships, was broken on November 8th, 1915. The Chapel, when completed, would cost about \$ 32,000. Since less than \$5,000.00 had been subscribed by the Congregation for the building, there was every possibility that it would be burdened by a huge debt. Fearing that this would hinder the growth of the Church, Mr. Quackenbush presented the completed Chapel as a gift to the Congregation. A bronze tablet, affixed to the rear wall of the Church, commemorates this magnificent gift in these words:

*This Chapel is the gift of Peter Quackenbush to the Church of the Covenant, as a perpetual reminder to all who worship here of the great gift which God has given to the world in the person of His son Jesus Christ. Anno Domini 1916.*

In the completed Chapel, a grateful Congregation placed a stained glass window in his honor over the pulpit. On it are these words:

*The members of the Church of the Covenant install this window as a token of their profound and grateful appreciation of the gift of the Chapel by Peter Quackenbush, Senior Elder of the Consistory. A.D. 1916*

In those early days, the Church did not escape the usual problems, financial and otherwise, which come to any new Church. At times there were not sufficient funds on hand to meet current bills. Mr. Quackenbush made up the deficit of 1916. I suspect that he did this at the end of several years.

The women of the Church organized themselves in "The Church Aid Society" in June, 1915. During "these forty years" this organization has proved to be invaluable help. The work its members have done, the tasks they undertook successfully, the sacrifices they have made and the devotion and loyalty they have displayed to the Church cannot be measured or expressed in mere human words. For a number of years "The Men's League" was an effective force in the life of the Church.

Apparently Lent was not observed as it is in the Protestant

Church today, but, in those years "Cottage Prayer Meetings" preceding Easter Sundays were held at the homes of different members, for several years. The Easter Collection of 1918 amounted to \$ 106.13, all of which was given to local charities.

In the meantime, the new Congregation, with faith, hope and courage extended a call upon the Rev. Mr. J. Collings Caton on October 27, 1915. He accepted the call, and he became the first ordained minister of the Church of the Covenant. He preached his first sermon on Sunday December 12th, 1915, from the significant text: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." In 1918, when America entered the first world war, Mr. Caton wanted to do war work with the American Y.M.C.A. in France. Uncertain about the length of his service with the Y.M.C.A., he resigned his pastorate with the Church on May 29th, 1918. The Consistory refused to concur in his resignation. He was granted a leave of absence for one year.

Not wanting to be without the services of an ordained minister during the absence of Mr. Caton, the Congregation on June 19, 1918 called the Rev. Frederick Shield as Associate Minister for a term of one year. Mr. Shield accepted the call. In June 1919, Mr. Caton returned from his war work. Finding that the sentiment of the Congregation had changed during his absence, he resigned as minister of the Church of the Covenant on September 9th, 1919. A few weeks later, September 25, 1919, Rev. Shield also resigned. A pulpit committee, after hearing a number of ministers, recommended that a call be given to the Rev. Ferdinand Wilson. At a Congregational meeting, held on April 12th, 1920 Mr. Wilson was called. He accepted the call and began his work here on June 6th, 1920. He remained with the Church for thirteen years, the longest pastorate in the history of the Church.

With the coming of the new minister, the need for a parsonage became evident. The Consistory, at its meeting on May 10th, 1920 passed a resolution to purchase a suitable house for this purpose. The members of the Consistory did not hesitate to place a mortgage on the Church building for this purpose, nor to incur a loan. On June 5th, 1920, the house at 280 East 30th Street was bought for \$ 11,000.00. This house is still the parsonage of the Church to this date.

For the first time in its history, the Church found itself burdened by debt, but this inspired the members to greater effort. Largely through the work of the Church Aid Society, the entire debt was discharged in 1935. A mortgage burning ceremony was held at the Parsonage on June 8th, 1935. Apparently, there had been people in the Church who had believed that "it could not be done," for, on this occasion Miss Edna Barraclough recited a poem with the challenging title: "The Passing of the Impossible." Mrs. George Hewitt sang "God Bless this House."

As late as April 7, 1922, the Consistory asked the Public Works Department of the City of Paterson, to install "a gas lamp on the sidewalk to the entrance of the Church."

The Church is now carrying on the usual activities associated with a Church and its organizations. In 1922, the Consistory gave Mr. Wilson a vote of confidence in his work. Someone, I suspect it was the Church Aid Society, gave a hundred dollars for choir gowns. During 1923, this organization assumed the responsibility for the interior needs of the parsonage. A choir loft was built during this year. On May 4th, 1923 Mr. Henry Finn was presented with a Bible, "for his service in the Spanish War, Mexican Border and the World War."

Apparently it had become clear that the erection of a separate Church building would not be realized. On July 11, 1923, a special committee of the Consistory, recommended the installation of Church pews, to take the place of chairs which had been used up

to this time. The pews were installed and first used by the Congregation on Easter Sunday 1924.

A year later, the Consistory recommended the purchase and installation of an organ, to replace that of Mr. Hewitt which had been used for a number of years. Five years later, the organ was installed. An organ recital ushered in its use on February 26th, 1929. It was dedicated on June 9th, 1929. To make the organ possible, the Congregation raised over six thousand dollars and built a separate organ chamber at a cost of more than \$2,000.00. It is worthy to note that the first gift to the organ Fund, authorized by the Consistory on September 23, 1927, came from the Choir. During the fall of 1927, "The Cloister" was enclosed at a cost of about \$ 500.00.

On June 1st, 1928, the Consistory appointed a committee to purchase "a bronze memorial tablet for Veterans." It was unveiled at an impressive service on Memorial Day 1929. It lists the following names Cornelius M. Breen, Charles P. Dunning, George F. Dunning, J. Collings Caton, Raymond B. Felter, Henry Finn, Robert C. Hill, Raymond C. Hopper, Wanley J. Johnson, H. Vail Mowell, Paul D. Mowell.

From its inception, the Church of the Covenant displayed the spirit of tolerance and good will and cooperation with other Churches and Church bodies. It became a member of the Interchurch Federation of Passaic County in 1920. It joined and has remained a member of the Greater Paterson Council of Churches since this body was organized. It shared in union services with neighboring churches. It contributed to a number of local causes and charities.

Due to illness, Mr. Wilson resigned on September 30th, 1930. He was made Pastor-Emeritus, which office he held till December 2nd, 1932. A call was extended upon the Rev. B. Clay Frye which he accepted on August 1st, 1931. He was installed as the fifth minister of the Church on November 4th, 1932. On November 1st, 1932, the membership of the Sunday School was 133.

Apparently, the summer of 1938, was very warm. The Church Aid Society, always ready to serve, offered to install electric fans in the Church auditorium. The matter was referred to the Consistory. The motion to accept resulted in a tie vote. Mr. Frye broke the tie by voting in the negative. And, I presume, the people continued to perspire.

The attendance at the annual meetings of the Congregation had been small. On January 3rd, 1939, the Consistory asked the members of the Church Aid Society, if they would be willing to serve light refreshments in an attempt to increase the attendance. At the annual meeting of March 1st, 1939, the Church Aid served ice cream, cake and coffee. Unfortunately, the minutes do not show if the effort met with success.

On Wednesday October 25th, 1939, the Rev. E. Clay Frye resigned his charge here to accept a call to the Third Presbyterian Church of Newark N.J. His resignation became effective on November 27, 1939. On September 12th, 1940, Mr. Ellsworth Lee had served the Sunday School as its Superintendent for twenty five years. He added five more years to this long and faithful record. On June 11th, 1945, on the occasion of his thirtieth anniversary, he was presented with a Bible and the deep appreciation of the school. On September 30th, 1940, the Rev. Bertram DeHeus Atwood, became the sixth minister of the Church. On April 13th, 1942, Mr. Henry Finn, resigned as treasurer of the Church, an office he had filled with credit and honor to himself and the Church for many years. A grateful Congregation presented him with a testimonial for his unselfish service. Mr. Atwood resigned as the minister of the Church on November 22nd, 1943. A call was extended upon the Rev. L. Braam, and he was installed by

the Classis of Paramus on October 12th, 1944.

A memorial tablet to honor those who served in the second world war, was unveiled and dedicated on May 28th, 1950. It lists the following:

Roy T. Brown, Robert H. Pryson, Walter E. Buller, Joseph Carino, Thomas F. Cooke, Larue M. Courson, William A. Courson, Carlton J. Dane, Walter Edwards, H. Warren Gould, Frank J. Hickling, Donald E. Johnson, William F. Laessig, Gregory Lee, Harry E. Lefferts, Jr., James W. Martin, William MacKenzie, Charles W. McKinley, Arthur H. Neumann, W. Herbert Reilly, George W. Roughgarden, Dolores V. Sanders, Anthony Sorrentino, Robert H. Stout, Chester W. Sherwood, John H. Sherwood, Herman Vandervelt, Richard A. Weber, Joseph H. Whitney, Jr., William S. Whitney.

On June 18th, 1945, the Church Aid Society celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Mr. Braam, representing the Consistory, expressed the felicitations of that body.

During these years, the Church was the recipient of several gifts toward its endowment fund. At a special meeting of the Consistory, held on March 25th, 1945, it acknowledged the receipt of the Barraclough-Kip Trust Fund of \$5,000.00. The interest of this fund only can be used for the general purposes of the Church. If the Church should cease to exist, the principle must be given to the Ministers Pension Fund of the Reformed Church. Somewhat later, the Church received the residue of the Barraclough Estate which amounted to over \$10,000.00. Miss Grace Russell willed the Church \$5,000.00. Miss Alice Oldis bequeathed the Church \$1,000.00. Mr and Mrs. Fred Schollhammer presented the Church with a large Pulpit Bible, which is still in use today.

Mr. Braam resigned the pastorate of the Church in October 1950. The present minister, the Rev. Arthur H. Voerman, came to the Church on September 1st, 1951. During his ministry, which has been marred by the death of Mrs. Voerman in 1954, the Church has moved forward and extensive improvements have been made. The Social Hall and the Church auditorium have been completely redecorated. The Church kitchen has been modernized and completely rebuilt. The interior of the Parsonage has been refurbished. The income of the Church which was \$6,711.00 in 1950, has risen to \$12,036.00 in 1954. Fifty-seven new members have been received.

"These Forty Years:" Sometimes we grow impatient at the progress we make. It seems so slow, so imperceptible. But, if we remember that humanity as a whole is exceedingly progressive if it weaves into its fabric, three new ideas in a hundred years, we need not be discouraged.

There are many people who deserve to be named. Let me name but two of them. There are in the possession of the Church today, two scrap books, filled with clippings from our two newspapers about the activities of the Church. Since 1933, Mrs. Hiram Dreher, under the auspices of the Church Aid Society, has been in charge of this work. These will prove invaluable sources of information to future historians of the Church.

And the record of these years would not be complete without a word of praise and tribute to Mr. Herbert Kennedy and the members of the Choir with whom he has worked for fifteen years. No finer nor more inspiring Church music can be heard in the city of Paterson. No greater loyalty to this work of the Church has been displayed by those with whom he has worked. We want him to know that we deeply appreciate all he does to make our music so distinctive and outstanding.

...And so we come to the end of "Those Forty Years." The Church of the Covenant faces the future with confidence. It believes there is a task for her in this community.

### The Ministry of the Church

Rev. John H. Putnan	1915
Rev. J. Collings Caton	1915 - 1918
Rev. Frederick K. Shield	1918 - 1919
Rev. Ferdinand S. Wilson D.D.	1920 - 1931
Rev. E. Clay Frye D.D.	1931 - 1939
Rev. B. DeHeus Atwood	1940 - 1943
Rev. Leonard Braam	1944 - 1950
Rev. Arthur H. Voerman D.D.	1951 - 1955
Rev. Richard M. Suffern	1956 - 1970
Rev. Jerry Van Der Veen	1970 - 1975
Rev. Richard M. Suffern	1975 - 1976

## Church of the Covenant Will End Ministry

*Paterson News*, June 27th, 1976

PATERSON - Another historic Paterson Protestant congregation has decided to terminate its ministry at the end of this month. The Church of the Covenant, Reformed Church in America located on Broadway and East 27th St., will hold its final service of worship on Sunday, June 27th, at 11 a.m. The interim pastor, the Rev. Richard M. Suffern, will officiate, and all members, former members and friends of the church have been invited to attend.

The Church of the Covenant was begun by 75 people who petitioned the Classis of Paramus to organize a new Reformed church in the eastern section of Paterson, which at that time was a rapidly growing residential area of the city. On May 2, 1915 the church was formally established with 80 charter members, and soon thereafter a Sunday School and other church organizations were begun. The Rev. J. Collings Caton was the first installed pastor, and he was followed in that capacity by the Revs. Ferdinand S. Wilson, E. Clay Frye, B. DeHeus Atwood, Leonard Braam, Arthur H. Voerman and Jerry Van Der Veen. Dr. Suffern also served the church as interim pastor from 1956-70 and has only recently returned to that position.

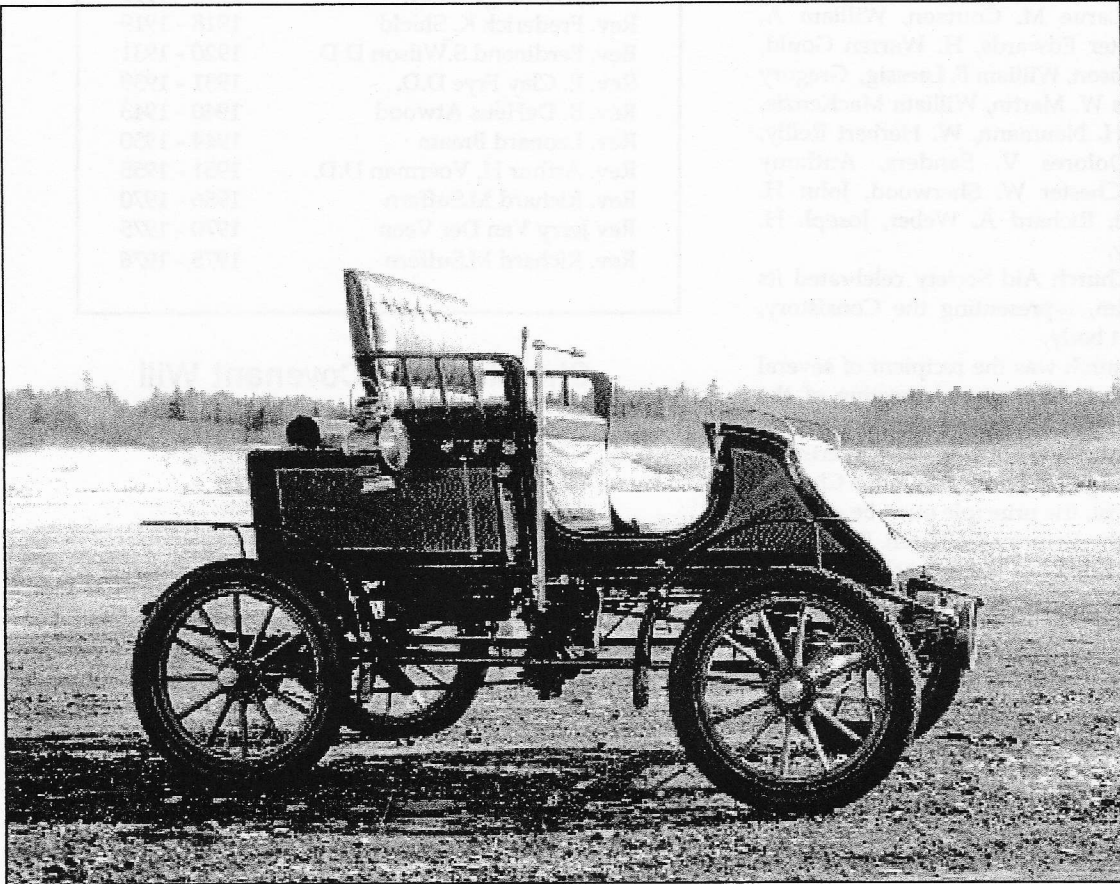
The membership of the Church of the Covenant included many prominent Paterson families, but in recent years their number has been greatly diminished. The church congregation decided to disband in March and applied to the Reformed Classis of Passaic for permission to do this, which was granted at a classis meeting held on June 1st.

The church building is a fine example of chapel Gothic architecture and was constructed shortly after the formation of the congregation through the generosity of Peter Quackenbush, a prominent Paterson merchant. The building and all of its equipment will be conveyed as a gift of the present congregation to Faith Chapel an extension work of the Sixth Reformed Church. Faith Chapel is now meeting in the former Paterson City Mission building on the corner of North Straight and Holsman Streets. Pastor Richard Kooistra is the spiritual leader of this predominantly black Reformed Church congregation.

After an interval during the month of July for the completion of formalities and for moving Faith Chapel plans to hold its services in the Church of the Covenant building beginning on August 1st and to conduct a full ministry to the community in its new location.

# Paterson and Passaic Produced Hand Made Cars

By E. A. Smyk, Passaic County Historian



1903 Prescott Runabout  
(Courtesy of the Owls Head Transportation Museum)

The Prescott Automobile Manufacturing Co. of Passaic, New Jersey produced steam-powered cars from 1901 to 1905 as a sideline to its stove and shoe polish business. A Prescott won the gold medal in the 1902 New York to Boston Reliability Run; a first at Clifton, N.J., and first in the Mt. Washington Hillclimb of 1904. In 1905 at Eagle Rock Hill climb, a \$1,200 Prescott beat a \$2,500 White Steamer by 10.4 seconds.

Specifications: two-passenger runabout; engine two-cylinder vertical steam, 7.5 hp.

(Courtesy of the Owls Head Transportation Museum)

When it first appeared on the streets of turn-of-the-century Paterson and Passaic, the newfangled motorcar was a technological wonder to some and an infernal machine to others. Nonetheless, the "horseless carriage" was soon here to stay.

Local companies in both cities actually produced handmade motorcars, but the hefty price tag enticed only the wealthy. One car, the luxurious Conover, was made in Paterson and cost \$3,000. According to a 1907 publicity brochure, the Conover represented the "highest grade of workmanship, materials and finish." Business executives and physicians were among the first local residents fortunate enough to own and operate gasoline-powered automobiles. In Paterson, William Fletcher of Peerless Plush Works had a single cylinder model with a smoke pipe mounted in the rear. European manufacturers also turned out automobiles, and silk manufacturer Charles L. Auger owned a French import called the Daracque. It was painted red and was entered through a back door.

Steam-powered cars, or "steamers," were made in Passaic by the Prescott Co. Between 1901 and 1905, the company was busy assembling the Prescott Steam Car. Isaac W. England, president of Passaic Metal Ware Co., is said to be the first city resident to own and drive an automobile. In 1900, England bought a Mobile steamer, a model made in Tarrytown, N.Y. England was so taken by his car that two years later he bought a "U.S. Long Distance Gas Car," another one-cylinder affair.

Years later, people recalled the first motorcars with nostalgia. Paterson banker Henry H. Parmelee owned a 1905 Duryea. The Duryea Brothers of Massachusetts manufactured the first American-made car in 1892. Parmelee's wife, Alice wrote about the car in June 1967 and said, "I can recall hearing the familiar chug of that wonderful engine over and over." Farmers, however, would probably have had less pleasant memories of the early vehicles that invaded their countryside.

Paterson auto salesman Harry U. Garlick reminisced about the early days of motoring in a 1950 newspaper interview. Garlick said that around 1903, New Jersey farmers tried to fight the automobile. They had a bill introduced in the state Legislature which would have made driving a two-man proposition. Why such an arrangement? Garlick mused, "The farmers were licked in the vote, but they still wanted two men to ride in every car - one to drive and the other to jump out every time they came to a horse and hold the horse until the car passed."