



THE HISTORIC COUNTY

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bloomington • Clifton • Haledon • Hawthorne • Little Falls • North Haledon
Passaic • Paterson • Pompton Lakes • Prospect Park • Ringwood • Totowa
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

See page 2 for more information about these and other upcoming events.

July 28

Teddy Roosevelt presented by Charles McSorely.

August 18

Dolley Madison Presentation

September 8

Genealogy Club Meeting

September 12

Society Quarterly Meeting
"The Morris Canal, Yesterday & Today"
presented by Phil Jaeger

October 4

"In the Shadow of the Mountain",
The story of Luigi Del Bianco,
chief carver of Mt. Rushmore,
presented by Lou Del Bianco,
grandson of Luigi, Lambert Castle

October 6 & 7

History Fair

JOHN DYNELEY PRINCE

PROFILE OF AN IVY LEAGUE SCHOLAR IN POLITICS

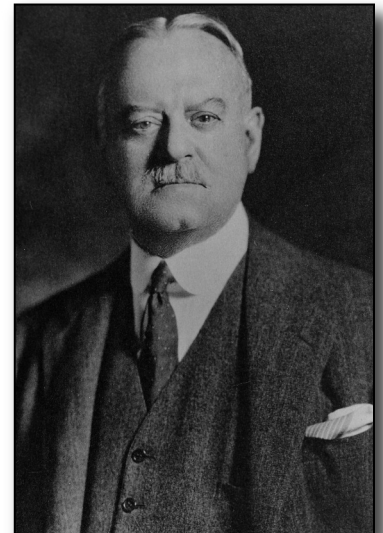
by E. A. Smyk, Passaic County Historian

For decades, John Dyneley Prince has been the long forgotten man among rank-and-file Passaic County Republicans. Even his once robust contributions to academic life are now shrouded in obscurity. Perhaps Prince best illustrates Woodrow Wilson's pithy observation that "there is no indispensable man." Yet in the years preceding World War I, Prince and Wilson were well-known figures in New Jersey government. Political opposites, the two men nonetheless had a zest for the campaign trail, and shared other similarities. Both were college professors who held earned doctorates in philosophy, men who were at ease in the contemplative, idea-driven world of academe, but still versatile enough to carve out niches for themselves in the tumultuous arena of state politics. Both taught at Ivy League universities, Prince at Columbia's Morningside Heights campus, and Wilson occupying a lecture hall and later the president's house at Princeton.

Conservative to the marrow of his bones, Prince would have never uttered, as Wilson once did, that "The masters of government of the United States are the combined capitalists and manufacturers of the United States." Despite the great divide separating their philosophies of government and politics, Prince the Republican and Wilson the Democrat would now seem anachronistic among today's inflexible political warriors.

In their time – or for that matter any time – the two men best illustrated that there is a place in the rough-and-tumble world of partisan politics for principled intellectuals. They were shining examples of a now endangered breed of politician, men who could debate opposing viewpoints with felicity, tolerance, and respect.

There is much in John Dyneley Prince's early life to suggest he would one day be acclaimed an outstanding member of America's diplomatic corps, renown for his easy proficiency in East European languages, and blessed with an unquenchable curiosity about culture and nations. Prince was born in New York City on April 17, 1868.



John Dyneley Prince, Ph.D., as he appeared in 1939, the year his scholarly work, *Fragments from Babel*, was published by Columbia University Press. (Blank & Stoller photo, Columbia University)

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**PASSAIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

LAMBERT CASTLE

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Lambert Castle, a picturesque 1892 Victorian mansion located on the Garret Mountain Reserve, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Castle is operated and managed by the Passaic County Historical Society, a not-for-profit 501(c) educational institution.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June - December 2012

- July 28** 2PM, Teddy Roosevelt presented by Charles McSorely.
Admission FREE to member, \$5 all others.
- August 18** 2PM, Dolley Madison presentation.
Admission FREE to member, \$5 all others.
- September 8** 10AM, Genealogy Club Meeting at Lambert Castle.
- September 12** 7PM, Society Quarterly meeting at Lambert Castle.
"The Morris Canal, Yesterday & Today",
presented by Phil Jaeger.
- October 4** 7PM, "In the Shadow of the Mountain", The story of
Luigi Del Bianco, chief carver of Mt. Rushmore, presented by
Lou Del Bianco, grandson of Luigi, Lambert Castle.
- October 6 & 7** History Fair, Lambert Castle
- October 13** 10AM, Genealogy Club Meeting at
Louis Bay Library, Hawthorne.
- October 23** Annual Beefsteak Dinner, Brownstone,
Entertainment by Don Anthony, Elvis impersonator.
- November 2** Holiday House Preview Night
- November 3-25** Holiday House Boutique
- November 7** 7PM, Society Quarterly Meeting
Louis Bay Library, Hawthorne
- December 7** Wine Tasting Party at Lambert Castle
- December 8** 10AM, Genealogy Club Brunch
Louis Bay Library, Hawthorne
- December 9** Storytelling with Santa at Lambert Castle
- December 15, 16** Candlelight Tour at Lambert Castle

**For more information on any of these events,
please call the office at 973-247-0085
or visit us on line at www.lambertcastle.org.**

PRINCE *cont. from page 1*

His grandfather had emigrated from England nearly 40 years before, settling in Paterson and forming the manufacturing partnership of Plummer & Prince. In those days, "Silk City" was a Mecca for the industrially adventurous. The two enterprising men located their factory on what became Prince Street. (The thoroughfare was named after the former Yorkshire native, and it survives to this day.) As a youngster, it was evident that Prince clearly had pronounced gifts: he was a linguistic prodigy who relished learning. The future professor was not content to learn only Romance languages. Before he entered his teens, Prince had a working knowledge of Romany culture, and apparently could not learn enough about gypsy customs, and the lives of a little understood people.

When Prince heard there was a band of gypsies near Newark, he indulged his growing taste for adventure by running away from home and spending three days at their campsite. His command of the Romany language was reputed to be so good that the group accepted him. Prince learned Welsh at age 14, and six years later added Turkish to his storehouse of knowledge. Prince was just 20 years of age when he received his undergraduate degree from Columbia. He was poised for an academic career that would lead him to the state senate in Trenton, and eventually, diplomatic posts in two European capitals.

In 1892, Prince received his Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University. His doctoral dissertation, the first of many published books and essays, must have been a pleasurable challenge for Prince to research and write. The subject was suitably recondite, a study of the fifth chapter of Daniel in the Old Testament. The title of the

study, *Men, Mene Tekel Upharsin* translates from the Aramaic as "weighted and found lighter and lighter; weighted and found wanting." Indeed, the plucky young scholar no doubt familiarized himself with Aramaic, the language of Jesus, when conducting his research.

The same year Prince donned his deep blue, velvet-embellished doctoral hood, his impressive credentials brought him an appointment as Professor of Semitic Languages at New York University. From 1885 until 1902, he served as Dean of the Graduate School. It was an administrative post any academic would have coveted, but Prince nourished larger ambitions. Columbia University was on his career horizon. In 1902, Nicholas Murray Butler assumed the presidency of Columbia, and it was his driving ambition to transform the institution into a major research university. Born in Elizabeth, Butler spent his youth in Paterson and was among the first to graduate from the city's high school. The Butler and Prince families were representative examples of Paterson's manufacturing

elite, and so, in all their lives, the city was a catalyst for ambition.

Fortuitously, Columbia's energetic new president had no shortage of ideas for developing the institution, and he was actively engaged in recruiting scholars of promise to join him in the task of "university building." To this day, Prince's voluminous faculty records are preserved in the university's Columbiana Collection. They disclose, among a wealth of detail, that the able linguist was appointed to the faculty on March 3, 1902, "for three years, or during the pleasure of the Trustees."

At the time he joined Columbia, Prince had a residence in Pompton Township (now the towns of Bloomingdale, Ringwood and West Milford.) The master philologist found the stillness of Ringwood's forests conducive to thinking and agreeable to his temperament. He sought respite there for most of his adult life. When Prince was not lecturing, researching, writing or politicking, he either "motored" across the countryside, fished, or enjoyed healthful outdoor sports.

Prince got his start in local politics when he was elected to the Pompton Township Board of Education, serving as president from 1902 to 1905. Despite his conservative bona fides, Prince did not escape the scrutiny of one of the district's more formidable, frugal-minded taxpayers. Local historian Louis P. West relates that Sally Hewitt of Ringwood told the professor she planned to run against him for the school board. In her characteristic, blunt way, "Miss Sally" made it clear that the Hewitts maintained, supplied and furnished the Ringwood School, and paid the most taxes. The indomitable woman, in West's words, "wanted to know where the money was going."

Prince proved he was not a shy scholar, tucked away in some drafty Columbia classroom, reluctant to leave his acropolis of learning and fearful of articulating his convictions before the body politic. Accordingly, his oratorical abilities were not lost on the Passaic County Republican Committee. In autumn 1905, he was offered and accepted the party's nomination for state assembly. Once in Trenton, Prince focused his legislative endeavors on public education issues. With his quick wit, the loquacious academic was much in demand as an after dinner speaker, where he often "orated" before political groups and learned audiences.

Republican leaders soon found they had an intelligent representative for their party, a man with unique talents few others possessed. On the campaign trail, time and again, Prince proved a valuable asset. He would wade into a crowd and address his listeners in several languages. Few nationalities were excluded from this intellectual tour-de-force. For a poor immigrant from Paterson



Senator JOHN D. PRINCE,
of Passaic County.

**Cartoon of Prince when he served in the
New Jersey Senate. The artwork is by E. Burton Johnson,
cartoonist for the State Gazette.**

(Collections of the Passaic County Historical Society)

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PRINCE *cont. from page 3*

or Passaic, it must have been both a startling, and even inspiring experience to hear the bespectacled professor, dressed in an immaculate suit with high collar, spouting forth in Russian, Hungarian, Polish, Bulgarian, and the major Romance languages. In this regard, Prince was the predecessor to New York's beloved, multi-lingual mayor, Fiorello H. LaGuardia.



Top: Woodrow Wilson, shown conferring with Democratic party operatives on the porch at Sea Girt, traditional summer home of New Jersey governors. The photo was taken in 1910. Prince and Wilson lifted the level of political discourse, defending their opposing philosophies with intellectual zeal. (Photo from author's collection)

Right: Nicholas Murray Butler, Ph.D., spent his youth in Paterson. In 1902, the formidable academic was installed as President of Columbia University. Butler considered Prince "one of the true builders of Columbia." The portrait dates from 1932. (Blackstone Studio photo, Columbia University)



Prince moved on to the New Jersey Senate in 1910, becoming majority leader the following year. The professor was tapped to lead the senate in 1912. Woodrow Wilson was then serving as governor, and as Nicholas Murray Butler relates his 1939 autobiography, *Across the Busy Years*, Prince and Wilson converged at the crossroads of politics. Wilson had decided to seek the presidency, and as such, was frequently absent from the state while pursuing his party's nomination. The New Jersey Constitution specified that the governor's responsibilities would thus "devolve upon the president of the Senate." On these occasions, Prince, in his capacity as Senate president, became acting governor. The state comptroller, a determined legalist, thought Prince should receive Wilson's salary whenever the governor left the state. Uncertain to what he should do, and in somewhat of a quandary, Prince asked Butler for advice. Columbia's president counseled that Professor Prince should endorse the check to Wilson, and then send it to him with

a personal note. According to Butler, Prince forwarded the checks "about a dozen times during the next few months and each time received a most cordial and appreciative note from Wilson."

Prince and Butler thought remarkably alike, before and after the nation was drawn into that blood soaked conflict, the "Great War." Both agreed dissent had its limits. Prior to America's involvement, Columbia University anthropologist Franz Boaz wrote in the *New York Times* that the public should not support President Wilson's policies. In a follow-up letter, Prince repudiated his colleague, asserting he had "always been opposed to President Wilson's policies," and then, with a burst of patriotism flowing through his pen, exclaimed, "The national calamity of war looms on the horizons, no man has the right to express the slightest partisan feelings." Prince strongly believed that "The President is entitled to the full and undivided allegiance of all true Americans."

Prince was willing and able to help Republican candidates when summoned; he was often quoted in the papers. In 1928, he stumped for Herbert Hoover, and he must have been delighted after Election Day to read headlines like "Hoover Avalanche Sweeps Nation." On November 4 of that year, the *Paterson Press-Guardian* reported that Prince, on leave of sorts as minister to Czechoslovakia, addressed a "monster" G.O.P. rally in the Paterson Armory. Despite the stormy night, the fortress-like building was "crowded to capacity." Prince echoed the prevailing feeling among Republicans in saying that soon to be President Hoover had "character like the Atlantic Ocean, full of currents and almost boundless in its possibilities."

Teaching, politics and family responsibilities notwithstanding, Prince had proven his skills in handling people and mastering the art of compromise. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, scion of an ancient family and U.S. Senator from New Jersey, recommended Prince to President Warren G. Harding for a diplomatic post. The professor's first accreditation, in 1921, was as minister to Denmark. Not surprisingly, he was fluent in Danish.

Europe was not *terra incognita* to him. Prince had undertaken graduate studies at the University of Berlin shortly after receiving his bachelor's degree. While serving as minister, he decided to take a respite from his diplomatic responsibilities. He sailed for England, and happily decamped for the famed Ascot racecourse. Prince, in keeping with age-old tradition, dressed for the occasion in the *derigueur* grey topper, morning coat and striped trousers. As the jaunty diplomat walked across the paddock, he encountered a group of gypsies. He began speaking to them in Romany, their native language. Before long, thirty to forty gypsies rushed Prince, frightening his lady escort and attracting the attention of King George V, who was watching the commotion through his field glasses. A bobby arrived and dutifully dispersed the crowd. The spontaneous outburst, a rare occurrence at Ascot, was grist for the London press. A newspaper headline blared, "American Minister to Denmark Blocks the Racecourse."

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PRINCE *cont. from page 4*

Prince remained at Copenhagen for the next five years. President Calvin Coolidge then appointed him to the political sensitive Balkans. As minister to Yugoslavia, he was in the proverbial “powder keg” of Europe. Here, of all places, a proven diplomat was essential. Prince was truly in his element among the Yugoslavs, able to speak Serbian, Croatian and Slovene with proficiency. When Prince celebrated his 70th birthday in 1938, former Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson wrote the diplomat’s wife, saying “Your husband was probably one of the most accomplished linguists who ever served the United States abroad, and he possessed the extraordinary ability



In the 1928 presidential contest, Passaic County literally went wild for Herbert C. Hoover. The Republicans carried the county by a 10,552-vote plurality. Professor Prince, as one of the party’s leading lights, exhorted voters to select Hoover over New York Governor Alfred E. Smith. On September 8, a huge throng of supporters welcomed Hoover at the Passaic County Courthouse. Seen on the platform, from left, are, Elsa H. Flower, Republican state committeewoman, U.S. Senator Walter E. Edge, Hoover, Congressman George H. Seger, and Morgan F. Larson, soon to be elected New Jersey Governor. (Paterson Evening News photo, author’s collection)

to talk with the people to whom he was accredited in each one of the three different languages which they used.” Nicholas Murray Butler gave Prince an encomium as well, noting that the linguist was among “the highest type of intellect leaders and scholars of university equipment and rank, and they, together with their associates and successors, were the true builders of Columbia University as a world center of teaching and research.”

Prince’s scholarship would be considered pioneering by today’s standards, but no one who peruses the records of his life would say the linguist lacked character, firm convictions and penetrating insight. In a 1920 lecture before the American Philosophical Society, Prince commented on the recently reconstituted Polish State, noting

that “During the past century ... this gallant and individualistic nation passed through an ordeal of fire at the hands of Germans, Russians and Austrians, a much deeper spirit of inherent solidarity has shown itself among them, and this, it is to be hoped, may weld Poland once more by internal force into as strong a European influence as she became under the external pressure of the Lithuanian Jagiellos.”

Prince retired from the diplomatic service laden with foreign decorations, and returned to his familiar haunts at Columbia. He remained at the university until his 69th year, closing out his career



as Professor of East European Languages. Vital and engaged, he continued to think, write and publish articles until a few years before his demise. In 1939, Prince’s *alma mater* honored the now mellow academic by gathering and reprinting a selection of his writings. It was a superb, richly deserved tribute. The *New York Times* characterized the compilation, *Fragments from Babel*, as “excursions into the bypaths of philology.”

Prince died at his Manhattan home on October 11, 1945, cursed with a malady all mortals, especially writers and scholars dread – he had been gradually going blind. Although Prince still maintained Ringwood as his legal residence, the commodious house he and his late wife, Adeline, inhabited near Shepherd Pond had been consumed by fire several years before.

Linguist, professor, scholar, educational reformer, politician and finally diplomat, John Dyneley Prince is a lasting reminder that public office need not become a refuge for those of lesser talents.

Sources and Acknowledgements

This article originally appeared, in slightly different format, in two issues of the *North Jersey Herald & News*, November 20 and 21, 1994. In addition to sources cited in the text, the following were consulted: the *National Cyclopaedia*; J. J. Scannell, *New Jersey’s First Citizens, 1917-1918*, (Paterson, 1917); Gilbert Seldes, *The Great Thoughts*, (New York, 1985); *Who Was Who in America*, (Chicago, 1950); Thomas F. Fitzgerald, *Manual of the Legislature of New Jersey*, (Trenton, 1910); Louis P. West, Sr., “Papa’s Trains and Sally,” *North Jersey Highlander*, (North Jersey Highlands Historical Society, Vol. 29, Issue No. 83); Charles A. Shriner, “Ringwood’s Growth: Historian tells of other families that came to upper reaches of county, besides the Coopers and Hewitts,” *Paterson Evening News*, June 14, 1939; J. Dyneley Prince, “Slav and Celt,” (address before the American Philosophical Society, April 22, 1920), reprinted from *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. XIX, No. 3, 1920, also published in Prince’s *Fragments from Babel*; Michael Rosenthal, *Nicholas Miraculous: the Amazing Career of the Redoubtable Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler*, (New York, 2006).

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Eva Goldschmidt, Columbia Collection, Columbia University, for providing information on Professor Prince’s faculty tenure; Elbertus Proll, now retired Ringwood Manor Curator, for an engaging conversation about Prince’s residence in Ringwood; and Robert Blackwell, Principal Librarian, New Jersey Division, the Newark Public Library, for attempting to unearth clippings on Dr. Prince in the files of the long defunct *Newark Evening News*.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: MEET THE BOARD

by Maria Carparelli

The office of President of the Passaic County Historical Society carries with it many challenges and obligations. Our society has a responsibility to our members and the public to showcase the rich history of Passaic County through programs, events, and publications; to generate interest in that history; and to safeguard and conserve the vast collection of artifacts that have been entrusted to the Society.

The challenges we face include issues of funding needed to support our programs and conserve our artifacts, and the recruiting of the many volunteers needed to assist the Society with those challenges.

I would encourage all members to get involved, and become a volunteer. There are many areas where your assistance is needed. Volunteering at PCHS is a very rewarding experience. Volunteers know that they are performing a valuable service to the Society and the community, while enjoying the company of like minded individuals.

New Officers Elected on May 2

At the Annual meeting of the PCHS on May 2, 2012, Geri Mola stepped down as President and Trustee of the Passaic County Historical Society when her term expired. During her tenure as Trustee and President, Geri tirelessly contributed her talents in many different areas. Thank you Geri, for all your contributions to the Passaic County Historical Society.

President: Maria Carparelli

Maria is a retired secondary school art teacher who also was advisor to school publications. An artist and photographer, she has exhibited her work locally with the Clifton Association of Artists and the Art Association of Rutherford. She is President of POINT, an Italian genealogical society, and a member of Passaic-Clifton UNICO. Together with First Vice President Lorraine Yurchak, Maria co-curated the PCHS Civil War Exhibit last summer, as well as the Victorian Fan Exhibit. She has used her artistic and computer skills to create various brochures for PCHS, as well as a six minute DVD on the Society. She is the Membership Chair and Co-chair of the Collections Management Committee.

First Vice-President: Lorraine Yurchak

Lorraine is our most capable Museum Store Chair. She has utilized her marketing and artistic skills to create an elegant and productive boutique. As First Vice President, she will chair the Development Committee. Lorraine is also Chair to the Collections Management Committee, Co-Chair of Volunteers, and serves as a member of the Finance, Curatorial, and Membership Committees. In addition, Lorraine serves as a docent.

Second Vice-President: Claire Salviano

Claire is Chair of the Government Outreach Committee. Together with Past President Geri Mola, Claire has met with and established cordial relations with County officials over issues concerning the Society. Claire also is a member of the Personnel Committee. Her common sense, no nonsense approach to issues facing the Society

is respected by all. She was the Director of Transportation for the Paterson Public School System, is a member of the Great Falls Rotary Club, a Commissioner of the Passaic County Senior Advisory Transportation Committee, and a member of the Passaic Valley Soroptimist International.

Secretary: Sharon Briggs

Sharon is stepping into her second term as Secretary. She is the chair of two committees, Bylaws and Nominating. She also serves on the Personnel Committee, contributing much insight and positive direction. She is a secondary school nurse, and previously held various administrative positions with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. A life-long resident of Paterson, she is a Board member of Concerned Parents for Head Start, and Past President of Delta Sigma Theta Inc., a public service sorority.

Treasurer: Joe Leone

Joe is also beginning a second term as Treasurer. He brings with him his experience as Branch Manager and Vice President of Lakeland Bank in Little Falls. He is the chair of the Finance Committee and a member of the Corporate Outreach Committee. Joe is also Chair of the PCHS Holiday Wine Tasting Social. He is a member of the Rotary and Chamber of Commerce.

Trustees

Glenn Corbett

Glenn is our newest Trustee, but by no means a stranger to the Passaic County Historical Society. He has contributed articles to our newsletters, written many books, and given presentations at our meetings. Glenn is currently Associate Professor of Fire Science and Coordinator of Undergraduate Fire Science Programs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City and former Assistant Chief of the Waldwick Fire Department. Most recently, he was named 2012 Man of the Year by the Firefighter Christopher Santora Educational Scholarship Fund. He was honored at a dinner held on June 8. Glenn will be using his vast experience on several committees: Buildings, Grounds, and Security; Collections Management; History and Education; and Library and Archives. We welcome you to the PCHS Board of Trustees. With your knowledge and experience, you will be an asset to the society.

Helen V. Mault

Helen Mault, a retired elementary school teacher and media supervisor (librarian) is entering her second term as Trustee. Helen spends much of her time volunteering with Passaic County Retired Educators and the William Paterson University Alumni Association, is a Life Member of National Guard Volunteers, and is a Board member and past president of the New Jersey Federal Credit Union. She is presently Chair of the Mailings and Office Assistance Committee. Her tireless energy and dedication is most appreciated.

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Dolores Most

Dolores is also entering her second term as a Trustee. Dolores had previously served as Secretary to the Board of Trustees. After a 40-year career in law enforcement, Dolores spends her time as Historian of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, where she also serves on the Altar Guild. She has been member of the Vestry for 17 years. Dolores is an active member of Wayne Soroptimist International. She will be Co-Chairing the Volunteers Committee, and will also serve on Hospitality and Facility Rental Committees.

Lois Ann Paterson

Lois is our History and Education Chair, for which she is well suited. A certified History teacher, she presently is employed as Vice Principal at the Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne. She will also be serving on the the Buildings, Grounds, Security Committee and the Government Outreach Committee. Lois has been affiliated with the Kinnelon, Wayne and Lakeland School Districts and also is an active member of Soroptimist International.

John Pullara

John is a former President and CEO of the Little Falls Bank. He

has previously served as the Society's Treasurer, and currently serves as a member of various local boards, including Little Falls Lions Club, where he was formerly a Charter Member and President. John will be using his considerable banking expertise as a member of the Finance Committee. John will also Chair the Buildings Committee, and serve as a member of Personnel and Bylaws committees.

Robert Vermeulen

A Passaic County government business retiree, Bob has worked for the Passaic County Board of Social Services and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Fair Lawn Memorial Cemetery. Bob previously served two terms on the PCHS Board, serving as our Treasurer. Using his vast knowledge of finances, he spent countless hours managing the finances of the Society. After a one year absence, Bob was appointed to the Board to fill a vacancy. He returns now as an elected trustee, where his financial expertise will be greatly appreciated.

This outstanding team brings talents and expertise in a wide variety of areas to the PCHS. They will be working together with our employees and volunteers to manage the affairs of the Society and bring the history of Passaic County to our members and the public.

INTERNS CONTRIBUTE TO COLLECTIONS PROJECTS

The museum is undergoing a curatorial project of updating the Society's collection records. However, the word updating hardly seems sufficient to describe the activity on the third floor. Almost every object in the collection needs to

be entered into Past-Perfect, the industry-standard museum database program. Having the entire collection in this program will allow us to eventually go online with our collections' holdings. In order to enter an object completely, each item must first be matched to its original receiving records (not always an easy task, as many of the objects are not labeled), photographed and measured. Once the object has been put into the computer, it needs to be boxed in new, archival-appropriate storage, such as acid-free boxes and acid-free tissue. When one considers this process next to the thousands of objects contained in the PCHS collection, one begins to understand the titanic size of this project.



Lucky for the Society, beside a group of dedicated members who volunteer their time, the collections project is being bolstered by the work of Tom, Melissa, Nicole, Carlos, Elena, Joseph, Vincent, Collette, Catherine, Prince, Alexandria, Jasmin, Cindy, Rob, Rosa, Olivia, Rebecca, Nicole, Boris and Patrick who make up our team of interns. Students of Montclair State, William Paterson or

Rutgers, with majors in History, English, Anthropology and Early Childhood Education, each intern puts in at least three hours of work a week with the collection. While assisting the curator in getting the collection organized, they have become involved in all phases of the process, from sorting boxes and creating lists of document collections, to photographing objects and conducting background research. Some of the major collections they are currently investigating include the Society's Edison Cylinders, over 150 business ledgers and the Society's periodical holdings. Several of the interns are also involved in working with the Russell Evans stone tool collection, a collection of approximately 2,500 projectile points, net-weights, flint flakes and other stone tools which have never been thoroughly examined and researched. With the work of these dedicated students our collections are fast on their way toward digitization and we owe them all a thank you for their tremendous efforts.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY, 2011-2012

by Geraldine Mola, Immediate Past President

Presented in abbreviated version at the Annual Meeting, May 2, 2012

STATE OF THE SOCIETY

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

New Staff. Among the Board of Trustees' most important accomplishments this year was the search for and selection of the Society's two senior staff members—Historic Site Manager Charles Casimiro and Curator Heather Cunningham. From search to hiring took almost a full year, but by the first week in October, the two new, exceptionally well-suited employees were on the job. We are very pleased with their work thus far and look forward to a long and productive relationship with them.

Personnel. With the addition of senior staff members, the Society's workforce grew to eight, all part-time employees: an administrative assistant, librarian, head docent, two assistant docents—one of whom doubles as facility rental manager—and a federally-funded custodian.

Volunteers. Staff work was supplemented by almost sixty volunteers and sixteen docents who gave thousands of hours to complete duties and projects not viable by staff alone.

Recognized for the most documented hours were library volunteers *Norm Rutan*, 178 hours; *Betty Lou Walker*, 138; *Norma Geiger*, 136; *Dorothy Jordan*, 98; and museum workers *Kathy Altheidt*, 78; and *Eleanor Wellner*, 63. Others who made exceptional contributions this year but did not record their time were *John and Marian Boyko*, *Maria Carparelli*, *Dorothy Decker*, *Robert and Agnes Esik*, *Robert Hazekamp*, *Helen Mault*, *Seraphia McCormick*, *Annita Zalenski*, and *Lorraine Yurchak*.

MEMBERSHIP

Society membership remains stable. 65 new members joined since the beginning of this club year, keeping membership steady at 377.

We've made several membership advances:

- After it was learned that members were receiving sporadic mailings and e-mail notices, the membership list was completely updated. Information gleaned from three separate lists plus personal contact was merged into a new database to retain comprehensive member information and promote better efficiency in communicating with members.
- Two membership categories were added—*business benefactor* and *corporate patron*—to encourage involvement by the business community and increase financial support.
- The membership year was changed to follow the calendar year; thus, annual renewal of dues will be in January.

VISITORS

In addition to members, many visit and enjoy Lambert Castle tours, meetings, events and programs. The number continues to grow. Last

year in 2010-2011, there were 16,400 in admissions, which was an impressive boost of almost 800 visitors over the previous year. In 2011-2012, we had a similar jump in attendance, with approximately 17,200 visitors entering castle doors. This is excellent and consistent growth.

FINANCES

This year financial audits were completed for both 2010 and 2011, and we were assured that Society financial records were in good order.

In fiscal year 2011-2012, finances were sound. Positive net income allowed productive operation of the Society, castle, museum, and library. Revenue was obtained primarily through membership and admissions income, profitable investments, and the Holiday Boutique, which earned \$47,000, almost one-third of our operating account.

Additional revenue (*in round figures*) was generated through wide-ranging means:

- **Grants, gifts and County Funding**, \$32,000.
- **Afternoon Tea**, immensely profitable, netted \$22,000 in four days.
- **Holiday Events** (Dec 9 through Jan 8), including tours of the decorated castle and new "Story Time with Santa," were a great success," producing \$10,550.
- **Museum Store** brought in \$9,830, though over 85 percent of that amount is incorporated in final profit figures of the Holiday Boutique and Tea.
- **Facility Rentals** realized \$7,525 through twelve low-impact uses of the castle or grounds.
- **Wedding Pictures** photographed in the castle cleared \$4,500.
- **Holiday Wine Tasting Social** made a profit of over \$3,700.
- **Library** research fees and donations amounted to \$2,515.
- **Scheduled Group Tours** (adult and student) brought in \$1,100
- **Musical Concerts** (three) in the Atrium raised \$1,000
- **Beefsteak Dinner** at The Brownstone brought in \$820.
- **School Group Classes** about the Lenape Indian or local textile industry earned \$665.
- **Membership** renewal donations totaled \$625.

With events, there's always the possibility of setbacks, and this year three fundraisers were cancelled: The *Antique Show*, held five previous years, was called off because attendance and sales had fallen off; The *Bridal Expo*, a new event planned for early fall, was withdrawn when vendor interest did not meet expectations, and the *New Year's Champagne Toast with the Lamberts* yielded too few reservations. Nevertheless, fundraising efforts remained enthusiastic.

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COUNTY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This year we advanced our rapport with the County of Passaic, an effort begun last year. In so doing, the Freeholders reinstated the \$25,000 county subsidy to the Society after eight years. Much appreciated, these funds were not used for general operating expense, but instead spent on necessary castle improvements and collections projects. The \$25,000 subsidy was granted again for 2012 and is expected to be received shortly.

COLLABORATION WITH BUSINESS

The Society made small but significant steps in working with the business community.

Marketing Partner. Through the Corporate Outreach Committee, the KM Media Group of Clifton agreed to develop a marketing brochure and direct mail letter, and then underwrite printing and target mailing to a select group of corporations to test the marketing response. If effective, the appeal will be mailed to a wider market.

Sponsor. Recently, the Board of Trustees accepted a proposal of the North Jersey Federal Credit Union to be a PCHS sponsor. In addition to taking a business membership, the bank will provide considerable exposure of Society events to 33,000 NJFCU members through its promotional channels, which include website, internet announcements, monthly bank statements, and NJFCU lobbies.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

The most significant business decision made this year was authorization of **credit card capability**. It is now possible to accept credit card payments quickly and easily by phone or at the museum, and there are plans to add this functionality to the website.

Office routine was streamlined for better efficiency. A few examples: staff time was substantially saved by purchase of a postal machine, accuracy of staff and volunteer records was improved by installation and regular use of a time clock, costs were cut by sending newsletters as self-mailers, storage space was recovered by purging old and unnecessary financial records, and office work was greatly expedited by establishing a volunteer Mailings and Office Assistance Committee. The Board of Trustees updated procedural Bylaws to function more effectively.

OUTREACH

Advancements in communicating with members, the public and media outlets included expansion of media contacts and member email lists, regular distribution of email notices, a redesigned and better maintained web site, and keeping a current presence on Facebook and Twitter. Combined, these provided more effective publicity.

STEWARDSHIP OF LAMBERT CASTLE RENEGOTIATION OF LEASE

The Society has held a twenty-year lease ending in 2017 "to occupy and use" Lambert Castle. Instead of waiting five years to negotiate an extension with Passaic County officials, we proposed that the lease be renewed this year. County representatives responded positively, and a new twenty-year contract is likely to be signed that will allow the Society to remain in the castle until 2032. When details are finalized, this will be singularly important for the Society.

RENOVATION OF SECOND-FLOOR ROUND ROOM

The County-owned conference table and chairs acquired last year were refinished and reupholstered, and the second floor round room in which it sits was beautifully renovated for use as a conference and

rental room. Decorated with authentic Victorian wallpaper, carpeting, and new chandelier, the dramatic room waits finishing touches and will be dedicated in the fall.

SECURITY UPGRADES

Essential security upgrades were made this year:

- **New Security System.** Despite allocating funds to correct the security system last year, it seriously malfunctioned again in October. Of necessity, a new, dependable system was installed at a cost of \$3,000.
- **Video Surveillance System,** a project undertaken last year, was finalized and overhead cameras were installed.
- **Fire Alarm System,** after years of not working, was at last properly connected to the Paterson Fire Department.

CASTLE IMPROVEMENTS

Key progress was made concerning the roof, which is in very bad condition and has caused water and ceiling problems. The county called for bids on roof replacement, and roof work will finally begin.

Always cooperative, the Passaic County Department of Building and Grounds made various improvements in the building, including critical replacement of mold-tainted drywall in the library, repairs to the sprinkler system, installation of new telephone and data wiring, plumbing and electrical work, and projects to bring the building into compliance with local codes.

Other enhancements include installation of invisible UV filters on windows to protect the building, furniture and collection; appropriation of funds for track lighting in Mrs. Lambert's bedroom to better view exhibits, and regular beautification of the grounds.

FULFILLING SOCIETY GOALS COLLECTIONS

Conservation Report. A federally funded, in-depth conservation assessment of Collections materials and policies was completed and reviewed with Society staff and trustees this year. The comprehensive report addressed long-range preservation plans, collections care, necessary environmental conditions, and setting priorities, and will be an invaluable guide for staff and volunteers.

Free County Storage Space. Within the last year, Passaic County officials offered the Society free, secure storage space in a county facility for our collection. After serious consideration, the Board accepted the offer. This has proven to be a far-reaching and marvelous service to the Society, one that has brought tremendous change—a rebirth in our collections management. It literally gave the Society the impetus to completely update our cataloguing system.

Moving the Collection. In January we began transferring the off-site collection from rented storage space to a county facility, a move that will save \$6,900 annually.

To accomplish the move, the third floor exhibit gallery was closed to become a central staging area until the job is complete. As planned, a workable number of boxes are trucked in from off-site to the castle, where materials are inventoried and their records digitized before being reboxed and moved to the new off-site. This is a monumental task, and the third-floor has been a bee-hive of activity.

To date, more than 40 percent of offsite materials have been transferred to the castle, about one-fourth of the shelving units relocated to the new storage site, and the first 200 objects stored at the new site.

Digitizing the Collection. Meeting current trends, we are working on digitizing the entire collection so that our holdings—art, objects, letters, manuscripts, books, photographs, maps, etc.—will ultimately be accessible to the public through the internet. To make this possible, equipment was purchased and set up, including digital camera and photography area, the museum software PastPerfect entered into more castle computers to create more work stations, a new computer to host and safeguard PastPerfect data, and a laptop computer for ease of input.

PastPerfect was networked throughout the castle by the end of January, and by May, collections records entered into the system totaled 1,047. That number will grow as work progresses.

New Curatorial Room. With a thorough clean-out, new coat of paint, updated electrical wiring and donated furniture, the third floor round room, long used as a storage area, was converted into the curator's office and the hub for collections projects.

Interns. To help do the huge cataloguing job, the curator called for interns at local colleges. As a result—and to the surprise of all—we've had an intern team of 16 students who gave a minimum of three hours of curatorial work weekly. Their contributions have been valuable, including inventories of the Society's Edison Cylinder collection, business ledgers and Bible collection; and research finding aids for the New Jersey Bell, Parker family papers and Dilliston collections.

Object Handling Rules were developed by the curator, who instructed staff, trustees, volunteers and docents in proper curatorial methods. Only those trained to handle museum furniture, art or objects are now allowed to do so.

Restoration. County funds made it possible to attempt restoring two valuable Collection pieces on display in the Atrium. For many years the large Cornu clock in the center of the large hall has not worked. With \$1,000 appropriated, a clock expert was called in and rare clock parts are being sought, but restoration of the working clock may not be possible. The Statue of Pandora, which was missing two fingers on its right hand, was repaired by a reputable conservator at a cost of \$1,900.

Spoon Collection. The Spoon Committee began developing plans to reinstall a large portion of the Bertha Schaefer-Koempel Spoon Collection in the open Gem Room on the second floor. *Robert and Michelle Wilhelm*, recognized authorities in the field, were appointed Co-Curators of the collection. They will work without compensation.

LIBRARY

Open nine to twelve hours a week, the library continues to serve a valuable need. The librarian and volunteers answered an estimated 677 research requests on historical or genealogical subjects from 307 library walk-in visits, 102 phone requests, 257 Internet messages, and 12 letters.

New Equipment. A long-needed copier was purchased, and two new computer programs were installed: an updated version of ResourceMate for cataloguing books and PastPerfect to handle the photography collection.

Accomplishments. Policies were adopted for (1) Researching and (2) Photographic Reproduction for public use of Society images.

In November filmmaker Vince Parrilla was assisted in finding photographs, sketches and background information for a documentary on the Federici Art Collection filmed in part in the library. Sculptures from the Society's Collection were also used.

Considerable work was started to better utilize and store library documents and books, especially material returned from off-site storage.

- 37 archive collections were boxed or re-boxed, for a total of 271 boxes. Each collection further requires content identification, folders, scope notes, box lists, and creation of finding aids.
- Volunteers began the massive task of indexing 28 large ledgers of prison records from 1883 to 1957 from the Passaic County Sheriff's office.
- With a \$6,500 Brotherton Foundation grant, thousands of images from the *Evening News* and Zito photographic collections are being digitized and archived.
- The Society's extensive postcard collections are being catalogued and digitized.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRINT MATERIALS

In addition to holding books, we've begun to publish them again. After a long fallow period, this important work is being addressed, and for this we must credit the Genealogy Club.

Two of its members authored a fine book, the *Ecclesiastical History of Paterson 1792-1942*, and the Board of Trustees awarded the Genealogy Club \$1,000 to subsidize another printing. Since then the Genealogy Club established a publications fund, printed a second book, *The Morning Call, Roll Call of the Dead 1898-1918*, and reprinted *Written in Stone* and *Pompton Plains Reformed Church Cemetery*.

Other important print materials produced were six Society and Genealogy Club newsletters and a new museum visitor's brochure for use by museum guests.

EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS

Developing history-related exhibits and programming is important to our mission.

Exhibits. This year the Society sponsored a small one-month winter display that supplemented December holiday events and two major shows featuring material from the PCHS collection. *Honoring Passaic County's Civil War Veterans*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, was on display last summer, and the current *2012 A Presidential Year: A Reflection on Past Presidents*, will run through October.

Programs were offered in conjunction with each major exhibit—two lectures on Civil War subjects and five planned from spring through summer 2012 on president-related topics that included campaign memorabilia, Garret Hobart, Andrew Jackson, Teddy Roosevelt and Dolly Madison.

Twelve additional programs of historical and genealogical interest were presented at Society quarterly meetings and monthly Genealogy Club meetings. In total, 19 programs were developed for members and the general public.

PROMOTING LOCAL HISTORY

In March the Society held a weekend **Local Authors Showcase**, featuring book data and how-to advice from eleven area authors. *Glen Corbett*, *Moe Liss*, *Bob Hazekamp*, *Jennifer Ranu*, *Don Smith*, *Nick Sunday* and *Annita Zalenski*, gave lectures on their books, and *Jack Goudsward*, *William Neumann*, *Maryjane Proctor* and *Ed Smyk* participated in a panel discussion on their writing experiences.

The Society recently established a **Passaic County "Legend" Award** to recognize individuals, businesses or organizations from Passaic County that have made history in their fields and whose reputation, celebrity and achievements make them legendary. The first "legends" are expected to be named and honored in 2013.

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PCHS reached out to promote history with other historical and cultural groups, and it has been gratifying to see that we're making an impact in bringing county associations together.

- **Sponsored the third History Fair** in October 2011. It was changed this year to a week-end function, with participating historical sites all over the county open to the public free. The Society will make plans with other organizations for the 2012 History Fair.
- **Sponsored the first Passaic County History Breakfast** to promote cooperation among historical and cultural groups throughout the county. Held at Lambert Castle, the Breakfast was well attended and very well received.

- **Developed a comprehensive list** of county historical, genealogical and cultural societies, institutions and sites.
- **Agreed to act as coordinator** for county historical and other groups mentioned above.
- **Created a new online calendar** to consolidate the events of local museums, historic sites, historical and cultural groups and educational institutions throughout the county.

As is evident by this report, accomplishments of the past year were extraordinary, and for this, our staff, trustees, members and volunteers are to be commended. As for me, it has been gratifying to have shared these remarkable advances in the Society's history.

SOCIETY PRESENTS "TEA AND ORCHIDS"

The Society's Annual Afternoon Tea, this year titled "Tea and Orchids," was held Thursday through Sunday, April 19-22, at noon and 3 pm daily.

Because of its popularity, the event welcomed its largest number of guests since the first Tea was held six years ago. Of the eight scheduled sittings, seven were sold out, and 820 guests attended from all over the state and farther.

Fourteen guests arrived by bus from Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia, and one woman made her reservation from her home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"Tea and Orchids," was the result of collaboration with the North Jersey Orchid Society, which provided orchid decorations in each of the Tea rooms and also presented the program, "The Lure and Lore of Orchids," given by NJOS president Sharon Chaplinsky and her assistant, Anita Gibaldi. The Orchid Society also sponsored a much-visited orchid display and sale in the second-floor round room.

Tea, scones, savories and desserts were catered and served by the staff of High Society House of Wayne. Orchid table centerpieces were designed by Trustee Linda Spirko of Strawberry Blossom, Wayne.

Tea Chairwoman Geraldine Mola said, "The Tea has become a bigger draw every year. Because of the large numbers attending, the event is now a very complex operation and the most labor-intensive activity our volunteers handle. To run it, we need a very big committee."

Along with supervising public relations and advertising, Mola coordinated reservations and seating with assistance from Dorothy Decker, who handled incoming mail; Seraphia McCormick who confirmed reservations by phone; and Irene Hunt, Marian Boyko and Gloria Fracalossi, who seated incoming guests. Invitations were mailed by Helen Mault, Kathy Altheidt and Dolores Most.



Tea service operations (table settings, clean-up and dish-washing) were supervised by Marian and John Boyko, with volunteers Sharon Briggs, Bob Cohen, Agnes and Robert Esik, Diane Henderson, Joseph Leone, Helen Mault, John Pullara, Barbara Swistok and Robert Vermuelen.

Linens were laundered and ironed by Linda Kaplanovich, Anne Carlino, Agnes Esik and Joanne Polner. The Raffle and Gift Committee, led by Therese Tomoleo, included MaryAnne Graham, Grace Del Guercio, Robert Esik, Irene Hunt, Marian Boyko, and Clair Salviano. Museum store and vendor sales were managed by Nancy Davis, Henrietta Weiss and Lorraine Yurchak.

The committee is already considering program ideas and plans for a 2013 Tea, but, according to Chairwoman Mola, "We can only confirm plans if we are sure that enough members are committed to working on the event."

Anyone who is interested in serving on the Tea Committee should contact Mola at 201-797-2109 or Tea@lambertcastle.org.