



# THE HISTORIC COUNTY

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NEWSLETTER OF THE  
PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message .....	2
Victorian Tea Highlights .....	3
John Reed, Officer McCormack, Recorder Carroll, Sheriff Radcliffe and the Great Paterson Silk Strike of 1913 .....	1, 4-9
1913 Silk Strike Commemorated .....	10
Reflection on the Bottleworks Exhibit .....	10
Baseball City .....	11
Rendezvous with Treason .....	12

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

**May 4**

**Dr. John L. Leal: Physician,  
Public Health Officer and Revolutionary.**  
11 a.m., Lambert Castle.

**May 5**

**In Concert: Fran Iozzi and the  
Sweet Sixteens.**  
7 p.m., Lambert Castle.

**May 10**

**Paterson Silk Strike Exhibit  
Opening Reception.**  
7 p.m., Lambert Castle.

**May 11**

**An Afternoon of English Social Dance.**  
1-5 p.m., Lambert Castle.

**May 19**

**In Concert: CJSO on the Go.**  
5 p.m., Lambert Castle.

**June 23**

**Film Screening: Gaetano Federici:  
The Sculptor Laureate of Paterson.**  
7 p.m., Lambert Castle.

# JOHN REED, OFFICER MCCORMACK, RECORDER CARROLL, SHERIFF RADCLIFFE AND THE GREAT PATERSON SILK STRIKE OF 1913

by E. A. Smyk  
Passaic County Historian

In the spring of 1913, the normally cheerful Paterson silk mogul Catholina Lambert was perturbed, his resolute features probably creased with worry. At the start of what became known as the Great Paterson Silk Strike, seventy-five of Lambert's weavers had voted to continue working, but forty-one joined the strike. Almost predictably, the defection strengthened the silk manufacturer's resolve. Known as a man of indomitable will, Lambert would find peace and quiet in the opulent seclusion of *Belle Vista*, his lordly sandstone and granite-trimmed mansion hugging one of the rocky escarpments of Garret Mountain. Tended by a retinue of servants, and barricaded behind locked oaken doors, Lambert could momentarily forget his cares by padding about with a large magnifying glass, studying the brush strokes of master artists in his exquisite collection of ornately framed oil paintings.

The noisy demands of the strikers did not penetrate Lambert's exclusive domains, either his executive office, residence, or the silk manufacturers' bastion of gentility, the palazzo-like Hamilton Club on Church Street, but masses of people away from their machines could not be written off as a mere aberration. Nonetheless, Lambert, a hard-working immigrant who rose from humble British origins, stood firmly with his colleagues, refusing to compromise with a union, simply because it would have been unthinkable to do otherwise. He was called



**Catholina Lambert as he appeared in 1904, age 70, exuding wealth and robust confidence.** His ordered world would be rocked to its foundation by the silk strike. (Lambert collection, Passaic County Historical Society)

cont. on page 4

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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.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 4, Saturday – Dr. John L. Leal: Physician, Public Health Officer and Revolutionary.** 11 a.m., Lambert Castle. Join author Michael J. McGuire for a discussion of the Paterson physician who successfully pioneered the cause for healthier municipal drinking water. Free admission.

**May 5, Sunday – In Concert: Fran Iozzi and the Sweet Sixteens.** 7 p.m., Lambert Castle. Pianist Iozzi is joined by a group of talented young women soloists. \$15 admission benefits the Passaic County Historical Society.

**May 8, Opening – Paterson Silk Strike Centennial Exhibit.** Lambert Castle. This year marks the 100th anniversary of this watershed moment in labor relations and industrial history. This intriguing exhibit reveals the stories behind the struggle on both sides.

**May 10, Friday – Paterson Silk Strike Exhibit Opening Reception.** 7 p.m., Lambert Castle. Be with us for the official opening of the Paterson Silk Strike Centennial Exhibit.

**May 11, Saturday – An Afternoon of English Social Dance.** 1-5 p.m., Lambert Castle. The North River Colonial Dancers demonstrate the beautiful and unique art form of social dance. Free admission.

**May 19, Sunday – In Concert: CJSO on the Go.** 5 p.m., Lambert Castle. Artists from the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra performing a wide selection of traditional and new music. \$15 admission benefits the Passaic County Historical Society.

**June 23, Sunday – Film Screening: Gaetano Federici: The Sculptor Laureate of Paterson.** 7 p.m., Lambert Castle. Join us for a screening of Vincent Parillo's PBS documentary on the Italian-American sculptor who carved a place in local history. The film includes works from the Passaic County Historical Society collection, and was partially filmed at Lambert Castle.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Maria Carparelli

**MEMBERSHIP** – Two new membership categories were approved by the Board of Trustees. The first, an Education membership, is now available to teachers, libraries, and local historians.

The second, a Reciprocal membership, is now available to local historic and cultural organizations. Our newest Reciprocal members include the Clifton Arts Center and the Gladys Marcus Library from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

**RECENT EVENTS** – On April 5, the Ridgewood Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company presented selections from Princess Ida at Lambert Castle. All who attended were treated to an unforgettable evening of fine music from this talented and professional group. A big thank you to PCHS member John Ryle who contacted the Society and arranged for this phenomenal presentation.

On March 13, our newest Education member, Passaic City Historian Mark Auerbach gave a presentation on the 50th anniversary of the removal of the Erie Railroad tracks from the city of Passaic. The standing room only crowd was fascinated with the many stories and photos that brought back nostalgic memories.

**FAMILY WORKSHOPS** – Two craft workshops were presented to all castle visitors. In February, a Victorian Valentine workshop gave visitors of all ages the opportunity to create their own Victorian Valentine. On display were Valentine cards from the Society's collection.

In March, a paper basket workshop for children was available to all who visited the Castle. Children created paper baskets, and decorated them with pictures and stickers. Upon completion, the children were given a plastic egg for the basket that was filled with a tiny toy. Thank you to volunteers Nancy and Dennis Buttacavoli, Joyce Aitken, and Shirley Philhower for assisting with the workshop, and to Trustee Helen Mault and Curator Heather Cunningham for assisting with the preparations for both workshops.

# Victorian Tea Highlights



Our annual Victorian Tea was held April 19, 20, 21. The ladies and gentlemen who attended enjoyed the finger sandwiches, warm buttermilk scones, and an assortment of pastries and chocolate covered strawberries. Sally Lunn's Tea House of Chester catered the event. Sally Lunn's was voted the number one Tea Shop in Morris and Essex counties in their annual Reader's Choice Awards. The program on Victorian jewelry was presented by Tracy Leigh of Lia Sophia jewelry.

Many guests came in costume, as did our volunteers. Many, many thanks to all volunteers who assisted with the Tea: Development Chair Lorraine Yurchak; volunteers Kathy Aldheidt, Doris Bauer, Maryanne Graham, Linda Kaplanovich, Christine Lipari, Rosemary Lyons, Peter Lund, Helen Mault, Seraphia McCormick, Phil Mezzina, Dolores Most, Joanne Polner, Angela Puleo, John Pullara, Claire Salviano, Vivian Semeraro, Bob Vermeulen,

Therese Tolomeo, and Annita Zalenski; our piano player Basia Jaworski; and staff members Charles Casimiro, Ken Cousin, Heather Cunningham, Dorothy Decker and Henrietta Weiss.

A special thank you to PCHS member Edwina Hibel, who won the 50-50 raffle on Sunday afternoon, and promptly donated it to the Federici restoration project.



## SILK STRIKE *cont. from page 1*

by his biographer – and rightly so – a “stern evangelist of the rights of capital.” It was an attitude, shared by his peers, that was more suited to the early decades of the Industrial Revolution, a time when the emerging cityscape was dotted with what the British poet



**Art Court of Catholina Lambert's treasure stuffed showplace, Belle Vista.** Proud of his magnificent paintings and the scale of his opulent residence, Lambert commissioned Paterson photographer John Reid to immortalize the lavishness of it all. This photo, one of a series, was taken on August 10, 1897. (Lambert collection, Passaic County Historical Society)

William Blake called those “dark satanic mills.” One might say their theology of factory ownership could be summed up in a single, calculated statement quoted from the silk association’s mid-year report. It brims with pure haughtiness: “The very life of the individual manufacturer depends upon running his own mill without interference on the part of the operatives. It is a basic principle of hiring and service that there must be a master and a servant. The master must direct and success must depend upon skilled directions based upon justice.” The last word in this sentence gives the historian pause for concern. There was scant justice occurring on the streets of Paterson. It was more like a burlesque of justice: strikers arrested on the flimsiest of charges, hauled before Paterson’s magistrate, sentenced, and then hustled off to the Passaic County Jail, a building like *Belle Vista*, constructed from huge blocks of mellow-looking sandstone. Yet here the resemblance ended. There was no air of noblesse oblige permeating that chamber of horrors, where score upon score of bedraggled strikers had been arrested and then confined in dirty, vermin-ridden cells. An investigation concluded in October 1914, “found that the police organization, coupled with the police magistrate court, became tools of oppression.”

Catholina Lambert was not a diarist, so his thoughts on the strike can only be surmised, but for sure, an idle factory must

have preyed on his mind, the work stoppage depriving him of the competitive challenge to turn profits – and there were other problems too. The grand seigneur of *Belle Vista*, the calm, deliberate man who proudly conducted President William McKinley through his elegant home, and who believed in high protective tariffs and maintenance of the gold standard, would have gone almost apoplectic to learn that some of his disloyal “operatives” were no doubt being influenced by radicals and socialists, the ultimate betrayal for one so patriotic.

Who were these horridly subversive troublemakers? In all likelihood, Lambert had probably never heard the name of John Reed mentioned before, or for that matter, any of the other writers, journalists and social justice advocates who flocked to the Great Strike in those heady spring days. If he did, Lambert would have sputtered out words of contempt and revulsion. Unlike Lambert, who became an ample footnote to Paterson’s manufacturing history, Jack Reed is today remembered as the journalist who produced the best eyewitness account of Bolshevik Revolution, *Ten Days that Shook the World*. Excitement on this scale, however, was a few years into Reed’s future. For now, events in Paterson fired his imagination, a quality Reed had in abundance.

Big, handsome, and boyish looking, Reed has been described as something akin to “a force of nature, charging recklessly through each day, searching out new experience, always ready for a party or fight. He acted as if he knew that his life would be too short to waste a moment of it.” John Silas Reed was a comet, and like a comet, he was fated to sizzle out. He looked for action, heroism, fame – one of those people who thought he could tweak the tail of the devil and get away with it. Decades after his untimely death, Reed’s life became an attractive lure for screenwriters with liberal temperments.



**John Reed, poet, journalist and budding radical, ca. 1913.** Reed idealized the plight of the silk strikers in ringing prose, “those gentle, alert, brave men, ennobled by something greater than themselves.” (George Grantham Bain collection, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division)

*cont. on page 5*

In 1981, actor/producer Warren Beatty made the film *Reds*, based on Reed's tumultuous life, but for the sake of Hollywood dramatic license, he depicted his central character as an almost mindless individual, obsessing for adventure. In truth, the Harvard-educated Reed was a nuanced, complex man, keenly observant, and a fine writer to boot. There is unequivocal proof he passionately wanted to chronicle what he understood to be the truth, and expose through the power of words injustices afflicting an exploited humanity. The Great Strike helped sharpen his enthusiasm, and provided the catalyst for realizing some of his outsized ambitions.

Born in October 1887 in Portland, Oregon, Reed came from a wealthy family. In 1911, he settled in Greenwich Village, then a magnet for people of radical politics. Reed lived with several intellectually astute friends at 42 Washington Square, supporting himself as a writer for the left-wing journal, *The Masses*. While the Great Strike played itself out in the mills and factories of Paterson, Reed met William D. "Big Bill" Haywood, a large, bullish looking man who was chief of the Industrial Workers of the World. Haywood, in an obviously dramatic manner, recounted how workers were being clubbed off the streets and jailed in record numbers. Haywood emphasized there was virtually a news blackout. Reed, sensing adventure and a worthy cause, decided to offer his literary talents



**Paterson Police Officer Edward M. McCormack, seen in a 1920 group photo.** On April 28, 1913, McCormack bellowed to Jack Reed, "I've got your number, I'll arrest you." It's exactly what he did, at 7:22 a.m. (Paterson Police Paragraphs publication, 1920, collections of the Paterson Museum)

and help publicize the strike. It was the start of an important chapter in Reed's evolution as a "romantic revolutionary."

Reed arrived in Paterson on the chill, slate-gray morning of April 28, 1913. It was the beginning of Reed's encounter with the forces of law and order in Silk City: Police Officer Edward M. McCormack,



**Paterson police were ubiquitous during the strike.** On the slightest pretext, strikers were clobbered with heavy nightsticks if they stepped out of line. (Charles Heinrichs photo, collections of the Paterson Museum)

cont. on page 6

## SILK STRIKE *cont. from page 5*

City Recorder (magistrate) James F. Carroll and lastly, Passaic County Sheriff Amos Radcliffe. The writer came to a picket line on the corner of Cross (now Cianci) and Ellison Street, talking to three strikers. At this point, Patrolman Edward M. McCormack came on the scene, ordering the strikers to disperse.

According to Reed's version of the incident, "It began to rain heavily. I asked a man's permission to stand on the porch of his house." McCormack demanded to know who lived in the house. It certainly wasn't Reed. The policeman told Reed to get off the porch and move along, which he refused. Reed said, "I have the permission of this gentleman to stand here. He owns the house." McCormack didn't care. He told Reed to come off the porch "damn quick." Reed said he wasn't moving, and with that, McCormack leaped up the steps, seized his arm, and jerked him to the sidewalk. "Now you get the hell off this street!" the furious officer retorted. Reed thought he had not violated any law, and said so. An argument ensued, with a back-and-forth exchange. McCormack brandished his nightstick, saying, "You big – lug, I'd like to beat the hell out of you with this club." Reed was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct, ushered into a patrol wagon, brought to police headquarters, interrogated, and then remanded to a cell.

Not long after, Reed was arraigned before Recorder Carroll, a graduate of New York University Law School, and one of the leading lights in the county's legal fraternity. Carroll had been sitting on the bench since 1907. A biographical writer claimed that "great stress was brought to bear upon him during the big silk strike of 1913, when large numbers of prisoners were arraigned daily." Supposedly, Carroll "always displayed a friendly and courteous feeling" in his courtroom demeanor. The pleasantness was



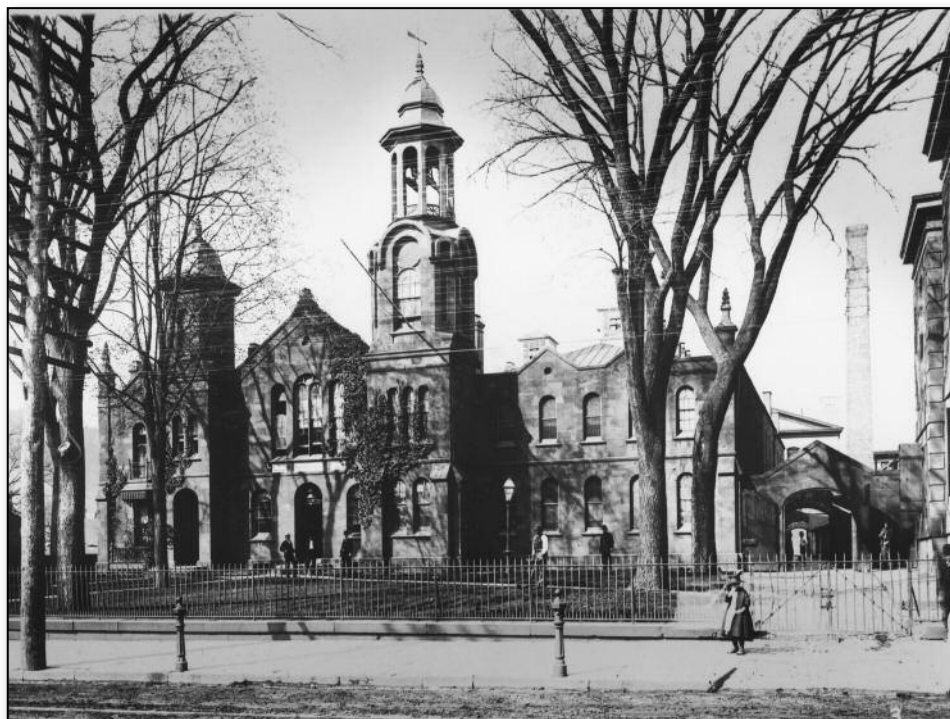
**Paterson Recorder James F. Carroll, the embodiment of police justice in 1913.**

John Reed thought the man was an unfeeling martinet who exhibited little humanity in sentencing strikers to jail. (D.H. Howd photo, Paterson, used in Bench and Bar of Passaic County group photo, 1906, Edward M. Graf Archives.)

apparently absent when Reed approached Carroll, who inquired, "What's your business?" "Poet," answered Reed. The judge fired off another question, "What's your business here?" "None," Reed replied, "I am a bystander." According to an article that appeared in the *New York Times* on April 29, "McCormack then testified that Reed had refused to move on when ordered to do so, and had insisted on questioning his authority."

Carroll, who had sternly meted out sentences to hundreds of strikers – making his courtroom a revolving door to the county jail – agreed with McCormack's testimony. The judge was heavy with his gavel. Reed was sentenced to 20 days in jail, and it stung him. Reflecting on the experience, he wrote, "Mr. Carroll has the intelligent, cruel merciless face of the ordinary police court magistrate. But he is worse than most police court magistrates. He sentences beggars to *six months' imprisonment* in the county jail without a chance to answer back." Reed had little use for his arresting officer, who he claimed, "recited a clever *mélange* of lies that I am sure he himself could have never concocted." Reed's next station of imprisonment was the county jail, and it was here that the cause of the strikers infected his very being.

Reed's Washington Square roommate, Robert Rogers, thought that Judge Carroll "was a fool and that Reed would be twenty times the menace to Paterson law and order he had been before he was arrested." After four days, an International Workers of the World (IWW) lawyer came to his rescue, and he was released. Granville Hicks, in his admirable 1936 biography of Reed, said the writer "could think of nothing but Paterson. Though he was as yet a hesitant and embarrassed public speaker, he addressed meetings



**The Passaic County Jail on Main Street, Paterson, ca. 1872.** Forty-three years later, the lock-up had degenerated into a hell hole. Granville Hicks, one of John Reed's biographers, wrote, "Except for the strikers, the men in the jail seemed hopelessly debauched." (John Reid photo, collections of the Paterson Museum)

*cont. on page 7*



**The Paterson Strike Pageant at old Madison Square Garden, New York, on June 7, 1913.** Organized and directed by John Reed and friends, 1,500 strikers reenacted what was happening in Paterson. The program proclaimed, "The Pageant represents a battle between the working class and the capitalist class ... It is a conflict between two social orders." (Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University)

on behalf of the strike. He not only went again and again to Paterson, but he insisted on his friends' going." (Reed turned his jail experience into a lengthy article for the December 1913 issue of *Metropolitan Magazine*, "Sheriff Radcliff's [sic] Hotel: What One Man Saw in a County Jail," and here, the writer's bravura gift for turning out colorful, attention grabbing prose was fully unleashed.) Reed's creative genius became even more evident when he conceived the idea for the Paterson Silk Strike Pageant, an event involving 1,500 strikers which reenacted scenes from the strike on the stage of old Madison Square Garden in New York. The purpose of the spectacle was to publicize and raise money for the strikers' defense. In three weeks, Reed, with boundless energy at his disposal, trained 1,000 reenactors. The pageant was a blazing success in calling attention to the strikers' plight, but in dollars and cents, it foundered.



**Passaic County Sheriff Amos H. Radcliffe, ca. 1923.** He completed his term in 1915. During the strike, John Reed spent four out of a twenty-two day sentence as the sheriff's "guest" at the filth-laden county jail. The "hotel," Reed dolefully observed, "takes in weak men and turns them out weaker." (Harris & Ewing photo collection, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division)

The trajectory of Reed's life has an almost surrealistic feel, as if it leaped from the pages of an overheated novel. Four years after the strike was still a raw memory, Reed poignantly wrote, "I quit my job to work on the Pageant, and when it was over, I went to pieces nervously, and my friends took me abroad for the summer. The strike was starved and lost ... and the leaders too, broke down under the long strain of the fight." Reed, restless but unbowed, moved on and contributed his talents to the grandiose socialist

utopia the Bolsheviks wanted to build in Russia. Reed was called by one scholar of Soviet history the "patron saint of American Communism," but it was a characterization too simplistic for such a complex, driven personality.

Jack Reed was many things – bohemian, poet, lover, writer, sharp intellect – yet at core he was a committed idealist. It almost seems inevitable that he would become disillusioned with Communist authoritarianism. In October 1920, Reed died from typhus in a Moscow hospital, exhausted and worn out from his exertions on behalf of a repressive Soviet state. His lavish funeral was utilized, as to be expected, for propaganda purposes. Death conferred upon Reed a hero's status; his remains were interred in the Kremlin Wall. Among the speakers at Reed's obsequies was Aleksandra Kollontai, who later became Soviet Ambassador to Sweden. Coincidentally,



**Aleksandra Kollontai, Bolshevik revolutionist, diplomat, novelist and former Paterson resident, photographed on a Moscow street in 1921.** Kollontai was then serving as the people's commissar for social welfare. The year before, she was one of the speakers at John Reed's funeral. (Russian State Archives of Film and Photographic Documents, Krasnogorsk)

Kollontai too had a Paterson connection. Misha, her son, despised war. He decided to leave Russia, escaping the draft and enrolling, of all places, in an automotive engineering course in Paterson. Kollontai followed and lived with him for two months in 1916 in a house said to be on Van Houten Street. For a fervent revolutionary like herself, she found the Silk City a dreary, boring place. One of her visitors is reputed to have been Leon Trotsky, the future people's commissar for foreign affairs.

The other figures in Reed's larger-than-life strike drama lived more conventional lives. Catholina Lambert, because of the strike, was hurt financially. He was forced to settle his outstanding debts by auctioning off a large portion of his fabled art collection. He peacefully died in his elegant *Belle Vista* bedchamber in 1923, almost 90, still displaying flashes of the steely resolve that helped make him millions in the

*cont. on page 8*

**SILK STRIKE** cont. from page 7

PATERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT.										POLICE STATION DOCKET, 1913								
MONTH OF April		PERSONS APPREHENDED								OFFENSE		WITNESS		OFFICER		DISPOSAL OF PRISONERS		
No.	Date	TIME	NAME	RESIDENCE	OCCUPATION	NATIVITY	AGE	COLOR	Build	SEX	Height	CHARGE	NAME of WITNESS	ADDRESS of WITNESS	By Whom Arrested	Corrected	Discharge	Deftd
1	26	7:20	M. John Lopez	20 Helman St	Mason	Italy	43	White	Yes	Male	5'	Disorderly Person	P. D. Metzgerhoff	222 Van Hook St	Off. Harmon			Dismissed
2	26	9:10	M. James Delaney	332 1/2 St. N.Y.	Laborer		16				5'	Larceny	Red		Off. Carroll	Imprisoned		
3	26		M. Thomas Zuma	557 Grove St	Boys' Paper		34				5'	Disorderly Person	Louis Kaye	32 Graham St	Off. Allen			
4	26		M. Frank McGraw	97 Grove	Mill Hand	U. S.	26				5'	Larceny	Johna. Murphy	91 Prospect St	Off. McGinnis			
5	26		M. Timothy Miller	18 Elm	Boys' Paper		24				5'	Disorderly Person	Red		Off. McGinnis			Suspended
6	26		M. Edward Hone	449 Main	Hand	Ireland	48				5'		Off. J. Kearney	26 Jackson	Off. J. Kearney			30 days
7	26		M. Sarah Black	51 Jackson	Housewife		45			Female	5'							
8	27	9:30	M. Timothy J. J. J.	11 Elm	Boys' Paper	U. S.	20			Male	5'							
9	27	1:00	M. Royal Foster	Walden St N.Y.	Laborer		45				5'	Disorderly Person	Angelo	106 Grove	Off. McGinnis	Imprisoned		
10	28	7:20	M. John Reed	42 Washington Square N.Y.	Journalist		25				5'	Disorderly Person	Johna. Murphy	11 Westbury St	Off. McGinnis			20 days
11	28	8:10	M. Alfred Brown	120 Lawrence St	Boys' Paper	Italy	24				5'	Disorderly Person	Edward M. McCormack	49 Main	Off. McGinnis			Dismissed
12	28		M. Vincent Ryan	104 Olive			34				5'	Disorderly Person	Off. J. P. Bradley	183 Liberty				
13	28		M. Pasquale Vacca	466 Ryan			19				5'							
14	28		M. Angelo Galdo	138 Grove			37				5'							
15	28		M. Dominic Landini	19 Elm			45				5'							
16	28		M. Joseph Vacca	18			24				5'							
17	28		M. Tony Maguire	376 Ryan			35				5'							
18	28		M. Fred Vacca	39 West 12th			23				5'							
19	28		M. Grand De Lucia	395 6th Ave			25				5'							
20	28		M. Samuel De Marco	27 Franklin St			19				5'							
21	28		M. Dominic Vacca	19 Grove			22				5'							
22	28		M. Tony Carmack	53 Lawrence			38				5'							

No. 28th April 22 A.M. John Reed 42 Washington Square N.Y. Journalist 25 Disorderly Person

**Paterson Police Docket Book listing John Reed's arrest on the morning of April 28, 1913.** Reed told them he was 25 years old, a journalist, residing at 42 Washington Square, New York. (Paterson Police Criminal Docket Book, November 8, 1912 to November 15, 1915, 36, Danforth Memorial Library, Paterson)



**Police, (possibly Jerry O'Brien detectives hired by mill owners) and strikers warily eye one another in this crowd scene photo, taken ca. March 1913.** (Charles Heinrichs photo, collections of the Paterson Museum)

silk business. Patrolman Edward M. McCormack remained on the police force, fading into civil service obscurity. In 1941, he was listed on the department's roster of deceased officers. Recorder James F. Carroll left the police court bench in 1916, praised and esteemed after discharging his duties for nine consecutive years. He returned to private practice, unquestionably carrying vivid and probably self-exculpatory memories of his fevered role in jailing hapless strikers. Carroll died at the relatively young age of 38 on March 27, 1919. Sheriff Amos Henry Radcliffe completed his term in 1915. The immensely popular Republican was elected, and then re-elected mayor of Paterson. He resigned in May 1919 to represent Passaic County as a U. S. Representative in the 66th Congress. Radcliffe served until 1923. His thoughts on Jack Reed's "hotel" article are lost to history.



**The Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) strike leadership, from left, Patrick Quinlan, Carlo Tresca, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Adolf Lessig and William "Big Bill" Haywood.** In March 1913, Haywood exhorted a crowd of 10,000 strikers, assembled in nearby Haledon, to unite all workers under "a flag of one color - the red flag, the color of the workingman's blood." It was virtually a call for revolution. (Edward M. Graf Archive)

## SILK STRIKE *cont. from page 8*

### References Consulted

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### Acknowledgements

A century has passed since Paterson's tumultuous silk strike ended. The literature about the event is considerable, but one book stands as a monument to scholarship - Steve Golin's *The Fragile Bridge: Paterson Silk Strike 1913*. It is an indispensable guide to the intricacies of the strike, and the event's protagonists and antagonists.

For assisting me in the preparation of this article, I would like to thank Giacomo DeStefano and Bruce Balistreri, director and curator respectively of the Paterson Museum. Both quickly retrieved digitized photos of the strike from the museum's collection. I remain grateful to Jack for calling my attention, in March 1995, to the Paterson Police Docket Book listing John Reed's arrest, and Bruce for letting me have scans of various strike photos, including the 1920 image of Patrolman Edward M. McCormack.

Further, I offer my gratitude to Charles Casimiro, the Passaic County Historical Society's historic site manager, for his skill in scanning the illustrations accompanying this essay, and also for his general editorial comments. I also wish to acknowledge the assistance of Claudia Bogner Sanders for reviewing the text, and catching blunders that I failed to see, and lastly, Robert Hazekamp, Jr., historical society trustee and graphic artist par excellence.

THE PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
and the Fashion Institute of Technology/SUNY, Gladys Marcus  
Library, Dept. of Special Collections and FIT Archives  
present

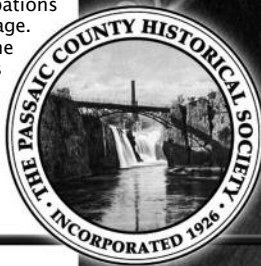
## "We Had To Be Rebels:" Remembering the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913

On exhibit at Lambert Castle  
May 8 through October 6, 2013

Opening Reception, May 10th, 7pm

with speaker Evelyn Hershey of the American Labor Museum at the  
Botto House National Landmark.

While the history of Paterson's silk mills is riddled with industrial actions, the strike of 1913 was without a doubt both the largest and longest. Beginning in February, at its height the strike involved approximately 23,000 workers from three hundred mills and shops. The 1913 strike should be remembered as a major example of unity among the silk workers, not only across occupations within the industry, but also across lines of ethnicity, religion, gender and age. Visit Lambert Castle, the home of one of the mill owners involved in the strike, as we tell Catholina Lambert's story alongside that of the workers themselves. Let's celebrate the centennial anniversary of one of Paterson's greatest historic moments.



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# 1913 SILK STRIKE COMMEMORATED

2013 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the silk strike in Paterson. This six month labor dispute proved to be the longest and largest in Paterson's industrial history involving roughly 23,000 people who were out on strike from February 25 through July. Partially because of its length, the effects of such a strike were felt in every household in Paterson. Some historians even credit the strike with hastening the end of "the Silk City's" industrial peak.

Several of the museums around Greater Paterson are commemorating this hundredth anniversary with special programs and speakers. Here at Lambert Castle we too are remembering this monumental piece of local history with an exhibit and related programming.

The exhibit, entitled "*We Had to be Rebels*" Remembering the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913 will consist of three components: an overview of the history of textile production in the Great Paterson area, Catholina Lambert's perspective on the strike and the events of the 1913 strike itself.

Besides some of Catholina Lambert's personal items, this exhibit will display selected pages from the original Passaic County Jail records from 1913. These records include the names of all those arrested during the course of the strike, along with other information about their religious affiliation, occupation, what crime they were charged with and the sentence they received. Through these primary source records visitors will be able to connect on a more individual level with the strikers.

Thanks to the assistance and consideration of our co-sponsors at the Department of Special collections and FIT archives in the SUNY, Gladys Marcus Library, at the Fashion Institute of Technology, this exhibit will also contain an audio component. We have compiled extracts from seven interviews with silk workers from Paterson. These interviews detail their memories of working in the silk mills. Pieces of all seven interviews will play on a continuous loop, and add greatly to the overall visitor experience.

The exhibit is due to open on May 8, with an opening reception on Friday May 10. The exhibit will on display through October 2013.

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## REFLECTION ON THE BOTTLEWORKS EXHIBIT

Our most recent exhibit, *Message in a Bottle: the Bottleworks of Dr. Etta Ehrlich* closed on April 28th a complete success. Featuring the dioramas of Dr. Etta Ehrlich, and supported by graphic panels displaying ephemera from the Society's own archives, this exhibit demonstrated a graceful blend of historic context and artistic expression. One visitor described the exhibit as "beautiful, elegant and mysterious," while others described the exhibit as "fascinating" and "gorgeous." Undoubtedly, everyone agreed that Lambert Castle "was the perfect place to showcase" Dr. Ehrlich's works.

We are truly grateful to Dr. Ehrlich for loaning her artwork to the Society and for working with us on this exhibit. We look forward to more collaboration in the future.



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# BASEBALL CITY

by Robert Cohen

## Part Three of a Three-Part Series

In 1895, shortly after Honus Wagner started playing professional organized baseball, he played for the Adrian Michigan Demons in the Michigan State League (it was Wagner's fourth team of the 1895 season). The Adrian Demons had a very good pitcher named George Wilson and a catcher, who sometimes caught Wilson, named Vasco Graham.

Wilson and Graham were probably the last African-American players who would play in mainstream organized ball due to the unofficial color line that was enforced by organized baseball at that time. About 50 years later Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson would break that line and start his storied career playing in the National League. Ironically, Larry Doby from Paterson, New Jersey would break the color line in the American League and he too made the Hall of Fame. He played for the Cleveland Indians.

Ed Barrow, who acquired the Paterson franchise in the Atlantic League in 1895, started a career in organized baseball that made him a baseball immortal.

Among other achievements including signing another immortal, Honus Wagner, he served as President of the Atlantic League from 1897 to 1899.

He purchased an interest in the International League's Toronto team, became their manager and won a pennant in 1902. He managed the Detroit Tigers briefly but resigned in 1904. After being in and out of baseball he returned as manager of the Boston Red Sox in 1918 and led them to the World Championship that year. He realized that Babe Ruth, a Red Sox pitcher, had more potential as a hitter and was instrumental in moving Ruth to the outfield. In 1920 the Red Sox sold Ruth to the Yankees followed shortly by Barrow at the close of the '20 season.

Barrow was General Manager for the Yankees, a team that had not won a pennant in their history until he took over. From 1921 to 1923 they won three pennants in a row. Barrow as the Yanks' General Manager built a Yankee Dynasty that became the top sports franchise in history.

His accomplishments included putting in place an excellent scouting system and he established what was perhaps the Major League's best farm system. During his tenure from 1921 to 1945 the Yankees won 14 pennants and ten World Series—on average, a record better than winning a pennant every other year. Six of these pennants were won in Barrow's first eight years with the club. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1953.

Johannes Peter "Honus" Wagner (1874–1955) was one of nine children; he dropped out of school at 12 to help his family by working as a coal miner. In his free time he played in the minor leagues from 1895 until midway through the 1897 season, at which time he became a major leaguer. The time he spent with the Paterson Silk Weavers in the high minor leagues led to his signing with the Major League Louisville Colonels in 1897. In 1900 the National League shrank from 21 to eight teams. Many Colonels, including Wagner, became members, along with owner Barney Dreyfuss, of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Wagner played for the Pirates for 18 years. He helped lead the Pirates to pennants in 1901, 1902 and 1903. The Pirates played in the first World Series against the Boston Pilgrims (later to be the Red Sox) and lost it, five games to three. (The World Series would later consist of the now-familiar best of seven games.)

Wagner's final statistics when he ended his career in 1917 were major league records for games, at bats, hits, extra base hits, runs and total bases. He held National Records for doubles, triples and hitting titles (eight). He also had 1,732 runs batted in and 722 stolen bases.

In the 21 years from 1897 to 1917 he played in 2,789 games, scored 1,740 runs, hit 101 home runs in the dead ball era and had a lifetime batting average of .327. He was one of the first five players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

Honus Wagner's 1909 T-206 baseball card is the rarest card ever issued. Even though Wagner did not want his card associated with a tobacco product, some cards were found in cigarette packages produced by the American Tobacco Company for the Piedmont and Sweet Caporal brands, which ATC owned. When Wagner took exception, ATC pulled all the packages it could with the Wagner card. Wagner probably didn't want kids to have to purchase cigarettes in order to get his card. About 50-200 of these cards are known. Wagner actually was a tobacco user and had appeared in advertisements for tobacco and had appeared on a cigar trading card in 1899 and had been in an ad for cigarettes.

A Honus Wagner card has sold in the million-dollar range. Wagner himself had his T-206 card in a strip of five produced by ATC. It was found in his belongings after he passed away in 1955.

Paterson has produced other major league players in the modern era including Chuck Jameson, Danny O'Connell and Johnny Briggs.



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