



The Castle Genie

NEWSLETTER OF THE GENEALOGY CLUB

Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson, New Jersey 07503

HIGHLIGHTS

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12**

Mr. Mark Auerbach,
Passaic City Historian
will discuss

**Passaic's
125th
Anniversary**

**Passaic County
Historical Society
has made the
Internet!**

Although the website is still
under construction, we can
take a sneak-peek at it
<<http://sia.cc/pchs.htm>>

President's Message

Just a few words for the Genealogy Club. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! You have made my job so easy this year, and you all have done such splendid work and provided such strong support. A special thanks to the Committee Heads and their Volunteers. To Vice President Jean Pellegrino (my right hand), to Secretary Dick Drake, and to Treasurer Bernice Forrest, my utmost gratitude for their devotion to the Club and its members. I wish you all a great summer, and – 'til we meet again – "May God Bless!"

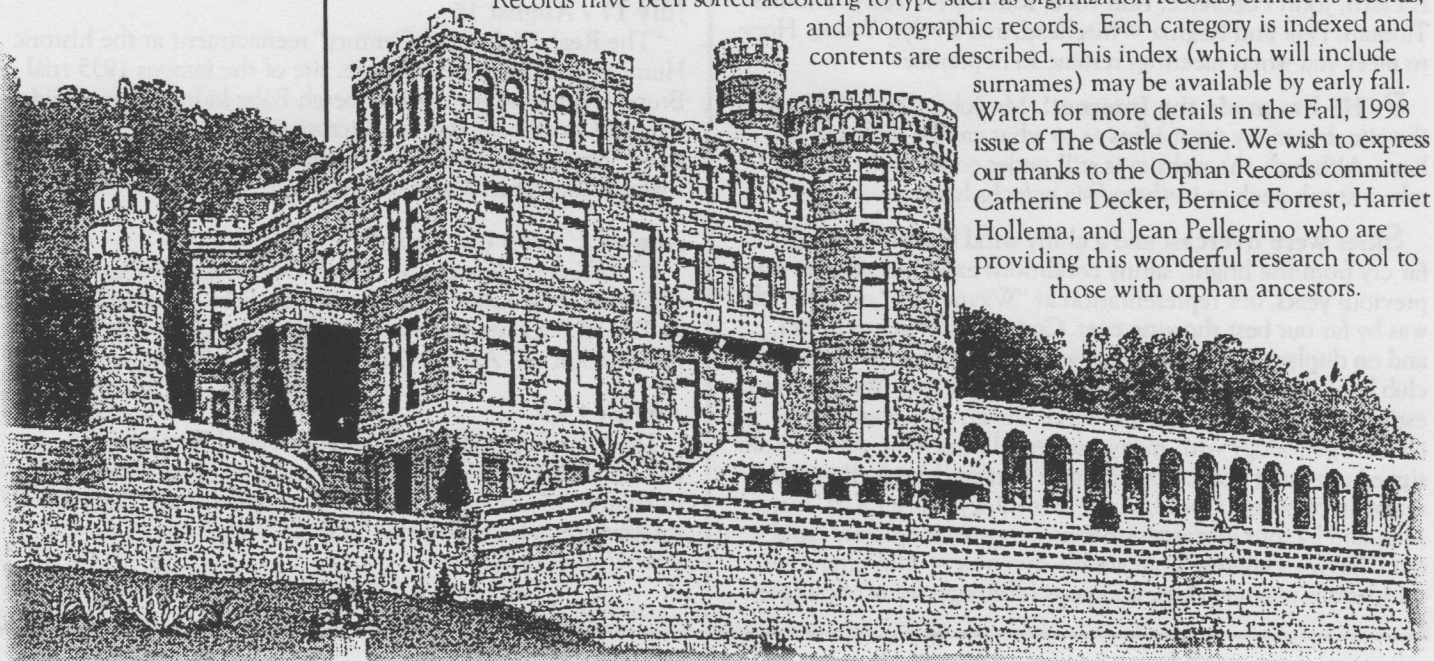
Mimi Nicoll

Club News

As of last report, Lambert Castle is not expected to reopen until Fall, 1999. Therefore, the Genealogy Club will continue to meet 10:00 am on the second Saturday of the month at the Louis Bay Library, 345 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne. Postcard reminders will not be mailed prior to meeting dates, however, meetings are announced in 14 local newspapers, usually under "community announcement" sections. Jean Pellegrino is pleased to announce our programming schedule as follows:

- Saturday, September 12: Mr. Mark Auerbach, Passaic City Historian will discuss Passaic's 125th Anniversary
- Saturday, October 10: Program to be announced
- Saturday, November 14: Program to be announced
- Saturday, December 12: Christmas Party

Paterson Orphan Asylum Records Committee Chair Catherine Decker reports Phase One of the identification and cataloging of Orphan Records collection is nearing completion. Asylum Records have been sorted according to type such as organization records, children's records, and photographic records. Each category is indexed and contents are described. This index (which will include surnames) may be available by early fall. Watch for more details in the Fall, 1998 issue of *The Castle Genie*. We wish to express our thanks to the Orphan Records committee Catherine Decker, Bernice Forrest, Harriet Hollema, and Jean Pellegrino who are providing this wonderful research tool to those with orphan ancestors.



Library Research Committee Chair John Williams reports Club volunteers meet each Tuesday at the PCHS temporary facilities in the old Passaic County Administration Building to conduct research on queries from members and the public. Club members wishing to join our dynamic research group should call John Williams at (201) 444-7777. Each query is reviewed briefly against Society collections in an effort to determine relevant information available, at no charge. Formal genealogical researches can be commissioned as outlined on page 11. Library facilities and collections also are available to researchers at no charge, by appointment. Call (973) 881-2761 for details. You've worked hard and have done a fantastic job, research people!

Armed with foul weather gear in a cold, stinging rain, 15 diehard genealogists and two Herald News reporters braved the elements joining author Howard Lanza at our Cedar Lawn Cemetery Tour on May 9th. Details of the tour appear on page 3 as covered in The Herald. Incidentally, Howard is entertaining the idea of running a "Part Two" of the Cemetery tour, possibly in the fall, which would cover the lower section of the Cedar Lawn.

Our Club Historian, Karen Rader, began compiling a club scrapbook a few months back. Anyone with news clippings, photo's, etc pertaining to the club or the society (past or present) is encouraged to submit material to her either at meetings or by mail. Karen Rader, 107 Second Ave., Hawthorne, NJ 07506 (973) 423-3324.

Former Historical Society and Genealogy Club President Professor Ruth Kane Fern announced at the PCHS annual meeting of May 20th that due to her scheduled move to Tinton Falls, NJ in December, she will be retiring as our representative in The League of New Jersey Historical Societies. The League in comprised of 224 New Jersey Historical Societies and Libraries with a membership of 56,871 people. Thank you Ruth for your distinguished representation at the League these past 13 years! (To learn more about The League of New Jersey Historical Societies, please see Professor Fern's piece on page 10.)

Thirteen new members joined PCHSGC this quarter! Wishing a warm welcome to Michael Coe, Rodger Crum, Pat Dilanni, Catherine Haupt, Larry Jansen, Laura Lawson, Sandra F. Piatti, John Pogorelec, Ron Rice, Karen Peer Terry, Thomas Tillman, Paul and Regina Whitehead, and Evelyn Young. Hope to meet you when meetings resume in September!

PCHS has made the Internet! Mr. John Cia, creator of the site, has many great ideas as to what can be included on-line. Although the website is still under construction, we can take a sneak-peek at it <<http://sia.cc/pchs.htm>>.

Skies were overcast and a chilly wind blew. Although a far cry from the bright, sunny conditions experienced our two previous years, our representation at "Wayne Day" on June 7th was by far our best showing ever. Complimenting our booth, and on display for the first time, was our beautiful new genealogy club banner, expertly designed by Bob Hazekamp. With a crowd estimated at well over 25 thousand, eleven club members chatted genealogy with many interested passers-by, 60 of whom signed our guest book. Due in large part to the excellent salesmanship of Marge Gould, nine "Genealogy Starter Kits" were sold, and by four in the afternoon, we were completely "sold out," having exhausted our sizable inventory—club literature, refrigerator magnets, kits, and pens (although some of our pens

were held in reserve). My sincere thanks to our good friends Bernice Forrest, Al and Jay Frost, Warren & Marge Gould, Bob Hazekamp, Al Haidinger, Jean Pellegrino, Marian Proctor, and Bill Ware who took time out of their busy Sunday schedules to man our booth and make the day a great success!

Out of the Mailbag. Mr. Fred Wrixon of Martins Ferry, Ohio writes us with thanks for our post of his query in the "Folk Finder" section of our Spring, 1998 newsletter that concerned research on Mr. Allen B. DuMont and his Kinescope Recording Process for TV:

"Thank you for your generous inclusion of my inquiry in your (Spring, 1998) newsletter.

"I shall not be able to continue my research in this subject due to having entered an unexpectedly huge maze in so doing. Oddly, Kinescopes were the only way that many live TV programs, classic World Series, and NFL Title Games were preserved from circa 1949 through the advent of Ampex-type video tape in 1956-1957. However, I have experienced a total run around with supposedly professional 'experts' in TV history and even so-called DuMont 'family' and former employees. Thus, I've transferred my efforts to other topics.

"Thank you again for your generosity."

Cordially, *Fred Wrixon.*

It is through hard work of many that help make *The Castle Genie* a success. As Volume 8 comes to a close, I wish to thank Bernice Forrest (Folk Finder), Bob Hazekamp (Layout and Design), Richard Drake (Mini-Minutes), and committee chairs Catherine Decker (Orphan Records), Jean Pellegrino (Program), Karen Rader (Historian), and John Williams (Research), for keeping us up to date each quarter on committee activities. Also, I wish to express my thanks to Dr. George Becker, Richard Drake, Professor Ruth Kane Fern, Howard Lanza, Jean Pellegrino, and John Williams who all contributed material for this issue of *The Castle Genie*. I hope everyone has enjoyed reading these four issues as much as I've enjoyed putting them together. Wishing all of you a restful summer...

Maryjane Proctor

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

July 17 - August 16

"The Real Trial of the Century" reenactment at the historic Hunterdon County Courthouse, site of the famous 1935 trial of Bruno Hauptman for the Lindbergh Baby kidnapping. Guided tours of Courthouse and Jail, Victorian and Greek Revival house tours. For details, call 908-782-2610 <www.lindberghtrial.com>.

August 1, 1998 (Saturday)

POINTers In Person, the Italian Genealogy Group, will meet 10:00 am at the Community Room, Garfield Housing Authority, 71 Daniel P. Conte Court, Garfield. Topic to be announced. Information call Annita Zalenski, 973-595-7684.

August 1 - 9

The New England Historic Genealogical Society will host its annual "Come Home to New England" event August 1-9 in Boston, Massachusetts. For program details and registration information, please visit the NEHGS Website at <<http://www.nehgs.org>>

MINI MINUTES OF PAST PROGRAMS

Richard Drake

13 September 1997

Freeholder Norman Robertson, a leading supporter of the Lambert Castle Restoration, spoke of his childhood reverence for the "castle on the hill" and the remarkable progress toward its restoration, despite the slow and painful search for funding.

8 October 1997

An active business meeting included last minute plans for the Everton Workshop. Andy Shick, Historical Society Director, brought life into a magnificently documented slide show on "Life and Times in the Silk City."

8 November 1997

An enthusiastic report on the highly successful Everton Workshop preceded an interesting and intriguing presentation by Dorothy Huey, a representative of Creative Memories, of the photo albums, preservation supplies, and record-creation techniques offered and advanced by her company.

10 January 1998

In a variation on our traditional and popular workshop format, the members rotated on signal between sessions covering the Castle Genie Index (Maryjane Proctor), our Genealogy Resource Book (Joan Springwaldt), and Organizing and Coding (John Williams).

14 February 1998

George Sellmer provided a fascinating slide and anecdote biography of Paterson's renowned son Vernon Royle, justly framed both as inventor and as pioneer nature photographer; the careful and loving portrait of the man proved to be an informative history of Paterson and Passaic County as well.

14 March 1998

Attendance swelled with canal enthusiasts as Joe Hannon offered a slide retrospective of the Morris Canal, drawn mostly from the renowned Jim Lee photographic history, and partly from Joe's own peripheral photo collection of the people and lands along the towpath.

11 April 1998

A lively business session, including election of officers, was followed by a welcome "Let's Talk" session in which the members pursued their particular genealogical interest two or three at a time, drifting in and out of a variety of informal small group discussions without form or structure but with considerable benefit to all.

JONATHAN WIGGINS AT THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH

Professor Ruth Kane Fern

In view of the 220th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth in Freehold, Professor Fern's late husband's ancestor, Jonathan WIGGINS, of Morris County, took part in that battle along with the Trenton born patriot Molly Pitcher.

Wiggins, a wagonmaster for Washington's troops (he brought up supplies and ammunition for the troops), said when General Lee, a former British officer (not to be confused with the patriot "Light Horse" Harvey Lee - Robert E. Lee's father), ordered a retreat when the Americans were obviously winning (was Lee in the pay of the British who had captured him at Basking Ridge before he was exchanged?) that Washington turned purple "and swore so long and so loudly the leaves on the trees curled up!" Since the heat was over 100 degrees, maybe that was the real cause. Washington ordered Lee - in disgrace - to the rear and never trusted him again!

RELIVING THE DREAMS

Gina M. Dalessio, *The Herald News Sunday, May 10, 1998*

It was the perfect day to visit the dead.

The sky was ominously dark, and a cold wind whipped through the trees at Cedar Lawn Cemetery. Tombstones glistened as the rain pelted down.

And for the 15 members of the Passaic County Historical Society's Genealogy Club, it was a day to relive the dark secrets and long forgotten dreams of those buried in Paterson's most prestigious cemetery.

The tour guide was Howard Lanza, author of "*Gateway to the Past: A Guide to Cedar Lawn Cemetery*." Published last year, the book chronicles the lives and deaths of some of the rich and famous buried at Cedar Lawn. Many were simply curious; but for some, the tour was personal.

Albert Comstock Iancome was there to pay respects to Alfred Comstock, the grandfather he never knew. Albert Haidinger was looking for the graves of his great-grandparents, Christian and Mary Haidinger.

Jean Pellegrino, tour coordinator, explained the cemetery's appeal for the club. "We're average people, looking for our ancestors," she said.

Few "average" people are buried in Cedar Lawn's Section 8, where the group spent most of the tour. The grave makers at Cedar Lawn are examples of Victorian Artwork. All are elaborate and most are expensive. Section 8 is the final resting place of Paterson's elite.

Garret Hobart, U.S. vice president under William McKinley, was a Paterson lawyer before he entered politics. Hobart died in 1899 of heart failure, three years into McKinley's first term. His successor, Theodore Roosevelt, became president when McKinley was assassinated in 1901.

The Hobart Mausoleum is the most expensive memorial plot in the cemetery. When Hobart's widow first approached Cedar Lawn, officials said a plot would cost \$10,000. She offered to pay \$6,500 and was refused. A heated debate ensued between her attorneys and the cemetery's officials. When it was over, the Hobart estate paid somewhere between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for the plot.

The memorial statue of George Barned's grave is an example of early American sculpture. Barned, 21, was working on Paterson School 5, when a scaffolding rope broke, and he plunged to his death in 1900. His co-workers paid to have a statue of a young man, with a jauntily perched hat, and a broken rope tied around his leg.

Despite his family's prominence, Walter Conklin's tombstone is plain with only the initials W.L.C. In 1871, the 26-year-old Conklin got Alice Bowsby pregnant. During an illegal abortion procedure, Bowsby died, and the doctor, fearing murder charges, stowed her body in a luggage trunk and put it on a train. When baggage handlers discovered the corpse, an investigation ensued. When Conklin's role was revealed, he shot himself in the head.

Silk baron Catholina Lambert's memorial is humble when compared to the lavish castle he had built. After losing most of his money during World War I, he died almost penniless. His poverty is reflected in the undecorated sarcophagus that marks his grave.

(Editors note: Special thanks to Herald News reporter Gina Dalessio and Herald News photographer Lisa Kyle who joined our Cemetery Walk in a stinging rain, providing this wonderful news piece and two beautiful color photos that appeared in The Herald on Sunday, May 10. Thank you, ladies!)

BURIAL RECORDS FROM CEDAR LAWN CEMETERY

Howard D. Lanza

(Please note the following is not taken from a Cedar Lawn Cemetery document. It is merely a guide for requesting information on burial records that may be helpful in tracing your family history.)

To request information relevant to your genealogical research:

1.) Submit - IN WRITING - the name(s) of the deceased person(s) that you are trying to locate at Cedar Lawn Cemetery, McLean Boulevard, Paterson, New Jersey 07504 (Ph: 973-279-1161). When possible, include additional information such as the approximate year of death - this is particularly important for very common names (John Smith, for example).

2.) Enclose a check or money order in the amount of \$25.00 - made payable to Cedar Lawn Cemetery - along with your inquiry. Note: This is a flat-rate fee for the record search, and is refundable if the name(s) are not found. In cases where the number of names submitted is large, the cemetery will advise you of any additional charges.

If the name is found among the cemetery files, you will be given a photocopy of the individual's INTERMENT CARD which includes the following information:

- Date of Interment
- Cemetery Section, Lot, and Grave Number
- Place of Birth
- Age (Years, Month, Days)
- Date of Death
- Place of Death
- Cause of Death
- Last Residence

In addition to providing the above information, the records will frequently give the name of the funeral director and will note if the remains were removed to Cedar Lawn (e.g., from the Sandy Hill cemeteries).

Cedar Lawn can also provide a copy of the LOT CARD which, in addition to giving the lot location, lists the names, interment dates, ages, and exact grave locations of all burials within a given lot. In many early records, there is often a diagram of the lot and individual graves. This information is helpful in determining family names other than that of the individual being requested.

Notes:

1.) Interments made prior to 1980 were recorded using a manual card index system. After 1980, the records have been entered and stored in a computer data base program - a hard copy of the record(s) are printed when needed.

2.) Military service is NOT recorded.

They run with text that varies from long family biographies to short good-byes. Some families use the computer biographies as a way for future generations to learn about the deceased. While most of the memorials are written by loved ones, some people are drafting their own.

Two New Jersey cemeteries, Franklin Memorial Park in North Brunswick and George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus, have computers discreetly lodged inside brown marble obelisks in central locations. At Franklin Memorial, families can post a computer page for \$175 and visitors can even browse a library of books on grieving that can help soothe their loss.

Robert Caron, founder of a Canada-based company that developed the cemetery computer kiosk, says the idea came to him while working at a Montreal cemetery. "People were always asking workers for help in finding graves," he says. His company initially focused on creating a grave-locator, and later it added the computer memorials. His company also has set up computer kiosks at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx and Saint Michael's Cemetery in Boston and has also added services to upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Chicago, Wisconsin, and California.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN HUDSON COUNTY

Those with roots in Hudson County should consider visiting "The New Jersey Room," a reference collection contained within the Jersey City Public Library. Their resources include:

- Histories of New Jersey and its counties and cities; studies of New Jersey government, social and economic conditions, arts and crafts, industry; information on recreation and tourist attractions; state industrial directories.
- Directories of the City of Jersey City from 1849 - 1925; directories of other New Jersey cities.
- Maps of Jersey City, Hudson County, and New Jersey, including early maps and topographic surveys as well as current road maps. Atlases of Jersey City, Hudson County, and other counties in New Jersey which show structures in existence at the time the atlases were prepared.
- Real Estate Atlas of Hudson County: location, tax valuation, and ownership of each lot in Hudson County plus current Green Sheets recording property taxes.
- Documents: Official publication of Jersey City, Hudson County, and New Jersey. (Please note that the Library does not have every publication of the city, county, and state.)
- Periodicals: 150 current periodicals plus many which have ceased publication.
- Topical File of news items, articles, and pamphlet material.
- Index to The Jersey Journal for the years 1910 - 1954 and 1968 to present.
- Books by New Jersey authors and literature with a New Jersey locale.
- Jersey City Picture Collection: Prints, postcards, and photographs.
- New Jersey Statutes Annotated, the laws of the State.
- New Jersey Administrative Code, the rules of the State.

Photocopies of printed and microfilmed library materials are available at \$.10 to \$.50 per copy. The New Jersey Room is open Monday through Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (closed Saturdays in summer) at the Jersey City Public Library, 472 Jersey Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07302 Ph: 201-547-4503.

CEMETERIES TRY NEW EPITAPHS

Barbara Edwards via *The Sunday Star Ledger* May, 1998

Adding to the traditional marble tombstones and stone-carved epitaphs, cemeteries are installing computers that flash an image of the deceased and biographical text to go along. Some cemeteries offer "talking tombstones" that combine audio voice recordings with visual text.

Computers can offer a different type of graveside experience. Photographs allow the living to remember happier times. The pictures usually depict people in the prime of their lives - fresh from college, or stepping out to conquer the business world.

CITY OF PASSAIC CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Mark S. Auerbach, Passaic City Historian - Herald News Thurs., April 2, 1998

An act to incorporate the City of Passaic was signed 125 years ago on Wednesday, April 2, 1873. Passaic also celebrates 320 years of existence, as the area of modern day Passaic was originally settled by Dutch pioneers in 1678.

On April 4, 1678, a Dutch settler and trader, Hartman MICHELSEN (later VREELAND), purchased a "great island in the river of Pasaick near by Aquickanucke by the Indians called Menehenicke (translation of the Dutch from the original deed)." The island came to be known as Dundee Island and today that area is known as Pulaski Park and Dundee Island Park. Between 1679 and 1684-85, deeds and patents were acquired between the original settlers and the Native Americans, the Lenni-Lenapi, that secured for the original settlers the land including and surrounding modern day Passaic. In October of 1693, the Township of Acquackanonk was created in the northern part of Essex County. The village and city of Passaic were first known as Acquackanonk, believed to be either the name or a variation of the name used by the native Lenni-Lenapi Indians. "Acquackanonk Bridge" was the name used by General George Washington to identify the area in a letter he wrote in 1886 to then Governor Richard Livingston. In February of 1837, the County of Passaic was created from parts of northern Essex and western Bergen County. In 1854, the Village of Acquackanonk took the name of the river that it bordered, Passaic. By the late 1860's, the Village of Passaic was steadily growing in population and commercial and residential size. This growth was mostly due to the completion of the Dundee Dam and Dundee Canal in July of 1861. The vastly enlarged and now abundant fresh water supply became the basis for the industrial boon that would fuel Passaic's rapid growth.

The population of the city of Passaic took hold along stretches of the Passaic River for obvious reasons, transportation. As the city grew in size, the first population concentration was in the area of Prospect Street and Main Avenue as this was close to the landing and, beginning in 1831, the newest mode of transportation, the horsedrawn railroad. The future arrived a few short years later as trains became powered by steam engines by 1834. With the advent of water power for the factories, the city needed to expand its housing for its citizens so in rapid order the Eastside or Dundee section quickly filled up. Towards the end of the 19th century, the current First and Fourth Ward areas started to build up. The Hill Section of Passaic, the homes of the captains of industry and the wealthy, started to spring up in the middle 1870's and peaked by the end of the first decade of the 20th century. The Second Ward area of the city started to rapidly develop in the beginning of the 20th century and became a predominantly Italian and Jewish area until the end of the 1940's. The Third Ward was the last to physically develop as it was "too far" from the rest of the town to be desirable. Today, Passaic, a city of 3.25 square miles of which 1.25 square miles is park land, is a very densely populated city, especially in its First, Second, and Fourth Wards.

The Passaic Police Department had its beginnings prior to the city's incorporation. It was established between 1870-71. Prior to 1875, the police department was housed in various structures. In 1875, a permanent home was selected on Howe Avenue behind the municipal building. In 1923, on the site of the original Number 1 School (northeast corner of William and

Passaic Streets), a new police headquarters was erected with much fanfare. In 1980, the current headquarters in the City Hall Municipal Complex were occupied by the department. Likewise, the Passaic Fire Department has a long and proud history and will celebrate its 130th year in October.

Some of the more memorable factories and mills that employed a vast majority of Passaic's citizens were the Borany Worsted Woolen Mills, the Forstmann Woolen Mills, Passaic Cotton Mills, the Gera Mills, the McLean Cotton Mills, Brighton Mills, the Waterhouse Mills, the Acheson & Harden Manufacturing Co., the Okonite Company, the Patasore Company, U.S. Rubber Company, Manhattan Rubber Company, Paterson Parchment Paper Company, J.L. Prescott Company, Reid and Barry, Passaic Print Works, The Dundee Power and Water Company, the Falstrom Company, Pitkin & Holdsworth Company, and many more to numerous to mention but all equally important.

Passaic has always been a city of immigrants. After the original Dutch settlers of the latter 17th century came the English, Scottish, and a small but varied mix of mostly Western Europeans following the American Revolution. The first half of the nineteenth century saw the arrival of Germans, Irish, more English, Scandinavians, Austro-Hungarians, and a mixed group of political emigres from throughout Europe. The latter half of the 19th century saw the arrival of more Germans, Irish, and a small influx of African-Americans, mostly former slaves. The last 15 years of the 19th century saw the beginnings of the great waves of immigrants that would populate Passaic and all other industrial cities in America. Large numbers of immigrants came from Italy, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Austria-Hungary, and lesser numbers from virtually every other country in Europe and points beyond. After World War I, Passaic saw a migration of Southern Blacks to the city, and after World War II, an influx of Puerto Ricans. In 1956, during the Hungarian Revolt, many Hungarians came to Passaic to join their relatives and friends. Since the 1970's many Hispanic immigrants have chosen Passaic as their home.

The religious history of Passaic is as diverse as any great city in the world. The Dutch arrived here in 1685, and were followed in the middle years of the 19th century by the Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Protestants, Catholics, African Methodist Episcopalians, Baptists, Jews, Lutherans, and a host of other religious denominations.

Of paramount importance to the city are its three hospitals. The General Hospital Center at Passaic started life in 1892 as the Passaic General Hospital. St. Mary's Hospital was founded in 1895 behind St. Nicholas Church and moved to the "Hill Section" several years later. Passaic Beth Israel started as a 12-bed, one-floor hospital in 1927 on the second floor of the newly built B'nai Israel Nursing Home on Madison Street.

Prominent citizens who played a key role in the growth of Passaic included Mr. Charles McKnight K. PAULISON, responsible for developing a large area of the city, Mr. Alfred SPEER, one of the city's early entrepreneurs who gave Passaic its name, and Mr. Benjamin Bogert AYCRIGG, first mayor of the City of Passaic 125 years ago, and Mr. Robert Dix BENSON, a successful industrialist and a president of the Board of Education.

THE PASSAIC HOME AND ORPHAN ASYLUM, 1886 - 1962

Submitted by Jean Pellegrino via the Star Ledger,
February 13, 1983 and

The History of the Paterson Orphan Asylum Association
1832-1952 by Wm. H. Holcombe

Mrs. Peter Reid of Passaic, a lady of means noted for her "philanthropy with alacrity," gathered twenty-two ladies in the parlor of the Presbyterian Church, Passaic, to form an Auxiliary to the Paterson Orphan Asylum Association on November 22, 1882. The Auxiliary was reorganized as an independent association on January 17, 1883 and became incorporated as the Passaic Home and Orphan Asylum on December 17, 1884. The Passaic Home and Orphan Asylum's first headquarters was located in the Marsh Home on Lexington Avenue where it remained until the purchase of the W.S. Anderson Estate in 1888 on 238 River Drive. The Orphan Home opened for receipt of children June 4, 1886. Its' first registrar was appointed in January of 1898.

After 76 years of operation, The Passaic Home fell victim to changing times and the extension of Route 21 (past the intersection of Route 3). When it closed its' doors in 1962, virtually all the papers connection with its operation had been preserved. More than 150 pounds of papers, reports, pictures, and clips were presented to Rutgers Library in New Brunswick. Where normally just little fragments remain, the Passaic Home and Orphan Asylum documentation is virtually complete. It is indeed a rarity for papers to be saved so completely through the years. This unique collection is housed at Rutgers University, Special Collections and University Archives, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey 07903. It includes:

Register of Inmates: 1896 - 1944.

Register of wards and boarders of the Passaic Home and Orphan Asylum Association that includes: a.) alphabetical list of inmates, b.) list of inmates at the beginning of each year, c.) list of yearly admissions and removals, d.) list of inmates complete for each year, e.) history of inmates, f.) lists of deaths occurring in the home, g.) Annual Report of the Registrar, 1902-1940

Register of Inmates: 1944 - 1961.

Includes: a.) lists of inmates complete for each year b.) Annual Report of the Registrar, 1941-1960, c.) lists of inmates, 1960-1961

Inmate Case Files A - Z.

Permission to consult the Inmate Case files must be secured from the Passaic Home and Orphan Asylum Association

Minutes of Board of Governors Meetings: January 21, 1885 through February 1969.

Records contained in 18 books that includes lists of officers, Annual report of 1924, and Secretary's book (January 1933 - December 1941)

Minutes of the Ladies Auxiliary: March 11, 1897 through December 1952.

Records contained in 12 books that include list of members, officers, by-laws, etc.

Treasurer's Accounts, 1893 - 1956

Employee Work and Pay Records, 1927-1928 and 1951-1960

Garden Club Committee Meeting Minutes and Annual Report, 1914.

Donation Books, 1896 - 1962

Petty Cash Books, 1933 - 1935 and 1960 - 1962

Other Records:

- 1.) Anniversary Meeting Programs, 1894-1901
- 2.) Annual Reports, 1887-1895
- 3.) Lists of Officers, 1902-1953
- 4.) Scrapbook of Clippings, 1882-c1907
- 5.) Scrapbook of Clippings relating to Auxiliary, 1936-c1942 and c1945-1962
- 6.) Legal correspondence with the State of NJ regarding taking of the property for construction of Rt. 21
- 7.) Correspondence concerning the sale of the Home and disbursement of the assets, 1964-1965
- 8.) Appraisals and sale of destination of the furnishing in the home at the time of closing, 1962;
- 9.) Last orphanage flag taken down at closing of Home, 1962
- 10.) Official Seal of the Passaic Home and Orphan Asylum Association
- 11.) Miscellaneous clippings, photographs, correspondence, legal documents, accounts and printed items.

The Special Collection and University Archives (Ph: 732-932-7006) at Rutgers University is open to researchers 9:00 - 5:00 Monday through Friday and 1:00 - 5:00 Saturday's (Saturday hours though May 9th only - Saturday hours will resume in the fall).

(Note: My special thanks to Mr. Tom Frusciano, Special Collections Librarian at Rutgers, who provided this catalog of material contained within the Passaic Home and Orphan Asylum collection.)

ANNEKE JANS DESCENDENT DISPUTES RECENT ARTICLE

Mr. William B. Bogardus of Wilmington, Ohio, a member of the Anneke JANS and Everardus BOGARDUS Descendants Association, wrote us recently concerning an article titled "Our Own Al Brower Heir to a Fortune?!" that appeared in the December, 1997 issue of the *The Castle Genie*. He writes:

"I was recently provided a copy of the article, "Our Own Al Brower Heir to a Fortune?!" from the December, 1997 (Vol. 8, No. 2) issue of "*The Castle Genie*."

"Professional and experienced genealogists would not necessarily doubt that a will or other document could have been found in an old chest in Gap, Lancaster Co., PA. If true, it should be located and made available for examination; but if it is reported to have been destroyed or is lost, it has little if any genealogical value.

"Based on historical facts, however, the quoted article is virtually totally in error. For example, the will of Anneke Jans BOGARDUS, who was buried in Beverwyck (NY) in 1663, has never been lost and the original will, in the Dutch language, has always been (and is still) on file at Albany, NY; there were no such sums of money deposited in New York banks or in Holland to be distributed to heirs of Anneke Jans BOGARDUS; Anneke JANS was not the daughter of William of Orange — she was born in Flekkeroy, Norway; Everardus BOGARDUS was not a private citizen of Amsterdam nor later a Rector of Trinity Church — he was born in Woerden in the Province of Utrecht and matriculated at Leiden University before becoming the second Domine (Rev) of the New York Dutch Church in Manhattan; he did drown on a trip back to Holland - but was not enroute to secure a dowry; his widow did not marry a BROWER; and there are other points of error.

"Such mis-information that has been published about Anneke JANS unfortunately just perpetuates the use of false

genealogical information by both actual and alleged descendants. Professional historians and genealogists have long known the facts surrounding her origin, spouses, children, and early descendants, and this factual information was again summarized and supported with documented sources in my recent book, "Dear Cousin," : *A Charted Genealogy of the Descendants of Anneke Jans Bogardus (1605-1663) to the 5th Generation.*" A complimentary copy of this book was provided to the Passaic County Historical Society in October, 1996.

"I do not know what was found in an old chest in Gap, PA., but it could not have been a will of Anneke JANS BOGARDUS. I do know, however, that there were many BROWER families that lived in and around Lancaster Co., PA., but these families were predominantly of German origin and, having traced some, they were completely unrelated to any lines of descent from Anneke JANS at all.

"I welcome any evidence that will refute any of the comments I have provided above. The alleged discovery of a factually untrue will of Anneke JANS BOGARDUS BROWER in Gap, PA. is not evidence.

Sincerely, William B. Bogardus, 1121 Linhof Road, Wilmington, OH 45177

ANN LANDERS CHOPS DOWN FAMILY TREES

by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG
<myra_gormley@prodigy.com>

Advice columnist Ann Landers' syndicated newspaper column on April 5, 1998 included a letter from "Louisville Mom," who wrote that her adopted children, born in Korea, were asked in school to do a family history project. Louisville Mom expressed the opinion that schools should not encourage children to look into their family's background. She went on to say that children in foster care or from troubled family situations might be embarrassed by such a project. Ann Landers responded:

"I'm glad you wrote. Your letter gives me an opportunity to speak out about family trees, lineage, and other topics that should have no place in our schools. It is nobody's business whether a child's family came over on a slave ship or the 'Mayflower.' Teachers should not be asking about family background. If I had to draw a picture of my family tree it would look like a shrub. My parents and grandparents immigrated from Russia, and beyond that, I don't have a clue as to my lineage, and I have never given it a moment's thought."

I think Ann Landers misses the point when she says "Teachers should not be asking about family backgrounds." That is not what is being asked. Teachers do not care about your family's background or when your families came to America or why; or their ethnic or religious orientation. However, for any scholarly historical research to be done (which is what teachers are trying to teach their students) one must have basic information in order to conduct the research. That is all that genealogy is – historical research – only on a much more personal level. I have seen and been involved in many "family tree" projects for teachers (mostly middle- and high-school level) and in all of them the option was given for the student to trace her/his own family, someone else's, or a historical character's genealogy. The teacher did not care. It was the student's choice. Teachers I have known have been ultra-sensitive about fragmented families and adoptive situations.

Sometimes it is the parents who misunderstand what genealogical research is all about and over-react as a result. It is

not the personal information about the students, their families, or their ancestors that is important. It is the methodology and making the student aware that we all have histories. All families have contributed to American history — not just the rich and famous or the historically important movers and shakers (military and political figures). With the exception of Native Americans, all North Americans descend from ancestors who came from elsewhere. Making history more personal is a great leap forward in teaching students to appreciate the past.

We all have roots, and while Landers might never have thought about or cared about her family's history, many of us do. Obviously, Landers does not understand what genealogy is all about and makes some erroneous assumptions. Evidently, she did not read Alex Haley's "Roots," watch the mini-series, or view the more recent PBS "Ancestors" series on TV. It sounds to me as though she is years behind the times with a presumption that genealogy is an elitist activity. Before she spouts off again about what teachers should or shouldn't do regarding family histories, she should learn more about the subject.

If you would like to express your opinion about the foregoing, visit Ann Landers' website at:
<<http://www.creators.com/lifestyle/landers/writelan.asp>>

OUR MEDICAL HERITAGE

Submitted by Dr. George Becker via
"Hearye- Hearye" Vol. 13, No. 2, Spring 1992

We may have inherited more from grandmother than her blue eyes. Many diseases run in families, and our family's health history can greatly affect our own health. What is of special relevance for genealogists, and everyone else, is their medical heritage. Medical genetics is an area of life saving potential as well as intense medical study. More and more, it is becoming evident that clues about future ills, and perhaps their cures, can be found in a family history.

According to the pattern set up in nature, we have acquired physical characteristics from our parents and ancestors - things like eye color, hair and size. A susceptibility to a disease might also be a hereditary trait that we have. For example, the susceptibility to a disease might result from a single damaged copy of a gene, caused by a mutation in a sperm or egg, descended from generation to generation. If the person (or carrier) pairs with another carrier having a similar faulty gene, each of their children would have a 25 percent chance of acquiring the actual disease.

Some 20 million Americans today carry true genetic diseases. Scientists have had a growing ability to test a person's genetic makeup for inherited disease susceptibilities since about 1970. Genetic tests for sickle cell anemia and Tay-Sachs disease, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, thalassemia, the fragile X-syndrome were devised by scientists. The federally funded Human Genome Project is working toward mapping all of the human body's 50,000 to 100,000 genes by the year 2004. As scientists uncover hereditary links to various diseases, it is increasingly important for people to learn what ailments have plagued their families. Having prior knowledge that a particular ailment may strike could help to prevent or to lessen its impact.

So, since clues, and perhaps cures, to future ills can be found in a family history, it pays to create a family genetic record. There are some methods available to help make the fact gathering easier.

The *Family Genetic Record* form has been developed by combining genetic and genealogical data. The goal was to pro

vide a format for people to record their family information. Other medical record forms usually include a history on shots and x-rays, intermixed with ailments and infectious diseases that were experienced. The Family Genetic Record form gives information directly linked to physical characteristics and genetic predisposition's. The printed list of predisposition's will change as genetic knowledge evolves.

The *Family Genetic Record* pad is available in a set of 20 forms assembled into a pad for easier use. Each 8-1/2" x 11" sheet will be sufficient for a larger than average family and is printed on 70 lb. weight acid-free paper. The records should, therefore, last well over 100 years. The Family Genetic Record pad is available for \$7.95 (\$6.00 per pad plus 1.95 postage and

handling) from Charles H. Naundorf, 35 Picture Book Park, West Bloomfield, NY 14585.

Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, offers a free Family History Questionnaire. Through their Cancer Genetics Program and Prenatal Counseling Program, risks of cancer and birth defects can be evaluated through their analysis of the detailed questionnaire. For further information, call 1-800-VALLEY or visit their website at <www.valleyhealth.com>.

(Please note: Dr. Becker, submitter of this article, warns that given the status of managed care and the "industrialization" of medical care today, he would not share the results of medical research with anyone.)

FOLK FINDER

Bernice L. Forrest

The Folk Finder Column is devoted to helping genealogical researchers locate Northern New Jersey ancestors/descendants. We invite researchers to submit requests for help, inquiries about family names, or queries concerning the exchange of information. Requests and inquiries may be e-mailed to me at <102114.155@CompuServe.COM> or faxed to me at 201-337-1679. Queries by mail should be sent to: Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson, NJ 07503 Attn: Bernice Forrest - "Folk Finder."
If you can help any of our submitters, please contact them directly.

1. BOON: Seek information on family of James **BOON** b. England 1832 (from Paterson Census) m. Catherine **VAN HOUTEN**. Children were Thomas, John, James, Catherine and (?) Ann. Submitted by Lilyan G. DURKEE, 193-B N. Durkee Hill, Southbury, CT 06488.

2. COOKE: Trying to locate descendants of William **COOK**(e) and wife Catherine **EMMET**, and John Henry **ELDER** and wife #1 Fanny **PENROY** and wife #2 Ann **SMITH**. William **COOK** was born 1810 in England and died 4 March 1867 in Paterson. His wife Catherine was born June 1811 in NY State and died 22 April 1881 in Paterson. Their children were William b June 1835; Mary b 1836; Henry b 1837 (submitter descended from Henry and has data on all his children); Hewlett b 1840; Peter b 1845; David b 1847; and George b 1857; (There was also a son James b between David and George). John Henry **ELDER** was born 1806 in Scotland and died 1898 in Windsor CT. His wife Fanny was born 1809 in Scotland and died 1856 in Paterson. They had a total of 16 children and left 10 in Scotland when they came to US. Brought the following children with them: Margaret b 1838; William b 1839; Fanny (submitter's direct ancestor) b 1840 d 1885 in Port Jervis NY; and Isabella b 1842. Mary b 1843 and Jane b 1844 were born in Paterson. When Fanny died he married Ann **SMITH** and had five more children. John's mother belonged to the **HILL** clan and the submitter has data on them back to the 1680's. Submitted by George H. COOKE, Sr. 45 Springdale Court, Clifton, NJ 07013.

3. JACKSON: Searching for information on Lydia **JACKSON** who married Daniel Cornel **RIDER**. They came to Paterson after the Civil War. Lydia's brother George **JACKSON** built many houses in Paterson. Her brother Nathaniel also lived in Paterson. Submitted by Harold W. DANIELS, 14 Heatherstone Drive, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

4. LEES: Seeking information about original records of Sandy Hill Cemetery in Paterson. Need death dates of John and Elizabeth **LEES** interred there and later removed to Cedar Lawn Cemetery, Paterson, in the Issac Bamber plot. Submitted by Joan FREDERICK, 807 Highpoint Dr., Port Orange, FL 32127, (904)761-8541, email Trovan@aol.com.

5. MORGAN: Searching for family of John **MORGAN** who had a saloon at 32 Bond St. (20th Ave.) in Paterson. Children were Charles who had a farm in Clifton and Emma who married Frederick **TOWNSEND RIDER**, grandfather of the submitter. Submitted by Harold W. DANIELS, 14 Heatherstone Drive, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

6. ROSE: Seeking family of Enoch **ROSE** and Susannah **GREEN**. They lived in Paterson in the 1840's and 1850's. Their daughter was Phoebe **ROSE KNAPP** and their granddaughter was Adah Susan **KNAPP DANIELS**. Submitted by Harold W. DANIELS, 14 Heatherstone Drive, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

7. VAN WYCK: Looking for descendants of Paulus **VAN WYCK** (1804-1881) and his wife Klazina **PADMOS** (1808-1892) who emigrated from Ouddorp, Netherlands in 1864. They settled in Paterson with their nine (possibly more) children. Paulus b 8 Oct 1828; Leunis b 10 Nov 1831; Catharina b 11 Apr 1834, (poss. married Marten **TANIS**); Barbara b 25 Nov 1836 (poss married **LAAUWE**); Jacob b 9 Apr 1840; Adriaantje b 9 May 1843 (married L. **DeVOGEL**); Marten b 18 Nov 1845 (married Klatje/Clara **LOKKER**); Johannes b 30 Dec 1847; and Jacomyntje b 2 Jan 1852 (married Abel **KIEVIT**). Submitted by Ethel Kay KONIGHT, 245 Erie Ave. Midland Park, NJ 07432, (201)-251-9205, email: Ethelkk@aol.com.

8. ZELIFF / ZELUFF: Seek information/parentage of Peter **ZELIFF / ZELUFF** b circa 1800 in the Paterson area, m Margaret **SECOR**. Some children were Eliza, John, Daniel and David. Submitted by Lilyan G. DURKEE, 193-B N. Durkee Hill, Southbury, CT 06488.

PATERSON INTELLIGENCER NEWSPAPER (Continued) DEATH AND MARRIAGES 1825 - 1832

- July 6, 1826 Died on Monday the 26th ult., at his residence in Newark, Caleb S. **RIGGS**, Esq. in the 64th year of his age. He was a native of this country.
- Nov. 29, 1826 Married on the 25th inst. by Nicholas Smith, Esq., Mr. Daniel **HEYMAN**, Teacher of Languages, to Miss Ellen, daughter of Mrs. John **VLIET**.
- Nov. 29, 1826 Died in McIntosh County, Georgia, on the 12th inst. Gen. John **MC INTOSH**, aged about 70. He was a patriot and warrior of '76.
- Dec. 6, 1826 Married at Hanover, on the 20th ult, by the Rev. Dr. Condit, Mr. Simeon **GARRISON** of this town, to Miss Elizabeth **FAIRCHILD**, of the former place
- Dec. 6, 1826 Married in New York, on Monday evening, the 25th ult. by the Ret. Rev. Bishop Hobart, Capt. Lewis **MOORE** to Mary F. daughter of the late Capt. Wm. **NICOLL**.
- Dec. 6, 1826 Married on Wednesday evening last*, by the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Mr. Christian **DE BAUN** of N.Y. to Miss Christianna **HOUSMAN** of Pollifly, near Hackensack, N.J. (*11/20/1826)
- Dec. 6, 1826 Died at Sacket's Harbor, N.Y., on the 21st inst. Jesse **LEAVENWORTH**, Esq. (father of Col. Henry **LEAVENWORTH**) aged 86 yrs. He was in intrepid and intelligent officer of the French War and the war of the Revolution.
- Dec. 6, 1826 Died at Norfolk, VA, on the 24th inst., Major George **SUGGS**, aged 73 yrs. He was one of the few remaining gallant spirits who fought in the Revolutionary War.
- Dec. 27, 1826 Married on Saturday, the 2nd inst. by the Rev. Mr. Froeligh, Mr. Lucas **VAN SAUN**, of Saddle River, to Miss Anna **COOPER** of New Milford.
- Dec. 27, 1826 Married on Saturday the 9th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Froeligh, Mr. David **DURIE** of Schraalenburgh to Miss Magdalen **FERDON** of Closter.
- Dec. 27, 1826 Died at the residence of his son in Paterson, on the 25th inst. Mr. Alexander **TAYLOR**, aged 67 yrs.
- Dec. 27, 1826 Died on Sunday evening, the 24th inst in Paterson, Mr. Henry **VAIL**, Jr. formerly of Morris Co., N.J., aged 35 yrs.
- Dec. 27, 1826 Died in this town on Saturday evening the 23rd inst. Mr. Cornelius I. **EARLE**, aged 28 yrs.
- Jan. 3, 1827 Married on Thursday evening last*, by the Rev. Samuel Fisher, Mr. Edward B. **CARMER**, to Miss Dorcas **GOULD**, daughter of Mr. John R. **GOULD**, all of this town. (*12/28/1826)
- Jan. 10, 1827 Married on Monday the 25th ult. by the Rev. Mr. Froeligh, Mr. Abraham **KIP** of Pollifly, to Miss Ellen **VAN SAUN** of New Bridge.
- Jan. 24, 1827 Married on Wednesday evening, the 10th inst. by the Rev. J. L. Shafer, Alpheus **GUSTIN**, Esq. to Miss Ann **HATHORN**, both of Newton
- Jan. 31, 1827 Died on Thursday last, Mrs. Sophia **VREELAND**, aged 25 yrs. wife of Mr. John **VREELAND** of Pollifly.
- Jan. 31, 1827 Died in Philadelphia, lately Mrs. Mary, relut of Robert **MORRIS**, Esq, and sister of Bishop **WHITE**.
- Feb. 7, 1827 On Sunday evening, the 4th inst. by the Rev. John Croes, Jr., Mr. Timothy B. **CRANE** to Miss Maria **RYERSON**, all of this town.
- Feb. 7, 1827 Married on Saturday the 25th ult., by the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Mr. Garrer **BREVOOST**, to Miss Maria **ZABRISKIE**, both of Paramus
- Feb. 7, 1827 Married at New Milford, Bergen Co., William **TUTTLE**, Esq. senior editor of the Newark Sentinel, to Miss Julia Ann **TUTTLE**, only daughter of Samuel **TUTTLE**, dec. of Hanover.
- Feb. 28, 1827 Married last evening, by the Rev. Manning Force, Mr. Peter **KEMPLE** of Roxbury, Morris Co., to Miss Clarissa P. **MOSES** of this town.
- Feb. 28, 1827 Married on Tuesday, the 20th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Lansing, Mr. George **BRINKERHOFF**, of Pollifly to Miss Susan **FROELIGH** of Aquackanonk.
- Mar. 7, 1827 Married on the 24th ult. by the Rev. Mr. Romeyn, Mr. Corneluis **HARING** to Miss Mary **WESTERVELT**, both of Tappan.
- Mar. 7, 1827 Married in N.Y. on Tuesday morning, 27th ult. by the Rev. Mr. McNamara, Mr. Patrick **THORNTON**, of Paterson, to Miss Margary **MC GINTY** of NY.
- Mar. 7, 1827 Married on the 1st inst. by Isaac Sutherland, Esq. William **SEELY**, Esq. aged 45 to Miss Sarah **AUSTIN**, aged 13 yrs., daughter of Rufus **AUSTIN**, Esq., all of Stanford.
- Mar. 7, 1827 Married on Monday th 5th inst. by the Rev. John Watson, Mr. James **MOORE**, to Miss Mercy **COMTON**, both of Warren.
- Mar. 7, 1827 Died on Monday, 26th ult., near Hackensack, Mrs. Henrietta **LOZIER**, aged 72 yrs.
- Mar. 7, 1827 Died on Sunday morning, 25th ult., near Hackensack, Mr. John I. **ACKERMAN**, aged 61 yrs.
- Mar. 14, 1827 Died at Amboy, on Sunday morning, the 4th inst. Rev. Amzi **ARMSTRONG**, D.D., aged about 52 years.
- Mar. 21, 1827 Died at Morristown, on the 10th inst. Sylvester D. **RUSSELL**, Esq. Attorney-at-Law, aged 51 years.
- Mar. 21, 1827 Died on the 10th inst. at South Orange, Nathan **SQUIER**, Esq. formerly sheriff of this county.
- Mar. 21, 1827 Died at the residence of her son, the Hon. Mr. **DICKERSON**, Mrs. Mary **DICKERSON** in her 75th yr.
- Apr. 11, 1827 Married at Newark, on Thursday morning last*, by the Rev. H.P. Powers, Elias E. **BOUDINOT**, Esq. to Jane M., daughter of Henry P. **KIP**. (*04/05/1827)

PATERSON INTELLIGENCER NEWSPAPER (Continued)

- Apr. 11, 1827 Married at Hackensack, on the 3rd inst. by Rev. Mr. Pohlman, Archibald **CAMPBELL**, Esq. to Eliza, daughter of the late John **CASEDY**, Esq., all of that place.
- Apr. 25, 1827 Married at Bloomfield on the 7th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Judd, Rev. Albert **PIERSON**, Principal of the Bloomfield Academy, to Miss Jane, daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Amzi **ARMSTRONG**, dec'd

THE LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES*Professor Ruth Kane Fern*

As far back as 1965, a group of concerned New Jersey Historians, mostly presidents of local historical societies and a few genealogists, including Dr. Ken Stryka-Rodda and his wife, Harriet, met to discuss a serious worry. Bit by bit, developments were demolishing historic places and sites. In 1966, they formed The League of New Jersey Historical Societies having the usual officers and six representatives, two each for the Northern, Central, and Southern Sections of New Jersey. The Executive Board Members, Representatives, and Representative-at-Large, hold as its priority in keeping an ear to the ground to alert local historical societies of impending disaster to historical buildings and sites. This worked both ways: the local historical societies also informed the League Board of proposed demolitions, etc. The League has several standing committees including Education, Legislative, Preservation, etc. and was incorporated in 1967.

The League holds three state-wide meetings a year, to which each Historical Society sends delegates. In the spring of this year, the Middle Jersey Meeting was held at the American Hotel in Freehold with the Monmouth County Historical Society as the host. Last fall, the Southern Jersey meeting was held in Wildwood with the Wildwood Historical Society as host. On October 24, 1998, the Victorian Society of New Jersey will serve as Northern Jersey host in Bloomfield. These three yearly meetings give members of the other New Jersey Historical Societies a chance to visit and see the local historical treasures of the host Historical Society.

A few years back, the Passaic County Historical Society was Northern Jersey host. It was highly successful, as historians from South, Central, and Northern Jersey enjoyed the glories of Lambert Castle as well as a portrayal of a silk workers home in visiting the Botto House National Landmark and Labor Museum in Haledon. A delicious luncheon was offered in the artists/writers section of the Paterson Historic District.

The Middle Jersey Meeting of June 20th, featured several historic homes; the Monmouth County Historical Society's Mansion and a visit to the famous battlefield of the Battle of Monmouth which was fought just 220 years ago this month.

The Executive Board of the League meets every two months at the Olde Towne Bodine-Metlar House in Piscataway next to the Rutgers Stadium. Olde Towne on the Raritan was a bustling town in the pre-Revolutionary days.

Professor Ruth Kane Fern, a former president of both the Passaic County Historical Society also its Genealogy Club, was in 1984 also president of the Morris County Historical Society because her husband, Wallace Fern's, ancestors were "Rogerine," who came from Connecticut in 1700 to settle in Lake Rogerine, near Lake Hopatcong, in Morris County. The family name was CULVER, and they later went to Sussex County to discover the lake that bears their name to this day: Culver's Lake.

In 1985, the then President of the League invited Professor

Fern to a position of the Executive Board of the League. Since Mrs. Fern lives in Wayne, she chose to represent the Passaic County Historical Society from 1985 to 1998, retiring this year, only because she is scheduled to move to Seabrook Village, Tinton Falls, New Jersey (Monmouth County) by December, 1998. As her contribution to the Passaic County Historical Society, Professor Fern has paid its yearly dues for those past 13 years.

As a League member, Mrs. Fern was elected by the Board of Trustees to be one of the two Northern Representatives, a post she has held for ten years. She has faithfully in the past 13 years attended as many of the North-Central-South Jersey Regional Conferences as possible as well as all of the Executive Board Meetings whether in New Brunswick hotels, Monmouth County College (now University), or its sites for the last few years at the Bodine-Metlar House in Old Towne in Piscataway.

The League membership has grown considerably since that day in 1965. On June 20, 1998, the present league membership chairwoman announced that a record 224 New Jersey Historical Societies belong with a membership of 56,871 people! Historical Societies or libraries which just recently joined are: The Naval Air Historical Society in Wildwood, The Dover Historical Society (Morris County), The Washington Association of New Jersey (Morristown), and The Ridgewood New Jersey Public Library.

The League just finished a battle to preserve the Wyant's Tavern in Vernon and the Philip Van Horne House (where Washington danced the night away) in Bridgewater with a considerable modicum of success. It has not always experienced success as in one case developers bulldozers arrived at 4 a.m. to demolish a site just hours before an injunction went into effect!!

Ruth says it was a great honor to represent such a fine society as ours, and on June 20, gave the following report to the League delegates from all over the state at the Freehold meeting:

"A very thrilling project, with the blessing of the Passaic County Historical Society, is being introduced along the banks of the Passaic River similar to the River Walk in San Antonio, Texas. Concerned citizens spearheaded by Pat Dilanni, a local attorney, who along with Joan Havesy, a geographer; John Pogorcec, assistant county counselor; Marie Moreno, architect; Dolores Chotobosky, newspaper woman; and Michael Flynn, aide to U.S. Senator Torrecelli, will work to bring this "Vision 20/20 Project" through to a successful conclusion.

"The Passaic County walk will go from Great Notch, West Paterson, through the Garret Mountain Reservation to the Great Falls along the Passaic River to Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne, including Lafayette's Headquarters on Diamond Bridge Avenue."

The League Delegates gave the project resounding applause!

Ruth says the motto not only for the League but for all local historical societies must be "VIGILANCE, ETERNAL VIGILANCE!"

VIDEOS

Submitted by David L. Mishkin

Videos are not a reliable way to document anything that you want to preserve. In fact, it is one of the worst methods you can use for preserving images. What I have learned is that videos will only last 10 to 15 years before they start to deteriorate. Pretty frightening, isn't it? Although I am not an expert on videography, I have studied preservation of videos and have learned from several experts in the field. The results are all the same. The best we can hope for is less than 20 years before videotapes deteriorate.

Many individuals who own photographs are familiar with photographic deterioration. Most photographs get either darker or lighter (depending on the photographic process) when they deteriorate. This does not happen with videos. Deterioration starts with "static" lines running across the image, kind of like a video that is not "tracking" properly. The trouble is that you cannot correct this problem with your tracking control. This problem gets worse until it is very difficult to view anything.

The videotape is made from a base of polyester which is coated with polyurethane. The coating acts as a binder, trapping magnetic oxide particles (the carriers of the magnetically encoded information) within the tape. That binding system is fragile. High temperatures and humidity accelerate the deterioration, causing the urethane particles in the coating to react with water (humidity), break free, and migrate to the surface of the tape. The next time the tape is played, the oxide particles, no longer obstructed by their binder, peel off, taking with them all of the recorded images.

By now we may be wondering what good is that new video camera just received as a Christmas gift? Well, as long as we are aware of their limitations, video cameras are great for short-term viewing. Videotapes are like movie films, but they don't last as long. Therefore, a practical use is to make videos of the children as they are growing to send to the grandparents, particularly when visits are difficult because of long dis-

tances. Videos are the next best thing to being there as we can see the family and hear them as well. Videotapes are also helpful when we transfer slides or home-made movies to them which frees us from taking out the slide projector and screen or having to dig out the movie projector and thread it up.

Use these tips to help extend the life of your videotapes. Store in a temperature range between 59 to 77 degrees. Relative Humidity should be kept at 40% to 60% RH. Buy only the highest quality tapes as they are coated more evenly and therefore last longer.

Fast forward and rewind tapes at least once every three years. That should keep the polyurethane binder from sticking to the adjacent layers of a tightly wound tape. Adhesion will either prevent the tape from running or if the tape does run, it will tear the oxide particles from the base, thereby destroying the tape and gumming up the recording machine.

Before storing videotapes, rewind them from end to end, in one complete, uninterrupted procedure to make sure the tape is wound evenly and uniformly. Avoid using inexpensive rewinding machines as they could cause damage to the tapes.

Seal the tapes in plastic bags to protect them from dust, smoke, and moisture. Store vertically, with the tape wound onto the bottom spool. Keep tapes away from strong electromagnetic fields such as speakers and television sets.

(Note: Submitter David L. Mishkin's article "Albums" appeared in V8, N2 of the Castle Genie. David is President of "Just Black and White," specializing in copying, enhancing, and restoring family photographs, and who also offers timely advice for preserving memories. Visit his website at <<http://www.maine.com/photos>> or telephone 1-800-827-5881. (E-mail: photos@maine.com)