



# Bulletin of the

# Passaic County Historical Society

Museum Headquarters  
LAMBERT CASTLE  
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Paterson, N. J.

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Robert P. Brooks, Editor

## CHURCH STREET, PATERSON

BEFORE THE TURN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

*(Reminiscences of a little Heralded Corner of our City)*

By

ROBERT WILLIAMS, JR.<sup>1</sup>



CHURCH STREET, PATERSON, LOOKING NORTH FROM MARKET STREET

On left is Shields' Building, showing sign of Eye & Ear Infirmary; beyond is bayed front of Stimson house and steeple of St. Mark's at Ellison with the Hamilton Club in view. On right, foreground, is seen the residence-convent on the St. John's tract with the large brick building of the former orphanage, hospital and St. Aloysius' Academy. Beyond is the spire of the second building of the Second Presbyterian Church.

Discussing old-time Church Street with friends recently, the thought came to me that very few persons recollect this one-time beautifully shaded thoroughfare, three blocks long,

as it was in the former days. Did I say tree-shaded? The last of its thickly foliated trees have been cut down in the name of "Progress" but in the old days, their leafy branches afforded

a cool, green light all along this street. Church Street was so named because of the two churches—St. Mark's and the Second Presbyterian that stood on opposite corners of interesting Ellison Street.

Being born at number Twenty-one Church Street, this writer holds a close affiliation with the scenes and can speak from first-hand knowledge. And though the trees have disappeared, some of the dwelling houses are still in existence. Their fronts have been "lifted" as we speak of face-lifting and many shop windows now greet the passer-by where previously comfortable front porches, with rocking chairs and porch swings added to the home comforts of the forever lost days gone by. But look at the upper story and to those parts of the old buildings which have not been removed. In several instances, you see today the structure as it existed in its original form of finely and masterfully wrought construction in those wonderful days when Church Street was a lovely residential thoroughfare running from Market Street to Broadway.

On the northwest corner of Market and Church Streets, stood Shields' Grocery Store with the entrance on Market Street. The building ran northward on Church Street for 100 feet.

The Shields Brothers, Patrick H. and Walter G., began their grocery business during the Civil War, at 48-50 Main Street. Then about 1880, they removed to 175 Main Street; and between the years 1885 and 1888, moved again. This time to the large building then standing on Market and Church Streets.

I can still smell the spices, the cheese, and the open barrel of crackers in its delectable confines when, on many a day I visited there with my mother. I clearly remember how envious I was when Mr. Shields handed her a sliver of cheese on a cracker to taste the quality of the product.

Patrick Shields was a member of the N. J. Assembly in 1882-1883. During the session of 1883, he introduced a bill, drawn by public school principal, William H. Barry, which would have provided for the establishment of a free public library in Paterson. The bill failed to pass the Legislature but in the next session, a similar bill

1.—The Editor has been unable to place a date upon this manuscript now the property of THE PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. For the most part, the original text of Mr. Williams has been adhered to. However, the Editor has chosen to make certain additions in the interest of a slightly more complete history of the early dwellings on this famous street.

Robert Williams, Jr. was born on January 27, 1892 and died on Jan. 1, 1953. He was a notable author and newspaper man. Mr. Williams was a charter member of this Society and a member of the Board of Trustees from 1934 until his death.

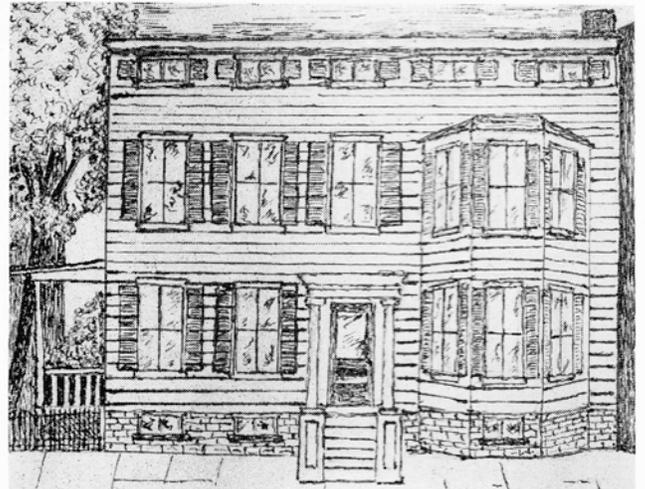
passed which created the *first public library in the state*—at Paterson.

In 1888, Mr. Shields became County Collector. Just prior to 1900, the Shields' Grocery moved from its old location to 14 Park Avenue.

(The Paterson Eye and Ear Infirmary, a non-profit organization for the treatment of the poor, was organized on May 5, 1883 largely through the energetic efforts of Walter B. Johnson, M.D. who was its chief surgeon.

This organization occupied a part of the premises formerly occupied by the Shields' Grocery but the entrance to the infirmary was at 56 Church Street. Here administrations were given to the needy from 1889. They transferred their headquarters to a small building at 160 Paterson Street, owned by Doctor Johnson, in 1905.—Ed.)

To the northward from Shields' grocery was the Stimson property with a frontage of 75 feet on Church Street. Here, for many years, was the residence of George M. Stimson,<sup>2</sup> younger brother of Henry Clark Stimson who was the grandfather of the late Hon. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War of the United States.



Drawn by C. P. Longwell, Courtesy Paterson Free Public Library

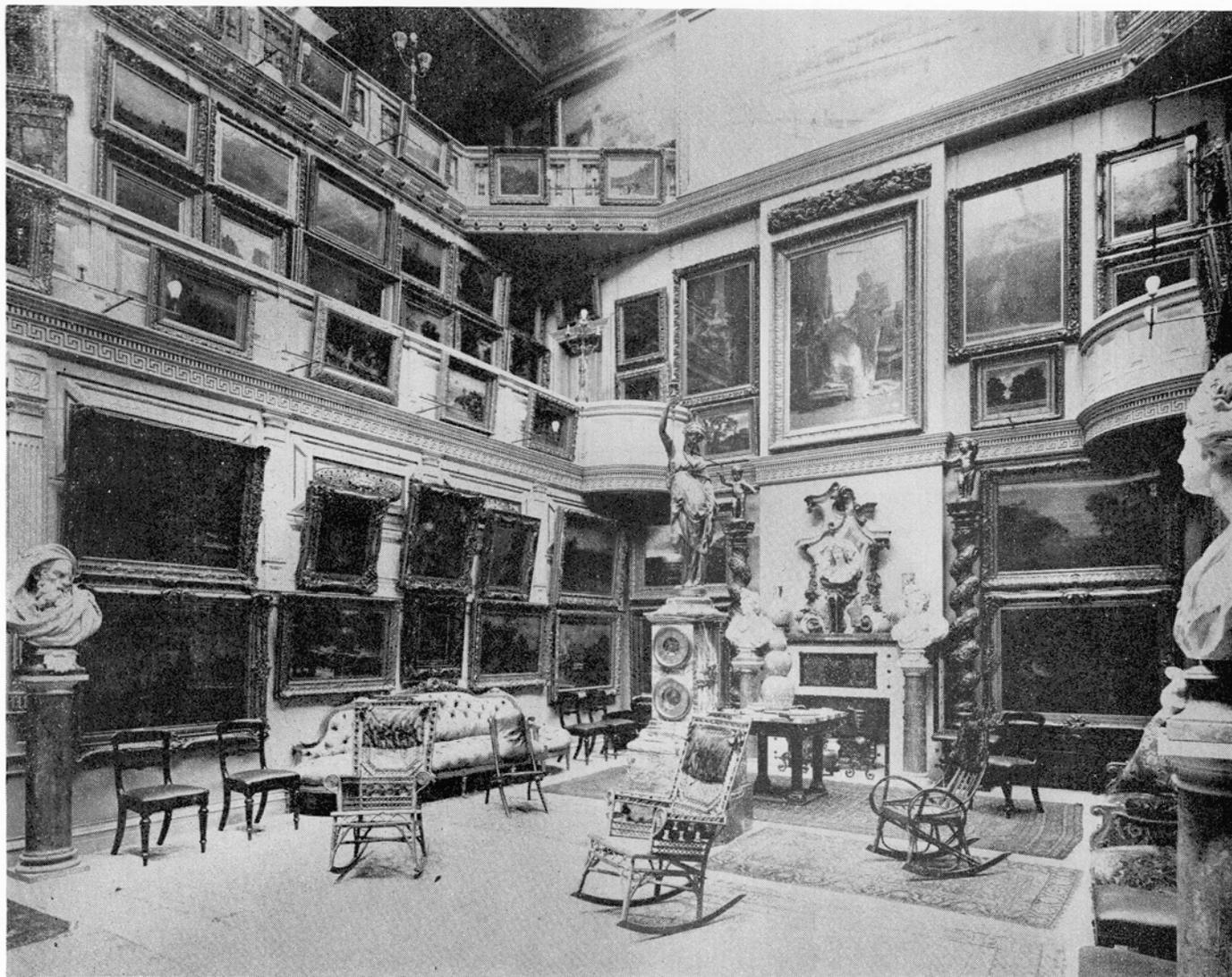
#### THE STIMSON HOUSE

Both George M. and Henry C. Stimson were in the banking business during Paterson's early days. Henry C. Stimson was cashier of the People's Bank of Paterson from 1837 until 1851; his brother, George, was a clerk in the same bank about the year 1843.

In 1852, George M. Stimson was instrumental in organizing the Passaic County Bank and he became its first and only president. He was cashier of the First National Bank during 1863 and 1864. George M. Stimson died in April 1866 but his lovely home stood at 52-54 Church Street until the Great Fire of 1902 consumed it.

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2.—See, "The Stimsons" by William H. Dillistin in *The Bulletin* of THE PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Vol. III, No. 10—July 1951.



### OUR INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS CORNU ("Corfu") CLOCK

Pictured above is the Main Art Gallery of the late Mr. Catholina Lambert's castle residence as it looked in 1893. Standing in the center of the rug covered marble floor was one of Mr. Lambert's prized possessions—the famous Cornu clock. This masterpiece has been known for many years as the "Corfu" clock. After the death of Mr. Lambert early in 1923, the clock was purchased by The United States Trust Company of Paterson.

For more than a quarter century, this artistic timepiece graced their banking offices. Within very recent years, The United States Trust Company merged with other banking institutions and the affiliation is the well known First National Bank & Trust Company of Paterson, and through

the generosity of The First National Bank & Trust Company, the unique art treasure was presented to THE PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY for permanent deposit at its headquarters. So today the famous timepiece has returned to its former home in Lambert Castle where it ticks out the hours and records the months and days while standing but a few feet from the spot where it stood for many years.

This unusual timepiece was designed by Eugene Cornu and its mechanical parts were made by E. Forcot Horloger, both of Paris. Being so unusual artistically, it was placed on display at the Paris Exposition in 1867 and after the great fair closed, it was exhibited in the various art centers in Europe. It has but few rivals, if any, in its uniqueness of construction, operation and great beauty.

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**CHURCH STREET—PATERSON**

(Continued from Page 2)

After Mr. Stimson's death, his residence underwent several changes to make it adaptable for its varied tenants. The Paterson Free Public Library occupied the premises from the fall of 1885 until late in 1889. In 1889, it was the residence of Mr. Charles Cundell but not for long for the newly-organized Hamilton Club<sup>3</sup> took a lease on the property.

The newly-established Hamilton Club soon outgrew its home at the "Stimson" location and it was deemed advisable to seek larger quarters. They purchased the property on the northwest corner of Church and Ellison Streets, lots 32-38 Church Street, having a frontage on Church Street of about 106 feet. Here they erected the stately Hamilton Club. Although gutted in the Great Fire, its walls stood and when rebuilt, it looked the same as it did in the "Gay Nineties."

In 1898, several organizations occupied the "Stimson" house. The Cycle Club of which the late Edwin N. Hopson was president was a tenant when it was burned in 1902; the Progress Club was another tenant during the same period. The property was owned at that time by the estate of Samuel Smith.

(The property lying on the west side of Church Street between the Stimson property and Ellison Street, with a Church Street frontage of 100 feet and now occupied by the Pruden Building, was an empty lot in 1850. Between the years 1870, and 1877, at a cost of \$10,000, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, then standing on *Hamilton Square* where now the City Hall stands, erected a building to be used for their Sunday School. This was used by St. Paul's parish until 1896 when it was taken over by the newly organized St. Mark's Episcopal Church as their place of worship until it was consumed by the fire in 1902. This was part of the old Wessels' farm which Mr. Williams refers to later in the narrative.—Ed.)

Across Ellison Street from St. Mark's Church, stood the Hamilton Club; and next to it, at number 30 (on a 26-foot lot) a small house.

Above its red brick facade the upper story of the original can be seen. At the turn of the century Doctors James H. and Robert Curts had their offices there. (In 1915, a boarding house under the name, "Hobart House" occupied the premises and a few years later, Dr. Andrew F. McBride established his office there.—Ed.)

Next to this building, at number 28, stands in all its pristine beauty, the former residence of Dr. Frank Agnew. This property was recently

3.—The Hamilton Club was "born" one summer evening in 1890 at Carroll Hall, residence of Garret A. Hobart. It was incorporated on September 20, 1890. The charter members were: Messrs. John Campbell (the first president), James W. Conedon, Jacob Weidmann, John H. Reynolds, James Jackson, Peter Ryle, William Berdan, Henry L. Butler, Robert I. Hopper, Garret A. Hobart, Henry C. Knoz, John W. Griggs, William Ryle, Charles N. Sterrett, Albert A. Wilcox.

purchased by Lawyer Samuel Raff who renovated it very handsomely. Adjoining the Agnew residence was the home and office of the great and far famed surgeon, Dr. Philander Harris, so noted that he was often called into consultation with many New York physicians who wished to enjoy his valued experience and genius. Dr. Edward F. Denner also had an office in this building in 1902.

Then came the home of Dr. John R. Merrill where my brother and I spent many a happy day playing in their garden with their sons, Randolph and Jack. We lived just across the street.

Next door to the Merrill home was an open lot belonging to Cornelius P. Vandervoort, whose son, Vincent, was later to become president of the Watson Machine Company in Paterson, and who, but recently, passed into the Great Beyond. There too, my brother and I spent many happy hours and, as Vincent's birthday and mine came on the same day, January 27th, but I was two years older, we alternated every year in having the birthday parties at one or the other's home.

Adjoining the vacant lot was the dwelling of the Vandervoort family at number 20 Church Street. Then came the Baldwin home,<sup>4</sup> sitting on a terrace. On the lower floor of this building, when I was a boy, a Woman's Exchange was being operated. Here home-made cakes, pastry, and needlework were brought by ladies of the town and placed in attractive show cases from which they were sold. Mrs. John Leal, wife of Dr. John Leal, was very active in this group of ladies. Church Street from Van Houten (called Williamson and East Van Houten in early days) was also beautifully tree-shaded in those days a half century ago. On the northwest corner of Church and Van Houten, where the commodious parking lot is today, was the home of William Ryle.<sup>5</sup> After Mr. Ryle moved, it became the resi-

4.—Lawyer James M. Baldwin made his residence at No. 18 Church Street in 1898 and Albert D. Baldwin a foreman was there in 1900. Previously to the occupancy of the Baldwin family, who in 1895 were living on Fair Street, this home was the residence of William H. K. Bibby, secretary of the Phoenix Manufacturing Company. It had been the Bibby residence in 1856 through 1875 and very possibly until the time of the Baldwins. Before the Bibbys occupied this property, Henry W. Cole lived there as early as 1850. We note that this is a very old building.

5.—William Ryle was Vice-President and the Superintendent of the Passaic Water Company. He resided at 14-16 Church Street from about 1890 until 1900 when he removed to Singac. In 1900, he not only owned the property on which he had been living in a large house but also the next fifty feet northward on which there were two small houses. Previous to Mr. Ryle's residency at 14-16 Church, Helmhag Van Winkle occupied the premises as early as 1875. The map of 1850 shows three houses on lots 10-16 Church Street.

Dr. Edward W. Doty had his office here in 1900 and 1901, Dr. Edward M. Morgan also had his office at number 16 Church Street in 1901 and 1902. It was the location for the offices of Dr. George Tuers and Dr. Lucas Henion. It is believed that Dr. Henion is the gentleman whom Mr. Williams characterized as "a fastidious collector of rare Oriental rugs."



Reid Photo

—Courtesy Paterson Free Public Library

**RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM RYLE  
14 CHURCH STREET**

dence of a physician who was a fastidious collector of Oriental rugs.

Going north towards Broadway, Lawyer William H. Williams lived at number 12 before moving to number 19 Church in my grandmother's row of houses; and next to Mr. Williams' home lived his uncle, Albert Van Saun.<sup>6</sup> The Spickers family<sup>7</sup> lived next door; their property had a frontage of 106 feet. On the corner of Church Street and Broadway stood, as it does today practically unaltered on the outside, the commodious Spickers' Building well constructed of red brick in 1891.

(Crossing Church Street at Broadway, maps from 1850 to 1899 show a building of considerable proportions lying on the corner and with a frontage on Church Street of 97 feet. This was doubtless used for commercial or industrial purposes.

To the southward of this property at numbers 9-11 was the lot where, in the years between 1890 and 1900, Doctors Porter S. and Theodore Y. Kinne, cousins, erected their Kinne Building in which they had their offices before the fire. An office building stands there now. Today we can see the orange brick upper story of the Lawyer's Building if you stand across the street. This is where many of the lawyers of Paterson, who were burned out in the Great Fire, moved to continue their practice. Before the fire, a small building stood at number 13 Church Street. Here in the 1860's one Cornelius Marselius lived. In 1875, Peter Marselius, a watchmaker at 173 Main Street had his residence; and as late as 1889, it was the home of Cornelius I. Marselius. This house stood on a 26-foot lot in 1899 and perhaps later.—Ed.)

On the northeast corner of Church and Van Houten Streets, still stands, as staunchly as it did when built some 75 years ago, the old Merrill homestead, where Dr. Sherburne R. Merrill, fa-

6.—Albert Van Saun was a partner of the firm Van Saun and Muzzy of 193 Main Street, dealers in Agricultural supplies, implements, seeds, paints, etc. Mr. Van Saun built and owned Opollo Hall. It stood where the Lyceum Theatre later stood, next door to the Central Fire Headquarters on Van Houten Street.

Both numbers 12 and 10 were small houses, owned by William Ryle. Here, during Civil War days, at number 10, stood the residence and office of homeopathic physician, Dr. Eliphant Nott, Jr. It was removed in 1870 to make room for a new building, which on the map of later days, looks somewhat like a "double" house. This building is probably the former home of William Williams and for a few years afterward, of Henry Muzzy.

ther of John Merrill, M.D., lived and practiced medicine for so many years.

Crossing Van Houten Street we notice today an office building; but in my day, 50 years ago, there was a vacant lot. Here the youth of the area played baseball in the spring and summer.

Next to this lot, (containing numbers 17, 19, 21 Church Street on slightly more than 51 feet) were the three domiciles owned by the wife of the late Civil War Mayor of Paterson, Henry A. Williams. She was my grandmother. In that row of houses lived the Sonnenborn family. (Aaron Sonneborn lived at number 17. Silvester W. Wiley, M.D., had his office there in 1902.—Ed.) Next door, at number 19, my uncle, William H. Williams lived; while my father, Senator Robert Williams, lived next door at number 21. Today will find these houses altered and from their fronts, they can not be recognized. However, if you stand directly across the street where Jane Brick's dress shop was located, and gaze upwards towards the east, you will be able to see the construction of the three original dwellings on the upper floor and divided into the three original peaks marking each of the separate dwellings.

Directing your attention southward towards Ellison Street, where now are store windows, in those days there were quiet homesteads. At 23 Church Street Charles Keeler, the leading hatter of the city, resided in the small house. Mr. Keeler's hat and men's furnishings store was located for many years at 124 Main Street. (This two-story house had formerly been the residence of William A. Barbour and also the home of the United States Express Company's agent, Henry A. Hobbs.—Ed.)

Then came the home of Peter, son of John Ryle. (Peter Ryle made this his residence between 1880 and 1885 and died here. His widow,

7.—William Spickers was a native of Cologne, Germany. He came to America in 1851, settling first in Carlstadt. In 1863, he moved his family to Paterson where he engaged in the manufacture of pianos. His famous piano works were located on Hamburg Avenue and later on Broadway. In 1901, he retired from piano manufacture and began manufacturing violins.

Members of his family were very musical, teachers of violin, piano and organ. For many years the Spickers' family dealt in organs, pianos and music in the large store which he had erected on the southwest corner of Church Street and Broadway.

William Spickers, M.D., son of the piano manufacturer, was an eminent physician and in later years, was very active in Barnert Hospital, Paterson.

8.—In 1863, William Gledhill lived there and as early as 1875 the Atterburys occupied this residence for then Elisha Boudinot Atterbury lived here. It was the home of George S. and John T. Atterbury of the Paterson Soap Company in the 1880's and they probably resided here at the turn of the century.

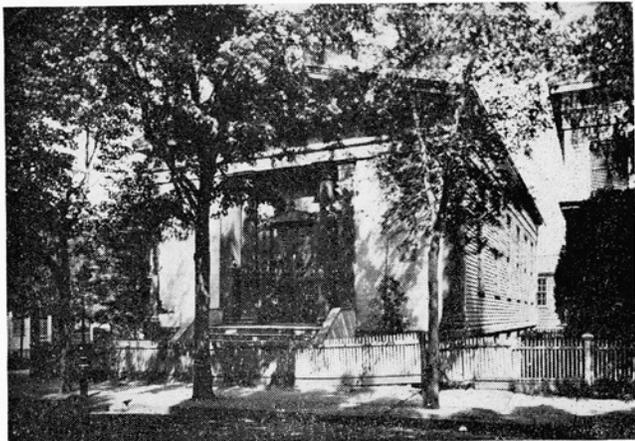
Robert R. Atterbury, broker, as well as Josephine, widow of Elisha B. Atterbury were living here in 1900. The Atterburys were an old Paterson family. The map of 1850 shows a residence of considerable proportions standing on the plot between Market and Ellison Streets on the western side of Church Street, with a Church Street frontage of 275 feet. This building was, at that time (1850), the only building upon the plot and was the home of "I. Atterbury."

Mrs. Fannie Ryle, occupied the home place at least until 1900.—Ed.)

Next door to the Ryle residence at number 27 was that of the Atterburys<sup>8</sup> and next was the small house where Robert A. Haley, silk throwster lived. Mr. Haley was a member of the N. J. Assembly in 1879.

On the present site of "*The Morning Call*," stood Mac Chesney's College,<sup>9</sup> the former residence of my great-grandfather Judge Samuel Van Saun.<sup>10</sup>

On the northeast corner of Van Houten Street, where the Y.W.C.A. stands, stood the pretty little frame dwelling of Edward Osborne. In photographs taken after the fire from the Hamilton Club corner, the neat, little white picket fence of the Osborne plot is clearly visible. Here lived at the turn of the century, Miss Eliza-



Reid Photo

—Courtesy Paterson Free Public Library

**THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
(about 1845-1875)

9.—Dr. Eugene Mac Chesney occupied the three-storied house at 33 Church Street, renovated it at a cost of \$25,000 and opened a school there. Here courses in business, the classics and science were given. His graduates were well prepared for various colleges and universities, some twenty different ones. It was unusual for one of his graduates to be required to pass an entrance examination. Throughout its existence, the preparatory school consistently maintained its high standard.

In the 1850s, John and Sophie Morrow lived at number 33 Church.

10.—Judge Samuel Van Saun was born in Totowa, August 22, 1802. He married Anne, daughter of Casparus and Natia Wessels in 1826. Their children were: Elizabeth, wife of Henry Muzzy; Mary Louise, wife of Senator Henry A. Williams; Jane, wife of William H. Williams; Albert, merchant.

Mr. Van Saun was a lay judge from 1838 to 1843 and again from 1849 to 1854. He was a member of the N. J. Assembly in 1842.

11.—Mr. William tells an interesting incident relative to Anne Wessels. "Dark Brook," says Mr. Williams, "ran through Church Street prior to my residence there in the old days, and it was the scene of a romance of which my forbears sprang. On the Hamilton Club side of Church Street, prior to Civil War times, was the old Wessels' farm where Anne lived with her parents; while on *The Morning Call* side of the street Samuel Van Saun lived. Old "Dark Brook," wooded and romantic ran through the Van Saun property and still does, under ground. When the newspaper press was being installed it became necessary to deflect this brook for it was still wending its way right under the pit where the presses were being installed. Well, Anne Wessels loved to ramble along the wooded brook. One day, Van Saun remonstrated to her for trespassing on his property and she promised not to come over there again. But she was a very attractive young girl and Samuel, relenting for being so severe, started calling upon her. The result—they later were married."

Judge Van Saun died there between 1880 and 1889; his widow lived there in 1889.

beth and her mother, Ann. (Mr. Osborne was a cotton manufacturer. In 1857, he was affiliated with A. Worth & Co. located at 18-20 Bridge Street. He lived with his family at 27 Church Street from 1857 until his death and his widow and daughter were living there at the turn of the century.—Ed.)

Across Ellison Street from the Osborne home stood the Second Presbyterian Church<sup>12</sup> on the property now occupied by the Fabian Building. It was burned in the Great Fire.

Adjoining the church property at numbers 43-45 was the residence of Abram Collier,<sup>13</sup> one of Paterson's pioneer coal dealers. His widow, Ellen, resided there at the time of the fire.

Then came the plot,<sup>14</sup> with a frontage of 87 feet belonging to St. John's parish with numbers 47-49 Church Street.

Adjoining the academy property and running to Market Street with a frontage of 100 feet on Church Street was the well known residence of Charles Danforth, one of Paterson's prominent locomotive builders. This property with its landscaped lawns and iron fence surrounding it was for many years one of the "show places" of the town.

After the death of Mr. Danforth, his daughter Mary E., widow of William Ryle a wealthy silk importer, offered this pretentious residence, other buildings and grounds located on the north-

12.—The congregation, known as the Second Presbyterian Church, began with 27 members who had belonged to the old First Presbyterian Church. These twenty-seven men and women withdrew from the First Church about 1840.

In the beginning, they worshipped in a Methodist Church which then stood on the northeast corner of Hotel and Smith Streets. They remained here until the fall of 1845 when they built the lovely, but small frame church on the southeast corner of Church and Ellison Streets. This they subsequently enlarged but the building was consumed by fire in 1875 or 1876.

This structure was replaced by a brick building 50 by 103 feet on the same site with the long side extending along Ellison Street. The new edifice would seat 720 persons. Dr. Charles D. Shaw, who had been their pastor from 1862 until 1867, returned to again officiate as the pastor and his services to the church and to the community were very noteworthy for many years. In 1900 he preached their 60th anniversary sermon.

Like their sister church across the street, St. Mark's, the Second Presbyterian Church was completely destroyed in the Great Fire of 1902. Thereafter another church building was erected on Broadway in 1905-6 which still stands although is used by another congregation, since the Second Presbyterian and the Church of the Redeemer merged to form the present Church of the Messiah, which also stands on Broadway.

13.—The Collier family residence had been the home of Elisha B. Atterbury in 1857 and during the Civil War days the Rev. John Kelley, Pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, lived there.

14.—This large plot of ground was given to St. John's parish by the S.U.M. At No. 47, Father Senez, of St. John's established an orphanage for girls in 1854 known as St. Joseph's Catholic Female Asylum. It remained here until 1867 when it removed to Totowa.

In September 1867, St. Joseph's Hospital was founded and occupied the spacious brick building. They remained on this site until 1869 when they moved to the A. A. Fonda site on Main Street.

From about 1886, the Sisters of Charity conducted a school in this building known as St. Aloysius' Academy. The building was completely destroyed in the Great Fire.

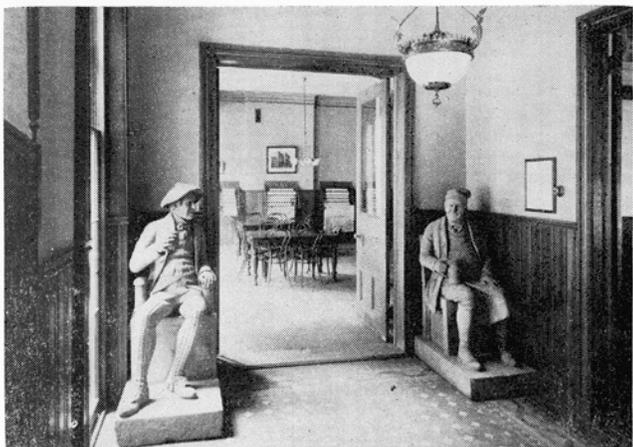
At No. 49 stood a frame residence. Here Dr. Lambert Sythof lived late in the 1840s. Caleb M. Godwin resided here about 1850. The Sisters, teaching in the Academy made their home in this building during Academy days.



Lane Photo —Courtesy Paterson Free Public Library

#### RESIDENCE OF CHARLES DANFORTH

east corner of Church and Market Streets, to the trustees of the Paterson Public Library. Mrs. Ryle desired to create a living memorial for her father and agreed to deed the property and remodel the building for library use with only one stipulation. This was that the library and any succeeding ones should bear the name *The Danforth Free Public Library*. The trustees of the library gratefully accepted Mrs. Ryle's gift and the former Danforth residence, occupied for many years by one of Paterson's pioneers, on one of the main corners of the town was remodeled and opened to the public for library use in June 1890.



Lane Photo —Courtesy Paterson Free Public Library

#### VESTIBULE OF DANFORTH LIBRARY BUILDING with Statues of TAM O'SHANTER and SOUTER JOHNNY

15.—These two figures were made of Little Falls sandstone sculptured by the Scottish Thom. A pair of similar, if not duplicates, are at the birthplace of Robert Burns at Ayr, Scotland.

These stone statues had stood at the Colt Hill mansion for 50 years and when the Rosewell House was razed, these two statues were among the very few mementoes left. They were presented to the Danforth Free Library by Mr. Morgan G. Colt and his sister, Mrs. De Grasse B. Fowler.



Reid Photo —Courtesy Paterson Free Public Library

#### DANFORTH LIBRARY BUILDING (1890)

How thrilling to go to the library with my brother and choose a book! I remember well the two sandstone figures<sup>15</sup> of Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnny which stood at the entrance of the library building. They had formerly stood at the doorway of Roswell Colt's fine mansion where now the Court House stands. After the Paterson Fire (which skipped the section of Church Street, north from Ellison to Broadway, with only the Hamilton Club being gutted by the flames; but consumed everything from Ellison south to Market Street) a leg and an arm from these relics were recovered.

Miss Mary Stagg and Mr. Charles Longwell were in charge of the library during its short life on Church Street and they were always cheerful, willing and patient to aid a little boy in making his selections. Years later, when I became a member of the library board, it was my honored yet saddened duty to make speeches of appreciation when Miss Stagg and Mr. Longwell, individually, had reached their age of retirement.

Such was Church Street in the good old days. The vicissitudes of Time have brought about necessary changes—changing street from residential to commercial. Yet there is a quiet dignity about it still that reminds one of its genteel forbears.

It was always important enough to be on the line of march of every political parade; and after the Civil War, General Grant rode down

Church Street while on a campaigning visit to these parts—but I don't remember that. It is a quiet, clean and progressive little street. And to me, being an "alumnus"—not only being born here but engaging in business here, on the very site of my forebears original homestead—it is the loveliest spot on earth.

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### OUR FAMOUS CLOCK

(Continued from Page 3)

Its overall height is thirteen feet six inches. It rests upon a plain pedestal of stone 28½ inches wide by 35 inches from front to back. Resting upon this pedestal is a base of exquisite multi-colored onyx upon which stands the clock proper, full four feet in height, within sculptured onyx matching the base. Two large dials occupy the front; one of these tells the time of day while the other records the day of the month and the quarter periods of the moon. On the opposite side, a third dial, being a barometer, forecasts weather changes and a fourth indicates time in all parts of the world. On one side there is a Fahrenheit thermometer while on the other there is a Centigrade thermometer.

The clocks are operated by a pendulum whose lower end is fitted into a sphere of blue and well supplied with golden stars. This pendulum, supported by an upraised arm and hand of a 57-inch bronze goddess, swings with a rotary motion.

Mr. Alexander T. Stewart, one of the best known merchants of New York City of past days, whose store was later to become John Wanamakers, purchased this timepiece in Paris, brought it to New York and erected it in his famous store on Astor Place where it remained for many years. It was eventually sold and taken to Chicago.

Later on one of New York's great art dealers, while scouting for art in Chicago, saw the clock and purchased it. He took it back to New York where he had several small replicas made. Seeing one of these replicas in an art store in the vicinity of East 52nd Street and Fifth Avenue, Mr. Lambert was so impressed with its beauty that he purchased the rare clock for his castle residence along the side of Garret Mountain. Here he placed it in a position of honor in his Main Gallery.

Today the Cornu clock stands in the northwest corner of what was the Main Art Gallery in Lambert Castle—the headquarters and museum of our Society.

### TRUSTEE SCHWARTZ

At the last meeting of the Society, Mrs. Samuel S. (Esther Ipp) Schwartz of East 39th Street, Paterson was elected to the Board of Trustees.

A native of Paterson, Mrs. Schwartz has long been a collector of American antiques of the type that can "be lived with." Her boundless energy, enthusiastic interest and knowledge of American antiques, especially in the field of textiles and the decorative arts, have resulted in close association with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Cooper Union Museum for the Arts and Decoration as well as others in more distant cities.

Mrs. Schwartz has contributed many articles for journals which have demanded a great amount of historical research. She is vitally interested in the early history of Passaic County, especially in the development of its textile industries.

In addition to being a valued member of THE PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Mrs. Schwartz holds memberships in the N. J. Historical Society, The Society of Architectural Historians, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the famous British Ceramic Society, and several others of like nature. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Society of Friends of the Touro (Rhode Island) Synagogue and a Director of the Library Association of the University of Delaware.

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The Society solicits memberships from those of Passaic County and elsewhere who have a sincere interest in preserving material and data pertaining to the county and its environs; to the end that the present generation shall have a true spirit of local pride.

Annual dues are as follows: for students, \$1.00, regular membership, \$2:00; sustaining, \$10:00; life, \$50.00; patron, \$1,000. Please address your communications to the Secretary of the Society, Lambert Castle, Paterson, N. J.

The Society also solicits gifts of articles of the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly those of the less bulky type due to limited exhibition and storage facilities.

Such articles as textiles, clothing, and related items, china, glass, silver, documents, pictures of streets, houses, people (identified) are most welcome.