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Robert P. Brooks, Editor

CAPTAIN JAMES GRAY, IRONMASTER AT LITTLE FALLS

The following article is based upon a manuscript in the files of the Society given by the late Cornelius D. Vreeland of Totowa. Mr. Vreeland compiled this from "A Brief History of Little Falls, N. J." written by the Rev. J. C. Cruikshank.¹

Editor

This gentleman, prior to the war of the Revolution, was a distinguished man in the Province of New Jersey and one of the industrial pioneers of Passaic county. But from the early days of the war, he was regarded as one of the county's infamous citizens; he lost his citizenship as well as his valuable property along the upper Passaic.

Before coming into the Little Falls area, James Gray resided upon a goodly estate, near the Second River (later known as Belleville), "about one mile from the church at Newark". A good idea of the extent and nature of Captain Gray's property may be obtained from a "For Sale" advertisement which appeared in the *New York Gazette, or Weekly Post Boy* on April 18, 1768 which states:

The pleasantly situated house and lot of Captain James Gray, at Newark, on the Banks of the Passaic River, opposite the Estate of Capt. Kennedy, at Petersborough;² the House is extremely convenient and comfortable, there is a good Stable, Coach-House, Barn and every other appendage proper for a Gentlemen's Country Seat, there are 20 Acres of excellent good land adjoining, 6 Acres in Grass, and fit for the Scythe, the whole is now in good Fence, and an Orchard of upwards of 300 Apple-Trees with a well chosen Collection of other Fruit; there is belonging to the Premises, a Dock very convenient and well calculated for Ship-Building particularly; a Ship of 300 Tons Burthen, was not long since launched from it.

The above House commands a fine Prospect of the River Passaic, for a long Distance up and down the same, it overlooks a great part of Captain Kennedy's Farm, especially his Deer Park, etc. . .

Enquire of Captain James Gray, at the Little Falls or Isaac Ogden, esq. in Newark.

That James Gray was a man of distinction is further attested by his appointment by Governor William Franklin, in company with Lord Stirling of Basking Ridge, Theunis Dey of Lower Preakness and John

Schuyler, one of the proprietors of the copper mines at Second River as a commission to investigate the activities of Hasenclever and the American Iron Company in order to determine their credit. This commission made its report to Governor Franklin on July 8, 1768.

Gray came to the Little Falls area before 1763.³ Mr. Cruikshank relates that the lands lying on the north side of the river at Little Falls were purchased by George Willocks in 1703 from the Council of Proprietors of East Jersey; and in 1733, the Proprietors sold 230 acres of heavily timbered land on the south side of the river, in the vicinity of the Little Falls to Cornelius Board. And three years later Cornelius Board with Timothy Ward purchased from the Proprietors the bed of the river, extending from the upper reef to the foot of the perpendicular falls.

Cruikshank concludes that James Gray purchased the river bed and lands on the south of the river from Board and Ward for the purpose of establishing an iron foundry on the south bank. He cites a mortgage, registered in Essex county in 1772 in which James Gray mortgages lands granted by the Proprietors to Board in 1733 lying on the south bank of the river Passaic. Here Gray erected and operated an iron foundry, casting mill and a grist mill (or saw mill) utilizing the waters of the Passaic for power.

1. Rev. John C. Cruikshank came to Little Falls in 1800 from Ulster county, N. Y. He served as pastor of the Little Falls Church until 1857 when he resigned to become the first County Superintendent of Schools for Passaic County. He served the county in this capacity until August 31, 1892 and resided at Little Falls. He passed away on November 12, 1899 at Upper Montclair, N. J.
2. "Petersborough" was the name of the large estate, on the hill and on the east side of the Passaic River opposite Second River (later known as the North Newark-Bellville area). This large estate was purchased by Arent Schuyler and here his two famous sons, Colonels Peter and John Schuyler were born. On the Schuyler property were the famous copper mines which assayed as high as 80% pure copper.
3. James Gray advertised in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* on November 17, 1763 that a servant had run away from him in October last from His Place at Little Falls, in East Jersey.

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FROM THE CURATOR'S DESK**The Value of Historical Societies**

An Historical Society is a group of people intensely interested in the preservation of things linked with the historic past — be they buildings, people who have made great contributions in ideas and works, various types of relics. By collecting and studying these, one can link the past with the present. A common practice of the present day is to take the things we see about us as a matter of fact. Many of us do not take the trouble to determine what went before. Of late years, inventions have come to us in great numbers and in varied fields. We have accepted them and used them hardly knowing how we ever managed in the past without them.

Some of the readers will remember the kerosene lamp; perhaps a few will recall the gas light and lamp. Only from our grandparents or perhaps our great-grandparents can we learn of those little lamps with no chimneys whose light, flickering and smoky, came from a cotton wick submerged in a small vessel containing whale oil. We live in a period of rapid change among people and their customs.

The Passaic County Historical Society aims to record these changes. To this end, the Society collects books written by local people, newspapers, pamphlets, pictures relating to the county. Objects of the home, farm and industry of this area are preserved to portray the culture of the past. Publications like *The Bulletin*, pamphlets and books assist in interpreting the past; and works of art by local artists, or of local people and local scenes, are much prized and add to the beauty of the art galleries of our Museum.

Our Most Recent Art Accessions

By the kindness of Miss Anne Robertson of Fourteenth Avenue, Paterson a long-time resident of the city and well known in its civic life, two prized pictures were donated recently. These are oils from the brush of the local educator, artist and traveler—the late Sidney W. Probert. One of these is a canvass entitled "*A Moonlight Scene at Molly's Yon Brook*"; the other, a lovely portrayal of a Breton woman preparing a meal in her kitchen. The latter canvas was executed at Etables, France in 1904 by Mr. Probert who called it, "*Marie Monteserat*." These two paintings are hung in the large art gallery.

Sidney W. Probert

Sidney W. Probert was born in Paterson on February 11, 1865. He attended the public schools and the City Normal School in Paterson and graduated from New York University in 1888. He also did post-graduate work in Columbia University and at Harvard. His

chosen profession was education and he began as a teacher in his native city. He served the city for many years with great ability as Principal of School 13.

Mr. Probert was a lover of things beautiful and his chief avocations were art and music. He was an accomplished pianist. But throughout his life, he derived his greatest pleasure with brush and palette making use of his spare time and his vacations by painting. He traveled a great deal to record in colors the beauties which enchanted him. His water colors and oils were exhibited in all of the finer galleries of New York, and Philadelphia as well as many other art centers.

Sidney Probert was quiet, unassuming and strong of character a true example of admirable manliness and of those qualities which are most worthwhile in private and public life. He died on December 22, 1919, leaving his widow, the former Katherine Tiller, whom he had married only six years before. Mr. and Mrs. Probert had no children.

Visitors To Our Museum

During the thirty-five years of existence of our Society, more than a half-million persons have visited our Museum and signed the register. During 1960, more than 33,000 visitors recorded their names; in 1961, there was an excess of 28,000.

These visitors came from forty-five states and thirty foreign countries which include Canada, Canal Zone, the Philippines, West Indies and many countries of South America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

HAVE YOU VISITED US RECENTLY?

Edward M. Graf, Curator

The religious education of every Protestant child during the first two decades of the present century was influenced by the writings and philosophy of Benjamin Franklin Jacobs, born in Paterson in 1834. For many years, he was chairman of the International Sunday School Committee that produced the graded Sunday School lessons used by all of the Evangelical churches of the Nation.

The first public playground in the City of Paterson was formally opened on August 6, 1909. It stood on vacant land located behind the Katz Building on Market Street.

Macopin has been called the "Cradle of the Catholic Church in New Jersey". Prior to the Revolution, mass was said in private homes in the area by Father Farmer, a missionary priest from Philadelphia.

THE CIVIL WAR ESSAY CONTEST

In order to assist young people of High School age throughout the county to become more aware of their historical heritage, the Society, with the support of *The Paterson Evening News*, initiated The Civil War Essay Contest. This is to be followed annually by similar ones.

Our first contest closed on January 15, 1962 at which time thirteen young people from various High Schools of the county submitted essays on a variety of topics whose theme was, "The Civil War and Passaic County". All of these papers show evidence of high standards of research and composition maintained by our high schools. It is presumed that these students have laid a foundation for future studies and awakened interest in local history; and that a great many more young people may be stimulated through subsequent contests.

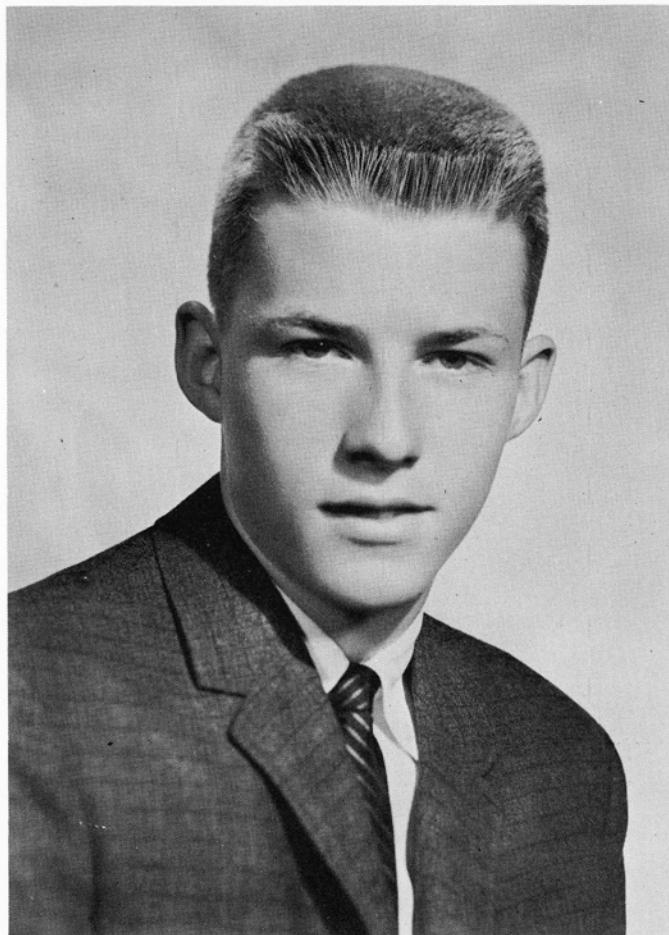
At a meeting of the Society joined by the Wayne Township Historical Commission and held in the Wayne Township Municipal Building at Wayne, N. J. on March 14, 1962, this contest became officially closed; for on this occasion, the awards were made. The first prize, consisting of a gold medal, a fifty-dollar savings bond and a five-year paid membership to the Society was awarded to William A. Schnarr of Clifton High School. The second prizewinner was Leonard Klein of the Passaic High School who was awarded a silver medal and a five-year paid up membership in the Society. The third prize, consisting of a bronze medal and a five-year paid up membership in the Society, was awarded to Arthur Barabas also of Passaic High School. The names of the winners have been inscribed upon a plaque which is hung in the museum of the Society at Lambert's Castle.

During the current year, the second of the essay contests will be conducted. The theme for this contest will be, "An Episode of Passaic County History". And the closing date for entries will be December 15, 1962.

William A. Schnarr and his Prize-Winning Essay

William Schnarr, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Schnarr of Pershing Road, Clifton, N. J. is a very personable young man, quiet and unassuming with a potential for service. While only aged seventeen, Bill has great interest in scientific and historical fields and a rather unusual interest for his age, in people less fortunate than he.

During his senior year at Clifton High School young Schnarr prepared a paper entitled, "Hire the Handicapped" which won first place among those of his fellow students. He enjoys corresponding with young people in foreign lands and the exchange of ideas



William A. Schnarr

uppermost in the minds of students. Bill Schnarr has been an active member of the History Club of his school and has a keen interest in local history which he relates to one of his hobbies — photography. As a photography enthusiast, he loves to develop, print and enlarge the pictures which he photographs. He has photographed many historic landmarks and historic sites in and near the county. With these pictures, he constructs historical stories bearing upon the subject and thereby lays a foundation for real interest in history.

During the year, William Schnarr received another prized award. This was "*The Baush and Lomb Honorary Science Award*" the citation of which reads: "in recognition of outstanding academic achievement, good character and superior intellectual promise in the field of science".

Having been accepted for the freshman class at Stevens' Institute of Technology, William will enter that college in September 1962 as a student in the Unified Science program. The best wishes of the Society go to this young man who appears to have a high potential for things worth while.

CIVIL WAR BUGLER STORY OF PHILIP KOHBERGER

The essay which introduced William A. Schnarr to the Society follows.

Hanging in a quiet corner at the home of my great aunt, is a large, impressive, framed document about her father. The great, bald eagle with its wings spread wide sits above the many, many lines of carefully written script. Large gold letters on the bottom read, "Philip Kohberger, Rebellion 1861-1865, 8th U. S. Infantry." Love of, and pride in, one's country is fostered to a great extent by those men who themselves have revealed an intense love of country. Such a man was Philip Kohberger. His war record has increased my understanding of what constitutes genuine patriotism.

One hundred years ago, on December nineteenth, 1861, twelve year old Philip Kohberger left his home in New Jersey to follow the urgings of those harried days of the War of the Rebellion. He was too young to fight, but he went to New York City and enlisted for service with the Eighth U. S. Infantry, Company B, Music Boys, U. S. Army. What makes so young a boy move with the spirit and determination required of grown men?

Philip Kohberger had come to America from Coburg, Germany as a three year old child. His father had died in their homeland, and his mother hoped to find a new life for her five children as she sailed for America. She never reached the land of her hopes and dreams, for she died and was buried at sea. Raised by a foster mother, Philip found new security and developed a deep love for the land which had offered hope and dreams. Any threat to the peace of this land had to be put down. With the daring and adventure of youthful innocence he wanted to be a part of "saving the Union" that meant so much to him.

Little did those early volunteers realize the grim years of terror that were ahead. Many years later, as Philip Kohberger looked back on those anxious years, his eyes would glow, as tenderly he held his bugle and recalled for his children the lighter moments of his life in the army. Never did he like to dwell on the stories of the grim, hard, and terrible battles which had become part of our history. The volunteers never had the organization, discipline, or training of professional soldiers, but those hundreds of thousands of young men who had no military experience and no indoctrination displayed the traits that lead us to be proud of our heritage. The spirit of fellowship was strong among them, and they had a solid feeling that they could depend upon one another. If a man were wounded, he knew perfectly well that, even if the

stretcher party missed him, some of his pals would hunt him up.

Philip was with the valiant troops during Banks' operation in the Shenandoah Valley from May 28, to July 5, 1862. On July 14, 1862 he was transferred to Company D, where the troops were under the command of General John Pope. These forces were called the Army of Virginia: Company D was in the Second Brigade, Second Division, Second Army Corp. Arranged for the defense of Washington, this corps was stationed near Culpeper Court House. Toward the evening of the ninth of August 1862, a heavy force, led by Stonewall Jackson, crossed the Rapidan and was met a few miles west of the Courthouse by General Banks' courageous corps. The battle that ensued was one of the most sanguinary of the war. Some of the time the struggle was carried on in hand to hand battle.

After nightfall the awful pall of smoke obscured the light of the moon. Although the battle ceased at about nine o'clock in the evening, the cannonading was kept up until midnight. The losses to both sides were great. Philip Kohberger was among the wounded, having been hit in the groin by a piece of shell. "I have witnessed many battles during the war", wrote a newspaper correspondent, "but I have seen none where the tenacious obstinacy of the American character was so fully displayed"¹ Although Philip's injury caused him to walk with a limp the rest of his life, it did not keep him from continuing with his corps. Yet to come were the Battle of Bull Run and the Battle of Antietam. The Army of Virginia disappeared as a separate organization after that and became a part of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan was placed in command of all the troops. So it was that Phillip Kohberger saw duty with the Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, from September 1862 to July 1863. More history was made by the group at the Battle of Fredricksburg, December 11 to 15; Burnside's second campaign or the Mud March, January 20 to 23; Chancellorsville Campaign, April 28 to May 6; Pennsylvania Campaign, June 13 to 15; and the fateful Battle of Gettysburg, July 1 to 3. We have read about these conflicts in all our histories, and it is hard to imagine the effect of this grimness as seen through the eyes of this young seasoned veteran. In accordance with Special Order No. 190, dated July 15, 1863, he proceeded to New York City for duty during the enforcement of the draft and to preserve order. His own stubborn determination to put an end to all the horrors was shown by his own re-enlistment for three years of the war on January 24, 1864.

Philip Kohberger served in New York Harbor until April 21, 1864, when the corps moved to Warrenton,

Va. and were assigned to duty at the Headquarters, Ninth Army Corps. On August 14, 1864, this young bugler was transferred to company B. The grand movement of the Army of the Potomac began in May. In this campaign they moved from the Rapidan River to Petersburg, May 4 to June 16. The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5 to 7, was on one of the most remarkable battlefields ever known. The ground was covered with a thick growth of pine, cedars, and scrub oaks and tangled underbrush and vines. Regular military movements were impossible. The slaughter of troops was fearful, and no victory was held for either side. Lieutenant General Grant was the guiding spirit in the National Army. When his troops emerged from the Wilderness, he found Lee and his confederates in heavy force rapidly gathering in his path. The battles around Spotsylvania and on the Ny River ensued. It was at this time that General Grant sent President Lincoln the famous dispatch in which he said, "I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."² Lee was finally repulsed by the stubborn, bold Grant, but not without dreadful losses on each side. Grant moved steadily toward Richmond while Lee moved on a parallel line; and more battles followed on the North Anna, May 22 to 26; around Cold Harbor, June 3 to 12; and then, of course, the assaults on Petersburg. Grant's strength was felt by all around him. All the days of his life, Philip Kohberger was proud to recall his meeting with Grant during the days of this campaign.

More action followed during that siege at Petersburg, June 19 to November 2; the Mine Explosion and Battle of the Crater, July 30; descent on the Weldon Railroad, August 18 to 21; battles of Poplar Grove Church, September 30; Squirrel Level Road, October 1 to 8; Boydton Plank Road or Operations on Hatchers Run, October 27 to 28.

Still the war was not over for Philip Kohberger. He saw duty in the Department of the East until November 12, 1865, and in the Middle Department until 1866. On April 10, 1866, the Corps moved to Raleigh, North Carolina and thence to Salisbury, North Carolina and duty in the Central District of North Carolina during the reconstruction period. On January 24, 1867, Philip Kohberger received his honorable discharge at Salisbury, North Carolina.

At 17 Philip Kohberger was a veteran with better than five years service to his country. His life was really just beginning, and yet he had already contributed more to the preservation of our union than many men are asked to do in an entire lifetime. Getting readjusted to civilian life was not easy for these young men of valor. Philip went to Philadelphia for a while, then came

1. Benson J. Lossing, *A History of the Civil War*, p. 298
2. Ibid., p. 374

back to New Jersey and settled in the City of Passaic. There, on Main Avenue he opened a cigar store. His beloved "mother" often came from Newark to see how Philip was managing. On one of these visits she brought Josephine Hemmelman, the "little girl" who lived next door. The reunion with Philip was a very happy occasion. Within a month Josephine became Mrs. Philip Kohberger.

Mr. and Mrs. Kohberger reared their family of three children and lived the rest of their lives in the City of Passaic. Philip was a popular, well known resident and was always proud to participate in the Memorial Day parades and ceremonies. He died in the summer of 1905.

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Original service papers of Philip Kohberger in the possession of his daughter, Christine Kohberger Getz, (Mrs. Adam Getz), 85 Gregory Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey

Submitted by Alfred P. Cappio, Chairman of Essay Committee.

CAPTAIN JAMES GRAY (Continued from Page 87)

In certain months the water was unusually low. In order to maintain constant power, Gray erected a dam across the Passaic at the head of the falls. When the river waters rose, they spilled over the low banks along the north side into the farm lands lying nearby and in the high-water season, frequently over ran the farm lands to the Pompton and other tributaries. After the flooding of many acres of corn and grass lands for a period of several years thus destroying the crops of the farmers, the owners remonstrated to Mr. Gray and asked him to either remove the dam or at least lower it that they might be spared their annual crop losses. Personal entreaty and group persuasion made no impression upon Gray. The farmers formed the opinion that Captain Gray had but little use for the "natives". He had been granted a Captain's commission in the British army (prior to the outbreak of the Revolution), was highly regarded as a gentleman of consequence by the Governor and had resided on an estate for many years. "When he walked about Little Falls," says Cruikshank, "he did so as a gentleman in authority. He felt himself to be in a position, by virtue of his military rank, to put down by force any attempts to damage his property".

(Continued on next page)

Feeling there was no other course of action, the farmers gathered and tore down the dam that waters of the river might be set free and their farms be saved from more flooding. To this action, Captain Gray petitioned the legislature for remuneration due him for the damage done to his dam. As the result of Gray's petition, the legislature of New Jersey on September 26, 1772 passed an act stating:

"... And whereas, the pulling down of the mill dam erected by Captain James Gray and others on our said Passaic River above and near said Little Falls, and for removing the obstruction of the waters in said river without the consent of the owners thereof, may have been unlawful and unjustifiable and the further taking up and removing the rift of rocks in said river about 40 rods above said mill dam, as well as the rift on which the said mill was erected, etc. . ."

This act calls for a full hearing of the parties concerned before an impartial commission. By the authority of the Governor and the General Assembly, John Chetwood of Elizabethtown, Isaac Pearson of Nottingham and John Schurman of New Brunswick were appointed judges to adjudicate the matter. This commission met at James Banks' inn at Newark on July 8, 1773.

The Declaration of Independence had no effect on James Gray for he chose to remain loyal to the British and reported to Sir Henry Clinton at New York for duty in 1777. He was given the command of a foraging troop of horse. Now his time had come. Captain Gray had not forgotten how the inhabitants of the upper Passaic valley destroyed his property and ruined his business interests and rebuked him for joining His Majesty's Army. A time for retaliation and payment had come to Captain James Gray of the British army.

In the village of Little Falls, stone barracks were built for a part of Washington's army, his headquarters being at Colonel Dey's at Preakness. General Lafayette was in command at Great Notch watching the movements of the British army in New York. The stones of the barracks are still there and the ashes from the camp fires are often turned up in the woods around Great Notch. From the heights north of the Notch gap, the British camp could be plainly seen. Thus, when foraging parties were sent over the Hudson River into New Jersey to pillage the inhabitants in the Newark area and in the valley of the upper Passaic, they could be easily seen by the lookouts. This averted surprise attacks. These raiders were frequently defeated and driven back to the Hudson.

The British commander, Sir Henry Clinton, lived on lower Broadway, near the Battery. According to tradition, he called Colonel Barkley to him and said, "How much longer shall the 'boy' (Lafayette) flaunt the rebel flag in our face?" Colonel Barkley marched with two regiments toward the west, but when he reached Acquackanonk Landing, he found that John Post and

his company of militia had destroyed the bridge over the Passaic. This necessitated the British to follow the river's east bank for about two miles to a ford. They encamped for the night on a promontory, known in later years as "Barkley Point". After reconnoitering Lafayette's position in the Great Notch, Barkley and his command returned to New York.

It was well known in the Notch Camp that a ravaging and foraging company led by Captain James Gray was operating in the area of what later became Passaic County and his raids about Acquackanonk were disastrous. John Post, with his militia hastened to Pine Brook, Chatham and to whatever place Gray might be found in order to interrupt the activities of the Loyalist and his raiders.

Somewhere between Chatham and Pine Brook says Cruikshank, Post's militia ambushed Gray and his raiders who had gathered great quantities of plunder. His method was to commandeer the farmers whose homes and farms he plundered, use their teams and wagons and drive the plunder to the British camp. But on this occasion, Gray gathered his men and fled leaving great quantities of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, fowl, household goods and farm supplies to the patriots. A guard was placed over the property and the men who had been robbed by the British were summoned to identify their property and to return it to their homes.

Gray's property at the Little Falls, which he had purchased from Messrs. Board and Ward in 1772, was seized by the state. And the court of Essex County (the precursor of present Passaic County) on April 26, 1784 ordered its agent, Samuel Hayes, to advertise and sell "on or near the premises, all of the valuable farm at Little Falls in the County of Essex, being a part of the forfeited estate of James Gray. The farm contains about 230 acres of land, a great part of which is meadow land, some plough land, with wood-land sufficient for fuel and fencing the farm. There is a saw mill, a large dwelling house, two stories high with four rooms on a floor, and a kitchen at one end also stables and other out houses. There is also a garden with a variety of grafted fruit, etc. The farm joins near a mill on the Passaic River, which is a commodious place for building almost any kind of water works, particularly a grist mill and saw mill on a never failing stream of water, which privileges will be also sold with the farm. The entire sale to begin at 4 o'clock in the afternoon" on Tuesday, the 8th of June 1784.

An interesting side light on the confiscation of the Gray property by the State of New Jersey is contained in a document in possession of the Passaic County Historical Society. This document appears to refute the ownership of the Little Falls property as being owned by one Robert Gray, a minor, and not owned by James

Gray and therefore not subject to confiscation. However, it is apparent that the court never acknowledged the property as belonging to young Robert Gray.

This document states:

"Robert Gray (a minor) Sole Heir of James Gray, is proprietor of the Little Falls on the Passaic & his boundary extends to near the Great Falls—this property was by deed of gift transferred to the Above Minor, Robt. Gray, by his uncle of the island of Jamaica in the year 1772 which purchase was made by the said Robert Gary the Elder Sheriff Sale, . . . the deeds for which are now in the hands of Col. Richd. Dye of Preakness, . . . James Gray is in Montreal."

The mills built and operated by James Gray before 1777, when he actively participated with the British army, passed through several owners. One of these was Reverend John Duryea. About the year 1825, the New Jersey and Little Falls Carpet Company purchased the mills where they manufactured carpets until 1842. This company disposed of their holdings to Robert Beattie & Sons of New York.

The Beatties constructed a wooden building at the site of the Gray mills and they began here to manufacture carpets in 1846. Within a short time, this building was found to be inadequate for the growing business and the Beattie Company erected a four-story building of brown stone in 1858. This building was enlarged by the addition of a brick structure in 1878 and Beattie carpets were well known throughout America.

PETER ARCHDEACON AND HIS MUSEUM HOTEL

One of the most colorful figures living in Passaic County more than one hundred years ago was Peter Archdeacon. A native of England, Mr. Archdeacon came to America after the close of the War of 1812 with his wife and three children and settled in the area of the Great Falls. He practiced the shoemaker's trade, entered into the milk business and built hand looms for a while.

The country of the falls area in his day was wild, only a handful of farmers having cleared much of the land; Washington's encampment, within walking distance, had been vacated less than fifty years. Archdeacon loved the great out-of-doors and frequented the wooded areas of the Goffle, Wagaraw, the heights of Totowa and the several sites where Washington's army had encamped. From these and other near-by places, Peter Archdeacon collected a vast quantity of relics, minerals and specimens of natural history. As his collection grew, he conceived the idea of erecting a museum where he might display his "curiosities" as well as interesting collections which some friends of his possessed.

On April 30, 1833, General Abraham Godwin laid the cornerstone of the *Museum Hotel* on the northeast corner of Main and Smith Streets, Paterson and the museum was opened to the public on December 21, 1833. It was a structure of two stories. On the street level was the hotel while the upper floor housed the museum and theatre. A second floor balcony faced Main Street which served as a rostrum for public speeches on many occasions before the days of the old Opera House.

The hotel was one of the best in town and, as was the custom in those days, the county Board of Freeholders usually held their meetings in various hotels and taverns throughout the county. Their meetings in the *Museum Hotel* were not unusual in 1837 and 1838.

A few days before the official opening of the Archdeacon museum, an advertisement in the daily paper stated in part:

"This museum is the only one in the state . . . A splendid treat is now offered to the lovers of Natural History. To hold the mirror up to Nature, Shall be our only aim. We exhibit a most pleasant Forest Scene, with all its natural decorations—the Panther, Bear, and Deer are seen at large, with other inhabitants of the forest . . ."

The notice went on to state that other exhibits would follow. Such objects as animals, birds, shells and other objects would gradually be added to the collection.

The Hotel Museum was to be open every day at 9 o'clock in the morning and would be closed at 5 in the afternoon except on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when the closing time was set at 9 o'clock.

The price of admission was one shilling.

The Paterson Daily Register ran the following advertisement:

Monday Eve., July 4, 1860
VALUABLE HOTEL PROPERTY FOR SALE
or to hire
at Paterson, N. J.

The undersigned, being about to retire from business, offers for sale or to hire, that well known, commodious and long-established Hotel and Tavern known as the "Museum Hotel", situated on Main Street, in the city of Paterson, N. J. with the adjoining lot, 125 feet long, containing stable, sheds, etc.

This hotel being located in the most eligible part of the city, amply furnished and fitted up in the most elegant style, regardless of expense, is well worth the attention of any active and enterprising person in the business, etc.

The whole of the above desirable, and valuable property will be disposed of on reasonable terms. Every information respecting the same can be obtained of the proprietor.

Peter Archdeacon

MUSEUM HOTEL,
193 Main, Corner of Smith Streets.
Paterson, N. J.

**The Man of
PLEASURE,**
**Will find everything
here to please his
FANCY.**

The Epicure can obtain every delicacy, and the
MAN OF BUSINESS

Will find no better home than the Museum Hotel.
Attached to the Hotel is a fine
BILLIARD **SALOON.**

The public are invited to call.
JOHN BRADY.

The property was disposed of but Mr. Archdeacon had only three years to enjoy retirement for he passed to the Great Beyond on May 21, 1863 at the age of 87 years.

This hotel was a famous hostelry and the Archdeacon museum in the building was the forerunner of *The Paterson Museum*, established as a science museum and located in the former stable of the late Mayor of Paterson, Nathan Barnert. *The Paterson Museum* should not be confused with the historical museum of The Passaic County Historical Society located at Lambert Castle for the museum at the castle is a depository for objects, pictures, documents, papers, books having to do with the history of Passaic County and its immediate environs.

Incidentally, at the Historical Museum in Lambert Castle, there is no shilling admission fee; however, there are facilities enabling you to show your appreciation of the exhibits.

(Note: For much of the material for this story, credit is due to the Curator, Edward M. Graf. Ed.)

Bernard "Bernie Borgemann of Hawthorne, well known in Passaic County sports circles, was elected to the National Basketball Hall of Fame at Springfield, Mass. in 1961. This is the greatest honor which can be bestowed upon a basketball player. Another member of the Hall of Fame is the late Frank Morgenweck who was the manager and owner of the famous Paterson Crescents and Paterson Legionaires for many years.

A resident of Paterson, James H. Foran, played third base for Fort Wayne in the first major league game ever played. This was in 1871. Later, he was a member of the Paterson Olympics who won the city championship in 1875. Five other members of this team: Mike, "King" Kelly, Edward "The Only" Nolan, James McCormack, John "Kick" Kelly, and William "Blondy" Purcell later played on the National League clubs.

Peter Force, who served as Mayor of Washington, D. C. from 1836 through 1840, was born near the "Great Falls" of the Passaic River (present-day Paterson) in 1790. He became famous as the compiler of the "*American Archives*," still the best source of original information regarding the Colonial and Revolutionary periods of our Nation's history.

On March 2, 1867, Mr. Force sold his collection of historical material to the Library of Congress for \$100,000.00. Among other things, the sale included 22,529 books and more than 40,000 pamphlets.

Major Ramsey's Torpedo Boat

In 1864, Major Ramsey designed and superintended the construction or a torpedo boat which was constructed at Brown and Sons Boiler Works on Railroad Avenue, Paterson. The Paterson Daily Press on Dec. 1, 1864 gave the following description of this boat: "It is built of iron and one and one eighth inches thick, the entire length being thirty feet and the largest diameter five feet. The top and bottom lines are level; both extremities of the vessel being sharp and upright, while the middle is round.

Inside the unique structure is placed an engine, which weighs 1300 pounds, and connects with a screw in the stern. A smokepipe about four feet high, runs from the top. The vessel is designed to be about two thirds immersed in water, not completely, as has been supposed by some. Outside of the prow is attached a torpedo apparatus, extending 25 or 30 feet forward and placed at any depth to suit the occasion. This is connected with the boat by an insulated wire, along which the electric spark will be conveyed to the powder.