



Museum and Headquarters
LAMBERT CASTLE
Garret Mountain Reservation
Paterson, N. J.

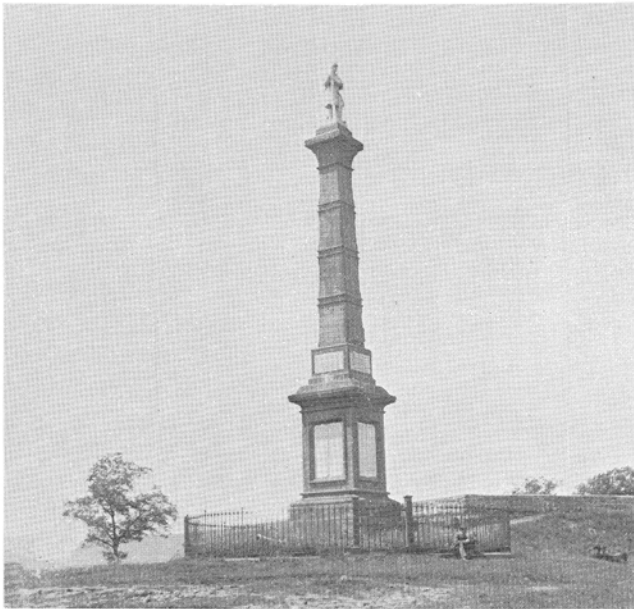
REMEMBRANCES OF PASSAIC COUNTY

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 1973 / No. 1

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument

by Vincent Marchese



The morning was dark and stormy. A light drizzle fell, and many an expectant heart was filling with disappointment in view of the inclement character of the weather. The date, November 26, 1868, was Thanksgiving Day.

Informal meetings of committees in charge of festivities were held at an early hour and it was generally resolved by each to postpone the proposed celebration. About half past ten, however, there was a change in the weather. The wind veered around sharply, clouds broke away, and signs of clearing were manifest. Plans for the festivities were resumed — parades, excursions, fairs, dinners and the laying of the cornerstone for the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

The first event on the program was the Firemen's parade and reception of the No. 4 steamer. Originally the parade line was scheduled to form at eight o'clock in the morning. However, at that hour, it had been raining furiously, and although several of the companies were on hand, it was resolved to postpone the affair until the weather cleared. When it did, each company intuitively marshalled its forces and proceeded to the appointed starting point at the corner of Mill and John Streets. After the Firemen's parade, the new steamer was taken to the raceway and a good trial proved her all that she represented.

The next major event in the day's activities was the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone for the Soldiers and Sailors Monument located on Table Rock by the Great Falls in the Totowa section of Paterson.

The line of march for this ceremony was formed on Colt Street at Market Street and was as follows:

Police
Marshall and Aids
Band

Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association of
Passaic County

Orator and General John Cochrane of New York
Chosen Board of Freeholders of Passaic County
Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Paterson

The Board of Education
Passaic Water Company

U.S., State, County, and City Officials
Clergy, Press and legal professions

Veteran soldiers and sailors under Capt. Wm. Buckley

New Jersey Rifle Battalion under Major Taylor
Kearney Rifle Corps under Capt. Milne

Fire Department of the City of Paterson

Under Chief and Assistant Engineer

Civic societies by seniority of organization

I.O. of O.F.
Sons of Erin
Druids

Protestant Association
St. Patrick's Temperance Benevolent Society
Catholic Young Men's Association

Websters Literary Association

St. John's Temperance Society
Young Mens Christian Association

Other civic societies

Masonic Fraternity

Citizens
Carriages

The route of the march to the Monument Heights went as follows: The parade proceeded through Congress to Main St., across the West Street Bridge to Water Street to Hamburg Avenue up to Union Avenue. The parade then turned left on Albion Avenue to Totowa Avenue through the Passaic Water Company grounds up to the Heights.

The procession formed around the base of the monument in the following order:

The Monument Association stood on the east face, the ladies on the platform; the Press on the platform; the county and city officials on the east face; the military on the south face; the firemen on the west face and the civic societies on the north face.

All in all about 1,500 to 2,000 people were gathered. A rope had been stretched around the base of the monument, leaving an enclosure of about 150 to 200 feet in diameter, which was kept clear by a guard of militia.

The ceremonies were opened by a prayer by the Rev. John H. Duryea, D. D., pastor of the Second Reformed Church, located on Temple and Water Sts. Some national airs were then played by one of the bands, after which the cornerstone was laid by Rev. Wm. H. Hornblower, D.D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Hornblower stated that as a representative of the people of Passaic County, he laid the stone in the name of God, and hoped the divine architect would approve of the deed, that it was just and right that a monument should be erected to the memory of those who had fallen in battle and to transmit to future generations the evidence of our love for our country and its people.

Placed in the cornerstone were many documents. The following is a list of the articles:

- A roll of Army and Navy Veterans Association with names and photographs of officers and members
- History of Monument Association with names and photographs of members and also of the architect of the Heights
- Resolution of the Common Council and names of other officers and members
- Resolution of the Board of Freeholders and names of officers and members
- Decision of the City and County attorneys
- Deed of ground, by Passaic Valley Water Company
- Design of the monument
- Copies of the *Paterson Guardian* 13, 14 and 16 of November, 1868
- Explanatory note
- Description of Paterson
- Copy of engraving by R. H. Norris
- All the different coins and currency of the United States
- Badge of Army and Navy Veterans Association
- Badges of different Clubs
- Copy of Seal of the Association
- Ulster County Gazette*, year 1800 with a description of death and funeral of General Washington
- Paterson Guardian* of November 25 and Press of 24 and 25
- New York daily papers
- Badge of mourning of Abraham Lincoln and card, by Miss Mary A. Paton
- Pictures of Andersonville Prison by Oliver B. Fairbanks
- Harpers and Frank Leslies Pictorials.*
- Cape May Wave.*
- Army and Navy Journal.*
- Soldiers Friend.*
- Chicago-Tribune.*
- The Presbyterian.*
- American cents of 1791, and 1802, and ½ cent of 1807 by Jas. Inglis
- Roll and bylaws of Engine Co. No. 3 of Paterson
- Photograph of Engine Co. No. 1 of Paterson
- Two photographs of Passaic Falls by Reid
- Package of coins from A. Henderson, Geo. Perry and John J. Warren
- Chain of coin from Mrs. J. W. Drew
- Spanish coin of 1725 by Miss Susie Close

Confederate money by J. W. Drew

Coin from Mrs. Jane Parker

Register of New Jersey Vol's.

Copy of resolution of 41st Congress making appropriation of Cannon for Monument.

Record of Kearny Rifles of Paterson.

Following the sealing of the stone, the band played "Hail Columbia." A benediction was then delivered by the Rev. John H. Duryea. The various groups and citizens formed in the parade line and proceeded down the hill to the other festivities of the day.

The Monument was built in 1870. The design of the edifice was a square shaft built largely of brown sandstone with Italian marble tablets inlaid to receive the names of those heroes whose loss it commemorates. On the one side is the New Jersey coat of arms with sculptured flags and cannon. On the other side was the Passaic County coat of arms. From the base a square tapering shaft rose, traversed by several bands of Nova Scotia stone, on which appeared the names of battles in which Passaic County was represented. They include Antietam, Fredricksburg, Fair Oaks, South Mountain, Williamsburgh, Vicksburg, Petersburg, Spottsylvania, Roanoke, Gettysburgh and Mission Ridge. The column of the monument was finished with a semi-corinthian capital, on top of which appeared the statue of Captain Hugh C. Irish, Company K, Thirteenth Regiment N.J. Vols., then located on Broadway in Paterson. Capt. Irish was killed September 17, 1862 while fighting in the battle of Antietam. The figure, eight feet in height and made of Italian marble is in full uniform and equipments, looking South.

The Monument was originally under the care of the Passaic County Board of Freeholders, but by 1920, the marks of time and the results of vandalism caused the members of the Grand Army of the Republic to petition the Board to have it moved. A campaign was started to have the Monument not only moved but rebuilt in a place that would be safer and more easily accessible. The Freeholders agreed to take charge, rebuilding it of granite, and moving it to Eastside Park.

The rededication ceremonies took place on Memorial Day, 1922.

The restored Memorial is made of "Rock of Ages" granite and weighs more than 100 tons. It stands 48 feet high, and the statue on top has been waterproofed by a special process which will enable it to last as long as the granite itself.

Below the names of the battles are four bronze tablets with appropriate inscriptions.

On one is an excerpt from Lincoln's Second Inaugural address which reads: "with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, let us strive on to firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in to bind up the nations wounds: to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan: to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves with all nations."

Another is headed "Honor The Brave." Under the heading is, "The War of 1861-1865 was waged successfully for preservation of the Union as a nation, one and indivisible, now and for all time."

The third reads: "Passaic County Soldiers and Sailors Monument to commemorate the services and record the names of her soldiers and sailors who gave their lives in the War for the Union."

The last reads: "This monument, erected in 1922, under the supervision of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Passaic, is a replica of the original Monument erected in 1870 on Monument Heights, Passaic Falls, by the Passaic County Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association, organized Sept. 17, 1867."

(Mr. Marchese is an Anthropology major at Ramapo College, specializing in Meso-American archeology. This is his first article for the Society).