



PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Volume 5, No. 3

August 1973

Over 50 persons attended the recent Buffet Supper honoring Past President Alfred Cappio, Helen Malcolm, retired Treasurer, and Life Trustees Andrew Derrom, Edward Graf, Stanton Hammond, Robert Mills and Esther Schwartz. Due to inclement weather the diners were forced indoors rather than on the Castle Terrace.

Guest speaker was Mr. Charles Van Wagner, longtime friend of the Society who has been instrumental in the acquisition of many items for the Society through the years.

Highlight of the evening was the dedication of 2 Federici marble sculptures, Jeanne d'Arc and a Beethoven bust, in memory of the late Mr. Harry B. Haines. Mr. Edward B. Haines accepted the dedication in the name of the Haines family. Both sculptures are now on exhibit at the Museum.

Responses to the Buffet Supper were received from as far away as California and feeling was that there should be another such evening planned for next year.

The Society has instituted a series of History Round-table discussions in conjunction with the Bicentennial celebration. These are being held every second Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library, Nellis Drive at Valley Road, Wayne.

Attendance thusfar has been sparse, but the group is very enthusiastic and hopeful that the Fall season will bring an increase in attendance. The North Jersey Highland Historical Society has enthusiastically supported the effort and led a panel discussion at the second session. The first session was handled competently by Mr. Cappio.

Mark the date on your calendar, September 13, 1973 at 8 p.m. and the second Thursday of October, November and December.

For those who are interested, Mr. Cappio is once again teaching 'History of Northern New Jersey' at the Wayne Adult School. The course will be Tuesday evening, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Anthony Wayne Junior High, Valley Road, Wayne. "... over 200 years of unusual informative, colorful, fascinating historical information about our State, County, and Community is seen through the lives of some of the famous and not so famous individuals who resided in New Jersey'. For further information, contact the Wayne Board of Education, 50 Nellis Drive, Wayne, 694-6815.

The Society extends its heartfelt sympathies to the family of Eugene D. Hammond, who recently passed away. He was the son of D. Stanton Hammond.

The Society has recently acquired many items from the Quinn family of 9 Fair Street, Paterson. The firm has closed its doors and the building will become part of Paterson's re-development project. Included among the items are maps, photos and business records dating back to the incorporation of the original business in 1863. There are also examples of tin-ware items made by the firm.

There has been a movement underway to preserve more than just the industrial buildings in the Historic District surrounding the Great Falls. Included among these is the John Ryle home on Mill Street. Ryle was the Silk King of Paterson. "... draftsmen are making exact drawings of the factory buildings as part of the country's industrial history. Survey consultants pointed to the interrelationship between the homes and the mills. Their opinion is borne out by Prof. Rodney Green an industrial archaeologist from England who worked here a year. Russell Fries, project historian visiting here from the Washington headquarters explained that some of the houses built for the workers were part of a cottage industry. They were constructed with large windows in the basement where a loom was worked in good light ...'

Visit the Great Falls Festival, promoting the Great Falls of the Passaic and the Historic District surrounding it. This will be the Third Annual Falls Festival, August 31st thru September 3rd. The festival includes a Night of Stars, an antique car competition, a flea market, a display of antique fire fighting equipment from Paterson's early days, as well as many other interesting events. Remember, while at the Great Falls Festival, it is but a short drive to Lambert Castle, home of the Passaic County Historical Society. Include the Museum in your plans.

Since 1652, when the colonists, in defiance of English law, set up their own mint in Boston, John Hull was mint-master and silversmith. John Hull apprenticed under his older half brother, Richard Storer who learned his craft under the strict rules of a society of craftsmen (guild) called "The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths of the City of London".

The mint in Massachusetts produced good quality coins for thirty-two years before it was closed. Colonial business grew and the people prospered and they needed a way to keep their money safe and they turned to the silversmiths for help. These craftsmen melted down the silver coins and removed their impurities, then they fashioned the metal into bowls or other useful objects which still had the original value of the

metal from which they were made. Each one was worth its weight in silver – it was money. A piece of land could be purchased with the amount of silver in the bowl.

It was more difficult for a thief to make off with a silver bowl, candle stick, tankards, porringers, spoons, cups, for the silversmiths always “struck his mark” on the piece also the initial of the owner on many occasions.

Not all colonial silversmiths were descended from Englishmen, some were Dutch, French and the master silversmith in Liberty Village (a recreated Early American Village) is HAROLD ROGOVIN, a Russian descendant. He is plying his craft daily in Liberty Village, Flemington, New Jersey. When Mr. Rogovin was 20 years old, he started to work with the Craft Student League in New York City and he apprenticed with William C. Seitz, nationally known master silversmith from Gardner, N.Y. for seven years. With his experience he can repair hollowware and flatware in any malleable metal such as copper, silver, brass and bronze. He is now training an apprentice in Liberty Village and history is being repeated in the silver craft.

The Harry Kels Swan Collection (nearly 150 pieces of Early American Silver) is housed in Mr. Rogovin's Shop at Flemington.

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Jerome Nathans, *President*
Edgar Shumway, *Treasurer*
George Maseker, *Secretary*
Edward M. Graf, *Curator*
Jerome Nathans, *Editor*

Membership Categories:
General, \$5.00 annually
Sustaining, \$10.00 annually
Contributing, \$25.00 annually
Special Student, \$2.00 annually

MUSEUM HOURS:

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
1 – 4:45 P.M.
Saturday and Sunday
11 A.M. – 4:45 P.M.
Admission is free at all times
Telephone: (201) 523-9883.