

VOICE OF THE PAST

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WAVERTON PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 1729, PATERSON, NEW JERSEY 07509

GASTON

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E. A. Smyk, Editor

THE WAY IT WAS: A Gallery of Old Photographs



YOUNG VICTORIANS relaxing on a summer day, ca. 1895. This unidentified photograph, snapped (?) by the reclining dandy's girl, brings to mind an era when life was not so complicated, when the country seemed to be a limitless expanse, and when a picnic lunch really made the day. The original negative from which this print was taken has been on file with the Society for nearly half a century. Thousands more await restoration and sorting. See inside for more glimpses of life in days gone by . . .



News & Notes

The Board of Trustees are happy to announce the appointment of Mr. Paul Trimble DuVivier as Curator of the Society's Lambert Castle Museum. Mr. DuVivier succeeds Edward M. Graf, who has served in that capacity for the last 14 years. Mr. Graf will remain with the Society as Librarian. The new Curator was selected from over 300 applicants who sought the position. He becomes the seventh person to hold the office of Curator since the Society was founded in 1926. His predecessors were: Albert Henry Heusser, Edwin A. Leonhard, Walter A. Lucas, Rudolph C. M. Hartmann, Miss Mary Schweizer and Mr. Graf.

Mr. DuVivier was graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, where he majored in History. He has completed requirements for the A.M. in History at Cooperstown. This program placed strong emphasis on museum management, exhibit techniques and early industrial technology. For one year, Mr. DuVivier was engaged as the Executive Director of the Historical Society of Princeton. A USAF veteran, he speaks fluent French and German, and has traveled extensively in Europe.

Those members who attended the Annual Meeting on May 23rd had the opportunity of speaking with Mr. DuVivier. The Society feels confident Mr. DuVivier will develop our Museum potential to the fullest.

The Society wishes to thank Freeholder Louise Friedman for donating one of the City of Clifton bronze Bicentennial medallions. Mrs. Friedman, in addition to duties as County Freeholder, serves as a Clifton councilman.

The American Association for State and Local History has notified us that they will sponsor a "Northeast Regional Workshop" at Mystic, Connecticut from June 19 to June 21. The objective of the workshop is to promote the cause of the humanities during the Bicentennial. It is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States, and is open to volunteers, trustees and professional staff of both large and small historical societies. Participants must assume all of their own expenses. For further information and application forms, write to Pamela Johnson, Assistant Director of Educational Programs, American Association for State and Local History, 1315 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

The Passaic County Park Commission, through Acting Director James J. Iandoli, has provided for the use of the Society three vacant rooms on the third floor of Lambert Castle. Used in Mr. Lambert's day as the servant quarters, the new rooms will soon house our precious collection of manuscripts, photographs and pamphlets.

The Society welcomes two new Trustees to the Executive Committee. They are Miss Jeanne Van Wyk of Paterson and Mr. Walter Krawiec of Clifton. Miss Van Wyk retired last year from the Paterson school system. She served as principal of School 18 for 22 years. Mr. Krawiec, a teacher in the Wayne school system, is connected with the Clifton Historical Commission.

On April 6th, President Nathans and your Editor accepted a large collection of pamphlets, manuscripts and scrap books that belonged to the late Passaic City Historian, William Winfield Scott. The presentation was made by Mr. David Scott Conant, Jr., who is Mr. Scott's great-grandson.

The collection consists of over 270 rare items that chronicle the life and time of Passaic's notable citizens and their institutions. In addition, there are 12 scrap books compiled by Mr. Scott extending from the middle 1880's to the early 1920's. They total 1,372 pages of mounted newspaper clippings and memorabilia dating from the period when Passaic was known as "Acquackanonk."

Mr. Conant, who is classical music director of Radio Station WFLN in Philadelphia, explained that he is delighted his great-grandfather's papers will be used by students and researchers. W. W. Scott, a preeminent local historian, published the authoritative *History of Passaic and Its Environs*.

What makes the presentation even more appropriate is that Mr. Scott was one of the incorporators of the Society back in 1926. At the Society's formal organization meeting in March of that year, Scott was elected 1st Vice-President. He served in that capacity until his death at the age of 80 on September 30, 1935.

W. W. Scott was born at Morrisville, Pennsylvania, and settled in Passaic on July 15, 1858. He was the first boy to graduate from Passaic High School in 1873. Interested in law, Scott commenced studies which resulted in his admission to the New Jersey Bar in 1877. The study and writing of local history was his first love outside of the legal profession, and the fruits of his painstaking scholarship were revealed in a multitude of essays. Most of his contributions were published by the old *Passaic Daily News*, and later, the *Herald-News*. Scott was acknowledged by his colleagues to be an expert on the Revolutionary period in Passaic County history. Other aspects of culture excited his probing mind, and the writings he has bequeathed us stand as an enduring legacy.

In a resolution adopted by the Society's trustees shortly after Mr. Scott's passing, then Secretary Edward M. Graf wrote: "He was a pillar of honor, education and culture such as we, his survivors, may well seek to emulate. As long as his community and our Society treasure the rich heritage of our forebearers, the memory of William Winfield Scott will be remembered."

Mr. Graf, now Librarian, commented that after the collection has been catalogued, it will be open for use by qualified researchers.

Our magnificent Corfu clock, which occupies a place of honor in the Museum, has been returned to working order and expertly cleaned by Smetana Watchmakers of Passaic. The clock was jolted by shock waves generated by the blasting for Route 20. Shortly after the clock was damaged, another tremendous blast shook the entire Castle, knocking Bernard Pothast's exquisite oil painting - called "Happy Hours" - off the wall above the mantle in the Music Room. The painting fell seven feet onto the marble floor, the force of impact shattering the gold leaf frame and protective glass covering. Unfortunately, a portion of the work was cut by shards of glass, but a terrible human tragedy was averted, for no museum visitors were in the room at the time of the incident. Your Society strongly protested this senseless and incompetent manner of blasting to the State highway authority. The painting has since been restored.

In neighboring Bergen County, the Allendale Historical Society has been founded. Mrs. Pat Wardell (also a member of our Society), is President. Membership applications can be obtained by addressing the Society at P.O. Box 294, Allendale, New Jersey. 07401.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following who have been elected to membership:

- Miss Brenda Balady, Clifton
- Mr. Robert E. Burrows, Clifton
- Mr. Christopher D'Amelio, Elmwood Park
- Miss Diane Dolce, Clifton
- Mr. Allan E. Fineberg, Paterson
- Mr. Nathan Freudberg, Paterson
- Miss Grace M. George, Paterson
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Hall, Paterson
- Mr. John Herbst, Haledon
- Mrs. Mary Ellen Kramer, Paterson
- Mr. Kevin M. Marion, Clifton
- Mrs. Josephine L. McDonald, Ringwood
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Pokotylo, West Paterson
- Mr. Arthur J. Rosen, Wayne
- Mr. Edward S. Rutsch, Paterson
- Mr. John Ruzila, Clifton
- Mrs. Mary E. Ruzila, Clifton
- Dr. Morris H. Saffron, Passaic
- Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Segboer, Little Falls
- Mr. Gregory Tomayko, Passaic
- Mr. Milton H. Turner, Clifton
- Mrs. Walter M. Wardell, Jr., Allendale

THE INFANT SCHOOL ON ELM STREET, PATERSON

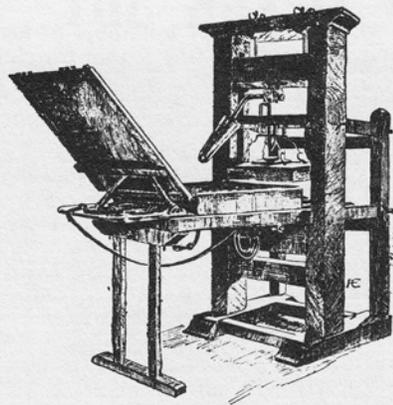
During the winter of 1826-27 a number of benevolent ladies were desirous of opening a free school for children between the ages of three and eight. These ladies provided a great deal of agitation during this winter urging Acquackanonk township to levy a tax from which their school might be supported. At the town meeting held on April 7th, 1827, the voters agreed to appropriate \$400 for school purposes in the township, \$275 to be Paterson's share and \$125 to be apportioned to the rest of the township. This money was to be used for the support of free schools for the children of poor parents. It was agreed that no child should enter one of these free schools without having first received a permit from the trustees. No more than one child from a family could be entered.

The ladies of the Elm Street School were very much disappointed in not getting an appropriation for their school, but they decided to go ahead with their enterprise. On May 11th, 1827, these ladies met in the lecture room of the Baptist church and organized the "Infant School Society" with Mrs. Fisher, first directress; Mrs. E. Berry, second directress; Miss C. Colt, secretary; Miss E. Colt, treasurer; Elizabeth Speer, Mrs. Evaline Godwin and Miss Jane Van Houten, managers. They also elevated Mrs. Catherine Inslee, daughter of Abraham Willis, to teacher at \$85 the first year. The school was opened on August 1st, 1827. During the first year 92 children were enrolled. In 1828 a school house was built on the site of the Elm Street German Presbyterian Church and this was kept going from twenty to thirty years.

— R. P. BROOKS



THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF PASSAIC COUNTY as photographed by Frederick J. Lambert in 1895 in front of the Warden's office, the old Passaic County Jail. The title of Freeholder has survived from the time of English rule in New Jersey. Originally, a Freeholder was an individual who owned property, free of debt, which made him eligible for membership on the governing body. The property rule as a qualification for holding office has long been abolished, but the title of Freeholder has remained. At one time, each municipality was entitled to have one Freeholder represent it on the county level, but changes in the original law were made in 1918, which reduced their number. The voters now select, at large, a total of seven Freeholders to represent them. Without the continued assistance of this powerful and very necessary body, your Society would be unable to support the Museum at Lambert Castle.



Society Publications

Anyone who has worked on publications of an historical nature can testify that they are a tremendous amount of work. Society member William E. Berce, who authored the outstanding *Under the Sign of the Eagle* (the history of Wayne township) once remarked in a letter to our esteemed third Historian, Robert P. Brooks that "One has to face the wrath of his family as a result of spending weekend after weekend buried in books or shut up in a room." This was understandable, since Mr. Berce spent over a year-and-one-half in research libraries and at the typewriter while his book was in progress. Mr. Brooks also knows the work involved. With his flair for historical writing, the third Historian served our Society for nearly 15 years. During that period, 17 publications were produced under his supervision, and practically all came from his pen. (He is still at the typewriter, and the members can expect to see his contributions in future issues.) Librarian Graf is another one of those fellows of scholarly bent who can appreciate the value of historical research, having been the Associate Editor of the weekly *Prospector* from July to November, 1936. During those gloomy Depression days, Graf would research and write articles for the *Prospector* — then a "weekly newspaper for northern New Jersey devoted to historical interests." Mr. Graf still enjoys recounting those days, when he would stay up half the night in order to get his copy ready for delivery to the paper in the early morning. What all of these men share in common is their sense of dedication and sacrifice for an intellectually rewarding cause. Historical research takes a lot of digging through old and dusty records — an asthmatic and tedious operation. As one seasoned scholar of the local history scene put it: "Historical writing is very difficult because you have to assess the accuracy of the material you have, do the research, compile it — and believe me, organizing the research is a fantastic amount of work — then write it so it will be interesting reading."

The Passaic County Historical Society was founded, among other things, to disseminate knowledge of historical interest by periodical publication. Your Historian has been very active in this endeavor along with Trustee William J. Wurst. Last year, two articles appeared in the *Paterson News*, one entitled "19th Century Taverns Sparked City Progress," and a December 31st article by Mr. Wurst — "100 years ago: Politics as Usual."

January 15th of this year saw in the *News* "Pilgrimage to the Falls: Men were awed by its Beauty," by the Historian; February 17th was published Mr. Wurst's "Early Washington Birthday Lukewarm," and March 17th, same newspaper, an article on the old Clifton Racetrack by Mr. Smyk entitled "Throngs Cheered at Gay 90's Track."

The Publication Committee of our Society decides what manuscripts are to be printed, and in what issues they will appear. The Committee members are: Mr. Smyk, Chairman, Mr. Alfred P. Cappio, Mr. Robert P. Brooks and Mr. Edward M. Graf. Mrs. Martha B. Troxell assists in the preparation of copy. Members of the Society who would like to contribute articles on Passaic County history are strongly urged to contact Mr. Smyk at Lambert Castle. There is no remuneration for any manuscripts submitted, just the extreme sense of satisfaction of enriching the storehouse of local history. Another researcher has expressed himself on the subject quite honestly: "You do this type of writing because you love it."

— Ed.



"The inhabitants of New York pulling down the statue of George III" — from an old woodcut first published in 1831.

Bicentennial Focus

The Society, in conjunction with the Passaic County Bicentennial Commission, is sponsoring a number of special programs in order to make our 200th birthday celebration an event of lasting historical significance. Under Trustee Robert Masiello's direction, a calendar and map of county-wide Bicentennial events will be published. Both the Society and Commission will sponsor an Essay contest for county College and Senior High School students, and original material uncovered during the course of their research will be published in a commemorative booklet entitled *Passaic County History and Heritage*. Three research prizes will be awarded for the best essays, which will be selected by a committee under your Editor and Professor Kenneth Job, Bicentennial Coordinator for William Paterson College. The Commission chairman is Dr. Morris H. Saffron, a Passaic physician who also holds the Ph.D. degree in History from Columbia University.

A few months ago, while your Editor was looking through our manuscript collection, he chanced upon an extraordinary document, obviously of Revolutionary provenance, in the Justus Banks papers. (Banks was from Ulster County, New York; the manuscripts were presented to the Society by the late William H. Dillistin on January 28, 1950). The paper, which is unsigned and possibly a fragment of a much longer address, contains the unmistakable language of the founding fathers — freedom and liberty grounded in the doctrine of natural law. It is printed verbatim.

(continued on page 5)

To the Freeholders and Traders of America

The People of America left their native country to gain room, to avoid oppression, and to preserve that liberty so dear so precious in the minds of Englishmen; they came forth with the permission of their Prince and the consent of the nation, and as an encouragement to their so doing, Charters and grants were made by the Crown containing many extraordinary privileges and immunities; these bold and enterprising adventurers, in many places; were opposed by [illegible] and suffered unspeakable hardships, famine, and cruel deaths; however many by patience, perseverance and manly resolution, surmounted and out lived all opposition and every discouragement, and now their posterity only begins to feel the advantages and tast[e] the sweets that arise from so bold so dangerous an undertaking. These, ever loyal people, have always been looked upon by their Kings and their mother country, as children worthy of their care and protection, children worthy to be entrusted with an extensive and growing empire, because their constitution being the same; their tast[e] and love of liberty the same; their grand security and priviledge of being governed by their own laws, the same, they had the greatest security that the nature of human affairs can admit of, to confide in their friendship, perpetual attachment, and alliance, and that no temptation whatever could ever prevail on the People of America to seek for protection, assistance or strength from any other power whatsoever. The People of America have ever shown by their zeal and alacrity, their good will and readiness, to take up arms in defense of their mother country, and by treating the enemies of Great Briton as the enemies of America, that they merit that confidence. Indeed if the People of England should take it in their heads to become jealous of their brethren, suspect their brotherly love and affection, to tyrannise over them, to oppress them by laws which they have no right to impose, and to attempt to enslave them; I believe they would find that, Britons wherever fixed [call] glory in the name, as sons of liberty, and will not be enslaved. The People of America have already doubly paid the People of Great Britain for all care and expense they ever have been at about them, and the inseperable connection between the two, if not foolishly and wantonly broken and dissolved, will always give weight to the negotiations of Great Britain, and must in time, if prudently managed, enable her to become the Grand Arbitrator of Europe.

The People of America have sufficiently shewn how useful and how helpful they may become, by the part they have taken and acted in the late wars; the French and the Spaniards too felt the weight of such an additional strength; Indeed the People of America exerted their whole strength on so pressing an occasion, and have loaded themselves with a debt which they will not be able to discharge for twenty years to come; but this they undertook cheerfully, bear with patience and will discharge with honour; and does such a conduct merit disgrace, do such a people merit suspicion distrust and jealousy, do they merit the loss of liberty and the grand privilege of being governed by their own laws? What in the name of heaven has Great Britain been contending for ever since she has been a people, but liberty? and the distinguishing right of being governed by laws of her own making; such is her happiness, such is her security from all tyranny and despotick power, that her king her lords and commons and all her people are circumscribed by law. And can these people of England imagine that their brethren of America will ever tamely give up the blessing which they equally inherit from the same ancestors?, or can they imagine that the People of America are too ignorant and savage to know and sufficiently estimate the intrinsic value of it? would not an impartial bystander, acquainted with the history of both, stand amazed, astonished, to see Great Britain, whose glory and continual boast is, liberty, attempting to enslave her own children?, and that from a mean base principle of jealousy and suspicion; can the People of England think the power and riches of America too great when used and exerted against their enemies?

What reason can they have to suspect that the people of America will ever exert that strength and those riches against them? Nothing in nature can tempt them to it, but an attempt on the side of Great Britain to infringe their natural liberties to enslave them. That the People of America are true genuine sons of Britons, and not bastards, appears from hence, that they have patiently borne many impositions, and only have remonstrated against them; but now they begin to feel the smart of too heavy a load; they [illegible] fathers will spurne the load and curse the advisors of arbitrary measures.



Historical Miscellany



COLONIAL LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE PATERSON SCHOOLS

It was not until October or November, 1693, that the Legislature of East Jersey passed the first law relating to public education in the colony. This law provided for the annual election in each township of three men with the authority to employ a schoolmaster and levy a school tax on the inhabitants of the town. By this law, the first system of public school tax was inaugurated, and the schools were separated from the control and shelter of the church, also being the first time in Acquackanonk that schools began on a secular basis. The schoolmaster of this period, next to the church dominie, was the ablest, most respected, and the most important man in the community. He not only taught school, but assisted in the church service, giving out notices, leading the singing with a tuning fork, keeping unruly boys quiet in the boys' gallery, taking up the collection and acting as treasurer. He was sexton and undertaker and went among the families announcing the dates of funerals. He rang the church and school bell and was the janitor of the building. The schoolmaster was the public scribe and lawyer, being able to prepare many legal documents. He usually was the village auctioneer as well as an active politician.

Schoolmasters were advertised for. The following is one of the advertisements:

"This is to give notice, That the subscribers hereof, do want a schoolmaster, and choose to have a single man. Such person applying, qualified for the said service, may expect good wages and good treatment by us. Nov. 1759."

— R. P. BROOKS

OPERA HOUSE!

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 28, 1887.

Complimentary Testimonial Benefit

—IN AID OF THE—

Dyers' Union

On which occasion, by special request the popular young author,

JOHN J. McKENNA,

will once more appear as "GERALD CLAYTON," a Confidential Clerk,
Supported by the **LYNWOOD DRAMATIC COMPANY,**
In his successful Romantic Drama,

SHADOWS OF CRIME!

PROGRAMME,

OVERTURE.....ORCHESTRA

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

EMILY ARMSTRONG.....The Banker's Daughter.....	MRS. J. J. MCKENNA
HETTIE MARION.....	MISS MARY MCKENNA
NORAH CASSIDY.....a domestic.....	MR. THOS. A. MURRAY
PETE KING.....a coachman.....	MR. J. SCANLAN
JAMES ALBERTS.....a clerk.....	MR. J. ORR
LEVI COHN.....a money lender.....	MR. J. F. ALLGIBB
KINGSTON.....a detective.....	MR. CHAS. KINNEY
CHAS. ARMSTRONG.....a banker.....	MR. H. C. CRYSTAL
MICHAEL O'GRADY....."one of the finest".....	MR. J. T. MURPHY
BILLY KANE.....a tough.....	MR. F. BOTT

Policemen and toughs by the company.

Synopsis of Scenery and Incidents.

ACT I.—The banker's office. The Plot. "My God, I have been robbed!" The ticket for Canada. I'll keep those papers, they may be useful. I may have a chance to prove my innocence. TABLEAU.

ACT II.—(After three years.) SCENE 1st.—Street. "Hello Cohen!" De you want to squeeze the hand off me? SCENE 2nd.—Gardens of the Armstrong mansion. "Oh, Lord, I'm stabbed!" Oh, Pete dere she am, brace up. The meeting after three years. Acum. What was that? Good bye. I love you. Do you wish to insult me? The story. Go. Now for Levi Cohen. Pete! Pete! Clayton home again. Fifteen thousand, just think of it. There he goes. Five hundred cases. SCENE 3rd.—Street. I must see Kingston. SCENE 4th.—Broadway at night. The happy apple woman. Helle, Aunty? The finest police. Move on or I'll ate ye. The fatal letter. The struggle and the murder. Dead. I have been stabbed. I swear. The knife. Police! police! police! What is the meaning of this? That man. The arrest. Pete, stop here. I, Emily, I saw him do it. You lie. I wish I was home. Take full charge of her. I will keep the promise to her father. TABLEAU.

ACT III.—Reception room in the Armstrong mansion. The dream and the vision. It was he, James Alberts. You are nervous. He coming here, thank God, I will tell the Miss. The detective. The story to save him. Take charge of her. The prayer. Trust in him. I don't like to see her. Ma has gone to Connecticut. I am all perspiration. I hear it, I'll convict you. Emily, Gerald. My prayer has been answered. The knife. Nearly drives me mad. Not until I have brought James Alberts to justice. FIRST TABLEAU—An old account. My God, the dead shall rest. Thanks. Complete my mission. SECOND TABLEAU.

ACT IV.—Cemetery in snow, and by moonlight. Cohen let me in. The gang. There is the fire, go in. I must go to the city. They are going. The arrest. Clayton. The first of the gang. The crazy Jew. \$15,000. The moon is up. She coming here? Abduct her. I'll fix his room. Clayton. The struggle for life. Open the door. Take things cool, Gerald Clayton. FIRST TABLEAU.—Have no fear, Miss. Thank God. Trust in him. Blow twice. The arrest. What am I arrested for? The murder of my father. SECOND TABLEAU.

ACT V.—Front and back parlors in Armstrong mansion. The happy Irish woman. Hettie. The comic love scene. Your promise to the dead. By battering his brains out against the bars of his cell. He has cheated the justice on this earth, but he can't cheat justice there. TABLEAU.

THEO. M. HOLLAND,

Paterson's Favorite Magician, justly surnamed the Prince of Magicians, in his Feats of Ledgermain.

Next to appear will be

DREXLER & FITZPATRICK,

In their Jigs and Reels.

Now comes the King of Clubs

MR. M. G. DURKIN,

In his Artistic Manipulations of the Indian Clubs.

NOTE.—This gentleman stands second to none for grace, style and execution.

PROF. ANDY JOHNS,

The Premier Ventriloquist of the world, in his pleasing parlor entertainment introducing his Phamily of Phunny Pholks,

The performance to conclude with Dr. Alex. Davis, optical illusion,

FLORA, THE GODDESS OF FLOWERS

ORCHESTRA UNDER THE DIRECTION OF PROFESSOR RIPPY.

Mr. H. C. Crystal.....	Stage Manager
Mr. John Murphy.....	Manager
Mr. J. W. McCarty.....	Master of Properties

Costumes by Lorraine of Brooklyn.

"Call" Steam Print.

BROADSIDE which announced the Paterson Opera House performance of March 28, 1887 — melodramatically entitled the "Shadows of Crime!" This unusual item was purchased by the Society from a private source in March, 1971. Dr. Mary C. Henderson has written about the heyday of the opera house in her article "The Paterson Theatre: An Informal History," which was published by the Society four years ago. Dr. Henderson sketched the history of dramatic entertainment in Paterson, and among other things, has provided us with a glimpse of the building:

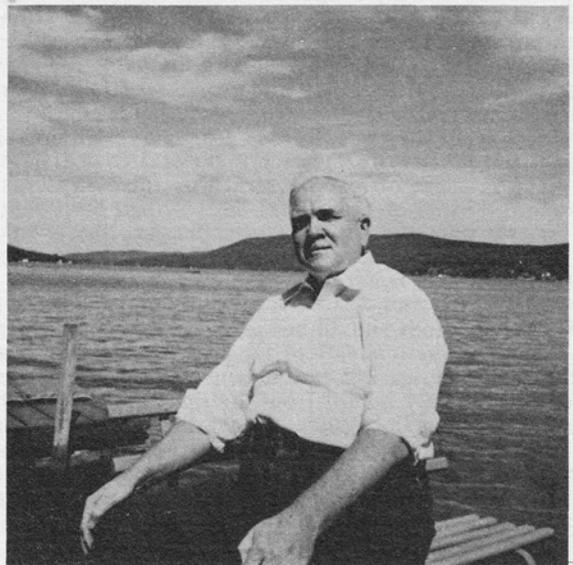
"The theatre itself was a brick two-story building, 200 feet in depth, fronting on Main Street and extending back to Cross Street. It underwent a major renovation in the spring of 1884, when the theatre was enlarged and another story was added to increase balcony seating. Orchestra seats were padded and an annex was built at the rear of the theatre to accommodate additional scenery and baggage. Located at the center of the town's activities, the theatre was readily accessible from all points within a radius of a hundred miles. Three railroads served Paterson, which made the town an ideal jump-off point for New York companies to begin their tours. According to one account, a frequent sight on a Sunday afternoon was to see performers emerge from the Erie Station and walk along Market Street bound for Elizabeth Cole's boarding house at 35 West Street.

Misfortune befell the theatre several times. In early November, 1900, the Opera House was gutted by a fire which had begun in the rear storage annex. The house was rebuilt and reopened the following year, but not to its former glory. Although John Goetschuis, the last prominent manager in its history, continued to book attractions over the next few years and even promoted a stock company for a while, the encroachments of the store-front movie houses, the population shift from a largely English-speaking middle and skilled laboring class to a large non-English speaking unskilled working class, and generally depressed times, all proved too strong for the survival of the Opera House."



NOTES ON IRON BLOOMERIES AND FORGES IN NORTHEASTERN NEW JERSEY DURING THE 18th CENTURY

(The author of this compilation was Willard L. DeYoe (1895-1966), who referred to himself as an "amateur historian", although his extensive writings were greatly esteemed by the late Douglas Southall Freeman, biographer of George Washington. Mr. DeYoe was born in Paterson and studied at Princeton University, where he was graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1917. Imbued with a deep love of American history, particularly that of Passaic and Bergen Counties, DeYoe furthered his education at Columbia University Law School, from which he received an LL.B. degree in 1921. Older residents of Passaic County may recall that he served as Freeholder and Freeholder Director in the early 1930's.



Willard L. DeYoe at Greenwood Lake, July, 1953.

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When a physical handicap made it exceedingly difficult for him to practice law, DeYoe retired from the profession and devoted hours of his time to historical research and writing. His active mind ranged over a host of topics — the history of ancient houses, customs among the early Dutch and so forth — but the military operations during the American Revolution in this region held an endless fascination for him.

With the exception of a small pamphlet, almost all of Mr. De Yoe's manuscripts were published in area newspapers. One of his delights was in hearing from school children and teachers who used the articles as a supplement to their history courses. DeYoe carried on much of his research and writing in the pleasant surroundings of a converted summer cottage at Greenwood Lake, which he romantically christened *Tighanstruan*, Scottish-Gaelic for "Wooden House by a Stream." The accompanying photograph of Mr. DeYoe was taken at the Lake. In this lovely setting, often with the company of his elderly father, he worked on reconstructing local Revolutionary history. Upon publication, his manuscripts elicited both praise and criticism, as is the case with any historian.

Shortly after his death, the Society was fortunate in acquiring, by purchase and donation, many choice books from the DeYoe estate. Then through the kind generosity of his widow, the extensive research files Mr. DeYoe had assembled were deposited at Lambert Castle. Hopefully, the memory of Willard DeYoe will live on through his writings, and the Society will reprint in future issues of *Castletite*, selections from his papers.

— Ed.



In the early part of the 19th Century a branch of the Ryerson Family furnished ironmasters for the Pompton and Ringwood Iron Works. Again, during the War of 1812, munitions were made at Pompton for the armed forces of the United States of America. At Wan- aque, between the two places, another charcoal blast furnace was erected.

Note: In the New York Mercury of March 5th, 1764, there appear two significant advertisements having to do with the iron industry in the American Colonies in the middle of the 18th Century.

One is the advertisement for sale of the iron works at Ringwood in the Province of New Jersey. It heads as follows:-

"To be sold, a new well-built furnace, good iron mines near the same, two forges, one with 3, and the with 2 fires; a saw mill, several dwelling-houses and coal-houses, and several tracts of land adjoining; carts, waggons, utensils and tools proper for the works: The furnace and forges are situated on a good stream, 28 miles from Acquackanung Landing, and 36 miles from Newark. Whoever inclines to purchase the same, may apply to Nicholas Gouverneur, in New-York, or to David Ogden, sen., Samuel Gouverneur, and David Ogden, jun. at Newark, who will agree for the same."

The other is for the sale of iron ware, manufactured and imported from across the Atlantic Ocean: It reads as follows:-

"Imported in the last Vessels, and to be sold, by WILLIAM EUSTICK, at the sign of the LOCK and KEY, Between Burling's and Keekman's-slip, wholesale and retail; Ironmongery

and cutlery of various sorts, amongst which are very neat branches of different patterns, and japann'd ware, such as waiters, &c. ivory handle table knives and forks, common do. brass headed tongs and shovels, common do. coffee mills, warming pans, dripping pans, grid-irons, bellows and pewter, locks and hinges of all sorts; hand, tenant, pannel, compass, cross-cut, mill, pitt, and frame saws; chissels, plain irons, augers, hammers, and other Tools; al- lom, copperas, glue, nails and brads of all sorts, felt hats, shoe and knee chapes, and shoe and knee buckles, scale beams, and steel yards, a large quantity of iron weights, from 56 lb. down to 7 lb. and some of the light sort of iron pots, of all sizes; like- wise, some good clover seed, and live feathers."

In those days the merchants had associations too. On the same page a notice is found for those of New York City. It reads as follows:-

"The Merchants of this City, ARE earnestly requested to meet at the Queen's Head, at Mr. Francis's, near the exchange, on Wednesday next, at 4 o'Clock in the Afternoon, on Business of great Importance to Trade." The tavern, mentioned in the advertisement, is now the Fran- ces Tavern Restaurant, — Mr. Robert Norden, Proprietor, — at 54 Pearl Street, Corner of Broad Street, and still within the con- fines of "Little Old New-York." Even today, the Exchange on Wall Street is not far away.

Note:- George Washington liked to hunt. One of his sports was fox-hunting. He showed much interest in his hounds, and kept a record of them in his Diary. Two possibly significant entries are about hounddogs;

one, in 1768, concerns a dog named Sterling, and the other, in 1770, has a notation about a dog named Ringwood. Were they gifts from an ironmaster in the Province of New Jersey some years prior to days of the American Revolution? In these days Washington was not unknown in the north. In 1756 he made a tour there, going as far as Boston. He was inter- ested in the development of the iron industry in Virginia. For the Diary entries about the dogs, Sterling and Ringwood, see that of June 22, 1768, and that of December 29, 1770.



EARLY EFFORTS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERSON'S FIRST FREE SCHOOL

There appeared in the Paterson Intelligencer on April 11, 1827, a news item announcing that the annual town meeting had been held on April 9, 1827 at the home of Andrew Van Houten. The voters elected John Rutan moder- ator, and Peter Jackson town clerk. The township com- mittee consisted of Aaron A. Van Houten, John Rutan, John Kear, John G. Spier, Simeon Brown.

As the result of considerable activity upon the part of a number of the public spirited citizens of Paterson, who had met at the Academy on the previous Saturday night, the recommendation that a tax of four hundred dollars be raised for school purposes in Acquackanok township for the education of poor children was almost unanimously adopted. In June 1827, the Town Committee met and allotted two hundred and seventy five dollars to Paterson and a hundred and twenty five dollars to the rest of the township, and appointed a committee to secure a teacher.

The following advertisement appeared in "The Paterson Intelligencer" on June 20, 1827:

Teacher Wanted

To take charge of the Free School, soon to be opened, where reading, writing and arithmetic, etc., are to be taught. The person must be unexceptionable as to moral character and must produce testimony that he is well qualified for the employment.

Committee

John Croes, Jun.

John Kennedy

Francis O'Donoghue

The committee appointed to establish the school secured the lower room of the Paterson Academy at a quarterly rental of \$7.50. On June 27, 1827, another ad- vertisement appeared in the local paper stating that the committee had secured a room in the Academy and had en- gaged the Rev. William J. Gibson as teacher.

On July 2, 1827, the first Free Public School for the Poor in Passaic County was opened. During the first year, there were enrolled 134 scholars; 70 or 80 of them began with the alphabet. The school was so successful that the town meeting held April, 1828, voted the sum of five hundred dollars for school purposes, and the committee apportioned \$340 as Paterson's share.

This school, supported by the Public, was for the edu- cation of children of poor parents and it was open to all religious denominations. It bore the name, "The Free School for the Poor."

— R. P. BROOKS

THE WAY IT WAS: A Gallery of Old Photographs



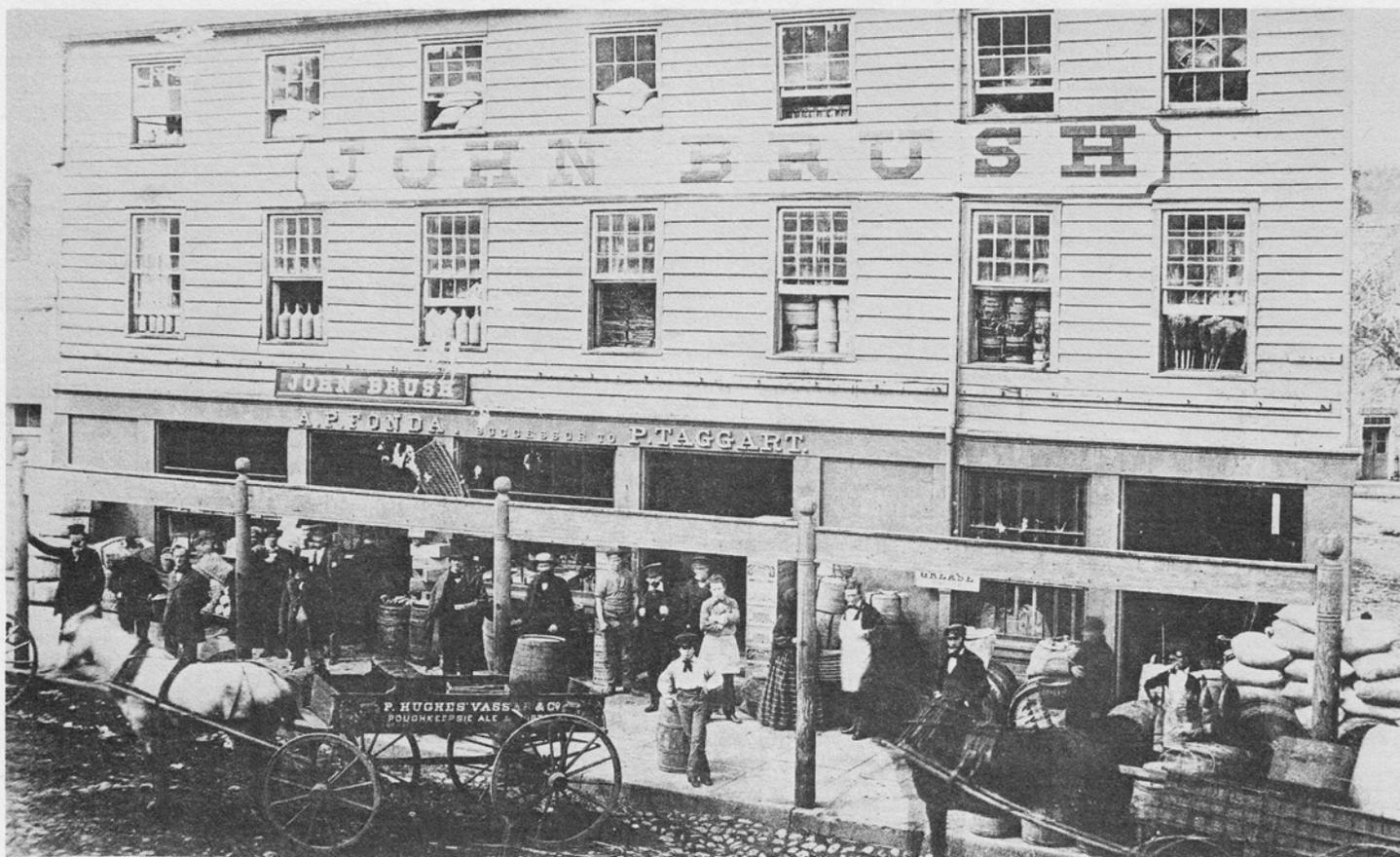
PATERSON IN THE ROARING TWENTIES: Fifty years have come and gone since this photograph was made. Taken by the Reid Studio in the Spring of 1925, the camera was pointed up Market Street. Probably, the photographer had taken this shot from the bank building on the corner of Washington and Market Street. The building sporting the flag (center of picture) is the yet unfinished Alexander Hamilton Hotel. Opened in June of '25 amid all the pomp and circumstance the silk interests could muster, the Hotel became synonymous with gracious and elegant living. The Liggett's Drug Store on the corner of Colt and Market Streets (seen in the lower left of the photo) vanished years ago. Today, the First National Bank occupies the same spot.



ALFONSO TORRE, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: Photograph of Mr. Torre and his two children in front of his grocery store at 43 Cross (now Cianci) Street, Paterson, ca. 1920's. The print of Scheuer and Fleischer's grocery in the last issue of Castelite met with such popularity, that your Editor spent hours culling through the archives in search of something similar. Alfonso Torre was an Italian weaver who toiled in the silk mills of Paterson. Shortly after the World War, he established this little shop. Those Patersonians of Italian descent who grew up in downtown "Little Italy" will probably recall the store. The same area is today multi-ethnic in character, and the site of Mr. Torre's shop is occupied by a sprawling city parking lot.



ROOFTOP VIEW OF PATERSON by John Reid, ca. 1865, taken near Main and Ellison Streets, looking southwest across Washington Street. The famous "Old Town Clock", which belonged to the Second Reformed Church on Main Street, can be seen in the left of the picture. The tower was destroyed by a spectacular fire on the chilly night of December 14, 1871.



ESTABLISHMENT OF JOHN BRUSH, coal dealer, 255 Main Street, Paterson. Brush also operated what he called the "Gem City Nursery." Photograph by John Reid ca. 1868.



DELIVERY WAGON of the David Boyle Company, wholesale liquor dealers. They were located at 63 and 65 Washington Street, Paterson, when this photograph was snapped ca. 1900. *Griffith's Paterson and Passaic Directory* of that year proclaimed that Boyle's concern were "Manufacturers of hygia mineral waters and sole bottlers of Ballantine's pale extra lager beer." This photograph was among 31 others presented to the Society by Abe J. Greene, former Associate Editor of the *Paterson News*. 75 years ago, beer was selling for \$1.00 a case.

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Membership Categories:

- Regular, \$5.00
 - Sustaining, \$10.00
 - Contributing, \$25.00
 - Benefactor
 - Business and Organization
-) Payment of an annual contribution



Museum Hours at Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson

1:00 to 4:45 P.M. Wednesday through Friday; 11:00 A.M. to 4:45 P.M. Saturday and Sunday. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, and from December 25th to January 1st. There is no admission charge.

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