

THE CASTLE LITE

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

LAMBERT

PASSAIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE

VALLEY ROAD, PATERSON N.J. 07503

CHIMES AND CELEBRATIONS

The Historical Society will hold its Annual General Meeting **Thursday, May 28th at 7:30pm** at Lambert Castle. This is a perfect opportunity to explore the new exhibit "**Paterson Means Business**" and enjoy light refreshments in the company of other history buffs. You will also be able to view Vincent Perrilo's new video program "**Smokestacks and Steeples**," which will be shown in the gallery. This marvelous portrait of Paterson features a section on Catholina Lambert and his Castle.

At 8:00, we will hold a **Clock Winding Ceremony** to restart the Cornu clock standing in the courtyard. The Clifton clock-makers, Arthur Smetana's Sons, are working hard to get the clock running again in time for the meeting. If all goes well, the pendulum will once again swing from Victory's torch, and we will be able to enjoy her melodious chimes again after a four-year silence.

A brief business meeting will follow the ceremony. Once the new trustees have been elected, Curator Andrew Shick's will premier his new slide presentation, "**Celebration!**," commemorating Paterson's 200th birthday with a look at past civic festivals, including Paterson's first Centennial celebration in 1893, Grand Army of the Republic galas, Spanish-American War victory parades and other spectacles honoring historic events and famous citizens.

Be sure to attend!

"PATERSON MEANS BUSINESS!"

Paterson, like many cities in the American Northeast, grew out of a subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) interplay of industrial growth, commercial development and capital. "**Paterson Means Business!**" is a new exhibition exploring this 200-year-old relationship, through the Historical Society's exceptionally rich collections. As the city celebrates its bicentennial, we salute its triumphs and its tragedies.

The exhibition begins with the city's founding, in 1792, by the S.U.M. (Society for the Establishment of Useful Manufactures). This corporation's vision of an industrial metropolis was indeed fulfilled, but it took many paths to do so. Among the artifacts on display are: a rare view of Paterson's Great Falls by photographer John Reid, an 1827 engraving of S.U.M. director Elias Boudinot and a portrait of early cotton mill owner Robert King.

Cities depend on more than mills and the exhibition looks at the early, small craftsmen/entrepreneurs through trade signs of the 1800s. The highlight of this section is the Society's famous "**Brass Dog**." The dog was created by Horatio Moses, c. 1828, for his Tinsmith's Shop. It stood guard through fire and night over his master's door until Moses left Paterson for the west in 1858.

In "**Business Goes Big**," the exhibition traces the industrial explosion of business around the Civil War era. The period of 1850-1910 literally shaped and sculpted the city to its present

skyline. Rare prints, photographs, products of silk and iron illustrate the city's halcyon days of dynamism and affluence. This area of the exhibit includes many artifacts never displayed before. One example is an opulent, eight foot long, carved oak lunette from the Paterson Savings Institution, c. 1880.

From the 1920s to 1992, Paterson evolved from a "city with an arm of iron in a sleeve of silk" to one that touched the clouds. Curtiss Wright Aeronautical Corporation's famous plane engines powered not only lucky Lindy's Spirit of St. Louis, but also America's World War II planes.

Though the city has faced rough times, like most other cities of our region, it still has the fire of business in its heart. Some older businesses still call it home and a new sense of heritage promises to draw in new ones. Come share this continuing drama through a look at a city which has mirrored America's dreams.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Genealogy Club Library Project

One day about two years ago, while volunteering to help man the Genealogy Library, I thought "Why not finish the job some of us started a few years back—updating the family sheets." I asked Annita Zelenski what she thought of the idea, and she said "Great, it needs to be done."

And so the saga began....

I started photocopying all the correspondence by Annita and others which had family information in it. This was a big job in itself. I had to read each letter (some had 10-12 pages) to decide if there was any pertinent information in it.

That done, my faithful cast—Grace Pontier, Clare Dykstra, and Marian Proctor—and I started typing the family sheets. Thank you one and all for your help in the seemingly unending endeavor. After many months of typing, the

sheets are now filed in with our famous PCHS Family Sheet Collection.

I guess you are asking "How many were there?" Well, would you believe 1,700 family sheets! And are we glad it is complete.

Then on to the next project...

While waiting for some of the girls to finish their typing, I had nothing to do (HA, HA). I asked Annita if it would be feasible to combine some of the Vertical files with the Church, Bible, etc. files as there were many items of the same type in each file. She said yes, so I started another project.

To date, this project is still in progress. I am changing all the old file envelopes to new acid-free, archival ones and, of course, relabeling everything. I will also make index dividers to indicate the different subjects, as I found the lack of dividers to be a major problem when I was looking up something. The family genealogies that many people have graciously given us over the years will be in their own drawer, also in acid-free envelopes.

Kate, our new director, is willing to work along with us and do everything she can to help improve our library. Let's all try to help all we can to make this a great and useful genealogy library. Your help is needed and much welcome. There are many projects just waiting for some TLC.

*Isabel Kerwin
Vice President, PCHS Genealogy Club*

SUMMER HOURS

Beginning Saturday, June 6th, the Museum will be open for additional hours on the weekends. The new weekend hours are 12 noon to 5pm. They will be in effect through the Labor Day weekend. During the week, we will still be open Wednesdays through Fridays from 1 to 4pm. As always the Library and Genealogical files are open by appointment only.

CHILDREN'S GAMES

Can you play at our house? On Saturday, July 25th the museum is sponsoring "Games of Yesteryear," a workshop for children that explores old-fashioned children's games and amusements. We will also make real ice cream and lemonade. The workshop will start at 1:00 and is free with museum admission. However, we do request that you make reservations by calling us at (201) 881-2761 as space is limited. Recommended for ages 8-14. The workshop will be repeated on Saturday, August 8th. The program is funded in part by an educational grant from the Jaqua Foundation.

FORGOTTEN SERVANTS

Paterson's mayors have worked to lead their city through good times and bad. Yet many are only remembered today as street names. In this bicentennial year, PCHS will highlight some of Paterson's "forgotten servants."

DAVID YOUNG was born in Strathaven, Lanarkshire, Scotland on April 15, 1856, son of John and Margaret (Hoyt) Young. He received his education in the local public schools. At the age of 23 he emigrated to the United States, landing in New York. He came directly to Paterson where he found employment as a weaver. His younger brother, William, and his father followed him to America, but his father returned to Scotland.

In 1881, David Young married Mary Scott, also a native of Strathaven, although they met in Paterson. They lived at various addresses in Paterson, and ultimately had six children. In 1892, the family moved into a house at 93 Coral Street, where Mr. Young lived for the remainder of his life.

About the time he purchased the house on Coral Street, Young became interested in politics, and soon became a Republican county committeeman. He also helped found the Lincoln Club. In 1901, he ran for city alderman from the 2nd Ward and won. He was re-elected in 1903,

and when the Board of Aldermen organized in January 1905, he was named its president. By virtue of this position, he became Paterson's acting mayor in August 1905 when William H. Belcher, the elected mayor, left town to escape arrest for fraud. Mr. Young ran successfully for a third term as alderman in 1905 and so surrendered his position as acting mayor to the newly-elected John Johnson, on January 2, 1906. Thus he held office as mayor for a little less than five months. He did not run for a fourth term as alderman in 1907.

About 1903, Young and his brother formed a partnership in the silk throwing business styled D. & W.H. Young. William, who had become a lawyer five years previously, was presumably a silent partner. A few years later the business was converted to the warping and winding of silk. In April 1908, the firm was incorporated as the Lincoln Silk Co., and broad silk weaving was undertaken. Shortly thereafter, Young left active involvement in the firm.

In 1912, the Passaic County Mosquito Extermination Commission was formed. Young joined the staff and rose rapidly, becoming Superintendent on September 6, 1917. The Commission's work was very successful, and Young was widely praised.

In the fall of 1921, Young's kidneys began to fail. By late October, he was confined to his home. He died of uremia on July 2, 1922 and is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery.

James Ward, Research Assistant

ENTERPRISE CLASS SUBSCRIBERS

Here is a list of the current Enterprise Class members. Many thanks to these companies and organizations for their support.

Beth Israel Hospital, Passaic
Hallock & Amann
Passaic County Medical Society
Radiology Imaging Associates

SUMMER 1992—CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Saturday, 9th

Genealogy Club - Trip to Pompton Lakes Reformed Church and Cemetery. Barbara Flurchick, President of the Bergen Co. Genealogy Club will present "**Tombstone Rubbings**"—a "how-to" slide show. Limited seating, registration required. Call PCHS at 881-2761 for registration and directions.

Thursday, 28th

PCHS Annual Meeting. Be sure to attend to elect new Trustees, meet the new Director, start the Cornu clock, peruse the new exhibit "Paterson Means Business," and enjoy Andrew Shick's new slide presentation "Celebration!" 7:30 at the Castle. Light refreshments will be served.

JUNE

Saturday, 13th

Genealogy Club library clean-up. Join your fellow genealogists as we scrub, dust, paint and re-arrange the library. Mops, buckets and tools will be provided. Bring your own rubber gloves and wear old clothes. 10am to 4pm. Lunch will be provided. Call PCHS at 881-2761 to join the fun!

JULY

Saturday, 25th

"Games of Yesteryear" a children's workshop featuring traditional games and home-made ice cream. 1pm. Free with museum admission. Call PCHS at 881-2761 for reservations as space is limited.

AUGUST

Saturday, 8th

"Games of Yesteryear" a repeat of the July 25th children's workshop. Call PCHS at 881-2761 for reservations as space is limited.

To be announced

PCHS Annual Volunteers' Picnic.

HEIRLOOMS

The first in an occasional series of articles intended to help you preserve and enjoy your own family's history.

PHOTOGRAPHS Old photographs are a cherished source of memories; the faces of beloved family members and friends, the appearance of a family homestead, or the laughter and frolics of a family reunion captured on film can be recalled and shared time and again. Unfortunately, photographic images can vanish if they are not cared for properly.

The worst enemy of photographs is moisture. Humidity in the air softens the emulsion on photographs, so they stick together, or become stained and mildewed. Thus, the first

rule in preserving your family photographs is keep them in a cool, dry place. The basement is out—it's too damp—and the attic is not much better, because high summer temperatures dry out film and paper so they become brittle and crack.

Light is also an enemy. Too much light, particularly direct sunlight, will fade photographs rapidly. This is especially true of color photographs, which are not as stable as black and white, and will fade even with the best of care. It is far better to store your treasures in albums. However, choose your album carefully. The type with the self-stick pages should be avoided because the glue will damage the photographs. Even the slight residue of adhesive left on the page protectors can stain the front of the photographs over time.

FOLK FINDER

The Folk Finder Column is devoted to helping genealogical researchers locate northern New Jersey ancestors/descendants. We invite researchers to submit requests for help, inquiries about family names or queries concerning the exchange of family information. If you can assist any of our inquirers, please contact them directly, or call the PCHS office at (201) 881-2761.

1. Jan Ameta, 124 Lafayette Ave., Oreland, PA, 19075 is searching for information on **George and Sara Ann Day**, lived (1818-1880) South Mill St., Paterson, NJ—descendant through their son Ira Day (one of 12 children).

2. Mrs. A.J. Kueule, 2815 Grace Ave., Dayton, Ohio, 45420-2615, is seeking information on **Peter I. Van Houton and Mary "Polly" Howe**, married 21 August 1817, where? Also information on **Elizabeth Van Houten**, their 1st child, born ca. 1817.

Secure your photographs in albums using mounting corners, or use album sheets with individual pockets for the photographs—as long as the pages are not made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). PVC is not chemically stable, and will eventually destroy your photographs. Rubber cement and other inexpensive adhesives should also be avoided because they may react chemically with your photographs. The mylar page protectors you can buy in stationery stores are excellent, provided you throw away the black filler sheet. Black paper is highly acidic and should be avoided at all costs—this goes for scrap books as well as photo albums.

Fingers are the third great enemy of photographs. As detectives know, every time you touch something you leave fingerprints—the residue of natural oils in your skin. The oils are acidic, and will eventually damage the surface of your photographs. To avoid having your thumbprint on Grandpa's nose in twenty years, always handle photographs and negatives by their edges and keep your fingers out of the picture area.

Be careful with old film negatives taken before about 1950. Early film was made with nitrocellulose (an ingredient in high explosives). As this decomposes, it gives off a flammable gas which can erupt into flame with no warning. This is why all film is now stamped "safety film" to reassure the photographer that there is no risk of spontaneous combustion. If you have old negatives that do not say "safety film" try the following test: "Snip off a sliver of film, outside the image area, and touch a lighted match to it; if the film sustains a flame and burns with little ash, it may be nitrate; if not, it is the more stable film base."¹ Nitrate film also has characteristic way of deteriorating: "the film begins by turning yellowish, then bubbling in the base material, next becoming darker yellow or brown and sticky, and eventually degrading to a powder." The powder is white, and is a danger signal. Nitrate negatives should be copied and destroyed. Your family and home are infinitely more valuable than old photographs.

You may wish to store your most valuable photographs in professional archival sleeves and envelopes. These can be obtained from:

Light Impressions
439 Monroe Avenue, P.O. Box 940
Rochester, NY 14603-0940
Phone: 1-800-828-9859

University Products, Inc.
517 Main Street, P.O. Box 101
Holyoke, MA 01041-0101
Phone: 1-800-762-1165

Finally, remember to label your photographs. You may know that you are looking at a picture of Aunt Millie at her 90th birthday party. But will your children, or their children? Use a soft pencil (never a ballpoint which can make a dent) to write the relevant names and dates on the back of your photographs. Don't press too hard, or you will mar the surface of the picture, but do it now, while you remember. Your children will bless you.

Note:

1. MacLeish, A. Bruce, *The Care of Antiques and Historical Collections*, AASLH Press, Nashville, 2nd edition, 1985.