



The Historic County

Newsletter of The Passaic County Historical Society

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North Haledon • Passaic • Paterson • Pompton Lakes • Prospect Park
Ringwood • Wanaque • Wayne • West Milford • West Paterson

Lambert Castle Museum presents its new exhibition
for the Spring/Summer entitled

Deez Nites Be All Da Same To Me

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PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Lambert Castle Museum*

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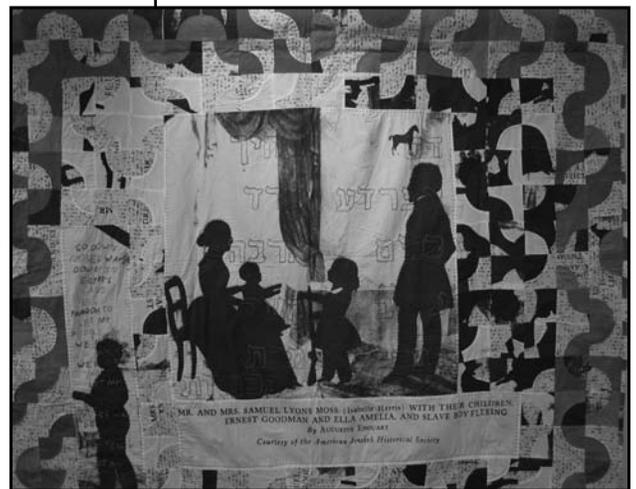
Visit us on the web:
www.lambertcastle.org



Lambert Castle Museum is host to the nationally-touring exhibition *Deez Nites Be All Da Same To Me* that opened in February in conjunction with 2007 Black History Month and will continue through June 17th, 2007. The exhibition consists of a contemporary quilt-panel series, comprised of five intricately designed works, telling the imaginary story of an African-American slave boy who belongs to a southern Jewish family before the Civil War. In the story, the boy escapes and eventually makes his way to Africa. The quilts were designed and made by artists Leslie A. Golomb and Louise Silk. Together they have received numerous awards for their collaborative work as well as having exhibited both nationally and internationally.

The exhibition touches upon the history of the Underground Railroad as well as upon Jewish history. The two artists, both Jewish women, incorporate into their work the connection between the plight of enslaved African-Americans in the nineteenth century with that of the Jews fleeing Egypt during Biblical times. In fact, the exhibition title is a twist on the proclamation made at the traditional Jewish Seder dinner,

where it is customary for someone present to announce that "this night is different from all others." The artists have created imagery and fabric related to Jewish traditions and sources. In this case, they looked to African-American sources for inspiration and created their own variation of a secret quilt code said to have been used by runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad.



The story begins, in the first of the five quilt-panels, when the slave boy attends his master's Seder dinner and he doesn't understand why it is being said that this particular night is different from all others. Thus, the exhibition title *Deez Nites Be All Da Same To Me*. The remaining four quilt-panels continue to reveal the boy's incredible journey to freedom. ❧

81st Annual Meeting Set for the Passaic County Historical Society

The Passaic County Historical Society will hold its eighty-first Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at 7:00 pm at Lambert Castle Museum.

In addition to the presentation of the customary reports on the business of the Passaic County Historical Society over the past year and the election of new officers and trustees, there will be a special lecture and slide show presentation entitled *The Passaic River: 81 Miles of History*. This lecture and slide show will be provided by PCHS Trustee Phil Jaeger, a retired Millburn High School mathematics teacher and author of two historical publications.

This fascinating program follows the Passaic River through seven counties from its source in Mendham to its end at Newark Bay with an emphasis on historic activities and structures along the river in past centuries.

The focus is on topics such as: early mills, Glacial Lake Passaic, the first successful test of a submarine, extant Native American art and constructions, the country's first industrial city and the heroic exploits of the 'great descender' Sam Patch. Admission to the Annual Meeting and lecture is free-of-charge and is open to the general public. Light refreshments will be served after the program. 🍷

From the Director...

There is a lot of excitement about the new happenings planned for Lambert Castle Museum in 2007. We wrapped up 2006 with the most successful Holiday House Boutique ever! This largest annual fund-raising event for the organization netted over \$40,000 in 2006, with all proceeds going to help with the educational programming at the Museum.

The educational programming for 2007 includes the first nationally-touring exhibition to be hosted in the changing exhibition gallery since the restoration of Lambert Castle Museum. Through the medium of quilts, the new exhibition, entitled *Deez Nites Be All Da Same To Me*, explores a young slave boy's journey to freedom before the Civil War. It will remain open through June 17th. Another 'mini exhibition,' open in time for National Girl Scout Month in March, entitled *Celebrating Girl Scouts in Passaic County* is installed in the Library, and will remain open through the end of April.

We began 2007 with two fascinating evening lecture/slide programs at Lambert Castle Museum: the first on January 26 was entitled *Fred Wesley Wentworth – An Architect's Life in Paterson, NJ* and presented by Richard E. Polton; and the second on March 2nd was entitled *The Defense of Paterson in World War II* and presented by Jack Goudsward. These events both attracted nearly one hundred people to the Museum. In addition, on March 30th, The Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium will present their own lecture program about the *Negro League Baseball in Paterson* at Lambert Castle Museum.

Tremendous progress has been made recently with the completion of the cataloging of the books in the historical research library at Lambert Castle Museum, as well as with the scanning and cataloging on computer of over two thousand historical photographic prints.

In July 2007, in the changing exhibition gallery, Lambert Castle Museum will host the traveling exhibition developed by the Newark Museum entitled *Paterson II*. Comprised of original black and white photographs by world-renowned photographer George Tice, the exhibition provides a unique glimpse at the City of Paterson during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

Lambert Castle Museum also welcomes the addition in 2007 of Diana Massar as its fulltime Librarian/Curator. Diana, who recently completed her Master's degree in Museum Studies at Seton Hall University, first came to the Lambert Castle Museum in 2003 as a volunteer intern. Later, she took on part-time employment as the Librarian for the Passaic County Historical Society. Please join us in welcoming Diana in her new fulltime position.

Other additions for 2007 include three new fund-raising events planned at Lambert Castle Museum: *Afternoon Tea* planned for April 28th, *The Civil War Evening Encampment Tour* on May 5th, and the *Antiques Show* on June 2nd & 3rd. We hope PCHS members will turn out for these new and exciting events. 🍷

We look forward to seeing you at the Castle.

Richard Sgritta

Rare Clock Finds a New Home at Lambert Castle Museum

Lambert Castle Museum recently received the generous donation of a rare grandfather, or tall case, clock made in Paterson, New Jersey in the late 1840s.

This particular tall case clock was the prized possession of Oscar Appel, a longtime dealer in fine antiques from Paterson, New Jersey. According to his wife Genevieve, "Oscar wanted this clock to remain in Paterson where it was made," and she therefore donated it to Lambert Castle Museum, after his death a few years ago.

The clock, which is still in working order and keeps accurate time, is on display in the Museum's Folk Art Gallery on the second floor.

Most people do not recognize the fact that New Jersey was a great clock-making center in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Tall case clocks were the product of two people – the clockmaker and the cabinetmaker.

On the face of the Appel's clock is printed 'Isaac Schoonmaker, Paterson, NJ,' who was the cabinet-maker for this particular tall case clock. The brass clock movement, most likely imported from England, was installed inside the clock's wooden cabinet that was handcrafted by Isaac Schoonmaker.

The Passaic County Historical Society is very grateful to Mrs. Appel for assuring that this important piece of Paterson's history remains here to be enjoyed by future generations, as well as to master clockmaker Arthur Smetana of Clifton for installing the clock to working order. 🕒



Colfax of the Guard and Wayne, NJ

By Robert Leslie Cohen, PCHS Trustee

*In all the ranks of war's array no goodlier troop is found,
Well drilled were they in every art of warlike strategy,
A model for our rustic host...*

From "The Ballad of Captain Colfax", author unknown.

General Washington shortly after Bunker Hill revised his strategy as to the personal safety of headquarters and formed a personal guard. His order from March 11, 1776 stated, "The General is desirous of selecting a particular number of men as a guard for himself and baggage." And thus was formed the popularly called "Life Guards." This troop remained in existence from 1776 until shortly after the war ended in June of 1783. Washington's Guards served ably and included operations and actions from White Plains and Trenton to the siege of Yorktown.

The Commander in Chief's Guards in March of 1778 at Valley Forge at the request of Baron Frederick von Steuben, Inspector General of the Army, were to be the model for the Army as to the new American Drill. Von Steuben personally trained the Guard and sent them out to other members of the Continental Army. Thus further establishing the Guard as the elite unit among the Regiments.

On March 1, 1778 in addition to Captain Caleb Gibbs, who remained Commandant, the size of the guard was increased. Among the new officers was Second Lieutenant William Colfax of the first Connecticut Regiment. While many think of headquarters units as non-combatants the Commander in Chief's Guards were frequently employed as light infantry, dragoons (mounted infantry), and intelligence gatherers.

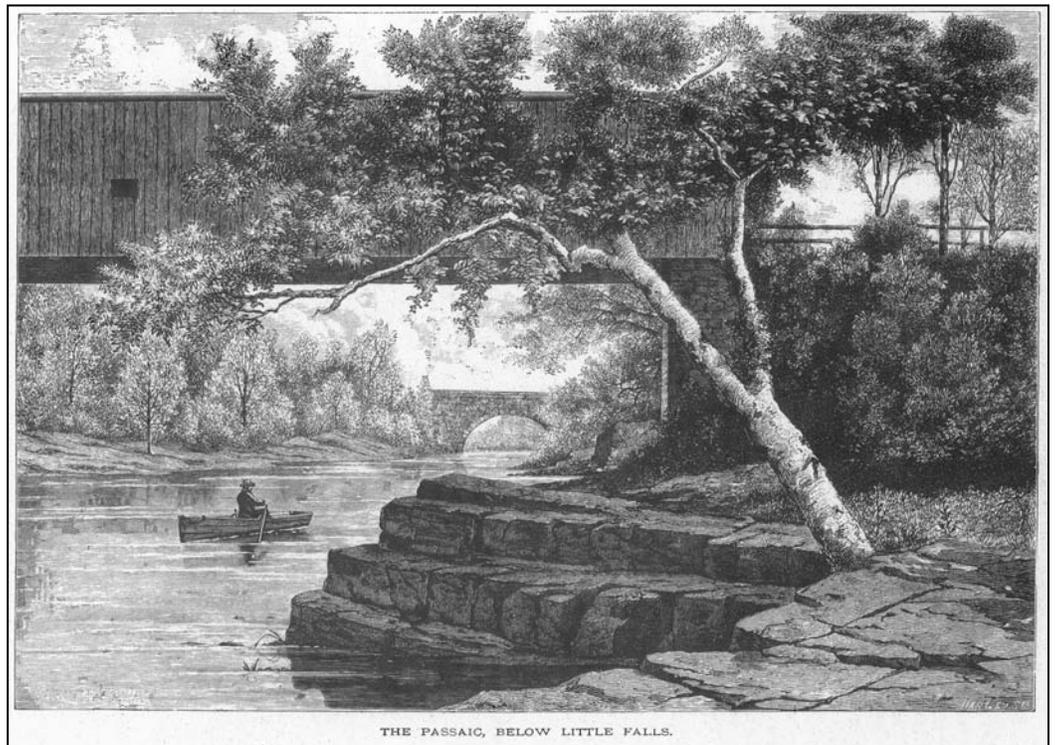
In July 1780 the Continental Army encamped in the

Preakness Valley and Washington set up Headquarters at Theunis Dey's Mansion. It was while encamped in the area, Lt. Colfax met Theunis' niece, the alluring Hester Schuyler, and a courtship commenced. Colfax had come up from the ranks from Private in the Thirteenth Regiment Continental Infantry to appointment in 1778 to Washington's Personal Guard. Lieutenant Colfax proved his bravery through the War, including being wounded three times, once seriously, a bullet going through his body. After a furlough to recuperate, Colfax returned to New Jersey to take part in two battles. Then to his fateful meeting with Hester, the parting from July to October of 1780, then happiness again from October through November 1780.

It was shortly after New Year's 1781 that Colfax was made Lieutenant Commandant of the Guard. This included attending Washington at Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. Just after Colfax was promoted to Captain in Spring 1783, he married Hester Schuyler on August 27, 1783. The Guard was finally disbanded in December 1783, but Colfax continued serving both State and Country. In 1793 Colfax was promoted to Major of the Bergen County Militia and during the War of 1812 he was a General commanding a brigade of New Jersey militia in the Third Military District. He led parades in Paterson and Newark honoring Lafayette's visit in 1824.

William and Hester lived in a large Dutch style farmhouse in what is now known as the Schuyler Colfax House at 2343 Hamburg Turnpike in Wayne, until his death in 1863. This was the former home of Hester's grandfather Arent Schuyler, built in 1696 near the Pompton Lakes border. 🍷

This 1872 engraving from *Picturest America* is captioned, "The Passaic, Below the Falls." In the foreground is a single span covered bridge built in the mid-1880s while downstream is the Morris Canal aqueduct, constructed in 1829 and demolished almost a century later.



THE PASSAIC, BELOW LITTLE FALLS.



From The County Historian

E. A. Smyk

LAMBERT CASTLE'S WILD, WILD PARTY

The 1920's evoke images of Prohibition, bathtub gin, speakeasies and hoodlums on the loose with Thompson submachine guns. Passaic County had its share of organized criminal activity in those years, but few would have thought Catholina Lambert's stately *Belle Vista* would ever be associated with anything more than a sedate, elderly silk manufacturer who wanted to enjoy, in peace and quiet, what was left of his once opulent art collection. Yet to the surprise of everyone, including the castellan himself, in February, 1921, the grand estate experienced something like a home invasion. What happened at Lambert Castle over a long February weekend provoked blazing headlines in the local press, and mortified Mr. Lambert to the extreme.

The weird event more or less started when Walter Lambert, the son of the silk manufacturer, received a telegram at his Lordville, New York home. It was sent by an unidentified "friend," who advised Walter to "have [the] castle watched all Saturday and Sunday night, especially Sunday." Alarmed, Walter knew that his father was not at the Castle, but was staying at Atlantic City. He contacted Paterson Police Chief John M. Tracey, who dispatched two of his

detectives to look the Castle over. They noticed a number of autos parked on the grounds, and a small horde of young men and women "strolling" about, drinking wine. The wine apparently had been pried loose from Mr. Lambert's wine cellar, and its seems the "guests" had consumed the best vintages.

The story gets better. When astonished Patersonians opened the pages of the *Paterson Press-Guardian* on Saturday, February 12th, their eyes alighted on a headline, "Burlesque Show Given At Castle, Pretty Girls, Wine, 'n Everything While Lamberts Are Away." The person who organized the party, according to press accounts, was an unnamed "well-known local young man, having no connection with the Lambert family." He defied the police to interfere with the party, maintaining that he had a "perfect right" to invite his friends. Residents of the Albion place section of Clifton watched "with eager eyes" as the young people staged a "burlesque show." For two successive nights, people must have wondered why all 600 lights illuminated the Castle like a Christmas tree.

The *Paterson Evening News* carried the following lurid headline and article in its February 12th edition:



ORGY AT LAMBERT CASTLE IN ABSENCE OF OWNER

A wild orgy of bacchanalian revelry by some forty odd local youths and burlesque chorus girls took place in the spacious Lambert's Castle, situate on the slopes of Garret Mountain, according to a statement made last night by Walter Lambert, son of Catholina Lambert, the proprietor, during Friday, Saturday and Sunday of last week. The wine cellar was raided by the unbidden guests while several pieces of costly furniture

were destroyed by the revelers. Sufficient proof to arrest both the young men who had the effrontery to extend an invitation to friends to come to the Castle while the proprietor was sojourning at Atlantic City, has been obtained by Mr. Lambert. The license numbers of several of the automobiles which were parked on the Castle grounds during the weekend orgy, have been obtained and Mr. Lambert said he would apply to Motor Vehicle Commissioner Dill to secure the names of the licensees.

Some of the forty odd persons who were in the Castle not satisfied with staying inside, formed "strolling parties." Mr. Lambert said that nearby residents and passersby were indignant over the proceedings.

Catholina Lambert returned from Atlantic City on Thursday, the son said, and regretted not arriving earlier, as he certainly would have insisted upon the parties implicated in the orgy being arrested.

When Mr. Lambert arrived home, he wasn't humming "The Sheik of Araby." He no doubt thought that his fortress-like residence had been breached by a horde of exuberant, albeit young barbarians. He promptly instructed his son to confer with the family attorney and bring the transgressors to court. In addition to discovering that several bottles of his choice wine had been consumed, Mr. Lambert found some of his furnishings damaged, possi-

bility beyond repair. Exactly who invited the 40-odd revelers to indulge their fantasies at Lambert Castle was not identified in subsequent press accounts, nor is it known if Mr. Lambert successfully prosecuted the young man who organized the party. If anyone has further information on this rather bizarre footnote to Lambert Castle's otherwise chaste history, please let the writer know. 🍷

Correction: In the previous newsletter...

THE WORTENDYKE FAMILY FARM

...in the first paragraph is should read:

In the year 1735, when the future first President of the fledgling United States was just three years, Frederick Jacobse Wortendyke Senior bought approximately 460 acres of farmland acreage from Henrick Vanderlinda in the region of Old Bergen County called Pascack.

...in the last paragraph is should read:

Most Barns had a southern exposure for warmth. The construction of the Barn was based on an H-frame, the key feature of its infrastructure. Massive anchor beams fit through posts using a tenon/mortise joint. Earlier Barns before 1810 used a scribe rule where the points met and each joint was individually made. Roughly sometime after 1810, the square rule came into use, and all joints were universally made the same, thus square rule joints.

Thank You to the Contributors to the 2006 Year-End Appeal

The Board of Trustees of the Passaic County Historical Society and Lambert Castle Museum wish to thank the following individuals for their generous contribution to the 2006 Year-End Appeal. The appeal this year raised a total of \$918 to help with the continued operation of the historical museum at Lambert Castle.

Barbara Belli	Maryanne Graham	Sydney & Paula	Nancy Ratay
Edward & Janet Bowers	Linda Hackett	Lockwood	Kathleen Secker
Cathy Capo	Joseph Hannan	Timothy Lyons	Richard Sidney
John DeVries	Diane Henderson	Dolores Most	Ron Swede
Robert & Agnes Esik	Arlette Keri	Thaddeus Piszczalko	Barbara Westergaard
August Fischer	Stephanie La Conti	John Pullara	
Gordon & Norma Geiger	John Leitner	Patricia Quinn	

PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

I would like to join the Society as indicated:

- Student (under 21 with copy of current student ID) \$ 10.00
- Senior Citizen (65 & over) 20.00
- Individual 25.00
- Family (Parents & Children) 35.00
- Sustaining 50.00
- Benefactor 100.00
- Patron 250.00
- Institutional 75.00

PCHS GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH POLICIES AND FEES

1. A search is two hours. The fee is \$30.00 (\$15.00 per hour) for members of the Passaic County Historical Society, \$50.00 for non-members. The non-member fee can be structured as \$20.00 for PCHS membership plus a \$30.00 research fee as a new member (see below). Payment is required in advance.
2. Additional research can be requested at \$15.00 per hour for members or new members, \$25.00 per hour for non-members, to be billed at the completion of the search. Please specify a time or dollar limit.
3. Up to twenty-pages of photocopying are included in the initial fee. Additional copies are billed at \$0.30 per page. Please specify any desired copy or dollar limit for extra copies.
4. Research results cannot be guaranteed. You will be provided with a list of sources consulted in the search. The more information you give us to start, the better the chances are for a successful search.
5. We regret that we cannot conduct searches in other repositories (e.g. County Archives).
6. Inquiries are handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to the current backlog, you can expect a completed search within thirty to sixty days. Receipt of your query, however, will be acknowledged along with a more specific, likely completion date.

I have read the above policy and wish the Passaic County Historical Society to conduct a two hour search.

My check is enclosed for the correct amount ___ \$30 as a current member, ___ \$50 as currently a non-member of the Society.

Signature _____ Date _____

Funds should be drawn on a U.S. bank, or funds by international money order, in U.S. dollars, payable to: "Passaic County Historical Society."

FOR CURRENT NON-MEMBERS ONLY:

I would like to use \$20 of my \$50 research fee as annual dues to become a member of the PCHS with further research billed at \$15 per hour. ___ Yes ___ No

I would like to become a member of the Historical Society only as indicated above.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

As a member of PCHS, you are eligible to join the PCHS Genealogy Club at no additional cost. Membership includes an annual subscription to the Club newsletter, *The Castle Genie*, published quarterly. I would like to join the Genealogy Club? ___ Yes ___ No

Upcoming Events at Lambert Castle

Please visit us on the web at: www.lambertcastle.org
for more information on these events and other events throughout 2007

Passaic County Historical Society invites you to *Afternoon Tea at Lambert Castle* *Saturday April 28 at Noon*



*Enjoy Traditional
Sweets & Savories
Served in the Lovely
Victorian Rooms of
Historic Lambert Castle
~ Catered By ~
High Society
Tea House*

*~ Featuring ~
"History of Tea"
Presented by Colleen Henderson
of High Society Tea House
"Scent sational Perfumes"
Parlour Game
\$25 per Guest
Reserved Seating Only.*

All reservations will be confirmed.
For Information call: 973-365-1217

The Passaic County Historical Society
and Company B of the
Second Rhode Island Volunteers
Present

Candlelight Tour of the Civil War Encampment

Inside and on the grounds of
Lambert Castle Museum

Saturday, May 5, 2007

Tour Times: 7 & 9 pm

Advanced tickets required and
limited to 40 people per tour

Tickets*: \$10 - adults / \$7.50 - children ages 5-17

Step back into the time of the Civil War and
experience the 'living history' encampment of
Company B of the Second Rhode Island Volunteers
(historical re-enactor group). Sense the mood of an
evening encampment while observing live demon-
strations performed by costumed re-enactors.

Special displays and tours inside
Lambert Castle Museum. Tour culminates with the
live firing of an authentic Civil War mortar.

To reserve tickets or for information,
please call (973) 247-0085 ext. 200

The Passaic County Historical Society

Antique Show and Sale at Lambert Castle

**Saturday, June 2
and
Sunday, June 3, 2007**

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Prestigious Antique dealers
offering a wide array of
High Quality Merchandise.
Fine Jewelry, Silver, Furniture,
Antique Glass, Vintage Clothing
and Accessories, Ephemera,
Memorabilia, and more!

Antique Appraisal available.

Admission \$5.00