



THE HISTORIC COUNTY

Volume 14 • Issue 2
Spring 2014

NEWSLETTER OF THE
PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bloomington • Clifton • Haledon • Hawthorne • Little Falls • North Haledon
Passaic • Paterson • Pompton Lakes • Prospect Park • Ringwood • Totowa
Wanaque • Wayne • West Milford • Woodland Park

THE RUSSELL EVANS STONE TOOL COLLECTION

In early 2013, our collections team began to catalogue the Russell Evans stone tool collection. Originally donated to the Society in June of 1968, this collection of approximately 3,000 stone tools is probably the single largest archaeological collection in the Society's holdings. Containing projectile points, net sinkers and scrapers, this assemblage includes items from Passaic, Morris, Sussex and Bergen Counties.

A Paterson native, Russell Beaumont Evans (1894-1956) actively collected and excavated "Indian relics" in Northern New Jersey in the 1920s and 1930s. He sometimes excavated alongside Max Schraibisch and Albert Heusser and his collection includes several pieces given to him by these two men. Evans, who was an original member of the Passaic County Historical Society, is remembered for his meticulous recording and cataloguing of each item. Perhaps this behavior is due in part to his awareness of the need for provenance with all artifacts. In an article he wrote in the Passaic County Historical newsletter in September 1928, Evans states that "historical societies everywhere have hundreds of specimens, unclassified and almost meaningless because unlabelled." Clearly Evans had no intention of his own collection joining those hundreds.



Russell Evans

Photograph courtesy of E. Smyk, County Historian

Though early records indicate that the stone tools were originally accompanied by a master index, along with site notes, maps and drawings, most of these documents seem to have been separated from the artifacts themselves. Early records also indicate that the collection was originally boxed and sorted by site location and kind of artifact. At some point in the 1980s the collection was damaged by water, resulting in the destruction of the original boxes. At this

time many of the paper storage envelopes were replaced by clear plastic object bags. Some of the identifications may have been lost at this time; however preliminary inspection shows that most of the plastic bags are labeled with a site name.

The absence of the original index and associated notes has resulted in a delay in processing this collection. However, last February our interns, led by a recent graduate from Montclair State University, took on the task. Together they have begun laboriously accessioning, identifying and photographing this collection.

Once the collection is inventoried in full, the next phase in the process will be to reassemble what information we can discern from the remaining paperwork. Evans marked most of the items in his collection with a classification, such as: NJ Morristown 3.6. We suspect that the first number represents a region near Morristown, and the second number then would be the sixth site in that region. As the collection is processed, these numbers and the descriptive site locations are being stored in a spreadsheet. We hope that once we have recorded all of the numbers in a particular area we may be able to map the sites and crack Evans's code, thereby insuring that the Russell Evans collection will not join those hundreds of unclassified artifacts he lamented in 1928.



Interns Melany and Danica processing some of the Evan's collection.

**PASSAIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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William Collins, *Docent*

Lambert Castle, a picturesque 1892 Victorian mansion located on the Garret Mountain Reserve, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Castle is operated and managed by the Passaic County Historical Society, a not-for-profit 501(c) educational institution.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 7
Wednesday**

PCHS Annual Meeting 7 p.m. at Lambert Castle. Business meeting of the Society, followed by *Blueberries: New Jersey's Wonder Fruit*. The blueberry has its roots in the Pinelands of New Jersey. Discover the history of this fascinating berry and the contributions Elizabeth White of Whitesbog made to its cultivation. Learn why the blueberry is touted as the wonder fruit with a host of healthful benefits and hear about the variety of ways to prepare and savor these berries. Program presented by Judith Krall-Russo, Food Historian. Free admission to the public.

**May 18
Sunday**

Lambert Castle Concert Series: 5 p.m at Lambert Castle. William Paterson University Department of Music presents, faculty member and pianist Frank Pavese. Tickets \$15, \$10 for students.

**May 25
Sunday**

Lambert Castle Concert Series: 5 p.m at Lambert Castle. The Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra will be joining us again this year for their *On-The-Go Chamber Music Series*. Tickets \$15.

**June 4- July 27
Wednesday**

Clifton Artists' Association Exhibit: On our newly reopened third floor, Lambert Castle will be host to the summer art show of the Clifton Artists' Association. Regular museum admission applies.

**June 15
Sunday**

Lambert Castle Concert Series: 5 p.m at Lambert Castle. Englewinds presents *In Tune with Nature*, a performance of classical music celebrating open space. Tickets \$15.

**June 22
Sunday**

Lambert Castle Concert Series: 4 p.m at Lambert Castle. The Clifton Community Band presents *Music at the Castle: A Welcome to Summer*. This concert will be presented outside so please bring your own seating. Free, donations welcome.

**July 20
Sunday**

Lambert Castle Concert Series: 5 p.m at Lambert Castle. Annamaria Stefanelli and Rory Angelicola present *An Afternoon of Opera Favorites*. Tickets \$15.

**July 27
Sunday**

Lambert Castle Concert Series: 5 p.m at Lambert Castle. Blue Valley will be presenting *Blue Valley - Original Music and Acoustic Rock Covers*. Tickets \$15.

Visit lambertcastle.org for the most up-to-date event information.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW TO READ?

TRY READING SOMETHING OLD!

PCHS would like to announce that copies of our early publications and newsletters from 1926-1984, including the *Bulletin of Passaic County Historical Society* (the predecessor of our newsletter) are now available for purchase. Great sources of information, these publications are full of interesting historical articles about the County and provide a great stepping stone for those interested in researching aspects Passaic County history more deeply. Articles discuss the legacy of prominent locals such as Nicholas Murray Butler, Charles Danforth and Edward B. Haines as well as local events such as the Tornado of 1903 and Boy Scouting in Paterson.

Quantities and availability vary by issue. A full listing of all publications available for purchase, along with their prices, can be found on our website. Just look in the bookstore section, under publications for sale or visit: <http://www.lambertcastle.org/publications.html>.



FROM THE DESK OF THE CURATOR

by Heather Garside

After a long hard winter, it appears that spring has finally arrived at Lambert Castle. The trees are blooming, the turkeys are again wandering the grounds, and the groundhogs have started popping out of their holes to peer at passing vehicles.

Luckily spring arrived just before our annual Victorian Tea fundraiser. Once again PCHS teamed up with Sally Lunn's Tea House to provide freshly brewed tea to our visitors. This year's tea attendees were entertained by the musical styling of The Sweet Adeline Quartet and the Four Old Parts Barber-shop Quartet. I would like to thank the staff of Sally Lunn's tea house, the performers and all of our volunteers and staff for making this a smooth and successful fundraiser.

But spring at Lambert Castle has a lot more to offer before summer rolls in. I am happy to announce that our library is again accessible to visitors and

researchers. PCHS will also be hosting the Clifton Artist's Association's summer art show, which will be open June 4th through July 27th. This exhibit will be the first exhibit installed on our newly renovated third floor, which will once again be accessible to visitors.

And let's not forget this year's Lambert Castle Concert Series starts on May 18th with pianist Frank Pavese of William Paterson University's Department of Music. This year we have added several new performances to the line-up and invited community performers across several musical genres. From blue grass to opera, there is something for everyone to enjoy. For the full concert schedule visit lambertcastle.org

I would also like to congratulate the staff and volunteers at Ringwood Manor on their recent re-opening. The historic manor opened its doors again to visitors on April 12, after having been closed for over two years. The Passaic County Historical Community is glad to have Ringwood Manor back in action.



MEET THE NEW LIBRARY RESEARCH SPECIALIST: JESSE MCGARITY

The PCHS Board of Trustees is proud to announce that the library and archives are reopen for researchers. In conjunction with opening, we have a new member of staff who will be maintaining the library and archive holdings and helping visitors with their research queries. Jessica (Jesse) McGarity grew up in Grass Lake, a small farm town in Lower Michigan. She studied at Albion College, majoring in International Studies and Religious studies. While working on her undergraduate degree, Jesse worked as an Archive Assistant. In this position she organized the "College History Files" and created a database of the film collection to be used in a grant application to preserve the film.

After graduating in 2011, Jesse worked at the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, MI. While there she accessioned and organized photographs (print and negative) in the museum and periodicals in the library. The library had not been used in a very long time and the periodicals were scattered across the library. She used the card catalog to determine which periodicals were missing and tried to locate them.



At the end of the summer in 2011, she moved to New Jersey to attend Seton Hall University for their Master's program in Museum Professions. Concentrating on Exhibition Design and Registration, Jesse also interned at the Museum of American Finance, in New York City, in their exhibit and archives department. Part of her responsibilities in this position included assisting the Director of Exhibits and Archives with research for museum patrons. Once she completed her internship at the Museum of American Finance Jesse started working with curator Heather Garside on the PCHS collections, which is what led us to select her for the Research Specialist position.

The library will officially opened to patrons on Friday May 2nd. The new hours of operation for the library will be Friday, 1pm to 4pm, as well as the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. While we will still be open for researchers to drop-in, appointments are strongly encouraged as they will allow Jesse to better assist you with your research needs.



PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Paterson, New Jersey 07503

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DON'T MISS THE ... LAMBERT CASTLE CONCERT SERIES

- Sunday, May 18**, at 5 p.m. **WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC** presents, faculty member and pianist Frank Pavese. Tickets \$15, \$10 for students.
- Sunday, May 25**, 5 p.m. **ON-THE-GO CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES** presented by The Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$15.
- Sunday, June 15**, 5 p.m. **IN TUNE WITH NATURE.** Englewinds presents a performance of classical music celebrating open space. Tickets \$15.
- Sunday, June 22**, 4 p.m. **MUSIC AT THE CASTLE: A WELCOME TO SUMMER** presented by The Clifton Community Band. This concert will be presented outside so please bring your own seating. Free, donations welcome.
- Sunday, July 20**, 5 p.m. **AN AFTERNOON OF OPERA FAVORITES** presented by Annamaria Stefanelli and Rory Angelicola. Tickets \$15.
- Sunday, July 27**, 5 p.m. **BLUE VALLEY - ORIGINAL MUSIC AND ACOUSTIC ROCK COVERS** presented by Blue Valley. Tickets \$15.

All concerts take place at Lambert Castle.