



PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 5, No. 2

June 1973

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Society on April 18th, introduced the following newly elected Trustees:

- Alfred Cappio
- Philip Del Vecchio
- Pat Gaida
- Harriet Murphy
- John Quackenbush

Congratulations and good luck to them all!

Reorganization of the Board of Trustees follows the Annual Meeting and took place May 18th at Lambert Castle. The following officers were elected to serve for the forthcoming year:

- President — Jerome Nathans
- 1st Vice President — John Quackenbush
- 2nd Vice President — James DeMario
- Secretary — George Maseker
- Treasurer — Edgar Shumway

This constitutes an entirely new slate of officers and we hope there will be many more changes for the better this coming year. Everyone's cooperation is being solicited to advance the cause of the Society.

The first order of business called for by the new Board of Trustees, was plans for a Buffet Supper on June 27, 1973 at 6 p.m., Lambert Castle Lawn, (by reservation), to honor President-Emeritus Alfred Cappio, Treasurer-Emeritus Helen Malcolm and Honorary Trustees Andrew Derrom, Edward Graf, Stanton Hammond, Fred Loede, Robert Mills and Esther Schwartz. Guest speaker will be Charles Van Wagner of the Paterson News, long time friend of the Society.

Society members are requested to submit to Program Chairman Bob Masiello, any personal specialties or interests suitable for an evening program for the membership and general public.

On Thursday evening, July 12, at 8 p.m., the Society will host a Roundtable History Discussion at the Wayne Library on Nellis Drive at Valley Road, Wayne. The discussion will be led by President-emeritus Alfred Cappio and everyone is invited. There is no admission charge and should prove a very interesting evening. The second such evening is planned for Thursday, August 9 at 8 p.m. at the Wayne Library.

The Society is seeking any newsreel film on Paterson or Passaic County. Such newsreels were very popular during the 30s and 40s and were shown in area theaters.

Edward Smyk, who has been assisting Curator Ed Graf for several years, has been researching Pierre L'Enfant and is preparing an article to be published, concerning L'Enfant's connection with Paterson. Anyone having any material whatsoever pertaining to the subject, is asked to contact the Society office.

For an article being prepared on the Paterson silk strikes, copies of the Paterson Weekly Issue, printed in 1913 and published by the Socialist Party of Paterson, are being sought. Anyone having knowledge of any copies is requested to contact the Society office. In line with the same topic, copies of the Metropolitan Magazine printed in 1913 and containing articles by John Reed, on the Paterson silk strike, are also being sought.

President Alfred Cappio, on April 25th, presented his collection of Historical Wayne books in memory of his wife, Hester MacDonald Cappio. Attending were relatives and friends, including members of the Wayne Historical Commission. The collection included books on the History of Wayne Township, biographies of Anthony Wayne, books by Albert Payson Terhune, as well as many by Terhune's mother who wrote under the pen name of Marion Harland. The books were accepted by commission Chairman Dorcas Bascombe who presented President Cappio a certificate of appreciation. The books will be added to the research library at the Van Riper-Hopper House, Wayne Museum.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Sir:

William Paterson while serving as New Jersey Attorney General, was elected to the Continental Congress in 1780 but declined on June 12, 1781, he preferred to continue as Attorney General. He holds the distinction of being the only Irish born member of the U.S. Supreme Court as well as the only foreign born governor of New Jersey. As for the world of entertainment, Claudio Frigerio and Alice White were born in Paterson. Frigerio lived around Newfoundland or Echo Lake.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following who have recently become members.

General

Mr. Bernard H. Bromberg, Hawthorne
Mr. Ralph R. Colfax, Wanaque
Mr. William M. McLean, Saddle Brook
Mr. George B. Mead, Montclair
Dr. Anthony Perneti, Paterson
Mr. Donald G. Smith, Paterson

About statuary, in Cedar Lawn Cemetery there is the David Bamber statue. Bamber, a monument man, carved his statue in his spare time and passed away in 1875. In Holy Sepulchre is a carving of two boys who drowned while ice boating at Green Pond. The skiff went over thin ice which gave way and they drowned. It is the Streng-Vander Weye Arch depicting the boys in the ice boat.

Isaac Hall, an industrialist, was married to Vaughn Texsmith one of the Floradora girls.

The Morris Canal which helped Paterson develop in the early days, was the first trans-state canal, opened in 1831 and extending from Jersey City to Phillipsburg.

Jeter Rose Riggs, born in Drakeville, now Ledgewood, June 12, 1809, practiced medicine in Newfoundland, N.J. in 1837 and founded the District Medical Society of Passaic County. He moved to California in 1849 and was in charge of the hospital at Sutter's Fort, but returned to New Jersey in 1852. He established practice in Paterson and lived there until retiring at which time he moved back to Ledgewood where he passed away November 5, 1869. He rests in the Presbyterian Cemetery at Succasunna. Riggs served in the N.J. Assembly in 1836 and from 1859 to 1861 served in the U.S. Congress. He studied at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

David B. Douglas, born in Pompton in 1790, passed away at Geneva, N.Y. in 1849. He was a professor at West Point, NYU and Hobart College. Douglas designed the reservoir where Bryant Park, New York is now located as well as the drives and walks in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, N.Y. Another interesting note, on March 4, 1849, David R. Atcheson (1807-1886), U.S. Senator from Missouri and President Pro Tem of the Senate, was President of the U.S. for one day. President Polk's tenure of office expired on the eve of March 3, 1849. March 4th fell on a Sunday and President elect Taylor would not be sworn in, so Atcheson was sworn in to serve for the one day. Inscribed on his monument in his hometown of Plattsmouth, Missouri, beneath his name, "President of the U.S. for one day."

Howard E. McConnell
Montclair, New Jersey

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

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

MUSEUM HOURS:

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