



THE HISTORIC COUNTY

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bloomington • Clifton • Haledon • Hawthorne • Little Falls • North Haledon
Passaic • Paterson • Pompton Lakes • Prospect Park • Ringwood • Totowa
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FROM THE LOWLANDS OF SCOTLAND TO HIGH OFFICE IN AMERICA

By Robert L. Cohen

If you needed to tie your shoe laces in the late nineteenth century, indeed well into the twentieth century, they were probably made by the Linen Thread Company of Paterson, N.J. By 1898, after several mergers, the Linen Thread Co. was the largest manufacturer of flax thread in the United States. The thread was used for sewing buttons on outerwear, making carpets, and sewing generally. While in business, the Linen Thread Co. produced thousands of miles of thread daily.

The founding father of the company was a Scotsman, John Barbour, who migrated to Northern Ireland to establish a thread company. Eventually, due to high tariffs, the company established a branch in the United States in 1864. Three brothers, Thomas, Robert and Samuel Barbour, came over to run the American branch of the firm. Samuel died, leaving Robert running the firm. In 1892 Robert also died, leaving the firm's management to his son, William. As manager, William Barbour would propose the mergers with the Finlayson Mill of Massachusetts and the Marshall Linen Mills of Kearny and Newark New Jersey to form what became the Linen Thread Company in 1898.

However, when William's son William Warren Barbour took over the business, after his father's sudden demise in 1917, this story begins to take an interesting turn. William Warren, or W. Warren as he was known in the Company, was born in 1888 in Monmouth Beach, N.J. He attended public schools, but eventually graduated from the Browning School in New York City in 1906, after which he attended Princeton University for one semester.

W. Warren began suffering from tuberculosis around 1907. He took up boxing to help himself recover. He really took to the sport, garnering quite a reputation by winning the amateur heavyweight boxing titles of the United States in 1910 and Canada in 1911.

W. Warren even thought of entering the ranks of professional boxing to take on heavyweight champ Jack Johnson, but under the influence of his family he did not turn professional. However, he remained involved in the sport, acting as time keeper in the Jess Willard vs. Jack Dempsey heavyweight championship fight in 1919.

In 1908, W. Warren enlisted in Squadron A of the New York National Guard, serving for ten years. In 1916, while stationed on the Mexican border, he was an aide to General George Dyer. By the time he left the Guard, W. Warren had obtained the rank of Captain.

W. Warren ran the business in Paterson, but his residences remained in New York City and Monmouth County throughout his life. He became a member of the Rumson Borough Council in 1922 and went on to serve as Mayor of Rumson from 1923 to 1928. After his time as mayor, W. Warren moved to Locust Point in Monmouth County.

When U.S. Senator Dwight W. Morrow died, Governor Morgan F. Larson appointed W. Warren Barbour, who was a Republican, to the office on December 1, 1931. Senator Barbour ran successfully for the Senate in 1932, when more than half Republican incumbents lost, due to the advent of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. During his 1932 term, Barbour was on the Munitions Investigating Committee which published a report showing the link between the lobbying efforts of the munitions industry

and America's entrance into the First World War. He also voted for the repeal of Prohibition in 1933. Senator Barbour ran unsuccessfully in the election of 1936, but was appointed again when Harry Moore resigned. He was elected to the Senate for a full term in 1940.

Beginning in 1938, Senator Barbour took courageous humanitarian positions against the prevailing attitudes of his time.



William Warren Barbour in 1931

**PASSAIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

LAMBERT CASTLE
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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

- November 8, Friday** **Lambert Castle Holiday Boutique - Wine and Cheese Preview Night.** 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Usher in the holiday season with us. Enjoy wine and snacks as you preview the goodies at this year's Holiday Boutique. Admission \$15 with two return visits, reservations requested.
- November 9 to November 30** **Lambert Castle Holiday Boutique.** Wed-Fri 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat-Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Mondays, Tuesday and Thanksgiving day. Admission \$6, with two return visits.
- November 9, Saturday** **PCHS Genealogy Club Meeting.** 10 a.m., Louis Bay Library in Hawthorne. Program: *Informal Chat - Finding and Using Original Family Genealogical Records.* Attendees are encouraged to bring their original (or copied) family records for discussion. Presenter Nancy Terhune.
- November 13, Wednesday** **PCHS Quarterly Meeting.** 7 p.m., Louis Bay Library in Hawthorne, NJ. Glenn Corbett will be presenting *Roswell Colt: A Biographical Puzzle of the "Greatest of all the Colts."* Free admission. Program to follow a business meeting of the Society.
- December 13, Friday** **Holiday Wine Tasting.** 7 p.m.-10 p.m. All the finest local and international wines, served in the elegance of Lambert Castle. Hot and cold buffet, carving station and desserts. Please call (973) 247-0085. Tickets are \$50, reservations required.
- December 14, Saturday** **PCHS Genealogy Club Catered Brunch and Silent Auction** at Lambert Castle. 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- December 15, Sunday** **Story-telling and sing-along with Santa and Mrs. Claus.** 1 p.m.-3 p.m. at Lambert Castle. Santa will be visiting the Castle again this year for some holiday cheer. Bring your child for stories, singing and festive snacks. Each child will also have an opportunity to take a photo with Santa. Reservations required and space limited. Recommended for children under 10 years of age. Admission \$15 for one parent and child. Additional adults and children, \$5 each.
- December 18 to January 5** **Lambert Castle Holiday Tours.** 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday. Take a tour around Lambert Castle and see the rooms decorated for the holidays. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for children.
- December 20, Friday** **Bell Ringers by Candlelight.** 6 p.m.-9 p.m. at Lambert Castle. Listen to the Valley Ringers perform Christmas music on their bells as you tour the Castle by candlelight. Tour is self-guided. Light refreshments provided. Admission Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Children \$8. Reservations encouraged but not required. Please call (973) 247-0085.
- January 11, Saturday** **PCHS Genealogy Club Meeting. Member's Information Exchange.** 10 a.m. at Lambert Castle.
- January 11, Saturday** **Regular Museum Tours Resume.** 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday at Lambert Castle.
- January 19, Sunday** **An Afternoon of Italian Opera.** 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at Lambert Castle. Enjoy operatic arias, duets and songs performed by Annamaria Stefanell and Rory Angelicola in Lambert Castle's beautiful setting. Snow date, January 26. Admission \$15.
- February 5, Wednesday** **PCHS Quarterly Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Lambert Castle. Speaker to be announced.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Maria Carparelli

Summer programs brought many visitors to Lambert Castle. Living History presentations included visits from Clara Barton, Benedict Arnold and Major Andre. Programs on baseball and the Silk Strike were also well attended. Our Quarterly meeting on September 11th brought back many nostalgic memories of the early days of television. Former Trustee and Historian, Phil Jaeger, gave a presentation on Allen Dumont, television pioneer.

Our October Beefsteak Dinner fundraiser at the Brownstone was a huge success again this year, as Singer/Impersonator Don Anthony wowed the crowd with a medley of songs. Adding to the fun was the Tricky Tray and 50-50 raffles.

Those who attended the fifth annual History Fair had the opportunity to hear speakers on a wide range of subjects. Stories and photos from the early days of Passaic, Clifton, and Paterson were ably presented by Passaic City Historian, Mark Auerbach, Clifton City Historian, Don Lotz and Bruce Balestrieri, Museum Educator from the Paterson Museum. Evelyn Hershey, from the American Labor Museum, spoke on the Paterson Silk Strike. A history of the Paterson

Free Public Library was given by Bruce Bardarik, Local History Librarian. Tom Riley presented the story of the Pompton Mutiny, and Jimmy Richardson told the story of the Underground Railroad. Local museums and historical organizations supplied information to all attendees.

Start your holiday shopping early at Lambert Castle. Our Holiday Boutique begins on November 8th with our Wine and Cheese Preview Night. For \$15, select from a unique assortment of holiday gift items from over 130 vendors while enjoying some wine and cheese. The admission includes two return visits. The Boutique will be open Wednesday through Sunday from November 9-30.

Other holiday events include: Wine Tasting Party, December 13th, Storytelling with Santa on December 15th and our annual Candlelight Tour of Lambert Castle, which this year features a performance from the Valley Bell Ringers on December 20th.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season, and hope you can join us at the Castle.

FROM THE LOWLANDS *cont. from page 1*

With William Allen White, he formed the Council Against Intolerance in America. In 1941, he joined three other senators in calling for a committee to look into integrating the military. He proposed other legislation to try and end discrimination in many phases of national life, including promoting women's equality. None of these bills were

passed because Congress was pre-occupied with the Great Depression and then World War II.

With the dawning of World War II, Barbour turned his humanitarian efforts to assisting refugees of Nazi Germany. Meeting with representatives of Holocaust victims, he was one of a handful of Senators who attempted to get the federal government to take a formal stand against the Holocaust. Senator Barbour introduced a bill that would have brought up to 100,000 religious and racial refugees to the United States and allow them to stay until six months after hostilities ended.



Barbour striking a boxing pose

Though the bill languished and Senator Barbour died in 1943, his efforts helped move the federal government to establish the War Refugee Board in 1944.

Senator Barbour fervently believed the way to American Democracy was to ensure equal rights for all citizens. Here was a man a full generation ahead of his time, yet he was fully in tune with what the Founding Fathers wanted for an enlightened America.

MEET THE LAMBERT CASTLE COLLECTIONS INTERNS: ALEXSANDRA

My passion with history started when I was young. My father was a history teacher at a local middle school and through his influence I grew to love the subject. Since I grew up in Clifton, I was familiar with Lambert Castle. In fact, some of my favorite memories as a child are of visiting the Castle.

I enrolled at Seton Hall University where I focused my studies in history. During my time there, I became aware of a Master's program at the University, which focused on Museum Studies. It is in this program I am now enrolled. Not long after I started my first semester in graduate school, Heather, as fate would have it, sent out an email for interns to the Museum Studies program. Since we are required to complete an internship, I quickly replied and was interviewed. I have now been interning at Lambert Castle since January.

Since my start, I have focused on several collections, but mostly I have been working for several months on the ribbon and medal collection. The collection consists of objects from fraternal organizations, political parties and some military groups. Along with other interns, I have been able to re-house and properly catalog the information on the objects into our PastPerfect database.

During my time interning here, I have been able to apply what I studied in my courses. I have learned techniques in numbering, photographing and how to properly handle all the various objects we house in the collection. I learned how to create object catalog sheets and how to properly enter them into the database we use. Through this time, I feel that I will be able to successfully secure employment because of all that I have learned, as many students have not had the quality internship experience that I have. On that note, not many students can say they have worked in a castle either.



PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Lambert Castle, 3 Valley Road
 Paterson, New Jersey 07503

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PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
LAMBERT CASTLE
Holiday Boutique

3 VALLEY ROAD, PATERSON-CLIFTON BORDER

NOVEMBER 9 ~ 30, 2013

WEDNESDAY THRU FRIDAY • 10AM~9PM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY • 10AM~5PM

CLOSED MONDAYS, TUESDAYS & THANKSGIVING DAY

VISA/MASTERCARD ACCEPTED FOR PURCHASES

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE • NO CHILD STROLLERS PERMITTED

WINE & CHEESE PREVIEW NIGHT • NOVEMBER 8TH • 6-9PM

LUNCH
 SERVED DAILY
 FROM 11-3
 IN OUR 2ND FLOOR
 CAFE

*Festive
 Holiday Gifts
 Handmade Seasonal
 Decorations, Quality Crafts,
 Collectibles, Jewelry and
 Gourmet Foods*

\$6

ADMISSION/DONATION
 (INCLUDES 2 RETURN VISITS)

**BENEFITS PASSAIC COUNTY
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 AT LAMBERT CASTLE**

**A NOT-FOR-PROFIT 501(C)
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 INSTITUTION.**

SHOW MANAGER: JOAN ADAMS

