COMPLIMENTARY COPY

The Official Journal of the Organization

The Hoboken Historical Museum Newsletter

OF BY And FOR Museum Members.

VOLUME 2, NO. 30 HOBOKEN, N.J. SEPTEMBER 1989

HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

MEMBERSHIP - DRIVE

AND

PARTY

SUN.
SEPTEMBER
17

FREE ADMISSION

FREE REFRESHMENTS

THE PUBLIC INVITED

TO BE HELD AT

A.M.B. GALLERIES
225 WASHINGTON ST.
H O B O K E N, NJ
Anne Weichberger
Director

ART & MUSIC

4 - 8 PM

FEATURING

PERRY ROBINSON
(It's his birthday!)
AND HIS MUSICAL FRIENDS

- COME SHARE OUR GOOD FORTUNE -

NOW IS THE TIME TO COME TO THE AID OF THE PARTY

The party is the one the Museum is inviting you to attend on Sunday, September 17 from 4 to 8 PM at the A.M.B. Galleries, 225 Washington Street in Hoboken. The purpose: to have a good time and to offer everyone a one-time reduced-rate membership or renewal

For one year only $10, for two years, $20, and the lifetime membership bargain at only $100 (sign up the youngest member of your family and make it an even bigger bargain!).

See this issue's front cover for all the details.

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WE RAISE THE ROOF AND $300 AT THE RIVER CITY FAIR.

Even though the River City Fair was partly rained out on Saturday, it turned out to be fairly (pun intended) nice on Sunday, and we enjoyed exhorting the multitude of visitors from beneath our brand-new canopy. The Museum's table successfully dressed Hoboken citizens and visitors in $300 worth of nice new T-shirts, and created a lot of awareness and good will for the Museum and its activities (which do go beyond selling shirts).

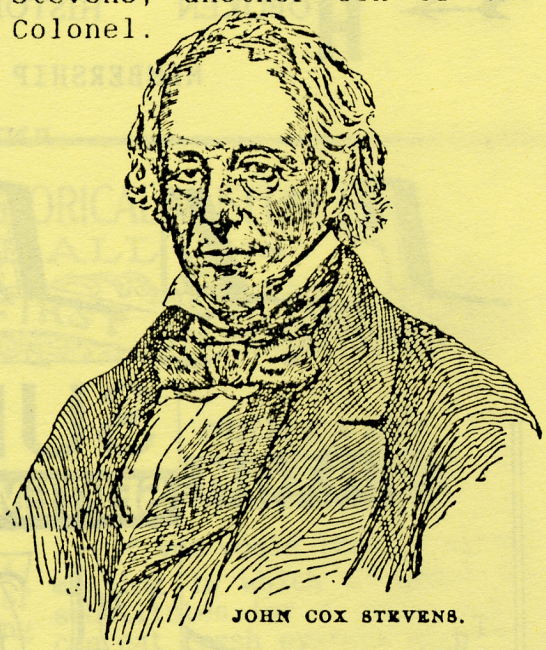
The new Lackawanna T-shirt was a big hit as well as was our ever-popular First Baseball Game shirt. Among our members and friends who helped under our canopy were Luke Faust, Sue Ellen Fiedler, John De Palma, Kathy McBrady, Helena Berger, and "Mare."

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Correction: In our last issue we called it the Waterfront Fair, but it indeed is the River City Fair.

STEVENS FAMILY LORE

In our July Newsletter we mentioned Colonel John Stevens (1749-1838), founder of Hoboken, and two of his sons, Robert L. and Edwin A. To keep the record complete, there was another member of the family worthy of mention, John Cox Stevens, another son of the Colonel.



JOHN COX STEVENS.

It was John C. (not to be confused with his father) who in Hoboken in 1844 founded the New York Yacht Club. Its first meeting was held aboard his schooner, the **Gimcrack**. Nine men attended and organized what was for many years one of the most celebrated yacht clubs in the world. In 1845, its first clubhouse was built in the Elysian Fields. John C. Stevens owned the noted yacht **America**, which by virtue of her victories, brought to this country its famous namesake cup, for which fierce competition has continued to this day.

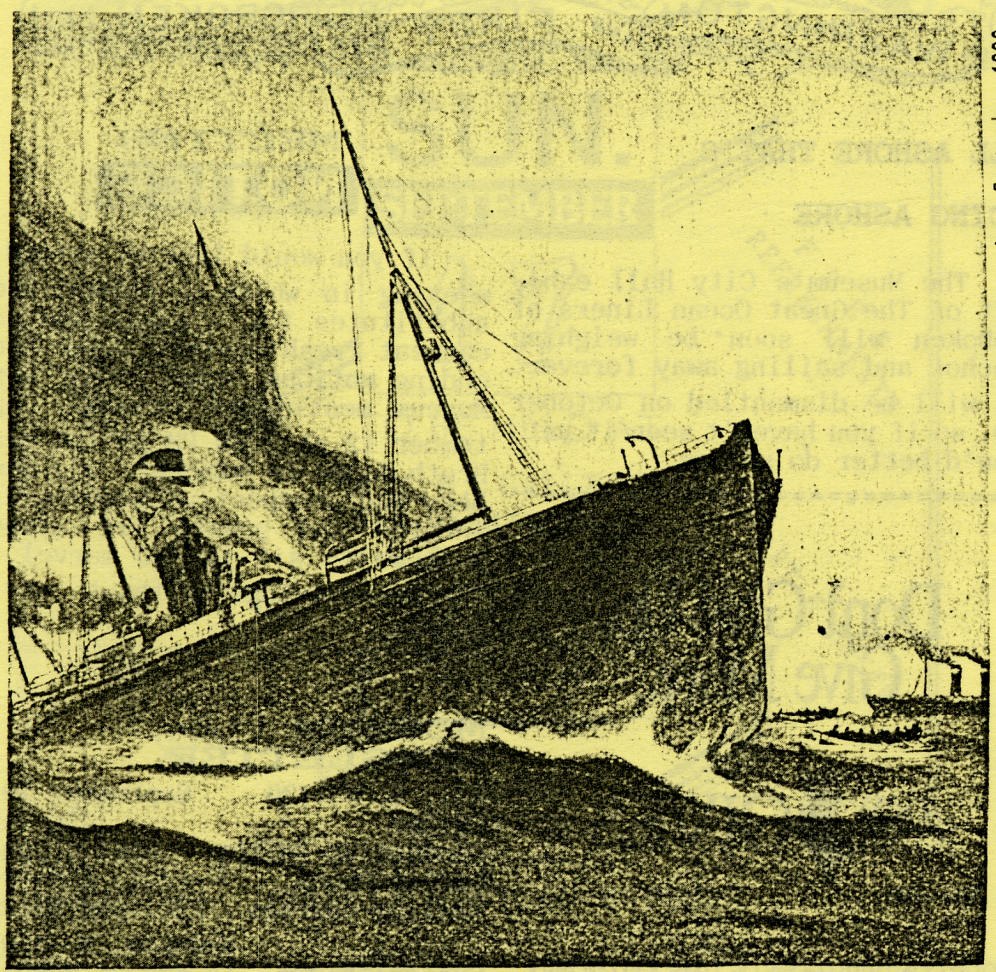
HOLLAND-AMERICA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A new history-minded organization is being formed in Hoboken by Museum member Laurens A. W. van der Laan of 155 Third Street (the Van Holland Delicatessen). It is the Holland-America Historical Society, which is inviting membership. For information, phone Larry at 792-2211.

For many years the Holland-America Line operated from the piers at the foot of Fifth Street, site of last month's River City Fair. The line's most flourishing years were 1914 through 1917. The Netherlands, being one of the few neutral European nations during World War I, enjoyed great advantages in maritime commerce. The Line operated eight piers, mostly in Hoboken, and sailed a ship a day from our mile-square wartime port.

FLASHBACK

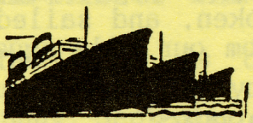
February 6, 1898--news reaches the mainland that the Holland-America passenger liner **Veendam**, on her way to Hoboken, had struck a derelict ship in the Atlantic, and was within five hours of sinking. The American liner **St. Louis** came to the rescue and in darkness and heavy seas its life boats journeyed back and forth until everyone was taken from the doomed liner, which Captain Stenger set afire so that she would not menace other vessels.



Munsey's Magazine, September 1900.

RESCUE OF THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF THE VEENDAM BY THE AMERICAN LINER — FEBRUARY 6, 1898. EVERY SOUL ON THE SINKING SHIP WAS TAKEN OFF IN DARKNESS AND WITH A HIGH SEA RUNNING.

Hoboken Historical Museum
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THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CITY HALL

WASHINGTON AND FIRST STS. HOBOKEN, N.J.

ALL ASHORE THAT'S GOING ASHORE

The Museum's City Hall exhibit on The Great Ocean Liners of Hoboken will soon be weighing anchor and sailing away forever. It will be dismantled on October 10, so if you haven't seen it yet, you'd better do so now.

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MEETING NOTICE

If you would like to attend a meeting in which a rubber frog substitutes for a gavel and you can eat fresh oysters while seconding motions, come to our next Museum meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 7:30 PM in the Clam Broth House in Hoboken. All members and prospective members are invited and guests are always welcome to sit in and marvel at the proceedings without obligation.

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Don't Give Up.
Give More.

new jersey GIVES

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS OF TIME AND MONEY
WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE MUSEUM

During the past few months we have had many requests from people to be placed on our mailing list and a great many have inquired about the Museum in general. Friends have given us names and addresses of those who might find an interest in our organization and its activities. We have acquired various mailing lists of Hoboken residents and are in the process of introducing ourselves in that way to the public. Without obligation, you may receive a complimentary copy of our Newsletter, of which about 800 are distributed each month to announce the dates of our monthly meetings and to publish Museum news, Hoboken history, and articles of interest relating to Hoboken.

The Newsletter is highly regarded as a valuable part of the Museum's activities.

Humble beginnings

The Hoboken Historical Museum was founded to present the city's fascinating history to the public through publications and exhibits, drawing upon various collections, contemporary as well as historic. Jim Hans, artist and Hoboken historian, presented the idea to Major Thomas F. Vezzetti in early 1986. The idea was well-received, and the Museum was given official status and space in City Hall, where its exhibitions are now held.

The Museum was organized at a meeting in the home of Barbara Cole MacKay on April 15, 1986. At this first meeting were John Calligy, Jim Hans, Ross D. London, Barbara C. MacKay, Kevin P. McCloskey, and Virginia Parrott. On May 12, the Museum held its first public meeting at the Gold Coast Cafe, with a history slide presentation. The next day, nine members strong, the Museum filed with the State as a non-profit New Jersey corporation.

By the end of May the organization had taken shape and laid groundwork for future activities.

Our first exhibit took place at the rededication ceremonies for Church Square Park on May 31, where we presented a display and distributed a booklet we had compiled on the history of the Square. Several charter members joined at this event. Among the earliest were True Lash Moseley and Thomas E. Moseley of Bloomfield Street.

We next gave exhibits at Hoboken's July 4th festival celebrating the Statue of Liberty Centennial. Though nothing was offered for sale, many Museum brochures were distributed and more than 150 persons signed our mailing list.

At other public events during the summer of that year we recruited more members and distributed Museum literature announcing our grand opening at City Hall in November. On October 15, the Mayor and City Council passed a resolution officially recognizing the Hoboken Historical Museum.

Grand opening

Through the efforts of the Mayor's office, many local organizations, citizens, and corporations helpingin various ways with the grand opening, it was a huge success. Between four and five hundred people atttended our opening exhibition at City Hall, where photographs, maps, prints, and other items on the theme "Hoboken Changing Scenes" hung on the wall and adorned display cases. We supplied souvenir programs and bookets and presented a slide show of Hoboken past and present.

After three years of healthy growth the Museum's current situation is sound. The number of active members at any given time has varied from ten to fifteen. The following list represents the core of the



ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF HOBOKEN'S EXEMPT FIREMEN; this monument is in Church Square Park, just facing Willow avenue, near Fourth street. Funds were raised by G. A. Seide by public subscription when he published the News.

1891

Organization up to now, but is in no way complete. Many have helped in many ways.

Criss Andre, Martin Andrews, John De Palma, Betty De Marco, Geraldine Fallo, Luke Faust, Virginia Fenner, Sue Ellen Fiedler, Robert Foster, Jim Hans, Edward F. Hays, Otto Hottendorf, Larry Von Holland, Carol Huffman, Mayme Jurkat, Hugh Kilmer, George M. Kirchgessner, Paul Lippman, Gerard Lisa, Mary Manhardt, Kathleen McBrady, Kevin McCloskey, Virginia Parrott, Perry Robinson, Joyce Tatom, Jeanne West Valentin. Others who have helped out in the past when they could, or have recently joined and participate in Museum activities are Helena Berger, Chris and Avery Brighton, George and Betsy Cannon, Doris China, Dennis Darragh, Frankie Fame, Frances X. Ferrante, Danielle Foster, Michael Goldfine, Stephen Hefler, Glenn Hughes, Gloria Lambson, Marty Leahy, Ann O'Brien, Fred Pescatore, Tim Rehm, Dena Reynolds, Carol Rogers, Sandy Sobanski, Lynn Spencer, Ignatius Spinella, Jane Steuerwald, Greg Tamminga, and Jeff Wilson.

Today there are more than 200 paid members and several honorary members. Dues are still only $15 a year and a bargain at $25 for two years. And we have 25 members who have joined our new Lifetime Membership category at $100.



Col. John Stevens, Founder of Hoboken and one of America's Foremost Engineers and Inventors. Father of the American Railway and the United States Patent Law.

From an Oil Painting in Possession of His Descendants

The story of Hoboken cannot be disassociated from the name of Stevens and the achievements of this famous family. Colonel John Stevens possessed a wonderful versatility coupled with a scientific imagination which led him to undertake projects far in advance of his age. Many of his inventions conceived and developed in Hoboken have contributed much to engineering science, especially in the field of railroad and steamboat construction.

Hoboken Follies

Each year we sponsor a large fund-raising event for the Museum (As we never charge admission to our exhibitions, sources of income are limited). Last year our friends and supporters were fortunate to be entertained by many talented musicians, mostly local groups with a loyal Hoboken following. The next event is scheduled for Spring 1990 and promises to be even greater under the title of "The Hoboken Follies of 1990." (We've had some wonderful Hoboken follies for 150 years; this may be the first one to raise funds for a history museum!)

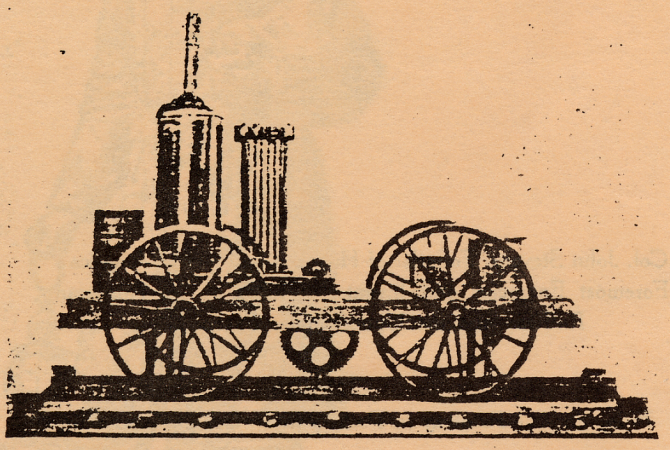
Our other meaningful source of funding is grants. We recently received one of $5,500 from the New Jersey Historical Commission toward our" Hoboken Landmarks and Historical Highlights" exhibit.

Previous exhibits included "The History of Theatre, Vaudeville and Movies in Hoboken" in 1987 and "The Great Ocean Liners of Hoboken" which opened in 1988.

Our City Hall displays continue to attract visitors and are always well-received.

Yes, we are pleased with the progress the organization has made in just a short time. But are we satisfied? Well, that's a different story. For this is just the beginning. And, being the beginning, it's the most exciting time to join us. So, if the idea of a Hoboken Historical Museum appeals to you, if you wish it success and want it to continue to grow, and if you think you would enjoy receiving its journal, the Newsletter, regularly you can very substantially help by becoming a member and sharing with us the adventure of our common future.

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Model of John Stevens' Locomotive, the First to Run on a Track in America, at Hoboken. Model with Original Engine Now Preserved in the National Museum at Washington.

Private Sector Initiative

Volunteering and giving play an essential role in the economic well-being of our nation. The advent of the 1980s brought with it a shift in political thinking at the national level. Federal policies are continuing to stress that nonprofit organizations must rely less on government money and more on resources from the private sector.