

HOBOKEN HISTORY

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THE HISTORY OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN HOBOKEN
THE HOBOKEN CEMETERY • HOBOKEN'S FLYING MULE
THE GENEALOGICAL PAPER TRAIL • SPIRIT OF '29 • NEWS FROM 1895



Hoboken Public Library Picture Collection

Holy Innocents, interior chapel, (circa 1896)
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Issue No. 14 - 1995

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Letter from the President

Dear reader,

As the museum enters its tenth year and moves closer to a permanent home, it's a good time to remind everyone that the museum is actively seeking artifacts for its permanent collection. If you are willing to sell or donate that special Hoboken item, please consider us. We can be reached at:

*Hoboken Historical Museum
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Hoboken, NJ 07030*

And don't forget, if you would like to submit material to the magazine, please call Leonard Luizzi, Sr. at (201) 420-1803, the museum at (201) 656-2240, or write to us at the address listed above.

Enjoy the read,

Robert Foster
President/Director
Hoboken Historical Museum

On the Cover

*The interior chapel of the Church of the Holy Innocents, located at Sixth and Willow streets.
Easter Sunday, 1896*

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HOBOKEN has always been a microcosm of the cultures and nationalities which

populated New Jersey since its days as a fledgling colony. The city's proximity as a port of entry does much to explain its ever-growing and ever-changing religious communities and institutions.

Religious toleration in the state was established very early with the passage of laws prohibiting discrimination and persecution based on one's religion: Unlike some neighboring states, New Jersey never established a state church, thus making it attractive for people from just about any denomination.

Hoboken has been no different. Religion has served as both a unifying and divisive factor since the city's incorporation in 1855. Relations between leaders and members of the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faith have at times been tenuous at best, and fighting between congregations of the same faith was not uncommon. However, the religious institutions of the city continue to provide the citizens with the spiritual guidance to overcome the everyday trials of life.

St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church is the oldest known religious organization in Hoboken. The congregation's first service was held in 1832 under lay reader William Tryon. A permanent organization was established in 1835 with



KEEPING THE FAITH:

THE
HISTORY
OF
RELIGIOUS
INSTITUTIONS
IN
HOBOKEN

BY
JENNIFER HICKEY

Above: Lady Chapel, Holy Innocents (ca. 1896). Original photo taken by Christian Durstewitz Studio, 508 Washington St. (Hoboken Public Library Picture Collection)

Reverend Robert Davis as rector. John Stevens, the founder of the city, donated land to the congregation upon which the first permanent building was erected on the corner of Hudson and Third streets. The parish then moved to Hudson between Eighth and Ninth streets in 1871 where a new place of worship was built. In 1986, the church was converted to condominiums.

One of the oldest institutional structures in Hoboken is the Trinity Episcopal Church, located on the corner of Seventh and Washington streets. This Gothic structure was designed by Richard Upjohn and completed in 1856. A rectory and schoolhouse were added in 1864. Sunday school services and Christian education continue to operate out of the original schoolhouse. Today, Trinity Church services the All Saints Episcopal Parish which also includes former members of the Church of the Holy Innocents.

The Church of the Holy Innocents was founded and endowed by Martha B. Stevens, wife of John Stevens' son, Edwin, as a memorial to her daughter who died at age seven in 1870. The parish was begun as a mission of St. Paul's Church to service the poor of Hoboken. Upon becoming a permanent organization by special statute in 1874, an edifice was erected on Sixth Street, between Willow Avenue and Clinton streets. The church's tower, nave, sacristy, and



Trinity Episcopal Church, interior. Original photo by William Manewal (ca. 1920's).

choir room were added in 1895. This Gothic structure is registered with the state as a national historic site. The congregation has since merged with the All Saints Episcopal Parish, Trinity Church.

The Episcopal Church is a branch of the Anglican Church, formed when Henry VIII broke with the Roman Catholic Church in 1529. The Episcopal and Catholic churches are very similar in terms of ritual and liturgy, the difference being that the secular leader of the former is the Crown; the leader of the latter is the pope. Episcopalians, unlike other Protestant sects, have had a reputation for being less dogmatic and more tolerant of those within the church who question such concepts as the Virgin Birth and Jesus's physical resurrection. Hoboken made the national news in 1991 with the ordination of an openly gay priest at the All Saints Episcopal Parish, Trinity Church. The Oasis, a special ministry within the congregation, was then created to serve the homosexual population of Hoboken.

METHODISM AND MORE



METHODISM began in Hoboken in 1838 with the creation of a mission by Richard Horton, a New York preacher, in a schoolhouse on the area of land bounded by Garden, Fourth and Fifth streets and Willow Avenue, known as "Church Square." (That area is now Church Square Park.) Unlike the Anglican clergy, Methodist preachers spoke anytime, and anywhere they found an audi-

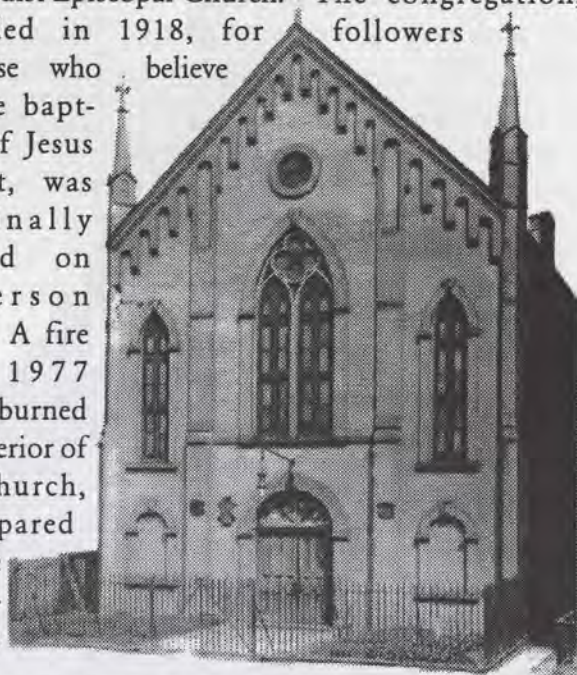
ence. Ministers required no formal training, unlike their fellow Presbyterian and Baptist ministers, and Methodism's lack of hierarchy attracted those dissatisfied with the more traditional structure of other Protestant sects.

In 1846, the first Methodist society was organized by Rev. David Graves with less than a dozen members. Construction of a church began during that same year, only to be blown down during a storm in 1847. Another building was erected on the original site of the mission. In 1865, the city of Hoboken sued to have the area of "Church Square" declared public property, thus prohibiting its use

by private institutions.

The congregation purchased a plot of land on Washington Street at a reduced rate from the Hoboken Land and Improvement Company upon which the society's third church was built in 1870. The church split in 1875 into two new societies: The Methodist Free Tabernacle of Park Avenue and the German Methodist Episcopal Church on Garden Street which conducted services in German.

In 1967, The Mount Olive Baptist Church moved to the site of the former residency of the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation, founded in 1918, for followers of those who believe in the baptism of Jesus Christ, was originally housed on Jefferson Street. A fire in 1977 badly burned the interior of the church, but spared the structure's



The German Methodist Episcopal Church (ca. 1933) on Garden Street between First and Second streets. At the time, the building was used for the unemployed. (Hoboken Public Library Picture Collection)

100-year-old foundation.

By the turn of the century, one-third of the city's population belonged to the Catholic Church. Catholics began settling in this community as early as 1830, but until 1844, there were only a few scattered Catholics known to be living in Hoboken. Rev. John Rogers, a young Irishman, was appointed the first pastor of Hoboken in 1845, conducting mass in the Phoenix Hotel on the corner of First and Washington streets.

In 1851, Rev. Antonio Cauvin of Nice, France was sent to take charge of the "Mission of Hoboken," which also included the Catholics of Bergen County. Father Cauvin immediately began a Sunday school in the public school facility at Church Square Park. A lot in the area of the park was donated to what was then known as St. Mary's congregation by the Hoboken Land and Improvement Company until it was discovered that the land was deemed public property. Father Cauvin then purchased three lots from H.L. & I. Co., upon which the first Our Lady of Grace Church, a little brick building, and rectory were built in 1855.

Two more lots were acquired in 1859 to build a school for the Catholic children of Hoboken. In the fall of 1864, the school was opened under the educational supervision of the Sisters of Charity. The sisters resided at the Sacred Heart Academy until 1915 when a convent was constructed for them under the direction of Monsignor Eugene B. Carroll. The original school was annexed to the orphanage which opened its doors in 1902 with 14 orphans of deceased parishioners.

In addition to founding Hoboken's first Catholic Church, Father Cauvin also served as pastor of St. Michael's in Union City from 1851 to 1861. St. Mary's parish was finally incorporated in 1864 as "The Church of Our Lady of Grace, Hoboken."

Under Rev. Patrick Corrigan, a native of Londford, Ireland, the present stately structure was completed in 1875. A new parish school and rectory were finished that same year as well. The architect of Our Lady of Grace was F.G. Himpler; William J. Whyte was the contractor. This Gothic-style edifice is home to

many treasures, including a chalice engraved with the imperial arms of Emperor Napoleon III, and a silver ostensorium from Victor Emmanuel, King of United Italy, given to the parish's founder, Father Cauvin, for his many years of service to the Italians, particularly the Genoese of New York City. The church is also a registered national historic site.

During Father Corrigan's pastorate, the new parish school was closed over a controversy which arose from complaints that German Catholic immigrants were not being given adequate pastoral consideration: The problem affected many new Catholic immigrants, having only a parish of limited means to service a constant influx of people, most speaking many different languages, with little or no money. The school was reopened in 1901 under Rev. Charles J. Kelly, and continues to provide education to children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

During the 1970s, the Church of Our Lady of Grace incorporated a regular Mass in Spanish on Sundays and holidays in order to better minister to Hoboken's growing Latino community.

Saint Peter and Paul's Church was established in 1889 as a parish for German Catholics by Rev. Leopold Hofschneider. The parish school opened during the fall of the same year. St. Joseph's Church on Monroe Street had been serving as a national parish for the German people since 1874. The present church on Fourth and Hudson streets was erected in 1929, its interior having been used for the famous scene in "On the Waterfront."

German Catholics throughout the city were invited to join the congregation; however, many English-speaking people attended



Turn-of-the-century postcard featuring Our Lady of Grace Church and the rectory at right.

Postcard from the collection of Leonard Luizzi, Sr.



The original St. Ann's Church, erected in 1903, at Seventh and Jefferson streets (photo ca.1920). Hoboken Public Library Picture Collection

services as well. St. Francis Church on Third and Jefferson streets was erected by the Italian Catholics of Hoboken in 1889. The parish of St. Ann was organized in 1900 to accommodate the growing Italian population in the upper section of the city. The present Church of St. Ann at Seventh and Jefferson was erected in 1925 under Rev. John Rongetti.



JEWISH SETTLEMENT

JEWISH settlement in Hoboken goes back as far as 140 years. In 1871, the Reformed Jewish congregation of Adath Emuno was established. Its first place of worship was Odd Fellow's Hall. In 1883, a temple was completed and dedicated on Garden between Sixth and Seventh streets. Solomon Schindler acted as Adath Emuno's first Rabbi. A religious school was established to educate the younger congregational members.

In 1901, the congregation of Moses Montifiore erected a temple on Grand Street. Masses were conducted daily in accordance with the principles of orthodox Judaism until the congregation disbanded during the late 1970s. Moses Montifiore was the first synagogue in Hoboken to offer a "school of learning" where congregational members young and old were taught language, translation, and other synagogue skills.

The Jewish community was at its peak just after the first world war, with six full-service synagogues in operation and a population of at least 3,000. The Depression hurt the many Jewish small business owners, forcing many families to leave Hoboken in search of a

less desperate economic climate. Post-WWII suburbanization reduced the size of the Jewish community drastically, so by the 1970s the remaining congregations were consolidated to form the United Synagogue of Hoboken. The Synagogue now occupies the former Star of Israel temple, the largest of the six synagogues, on First and Park streets, as well as the brownstone which housed the Jewish Center of Hoboken 830 Hudson St.

The Star of Israel had been founded in 1910 by working class Jews and recent immigrants as an orthodox congregation. Its synagogue had been erected in 1915.

The Hoboken Jewish Center was established in 1920 by former Star of Israel members seeking the more liberal environment of the burgeoning conservative movement. A circa 1890's brownstone was purchased by the congregation. A 120-seat sanctuary was added as well as a gymnasium, offices, classrooms, and eventually a rabbinic residence.

Since the late 1970s, Jewish settlement in Hoboken has been steadily increasing and United Synagogue has experienced a resurgence in congregational membership. While many young Jewish families have returned to the mile-square city, about half the congregation is comprised of single people just beginning their careers. The "Inner Circle," an active singles program, was created to allow the more diverse and transient younger population a forum in which to meet. It has also encouraged friendships and marriages.

The city's Jewish population has participated in local charities and community development efforts since their arrival. From the 1930s to the late 1960's, chapters of Hadassah, Histadrut, the Pioneer Women, the Zionist Organization of America, and the Israel Bond Campaign maintained active chapters in Hoboken. Post 55 of the Jewish War Veterans continues to be a vital contributor to the larger community. The congregation of USH carries on this activist tradition through the reorganization of the Jewish Family Counseling Services which provides social services to the people of Jersey City, Bayonne, and Hoboken.

Places of worship in Hoboken have acted as a lifeline to the many ethnic groups of the larger community, providing education for their children, counseling for those suffering private battles, giving comfort to the bereaved and providing activities for the young and old. Today, the religious institutions of Hoboken continue to offer stability during periods of great change and uncertainty and serve the diverse populace of the city with the same compassion and conviction as their predecessors.



A Short History of the Hoboken Cemetery

by
Joseph Luizzi

Many stories about the generosity of the Stevens family have been chronicled in the pages of Hoboken History. The Stevens have made many contributions to the quality of life in the mile square city. In this issue, however, I am writing about a land grant that was given to our city by them that had nothing to do with the quality of life!

According to early records, the area that is now Sixth and Hudson streets was an ancient "Burying Ground" that became part of the Stevens' property when they bought 564 acres in Hoboken in 1784. As the city began to grow, the Stevens continued to allow the land to be used for this purpose.

In 1855, the Hoboken Land and Improvement Company, a holding company run by the Stevens, deeded that parcel of land to the newly-chartered City of Hoboken. A six-member Board of Trustees was appointed. The Mayor served as an Ex-officio member, and the first chairman of the board was Ivan Applegate, a local undertaker and the first chief of the paid Hoboken Fire Department.

In 1857, the "Burying Ground" was considered to be injurious to the health of the city residents. On March 20, 1857, the New Jersey Legislature authorized the sale of the cemetery to John H. Bonn, who owned 18 acres of land in New Durham, New Jersey (now North Bergen). Bonn received the land at Sixth and Hudson streets and \$4,000, and the city received the 18 acres in New Durham. All monies from the sale of plots went into the city's treasury, an arrangement that was in effect until 1987, when the city lost control of the management of the cemetery.

The cemetery is currently administered by a court-appointed trustee. The resident caretakers since

1988 have been Richard and Elizabeth Rizzo, two people who are very knowledgeable of the cemetery's history.

— THE TOUR —

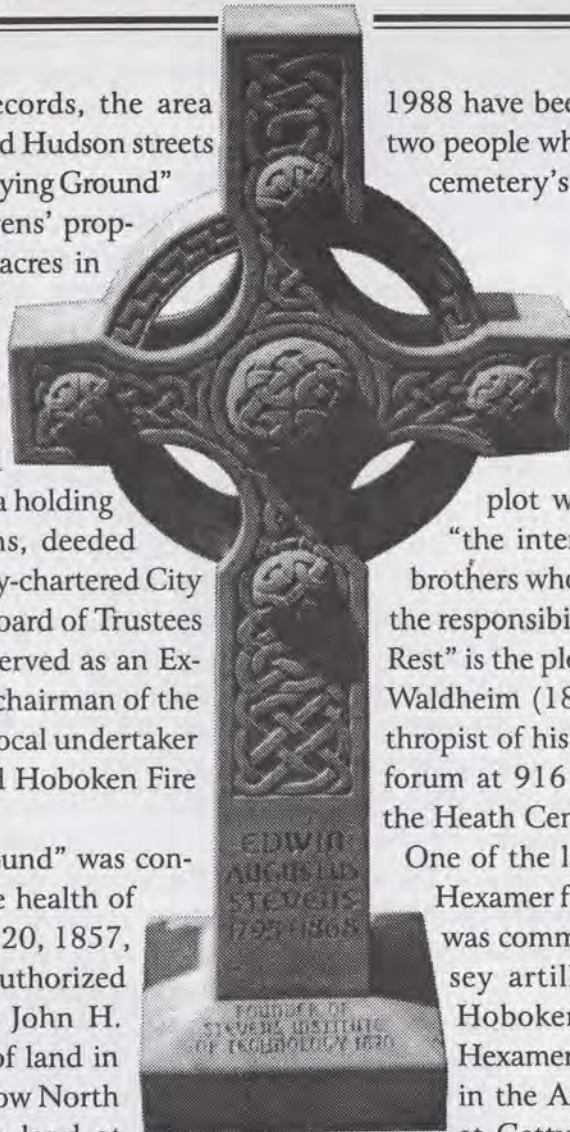
A few months ago, Mr. Rizzo took me on a tour of the new burial grounds. We started at the Elks Lodge 74 monument, a plot called "Elks Rest." The plot was dedicated in June, 1914 for "the interment of the mortal remains of brothers who left no surviving kin, to assume the responsibility of proper burial." Near "Elks Rest" is the plot of the Waldheim family. Philip Waldheim (1855-1921) was a leading philanthropist of his day, and the Stevens-Waldheim forum at 916 Garden St. which later became the Heath Center, was co-named for him.

One of the larger Mausoleums is that of the Hexamer family. Captain William Hexamer was commander of Battery A 1st New Jersey artillery, which was comprised of Hoboken volunteers in the Civil War. Hexamer's Battery, as it came to be known in the Army of the Potomac, saw action at Gettysburg and was actually at Lee's surrender at Appomattox!

After the war, Captain Hexamer, an excellent horseman, established a riding academy at Second and Hudson streets.

— MASS BURIALS —

Mr. Rizzo also showed me the mass graves of the victims of the "Great Pier Fire of 1900" (see Issue





8). While on our way to the fire victims' graves, we came across the grave of Walter Lepre (1889-1966), the uncle of Museum Trustee Ed Lepre and my great-great uncle.

We visited the plot of the Stevens Family, where Edwin, the founder of Stevens Institute of Technology, and many descendants are buried. These include Col. Basil M. Stevens who was the Grand Marshal for the Hoboken Centennial Parade in 1955 (see Issue 12).

The only non-family member in the Stevens family plot is Peter Lee (see Issue 3) who at one time was a slave owed by the Stevens family. Peter Lee was given his freedom many years before the Civil War and became an employee at Castle Stevens. Lee died in 1901 at age 98.

As I walked through the cemetery I saw many names of families that still live in Hoboken, a city that is only a little more than a mile in size, with a large population, where people still know their neighbors' names—a special bond that could not be broken even in death.

Photos by Leonard Luizzi, Sr.

About the Author: Joseph Luizzi, 25, is a lifelong resident of Hoboken. He is a member of one of the City's oldest Italian families. His great-great grandfather, Giacomo Luizzi, settled in Hoboken in 1883. Joseph attended Sts. Peter and Paul School and Hudson Catholic and graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University.



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The Genealogical Paper Trail

Vital Records

By Bob Murgittroyd

There's always a figure just out of sight. You can make out its shape but not its identity. You know the figure is real and you become obsessed with learning who it is standing there. Circumstances do not allow you to just walk up and satisfy your question; you must instead look for clues that will let you gain the acquaintance. Sometimes the process takes minutes to accomplish but other times you may spend years seeking your answer.

I've just described the quest a genealogist takes each time he attempts to push back his family tree another generation. The art and mystery and romance of genealogical research for me has always been to find another generation of family members I didn't know before. Last month I discussed the use of the 1920 Federal Census to provide clues to identifying one's previous ancestors. This month we will examine the use of vital records to clear the mist from the identity of those ancestors.

For example, suppose an examination of the 1920 Census shows that your grandfather was born in 1892 in New Jersey, your grandmother was born in 1893 in New Jersey, and they had three children born in New Jersey in 1914, 1916 and 1917. By locating New Jersey vital records for this family you will be able to identify both sets of your great grandparents. The birth certificate of your grandfather and grandmother should tell you the names of their parents. If you can find the marriage record of your grandparents (probably sometime between 1910 and 1914 based on the census information), you will discover your grandmother's parents' name. At that point you can begin the whole process again by visiting an earlier census and uncovering still earlier vital records.

The Start of a Family Tree

The journey is sure to take a lifetime. Studies show that most Americans should be able to

identify thousands of traceable ancestors, but few Americans today are aware of more than two generations of their family heritage. The start of a family tree research project is probably the start of a lifelong endeavor. Each time you identify one ancestor there's still that figure lurking behind him. Of course, since America is a land of immigrants, the journey will at some point take you across the ocean to another country. But at this time I would like to concentrate on American research and specifically New Jersey.

Vital records can be defined as official registrations of birth, marriage and death information that government agencies are required to maintain. Due to the legal nature of the record keeping vital records are often among the most trustworthy genealogical sources. Surprisingly, they are also one of the most modern of sources. The earliest attempts to gather and maintain vital records were made in England when the Church of England required parishes to keep registers of baptisms, marriages and deaths in 1538. Despite this early attempt at record keeping, the practice did not become uniformly routine until the nineteenth or early twentieth century in Europe or America. Interestingly, vital records were finally gathered, not to keep track of the population, but rather to develop statistics concerning health and sanitation. The American Medical Association was in the forefront of convincing federal and state legislatures to maintain such records. Accordingly, the states began keeping vital records at various times from 1841 for Massachusetts to 1917 for West Virginia. New Jersey began collecting birth, marriage and death records on May 1, 1848. New York State, despite a number of earlier failed attempts, did not officially begin collecting such data until 1880; however, Manhattan collected birth and death records starting in 1847 and some death records from as early as 1812.

In obtaining copies of vital records, the genealogist is faced with a number of obstacles among

which is identifying the location of such records and legal restrictions on their availability such as in cases of adoption. Generally the records are maintained at both the state and local level and you may attempt to obtain them at either location. A booklet titled "Where to Write for Vital Records—Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces" is available from the Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. This informative booklet will tell you where to write for vital records from each state. For the purpose of this article I will concentrate on obtaining vital records in New Jersey.

When collecting vital records it is best to begin your research with yourself and your immediate family and work your way backwards in time. You may already have copies of your own or your parent's vital records, but if you don't, I recommend that you start with them. Most of the municipalities in Hudson County have their own offices of Vital Records and the dates that they maintain records vary. For example, Hoboken maintains vital records from 1891 to the present; Bayonne maintains records going back to 1968. Records not maintained by the municipalities are generally kept by the County of Hudson at the Department of Vital records in the Hudson County Administration building at 595 Newark Avenue, Jersey City.

Each office has its own price schedule for records and its own rules for releasing information. Many amateur genealogists find these rules frustrating, but it is important to remember that these offices are not staffed or maintained to provide genealogical information. For that reason, vital record offices often will not conduct more than a cursory search for records where an exact year is not known. Also due to concerns to protect the privacy of individuals,

vital record offices will not release information to anyone but immediate family members. At the Hudson County Office of Vital Records, in order to obtain a copy of my wife's grandmother's death certificate I was required to: present a photo ID, sign an affidavit that I was a family member; and answer specific questions about the deceased. Often this process can be daunting.

The good news is that since February 1, 1994, the State Department of Health is once again answering written requests for vital records of a genealogical nature. This practice had been discontinued a number of years ago due to staff cut backs. The Department of Health maintains vital records for the entire state for the time period of June 1, 1878 until the present. You may request birth, death and marriage records for genealogical purposes by mail by writing to:

New Jersey Dept. of Health,
Bureau of Vital Statistics,
State Registrar- Search Unit
CN 370
Trenton, NJ 08625-0370

State the name of the person you are researching, and the type of record you want along with the year that the event took place. You should always include as much information as possible to ensure that you receive the correct record especially in cases of common names such as William Smith. The price is \$4.00 per record. There is also a \$4.00 charge for every year you wish to be searched if you do not have an exact year. I always include a SASE with any request. It is currently taking about three weeks for a request to be processed. The only restriction on the release of information is that they don't provide a cause of death on death certificates. All other

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information will be included on the record.

If you need a vital record earlier than June 1, 1878, the New Jersey State Archives will provide copies of New Jersey vital records for the period from May 1, 1848 to May 31, 1878. The cost for birth, death and marriage records from this period are \$4.00 per record. Statewide indexes exist for this period so it is often easier to identify an event within that period without a specific date. The mailing address is:

Bureau of Archives & Records Management
185 W. State
CN 307
Trenton, NJ 08625-0307

Searching the State Archives

If your budget does not allow for the cost of an extensive search of vital records or if you have the time and the inclination, I recommend a day trip to the State Archives to do your research. The Archives maintains microfilm copies of birth records from 1848 to 1923 and copies of marriage and death records from 1848 to 1940 that may be searched by the public. The Archives Search room is open to the public on Tuesdays through Fridays from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. except holidays. The Archives are located in the basement of the New Jersey State Library at 185 West State Street, Trenton, NJ. The library is flanked by the New Jersey State Capitol and the New Jersey State Museum. Trenton is about an hour and a half drive from Hudson County. Due to construction at the Capital Complex, parking is currently limited, but you should be able to find on-street metered parking far easier than in Hoboken.

In the archives search room, you need to sign up for a microfilm viewer. If there are a large number of patrons that day, your time on the viewer may be limited to an hour and a half. Vital records in the State Archives may contain the following information:

Birth Records - name and gender of newborn; race of newborn (post-1878 only); birth date and place; parents' names, occupations and residences (mother's maiden name in post - 1878 records only); parents' ages

and countries of birth (post - 1878 records only); number of children born to mother; number still living (post- 1787 records only); and the medical attendant's name and address (post - 1787 records only).

Marriage Records - marriage date and place; parties' names, ages, residences, occupations and previous marital status; parents' names (mother's maiden name in post-1878 records only); parents' countries of birth (post-1878 records only); and witnesses' names and addresses (post-1878 records only).

Death Records - death date and place; deceased's name, age, gender, birthplace, occupation and marital status; deceased's length of residence in New Jersey (post-1878 records only); parents' names (mother's maiden name in post-1878 records only); parents' countries of birth (post-1878 records only); cause of death (not provided in requests processed by the Dept of Health); duration of illness (post - 1878 records only); and medical

Fig. 1

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME OR PARENTS' INITIALS	DATE	BIRTH PLACE	AGE	SEX
Murdoch	James	4 30 94	171 10	M 119	
		8 27 94	185 16	M 11	
		7 25 97	227 42	J 7	
	John	8 20 92	147 10	M 196	
	Lillian	2 8 96	202 46	M 109	
	Mabel	1 27 90	137 16	M 103	
	Mable	1 23 93	160 16	M 86	
	Margaret	3 18 98	233 83	M 138	
	Mary	8 23 99	253 42	J 3	
	Morgan	7 14 90	137 15	M 28	
Murdosch	Thomas	7 16 00	264 36	M 21	
Murdy	- Female	11 22 93	174 36	M 178	
	- Male	2 24 97	220 91	M 108	
	Alice	9 23 92	170 91	M 30	
Murenberg	- Male	3 26 00	260 83	M 143	
Murer	- Female	7 18 97	222 8	M 63	
Murey--indexed Murray					
Murfi	Catharine	10 12 94	214 46	M 87	
Murgittroyel	Gladys	1 16 00	256 47	M 176	
Murgotroid	Armenia	6 12 97	216 47	M 368	
	Ellen	12 26 94	171 47	M 207	
	Frank	8 22 00	264 46	M 182	
	Louisa	2 3 95	171 47	M 276	
		11 24 98	241 46	M 89	
Murhard	Frederick	8 31 99	261 91	M 23	
Murich	Henry	10 28 92	166 50	M 78	
Muriele	- Female	1 20 97	213 37	M 84	
Murien	- Male	1 5 92	149 30	M 122	
	- Female	6 24 92	143 30	M 124	
Murillon	Claude	3 31 94	181 63	M 221	
Muringer	George	12 6 98	238 36	M 217	
	Mary	12 9 98	212 36	M 225	
Muriot	Peter	8 17 91	147 8	M 23	
Murisch	William	11 26 93	176 42	M 69	
Murjahn	Paul	7 22 93	177 46	M 129	
Murli	Alice	9 20 92	147 82	M 80	
Murlier	Anna	9 17 90	143 62	M 73	
Murlo	Nicoletta	10 22 99	256 47	M 88	
Mura	- Male	6 28 00	248 8	M 104	
Murn	Clifton	11 24 91	158 36	M 8	
	John	11 28 94	174 83	M 68	
Murnane	John	10 2 94	192 46	M 61	
Murnane	Edward	4 26 92	152 46	M 147	
	Mary	11 27 93	173 47	M 154	
Murner	Anna	7 18 98	245 83	M 232	
	John	10 9 97	260 83	M 190	
Murph	Edwin	10 26 93	177 46	M 167	
Murphy--indexed Murphy					
Murphine	- Male	3 11 91	137 26	M 16	
		6 26 97	210 27	M 24	
		8 11 98	236 26	M 39	

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH INK. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. No incomplete or mutilated certificate will be received.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY. BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Certificate and Record of Birth. 792

USE INK AND WRITE PLAINLY.

Name of child. Ethel Adele Carr
(in full if possible.)

Sex. Female Color. White Date of birth. JUL 29 1910
190

Place of birth. 333 Monro St. Hoboken N. J.
(If city, give name, street and number; if not, give township and county.)

Name of father. Joseph Walter Carr Father's birthplace. Pennsylvania
(If out of wedlock, write O. W.)

Maiden name of mother. Henrietta Julia Siple Mother's birthplace. Hoboken N. J.

Age of father. 28 Occupation of father. Paper Maker

Age of mother. 28 Occupation of mother. Housewife

Number of children in all by this marriage. 1 Number of children now living. 1

Name and P. O. address of professional attendant in own handwriting:
Livingston E. Livingston
(Signature of professional attendant)

Date of this report. AUG 2 - 1910 712 Washington St Hoboken N. J.
(P. O. address)

Example of a Certificate and Record of Birth from 1910

attendant's name and residence (post-1878 records only).

The methods of researching the records vary according to time period and type of record. A number of statewide indices exist for the period prior to 1900. In the case of birth records, separate statewide indices exist for 1848 to 1878, 1878 to 1890, and 1890 to 1900 in both book and microfilm format. The period 1901 to 1903 is indexed on microfilm.

Birth Records—1848 to 1903

For the period 1904 to 1923 the actual birth certificates are arranged alphabetically by year on microfilm only. Due to the indexing of the 1848 to 1903 period, it is usually easier to find birth records for that period when you do not have the exact date of birth. The indexes are arranged alphabetically by surname and given name and father's initial in each index. The index will give you the date of birth, a drawer and place, and a certificate number. For example, look at Fig. 1 (p. 11) of the Index of Births in New Jersey July 1, 1890 to Dec 31, 1900 for the listing Murgotroid, Frank (my uncle). The date of birth is May 22, 1900; the drawer 254; the place

46; and the certificate number M-155. The place number 46 refers to Hoboken (Jersey City is 47). Each location in the state is assigned such a number that varies for time periods and type of record. The drawer number refers to the microfilm reel that contains the certificate you need. It is important to remember that this number differs from the actual reel number since most of the reels contain more than one drawer. Both the reel number and the drawer numbers are listed on the microfilm boxes. Only concern yourself with the drawer numbers. Finally the certificate number tells you where to find the certificate on the microfilm. Set the microfilm

up on a viewer and proceed to the correct drawer number if there is more than one drawer on the film. Then follow the certificate numbers until you come to the record you need. Photocopies of the records are \$.50 each.

Birth Records after 1903

In the case of births after 1903, it helps to know the approximate year of the birth since birth certificates are listed alphabetically by year. If you do not know the exact year, you may need to make an extensive year by year search for the record. This is one reason that you may want to do your census research first so you can get an approximate year of birth.

Marriage records are indexed in about the same way as birth records but the indexes 1848 to 1864 are listed alphabetically by the surname of the groom with no brides index. The period 1864 to 1900 is indexed by both the groom's and bride's surnames. The period 1901 to 1903 is indexed only by groom's surname. The period 1904 to 1940 is arranged alphabetically by groom's name within year each. Once again the earlier indexes will refer you to a drawer and certificate number for the record. If you do not know the exact date of a marriage for the period 1903 to 1940, a good starting place is the year of

the birth of the couple's first child as listed in the census record.

Death Records

Death records are the most difficult to research at the Archives. There is a statewide index of deaths arranged by surname for the period 1848 to 1878 and for 1901 to 1903, but none exist for the period July, 1878 to June, 1900. For that time period, you need to consult microfilmed registers that are filed by county for each year in the period beginning on a July to June calendar year. For that reason you need to know not only an approximate year but also the approximate place of death to find the record you need. To further complicate matters, larger counties such as Hudson County are also broken down by municipality. A search for a death during this period where a specific date and place is not known is the most difficult of all the vital record research you may attempt. After 1901, death certificates are once again arranged alphabetically within each year up to 1940.

Births at Home

There is one other area you may need to consult if you are not able to find a birth record in your search. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a birth that took place at home was often not recorded. Many times an individual would need to have a birth certificate issued at a later date if one was not filed at the time of their birth. This was especially true in the 1940s when it was necessary to present a birth certificate to file for social security benefits. My grandfather and both of his sisters had their birth certificates issued in 1942 since their births had not been recorded at the time of birth. These "delayed filings" are contained on a separate microfilm at the Archives and are listed alphabetically for the entire state for all years. Make sure you check this source if you can not find a birth record in any other location.

Now that you have spent time and effort finding your ancestor's vital records, a few warnings. At the start, I stated that vital

records were among the most trustworthy of genealogical sources, but you should be aware that all genealogical sources may contain errors. For various reasons, people may not give correct information on marriage or birth records. My wife's grandmother gave herself a different age on each of her children's birth records, none of them true. She had a habit of making herself younger and younger with each passing year. Death records are generally based on the knowledge of the informant, who may not be sure of all the details of the deceased life. The information is usually much more accurate when given by a contemporary family member rather than by an acquaintance. As with all genealogical sources, learn to question the veracity of the information.

Good luck! If you have any questions, you can write me:

Bob Murgittroyd
P.O. Box 8291
North Bergen, NJ 07047.

(Please enclose a SASE.)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MARRIAGE RETURN.

SEE PENALTY FOR NON REPORT WITHIN 30 DAYS

We the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as filed in the office of the Registrar of the State of New Jersey.

1. FULL NAME OF HUSBAND Robert Barclay
Place of Residence 51 Hudson St. Hoboken, N.J.
(If in city, give name, street and number; if not, give township and county.)

2. Age 25 years 6 months. Number of his Marriage 1st

3. Occupation Salesman Country of Birth United States

4. Name of Father Frederick J. Barclay Country of Birth New Jersey

5. Maiden Name of Mother Rosella A. Barclay Country of Birth New Jersey

1. FULL MAIDEN NAME OF WIFE Isabella Murgittroyd Country of Birth Hoboken, N.J.
(If in city, give name, street and number; if not, give township and county.)

2. Place of Residence Hoboken, N.J.

3. Age, nearest birthday 18 years (If in any state or territory, give name, street and number; if not, give township and county.)

4. Last name of Maiden Murgittroyd Number of Bride's Marriage 1st

5. Name of Father Isaac Barclay Country of Birth United States

6. Maiden Name of Mother Mary Ann Barclay Country of Birth United States

1. Date in full Feb. 2, 1892 Place Hoboken, N.J.
(If in city, give name, street and number; if not, give township and county.)

2. In presence of Chas. Barclay, 51 Hudson St. Hoboken, N.J.
(If in city, give name, street and number; if not, give township and county.)

3. Signature of Minister, Wm. T. Carter
or other authorized official.

Isabella Murgittroyd

Example of a Marriage Return from Feb. 2, 1892

AND OTHER CURIOSITIES

By M. A. O'Brien

The first Mayor of Hoboken, Cornelius Glickener, who was also a laxative and snake-oil salesman, arranged with the city fathers to bring fashionable entertainment to his constituency. Before Hoboken was even incorporated, the future mayor invited infamous master showman P.T. Barnum, whose sideshows were the media rage, to the forming township. Phineas Taylor Barnum was, at the time, conveniently scouting a new location for his curio museum. Barnum was welcomed the last day of August, 1843 by a crowd of 24,000 residents, joined by the local dignitaries and a brass band. He had brought with him 20 buffalo calves and a friend who dressed as an Indian. There was to be a "grand buffalo hunt" near the ferry.

Things weren't as orderly as Mayor Glickener might have hoped. The buffalo stampeded, causing tourists to climb trees for safety, much to the delight of Hoboken's children, who chased them all over town. A few of the animals got as far as City Hall, where the constable fired four shots at them before locking himself in the city jail for safety. Although several calves were never recovered, all was quiet in Hoboken by sundown.

THE FLYING MULE

Always the master showman, Barnum had also built a quieter side-attraction. While the buffalo roamed, a larger, mysterious barn-like structure was erected in close proximity to City Hall. An immense sign graced the property reading "Hoboken, Home of the Flying Mule." For the price of one thin dime, a brave tourist could have a quick looksee at this "miraculous mistake of nature" from OUTSIDE the barn. Barnum, resplendent in his top hat and tails, insisted that no human enter the habitation, as tourists were wont to "make the animal nervous."

Immense crowds of farmers and other onlookers gathered in front of the edifice. Several street children curiously peeked through a knothole in the back. What they saw was an elaborate concoction of ropes and pulleys attached to two wooden ships' paddles, arranged like wings which overburdened the carrying back of a very angry animal. Barnum would irritate the underside of the unfortunate beast, and it would buck and haw, and the wings would flap a few times.

The children ran to tell their parents. Within minutes of their verbal exposé, an angry mob of farmers called for "tar and feathers." Some of the few remaining indians present offered to scalp the mayor and his new best friend, P.T. Barnum; however, Hizzoner appeared and calmed the crowd by loudly proclaiming both innocence and outrage.

Barnum had conveniently disappeared to the other side of the river, where he saw and purchased a museum for that was for sale on Broadway and Ann streets in Manhattan. Today, our fair city is known for a lot of things, but it is NOT known as "THE HOME OF THE FLYING MULE."

STEVENS' COASTER

But Mr. Barnum wasn't the perpetrator of every curiosity in the mile-square city. City founder John Stevens displayed several of his inventions here, to the delight of many.

In the spring of 1829, Stevens showcased a prototype for the rollercoaster at the Elysian Fields. Visitors could test it out for 25 cents each. As F. C. Koehler writes in *Hopoghan Hacking* (1888), "The Whirlgig became a major attraction. It was made of two crossed poles, 60 feet in length, mortised horizontally, through a piece of timber, vertically, on a pivot underground. Under each of the crossed poles was affixed a car or basket suitable for four persons. The baskets swung just clear of the ground, except when hidden mules pulled them forward. Then they swung around with sickening velocity."

On a busy day, Stevens took in as much as \$225. P.T. Barnum, always on the lookout for new ideas, stopped by at one point and told Stevens, "It's a great invention. You go so far and so fast, and yet are so near home when you are done."

Inventions from other area entrepreneurs weren't always as successful. When they failed to live up to the crowd's expectations, they were known as "humbugs." One inventor promised to send a man and woman into the air in a balloon at Elysian Fields. Instead, he put two cats named Thomas and Tabitha into the basket. An angry crowd freed the animals. Unamused, they tore the balloon to shreds.



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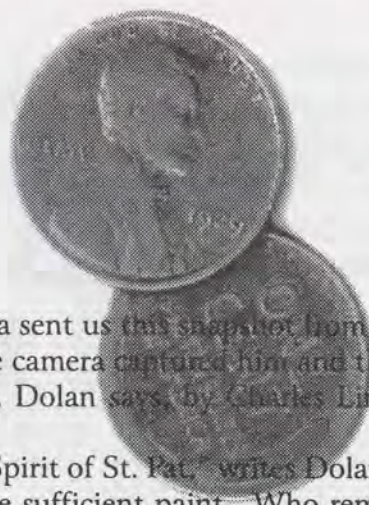
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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Spirit of '29



Francis R. Dolan of Monrovia, California sent us this snapshot from his freewheeling days of youth. It was 1929 and Dolan was just 13 when the camera captured him and three friends with their ramshackle taxi-with-wings. The project was inspired, Dolan says, by Charles Lindberg's 1927 transatlantic flight aboard the Spirit of St. Louis.

"Notice that we called this monster the Spirit of St. Pat," writes Dolan, now 79 years old. "Spirit of St. Louis just didn't fit, or else we didn't have sufficient paint. Who remembers?" He says the paint was green.

Dolan, at left, is pictured in front of the building where he lived, 1127 Washington St. To his right is the oldest son of the building's maintenance manager, and that boy's younger brother is at the far right. Dolan does not remember any of the boys' names.

But Dolan does remember their financial dealings. "We gave other youngsters a ride down Twelfth Street for a penny (steering of the monster was from the rear end)," he notes. "Horsepower was three or four boys. Around the block from Twelfth to Eleventh to Washington, the charge was one nickel. God only knows how many jitney drivers and bus drivers cursed our ten-foot wing spread on Washington Street."

Dolan also reports, "There was front, rear and mid-craft air conditioning, and no smoking – no insurance and no attorneys – it was a heavenly cruise."

The boys didn't retire from the aviation business wealthy, Dolan says, "but we did have fun."

When he wasn't slapping together transportation projects with friends, Dolan attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart and St. Peter's Preparatory School. He later attended Seton Hall College and Temple University, where he obtained a degree in Podiatric Medicine. He spent four years in the U.S. Army, European Theatre, and settled down in California.

And what became of the other engineers of the Spirit of St. Pat? Perhaps one of our readers can tell us.

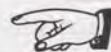
At left is Francis Dolan, age 13, posing with some of his buddies in front of 1127 Washington St. Their "taxi-with-wings" featured front, middle, and rear-craft airconditioning with a three or four boy-powered engine. Rides were one cent to the corner and a nickle for a trip around the block! Photo taken in 1929.



YES IT'S TIME FOR...



MORE NEWS FROM 1895



Once again, Hoboken History has delved deep into the pages of the gossipy Evening Journal from a century ago to find news stories for your enjoyment, presented here verbatim (with some omissions for brevity's sake). Now, we join our predecessors in following the exploits of the spurned lovers, busy health inspectors, armed bandits and squabbling politicians who kept our city lively in October of 1895.

Stories are compiled from 1895 issues of the Evening Journal—currently the Jersey Journal.

OCTOBER 19, 1895

SHE WAS A RICH WIDOW

Fell in Love With a Boarder and Got Into Trouble.

RAN AWAY FROM HIM.

Now He Is Pursuing Her With Abusive Letters, Demanding Money From Her — She Sought Relief by Appealing to the Police in Hoboken.

Justice of the Peace Geo. F. Seymour, of Hoboken, had an interesting call yesterday afternoon from Mary Heuer, of 97 Hudson Street, that city, who wanted to secure a warrant for the arrest of John Lebenan, a bookmaker [in New York.]

Mrs. Heuer's fingers were literally covered with diamonds. She wore seven rings on one hand. It is said she has jewelry

and diamonds amounting to \$2,700.

Mrs. Heuer kept a boarding house in New York, and Lebenan and his son went to live with her. The couple took a fancy to each other, and in a short time were more than friends. The man drew on her pile and began to behave himself in such a manner that she sold out all the furniture in her flat, which she estimated at \$1,000, for \$50, and skipped out just to get rid of the man. She then came to Hoboken.

Mrs. Heuer says that she has received several letters from Lebenan in which he demanded \$250 to relinquish his claims.

OCTOBER 23, 1895

CAUSE FOR JEALOUSY.

A Hoboken Wife Horsewhips Her Rival in the Street.

HER HUSBAND RAN AWAY

Discarded Wife Met Her Recreant Husband Walking With the Young Woman Who Had Supplanted Her — This Was More Than She Could Bear.

Mrs. Charlotte Kempen, of 74 Garden Street, Hoboken, was a prisoner in Recorder McDonough's court this morning, on a charge of assault and battery preferred by Ingebarg Larssen, a pretty blonde Swede. [Mr.]

Kempen opened a saloon on River Street and installed Miss Larssen as chief barmaid. He stayed away from home nights, and separation proceedings were the result. He promised to give his wife \$10 a week for her support.

...Thursday, [Mrs. Kempen] saw Kempen and Miss Larssen enjoying a walk together. She got a whip, swooped down on the girl and played a lively march upon her shoulder. The girl screamed but the man made no effort to prevent his wife from thrashing her. He ran off, fearing that he would get a dose of the same medicine.

FRIDAY, OCT. 25, 1895

HOBOKEN ALARMED.

An Epidemic of Dangerous and Contagious Diseases.

CHILDREN THE PATIENTS

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria Ravaging the Town — Eighty Cases This Month — Sixteen New Cases — Parents Concealing Their Little Ones' Illness.

Great alarm is felt in Hoboken over the prevalence of contagious diseases, principally scarlet fever and diphtheria. So far this month over eighty cases, all contagious, have been reported

to the office of the board of health. The death rate has not been as large as might be expected.

Health Warden Arlitz has had some exciting experiences in investigating cases. He called at the home of Mrs. Callahan at 72 Willow Avenue yesterday afternoon. Her 5-year-old daughter Mary is very ill with the scarlet fever. The doctor advised the woman that the little one [should be put into] St. Mary Hospital. The woman exclaimed that if anyone made an attempt to take her baby from her she would use a knife on him.

The health warden found a case of gross carelessness at 107 Hudson Street. Two children of the name of Worth live here. Both had scarlet fever and are now desquamating [Ed. Note: This means shedding or peeling of skin], a most dangerous period to transmit the disease to other people. One of them was attending school every day until the doctor put a stop to it.

SATURDAY, OCT. 26, 1895

DESPERATE THIEVES.

With Masks They Raid a Hoboken Saloon.

BARKEEPER FIRED AT.

And Then Hit With a Slungshot — A Fleeing Friend Plugged in the Back With a Bullet — A Fight for Life — The Robbers Beaten Off — They Had Visited Another Saloon and Were Thrown Out.

Two men were shot and beaten by two desperadoes, intent on robbery, in a Hoboken saloon, at

1:45 o'clock this morning.

Michael O'Neill's saloon, on the southwest corner of Jefferson and Newark streets ... is well patronized by the drivers of milk wagons and others. James Lynch, the bartender, was talking to [patron] August Schonbein when the doors on both the Jefferson and Newark streets sides opened simultaneously and two men masked with red handkerchiefs entered. The smaller of the pair commanded [Lynch] to throw up his hands. He did not realize the men were in earnest, and replied that he would do nothing of the kind.

Quick as a flash the small man drew a pistol, pointed it at Lynch and fired. [He missed.] The bartender yelled, and Schonbein made tracks for the door. The desperado turned the revolver on him and let him have the bullet in the middle of the back as he was escaping.

The big man ... had what is supposed to have been a slung-shot or a blackjack, and struck Lynch over the head with it. The bartender made a fight for his life and so frightened the desperados that they made off without trying to break open the cash drawer.

They made a bee line for Henderson Street, with the handkerchiefs still over their faces, and were seen running towards the city by a driver of a milk wagon.

OCT. 31, 1895

BROUGHT TO REASON.

Public Officials Taught That They Are Servants,

NOT PUBLIC MASTERS.

That Hoboken Trolley Road Ordinance Certiorated — Workmen Ordered to Cease From Labor — Threats Made by the Stevens Family.

Mayor Fagan, of Hoboken, has signed the ordinance passed by the common council, authorizing the Hoboken Railroad, Warehouse and Steamship Connecting Company to construct and operate an electric freight trolley road along the river front, Eleventh and Hudson streets, Hoboken, and thence toward Weehawken.

Bright and early this morning a big gang of men was sent down to the River Walk, just under Castle Point, to begin operations. They made things hustle for a few hours and managed to put six immense trolley poles in position, when notice was served of an order forbidding further work.

Much indignation [had been] expressed at the time the ordinance was put through, for the reason that the council refused to listen to the request of hundreds of petitioners for a public hearing on the matter before any official action was taken. Although very much opposed to a passenger trolley road, the councilmen, with the notable exception of Chairman J. Henry Timken, tumbled all over themselves in their haste to vote for the freight trolley ordinance.



Recent Donations & Acquisitions

The museum wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their contributions to the Hoboken Historical Museum's Permanent Collection

- Booklet entitled "Panorama of the Hudson—As seen from the deck of the Hudson River Day Line Steamer," published 1903; *donated by Mr. Bo Lindener.*
- Wristwatch customized with the face of Frank Sinatra replacing clock face; *donated by Jeanne Valentin.*
- Souvenir pocket knife, circa 1930, from the *S.S. Ryndam*, (one of the liners of the Holland-America Line which docked in Hoboken until the 1960's); *donated by Bob Cooke.*
- Postcard from the Department of Health & Welfare, City of Hoboken, circa 1950's, imprinted on one side with rules to follow for the polio season; *donated by Hoboken Antiques.*
- Pen and letter opener advertising "Anthony 'Doc' Izzo, the best dealer in town for appliances or television," circa 1950; *donated by Virginia Morneault.*
- Small mirror with advertising on back from Willow Pharmacy, E. Seligman, Ph. G., Prop., 904 Willow Avenue; *donated by Virginia Morneault.*
- Book entitled *Songs of Stevens*, published by the Stevens Alumni Association, circa 1910; *donated by George and Delores Kirchgessner of United Decorating.*
- Hudson County Telephone Directory, November 1951; *donated by Robert Foster.*
- Mechanical punch used by the City of Hoboken Water Department for date imprints; *donated by the Hoboken Water Department.*
- Large mechanical stapler used in Hoboken City Hall; *donated by the City of Hoboken care of Tim Calligy.*

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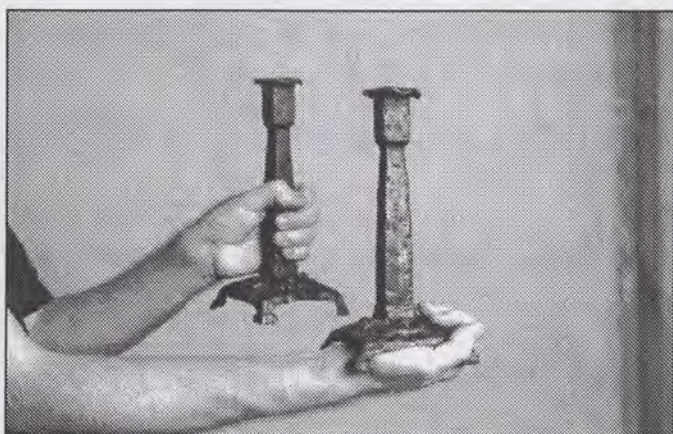
- Two wooden and plexiglas tabletop display cabinets; *donated by Liberty State Park, care of Debra Kindervatter.*
- One box of printer plates used in publications from the Hoboken Community Church at Sixth and Garden; *donated by Rev. Daniel Meeter and Alfred Kausch.*

Donations of Hoboken-related artifacts are vital to preserving our city's heritage. If you have a possible gift, please call the museum at 201-656-2240.



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- Pair of brass candlestick holders dated February 1911, Buchholtz Co., Hoboken, NJ.
- Surveyor's transit and wooden storage box, manufactured by Keuffel & Esser Co., Hoboken, NJ.



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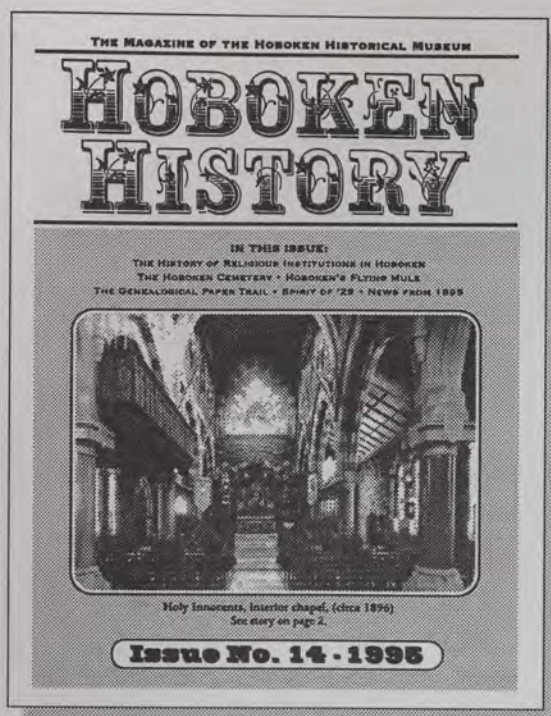
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We also invite you share your own memories of Hoboken history with us. If you have some stories to tell or wish to submit an article for the magazine, please call Lenny Luizzi, Sr., vice president and chairperson of *Hoboken History*, at (201) 420-1803.

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