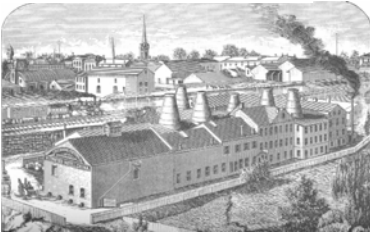


TRENTON POTTERIES

Newsletter of the
Potteries of Trenton Society



Trenton City Museum Showcases the History and Artists of Trenton

The Trenton Museum Society announces the opening of a new exhibit on May 22, 2010, at the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park, Trenton, called "History & Beauty: Valued Collections of the Trenton Museum Society Membership."

Knowing that many members of the Trenton Museum Society are collectors of Trenton history and art, the Society felt it would be a fascinating experience if it could coax these members to show their treasures. Twenty members of the Society have loaned artifacts, ephemera and artwork to the exhibit.

Historical artifacts include many rare photographs of old Trenton scenes; 19th century ceremonial ribbons and items from fraternal organizations; shoehorns, buttonhooks and trade cards from 19th century shoe stores; early Trenton newspapers; souvenirs, photos and ephemera from the Trenton Inter-State Fair; artifacts from the Stacy-Trent Hotel, one of the city's grand hotels; early 20th century Trenton souvenir

china; and old Trenton pennants.

For those who are interested in Trenton pottery, there are cases of beautiful silver-overlay porcelain from the world-famous pottery companies of Ott & Brewer, Ceramic Arts Company, Willets Manufacturing and Lenox, art pottery from the Trenton Potteries Company, and early redware plates and scrip jugs.



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The Potteries of Trenton Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of Trenton's ceramic past. Officers: President – Patricia Madrigal; Treasurer – Jay Lewis; Secretary – Brenda Springsted. Board: Ellen Denker, Richard Hunter, Meta Janowitz, Jay Lewis, Emma Lewis, William Liebeknecht, George Miller, Brenda Springsted, Rebecca White. Newsletter Editor: Patricia Madrigal

History and Artists of Trenton

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Also on display is a rare 1874 map showing a bird's-eye view of Trenton, Native American artifacts from the nationally significant Abbott Farm historic site, a huge collection of porcelain hand molds from one to three feet tall on which gloves were made in Trenton, an early Trenton-made pocket watch, 19th century stereoviews of the old State Capitol, and early 20th century souvenir paperweights.

The walls are covered with paintings by well-known Trenton artists, including etchings of historic Trenton scenes by George Bradshaw who was an instructor at the Trenton School of Industrial Arts.

And that's not all; there is more. You rarely see such an extensive exhibit of Trenton's history in one place. It is

guaranteed that you will learn something new about Trenton's history or see some item you have never seen before. Put it on your calendar to visit the Trenton City Museum this summer. Come, learn and enjoy!

The exhibit runs through September 19.

The Trenton City Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 11 AM – 3 PM, and Sunday from 1 – 4 PM.

The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion is owned by the City of Trenton, Douglas H. Palmer, Mayor, maintained and operated by the Department of Recreation, Natural Resources & Culture, Division of Culture.



James Moses and the Arctic Club Hotel

Dotty Decoster

Dear Historians,

I research and write about local history in Seattle, often using the history of buildings to showcase some of the changes over time in our young city. Recently, I was asked by historylink.org, our state's non-profit on-line encyclopedia, to research and write about one of Seattle's most delightful buildings: the Arctic Building, now Arctic Club Hotel, downtown at the corner of 3rd Avenue and Cherry Street. Much has been written about this building since it opened in 1917, and much more has been written about the Arctic Club, the building's major tenant from 1915-1971. No one, however, seems to have been particularly curious about James Moses, who owned the land, commissioned the building, and whose family owned the building for many decades. I was curious about this "New York financier" and had the opportunity to see the leases of the Arctic Club signed by him and his heirs at the University of Washington Library Special Collections Department. I didn't really know where to start, so I looked on-line for information about James Moses in New York City (his address on the original 1915 lease), which lead me to New Jersey, and finally to your organization's excellent web site.

It wasn't the Klondike Gold Rush that built this Seattle building. It was pottery in New Jersey. And the architects A. Warren Gould and George W. Lawton had enor-

mous fun with it. Most Seattleites identify this building as "the one with the Walrus tusks" in honor of the walrus head cartouches compete with tusks on the street sides at the third level of the building. When the building opened, however, it was the polychrome terra cotta facades that captured attention; the Arctic Building



Arctic Club Hotel

was the first downtown building to use exterior color in this way. Writing about the building in *Pacific Builder and Engineer* (February 23, 1917), A. Warren Gould begins: "The Arctic building, in design, is a radical departure from the conventional, inasmuch as no definite style of architecture or any particular period has been adhered to." (p. 13). The Arctic Building is not Seattle's only, or oldest, historic building, but it is certainly a public favorite, especially as it has been recently renovated and is now an historic hotel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

James Moses (1847-1920) immigrated from Ireland to Trenton, New Jersey in 1864, joining his older brother John in the pottery business. He bought the Mercer Pottery Company in 1873, and made a fortune with a new line of Mercer china created in time for the Centennial. He built a mansion now in Trenton's North Clinton area, which is de-

scribed as "a fantasy of stone and slate with highly picturesque roof-line" (North Ward Historic Resource Survey) and has served as a Scottish Rite Temple for some decades. Mercer Pottery Co. survived in Trenton until about 1937 and was best known for its semi-porcelain tableware. Moses lived in New York City from 1885 or so and made his summer home at Spring Lake Beach, N.J. He and his wife, Mary White MacDonald, had three daughters: Ethel R., who married Charles E. Merrill, Jr. (of Maynard, Merrill & Co, publishers) in 1901; Laura Macdonald Moses, who married Willard Pope Brinton in 1920; and Vera McFarland Moses who married Edward Matthews Chamberlain in 1909. Charles E. Merrill, Jr. and Laura M. Brinton were the heirs who signed the Arctic Club lease in 1931. James Moses is buried in Riverview Cemetery, Trenton, N.J. -- his gravestone is a boulder.



Arctic Club Hotel

References

These are the sources I used to learn about Moses, and also some links to photographs of the building:

Untitled, *New York Tribune*, August 23, 1903, p. 8; "Mr. and Mrs. James Moses . . .", *New York Tribune*, August 19, 1906, p. 4; and "Directors for Spring Lake Hotel Co.," *New York Tribune*, September 8, 1907, p. 2.

"James Moses," Find-A-Grave, (includes obituary) accessed March 21, 2010 <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=10607272>

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Photographs of "Arctic Club Building" in University of Washington digital collections, see

http://content.lib.washington.edu/cdm-ayp/results.php?CISOOP1=all&CISOBOX1=Arctic%20Build-ing&CISOFIELD1=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOOP2=exact&CISOBOX2=&CISOFIELD2=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOOP3=any&CISOBOX3=&CISOFIELD3=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOOP4=none&CISOBOX4=&CISOFIELD4=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOROOT=/ayp/loc/barnes/boyd/boydBraas/iww/chandless/cobb/curtis/pnwlabor/costumehist/grandcoulee/harriman/hegg/hester/indocc/kinsey/laroche/larocheAlbum/lee/meed/pickett/norris/prosch_seattle/prosch_washington/glacier/salmon/sarvant/seattle/social/stereo/farquharson/tollcan/transportation/vanolinda/posters/wastate/wto/lc/text/nowell/watson/pioneerlife/19thcenturyactors/sayrepublic/portraits/mckennyhall/civilworks/dearmassar/fera/clarkkinsey/menus/peiser/thwaites/todd/uwcampus/warner/waite/hupy/protests/alaskawcanada/ic/ww-swps/mtn/ll/ptec/civilwar/ac/napoleon/dp/jackson/donaldson/filmarch/historicalbookarts/advert/jhp/childrens/maps/kiehl&t=a

Thanks so much for your research and sharing it through your web site! The longer article about the Arctic Building will appear on www.historylink.org sometime this summer.

POTS Membership

Membership in the Potteries of Trenton Society is open to all interested in Trenton's pottery industry and the ceramic products manufactured here. We welcome pottery workers, historians, archaeologists and collectors. Your contribution is used to support newsletter, lecture, meeting, and conference costs.

Annual Membership \$25

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

Please make your check payable to the Potteries of Trenton Society and mail to:

Potteries of Trenton Society

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Trenton, NJ 08608