

**THE HISTORY OF BERGEN-PAULUS HOOK CHAPTER
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY**

NO. 2-007

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1899-1990

By

JOAN R. KRAFT

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PREFACE

At first sight the writer of this history of the Bergen and Paulus Hook Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution was impressed by the neat and comprehensive scrapbooks maintained by the early Chapter historians. The ladies are to be commended for their efforts. It was thrilling to note that the earliest newspaper articles were printed in 1899, some ninety-one years ago. Quickly noted was the fact that the early reporting was full of description and detail. It wasn't just a card party or dinner or tea or meeting. The flowers on the table and room decorations were described with adjectives, the guests were listed with titles, the menus were mouthwatering, the history of the organization of the chapter was included, numbers in attendance showed the success of the affair, musical selections were listed by artist and composer, and the committees and hostesses were acknowledged. Descriptions as "warmly greeted," "gracious speech," "spoke most entertainingly" made the article charming. The details were as complete as secretary's minutes could be. To the reader, history had become romantic and exciting!

This rich source of information coupled with the writer's curiosity for the history of the Chapters produced this "labor of love." For the most of this endeavor, the author decided to copy parts of some of the articles so nothing would be lost in reduction and to select parts of others in an effort to economize on space. Thus, the author's writing is limited. This idea seemed to lend itself to a "diary style" of composition. It became a simple matter to pick out the important events and at the same time have them listed chronologically. It is recognized that media accuracy can vary from article to article; however, the event was dutifully recorded with the appropriate enthusiasm. Because some of these articles were written before the event and some after, the verb tenses vary throughout this document. A few of the articles lacked dates and were entered according to their sequence in the scrapbook. The division headings are reflective of the contents of the various scrapbooks.

It is hoped that the reader will enjoy this trip into the past and appreciate what Bergen-Paulus Hook Chapter has accomplished. May we continue into the next century with vigor and enthusiasm.

Springfield, Vermont
October 1990

Joan R. Kraft
Regent 1989-1990

BERGEN CHAPTER 1906-1922

The Bergen Chapter was organized on March 9, 1906, with the enthusiastic support of Mrs. Ellen Mecum, who was the New Jersey State Regent. The first chapter in the City, Paulus Hook, desired not to increase its membership to over fifty and since there were a sufficient number of women in Jersey City eligible for membership the new chapter came into being. At the request of the State Regent the members of Paulus Hook named a member of their Chapter whose duty and privilege it would be to form a new chapter. The members were unanimous in selecting Mrs. Philip K. Green as the new Regent. Mrs. Green was deemed eminently fitted to organize the society as she was a woman of rare executive ability and tact. She was a member of the old Van Reyepen family, one of the first to settle in Bergen, her home being on the site selected by her ancestors, who built one of the first houses in the new settlement.

There were eighteen enthusiastic charter members. Mrs. R.O. Babbitt was elected First Vice Regent; Mrs. J.W. Dusenbury, Second Vice Regent; Mrs. William A. Durrie, Registrar; Mrs. George Horace Reed, Corresponding Secretary. The first regular meeting was held the first Saturday in April of 1906.

The Chapter was named for the "Village of Bergen" which was founded by Dutch Colonists in 1616, and was the first permanent settlement in New Jersey. In 1658-9, the land was purchased from the Indians by Director General Stuyvesant and Council of the New Netherlands. When the Colony came under English control, Governor Carteret granted a charter to the town and freeholders of Bergen, providing for a church and free school to be supported by a tract of land, tax exempt. During the Revolution the Americans built a fort near the center of the village and the British built one about a mile to the southeast. In 1780 the Battle of Bergen took place.

The first grave marker placed by the Chapter (1907) was at the grave of Daniel Van Reyepen in Old Bergen Cemetery. This marker, the insignia of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was of iron on a short standard, and was the first of its kind to be placed in any cemetery in Jersey City. The Regent, Mrs. George Reed, presided. A short selection was read in concert and members sang one stanza of "America." Then Mrs. Green, who was a great granddaughter of the soldier being honored, unveiled the marker, placing over it an American flag. A brief address was given by the Rev. Cornelius Brett, pastor of the Old Bergen Reformed Church, one of whose founders was a Van Reyepen. Dr. Brett told the story of Daniel Van Reyepen's heroic deed. Daniel was a blacksmith having his home and shop in a building on Fairmount Avenue near Bergen Avenue. He also had a sister, Jane Van Reyepen Tuers, whose home was in the old Tuers house that was torn down for the erection of the Fourth Regiment Armory. In the days of the Revolution a number of Americans, or patriots, were kept in prisons in New York. Mrs. Tuers used to carry great sacks of food over to them. While on one of these trips she learned of a conspiracy in the American camp. She rushed home that day and went to her brother who ostensibly to see relatives, went to Hackensack where he saw General Wayne, told him the news, and Wayne acquainted General Washington of Benedict Arnold's treason.

In November of 1908 Mrs. Mecum, State Regent, informed Bergen Chapter members that New Jersey is to be represented by one of the thirteen Corinthian columns of Memorial Continental Hall being constructed in Washington. Also, she is to have a room furnished with wood from the old

British frigate *Augusta* which was rated as one of England's best and which was run aground at the battle of Red Bank, resting half under water for 130 years. The wood was to be put up as paneling and also to be made into furniture. The room eventually had stained glass casement windows depicting incidents and scenes from New Jersey's Revolutionary history. The room was modeled after an ancient chamber of the City of London and is of the Jacobean period. A chandelier of iron beaten into shape by hand and cannon balls was later hung over the table as testimony to Mrs. Mecum's labors in furnishing this room. She and Miss Ellen Matlock of Ann Whitall Chapter of New Jersey were the originators of the idea for the room.

Both Jersey City chapters contributed to these projects. The wood was obtained at a cost to the Daughters of \$400. Paulus Hook gave a carved armchair and Bergen Chapter a side chair at a cost of \$55.00.

The D.A.R. Magazine of October 1919 gives an excellent summary of the work of the Chapter. "As a part of its patriotic educational work the Chapter planned a series of illustrated lectures on Americanism, especially concerning American history, to be given to the foreign-born in the City. The first of these took place in May, in cooperation with the YWCA. The National Society's slides with a lecture on 'America Today' were given in Italian. By the courtesy of the Board of Education, the public school in the Italian section was used and an audience of over 2000 crowded the big auditorium. The editor of the Italian newspaper read the lecture and the pictures were enthusiastically applauded. The Chapter plans to continue lectures of this kind to aid in every effort to Americanize the foreigner. It was a source of much gratification to us to be the only chapter to report such work at the recent State Conference.

"Our war work has included entertaining convalescent soldiers from nearby hospitals. Last fall, three wounded men were Chapter guests for the day. They were entertained at luncheon and had a pleasant auto ride back to the Base Hospital. In April we gave a party and supper for twenty convalescents at the War Camp Community Service Club. Games and a chicken supper were enjoyed, each man having a book and cigarettes as souvenirs. The Chapter has sent much material and several knitted blankets to Colonia, the reconstruction hospital, in New Jersey. Several of the members had men from this hospital as guests for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays.

Bergen Chapter is the proud possessor of a silk American flag and standard, the gift of the husband of one of its members. The Chapter has given its full quota to the National Society's Liberty Bond, and for the reconstruction of Tilloloy. It has contributed its share to the fund of the State DAR to make it a founder of the New Jersey State College for Women, affiliated with Rutgers University. The work for the summer of 1918 was making layettes for Belgium babies. These were sent through the Red Cross but the full expense was borne by Chapter members.

"Reconstruction work on a broad and liberal basis, cooperating with every other organization interested in such a program, is the plan for the next few months, emphasis being put on any effort that will make for real Americanism, the perpetuation of the ideals and principles that stimulated the men of 1776."

Ada Davenport Fuller, Historian

Annual reports at the May 1920 meeting showed that Bergen Chapter had not hidden its light during the past year and that in Americanization work it led in the State. This good work was to continue for it was voted to give \$250 in cooperation with Paulus Hook Chapter to provide a moving picture lantern for the International Institute at the Young Woman's Christian Association, Bergen Chapter having inaugurated this work for the Institute last year by providing a lecture in School No. 5. The Chapter also gave generously for the work among the mountain children in South Carolina which the DAR of that state is maintaining.

In December of 1920, Bergen Chapter celebrated the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims. The meeting was held in the Woman's Club, the fifteen officers of the Chapter being hostesses. Mr. Robert M. Boyd, Jr., Governor of the New Jersey branch of the Mayflower Society was the first speaker. He emphasized the ideals of the Pilgrims, how they came for freedom and for worship, and his plea was for Americans today to keep these same high purposes ever before them. Mrs. Thomas R. Ryer, the Regent, presided. The afternoon closed with a pageant when a group of the younger children of the members of the Chapter costumed as Indians, Pilgrim maidens, Pilgrim Fathers and soldiers, marched through the rooms and stepped on the stage. Two stanzas of "America" were sung by all. Eleanor Dear recited the "Breaking Waves Dashed High." The program also included some beautiful soprano solos. A social hour followed, the tea table was bright with holly and the Christmas red.

In March of 1921, the Chapter heard of the school for foreigners. This is a school in Springfield, Mass., where young men and women who come from other countries to America can learn the language and ideals of this country, and afterward give of their time to help others from their homelands, become better Americans. This school has many students who are receiving scholarships from various chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Bergen Chapter has given liberally for the work of this American International College.

Each year the Chapter has engaged in fund raising for its patriotic endeavors. These events have taken the form of card parties of forty tables and over 200 persons attending, sales of "pretty, fancy articles, useful aprons and bags, tasty cakes, candies and jellies," concerts, lectures, oriental fashion show, etc. All of these events were very successful. Each March the Chapter had a birthday party with plenty of cake and goodies.

Both Bergen Chapter and her sister chapter Paulus Hook were proud of their contributions made through the National Society to the building of an up-to-date water system for the Village of Tilliloy in France after World War I. The DAR perpetuating as it does the deeds and ideals of the Revolutionary soldiers remembered with thankfulness the service of some of France's sons in 1776 and was eager to help such a distressed people.

In 1922, Bergen Chapter had an auxiliary of Children of the American Revolution which numbered twenty-six members, the majority of them having mothers as members of the Chapter. This was known as the Jane Tuers Society.

In April 1922, four Jersey City women who as delegates from Bergen Chapter were at the New Willard in Washington, had an exciting time yesterday morning when fire broke out in the ballroom

of the hotel. There were Mrs. Thomas A. Ryer, Regent, Mrs. William J. Ward, First Vice Regent, Mrs. Thomas King and Miss Mary Watson.

About six o'clock yesterday morning one of their number was aroused by a noise, and looking out saw the fire engines in front of the hotel. Opening the door into the hall it was apparent something was wrong. No smoke could be noticed but the guests from the upper floors were hurrying along the corridors and stairways with scant clothing and what possessions they could get together in a few minutes tucked under their arms. The Jersey City guests dressed at once and gathered their belongings in bags, joining the procession, which resembled the familiar pictures of fleeing war refugees.

They with the rest of the hotel guests went out of the F Street door and down the street. By ten o'clock, however, they were permitted to return to their rooms, where nothing had been disturbed, and nothing damaged. Water, however, from the floors above had run down and was standing in the hall at the very door of their room, but had not got into the room, so that all the possessions of the Jersey City delegates were undamaged.

Unfortunately, others in the hotel did not escape so easily. Mrs. George Minor, the President General, who was on the ninth floor, lost everything she had with her excepting the insignia of the National Society worn by the President General and which Mrs. Minor had the presence of mind to carry with her as she descended the stairs clad in dressing gown, bedroom slippers and a boudoir cap.

Known as the oldest house in New Jersey, and said to be the second oldest house in this country, the historic Sip homestead in Jersey City fought for continued existence. Built within the stockade of what was the first permanent settlement on the west side of the Hudson in the Village of Bergen in approximately 1660, the old house was so near the present sidewalk line that improvements essential to widening the thoroughfare to accommodate increased travel put the building in danger of demolition. The Daughters of the Bergen Chapter stepped in and for several years (around 1921) tried to prevent the destruction of the house. It was a pretty house, and a very fine example of old Dutch building with many historic associations. In a prominent location, it would make a fine museum of historical documents and articles. (It is not clear from the clippings available whether this house was moved as the Daughters wanted to another site in the Bergen area or demolished. According to a later undated newspaper photograph (1929?), a Sip House was shipped from its old location to Wychwood, near Westfield, New Jersey, by Arthur R. Rule, developer of the property. Was this the same house?)

BERGEN CHAPTER 1925-1933

The meetings of the Chapter were very colorful. At the midwinter reception in 1925, held at the Bergen Lyceum, the guest speaker was Chief Strong Wolf of the Ojibway tribe of Indians. Mrs. William J. Ward, Regent, presided. In full dress of his tribe, including a most wonderful headdress, with many eagle feathers, Chief Strong Wolf spoke first of his own people, then of the "White Man" and his ways. Through it all he had a plea and a strong one for true Americanism. The Indian he reminded his audience, has been an American citizen legally, but little over a year, while for that matter they have been Americans for hundreds of years. Before closing his talk he gave two dances, one of the Sun Dance and the other a war dance when he gave several curdling war cries.

Arbor Day 1925 was celebrated by planting two trees in West Side Park. One was named in honor of Mrs. P.K. Green and the other for Mrs. William Ward, the present Regent. These were flowering crab apple and this was the first time the Chapter planted any trees in honor of its members.

At the February 1926 meeting the talk was given by Mrs. John Buell of Connecticut, who was the Vice President General and chairman of the distribution of the Manuals for New Americans. These manuals were popular and in much demand. The report of the Americanization Committee of the Chapter was of much interest; it included the news that the Russian boy who had his Christmas box from the Chapter, had passed his mid-years at Rutgers and will continue his studies. It also included a plan for members of the Chapter to cooperate with the International Committee of the YWCA to become acquainted with the women in the households of the large number of men who have recently taken out their first papers, so that these women may also be interested in becoming citizens.

In January of 1928 the Chapter voted to place the name of Mrs. William Ward in nomination for the office of State Vice Regent. Mrs. Ward, who had been Regent for three years, was now serving as State Corresponding Secretary. She won this election and went on to become State Regent in March of 1932. Mrs. Ward served also as National Vice Chairman of Manual for Immigrants. She lived in Summit but resided for many years in Jersey City. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Watson of Lafayette and later Bentley Avenue, was prominent in St. John's Episcopal Church and the Women' Club and the Woman's Club and has been a member of Bergen Chapter since it was organized.

At this same meeting, honor was paid to another former Regent, Mrs. Henry Budd Howell, who died last year, by placing her name in memoriam in the new Constitution Hall being erected in Washington, D.C., by the National Society. This was done by the purchase of a chair in the Hall to bear her name and office.

In November 1929, improper use of the flag around Journal Square and other parts of the City brought severe criticism from both DAR chapters. In voicing their opinions, the leaders in the organization which is sponsoring a move to have the flag code legalized, said the body highly resented the misuse of the American flag and particularly its use for advertising purposes.

The Chapter voted in the Spring of 1930 to provide funds to equip a room in the new dormitory in the school in South Carolina which was maintained for mountain pupils, and which was handicapped in its work by lack of room. Although this was the largest amount of assistance the Chapter had given Tamasee, it was not the first time members have aided the work.

Each February the Jane Tuers Society was in charge of the program. The little people had all the parts and gave much pleasure. It was with gratification to the audience that the announcement was made that a New Jersey DAR flag will be taken to Washington this Spring for the Congress, as the gift of Jane Tuers Society.

The business session of the October 1930 meeting included several reports of interest. The Committee on Legislation, from the National Society, asked that all chapters write and urge their legislators to see that certain bills become law. These included having the Star Spangled Banner the National Anthem, that immigration is even more restricted, and that all teachers take the oath of allegiance. The letters were to be sent in the name of the chapter.

The Silver Anniversary of Bergen Chapter was held at the March 1931 meeting with over 200 members and guests in attendance. The ninety members of Paulus Hook Chapter were special guests at the celebration. Other guests were the state officers. Mrs. William C. Cudlipp, Regent, received the state officers for the first half hour, while a string trio played. Each state officer wore a corsage of violets, the gift of Bergen Chapter, and the lower floor of the Woman's Club was decorated with bowls of roses, palms and ferns. A large silver basket filled with red roses was on the piano, the gift of Paulus Hook Chapter. The meeting was opened with music, the salute to the flag and the American's Creed. A history of the Chapter was read. The program for the day was a musical one. In its life the Chapter has had ten Regents and has built its membership up to 130. Tea was served from the library, where a table was brilliant with silver urns and dishes and a large birthday cake white-iced, and trimmed with silver leaves and roses. Twenty-five lighted candles surrounded the cake.

The closing meeting in May 1931 called for annual reports. The following synopsis of the year's work was given: The programs were divided between talks on activities of the present and a study of history.

During the year the Chapter had five members contribute the papers of historic interest, also two state and national officers were speakers, two programs were illustrated with motion pictures of present day interest, and after one talk slides of historic interest were shown. In addition to the regular programs, the Chapter had two parties this Winter. In January, with the other chapter of the city, it entertained Mrs. Hobart, President-General of the National society, at an evening reception. In March there was a 25th year birthday party.

Mrs. Alfred Hanks was named chairman to organize a chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the Republic in this City. This society was to be composed of young Americans who, although not eligible through their ancestry to join the DAR, may, nevertheless, have part in all patriotic work for their homeland. The purpose of this organization was to fulfill the need of children to belong, to have a part in life, to teach them citizenship and good living. In the Fall of 1931, the Benjamin Franklin Club of the Sons and Daughters of the Republic became a reality and as of December had a membership of over thirty boys and girls ranging in age from nine to fourteen. Bergen Chapter voted to give the new Club a large American flag and also a Christmas party. Another group sponsored by the Chapter was the Girl Home Makers.

In December of 1931, two graves were marked. The one of Cornelius Van Vorst in the old cemetery in Bergen Avenue was marked and unveiled by two descendants of the 1776 soldier who was of the fifth generation from the first settler from Holland. He lived in Pavonia and represented this section in the Eighteenth Provincial Assembly in 1751. He was made a lieutenant-colonel of militia from Bergen County in 1776 by the Provincial Congress. This was sponsored by both Jersey City chapters. The exercise opened with a bugle call, the salute to the flag, an invocation by the Rev. F. Raymond Clee, Pastor of the Old Bergen Church. There was a talk by the Vice Regent of the State Society, Mrs. William Ward, and Miss Marie Van Vorst, a descendant of the patriot, and another descendant, Mrs. Jacob Wortendyke, unveiled the tablet. After the benediction and taps, the group under the leadership of Mrs. W. C. Cudlipp, Regent, journeyed to New York Bay Cemetery to place a marker on the grave of Rebecca Cornell Townsend, a daughter of a Revolutionary soldier and the ancestor of three members of Bergen chapter. The Rev. A. J. Sadler, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, officiated and descendants, Miss Antoinette Ward and Miss Mary A. Barnes, spoke. Mrs. Townsend was a member of a distinguished family in Rahway, which gave loyal service during the days of 1776 and the years to follow.

The March 1932 birthday party was a grand affair in celebration of George Washington's Bicentennial. Prominent men and women who had part in the social side of the life of Washington were portrayed by members of Bergen Chapter. All were dressed in the appropriate costumes as they showed the series of living portraits depicting some of the persons in his life from 1756 to 1790. Violin and piano music was played throughout the afternoon. The program was followed by a tea. Over 200 guests were present.

Arbor Day 1932 was a splendid day of tree planting in Lincoln Park. A grove of 40 trees was planted as a permanent living memorial to Washington on the Bicentennial of his birth. Societies desiring to dedicate one of the trees were entitled to place a bronze marker on the tree. The trees were the gift of the Department of Parks. This plan was suggested some time ago by the Jane Tuers Society. The ceremonies included a parade of the various military, veteran, and patriotic organizations, dedication of the trees by City Commissioner Arthur Potterton, presentation of certificates of membership by the American Tree Association, choral selection, pledge to flag, singing the Star-Spangled Banner, addresses by Governor A. Harry Moore, and Judge Richard Hartshorne.

The annual report of the Regent, Mrs. William Cudlipp, declared 1932 to have been a most active year for the 137 Chapter members. This is the only chapter in the sixty-seven in New Jersey to have active participation in every branch of National and State work. Miss Mary A. Barnes was elected the new Regent.

In February of 1933, the members of the four patriotic societies in the City met for a "Depression Party." The admission was some article of clothing or packages of nonperishable food. The contributions amounted to 200 pieces canned goods, 120 pounds of potatoes, 40 boxes of cereal, 22 pounds of sugar and a generous amount of second-hand clothing and \$46 in cash. Everything was taken to the Red Cross where ten boxes were packed and sent out. The balance was to go to Organized Aid for distribution.

An old-time hand organ was the "orchestra" for the evening and the members and their guests danced the old-fashioned Paul Jones and Virginia Reel. Refreshments were served.

BERGEN CHAPTER 1933-1935

At the November 1933 meeting members brought gifts of clothing and books for the schools in which the DAR is interested, and in December they will bring gifts for the DAR workroom at Ellis Island which the department of Labor in Washington has recently commended highly, and generously provided larger facilities for the work among men and women detained at the Island.

In March of 1934 the Chapter was pleased to put the name of Mrs. William Ward in nomination for a national vice-presidency beginning in 1935. It was also a source of pleasure for the delegates to bring home from the state convention the award for the best yearbook of the eighty state chapters. Prior to her national election Mrs. Ward served as State Regent and State Corresponding Secretary. She was a member of Bergen Chapter for over twenty-five years. Born and educated in Jersey City, she moved to Summit in 1922. She was a descendant of William Bradford, second Colonial Governor of Massachusetts. The former Susanne Watson passed away in April 1938.

BERGEN CHAPTER 1948-1950

Mrs. Robert Bowman Gray was unanimously elected Chairman of the Evening Group at the meeting held in May 1948. Tentative plans were made for next year, including a program for increased membership. Professional and business women who are eligible will be welcome. The group voted to send a child to the Goodwill Camp in Butler.

Mrs. Gray called the September meeting to order to discuss the varied activities for the Fall and Winter. The DAR has several projects of interest, one of which is the Memorial Bell tower at Valley Forge. The national chairman has sent to chapter historians detailed information regarding the many ways in which contributions can be made.

The highlight of the January 1950 meeting was a contribution of \$253.50 made to the building fund to honor the Regent, Miss Mary A. Barnes. This additional amount will enable the name of Bergen Chapter to be placed upon the bronze tablet honor roll, at the entrance to the new administration building in Washington. In order to gain this distinction, the Chapter has to have 100% participation to the building fund, with a fixed amount for each member. Partial scholarships of \$25 each were made to the Kate Duncan Smith and Crossmore schools. Donations were also made to the March of Dimes and the Salvation Army.

At the March 1950 meeting it was announced that Miss Barnes would wear a "gold Star Badge of Honor" during the Continental Congress as the Chapter was on the Gold Star Honor Roll, having raised its full quota for the new building fund. Mrs. Henry A. Klie, Jr., of the Evening Department, will act as page. The ladies were registered at the Hotel Willard.

PAULUS HOOK CHAPTER 1899-1923

This Chapter was named in honor of the trading post which was established at Paulus Hook in 1633. This early trading post was named after Michael Pauw (Paulaz or Paulusen), a burgomaster of Amsterdam, and was near the present site of Jersey City. In 1779, the Battle of Paulus Hook took place at Grand and Greene Streets. The British Fort was on an island near these two streets and was stormed by "Light Horse Harry" Lee and three hundred men. This was considered by General Washington to be one of the most important events of the War.

From Nova Caesarea, the Mother Chapter of New Jersey, other chapters were organized. The first was Boudinot Chapter, then Captain Jonathan Oliphant Chapter, General Frelinghuysen Chapter, Trent Chapter, then Continental Chapter, Lafayette Chapter, and Monmouth Chapter.

Mrs. Joseph D. Bedle, who was the Vice Regent of the Nova Caesarea Chapter with twelve members of that Chapter, formed the Paulus Hook Chapter. The date was April 20, 1899, and the place the house which is now the St. Aloysius Academy, and which was then occupied by Mrs. Everest B. Kiersted, Bergen and Bentley Avenues. This was the first Jersey City Chapter and contained a membership limited to fifty, which has now been increased, with twelve members on the executive board. It took for its motto the one of the National Society, of which it is a part, "For Home and Country." The charter members were Miss Helen Manners, Mrs. Richard Romaine, Mrs. Thomas Gopsill, Mrs. Everest Kiersted, Mrs. James Rusling, Mrs. Joseph Bedle, Mrs. George Case, Mrs. Solon Palmer, Mrs. Oliver Blanchard, Miss Mary Forman, Miss May Bishop, and Mrs. George Werts. The first officers were Mrs. Bedle, Regent; Mrs. Kiersted, Mrs. Werts, Mrs. Rusling, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Gopsill, Mrs. Shera, Mrs. Romaine, Mrs. Blanchard, Mrs. Case.

In 1902 Mrs. Bedle was elected as Vice President General of the National Society for New Jersey.

On November 21, 1903 the City of Jersey City celebrated with splendor, Paulus Hook Day. The Paulus Hook Chapter though but four years old had been responsible for the shaft of rough hewn Quincy granite standing over 31 feet high at Washington and Grand Streets that was unveiled this day in the presence of a notable assemblage of representative people, and the State Militia. Honored guests included General Fitz Hugh Lee, great-grandson of our hero of Paulus Hook Colonel Harry Lee, Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, President General of NSDAR, Mrs. George T. Werts, wife of the ex-Governor, and Chapter Regent, made the presentation to the City, Mayor Fagan accepting it gratefully in the flag-decked City. Mrs. Althea Randolph Bedle, widow of ex-Governor Joseph Bedle, and Vice President General of the national Society addressed the large audience then pulled the strings that released the American flag. The latter fell exposing to view the two bronze plates on the north side of the pedestal that had an inscription giving a brief statement about the Battle of Paulus Hook and the other which had the insignia of the DAR. The orchestra struck up "America," the warship Indiana fired its thirteen guns in a twenty-one gun salute and the crowd added to the din by cheers that could have been heard for blocks around. The spectators not only filled the streets, but crowded roofs of buildings near by.

In accepting the monument on behalf of Paulus Hook Chapter Mrs. Werts said, addressing Mrs. John J. Toffey, Chairman of the Monument Committee: "Madam Chairman — on behalf of Paulus Hook Chapter I accept this monument marking the site of the Battle of Paulus Hook. Its

erection is the consummation of a work undertaken and carried forward by our Chapter in a patriotic spirit and for a patriotic purpose. That it has been completed and is here standing, to proclaim the devotion to liberty, of those who on this historic spot fought, bled and died for American Independence, is due in a great degree, to the committee of which you are Chairman, who have had the work of its erection in charge. I therefore desire, in behalf of Paulus Hook Chapter and all it represents, to thank you and to express our appreciation of the great service you and your committee have rendered to make possible this occasion.”

General Fitz Hugh Lee of Virginia received a typical Jersey welcome when he arose to deliver the oration of the day. He spoke for over an hour. General Lee told the story of Paulus Hook and eulogized George Washington. He dwelt on the heroic deeds of “Light Horse Harry,” General Robert E. Lee, and Commodore Sydney Smith Lee.

Funds amounting to \$1,500 had been appropriated by the State for the monument which was a miniature of the Washington Monument. John and William Passmore Meeker of Newark and James Walling designed the shaft.

The women of Paulus Hook Chapter held a breakfast for over 250 guests before the parade and monument unveiling. As is usual at such gatherings, the decorations were unusually beautiful, and many of the guests wore handsome gowns. Mrs. A. R. Bedle wore a violet velvet suit with a white lace waist, a hat to match, and a large bunch of white violets completed this handsome costume. Black velvet and lace and a toque of the same were worn by Mrs. Werts; Mrs. John Toffey had a gown of black crepe de chine; Mrs. S. R. Allen was in white crepe de chine, with a long feather boa and a white hat; Mrs. E. Kiersted wore grey cloth with a pale green panne velvet hat; Miss Edge had a gown of black lace over white; Mrs. Charles Somers, blue broadcloth with elaborate waist trimmings lace and blue jewels; Miss Nelson was in white; Mrs. J. A. Dear was in black velvet; Mrs. Robert Hudspeth blue with orange and white trimmings; Mrs. C. C. Stimets was dressed in pale green voile, with white silk.

With the advent of numerous motor vehicles the monument in the middle of the street was in a precarious location. In March of 1936, thirty-two years after the dedication, the monument was toppled over by a milk truck and shattered into eleven pieces. The base with its three circular steps remained intact. The driver was given a summons for reckless driving. At the spring luncheon in 1936 it was announced that the monument would be rebuilt on the same location.

Paulus Hook Chapter was represented at the ceremonies of laying of the corner stone for Memorial Continental Hall on April 19, 1904 and at the Celebration Ceremonies incident to the completion of the Hall April 19, 1909 at the 18th Continental Congress.

In the Fall of 1905 the historian Mrs. James Robottom, selected for the winter’s study a most interesting subject, none other than the history that clusters about the names of some of the City’s streets. Not a few of these thoroughfares existed in Revolutionary times; all those selected have such associations, either by name or location. Steuben was the first one to be given attention, and at the February meeting, Montgomery and Warren will be the topics. Morris and Paine are the ones for March; the following month Varick and Wayne; and in April, Tuers and Van Reipen will have mention.

In 1910 this Chapter took active part in the establishment of the Zabriskie and the Erie playgrounds, providing two instructors for one Summer. This work was augmented by teaching dancing in several of the schools. Competitive events were held and prizes awarded to boys and girls. This was a successful undertaking. The Chapter members hoped to teach patriotism through this effort. In 1914 they held a cake sale and carnival card medley to raise funds.

On November 6, 1914 a war relief ball was held at the Fourth Regiment Armory. Approximately \$2,382 has been received as profits from the ball. This was all clear gain, and much of the money was to be spent in Hudson County for relief work incident to war conditions. The Chapter had much help from other societies in making garments for hospitals in Europe, and it was anticipated that fully one thousand of these would be ready to send away the first week in December. After this material was paid for the remainder of the fund will be expended here. In its war work the Chapter was most active through the American Red Cross. Seven packing cases, containing clothing, bedding and surgical supplies for Belgian relief were sent abroad by the Chapter. It is of interest to know that of all DAR chapters in the United States, Paulus Hook stood second in this work. Contributions were made to the Near East Fund. Contributions both in money and clothing were made to all branches of the service, from the War Camp Community, to layettes for foreign babies. French war orphans were provided for. Liberty bonds were bought, hospital work was done and disabled soldiers were taken for motor trips by members donating their cars for the purpose.

PAULUS HOOK CHAPTER 1919-1926

At a business meeting of the Paulus Hook Chapter, held on October 24, 1919, it was voted to increase the dues to \$3.25 – by this increase doing away with all assessments.

The Woman's Club was gay and festive for the silver anniversary of Paulus Hook Chapter (1924). The Chapter celebrated the event with an afternoon reception. They had as guests the members of the two other chapters in Hudson County, Bergen of this City, and Kill van Kull of Bayonne. Regents of all the other chapters in the State were among the guests, as was the State Regent, Mrs. Charles R. Banks of Plainfield. Representatives of Tennessee and Texas as well as other Southern chapters were present.

Palms, bunches of yellow and white chrysanthemums and other flowers decorated the clubhouse. A silver basket with twenty-five pink roses was sent by Bergen Chapter. In the receiving line to greet the many guests were Mrs. Althea Bedle, Organizing Regent, Miss Lucy Nelson, Regent, and the State Regent. Others were Mrs. Thomas Gopsill, Mrs. William Fiske, Mrs. O. R. Blanchard, Mrs. George Shera, Mrs. C. Howard Slater, Mrs. Vincent Shenck, Mrs. Charles Cropper and Mrs. John Wahl Queen, who were other charter members and former Regents.

Music by an orchestra of strings was enjoyed during the first hours of the reception which was from two until five. Mrs. Banks and Mrs. Bedle each had a word of greeting, and later Mr. Joseph Del Puente, the husband of one of the Chapter members sang.

Tea was served from a handsomely decorated table in the library. The table was in white and silver. The cakes and candles were ornamented with the figures "25" in silver on the white icing; and the large birthday cake was lighted with twenty-five white candles.

The first of the Religious and Patriotic Services under the auspices of Paulus Hook and Bergen Chapters was held at the Bergen Dutch Church on Sunday afternoon, January 18, 1925. "What It Means to Be an American," was the keynote of each address. "Americanization work is teaching religion and patriotism" was the statement of Judge Cornelius Doremus, of Ridgewood. He further defined Americanization "as meaning freedom of press, home and of the ballot." "No country that does not revere its history will ever make history of any value," was the comment of the Rev. James S. Kittell, Pastor of the Old Bergen Church. There was a processional with the Regents carrying the Chapter flags and members and guests following. There was a solo by Miss Doris De Puyster Burger, daughter of a member of Bergen Chapter. The song "Banner Most Glorious" composed by Miss Lucy Nelson, Regent, was the processional.

PAULUS HOOK CHAPTER 1928-1936

June 28, 1928, ten members of the Chapter attended the all-day celebration in Freehold, commemorating the famous battle of Monmouth which 150 years ago turned the tide for Washington against the British troops and ended in victory for the Colonial defenders. More than 10,000 persons participated. Following the parade and speeches, a luncheon was served to about one thousand under the grandstand.

In October 1929 at the opening meeting of the Chapter held in the Farimount Hotel, the guests of honor were Mrs. William Becker, a former State Regent, and Mrs. C. Edward Murray, State Regent. Mrs. Murray gave a resume of the departments and the plans of each chairman. Of these she stressed patriotic education and added that it was a patriotic duty of every loyal DAR to cast a vote at each election. She gave no advice how one should vote, other than it was a subject for thought and she felt if due consideration was given by each voter, the best candidates would be elected.

Mrs. Frank E. Older, Regent, is an active member of the committee for the Pulaski celebration to be held in this City this month, and as the committee is working to secure a permanent fund for a scholarship for some boy of Polish descent, the Chapter voted to give twenty-five dollars toward this permanent fund.

November 1929 the auditorium of the Woman's Club was filled and the members of Paulus Hook Chapter and their friends enjoyed a card party. This is a yearly fund raiser for their patriotic work. Over fifty-five tables were reserved, the games were for two hours and top score at each table had an especially pleasing reward. They were large boxes of guest soap in various colors most alluringly packed, and generally admired. They were unique and a novelty for any party in this City.

Chapter members contributed through their organization to all of the many Mountain Schools in which the National Society took interest. The Chapter members entertained the clubs of foreign born women in the City, providing generous treats as part of such days.

Jersey City has the lowest crime rating of any city in the United States, was the statement by former Gov. A. Harry Moore to the members of Paulus Hook Chapter, when he spoke to them in the Hotel Fairmount (February 1931 meeting). He explained that as Chicago's government had resented the implication of it having the highest rate, a study had been made of a cross section of the country, with the records of eighty-one typical cities and that this City had won the enviable place first in low rating. He cited this to ask the members of the Chapter if they would not be ever on the alert to keep the City in which they live a good place for youth to grow up.

The meeting was in charge of the Regent, Mrs. J. William McKelvey, and after a brief business session, when the Chapter gave a sum of money to the drought fund of the Red Cross, some violin solos were enjoyed. These were played by Miss Ruth Kelly with Mrs. Lester Datz at the piano. A social hour with refreshments followed.

The Chapter members participated in the patriotic service in Bergen Reformed Church held Sunday afternoon in commemoration of the 199th birthday of Washington.

Mrs. J. W. Perkins of Maplewood was the special guest and speaker at the December 1931 meeting. It was nine years since the National Society was given permission by the Commissioner at Ellis Island to make an effort to occupy the time of the women in the detention rooms, so that they would find it less irksome to wait for the decision which gave them entrance to this country or which sent them back to the homeland.

The work was tried first with the women and then, because of its success, by request, was enlarged to include the men. It is simple, but most effective and consists in finding something pleasant for idle hands and minds to do. Most of it is sewing for the women and knitting for the men, and there are fifteen men to one woman in the Island, according to the speaker.

The wool for knitting, the crayons for drawing and the material for sewing is provided by the chapters of the DAR the country over. The Society also pays for two attendants on the Island to give out the material, while national division and the state chairmen make many trips during the year to watch how the work is progressing.

Miss Lucy Foster Nelson, Regent from 1923-25, passed away on December 25, 1934. She also served the Chapter as Historian and Vice Regent. She represented the Chapter often at Washington at the National Congress and at other state and national gatherings. Miss Nelson was born in New York City. She was one of a large family, which included six daughters and three sons. Of the brothers, one, Mandeville, was killed during the Civil War and another went to South America and died there. Her family dated to the colonial period of this country and one of her ancestors served as major of militia during the Revolutionary War.

Miss Nelson, a soprano, early received a thorough musical training. She sang in the choir of St. John's Episcopal Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in this City. She also sang in many concerts and many private musicales. Added to the choir positions, she taught vocal music and had

been in charge of the musical study at the Bergen School for Girls in the City many years, beginning as a teacher there soon after the school was started by the late Miss Sarah Van Cleef.

Miss Nelson wrote the words and music to "Banner Most Glorious" which was dedicated to the Daughters of the American Revolution and sung frequently at state and national meetings.

Old Glory, the flag of the free I unfold you,
Blending your colors with those of the sky,
Our nation shall bend in devotion and show you
The hearts of its people that never can die.

(Refrain)

Banner most Glorious shall fail us never,
Banner most Glorious, banner forever.

Banner most Glorious show me my duty,
Whither you wave me there will I go
After my God to you is my duty,
To home and my country, my honor I owe.

(Refrain)

God of our fathers bless Thou our land,
Ocean to ocean ownest Thy hand,
Flag of our country fail thou us never,
Flag of our country true patriots we stand.

(Refrain)

The following article from the Jersey Journal of March 15, 1936 is copied here. "Heroes of '76 Buried Under Street in Jersey" – "Their monument an asphalt pavement, the remains of Revolutionary War soldiers who gave their lives in the first Battle of Paulus Hook, are buried here in a hogshead which rests under the intersection of Morris and Washington Streets. The hogshead was buried by Jersey City employees some time between the close of the Civil War and 1880. Records concerning the unusual grave do not reveal the date.

"The scattered bones were discovered more than 100 years after the soldiers, troops under General Mercer, were shot down by the British as the Colonists retreated from Fort Paulus Hook, September 12, 1776. The American soldiers buried their dead in hastily dug graves in an old burying ground in the section west of what is now Washington Street, between Morris and Sussex Streets. Here they rested for about 100 years and time obliterated all means of identifying them.

"The repaving of Washington Street after the Civil War resulted in uncovering the bones. A man, described in the records as "a patriotic resident of the neighborhood," gathered them and placed them all in a hogshead, which he turned over to the City officials.

“With the intention of later erecting a suitable monument over the grave, the hogshead was placed under the pavement at the center of the intersection nearest to the old cemetery. Nothing was done about the monument, however, and on November 21, 1903, when Paulus Hook Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, unveiled a monument commemorating the recapture of Paulus Hook by Major Henry (Light Horse Harry) Lee’s troops, April 19, 1799, the site selected for the monument was two blocks from the ‘hogshead grave,’ at Washington Street and Grand Street.

“That is why a monument records the victory of Lee’s forces, although there were no casualties in the battle. The ‘hogshead cemetery’ has been forgotten by the patriotic organizations.”

The November 29, 1936, newspapers carried an article and picture of Mrs. Solon Palmer who was celebrating her 100th birthday. Mrs. Palmer pooh-poohed the idea she was getting old. Going through a stack of congratulatory mail was just a snap in her busy life, which included club work, acting as trustee for a home for the aged, automobiling, playing backgammon and reading—without spectacles. “The world is getting better,” she said, as she cut the 100-candle birthday cake at a party which included her son, two granddaughters and four great grandchildren.

“I like women to be womanly,” she said. “In my mind men seem to be the leaders— let them be. I don’t think women belong in public life or business unless necessity forces them to make their own way. It is not their place any more than a man’s place is in the kitchen. Men should dominate and women should allow themselves to be taken care of—it is more beautiful that way.” Mrs. Palmer did, however, believe that women should be well informed. She still reads the headlines in the daily papers. On November 3 she went by automobile to the Essex Fells Borough Hall where a voting booth was brought to the lower floor for her use. She proudly said she cast her vote for President Roosevelt, whom she greatly admires.

Mrs. Palmer was one of the organizers of Paulus Hook Chapter. Two years later she celebrated her 102nd birthday.

BERGEN-PAULUS HOOK CHAPTER 1951-1964

On October 24, 1951, Paulus Hook Chapter joined with the Bergen Chapter and the new Bergen-Paulus Hook Chapter was formed. The merging Regents were Mrs. Harvey B. Nelson for the Bergen Chapter and Miss Alice G. Throckmorton for the Paulus Hook Chapter.

Miss Helen M. Wright was Regent of the Chapter from 1953-1956. She was descended from a long line of Scotch, French, Irish, and Pennsylvania Germans who settled on Long Island and the New England states. She was the eldest daughter of the late Rev. John B. Wright and Mrs. Wright born at the time her father was first made Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Orange. They came to Jersey City in 1899 when her father was appointed Presiding Elder of the Jersey City District of Methodist Churches.

Besides her extensive work on DAR and genealogy tracings, Miss Wright was also the author of three books which are in all major libraries and in larger universities.

According to Miss Wright, her first work in tracing the history and authenticity of colonists came from a study of a glass portrait of Sir Hans Sloan, an ancestor, who was founder of British Museum. This work led her to England and Scotland in 1935 where she studies at British Museum. This was her first printed work.

She served as State President of Children of the American Revolution from 1941-1943.

Mrs. Harvey B. Nelson served as Corresponding Secretary and then Regent, 1944-1947, of Bergen Chapter, again became Regent in 1950-1953, serving when the two Chapters merged in 1951. In 1955 she held the post of State Librarian. Mrs. Nelson was adept at getting donations. A few years ago she was in charge of the State DAR Ellis Island project, and collected \$2,700 worth of gifts for old seamen and hospitalized veterans at Ellis Island hospital, recently closed.

Mrs. Nelson traces her ancestry to Stephen Lupton and John Harris, who came from England in the early 1600's, and to Adam Snyder, who arrived about then from Holland.

March 1956 marked the 50th anniversary of Bergen Chapter of Bergen-Paulus Hook. During the program, a citation of merit was presented to Mrs. Lillian Dennegar, *Hudson Dispatch* Society Editor. Miss Edith Locke, Society Reporter, accepted the citation. The *Jersey Journal* also received an award. The citation stated "an award of merit to the *Hudson Dispatch* in grateful acknowledgment and sincere appreciation of outstanding services and worthy accomplishments for the protection of our Constitutional Republic." This marked the first time this organization had publicly thanked the press for "outstanding coverage and accurate presentation to the public of the services and activities of DAR," said Miss Helen Wright, Regent.

Another citation was presented to Hon. David A. Nimmo, member of the Legislative Committee on Juvenile Delinquency. Miss Aline Gerow, Chapter Chairman of National Defense, made the presentation.

A fifty year pin was given to Mrs. Frances E. Eaton, a charter member, who was now residing at St. Petersburg, Florida.

Included in the audience were Regents from surrounding chapters and past and present National and State officers.

The program concluded with solo selections by Glenna Parker Wood, lyric soprano, accompanied by Ruth Bradley, composer-pianist. Mrs. Manton L. Graff was Anniversary Chairman, assisted by Mrs. Samuel W. Garrison, Mrs. David Nimmo and Mrs. William A. Gross.

Mrs. Nellie H. Hamblin was well-known as an organizer, historian and parliamentarian. She was Regent of Paulus Hook Chapter from 1938-1941. She was active in church and community work. Mrs. Hamblin died at 91 years of age on March 24, 1959.

At the annual meeting in May 1959 it was announced that the Chapter received national recognition with a certificate for their outstanding work during the past year. At the State Convention in March the group received a citation for its yearbook and program. Mrs. Henry A. Klie was elected Regent.

Bergen-Paulus Hook held an “informal guest day” in March 1960. Mrs. George C. Skillman, State Regent, was the guest of honor. Mrs. Klie presented pins to the Misses Mary and Helen Barnes representing fifty years each as members of DAR. Also medals were presented to three students from Bergen School, for excellency in history. They are the Misses Carolyn Sommers, Lynn Lobban and Florence Lipari. Also honored were the Misses Kris Rasmusson and Nancy Lavender, from Bergen School, who won first and second place respectively for essays in “Historic Trailways” contest sponsored by State and National DAR. Miss Lois Graff, Good Citizen Chairman introduced three girls who represented Jersey City high schools at State DAR convention.

In May 1960 a marker was placed by Mrs. Henry A. Klie on the grave of Elizah Gardner who fought in the American Revolution. He was buried in Weehawken Cemetery, North Bergen, in 1807 and was the direct ancestor of Mrs. Carl O. Swenson, a member of the chapter.

Mrs. Klie, past Regent, was elected in March 1962 to serve as State Librarian. Her new duties include coordinating research projects of eighty-three DAR chapters in the State. She was elected delegate to serve the 71st Continental Congress on the Resolutions Committee.

BERGEN-PAULUS HOOK CHAPTER 1966–

The Chapter made a contribution of \$25.00 for a partial scholarship for a student at the Hindman Settlement School in Kentucky. They also sent a \$25.00 gift each for the general fund for the Kate Duncan Smith School and to the Tamassee DAR School. A contribution was made to the President General’s National Bicentennial Project. (1973)

In 1983, Mrs. Henry A. Klie was elected to serve as State Regent of New Jersey for a three-year term. She joined the chapter as a Junior, was elected Regent following other executive offices and chairmanships. In 1962 during the renovation and expansion of the balcony of NSDAR Library, Mrs. Klie, then State Librarian, spearheaded a drive to present two sets of stairs. In addition to being Chief Teller, and member of the Credentials and Resolution Committees, she had an outstanding record as Chairman of State Honor Roll and Membership Committees.

Following service as National Vice Chairman, Mrs. Klie was appointed National Chairman of Honor Roll. She has been Division Representative, NSDAR Speakers Staff and Vice Chairman of the Congressional Platform Committee. She served as a Trustee of KDS and Tamassee DAR Schools.

Mrs. Klie was elected as Treasurer General NSDAR in 1986 for a term of three years. In 1990 at the 99th Continental Congress she was elected Treasurer of the National Officers Club.

On October 28, 1986, members of Bergen-Paulus Hook Chapter attended the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Statue of Liberty at Liberty State Park, in Jersey City, and gave out American flags to the newly naturalized citizens. They enjoyed a piece of a huge birthday cake and coffee.

EPILOGUE

The supply of clippings has come to an end. Most of the articles were from the local newspapers, *The Hudson Dispatch* and *The Jersey Journal*. A few articles were taken from Washington, D.C. papers. From some of these one can determine the goals and accomplishments of the National Society for both Bergen Chapter and Paulus Hook Chapter supported the work of the State and National organizations. In addition, changes in social thought were apparent to the reader. In the early years, one clearly emphasized goal was the Americanization of foreigners by education, and by working with the women and children of new citizens. The Daughters were proud of their heritage as many articles gave family history of the officers. The Daughters were fiercely patriotic and for America and Americans, 100%. Still patriotic, they have modified their emphasis over the years in keeping with the times and have widened their viewpoints to recognize the fact that America is globally involved.

Competition for National office was keen. Our Chapter was honored to have had several of our members serve with distinction on the National and State levels.

It was interesting to note Chapter involvement in most of the same committees that we have today. It was not unusual to find seventeen of nineteen committees with active chairmen.

The programs by the Chapters were elaborate and colorful. They were glorious events, well-attended and gracefully executed, indicating the diligence and enthusiasm of the Daughters.

When it was established Paulus Hook took as its flower the red carnation and its motto the same as that of National. The motto now is, "GOD, HOME AND COUNTRY." There have been good times and bad times. As with all organizations our goal is to increase our membership so that we can continue to carry on with increased activity for another "Century of Service to the Nation" through education, patriotism and history.