In 2010, the Passaic County Historical Society Genealogy Club made a decision to publish a book in memory of E. Ruth Shew Bauer. Ruth had been a member of the Genealogy Club for many years and was a dedicated library volunteer. She helped many researchers find their family “roots” in Bergen and Passaic Counties.

Ruth was especially knowledgeable about Paterson, N.J. She always had a soft spot in her heart for the City where she spent her childhood. Ruth’s memory was fantastic. She could always be relied upon to know the original names of churches and city streets, and was well-versed in local history.

Ruth’s ethnic background was Dutch and her first interest was in the many Dutch churches that were in Paterson. She compiled a large scrapbook of photographs and articles pertaining to these churches. Her book was such a valuable resource to library visitors, that Ruth was encouraged to expand her collection to include other denominations. She was in the process of doing this when she died very unexpectedly. Her death left a huge void in the lives of her family as well as in her PCHS “family.”

When the Genealogy Club received monetary donations in memory of Ruth, it was decided that compiling an ecclesiastical history of Paterson would be the most fitting way to use these funds. Every effort has been made to include brief accurate historical sketches of the approximately 200 churches, synagogues and missions that were established in Paterson during the years 1792 through 1942. It was challenging to trace the history of some organizations, and we often had to rely on the Paterson City Directories for the names of clergy and their approximate dates of service. For organizations for which there was little or no information, we used the year they were first listed in the City Directory as “founding” date.

When we undertook this project, little did we realize how fascinated and humbled we would become as we explored the history of the religious institutions and their founders. Countless hours flew by as we researched the Society’s collection, newspapers, maps and the internet. It’s been a fascinating journey. We hope you will be encouraged to learn more about Paterson’s rich ecclesiastical history.

Ecclesiastical History of Paterson, NJ

A History of Paterson’s Churches, Synagogues and Missions • 1792 ~ 1942
Annita Zalenski and Robert J. Hazekamp, Jr.
Passaic County Historical Society Genealogy Club

A 262 page softcover book comprising of brief historical sketches of the approximately 200 churches, synagogues and missions that were established in Paterson, New Jersey during the years 1792 through 1942. Illustrated with 182 photos, and fully indexed.

$25.00 plus $6.00 shipping (USA only).

Please send _______ copy/copies of Ecclesiastical History of Paterson, NJ. Enclosed is my check for $___________. (Please include $6.00 shipping for each book.)

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Please send check to: Passaic County Historical Society Genealogy Club, Lambert Castle, 3 Valley Road, Paterson, NJ 07503