

Hobart and Griggs, Of Paterson, Prom

City Produced Vice Pres., Attorney Gen.

**Both Men Selected
Life of Service in
Law and Government**

The Hobarts and the Griggs are Paterson families which have made the national scene.

Garret A. Hobart, who attained the vice-presidency of the United States and John W. Griggs, who was a U.S. Attorney General, both selected a life of service in government and law.

Hobart was vice-president during William McKinley's first administration and would have walked straight into the White House if he had been alive on Sept. 14, 1901, when President McKinley died.

But, Hobart, beloved and respected son of Paterson died in Paterson on Nov. 21, 1899, nearly two years before his chief, and the way was opened for Theodore Roosevelt to become McKinley's second vice-president and then president six months after McKinley's reelection.

Hobart was the 24th vice-president of the United States.

College at 14

When Garret Hobart was 14 years old he turned in his first distinguished feat. The son of Alison W. and Sophia Vander Hobart, he was born in Branch, N.J., on June 3,

1844, attended a classical school in Freehold and later one in Matawan.

He made such rapid progress in his studies that he was ready for college at the age of 14, an unusual accomplishment.

Young Hobart entered Rutgers, where he won a prize in mathematics and, upon his graduation in 1863, was chosen to deliver the English salutatory.

Like Socrates Tuttle, who gave him his first chance to

study law, Garret Hobart taught school for awhile, but abandoned it in favor of law. He adopted Paterson as his native city and almost immediately developed qualities of a remarkable nature which were to distinguish him continually throughout later life.

Almost immediately upon Hobart's admission to the bar, he began a career of professional, business and political success in New Jersey. He had the natural endowments of ability, en-

ergy, and enterprise and enjoyed a domestic life of singular felicity and the love and devotion of a woman whose every thought was for his comfort and peace.

Elected City Solicitor

It was but three years after he entered the office of Socrates Tuttle that he was made a partner and the firm became Tuttle and Hobart. His political life began with his election as city solicitor of Paterson in 1871 at the age of 27, and a year

later was appointed counsel to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Despite his popularity and his reputation as one of the ablest practitioners in the county, he seldom appeared in court, preferring to obtain an amicable and just settlement of disputes without recourse to litigation. This judicious quality, which punctuated his entire life, gave him an unusual political advantage.

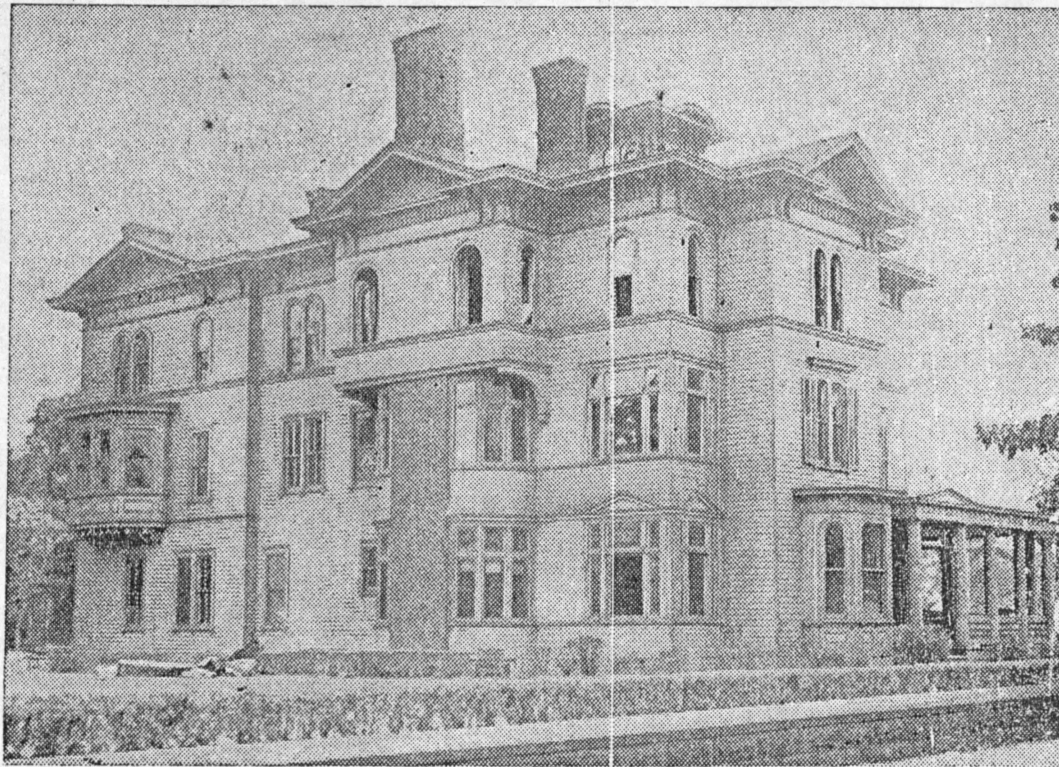
In 1872, Hobart was elected to represent the third district of Passaic County by the largest majority ever given a candidate. Although a descendant of staunch Democratic stock, he forsook that party for Republicanism and continued as an adherent to that political faith throughout life.

Speaker of House

Methodically, his political life took shape and increased in scope. Hobart next went to the Legislature and upon his reelection in 1873 to the Assembly was chosen speaker of the House.

Against the pleas of his constituents, he declined the nomination for a third term, but bowing to the demands of his public and party, agreed to run for state senator in 1876. He was elected and reelected in 1879 and again in 1889 held the office. He became president of the Senate in 1881 and discharged the duties of the presidency for two terms with distinction.

During his incumbency he was a member of some of the more important committees of the Senate, among them revision of laws, education, state library, industrial school for girls, printing, and fisheries. Some of the most useful laws



THE HOBART mansion in Paterson on Carroll Street between Van Houten and Ellison Streets. The stately building was demolished and the Paterson YWCA now occupies the site. Adjacent to the Hobart mansion was the Tuttle mansion, which was also demolished. The YWCA grounds includes both tracts.

inent on National Scene



PRESIDENT WILLIAM McKINLEY (left) confers with his Vice-President, Garret A. Hobart, at the Hobart mansion in Paterson. The President was a guest, on many occasions, at the home of the Vice-President.

today were fostered by Hobart and he fathered the law providing for summary judicial investigation of the affairs of any county by application of 20 freeholders and the act charging the sinking fund of the state with the payment of all the interest and part of the principal of the state debt yearly.

The Republican State Committee next saw the advisability of enlisting Hobart's sagacious mind and elected him state chairman. Under his supervision, some of the most brilliant election campaigns were conducted. In 1844 he stepped up as a member of the national committee, being entrusted with many of the most important duties of the body, and later becoming its vice-chairman.

Headed National Committee

Congressional nominations were dropped into his lap repeatedly, but he consistently declined, preferring to work behind the scenes in the interests of the Republican organization. In the years from 1892 to 1896, he was chairman of the National Republican Committee.

Coupled with his service as a legislator, Hobart

there was a move afoot to place him in line for the presidential nomination. But New Jersey Republicans were deterred by a nation-wide boom for William McKinley for president, which was gaining momentum.

Garret A. Hobart became the third New Jersey resident to be honored by the Republican Party in being nominated for vice-president. Theodore Frelinghuysen on the ticket with Henry

As vice-president he was instrumental in defeating the Senate resolution granting the Philippines independence on the same terms as the Cubans, and in addition to his legislative duties, he was a constant advisor to the President, particularly during the hectic days of the Spanish - American War. His tact and advice, historians claim, were responsible again and again for effectually solving problems of diplomacy and government.

Early in 1899, through his increasing application to duty, his health was completely undermined and after several months of severe illness and confinement in his Washington home, he and his wife and son returned to Paterson. He died on Nov. 21, 1900. He was succeeded as presiding officer of the United States Senate by Senator William Frey of Missouri.

Thousands Pay Last Respects

There are some who still remember the funeral of Garret A. Hobart on that cold clear day in 1899, when business in the city was almost at a standstill in tribute to the city's



and efficient handling of receiverships and on several occasions employed his business dexterity to the extent that within a few months after various bankruptcy proceedings he was able to salvage something for the stockholders.

Among the various businesses, over 40 in number with which he was associated, were the Paterson Railway Company, the Morris County Railroad Company, of which he was president; the First National Bank of Paterson; the Paterson Savings Institution; the New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad; the Edison Electric Illuminating Company; the Barbour Flax Spinning Company; the American Cotton Seed Oil Company, in all of which he was a director. In many of these he was also legal advisor.

It was this prolific activity in public and business life in New Jersey, and especially Paterson, that won for him the reputation of the "most popular man in New Jersey."

As national attention focused on Hobart more often in the final years of the Nineteenth Century, he was mentioned in various parts of the country as the logical candidate for a national office. Even before his actual nomination as vice - president, his name was repeatedly linked with that of William McKinley, then being boomed as the presidential nominee. Judge John F. Fort, of New Jersey, was the Republican leader selected to present Hobart's name before the National Convention for the vice-presidency. The vote on the first ballot for Hobart was 533½ to 385½.

However, prior to his nomination for the vice - presidency,

Clay in 1844 was defeated. William L. Dayton on the ticket with John Charles Fremont in 1856 was also defeated.

McKinley and Hobart were elected in 1896 and no one to this day challenges the statement that Hobart was an important factor in the successful campaign of the Republican Party that year.

Returning to Paterson from St. Louis, where he was nominated, Hobart shared a private car with General Sewell and his followers. Along the route he was cheered and his nomination excited interest. Crowds greeted him in this city, surpassing the demonstrations which took place when news of his nomination first reached Paterson.

When the city-wide reception was tendered him, the Armory with its 15,000 capacity was not large enough to hold the well-wishers from both political parties who attended to pay tribute to the man who brought Paterson into national prominence. Mayor Christian Braun, a Democrat, presided at the ceremonies.

In his address Hobart said, "If there ever was a time in my life when I was embarrassed, this is the exact moment."

Extends His Thanks

Filled with emotion he extended his thanks to his fellow citizens and explained his feelings for Paterson with a Robert Burns poem with which he concluded his talk.

His strenuous efforts during the campaign year in which McKinley was elected president of the United States are blamed for his ultimate breakdown in health at the zenith of his career.

for the services.

The sum of \$15,000 was raised by citizens of Paterson for a statue memorializing the vice-president and this was unveiled at the City Hall Plaza on June 3, 1903.

The body of Garret A. Hobart now lies in a mausoleum erected in Cedar Lawn Cemetery, a building 38 feet long, 19 feet broad, and 21 feet high, designed in Grecian Doric.

The Hobart estate on the easterly side of Carroll Street, between Ellison and Van Houten Streets, and known as Carroll Hall, was a hub of social activity during the political rise of Garret A. Hobart.

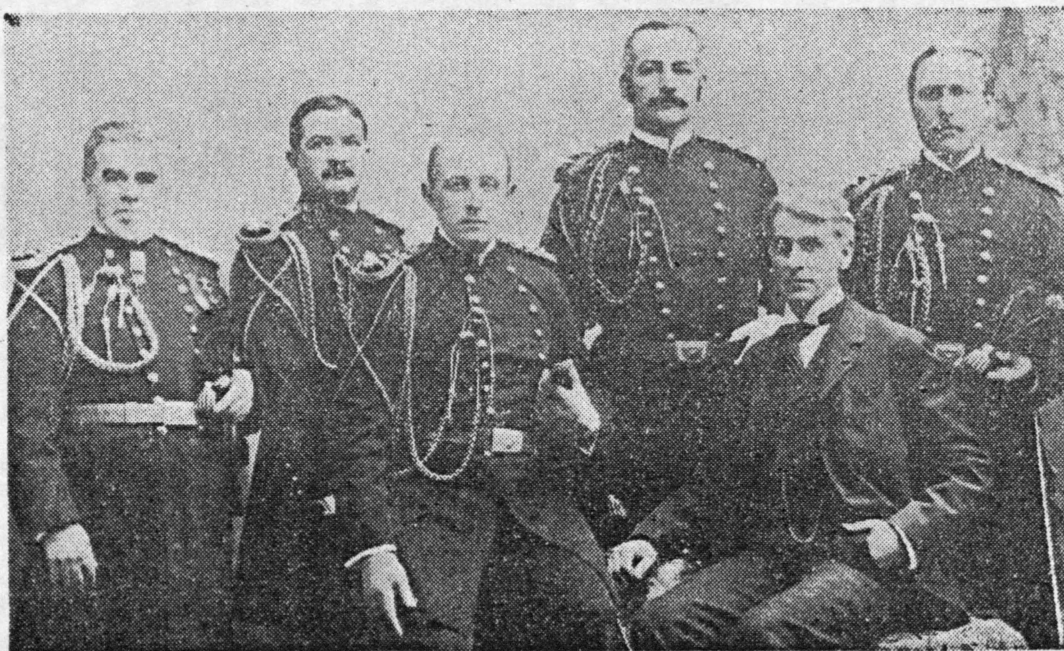
It was here that presidents, princes and princesses, and ambassadors dined and were feted. The house, which was torn down some years ago to make way for the YWCA, was purchased by the Hobarts in early 1880's.

The Hobarts made additions to the house, including the art gallery which housed many priceless paintings now on display at the Paterson Museum, to which they were donated by Mrs. Hobart, who died in 1941.

The Hobarts also had a stately mansion on the tract now occupied by Paterson State College, on Pompton Road, Haledon and Wayne. The 40 - room mansion was one of the finest homes in the Paterson area.

Throughout Hobart's political career and particularly during his term as vice - president many prominent persons visited Paterson. These included President McKinley, Mark Hanna, Charles Fairbanks, who later became vice-president of the

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GOVERNOR JOHN W. GRIGGS with members of his staff.