

Hobart, Griggs Prominent on Nat'l Scene



THE HOBART mansion on Pompton Road, in Haledon and Wayne, was built in an era of glittering social activity. A balcony of the dwelling is shown. The tract is now occupied by Paterson State College.

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United States himself, many United States senators; and Crown Prince Albert of Belgium.

President Visited Temple

After the death of the vice-president, President McKinley continued his friendships with Paterson residents and on April 20, 1900, attended Passover services at the Barnert Memorial Temple as a guest of Mayor Nathan Barnert. A plaque, where the former president sat, now graces the pew.

During World War I Mrs. Hobart lent the use of Carroll Hall for work for the Belgians and many Belgian and Paterson women gathered there daily to sew and knit.

Thousands of garments were sent overseas to Belgium. For her work, Mrs. Hobart received the Cross of the Order of Leopold, conferred on her by King Albert of Belgium, the prince who she once entertained at dinner.

Mrs. Hobart, daughter of Socrates Tuttle, well-known and prominent Paterson attorney, was born of a lineage of sturdy pioneering English-American stock. Her ancestors came to the "new world" in 1633.

About John Griggs

John W. Griggs, governor of the State of New Jersey and United States attorney general was a man dedicated to the service of his fellow citizens.

The Griggs home on the corner of 12th Avenue and E. 27th Street was one of the show-places of Paterson. It was here in the 1890's that glittering social events were held.

Although little is known of Griggs when he was a youth, his prominence in New Jersey political affairs culminated in his election of Governor of the state in 1896 by a thumping majority of 27,000.

A staunch Republican, Griggs was the first of his party to be elected Governor of the Garden State since the days of the Civil War and his election was hailed as a barometer in national politics.

New Jersey's capture by the Republicans by such a striking majority pointed to her as the State in the East to be given the honor of selecting a running mate for the presidential candidate, ex-Gov. William McKinley of Ohio.

Eyes of Republicans naturally turned toward Garrett A. Hobart, who as chairman of the state committee led the campaign to such a glorious victory for the gubernatorial candidate.

Director of Corporations

Griggs at that time was director of some of the largest corporations in the world. He was chairman of the Board of Directors of the Paterson National Bank and a golf enthusiast at the Arcola Golf Club.

Griggs served only one term as governor, resigning in 1898 to become attorney general of the United States. Here he graced the office in the finest American tradition.

It was as a member of the New Jersey legislature that he first distinguished himself as a statesman. He served in both branches and in 1885 was president of the Senate. His rare eloquence won for him while still young the title of "the silver tongued orator of New Jersey and his force in debate stamped him as one of the state's leaders, almost from the

moment he stepped into the legislative arena.

Services Rendered

Among the many important services he rendered New Jersey was his work in connection with a bill to tax the railroads. This was the first act ever passed to tax the railroads, which claimed exemption from taxation under irrevocable contracts with the state. Even the big Pennsylvania Railroad was then paying into the state treasury less than \$300,000 a year in the form of transit duties.

The railroad act was drawn up by the then Governor Abbett and was one of the most-hotly contested bills in the state's history. Both houses were dead-

locked over it until Senator Griggs masterminded a series of conferences with various committees and whipped the bill into better shape and it was finally passed. As a result of the passage of this law, the income of the state was increased by some \$4 million a year.

Governor Griggs was graduated from Lafayette College and received his L.L.D. from Princeton and Yale. At one time he studied law in the office of Socrates Tuttle, father of Mrs. Hobart.

The site where the Griggs mansion once stood is now occupied by the Yavneh Academy. The stately home was demolished in 1951.