



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Trenton City Museum Ellarslie Mansion  
Cadwalader Park  
Trenton, New Jersey

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**The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion to host an exhibit  
“Rider – The First 99 Years”  
September 17 through November 15**

Mayor Douglas H. Palmer announced today that the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park and the Trenton Museum Society will present an exhibit about Rider University’s early history in Trenton, titled “Rider – The First 99 Years”. The exhibition will open on Thursday, September 17, with a reception from 6 - 8 PM at Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park, Trenton. Dr. Walter Brower, Professor Emeritus, will speak at the opening reception.

Originally founded in 1865 by the Bryant, Stratton and Whitney chain of business colleges as the Trenton Business College, the school became Rider College in 1921. Rider College called Trenton home until 1964, when it left the City to relocate in nearby Lawrenceville.

The initial curriculum provided students with skills needed by the Trenton business community for its growing economy. The introduction of a “business teacher” program enabled Rider to educate and train future business leaders at the secondary school level, increasing its importance to Trenton’s business community.

Documents and artifacts from its 1865 beginnings through its 1964 move to a new campus in Lawrenceville will show the evolution of Rider from a small for-profit business school to a non-profit college offering degrees in business, education and liberal arts. The exhibit focuses on important moments in Rider’s history, the people who owned and governed the college, the evolution of its curriculum, Rider’s relationship to Trenton businesses, student life, athletics, and the move to Lawrenceville.

The displays feature pictures, documents, memorabilia and artifacts. Some of the more notable artifacts are typewriters from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, photographs of Rider’s first graduating class in 1867, as well as early diplomas.

Although Rider began its relocation to the Lawrenceville campus in 1959 and closed its Trenton campus in 1964, the school retains strong ties with its original home city. This exhibition invites students, faculty and alumni to learn about the history of this venerable educational institution as it evolved from a small business school to a modern university.

**In addition to remarks by Professor Brower at the opening reception, there will be a program, Sunday, October 25, at 2 PM, about the Rider exhibit at the museum.**

This program is made possible in part by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts. Programming and additional exhibit support provided by the Trenton Museum Society.

The Trenton City Museum is owned, maintained and operated by the City of Trenton, Department of Recreation, Natural Resources and Culture, Division of Culture and is located at the Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park. Hours are: Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. and Sundays, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Mondays and Municipal Holidays. Visit [www.ellarslie.org](http://www.ellarslie.org) for more information and directions or contact Museum Director Brian O. Hill at 609-989-3632.