

East Orange Past, Present, and Future

By Jim Gerrish and Frederick Goode
Of the Interactive Museum of East Orange

The information in this book is based on years of research from many sources including oral interviews, newspapers, and past histories. We discovered historical contradictions in the course of our research which we have tried to correct in this edition. We believe that this book contains the most accurate information pertaining to the history of East Orange to date. If you find any historical inconsistencies, please provide us with accurate sources and citations supporting your findings so that we may make revisions. E-mail: [**ehistorical@yahoo.com**](mailto:ehistorical@yahoo.com)

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Chapter 1 – Municipal Buildings and Mayors

In this year of 2009, we celebrate 100 years since the incorporation of East Orange as a city. Every centennial celebration of the past has produced a historic record of the event in text and photos. Our current centennial history is largely told in photographs within this book. The history of our city in writing has been well told in the last such book, that we have had reprinted:

A Centennial History of East Orange, available in our libraries and available for purchase on our Web site (www.eohistory.info). Our challenge today is to capture the City of East Orange at this present moment in history, link it to our past history, and project, as best we can, what our future history may be. The Web site will help us with the latter task.

For example:



In 1863, East Orange separated from Orange in Timothy Mulford's wheelwright shop on Main Street. The township of East Orange was administered from the offices of Moses Williams, then in Ashland School, and later in the Commonwealth Building.



The commonwealth building was constructed on Arlington Avenue in 1887 by the Orange Water Company. By 1892, plans were being made for building a real Town Hall.



This photo of the 1899 “City Hall” on Main Street was taken in 1907 during the celebration of the Centennial of the Oranges, and although East Orange was not yet officially incorporated as a city, there was no doubt that it soon would.



Today’s City Hall was dedicated in 1929, and that brings us up to the present time: 2009. On the next pages, we present our city’s mayors, from past to present.



Edward E. Bruen
1899 - 1905



William Cardwell
1905 - 1911



Julian A. Gregory
1911 - 1915



Worrall F. Mountain
1915 - 1917



Charles H. Martens
1918 - 1952



William M. McConnell
1952 - 1958



James W. Kelly, Jr.
1958 - 1969



William S. Hart
1970 - 1977



Thomas Cooke
1978 - 1985



John C. Hatcher, Jr.
1986 - 1989



Cardell Cooper
1990 - 1997



Robert L. Bowser
1998 -

For more information about the city and its mayors, visit the city's Web site: www.eastorange-nj.org and of course, our own www.eohistory.info . That will allow you to keep track of East Orange as it passes from the present into the future.