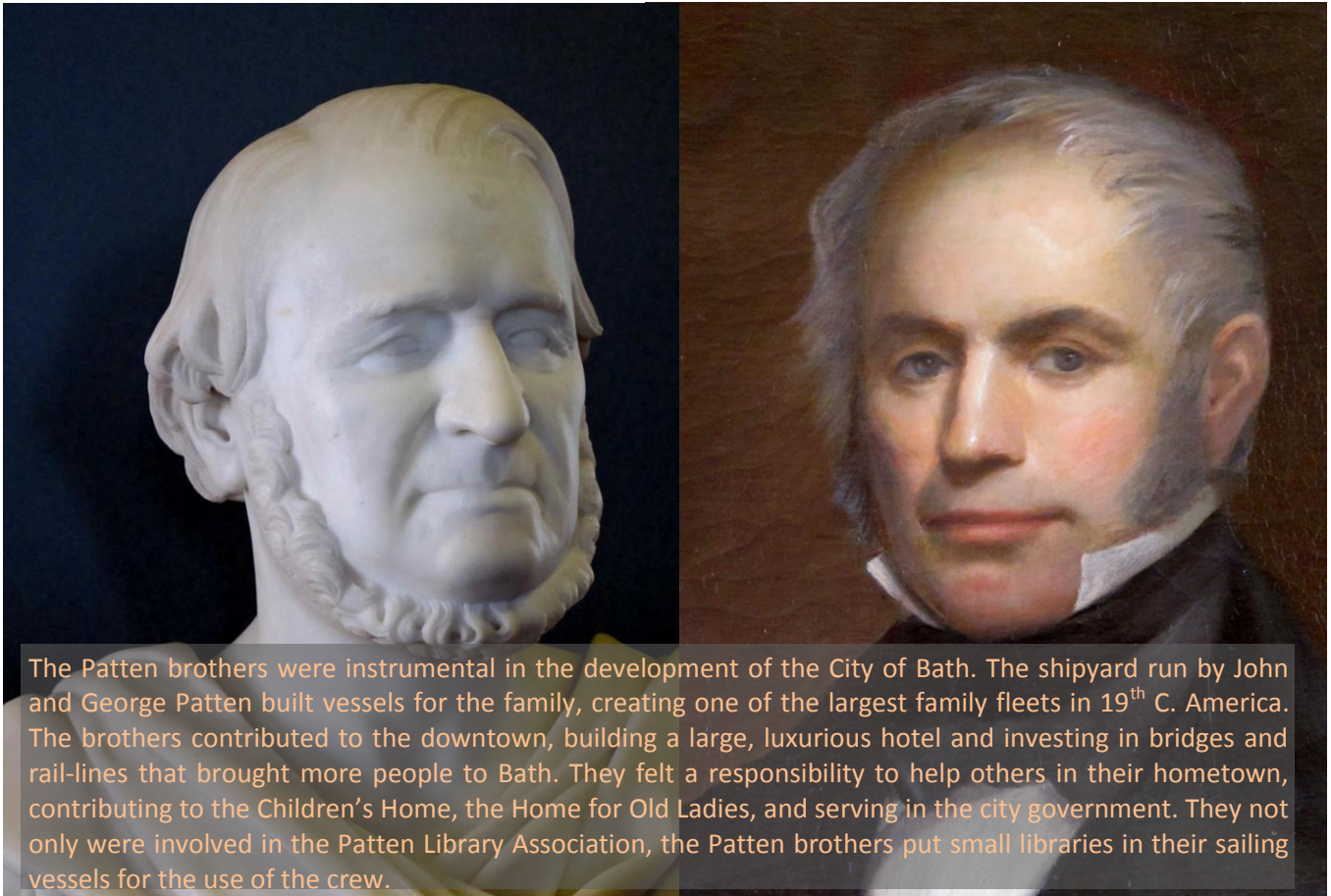
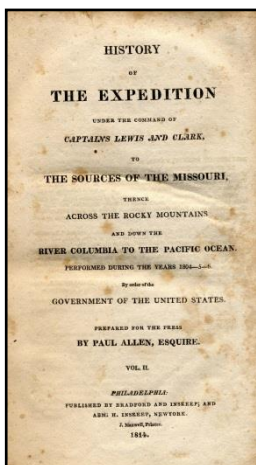


THE PATTEN BROTHERS OF BATH



The Patten brothers were instrumental in the development of the City of Bath. The shipyard run by John and George Patten built vessels for the family, creating one of the largest family fleets in 19th C. America. The brothers contributed to the downtown, building a large, luxurious hotel and investing in bridges and rail-lines that brought more people to Bath. They felt a responsibility to help others in their hometown, contributing to the Children's Home, the Home for Old Ladies, and serving in the city government. They not only were involved in the Patten Library Association, the Patten brothers put small libraries in their sailing vessels for the use of the crew.



The Patten brothers also purchased Governor William King's books, shortly after King's death in 1852 and presented them to the Patten Library Association. The Library, which formally incorporated the same year, was housed in several locations in the early years, usually in a room or two in the upper stories of the business blocks along Front Street. In 1879 John Patten presented to the Association a building and lot in trust on the north side of Centre Street. Here the Patten Library Association could rent out part of the building for income and also have more room for the growing collection.



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