

# ATLANTIC HERITAGE

Newsletter of the Atlantic County Historical Society

SUMMER 2024

## A Good Snapshot Stops a Moment From Running Away

### PHOTO RESTORATION PROJECT

The nearby “before and after” photos are a result of early efforts of Norm Goos, Librarian. (as of mid-May) By mid-June, Norm will have received a couple dozen hours of training from Adj. Prof. Christine Whaley of Stockton University in the use of Adobe Lightroom Classic and also Adobe Photoshop and he will then begin training 4-6 Society volunteers. The objective is “to clean up and store” the hundreds of photos in our files and scrapbooks in various stages of degradation, considering that many photos are 100-120 years old. In addition to the cost of the Adobe programs, instruction, purchase of external hard drives for storage of restored photos, we shall purchase several laptops for the additional training and ongoing restorations.

*(HINT-The enclosed envelope can be used to help defray costs of this project.)*

For those interested in learning more of the actual details of the process, stop in during a Tuesday work session (except during lunchtime) to visit Norm for a demo and more detailed explanation.



The Atlantic County Historical Society  
will be closed on the following days:

June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup>,  
September 21<sup>st</sup> & October 19<sup>th</sup>

OUR REGULAR HOURS ARE NOW:  
Thursday – Saturday: 10:00 – 3:30pm

# Events and Happenings

## Program Logistics

## Program Description

### RISLEY HOMESTEAD

8 Virginia Avenue  
(near 400 block of Shore Rd)  
Northfield, NJ



Saturdays & Sundays, 11am – 4pm

The [Risley Homestead](#) is one of two 18th century houses in Atlantic County individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was home to many generations of Risley oystermen. The ACHS received the Homestead and its furnishings by bequest from Virginia Risley Stout in 1989. The Homestead is open Saturday & Sunday for individual and small group guided tours. Contact ACHS for details about large groups.

# BOOK SALE

## ATLANTIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

907 Shore Road  
Somers Point

Saturdays:

**JULY 20<sup>th</sup> &  
AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup>**

Inside and outside  
the ACHS.

## Yard Sale

Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>  
8:00am – 2:00pm  
(Rain date, June 9<sup>th</sup>)  
and

Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>  
8:00am – 2:00pm  
(Rain Date: Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Many items for sale,  
including extra Library books.  
All proceeds benefit  
the ACHS

Risley Homestead  
8 Virginia Avenue  
(near 400 block-Shore Rd)  
Northfield, NJ



## ANTIQUES APPRAISALS

by *Bruce Dooley, Appraiser*

Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm – 8:00pm  
\$5.00/per item; up to 3 items.

ATLANTIC COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
907 Shore Road, Somers Point

## ACHS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>  
Crab Trap Restaurant  
2 Broadway, Somers Point  
11:30am  
Cost: \$32.00/per person

Members and the general public are invited. Following the installation of the nominees to the governing Board, “The “Bringing History to Life Award” will be presented. **Members will vote on nominees to the 2025-2026 Governing Board at this time. Please contact ACHS to purchase tickets.**

Check Facebook and/or the ACHS website for more information.

## SAVE THE DATE!!



## HOLIDAY SWEET SALE

Saturday  
December 21<sup>st</sup>  
12:00pm – 3:00pm

## Member News

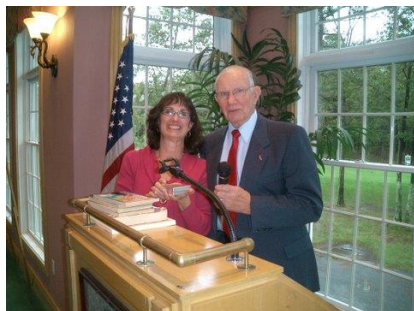
### R.I.P. PRESIDENT SQUIRES



On April 2, 2024 the Society lost its longest-serving president, Richard E. Squires. Dick served in his position from 2002 until 2016 when he resigned to spend more time with his late wife, Winnie. He was 91 years old.

A US Navy veteran, he had served in several municipal positions, was an Atlantic County Freeholder and then served as the second Atlantic County Executive for 16 years, retiring in 2000. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the Atlantic County Veterans Cemetery which, it has been announced by the present County Executive, Dennis Levinson, will be renamed in Dick's honor.

On the Society scene, Dick was the primary mover behind the handicapped-accessible addition to our building which was begun in 2016. His other noteworthy contribution to the Society is much appreciated by our Board members: his early pronouncement that monthly meetings should rarely last longer than one hour, thus lessening the risk of heavy eyelids or waning interest. Sid Parker, his successor, to the considerable relief of board members, has been mostly successful at carrying on the "Squires tradition."



Then ACHS President Squires with current ACHS VP Cindy Mason-Purdie at the 2007 Annual Luncheon where Cindy's father & former ACHS President, Dr. James Mason IV was honored.

# Welcome

### New Members

Robin Riat, *Bolton, MO*  
Philip A Homan, *Pocatello, ID*  
LIFE MEMBER



### DONATIONS

*Friend \$1 - \$49*

Robin Riat

### *IN MEMORY OF RICHARD E. SQUIRES*

*PATRON \$50 - \$249*

Sid Parker, Dale Lonkart, Sheryl Collins,  
Charlene Canale, Richard & Cathryn Ross,  
Silver Coin Diner & Restaurant, Hammonton, NJ

*SPONSOR \$250 - \$1000*

Glenn Insurance Company

### SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sat or Sun  
and Shore Diner will donate 20% to  
the Atlantic County Historic Society. Present this  
on any other day, and we will donate 10%.

6710 TILTON ROAD,  
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609-641-3669

**Eat well & support  
the ACHS  
at the same time!**  
Cut this out & turn it  
in when you pay your  
bill. Thanking you, in  
advance!

# Then & Now!

By Lynn Wood

**Then & Now** is a regular feature in our Newsletter, showcasing some of the photos in the ACHS collection.

Bethel Church was organized in 1848 by Captain Elmer English since it was quite a distance from Somers Point to the Asbury Church in English Creek and the Zion Church in Bargaintown when they were on the circuit. Many seamen docked their boats at Somers Point to load or unload, or maybe in for repairs, and they felt welcomed at the Bethel Church, so it became known as the Mariners' Bethel Church. It merged with Bethany Methodist Church in 1979 when the new Bethany was built on Bethel Road and Doran Ave. Mariners' Bethel Church was converted into a business in 1988 using the church's foundation, and has changed hands several times since then.

*(Some Information from '300 Years at the Point' by William E. Kelly)*



## ACHS & ACUA



**PERFECT TOGETHER!**



ACHS Trustees & volunteers were trained in CPR procedures in April.

L-R: Sid Parker, Norm Goos, Cindy Mason-Purdie, Kathy Fritz, Dale Lonkart, Naomi Nichols, CPR Instructor, and Diane Miller.

# Looking Back through the Files.....

Transcribed by Diane J. Miller

## Untitled (From the Cale Collection)

*Editor's Note: This is the article which clinched the author's identity of the Cale Collection article which appeared in the previous newsletter as Rollin Ashley Cale because he names his sons, Robert and Rollin, Jr.*

*This time, we get a more personal glimpse of their lives; a father and two sons who were highly involved in sailing races off the coast of South Jersey. The father relates some hazardous experiences which could have had disastrous outcomes if not for the heroism of his son, Robert. There is also a foreshadowing of Rollin's fatal heart attack in 1934.*

*What follows has been shortened from a 5-page typescript found in the ACHS Historical File, Cale Collection, R-2.4. Words in brackets have been added by the transcriber.*

In 1931 [I?] sponsored eighteen club races as well as participating in the I.O.O.F. and Ocean City Regattas. My son, Robert, fifteen and Rollin, Jr. ten are each good sailors. Rollin being regular crew with Capt Krouse of the "HoBo" and Robert sailing his own Barnegat Sneak Box which regularly carries 160 sq. ft. of canvas and with balloon jib of 253 sq. ft....During the season 1931 Capt. Bob in Betty II made a good third place for the seasons race in the fifteen foot miscellaneous class races...In the Ocean City Regatta (8-27-32) sailing against fifteen boats of his own class (Barnegat Sneak) and skippered by men of years experience he took third place and a silver cup. In the I.O.O.F. Regatta Sept 10, 1932 sailing against his own class [of] boats from Ocean City and elsewhere, he won this race out distancing his nearest competition by nearly a third of the three mile triangle course...During the season 1933 Capt. Bob Cale also sailed his Barnegat to two first places...On July 2 [1933], in a heavy northeaster in Capt. Walter Sanders fifteen foot cricket boat "Teal" Bob Cale, Bob Guenther and myself started across Lake's Bay, wind was blowing forty miles an hour and bay covered with "White Caps" as we left the shore wind seemed to increase and waves grew higher, we had full sail in the Teal and nearly blew out of the water we planed and dove and on several occasions took on a most dangerous roll young Cale had brought the craft out of four or five of these dangerous rolls, but finally when about a mile out and crossing the channel, the craft got to rolling under the heavy gale and this time did not come out young Cale went overboard in an endeavor to keep the boat from capsizing to windward, he was soon followed by Bob Guenther leaving myself in the boat for only a second or two and as the craft upset I went overboard...The boat slipped her mast and in the heavy sea was soon upside down. In the mixup I took in considerable water, but managed to swim to the upturned boat and tried to hang on but the simonizd racing bottom made this almost impossible and...as I worked my way to the bow of the boat I became tangled in the sheet ropes and young Cale had to dive down and release the ropes from around my legs...I was nearly exhausted...It seemed each breath would be my last...However, with the boys help I managed to hold on until Capt. Harry Somers in his power yacht Etta came to my rescue...I was under doctor's care for several weeks and for many days suffered from severe pain in my chest [precursor of fatal heart attack?]. Little did we realize after that experience and soon after on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August that "Bob" was to have a much more hazardous experience. The details, of which I give published in the Pleasantville Press under the date Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1933.

"Bob Cale's Rescue of Smith describes Scenes on storm raging sea off Longport. Sixteen year old lad in remarkable display of strength and heroism saves a life. Dr. R. M. Grier's boat "Ginnie" lost among others." Note the most treacherous sea that has been experienced on this coast in the lifetime of its most constant sailors caught more than a hundred cruisers, fishing boats and sailing craft in its turbulence off Atlantic City and Ocean City. Huge waves, the backwash of some tropical storm rolled in without warning with a loss of seven lives and scores of boats. The waves were described as running from 30 to 50 feet in height. That many more lives were not lost is due to the heroic efforts of men on the boats. Such an effort is described in the following account of what happened on the "Ginnie" the 38 foot boat of Dr. R. M. Grier of Pleasantville, off Longport Inlet. - Ed. "Doctor Robert M. Grier, in his raised deck cruise[r] "Ginnie" accompanied by Irving Street, Clarence Smith and Bob Cale, sixteen year old son of Postmaster Cale left Margate early Sunday morning for the fishing banks off Ocean City. After much success fishing the party started for home about noon in a normal sea. When approaching Great Egg Harbor Inlet about one o'clock an unusual disturbance of the sea was noticed along the

*Continued on page 6*

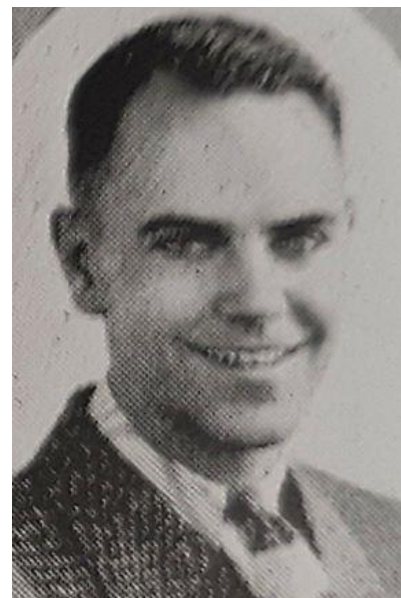
## Untitled (From the Cale Collection)

coast...Soon after sighting the inlet buoys the sea became turbulent and to enter the inlet became a hazardous risk. It was decided to make the attempt, but within a few seconds the "Ginnie" was raised to a height of nearly thirty feet by an exceptionally high combar. The "Ginnie" came down in a forty-five degree nose dive; heeled over on her side and with creaking timbers struck. Smith and Cale was washed overboard from the upper deck...Capt. Grier lost his foothold, but saved himself and Street by holding fast to the steering wheel...Another heavy sea washed the craft over Smith and Cale who were still under water. Smith received a bad laceration on his head, and his legs were badly cut and bruised. Capt. Grier finally brought his boat out of the wash and under partial control. Each time he raised on a high sea he looked for Smith and Cale...Finally Grier heard the shrill whistle of Cale and saw him a long distance away from the boat riding the combar... Street entered the upset cabin and fished out the life preservers which they threw over. Cale managed to swim and recover one and worked it under him...Cale sighted Smith a long distance off and reached the spot finally after a hard struggle in the mountains of seas...He then worked the only life preserver under Smith, put an arm around his back and swam toward the boat with his free arm...After much maneuvering Grier was able to throw a line to Cale who took a short hold and with [blank] was hauled up to the boat... Cale got onboard when the craft rolled down. Smith was laid out in the cockpit. Cale worked on him until Grier maneuvered the boat out of the Inlet. Then Grier, after about a half hours work, brought Smith too...After the "Ginnie" layed at anchor for some time..., it was discovered that the boat was leaking badly..., also the condition of Smith was of great concern. Distress signals were raised and answered by a coast guard cutter. The commander advised trying to make it to Cold Spring Harbor, as it was impossible to enter the Inlet here. They also advised keeping Smith on board...In the meantime request was made of Capt. Reese in the "Schnapp" and the "Pathfinder" to stand by as the "Ginnie" was leaking more all the time...After four hours of pumping and when about six miles off of Avalon, it seemed that they would never make Cold Spring Harbor. It was decided to abandon the boat. The "Ginnie" was anchored for her "Davy Jones Locker" resting place. She filled rapidly as soon as they stopped pumping. They boarded the "Schnapp" and just before the "Ginnie" filled Cale went below removed a compass secured the doctor's gunning cap, Streets \$100 fishing rod, and the cabin was flooded. He and Grier left the craft to her doom with almost tears in their eyes and lumps in their throats, neither speaking. Both fell into the "Schnapp" as a wave caused her to drop from under them as they stepped aboard. They were without clothing and the northeast rain made it feel very cold. They [blank] life preservers to help keep them warm. When nearing Cold Spring Inlet the "Schnapp" ran out of gas and was finally picked up by a coast guard cutter and towed into the harbor. The party was once more onland after a terrible experience. A local doctor was secured and treated Smith taking several stitches in his head, bandaging, etc. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Grier arrived soon, having anticipated that the party would make Cold Spring Harbor.

*Postscript: Robert W. Cale of Pleasantville died April 28, 1980 at the age of 63. A retired salesman, he was past commander of the Pleasantville Yacht Club, a member of the Absecon Island Power Squadron and a World War II Navy veteran.<sup>i</sup> His senior biography in his high school yearbook corroborates this story, where it says, "Bob' proved himself a real hero a few years ago. He can tell you how it feels to battle the stormy deep..."<sup>ii</sup>*

<sup>i</sup> The Press of Atlantic City, April 30, 1980, accessed on Newspapers.com, May 3, 2024.

<sup>ii</sup> The Breeze, 1935, Pleasantville High School yearbook, ACHS library.



R: Robert "Bob" Cale, senior portrait,  
Pleasantville High School, 1935.

## GROWING NATIVE PLANTS IN OUR GARDENS

There was a packed house for local arborist Dave Parker's talk on the importance of planting native plants on your property.... on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments were enjoyed before and after the talk. Lots of audience participation and questions addressed. A very informative presentation!

Thanks Dave!



## OLD NEWS

A look back at "happenings" from our old newsletters  
What an amazing history we have – thanks to our  
volunteers and members!

*By Dale Lonkart*

### *December 1984*

Our building was closed for several months for renovation of the vault, including painting, installation of new shelves, files and lights, and a dehumidifying system.

### *Spring 1985*

The Society received a large collection of manuscript books, newspapers and assorted papers about Egg Harbor City through the efforts of Mayor Jack Woerner, City Clerk Ellan Johns and City Council. A "Look Back" column to 1916, when the Society was 3 years old, included 12 "firsts" for the Society. We were one of the co-sponsors of the 1985 Annual Technical Seminar for Local Historians conducted by the NJ Historical Commission at Atlantic Community College.

### *Summer 1985*

NJ Green Thumb Program awarded us a grant for a full time office worker. Julio Licata is on duty 24 hours a week, during the time we are open to the public. He wrote an interesting article in this newsletter about Atlantic City's first Little Theater group, of which he was a member. The NJ Historical Commission gave us a grant of \$500 to purchase equipment to properly dehumidify our vault.

### *Fall 1985*

Transcription of an Article of Indenture (Nov. 24, 1831) apprenticing Ephraim Shaw, 9 years old, to Nicholas Frambes and heirs.

### Need to Contact Us?

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Email: [ACHSinfo@comcast.net](mailto:ACHSinfo@comcast.net)

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook or on our website [www.AtlanticCountyHistoricalSocietynj.org](http://www.AtlanticCountyHistoricalSocietynj.org)

Newsletter Editor, Layout & Graphics : Ellen Hyatt

Contributors to this Issue:

Sid Parker, Dale Lonkart, Norm Goos,  
Diane Miller, & Lynn Wood,

*The Atlantic County Historical Society received an operating grant from the Atlantic County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.*

### Atlantic County Historical Society Governing Board

President: Sid Parker

Vice-President: Cindy Mason-Purdie

Recording Secy: Barbara Perry-Silva

Treasurer: Charlene Canale

Asst. Treasurer: (vacant)

Financial Secretary: Ellen Hyatt

Librarian: Rev. Norman Goos

Assistant Librarian: Kathy Fritz

Curator: Joan Frankel

Asst. Curator: Kevin Little

Chaplain: Rev. Norman Goos

Historian: Diane Bassetti

Trustees: Ben Brenner, Mike Connor,

Megan Ernst, Tom Kinsella,

James H. Mason, V, Mike O'Brien,

Heather Perez, Will Rozell,

Judith Schwartz, Dana Shupp,

Lynn Wood

**ATLANTIC COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**



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**ATLANTIC COUNTY  
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*Where Atlantic County History Comes to Life*



**Our Mission:**

- To collect and preserve historical materials exemplifying the events, places, and lifestyles of the people of Atlantic County and southern New Jersey.
- To encourage the study of history and genealogy.
- To provide historical and genealogical information to our membership and the general public.