

ATLANTIC HERITAGE

Newsletter of the Atlantic County Historical Society

FALL 2018

MUSEUM RE-OPENS ~ FINALLY!!

“Check our museum – cool old stuff!”

A really great catch-phrase is now on our marquee, thanks to assistant curator, Kevin Little.

Our museum shows lifestyles through the years and how we used to live. We have always been staffed by a dedicated, interested group of volunteers. The Atlantic County Historical Society is an anchor; a resource providing historical identity to this area of South Jersey. Our vast collections, which have all been donated, represent us and our heritage. A sample of artifacts range from Somers family objects, Van Sant shipyard tools, hand-crafted quilts, tall case clocks, naval oil paintings, Atlantic City period displays, and Senator Frank S. Farley memorabilia – we could go on and on!

A local museum serves many functions; it is more than just a place to put “old” objects. A museum educates its community through exhibits, programs, and lectures. Presently, we reach schools (both public and private) and special interest groups, such as antique collectors, researchers, and tourists. Our guided museum tours are enjoyable for all and now that we are handicapped accessible, we will be able to take a more active part in cultural tourism for this area.

So – with all this said, please support our efforts to foster a thriving museum. Spread the word to family, friends, colleagues, and tourists to “check our museum – cool old stuff”!



Dining Room, Bedroom & Parlor settings in the Museum.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Page 2 - Upcoming Events
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The Atlantic County
Historical Society
will be closed:
Saturday, October 20th. and
On Thursday & Friday,
November 22nd & 23rd.



Events and Happenings

Program Logistics

RISLEY HOMESTEAD

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



Program Description

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 for individual and small group guided tours. Contact ACHS for details.

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

6647 West Jersey Ave.
Egg Harbor Twp. NJ

Saturday, September 29th

YE OLDE FLEA MARKET

The ACHS is purchasing a spot at the **EHT Historical Society** annual event. We are urging our Board Members and Volunteers to contribute items for sale. Also, the Library will have a table selling our extra books and cookbook. All proceeds go to the ACHS.

BOSVOV'S DEPT. STORE

6725 Black Horse Pike
Egg Harbor Twp.

Tuesday, October 16th 9am -10pm

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY Tickets sell for \$5 each. Boscov's will give 25% off each store purchase to the buyer; even on sale prices. Tickets may be purchased from any Program Committee Member ahead of time or from their table set up in Boscov's that day. The ACHS is recipient of the purchase price of each ticket. (Contact ACHS for Tickets)

NORTHFIELD CITY HALL - Council Chambers

Shore Rd., Northfield

Wednesday, October 11, 2018 - 7pm.

Light refreshments.

THE ATLANTIC COUNTY ROUNDTABLE of Historical Organizations will present "*Curator's Choice.*" Come see museum artifacts from the various member organizations.

GREATE BAY COUNTRY CLUB

Somers Point-Mays Landing Rd.
Somers Point, NJ

Saturday, October 20th - 11:30am

Reservation Required. Fee: \$32.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON Members and the general public are invited. Local historian, Gregory Gregory will be the keynote speaker with a presentation *Rumrunners, Bootleggers & Privateers on the Great Egg Harbor River.* Following the installation of the 2017-2018 governing Board, The *Bringing History to Life Award* will be presented. **Members will vote on nominees to the Governing Board at this time.**

DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

Some members may have noticed while passing the Atlantic County Historical Society building along Shore Road that it now sports a freshly painted front door to match the striking turquoise blue of the Society's sign. The paint project was completed by Somers Point resident P.J. Keiter to help him fulfill his Eagle Scout requirements. Assisting him with the work were his brother and another Eagle Scout. Overseeing the painting process was Bill Purdie. P.J. also provided the Society with a hand-built bench configured to fit into the space by the parking lot entrance door.

While the fresh paint around the door looks wonderful, sadly, it highlights the need for painting and repair work to the balcony just above it. A few members have voiced interest in volunteering to take on that task in the cooler weather this fall. Anyone who has time and interest in assisting with that project should call and leave name and number at the Society or email Sid Parker: historysid@verizon.net.



TOP: Bill Purdie (in the foreground) oversees the group of scouts in priming the front door and trim of the Society's building. Next project to be addressed is the repair and painting of the balcony above the door.

Bottom (L-R): P.J. Keiter, at left, enjoys a time out on the bench he constructed for the Society. Joining him are duty volunteers Mary Rydzewski and Cathie Skinner.



AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU!

Friend: \$1 - \$49

Joyce Poley, Frieda Korte, Norma Higbee, Elizabeth Naylor, Jean Campbell,
Ed & Charlene Canale, *IMO* Cathy Berkely
Peter & Carol English, *IMO* her father, Lewis Eastlack, Jr.
Sheryl Collins, *IMO* her father, Crater Rosenberger
Donald K. Shupp, *IMO* my son, Dale
Howard Gant, *IMO* Jean Gant

Patron: \$50 - \$249

Michael Connor, Charles Birstiel, Dale Lonkart,
Carolyn Patterson, AAUW-Atlantic County Branch, Diane Bassetti, Marilyn & Charles Gallagher, Robert Francois
Anthony Marino & Rosalia Valenti,
Charles & Maria Dupras
Joan Frankel, *IMO* Vincent DiDonato
Winnie & Dick Squires, *IHO* Frank J. Ferry, Esq.
Diane Miller, *IHO* Dale Lonkart
Lee Ellenberg, *IMO* Fred Ellenberg
Helen Walsh, *IMO* Allen "Boo" Pergament
Wm. Michael & Rosemary Wallace,
IMO William L. & Gladys Wallace
Virginia LeRoy, *IMO* Joseph LeRoy,
Elsie Dietzmann, *IMO* Robert & Edith Lewis
Joyce Pullan, *IMO* Thomas W.C. Pullan
Babs Perry-Silva, *IMO* Carolyn Perry
Ben Brenner, *IMO* his mother, Acilla Risley
Kathy Vitullo, *IMO* Thelma Cryder
Anthony Musarro, *IMO* his brother, Sal Musarro
Dorothy Lodovico,
IMO my dear cousin Janice Kinsell Moore
Bob & Lynne Warner, *IHO* Atlantic County Veterans
Elinor Veit, *IMO* Richard F. Veit, Sr.
Michael Morello, *IHO* Sid Parker
George & Carol Guiliano, *IHO* Sid & Pat Parker

Sponsor \$250 - \$1000

Sid & Pat Parker, *IHO* our Society volunteers

IN MEMORIAM

*The Atlantic County Historical Society
honors the passing of
Life Members, Wayne Meeks
& Dorothy Lodovico*

Welcome

**The Atlantic County Historical Society
is pleased to welcome our new members:**

Michael Connor, *Linwood, NJ*
Carolyn & George Bassett, *Linwood, NJ*
Kathleen Spaeth,
Tynsboro, MA & Linwood, NJ
Shirley Dautrich, *Fleetwood, PA*
Joan Duffy, *Hatboro, PA*
Gerri McGowan, *Madison, OH*
Kathy Quinn, *Ocean City, NJ*

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

At the August meeting of the Governing Board, the report of the Nominating Committee consisting of Norman Goos, Chairman, Dale Lonkart and Anthony Marino was presented and accepted. Members will vote for the nominees at the Annual Luncheon to be held Saturday, October 20th at 11:30 a.m. at Greate Bay Country Club, Somers Point-Mays Landing Rd., Somers Point. New board members will be installed at that time.

NOMINATIONS FOR OCTOBER 2018 TO OCTOBER 2020

OFFICERS

Cindy Mason-Purdie - Vice President
Charlene Canale - Treasurer
Ellen Hyatt - Financial Secretary
Open Position - Assistant Librarian
Joan Frankel - Curator

TRUSTEES

Diane Bassetti - Historian
Benjamin Brenner
William Rozell
Ruth Taylor
Lynn Wood

Need to Contact Us?

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Email: ACHSinfo@comcast.net

Visit our Facebook page or website

www.AtlanticCountyHistoricalSocietynj.org

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Contributors to this Issue:

Sid & Pat Parker, Joan Frankel, Cindy Mason-Purdie, Freda Heintz
Lynn Wood, Dale Lonkart, Diane Miller & Charlene Canale
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*The Atlantic County Historical Society received an operating grant
from the Atlantic County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.*

Looking Back through the Files

Transcribed by Diane J. Miller

Editor's Note: The following transcription is from a photocopy of a handwritten letter found in the Historical File, Revolutionary War folder L.2. An explanation in the Historical File index says that it is a letter describing three tea ships from England – one to Boston, another to New York and another to Philadelphia. New Jersey residents boarded one of the ships off (about) Absecon and threw the tea overboard.

This letter has been transcribed as written. Additions by the transcriber are enclosed in brackets.

Tuckerton N.J. August 14th 1837

Dear Sir, [a Library of Congress stamp follows this greeting]

[The name, John B. Blake, Washington City, appears on the exterior fold, presumably the recipient.]

I have received your letter requesting to be informed whether I have any recollections of the destruction of a vessel laden with tea, which is said to have taken place on the coast of New Jersey, about the same time, that the tea ship was destroyed at Boston. I was then about fifteen or sixteen years of age, and have a perfect recollection of the occurrence as it was at that period a topic of general conversation. I did not participate in the affair, but am strongly impressed with the belief, that my father Reuben Tucker, and a Major George Payne, did, as I have often heard them detail the circumstances with great minuteness.

Three ships, laden with tea, sailed from England about the same time for this country, and information of this intention preceded their arrival, which occasioned great excitement; one was bound for Boston, another for New York, and the third for Philadelphia.

The ship destined to Philadelphia was the last to enter our waters, and on her arrival anchored on the coast of this state, about twenty miles to the southwest of this town. The captain, seeming to anticipate an unpleasant reception, wished to ascertain the fate of the two vessels that had preceded him, before he ventured to enter the Delaware. The news of the tea ship being on the coast of Jersey, flew like wild fire, for ten or fifteen miles through the adjacent country, and the people, several from this immediate vicinity, assembled on the shore, to the number of one hundred, and resolved upon her destruction. They accordingly boarded her in open day, scorning all disguise, in the consciousness that they were discharging a duty which they owed their country. They broke open the hatches, threw the tea overboard, cut the cable of the vessel and left her to float ashore, where she soon went to pieces. The beach was literally covered with tea, nearly as far as Cape May, and the people residing along shore collected it, and it lasted them for years. I have often heard my father say that an old lady, familiarly known as Aunt Nancy Ridgely who kept a public house at Absecum, obtained a large quantity of this tea – no doubt the ship lay somewhere in that vicinity, which accounted for her success in collecting such a large quantity of the tea.

It is a matter of surprise to me, that, so far as I am informed, no historical record of this achievement exists, and I very much regret that I am unable to furnish you any better evidence, of its having taken place, than the recollection of my boyhood upon the subject.

One other extraordinary occurrence, took place in sight of this Town; during the revolution, not noticed in history – while the British Troops occupied new York & Philadelphia, this Port was a great rendezvous for the American privateers, which captured many valuable ships from England, two in particular immensely rich. (viz.) The ships Venice, & Major Pearson, bound for New York - these captures caused an armament of shipping with 700 British troops to be sent from New York, which landed at Little Eggharbour & burnt all the prize ships in Port (about twenty) & about 30 dwelling houses, & massacred General Pulaski's picket guard (about 30) – on the armament leaving the Port, the flag ship, Sloop of War Zebra, grounded on the bar of the Port, & as they could not get her afloat, the crew abandoned the ship, & set fire to her; her guns being loaded went off as the fire reached them, in irregular order, to the great amusement & merriment of us the people, that saw her burn.

Respectfully yours,
Ebn [Ebenezer]Tucker

CORRECTION: In the Summer 2018 edition of the Newsletter, *Looking Back Through The Files* covered the Pleasantville and Atlantic City Turnpike. The Editor's Note (in the printed edition) referred to the article on the Westcoat Burial Ground from the previous Newsletter (Spring 2018). The Editor's note should have said: The Turnpike article was found in the WPA papers, Egg Harbor City-Egg Harbor Township-Estell Manor-Etna Furnace folder.

Library & Museum Accessions

Norman Goos, Librarian
Diane Miller, Assistant Librarian

Accession#	Source / Description
2017.056	Gift of Gwen Hagerthey: Postcard - Ireland house, Somers Point 1911.
2017.057	Gift of John Dilks: CD - Old Transmission and Voices from the Past.
2017.058	Gift of Laura Gaskill Hager: Notes on Old Gloucester County NJ. Vol. I - II and Vol. III - IV.
2017.059	Gift of Jerry French: 8 X 10 print of the Risley - Lake Composing Machine.
2017.060	Gift of Sally Hastings: 2 commemorative plates.
2017.061	Gift of John Williamson: bar top from the Submarine Bar from the Traymore Hotel.
2017.062	Gift of Henry Gertzen: 2 Books - South Jersey A History 1664-1923, Vol. III and Vol. IV. 2 Books - First congressional district: New Jersey, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2.
2017.063	Gift of Donald Nyce: Photo - HELEN G STARN, Capt. Ed Stiles.
2017.064	Gift of Great & Grand children of James Cimino and Daniel Conway: 2 Memorial Plaques.
2017.100	Gift of Frank Stubbins: 8 Photos, Weymouth 2.5 x 3.5". 2 Photos, Pancoast Mill 8.5 x 11".
2017.150	Gift of Veterans Oral History Project: Collection of audio CDs.
2018.002	Gift of Anonymous Donors: 1 Calendar - Atlantic City Historical Museum 2002. Books - St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. 5 Calendars - Atlantic City images, maker unknown, 1962, 2003, 2004, 2005, 1 no year.
2018.003	Produced by Staff: See Catalog Records.
2018.005	Gift of Northfield Historical Society: Book - Who is Buried in Northfield, NJ.
2018.008	Gift of Dale Lonkart: Map - Absecon Island 1864.
2018.009	Gift of Richard Squires: Document - Atlantic County League of Municipalities.
2018.010	Gift of Frank Ferry: 10 Photographs. Family Record - Sarah West Leeds, 4 page. 2 Books - A Master Plan, Absecon, NJ and A Master Plan, Absecon, NJ, Part 2.
2018.011	Gift of Derien Andes: Periodical - Pride of Pleasantville 1992-2006. Periodical - The Grand Ophicleide 2000-2014, 45 issues. Ephemera - Pleasantville.
2018.012	Gift of Terry Dolan: Booklet - Mary's Year, Pilgrimage and Pageant, 1954.
2018.013	Gift of Somers Point Historical Society: 5 Photographs.
2018.014	Gift of Alvin Schaut: 2 postcards.
2018.015	Gift of Norman Goos: Book: Sojourn, Winter 2016/17., CD - Jeremiah Leeds, Presentation by Norm Goos 2017.
2018.016	Gift of Diane Ingersoll-Moore: Book - Addendum to P220 Ing.
2018.017	Gift of Sharon Amann: AWVS Scrapbook. Tile-Battle Monument at Chestnut Neck., Painting - Lucy the Elephant, 3 photos, calendar, booklet, 2 original sketches, pin - AWVS, Crazy Quilt, approximately 100 postcards, place mats. Painting - USS Somers 947 Destroyer.
2018.018	Gift of Sheryl Collins: Mink stole, Ermine stole.
2018.019	Gift of John McCoy: Oakcrest High School Parent Handbook 1966-1967. Football Program - Oakcrest vs. Ocean City, Oct 31, 1964. Newspaper clipping - Atlantic City Press, June, 21, 1967.
2018.020	Gift of Chris Dennis: Cap - Atlantic City nursing cap and photo. Booklet - A.C. School of Nursing. A.C. High School Legacy 1922 - 1994. High School Letters. Atlantic City Observer - 6 issues. Newspaper - Atlantic City Press 1949 Graduation Edition. Star of the Sea memorabilia. Postcard - A.C. High School. A.C. High School reunion memorabilia. Photos - 1979 Atlantic City, and others.
2018.021	Gift of Audrey Foster: Diorama - room in The Knife and Fork Inn.
2018.022	Gift of Carol E. Dotts: Yearbook - Pleasantville 1955. Diploma - William Franklin Dotts, Jr., Photo - Class of 1951, Junior High Graduation, Bill Dotts. Photo - Pleasantville Class of 1955, 45th Reunion.
2018.023	Gift of Leo Schoffer: Book - A Dream, A Journey, A Community.
2018.024	Gift of Kimball Baker: Manuscript - Rescue History. Booklet - For Those In Peril, A History of the Ocean City Life Saving Station.
2018.025	Gift of Diane Ingersoll-Moore: Book - Ingersoll Family P-220.3
2018.026	Gift of Joseph Helfrich: Photo - ARA Meeting, Haddon Hall 1928.

Atlantic County Historical Society Governing Board

President: Sid Parker, Jr.	Librarian: Rev. Norman Goos	Trustees:
Vice-President: Cindy Mason-Purdie	Assistant Librarian: Diane Miller	Diane Bassetti, Ben Brenner, Sheryl
Recording Secy: Barbara Perry-Silva	Curator: Joan Frankel	Collins, Freda Heintz, James Mason, V,
Treasurer: Charlene Canale	Asst. Curator: Kevin Little	Mary Beth Ortzman, Heather Perez,
Asst. Treasurer: Pat Parker	Historian: Diane Bassetti	Donald Perry, Ruth Taylor, Will Rozell
Financial Secretary: Ellen Hyatt	Chaplain: Rev. Norman Goos	& Lynn Wood.

STEWARDS ACROSS TIME

By Cynthia Mason-Purdie

The Atlantic County Historical Society is the repository for thousands of items within its archival and museum collections. It is our responsibility to not only collect these objects, but to store, conserve, and share them for the benefit of future generations. Unfortunately, this necessary task is also usually a very costly task. On a basic level, everything that is not on display or is filed in the vault is carefully stored in archival folders, boxes or wrapped in archival materials before being shelved. Even those items on display have to have careful consideration of the impacts of light or dust or moisture, etc. However, the construction project recently completed at the Society did impact much of the Museum's collections and has required a concerted effort to clean and conserve items.

The Society was fortunate to receive a grant this year from the NJ Historical Commission through the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs to assist with some costs for conservation projects. One of the items receiving special attention is the Solomon Parke clock built in the workshop of one of the earliest clock makers in Philadelphia. It was owned by the Ireland and Frambes families and it has its original bill of sale dated October 20, 1820 making it almost 200 years old!

Another area of conservation focus is the Society's painting collection, in particular the maritime paintings of William Pierce Stubbs (1842–1909). He was a prolific marine painter who, although based in Boston, Massachusetts, somehow created numerous portraits of ships built in or operating from Atlantic County. Through numerous recommendations the Society contracted the services of Fred Koszewnik a professional painting conservator to begin work on cleaning and repairing the artwork.

The first painting completed in the conservation project, "The Schooner Robert H. Parker in a Storm", is now on display on the 2nd floor of the Society. The schooner was built in Delaware in 1881 but its home port was Somers Point. It was owned by Capt. John B. Steelman and captained by Charles D. Steelman and was gifted to the Society by Betty Steelman. According to the Society's archives, it may have also been owned at one time by Captain John Price of Somers Point. The ship had numerous brushes with disastrous storms until finally succumbing off the coast of Cape Charles Virginia where it sank in December 1892. This painting had to have significant repairs.

Currently out for cleaning and conservation is the painting of the schooner "Emma L. Cottingham." This was the largest vessel produced by Job Van Sant's shipyard in Somers Point and was built for Captain James Steelman around 1875. — The following is a copy of a note found by Mr. J. C. McClure on the south side of Nantucket, Jan. 29, 1887: *"This bottle was thrown overboard from schooner Emma L. Cottingham, July 20, 1886, in latitude 41° 06' north, longitude 69° 08' west. Any person finding this will confer a favor by sending this to the hydrographic office at Washington, D.C., stating when and where found."* The note was signed "J. L. Somers, schr. Emma L. Cottingham, of Somers Point, N.J." It survived being blown ashore through many storms and was still listed in the 1902 Annual List of Merchant Vessels in the United States with home port of Somers Point.



The Schooner Robert H. Parker in a Storm by William Pierce Stubbs

We are a
**Blue Star
Museum**

arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

A list of participating museums nationwide is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

MishMash

*a little bit of this
a little bit of that.*



Norm Goos (top) and the audience at a Genealogy power point presentation at Gilda's Club in EHT in July.



On Volunteer Training Day in June, Dale Lonkart points out many secret compartments in the desk of Chalkey Leeds, the first Mayor of Atlantic City.



Norman Goos & Dale Lonkart of the Atlantic County Historical Society presenting a program entitled "Life on the Salt Marshes" at the Historic Risley Schoolhouse to the 5-8th grade EMES students, on June 6th.



Carl Farrell discussing his book on Estell Manor at the June 4th program.

NEW CEMETERY RECORDS

Thanks to volunteer Jerry Gordon, we are working on acquiring records of some of the Jewish cemeteries in our area. We will eventually have a reference book ready for future researchers.



Diane Miller & Dale Lonkart of ACHS present a program entitled "Interesting Items at the ACHS Museum" to the K-4th EMES students, June 8th. Diane shows a quilted square made by Abigail Lake, age 7 in 1843.

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



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**ATLANTIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL**



SOCIETY

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.