

ATLANTIC HERITAGE

Newsletter of the Atlantic County Historical Society

SUMMER 2019

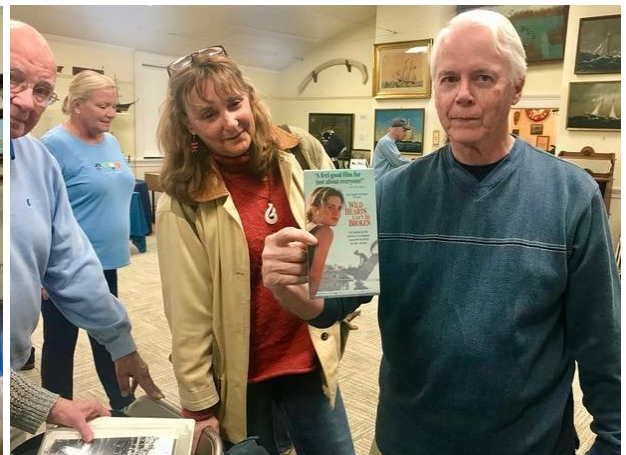


On Monday May 13th, owner/president of the Steel Pier, Anthony Catanoso, gave a fascinating slide show presentation to a packed audience at the ACHS. His photos included early pictures of the pier up to the modern day Observation Wheel. He described how the pier changed through the years and shared information on its exciting future. Several people asked questions and offered comments after the presentation.

A gentleman in the crowd, Jerry French, shared two albums of photos of the high diving horse that his mother and aunt performed with. The story of his Aunt Sonora Carver was depicted in a film called "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken", which he also brought along.

The audience totally enjoyed the presentation and enthusiastic reminiscing continued afterward over light refreshments in the historical society's library room.

Keep an eye out for more free presentations offered by the ACHS!



The Atlantic County Historical Society
will be closed:

Thursday, July 4th &
Saturday, August 31st



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Events and Happenings

Program Logistics

Program Description

RISLEY HOMESTEAD

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



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.

ATLANTIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

907 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ
Monday, June 10, 2019
6:30pm – Auditorium– (elevator available)

HISTORIC EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP

Joan Berkey, noted author and architectural historian, will give a power point presentation on “some early buildings in Egg Harbor Township, NJ.”

DUKE OF FLUKE

Higbee Ave. & the Bay, Somers Point, NJ

Wednesday, August 4, 2019 - 5:45 – 9:00pm
\$25./per person

ACHS CRUISE WITH THE DUKE OF FLUKE.

Explore the Great Egg Harbor Bay on a tour of the back bays of Somers Point and lagoons of Ocean City. Passengers will board at 5:45 pm and departure will be at 6:00pm. Snacks and drinks can be brought aboard. If the weather is rainy and windy, the rain date will be August 11th. Parking is available.



BONEFISH GRILL FUNDRAISER

Thursday, July 18, 2019
4:00 pm - close
3121 Fire Rd., Egg Harbor Twp., NJ

Mention to the server that you support Atlantic County Historical Society and Bonefish will give us 20% of the bill

EARLY SHIPBUILDING AND DECOY CARVING by Gary Giberson

Gary Giberson of Port Republic, has been polishing his craft of decoy carving for over sixty years. Cited in many books on his historical background and artistic skills, he has also authored the chapter on New Jersey Decoys for Joe Engers' *The Great Book of Wildfowl Decoys*.

Monday, September 9, 2019 - 6:30 pm
@ Atlantic County Historical Society Museum



October 12th

ACHS Annual Luncheon

Crab Trap Restaurant
Somers Point
11:30am

Members and the general public are invited. **Members will vote on nominees to the 2019-2020 Governing Board at this time.** The annual *Bringing History to Life* award will be presented.

Cost: \$32.

Need to Contact Us?

Phone: (609) 927-5218 or
Email: ACHSinfo@comcast.net
Visit our Facebook page or website
www.AtlanticCountyHistoricalSocietynj.org

Newsletter Editor, Layout & Graphics : Ellen Hyatt Contributors to this Issue:

Sid & Pat Parker, Cindy Mason-Purdie, Lynn Wood,
Charlene Canale, Dale Lonkart & Diane Miller

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

**PLEASE!
DON'T SEND US ANY \$\$\$**

We have **WAY** too much in our savings and checking accounts. Our investments would make a hedge fund manager green with envy. If we weren't tax exempt, our tax bill would be greater than the GDP of Australia.

Of *course* we're not serious! We know that we will have to dip into our savings to replace our 50-year old carriage lamps at the front of our building and the UV shades going on the windows in the new part of the building are surprisingly costly. We also need to purchase four shelving units for the storage room in the addition. Worst of all, the outside trim on our 50-year old building needs repainting and those guys on 30-foot ladders and scaffolding don't work for chump change, if you know what we mean.

Translation: Folks, we would very much appreciate your help so that we don't have to take quite so much from our savings. Please use the enclosed envelope and help any way you can. Thanks

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY

This annual happening will take place on **Tuesday, June 18, 2019 from 10:00-Noon**. It will then be followed by a luncheon, *our treat*, at Harbor Pines Country Club in EHT at 12:30.

This year will focus exclusively on the museum, although there may be some time left for other questions to be addressed. No matter what, you will all feel much more confident giving tours to our visitors after this class.

Look for a sign in sheet on one of the library tables and let us know if you will attend the class, the luncheon or neither. Call in during OPEN hours and ask someone to fill in your name and availability for that day. Or, email your response to us at achsinfo@comcast.net. Great opportunity to meet some of the volunteers you don't get to work with.



**WE ARE A BLUE STAR
MUSEUM**

The Blue Star Museum program is starting earlier this year. We and other participating museums will offer free admission to the nation's active duty military and their families beginning on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 18 through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2. This includes National Guard and Reserve.

Though our museum tours are always free, we will waive the \$5 library research fee for Blue Star families. This is a wonderful opportunity to express our appreciation for the commitment and sacrifice of the military in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America. A list of participating museums nationwide is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

It is also a great opportunity to view the interviews of the Veterans History Project stored in our library. This project, in conjunction with the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., is dedicated to preserving the stories of our veterans' personal experiences while serving in any branch of the U. S. Military.



Atlantic County Historical Society Governing Board

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Vice-President: Cindy Mason-Purdie

Recording Secy: Barbara Perry-Silva

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Asst. Librarian: Kathy Fritz

Curator: Joan Frankel

Asst. Curator: Kevin Little

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Trustees:

Diane Bassetti, Ben Brenner, Sheryl

Collins, Freda Heintz, James Mason, V,

Mary Beth Ortzman, Heather Perez,

Donald Perry, Ruth Taylor, Will Rozell

& Lynn Wood.

MishMash

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



On May 4th, Dale Lonkart and Asst. Librarian, Kathy Fritz, joined the Somers Point Historical Society for a wonderful tour of the Naval Academy at Annapolis and finally got to see the Richard Somers Monument.



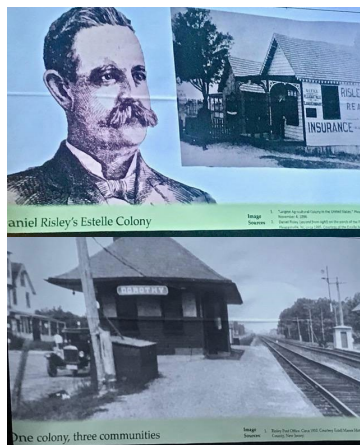
ACHS board member Ben Brenner kicks off his 80th Birthday Celebration by bringing his family into the Historical Society to learn more about the rich history of Atlantic County. Dale Lonkart shared her considerable knowledge with everyone! They have vowed to return! Well done, Dale! And, Happy Birthday Ben!



Elves Sid & Dana fixing vintage toys before the Open House.



Samuel Avery-Quinn, PhD. presented very interesting information on the Estelle Colony, Daniel Risley, and the founding of three Atlantic County communities at ACHS in March.



The 1920s era Somers dollhouse was on display May 11, along with several vintage toys. Museum Curator Joan Frankel gave tours from 10:30-3. Refreshments were provided.



The ACHS gang - Sheryl, Charlene, Lynn, Ed & Babs - is all ready for Earth Day at ACUA, complete with face painting and VHProject information.



Looking Back through the Files

Transcribed by Diane J. Miller

Editor's Note: The following experiences are those of Atlantic County men during World War I. Scattered throughout is also mention of the 1918 flu epidemic, thus intertwining the two major events.

Each story concludes with the name L. J. Price [Lizette J. Price], one of the founders of the Atlantic County Historical Society in 1913. They are written in the spidery handwriting for which she was known.

The stories have been a part of our library collection since 1921 and are just a sample of others which can be found in Historical File L-7.1, World War I. They have been shortened here for space consideration.

John Chapman Banning

Son of Jeremiah M. & Mary Banning. Born April 26, 1890 in Kent County, Delaware. When a boy of thirteen, he removed from Delaware to Linwood New Jersey. He resided with his parents on what was once the Hosea Frambes farm, later known as the Rose place. Later they removed to Bargaintown.....After two or three years, they removed to Northfield, to the farm where they now reside.

Banning registered in the first registration June 5, 1917. Called by the local draft board, at May's Landing February 24, 1918....Left Camp Dix at midnight August 11th for Philadelphia. Embarking on a British cattle ship. Sailed from the wharf at three o'clock morning of the 12th. The ship was transferred from its previous service to that of transporting troops.

Laid off Coney Island three days due to submarines being seen. Sailed north fourteen hundred miles to avoid contact with the undersea boats.....Crossed the channel, landing at a camp, comparatively speaking like a camp in the wilderness, a camp complex of pup tents.....Stayed in camp two days, to receive rations. Entrained in box cars forty men to the car. Only food provided, corn willieⁱ & hard tack.....

Went through the first air raid fourth day after arriving in France. A German plane tried to bomb the troop trains. The trains were stopped. Some of the officers lost their morale, crawling under cars for protection, showing less bravery than their men at this crucial time. The troops were rewarded by seeing the German plane shot down & the aviator killed in the battle.....

Assigned to the Sixth Division October 12th in Valdahon on the Swiss border. While at Valdahon Banning was ill three weeks with flu. Attempted air raids on the hospital were almost a daily occurrence. Patients who could walk, would run out of the building seeking places of greater safety.....

On the way to the front, there were nights when the men would crawl into destroyed houses to sleep.....

Banning was gassed near Metz. Sent to a hospital remaining twelve days.....

He was in a little town, when the armistice was signed. After hostilities ceased, was sent back to Valdahon....Army of Occupation.....Camp conditions horrible with mud & water. Slept in a mule shed two months in the middle of winter, without heat, & eating in the open five months. Marched eighteen miles in the rain Christmas, without anything to eat.

Worst thing seen during service overseas was the carrying of the wounded from the field to the first aid station.

Best thing seen, a Red Cross nurse.....

While in camp an incident occurred which held back thousands of troops. The Ninety-first Division, were embarking, when a man expressed opinions derogatory of the French.

The officer in charge demanded that the guilty man step forward. No one responded, nor would the man when questioned give the desired information. Failure of the men to expose the guilty party, & of the man to acknowledge his fault was punished by the sailing of the Division being postponed one month.....

.....This also delayed sailing of Banning's outfit several days. When finally permitted to embark, each man was ordered to be silent & secret service men moved among the men to see that the order was obeyed.....

Sailed April 9th on the Walter A. Lippenbach Arrived in New York April 19th.

An excellent dinner was served on the pier by the Red Cross.....Discharged at Camp Dix, May 1st....

L.J. Price

Looking Back through the Files *continued...*

George E. Banning

Born October 8, 1896 in Kent County, Delaware. Registered at Northfield in the first registration. Called July 1918. Entrained at May's Landing for Camp A. A. Humphreys, Virginia. Assigned to Company E. Second Engineers.....

.....After beginning the long journey which was to end in service overseas, the orders, due to the many deaths from influenza, were reversed, & the men returned to camp.

Banning was not ill. He with all other soldiers that could be relieved from other duties, aided in hospital work. About the first of October Banning was transferred to the 218th Engineers.....at Camp Travis, Texas.....named in honor of Colonel William B. Travis who perished with David Crockett, & Colonel Bowie with their seven score men in defense of the Alamo, liberty and justice in 1836.

Banning when a school boy received a gunshot wound in the knee. The heavy drills & long marches weakened the knee. He was transferred to the Mounted Engineers, of the 18th Division at Fort Sam Houston. Work.....being practically guard duty.

Best part of the service, was a month in San Antonio, after the armistice was signed, when practically the only service required was response to roll call....

.....Discharged at Camp Dix March 29th 1919.

The parents of Chapman & George Banning were rejoiced by the return of their sons unhurt, but amid rejoicing a cloud of sorrow was resting over the home, Luther Banning a third son, registered with his brothers and awaiting his country's call was stricken with influenza & died October 15, 1918.....

L. J. Price

Harry Olaf Carlson, Northfield, N.J. son of Magnus & Matilda J. Carlson. Born in Atlantic City July 22, 1898.

Enlisted at the Recruiting Station, of the Bell Telephone Company, Parkway Building 1632 Arch Street, Philadelphia, April 21st 1917. Branch of service, Signal Corps First Telegraph Battalion.....Sailed on the Antilles. There were seven ships in the convoy, the Finland being one of the boats. The convoy was guarded by four or five destroyers & the cruiser Montana. The Antilles on its next trip was torpedoed, & later the Finland met the same fate. Frank Clowney of Atlantic City was a survivor of the last-named ship, having been in the water two or more hours when rescued.....

Fought submarines in the Bay of Biscay about an hour & forty minutes before entering the mouth of the river Loire. Boats were driven off by destroyers and French aviators. They were also held off by fire of guns in convoy.....

Orders were given for the Battalion to erect a permanent wire service from Chaumont to Neufchateau First Army Corps Headquarters.....

The Battalion was now known as the 406th Telegraph Battalion.....

At Chateau Thierry a section of sixteen men were sent out to lay wires to the town. This work required laying the wires over the famous stone bridge across the Marne, which was a factor in stopping the Hun, in their drive on Paris.

The difficulties in laying wires over this broken bridge were many.....Many important messages were heard by the boys, but strict orders prevailed against messages being repeated. Names of places were always in code. Information received was sometimes important messages of the enemy.

After Chateau Thierry, Carlson & nineteen others from the Battalion were taken on a sight seeing trip thru Paris as a reward for service.....

During the chateau drive Carlson saw in a wood about fifteen German soldiers kneeling in a circle. All dead, cause of death unknown, & whether in the attitude of prayer, or a social game was not determined.

Carlson also had a part in activities at Belleau Woods, during the June drive. At Montrail, back of Belleau Woods, the Battalion dug a trench about eight feet deep, laid a fifty pair cable (100 wires). In event of a forced retreat, these wires would enable communications to continue till the last minute. The marines had gone forward, encountering a fierce enemy fire.....After resting a few hours they were rushed to Soisson in the Battalion's trenches. Every available vehicle was used in order to get the men to Soisson to keep the line from breaking.

Carlson was in the following battles, engagements & skirmishes. Champagne-Marne Defensive, Aisne-Marne

Looking Back through the Files *continued...*

offensive, St Mihiel offensive, & Meuse-Argonne offensive.....Was relieved from duty at the front – November 10th. Was in the town of Harricourt when the armistice was signed.

There was great jubilation among the troops night of November 11th in celebrating the Great Day. Firing the Automatic Colt's 45 was included in the demonstration when the troops were called to order.....

Carlson witnessed various notable events. While stationed at Neufchateau in 1917, saw the L.49 brought down. Saw the huge Zeppelin flying low at breakfast time, 5 a.m.

The crew evidently had lost their way, believing they were over German territory. The huge air ship was brought down, by a French aviator. As it settled it rested across a ravine. Twenty-seven men were captured single-handed by a French hunter, but French & American soldiers soon arrived on the scene taking possession.

Carlson has a souvenir, a piece of the rubber gas bag.....

Carlson for a time was stationed in the same camp with two of Roosevelt's sons.....He saw Quentin Roosevelt as he ascended in his last flight.....ⁱⁱ

One of the strange, shall we say freaks of war, which Carlson saw, was in the town of Lucy, where the church had been shelled, but the stones had fallen around the crucifix & held it firmly despite the rain of fire around it.

Carlson stated the most pathetic scene, was the finding of the body of an American officer shortly before the armistice was signed. Instructions are that bodies shall be searched for any information they may have, of the enemy & to prevent any information from being found by the Germans. The officer had a letter written ready to mail to his wife, a letter full of faith that the end was near, that he would soon be with his family. The letter was full of cheer, "When I read that letter" said Carlson "I cried, I could not help it. To see how eagerly this man was looking toward being with his family, & find him lying dead, was so sad, I could not keep from crying."

.....Best part of the service was seven-days leave at Aix-les-Banes [Aix-les-Bains]. "Aches & Pains" the soldiers humorously named this rest retreat.....

About March 20th 1919, the Battalion was ordered to Brest.....

Saw seven boats at Brest which had been taken over from the Germans after the armistice was signed. These ships were loaded with supplies, to furnish troops on their homeward voyage.....

Sailed April 7th on the United States naval ship Seattle. In order to reach home Easter, volunteered with others as coal passers. Arrived in Hoboken Easter Sunday. Disembarked & entrained for Camp Upton. From Upton to Philadelphia for Bell Battalion parade April 25th. Discharged at Camp Dix April 26th. Of the two hundred & five men enlisting from the Bell Telephone Company, all returned with the battalion but two.....

L.J. Price

ⁱ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary> – canned corned beef especially as an army ration.

ⁱⁱ Wikipedia - Quentin Roosevelt was the youngest son of President Theodore Roosevelt and First Lady Edith Roosevelt. He was killed in aerial combat over France on Bastille Day (July 14), 1918.



Parade, Red Cross group in front of Chalfonte Hotel in Atlantic City, circa WWI. From ACHS photo file #600.



**ATLANTIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



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**ATLANTIC COUNTY
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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.