

# ATLANTIC HERITAGE

Newsletter of the Atlantic County Historical Society

FALL 2020

## WHERE WE ARE

2020 started so well. We had an excellent cadre of volunteers. Mother Nature didn't throw any snow storms at us. We had a full slate of events in the works for the year and we had a great program with the Buffalo Soldiers and a full house (Pictures and article on later page). What could go wrong? Unless you've been in a coma or you've been hibernating in a cave for the last six months, you know that Covid-19 happened.

Don Perry, my long-time Saturday partner, and I worked Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Two days later we all went into lockdown, We're still there and, unless a miracle occurs, we will remain closed until year-end. Although NJ has come a long way, most of our volunteers crossed the threshold into Social Security years ago and many have personal or family health concerns which preclude their normal activities, leaving us with only a small handful available to assist researchers. Kudos to the small group doing special projects from home and occasional days on site.

We have decided thus: No tours of the museum and no programs at least for the balance of the year. Our annual luncheon program and elections, which usually take place in October, have also been postponed until next year. Folks who wish to use the library for research may contact us via E-mail only and arrangements will then be made for a mutually convenient day for volunteers to be present, with the now-normal safeguards to be used.

A special note to our distant members who rarely get to visit us: Many have made donations as part of our annual appeal and several have indicated to me personally their understanding of our situation. Thanks to all of you for being such faithful supporters of our mission.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record.....Stay safe, stay well.

*Sid Parker, President*

The Atlantic County Historical Society will be closed until further notice. Please visit our website for updated information on an opening date and program cancellations/postponements.  
[www.AtlanticCountyHistoricalSocietynj.org](http://www.AtlanticCountyHistoricalSocietynj.org)

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

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# NEW JERSEY BUFFALO SOLDIERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

*Mission Statement: Illuminating the Past to Light the Future*

In March of this year before the coronavirus closed the doors of the Atlantic County Historical Society, we welcomed the return of one of our most popular programs, The New Jersey Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club. They held the attention of a rapt audience for over an hour which was followed by a question and answer period.

Led by James “Thor” Thornton, each member participant gave an enlightening synopsis of the role African Americans played in American history. They spoke of Cathay Williams (William Cathay), a woman who disguised herself as a man and served as a soldier from 1866 to 1868, Henry O. Flipper, the first black man to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Crispus Attucks, the first casualty of the Revolutionary War and William H. Carney who fought the Confederates with local militia, the Morgan Guards, in the first Regiment composed of black men in Massachusetts.

For more information about the Buffalo Soldiers online go to [www.njbuffalosoldier.com](http://www.njbuffalosoldier.com).



Left: James “Thor” Thornton explains the significance of the logo on the vest of “Wingnut” aka “Solo; Middle: BS member “Solo” shares his story. Right: “Thor” displays his motorcycle or “iron horse”. The Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club is the largest African-American motorcycle club in the US. The club also engages in charitable and educational activities.

## YARD SALE!

Saturday, September 26th  
8am - 2pm



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

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



Life as we know it!! ACHS President Sid Parker conducting the Board Meeting via Zoom, thanks to Trustee Heather Perez’s technical skills. We are hoping for a return to “normal” sometime soon. Thanks to all of our members for their patience!

## BOSCOV'S FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

**FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS**  
**2 BIG DAYS**  
SHOP OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
NO SHOPPING PASS TO PURCHASE!  
**YOU SAVE 20% OFF**  
LOWEST SALE PRICES ON ALMOST EVERYTHING  
**WE RECEIVE 5% BACK**  
OF YOUR TOTAL PURCHASE  
MENTION OUR ORGANIZATION BY NAME  
IN-STORE AT THE REGISTER OR ONLINE AT CHECKOUT  
& WE'LL RECEIVE 5% OF YOUR TOTAL PURCHASE.  
Visit [www.boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends](http://www.boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends)  
for a listing of items receiving a 10% discount and exclusions.

“EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY OF SOUTH JERSEY” is a newly mounted exhibit that will be on permanent display at the Atlantic County Historical Society. Various types of photographic processes - Daguerrotypes, Ambrotypes and Tintypes, are housed in period Union and Thermoplastic cases (1830-1890). They represent local founding and influential families such as Scull, Steelman and Frambes and their relationship to each other as well as to the county at large. Well-researched printed reading material on conservation/preservation is also featured. Please keep this in mind when the ACHS opens its doors again to share its varied collections.

## In Memory of Mary Beth Ortzman



A powerful, soprano voice and an astute, historical mind were silenced February 13 with the passing of Mary Elizabeth Ortzman of Somers Point. Known to friends and family as “Mary Beth,” she was born 72 years ago in Sea Isle City to the late Frank and Elizabeth Dimond, and is survived by Larry, her husband of 47 years. Her legacy will carry on through her “girls” whom she loved without question: daughters, Amy and Maggie, and granddaughters, Darby, Moira, Lucy and Quinn. Though one family lives in Connecticut and the other in Virginia, Mary Beth delighted in making the drive for a birthday or dance recital, often laden with books and gifts for her grandchildren.

Mary Beth fulfilled many roles at the Atlantic County Historical Society as member, duty volunteer, volunteer scheduler, newsletter contributor, board member and generous donor, but the one that she was most passionate about was answering research queries. She pursued these like “a dog chasing a bone” and was often reluctant to let one go until every possible resource had been searched. Her historical mind was amazing because she could not only relate historical facts but also interpret the historical context in which they occurred. Many who submitted a query benefited from her efforts.

Prior to her time with us, Mary Beth graduated from Trenton State College with a BA in elementary education. She began her 35-year teaching career in Egg Harbor Township as a first grade teacher. She continued her education at Fairleigh Dickinson University where she completed an MA in human development, and also returned to undergraduate school at Glassboro State College to prepare for the preschool handicapped role then in its infant stages in New Jersey. She won the Teacher of the Year Award in 2002.

Mary Beth was an active member of St. Joseph’s Church in Somers Point, teaching religious education, cantering mass and singing in the church choir.

After retirement, she pursued a life-long interest in genealogy. She was proud of her New England roots and loved to talk to all who would listen about her ancestors, the Quimbys and Lords. After proving that her ancestor, Moses Quimby of New Hampshire, was a patriot of the American Revolution, she qualified to join the Daughters of the American Revolution in 2011 where she served on the lineage research committee. It was at these DAR meetings that her soaring voice led its members in the singing of “God Bless America.” Mary Beth was also a member of the Atlantic County Retired Teachers, Gilda’s Club, New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Maine Genealogical Society, and Sons and Daughters of Nathan Lord of Kittery, Maine. She looked forward to the family reunions in Maine every summer.

When diagnosed with breast cancer, the courage with which she faced this disease was remarkable. Little did she (or we for that matter) know that shortly after her passing the world would shut down with COVID-19. Events that she had looked forward to, such as her out-of-state family visits and family reunions, would come to a screeching halt. Mary Beth was interred at the Atlantic County Veterans Cemetery on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Rest in peace, dear friend.



## AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU!

### Friends \$1 - \$49

Bill Martin, Joan Frankel, Joyce Poley,  
Norma Higbee, Judy Smith,  
Sue Koiro, IMO John and Mary Mahoney  
Kathy & Bill Fritz, IHO Sid Parker,  
Daniel Harkins, IMO Mary Greenstreet  
& IHO Barbara Harkins,  
Mary Anne Royal, IHO Christopher VanSant,  
Elizabeth Naylor, IHO MaryBeth Ortzman,  
Ellen Hyatt, IMO MaryBeth Ortzman,  
Bruce & Barbara Aydelotte, IHO Edward Stephenson

### Patrons \$50 - \$249

Michael Connor, Wayne & Megan Ernst, Sally Pietrofitta,  
Bob & Gail Viden, Michael O’Brien, Charles Birnstiel,  
Carolyn Patterson, Anthony Marino & Rosalia Valenti, Joan  
Berkey & Scott Smith, Judith LaDrew Bayer,  
Charles & Maria Dupras, Walter & Lois Gregory,  
Sally & Kirk Hastings,  
Dick & Winnie Squires IMO Edward Canale,  
Lee Ellenberg IMO Fred Ellenberg,  
Debbie & Lewis Barrett III IMO Lewis & Martha Barrett,  
William Crimbring IMO MaryLou Adams,  
Donald K. Shupp IMO Arlene Shupp,  
Diane Miller IMO MaryBeth Ortzman,  
George & Carol Guiliano IHO Sid & Pat Parker,  
Anne Ronne IMO Victor A. Bressler, MD,  
Charlene Canale IMO MaryBeth Ortzman,  
Rosemary & Wm. Michael Wallace,  
IMO Bill & Gladys Wallace,  
Paul Schopp IHO Norman Goos,  
Michael Morello IMO Atlantic County Sheriffs:  
James Cimino & Daniel Conway,  
Elinor Veit IMO Richard F. Veit,  
Diane Bassetti IMO Ken Smith,  
Anthony Musarra IHO Rev. Norman Goos,  
Judy Schwartz IMO Olga & Alfred Amole,  
Donald Perry IMO Carolyn Perry,  
Barbara Perry-Silva IMO Carolyn Perry

### Sponsors \$250 - \$1000

Dale Lonkart IHO All Our Volunteers,  
Sid & Pat Parker IMO Joyce Pullan



# SELECTIONS FROM OUR LANTERN SLIDE COLLECTION

1



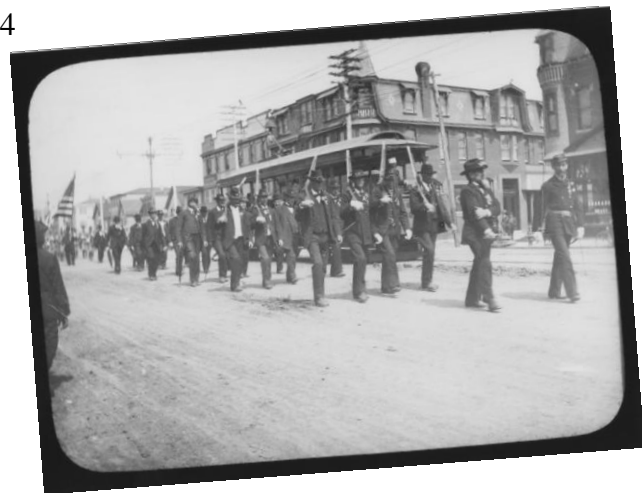
2



3



4



5



1. March 1903. Fruit Iron Steamship BRIGHTON. Came ashore at the bar near the inlet. Loaded with 2600 bunches of bananas and 4000 bags of coconuts. Twenty-four man crew and four passengers. Ship was held fast for 5 days before wrecking tugs freed it and she was able to leave. The cargo was tossed into the sea. People on the Mainland and Atlantic City had a feast of bananas for some time!
2. Train in front of the Bartlett Bldg., later Guarantee Trust Bldg.; NE corner of North Carolina Ave. and Atlantic Ave.
3. July 30, 1896, 6PM. The Reading RR train left Philadelphia at 5PM, running at 40mph. The Pennsylvania RR excursion left Atlantic City at 6PM. The Reading train struck the middle of the excursion train and killed 60 people and badly injured 100.
4. GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Parade of Civil War Veterans, 1902. SE corner of Michigan and Atlantic Aves.
5. Mystery Photo! Can you guess?

## Need to Contact Us?

Phone: (609) 927-5218 ~ Email: [ACHSinfo@comcast.net](mailto:ACHSinfo@comcast.net)

Visit our Facebook page - Newsletter available online

@[www.AtlanticCountyHistoricalSocietynj.org](http://www.AtlanticCountyHistoricalSocietynj.org)

## Newsletter Editor: Ellen Hyatt

### Contributors to this Issue:

Sid & Pat Parker, Mike Connor, Dale Lonkart, Lynn Wood,  
Brittani Mazzone, Sheryl Collins & Diane Miller

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

6



7



8



9



10



- 6. The original Haddon Hall at the Boardwalk – Resorts International Casino now occupies this site.
- 7. Mystery Photo! Can you guess?
- 8. Pennsylvania Railroad Station, Pleasantville.
- 9. Jonathan Pitney House, Absecon.
- 10. Mystery Photo! Can you guess?

*(See Mystery Photo Answers on page 7.)*

### Atlantic County Historical Society Governing Board

President: Sid Parker  
 Vice-President: Cindy Mason-Purdie  
 Recording Secy: Barbara Perry-Silva  
 Treasurer: Charlene Canale  
 Asst. Treasurer: Pat Parker  
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 Asst. Librarian: Kathleen Fritz  
 Curator: Joan Frankel  
 Asst. Curator: Kevin Little  
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 Perry, Will Rozell, Dana Shupp, Ruth  
 Taylor, Lynn Wood & Diane Bassetti,  
*Historian*

# Looking Back through the Files.....

*Transcribed by Diane J. Miller*

## Letters from the Illinois Frontier to the Absecon Doughty Family

*Editor's Note: The following two letters written by Ann Frost to her "Dear Friends" in "Absecon" give a female perspective of pioneer life in Illinois. The first was written in 1836 to sisters, Sarah and Charlotte Doughty.<sup>i</sup> The second was addressed to Sarah as Mrs. Nathaniel Doughty in 1837. They are housed in Manuscript Box 29 which contains both the original letters and their transcriptions. These copies were taken from the transcriptions. Of special interest are the run-on sentences where punctuation often serves as paragraph breaks. Paper color was noted by the original transcriber.*

*From Manuscript Box 29, folder 3a (original); folder 40 (transcription)*

bright yellow paper

Mount Carmel July 17<sup>th</sup> 1836

My Dear Friends

It is with pleasure I take pen in hand to hold conversation with friends at a distance we are so well contented in this Country that we are glad that it was put into our minds to come notwithstanding the people in that place said we would repent it but we have not repented it as yet but we are sorry we had not come years ago. the boys has a good chance earn their liveing there is many ways for them to earn money that they could not have there yesterday John earned 12 cents after 2 oclock and that is more than he could earn there in a whole day for if Dr Pitney had nothing for him no one else would imploy him give my love to Dr and Caroline Pitney for they were friends to us I will write to Mrs P as soon as I can find something interesting to write on; this is the greatest place to raise cattle and horses for they raise horses without other grain or hay I have seen between 20 and 30 horses grasing in one flock there is plenty of pasture to keep cattle fat all summer you can buy land about 7 miles from here for one dollar and 25 cents per acre sawmills are profittable there is three here but they do not make lumber half so fast as it is wanting there is so many buildings going up. Mr Clark farms about 18 acres and last year he raised five hundred bushels of wheat and some hundred bushels of corn but I have forgot how many; you will not believe me but I tell you he has corn now that is 11 feet high and you know it has not its growth yet I mention those things that you may see how fertile the land is without manure; if you should take a notion to come to this Country you had better bring the good beds you have is you cannot get the worth of them we are very glad we brought ours and I am glad I brought my carpet I can now sell it if I want to sell get 75 cents per yard but I do not want to sell it I amakeeping of it to put on my new house when I get it butt we live now near John Tilton his wife sends her love to you and Charlotte and says she would be very glad to see you; please to give my love to your father family [Parker Clark] when you see them tell Emma Doughty<sup>ii</sup> she must take part of this letter herself as I cannot get much time to write I have not seen Dr Baker nor his wife since Ive been here; I will send a piece of my dress so you may see the choice I made in the evening I thank you for the present you and Charlotte sent me now I must close for I must write to Maria I remain with true friendship

Sarah and Charlotte Doughty

Ann Frost

25

address: Mount Carmel Ill

July 23

Mrs Sarah Doughty  
Gloucester County Absecon  
New Jersey

*From Manuscript Box 29 folder 3b (original); folder 40 (transcription)*

bright green paper

Mount Carmel May 1837

My Dear Sarah

I aknolledg the receipt of your welcome letter for which I thank you for it is a great pleasure to receive letters from our friends at a distance particularly when they contain so much information as yours did My friends here were all pleased with reading your letter they love to hear from my friends at distance notwithstanding they are strangers to you we have a very backward spring we have not gardened any yet the weather is very changeable in this country but I have not had one sick day since I left Absecon father has been sick one day

## Looking Back through the Files..... *continued:*

only henry has had a few fits of the ague and fever but John was sick 3 months this year last season; Father is very much pleased with this Country yet and he says he would not come back to the shore for a house and farm and I still like it myself; land is very dear here we have not got a lot yet nor do I know when we shall we cannot get such a lot as we want for less than 2 hundred and 50 dollars there are so many comeing here land raises every day rents are allso high Joseph Adams with his family and two brothers arrived here yesterday, he seems to like this place so well that he has no mind to return back again; but Daniel Dau and John Ewins has not arive here yet we think its likely he has to stop at some other place; I am pleased to hear that Mrs Pitney has a son for I think it pleaseing to her and the Dr all so; I cannot make my letter as interesting to you are yours was to me as you are not acquainted with many of the inhabitants.....Mr Cooks family are all well and was pleased with your letter.....last evening I spent with Mrs Tilton our conversation was of the people in Jersey.....Mr Tilton has gone to neworleans he has been gone 7 or 8 weeks; I get plenty of washing here at 75 cents per dozen not withstand the customary price is 50 cents there is a number of people here who takes in family washing at 12 ½ cents per dozen but I do not work as cheap as that for I do not love work so well as to wash dirty clothes for one cent a piece---please to give my love to Nancy murphy and Maria and Sarah and all other inquiring friends take a large share to yourself and Nathaniel so no more at present but I remain with true friendship your affectionat

Friend Ann Frost

P.S. please to write whenever its convenient

address: Mount Carmel III  
May 16

25

Mrs Nathaniel Doughty  
Absecon N Jersey

<sup>i</sup> Sarah and Charlotte were both daughters of Parker and Martha Leak Clark of Clark's Mills. Sisters Sarah and Charlotte had married brothers, Nathaniel and Enoch, sons of Abner Doughty, respectively, Sarah W. R. Ewing and Robert McMullin, *Along Absecon Creek, A History of Early Absecon, New Jersey*, 1965, pp. 53 & 54.

<sup>ii</sup> Emma Hillman married Daniel Doughty on April 24, 1816. Daniel was a brother of Enoch and Nathaniel Doughty. If this is the Emma Doughty referred to in this letter, she and Daniel took their 7 children, Samuel, Elizabeth, Harriet, Mary, Emma, Abner and Edward, to make a new home in Ohio in 1837, *Along Absecon Creek*, pp. 40 & 51; *The Doughty Tree, Vol. 13. No. 3*, July 1989, Sarah W. R. Ewing, "The Daniel Doughty Family in Ohio." ACHS Manuscript Box 29 contains letters written by Emma A Doughty as the family migrated West to Ohio.

All references are available at the ACHS library.



### Mystery Photo Answers:

5. *Atlantic City 1876. Looking west from the Atlantic City Lighthouse. Atlantic Ave. on the right, Pacific Ave on the left. Notice how the city has grown in just over 20 years!*
7. *Atlantic City's first lifeguards with rescue equipment and mascot.*
10. *Brigantine Hotel 1857; the replacement building is now the Ramada. Originally owned by Henry Smith, in 1944 religious leader Father Divine sold it to Madame Sara Spencer Washington, a local African American businesswoman who had created a beauty products empire worth \$500,000. She established the first integrated beachfront hotel in the area.*



## Spotlight on the Shelves

*a treasure hiding in plain sight...*

Have you ever wondered if your family lineage has ties to royalty? If your ancestors immigrated from Britain to America within the past few centuries, there is a possibility that there are relations to Kings and Queens! Take one of Atlantic County's distinguished founders, John Somers, for example: Hailing from Worcester, England, The Somers family had acquired an estate in the parish of Severn Stroke. During the time of the Reformation, the Somers family actually hosted Queen Elizabeth in 1585! Discoveries like these are not limited to prominent Atlantic County names. With a bit of research and curiosity, you could uncover not only your family tree, but your royal heraldry. In addition to our extensive genealogical records, our library contains unique titles such as *The Mammoth Book of British Kings & Queens* (E-2383), *The Counties of Britain* (E-2384), and *Kings & Queens of Great Britain: A genealogical chart showing their descent and coats of arms* (E-2383.1). So, who are you? You don't need a royal invitation – make an appointment to come in today! Cheerio!

*Brittani Maxzone*

**ATLANTIC COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**



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**MEMBERSHIP  
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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.