

ATLANTIC HERITAGE

Newsletter of the Atlantic County Historical Society

SPRING 2020

You've Come a Long Way, Baby!

The 100th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment will be Aug. 26, 2020. Our new exhibit at the Atlantic County Courthouse highlights some events leading up to that historic date. Our summer newsletter will have an article about Atlantic City's role in Women's Suffrage.



Sept. 5, 1914 - a suffrage parade on the boardwalk at Maryland Ave., Atlantic City, featuring "Miss Wyoming" and "Miss Colorado".

The Atlantic County Historical Society
will be closed on:
Friday, April 10th &
Saturday, April 11th



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Page 2 - Mish-Mash
- Page 3 - Member News
- Page 4 - Accessions
- Page 6 - Looking Back Through the Files...
- Page 6 - Library Corner

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 Homestead is open for individual and small group guided tours. Contact ACHS for details.

ATLANTIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

907 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ

6:30pm – Auditorium– (elevator available) See our **Facebook** page for more details.

APRIL 6, 2020: Susan Gibson, will be presenting a program on the Civil War.

MAY 11, 2020: John “Jake” Glassey, will be discussing early shellfishing, clamming and oyster shacks on Lakes Bay.



ACHS & ACUA – APRIL 26th!

Join us at our booth from 10:00-4:00 at ACUA's annual EcoFair. Come out to see us and get acquainted with all that the ACHS has to offer.

MishMash
a little bit of this
a little bit of that.

SWEET SALE OPEN FOR BUSINESS!



PHOTOS, TEA AND SCONES

Picture this. Four amateur photographers professionally displaying pictures they had taken for pleasure of local scenery, birds, flowers, and family; plus underwater scenes and the fascination found in our skies. This was not a fantasy of the mind when Lynn Wood, Lori Jo Jamieson, Steve Jasiiecki and Kevin Little appeared at the Atlantic County Historical Society the first Monday in January of 2020 exhibiting their works of art. A price list was displayed for the sale of the pictures for those interested in purchasing one that caught their fancy.

The appreciative crowd coming to enjoy the photography experienced a surprise when an invitation was extended to sit down to a beautifully set table loaded with plates of scones, jams and honey butter along with a varied selection of teas. The ladies of the Atlantic County Historical Society welcomed their guests and poured the hot tea for them. Much lively chatter was enjoyed by our visitors and servers alike.



Sid to Santa: “Define good!”



The Elves & Santa L-R: Joan Frankel, Charlene Canale, Lynn Wood, Babs Perry-Silva & Sheryl Collins.



**Atlantic County Historical Society
FUNDRAISER**

June 20, 2020

SHORE DINER

6710 Tilton Road
Egg Harbor Township

Clip this notice and present to your server for 20% of your total bill to be sent to the Society.

Flyers are also available. Contact ACHS:

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

SPREADING THE WORD

Lynn Wood and Jerry Gordon are long-term members of the Society and active advocates for our mission. Each provides our weekly Atlantic County newspaper, *The Current*, with interesting photos, captions and articles on a regular basis; Lynn focuses on Egg Harbor Township and Jerry covers the whole county.

Dale Lonkart, former Librarian, and Diane Bassetti, Society Historian, both also long-term members (Dale from the 1980's), for the past several years have regularly set up a display case of library or museum items in the County Courthouse in Mays Landing, our county seat. They don't receive the same exposure as *The Current* but their efforts are appreciated by visitors, employees and, perhaps, the occasional miscreant who stops to inspect the ladies' offerings.

By the time you receive this newsletter, our newly-designed website, will be completed and operational. Many thanks to our board member, Heather Perez, who is also Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist at Stockton University. Heather spearheaded the rebuilding of the site as well as the review and addition of new material for the site. She, and Norm Goos, Librarian, will continue to add new material and find ways to upgrade the website. Suggestions from our members will be appreciated.

Welcome

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

Kristen DeMeo, *Egg Harbor Township, NJ*
Dominick Dougherty, *Ocean City, NJ*
Charles P. Keates, *Ventnor, NJ*



AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU!

FRIENDS \$1 - \$49

Steve Jasiocki, Ronald & Mary Joseph
In Memory of: our cousin, Elmer Ripley

PATRONS \$50 - \$249

Anne Ronne

IN MEMORIAM

Life Member

Ronald Headley, *Grand Island, NY*

Former Trustee

Mary Beth Ortzman, *Somers Point, NJ*

Need to Contact Us?

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

Visit our Facebook page - Newsletter available online

www.AtlanticCountyHistoricalSocietynj.org

ACHS Hours: Wed - Sat: 10:00am to 3:30pm

Parking & entrance in the rear of the building

Newsletter Editor :Ellen Hyatt

Contributors to this Issue:

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

*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: Pat Parker

Financial Secretary: Ellen Hyatt

Librarian: Rev. Norman Goos

Asst. Librarian: Kathleen Fritz

Curator: Joan Frankel

Asst. Curator: Kevin Little

Chaplain: Rev. Norman Goos

Trustees: Ben Brenner, Mike Connor,

Brendan J. Honick, Tom Kinsella,

James Mason,V, Heather Perez, Donald

Perry, Will Rozell, Dana Shupp, Ruth

Taylor, Lynn Wood & Diane Bassetti,

Historian



Library Accessions

Kathy Fritz, Assistant Librarian



Accession#	Source / Description
2019.036	Gift of Unknown Donor - Newspaper: "Jersey Times" Vol. 27, No. 1, 14th Anniversary Edition, November 11, 1944, published weekly in Atlantic City
2019.037	Gift of Mark Demitroff - Thesis: Pine Barrens Wetlands: Geographical reflections of South Jersey's Periglacial Legacy by Mark N. Demitroff, Spring 2007; submitted Univ. of Delaware for degree of Master of Science in Geography
2019.038	Gift of Robert H. Koltnow - Four books on history of Koltnow family who lived in Atlantic City area from 1908 to 2016.
2019.039	Gift of Howard W. Gant - Four page update of Scull family origins in America.
2019.040	Gift of Chris Dennis - Materials related to Florence Fineman Neudel: Atlantic City H.S. newspaper, Feb. 1949; 2 photos as a nurse WW2; Five handwritten letters to parents while serving as a nurse in WW2; Termination letter for nursing services at the Atlantic Co. Hospital for Mental diseases
2019.041	Gift of Charles Sturgis - Key found next to 1304 Roberts Ave. Somers Point NJ
2019.042	Gift of Jerry Gordon - Books: <u>The Jewish Colonies of South Jersey</u> by William Stainsby, 1901, NJ Bureau of Statistics, reprint 2019; <u>Migdal Zophim & Farming in the Jewish Colonies of South Jersey</u> by Moses Klein, 1889 - reprint 2019
2019.043	Gift of James Chandler -Touchmark, for 1978 inauguration of NJ Gov. Brendan Byrne
2019.044	Gift of Sid Parker - Corn grater; change dispenser used on Atlantic City Trolley
2019.045	Gift of Atlantic City Public Library - 3 City Directories: NJ Polk's Mainland/Ocean City 1981; Polk's Pleasantville 1968; Philadelphia Directory 1851
2019.046	Gift of Mary Beth Ortzman - Book: <u>Puritan Pedigrees - The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England</u> , Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2018
2019.047	Gift of Kathleen Fritz -Book: The Secret History of the Jersey Devil by Brian Regal and Frank F. Esposito
2019.048	Gift of Tina Morris - Collated Internet research related to Chestnut Neck Revolutionary War while seeking materials on soldier William Treen.
2019.049	Gift of Carol Donohue - Copies of photographic portraits: Jesse Somers age 95; Theresa Somers Veal age 18
2019.050	Gift of Judy Reynolds - Metal box; WW2 War ration books, Wise & Hobson, Linwood; AC Press article about Judge Thompson; Prime Times article about Grace Scull, attorney; Sunday school pamphlets Chelsea Baptist Church, Atlantic City
2019.051	Gift of Dale Lonkart - 5 black and white photos relating to Margate schools 1950's with most students identified; newspaper photo with caption of Miss Margate contestants
2019.052	Gift of American Assoc. of University Women - files from 2017 to 2019, Atlantic County Branch of organization
2019.053	Gift of Dina Bottley - Papers including leases, reports of operation, etc for Atlantic City and Shore Railroad Company - date range 1908-1945; also Philadelphia Transit 1930's
2019.054	Gift of Audrey Foster - Items associated with Holy Spirit HS & William Joseph Delaney, 1941-56; Book: <u>The Strange Case of Dr. Couney</u> ; Atlantic City booklets & pamphlets: Warner Theater 1948; Hotel Motel Restaurant Skills Competition 1968; Miss America Pageant and Mardi Gras, 1941; All American Airways, 1951; Children's Week in AC, 1935 & 1942; dedication of ballroom in AC Auditorium, 1929; Fishing Guide AC Tuna Club, 1938; Heinz Pier exhibit, Vautrinot artist, 1941; Globe Theater, 1920; Walter Buzby testimonial dinner, 1948; St. Charles Hotel; Marlborough Blenheim Hotel; photo of 1920 rolling chair carnival with 3 young girls.
2019.055	Gift of Kim Baker -Two unpublished articles: "From Refuge to Rescue: The Holdzkom Family Saga" and "Rescue Ran in the Family: The NJ Holdzcoms"
2019.056	Gift of Norma McClain - Book: <u>The Churches of Salem County, NJ</u> , Josephine Jaquett
2019.057	Gift of Atlantic County Government - Booklet: Atlantic County Manual 2019
2019.058	Gift of US Army, Corps of Engineers - Reports: Nacote creek bridge determination of effects and historic bridge alternatives analysis
2019.059	Gift of Suzanne Gibson - stock certificate, Central Passenger Railway Co. Atlantic City
2019.060	Gift of Atlantic City Public Library - Book: The Papers of William Livingston, Vol. 2
2019.061	Gift of UNICO- Atlantic City - Book: <u>A City Revitalized - The Elderly Lose at Monopoly</u> Teski, Helsabeck, Smith, Yeager, University Press of America,1983
2019.062	Gift of Carl Farrell - Yearbook: Hamilton Twp Historical Society 2017/2018
2019.063	Gift of Audrey Foster - Pamphlets: Knights of Columbus, Atlantic City, 1927; Drama Society ACHS, 1917; Easement deed, Henry Leeds, 1896; Cradle roll, Elizabeth Miller, Trinity church, 1915; Class Day & Commencement, ACHS, 1918; Holy Spirit HS newspapers, 1938-1939; Photos: Miss America and Armond T. Nicholas, Director General of the Pageant 1924 - 1933; Scrapbook of advertisements about Atlantic City; Panorama photo in three sections - Miss America contestants 1923, includes Mayor Bader and infamous Charlotte Nash - Miss St. Louis.

The Gift of the Big Brown Box

By Diane J. Miller

(Editor's Note: This story was related to us via email by Carla Seitz Welsh of Springfield, PA. It touched us with how history is often preserved in unexpected ways, and thus with Carla's permission we share it with our readers.)

It was with “sad regret” that Carla learned that one of our lifetime members, Ronald Charles Headley of Grand Island, NY, had passed away on 15 April 2018. Ronald was her 3rd cousin, twice removed, and not knowing of his death, she had written him a letter last summer. Carla has been gathering information about her Headley family with the intent to write a book, and she'd been hoping that Ronald could provide some missing information about an ancestor, John Mathis Headley.



Ronald Charles Headley (1930-2018) and his wife, Gertrude Ruth Neville (1918-1995), courtesy of Carla Seitz Welsh.

In the course of her research journey, Carla has visited our library twice to view the files of Vernon Headley. Ronald was a distant cousin of Vernon, and Vernon was the brother of her grandmother, Helen Marie Headley Seitz. (The Vernon Headley Collection is housed in Collection Box 12a, folders 1 – 10).¹ Here, she found some of Ronald's letters where she discovered his address.

A week or so after writing the letter, a big brown box appeared outside Carla's doorstep. Thinking that it was something that her husband had ordered from Amazon, she left it there as she hurried off to the food store. She returned home, unpacked her groceries and then finally returned to the box. She saw that it was addressed to her but she hadn't ordered anything so she wondered, “What is in here?”

When Carla opened the box, she “literally burst out crying. I have put so much research into this project,” Carla wrote. Inside was a 2-inch binder of Ronald Headley's work. It was accompanied by a letter from his neighbor, Jeff, who knew how important Ronald's genealogy work had been to him. When Ronald's house was being cleaned out, Jeff had “felt compelled to keep it [the binder], though he was unsure why.” Carla's intended letter to Ronald was received by the new occupants of his house who in turn passed it along to Jeff. Knowing that Ronald had no children, yet wanting someone in Ronald's family to have the binder, he now had someone to mail it to.

There is much information in the binder, but not the information Carla was looking for on John Mathis Headley. “But that is okay,” she wrote. “I am grateful to receive this binder and will cherish it....” According to Carla, the binder pertains mostly to early Headley history, theorizing a line of descent from Richard Headley of Eastchester, NY, and before him, possibly George Hadley of Ipswich, MA . One tidbit from the binder that Carla found fascinating concerns the little wall around the cemetery on Green Street in Tuckerton where their shared ancestors are buried. “Ronald said that he helped build the wall when he was about 7 or 8 years old around 1912-1913. He said his job was to mix mortar and carry the stone.”

In summary, Ronald's binder traveled from Grand Island, Erie County, New York, to Carla's house in Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Grand Island lies in the heart of the Niagara River between Canada and the United States¹, while Springfield is a western suburb of Philadelphia¹. Carla wishes she had gotten the chance to speak to Ronald, but, she wrote, “I think he is happy I got his work, because I am doing something to not let things be forgotten.” She is indeed! Thanks to what she is sharing, we are compiling a new Headley folder in Drawer B of our Family Records Collection.

ⁱ The ACHS library also has what is called the Headley File, 27 file drawers of southern New Jersey genealogy filed alphabetically by family name. These were compiled by Vernon Headley who recorded his entries in pencil on 4” x 6” slips of paper. This collection, however, does not contain a Headley family file. Carla's family had told her that her great-uncle Vernon Headley's files had been donated somewhere in New Jersey, but they weren't quite sure where. Their location at ACHS was confirmed by a distant cousin. Carla's parents had seen Vernon's files when he was alive and they were “massive”. They told her that those little index cards took up Vernon's entire dining room table.

ⁱⁱ www.grand-island.ny.us

ⁱⁱⁱ en.wikipedia.org

Looking Back through the Files.....

By Diane J. Miller

Editor's Note: The following material from the Sid Ascher Collection was selected to show the diversity of our library. It is filed in Collection Box 54. Sid Ascher (1912-2007) was a long-time area publicist, author, composer and columnist. Born in Brooklyn and a former resident of Hollywood, he later lived in Egg Harbor Township. Locally, he was public relations manager at the Claridge Hotel and Casino, publicist for the Historic Towne of Smithville and wrote a popular column for the Current weekly newspapers. On a larger stage, he wrote music, was publicist for legendary singers Vic Damone and Tony Bennett, speech writer for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and according to a local political columnist, he was ghost-writer for two books.ⁱ One, a children's cookbook called "The A to Z No-Cook Cookbook" is the focus of this article. According to this same columnist, this book became a best seller for Golden Books and earned award recognition for the chef, Felipe Rojas-Lombardi, who allegedly wrote it.ⁱⁱ The selections below illustrate some of the publicity generated by Mr. Ascher to promote the career of the chef and his cookbook for children.

[Undated letter written by Felipe Rojas-Lombardi]

It all began 17 years ago when I was a little boy living with my parents in a beautiful big house in Lima, Peru. I was only 7 years old and it was great fun for me to go down into our tremendous kitchen and watch the cooks make wonderful dishes out of meat, fish, chicken and vegetables. I was fascinated to see how they made yummy looking desserts and cakes.

For a while I was chased out of the kitchen, but after a time everyone was convinced that I really was interested in learning how to cook. So, on my 8th birthday I was presented with a chef's apron and hat made especially for me. It was agreed that if I was to learn about cooking I would have to start at the bottom, and that it must not interfere with my school work. Our chef put me to work at the bottom – keeping the kitchen floor clean. I have never forgotten how very important it is to pay attention to cleanliness – clean cooking utensils, clean food, clean hands. When you are handling food everything must be clean!

As the years passed I became even more interested in the art of cooking. I studied with chefs from all over the world. In 1966, on my 19th birthday, I came to the United States of America to continue my studies and to work with great cooks in this country. In 1968, I was given the chance to write a weekly column on cooking, and it now appears in 197 newspapers.....ⁱⁱⁱ

I should point out at this time that a good cook never stops learning new things. In talking with many young people I discovered that they would like to learn to cook. They told me they wished there was a cookbook written just for them. I decided to make their wish come true and so I wrote this book. This book is dedicated to all the boys and girls in the world. Cooking can be fun, and it can also be something you will find useful all through your life.

Your friend

Felipe Rojas-Lombardi.....

[Below is a letter written by Ascher to Norman Rockwell.]

January 14, 1972

Mr. Norman Rockwell
Stockbridge, Mass. 01262

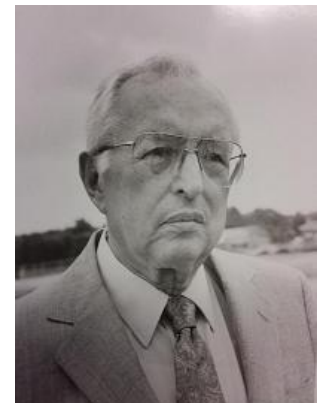
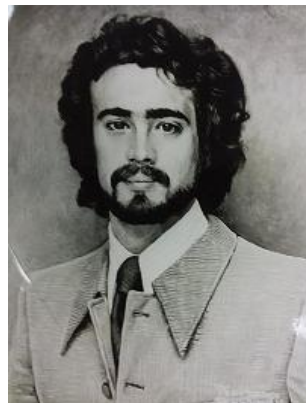
Dear Mr. Rockwell:

It is with great pleasure and appreciation that I enclose a check for \$5,000 in payment for the truly magnificent portrait of Felipe Rojas-Lombardi.

Everyone who has seen the painting has remarked on its excellence and I am certain that when Felipe returns from England next week he too will be thrilled with what you have done. As a matter of fact, when I spoke with him on the telephone yesterday and told him how much we love the painting, he said he is creating a new dish in your honor. We will send you a copy of his recipe shortly.....

Sincerely,

Sidney Ascher



Left: The portrait of Rojas-Lombardi painted by Norman Rockwell was used on the cookbook's back cover.
Right: Sid Ascher, 1989. ACHS photo folder 2362

Library Corner

Norman Goos, Librarian ~ Asst. Librarian, Kathleen Fritz

OLD, DAMAGED PHOTOS WILL SOON SEE NEW LIFE AT ACHS

We're beginning a new project and you may want to help. We have many thousands of old photos here at ACHS, many of which are either damaged, age-faded or degraded in other ways. We are now acquiring a very high-resolution separate scanner that will be used to scan photos, all size negatives and several size slides. Once set up, we will ask for help reviewing our photo files to see which photos are important enough that we want to repair them. We are learning to use Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom to clean up the blemishes and damage, and to see the detail that is hidden under the aging oxidation.

Once we do this on 50 or so photos, we are thinking about holding a training seminar for our members, volunteers and other historical societies so that they can learn the process. Adobe Photoshop Elements is today being installed on our desk computer in the Library, as it's the easiest edition of Photoshop to learn. I have subscribed to Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom Classic on my personal laptop for \$10.65 per month and acquired a Wacom Pen Tablet Mouse. The well-established and recommended guidebook we are using for the process is "Photograph Restoration and Enhancement: Using Adobe Photoshop" by Vickie Ellen Wolper. If you would like to help sort and scan photos, let me know.

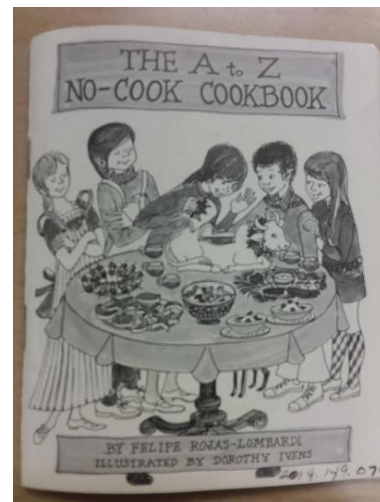
Best wishes, *Norm Goos, Librarian*

Looking Back through the Files..... *continued-*

[*THE recipe:*]

Norman Rockwell Indian Pudding Created by F. Rojas-Lombardi

2 cups water	2 ½ cups cold water
3 ½ cups dark brown sugar	1 full tablespoon pork fat
1 stick cinnamon	1 cup raisins
5 cloves	½ cup chopped walnuts
2 cups yellow corn flour	



In a pot, pour two cups of water, sugar, cinnamon and cloves. Put on flame and bring to boil, cook for five minutes then strain and return liquid to the pot. In a small pan dissolve the yellow corn flour in 2 ½ cups of water then add to the liquid in pot together with the pork fat and cook over low flame for 30 minutes, stir frequently. At end of 30 minutes, add raisins and walnuts and mix together. Cook for 2-3 minutes. Pour into a wet mold and leave to chill.

ⁱ *The Press of Atlantic City*, April 14, 2007 and *The Current*, April 18, 2007

ⁱⁱ *The Current*, April 18, 2007

ⁱⁱⁱ CB 54 contains examples of the "Cooking with Rojas-Lombardi" column under the heading of Sidney Ascher Syndicate, Mays Landing, NJ

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



907 Shore Road
Post Office Box 301
Somers Point, New Jersey 08244-0301

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 164
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

L

**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.