
ATLANTIC HERITAGE

Newsletter of the Atlantic County Historical Society

Volume 3, Issue 2

Summer 2005

League Meeting Showcases Atlantic County History!

Society hosts representatives from 28 New Jersey historical societies

On Saturday March 12, 2005, the Atlantic County Historical Society rolled out the red carpet to the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. Ninety-five people from twenty-eight societies attended the sold out event that was orchestrated by Trustees June Sheridan and Gwen Hagerthey.

The welcoming address was given by Howard Kyle, Atlantic County *Chief of Staff*. Throughout the morning, Dr. Jonathan Pitney (Michael Doyle) and King Neptune (Joseph Polillo) visited with guests and posed for pictures while Victorian ladies Alexandria Purdie and Kimberly Fritzgibbons offered refreshments. Alexandria and Kimberly both serve as junior volunteers at the Society.

Trustee Joan Berkey was the featured speaker. She presented a Powerpoint program entitled *Atlantic County - Then and Now* that gave the attendees a greater appreciation for the historical significance of the area and set the tone for tours scheduled later in the day. Assistant Curator Boo Pergament also shared a 3-dimensional display of early Atlantic City that took everyone back to a time long before the casino era.

Guests then enjoyed lunch with a beautiful bay view at the Crab Trap restaurant in Somers Point. In recognition of the restaurant's hospitality and fine food throughout the years, members of the Society's Board of Trustees presented Banquet Manager Keiran Murray with a framed collage of early Crab Trap restaurant advertisements and photos.

After lunch, bus service provided by Atlantic County government transported our visitors on a scenic ride through Somers Point, Linwood, and Northfield culminating with a stop at the Risley Homestead. Ed McAllister pointed out

places of historic significance during the ride while Carol Kraus and Gwen Hagerthey provided guided tours at the Homestead.

Crisp, sunny weather also offered the perfect backdrop for walking tours of Somers Point. Stops along the route included Somers Mansion with host Dan Campbell, the Atlantic County Historical Society Library with hostesses June Sheridan and Freda Bird, the Society Museum featuring Curator Ruth Gold and Assistant Curator Boo Pergament, and the Somers Point Historical Society with President Sally Hastings serving as the official greeter.

Our guests had so many positive comments about their trip to the Jersey Shore and Atlantic County! And based on feedback that we received from League officials, we definitely exceeded expectations and "raised the bar" for historical societies planning to host future League meetings.

Continued on page 2.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 4 Our Photographer, Our Friend
- 5 Program Updates
- 6-7 Battle of Chestnut Neck
- 9 Sharing the Past with Students
- 10-11 Book and Yearbook Blowout Sale!

Welcome

**Atlantic County Historical Society
is pleased to welcome and thank
our newest members:**

Junior Member:

Sarah Duffner, Somers Point, NJ

Individual Members:

Sandra Akeret, Mays Landing, NJ
Darryl Aronsohn, Old Westbury, NY
Reba Baglio, Mauricetown, NJ
Colt Bonsall, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ
Melissa Bruner, Northfield, NJ
Sheryl Collins, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ
Curtis Dilks, Somers Point, NJ
Robert B. Driscoll, Cape May Court House, NJ
Vicky Garofalo, Avalon, NJ
Lee W. Griscom, Ocean City, NJ
Norma Higbee, Atlantic City, NJ
Tina Knapik, Mays Landing, NJ
William H. Long, Franklinville, NJ
Debbie Morey, Martintown, NJ
Martin Mucher, Batavia, NY
Paul Price, Princeton, NJ
William H. Sokolic, Ventnor, NJ
Michael Somers, Berlin, NJ
David Somers, Arlington, MA
Ruth Ann Thomas, Wildwood, NJ
Linda Waller, Lawnside, NJ
Betty Zimmerman, Englewood, OH

Husband and Wife Members:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Abbott, Absecon, NJ
Mr. and Mrs. George Duffner, Somers Point, NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Klinger, Northfield, NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Perry, Northfield, NJ
Mr. and Mrs. David Rhodes, Absecon, NJ
Col. and Mrs. Ken Stow, Atlantic City, NJ



Celebration!

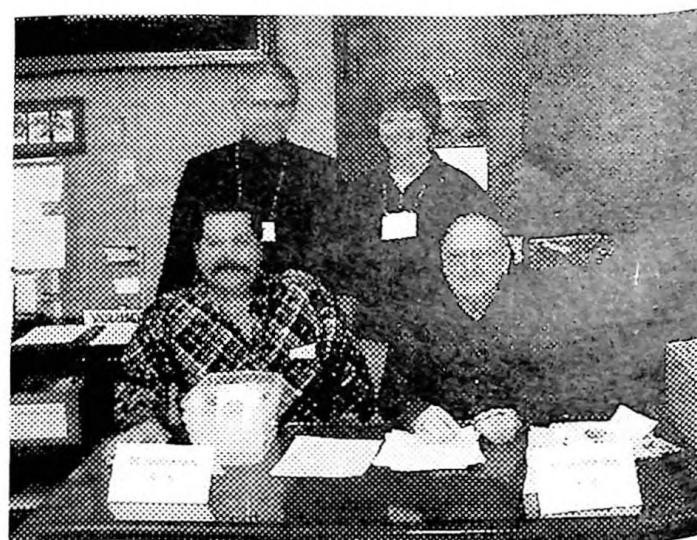
League Meeting - continued from page 1.

Many thanks to everyone who worked long hours before, during, and after the event to make it a resounding success: June Sheridan, Gwen Hagerthey, Carol Kraus, Ed McAllister, Dawn Risley, Jerry Bell, Sid Parker, Dr. James Mason, Joan Berkey, Cindy Mason Purdie, Freda Bird, Boo Pergament, Ruth Gold, Bob Hagerthey, and Lee Sheridan. ❖



Just a few of the VIPs who offered up Atlantic County hospitality during the March meeting of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

(from left to right): Hostess Alexandria Purdie, Curator Ruth Gold, King Neptune (Joseph Polillo) and Hostess Kimberly Fritzgibbons.



Smiling faces from the Atlantic County Historical Society Board of Trustees greeted League meeting registrants.

(rear left to right): Sid Parker, Carol Kraus.

(front left to right): Ed McAllister, Bob Hagerthey.



Library Accessions

*June Sheridan, Acting Librarian
Freda Bird, Assistant Librarian*



- Gift of:** Frederic Cramer, Ship Bottom, NJ, Book: Preservation of Library & Archival Material - A Manual, #2000.212.170
Gift of: Frederic Cramer, Ship Bottom, NJ, Pamphlet: Torrey of Manchester, #2000.212.174
Gift of: Frederic Cramer, Ship Bottom, NJ, Book: Church Archives - New Jersey Baptist Bodies, #2000.212.179
Gift of: Frederic Cramer, Ship Bottom, NJ, Book: Catholic Parish and Institutional Histories in the State of New Jersey, #2000.212.181
Gift of: Frederic Cramer, Ship Bottom, NJ, Ocean County - Inventory of The County Archives of New Jersey, Toms River, #2000.212.182
Gift of: Frederic Cramer, Ship Bottom, NJ, Book: Mansfield Township 1688-1972, #2000.212.183
Gift of: Frederic Cramer, Ship Bottom, NJ, Book: A Heart in Camden for a Hundred Years, #2000.212.184
Gift of: Frederic Cramer, Ship Bottom, NJ, Preservation procedure bulletins: Conservation Procedures, #2000.212.185
Transferred from the Museum of Atlantic County Historical Society: Photo Album of Risley Homestead - first tour for Executive Board and tours given in 1985, 1989 and 1990. Also contains negatives of Risley Homestead. #2002.177
Gift of: Jerry French, Northfield, NJ, Ice Capades Programs: 1947, 1960, 1968, 1973, #2004.150
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Program Booklet 1992, #2004.154.001
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Program Booklet 1993, #2004.154.002
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Program Booklet 1996, #2004.154.003
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1970, #2004.154.004
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1971, #2004.154.005
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1975, #2004.154.006
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1976, #2004.154.007
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1988, #2004.154.008
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1994, #2004.154.009
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1995, #2004.154.010
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1996, #2004.154.011
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1997, #2004.154.012
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 1998, #2004.154.013
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Field Program Booklet 2001, #2004.154.014
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Photo: Miss America 1988-Kaye Lani Raye Rafko, #2004.154.015
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Binder: TV News Releases 1977, 1978, 1982, 1990 - History of Miss America Pageant 1921-1977, #2004.154.016
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Hostess Info and Committees - 1947, 1975, 1977, 1994, 2000, #2004.154.017
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Miss America Scripts 1967, 1969, 1970, #2004.154.018
Gift of: Kathryn Delcher, Linwood, NJ, Newspaper "Ideal" Official Pageant Publication 1995; Program Books: 1963, 1966, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1989, 1991; Program Book: Miss Pennsylvania 1994; Manual: Miss America Hostess Committee-Miscellaneous Items, #2004.154.019
Gift of: Mark Demitroff, Vineland, NJ, Booklet: Valley Ventura, #2004.178
Gift of: Robert and Doris Marts, Somers Point, NJ, Mendelhall's Guide & Road Map of NJ, c.1915, #2004.182
Gift of: Jerry French, Northfield, NJ, Scrapbook: Pleasantville Garden Club 1964-1966, #2004.191
Gift of: Dawn Risley, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ, Magazine: Miss America Competition, Sept. 2004, #2004.201
Gift of: New Jersey State - Dept. of Transportation, Trenton, NJ, Book: Phase I Archaeological Survey - NJ Route 52 and Somers Mansion, #2004.214
Purchase: Marge Cramer Fund, Book: Revolutionary War Period Bible Family & Marriage Records, Vol. 21, #2005.102.001
Gift of: Freda Bird, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ, Book: A Man and His Ship: Peter Minuit and The Kalmar Nyckel, #2005.103.001
Gift of: Rod Kennedy, Jr., New York, NY, Book: Monopoly - The Story Behind the World's Best-selling Game, #2005.104.001
Gift of: James Kirk, Northfield, NJ, Book: Diary of Marian Lake, #2005.116
Gift of: Betty Garwood, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ, 3 photocopies - photos of Navy Mothers Club, c. 1944, #2005.140
Gift of: R. Robinson Chance, Jr., Trenton, NJ, Booklet: The Century War Book - Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, #2005.153.001 ❖

Our Photographer, Our Friend

By Diane I. Miller

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of our much-loved volunteer, Bob Marts, of Somers Point. In late March, Bob underwent heart bypass surgery in Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, from which he never recovered.

On his volunteer profile, Bob humbly described his hobby as "handyman". He was that to us, but he was so much more. With his generous and energetic spirit, he was always offering his knowledge of computers and photography.

Bob led an accomplished life. He was a 1943 graduate of Ocean City High School, a 1947 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, and completed Graduate School at Penn State in 1968. He was also a retired naval aviator with 25 years of service.

After retirement, he enjoyed a second career as a photographer for Senior Studios in Ocean City and worked closely with the Historical Society on a variety of photography projects. Bob was entrusted with the Society's original historic photographs, making custom copies of them for Society patrons. These photographs have been used in bank displays and by authors, family historians, and researchers. He also worked with our curators to document, through digital photographs, many of the objects in the Society's museum collection.

Bob is survived by his wife of 57 years, Doris (nee Senior), four children, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and one brother. We will miss him. ❖

The Atlantic County Historical Society and the Marts family would like to thank contributors to the Bob Marts Memorial Fund:

Terry J. Dailey and John V. D'Agostino
Mays Landing, NJ

Gilmer W. and Janet B. Lam
Dayton, VA

Michael R. and Holly P. Monihan
Ocean City, NJ

Joseph L. and Barbara Rhein
Scottsdale, AZ

Cdr. John J. Desiderio, USNR Ret.
Military Officers Association of America,
South Jersey Chapter - Turnersville, NJ

James Laymon
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

Cdr. Robert L. Ghormley, Jr., USN Ret.
U.S. Naval Academy, Class of '48
Bethesda, MD

June G. and William L. Sheridan
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

Ruth Gold,
Margate, NJ

Roy and Patricia Gillian
Ocean City, NJ

Carole Williams
Catholic Health Initiatives
Englewood, CO

Beverly Cothren
Grass Valley, CA

Carl W. and Ruth V. Gaskill
Pitman, NJ



Newsletter Editor, Layout & Graphics:

Dawn M. Risley
(e-mail: JRZDAWN@comcast.net)

Contributors to this issue:

**Freda Bird, Joan Berkey,
Richard Henkels, Diane Miller,
Marge Risley, June Sheridan**



Brady Reveals the Origin of the A-Cats

On Thursday evening, April 14th, the Society proudly hosted a presentation by John Brady, Director of Philadelphia's Independence Seaport Museum Workshop on the Water. He offered an informative program on the history and development of the Catboat – a type of sailing vessel unique to the Jersey Shore.

John is an experienced A-Cat boat builder and shared a wealth of information on the original style of the boat to fit the needs of the early baymen and its evolution to the latest class of A-Cats designed primarily for racing. His slide presentation enhanced stories of the local vessels, and frequent interaction with audience participants made for a lively and animated evening. Many of the 30 attendees were local boating enthusiasts who brought in photos and albums of early Catboats and sailing vessels of the area.

We look forward to hosting more maritime presentations in the future and extend an open invitation for John Brady to return and continue sharing his extensive knowledge! ❖

Attention Aspiring Writers...

We're lining up content for the 2005 Atlantic County Historical Society Yearbook and would like to hear from you if you have stories, research, or genealogical information related to Atlantic County, New Jersey that you'd like to share with our membership. We accept electronic submissions (Microsoft Word or similar word processing application) of 10 typewritten pages or less. Related photos, maps, and other graphics are also welcomed. The deadline for submissions is August 31. Please contact Dawn Risley at the Society or via e-mail for more information. ❖

Volunteer Recognition

The Historical Society flourishes in large part because of the time and effort donated by countless volunteers. On Sunday, April 17th, we hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Reception to honor and thank everyone who contributes to the cause. It was an opportunity to share some refreshments, distribute tokens of appreciation, and get to know volunteers a bit better. Special gratitude to members of the Volunteer Committee who organized the reception: Freda Bird, Dale Lonkart, Diane Miller, and Dorothy Lodovico. ❖

Program Committee Needs Your Help!

Public programs and community partner events are vital activities to the Atlantic County Historical Society – they help to broaden our reach, expand our membership base, and educate the public in a variety of topics of local interest.

Because we are an all-volunteer organization, we rely on the participation of members like you to help plan, coordinate, and publicize these events. We are currently offering open enrollment in our Program Committee and would love to recruit some new faces to the team! Committee members can participate in one event from start to finish or volunteer your special expertise to a variety of programs throughout the year – your choice on level of involvement. Committees generally meet at least once per month.

Our goal is to offer at least one community program each calendar quarter and schedule them 6-12 months in advance so we can promote them via various media, both locally and throughout the state of New Jersey. Here are some ideas that we have on the drawing board right now:

- **Civil War Reenactment and Program** (tentatively targeting August 2005).
- **Victorian Tea** (tentatively targeting September 2005 at the Risley Homestead).
- **Historic Houses: Dating and Preservation Techniques** offered by Joan Berkey (date TBD).
- **Rumrunners at the Jersey Shore**, a follow-up presentation by John Brady, Director of Philadelphia's Independence Seaport Museum Workshop on the Water (date TBD).
- **Atlantic County Historical Society Annual Luncheon** – help to plan and coordinate the agenda and program offered at our public meeting held each Fall.

Here's your opportunity to get involved, meet some new people, and have some fun! If you are interested in signing up or would like more information, please contact either Diane Miller or June Sheridan at the Society. When signing up, please specify a telephone number and your preference for day or evening Program Committee meetings. Thanks! ❖

THE BATTLE OF CHESTNUT NECK

By Richard Henkels

Today, occupants of cars speeding north along Route 9 pass a roadside marker as they approach the ramp to the Garden State Parkway, four miles north of Smithville in Atlantic County. The curious few, wondering what happened here in the middle of nowhere, are surprised when their curiosity overcomes them. They stop and read:

CHESTNUT NECK. PRIVATEERING AND SITE OF FORT BURROWS. DURING THE REVOLUTION, VILLAGE BURNED BY TROOPS FROM BRITISH FLEET. OCTOBER 6, 1778.

A short distance past this marker, at the intersection of Routes 9 and 575 and hidden behind seven cedar trees, stands a statue, tall and stately. Its companions are a large rock, a few small American flags, a weathered wreath laid in tender remembrance and an unadorned flagpole. At the top of the monument stands a Revolutionary War soldier. He faces east toward the site of the only battle fought in South Jersey during the Revolutionary War, guarding this historic place against future invaders.

On October 6, 1911, The Society of Cincinnati erected this monument to commemorate The Battle of Chestnut Neck. The large plaque on the monument reads:

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVE PATRIOTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR WHO DEFENDED THEIR LIBERTIES AND THEIR HOMES IN A BATTLE FOUGHT NEAR THIS SITE OCTOBER 6, 1778.

A smaller plaque reads:

**ERECTED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF
GENERAL LAFAYETTE CHAPTER N.S.D.A.R.**

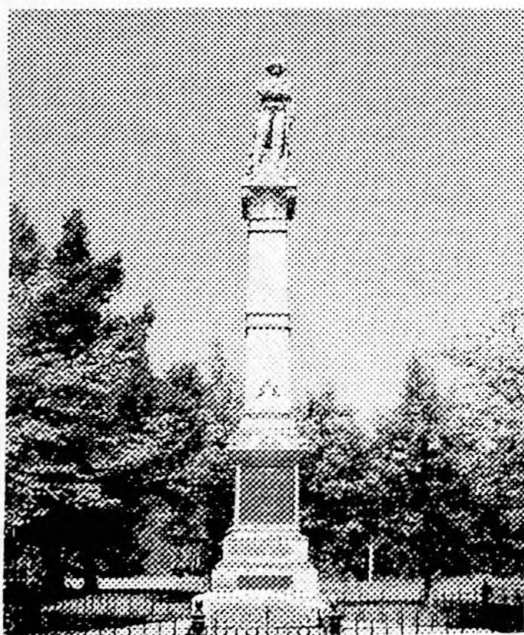
Three plaques on the rock honor those who participated in this battle. One plaque on the rock reads:

**IN HONOR OF 'PRIVATEERS' WHO SAILED AND FOUGHT FOR
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE 1776 - 1783.**

Another lists the names of 34 sea captains and 32 ships.

The third plaque on this stone reads:

DEDICATED BY COL. RICHARD SOMERS CHARTER SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.



Near these monuments, in the extreme northeast corner of Atlantic County is a road, deserted but for a few houses. A handful of commercial fishermen unload their catch at the end of this road. A white building, a seafood restaurant, awaits customers to enjoy the bounty of the sea. The casinos of Atlantic City can be seen on the horizon. Chestnut Neck was located near the end of this road, at the entrance to Little Egg Harbor (Mullica) River.

During the Revolutionary War, the colonists did not have a navy. Continental Congress issued Letters of Marque to ship owners. These documents gave ship owners and captains permission to capture British ships and confiscate their cargoes. The village of Chestnut Neck became a major center for these privateers. Some cargoes were taken up the river to a community known as The Forks. Some materiel stayed at Chestnut Neck for shipment to other locations. More than thirty ships and their cargoes were sold at Chestnut Neck and The Forks. Many cargoes were hauled to Philadelphia by wagon. Ship owners, captains and crews, and the government received specific shares from these sales. This system was highly successful for the Americans because it disrupted the British merchant fleet and prevented the British army from receiving much-needed supplies. It also provided a good income for those involved and supplied George Washington's army with much-needed materiel.

Near Chestnut Neck, the Batsto furnace made cannon balls and other military equipment for the Continental Army. It was so important to the revolutionary cause that the men working there received exemptions from military service. On the north side of the bay were many salt works. Salt was critical to preserve the vast quantities of food needed by the army and the privateers.

Realizing the military value of this location, Lt. Colonel Elijah Clark and Major Wescott built a fort at Chestnut Neck with positions for six guns. This fort was known as "Fort Fox Burrows". Nearby on a hill near the town, they built a platform to mount more guns. Because no cannons were available, this platform was not used.

In New York, General Clinton organized an expedition to destroy this privateering center and the iron works at Batsto. This venture became known as "The Egg Harbor Expedition." The Colonial Governor, William Livingston, became aware of these plans. He sent riders to alert the residents of the impending attack. Many ships left Chestnut Neck before the attack but a few stayed behind. Residents left the town.

On October 6, 1778, the battle began. The local militia occupied the fort but had no cannons to defend it. The British routed the militia from the fort with bayonets. It was no contest - a few ragtag militiamen were pitted against the well-trained British troops. The British burned the ships that did not escape and confiscated food supplies and war materiel. Warehouses, homes, and all flammable objects were burned by the invaders before they left the area. The salt mills across the river were destroyed. Residents fled to what is now Tuckerton. The towns of Chestnut Neck and The Forks ceased to exist.

The British commander abandoned his plan to attack Batsto. He knew his troops were expected and Colonial reinforcements were arriving with artillery. Instead, he ordered an attack on a farmhouse. About fifty Colonial militiamen were killed in this attack. Only five survived to become prisoners. When the British withdrew, they left one ship behind because it was grounded on a sandbar. The invaders destroyed it to prevent it from being used by the rebels. The memory of this tragic incident will be remembered by these memorials dedicated to the brave men and women who resisted the might of the British empire.

As a postscript, a legend states that a local girl fell in love with a British soldier and bore his child. The residents discovered this illicit love affair and cursed the child who became the Jersey Devil because of its mother's indiscretion. ❖

Need to Contact Us?	ACHS Library and Museum Hours:	Find Us on the Web!
Phone: (609) 927-5218	Wednesday - Saturday: 10:00am to 3:30pm 1st Thursday of each month: 6:00pm to 9:00pm	Address: www.aclink.org/achs Newsletter available online!

Announcements and Reminders

New Summer Membership!

We are pleased to offer a new Summer Membership pilot program to address the needs of potential members who either reside in or visit southern New Jersey mainly during the summer months. Here are the details:

Membership Duration: May 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005

Cost: \$10.00

Covers any 2 people living in the same household – one person must be age 18 or older

Summer membership benefits include:

- 1 or 2 issues of the *Atlantic Heritage* newsletter depending on when the membership is initiated (Summer / Fall issues).
- All other annual membership benefits EXCEPT a Yearbook. Our yearbook may be purchased separately (subject to availability).

We hope that you take full advantage of your membership during the summer months and experience enough value that you consider joining as an annual or life member at some point in the future. You can sign up for Summer membership in person at the Society or by accessing an updated membership application on our website: www.aclink.org/achs. ❖

Speaking of Membership...

Have you ever wondered what you have in common with other members of the Atlantic County Historical Society besides your love of local history? Well, here are some membership demographics that may interest you:

- As of May 2005, we have 415 current members.
- 87% are annual members, 13% are life members.
- 74% of our members call New Jersey their home and 51% reside in Atlantic County.
- Our members are increasingly computer-savvy. 50% of our members have supplied us with a current e-mail address and 13% have requested our newsletter via e-mail (and these numbers continue to increase).

If you have not yet given us your e-mail address or you have changed it recently, please share it with us! Send your updates to Dawn Risley at JRZDAWN@comcast.net ❖

THANK YOU!

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following people for their recent donations to the Society:

Dr. Thomas Giegerich
Margate, NJ

Sandra Akeret
Mays Landing, NJ

Mary Ellen Weber and Robert Stern
Philadelphia, PA

Joan E. Frankel
Margate, NJ

James Leeds
Cumming, GA ❖

More Board Changes

Recently, Fran Reynolds tendered her resignation as Vice President and Membership Chairperson of the Atlantic County Historical Society. We greatly appreciate her past service to the Board and we're happy to report that she will continue to serve as a volunteer and member of the Board Nominating Committee.

Sid Parker, a former President of the Historical Society, will serve as acting Vice President until elections are held in October. Dawn Risley will serve as acting Membership Chairperson until a replacement can be found. ❖

Upcoming Elections

We are already preparing for elections and appointments to the Atlantic County Historical Society Board scheduled for October 2005. A Board Nominating Committee consisting of June Sheridan, Fran Reynolds, and Cindy Mason Purdie has begun identifying potential candidates from our current membership base and the local business community.

We have a wide variety of opportunities available and would like to involve more of our members! If you are interested in serving on the Board or would like more information about openings and skillsets that we are seeking, please contact June Sheridan at the Society. ❖

Sharing the Past with Educators and Students

By Dawn Risley and Marge Risley

In a continuing effort to partner with local educational institutions, the Atlantic County Historical Society recently established a program to distribute sets of our annual historical and genealogical yearbooks to grade schools, high schools, and colleges within Atlantic County. During the 2-month project, we donated and delivered 4500 yearbooks to 82 schools throughout the county.

Much of the credit for this effort goes to Egg Harbor Township resident and Society life member Marge Risley, who volunteered to take the project from start to finish – creating a current database listing of schools, calling each school to “pitch” the Historical Society and make delivery arrangements, and personally delivering the boxed sets (donating her time and gas money in the process).

Along the way, she served as a goodwill ambassador for the Society and raised community awareness about our library and museum resources to assist both teachers and students. And while she was spreading local history throughout the school districts, she encountered a variety of grateful educators and witnessed some history first-hand. Marge provided the following account of her travels:

When I contacted school Administrators by phone, many said, “Yes...yes we would love to have the books!” Some were skeptical... “What’s the catch? What will it cost down the road?” They were all pleasantly surprised to receive such valuable learning resources with no strings attached – seems that schools don’t receive anything for free these days. The rest, as they say, is history. Eighty-two schools now have this information to use as part of their history lessons, to create interest in genealogy, and just for reading information and pure pleasure.

I met many nice, helpful, and interesting people along the way. At St. Joseph Catholic School in Hammonton, I met Sister Armanda, the school librarian. She was tiny, with dark, shiny eyes and a sweet smile; she reminded me of Mother Teresa. She asked me questions about what I was doing and why, and she encouraged me to visit her whenever I was in the neighborhood.

At St. Joseph High School, they were thrilled with the books and the fact that I was wearing their school colors...a bright red sweater with white trim. I had just found out about their school from Sister Armanda (it was new and not on my list). I must say that Hammonton made my day!

In Landisville I found the William B. Donini Elementary School, the oldest school I had visited – built in 1916. It reminded me of the school I attended when I was a youngster...the McKee City School. Principal Thomas Dorshaw was happy to get the yearbooks, opened the box immediately and was very interested in the Historical Society brochure. I explained that the museum would make an interesting destination for a class trip or family outing while visiting the Shore and reminded him that it was “free”.

He very kindly gave me a tour of the school and explained that the walls were covered with the original tiles although they had been painted in an effort to make the hallways brighter. Almost everything was in original condition except for the heating system. In the middle of the building was a circular stairway leading to a turret that had been used during World War II by volunteers searching the skies for German warplanes. It was enclosed by an iron railing for the safety of the students. The original hooks on the hallway walls were still used for students to hang their jackets or coats. All the space was used efficiently. He expressed concern about talk of potentially tearing down the school and replacing it with a modern one. Both he and his students love their little school just the way it is – it is an important piece of county history!

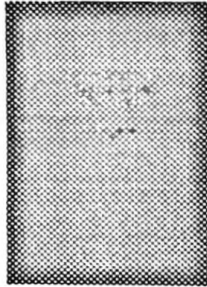
I could go on and on about my delivery adventures – the many times I got lost out in the country and the helpful people who put me back on track, the special men and women who are teaching our young people all the things they will need to know as they grow and eventually go out into the world – but space constraints do not permit it. All in all, it was a very satisfying experience for me and I now know much more about the highways and byways of Atlantic County! ❖



William B. Donini Elementary School, Landisville, Atlantic County

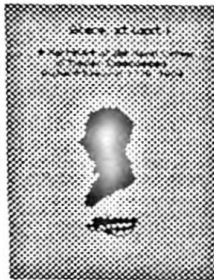
Book and Yearbook BLOWOUT SALE!!

To celebrate Summer, the Atlantic County Historical Society is offering our most popular publications at significant discounts. Don't wait – these special prices are good only until August 31 and supplies are limited!



**Early History of Atlantic County, New Jersey – Reprint Edition 1988.
The First Year's Work of Atlantic County's Historical Society - 1915.**
Hardback, 179 pages. Regularly: \$15.00 NOW: \$10.00

This volume contains the early history of the State of New Jersey taken from written histories which had their bearing upon Atlantic County. Also articles written by the descendants of those who helped to make the history of the county worth reading. If you value the annual yearbooks published by the Society, you'll especially appreciate this "inaugural" yearbook-like publication.



**Glory, At Last! A Narrative of the Naval Career of Master
Commandant Richard Somers: 1778 - 1804**

Author: Barbara E. Koedel

Hardback, 184 pages. Regularly: \$5.00 NOW: \$3.00

This work began as an attempt to recognize the heroism of Master Commandant Richard Somers by getting his interesting letters into print. It evolved into the story of his naval career and his exploits and challenges with life itself. He was an interesting man whose life was sincerely given for his fellow man and his country. His family connection to Somers Point, NJ provides added significance to the book.



Our Stories

Author: Jo DiStefano Kapus

Softback, 232 pages. Regularly: \$10.00 NOW: \$5.00

This book is a collection of rich oral histories by residents of Atlantic County and neighboring Ocean City, New Jersey. For some, these stories restore faded memories. For others, they transform today's hectic scenes into the quaint and placid settings of yesteryear. And they bring back to life, for a little while at least, those whose footprints have been swept away by the sands of time. Every person has a story to tell, and the greatest legacy he or she could leave to loved ones is that story.



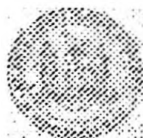
Absegami Yesteryear

Author: Jack E. Boucher

Hardback, 149 pages. Regularly: \$15.00 NOW: \$10.00

ABSEGAMI was one of two tribes of the Lenni Lenape to inhabit Atlantic County during aboriginal times. ABSEGAMI YESTERYEAR is the story of the people, places and events of this area, deep in the Pine Barrens of South Jersey, from that era to 1875. Photographs, more than 100 of them, plus a fascinating narrative text is used to recount history of this "down Jersey" area. Inns, taverns, schools, churches, and early industries.....glass, iron, paper.....are all shown as they appeared when the volume was first published in 1963. The book also contains an Atlantic County Historical Map that you can follow to explore many of the sites in person.

Atlantic County Historical Society
Yearbooks
1948 - 2004



Atlantic County Historical Society Yearbooks (1948-2004)

Softback. Individual Issues: \$4.00 Index Volumes: \$1.00

SPECIAL: Any 10 issues purchased at one time - \$30.00

FULL SET (see details below) Regularly: \$180.00 NOW: \$120.00

This may be your last chance to purchase many of our yearbook volumes as supplies for popular years like 1948, 1954, 1955 are already out of print and other years are limited. Orders filled on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

We have 10 sets for sale that include every issue EXCEPT 1948, 1954, 1955 and Index volume 11. With each set, you will also receive the *Early History* book.

Visit our website for a summary of topics contained in each yearbook issue.

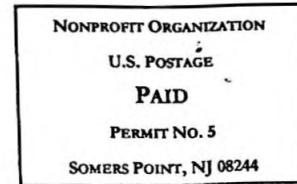
Publication Order Form							
Title				Unit Price	Postage	Quantity	Total
Early History of Atlantic County				\$10.00	\$3.00		
Glory At Last				\$3.00	\$3.00		
Our Stories				\$5.00	\$3.00		
Absegami Yesteryear				\$10.00	\$3.00		
Historical Society Yearbooks - SET including Early History book				\$120.00	\$10.00		
Historical Society Yearbooks - Select any 10 issues below				\$30.00	\$5.00		
Yearbook Volume	Issue	Year	Availability	Unit Price	Postage	Quantity	Total
1	2	1949		\$4.00	\$2.00		
1	3	1950	less than 10 available	\$4.00	\$2.00		
1	4	1951	less than 10 available	\$4.00	\$2.00		
2	1	1952		\$4.00	\$2.00		
2	2	1953		\$4.00	\$2.00		
3	1	1956		\$4.00	\$2.00		
3	2	1957		\$4.00	\$2.00		
3	3	1958		\$4.00	\$2.00		
3	4	1959		\$4.00	\$2.00		
4	1	1960		\$4.00	\$2.00		
4	2	1961		\$4.00	\$2.00		
4	3	1962		\$4.00	\$2.00		
4	4	1963		\$4.00	\$2.00		
5	1	1964		\$4.00	\$2.00		
5	2	1965		\$4.00	\$2.00		
5	3	1966		\$4.00	\$2.00		
5	4	1967		\$4.00	\$2.00		
6	1	1968		\$4.00	\$2.00		
6	2	1969		\$4.00	\$2.00		
6	3	1970		\$4.00	\$2.00		
6	4	1971		\$4.00	\$2.00		
7	1	1972		\$4.00	\$2.00		
7	2	1973		\$4.00	\$2.00		
7	3	1974		\$4.00	\$2.00		
7	4	1975		\$4.00	\$2.00		
8	1	1976		\$4.00	\$2.00		
8	2	1977		\$4.00	\$2.00		
8	3	1978		\$4.00	\$2.00		
8	4	1979		\$4.00	\$2.00		
9	1	1980		\$4.00	\$2.00		
9	2	1981		\$4.00	\$2.00		
9	3	1982		\$4.00	\$2.00		
9	4	1983		\$4.00	\$2.00		
10	1	1984		\$4.00	\$2.00		
10	2	1985		\$4.00	\$2.00		
10	3	1986	less than 10 available	\$4.00	\$2.00		
10	4	1987	less than 10 available	\$4.00	\$2.00		
11	1	1988		\$4.00	\$2.00		
11	2	1989		\$4.00	\$2.00		
11	3	1990		\$4.00	\$2.00		
11	4	1991		\$4.00	\$2.00		
12	1	1992		\$4.00	\$2.00		
12	2	1993		\$4.00	\$2.00		
12	3	1994		\$4.00	\$2.00		
12	4	1995	less than 10 available	\$4.00	\$2.00		
13	1	1996		\$4.00	\$2.00		
13	2	1997		\$4.00	\$2.00		
13	3	1998		\$4.00	\$2.00		
13	4	1999		\$4.00	\$2.00		
14	1	2000		\$4.00	\$2.00		
14	2	2001		\$4.00	\$2.00		
14	3	2002		\$4.00	\$2.00		
14	4	2003		\$4.00	\$2.00		
15	1	2004		\$4.00	\$2.00		
Yearbook Index	Issue	Year	Availability	Unit Price	Postage	Quantity	Total
1-2		1955		\$1.00	\$1.00		
3-4		1963		\$1.00	\$1.00		
5-6	V6 / #4	1971	In 1971 yearbook	n/a	n/a		
7-8		1979		\$1.00	\$1.00		
9		1983		\$1.00	\$1.00		
10		1987		\$1.00	\$1.00		
12		1995		\$1.00	\$1.00		
13		1999		\$1.00	\$1.00		
Make check payable to: ACHS.						TOTAL:	
Avoid postage charges by picking up orders in person at the Society.							

Purchase in person during regular operating hours or mail completed order form with check to:
Atlantic County Historical Society, PO Box 301, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Atlantic County Historical Society
907 Shore Road
Post Office Box 301
Somers Point, New Jersey 08244-0301

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



08201+1321 13



This Newsletter Proudly Sponsored by

First National Bank of Absecon

Member FDIC (609) 641-6300

"Your Hometown Bank"

Serving the Atlantic County Area Since 1916

In Memory of
C. Bertram Hammell
1908 - 1984

Devoted Member of the Atlantic County Historical Society
Director, President and Chairman of FNB of Absecon