Volume 8,Issue 3

ATLANTIC HERITAGE

Newsletter of the Atlantic Heritage Center

FALL 2010

Anchors Aweigh!

Sometimes, researching and locating items of historical interest is like looking for a needle in a haystack. Judging from the picture below, one wouldn't think that an anchor would fall into that category but that's precisely the story that goes along with the Atlantic Heritage Center's newest display item – the anchor that was once on display at Captain Starn's Restaurant in Atlantic City's Inlet neighborhood. Sometime after the restaurant closed, the anchor came into the possession of John and Barbara Costello, of Linwood, and was relocated to their home. AHC's Assistant Museum Curator, "Boo" Pergament relates: "Sometime during this past winter my friend, Tom Hulme contacted me. It seems that his neighbor John Dollard, who also knows me, had information about someone who had an anchor that was formerly at Captain Starn's Restaurant which had been decorating their lawn for the past 30 years or so. The owners now wanted to give it to any interested party who would take good care of it. He asked Tom to get in touch with me to see if our museum would like it. The only problem was that he could not find the note with the individual's name and phone number on it. All he could recall was that the anchor was then being displayed on that person's front lawn somewhere on Shore Road.

Tom also mentioned it to another mutual friend, Don Nyce (who incidentally has become a part time volunteer at our museum and donor of many items). Don took it upon himself to cruise up and down Shore Road on several occasions looking for the anchor. He eventually found it and gave me the location. Ruth Gold and I then visited the owner and, eventually, with all these friends' interest and efforts, we were successful in having this wonderful piece of Atlantic City Inlet history relocated to our front lawn." Nice sleuthing!

The AHC's next project will be to have the anchor's surface properly treated for rust and then refinished for preservation. Many thanks to the Costellos for their generosity.

The Clayton & Bennett Families Blue Grass Band at their performance on the AHC grounds in July. *Photo supplied by Lynn Wood*

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Events and Happenings

Program Logistics	Program Description

Risley Homestead

8 Virginia Avenue
Northfield, NJ
Each Saturday 11:00am – 4:00pm
Each Sunday 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Closed on major holidays.
Free Admission -Donations Appreciated

The 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 AHC 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.

Atlantic City Country Club

Shore Rd.
Northfield., NJ
Saturday, October 16th
11:30 A.M.
Reservation Required. Fee: $30.

ATLANTIC HERITAGE CENTER ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING

Members and the general public are invited to attend the Center's annual meeting and luncheon. AHC Trustee Doug Cervi will be the guest speaker. His topic will be Remembering Our Veterans." The "Bringing History to Life Award" will be presented and John Heinz will be added as Trustees Emeriti. **Members will vote on nominees to the Governing Board at this time**.

Zion Methodist Church

635 Zion Rd.,
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ
Saturday, November 6, 2010
3:30 – 5:00pm
VHP Volunteers: 2:30 -3:30pm

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT RECEPTION – "CLASS OF 2010"

In recognition of Veterans' Day, all of the veterans who have been interviewed this year, and their families, are invited to the Atlantic Heritage Center to see and use the Veterans History Project Collection. Also invited are the numerous volunteers involved in the Project. The volunteers will gather from 2:30 to 3:30 pm, and the "Meet and Greet" reception will be held from 3:30 to 5:00pm.

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES 300TH BIRTHDAY!

Events to help residents celebrate include: a Anniversary "Historic Building Tour" on Sunday, September 26th, a fall "Historic River Cruise" along the Great Egg Harbor River aboard the Duke O'Fluke on Saturday, October 9th, 1:00pm - 4:30pm. Call Leah at 609-653-8371 for information/reservations. The opening of EHT's 1964 Time Capsule buried in celebration of New Jersey's tercentennial year, will take place at Township Hall on Bargaintown Road, Sunday, Oct. 30th. There are many more planned events including a Juried Photography exhibit and the "Premiere" of the EHT 300th Documentary featuring interviews with long-time residents. For information on event dates & locations, call (609)927-9096, e-mail **eht300th@aol.com** **or** check out web page **www.ehtgov.org/300.html**,. The Greate Egg Harbor Township Historical Society Museum @6647 West Jersey Ave. is now open on weekends - 609-813-2002 - and you can visit the ***Anniversary Celebrations Shoppe*** @ Shore Mall for all things 300th Birthday related.

Atlantic Heritage Center

Shore Road
Somers Point, NJ

Opening Reception:
Thursday, November 18, 2010
7:00pm
Light Refreshments

"Cookie Walk" & Concert
Thursday, December 16, 2010
7:00pm

All events are free and open to the public. Donations appreciated - all proceeds go to the AHC Expansion Fund

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS' PAST

The Third Annual ***Spirit of Christmas' Past*** series of events will be held on dates in November & December. The elves have been hard at work making wreaths and other items that will be for sale at each event. Wreaths, theme baskets, pins, decorations available for sale. (Theme baskets may be ordered in advance.) Vocalist Donna Innis will serenade you with songs of the season.

During the "Cookie Walk", homemade cookies and baked goods will be available for purchase by the pound or in tins. The Cape Shore chapter of The Sweet Adelines will sing Christmas carols throughout the evening. For more information, call the AHC at 609-927-5218 or e-mail AHCinfo@comcast.net .

COMING SOON: *The Rise and Fall of Atlantic City Railroads*

An overview of how the various rail lines contributed to Atlantic City's rise from insect infested swampland to a world class resort (1854-1920), how railroads faded into obscurity (1920-1983), and why the revival of rail has failed to have much of an impact in the casino era (1979-present).

In a power point presentation that includes maps and commentary, Tony Marino will discuss the mostly forgotten attractions (as well as occasional major disasters) of "The Boardwalk Flyer," The Nellie Bly," and "The Blue Comet," the more recent "Gamblers' Express" and the currently operating "ACES" and "NJ Transit Atlantic City Line."

This program will be presented in 2011. For the Date & Time on this program, look in the next Newsletter or visit our website: www.AtlanticHeritageCenterNJ.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACCEPTS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the July meeting of the Board of Trustees , the report of the Nominating Committee was presented and accepted. The Committee, chaired by Trustee Sheryl Collins was comprised of AHC member Don Perry and volunteer, Michael Garvin. Officers and Trustees will be inducted at the Annual Meeting on October 16, 2010 to be held at the Atlantic City Country Club. The Officers and Trustees will be installed by Linwood Councilman and AHC Trustee, Alex Marino.

All terms are for two years, expiring Sept 30, 2012.

Officers to be Reappointed:

Vice-President, Sid Parker, for an extended term
Chair, Buildings & Grounds, Jerry Bell, for an extended term
Curator, Ruth Gold, for extended term
Recording Secretary, Barbara Perry, for an unexpired term (expiring Sept. 30, 2011)
Financial Secretary, Kevin Little, for a second term
Treasurer, Charlene Canale, for a second term

Trustees to be Reappointed:

Trustee, **Ellen Hyatt**, for an extended term
Trustee, Ruth Taylor, for second term

Appointed as new Trustees:

Chaplain, Norman Goos, Jr., for second term
Trudy Fenton, for a two year term

Welcome

The Atlantic Heritage Center is pleased to welcome and thank our newest members:

Bonnie Rausch, *Doylestown, PA*
James Fritz, *Wesley Chapel, FL*
Beverly Colgan, *Nyack, NY*
Paul Johnson, *Harrisburg, PA*
Barbara Price, *Shiloh, NJ*

IT'S ANNUAL RENEWAL TIME!

In this issue of our newsletter you will find your Annual Dues renewal form/envelope. Our dues year begins Oct.1 and ends Sept. 30, so **please renew now**. Your dues are extremely important to us and help sustain our many projects and services. If you are a life member please use this form to update your address if it has changed or give it to someone you know who is not a member and encourage others to join. A big **"Thank You"** to all who renew promptly.

P.S. If you are presently receiving your newsletter by snail mail and would like to receive it by e-mail, please put your e-mail address on the envelope and we will switch it for you. You'll still receive certain issues by regular mail because they may include extra materials such as the dues envelope enclosed in this issue.❖

AHC YEARBOOK

The Atlantic Heritage Center is now soliciting articles to be considered for inclusion in its 2010-2011 yearbook. Suitable subjects include original, unpublished research on topics of local historical or genealogical interest, transcriptions of unpublished materials in the Center's documentary collections, etc. Submissions, or questions concerning submissions, should be addressed to the attention of the "Yearbook Committee" at Atlantic Heritage Center, P.O. Box 301, Somers Point, NJ 08244-0301, or to **AHCINFO@comcast.net** with "Yearbook article" in the subject line. Please include your complete contact information in any submissions made by regular mail. Preliminary drafts should be received by the Yearbook Committee no later than September 30, 2010. ❖

Atlantic Heritage Center Governing Board

President: Richard Squires
Vice-President: Sid Parker, Jr.
Recording Secy: Trudy Fenton
Treasuer: Charlene Canale
Asst. Treasurer: Pat Parker
Financial Secretary: Kevin Little

Librarian: Dale Lonkart
Assistant Librarian: Freda Bird
Curator: Ruth C. Gold
Assistant Curator:
Allen "Boo" Pergament

Trustees: Jerry Bell, Doug Cervi, Frank Ferry, Trudy Fenton, Helen Walsh, James Mason, V, Richlyn Goddard, Ruth Taylor, Ellen Hyatt, Ruth Faust Alex Marino, Donald Perry, Sheryl Collins Bob Barnett, Joan Frankel

Library Accessions

Dale Lonkart, Librarian
Freda Bird, Assistant Librarian
Kevin Little & Ruth Faust, Librarian Assistants

2010.135 Gift of George J. Wren - Book - Jersey Troopers II, The Next 35 Years.
2010.136 Gift of Victory Bressler - Photo Album - Alice Garrabrant Montgomery Family.
2010.137 Gift of Frederick Bishop - Document- Copy of Book A, Road Returns for Atlantic County at Woodbury.
2010.138 Gift of Ruth Taylor - Booklet - Township of Hamilton Historical Society, 2009 Yearbook.
2010.139 Gift of Sidney Parker, Jr. - Map - Bakersville, Atlantic County, NJ, 1909
2010.140 Gift of Hammonton News - Business Card - Holiday Inn, Boardwalk, Priority Club Member.
Ticket - Car Drawing, July 19, 2009, Hammonton NJ #63842.
Brochure - Red White and Blueberry Festival 2009.
Brochure - Atlantic City Rail Line Group Tours.
2010.141 Gift of Joan Batory - Genealogy - Collins, Smith, Doughty, Steelman, Scull, Endicott, etc. 13 pages.
2010.142 Gift of Terry Weed – 7 Books
Early History of Atlantic County - 3 copies. Balavasiri Szuret - Published: Budapest, 1894.
Select Works of James Sheridan Knowles - Boston 1833.
The Pilgrim's Progress to Culture - Phila 1929.
The Works of Shakespeare, Vol VII, 1937 reprint.
2010.143 Sally Hastings - Booklet - Gustav H. Ruh Retirement Program, Aug. 15, 1991,
Atlantic County Superintendent of Schools.
Booklet - Pleasantville High School, Class of 1944 Reunion Aug. 25, 1984.
Booklet - Minstrel and Gay Nineties show Feb. 29, 1952 presented by Northfield Methodist Church.
Newspaper - Press: Forest Fire, South Jersey, April 1963.
2010.144 Gift of Fred C. Albrecht - 2 Photos - Pleasantville High School Party, Mt. Vernon, Va. April 1926.
2010.145 Gift of Ron Bates - Photo - Friendship Church, Buena, 2010.
2010.146 Gift of Marcia Markey - 8 Photos - Miss America Parade, 1946.
1 Photo - Evelyn J. Myers.
1 Photo - Two unidentified men, standing on lawn in Atlantic City.
2010.147 Found in Vault - Booklet - World War II Letters.
2010.148 Gift of Bill Dotts - 2 images - Atlantic City panoramic view from the ocean.
Magazine - ACBP Benevolent Organization Lifeguard Magazine, 2004.
2010.149 Gift of Norma McClain - Map - Atlantic City, Greenwood Cemetery.
2010.150 Gift of Bruce Scull - Photo - Linwood Republican Club Dinner, Hackneys, Atlantic City, Oct. 29, 1930.
2010.151 Gift of John Born - Book: The Official Guide of the Railways, 1964.
2010.152 Purchase - CD - Atlantic Heritage Center- 30 Second Public Service Announcement, July 2010.
2010.153 Gift of Paul Johnson - Bible Records - Johnson Family, 4 page copy.
2010.154 Gift of Debra L.C. Bruns - Book - Seth Carver and his Descendants, The Lost Branch of Robert Carver. ❖

Do Not Open 'til Christmas!

Below is a sneak peek at some of the items that will be on display and for sale at this year's Spirit of Christmas' Past events to be held on Thursday, November 18th and Thursday, December 16th at the Heritage Center. Theme baskets can be ordered in advance. Don't miss this festive gathering!

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Nope, it isn't braille like you sometimes see on drive-up ATM's at the bank (why IS that?). And it still isn't ET's mother tongue. It's more of that creation of Samuel F. B. Morse that we used in the Summer newsletter when we asked for your support. Well, we got it! And now it's time to respond to your generous support–as Sam would want us to----by saying THANKS (see above). We'll spare you further dots and dashes but it would be appropriate for us to at least add VERY MUCH to our message. So, to all those whose names are mentioned below, thank you very much for your contributions to our Expansion Fund.

FRIEND: $1-$49

Lee Ellenberg, Tom Pietropola, Mrs. R. M. Campbell, Ken Goff, Gene & Terry Doebley, Lee Griscom, Ken Corson, Mary McKeown, Grayce McConville, Elizabeth Naylor, Alice Wallerstein, St. Joseph Regional School 4th Grade, Kenneth Moore.

Sheryl Collins, in memory of John Heinz
Charlene and Ed Canale, in memory of John Heinz
George Guiliano, in honor of Sid and Pat Parker
Sheryl Collins, in memory of Ruth Garwood
Charlene and Ed Canale, in memory of Catherine Berkley
Howard W. Gant, in memory of Jean Gant
Marilyn and Charles Gallagher, in honor of June Sheridan

PATRON: $50-$249

Diana Korte, Frank Ferry, Charles and Maria Dupras, Elinor Veit, Mary Turner, Don and Carolyn Perry, Lina Walter, George and Dale Lonkart, Trudy Fenton.

Norma Higbee, in memory of Virginia Dehn
Kay Fiore, in memory of Carl Fiore
Anne-Marie Glenn, in memory of Thomas L. Glenn, Jr.
Leonore McCoy, in memory of Leonore DeHaven
Sid and Pat Parker, in memory of John Heinz
Nagle and Sally Bridwell, in memory of Dr. and Mrs. John Milton Sooy
Edward Stephenson, in memory of Pat Stephenson and Irma Geiger
Joyce Pullan, in memory of Ida Mae Hampton Wassell
Phyllis Morris, in memory of Daniel Morris
June Sheridan, in memory of John Heinz
Elaine Seeds, in honor of Allen "Boo" Pergament
Betty Steelman, in memory of John Steelman
Audrey Sperling, in memory of Homan, Gifford, Adams and Johns(t)on families
Richard and Winnie Squires, in memory of John Heinz
Doris Marts, in memory of Bob Marts
Joe and Helen Walsh, in memory of John Heinz
Joan Berkey, in memory of Melinda deVries
Dina DeAnnuntis, in memory of The Joseph Breunig Family

SPONSOR: $250-$1000

Larry Frankel
Ron Headley, in memory of Anthony Harris (Harry) Headley

Volunteers are in short supply!

We ask for your services at least one day each month from 10am – 3:30pm

For more information, please call the Heritage Center:
(609) 927-5218
or
Email: AHCINFO@comcast.net

The Atlantic Heritage Center will be closed on Saturday, October 16th for the Annual Luncheon
And on
Thursday, Friday & Saturday November 25-27th for Thanksgiving

Need to Contact Us?

Phone: (609) 927-5218
Email: AHCINFO@comcast.net
Website:
www.AtlanticHeritageCenterNJ.org
AHC Hours:
Wednesday – Saturday:
10:00am to 3:30pm
Parking and entrance at the rear of our building

Spotlight on the Shelves

a treasure hiding in plain sight…

The Center has many family genealogies on the shelves. Members and researchers are long familiar with the Somers, Scull and Conover families. This time we will discuss a family based in Massachusetts with descendants long in South Jersey. This genealogy book is the ***Foster Genealogy Being the Record of the Posterity of Reginald Foster, an Early Inhabitant of Ipswich, in New England, Whose Genealogy Is Traced Back to Anacher, Great Forrester of Flanders***. Authored by Frederick Clifton Pierce and published by W.B. Conley of Chicago, Illinois, the Center is fortunate to have a copy from the first printing in 1899 on the shelves.

Like many older genealogies, the book lists descendants, dates, notes and some pictures. Pierce does not give sources for most of his information, but the book is a good resource to outline/fill in family files. The index is an excellent place to investigate families that have intermarried with Fosters, and for our area the following names might perk some interest; Sears, Sutton, Bartlett, and Ingersoll. If you search the web for the Foster Family, you might discover later critiques that dispute some of the descendant lists. Even with these disputes, it might surprise the researcher that a book over a hundred years old could possibly be a good secondary resource in research. ❖

AN EVENING OF BLUEGRASS II

For the second year, the Atlantic Heritage Center hosted the Clayton and Bennett Blue Grass group who thoroughly delighted their almost one hundred fans. Despite being in the midst of one of the worst heat waves of 2010 the band gave a two hour performance of good 'ole down home foot stompin' music.

The two families share a deep love of gospel/bluegrass music and gather frequently just to enjoy the heartwarming pleasure of singing together. One of the highlights of the evening was a duet sung by Billie Jo and Ed Bennett that Ed wrote as a tribute to his wife. Other members participating were Dan Clayton, his son, Ben, and his father and mother, Dave and Mabel Clayton, and Ed Bennett's father, Gary.

Music lovers enjoying the performance on the lawn (left). Mabel Clayton waiting to perform. (right).

Veterans History Project Spotlight

VIEWING THE VETERAN'S HISTORY PROJECT ON LINE

The AHC is a partner with the Library of Congress in collecting interviews from men and women who have served our country in time of war. To date, the project has collected over 60,000 oral interviews, and the AHC has completed over 80, with more in progress.

To view these interviews, to read about some of the men and women we have interviewed or to listen to the audio interviews of some of the participants you need only to go on line.

Here's how:

- Go to the VHP site at www.loc.gov/vets .
- When the home page comes up, you will note on the left hand side of the page there are several options. Choose the option " Search the Veteran Collections"
- When the search page comes up, choose "Search by contributor, interviewer affiliation" and type in Atlantic Heritage Center in the space provided.

This will bring up all the interviews that have been entered to date by the AHC. Remember that it will take several months from the time of interview to have the material on the site. Currently 57 of our interviews are posted.

You can then click on any of the men or women listed and go to their page to see the summary of information gathered in the interview.

Information is provided on how to access the complete interview. Remember that the AHC is also a repository and maintains a complete file with copies of all printed materials and a CD of the actual interview.

The VHP continues to expand and add to its web site, so you may want to check in from time to time. ❖

Newsletter Editor, Layout & Graphics
Ellen Hyatt
Contributors to this Issue:
Sheryl Collins, Sid Parker, Pat Parker, Ruth C. Gold, Allen "Boo" Pergament, Mary Beth Ortzman, Jim Mason, IV, Helen Walsh & Dale Lonkart.

Library Spotlight

Dale Lonkart, Librarian

AVIATION HISTORY IN ATLANTIC CITY

Our area has two important 100 year anniversaries to celebrate. The first, which took place July 4-12, 1910, was a very early air meet. Held in Atlantic City, it attracted national attention and huge crowds. Stars of the show were Glenn Curtiss (who made the first flight above the Atlantic Ocean and set a speed record) and Walter Brookins (an employee of the Wright Brothers, who set a record for altitude). The Atlantic City Free Public Library and the Asbury Park Public Library (their air show was August 10-20, 1910) have done wonderful exhibits about the 1910 air shows. Locally, the exhibits are at the Atlantic City Historical Museum and at the AC International Airport.

The second event took place Oct. 15, 1910, again in Atlantic City. The airship (dirigible) *America* attempted to make the first aerial crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. Originally built in France in 1906, the *America* launched on August 15, 1909 for Walter Wellman's attempt to reach the North Pole by air. Wellman, Melvin Vaniman, Nicolas Popov and Louis Loud were on board. Two hours and 40 miles into the flight, problems arose and the crew was rescued by a Norwegian steamer. Wellman gave up that idea and decided on the Atlantic crossing. On launch day, one hundred local policemen, firemen, and lifeguards held the lines steady as she rose. Unfortunately, 38 hours into the flight, the engines failed and after another 33 hours of drifting, having traveled 1,370 miles, they sighted the Royal Mail steamship *Trent* near Bermuda. Along the way, the first wireless messages ever received from an airship over the sea were sent from the *America*. The crew safely abandoned the *America* ina lifeboat and were rescued by the *Trent*. The airship drifted out of sight, never to be seen again.

More detailed information on these events can be found in our library or on the internet under: www.njairshows1910.org; Curtiss, Glenn; Brookins, Walter (July air meet) or Wellman, Walter; Vaniman, Melvin; Airship America (Oct. launch). ❖

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

On Wednesday, August 11th, the Somers Point Historical Society hosted the August meeting of the Somers Point Business Assoc. John Morsa, of the Somers Mansion, and Dale Lonkart were invited to attend and give a program with Sally Hastings, president of the Somers Point Historical Society.

The Association is working to increase tourism and with the three historical organizations within walking distance of each other, we felt we were a natural to be included in their plans. Our individual programs were very well received and we are looking forward to working with the Association to promote ourselves, the city and its businesses.

Museum Spotlight

Ruth C. Gold, Curator

QUILT FAIRE STAR

Crazy Quilt with Gloves

A colorful example of "crazy quilting", this quilt was sewn by the donor's aunt, Deborah Jane Somers Anderson [1833 – circa 1918], a descendant of John Somers, the pioneer ancestor who founded Somers point, New Jersey in 1693. Ms. Somers lived in the Somers Mansion until her marriage to George Anderson in 1863.

Crazy quilts became enormously popular in the 1880s and often used scraps of velvet, silk and chintz. The completed quilt, or just components could be orders through the mail, and were often showcases for the seamstress' embroidering abilities. Their popularity waned after the turn of the twentieth century.

This example contains two white leather wedding gloves with initials, and is dated 1886 in one block. Note the variety of embroidered and cross stitched seams which embellish this quilt. It was displayed at the 1988-1989 NJ State Museum Quilt Exhibit.

1944 Gift of Mrs. Eva Anderson, of Somers Point.

Deborah Jane Somers Anderson Quilt, 1833-circa 1918

STAPLES REWARDS

Many thanks to those of you who are continuing to donate your Staples Rewards to the Atlantic Heritage Center. We have been able to use the rewards for some of our business supplies. For those of you who haven't heard about this: If you shop at Staples, and don't have a Staples Reward Card or don't plan to use your Rewards, you can give the cashier our telephone number – (609) 927-5218 - and they will be credited to our account.

The* Atlantic Heritage Center *has received funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs within the N.J. Department of State, through funds administered by the Atlantic County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ENVELOPE ENCLOSED

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.