

ATLANTIC HERITAGE

Newsletter of the Atlantic Heritage Center

FALL 2011

AHC ANNUAL INSTALLATION

The 2011 Annual Installation Luncheon will be held Saturday, October 15, 11:30 AM at Harbor Pines Golf Club, 500 Saint Andrews Drive, Egg Harbor Township. Members will vote on nominees to the Governing Board at this time. Nominees for the 2011-2012 Board terms will be installed by AHC Trustee and Linwood City Councilman, Alex Marino. The *Bringing History to Life Award*, as well as the *Olive Conover Rundstrom History Award*, will be presented at the luncheon.

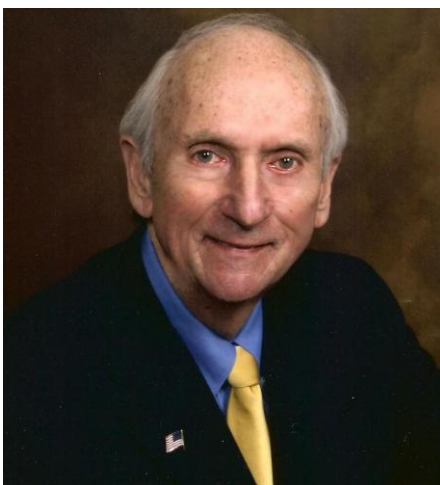
Nominations for October 2011 to October 2013

Officers & Trustees:

Richard Squires, President – extended term – 4th term
Barbara Perry-Silva, Recording Secretary – 2nd term
Patricia Parker, Assistant Treasurer – 2nd term
Freda Heintz, Librarian – 1st term through 2012
Diane Miller, Assistant Librarian – 1st term
Allen “Boo” Pergament, Assistant Curator – 5th term

Skip Bellino, Trustee – 1st term
Sheryl Collins, Trustee – 2nd term
Frank J. Ferry, Trustee/Attorney – 3rd term
Richlyn Goddard, Trustee/Historian – 4th term
Alexander Marino, Trustee – 4th term
James Mason V, Trustee – 3rd term
Donald Perry, Trustee – 3rd term
Helen Walsh, Trustee – 4th term
Ruth Faust, Trustee – 3rd term

Frank Ferry, Esq., partner in the Farley, Fredericks & Ferry law firm and AHC Trustee, will be the speaker of the day. His topic is *The Road to Power of Nucky Johnson and Senator Frank S. Farley*. Ferry will provide background of how both Johnson and Farley got into politics and the era in which they rose to power. He'll also examine their political skills and accomplishments through their source of power. After being asked by Frank Farley to represent Enoch Johnson in a court case in the 1960's stemming from his 1941 tax evasion trial, Ferry became intrigued by him. Fascinated by Johnson's larger-than-life personality, Ferry has spent the last ten years writing a biography of Nucky entitled *The Boardwalk Barron*. The book, which traces Johnson's life from his early days in the pinelands through his reign over the Atlantic County political scene, is scheduled to be released in the coming months.



Luncheon tickets are \$30. Announcements will be mailed in mid-September with details about menu selections and deadlines and directions for returning RSVPs.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAGE

- 2 Upcoming Events
- 3 Member News & Appeal Results
- 4 Library Accessions
- 5 100th Anniversary Cookbook
- 6 Behind the Scenes...
- 7 Library Spotlight

Events and Happenings

Program Logistics

Risley Homestead

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

Each Saturday 11:00am – 4:00pm
Each Sunday 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Closed on major holidays.

Free Admission -Donations



Program Description

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. Open weekends from May through October. Join us at Risley Homestead to celebrate the festive holiday season and imagine what Christmas was like for the Risley family during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries! The Homestead is open for individual and small group guided tours.

Shore Mall

Black Horse Pike
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ

**Saturday, December 3rd &
Sunday, December 4th**

11:00am – 3:00pm, each day

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

In case you miss **Christmas in July**, this is your opportunity to check out the fine crafting skills of our many AHC Christmas elves. Decorations, gift baskets and much more will be on display and available for purchase at the AHC tables at the annual Christmas Craft Show at Shore Mall.



Atlantic Heritage Center

Shore Road,
Somers Point

December 5th 7:00pm and

**December 19th
11:00am – 3:00pm**

Exhibit open from Dec. 5 – Dec.
19 during normal AHC operating
hours.

Free Admission – Open to the
Public

FOURTH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS' PAST – LOVES A WHITE CHRISTMAS

The year 2011 will have the Fourth Annual Spirit of Christmas' Past - Loves a White Christmas, taking a different track. Most gifts and items being crafted are white with color highlights. There are many different items being offered this year: button decorated picture frames, hand painted clam and oyster shells, beaded initial ornaments, and a few grave blankets to name a few. There will still be some wreaths and theme baskets available for sale. This is our major fund raiser of the year for the Atlantic Heritage Center's Expansion Fund.

We will begin decorating the Heritage Center the week of Nov. 28th. **Volunteers needed** to adopt any of our three floors to decorate; the Museum level is Victorian decor, the Library level is Colonial and the third floor will have five trees each decorated in a different color and style. Contact one of the Program Committee members to let us know your availability or call the AHC at 609-927-5218 and leave a message.

Monday, December 5th at 7:00 PM – 4th Annual Spirit of Christmas' Past Loves a White Christmas opens. The *Cape Atlantic Sweet Adelines* will be performing. The exhibit will be open during the Heritage Center's normal hours of operation Wednesday through Saturday until closing on Monday, December 19th at 3:00 PM.

The Annual Cookie Walk Sale is Monday, December 19th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. All cookies are home baked by Mrs. Claus and the Atlantic Heritage Center elves. Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus will make an appearance and present Gift Bags from Santa to preschoolers. There will be Christmas story readings for Preschoolers at various hours during the day. (Hours to be advertised at a future date.) **More Volunteers are needed** to read and serve on the cookie table. This is the closing date of the 4th Annual Spirit of Christmas' Past - Loves a White Christmas.

AHC YEARBOOK

We are now soliciting articles to be considered for inclusion in the 2011-2012 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.



Joan Frankel
inspecting the
crafts for the
upcoming 4th
Annual Spirit
of Christmas'
Past.

Thanks To One & All!

Thanks to the following members who allowed us to keep our pistols and submachine guns in the closet and who generously answered our annual appeal:

FRIEND: \$1-\$49

Dr. John Esposito, Lou Tilton Soloff, Alex Marino,
Joyce H. Poley, John H. Yates, Grayce McConville, Marilyn
Gallagher, Marie Somers, Alice Wallerstein, Jean Campbell, Lee
Ellenberg, James and Joyce Brooks, Marjory T. Standiford

Patterson Family, *In Memory of: Robert K. Patterson*
Deidre Morgan, *In Memory of: Myrtle Garrett*
Kay Fiore, *In Memory of: Carl Fiore*
Peter and Carol English, *In Memory of: Somers C. English*
Elizabeth Naylor, *In Memory of: Jack Haynie*
Robert and Joanne Fegan, *In Memory of: Jack Haynie*

PATRON: \$50-\$249

Anonymous, Bob and Gwen Hagerthey, Lina R. Walter, Diana
Korte, Frieda L. Korte, Earl Sutton, Mary Peterson,
Andrew T. Bozarth, Dorothy Lodovico, Helen Walsh

R. Robinson Chance, Jr., *In Memory of: Elizabeth Winans Chance*
Howard W. Gant, *In Memory of: Jean Moxley Gant and Donald Gant*
Edward and Charlene Canale, *In Memory of: Catherine Berkeley*
Eugene S. Somers, *In Memory of: Barbara Somers Love*
Norma E. Higbee, *In Memory of: Virginia Debn*
George and Carol Guiliano, *In Honor of: Pat and Sid Parker*
Doris E. Marts, *In Memory of: Robert Marts*
Joan Berkey & Scott Smith, *In Memory of: George Masselos*
Pat and Sid Parker, *In Honor of: George and Carol Guiliano*
Margaret Sooy Bridwell,
In Memory of: Dr. John Milton Sooy & Helena Collins Sooy
Jim Leeds, *In Memory of: William H.S. Leeds & Lewis Somers Leeds*
Elaine M. Pinfold, *In Memory of: mother, Mamie Roller*
Richard and Winnie Squires, *In Memory of: Jack Haynie*
Emily Hackney-Miller,
In Memory of: "Two ladies with whom I served in the eighties" &
In Honor of "All who serve in some way!"

SPONSOR: \$250-\$1000

Betty Steelman, *In Memory of: John G. Steelman*
Edward T. Stephenson,
In Memory of: Pat Stephenson & In Honor of: Irma Geiger

Welcome

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

New Member

Robert Gosner, *Newtown Square, PA*

Returning Members

John Myers, *Cincinnati, OH*
W. Paul Somers, *Morrisville, PA.*

IT'S ANNUAL DUES 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, e-mail address and/or phone number if any has changed or give the form to someone you know who is not a member and encourage others to join. A big "Thank You" to all who renew promptly.

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 renewal envelope and check the box below. We will switch it for you.

We'd love to have everyone's e-mail address so we can notify you of upcoming events and postponements or cancellations due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. So please include your e-mail address and if you don't check the box below the e-mail address you'll still receive your newsletter via US mail.

We now have membership cards available for anyone who requests one. If you send us a self addressed, stamped envelope with your dues renewal we'll send one out to you.

In Memoriam

Sophie Miller
Somers Point, NJ

Atlantic Heritage Center Governing Board

President: Richard Squires
Vice-President: Sid Parker, Jr.
Recording Secy: Barbara Perry-Silva
Treasurer: Charlene Canale
Asst. Treasurer: Pat Parker
Financial Secretary: Kevin Little

Librarian: Dale Lonkart
Assistant Librarian: Freda Heintz
Curator: Ruth C. Gold
Assistant Curator:
Allen "Boo" Pergament
Chaplain: Rev. Norman Goos

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.



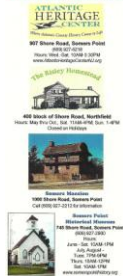
Library Accessions

Dale Lonkart, Librarian
Freda Heintz, Assistant Librarian



Accession#	Source / Description
2011.107	Gift of Dennis Niceler: Booklet - Gemuetlichkeit - Annual Survey of the Farm District.
2011.109	Found in Collection: Map - Margate City, New Jersey, March 1966, Revised 1973.
2011.110	Gift of Richard Squires: CD -Remember Me Quilt Show. Program - The 200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties, 2010. Program - The 200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties, 2011. Booklet - Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation 2010. Booklet - Atlantic County Manual 2011. Documents - Navy Plane Crash in Northfield , December 1944.
2011.124	Gift of Robert Ellis: Map - Key Map of Somers Point 1976. Brochure - the 275th Anniversary Celebration of Somers Point, Sept 14, 1968. Newspaper - Mainland Journal, Sept. 12, 1968.
2011.136	Gift of Marjorie Gries Garwood: Diary - Sgt. George E. Gries, Military Diary.
2011.137	Gift of Ruth Gold: Booklet - Egg Harbor Township's 300th Anniversary Celebration Gala, Jan. 29, 2010.
2011.138	Gift of the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association Sesquicentennial Committee. Booklet - Discover Your Community's Civil War Heritage.
2011.139	Gift of John Esposito: Book - Old Atlantic City.
2011.140	Gift of the New Jersey State Museum: Program - Dinner of the Governor and Members of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey.
2011.141	Anonymous Gift: Image - Pittsburg Exchange.
2011.142	Gift of Freda Heintz: Slide Viewer to view slides in collection .
2011.143	Anonymous Gift: Photo - Men on boardwalk viewing Absecon Lighthouse Photo - House moved to Gardner's Basin. 1 image and Handwritten story re: House moved to Gardner's Basin.
2011.144	Anonymous Gift: Yearbook - Spartan 1966, Holy Spirit High School.❖

Visit Our Museums:



Mom! We're Bored... There's Nothing To Do Here!

Well... not anymore! There is plenty to do and we can prove it. There's a new rack card around town! Thanks, mainly to the efforts of the Somers Point

Historical Society, these attractive cards were designed, printed and then distributed to hotels and motels in Somers Point. The Somers Point Historical Society also very generously provided the funds.

The front invites readers to "Visit Our Museums" and then shows: **Atlantic Heritage Center's** logo with address, telephone number, hours, and website; A rendering of the **Risley Homestead** with address and hours; a picture of **Somers Mansion** with address and telephone number; a picture of **Somers Point Historical Society's** building with address, telephone number, hours and website.

On the reverse there is a listing of 50 Somers Point eating establishments and their addresses and the logo of the Somers Point Business Association (of which we are now a member!). Our hope is that the cards will encourage visitors to visit the museums and businesses. ❖

How To Save A Life!

Thanks to the generosity of our neighbor, *Shore Memorial Hospital*, Atlantic Heritage Center now has a defibrillator for emergency use. SMH Training Center Coordinator Christina Kozmor spent the morning recently training a number of our volunteers in the use of the defibrillator.

Obviously, we hope we never have to use it, but it is a comfort to know that we have it if necessary. Sid Parker and George Lonkart did an excellent job of hanging the unit in our kitchen and posting a locating sign within sight of the library.



CALLING ALL COOKS!



Atlantic Heritage Center
is developing a
Cookbook
to celebrate our **100th Anniversary**
and would like all of you to contribute your
Best Recipes.



Please submit your recipe along with your Name, Address, Phone #, E-mail Address, Recipe Name, Ingredients List, Preparation Instructions and the number of people the recipe feeds.



Recipes should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than March 1, 2012. Recipes can be e-mailed to Dutch08234@hotmail.com with "Recipe" in the Subject Line. You can also send your recipe by mail, using the form to the right, to: AHC Recipe, Atlantic Heritage Center, 907 Shore Road, P.O. Box 301, Somers Point, NJ 08244



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

RECIPE NAME:

INGREDIENT LIST:

PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Number of people this recipe feeds: _____

Volunteers are in short supply!

We ask for your services 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, September 3rd
Saturday, October 15th
Thursday & Friday, November 24th & 25th



Need to Contact Us?

Phone: (609) 927-5218
Email: AHCINFO@comcast.net
Website:
www.AtlanticHeritageCenterNJ.org

Newsletter available online!
AHC Hours:
Wednesday - Saturday:
10:00am to 3:30pm
Parking and entrance at the rear of our building

Did you know?

By Sid Parker

In response to the article about artificers in the Summer Newsletter, long-time member, Lew Strickland, from Savannah, GA offered the following email only slightly edited by the author in the name of space:

“My mother’s grandfather, William Henderson, served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He joined the army in New Orleans six months before the end of hostilities. He was promoted from Private to Artificer and was paid a bounty of \$100. to join the First Company of United States Pointeniers. [Author’s Note: Also spelled pointennier (French) and pontonier) His enlistment certificate shows his occupation as sailor. I have done a lot of research on William Henderson, the pontoon company artificer.

Pontoon companies were assigned to an army when it marched. They were a predecessor of the Army Corps of Engineers(which I was employed by for 30 years) and the companies had a varied list of responsibilities and talent requirements. They needed specially designed wagons and mules to haul the double-ended boats/pontoons and timbers to lay between the pontoons. When reaching a river to be crossed they launched pontoons and lashed them parallel with the flow of the stream. Space was left between the pontoons so the decking timbers would meet in the middle of the pontoon. The pontoons were sometimes used as a makeshift wharf to off-load a steamer’s cargo. The arrangement could be likened to a floating dock. The company would also be tasked with building a road through a swamp by felling trees (side by side) to construct a “corduroy” road.

William Henderson’s widow lived with her son’s (Harry Lake) family in Pleasantville(NJ) after his death. He is buried in Cold Spring(NJ) and she in Pleasantville.❖

Newsletter Editor, Layout & Graphics
Ellen Hyatt

Contributors to this Issue:

Sheryl Collins, Sid Parker, Pat Parker,
Freda Heintz, Babs Perry-Silva, & Dale Lonkart

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



BEHIND THE SCENES... JOAN FRANKEL

For the past eight years Ruth Gold, Museum Curator, and Assistant Curator, Boo Pergament have had an extremely capable helper who works every Wednesday quietly and diligently on identifying and assigning accession numbers to artifacts that have been donated to the museum. Unless you have been fortunate enough to work on a day that Joan is present you probably don’t know her. But her works are evident in the museum.

To know Joan is to love her. She is always cheerful, always regales her coworkers with her latest “adventures”, and always delights us with her infectious laugh.

The other area of the Atlantic Heritage Center where Joan volunteers is on the Program Committee. For the past four years she has added her good ideas and artistry to the Spirit of Christmas’ Past. As a result of these years of wielding the hot glue gun on our home made crafts she may never regain her fingerprints again.

Joan has graciously agreed to be chairperson of our newly formed Cookbook Committee. The cookbook is being prepared by members in commemoration of the Heritage Center’s 100th Anniversary and due to be released in December 2012 in time for the 5th Annual Spirit of Christmas’ Past.

The next time you are at the Atlantic Heritage Center on a Wednesday please take time to say hello to Joan and offer your thanks for donating her time and many talents to us. ❖

PLACE NAMES OF THE JERSEY SHORE

Were you ever riding along the roads throughout Atlantic and Cape May Counties and wonder how in the world some of the roads and towns got their names? The Atlantic Heritage Center recently hosted, localite, Lee Ireland who spoke to a room full of other locals keenly interested in learning how the towns, roads and sections of our area were named.

Lee discussed how places like Rum Point, Jeffers Landing and many other sites, came to be known. In his book, **PLACE NAMES OF THE JERSEY SHORE**, he reveals many other interesting facts about how the naming of our locations came about.



Author Lee Ireland in front of a street sign for Jeffers Landing Rd, an Egg Harbor Twp. street that is frequently called by another name: *Jeffries Landing Rd.*

Library Spotlight

Dale Lonkart, Librarian
Asst. Librarian, Freda Heintz



FREE BOOKS!!

About a year ago, the Atlantic City Free Public Library contacted us regarding many history/genealogy books that they needed to remove from their collection to make much needed room. They invited us to take what we could use. There were so many, and not much time to decide and they really needed to move them, so we offered to take them all. We told them that when we took the ones we wanted, we would offer the rest to members of the Atlantic County Roundtable of Historical Organizations. The books would be for their use only, not for private use or for them to sell.

Three of us, in two vehicles, managed to get over 600 books to our building and up to the 2nd floor. Quite an undertaking! Volunteer Diane Bassetti stepped in and entered every book into her laptop, in order to determine if we already had a book, the condition ours and theirs was in, etc. Once a list of books that we did not already have was prepared, we went to work to decide which we wanted to keep. We added over 130 individual books to our collection and completed some sets that we already had. Assistant Librarian Freda Bird went right to work to accession the books and get them on our shelves. Finally, a list of available books was sent out to the Roundtable.

Saturday, February 12th, was the big day. Roundtable members were invited to come and pick up the books they wanted. We also invited other Atlantic County historical organizations to choose books. What a joy it was for us to see how excited people were to get books for their organizations! It was a real book lover's day. People stayed after they found the books they came for and browsed through the boxes, chatting with other historians. Many great books found good homes that day!

Since that time, several more historical societies who were unable to attend that day contacted us and have received books. Several months ago we received three more boxes of books from the ACFPL, many of which we added to our collection. Remaining books will be sold at a future book sale. We are grateful for the books we received, and happy that we could make it possible for other organizations to benefit from the generosity of the Atlantic City Free Public Library! ❖

GOOD HELP

The old expression, "Good help is hard to find" is not always true! Needless to say, all of our regular volunteers come under that heading. This summer we've been very fortunate to also have two young people sharing their talents with us.

Maegan Pollinger, a student at Rowan University, has been spending two days a week with us. On Wednesdays she is a volunteer in the Library and Thursdays she works in the Museum. She has earned high praise from all the people she's worked with and since this is the kind of career she's hoping for after college, she's gaining some good experience.

Ben Polaci, a graduate of Kutztown University with a library science degree, is applying for jobs in that field. While he's waiting to be "discovered", he is also spending about two days a week helping in the library. He has indicated that he would like to continue volunteering even after he starts a new job! And – he travels from Mt. Laurel, Burlington County to be with us!

Young people like these two are a real joy to have with us. We have plenty of room for other good help – no experience necessary. If you'd like to join our ranks, or maybe just see what we do here, please get in touch with Dale Lonkart at 927-5218.



The Atlantic Heritage Center is seeking applications for the *Olive Conover Rundstrom Memorial Award*. The award is given to an individual or group pursuing historical research or a preservation project. More information and applications are available at the Center. The deadline is Sept. 30th. 609) 927-5218 or Email: AHCINFO@comcast.net



Representatives from local historical organizations browse through the books from the Atlantic City Library to add to their collections. A win-win for all!



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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Pleasantville, NJ 08232

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
ENVELOPE
ENCLOSED**



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.