

ATLANTIC HERITAGE

Newsletter of the Atlantic Heritage Center

WINTER 2011

Dreaming of a White Christmas?

For the fourth year in a row the Atlantic County Historical Society (trading as the Atlantic Heritage Center) is hosting a program entitled "Spirit of Christmas' Past". This year, the event subtitled, "Loves a White Christmas", will feature many decorations and ornaments in winter white.

The Historical Society Program Committee has been working since May handcrafting many different types of crafts including button studded picture frames, floral arrangements, hand painted seashells, paper ornaments, gift tags, grave blankets, Christmas wreaths and theme baskets, to name just a sampling of items available.

The Spirit of Christmas' Past – Loves a White Christmas begins Monday, December 5, 2011, 7:00 PM at the Atlantic County Historical Society, 907 Shore Road, Somers Point, New Jersey 08244. The program for the evening features a presentation by the Cape Atlantic Sweet Adelines Quartet.

Items will be available for sale from Dec. 5th, during the Societies' normal hours of operation; 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM from Wednesday through Saturday, until closure for the holidays Monday, December 19th, 2011. All proceeds go toward the Atlantic County Historical Society Expansion Fund. For further information you may call the Historical Society at 609-927-5218.



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AHC Trustees and Officers being sworn in by Alex Marino, Linwood City Councilman at the Annual Luncheon. More coverage and pictures on page 4.

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 COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

907 Shore Road
Somers Point, NJ

Monday, December 19th
11:00am – 3:00pm

Free and open to the public

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

HOME BAKED COOKIES
BY THE POUND, TIN OR PLATE
SANTA ARRIVES

1:00 PM

WITH GOODIE BAGS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

CHRISTMAS STORY READINGS

11:00 AM & 2:00 PM



ATLANTIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

907 Shore Road,
Somers Point, NJ

Monday, March 19th
7:00pm

Free and open to the public

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATION

Judy Courter has researched the lives of Fred and Ethel Noyes and is in the process of writing a book about them. In honor of Ethel's birthday and National Women's History Month, Judy will present a preview of her book and provide some little known tidbits and facts about the Noyes'.

AHC YEARBOOK

While the 2011-2012 Yearbook has been put to bed, we are now soliciting articles to be considered for inclusion in the 2012-2013 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.



AHC President Dick Squires @ the VHP Meet & Greet event with (L-R) Robin McBrearty, daughter of deceased WW11 veteran Harry Williamson & Paul Bishop, Army veteran of the Cold War.

A Life, Well-Lived...

The Atlantic County Historical Society is mourning the loss of their beloved and dedicated volunteer, Trustee, and friend, Gertrude (Trudy) Fenton, on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, 2011.

Trudy was a true delight to know; always cheerful, willing and positive. She served as Recording Secretary and as Trustee. She worked on the Program Committee, actively creating beautiful wreaths and floral decorations for the *Spirit of Christmas' Past* program and fund raiser. She was an active duty volunteer and took great pleasure in assisting others in research. She volunteered to bake whenever refreshments were needed for programs.

Over the past couple years Trudy put up a valiant fight against her malignancy and survived to witness the birth of her only grandchild, Seamus Demuth, who was the delight of her life.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Trudy's family; husband, William R. Fenton, and daughters Quenby Kotila, Megan Kotilia and Anne Demuth, and sister Anne Studner.

Trudy's name will be entered upon the Atlantic County Historical Society's Trustee Emeritis Plaque at the Society's next Annual Installation Luncheon October 2012. ❖

In Memoriam

Adelaide Hoffner,
Ocean City, NJ

So Long ...

We will miss the faithful service of George Hyatt who took on our mail duties several years ago and rarely missed a day delivering mail to the Center. George, who was the father of Trustee and Newsletter editor, Ellen Hyatt continued the volunteer service of his late wife, Ellen Hyatt, Sr. George, a World War II veteran, died peacefully on Veteran's Day.



Rest in Peace, George.

Welcome

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

Kenneth Haney, *Northfield*
Lisa Cincotti, *Galloway*
John E. Roberts, *Philadelphia*
George A. Hay, III *Ocean City*
Diane Cordon, *Salem, Oregon*
Jean Alexander, *Plattsburg, Mo*
Patrick Fitzmaurice, *Northport, NY*

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

James M. Fritz, *Zephyr Hills, FL*
Elizabeth Naylor, *Egg Harbor Twp.*

Thank You, Everyone!

The following members graciously made donations to the Center at the same time they renewed their annual memberships and we wish to publicly acknowledge their thoughtfulness:

FRIEND: \$1-\$49

Anne-Marie Glenn, James Davidson, Robert Posey,
Mary McKeown, Frieda Korte, Laura Hager, Marjory
Standiford, William & Mary Lou Crimbring, Elaine Pinfold,
Carol-Anne Boyce Heinisch, Howard Gant, Robert Barnett,
Barbara Westergaard, Eleanor and Richard Veit, Allan Eaves,
Ruth Gold, Nancy Kindle and Jim Leeds
Lee McCoy, *In memory of L.M. DeHaven, Mother*
J. William Carlson, *In memory of wife, Peggy Carlson*
James F. Steelman, *In memory of wife, Gladys B. Steelman*

PATRON: \$50-\$249

Edward T. Stephenson, Dorothy Lodovico,
Don & Carolyn Perry, Ronald Headley,
Thomas & Faith Giegerich
Loretta King, *In memory of Barbara Camp Philpot*
Robert & Shirley Schmidt
In honor of granddaughter, Shannon Mulshine, Harvard graduate

SPONSOR: \$250-\$1000

Jim Leeds

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

Trustees: Jerry Bell, Skip Bellino,
Frank Ferry, Trudy Fenton, Helen
Walsh, James Mason, V, Richlyn
Goddard, Ruth Taylor, Ellen Hyatt,
Ruth Faust, Alex Marino, Donald
Perry, Sheryl Collins.

2011 ANNUAL INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

The Atlantic County Historical Society hosted a record seventy guests at their 2011 Annual Installation Luncheon in October at Harbor Pines Golf Course. President Richard Squires capably emcee'd the event, and Vice President, Sid Parker lead in the flag salute. Historical Society member, Rev. James H. Biggs offered the invocation.

Alex Marino, Linwood City Councilman, was installing officer for the 2001-2013 Board Members and Trustees. New members are Diane Miller, Assistant Librarian and Skip Bellino, Trustee.

Retiring Librarian, Dale Lonkart, was presented with a framed Certificate of Appreciation and a Bringing History to Live Award glass paperweight for her many years of dedicated service.

This year's Olive Conover Rundstrom Memorial Award was presented to Lynn Wood and June Sheridan of the Greate Egg Harbour Township Historical Society for a book they are preparing depicting Egg Harbor Township sites "then and now". The prestigious *Bringing History to Life Award* for 2011 was presented to husband and wife team, Charlene and Ed Canale. Their joint efforts toward the Annual Spirit of Christmas' Past program and only fund raiser has helped make this production a reality in the past four years. Charlene is a dedicated "elf" and Ed continues to find us a workshop in which to create. Aside from her role as "elf" Charlene is the Treasurer of the Atlantic County Historical Society and keeps Sheryl's spending habits in line.

The guest speaker was Frank Ferry, Esq., whose topic, *The Road to Power of Nucky Johnson and Senator Frank S. Farley* took us back in time to when he was a young attorney representing Nucky Johnson. He also spoke about the political tactics of Senator Frank Farley during his tenure in office. Ferry sprinkled his talk with humor and little known facts that will come to light in the book he is presently writing.

Mr. Ferry will once again be our guest at a future program upon publication of his book, tentatively titled, "Boardwalk Baron" and will autograph copies for his audience. ❖



Top Left: AHC President with Olive Rundstrom Award recipients June Sheridan and Lynn Wood.

Top Right: AHC President Dick Squires presenting award to Ed & Charlene Canale.

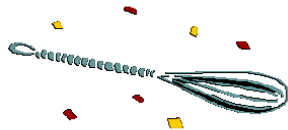
Bottom Left: Keynote Speaker Frank Ferry, Esq. speaking about his book on Nucky Johnson & Frank Farley.

Bottom Right: AHC President Dick Squires presenting award to outgoing Librarian Dale Lonkart.

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.



You are encouraged to submit 3 – 6 recipes passed down in your family. Please include 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:

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 from:
Wednesday, December 21st
through Saturday, January 3rd
We will be open Monday
December 19th for
Spirit of Christmas' Past
events only.



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

WHAT'S IN A NAME??

It's commonly accepted that children are named for a variety of reasons, but the largest number are named after family members, such as a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle. Other children are named after presidents, with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln being the most frequently used. For perhaps obvious reasons, politics aside, there don't appear to have been many offspring named Millard, Rutherford, Grover, Woodrow or Lyndon.

Other names are bestowed on children because, for whatever reason, they simply come into vogue for a couple years; maybe the "old" names just got "tired." And then, there are people who dominate the spotlight with such presence that it's almost inconceivable that their names not appear on thousands of birth certificates. Think: Grace (Princess), Jacqueline (Kennedy Onassis), Diana (Princess). Fortunately, some names seem unlikely to appear frequently: Think: Ringo, Lady Gaga, Madonna, Twiggy.

While researching another article, I noticed a significant number of unusual first names in the Crawford's Atlantic City Directory 1901, George A. Crawford & Co., Publishers, Atlantic City, NJ, most of which appeared only once, except where noted. Having had the advantage of seeing the surnames, I have tried to avoid listing those names which seemed to me to be related to an uncommon nationality, so no Tibetan, Fijian or Icelandic names, for example.

Therefore, in no particular order, names from 110 years ago: Anglo, Orion, Hercules, Jarmy, Amen, Lylburn, Leodine, Ansley, Savery, Rollins, Zipa, Brazil, Ulysses, Napoleon, Armenia, Minty, Arville, Talcott, Valentine, Severn, Eyanna, Albion, Titus, Winfield(3), Spencer(2), Norris, Nopa, Cyrus, Reese, Llewellyn, Garfield, Bolte, Ephraim, Thaddeus, Garrett, Orville, Adalbert, Larner, Royal, Alvera, Packard, Curry, Sutherland, Robnea, Swain, Schuyler, Comly, DeForrest, August, Chalkley(2), Tobie and Artera. Gimbel Bros., in addition to their 9th and Market St. store in Phila., had a store at Boardwalk and Penna. Ave. and the listing in the 1901 Directory showed the brothers as: E.A., Jacob, Isaac, Daniel, Charles, Louis, Benjamin, Nathan and Hamburger. Author's Note: If any reader can shed light on this meaty name, please email me at historysid@aol.com for inclusion in a later edition. More names to follow in a later newsletter. ❖



BEHIND THE SCENES...

Diane Bassetti

Diane Bassetti has been a valued volunteer for three years. The longtime registrar at the Estell Manor Historical Society, she came here originally hoping to learn from us, the better to serve there. Like so many of us, she has found yet another home! She serves as duty volunteer at least two days a month and also finds time to work on other projects for us, sometimes from home. The biggest project (so far!) was organizing - physically and electronically - the many books we received from the Atlantic City Free Public Library.

Diane has a B.S. in Computer and Information Sciences from Stockton College and has recently completed a rigorous course in medical coding. She and her husband, Tony, live in Buena. ❖

YOUNG VISITORS

We always enjoy having young people in our library and museum. Recently we hosted two groups who came to tour the museum. In October, 7th grade *Venture* (gifted) students from Jordan Rd. School, Somers Point, visited with their teacher. Sid Parker acquainted them with the main museum in the basement and Dale Lonkart showed them our treasures in the upstairs auditorium. They were very interested and really enjoyed their time with us. We got a great thank you note with a picture of all of them.

A group of six 7 year old Cub Scouts, with 5 adults, visited in November. Kevin Little did the honors downstairs and Dale Lonkart took the upstairs portion. Although 7 years old is a little too young to really appreciate most of our history, there were a few things that really caught their interest... cannon balls, rifles, whale harpoon....

The adults were definitely impressed and hopefully will return. Brochures and handouts for the children were given out. ❖

Newsletter Editor, Layout & Graphics

Ellen Hyatt

Contributors to this Issue:

Sheryl Collins, Sid Parker, Pat Parker,

Babs Perry-Silva, Diane Miller

Mary Beth Ortzman & Dale Lonkart

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

Library Spotlight

Freda Heintz, Librarian
Asst. Librarian, Diane Miller

HOLIDAY BOOKS FOR GIFT GIVING

The crisp air, sounds of carols and bells, and thoughts of snow surround us as December approaches. It is also a time to think of holiday gift-giving, so let us suggest some book ideas. The Atlantic Heritage Center has several interesting books which would make a great selection for that special person on your list.

Some of the books we currently offer for sale are:

- Early Architecture of Cape May County, NJ*, Joan Berkey,
\$39.99 plus \$4.00 shipping
- Life of Richard Somers*, J. B. Somers, M.D.,
\$5.00 plus \$2.00 shipping
- Richard Somers, Master Commandant of U. S. Navy*, Edna Hoopes,
\$2.00 plus \$1.00 shipping
- Atlantic City Then and Now*, Edward A. Mauer,
\$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping
- Early History of Atlantic County*, Atlantic Co. Historical Society,
\$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping
- Growing Up in the Other Atlantic City*, Turiya Raheem,
\$20 plus \$3.25 shipping
- Showplace of the Nation, Steel Pier, Atlantic City*, Steve Liebowitz,
\$31 plus \$3.50 shipping
- Atlantic City – Images of America*, John Cunningham & Kenneth Cole,
\$19.99 plus \$3.50 shipping
- Atlantic City Revisited – Images of America*, William Sokolic & Robert Ruffolo, Jr., “ “
- Atlantic City Postcard History Series*, James Ristine,
\$19.99 plus \$3.50 shipping
- A Dream, A Journey, A Community*, Leo Schoffer,
\$54 plus \$4.00 shipping

There are also some books for children:

- Takashii's Voyage, the Wreck of the Sindia*, Lucinda Hathaway,
\$12.00 plus \$3.25 shipping
- A Slave Family*, Bobbie Kalman, \$8.95 plus \$2.00 shipping
- The Colors of the Lighthouse*, Elinor Veit,
\$3.50 plus \$2.00 shipping

Also, for the quilt lover, we have:

Remember Me (a beautifully colored booklet from the Atlantic Heritage Center's fall 2010 exhibit), \$5.00 plus \$2.00 shipping. (All of the quilts are part of the center's museum collection.)

Walk-in bargain hunters will find our used books a place to browse for the unusual gift. Here, we have a hit-or-miss selection on sale from publications such as:

South Jersey Magazine, *New York Genealogical Society*, *New Jersey State Archives*, the *Van Kouwenhoven-Conover Family Bulletin* and *Pleasantville High School Yearbooks*.

A more complete list of publications and the associated order form are available on our website under the “Shopping” tab. Please keep in mind that many of our selections are available in limited quantity, so it is advisable to call the center before placing an order. We are also able to offer a shopper's bonus – there is no sales tax when shopping for books at AHC Happy Holidays! ❖

Veteran's History Project Spotlight

CLASS OF 2011 MEET 'N GREET

Since 2007 the Atlantic County Historical Society has been involved with the Veteran's History Project sponsored by the Library of Congress, a program that digitally records veterans of all wars service related history.

This year they held their Third Annual Meet and Greet, for those veterans interviewed by their trained interviewers during 2011, at the Zion United Methodist Church Hall in Bargaintown. This event unites the veteran with their interviewer, fellow veterans and provides them the opportunity to meet the Board Members of the Atlantic County Historical Society.

Richard Squires, President of the Atlantic County Historical acted as emcee and presented each Veteran with a copy of their own CD. Dr. Richlyn Goddard gave a welcoming address and explained how this program had come about through the ACHS.

Several Veterans spontaneously spoke about their service histories. Memorable amongst the group were John Thomas, Dr. Peter Vanace, William Schmitz, who came attired in his original uniform complete with a chest full of medals, (much to the envy of his fellow vets) and Robin Williamson McBrearty, daughter of Harry Williamson, who accepted her recently deceased father's packet on his behalf. She spoke eloquently of his father's WWII experiences, his values and beliefs.

To date, the Atlantic County Historical Society interviewers for the Veterans' History Project has interviewed approximately one hundred and fifty Veterans, fifty of them in the year 2011.

If you would like to become a participant in this program; either as an interviewer or to be interviewed, call 609-927-5218. ❖



AHC President Dick Squires with VHP Meet & Greet attendee William F. Schmitz, an Air Force veteran from the Vietnam War.





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**HAVE YOU
RENEWED YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
YET??**



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.