

ATLANTIC HERITAGE CENTER INSTALLS OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES



Installation of officers and trustees of the AHC took place at the annual luncheon Saturday, October 27 at the Harbor Pines Country Club.

Incoming officers are: President Richard E Squires, Recording Secretary Sheryl Collins, Assistant Curator Allen “ Boo” Pergament, Librarian Dale Lonkart, and Trustees Trudy Fenton ,Frank Ferry, Michael Garvin ,Richlyn Goddard, John Heinz, Patricia Indrieri, Alex Marino, James Mason V, Donald Perry and Helen Walsh.

President Squires honored outstanding trustees from past years for their service to the Center. Designated as Trustees Emeriti were Ed Davis, Jack Haynie, Elizabeth Hess , Joanne Stiefbold, Georgene Steelman and Dr James Mason IV. The name of each Trustee Emeritus was added to the plaque which hangs in the vestibule of the Heritage Center building. . President Squires spoke for the entire organization when he thanked Jack Haynie and Joanne Stiefbold , both of whom were present, for their selfless leadership over the years when they led the organization and for their thousands of hours of volunteer service. He expressed our loss in the deaths of Ed Davis, Georgene Steelman and Dr James Mason IV. “ The Center lost three of its most dedicated and knowledgeable members in one year . They are irreplaceable.”

The Bringing History to Life Award, presented annually to someone who exemplifies the mission of the Center to preserve and promote the history of our region, was presented to the outgoing Librarian June Gray Sheridan and posthumously to Dr James Mason IV. Helen Mason, wife of Dr Mason , received the award in his name.

The meeting featured a program by Cindy Mason- Purdie , Director of the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs , on family heritage. Ms. Mason-Purdie, entertained and educated the group with her recounting of the evolution of Historical Societies . She emphasized the role of Historical Societies in public history and complimented the AHC for its participation in the Veterans Oral History Project of the Library of Congress .

More Photos on Page 2...

Events and Happenings

Program Logistics

Risley Homestead

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

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Saturdays & Sundays

December 15 & 16

December 22 & 23

December 29 & 30

Free admission, donations appreciated

Holiday Tours



Program Description

The Risley Homestead is a combination of 18th and 20th century construction. Its early core is a two-room farmhouse constructed circa 1790. In the mid-1800s, the ten children of Jonathan and Elizabeth Jeffries Risley were born and raised here.

The tour offers an “up close and personal” look at the life of the Risley family.

For more information on the Risley Homestead, please visit our website.



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Below, Cindy Mason-Purdie, Director of the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs educated the group on family heritage.



Joanne Stiefbold and Jack Haynie are designated as Trustees Emeriti at the Annual Luncheon. (above)

Newsletter Editor, Layout & Graphics:
Ellen Hyatt

Contributors to this Issue:
Sheryl Collins, Helen Walsh, Ruth Gold,
Alan "Boo" Pergament,
Richlyn Goddard & Dale Lonkart

The Atlantic Heritage Center received an operating grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the NJ Department of State.

GET INVOLVED!

There are a variety of ways that you can help the Atlantic Heritage Center to grow and fulfill its mission.

Become a Volunteer

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization, as we have no paid professional staff. Our team of volunteers brings specialized skills and experience to assist with daily operations, tours, and special projects. We are always looking for additional candidates and we will match tasks and projects to your skills and preferences.

Additional volunteer considerations and benefits:

- We ask for your services one day each month from 10:00am - 3:30pm.
- Training is provided.
- This is a great opportunity to learn about the area and meet new people.
- The "work" is interesting and fun!

We currently have volunteer job openings for the following roles:

- **Duty Volunteer:** Assist patrons with library research activities.
- **Project Volunteer:** Assist Librarians with special projects.
- **Library Assistant:** Learn the library accessioning computer system and assist Librarians with cataloguing materials.
- **Museum Volunteer:** Assist museum Curators with museum artifacts and clerical work.

~In Memoriam~

*The Atlantic Heritage Center
honors the passing of member*

Ed Davis,
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ

Welcome

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

Annual Individual Members

George A. Giuliano, Rocky Hill, CT
Jeannine Holt-Luciani, Mays Landing, NJ
Edward Mauger, Phila., Pa

Annual Family Members:

James Polack, Omaha, Neb

JOB OPPORTUNITY

We need a volunteer to manage our bulk mailings which occur 5 or 6 times a year.

- You can easily learn and keep current with postal regulations.
- You will be assisted by a team of volunteers at each mailing.
- You will be responsible for taking the finished mail to the post office and completing required forms.

We also have openings for volunteers in the library and museum. Library accessioning training has begun, but we would welcome anyone else who would like to learn.

If you are interested (or would like more information), please call The Atlantic Heritage Center at 927-5218 and leave a message for Dale Lonkart or Helen Walsh.

Need to Contact Us?

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

Atlantic Heritage Center Hours:

Wednesday - Saturday: 10:00am to 3:30pm
1st Thursday of each month: 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Parking and entrance at the rear of our building

Meet our Newest Board Members

Trustee: James H. Mason, V

Residence: Linwood

Years in Atlantic County Area: 59 as of 7 December

Education:

St. Augustine Preparatory

St. Joseph's University (BS Sociology)

Rutgers Center For Continuing Engineering Studies

Occupation: Traffic Engineer, Atlantic County

Division of Engineering

Employer: Atlantic County Government

I am most proud of: My family

Hobbies/Pastimes: Surfboat rowing, the beach, books, 'littoral ephemera', hand tools, woodworking of all types, traditional boats, maritime history, gardening, genealogy, etc.

Year I became involved with the Society: Mid-1980's; was a previous Board member (Financial Sec., V.P.)

How I became involved: My Dad's subtle influence and my own evolving interest in local history.

Trustee: Donald Perry

Residence: Northfield

Years in Atlantic County: 70+

Education:

Pleasantville High School

Gettysburg College

Temple University School of Dentistry

Occupation: Dentist

Employer: Self

I am most proud of: My wife Carolyn in raising our three daughters, Barbara, Linda, and Patricia. Dr. Pat practices dentistry with me.

Hobbies & Pastimes: Avid reader, traveling, Phillies fan, golf, genealogy, eBay

Year I became involved with the Society: 2002

How I became involved: Researching my family genealogy and an interest in local history.

Trustee: Patricia Indrieri

Residence: Egg Harbor Township

Years in Atlantic County Area: Native – 57 years

Education:

Mainland Regional High School

Atlantic Cape Community College

Certification courses through Rutgers University as a Registered and Certified Municipal Clerk.

Occupation: Retired Municipal Clerk Egg Harbor Twp.; part-time Constituent Aide Sen. McCullough

I am most proud of: being married 37 years, my daughter and her family and everything I have accomplished. Particularly, being a founding member and Trustee of St. Katherine Drexel Parish located in EHT.

Hobbies/Pastimes: traveling, outings with friends and trying new recipes

Year I became involved with the Center: 2007

How I became involved: Recruited by Richard Squires, our mentor and friend.

Trustee: Michael J Garvin

Residence: Longport

Years in Atlantic County: 30

Education:

St. Joseph Prep

St. Charles Seminary (BA)

Villanova University (MA)

Occupation: Retired Atlantic County Clerk

Former Employer: Atlantic County Government

I am most proud of: My family and my years of service to the people of Atlantic County.

Hobbies/Pastimes: Irish music, travel, reading, carpentry

Year I became involved with the Society: 2006

How I became involved: In my role as County Clerk, I got to know June Sheridan and Sheryl Collins and their work. Also, my interest in genealogy.

Congratulations!

to

Freda Bird, who was elected to the position of Assistant Librarian at the November Board Meeting.

Profiles on newly installed Board Members Frank Ferry and Trudy Fenton will appear in the next edition of the AHC Newsletter.

AHC Honors Veterans

The “Lest We Forget” Exhibit hosted a successful Wine and Cheese Reception on Thursday, November 1 with approximately 30 people attending

Two local veterans, Bob Webb and Henderson Hemphill’s “artifacts” were the highlight of the program. There were two hand constructed replicas of ships, the USS Pringle and a submarine, the USS Henderson that were the focal points of the WWII display.

Our Curators displayed an interesting array of uniforms from past wars, including shoes and helmets. Boo Pergament produced several displays including one on “Camp Boardwalk.” Atlantic City’s Convention Hall (now Boardwalk Hall) and many major hotels were taken over by the U.S. military for the convalescence of wounded servicemen and women and the training of members of the Army Air Corps. This year, 2007, marks 65 years since Camp Boardwalk began in 1942.

An Army nurse from the Egg Harbor City Historical Society put together a display board of local women who served in the armed services during WWII and Betty Steelman loaned us a scrapbook she had put together from her service days.



Uniforms on display, above, at the “Lest We Forget” exhibit honoring veterans during the month of November.



Dale Lonkart with Mayflower descendants Phyllis & Alan Moony, on the right.

Museum Spotlight

Ruth Gold and Boo Pergament, Curators

Any Civil War or gun collector would know the “henry Rifle.” Our Museum is the owner of one. It was the rifle belonging to Joseph Treen of Mays Landing who fought in the Civil War. He was drafted in December 1864 as a private in Company C, Fourth Regiment, N.J. and mustered out in July 1865.

The rifle was invented by B. Tyler Henry, using a new type of ammunition, while working with Winchester. He patented his design in October 1860. This was the beginning of the repeating rifle which was an improvement over a single shot rifle. It was tested at the Washington Navy Yard when Secretary Welles reported in May of 1862: 187 shot were fired in three minutes & thirty-six seconds (not counting reloading time) and one full fifteen-shot magazine was fired in only 10.8 seconds. This was amazing speed and accuracy for a rifle at that time.

The “Henry Rifle” was known as the gun you loaded Monday and shot until Sunday. You can see the Civil War gun and read more about it in our Museum.❖



Mayflower Docks at AHC

On Saturday, November 10th, Curator Ruth Gold and Librarian Dale Lonkart hosted about 30 members of the Mayflower Society for tours of our building. Prior to the tours, Ruth and Dale were guests of the Society at a lovely luncheon meeting at Gregory’s in Somers Point. Our volunteers Ruth Faust and Helen Walsh, who are members of the Mayflower Society, also attended.

In addition to the regular tour, some of our guests enjoyed seeing the Veteran’s exhibit in our upstairs auditorium, browsing in the library, and visiting the Somers Mansion. It was a great day for us with some very nice guests!

If you are a member of a group who might enjoy a similar free tour, we would welcome the opportunity to arrange it. Please call the Atlantic Heritage Center, 609 927 5218, and leave a message for Ruth Gold. She will contact you to make the arrangements or give more information.

AHC Goes to Washington!

The Veterans History Project (VHP) at the Atlantic Heritage Center is proud to announce that our initial deposit of 15 veteran oral history interviews was delivered to the Library of Congress on November 19, 2007 by Board Trustee, Dr. Richlyn Goddard. This pilot project began several months ago and involved training volunteers to acquaint them with oral history techniques and the guidelines for collecting memories, photographs, and other historic documents that tell the wartime stories of Atlantic County veterans. Ten volunteers have been trained at the AHC in Somers Point since April and include: Sheryl Collins, Ruth C. Gold, Ruth Taylor, Elinor Veit, Helen Walsh, Diane Park, Donald Corbitt, Larry Frankel, Kevin Little, and Marco Polo Smigliani. Kudos to Sheryl Collins who led the way and began interviewing veterans last January, to spearhead the project for AHC, and these local heroes include:

Richard Squires, *Navy, Korean War*

Thomas Highsmith, *Air Force, WWII*

William Lee Sheridan, *Navy & Army, Korean War*

Henderson Hemphill, *Navy, WWII*

Robert Webb, *Navy, WWII & Korean War*

Clifton Washinton, *Navy, WWII*

George Hagerthey, *Air Force, Korean War*

Robert Burness, *Navy, WWII; Korean & Vietnam wars*

Mark Chebul, *Army, Viet Nam*

Randle Rosenberg, *Career Navy, Cold War, Cuban Blockage & Viet Nam*

Throughout the summer and fall, oral history interviews were conducted by the other trained volunteers and these men and women included both civilians and military service:

Elaine Gustafson, *WWII American Women's Volunteer Service*

William Hartman, *Army, WWII*

William Patterson, *Navy, WWII*

Robert Peifer, *WWII*

Anita Gywnn, *Army, Vietnam*

Kenneth G. Carlson, *Korean War*

Donald Corbitt, *Navy, Vietnam era*

The VHP collection at the Atlantic Heritage Center was classified accordingly by individual veteran along with any photographs or manuscript papers the veterans wish to donate. A special thank-you to Norma Higbee who aptly summarized each interview before copies were made and original documents were submitted to the Library of Congress. This is an on-going outreach project from the federal government that local volunteers can participate in year-round and serves to demonstrate the importance of preserving the histories of the local veterans in Atlantic County and southern New Jersey.

The next Oral History Training Workshop will be held at AHC on Saturday, February 2, 2008 from 11am to 2pm. Pre-registration forms will be available at AHC, or via email: richlyngoddard@aol.com. A form will be sent to anyone interested in interviewing our local veterans for this project. If you are interested in interviewing or being interviewed for the Veterans History Project, please contact either Richlyn Goddard or Sheryl Collins at AHC for further information. ❖

**Volunteers are in
short supply!**

**We ask for your services
one day each month
from 10am - 3:30pm**

**Don't wait any longer...
Become a Volunteer today!**

- We match tasks and projects to your skills and preferences
- Training is provided
- Learn about the area & meet new people
- The "work" is interesting and fun!

**For more information,
please contact:**

**(609) 927-5218
Email: AHCINFO@comcast.net**

Library Spotlight

Dale Lonkart, Librarian

A Genealogist's Christmas Eve

"Twas the night before Christmas when
all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even my spouse.
The dining room table with clutter was spread
With pedigree charts and with letters which said...

"Too bad about the data for which you wrote
Sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."
Stacks of old copies of wills and the such
Were proof that my work had become much too much.

Our children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.
And I at my table was ready to drop
From work on my album with photos to crop.

Christmas was here, and of such was my lot
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.
Had I not been so busy with grandparents' wills,
I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills.

While others had bought gifts that would bring
Christmas cheer,
I'd spent time researching those birthdates and years.
While I was musing about my sad plight,
A strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great
fright.

Away to the window I flew in a flash.
Tore open the drapes and I yanked up the sash.
Then what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But an overstuffed sleigh and eight small reindeer.

Up to the housetop the reindeer, they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys and 'ole Santa Claus, too.
And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.

The TV antenna was no match for their horns
And look at our roof with hoof-prints adorned!

As I drew in my head and bumped it on the sash,
Down the cold chimney fell Santa - CER-RASH!

"Dear" Santa had come from the roof in a wreck
And tracked soot on the carpet.
(I could wring his short neck!)
Spotting my face, good old Santa could see
I had no Christmas spirit, you'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings. (I felt like a jerk.)
Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and joy:
When I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread
"A genealogist!" he cried. (My face was all red!)
"Tonight I've met many like you." Santa grinned,
As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.

I gazed with amazement -- the cover it read
Genealogy Lines for Which You Have Plead.
"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug."
He said, as he gave me a great "Santa Hug."

"While the elves make the sleigh full of toys I now carry,
I do some research in the North Pole Library!
A special treat I am thus able to bring
To genealogy folks who can't find a thing!

Now off you go to your bed for a rest.
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."
As I climbed up the stairs, full of gladness and glee
I looked back at Santa, who'd brought much to me.

While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle
To his team which then rose like the down of a thistle.
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight
"Family History is Fun! Happy Christmas! Goodnight!"

*This piece was "discovered" in the files of our Librarian,
Dale Lonkart. ❖*

Happy Holidays
from the Atlantic Heritage Center!

The Center will be closed
from December 22, 2007 through January 2, 2008



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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.