



Portland Poynts

The Chronicle of the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society

September-October 2019 27 Prospect Circle, P. O. Box 108, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716-0108 ♦ www.AHhistory.org

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting ~ November 4th.

Historical Jersey Journey ~ December 15th.

Henry Hudson Regional High School A Capella

Choir Holiday Concert mid-December. Date to be announced.

Check website for updates.



Atlantic Highlands Arts Council ~ Still Life Series, September 18th, October 16th.

Atlantic Highlands Boro ~ Farmers Market, Fridays, 12:00-5:00 pm; Taste of Atlantic Highlands September 12th. Halloween Parade October 26th at 1:00 pm, rain date October 27th.

Atlantic Highlands Public Library ~ Wild West Storytime for Kids, September 4th, 5th; Grandparents Support Group, September 10th, October 8th; English Conversation Class, September 7th, 21st, October 5th, 19th; Read to a Therapy Dog, September 19th.

First Avenue Playhouse ~ Pets And Their Humans, September. The Dearly Undeparted, October.

Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County ~ William Agress as Albert Einstein, September 8th; Peter Cancro discusses the popular five-act opera La Juive (The Jewess), a favorite of Enrico Caruso and Richard Tucker, September 19th.

Middletown Township Historical Society ~ Development of the Women's Suffrage Movement, Brian Armstrong, September 16th; Ku Klux Klan in New Jersey, Joseph Bilby, October 21st.

Monmouth Museum ~ New Jersey Emerging Artist Series through September 18th.

Twin Lights Historical Society ~ currently on display: Seeing Stars follows the evolution of America's flag; Ground Zero painting by Jamie Wyeth; Our Banner In The Sky painting by Frederic Church reflecting his grief during the early days of the Civil War.

A Treasure for Everyone

By Bette VanDeventer



On a hot August day approximately 40 years ago, then Atlantic Highlands Historical Society President Karl Djert strongly believed another fundraiser for the organization was needed as we had begun raising money to purchase a building to become our home.

Karl knocked on my door and said, "Let's have a flea market at the Harbor." He then asked me to be in charge. With his usual charisma he persuaded me to say "yes" as my two-year-old stood by my side.

We charged \$5.00 for each space and collected no money until the day of the event, the first Saturday after Labor Day (during my first week back at teaching). All who called to reserve a space actually showed up!

The Society sold some household items and refreshments and showed a profit of \$500. With the energetic help of our members it was a very successful day. Thus the Flea Market became an annual event, growing through the years to what it is today.

The 40th Annual Outdoor Flea Market will be held at the Atlantic Highlands Marina (off First Avenue) on Saturday, September 14th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Rain date is September 21st.

The 145 spaces with 100+ vendors will have treasures for everyone: antiques and collectibles, crafts, new and second-time-around items, furnishings, household items, toys, clothing, tools, books, turn-of-the-century postcards, jewelry and fishing tackle, just to name a few categories.

The Society will be selling refreshments and a variety of food and baked goods. There will be a Chance Auction for ten delightful baskets brimming with merchandise. Society members will man a table to answer questions about the organization, its projects and programs, the Strauss Mansion Museum, Society membership, and upcoming events. Society merchandise will also be available for purchase.

All proceeds from this exciting event will be used for the further preservation and restoration of the impressively beautiful 126-year-old Strauss Mansion at 27 Prospect Circle in Atlantic Highlands and for the Society's educational and outreach programs.

Come for an adventurous day of finding that special something you just can't do without.

For additional information or to reserve one of the few remaining spaces, contact Bette at 732-291-4313 or Carmen at 732-291-9337.



- The Atlantic Highlands Chamber of Commerce has agreed to disseminate AHHS information at their Farmer's Market table.
- Assignments were made regarding the Mail Chimp account, Facebook page, website and Season At A Glance handout.
- Decided upon a new Society logo.
- Digitization of Atlantic Highlands newspaper 1925-60 completed. Seeking additional funding for the project.
- Discussed contacting Henry Hudson Regional High School to encourage Key Club members and other students to perform community services at the Strauss Mansion.
- Changing scope of grant from foundation to second floor porch restoration.
- Considering ribbon cutting for new first floor porch at Porch Supper.
- Approved posting a suggested donation of \$5 when touring the Mansion.
- Will purchase Atlantic Highlands hats from the Ladies Auxiliary to sell at the Mansion.
- Arts & Crafts Fair and Vintage Base Ball Game plans in place.
- Cruise on the Mariner set for September 7th.
- October and Halloween events planned.



Wednesday, September 18th, 7:30 pm, Jean Klerman and Larry Gurman of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County present Jewish Newport at the Jersey Shore - A History of German Jews in Monmouth County.

Wednesday, October 16th - to be announced.



Each numeral on a digital clock is made up of seven segments. At what time of the day (both am and pm of course) will the most segments on this clock be lit up?

Answer may be found in the Old Homes Room on the second floor of the Strauss Mansion Museum.

Learning the Ropes

by Doris Irwin



"Belay that line ye landlubbers"

June 28th - It was 6:00 pm on a perfect summer's evening with the temperature at a delightful 82°. As I boarded the A. J. Meerwald with seven other members of the Irwin clan, the crew warmly welcomed us and helped us aboard.

Following a seven-minute instruction regarding the rules and regulations on the vessel, forty of us sailed away from the Atlantic Highlands harbor and out to sea.

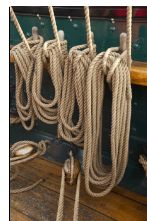
It was an eye-opener to see how hard the crew had to work to sail the ship. One crew member explained how the ropes needed to be coiled in a certain way and order — and why.

Twenty minutes into the delightful sail, Justin, a decade-long crew member, described the history of the Meerwald and the oyster industry in Bivalve, New Jersey. During the early part of the 20th century, he said, hundreds of schooners were built along South Jersey's Bayshore before the decline of the shipbuilding industry during the Great Depression. Several large photographs illustrated his talk.

We had an opportunity to go below deck and explore the innards of the ship. It is amazing how very little space is available for regular operations.

Afterwards, Captain Johann and the crew serenaded us with sea shanties. When asked what kind of shanties we would like to hear, one member of the audience requested bawdy ones!

Eventually the splendid evening came to an end and we returned to the harbor with many delightful memories and much to think about.



Jersey Journey: Shore Lore Sunset Cruise Aboard the Mariner

Join us for a sunset cruise with Shore Lore. Monmouth County's past is a treasure trove of nautical history, beginning with Henry Hudson's visit in 1609. Learn more by sailing with the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society during a relaxing three-hour sunset cruise on Sandy Hook Bay. Narrator will be Muriel Smith, award-winning co-author of the new book, *The Hidden History of Monmouth County*.

Sandwiches and salad will be served, along with a cash bar. (No outside beverages or coolers permitted.) Departure is at 4:45 pm on Classic Boat Rides' Mariner, a 41-passenger, open-air wooden boat docked at Atlantic Highlands Marina, Pier I, Slip 5. Cost: \$55. Reservations and advance payment are required. To register, email kfrantz46@gmail.com. Saturday, September 7th, rain date September 21st.



PORCH POT LUCK SUPPER

Food, fun, friends

By Lynne Petillo

The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society held its annual Porch Supper on the evening of Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Despite the sweltering weather and threatening thunderstorm, we had a record turnout of over 50 people. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of friendship and support we received from our neighbors, our town and our fellow historians.



The Porch Supper, a free potluck meal hosted by the Society and welcome to all, was conceived as a community event and as a meeting place for other local historical and preservation societies to socialize and brainstorm.

Last night's event was a true testament to that intent. Atlantic Highlands Mayor Rhonda Le Grice was an enthusiastic participant as were several members of the Town Council. Representatives of the Middletown and Matawan Historical Societies and the Long Branch Public Library and Church of the Presidents all showed their love for the Strauss Mansion, as well as their respective historic sites, as they joined in critical discussions about membership engagement, fundraising, preservation and all the challenges we share as stewards of historic buildings.

Friends and neighbors came from both down the street and several towns over to enjoy a late summer evening on the Mansion porch much as the Strauss family might have more than a century ago. Perhaps best of all, everyone brought a wonderful homemade dish or bottle of



wine to share. The variety and quality of the fare was astonishing: salads made from homegrown garden vegetables, organic fruits, meats, seafood, chili, jambalaya, pasta and potato dishes, to



name a few, plus a groaning dessert table filled with baked goods of every kind including old fashioned

icebox cake. The Board had been concerned whether there would be enough food, and there was more than enough. People enjoyed the feast so much there were not many leftovers at the end of the night!



Acting President Ken Frantz welcoming the guests

The terrific turnout also befitted the occasion of the inauguration of the newly restored porch at the Mansion, a project many years in the making, and finally made possible this year by a



large grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust. Our longtime grant writer and erstwhile Vice President Jean Howson worked tirelessly through many changeovers and supervisors at the State Historic Trust office to shepherd us over the finish line. We are so grateful for her time and expertise. We are also thankful to our architect, Margaret Westfield, for her guidance and leadership on this project, and to our contractor, Robert Frizell, who did such beautiful and meticulous work. Thanks to the careful restoration by our team of historic building experts, the porch now looks most like it would have after it was first built by Adolph Strauss in 1893.

Audra Mariel and Tom Monda provided beautiful musical entertainment which added to the joyous atmosphere. Audra, a marvelous jazz singer, is the director of our Music at the Mansion series, now in its fifth year. Tom, an equally marvelous guitarist, is part of the live band that accompanies the screening of the 1922 silent classic *Nosferatu*, which we traditionally show at the Mansion in early October. This year, *Nosferatu* will be shown on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Further details for tickets and reservations can be found on our website.



Tom Monda, Audra Mariel and Maxwell

In addition to the many October events planned at the Mansion, Audra made an exciting announcement about the upcoming music night in October which happens to fall right on Halloween night. Mike Flannery, the guest musician, will debut a rock opera of his own composition with actors in costume along with the live band! Watch our website and social media for more details on this special performance.



Back to the Porch Supper: as the evening went on, the air cooled, and we all sat and watched as the thunderstorm and the steady rain gave way to a beautiful sunset and a mild night. We had worried about the weather, but we were glad that we had that storm. It made us appreciate the porch all the more—a place to shelter and show hospitality to our community—in the past, now, and in the years to come.

Thank you to all who participated. We look forward to seeing you back again next year!

Blast From The Past - Atlantic Highlands Style

By Patty Bickauskas

Did you know that a section of Leonardo used to be part of Atlantic Highlands and was called Brevent Park Heights, or that there used to be a rather large amusement park where Harborview Drive is now? Whether you are a history buff or just want to learn a little bit more about the past of our fair town and surrounding areas, the digitized version of the Atlantic Highlands Journal is an interesting read.

Over the past several months, through the leadership of former president Lynn Flylak and a first gift courtesy of Dan Calandriello, the Historical Society has had the original Atlantic Highlands Journal digitized. These newspapers date back to the 1890's and ran all the way through to the mid 1960's. Originals of these papers have been locked away in a third floor room of the Strauss Mansion for many decades.



You can now access the digitized versions on the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society website. Just click Archives on the main page and it will bring you to a link you can

click to get to the Journal.

Also included are a large number of yearbooks from the original Atlantic Highlands High School and Henry Hudson. This is under a separate link of the Archives page.

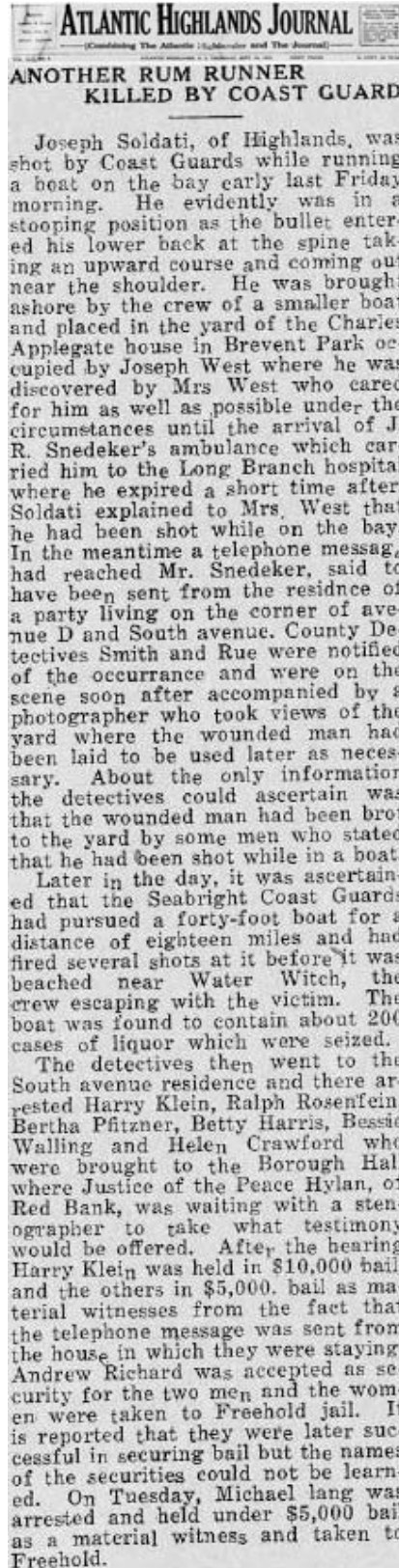
Next to this article is an actual story that was written in the September 10, 1925 edition of the Atlantic Highlands Journal, back in the bootlegging days. I believe the house they speak of in the article that is on South and Avenue D is now the St. Agnes Thrift Shop.

I am planning to bring you more stories in future newsletters by showing an article from the past.

If you would like to donate in support of this digitization project, please go to our website at www.AHhistory.org and click on donate. Thank you for your continued support.

A Gem From Our Archives

Researched by Patty Bickauskas



Atlantic Highlands PBA Local 242 Contribution



The Atlantic Highlands PBA Local 242 hosted its annual charity ball benefitting charitable organizations on Friday, May 24th at the Shore Casino.

Proceeds from this year's auction benefitted the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society at the Strauss Mansion Museum, a center for historical education and entertaining events. The restored 1893 Queen Anne-style home, located on a high point in Atlantic Highlands, anchors the town's historic district.

A check for \$11,500 was presented to the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society at the Society's August 6th meeting by representatives from PBA Local 242. The donation will support the Society's ongoing restoration of this glorious structure and community outreach programs.



Acting President Ken Frantz accepts check from (left to right) PBA Vice-president Michael Zudonyi, President Jonathan Elmer and former President Steve Doherty. Standing behind them is the AHHS Board of Trustees.

Acting President Ken Frantz, accepting the check on behalf of AHHS, thanked the PBA for its financial support and for all they do to make the town a safe place.

Earlier, Ken took the three officers on a tour of the recently restored wrap-around porch. They expressed amazement at the work and acknowledged the value of the Strauss Mansion Museum to the town's history.

Is the Strauss Mansion Haunted?

By Greg Caggiano

That is the question I pondered when my team and I finished our first paranormal investigation of the Strauss Mansion Museum in August 2013. Despite it being a quiet night with only limited experiences and this now-126-year-old building having all the features one could want in a haunted house, I was still skeptical. In my first visit a month earlier, I entered the third floor Tower Room with one of my devices and the word “tower” came up on the screen. But that could have been a coincidence, right? All I knew was that I wanted to return to see if this place was truly haunted.

By October 2013, I had become a volunteer participating in the annual Lantern Tour. In January 2014, I joined the board of directors. One of my first ideas was to expand our paranormal programming through the year, not just limiting it to October. With co-board members and friends, we founded a new group and a YouTube web series called Ghosts on the Coast. Joanne Dellosso, Roy Dellosso, Lou Fligor and I became the new committee our current acting-president Ken Frantz then nicknamed Greg’s Ghost Adventures.

As a consequence of my having experience with such events at a different museum, the first event planned that year was a public paranormal investigation fundraiser in the spring. It would be a limited event with Joanne and I giving a brief lecture on ghost hunting, Roy and Lou giving the group a history tour of the museum, followed by people exploring and investigating the building on their own or with us. The event was so popular we added two more nights, plus private group investigations for those who wanted to return with their families. Our goal was to make the Strauss Mansion accessible to all who dared investigate it.

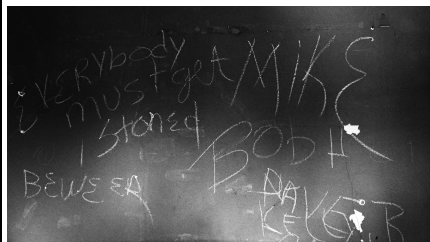
It was during this time that I discovered the answer to my initial question. After hearing countless stories of past experiences from others, I had some of my own. They started to mount, and rather alarmingly so, as that first year was abnormally active. As seasoned investigators knowing 90% of paranormal investigations yield little-to-no results, we had several events occur. There were disembodied voices, shadows moving, footsteps on the upstairs floor when we knew no one was above us, items being moved around on their own (including a piece of



furniture dragged several feet), and, perhaps most shockingly in mid-October 2014, a picture frame flying off the parlor wall in the presence of 40 people during a lecture on our evidence findings.

The spirit we communicated frequently with was Bob, who lived in a third floor apartment during the 1970s when the mansion was converted into unsanctioned low-income apartments. Bob told us a bit about himself, how he died in the apartment bathroom, and his love for Bob Dylan and rock music.

Shortly after learning this, we discovered his name and a famous lyric from one of Dylan’s songs written in graffiti on one of the apartment walls. It had previously been hidden by a stack of boxes and was unknown to us.



We conducted seances using a Victorian wine glass method (none of us are psychic), added to our arsenal of gadgets, gained more experiences during both the public and our private investigations, and collected stories to share at future events. By that fall, I had written a book about the strange goings-on at the museum (*Ghost Hunting Confidential: Investigating Strauss Mansion* is available at the Society’s gift shop with 100% of the proceeds benefitting the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society.)

The best of all experiences was still to come.

Following an intense investigation on Halloween night 2014, after one of the museum’s lantern tour events, we had our most chilling encounter.



Graphic rendering

(Available on YouTube for your viewing is a shadow captured moving around in the second floor bathroom window. It may be humorous to hear how unnerved we were.) This evidence

remains our best visual to date and, despite constant efforts to debunk and restage what happened, we have yet to garner the same results, indicating it was genuine paranormal activity.

Subsequent episodes offering explanations and insight prove this incident more bizarre than originally thought. That night was simply one for the ages between a seance at midnight and a slow build-up of other events that month, including the picture frame flying down two weeks earlier. In more than 150 videos spanning many locations, there is only one where we are visibly scared, and it was at the Strauss Mansion.

2014 was an abnormal year. (You can learn of more experiences by joining our ghost tours or public investigations offered throughout the year.) Paranormal activity has been steady in the museum, though there are periods of dormancy. I remind people that no matter how haunted a location may be, we cannot just direct the spirits to come out whenever we want. Sometimes it is when you least expect it.

Last year, when I was filming a Vlog episode in the library with Patrick Osborn, one of our co-investigators, a shadow was seen moving on the bookcase behind us. It was unknown to us at the time and was later pointed out by a viewer on YouTube. ➡➡

We continue to encounter new spirits and learn of new identities. When our newest team member, Patty Bickauskas, joined Ghosts on the Coast several years ago, she brought with her an investigative focus on EVP recordings (electronic voice phenomena) e.g. with voices captured

that are inaudible to the human ear, sound potentially caused by ghosts in order to communicate from the beyond. Our team had put this process aside in favor of using a radio communication device called the SB-7 “Spirit Box”, which scans the FM and AM bands creating high frequency synthetic noise (white noise) where spirit voices seemingly are able to form words.

Many of Patty’s excellent records from 2016 onward are available on YouTube, including a multitude of videos featuring the Strauss Mansion. Check them out to see and hear for yourself.

While our ghost hunting group is not affiliated with the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society, we work together for fundraising events. Since 2014, the group has raised more than \$25,000 to support the Society’s activities. Our team members include board members and active volunteers. We love the ghost hunting, but we love and appreciate the history more. As a historian and lecturer, I have long felt the study of the paranormal should go hand-in-hand with a study of history. If done properly, it can give a glimpse into the past.

The Strauss Mansion is open Saturday and Sunday, April through Labor Day weekend, noon-4:00 pm, then Sundays through December, 1:00-4:00 pm. The museum is closed January-March. The Society hosts a wide-range of events every month which are listed on the website www.AHhistory.org. Admission is free; a \$5 donation is suggested. Come for a visit. You never know what—or whom—you might encounter!



Greg Caggiano has served on the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society Board of Directors since 2014. He is an instructor at Brookdale Community College lecturing on various historical topics including the American Civil War, the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, witchcraft and the Inquisition, the history of liquor, Prohibition on the Jersey Shore, and New Jersey legends and folklore. He also works as a field guide for Brookdale’s Ocean Institute on Sandy Hook, focusing on local marine life, maritime history, and the history of Fort Hancock.

Victorians and Spiritualism

The 19th century is thought of as an era of secularization when the disciplines and institutions of modern science were founded and cultural authority shifted from traditional authority of religion to explanation through the scientific exposition of natural laws.

Charles Darwin held off publishing his theory of evolution by natural selection for years for fear of the religious and social disturbance it might produce. In fact, *Origin of Species* (1859) did result in a crisis of faith for many in the 1860s before his ideas became embedded in British intellectual life in the last decades of the century.

The Victorian era is a period of deep and sustained religious revival. There was an evangelical revival in the Christian church but also a host of dissenting, heterodox and millenarian cults. It was a golden age of belief in supernatural forces and energies, ghost stories, weird transmissions and spooky phenomena.

Every scientific and technological advance encouraged a magical thinking that was accompanied by a shadow discourse of the occult. Because the advances in science were so rapid, the natural and the supernatural often became blurred in popular thinking.

Spiritualism and Mediums

In the turbulent, revolutionary year of 1848, a new religious movement emerged from the melting pot of upstate New York. The young Fox sisters— Leah (1814–1890),



Margaretta also called Maggie (1833–1893) and Catherine also called Kate (1837–1892)—claimed to have come into contact with the unquiet spirit of a murdered man in their house who communicated with them by loud knocks on wood. This very local sensation (later shown to be a fraud) was the origin point for the Spiritualist movement, which elaborated a method of communicating with the dead in séances through mediums.

Mediums were often women because they were deemed to have more delicate, sensitive nervous systems than men. Men who were mediums—such as the famous D. D. Home who so enraged Robert Browning that he was the source for his poem ‘Mr. Sludge’—were often abjected and despised. Although communication with spirits was strictly forbidden in the Bible, this became a popular form of dissenting belief, a “proof” of the survival of bodily death in an era that demanded empirical testing and experiment. Some spirits would exchange banal but comforting messages with loved ones; others would elaborate extensively on the social and political institutions of the afterlife, called Summerland by some.

In 1852, the American medium Mrs. Maria B. Hayden (c.1852) came to London to conduct séances with London society; this was one of the bridgeheads for the spread of Spiritualism to England, finding particular favor in the industrial north where dissenting religion was already strong. Importantly, Spiritualism contested doctrines of eternal damnation for a much more liberal conception of the afterlife. Many men of science were also converts, partly because Spiritualism was consistently figured in terms of new magical technologies like the telegraph or telephone, as well as such prominent women as Queen Victoria and Mary Todd Lincoln.

Spiritualism in Literature

Spiritualism saturates Victorian literary culture, including the works of Arthur Conan Doyle, one of the most famous converts. Although Charles Dickens ridiculed Spiritualism (Mesmerism was much more scientific), his popular journals helped establish the Christmas ghost story. Female sensitivity to the spirit world also helped establish the supernatural tale as the reserve of women writers, including Margaret Oliphant and Edith Wharton.

The Society for Psychical Research

In 1882, a group of earnest intellectuals founded the Society for Psychical Research to investigate the claims of Mesmerism, Spiritualism and authenticate “true” ghost stories by developing an extraordinary jargon or “psychical research” that fused the latest advances in the physical and psychological sciences with hopes for proof of a supermundane world. The Society called haunted houses “phantasmogenetic centres” and theorised mediumship as the result of “telepathy” or “subliminal uprushes” from unknown psychical faculties. This group had a major influence on the late Victorian Gothic revival. Henry James’s late ghost stories are thoroughly psychical, not least because his brother, William James, was a leading light of the Society. Writers like Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Machen, and Algernon Blackwood have also been read in the context of the Society for Psychical Research.



In the 1880s London became the home of Madame Helena Patrovna Blavatsky (1831-1891), the medium for dictations from the Mahatmas (a Sanskrit term meaning “Great Soul”), who provided the basis for her Theosophical Society founded in

1875.

Those in pursuit of Hermetic secrets — the lost wisdom of the ancients — could join the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. Their top secret initiation rites were fought over by the poet and magus, William Butler Yeats and the evil genius Aleister Crowley (1875-1947), poet, provocateur and self-proclaimed Antichrist.

W. T. Stead

One of the greatest influences on the spread of supernatural theories very late in the century was the journalist W. T. Stead who edited the Pall Mall Gazette and founded the Review of



Reviews. He was an ardent believer in new communication technologies, including everything from new printing presses and telephones in the office to communicating with the dead and interviewing politicians telepathically. Between 1893 and 1897 he published *Borderland*, perhaps the most eccentric journal of the century, in which news about ghosts, spirit séances, astrological predictions, psychical research findings, book reviews on anything occult, and news of breakthroughs in physics and chemistry were mixed together in a potent cocktail of weirdness. For a man obsessed with new technology, it was inevitable he wanted to travel on the Titanic in 1912. Equally, it was inevitable the Spiritualists claimed that the first news of the catastrophe that night was beamed across the ocean by the spirit of Stead, who had passed over but still wanted to be first to deliver the great story.

Sources: British Library, adapted from an article by Roger Luckhurst; other materials.

Phase Two Restoration

With the completion of the first floor porch restoration, Phase Two has begun: the restoration of the second floor porch.



The same meticulous attention to detail and historical accuracy will be followed as for the first floor porch.

In the future, visitors will be able to enjoy the fabulous view of the countryside and Atlantic Highlands that was available to the Strauss family and friends.

Victorian Coffin at the Strauss Mansion



To the left is a contemporary photograph of a deceased person in a Victorian coffin.

Below is a photograph of the coffin found in the basement of the Strauss Mansion when it was acquired by the Historical Society in 1980.



A coffin was used for viewing or keeping a corpse either for burial or cremation.

Until the 20th century, funerals were organized by family and neighbors and held at home with the viewing in the parlor. People were often buried on family property. As communities became larger and more established, common cemeteries began to be used. Funeral homes were later established to relieve the family of the logistical problems presented by a death.

It is not known if this coffin had ever been used or why it was stored in the basement.

A coffin or a casket? The difference is basically one of design. Coffins are tapered at the head and foot and are wide at the shoulders. Caskets are rectangular in shape and are usually constructed of better quality timbers and feature higher standards of workmanship.

MUSIC AT THE MANSION



The last Thursday of every month at 7:15 pm, the Strauss Mansion parlor becomes a cozy, intimate cabaret setting for a live musical



performance. Hosted by Audra Mariel who has been acclaimed for her unique sound and sincere interpretation of timeless standards, Audra can often be coaxed to join the musicians for a number or two.

Relax, enjoy the music, and mingle with the performers during intermission.

Admission is \$15 plus food/beverage to share.



September 26 - Daimon Santmaria presenting Sounds of India.



October 31 - Mike Flannery premiering his original ghost-inspired composition. Costumes are encouraged.

Socializing on the Porch

An inherently ritualistic people, Victorians reveled in seasonally-inspired customs and traditions. While entertaining al fresco was more relaxed than at a formal event, it was still strictly governed by rules of etiquette and propriety, including proper attire.

Household management manuals and etiquette guides of the day offered detailed instructions. Authors and artists — including Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope, Jane Austen, Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Paul Cézanne, as well as Queen



Victoria — found pleasure in introducing this form of social event.

Undoubtedly on a sultry summer's evening, the Strauss family and their friends would have gravitated to the expansive porches to engage in their favorite form of entertainment: gossip.



Historic Building Gets A New Life



Last year, the landmark Red Store on the corner of Navesink and Monmouth Avenues closed after

59 years in operation. The building had housed general stores since 1885 and was once the location of a post office. For several generations of customers, the store provided stability and a sense of neighborliness.

Owner Pat Verange said health problems resulting from a lifetime on his feet working long hours caught up with him. He wanted to make it to 60 years, but couldn't do another year.

A buyer emerged who pledged to stay true to the store's history. Mike Metzner, for many years executive chef of Restaurant Nicholas in Middletown, said it was going to remain a neighborhood place with a loyalty to the past where regulars are warmly greeted.



Youth Opportunities

The By-Laws of the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society provide for Student Membership in the organization. The annual dues for a Student Membership is \$10. Students may enroll online at AHhistory.org. The By-Laws also provide for the position of Junior Board member. This individual, elected for a one-year, non-voting term, functions as a liaison with the member's school and the junior members/volunteers at the Society.

How You Can Help

There are three ways you can help the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society in its mission.

- 1 With an annual membership
- 2 With a financial donations
- 3 By volunteering

For additional information please go to our website [www. WHhistory.org](http://www.WHhistory.org).

Lenape Ax Head Found At Sandy Hook By Greg Caggiano



Late in July of this year I was co-leading a group of youngsters in a wilderness survival camp organized

through Brookdale Community College. We had ventured to the northernmost tip of Sandy Hook where it juts out into Lower New York Bay on the west and the Atlantic Ocean on the east. Taking a break from the strenuous hiking activities, several of the campers were sitting in the sand throwing rocks into the water, including one boy, Thomas. I don't know why it caught my eye, but I yelled to him "Hold it!" I carefully scrutinized the rock he was about to toss into the water.

It is most likely an ax head or similar tool, fashioned by the Lenni Lenape Indians who were present in this area for 10,000 years. The shape is correct as are the notches.

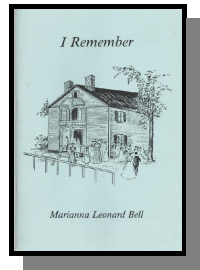
Thomas and the other campers were thrilled by the discovery. Thomas generously gave me the ax head to display in the Lenape Room at the Strauss Mansion Museum for all to appreciate his find.

The name Lenni Lenape comes from their autonym, Lenni, which may mean "genuine, pure, real, original", and Lenape, meaning "Indian" or "man". The first recorded European contact with people presumed to have been the Lenape was in 1524. The explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano was greeted by local Lenape who came by canoe after his ship entered what is now called Lower New York Bay.



I Remember...A Reminiscence

I Remember is a fascinating first-hand account by Marianna Leonard Bell (1881-1975) of growing up in Atlantic Highlands during the late 19th Century. In a series of articles written at age 84 and published in the Atlantic Highlands Journal in November 1956 — February 1961, she reminisces about her childhood as the youngest daughter of Thomas Henry Leonard, the man who laid out the grid of the town and was its first mayor. Through Marianna's youthful eyes we experience life as it was along the Jersey shore during those bucolic days.



Excerpts from I Remember

DOWN TO THE BAY TO BATHE — It was the big event of the day after all the farm chores were done for the whole family to go down to the bay and bathe. The women folks wore calico “Mother Hubbard” dresses for bathing suits and my father wore breeches cut off at the knee with a shirt, red.....

THE MAYOR TAKES A SLIDE DOWNHILL — The tobogganing on Mount Avenue was especially fine. One could go all the way to the station. Several of the young men had built long bobsleds which had two sets of runners and a place for feet. This particular night a group of both young and so-called old were gathered at the summit to participate. Someone dared my father to go down.....

THE BARN BURNS — We were just drifting off to sleep when we heard a loud banging on the front door. We opened our eyes to find the whole room lighted up from a fire nearby. We soon found that it was our barn blaze. The wind was strong and huge sparks were blowing toward the house. One of them landed on our roof. We made a chain to the pump, handing pails of water up to the second story. Someone had to get out of the second story window to hand the pails. I volunteered. All I had on was a nightgown and a pair of high buttoned shoes, not buttoned.....

WINTER RUN — We often went to Red Bank to shop. In winter my father would hitch up the team to the big sleigh. With buffalo robes and hot bricks, we six would pile in and be off to the merry jingle of the bells. Instead of going by way of the road one day, my father drove out on the Shrewsbury River which was frozen sufficiently deep to hold a team; that was a lark. Returning the same way, the tide had turned. We had reached about half way home when we saw a wide crack in the ice across the river. There was only one thing to do. The sudden touch of the whip made the team give a lunge.....

TWO STORMS MEET AND CAUSE MUCH DAMAGE — It was truly a cyclone which struck that hot, oppressive day, July 24, 1883 at 3:45 pm, when two storms met with terrific impact over the bay. A whirlpool was formed, the water apparently rising to a height of 100 feet. Suddenly roofs, signs, chimneys and everything exposed was carried hundreds of feet in the air and driven south-eastward. The rain fell in torrents, doors blew open, windows demolished. The telegraph operator was carried 50 feet up Bay View Avenue and blown behind Lockwood House. A printer left a building when the storm set in, but went back for his watch. Just as he reached the sidewalk.....

Limited copies of the numbered 1987 Centennial Edition booklet, normally available at the Strauss Mansion Museum Gift Shop for \$6, are available at a 50% savings for \$3 when you mention seeing this article in our newsletter. A wonderful gift for that special someone who loves history and the New Jersey seacoast.

Be sure to stop in our Gift Shop for unusual gift items for your family, friends...or yourself. Your purchases support the programs of the Strauss Mansion.



The Game of the Century...the 19th Century, that is

By Greg "Scoop" Caggiano

Ed. Note: This Vintage Base Ball Game was played according to the rules in the late 19th century when the game was created. Before this game, the umpire explained to the spectators the differences that exist.



On a muggy August Saturday afternoon, the home team Monmouth Furnace fell to the visitig team Hoboken 9 by a score of 19-7 in a full nine inning base all game at Fireman's Field in Atlantic Highlands

The high-scoring affair was witnessed by a lively crowd who never had a shortage of entertaining plays at their disposal. Under the sometimes sweltering sun, the Furnace looked to be "cooler" in their white uniforms, adorned with a black cravat. The Hoboken 9, meanwhile, were dashing in their black pants and white shirts with a blazing-red "H" pinned to their chests. Hoboken jumped ahead early with three "tallies" (runs) in the top of the first inning and never looked back. While the Furnace countered with two in the bottom half of the inning and fought hard all game, they were not able to overcome their adversaries, who were a bit more fleet of foot. Hoboken's lead of 6-5 after two was the closest that the Furnace would come to tying the game.

Both teams exhibited exceptional gentlemanly conduct towards one another. There was plenty of joking, chatter, and complimenting that carried on throughout the innings.

The umpire, in full coat and tails and top hat, called the game from beside the plate. With most balls being put in play, there were not many "warnings" issued, which was the lingo for "balls and strikes" at the time. The Furnace rallied for two tallies in the sixth inning to cut Hoboken's lead to only four. However the frame ended with a sparkling double-play turned by the boys of the "9". They then tacked on eight more tallies over the next three innings to close out the contest. The teams then shook hands and posed for photographs. Each captain also addressed and congratulated each other, including Monmouth's captain Russ McIver noting that Hoboken was the first opponent they ever faced many years ago and still had not beaten them. Monmouth did, however, win last year's Atlantic Highlands match 10-6 over the Elizabeth Resolutes.

Atlantic Highlands Historical Society Board member and organizer of this event Alice Kupper threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Charlie Clark provided musical accompaniment and Michael O'Keefe served as the emcee, keeping the crowd entertained and informed of the score. Pre-game children's activities for prizes, overseen by Board members Patty Bickauskas and Greg Caggiano, included a sack race, water balloon toss, and corn hole. A basket raffle assembled by Society member Carmen Craner was also held benefitting the Society, with winners announced following the completion of the ninth inning.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
MONMOUTH FURNACE	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	19
HOBOKEN 9	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



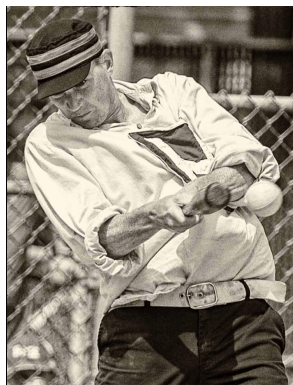
The teams standing at attention during the playing of *America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)*. Written by Samuel Francis Smith in 1831, it was the *de facto* national anthem of the United States before the adoption of *The Star-Spangled Banner* as the official national anthem in 1931.



Additional photographs on next page. Thanks to Rick Davis of StillRick Photos for sharing his photographs.



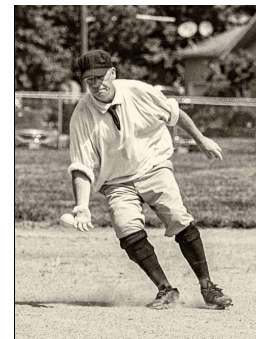
Monmouth Furnace Bay Boy



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And the pitch...



End of game gentlemanly handshake

Back in 1883...

...the Strauss family would have been reading about these events:



September - William "Buffalo Bill" Cody creates Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in North Platte, Nebraska.

September 5 - Mary F. Hoyt first woman appointed to the U.S. federal civil service as a clerk in the Treasury Department's Bank Redemption Agency.

September 8 - New York Giants Base Ball team scores 13 runs in an inning against Phillies.

September 8 - The Northern Pacific Railway is completed at Gold Creek, Montana; former president Ulysses S. Grant drives final "golden spike" in an event attended by rail and political luminaries.

September 9 - First Lady Frances Cleveland gives birth in the White House to daughter Esther Cleveland.

September 11 - James Cutler patents postal mail chute.

September 13 - Hugh Daily, a one-armed pitcher for Cleveland (Forest City) Base Ball team, tosses a I-0 no-hitter against Philadelphia team.

September 15 - The University of Texas at Austin opens.

September 21 - Charles and Frank Duryea drive the first gasoline-powered motorcar in America on public roads in Springfield, Massachusetts.

September 21 - First direct U.S.-Brazil telegraph connection.

September 24 - National black convention meets in Louisville, Kentucky.

September 29 - A flour mill operators consortium forms the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad as a means to get their product to Great Lakes ports avoiding the high tariffs of Chicago.

October 4 - The Orient Express departs on its first official journey from Paris to Constantinople.

October 4 - First meeting of the Boys' Brigade in Glasgow, Scotland, the largest Christian uniformed youth organization in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

October 15 - The U. S. Supreme Court declares part of the Civil Rights Act of 1875 to be unconstitutional since the Court allows private individuals and corporations to discriminate based on race.

October 20 - Max Bruch's Kol Nidre first performed.

October 20 - In the Treaty of Ancon,

Peru cedes Tarapaca Region to Chile.

October 22 - Metropolitan Opera House opens with a gala performance of Charles Gounod's Faust.

October 26 - Edison & Swan United Electric Light Company established in Britain.

October 30 - Austria-Hungary, Germany and Romania sign military treaty.

Walking Lantern Tour



The Fort Hancock Walking Lantern Tour, a first-time cooperative effort with the U. S. National Gateway Park Service at Sandy Hook,

was organized by Jersey Journeys coordinator Victor Zak and enthusiastically supported by the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society. Because of the confined space in some of the restricted areas on the tour, the National Gateway Park Service is allowing only 25 people to participate.

While the Board had no past experience on which to base an anticipated response, it believed this event would be well received by the public.

AHHS was immediately inundated with reservations and the event sold out within a week. Understandably many people were disappointed and have been asking for more tours. We would love to accommodate them but, for a variety of reasons, it is not possible this year.

Hopefully the enthusiastic response will encourage the Park Service to organize more tours next year.



NOTE: There have been a number of scammers and scalpers preying on our Facebook page as well as people hawking the tickets they purchased. No admission will be accepted unless it came directly from our website and the names of people in the party are on our master list.



FABULOUS!!!

FABULOUS!!!

FABULOUS!!! Electronically published Chronicle of the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society for July-August 2019. The extensive content, design, layout and accessibility is wonderful to read, print, share with others...and, of course, so informative.

Thanks to all of you for the time, effort and thoughtfulness that went into preparing this. Very much appreciated!!!! Warmest regards to you all.

Norma Turin, Atlantic Highlands



Letters to the Editor may be sent to AhhistoricalINFO@gmail.com.

PORTLAND POYNTS

Electronically published bi-monthly March-November by the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society, 27 Prospect Circle, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716.

Portland Poynts is the original name of the area that became Atlantic Highlands.

Incorporated in 1974, the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society at the Strauss Mansion Museum is a volunteer-run 501(c)3 tax exempt organization committed to promoting interest in the past and present heritage and history of Atlantic Highlands through a variety of services and programs to the community at large. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Strauss Mansion Museum is open to the public Saturday-Sunday, 12:00 - 4:00 pm, April-Labor Day weekend, Sundays, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, September-December. Free admission, \$5 suggested donation; self-guided tour.

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