



# History in the Making

Winter 2023

GREATE EGG HARBOUR TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

*Dedicated to the discovery, collection, and preservation of any material and stories which may help to document or illustrate the history and progress of Egg Harbor Township.*

## The Jersey Devil Portrayed in a Positive Way by Sue Heinz

The Greate Egg Harbour Historical Society & Museum is honored to receive and display an amazing painting by the late Sue Heinz's family.

October 16, 2022. On a beautiful day, the Great Egg Harbour Township Historical Society & Museum (GEHTHS) was pleased to unveil a special gift to the Museum during its Fall Open House. John Heinz III and Chris Heinz donated a painting by their late mother Sue Heinz. Ms. Heinz was an amazing and talented artist who painted for the sake of art and not to sell her works. As an early member of the Historic Society, she designed and created the GEHTHS's logo. She was the wife of former EHT Mayor John Heinz. During the dedication of the painting, their son, John III, shared interesting memories about his mother. Others in attendance shared heartwarming

stories about the contributions the Heinz family made to the EHT community.

The Museum's Historian, Lynn Wood, led tours of the Museum's newest display room called "Villages of the Township." Other Museum volunteers conducted tours of the community garden and the library.

A special thank you to Leo Schoffer who sponsored the event and provided a special lunch on the Museum's porch.



Chris Heinz, Abby, and her father John Heinz III pose in front of Sue Heinz's painting at the Museum. The painting is a tribute to Sue's Granddaughter and titled "Jersey Devil Enjoying Tea With Abby".



EHT Deputy Mayor Laura Pfrommer and Mayor Paul Hodson tour the new Villages display room highlighting: Bargaintown, Cardiff, English Creek, Farmington, McKee City, Scullville, Steelmanville, and West Atlantic City

## Guest Speaker Events

### Is Your Last Name Scull?

GEHTHS's fall presentation became a mini family reunion for those related to the Scull family from the Egg Harbor Township area.

November 5, 2022. Roger Scull was joined by his granddaughter Maria Johnson and daughters Andrea Scull and Hilary Zebrowski for an informative presentation on the "History of the Scull Family." They traced the journey of their ancestors through Europe to settling in South Jersey. The land where they lived is still known as the Scullville section of EHT.



Far Left: Members of the Scull Family research their genealogy at the GEHTHS's library. Left: Social media posts during and after the Scull family presentation on the GEHTHS Facebook page.



Do you have a copy of the 2020 EHT High School Yearbook that you would like to donate to the GEHTHS Museum?

We have an extensive collection of EHT Yearbooks - Stop by and check them out!

# Behind the Scenes at the Museum

## Have You Ever Wondered about the Numbers Next to an Artifact or Art Work in a Museum? It's Been Accessioned!

The accession process starts with assigning a number that describes and tracks a historical item or document. Using a professional software system, volunteers Lisa Press, Janice Cambron, and Carol Jo Martin can take 15 minutes or 2 hours to document each donated item. Accessioned information includes date, condition, people, subject, size - just to name a few fields. Historian Lynn Wood contributes information for additional notes. For example with a recent

acquisition from a milk carrier from 1945, the accessioning team found that the demise of the milkman stemmed from the rise of refrigeration and groceries stores. The team tries to acquire as much information as possible from the donor. It not only saves time but gives a more interesting story. If you have any Egg Harbor Township historical objects, books or documents consider contributing to the GEHTHS museum collections.

## Learning from Oral History

### Meet Charlie Sear- Still an Active Member of the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Department at 82 Years Young

Submitted by Lynn Wood who interviewed Charlie for this article.

Charlie Sear was born April 30, 1940 in the Cardiff section of the township and attended several of the local small outlying schools. Since Pleasantville High School was full, he attended Atlantic City High and a Vo Tech School in his junior and senior years majoring in Automotive. He graduated from both in 1958. He then volunteered into the US Army and became an MP (Military Police) at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, and worked in their Motor Pool due to his automotive skills.

He remembers when much of the roads in the township were unpaved, and recalls walking with his mother to catch the train at the Cardiff train station by Spruce Ave. to visit his father who worked in Atlantic City. The platform by the train station can still be seen today along the bike path. Charlie remembered enjoying movies in Pleasantville: the Rialto and Carlton Theaters.



Charlie holding the picture of his 1958 VoTech Automotive classmates... George Brennan, Lew Betterton, Frank Klimecke, John Bolton, Mr. John Daley, John "Denny" Gill, Charlie Sear, Jack McAvaddy, Murray Margolis and Sol Kiewe (See the photo at GEHTHS Museum in the Cardiff notebook.)

Charlie met his wife Jane in 1961 while boating on Lake Lenape. They will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in May of this year. Their children are Karen, 58, Steven 57, Sophie 30, Michael 29 & Justus, 25.

Charlie tends a large garden in his back yard, sharing vegetables with family and friends. He joined the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company in 1968 and is still an active member. He recalled a bad fire behind the Shore Mall in 1986 that burned several wooded acres, watched it jump the Parkway, and burn all the way to the Cranberry Bogs on Spruce Ave. He remembered frightening moments while fighting this huge fire. In 1965, Charlie helped run the Phillips 66 Service Station at the Cardiff Circle and later started working at Bennett Chevrolet in 1994 and continues to do so.

When I asked him his words of advice for today's young generation his reply was "Get to Church".

**Everyone Has a Story and We Would Like to Hear Yours!** We take both oral and written stories. We also love photographs with captions. **Stop by the museum on Sundays from 10am-12 noon (NEW HOURS) or contact us: 609-813-2002 • GEHTSMuseum@ aol.com.**



Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs within the Department of State, through funds administered by the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

## Thank You to Our 2022 Members!

### Life Membership

Chris Barbo • Jerry Bell  
Elizabeth Naylor • David Speer

### Provider Membership

Dr Richard & Mary Lou Monihan  
Pam & Tony Tyson

### Associate Membership

Roger & Judith Scull  
Mark Steelman

### Family Membership

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Leah & John Drobek  
Jade & Dan Egelhoff  
Marguerite Heaton-Colella  
Karen Jennings & Kevin  
Cunningham  
Zak & Melissa Landgraf  
Ralph Larned  
Charles & Jean Lawless  
Dan and Betty Lawless  
William & Stephanie Loder  
Mary Sue Lovett  
William & Carol Jo Martin  
John Morrill  
Mike, Mindy, Mya, & Mikki  
Pomatto  
Scott & Patricia Warner  
David, Kylene, Skyler, &  
Kayden Wood

### Individual Membership

Lisa Bonfiglio  
Mary Anne (Nickels) Cabage  
Lori Cacas • Charlene Canale  
Lou Della Barca • Joanne Fricano  
Kathy Fritz • Tom Giegerich  
Carol-Anne Heinisch  
Eileen Kusnirik  
Adrienne (Dee) Landgraf  
Michael Price • Gene Puggi  
Mary Ann Robson  
Jane Scarano • Nicholas Seppy  
Amanda Short • Suzanne Smith  
Douglas Stroz • Barbara Swenson  
MaryEllen Weathers  
Lynn Wood • John Yates

### Sponsors

**Jerry Bell • pjm**  
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**Tracey Miller & Associates**

**Tamara & John Lamb**

**Lisa & Gary Press**

**Peter Miller**

Boy Scout Troup 94,

EHT Administration & Public Works

# Keeping History Alive

## Documentary on the History of EHT Schools Premiere

The Community Partnership of Egg Harbor Township partnered with GEHTHS to create a #EHTPRIDE documentary.



June 9, 2022. A documentary premiere of “#EHTPride: a History of Egg Harbor Township School District” was held at the EHT High School featuring how the small outlying school houses changed and new larger schools replaced them. Oral histories were shared as told by former students, local historians, and past and present school district leaders. GEHTHS thanks Dr. Leanna

D. Mullen, Director, Ellen Gregory, Producer, and Dan Jacoby, President of the Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools. A grant from the NJ Council for the Humanities “Community History” helped sponsor the program.

To view the documentary, visit: [www.communitypartnershipeht.org](http://www.communitypartnershipeht.org)



Far Left: Lisa Press and Lynn Wood shared old EHT class photos and promoted the Covid-19 book including stories from EHT students. Left: Lynn Wood created a live Q&A contest based on Egg Harbor Township’ history. Barbara Szilagyi, School Board President, won the challenge.

## What was the Pandemic and Quarantine Like in EHT?

Visit the GEHTHS Museum to learn how 120 students and your neighbors survived and what was accomplished during 2022 & 2021.

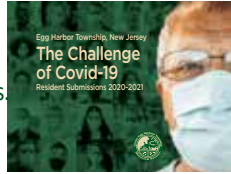
Over a two year period, stories and photos were collected and then printed in two “scrapbook” style books. The books are available for members of the EHT community at the Museum.

Did your child have Kelly Hunt, Kim Petit or Kylee Wood as a teacher in Spring 2020?

Your child’s story could be in this book.



This book is from residents of all ages and features national reactions.



Katie found her submission in the student book.

## Museum & Grounds



Great job Andrew Alexis ! Your project for your Eagle Scout badge is completed at the EHT Community Teaching Garden! The new gate looks GREAT and should help to keep critters out!

## In the Community



Members of the GEHTHS board attended the launch of the “Holocaust Survivors of South Jersey Digital Archive and Website” event at Stockton University. In addition to a visual presentation of the new website, Holocaust survivors and their families share their stories.

# Recognizing Outstanding Volunteer/Member



Dan Lawless shares his passion for history with his family. Shown with him as he is honored by the GEHTHS is his son Dan, wife Betty and son, Dave. Congratulations Dan and thank you!

## Dan Lawless is Presented with the June Sheridan GEHTHS Reward

Annual GEHTHS Dinner featured guest speaker Nor’Easter Nick

May 12, 2022. Dan Lawless was recognized as one of our most outstanding volunteers. He established Heritage Day in 2010 for EHT’s 300th Anniversary celebration. He then brought military history alive during the Museum’s annual “Call of Duty” for nine years featuring reenactors, displays, and guest speakers from all eras of American military history.

► Nor’Easter Nick Pitman shared his life long passion for meteorology and broadcasting. He shared his challenges of growing up, the mentors who helped him, and his present social media success. In addition to working toward accuracy, he believes in sharing lots of humor.



Nor’Easter Nick



## GEHTHS Mission

The mission of the society is to collect and preserve historical materials exemplifying the events, places and lifestyles of the people of Egg Harbor Township, to encourage the study of history and genealogy, and to provide historical and genealogical information to our membership and the general public.

## Board of Trustees

Tamara Lamb, *Chairperson*  
Pamela Tyson, *Vice Chairperson*  
Adrienne (Dee) Landgraf, *Secretary, Parliamentarian*  
Janice Cambron, *Treasurer*  
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Lou Della Barca, *Director*  
Leah Drobek, *Director*  
Carol Jo Martin, *Director*  
Lisa Press, *Director*  
June Sheridan, *Chairperson Emeritus*



GEHTHS Museum  
and Research Library  
6647 West Jersey Ave.  
Egg Harbor Twp,  
NJ 08234

609-813-2002

GEHTHSMuseum@aol.com

**NOTE NEW HOURS**

**Visit us: Sundays: 10am-Noon  
or by appointment**

GEHTHSMuseum.org

facebook.com/GEHTHSMuseumLibrary

GEHTHS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
Donations are tax deductible to the limit of  
the law. Tax ID # 22-2313429

# History Notes - Then & Now

## Christmas Eve Fire – Part of Asbury United Methodist Church of English Creek’s History

Religion had a large influence on the beginnings of English Creek. The first preaching in this area in the late 1700s was in the homes of Joseph English (spelled English at this time) and David Blackman. In the early 1800s a small “English Creek Meeting House” was built. This was located behind the present day Asbury Church. In 1852, the larger church was built, but it was destroyed by fire on Christmas Eve 1860. It may have been caused by a lighted candle left behind, since there was no electricity yet and worshipers brought their own lanterns and candles with them and placed them on a beam. After the fire, a new church was built on the same foundation and re-dedicated in 1863.

This is why there are two corner stones on the church, one reading 1852 and the other reading 1863. A large hall and kitchen addition was added in 1976.



The earlier of the two cornerstones that can still be seen on the property today.

