



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.



RevolutionNJ is officially starting to promote events and programs related to the founding of America 250 years ago.

The GEHTHS is an official partner of RevolutionNJ and was honored to be included in the DAR's unveiling of the above plaque at the historic Zion's Free Cemetery.

To learn more about our upcoming events:

Send us your email at info@GEHTHSmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook.

History in the Making

GREATE EGG HARBOUR TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Spring 2025

MK Betterment "Wall of History" Unveiling!

Over 50 people joined this GEHTHS event marking the historical impact of two Egg Harbor Township African American's whose visions helped to create and improve McKee City.

Saturday, February 22, 2025 - EHTNJ After over a year of research, working with an advisory board, collecting memorabilia, and submitting designs, the GEHTHS is proud to share a "Wall of History" as a tribute to Col. John McKee, who founded a planned community where African Americans from the south could settle after the Civil War, calling it McKee City. And, honoring Atlas Lane



whose vision motivated his neighbors to create a Betterment Association in the 1960's to improve the lives of those living in the McKee City area. In May of 2023, the newly renovated original building was dedicated as a place for the community to come together again and promote the history that makes this building and surrounding recreational facilities so important.

More pictures on page 3.

Barry Lane, son of Atlas and Elva Lane, thanked all involved with keeping his father's memory alive by creating this wall of history. He expressed how much his father would have appreciated this tribute. In December 1991, Governor Jim Florio congratulated Atlas Lane for the road named after him – Atlas Lane Road.



Guest Speaker Events



Friends of Lenape Everywhere

By RuthAnn Purchase James, a sociologist turned linguist of Lenape-Welsh descent

Monday, October 21, 2024-Egg Harbor Township RuthAnn Purchase returned to her ancestral homeland to share her studies and commitment to the Lenape nation during a GEHTHS program. According to Purchase "The ancient footprint of the Lenape language—originally written in hieroglyphics—is the original footprint of the Delaware River basin." She touched on the critical role that the Lenape played in our country's founding. Chief Tamanend, of the Lenni
Continued on page 2.

Memories of Uncle Dick's

by Family Member Carol Jo Martin

Monday, November 25, 2024-Egg Harbor Township Carol Jo Martin, daughter of "Uncle Dick" (Richard) and Evelyn Collins, shared very special and often funny memories of what it was like to grow up with her hardworking and creative parents. Those who attended this program were comprised of family, employees, as well as residents who fondly remember working or shopping at Uncle Dick's Market. The original store's name was Pioneer Market and moved to several different locations before settling on Central Avenue as "Uncle Dick's."

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The rocking chair shown in this picture had been stolen and then mysteriously wound up on the roof.

Sharing Local History in the Community

Friends of Lenape

Continued from front page

Lenape nation, was instrumental in establishing peaceful relations between William Penn and the Native Americans in the Delaware Valley. Moving forward, she spoke about the efforts to support Lenape cultural restoration through different programs including Mural Arts Philadelphia. Her vision is that one day visitors arriving at the Philadelphia International Airport will have “their senses” filled with Lenape culture.



Uncle Dick's

Continued from front page

Collins recalled many of the crazy and creative promotional events to attract business. “There would be an ad in the paper on Thursday announcing Friday’s promotional theme, often related to a vendor who would sponsor giveaways. Employees wore costumes related to the theme. One woman even dressed in tin foil for the day which was pretty risqué in 1957.” For Mother’s Day, Collins would give out free tickets to the drive in movie. As a child in 1955, Carol Jo was paid 25¢ to pick up litter in the parking lot. Carol Jo ended with “It was a great way to grow with a lot of fun.”



Learning from Oral History

Gertrude Ann Long Today, at age 95, Gert attends St. Katharine Drexel Church and enjoys watching the Phillies and Eagles on TV.

Submitted by Lynn Wood who interviewed her October 13, 2024.



Gertrude Ann Long, of Irish descent, was born October 5, 1929 – the youngest of nine children raised by her mother, Mary Carberry Shields. (Her father passed at an early age.)

One of her first jobs was in a coffee shop at beautiful Traymore Hotel. As a

hostess in the Brighton Room at the Sands in the early 80s, she got a kiss and \$100.00 tip from Frank Sinatra! Gert remembers dining at Ben’s, the Drums, the Log, and Wetzel’s Luncheonette on the Black Horse Pike, where her best friend Lois ran the shop.

As a child she happily recalled trips with packed lunches to the Steel Pier where she watched one of the Hackney twins on a diving horse.

To get a curl in her red hair, she would wrap her locks up with socks at night, and cover them with a bandana.

In 1952, at age 22, Gert married Vern Long at St. Nicholas’ Church on Pacific Ave. They moved to a home on Elmwood Avenue in the McKee City section of the township, where she still resides with her granddaughter Brittani Mazzone. Gertrude remembers the area being mostly wooded with dirt streets and having to walk all the way to the pike to get their mail. They shopped at the local stores

in the area... Couchoud’s and Galletta’s Market.

Gert and Vern had two boys, Barry and Bruce, and 10 years later daughter, Patricia. The children attended the little McKee City School which taught students from Kindergarten to 8th grade! Her sister-in-law, Blanch Lashley and a Mrs. Taylor taught there.

The several acres of land where their McKee City house is located, was purchased from Colonel John McKee by her husband’s grandfather, Albert Long Sr.!

For entertainment, her family went to the Atlantic Drive-In with a mattress in the back of the station wagon so the boys could sleep, and roller skating at the Dorset Ave rink. In the summertime, her boys loved walking across the pike (no busy traffic in the early 60’s) to Adventure Village to spend the day. She recalls their joy coming home with a tin deputy badge after being sworn in by the mayor of the Village for capturing Slippery Sam! She also remembers everyone riding their bikes to Bargaintown Pond to swim in the summer and skate in the winter! Another favorite spot to visit was Storybook Land. Her handicapped granddaughter, Pam Long, enjoyed going there so often that when she passed away, the Fricano family (the owners), created a special bench in the park dedicated to her.

Asked what her “words of wisdom” are for today’s youth, she replied... “Be true to yourself”.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

2025 Members – Thank You!

Life Memberships

Chris Barbo
Jerry Bell
Elizabeth Naylor
David Speer

Family Memberships

Don & Lois Baird
Marguerite & Samuel Colella
Leah & John Drobek
Zak & Melissa Landgraf
Charles & Jean Lawless
Dan & Betty Lawless
William & Stephanie Loder
Carol-Jo & William Martin
Lee & Rob Portnoy

Individual Memberships

Gina Benvenuto
Janice Cale
Charlene Canale
Joseph M. Hiers Jr.
Dee Landgraf
Lauree McArdle
Michael Price
Mark Steelman

2024 Members - Time to Renew

Family Memberships

Ken Blankenbueler
Rick & Gina Lang
Richard & MaryLou Monihan
Scott & Patricia Warner

Individual Memberships

Lori Casas
Suzanne Cooper
Lou Dellabarca
Thomas F Dougherty
JoAnne Fricano
Kathleen Fritz
Ashley Gonsalves
Art Handson
Sandy Large
Anna J. Meade
Tina Pierce
Dot Smith
Lori Ward
Lynn Wood

Welcoming the Public to Our Museum

MK Betterment “Wall of History” Unveiling!

Continued from front page



Jake Glassey recalls how much he enjoyed working with a great guy... Mr. Atlas Lane, during the building of the Betterment Association in the early 1960’s.



Thank you to Cygnus Creative Arts for donating the illustration of Colonel John McKee by Steve Gibson.



EHT Mayor Laura Pfrommer, along with members of the township committee welcomed the crowd of over 50 to “Wall of History” unveiling.



County Commissioner Andrew Parker focused on keeping the Betterment Association an active area for the public.



Honoring Atlas & Elva Lane

Mrs. Claus Welcomes Local Residents to the GEHTHS Holiday Open House

GEHTHS Volunteers welcomed new and returning visitors to celebrate the holidays and show off the museum.

Sunday, December 9, 2024, Egg Harbor Twp. Mrs. Claus filled the GEHTHS Museum’s Holiday Open House with joy and attendees as she waved to cars passing by the GEHTHS museum during our annual holiday open house on Sunday December 8th. Passing drivers returned her enthusiasm by honking their car horns. Families who lived near the museum stopped by for holiday treats and the children received gifts from Mrs. Claus. Residents interested in history joined us, including Mrs. Eileen Hannigan, director of History for Egg Harbor Township Schools K-12.

Mrs. Claus and her Elves - The GEHTHS Volunteers- Front Row: Lynn Wood (Historian), Dee Landgraf (Parliamentarian), Janice Cambron, Mrs. Claus (Treasurer) Pamela Tyson (Vice Chair), Lee Portnoy (Secretary)

Back Row: Carol Jo Martin (Librarian), Lisa Press (Curator), Tamara Lamb (Chair), and Lou Dellabarca (Director)



Mrs. Claus & Ray Ellis Jr., EHT Deputy Mayor.

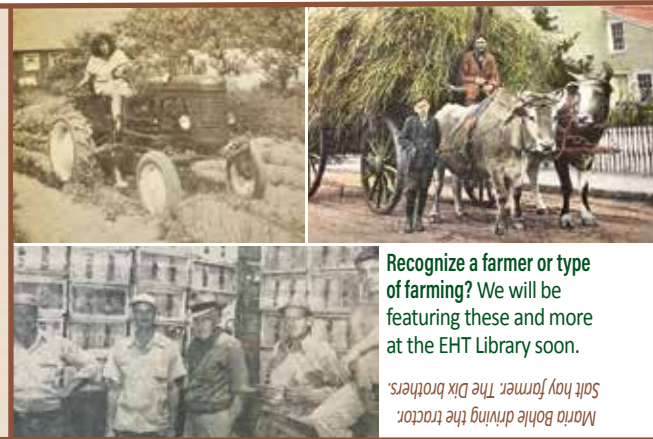


Children received gifts from Mrs. Claus and made ornaments.



Shore Mall Display Brings Back Memories

When Laura Zappi was 9 years old, her Pomona, NJ girl scout troop, under the leadership of her mother Judy Zappi, wrote letters to be placed in the Steinbach time capsule. The time capsule was dedicated at the Shore Mall on March 20, 1974. The GEHTHS acquired the contents of the time capsule in February of 2013. Unfortunately the letters did not survive, but Laura enjoyed memories looking at other items that are displayed in our cases and news articles about the mall.



Recognize a farmer or type of farming? We will be featuring these and more at the EHT Library soon.

Salt hay farmer, The Dix brothers. Maria Bohle driving the tractor.

Thank you to our Generous Supporters who support our mission to preserve historic materials, events, places and lifestyles related to Egg Harbor Township for prosperity. **Please join us as a sponsor or with a donation.**

Mail: GEHTHS • 6647 West Jersey Ave. Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234 • **Email:** info@GEHTHSmuseum.org • **Phone:** 609-380-4524

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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.



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, *Chair*
 Pamela Tyson, *Vice Chair*
 Lynn Wood, *Historian*
 Lee Portnoy, *Secretary*
 Janice Cambron, *Treasurer*
 Lisa Press, *Curator*
 Carol Jo Martin, *Librarian*
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GEHTHS Museum
 and Research Library
 6647 West Jersey Ave.
 Egg Harbor Twp,
 NJ 08234

609-380-4524

info@GEHTHSmuseum.org

Visit us during these hours
 or by appointment:

Museum: Sundays: 10am-Noon

Library: Tuesdays by
 appointment

GEHTHSMuseum.org

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

Celebrating America's 250th Starts Now!

Resting Place of 11 Revolutionary War Soldiers - Zion's Free Cemetery

The General Lafayette Chapter of the DAR cleaned the tombstones for America's Upcoming Semiquincentennial

When visiting the historic "Zion's Free Cemetery" on the corner of Old Zion Road and Zion Road, you will find gravestones with familiar names of the early settlers of Egg Harbor Township. This graveyard can be found on either side and behind the Zion United Methodist Church.

The original land deed called for a free cemetery opened to all. Anyone could claim a spot and bury their loved one without a deed being issued. Over the years, it produced a



cemetery with no roads, walkways, or any kind of plot layout. In addition there was no plan for perpetual care. In the early days volunteers from the church's congregation would do what they could but the grass, briars, saplings, vines, and poison ivy kept growing. The stones would break apart and fall.



After many years of neglect, "Zion's Free Cemetery" was restored to its current appearance by George Carmen and Harry Hammel to honor those who are laid to rest there.

Starting in 2023, the General Lafayette Chapter of the DAR cleaned the gravestones of the following Revolutionary War soldiers buried in this cemetery: Zephaniah Steelman, Andrew Frambes, Nicholas Frambes, David Blackman, John Jeffers, Joseph Scull, Able Scull, John H. Tilton, Thomson Price, John Baker, and Levi Price. On Sunday, January 26, 2025, the DAR placed a historical marker honoring those who fought for our independence.

