



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.

Exciting GEHTHS upcoming program and event ideas for 2026.

Recognizing America's 250th birthday with a collaborative project between GEHTHS, EHT schools, the Atlantic Pops Community Band, and Cygnus Creative Arts.

Zion Free Cemetery
Historic Ghost Tour

EHT History Trivia Challenge

GEHTHS Museum displays honoring America's 250th and recognizing South Jersey's families during the Revolutionary War era.

Having EHT African Americans recognized on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail.

To learn more about our upcoming events:

Share your email to info@GEHTSMuseum.org or follow us on Facebook.

The mission of the Greater Egg Harbour Township Historical Society and Museum is to collect and preserve historical records, fulfilling the events, places and lives of the people of Greater Egg Harbour Township to the benefit of the community.

Fall 2025

History in the Making

GREATER EGG HARBOUR TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

New "Baggage Wagon" Replica at GEHTHS Museum

The Greater Egg Harbour Township Historical Society Board thanks Dale Woods for his craftsmanship, knowledge, and time for rebuilding the wagon in front of our museum.

Spring 2025 - Egg Harbor Township, N.J. The story of "why rebuild a Baggage Wagon" as told by Dale Woods....

"I've had a lifelong interest in the Civil War, inspired by my knowledge of the service of my great grandfather, Augustus Heath, who was in the 5th NY Volunteer Infantry. I began my reenacting involvement at the Gettysburg 125th anniversary event. Over the years, I attended the Gettysburg event along with many other famous Eastern battle field events. Later, my love of antique motor vehicles led me to building Civil War period wagons. Over the years I've replicated 6 horse drawn wagons that were used in various Civil War events. I very much enjoy myself in this hobby and have established a Civil War library/ museum at my home."



At the beginning of April, Dale Woods took away our old wagon and by May he delivered this beautiful replica.



Civil War reenactment showing how wagons would have looked.

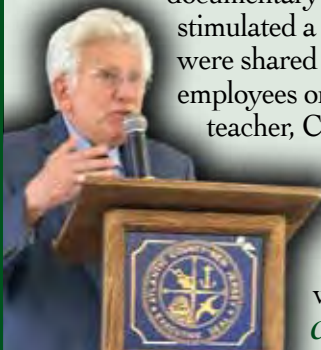
This type of wagon was referred to as a "Baggage Wagon" during the Civil War.

Guest Speaker Events

EHT School History

Retired Egg Harbor Twp educator, Lou Della Barca encouraged the audience to share their memories of Egg Harbor Twp. schools.

May 1, 2025, EHT, NJ. The evening started with a presentation of the documentary "#EHTPride: A History of Egg Harbor Township School District" directed by Dr. Leanna Mullen, produced by Ellen Gregory and in partnership with GEHTHS and EHT schools. The



documentary and separate slide show stimulated a lot of memories which were shared by retired EHT school employees or their families. Retired teacher, Cathie Clayton spoke how her husband's great grandfather had been the custodian at Bargaintown School, in which Lou responded

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Clamming in the 1960's

As shared by Jake Glassey, who has clammed the Atlantic City area for over 60 years.

June 4, 2025, EHT, NJ. Stanley "Jake" Glassey has held many titles and jobs including EHT Mayor, NJ State Trooper, Firefighter, Captain of the Arson Squad, Chair of South Jersey Transportation Authority, environmental and community activist, and a fan of history. But, when hearing him speak, his true passion is with clamming and protecting Lakes Bay. At 12 years old, Jake started clamming for "Daddy Randall," owner of Randall's Seafood in Pleasantville, NJ.

Randal taught him how to clam "in" the water rather than "on" a sand bar to avoid the green heads.

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Investing in Our Local Community

GEHTHS Inaugural Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Julia Latham

June 4, 2025 - Egg Harbor Township High School. Julia Latham, a 2025 EHT High School graduate was awarded the first annual \$1,000 scholarship from the GEHTHS. Students were invited to submit a short essay on the history of Egg Harbor Township and why it is important to the development of EHT and South Jersey. The recipient of this award demonstrated that she researched EHT's history and also showed pride in being part of our community. According to Julia, "I have a passion for education and teaching. My ultimate goal is to provide future students with the best education possible." A copy of her essay can be found at the GEHTHS museum.



Lee Portnoy, GEHTHS Secretary, presents Julia Latham with the GEHTHS Scholarship Award.

Learning from Oral History

James David Clayton Born on March 3, 1931 in Merchantville, NJ

Submitted by Lynn Wood who interviewed him Wednesday February 5, 2025.

During this interview, Dave shared memories starting with when his family moved to Linwood, NJ, when he was a teenager, and how he attended Pleasantville High School. His favorite class and teacher was Mr. Parks who taught shop and woodworking. He remembered being put in charge of the class if the teacher had to step out. After school he and his friends would go to Ben's Bar BQ or go roller skating at the Ventnor skating rink.

The Clayton family lived on the edge of Sculls Bay where Dave perfected the art of clamming, oystering, hunting and fishing from his father. Any game was always eaten by the family. One memory he shared was when shooting rabbits from way up in a tree, he fired his 12 gauge and ended up falling backwards out of the tree!

Dave shared memories of living through WWII and the Korean War. His family always had a large Victory Garden which continued in the years to come.

He perfected his talents in woodworking through the years, becoming a talented cabinet maker. He worked several years as a wood crafter at NAFEC. He also built a garvey boat at one point for clamming.

Dave has a love of music and enjoys playing his guitar with groups

of friends, like the one group named the "Sage Brushers." He has also played bluegrass/gospel in Waretown at the Albert Music Hall.

Dave married Mable Sutton in 1950 and they had four children, Cathy, Jim, Steve and Dan. They raised their children in Bargaintown in an historic home, built in the early 1800's. It had been owned by Mable's family. In the early days, one end of the home was the post office and stage coach stop for Bargaintown. The stage coach made its rounds from other communities such as Scullville and Steelmanville. In the 1800's, the mail was delivered by horse and wagon. Next to the house was a blacksmith shop. No trace of it remains today, however, there is an historical marker at the location, that was installed by the EHT Tercentenary Committee in 1964, in celebration of New Jersey's 300th anniversary.

Dave and Mable were active members of the Zion Methodist Church in Bargaintown. It used to be a short walk to church from their house every Sunday until the Parkway was built which cut off the shortcut. He recalled two preachers he enjoyed at the church, Milt Collins and Jim Peterson.

After Mable passed away in 2012, Dave remarried to Diane Pritchard in 2013.

Dave has been a speaker on the topic of early shipbuilding for the EHT Historical Society, and he is very knowledgeable of local history, including the historic Zion Methodist Church.

His advice for today's youth is to "get right with the Lord."

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

2025 Members – Thank You!

Life Memberships

Chris Barbo
Jerry Bell
Elizabeth Naylor
David Speer

Associate Memberships

Lori & Jim Casas
Debbie Ciota
Bobbi Gallagher

Family Memberships

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Chris Campolo
Marguerite & Samuel Colella
Leah & John Drobek
John & Edna Henry
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Paula Koiro
Melissa & Zak Landgraf
Charles & Jean Lawless
Dan & Betty Lawless
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Carol-Jo & William Martin
Rosana and Thomas Mawson
Lee & Rob Portnoy
Arlene Puggi
Douglas Stroz
Scott & Patricia Warner
Mary Ellen Weathers

Individual Memberships

Lorelei & Kevin Alden
Janice Cale
Charlene Canale
Sandra Clark
Lou Della Barca
Joanne Fricano
Kathy Fritz
Joseph M. Hiers Jr.
Adrienne "Dee" Landgraf
Gina & Rich Lang
Lauree McArdle
Gianna Nistico
Michael Price
Mark Steelman
Lori Ward
Lynn Wood
John H. Yates

Our Board Members are Busy!

Two New Members Join the GEHTHS Board

Welcome to Lee Portnoy and Gianna Nistico

Lee Portnoy joined our Board in 2024 as a director and in January became our organization's secretary. Lee



moved to Egg Harbor Township in 1980. Her Egg Harbor Township roots go deep, as her father Albert Fanslau was born and raised next to the Farmington School. The land where the house once stood is now part of the AC Expressway. Her background is advertising copy writing and sales management.

Gianna Nistico joined our Board in early 2025 as a director with an interest in preserving history. Gianna is a lifelong resident of Egg Harbor Township.



She is an EHT High School Class of 2020 graduate and a Rowan University Alumni, Class of 2025. She received her B.A. in History along with three minors: German Studies, International Studies, and Anthropology. She is also a member of the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Auxiliary and her family runs a prominent establishment in the township.



Lines on the Pines

GEHTHS Historian Lynn Wood shares her knowledge of EHT's history at the annual Stockton University community event. Other board members joined Lynn in sharing information on our collections including Shore Mall memorabilia and our "Journey Through Time" book.

Look for us when we return to the "Lines on the Pines" at Stockton University on March 8, 2026.

EHT School History

Continued from front page

"I taught your husband Dan in 2nd grade." Perhaps the "lunch ladies" got the most praise from those in attendance. Many people spoke of the incredible cooks who made fresh meals for the students and staff in the little outlying schools. A fond memory included the special Thanksgiving feast they prepared for the kindergarten class.

Mrs. Caruso recalled how her class received a personal note from President Jimmy Carter.

Another highlight of the evening concerned how some of the small outlying schools continue to be occupied. Tom Roesch shared how he turned the Steelmanville School into his home. Lynn Wood praised him for keeping history alive – by even using the chalk boards as his kitchen counter for his son to color on with chalk.

Over all, the general feeling was that the schools were special and how all who worked and went there felt like extended family.



Retired art teacher Jeff MacNeil shares his memories.

Clamming in the 1960's

Continued from front page

To find the clams, he used his feet which were covered in handmade booties to feel around the ground. When discovered, he used a clam rake to harvest the clams. By 15 years old, Jake could catch 700-800 clams in a 4 hour period – based on the tides. In 1962, at 16 years old, the pay for harvesting 1000 clams was \$14. The good news was that sharks never hurt the clambers – the worst injuries came from stepping on a horseshoe crab.

Jake's concern for the environment of the waterways was illustrated when as a teenager, he and his friends pulled a major prank to prove that the motels along the Black Horse Pike were polluting Lakes Bay with sewage. He and his friends got boxes of "shark chaser," a green dye used by the military to scare sharks away if a person had fallen in the ocean and needed to be rescued. They flushed the dye down multiple toilets in the motels and Lakes Bay turned green. When someone exposed who had pulled this prank, John and his friends were threatened with arrest. In retaliation, the boys threatened to release the story to the local and Philadelphia newspapers of the unacceptable flushing of waste into the waterways. Charges were dropped, local politicians didn't want to be embarrassed by their oversight. John ended his talk with "The clams we harvest are sweeter because of the mixture of sea water and fresh water, often after a storm."

Thank you to our Generous Supporters who support our mission to preserve historic materials, events, places and lifestyles related to Egg Harbor Township for present and future generations. 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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Godfrey Funeral Home • The Little Gardens Club of Atlantic City • McGowan Landscaping • Storybook Land

Adams-Perfect Funeral Home • EHT Living Magazine • Jade Engelhoff & Dan Palmer • Tamara & John Lamb
Nehmad Davis & Goldstein • Sidney Parker • Gary & Lisa Press • Gordon Thornton • Pamela & Tony Tyson
Egg Harbor Township Committee • EHT Public Works • EHT Recreation • Boy Scout Troop 94 • EHT Key Club

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PROUD PARTNER



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.

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

GEHThSmuseum.org

609-380-4524

info@GEHThSmuseum.org

Visit us:

**Museum: Sundays: 10am-Noon
or by appointment**

Library: Open by appointment

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Donations are tax deductible to the limit of the
law. Tax ID # 22-2313429

Collaborating with Stockton University!

McKee City - From Col. John McKee to Holocaust Survivor's Stories

A collaboration between the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University, Professor of History Kameika Murphy's course, "Museums and the Display of Diversity," and the Greater Egg Harbor Township Historical Society exposed Stockton Students to multiple important historic places close to the University.

March 5, 2025, EHT, NJ. A group of Stockton University students embarked on a study tour described by history Professor Michael Hayse "as a way for students to interact with and, in turn, learn about the lives of Jewish immigrants in south Jersey post-World War II." When Hayse learned about GEHThS's Wall of History, a visit to the MK Betterment display was added.



◀ GEHThS Vice Chair, Pamela Tyson, shares the history of McKee City from Col. John McKee, an African American who founded the city after the Civil War, through Atlas Lane's vision to improve the lives of the McKee City African Americans in the 1960's.



Far Left: B'nai Israel - The Jewish Farmers' Congregation of McKee City founded in 1955 by Jewish Immigrants who survived the Holocaust of World War II. Many who settled in EHT became chicken farmers because it was inexpensive to set up the farm and the families would have food.

◀ At the Rodef Shalom Cemetery in Egg Harbor Twp, NJ, there is an area dedicated to Holocaust survivors.

Welcoming the Public to Our Museum



Friends Honor Claude Dawson with Bench in the GEHTHS Community Garden

June 22, 2025. EHT, NJ. Friends, retired volunteers and staff from the Community Food Bank of South Jersey remembered and honored their friend with a commemorative bench and plantings. Dawson was a long time volunteer at the food bank who had a love for gardening. He would grow food at the GEHTHS community garden to share with those in need.



DEB Store Sign Finds New Home at GEHTHS Museum

March 2025, EHT, NJ.

When visiting Stockton University's "Lines on the Pines," Kevin and Sharon Wilson saw pictures of their daughter and Sharon's sister in a photo album that GEHTHS brought from their Shore Mall collection featured in the museum. Sharon shared that her sister had been the manager of the Deb Store and they had kept the sign after the store closed. Sharon also revealed that she and Kevin had met at the mall.



Kevin Wilson donates the "D" from the DEB store Shore Mall sign.



Thank you to members of the Egg Harbor Township High School Key Club for volunteering their time cleaning up around the GEHTHS museum property and doing yard work around the community garden and gazebo areas during the spring and fall of 2025!

Inspiring a New Generation

Inspiring Young Scholars by Bringing History Into the Pleasantville Leeds Avenue School Classroom

September 2025, Pleasantville, NJ.



Kaisha Masters, Leeds Avenue School Assistant Principal, assists Janice Cambron, GEHTHS, in challenging students to use their senses to determine what the object is that they are holding. Students guessed water bottle, tea kettle, and lunch box. Which one do you think is correct?

Tamar LaSure-Owens, 3rd grade teacher at Leeds Avenue School, invited Janice Cambron and Pamela Tyson from the GEHTHS to inspire her students to be critical thinkers when exposed to historical items and information. The students did an awesome job of deciphering the various items that would have been found in a classroom in the 1800's. They also enjoyed learning about Col. John McKee, a very wealthy African American who founded the city of McKee City for recently freed enslaved people after the Civil War.



GEHTHS Participates in Amistad Commission's Summer Institute for Educators

August 2025, Atlantic City, NJ. GEHTHS volunteers Janice Cambron, Lynn Wood, and Lee Portnoy presented Egg Harbor Township's African American history during an Amistad educational event at Stockton University, AC campus. They shared the historical significance of Atlas Lane, MK Betterment Association founder; Colonel John McKee, McKee City founder; and Jennie Morris, Morris Beach founder. Each of their contributions benefited African American communities. The purpose of the Amistad Commission's Summer Institute for educators is focused on integrating African American history into the school curriculum.

Sharing Local History in the Community



Greater Egg Harbour Township Historical Society Kicks Off America's Upcoming 250th Birthday with Cemetery Tour

Volunteer reenactors stood near graves of Revolutionary War soldiers sharing stories about the war and colonial America in Egg Harbor Twp.



October 11, 2025, Egg Harbor Township, NJ. If you've ever been to Egg Harbor Township, you are probably familiar with these names... Steelman, Blackman, Scull, Tilton, Frambes, and others. But, did you know that those families were living in south Jersey in the 1700's and participated in the Revolutionary War? Did you know that all of the patriots buried in the Zion Free Cemetery survived the war and saw America become free from English rule? Or that after Abel Scull died, his wife Alice became Nicholas Frambes third wife? For the attendees who joined the GEHTHS's self guided tour of the Zion Free Cemetery, they learned about how the Revolutionary War affected south Jersey and what life was like during the colonial days. The event also included a presentation of the history of the Zion Methodist Church. Attendees learned the importance of the local militia that guarded the Jersey shoreline, often incorporating local shipbuilders who understood the local waters and sandbars. In addition to the GEHTHS, who put this event together, the General Lafayette Chapter of the DAR cleaned all of the patriot's grave stones and donated a plaque commemorating their service. EHT Zion Methodist Church volunteers maintain the cemetery. For the event, church members donated their time and use of the social hall.

Photos top to bottom: Zephaniah Steelman, portrayed by Frank Tomaselo, talks about the war. Charlie Morgan, portraying David Blackman, shares historic stories with Lou Della Barca. GEHTHS historian Lynn Wood coordinated the entire event; Pamela Tyson portrayed Sarah Smith, the wife of Joseph Scull; and Janice Cambon portrayed Martha Scull, the daughter of Sarah and Joseph and wife of Levi Price. Leah Drobel became Mrs. John Tilton for the day. Frank Tomasello stands by Zephaniah Steelman's grave.

