



Portland Poynts

The Chronicle of the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society

September-October 2021 27 Prospect Circle, P. O. Box 108, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716-0108 ♦ www.AHhistory.org

Cruising Down the River On A Saturday Afternoon



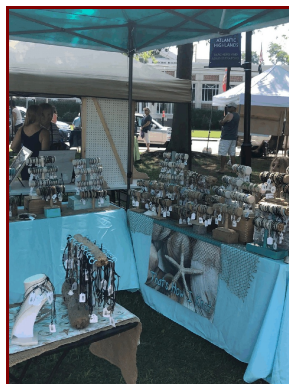
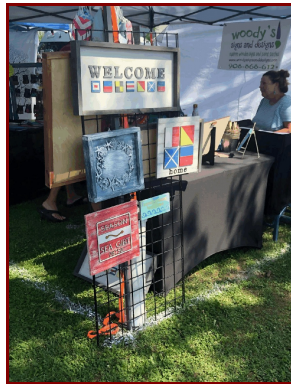
After a week of hot, sultry weather with record-breaking temperatures, Mama Nature smiled down at Atlantic Highlands on Saturday, August 14th and provided a beautiful afternoon for a sold-out cruise around Atlantic Highlands on the paddle-wheeler Navesink Queen. A combination of food, beverages, companionship and ocean breezes made for a delightful afternoon.

It is said a picture is worth a thousand words, so look at these images taken by Ken Frantz, Patty Bickauskas and Lori Anne Oliwa.



Arts and Crafts Festival

The popular annual Arts and Crafts Festival was held on Saturday, July 17th in Veterans Park drawing a large crowd on a pleasant summer day. Photography by Patty Bickaaskas.



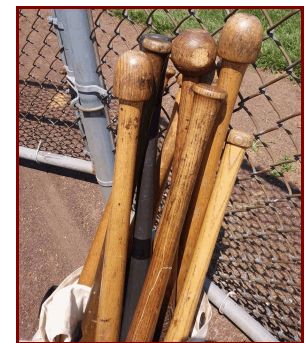
It was a nail-biter game...

By Carmen Cramer



It was a perfect day at the Fireman's Field of Dreams for an old fashioned ball game. The year is 1864 and rules of the game were from that year. The

opposing teams were the hometown Monmouth Furnace and the visitors were the Brooklyn Atlantic Base Ball Club. Monmouth Furnace was no match for pitcher Shakespeare Van Zant and Shoeless Wild Horse of the Brooklyn Atlantic Base Ball Club.



There was a nice crowd in the bleachers to cheer them on. The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society provided games (water balloons, corn hole, Giant Jenga) and prizes for the kids. Of course, there were Cracker Jacks and hot dogs to round out the day.

Atlantic Highlands Historical Society
Annual Flea Market



Historical Society Flea Market

By Bette VanDeventer

The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society will be holding its annual Outdoor Flea Market on Saturday, September

18th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Atlantic Highlands Marina off First Avenue.

The 41st Annual Flea Market will feature antiques, collectibles, crafts, new merchandise as well as those second-time-around treasure finds. A vast array of household items, linens, furniture, tools, toys, clothing, bottles, books, postcards, fishing equipment and jewelry old-and-new can be found. If you name it, it will probably be there. There is always something special for everyone.

There are 140 vendor spaces available and they go quickly. The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society will also have its Treasures 'Or table and will also be selling refreshments and a variety of mouth-watering food items.

Our SUPER 50/50 raffle tickets can also be purchased that day. Prizes will be awarded on Wednesday, December 15th.

Join us for a fabulous day of finding that special item while supporting the outreach programs of the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society. In the event of inclement weather, the rain date is Saturday, September 25th.

For further information call 732-291-9337 or 732-291-4313.



As is the case with most nonprofit organizations, the statewide shutdown in response to the Covid pandemic significantly reduced our special events income. At the same time, certain ongoing expenses (utilities, insurance, building maintenance) still required payment. The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society does not have an endowment and relies on public support through its special events.

To offset the income reduction, the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society is sponsoring a SUPER 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or a book of five for \$20. Tickets can be purchase at the Strauss Mansion Museum during Sunday open house hours and at our special events.

Help us continue our historical and outreach programs. And you could be a big winner! Drawing is on Wednesday, December 15th.

They're Back!!!

By Greg Caggiano

The highly anticipated Ghost Tours return to the haunted Strauss Mansion for the first time since 2019. Disembodied voices. Footsteps when there is no one there. Doors slamming shut on their own. Shadowy figures in the window.

These are just a few of the experiences you will learn about during the 2021 Ghost Tours. We were unable to conduct this popular event in 2020 due to COVID restrictions. While it was very disappointing for us and the many followers of paranormal investigations, we used the time to conduct more paranormal investigations in the building and discovered new evidence which will be shared during the tours.

Participants will hear stories of chilling ghostly encounters, see actual paranormal footage captured at the Strauss Mansion, interact with Atlantic Highland Historical Society board member and local psychic Lisa Walling as she interprets what the spirits have to say, and observe a Victorian-era Wine Glass Séance appropriately held in the Mansion's parlor.

Ghosts on the Coast*, the paranormal investigating team, is composed of Atlantic Highlands Historical Society board members and volunteers Patty Bickauskas, Joanne Delloso, Roy Delloso, Lou Fligor, Patrick Osborn, Lisa Walling and me. The group has led these events at the Strauss Mansion since 2016, following a departure from scripted "haunted house" tours. Audiences have enthusiastically embraced the changeover to ghost stories and actual hands-on investigating during these 90-minute events. Participants have captured their




own evidence including electronic voice phenomenon (EVP) and strange anomalies in photographs. Participants are encouraged to bring cameras, recorders and any hand-held paranormal equipment they may possess.

Each tour will be divided into two groups: one will walk the upstairs floors, learn the history of the house, hear ghost stories, and see where they actually happened while the other will be downstairs viewing audio and visual evidence captured at the mansion and take part in a mini-seance which has garnered interesting results over the years. After 45 minutes, the two groups will switch places.

Some tours are more active than others. Since none of this is staged, we cannot guarantee anything will happen. The ghosts have their own agendas. Take plenty of pictures and let your smartphone's recording device run wild. You never know what you may discover when you review your recordings.

Tours are Saturday, October 23rd and Saturday, October 30th at 7:00 pm, 8:30 pm, and 10:00 pm. Space is limited and tickets at \$25/person must be purchased in advance at AHhistory.org/gift-shop. Covid protocols will be observed. We look forward to seeing you. Happy hauntings!

*Ghosts on the Coast can be found at [facebook.com/GhostsOnTheCoastNJ](https://www.facebook.com/GhostsOnTheCoastNJ) and on  YouTube

Blast From the Past — Atlantic Highlands Style

By Patty Bickauskas



As a new school year is approaching, I thought that this time, instead of writing about past articles from the Atlantic Journal, I would talk about our Atlantic Highlands School. Some of you might not have been aware that our beloved grade school was once a high school. The first formal class to graduate from this school was in June of 1894 and consisted of just six students. The ceremony was held at the Women's Catholic Temperance Union Temple was located somewhere on the south side of Mount and Railroad Avenue (now Hennessey Boulevard).

In reading the article, you can see this ceremony not only contained the "chanting" of The Lord's Prayer, but also what appears to be quite a controversial political speech about the free trade tariff policy. Even back then, politics made its way into all aspects of our daily lives.

The last year of the high school was in 1962. The size of that graduating class was 80+ students.

Thanks to the dedicated hard work of Dan Calandriello, our website not only has information of past graduating classes of the old high school, but also multiple yearbooks, class reunions, class trips, etc. There are also links on the page that show early graduates from Henry Hudson Regional High School. You — or an older relative — might show up on one of these pages. I looked through some of the yearbooks and recognized quite a few names of people who I remember or who still live in town.

You can look at these pages at www.AHhistory.org. Click on ARCHIVES, then the ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL banner.

Sit back, reminisce and enjoy.

FIRST COMMENCEMENT.

THE ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATED A CLASS OF SIX ON THURSDAY EVENING.

Prof. Enright Present.—Exercises at the Temple.—A Success.—Large and Responsive Audience.—Graduates Heartily Applauded.

The first formal graduation of a class of pupils from the Atlantic Highlands public school occurred on Thursday evening at the W. C. T. U. Temple. The class numbered six, Mr. Frank Crane, Misses Maude Edgar, R. J. Leche Leonard, Alice G. Leonard and Lulu Robin Newman and Mr. Harry Vanderbilt. The curtain rose

Exercises opened by chanting the Lord's Prayer followed by an invocation by Rev. J. B. Haines. The chorus sang "Summer has come" in a way that almost convinced people even though they knew about cold weather of this week, after which Harry Vanderbilt delivered an oration about the tariff which made every man who voted for Grover Cleveland blush with shame. He showed from history how a free trade tariff policy has wrecked the country's prosperity every time it has been tried. His effort was creditable to his good sense, his ability and the school and made many a rum Democrat sigh because he had never gone to school enough to learn about the tariff.

The Trolley is Back!

By Lori Anne Oliwa, Executive Director, Atlantic Highlands Chamber of Commerce



Taste of Atlantic Highlands Restaurant Trolley Tour and Business Showcase, the popular annual event, returns on Sunday, September 19th from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, rain or shine. This fantastic trolley tour — which showcases the eclectic atmosphere and unique businesses of the town — starts at Veterans Park, makes stops up and down First Avenue and West Street, then up to the Strauss Mansion Museum on Prospect Circle before returning to the Harbor. Visitors from all over Monmouth County and beyond will receive a list of the 30+ participants, a tote bag, samples from many of the participants, and a chance to win Baskets of Cheer. Tickets may be purchased on the Atlantic Highlands Chamber of Commerce website, at its office, or on the day of the event.



American Littoral Society 3rd annual Littoral Local cocktails aboard the Teal Cruise Festiva, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm; sunset cruise 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm; conclusion of online auction, Saturday, September 18th.

Atlantic Highlands Arts Council Gala at the Red Horse, Sunday, October 16th, 2:00 pm.

Atlantic Highlands Boro Movie Nights featuring Top Gun, Saturday, September 25th, 8:30 pm.

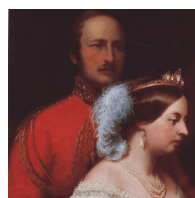
Atlantic Highlands Chamber of Commerce Classic Car Show along First Avenue; Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. October 16th, rain date October 23rd.

First Avenue Playhouse presents Love, Lies and the Doctor's Dilemma beginning September 5th.

Sandy Hook Foundation All Star Benefit Concert at Lot E Sandy Hook Gateway National Park, Sunday, September 26th, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm. A fair-weather event.

Taste of Atlantic Highlands, Sunday, September 19th, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

What Did Queen Victoria Like to Drink?



It has been assumed that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert discovered whisky when she visited the Scottish Highlands in 1842. In fact, the Royal Household was already well acquainted with good Islay single malt.

Victoria had given her seal of approval to a pair of Scottish distilleries on the mainland. Victoria renewed the Warrant in 1838 shortly after coming to the throne, then granted a second to the celebrity Scottish sportsman and whisky maker Captain William Barclay of Glenury.

William Begg was very fortunate. In 1848, the Royal Family took possession of Balmoral Castle on the banks of the River Deenear near Begg's distillery. Begg sent a note to his new neighbors inviting them to visit and was delighted when the Queen, Prince Albert, two young princes and a princess turned up on his doorstep the next day.

The Royal parents and their infant sons enjoyed a glass of well-matured whisky. John Begg received his Royal Warrant soon after and Lochnagar became the third "Royal" distillery.

Back in 1895... the Strauss family would have been reading about...

September 5 ~ Former slave George Washington Murray elected to Congress from South Carolina.



September 9 ~ American Bowling Congress formed in New York City.

September 12 ~ The U.S. Defender beats the English Valyrie III in the 10th America's Cup race.

September 12 ~ Annie Londonberry arrives in Chicago completing the first around-the-world trip by a woman on a bicycle in 15 months, collecting a \$10,000 prize.

September 18 ~ Daniel David Palmer of Davenport, Iowa, gives the first chiropractic adjustment.

September 21 ~ America's first automotive producer, the Duryea Motor Wagon Company, is founded by Charles and J. Frank Duryea.

September 23 ~ The French labor union Confederation Generale du Travail forms.

September 30 ~ France occupy Madagascar, imprisoning the queen and prime minister.

October 1 ~ Romanians in Constantinople are massacred.

October 2 ~ The first true comic strip published in a newspaper, The Yellow Kid, appeared in the New York World and it was the first to use speech bubbles and a defined series of panels to create comic narratives.

October 4 ~ Englishman Horace Rawlings beats Scot Willie Dunn by two strokes in 36 holes in the first U.S. Open Men's Golf tournament at Newport, Rhode Island.

October 5 ~ First United Kingdom cycling time trial held on a 50 mile course north of London.

October 8 ~ Ohio Valley Improvement Association forms.

October 11 ~ Abyssinian Emperor Menelik II rejects treaty with Italy.

October 21 - Short-lived Republic of Formosa collapses as Japanese forces invade after cession of Taiwan by the Qing dynasty of China to the Empire of Japan.

October 22 ~ David Belasco's four-act romantic play, Heart of Maryland, premieres in New York City.

October 22 ~ An express train overruns a buffer stop, crossing more than 100 feet of the station concourse before crashing through the wall and plunging to the street at Gare Monparnasse in Paris.

MUSIC

at the Strauss Mansion

hosted by the incomparable Audra Mariel

September 16th ~

September 30th ~



To comply with State-mandated Covid restrictions, all concerts are currently planned as outdoors events on the Strauss Mansion Museum spacious rear lawn with social distancing and Covid protocols observed. In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be rescheduled for the following Thursday. Updates will be posted on the Society's website and via e-mail. Tickets are \$20/person and may be ordered online at AHhistory.org. Concerts begin at 7:30 pm and are B.Y.O.E. (Bring Your Own Everything) including chairs, blankets, refreshments, etc. Performers subject to change.



For the last six years, audiences have been enthralled by the music of Cody McCorry and his ensemble as they provide live accompaniment to the 1922 silent horror movie NOSFERATU. Directed by F. W. Murnau and starring Max Schreck, it was loosely based on Bram Stoker's Dracula and is regarded as the first horror film ever made.

While we are now offering two screenings to meet demand, this event sells out quickly. Be sure to make watching NOSFERATU part of your Halloween tradition. Presentations on Friday, October

15th and Saturday, October 16th at 7:30pm in the spacious Strauss Mansion rear yard.

Tickets and additional information are available on our GIFT SHOP page at AHhistory.org.

CENTURY HOUSE PROGRAM AND PLAQUE

By Bette VanDeventer, Chair, Century House Committee

The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society invites you to apply for your house/building to become part of our Century House program which recognizes buildings in Atlantic Highlands that are 100+ years old.

Available records indicate that more than 250 existing buildings in town have reached the century mark, though some have lost part or all of their original appearance. To date, 50 houses have received an attractive Century House plaque from the Society that records the construction date.

A building is eligible if its date of construction can be documented and its exterior as seen from the street is recognizable as original to the structure.



As part of the application process, the owner is responsible for authenticating the age of the structure. Documents acceptable as proof are available from the Society. To aid in researching the structure's history, the Society has two free guides, "Researching Older Houses and Properties in the Monmouth County Archives" and "Sources for Researching Older Houses in Atlantic Highlands." If you lack information or need assistance, members of the Century House committee are available. Leave a message at the Society's phone 732-291-1861, contact me at 732-291-4313, or contact the Society at AHhistory.org.

Upon concluding the research, submit a completed Application form with a registration fee of \$100 to the Society. The fee is returnable if the structure appears too altered from its original design as to be unrecognizable.

Application and placement of the plaque on the structure reflects your personal wish to maintain, as far as possible, the historically-appropriate external appearance of the building, at least for the portions that are visible from the street.

If the application is approved, applicant will be notified and a Century House plaque that includes the date of construction will be awarded. The structure will then be recognized as one of a select group — a Century Site of our town.

NOTE: The program and the plaque create no official or legal restrictions on the sale or disposition of the building, or on interior and exterior structural and decorative work. The plaque simply identifies your house as being one of the oldest historical structures in Atlantic Highlands.

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 Sundays, 12:00 - 4:00 pm, April through December. Free admission, \$5 per person suggested donation. Audio self-guided tour available.

VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PORTLAND POYNTS

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MEMBERSHIP

Join the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Your membership supports the outreach and educational programs of the Society.

Membership categories:

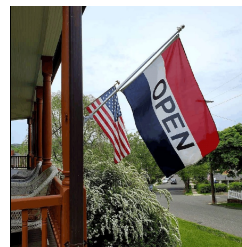
- ★ \$10 student
- ★ \$25 individual
- ★ \$50 family
- ★ \$100 supporter
- ★ \$200 sustaining
- ★ \$500 benefactor

Join online by clicking on

MEMBERSHIP

then clicking on

CREDIT CARD ORDERS.



The Strauss Mansion Museum is open for Sunday visits, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm, April - December. Audio self-guided tours of this amazing 21-room

“summer cottage” are available. Related books and other items can be purchased in the Visitors Center.

Free admission; a \$5 per person donation is suggested to support the Society’s programs and outreach.