



The Bay Run

Newsletter of
The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers
and Friends Association, Inc.

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"Our mission is to preserve the history of the
Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their Keepers"

FUGITIVE SLAVES FLIGHT AIDED BY CAPE MAY LIGHT

Cape May's role in the Underground Railroad movement doesn't get the proper recognition it deserves. Although New Jersey wasn't the primary destination for these fugitive slaves, it was the place where slaves were rowed across the Delaware Bay enabling them to reach the large cities of Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York. It is cited that slaves coming across the Delaware Bay were aided by the beam of the **Cape May Lighthouse** and would eventually be hidden in caves near Cape May Point. The most famous "conductor" associated with the Railroad was Harriet Tubman, who escaped slavery from Maryland in 1848. It is documented that she worked as a cook in Cape May in the 1800's to earn money in order to help these fugitives. Tubman may have worked at the Banneker Hotel that catered to African American families during that time. Also assisting Tubman in the Cape May area was Ed Turner, a free black landowner in Lower Township, who was known to have helped shuttle fugitive slaves to



stations further north. In the mid to late 19th century, Cape May played a pivotal role in the fight to end slavery. In 1846, Stephen Smith, a wealthy Black businessman, built his summer home at 645 Lafayette Street. Smith was born into slavery but bought his own freedom and later used his resources to help others. He founded the AME Church on Franklin Street and owned properties on Decatur, Mansion and Jackson Streets along with others near Congress Hall. He was the founder of the Pennsylvania Anti Slavery Society and was one of America's wealthiest businessmen; Smith's railroad cars carried hundreds of fugitive slaves to safety.

The George Howell House at 632 Lafayette Street, also a piece of history, has been restored to house the Harriet Tubman Museum in order to celebrate her legacy, Cape May's vibrant African American history and abolitionist activity. The museum opened in 2020 on Juneteenth with scaled back festivities due to the pandemic. The Howell House, circa 1799, was built on a lot donated by



In This Issue:

- 2 - A Beam from the President's Desk
- 3 - Did You Know?
- 4 - Peggy's Corner
- 5 - Fugitive Slaves (*Continued*)

- 6 - USS New York, Florida Light & Most Haunted Cemeteries
- 7 - Treasures of Ancient Egypt
- 8 - Remembering Our Veterans on November 11

Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.

It seems like only yesterday we were anticipating the arrival of spring, awaiting flowers to bud and blossom, anxiously looking forward to fresh vegetables from our garden, and watching birds flying about bringing food back to their nests for their newly hatched fledglings. We had hummingbirds both early morning and in the evening venturing from flower to flower stopping for the nectar from our Rose of Sharon. We are currently in August and the temperature is in the 90's with 78% humidity. I never thought I would say I was looking forward to the cooler days of fall. Right now it is difficult just being outside for more than ten minutes. I wonder how I survived growing up without air conditioning. I remember my second floor bedroom with two open windows at home. There was a box fan in one window which was the only type of cooling I had.

We were planning on having two lighthouse cruises this summer but unfortunately not enough people signed up and we had to cancel the July cruise. The August trip is sold out; I am looking forward to being onboard for that one. I remember when we planned four cruises each summer that were always sold out; we also had a long standby list. I wonder, is it because of the COVID Pandemic or are people just no longer interested in lighthouses?

I hope you all can stop by the meeting/banquet/picnic we have planned for September 18. Our organization needs your input into planning for future events. It is getting hard for a few members to have to decide what is best for our organization. We have some terrific members but we would like to explore some new ideas to help plan future events. September 18 is going to be a fun day so please put it on your calendar. All the details are in the Newsletter (see p. 4). Hope to see you there! Stay safe and healthy.

And remember...keep the lights shining.. *Angelo*

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DID YOU KNOW?



The first cruise ship to board passengers at a US port in the past 15 months set sail this past summer in south Florida. Collectively the cruise lines lost \$20 billion last year and another \$4.5 billion in the first quarter of 2021 due to the pandemic. (*Licon, Adriana Gomez, AP, Atlantic City Press, June 26, 2021.*)



The migration of the horseshoe crab continues along the Delaware Bay. The Red Knots are happy to see the crabs since their eggs provide a nice snack for these birds.



A decommissioning ceremony was held at the Coast Guard Training Center for the Shearwater, a boat that has been listed as out of service after 19 years. It was one of 70 remaining 87' marine patrol boats. The base now has three 154' fast response cutters. (*The Press of Atlantic City, April, 2021*)



It is believed that massive icebergs once drifted up to 5,000 miles from Canada and could be seen as far south as the Florida Keys. (*AC Press, July 3, 2021*)



The Titanic is slowly disappearing due to metal-eating bacteria destroying the ship. The crow's nest is already gone and the railing of the ship's iconic bow could collapse at any time. A group of wealthy tourists and experts hope to learn more about the deterioration before the entire ship disappears. (*AC Press, July 3, 2021*)



Henry Kellogg introduced peanut butter to Americans in the late 1800s. The Great Depression hastened the popularity of the peanut butter and jelly sandwich as a substitute for meat. Americans now eat on an average of 7.6 lbs of peanut butter per person, per year, a number that increased during the pandemic. (*AC Press, "Flavor Magazine," July 3, 2021*)



Cape May was voted the nicest small town in New Jersey. Stop by to tour the area vineyards, indulge in fine dining and just enjoy the Victorian architecture while taking a stroll. Milton, Delaware located on the Broadkill River and a few miles from the Delaware Bay, was selected as the nicest small town in Delaware. Milton is home to the famous Dogfish Head Brewing Company. Great small town...recommended to drop in for a visit. (*Internet information*)



We are happy to announce the reopening of East Point Lighthouse on August 21 & 22.



Belated birthday greetings to the US Coast Guard that celebrated its 231st year on August 4. It is the world's 12th largest military force.



Correction: Page 6 Summer edition – the USS United States – the length of the ship is 990' long NOT 99' as listed. Big difference! (*Thanks, Bill*)

Baby spats, Merle and Pearle were one year old August 1. Where did the time go? A big, birthday celebration was held.





SAVE THE DATES – Mark Your Calendars:

Saturday, September 18, 2021 – “Catch up time” = We have combined all the events that we have missed due to COVID; on this date we will be combining the Fall Meeting, our picnic, banquet and “Yard Sail” events at the Cape May Park-Zoo, Pavilion #4. Pavilion #4 is close to the restrooms and has convenient parking. The agenda for that day is:

10 AM social hour featuring coffee & donuts **11 AM** Meeting

12 Noon Picnic/Banquet – bring your favorite covered dish for a buffet type luncheon; grills are available; bring grilling supplies including charcoal. The organization will provide soda and water. Bring a friend, relative, neighbor – All are welcome along with your favorite covered dish!

1 PM Guest speaker, Marvin White, Chief Engineman, US Coast Guard Retired, who will be sharing some of his Coast Guard experiences with us.

Hope to see you all there. Bring a friend, relative or neighbor plus a covered dish of your choosing. Meet old friends and make new ones. COVID rules and regulations in place at that time will be followed.

Park Etiquette:

- No pets are permitted on park grounds or in the zoo.
- Park hours are 7 AM – Dusk (Zoo hours 10 AM – 4:30 PM)
- Speed limit 9 ¼ mph inside the park.
- Outside food items are permitted in the Park only and may not be brought in the Zoo. Leave all food items in your vehicle until ready to use. DO NOT feed the animals. Drinks are allowed in the zoo. Alcohol is strictly prohibited.
- Never leave personal items unattended.
- Visitors may not sit, stand on or climb on exhibits, fences, railings or gardens.
- Music is permitted at pavilions but should not interfere with other patrons.
- Shoes and shirt are required.

Check out what Cape May has to offer: Zoo (*free admission*), the Cape May County Museum (Rte. 9) visit the Museum to see the original lens from the Cape May Light; OR visit the lighthouse. Hunt for Cape May Diamonds at Cape May Point and see the USS Atlantis, the concrete ship; take a stroll on the boardwalk, check out the restaurants, shop at the Victorian Mall, take a ride on the trolley or take advantage of any of the many tours offered, relax on the beach, take a dip in the ocean or just drive around and enjoy the sights. There is always something of interest to do.

Monday, September 20, 2021, 7 PM We have received notice that the production of “Keeping With the Spirit” will be held at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse, 405 Lafayette Street in Cape May. This performance will give the producer a chance to see how well the play is working in order to prepare for a possible production next year. The main theme: “With the clock ticking away, Elizabeth desperately tries to save her beloved old lighthouse from the wrecking ball. As the story unfolds, a mysterious secret and many other surprises are revealed within the walls of the decaying old building”. STOP BY...FREE admission – donations accepted.

Saturday & Sunday, October 16 & 17, 2021 – Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey. Our organization will be stationed at East Point. Volunteers needed and always welcome. Join the Challenge!! How many NJ lighthouses can you visit in a weekend?

FUGITIVE SLAVES FLIGHT AIDED BY CAPE MAY LIGHT

Continued from page 1

Howell, a Quaker. For many years the house was the parsonage for the Macedonia Baptist Church next door. After years of neglect and deterioration, the property was purchased by the Mullock family and restored with the help and generosity of the community.

The Shoreham Hotel, another slave sanctuary and a famous landmark at Cape May Point, is now known as Saint Mary By the Sea. Robert Mullock, once again doing research, found that the building was once owned by William Still, an abolitionist, chronicler and conductor on the Underground Railroad. According to Mullock's research, Still bought the building with the help of Stephen Smith. Escaping slaves would row across the Delaware Bay from Delaware, a slave state that did not join the Confederacy during the Civil War, to New Jersey, a free state. The slaves would then make their way north through a series of safe houses in Black communities or houses run by Quakers to ultimately reach Canada. In 1909, the Sisters of Saint Joseph from Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia, PA, purchased the Shoreham Hotel; it was then renamed Saint Mary By the Sea and became a retreat for the nuns. Originally, the Sisters of Saint Joseph had planned to return this property to nature until Mullock investigated into the background of the historic building. Nothing in the research states that the sisters were involved with the Underground Railroad although some of the nuns did serve as nurses during the Civil War.



Mullock's vision is for the historic building to be transformed into an environmental education center with wings devoted to marine biology and to migrating species along with an element that delves into its history. Robert Mullock has been involved in a number of historic preservation projects, including the renovation of the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May. He is also involved in the extensive reconstruction of the Tubman Museum, a project he worked on with many others in the community. The Center for Community Arts, in conjunction with the Mid Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities,

sponsors a trolley tour with commentary about Cape May's connection to the Underground Railroad along with several points of interest including cemeteries, the home of Stephan Smith and the Owen Coachman house, a meticulously restored antebellum home of a free Black family whose relative was kidnapped and sold into slavery. (Barlow, Bill, "The Press of Atlantic City," March 6, 2021; *Southern New Jersey Vacationer*, Summer 2021.)

— AFTER RENOVATION, HISTORIC FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE TO REOPEN

Cape St. George Lighthouse was in need of numerous repairs including extensive painting and replacement of the windows in the lantern room. There have been lighthouses on the island off the Florida Panhandle since 1833 but three were destroyed by hurricanes or erosion. The current light was erected in 2008. Repairs to the light were assisted by a \$24,000 grant from the Florida Lighthouse Association. The total cost of the work was estimated to be about \$100,000. The 72' lighthouse is set to reopen with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. *(Thanks, Jim, our Florida Correspondent)*

USS NEW YORK

USS New York – built from 24 tons of steel from the fallen towers of 9/11. Notice the twin towers on the ship. The New York is one of the most state of the art amphibious warships in the Navy's fleet with a crew of 360 sailors and 33 permanently assigned marines. The ship's motto is "Strength Forged Through Sacrifice – Never Forget!"



MOST HAUNTED CEMETERIES IN THE USA

Listed in celebration of the upcoming Halloween observance. Stop by for a visit "if you dare" -

1. New Orleans, LA – churches, hospitals, homes. It is said that author, William Faulkner's spirit haunts his former home. Voodoo practices & vampire stories galore are still celebrated.
2. Chicago, IL – fire of 1905; victims of the Valentine's Day Massacre are still hanging around
3. Savannah, GA – Moon River Brewing Company; the Marshall House is one of the most haunted places in our country.
4. St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, FL. Castle Warden now houses Ripley's Believe It Or Not.
5. Portland, OR – Shanghai Tunnels – Research states that the underground tunnels that were used to transport illegal goods and people are still inhabited by ghosts.
6. Gettysburg, PA – ghosts from the Civil War have been seen marching at the parade grounds.
7. Washington, DC – spirits of former presidents and their wives roam the Congressional Cemetery; some say the government buildings are also haunted.
8. San Francisco, CA – USS Hornet and Shipyard; Alcatraz is the most haunted prison in the area
9. Salem, MA – from the famous Salem witch trials; Howard St. Cemetery is haunted by Giles Corey who was "pressed" to death by piling large stones on his chest. Residents of Salem state that many area women accused of being witches also haunt this cemetery. For best results, it is suggested to visit around dusk.
10. San Antonio, TX – thousands of casualties from the Battle for the Alamo are seen and heard around the building and grounds.

(NOTE: And don't forget our own Jersey Devil who romps around the area all times of the year.)

TREASURES OF ANCIENT EGYPT'S SUNKEN CITIES

Not too long ago, I was fortunate to visit the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, as a guest of my Virginia family. At that time, there was a “traveling” exhibition at the museum featuring artifacts discovered by underwater archeologists while diving in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Egypt. More than 1,200 years ago, the cities of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus, once located in the western part of the Nile Delta off Egypt’s north coast, disappeared beneath the rising waters. These major Mediterranean ports were largely forgotten, lost in the sea until 1996 when marine archaeologists began searching the sea for traces of the lost cities.

These cities were ports not only central to trade but important religious centers, linked by annual religious ceremonies. The Egyptians, like the Greeks and Romans were polytheists, people who believed in many gods and goddesses honoring them by building temples, making offerings, conducting sacrifices and holding religious festivals. One of the most important religious festivals was associated with Osiris, the Egyptians’ main god. He was symbolic of the mummification process, and the annual flooding and receding of the Nile, ensuring the fertility of the land. Osiris also represented rebirth.

The story goes that Osiris was killed by his jealous brother who scattered pieces of his body across Egypt. Their sister (also Osiris’ wife) traveled all over Egypt collecting the pieces and put Osiris back together. She started the mummification process by wrapping his body in fine linen bandages, creating the first mummy. Then Isis turned herself into a bird and restored living breath to Osiris by flapping her wings. Ancient Egyptians celebrated Osiris’s death, reassembly and rebirth every year with a festival called the Mysteries of Osiris. Many objects in this traveling exhibition, buried over 1,000 years, were originally used during this celebration.

(Editor’s note: These displays were of particular interest for me due to the fact that the last five years of my teaching career; I along with another teacher were involved in the teaching of a course called WORLD CULTURES. We began by teaching the history, customs, traditions, literature, music, religions, politics and introducing the food of ancient civilizations, then progressing to the present time. By teaching this to students, we felt if we would understand various cultures and learn their beliefs, it would enable us to better understand each other. On display until January 18, 2021, it was the last time this groundbreaking exhibition would be on view in North America. What a delightful experience.)

Osiris & Isis
God and Goddess of Egypt



Miniature Sphinx



REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS ON NOVEMBER 11

On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued a message to his countrymen regarding the first Armistice Day. It was, at that time, a celebration to celebrate the signing of the first armistice ending World War I. In June 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill authorizing changing the name of the day to Veterans Day honoring the veterans of all wars and conflicts. November 11 has been designated as a time to honor American veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Great Britain, France, Australia and Canada also honor their veterans. Canada has its Remembrance Day; Great Britain has Remembrance Sunday where two minutes of silence is observed every November 11. The United States has an official ceremony where a wreath is placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

It is felt that “every day should be a day where we show appreciation for our military and our veterans”. Thank you for your service and for giving up a part of your life so we all can live safely and peacefully.



THANK YOU, VETERAN