



VINELAND

Historical and Antiquarian Society

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018

The oldest local historical society in New Jersey, founded in 1864.

Officers Elected at 2018 Annual Meeting

On June 4, the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society hosted its annual members meeting at the museum. During a newly-expanded format, members had the opportunity to meet the newest members of the Board of Trustees and discuss some of the activities planned for the remainder of the year. During the meeting, the Board welcomed two new VHAS members, Sharon Garrison and Paula Thibodeau-Hirsch, who recently joined the organization. Following the open members meeting, the Board voted to elect the following trustees as officers for 2018: Sandra Hearing, president; John W. Carr, vice-president; Kellie Haines, secretary; Denise Dendrinis, treasurer. While trustees serve a three-year term, officers are elected by their fellow Board members for a one-year period. Other trustees include Vineland residents Nancy Steelman, William Hughes, Jordan Palmieri, Thomas McCann, Diane Burak and Greg Henderson.

Keeping the Past in Focus

Veteran photographer John W. Carr, who serves as vice president of the Board of Trustees, is currently working on a project that will serve as a visual record of local life in the 21st century. Carr is in the process of photographing all of the residences and other structures, like the photo shown here, which are located within the original one square mile of the borough of Vineland, which ran from Park Avenue to Chestnut Avenue and from East Avenue to West Avenue.

Carr plans to continue the project in the months ahead. Digital copies of the photographs will become a part of the museum research library's archives. Since a number of Vineland's most historic

structures in Center City have been torn down in recent years, his work will be a valuable resource for researchers.

The borough and surrounding Landis Township were not consolidated into the city of Vineland until 1952. For the past several years, the Society has expressed an interest in having Vineland create a Historic Preservation Commission that would work with the city to protect historic buildings from decay or demolition.



From the Curator...

In April, I had the pleasure of participating in a women's history bus tour of upstate New York, where the American women's suffrage movement was organized by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman and others who were determined to improve the lives of women throughout the United States. The struggle would continue for close to another 200 years before the passing of the 19th amendment to the US Constitution in 1920 but those valiant women remained undeterred. Interestingly enough, for all of the research I've done on this subject over the years, I never stopped to question *why* the women's suffrage movement was started by these women at that particular place in time. Well, this trip—in addition to providing access to the homes of the suffrage movement leaders—answered that very question. Stanton and Anthony apparently were familiar with the Haudenosaunee tribe, commonly known to us as the Seneca, who lived peacefully in the region.

The Haudenosaunee are a matrilineal society, which means women have equal rights with men. Children are part of their mother's clan, while the early European settlers considered them the sole property of their fathers. Also, while it was illegal for European women to vote, tribal women were—and still are—responsible for choosing their chief and hold key political offices. The Haudenosaunee even have a female deity while the Europeans exclusively worship male figures. Their lifestyle inspired the suffragists to try and obtain the same rights for women.

The tribe's story has been preserved in a new museum just outside of Rochester and one exhibit illustrates the connection between their world and the suffragists. What is fascinating to me is that I wonder how different life today would be if we had embraced the Haudenosaunee lifestyle, instead of doing our best to destroy it. It's just another one of those puzzle pieces of history that has been overlooked for too long so, in the year ahead, we are planning to incorporate it into our women's history exhibit to share it with our visitors.

The Methodist Chapel that stands next to the National Women's History Museum in Seneca Falls, New York, was the site where Elizabeth Cady Stanton first publicly read the "Declaration of Sentiments" that outlined the demands for equal rights. Margaret and George Pryor, Quakers who later moved to Vineland, were among the people who signed the document. The chapel, which was almost lost to neglect, was restored in recent years by the National Park Service.



Hours & Information

The Museum Office is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. from February through December by appointment. The Museum exhibits are open to the public every Saturday during those months, except when a presentation is scheduled; tours are offered at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. There is a \$1 admission charge for visitors over 12 years of age. Please remember: Assistance with library and research facilities is available by appointment only. Call the Museum at **856.691.1111**; e-mail: vinelandhistory@gmail.com; Group and school tours are welcomed and encouraged to visit.

Society Hosts Hall of Fame Reception

The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society welcomed more than forty guests to its museum in May for a reception honoring the recipients of awards from the Cumberland County Women's Hall of Fame. Over the years, their achievements have ranged from teaching to historic preservation. The evening was part of the Society's ongoing "A Celebration of Women" program, which celebrated the 150th anniversary of the women's suffrage protest that was staged in Vineland in 1868. The protest, which involved 172 women, was the largest demonstration that had ever been seen in the country. The Hall of Fame, founded in 2009 by Vineland resident Louise Bertacchi, has honored 46 Cumberland County women. The portraits of the honorees who have been recognized for their achievements are on exhibit at the museum through the end of 2018.



Founder and president of the Cumberland County Women's Hall of Fame Louise Bertacchi, at left, welcomes honoree Charlotte Gould to the reception held recently at the Society for women whose community activism has been recognized by the county organization. The evening featured good conversation and good food provided by Bottino's Shop Rite and Crust N Krumbs Bakery.



Family Fun Fest Returns in August

The Society has re-christened the annual Open House as its "Family Fun Fest" to emphasize that the free event offers something for everyone. The program, which will be held this year on Saturday, August 4, from 10 am to 2 pm, will featured some new attractions to go with popular favorites.

The Fest will showcase craftspeople selling their handcrafted wares, traditional games and activities for children, live music and a petting zoo. Refreshments will also be available.

Younger visitors will also have a chance to participate in an archaeological dig on the museum grounds or plant seeds in Gilbert Grape's Garden. Gilbert is the Society's new mascot who will also be featured on a museum scavenger hunt brochure this summer.

"We're very happy to offer this event to the public again this year," said Sandra Hearing, VHAS trustee. "Despite the heat, we had a good turnout last summer so we're hoping that even more visitors come out this August."

The official date of Vineland's founding was August 8, 1861. Although the town grew slowly in the beginning because of the Civil War, thousands of Union Army veterans flocked here after the war was over to establish new lives for themselves and their families. The Family Fun Fest is designed to encourage interest in local history.

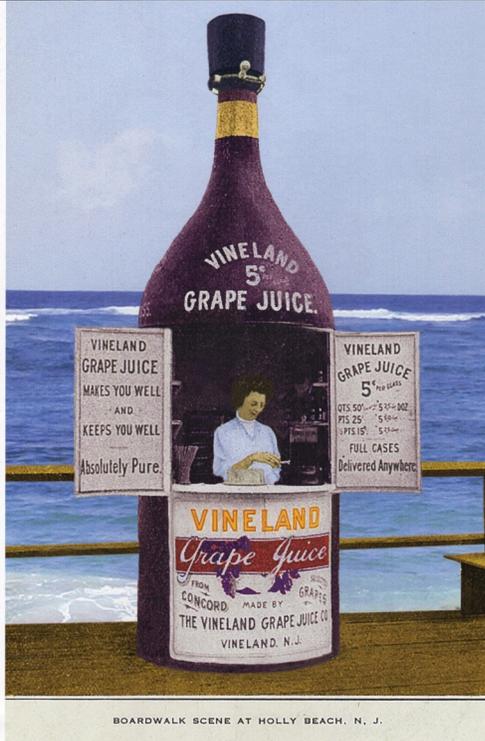


The Society's new mascot, Gilbert Grape.

Summer Time...and the Livin' was Easy



Now that summer has arrived, it's interesting to look back and see how folks spent their time before cell phones and other electronic devices became such an integral part of daily life. These images are the exclusive property of the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society.



Volunteer at VHAS: You'll be glad you did!

If you have even a couple of hours a month to spare, think about getting involved with the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society. We need volunteers to assist with everything from public and school tours to inventorying collections and helping with the maintenance of our buildings and grounds. We also need folks to handle projects involving fundraising and staffing special events.

You don't have to know a lot about local history—we can teach you what you will need to share with our visitors. For high school and college students, working as a volunteer will look great on your resume. Our museum is fully air-conditioned, so it's a great way to beat the heat!

To learn more, please call the Society at 856-691-1111 or e-mail vinelandhistory@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.