



Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society Newsletter

"New Jersey's oldest local historical society"

www.VinelandHistory.org

Fall 2011

Hours & Information

The Museum and Office are open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Museum exhibits are open to the public every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Assistance with Library and research facilities is available by appointment.

Call the Museum during business hours at **856.691.1111**

or email:

VinelandHistory@gmail.com

Group and school tours are welcomed and encouraged.

Please arrange tours by calling the Museum during business hours or by email.

Donations of historical Vineland photos, documents, and artifacts are welcome subject to approval by the acquisitions committee.

COMING SOON

The combined
2010/2011
Anniversary edition
Of the
Society's Magazine



Society Receives Time Capsule Records

The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society has become the temporary home of the records removed from the 1961 time capsule that was dug up by the city in September. The capsule had been buried in Landis Park after the city's centennial celebration. After the concrete container was opened, it was discovered that water had seeped into the inner glass lining, in which the objects had been stored. Many of the photographs, which had been taken by Foschi Studios, were damaged. However, a large scroll bearing the names of those present at the ceremony was in good condition. Bobby Rydell, a popular singer in the 1960s, was among the crowd who signed the scroll. Also included was another scroll documenting the items that had been placed in the capsule, listing the names of the city council and then-mayor Albert Giampietro. An audiotape and videotape about life in Vineland was sent by Mayor Robert Romano to a local company, with the hope that they can be restored. The records, which were inventoried and boxed, will be held indefinitely at the Society until notified otherwise by the city administration.



Vineland resident Doris Allewelt

watched as veteran auctioneer Bob Brooks studied the art glass vase she brought to the Society's first annual Antiques Identification Clinic in September. About twenty local residents attended the event.

Karen Smith of Newfield, a long-time collector, listened intently as Bob Brooks evaluated the glass souvenir portrait of President William McKinley and his wife Ida that she brought to the event.



From the Curator... by Patricia A. Martinelli



Hello!

One of the most exciting aspects of my job is the fact that every day brings new discoveries within the museum's many and extremely diverse collections. While working in the glass room recently, I looked down at the bottom shelf of the case and saw light reflecting off what appeared to be a square pane of glass that I had never noticed before. Being extremely curious by nature, I carefully knelt down to take a closer look at the object (a fact that reflects my dedication since my knees don't always cooperate on such ventures). Well, according to the hand-written tag, it proved to be a pane of window glass made at the Batsto Glass Works, which operated in the mid-nineteenth century. Now, I can't state this for certain but, to date, it is the only piece of Batsto-made window glass that I know of and I spent almost seven years at Batsto Village as a historian. I spoke to a friend on the Batsto Citizens Committee and we are going to see if we can't have it verified one way or another. By this time, many of you are probably shaking your head, wondering why I'm so excited by this discovery. It's probably because that simple pane of glass is so much more to me than just something that helped let light into a house more than a century ago.

I've been having a lot of discussions with people lately about the role of history in our lives and I've realized that most of us tend to put it in a box on the shelf and, for the most part, forget about it. At a time when many of us are struggling to keep a roof over our heads, feed our families and pay bills, little "extras" like history are not considered a priority. However, I think it's important that we remember history isn't something separate from our daily life--it's an integral part of who we are. It's the stories we tell our children about what life was like when we were growing up. It's the photos in the family album reminding us of how young we all were--once upon a time. Those stories and photographs are also reminders of the values and standards we learned from a previous generation, and what they probably learned from the generation before them. That's why, to me, history will never be something static that gets forgotten. There's just too much to learn from it. And isn't it nice to think that there's always another shelf at the bottom of the case just waiting to be explored?



Ruth Shropshire, a member of the Society's Board of Trustees, guided students from the CCC Summer Camp program on a tour of the museum.

Students and Teachers Tour VHAS Museum

Board member Ruth Shropshire, a retired elementary school teacher, took students from the Cumberland County College Summer Camp program, and teachers from the Vineland Charter School on separate tours through the Society's museum in August. Following their tour, the students had the opportunity to accession actual objects in the museum collections. The next day, when their tour was finished, the teachers from the Charter School were given information packets that included lesson plans and activities appropriate for kindergarten through fifth grade. The teachers hope to bring their students to the museum for tours during the school year.

Changes Ahead for Historical Society

Change can sometimes be a little frightening in our modern world. However, the Board of Trustees are currently working on plans that will change the Society in a very positive way for both our members and the general public. This January, the Board is planning to close the museum to the public for the entire month of January to make improvements in the glass rooms off the main floor. The artifacts housed in those rooms include Durand art glass, light bulbs, paperweights and tableware, which will be cleaned and accessioned. The rooms and the cases will be painted, and new signs completed that will better explain the importance of the glass industry in Vineland.

Another change will involve raising our membership fees. Unfortunately, the cost of producing our newsletters, the Historical Society magazine, and underwriting special events has risen dramatically in recent years. As a result, the Board may be forced to increase membership costs to fund those costs. But in return, we hope to continue moving forward with new and interesting programs that everyone will enjoy. On November 12, noted authority Gay LeCleire Taylor will discuss the history of Durand Art Glass, produced in Vineland in the 1920s and '30s.



What's Up, Doc?

In September, Dr. Robert Schuyler (pictured above) returned with his archaeology students to continue digging on the museum grounds. The

artifacts they uncover will eventually be placed in an exhibit at the University of Pennsylvania. Schuyler has written an article on their findings for the upcoming Historical Society Magazine.

In Training Program

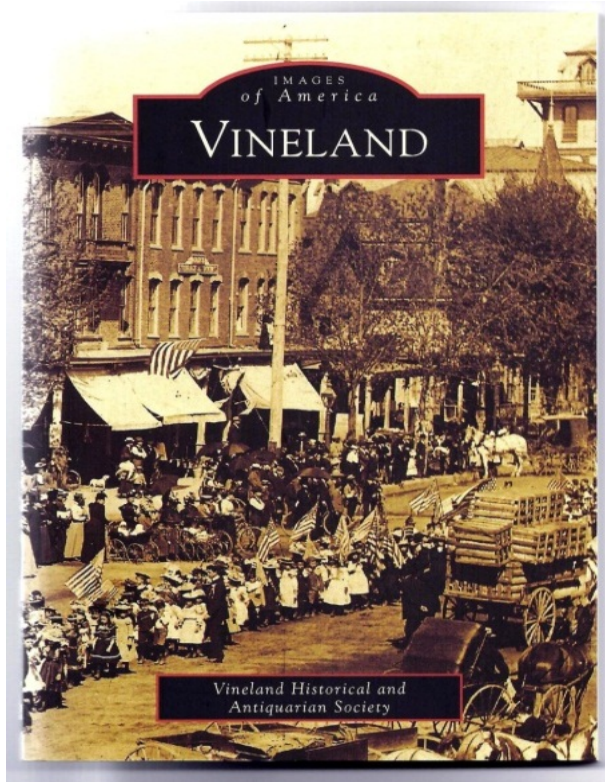
Board member Ruth Shropshire, who serves as the Society's Volunteer Coordinator, conducted two volunteer training programs in September at the museum. Both newcomers and veteran volunteers reviewed a new manual, and a contract and application form, followed by a tour of the museum.

The new training program is designed to provide volunteers with a more complete understanding of their work assignments and match them to the type of job with which they are most comfortable. Right now, the Society needs volunteers who can offer guided tours, assist with typing, filing, cleaning the museum, and assisting the curator with other work, such as cataloguing the library collections, and accessioning the artifacts. If you have even a few hours a month and would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Ruth Shropshire or Patricia Martinelli at 856-691-1111 or via e-mail at vinelandhistory@gmail.com.



VHAS Board Member Ruth Shropshire (center) recently conducted a training class for museum volunteers.

Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!



Images of America – VINELAND

Released in February 2011, the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society is pleased to present our first book on the early years of Vineland.

With one-of-a-kind archival photographs, VINELAND will educate and entertain the reader on the first years and the first citizens of this unique community. On sale now at the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society museum and local outlets.

*Visit our exhibit at the Vineland City Hall.

Invitation for Articles.....

The Vineland Historical Society Magazine,

published annually, welcomes your ideas and submissions. Please forward for consideration to the Society, to the attention of Lois Genovese, at VinelandHistory@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor,

Layout & Graphics: Patricia A. Martinelli

Contributors: Nancy Steelman, Frank Amari, Jr., John W. Carr (photography)

The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, was established in 1864, only three years after Vineland was founded. It is New Jersey's oldest local historical society.

WINE JUGS AVAILABLE

There is still time to purchase your limited-edition miniature wine jug, created to commemorate Vineland's 150th anniversary.



The salt-glazed jugs, which cost \$36, were designed and handcrafted by veteran potter Terry Plasket, who works at Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center in Millville. The final shipments should be arriving at the Society in October.

To purchase a jug or for more information, Contact Patricia A. Martinelli, Administrator/ Curator, at 856-691-1111 or by e-mail at vinelandhistory@gmail.com. All proceeds from sales are used to benefit the Society.

~The Trustees~

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