

Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society

"New Jersey's oldest local historical society"

Newsletter ~ 2011

"Celebrating Vineland's 150th Birthday"



www.VinelandHistory.com

Winter 2011

Hours & Information

The Museum and Office are open from Tuesday through Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Society's 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 by calling the Museum during business hours at

856.691.1111

or email at:

VinelandHistory@gmail.com

Group and school tours are welcomed and encouraged.

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

Donations of historical Vineland photos, documents, and artifacts are welcome

subject to approval by the acquisitions committee.

Look for...

"Vintage Vineland"

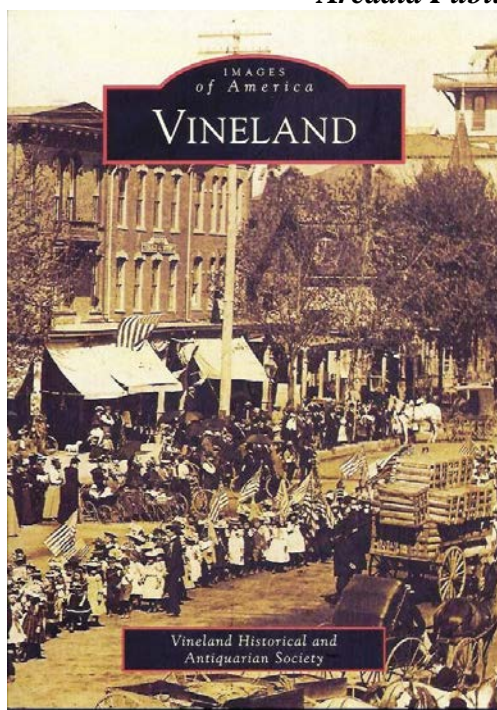
in

The Grapevine Newspaper

Images of America VINELAND

by

The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society
Arcadia Publishing, 2011



On the Cover:
Landis Avenue Memorial Day Celebration,
1889

VHAS, in conjunction with Arcadia Publishing Company, has been hard at work on producing the book, "Images of America, Vineland," which highlights Vineland's early years from its establishment in 1861 by Charles K. Landis, to the early 20th century.

Using archival photographs from the Society's vast collections, the distinctive stories of Vineland's beginnings - its first settlers, neighborhoods, businesses, and diverse industries - tells the story of a unique city with many history making accomplishments, famous names, beautiful farms, and proud legacy.

Available: February, 2011
at VHAS and local outlets.

Excerpt p.9:

On creating the first roads in Vineland, **Charles K. Landis** would later recall: "At that time the country was a dense wilderness of forest trees and thick under-growth, but with a clay and sandy loam soil, well adapted to the cultivation of fruits and the cereals. You could wander in any direction for days without meeting a human creature, and a silence reigned of that particular kind of which the ear is only sensible in a dense wilderness."

Introducing the Staff...

Hello!

My name is **Patricia Martinelli** and, for the first time in a long time, I'm looking forward to February with a sense of excitement and anticipation. No, it's not because I'm taking a month-long holiday away from all the snow and ice. It's because I start my new position this month as Administrator/Curator of the Vineland Historical and



Patricia Martinelli,
Administrator and Curator

Antiquarian Society Museum. As someone who has been fascinated by history since childhood, I am looking forward to learning more about my hometown and sharing what I've learned with the Society's members.

Here's a quick biography for those of you who are not familiar with my background: I was born and raised in Vineland and have lived here for most of my life. I attended Cumberland County College and Glassboro State College (before it grew up to become Rowan University), and later obtained a master's degree from Thomas Edison State College. History has always been the focus of my studies, primarily because I feel the past enriches the present. Just imagine how empty life would be without some of the wonderful family and cultural traditions that have been handed down to us through the generations. As some of you know, I have written a number of books and articles related to New Jersey history. But rest assured that I will be completely focused on my work at the Historical Society the moment I set foot through the door. I hope that all the members of the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society will stop by in the coming weeks to get better acquainted. With your support, I know that we will make great strides in organizing the collections, planning new programs, research, and spreading the word about the benefits of becoming a Society member. So, what do you say? Let's make history!



Vineland Treasures...

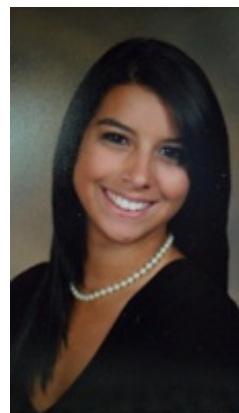
The Museum welcomes the opportunity to preserve and store for safe-keeping books, records, artifacts, and ephemera from or about Vineland.

If you have anything that should be preserved, contact

Patricia A. Martinelli, Curator,
for information.

The Museum always appreciates your continued support through your donations.

856.691.1111



Lauren Valentine, Office staff and Docent

I am a recent graduate of Rowan University with a BA in Elementary Education and History. I became an employee of the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society my senior year of college while writing a research paper about the Vineland Training School. History has always been a passion of mine, especially United States History. I am a long time resident of Vineland and enjoy learning new things about the city I live in. If there is something that we can all learn from history it is that it should never be ignored. If we ignore what happened yesterday it only hinders our tomorrow.

Images of America - VINELAND



The Trustees gather in the Museum's Charles K. Landis room to announce the publication of the Historical Society's 2011 book, **Images of America – VINELAND**, published by Arcadia Publishing (see page 1).

Pictured from left: Administrator and Curator Patricia Martinelli, trustees Lois Genovese and Nancy Steelman. Back row: Vice-President Dane Barse, Ed.D, Secretary Robert Wilhelm, trustee Ruth Shropshire, and President Frank Amari, Jr. Esq. Not pictured are: Treasurer Jim Marone, trustee Louise Bertacchi, and staff employee, Lauren Valentine.



The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society is pleased to announce the addition of Louise T. Bertacchi to its Board of Trustees. Bertacchi, a former business owner and dedicated community leader, has thirty years of experience in civic, school-based, and charitable activities. As an active volunteer at the Historical Society, Bertacchi was a 2010 committee member for the building's 100th Anniversary year-long series of events and served as the committee's publicity chairperson. She is involved in the Vineland Downtown Improvement District working on various committees, and has participated in both Millville and Bridgeton on a wide variety of community projects. She is the founder and President of *The Cumberland County Women's Hall of Fame*, and actively participates in the *Woman's Club of Vineland*, and the *NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs*. Bertacchi also serves on the *Foundation Board of Cumberland County College*, *Wheaton Arts & Cultural Center*, and the *Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA*. "Louise brings to the Society her vast experience in organization, public relations, and effective leadership," said Board of Trustees President, Frank Amari, Jr., "but most importantly, she brings a spirit of creative enthusiasm and dedication which is welcomed and appreciated by the Society."



Copies of the book, *State of New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail*, can be purchased at the Museum.

NJSFWC

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs

Historical Society member, Shirley Burke and trustee, Nancy Steelman, representing the Woman's Club of Vineland, pose for a photo in front of the Historical Society's display of Dr. Mary J. Dunlap, the Woman's Club of Vineland's first president. The Woman's Club of Vineland will be participating in the "Passport Project" with *This Place Matters*, designating the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society as an important attraction in the State of New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail. Vineland figured prominently in the early history of the women's rights movement in the State of New Jersey. In fact, the first New Jersey State Convention calling for equality of the sexes was held in Vineland in 1868.

In Memoriam

Antonio "Tony" Mennone
Dedicated VHAS Volunteer

Celebrate Vineland's 150th Birthday!

The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society is pleased to be actively involved with the **Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee** in the planning and participation of events and projects.

Trustees Nancy Steelman and Lois Genovese are committee members.

Looking to the Future, Assessing the Past

As we approach the 150th Birthday of the City of Vineland, the Trustees and loyal volunteers and members have much to be proud of. This grand old building also celebrated its 100th birthday in 2010 with a year-long series of events, contests, and new projects, one of which we are proud to present as our book on the early years of Vineland, *Images of America-VINELAND*.

As far back as 2007, the Historical Society began its launch of building improvements which resulted in much needed repairs to the infrastructure. A new roof and heating and cooling systems were installed, and, thanks to the hard work of trustees Frank Amari and Jim Marone, the painting and reorganization of the Museum's second floor was finally accomplished. The Great Hall also welcomed a new coat of paint and throughout the entire Museum all of the hardwood floors were sanded and treated to a luxurious finish.

Trustee, Nancy Steelman renewed an early tradition of the Historical Society by planning and producing a monthly lecture series in 2010 with the help of her hard working committee members. Beginning with Kevin Kirchner's fascinating lecture on George Daynor's Palace of Depression, and ending with a unique presentation by Leni Lenape Chief Mark Gould, and author Amy Hill Hearth, the lecture series also hosted well-known locals Jim Forcinito, who spoke on the history of the Vineland Police Force, and Joe Luisi, best known as a local musician but also internationally known as one of the world's most talented and respected glass artists. Fire Chief Robert Pagnini recounted the history of the fire department and also introduced rare artifacts from Vineland's fire department history which the Museum houses. Joe Hampton gave a presentation on the Vineland Egg Auction, an integral part of what once had been one of Vineland's most successful industries. Volunteer Sarah Snow offered her services in two lecture events – she presented accounts on the early years of Vineland, and along with Carol Shenton and Carol Patterson, truly entertained the audience with reenactments of Portia Gage, Dr. Mary Dunlap, and Vineland native and scientist, Mary Treat.

Throughout the summer, the Society encouraged local artists to submit their renditions of the Historical Society's building in honor of its 100th birthday. In October, the Society was pleased to announce Marianne Bagliani's painting as the winning entry, now on display in the Museum's Great Hall along with paintings by Liz Miranda and her son, Sebastien Perez, each of whose works received Honorable Mention. The Society is appreciative of all of the entries and interest in this event.

Finally, as the Historical Society plans for the future, its hope is to continue the honorable efforts of the past which have made this institution survive so successfully to this very day. The trustees, volunteers themselves to this institution, will continue to realize the awesome responsibility of guarding and preserving Vineland's precious artifacts, documents, records, and reputation for future Vineland generations. It is a trust we welcome and respect.

The Trustees ~

President Frank Amari, Jr. Esq. Vice-President Dane Barse, Ed.D. Secretary Bob Wilhelm Treasurer Jim Marone
Nancy Steelman Ruth Shropshire Lois Genovese Louise Bertacchi

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 Dane Barse, at VinelandHistory@gmail.com



Calling All Volunteers!!bring your good cheer, fine skills, and precious time to VHAS and help out!
High School and College Students...

*If you are interested in learning and gaining museum experience...and you love history...Contact the Museum and become a
Volunteer.*

Newsletter Editor, Layout & Graphics: Lois M. Genovese

Contributors to this Issue: Nancy Steelman, Frank Amari, Jr., Patricia Martinelli, Lauren Valentine, John Carr

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.