

# Avalon History Center Director's Report – April, 2015

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	# Visitors On-site	# Reached Digitally	# Objects Catalogued	# Objects Digitized
March 2015	9	42,650	21	52
April 2015	6	7,127+	25	151

## Administration

- Three high-school interns will work for two weeks beginning May 11, Monday – Friday, 10am to 4pm.
- Developed daily staff schedule through the month of June, including the shift to expanded hours.
- Together with Shannon Nagle and Jim Craft, developed plan for purchasing and installing server at the History Center.

## Marketing

- Developed flyer for interim use while brochure is in production.
- Contracted with Seven Mile Times to advertise starting in the Memorial Day issue; developed ad with their designers.
- Drafted articles for Spring newsletter.

## Programs & Outreach

- Participated in Community Connections by creating a display of 1930s postcards, distributing flyers and networking with other attendees.
- Attended meeting on April 8 of Cape May County small museum representatives to discuss our new programs and initiatives.
- Agreed to assist Recreation Director Chuck McDonnell with collecting historic materials related to Community Hall, for use in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration this September.
- Agreed to participate in Avalon Lions' scavenger hunt program
- Agreed to support and facilitate Hometown Heroes project, in which the Avalon Historical Society is a partner.
- At patron request, searched the collection and/or conducted outside research on: an 1889 Avalon property deed; the Maris Stella Chapel; historic maps located in the Princeton & the Whitebriar; military service records of Avalon veterans.
- Held inaugural Teatime on April 21; attended by four community members.
- Programming Committee met on 4/9 and determined the following:
  - John Nagy, who has presented programs at the History Center previously, will be invited to present on his book *Spies in the Continental Capital Espionage Across Pennsylvania during the American Revolution*. We wish to schedule this for Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

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- The photo contest, which typically is co-sponsored by the History Center and the Avalon Historical Society, will be handled solely by the Historical Society going forward. This is because the History Center cannot charge a fee for this or any other program due to State Library guidelines.

## Ongoing Major Initiatives

- Ordered photography equipment for use in Oral Histories and Digitization, funded through capital project approved April 9.
- Conducted Oral History with Joe Breslin.
- Photographed 2388 Ocean Drive and 6063 Ocean Drive, both of which are slated for demolition.
- Cottage determined not eligible for National Register; restoration nearly complete.
- Visited 26<sup>th</sup> St Schoolhouse with consultant Joan Berkey, who will prepare a report on its significance.

## Exhibits

- Plan to create “selfie stations” which encourage visitors to photograph themselves with mannequins wearing garments from our collection, and to post those on social media with a certain hashtag.
- Developing summertime exhibits, which are likely to be completed and open as of mid-June, at the close of the Avalon Historical Society photography contest.

## Collections

- Avalon Historical Society has allocated \$250 to buy collections housekeeping supplies, including: distilled water, spider traps, spray bottles, gloves, dust cloths, microfiber cloths, bucket, quilt soap, moth traps, doormat, wax polish, brushes, scratch remover, dry cleaning sponge.
- Developed a system for and began archiving publications agreed upon last month.
- Henry Thompson offers for purchase a 1925 Avalon Lifeboat in excellent condition. Owners, uses of, and changes to the lifeboat are well-documented. Markings on the side of the boat read "Avalon Life Boat No. 1-23," of which Mr. Thompson provided a tracing. He can transport the boat to us. The boat is 18' long and approx. 4' wide. Avalon Historical Society has agreed to pay the asking price of \$1,500.
- See list of this month's recommended loans/acquisitions beginning on following page.

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## Collections Committee & Avalon Historical Society Recommendations

- Dee Phillips offers for long term loan:
  - Painting of 19th c. Avalon
  - Two blue wool uniforms, top and bottom, circa 1907, with white letters reading “Avalon Life Guard”
  - One blue swimsuit with white stripes at the edges, top and bottom, circa 1900.
  - Framed photos of Esso Station at 21st St and 3rd Ave
  - Framed 1885 photos related to the Live Saving Station on 15th St.
  - October 12, 2006 article from Middle Township Gazette, “Avalon Celebrates 100th Year for Beach Patrol”
  - Newspaper clipping of Samuel Morton’s obituary
  - Newspaper clipping “Boro Pays Tribute to a Family”
  - August 2, 1963 article from Seven Mile Beach Reporter “A Short History of the Wells Presbyterian Church,” and a featured photo entitled “Leaning Life Saving.”
  - Handwritten Avalon history notes by Mrs. Phillips
  - Post card/photograph of Adam Smith’s house at 9th and Avalon, looking north west; Avalon Hotel is visible through porch.
  - Post card/photograph of 19th c. image of 9th St, with Penrose home visible.
  - Post card/photograph of 19th c. Avalon with women sitting on porch.
  - Avalon Development Co. promotional booklet with images of 19th c. Avalon.
  - Aerial photo of Avalon after 1962 storm
  - Framed 1900 photo of Avalon Post Office on 6th Street
  - Avalon Borough centennial commemorative calendar
  - Photocopies of many other photographs of Avalon, including a group from the 19th c.
  - 1906 tax receipt to Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
  - The Round Table of Avalon, Vol 1, No. 2, July 1890. x 3
  - 2006 article in Seven Mile Times, “A Lifetime, A Legacy, George Phillips”
  - Framed 1888 photo of “Old Limerick,” the Leaming Homestead at 32nd & Second Avenue
  - Framed 1907 photo of Avalon Life Guards, including Howard High, Walter A. Smith, and Smith’s daughter Frances Smith Phillips, among others.
  - With Board approval, Nina will draft long-term loan agreement that notes Mrs. Phillips' children may re-claim these items if they wish; Collections Committee and Avalon Historical Society recommend this course of action.

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- Rose Wells offers for donation 25 binders and 4 small albums which contain:
  - #1: approx. 50 items related to Summer Assembly, Robert Henri.
  - #2: approx. 20 items including Memorial Day ads and flyers, Historical Society Annual Meeting 2002 documents
  - #3: approx. 70 items related to Avalon development, real estate ads, newspaper articles
  - #4: approx. 70 items related to Avalon memories, 7 Mile Times articles & ads, Historical Society flyers
  - #5: approx. 40 items photocopies of photographs & articles about Avalon Pier, Boardwalk
  - #6: approx. 100 items related to Cape May Co. history, history of Avalon.
  - #7: approx. 40 Avalon Reporters 1991-2002
  - #8: approx. 30 photocopies of photographs of old houses
  - #9: approx. 20 photocopies of Cape May Co. history, local business info., dunes & dune grass
  - #10: approx. 30 photocopies of Avalon history, newspapers, memories, etc.
  - #11: approx. 50 photocopies Avalon history, Cape May Co. history.
  - #12: approx. 20 photocopies Avalon local business guides, storm of '62
  - #13: approx. 20 handwritten contacts, photocopies of Avalon events 2005-07
  - #14: approx. 20 items related to churches
  - #15: approx. 70 items related to contacts, local businesses, Avalon history
  - #16: approx. 30 items related to local business, ads
  - #17: approx. 50 "Tidings"
  - #18: approx. 50 photocopies of old photographs
  - #19: approx. 50 photocopies of old photographs
  - #20: approx. 30 History Center articles, photocopies of old photographs.
  - #21: approx. 30 items related to real estate.
  - #22: approx. 30 photocopies of old photographs
  - #23: approx. 30 items related to Giampa immigration, railway info.
  - #24: approx. 30 photocopies of photographs, storm of '44 info.
  - #25: approx. 30 photocopies of photographs
  - (A) Approx. 100 postcards, photocopies, photographs of Avalon
  - (B) Approx. 100 photographs of houses in Avalon
  - (C) Approx. 30 Avalon postcards
  - (D) Approx. 30 Photographs of Avalon History Center
  - Collections Committee and Avalon Historical society recommend acquisition of these items despite some duplication. Many items are unique, and all will be valuable to the collection.

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- Joe Reese offers for donation a Seaside Heroes DVD containing approx. two hours of interviews with veterans from Avalon & Stone Harbor, distributed by American Legion Post 331. Collections Committee and Avalon Historical Society recommend for acquisition.
  
- Rose Marie Chew offers for donation the following items, recommended for approval by the Collections Committee and the Avalon Historical Society:
  - Wings & Water anniversary pins: 1998 (2), 2002 (2), 2003 (3), 2004.
  - Three Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Fund advertising supplements in The Press of Atlantic City: July 27, 2012; July 26, 2013; July 25, 2014.
  - Avalon Supply pen.
  
- Suzie Gallagher offers for donation the following items, recommended for approval by the Collections Committee and Avalon Historical Society:
  - Sixteen mimeographed or photocopied sheets of Richard Corliss's daily "newspapers" from 1959-1960. Includes: Volume 3, No. 12, 32; Volume 4, No. 9, 10, 11, 26, 27, 42, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54. These contain humorous anecdotes about Avalonians and daily life in Avalon.