



Greater Cape May Historical Society

Proposal for Restoration, Enhancement and Maintenance



WW1 - Soldier and Sailors Monument - The "All Wars" Monument

The Greater Cape May Historical Society

Restoration, Enhancement and Maintenance Project for the City of Cape May

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A precious son from me was taken,
A voice we loved is still,
A wound within my heart is sealed,
Which never can be healed,
To France he went a volunteer,
His love, his life was given,
His body was not returned to me,
But his soul was sent to heaven.

Pvt. Daniel E. Lee, of Philadelphia's 315th Infantry Regiment, is buried at the
St. Mihiel American Cemetery in France

From "Honoring doughboys of St. Columba" Commentary, Chris Gibbons, Philadelphia
Inquirer, April 6, 2017

I. Summary

The City of Cape May is recognized as “the Nation’s Oldest Seashore Resort” with over two miles of white sandy beaches. The City received designation as a National Historic Landmark district by the U. S. Department of the Interior in 1976. With over 600 Victorian Era structures in continuing operation, Cape May is a premier tourist destination presenting a wide array of cultural, historical, arts, environmental, educational and recreational programs and activities on a year round basis

The Greater Cape May Historical Society (GCMHS) wishes to partner with the City of Cape May to restore the Soldier and Sailor Monument, otherwise, known as the “All Wars” Monument to its original condition with polished brass, a general cleanup and a natural planted garden at its base and to further dignify the monument, solar lighting to display the monument and flag.

- Create a maintenance plan with the Department of Public Works to maintain and educate the visitors to the city with the historical background on the city website. Action items include:
- Resolve to matching the grant from the US World War One Centennial Commission *100 Cities / 100 Memorials for \$2000*
- Provide additional funding beyond the grant for the completion of work based on estimate to clean the memorial and plant a garden. Over the years, additional plaques were added to honor all war veterans and it became known as the “All Wars Monument’
- Create a history web page on discovercapemaynj.com to maintain the history of monuments in the city; install QR codes at the monuments.

- Consider:
 - Adding the Monument to the MAC Trolley Tour with a doughboy reenactor at during the week proceeding Memorial Day and Veteran's Day
 - Identify and catalog all memorials in the city for a maintenance plan including the Fishermen's Memorial or any additional memorials in the city in Rotary Park and the Mall area

II. Introduction

The Greater Cape May Historical Society was formed in 1975 to save the Memucan Hughes Colonial House from demolition for city parking. The Society over the years had leadership that focused on the Colonial House as their purpose. The Society is the Steward of the Colonial House. Memucan Hughes was a paymaster in the Revolutionary War and owned a tavern in the town. Taverns were important to shelter travelers, spread the news, and fellowship. For purposes of this document, we will refer to ourselves as the “Society”.

Each successive board kept the house in good condition. An architecture review suggests the house was built circa 1730. It one a few houses in the county open to the public of this type of vernacular architecture. The house stood through the great fire of 1878; tourism decline due to economic conditions, the World Wars, and finally, the 70’s Urban Renewal and “tear down” era. As a result of a small dedicated team of volunteers in the early 70s, and nomination by Ms. Carolyn Pitts, the city received from the National Park Service, the prestigious distinction of a National Historic Landmark in 1976. The Landmark designation covers the entire city.

History was now a significant part of community and a strategic economic driver.

The Historic Landmark designation for Cape May began a gradual and increasing rise of tourism focused on one of the largest collections of Victorian architecture in a seaside location surrounded in natural beauty; Bed and Breakfast historical accommodations with grand porches for sitting and reading; birding, fishing, and the beach.

Over the years, the Society volunteers were beginning to “age out”. Volunteers were moving out of the area, unable to do physical tasks; support was becoming scarce. The Society fell silent however, still maintaining the Colonial House. The current Board aided by technology and the ease of organizing and functioning by sharing tasks using portable and hand held devices, texting, email, have engaged older members, encouraging them to learn new skills and stay involved in the Society while recruiting new volunteers, interest and support.

The Society’s mission is to collect, preserve, document, interpret and share the history of the greater Cape May area. We are dedicated to the Colonial House Stewardship, our largest and most important artifact, as well as, organizing and documenting the many private and donated photograph collections in the Cape May area.

Societies and Friends of museums supporting historical locations are at a crossroads, whereby they must change themselves into an attraction in order to thrive, or for some, survive, while conveying to the average person that history is crucial for the future and worth investing in. Many have introduced an entrepreneurial model, incorporating diverse programming with relevant advertising and formed partnerships in events to support the tourism in the city for a solid economic future.

The US World War One Centennial provided an opportunity for the Society to focus on the Soldier and Sailors Monument.

Needs/Problems for the Monument:

- Over the years, additional plaques were added to honor all war veterans and it became known as the “All Wars Monument’. These can no longer be read due to grime and dirt.
- The base garden became almost non-existent supported with some artificial flowers.
- The monument became “faceless”, that is, *no one really saw it*, or recognized it; as a result fading into the intersection with little to no appeal for the local or the visitor. When asked, “Do you know where the “All Wars” monument is? The answer most likely was “no, not really” or “the tall object in the middle of the street”.
- Light the monument with solar power throughout the seasons.

III. Goals/Objectives

Objective: The Society wished to engage in the World War I Centennial. Cape May City has significant history in this area due to the city’s proximity to the Delaware Bay, a major entrance to manufacturing and port of Philadelphia. At the outbreak of World War 1, a Naval training base was established and training center called Camp Wissahickon to defend the Delaware Bay from German submarine’s warfare to prevent ships bringing raw material from reaching Philadelphia, as well as, arms and supplies to reach Europe.

- Goal 1 - Restore the brass plaques to be easily read by the public
- Goal 2 - Create an garden surrounding the base of the monument
- Goal 3 - Light the monument throughout the evening and into morning with solar power

- Goal 4 - Educate the public with the significance of the monument with an emphasis on the fact it is the only monument erected after the World War I in Cape May County.
- Goal 5 - Create an ongoing plan to maintain the memorial
- Goal 6 - Publish on the City's Discover Cape May website to inform public of the memorials in the city, the relevance of history in our Historic Landmark District city.
- Goal 7 - Begin constructing the foundation for historical research for the monument on the city website.

IV. Procedures/Scope of Work

The Project involves a “clean-up” of a monument in Cape May, New Jersey, originally dedicated to the men who served in the United States military during World War I. It was commissioned by the Grand Old Army of the Republic and Kindred Spirits Post 40, the John Mecray post in Cape May City on July 4th, 1923. It was originally named the Soldier and Sailors Monument. Over the years, it became known as the All Wars Monument. No antiquities are involved so there is no likelihood of inadvertent damage or harm. The World War I bronze plaques have been affixed to the monument for nearly 94 years. Thus, the decision was made to clean the plaques in place rather than removing them and risking any damage or harm to the stone monument or the plaques themselves.

The project includes three basic tasks:

- Cleaning up and polishing the bronze plaques and other memorial adornments dedicated to those who served in World War I and subsequent to that dedication to service men and women who served in a number of other wars and military actions;
- Pruning existing perennial plants, primarily rose bushes, and replanting as necessary
- Installing solar lighting as necessary

The City of Cape May’s Department of Public Works (DPW) will carry out tasks as outlined about. A senior member of the Department staff is experienced at refurbishing bronze plaques and has carried out the responsibility with other City property. DPW has responsibility for landscaping and grounds maintenance and is regularly responsible for “sprucing up” the City’s parks and green spaces, including the site of the WWI memorial. The Department is already mowing the area and has planted seasonal flowers. With the

assistance of the Cape May Garden Club, the Department will carry out late summer/early fall planting of new perennial plants.

DPW will also install the new solar fixtures. Additionally, the Atlantic City Electric Company maintains three traditional street lights at the site. The light standards need to be cleaned and repainted. The glass globes need to be cleaned and the light bulbs should be replaced. The Greater Cape May Historical Society has reached out to the electric company to have this work accomplished in short order.

Strategy that at least considers the future upkeep of the memorial.

V. Schedule and Work Sequence

Cape May is an immensely popular beach resort and tourist destination. The high season runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. As a result, minimal work projects are carried out at tourist sites. For example, the scaffolding needed to reach the eagle atop the memorial and the bronze plaques that are highly placed cannot be erected until after Labor Day.

Clean-up and polishing of the bronze plaques, the eagle atop the memorial and the other bronze adornments will begin in September and be accomplished by late October, weather permitting. Certainly all the tasks connected with the monument will be accomplished before Veterans Day, November 11, 2017.

Regular lawn mowing and flower garden maintenance at the memorial has already begun and will continue through late fall. New plants are expected to be put in by fall.

VI. Timetable

	Description of Work	Start and End Dates
Phase One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean, polish the brass • Over the years, additional plaques were added to honor all war veterans and it became known as the “All Wars Monument’ 	Complete soon after Labor Day weekend by October 31,2017
Phase Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant garden at base of the monument • Install solar lighting (to be determined) 	Complete by Memorial Day weekend, May 26 th , 2017
Phase Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rededicate and educate the public on the significance of the monument • Speaker - East Lynn Theatre Company at the Memorial • Presentation - Honoring Doughboys of St. Columba at the Lutheran Church of Cape Hall - November xx 	Veteran’s Day Ceremony, November 10, 2017
Phase Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Expansion of site 	See Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Cape May City and Cape May Point Borough

VII. Budget

	Description of Work	Anticipated Costs
Phase One	City Department of Public Works and Finance	FTE; work to be completed by City of Cape May Public Works
Phase Two	City Department of Public Works and Finance	FTE; work to be completed by City of Cape May Public Works
Phase Three	City Department of Public Works and Finance	FTE; work to be completed by City of Cape May Public Works
Phase Four	Future Expansion of Site; Collaborative effort between County and City of Cape May and Cape May Point	See Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Cape May City and Cape May Point Borough
	Total	\$ 0.00

VIII. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Cape May City and Cape May Point Borough

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Cape May City and Cape May Point is a Cape May County project now in the engineering and design stage with proposed recommendations

that include the surrounding area of Gurney Street at Columbia Avenue—the location of the monument. The project’s focus is holistic; education, encouragement, and enforcement. This intersection is the location of the Soldier and Sailors monument



“Through this holistic approach, the education, encouragement, and enforcement recommendations focus on policy, and program options to improve safety and foster bicycle and pedestrian travel throughout Cape May City and Cape May point.” (Bike Walk Cape May, WSP Parsons Brinckerhoef Technical Memorandum 2: Recommendations)

Gurney Street at Columbia Avenue



Gurney Street at Columbia Avenue

This ungrazed intersection is located in historic downtown Cape May City and is surrounded by residential and commercial uses. The existing configuration of the intersection creates wide pedestrian crossings and a small public green space at its center. However, the War Memorial located at the center of the island is underutilized and difficult to access due to the lack of marked crosswalks and curb ramps.

Proposed improvements, illustrated to the left and in the photo simulation on the opposite page, include place-making strategies to transform a portion of the intersection into a public park space focused around the War Memorial. The improvements will enhance the War Memorial by making it a more accessible public asset, increase green space in this section of the City, and tighten the intersection to improve pedestrian safety and circulation.

Short Term

- Install ADA-compliant curb ramps and high visibility continental crosswalk at the southbound approach

Long Term

- Eliminate channelized right turn lane from Columbia Avenue to Gurney Street to tighten intersection
- Create small park around the war memorial, reflective of the historic character of the area with seating, sidewalk access, and plantings. This effort should be done in collaboration with American Legion Post 193 (Harvey Snyder) and VFW Post 386
- Install ADA-compliant curb ramps and high visibility continental crosswalk at the northbound and westbound approaches

Cost Estimate*

Short Term	\$1,100
Mid Term	-
Long Term	\$66,000

*Does not include park design, plantings, lighting, benches, and other amenities

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Simulation of Potential Reconfiguration of Gurney Street at Columbia Avenue Intersection and Enhanced War Memorial



Simulation of potential reconfiguration of the Gurney Street at Columbia Avenue intersection and enhanced War Memorial park

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IX. Key Personnel

List the key personnel who will be responsible for completion of the project, as well as other personnel involved in the project.

Cape May City

- Mayor and City Council
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Finance
- Historic Preservation Commission

Greater Cape May Historical Society Project Leads

- Kathleen Wyatt, Administrator
- Harry Bellangy, Historian

Events to Mark the WWI Centennial in the City:

- **Greater Cape May Historical Society Presentation “The Doughboys of St. Columba - Speaker Mr. Chris Gibbons**, Presentation of Honoring the Doughboys of St. Columba - to be held at the Lutheran Church on Pittsburgh Avenue (confirmed Hall Reserved). Mr. Gibbons is a Philadelphia writer who has published newsprint editorials in the Philadelphia Inquirer and to the WWI Committee on the tragic events that unfolded in one parish where 27 boys gave their lives during the Great War. (confirmed date with Mr. Gibbons)
- **Veteran’s Day Ceremony, November 10 - Speaker at the Memorial, Lee O’Connor. Mr. O’Connor (Technical Director) of The East Lynne Theatre Company**, served in Vietnam, first in the field, and then on stage in Saigon as part of an Army theater troupe. Back in the States he worked in management for IBM

and The American Institute of Banking, before once more returning to the stage, where he's worked as an actor, stage manager, lighting and set designer; and on construction crews. A member of AEA, he began stage managing for ELTC in the mid-'80s.

Other Events and Presentations:

- **MAC Presentations by the Friends of WWII Tower present "Cape May In World War I"** -by MAC Education Director Robert Heinly that celebrates the centennial of the war, at the Cape May Lutheran Church, 509 Pittsburgh Ave., Saturday, Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the World War II Tower, an affinity group of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (MAC
- **East Lynn Theatre's production of "*A Year in the Trenches*".** While not directly connected to the project, it is a subset of events held in the city. Written by James Rana, A YEAR IN THE TRENCHES is based on C. E. Dilkes' book REMEMBERING WORLD WAR I: AN ENGINEER'S DIARY OF THE WAR, and accounts written by others. C. E. Dilkes was born in Philadelphia, but spent the rest of his life in New Jersey after the war.
- **Cape May Stage production of *Billy Bishop Goes to War*.** Billy Bishop Goes to War is a Canadian musical, written by John MacLachlan Gray in collaboration with the actor Eric Peterson. One of the most famous and widely produced plays in Canadian theatre, it dramatizes the life of Canadian World War I fighter pilot Billy Bishop.

- **County of Cape May Museum World War 1 Exhibit.** To commemorate the centennial, The Museum has developed an exhibition that showcases not only the war from a serviceperson’s perspective, but also shows the war’s effect on those who kept the home fires burning here in the southernmost end of the state. As part of “Over Here: The Great War Comes to Cape May County,” many artifacts never before seen by the public will be on display, including memorabilia from Camp Wissahickon. A portion of the exhibit also highlights the story of Wildwood’s Baker sisters whose service as nurses in war torn France was lauded on two continents. The Middle Township World War I flag will be on display. This flag commemorates the service of every man and nurse from the township who went to war and with special commemoration of the men who lost their lives in service to their nation

X. Evaluation

Discuss how progress will be evaluated throughout and at the end of the project.

Ok

Ok

XI. Project Narrative

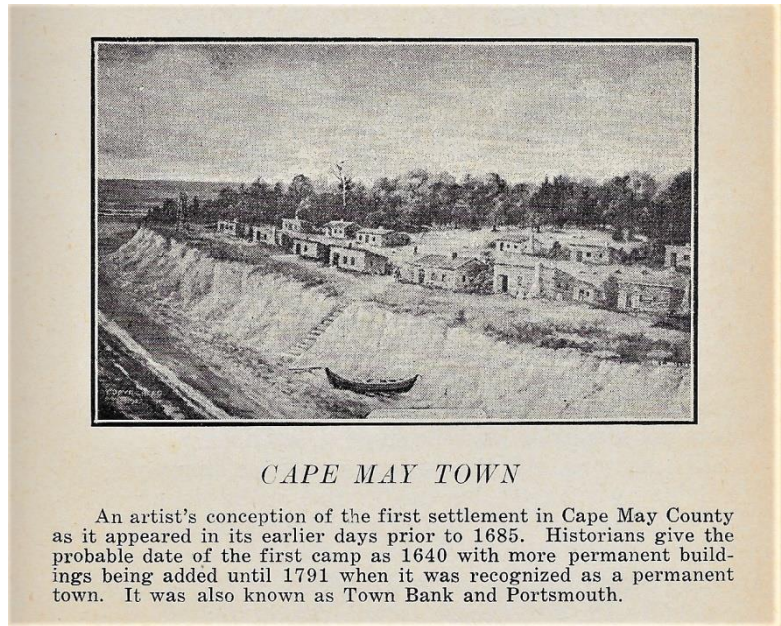
The Lay of the Land

Cape May has always been a destination.

The Indians explored and settled this area in the southern part of the state of New Jersey as a place rich in hunting grounds, fish, and game. The Cape May beach locations where villages were established have yielded archeological artifacts that span the entire Archaic Period, circa 8000 to 1800 BC, representing a full range of known cultural expressions recognized on the New Jersey coastal plain. The land was important because it was a source of fresh water, game, and fish. There was a plentiful supply of oysters, scallops, and fish – the best of shore dinners.

Joining the Indians were the early white settlers, about thirty-five families known as the

Whaler Yeoman, who migrated from New England looking for more abundant whaling opportunities. When whaling was no longer lucrative, they built small farming settlements. These families were direct decedents from the pilgrim and Puritans who sought freedom in the new



world. The small farms grew into settlements carved from the rural wilderness and swamps.

The established saw mills that provided cedar shakes for building homes. The swamps

were heavily forested with cedar, a type of tree wood, naturally resistant to water, salt, and the wind.

As the population grew in the area, the seascape and natural beauty of the island appealed to city dwellers who sought relief from the summer heat—Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and New York. They were the wealthy families who summered near the seaside. There were no large battles during the Revolution fought here. However, there were encounters with British ships that sent crew ashore to find fresh water. One encounter, The Battle of Turtle Gut saw the loss of life in defending the area. The British were also seeking to destroy or capture cargo ships from the West Indies bound for the ports of Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

In these early years of development, the stage coach was the method of travel with taverns along the way for shelter and refreshment in exchange for news and transportation. One small tavern was the Colonial House built during this era. The tavern owner, Memucan Hughes, held tavern licenses and served as a paymaster for the local militia.

Eventually, steamships and the railroads became faster and comfortable followed by the motor car. The island became a tourist attraction for those who wanted to see and be seen walking by the seaside and on the strand. The railroads and motor cars allowed the “day trip” to



the shore as the travel time to and from was reduced. They packed their lunch in a shoe box.

Investors sought to profit from this desire for sun and fun. They built large hotels on the beach. Infrastructure was beginning to bring electric light and fresh safe water source from wells in larger quantities. The town was a delight in season attracting the young ladies who attracted regiments of young men. The hotels were built with large ocean front porches and verandas, grand ballrooms swirled with dancers with well-known orchestras and bands of the cities and the locale. The hotels were cooled by the large windows and transoms found on every floor and room. The hot air came in through the veranda and the large windows, drawn upwards to the center of the building, out the transom windows to the outside; early air conditioning at its best. It was picture perfect except for one critical factor. It was all constructed of wood.

In fact, the most significant building material of this era was wood, houses, hotels, even the fire house. It was affordable, plentiful and the skill to build a frame house was passed from father to son.

The power to get water and support from the firehouse to the site relied on manpower and horsepower. In

many towns
across the
country,
historians take
great pride in
telling the “burn
down” story.



There is nothing

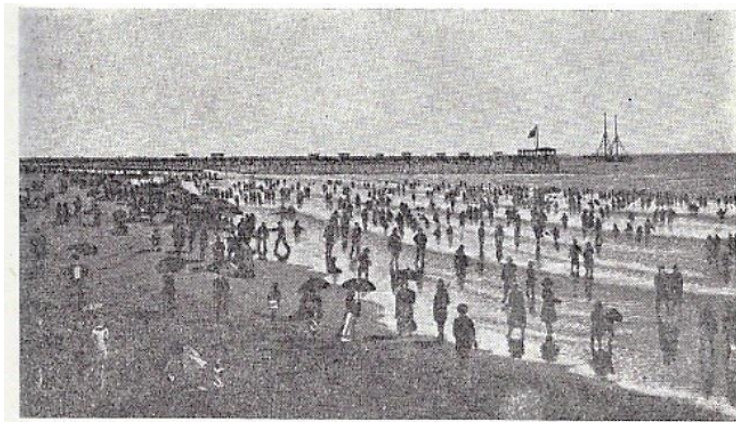
that holds more alarm than an ocean breeze that catches a spark of fire.

On November 9th, 1878, Cape May was reduced to smoldering ashes in its fourth and most devastating fire. Five blocks on the ocean front where the larger hotels were located, with the exception of the Stockton Hotel, were destroyed.

It took about ten years for the town to recover and rebuild the resort and Cape May was beginning to get competition from Atlantic City. During this decade, single property owners were becoming the prominent owners due to the availability of open land, improved electric power, fresh water, city gas, and sewage removal by disposal plant.

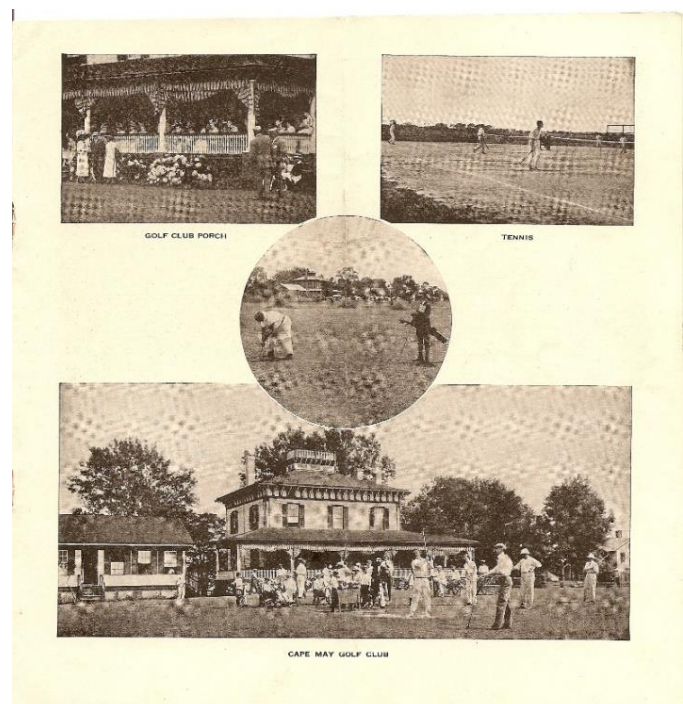
These new home owners built cottages, both large and grand, and some, small and affordable. They supported and sponsored a golf course, two yacht clubs, creating interest in yachting, sport fishing, bicycle races, car races on

the beach, and even a horse track with “spirited and wild betting”. With the expansion of electric and phone communication, permanent residents stayed and created business and services for the community. These “locals” along with the non-residents who owned



CAPE MAY STRAND

A bathing scene on Cape May's matchless strand about 1890. The width of the beach may be judged from the pier which was 1000 feet over the ocean. The "umbrella and tent city" between the boardwalk and the bathing beach began to be a seasonal fixture at this time. Beneath the Iron Pier in the background was the favorite playground for children.

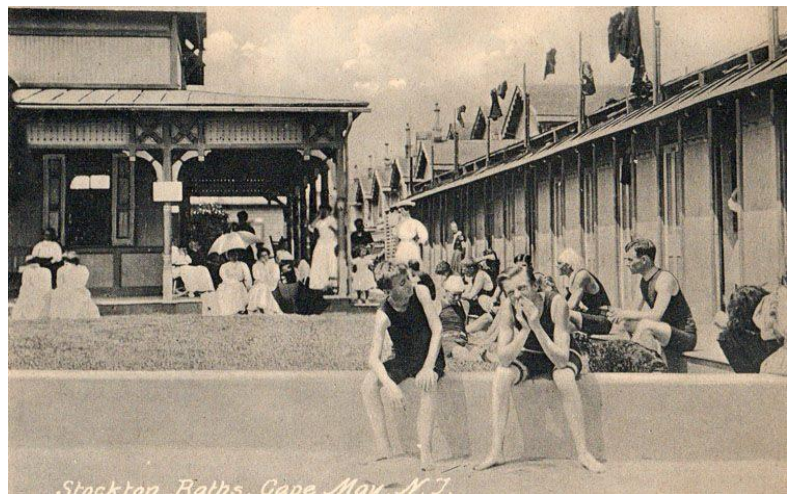


cottages lived or spent the summer season “at the shore”. Still today, folks who travel to the barrier island towns and to Cape May refer to “going down the shore” rather than “to the beach.”

A radical proposal was made around 1888 to consolidate the three small boroughs of Cape May, West Cape May, and Cape May Point into one large resort. This move has been proposed a number of times and has never been successful. Cape May Point prefers it’s quiet and quaint streets while West Cape May, a farming area famous for Lima Beans, wanted to stay independent. Cape May was the hub of the hotels, the ever expanding cottages, dealing with growth and all the problems and issues that present themselves in that environment. The small city of Cape May would grow rapidly into a municipality as a result of WWI.

The Turn of the Century and World War I

During the spring of 1896, as the city continued the expansion, hotels were rebuilt. Real estate and investors were moving the boundaries of the city out. New infrastructure began to provide the permanent residents with the modern utilities that were found



in the big cities and the non-resident home owners needed and wanted to be comfortable in their summer homes. The Franklin Street Electric Light Company was established bringing power to new sections of the city and the Delaware and Atlantic Telephone

Company ran its lines into the community for the first long distance connections. Both Bell and Keystone telephone companies established offices in Cape May.

1908 “Cool Cape May”

An advertising campaign was launched during the early spring and the slogan “Cool Cape May” was brought into use. The Pennsylvania Railroad brought over three hundred newspaper and magazine writers to the city for publicity. This renewed interest accelerated the older hotel teardowns. The old hotels had outlived their usefulness and allure for the demanding customer.

New hotels with modern amenities were built. Hotel teardowns

provided the wood to build the smaller affordable cottages for the middle class, an early example of creative reuse of existing material. Why? No landfill was available. In 1902, the state legislature passed the mosquito extermination project laughing at the thought, and not taking it seriously. The famous old Stockton Hotel did not open, rather the owner brought in the wrecking ball.



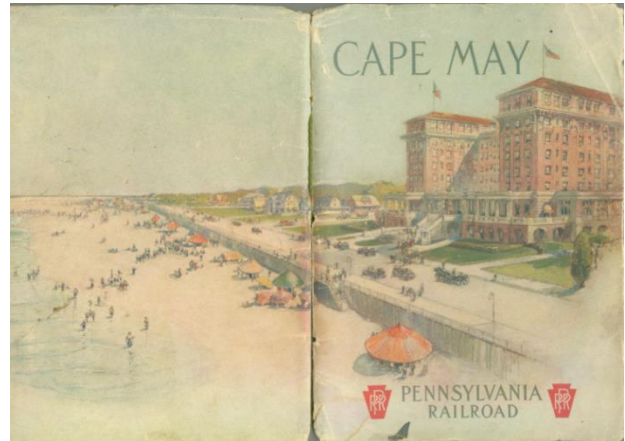
Hotel Cape May

In September 1905 ground was broken for the grand Hotel Cape May. The hotel and furnishings cost over a million dollars. The hotel was Cape May’s largest and most modern hotel. It opened for Easter in 1908. It was a landmark when entering Cape May



until it was demolished February 1996.

Hundreds of acres of meadowland were reclaimed by dredging out Cape May Harbor and filling the land. Approximately twenty million cubic yards of material was taken from the harbor and pumped on the land to be developed. Hotel Cape May was first class in every way. The bathes had not



only hot and cold fresh water to fill the tub, but hot and cold *salt water* pumped directly from the ocean. There was a salt water pool with a sand area with cabanas.

The basement which was at ground level had stores, an informal lobby and bowling alley.

Hotel Cape May was renamed The Admiral Hotel with a history and story that is significant and strategic to the city's development.

In the meantime, numerous and beautiful summer residences were being built on the new tract between the old and the new Cape May. In Old Cape May you would find the older Victorian residences and *new* Cape May enjoyed new construction homes. To bring the two sections together a new term "Greater Cape May" became a slogan denoting a combination of the old and the new.

World War I and Cantonment

By the summer of 1917, the city assumed the appearance of a cantonment. The former Henry Ford farm was selected for

Camp Wissahickon that was made ready for the Naval training of Reserves along with the

The word cantonment derives from the French word canton meaning corner or district and describes a place during a military campaign, such as winter quarters, where units of an army may be encamped for longer periods than they are during advances and retreats. The term shares an etymological

new aviation, including airships, hangars, barracks and a base hospital were rushed to completion. The southern point of New Jersey was selected by the Department of the Navy because of its strategic location on the Delaware Bay with entrance to the shipping channels. Philadelphia, Camden and Chester all had significant shipbuilding facilities.

Gunpowder and ammunition was manufactured by DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware.

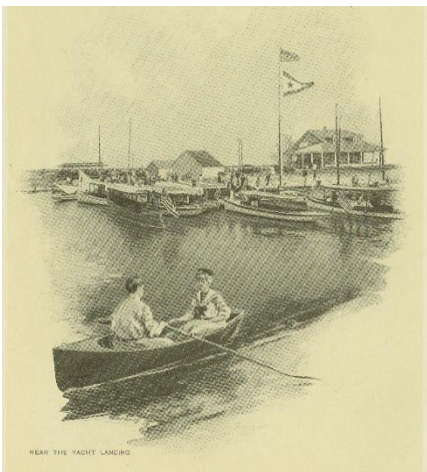
Thousands of servicemen were stationed here in 1918 along with the regular summer visitors, cottagers, and as a result, Cape May was filled to overflowing and the City grew by leaps

and bounds literally going from a small city to a really large municipality overnight. It was becoming a changed visual landscape for Cape May. The work details were cold and dirty with work around the clock.

The Corinthian Yacht Club offered the use of the club and grounds and the yachts of the members.

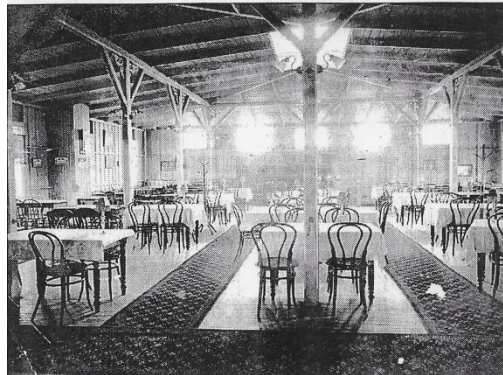


*Fri Jan 25
Pay Day. Pay Number 5878,
received \$19.00. Received
letter from Dad in which
\$2.00 was enclosed. Glad to
get it. I was nearly penniless.
Diary - Boyd August Propert
- 1918*



The government took over the Sewell Point area in April and began to build Naval Base Nine and the aviation field.

With thousands of men stationed out in the east end of town it became imperative to repair the trolley line from the city to the Base. The Camp became a small city within itself. The City of Camp May cooperated in every way to furnish water and sewage for the camps. An additional workforce of five hundred



Picture from the past

DANCE HALL
at Arnold's Café
(Sunny Hall)
1918-1920
Formerly Officers Club o
Wissahickon Barracks o
the corner of Jonathan
Hoffman Road, Col
Spring.

*Photo courtesy
of Cass Arnold and
AnnMarie (Arnold) VanCovan*

carpenters and two hundred helpers were placed on the project in addition to the recruits. Every available man in the resort and the surrounding country was put to work on the government projects. Many of the summer cottages were occupied by officers and their families, and hotels were unable to care for all who sought accommodation, even with the use of cots in the hallways. The servicemen were given every consideration and the Cape May families entertained them, while public affairs of every nature were held. Convention Hall Pier was given over to the War Camp

Community Service by the City Officials. The summer season was the gayest and filled with more activity in spite of the war shadows. Probably never to be seen again. Cape May met its allotment of men to serve in the war.



The community came together to provide service in the Secret Societies and women's groups to roll bandages and purchase products to send the men fighting in the trenches. Women learned to make do, follow household guidelines in purchasing food, and made sure their sons enlisted for the draft to ensure they were "doing their part".

Camp Wissahickon was hit especially hard by the Spanish Flu epidemic. The bodies of the dead who passed during the night before were left lying on the front lawn of the local undertaker located in Cold Spring, waiting for embalming. The Pennsylvania railroad station next to Swain's hardware store held a daily and sometimes twice daily service as the dead sailor's coffin was placed on the baggage car of the train to be returned to their families. The U.S. Navy Camp Wisshahickon appeared in 1917 and was gone in 1919. The year, 1918, was so difficult for both the local residents and the Navy sailors stationed at the camp. It was a terrifying perfect storm of bad luck, extreme cold, lack of fuel and a rapidly spreading disease.

Hotels to Hospitals

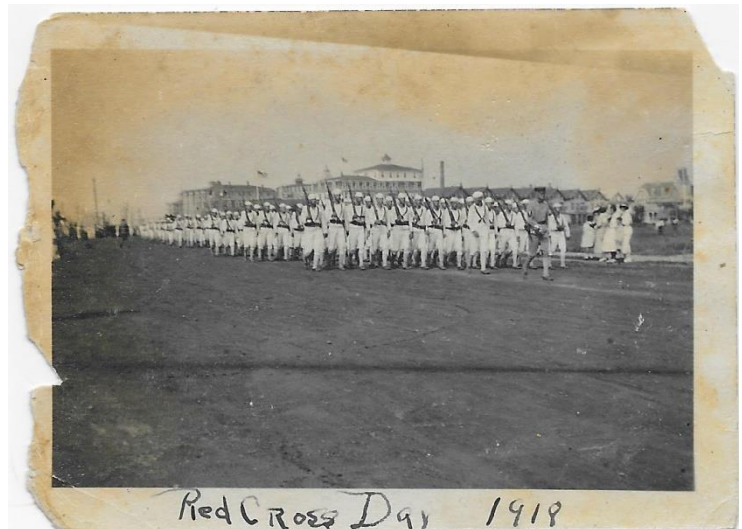
It happened on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11 month. They finally stopped shooting at each other on the

Western Front in France and Belgium. War-wounded men were transferred back to the states for recovery. The grand Hotel Cape May



because U.S. Army Hospital No. 11. It is said that one farmer sold enough potatoes to the army hospital to buy a new car and get married and that was his summer job. He was a school teacher and a summer farmer. As an army hospital the situation was ideal. Sixty-five Red Cross nurses were on staff along with doctors and other medical support.

The location was true beachfront property with spacious corridors and ocean view rooms. It was like a heaven to the soldiers who fought rats and disease in the trenches. Many recovered well enough to bathe in the ocean.



The winter of 1918

The winter in 1918 was brutal, the coldest winter since 1880. The temperatures fell to minus seven rising no higher than four degrees above zero during the day. A bitter northeast wind drove

snow across the frozen peninsula.

Basins, bays, and creeks froze over.

The coal shortages due to the war came at the worst time.



Without coal, the Vulcan Electric light plant could not produce electricity. Schools were closed. It was a winter of misery, cold, little to no heat. People burned wood in their stoves and sold cordwood at greatly inflated prices to their barrier islands inhabitants. Local residents who died of the flu were primarily pregnant women and males between the ages of 15 and 30 in the age group represented in military installations especially the Cape May

area. There were maybe three doctors in the local county area to care for the sick. The returning soldiers brought the flu back from the war zones to the states. In fact, in the list of Cape May County soldiers who died, only two died in combat. The others died from the flu although pneumonia was the common diagnosis entered on the card.

The Soldier and Sailors Monument. Who, what, and why?

March 2017. It was a cold early spring day when we visited the monument. We looked for specific dates that could indicate when the memorial was built and by whom. Not many clues, with exception of a brass plaque dated July 4, 1923, “erected under the auspices of the John Mecray Post No 40 GAR. Underneath was the inscription “Progressive League of Cape May Committee”.



Further research brought the questions;

How could the Progressive philosophy dovetail with the fraternal organization of the Grand Army of the Republic? What was the Progressive League of Cape May? Who formed it and Why?

Progressive Movement

The Progressive movement is the support for or advocacy of social reform. As a philosophy, it is based on the Idea of Progress, which asserts that advancements in science, technology, economic development, and social organization are vital to the improvement of the human condition. It was promoted by Woodrow Wilson. In fact, the philosophy led to a recent public debate on Wilson's history at Princeton. Thomas Woodrow Wilson (December 28, 1856 – February 3, 1924) was an American politician and academic who served as the 28th President of the United States from 1913 to 1921. Wilson was a member of the Democratic Party. Wilson served as the President of Princeton University from 1902 to 1910 and as Governor of New Jersey from 1911 to 1913. The Progressive philosophy is a topic of its own and is beyond the scope of this narrative.

The Solider and Sailors Monument

The monument was erected under the auspices of two organizations that provided the leadership, funding and garnered support for the memorial—the John Mecray Post No.40 Grand Old Army of the Republic and Kindred Spirits (G.A.R) and the Progressive League of Cape May Committee.

John Mecray Post No 40 G.A. R

In September 1910, about 45 years after the last shot of the Civil War was fired, the 44th National Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Encampment (convention) was held in Atlantic City. The G.A.R., a Union (Northern) Civil War veterans' organization, had in



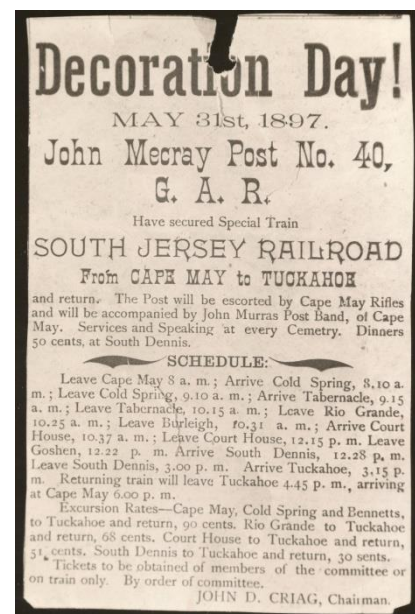
attendance over 18,000 of its 214,000 members arriving from across the nation, many still suffering from wounds inflicted decades before in the War Between the States. It was a fraternal organization one of the first organized advocacy groups by forming local “posts” in the community to support voting rights for black veterans, promoting patriotic education, helping to make Memorial Day a national holiday, lobbying the United States Congress to establish regular veterans' pensions, and supporting Republican political candidates. Its peak membership, at more than 490,000, was in 1890, a high point of various Civil War commemorative and monument dedication ceremonies.

Private John Mecray was a civil war veteran buried in Cold Spring Cemetery. He was killed in the action at Williamsburg in 1862. Research of the G.A.R. monuments indicates they used the obelisk design found in many town squares, battlefields and cemeteries topped by a hero of note or an eagle.



The Secret Societies

The John Mecray Post No.40 G.A.R. is listed as one of the Secret Societies. They met at 7:30 PM, first Monday of the month at the Franklin Street School building. In fact, the Secret Societies were meeting on just about every street corner. There were seventeen secret societies listed in the Star and Wave newspaper including the City Council and the Fire Department meetings. This is fifty years before the Open Public Meetings Law, which is commonly referred to



as the “Sunshine Law” enacted in 1975. Not that the council meeting was secret. It was listed as such.

The Cape May Conclave No 183, Improved Order of Heptashophs met at Rutherford Hall on Decatur Street. There was even an Improved Order of the Heptashophs. The primary benefit of these



organizations was a death benefit paid to the family of a deceased member from a fund refreshed by assessments of members. They also conducted graveside services.

The Junior Order of United

American Mechanics was initially formed to protect the US from “undesirable aliens” such as, Irish, Germans,

Catholics and others. Not all fraternal societies were formed to foster dislike of a single group of people. In fact, some banned politics altogether. This era experienced the waves of immigration to this country. The lodges, societies, and organizations provided training, thrift, independence, and to take responsibility for your personal well-being with skills transfer, and as a result, provide leadership for the future of the community. Women were not allowed in men’s societies. They formed their own social units for the welfare of the community. Secret Societies were the social welfare and safety nets of this era for the working class and the underclass. They were societies that provided mutual aid and social welfare for orphans, widows, and people who had fallen on hard times.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Cape Island Lodge No. 36, F. and A. M.—Communications second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at lodge room Washington and Franklin streets.

Adoniram Chapter, No. 39, Royal Arch Masons—Convocations third Monday of each month at lodge room, Washington and Franklin streets.

Mayflower Lodge, No. 258, Independent Order of Odd Fellows—Meets each Friday at Auditorium, Jackson street.

Cape May Encampment, No. 68, I. O. O. F., meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the Auditorium.

Ogallala Tribe, No. 157, Improved Order of Red Men—Meets each Tuesday evening at Auditorium.

Columbia Lodge, No. 23, Independent Order of Mechanics—Meets each Monday evening at the Auditorium.

Patriotic Sons of America—Meets each Tuesday evening at the Rutherford Building on Decatur street.

Cape May Lodge No. 21, A. O. U. W., meets first and third Thursdays of each month at Rutherford Building, 312 Decatur street.

Cape May Council, No. 1691, Royal Arcanum—Meets first and third Thursdays of each month at Auditorium.

Cape May Conclave, No. 183, Improved Order of Heptashophs—Meets at Rutherford Building, 312 Decatur street, on second and fourth Thursdays of each

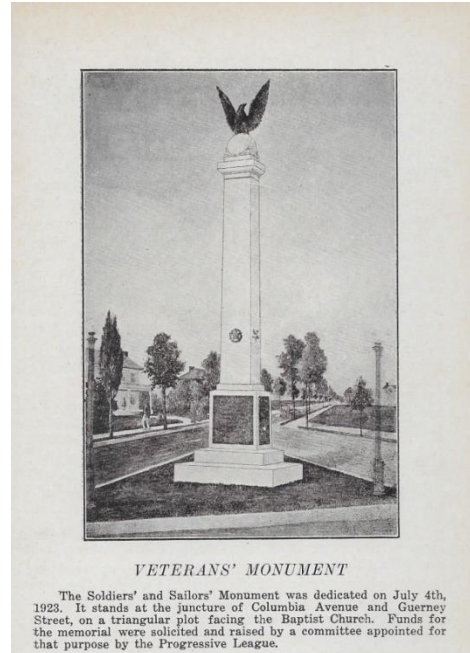
The Progressive League of Cape May

The politics of 1923 reflected some of the current issues we struggle with today:

immigration, terrorism, and national security. At the dedication speech for the monument,

Congressman Isaac Bacharach of Atlantic City, he said, “I refer to the radical doctrines of Bolshevism, Sovietism, I.W. W’ism (International Workers of the World).....they have come to our shores, a class of people highly educated and by reason of the very education a powerful influence among the less educated classes—who have utterly failed to appreciate the high principles of democracy upon which our government is founded.” It was

Congressman Bacharach who wrote and spoke of his own personal bias in his dedication speech.



However, the Progressive League of Cape May Committee who raised the funds for the memorial did not represent or promote the Progressive philosophy. We have drawn the conclusion; the league was in essence, the forerunner of the modern day Chamber of Commerce promoting the business and growth of Cape May.

The Board of Trade and the Progressive League became active in resort affairs in 1922 and continued to function for years thereafter to promote “Modern Cape May”. Leonard Davis formed the Progressive League in 1921. They met at the Cecil Hotel on Ocean Street. One of their first acts was to raise funds for the Soldier and Sailors monument to be

erected at Columbia Avenue and Gurney Street and to promote the new modern Cape May. The monument was completed in 1923 and dedicated on July 4th as part of an elaborate celebration. J. R. Moon, of Mecrays' Pharmacy was the League President in 1923. That same year Frank W. Mecray, George P Wentzell, and Leonard Davis, President of the League, were elected commissioners and Mr. Mecray was elected Mayor by his associates.

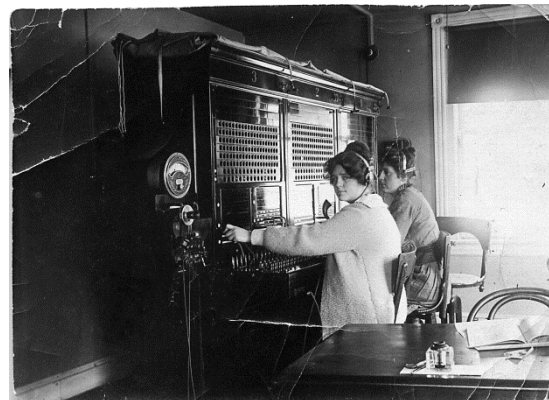


Modern Cape May Progressed

About five years after the war, there was an increasing feeling of optimism. A period of building began in earnest. The summer season returned. A wave of real estate buying swept over South Jersey during the spring of 1925.



Prices soared. The U.S. Coast Guard took over Naval Base Nine. The old wooden buildings were dismantled and sold. The Coast Guard was now based in “run running” country with eighteen seventy-five foot patrol boats that scoured the shoreline for offloading booze during prohibition. One of the largest vessels, the “Kickapoo” was stationed here. There was talk of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry line. New water works were built. The Harry Synder



Post American Legion began a drive to raise funds for a new ambulance and a new mercy car. Cape May Beach Estates became North Cape May near the county's first settlement at Town Bank. The new President H. F. Greaves succeeded Mr. Ogden as president of the Cape May Chamber of Commerce that was once known as the Progressive League.

Why Remember, Why Now?

Cape May is a city at the southern tip of Cape May Peninsula in Cape May County, New Jersey, where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. It is one of the country's oldest vacation resort destinations. Cape May population for full-time residents is about 3600 people. Cape May's population is expanded by as many as 40,000 to 50,000 visitors each season. In 1976 upon the application and recommendation of Ms. Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian, National Park Service, the entire city of Cape May was designated a National Historic Landmark due to its concentration of Victorian buildings.

With a rich history, award-winning beaches, a top birdwatching location, and many examples of Victorian architecture, Cape May is a seaside resort drawing visitors from around the world.



Our modest and simple goal for the Greater Cape May Historical Society was to bring about a restoration and a beautification for the Soldier and Sailors Monument. It is passed by thousands of people who visit our town each summer. It has grown old and tired looking.

World War I played a key role in the history of Cape May. History tells the story from Camp Wissahickon to the Naval Section Base Nine, with blimps sailing overhead,

seaplanes, submarines, and minesweepers. The five years between the end of WWI and the erection of the memorial was one of loss and grief faced by families who sent a son to war only to stand at the memorial on July 4th to honor and remember a loved one lost to the battle of conflict or disease. The Progressive League of Cape May Committee and the surrounding county needed and wanted a public, everlasting memorial to those men and women. It is the only monument for WWI in Cape May County. Yet, the memorial is present, but not seen. The obelisk symbolizes the sun god Ra. It was also thought that the god existed within the structure. We have a shared community duty to ensure the Memorial is cleaned and preserved, displayed each summer with bountiful flowers in the daylight, and at sunset, displayed with light to remind us of the sacrifice and the “last full measure” to all who pass by.

History, saved and preserved, is the foundation for future generations. It explains our past and the shared experience of being American. WWI was to be the war to end all wars. It would be less than twenty years later, Cape May would again be a city of cantonment in preparation for WWII to once again safeguard the entrance to the Delaware Bay. Cultural heritage is an economic asset and an essential component of any vibrant local economy.

Thank you for reviewing our application,

Kathleen C. Wyatt, Administrator, Greater Cape May Historical Society

Harry Bellangy, Historian, Greater Cape May Historical Society

Resources:

- Brown, Hayward Collection, “A Book of Cape May, New Jersey”, copyright 1937, The Albert Hand Company, Cape May, New Jersey
- Gibbs, Richard, Postcard Collection of Cape May
- Harry C. Bellangy, Personal Collection
- The Greater Cape May Historical Society, Walt Campbell Collection
- The Greater Cape May Historical Society Archives
- Dowart, Jeffery M. 1944-, Cape May County, New Jersey: the making of an American Resort Community. Progress and World War. ISBN 0-8135-1783-4
- Campbell, Jim Collection, Cape May in 1918, GCMHS Homespun Newsletter, Fall 1998
- Campbell, Jim Collection, Cape May’s Secret Societies, GCMHS Homespun Newsletter, Winter 2004
- Campbell, Jim Collection, Gone and Forgotten, GCMHS Homespun Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2004
- Cape May Star and Wave serving America’s National Landmark City for over 163 years: Microfiche Records, Cape May County Library
 - Arnolds Dance Hall
 - Hotel Cape May Haven for Wounded Americans
 - Cape May had Gala Fourth, Dedication of Memorial, July 7, 1923
 - Local Historians find WWI Ammunition bunker, Building was part of the U.S. Navy’s Wissahickon Barrack Training Center

- Heinly, R. E. Victorian News, World War I changed are, history, map forever
- Heinly, R. E. Victorian News, World War 1 played key role in history of Cape May
- Gibbons, Chris. Commentary, Honoring doughboys of St. Columba. The Philadelphia Inquirer, April 6, 2017
- Propert, David B, MD, FACC, FACP, Norfolk Virginia. Picture and Diary Entry Quote of Boyd August Property, 1918
- State of New Jersey, Department of State. The World War I Casualties: Descriptive Cards and Photographs, Cape May County
- Beito, David, Senior Associate Fellow, From Mutual Aid to Welfare State: How Fraternal Societies Fought Poverty and Taught Character. The Heritage Foundation Report, July 27, 2000
- The Library of Congress, Main Reading Room, The Grand Army of the Republic and Kindred Societies. Department of New Jersey: Post Names and Locations organized December 10, 1867
- Sundlow, Mark. American Association for State and Local History. Demonstrating Relevance. Technical Leaflet #273
- History Relevance Campaign, The Value of History. Seven Ways it is essential. Historyrelevance.com
- Cresson, Jack, The Richard Cook Collection: A first look at an unusual artifact collection from Lower Township Cape May County
- Hann, David, Collection Grand Old Army of the Republic

- United States Department of the Interior, National Record of Historic Places
Inventory Nomination Form, Cape May Historic District

State of New Jersey, Department of State. The World War I Casualties: Descriptive Cards and Photographs, Cape May County						
	<u>Race</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Card#</u>
Aaron, John D.	Caucasian	Tuckahoe, Cape May County, NJ	Bethlehem, PA	Killed in action	1 photo; 1 descriptive card	1
De Vane, William E.	African American	Whitesboro, Cape May County, NJ	Tomahawk, NC	Disease	1 photo; 1 descriptive card; correspondence	1239
Douglas, Charles G.	Caucasian	Cape May, Cape May County, NJ	Dennisville, NJ	Disease	1 photo; 1 descriptive card; correspondence	1306
Douglass, Herbert S.	Caucasian	Cape May, Cape May County, NJ	Cape May, NJ	Disease	1 photo; 1 descriptive card; correspondence	1308
Hornstein, David	Caucasian	Woodbine, Cape May County, NJ	Gedinetz, Russia	Disease	No photo; 1 descriptive card	1356
Impaglizzo, Nicola	Caucasian	Ocean City, Cape May County, NJ	Foria, Italy	Disease	No photo; 1 descriptive card	1396
Henry, Lawrence Russell	Caucasian	Ocean City, Cape May County, NJ	Philadelphia, PA	Disease	1 photo; 1 descriptive card; correspondence	1988
Procopio, Francesco	Caucasian	Ocean View, Cape May County, NJ	Montano, Italy	Disease	No photo; 1 descriptive card	2142
Ranck, Elmer Edwin	Caucasian	Ocean City, Cape May County, NJ	Lancaster, PA	Disease	1 photo; 1 descriptive card	2173
Robinson, Ethan Lore	Caucasian	Dennisville, Cape May County, NJ	Dennisville, NJ	Disease	1 photo; 1 descriptive card	2271
Taggio, Nick	Caucasian	Tuckahoe, Cape May County, NJ	Avalino, Italy	Killed in action	No photo; 1 descriptive card	2409
Nappen, Jack	Caucasian	Woodbine, Cape May County, NJ	Woodbine, NJ	Disease	No photo; 1 descriptive card	2683
Wittkamp, Frank T.	Caucasian	Tuckahoe, Cape May County, NJ	[Unrecorded]	[Unrecorded]	1 photo; 1 descriptive card	3365

Memorial Documentation Worksheet

Title(s)

Location

- physical address, including county and zip code
- brief description of location (e.g., in a building; on the green; courthouse lawn, etc.)
- GPS coordinates

Inscriptions (all text on a memorial, including names)

Physical properties

- materials
- dimensions

History

- dates of creation/dedication
- artist/architect/sculptor/foundry/contractor
- sponsor
- cost
- committee members
- has the memorial been relocated?

Condition

- good, fair, poor
- brief description of condition
- who is responsible for upkeep?
- contact information for responsible party
- conservation history

References/Bibliography

Photographs

- general
- significant details
- conservation issues

About the Authors

Kathleen C. Wyatt retired in 2013 after a career in business supporting Information Technology, formerly known as, data processing. Disciplines include Organizational Management, project planning and support, technology transfers to new systems, along with standardization (ISO) of process and procedures, training, and documentation for roles and responsibilities with the last ten years in implementing and auditing documentation standards for a global organization. Dedicated to life-long learning and history, she took on the challenge to research the history of the monument. For the past four years, Ms. Wyatt is a volunteer for the Greater Cape May Historical Society, a small group in the City of Cape May who love history.

Harry C Bellangy has been involved in the Colonial House for many years serving in various capacities including President for five years. In his past career Mr. Bellangy worked in information technology in the roles of database administration, system security and as a senior system architect. Mr. Bellangy is a Cape May native whose family has been in Cape May for well over 100 years. He is extremely involved with the Greater Cape May Historical Society and serves as the Historian for the Society. He brings his technical expertise to the Society as it moves forward with digitizing its extensive collection of photographs and documents.

Ms. Wyatt and Mr. Bellangy are old school, sharing and discussing, the good old days with keypunch cards, tabulating equipment, magnetic tape, disk drives and green bar paper. Everything was secure. You can reach them at 1730colonialhouse.com

Appendix

Herald Newspaper Reference

Our director of Public Affairs passed along your article:

http://www.capemaycountyherald.com/news/government/article_8a2f8dd0-05b3-11e7-81b1-67a573f148f1.html?mode=story

-----Original Message-----

From: Theo Mayer WW1 <theo.mayer@worldwar1centennial.org>

To: vconti <vconti@cmcherald.com>

Sent: Sun, Mar 12, 2017 9:50 pm

Subject: Regarding your article: Woman Asks City's Help Honoring World War I Veterans on Centennial

Hi:

I am with the [US World War One Centennial Commission](#) established by congress in 2013 to lead the US WW1 commemoration activities .

Our director of Public Affairs passed along your article:

http://www.capemaycountyherald.com/news/government/article_8a2f8dd0-05b3-11e7-81b1-67a573f148f1.html?mode=story

Part of my duties at the commission is as the program manager for the 100 Cities / 100 Memorials program. We are giving away \$200,000 in matching grants for WW1 memorial restorations. Can you put the Kate Wyatt or the city council in touch with me. The website for the program is ww1cc.org/100Memorials .

We'd like to help.

Kind regards

Theo Mayer

Chief Technologist

100 Cities / 100 Memorials Program Manager

WW1 Centennial News Producer

U.S. World War One Centennial Commission

theo.mayer@worldwar1centennial.org

Voice: 818 535 1326

Info:

WW1CC.org

WW1CC.org/100Memorials

WW1CC.org/hunter

Honoring the Doughboys of St. Columba

It was Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 1919, and the Solemn Military Memorial Mass for the doughboys of Philadelphia's St. Columba parish had just concluded. The attendees, led by an armed guard and color bearers - two soldiers and two sailors - filed out of the beautiful church and gathered in the school yard at 24th and Lehigh.

During Mass, seats were reserved in the middle aisle for family members of the 27 boys of the parish who gave their lives during the Great War, according to the Dec. 6, 1919, Catholic Standard and Times. And now, outside, these same family members were accorded the area closest to the cloaked structure now positioned at the front of the school yard. The late-autumn chill and overcast, sullen grey sky not only reflected the somber mood of the crowd, but many of the faithful likely believed that, on this day, even God was sad. A 10-year-old stood next to the structure. A respectful silence fell among the crowd, and some wiped away tears, as the sorrowful eyes of the parishioners fell upon the boy. They knew why he had been chosen to unveil the large memorial tablet in honor of the St. Columba doughboys who fought in World War I - a conflict the United States entered on April 6, 1917.

St. Columba parish was founded in 1895, and the beautiful Gothic church at 24th and Lehigh was constructed in 1904. The parish was primarily comprised of Irish immigrants from the surrounding "Swampoodle" neighborhood.

I visited the church, now known as St. Martin de Porres, in March 2014. As I glanced up at its facade, the Irish heritage of the masons and original parishioners was readily evident within the Gothic architecture of the building itself. High above the main entrance was a huge Celtic cross, and just under it was a statue of St. Columba, the Irish missionary and patron saint of Derry. Statues of St. Brigid and St. Patrick also adorned the front exterior.

As I glanced up at them, I thought I heard my grandfather's voice, with his thick Irish brogue, whispering in the wind: "Ya see? The saints are lookin' down upon ya, lad." Although I knew it was just my imagination, I smiled anyway and softly answered, "I hope so, Grandpop."

My search for the Roman Catholic High School alumni who gave their lives in World War I had stalled. Since I began my search in 2011, I had identified six out of the 32 names on a plaque at Roman. But my continuing quest had led me to St. Columba's that day.

My father, an alumnus of both St. Columba's parochial school and Roman, suggested that I head down to the old church for some new leads. "There's a big monument in the vestibule," he told me. "It has the names of all of the guys from the parish who fought in World War I, and it also lists the ones who were killed. St. Columba's was a big feeder parish to Roman back then. Some of them might have gone to Roman."

I entered the church and was immediately struck by its beauty. Ornate stone tiles, and brick trimmed in gold and green lined the walls and ceilings, with elaborate carvings, statues, and stained glass throughout the interior. I entered the vestibule and there, on the far wall, was the largest World War I memorial tablet I had come across thus far. The Catholic Standard and Times described it in 1919 as "a beautiful massive bronze tablet, 4 feet high and 6 feet wide, said to be the most elaborate of any erected in the city, and which is the gift of the parishioners."

Carved upon the tablet are the names of the 486 members of the parish who served in the armed forces during the Great War. A special section contains the names of the 27 boys who gave their lives.

My father turned out to be right, as subsequent research revealed that one of the boys killed, Frank T. Schommer, was a Roman alum. However, there were two other names

among the 27 that immediately caught my attention: Charles J. Fischer and John J. Fischer. I couldn't help but wonder if they were related.

Ten-year-old Joseph Fischer stood at the front of St. Columba's school yard that Thanksgiving Day in 1919, and unveiled the memorial tablet that held the names of the doughboys of St. Columba's, including his brothers, Charles and John. A street parade of the parish soldiers who returned home, under the command of Lt. Joseph Yates, followed the unveiling ceremony, and the women of the parish held a banquet that evening for the doughboys.

For the parish families of the boys who never returned, the moment was bittersweet. The parents of Daniel Lee wrote a poem about their son that was published in the *Inquirer* just one month before the unveiling of the tablet. The poem conveys the deep sense of loss and anguish these families must have endured:

*A precious son from me was taken,
A voice we loved is still,
A wound within my heart is sealed
Which never can be healed,
To France he went a volunteer,
His love, his life was given,
His body was not returned to me,
But his soul was sent to heaven.*

Pvt. Daniel E. Lee, of Philadelphia's 315th Infantry Regiment, is buried at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery in France.

Chris Gibbons is a Philadelphia writer. gibbonscg@aol.com