

## Greater Cape May Historical Society Archives

### The Cape May High School Yearbook Collection (HSC.CMHS.YRBK)

**Creator:** Greater Cape May Historical Society

**Dates:** 1925–1963

**Extent:** 1.5 linear feet

**Language:** English

**Donor:** Paul Emswinger ; Harry Bellangy ; unknown others

**Processor:** Barbara Anne Beaucar, MA, CA, 2024

#### Historical Note:

The history of the Cape May High School begins with the Indian Queen Hotel once located on the Corgie Plantation. In 1860, the hotel was purchased by the City of Cape Island to create a public school.<sup>1</sup> The Indian Queen School had been integrated, but in 1868, the new schools built on Franklin Street were segregated: a one room school house for African American students; a multi-room building for white students. In 1901, the city built a three-story brick school on Lafayette Street for the white elementary school students and, until the Cape May High School was built on Washington Street in 1917, the Lafayette Street School also served as an integrated high school. The African American elementary students continued to study at the old school on Franklin Street called "The Annex" until 1928 when the city built the Franklin Street School, a new two-story brick building.<sup>2</sup>

In 1960, the high school on Washington Street closed, and was replaced by Lower Cape May Regional High School which graduated its first class in 1961.<sup>3</sup>

Over time, the name of the high school's yearbook changed from *The Inkwell* in the 1920s and 1930s to *Yam Epac* (Cape May spelled backwards) in the 1940s and 1950s and in 1961, the name changed again to *Ebb Tides*.

The former Cape May High School building is currently home to City Hall and the Police Department.

#### Scope and Content Note:

With the exception of *The Inkwell* yearbooks donated by Paul Emswinger and Harry Bellangy, most of the Cape May High School year books were collected by the Greater Cape May Historical Society over time from unknown donors forming what is known as an artificial collection. Currently, the collection consists of 17 books spanning the dates of 1925 to 1963.

There are three copies of the earliest yearbook, *The Inkwell*. Their dates are: 1925, 1932, and 1935. All of these are printed on paper that has become quite fragile with one yearbook experiencing torn pages.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dukeofwindsorcapemay.com/history>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.capemaymag.com/feature/past-present-and-future-of-the-franklin-street-school/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower\\_Cape\\_May\\_Regional\\_High\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Cape_May_Regional_High_School)

There are twelve bound copies of the yearbook, *Yam Epic*. They are in good condition with only one in need of conservation for water damage. They date from the years 1946 to 1960.

The *Ebb Tides* yearbook consists of two copies from 1961 and 1963.

### **Collection Inventory:**

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.1** Cape May High School, *The Inkwell*, 1925

Includes one yearbook donated by Paul Emswinger on November 1, 1978.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.2** Cape May High School, *The Inkwell*, 1932

Includes one yearbook donated by Paul Emswinger on November 1, 1978.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.3** Cape May High School, *The Inkwell*, 1935

Includes one yearbook belonging to the aunt of donor, Harry Bellangy.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.4** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac*, 1946

Includes a yearbook with a GCMHS sticker on the inside cover.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.5** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac*, 1950

Includes a yearbook with a GCMHS sticker on the inside cover.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.6** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac*, 1951

Includes a yearbook with a GCMHS sticker on the inside cover.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.7** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac*, 1953

Includes a yearbook with a GCMHS sticker on the inside cover.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.8** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac*, 1954

Includes a yearbook with a GCMHS sticker on the inside cover.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.9** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac*, 1955

Includes a yearbook with a GCMHS sticker on the inside cover.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.9a** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac*, 1955

Includes a yearbook belonging to "Charles Douglass" "55." The book is autographed by his fellow students.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.10** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac*, 1956

Includes a yearbook with a GCMHS sticker on the inside cover.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.11** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac*, 1957

Includes a yearbook with a GCMHS sticker on the inside cover.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.12** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac* 1958

Includes a yearbook belonging to Charles B. Douglass. The book is autographed by his fellow students.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.13** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac* 1959

Includes a yearbook belonging to "Jeanne." The book is autographed by fellow students.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.14** Cape May High School, *Yam Epac* 1960

Includes a yearbook belonging to "Jeanne." The book is autographed by fellow students.

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.15** Cape May High School, *Ebb Tides*, 1961

**HSC.CMHS.YRBK.16** Cape May High School, *Ebb Tides*, 1963

Includes on yearbook belonging to "David." The book is autographed by fellow students.