



Our September 2023 meeting will be held on **Monday, September 11, 2023** starting at **7:30 PM**. PPHS member Andy Ciesla will talk about Museum improvements, including new electronic resources, the new PPHS web site, the Facebook page, and how we are interfacing with the local Facebook memory pages. Following the update, Andy and Jerry Woolley will present about the role of the Point Pleasant Land Company in the early development of Point Pleasant. Meeting location: Woman's Club of Point Pleasant Building, 513 St. Louis Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach. Face coverings are optional and your decision to mask or not mask will be respected by all.

## The Artists of the Point Pleasant Area

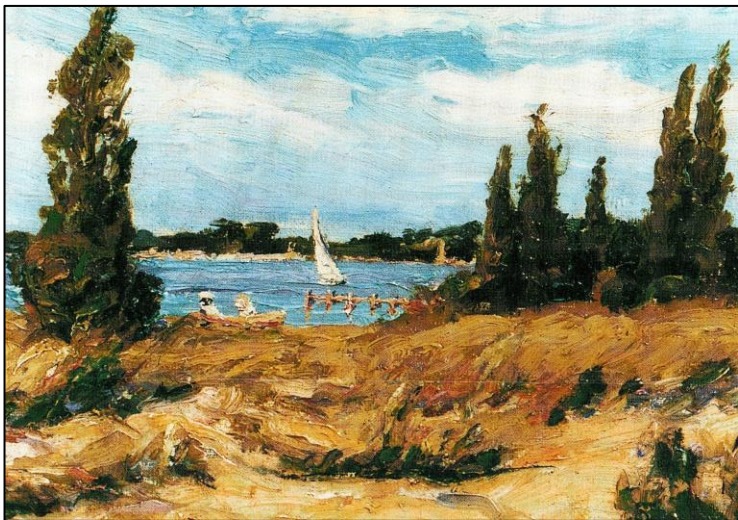
It is somewhat of a best kept secret that the Point Pleasant area is, and has been, an attraction to many talented painters. These artists traveled long distances from the crowded cities of yesteryear to interpret and paint the natural beauty and uniqueness of the shore.

The first generation of Jersey shore painters arrived in the Manasquan River area around 1880. Artist Will Hicok Low, a student of the French masters Jean-Léon Gérôme and Carolus-Duran, spent summers at Brielle and Point Pleasant Beach. Low and his friend, author Robert Louis Stevenson, spent many hours on the Manasquan River. Local lore suggests that Stevenson reportedly carved his initials and the name of his recently completed book "Treasure Island" on the bulkhead of Osborne Island, thus naming it such for posterity.

Low and Stevenson, along with artist Wyatt Eaton, studied with Whistler and also visited and painted with Point Pleasant artist Carrie Cook Sanborn at the Cook Estate. Sanborn presided over an art colony based on the homestead. Today, the G. Harold Antrim School is located on the former site of the homestead.

Another unknown fact is that the first family of American Stage, the Barrymore family, summered in Point Pleasant. Lionel Barrymore, the oldest member of the Barrymore family's second generation, was a painter of considerable accomplishment. He stayed with his friend of literary fame, Richard Harding Davis, on the Curtis Homestead in the bungalow called "Vagabond Rest". He produced wonderful paintings and etchings of local Point Pleasant scenes before his family insisted that he follow the family tradition of acting. A copy of one of Barrymore's most famous etchings, Point Pleasant, is on display at the PPHM.

Perhaps the most famous of the painters of the "Manasquan River Colony of Painters" is Edward Boulton. He was a student of the famous realist painter Thomas Eakins, who also summered in Point Pleasant. Both were from Philadelphia and sought out the beauty of light and water in a Bohemian way, devoid of the city glitz and glitter.



Edward Boulton's "On the Manasquan."  
Photo from PPHSM archives.

Boulton purchased what he called the "Old House" at the corner of Hall and Herbertsville Road. In that home, Boulton, his wife, Cecil, and Thomas Eakins magnificently captured the feeling and sentiment of the area in their painted shore scenes and inspired other locals with their work. One of Boulton's most famous paintings is "On the Manasquan, a painting of a sailboat on the river in front of Treasure Island, apparently painted from the property of the old house looking at the river. The PPHS has an original watercolor painted by Cecil Boulton (Edward's wife) on display in the museum.

Boulton's daughter, Agnes would go on to marry Eugene O'Neill, the great playwright. Their daughter Oona would marry Charlie Chaplin. Oona's brother, Shane, stayed in Point Pleasant and lived a life that many say was dominated by the themes of this father's plays. This family connection has become important mythology for Point Pleasant and adds to the mystique of the Manasquan River Painter's Colony.

Other influential artists include Clara Stroud and her mother Ida Wells Stroud. Both were and prolific artists who ran an art studio at her home in Point Pleasant and trained many locals how to paint. Both contributed greatly to the impact made by the Manasquan colony and painted scenes such as the watercolor of the Clark's Landing Carousel, shore birds, the river and ocean.

Of course, the tradition of artistic excellence in Point Pleasant has continued into current years.

Our resident artist, Pauline Mickel has lived here since shortly after World War II. She was born in England and came here with her sister at the age of 17 to live with her aunt and Uncle. Although Pauline initially used oil paints, she found watercolors more accommodating to



Carrie Cook Sanborn (seated) giving painting lessons to unidentified artists at Cook Estate. Photo from PPHSM archives.

**CONTINUED ON BACK**





Point Pleasant Historical Society  
Phone: (732) 892-3091  
Email: ppbhistoricalociety@gmail.com  
Website: pphism.org

Point Pleasant Historical Society  
PO Box 1273  
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

**Point Pleasant Historical Society**  
*Serving Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach*

**POINT PLEASANT ARTISTS (CONTINUED)**

her lifestyle. They were easier to pack up and take to the park (frequently Allaire) with her children and she has primarily worked in watercolor ever since.

Mickle's daughter, Sheila Mickle Soyster, is an artist and retired art teacher from Point Pleasant Beach, NJ. She also works in a variety of artistic media, including watercolor, oils, pen and ink, and calligraphy. Her paintings, rendered in a realistic style, often focus on the ever-changing vistas of the Jersey Shore. Sheila's work has been published in numerous publications and can be seen at local art exhibitions and retail stores as well as on theatrical sets and several Point Pleasant area murals.

Other local artists include Howard Carver, the son of former Mayor Alonso Carver. Howard, who in addition to running his boat business had the time and talent to brilliantly paint many local scenes and that will be memorialized by his contributions to the art colonies of Point Pleasant.

And to this day, Edward Boulton's great-granddaughter, Sheila O'Neill, who grew up visiting the "Old House" regularly shares her paintings and art on social media that very much follow the artistic impressionism and talent of her great-grandfather.

Point Pleasant was, and still is, a mecca of inspiration and creation for talented artists!



*Top Two Images: A sampling of Howard Carver's paintings, courtesy of Jane Carver.*

*Right: Shelia O'Neill's "Charlie and Kid," 2023. Courtesy of Sheila O'Neill.*



**Special Thanks To...**

**John Dwulet and the entire Dwulet family!** John Dwulet, who is currently living on the west coast, was kind enough to respond to our requests for donations and sent some very special memorabilia of his Dad, Doc Dwulet, to the museum. Included was a framed and personalized letter from Governor Cahill thanking Doc for emergency medical services rendered to the Governor during a PP campaign stop in the 1960's and a Lennox bowl engraved with the Seal of the State of NJ, which occupied a place of honor in the Dwulet house for many years. In addition, John donated the gold Point Pleasant Medical Doctor badge that was issued to Doc when he was the police doctor for so many years.

**Jeff and Ruth Ricketts!** Jeff is the grandson of James Edward Ricketts who was one of the founding fathers and three time chief of Ocean Fire company #1 in the late 1800's. Jeff donated the "Chief's Fireman Trumpet" that was issued to his grandfather in 1890, along with some pictures of his grandfather at the Mohawk Athletic Club, c1900! The Fireman's Trumpet was used by the chief to amplify his voice at fire in order to direct his men around a fire scene. It can be seen in almost all early pictures of the fire companies and in addition to functionality it was a symbol of authority that only the Chief would have. Thank you, Ricketts family.

**Celebrate Ocean County History  
Day on September 16**

The Third Annual Ocean County History Day will take place on Saturday, September 16 (rain date September 17) from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Ocean County Historical Society, 26 Hadley Avenue, Toms River. There will be historic reenactors, a snack table, a \$1.00 used book sale, 50-50, museum tours, and more. The musical group Ministers of Apollo will perform Revolutionary War era music throughout the day with the harpsichord, voice, and fife and drum. Admission is free! Sponsored by the Ocean County Historical Society, the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, and the Captain Joshua Huddy chapter of the DAR



September 11<sup>th</sup>,  
In memory of many,  
in honor of all,  
let's stand united and  
never forget.