



THE POINT PLEASANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 1273 Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

EMAIL ppbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

**Welcome to the September 2026 Newsletter of the Point
Pleasant Historical Society!**

Dear Members and Friends,

Each month, our newsletters will be organized around a theme that highlights a significant aspect of our history.

This month's History Term Paper is written by PPHS member Fred Potter, who will share the story of Point Pleasant Borough's official secession from Brick Township and its incorporation in 1920. His research will highlight the circumstances that led to the creation of the borough, the significance of this important local milestone, and how the events of that year helped shape the Point Pleasant community we know today.

"History Term Paper"

The Formation of the Borough of Point Pleasant 1920

(please click on the image below to read)

Point Pleasant Historical Society

History Term Paper

Box 1273, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ

September 2026

POINT PLEASANT

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The regularly scheduled September 2026 public meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10th, 2026, starting at 7:00 PM. Gene Donatiello, retired Brick Township educator, author and historian with the Brick Township Historical Society will present a program "Stories from Brick Township". Meeting location: Point Pleasant Borough Municipal Building, 2233 Bridge Ave., Point Pleasant Borough. The meeting is free and open to the public.

The Formation of the Borough of Point Pleasant 1920

This Newsletter focuses on the Borough of Point Pleasant, its creation, its first Mayor and of some of accomplishments made during Mayor Melville Burns Parker's term in office. The following Towns seceded from Brick Township prior to the incorporation of the Borough of Point Pleasant. They were Lakewood March 1903, Point Pleasant Beach May 1886, Bay Head June 1886, and Mantoloking April 1911. Point Pleasant Borough was the last Town to secede from Brick.

In May 1920, the New Jersey Governor and Legislature approved a charter allowing Point Pleasant to vote on forming its own municipality separate from Brick Township, pending a referendum. Residents approved the measure on June 29, 1920, at an organizational meeting by a vote of 153 YES to 8 NO. In his book A Point to Remember, former Borough Clerk Harry "Skeeter" O'Dell (served 1955-1978) wrote that the push to incorporate was driven in part by a desire for local control of education. Although one-room schoolhouses were common, growth in the 1920s created a need for more formal school facilities as the town evolved beyond a seasonal resort. We found no evidence that Brick Township opposed the secession, however Brick did seek state financial assistance to offset the loss of tax revenue after the Borough's secession.

At that same June 29 organizational meeting Joseph Holmes Harvey was elected as Borough's first Mayor. However, at that very same meeting J. H. Harvey resigned citing poor health conditions and Melville B. Parker was appointed. Mr. Harvey occupation was a teacher in Point Pleasant and later operated his own undertaker business. In 1930 he sold his undertaker business to Allen Van Hise. That business is still in operation as Van Hise and Callagan Funeral Home on Arnold Avenue. Mr. Harvey was a well-respected member of the community and was appointed as a Trustee of the Point Pleasant Methodist Church on Arnold Avenue in 1903. Mr. Harvey died in 1941 and in 1945 the Church was renamed the Harvey Memorial Methodist Church in his honor. Harvey Memorial is still an active Church located on Arnold Ave.

Melville Burns Parker, the Borough's first mayor, was the retired secretary of the American Steel Spring Company. After maintaining a summer home in Point Pleasant for many years, he settled here in retirement. A respected community member, Parker served as mayor from 1920 to 1928 and was a Mason and Knight Templar.




Original Point Pleasant Borough Hall—1926

Dredging of the Point Pleasant Canal

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2026 PUBLIC MEETING

**OUR MEETING START TIME HAS
CHANGED to 7:00PM!**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL
BEGIN AT 7:00 PM THIS YEAR.**

The regularly scheduled September 2026 public meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10th, 2026, starting at 7:00 PM. PPHS Member and Brick Township Historian, Gene Donatiello, will be on hand to share **"STORIES FROM BRICK TOWNSHIP"**.

"Brick Township was created in 1850 along with the creation of Ocean County. Through the decades several other communities have been subdivided from Brick. The program to be presented will address and answer the following questions. Which United States President visited Brick Township and why?. Where did the story of the Underground Railroad passing through Brick originate? Which road is named for a Revolutionary War soldier? Was there really an airport in Osbornville?

It was at one time Johnson's farm and is now a Town Park & Beach. Who was the young 12- year-old boy who left home to seek his fortune and returned owning three businesses. Who would freefall 54,000 feet to complete a long-desired goal? Is there really a business started in 1922 and still operating in Brick today? Why was Trinity Chapel so important to two Communities? Who was the women who fought to have a Library built in Brick Township? These questions and more will be discussed and answered in Stories From Brick Township."

Meeting location: Point Pleasant Borough Municipal Building, 2233 Bridge Ave., Point Pleasant Borough.

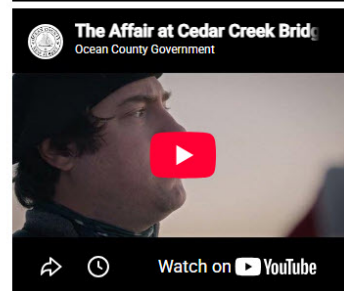
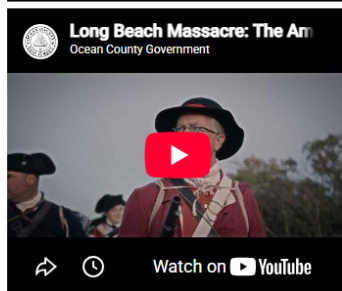
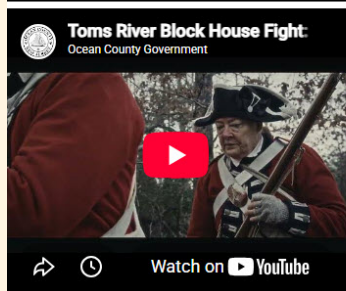
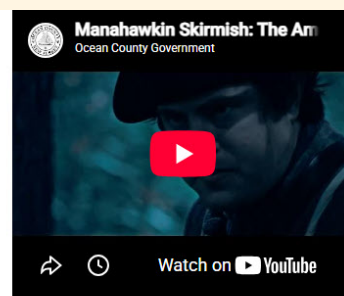
Please don't forget that our Museum is open weekly, every Thursday, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm; please feel free to come in and browse.

Historic Documentary Videos

We are pleased to share the following videos on the American Revolution in Ocean County that have been prepared by the Ocean County Board of Freeholders:

Ocean County presents a series of Video Documentaries "The American Revolution in Ocean County Trail" produced by Oak Leaf Media of Tuckerton New Jersey funded in part by a National Park Service Battlefield Preservation grant.

The documentaries can be accessed by clicking on the link below:



***PLEASE SEND US YOUR OLD PHOTOS AND MEMORIES!
We can scan and return your originals if requested.***

If you have any photos, historical documents, memories or other artifacts that you would like to submit for publication or preservation by the PPHS, please email a copy or contact us at the email address below:

PPBHISTORICALSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM

If you need a membership application, or if you know someone who wishes to join, please click the link below for a printable application form.

[PPHS Membership Application](#)

We thank you in advance!



Point Pleasant Historical Society | PO BOX 1273 | Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742 US

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