

Bay Head Historical Society

Serving Bay Head, Mantoloking, and Lovelandtown

P. O. Box 127, Bay Head, N. J. 08742

Fall 2024

Dear members and friends of the Bay Head Historical Society,

Our season began in June at our General Meeting, with reports of our status and discussion of our proposed activities for the year. Our speaker, Scott Mazzella, presented a program about the most recent storms that have damaged our towns. The audience was extremely interested in his explanation of the weather conditions that cause such damaging storms.

The Museum exhibit this year was **MAPS – A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME**. Maps on display from the 1500s showed the development of our area from the earliest visitors, the Leni Lenape native peoples, through the time of the European settlements until the growth of our area in the late 1800s.

Of course, the faithful members and supporters visited, and some said, “I drive past here all the time but have never stopped before.” Most of our visitors were map lovers, anxious to view our display. They spend much time studying the various maps using our magnifying glasses. These map lovers are excited about next year’s exhibit of maps of this area’s development beginning in the last quarter of the 18th century. They will be back!

This current exhibit will remain on display until the end of December every Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 pm, and will be augmented by our annual VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS during December.

I hope to see you there.

Doris Czarnecki, President

Bay Head Historical Society, Board of Trustees
Doris Czarnecki ~ President, David Kellogg ~ Treasurer
Catharine Coleman ~ Curator, Toms Royal,
Tom VanNostrand, Patricia Burke

SHIPWRECKED: A STORY OF THE JOHN MINTURN

Since the first recordings in 1524, the New Jersey coast has had over 4000 shipwrecks, earning the name "The Graveyard of the Atlantic."

On February 14, 1846, the schooner Alabama, carrying a crew of 7 and a cargo of hides, spices, and iron, was stranded in a gale south of the Manasquan Inlet. All rescue attempts failed, and the crew and cargo were lost.

Later that day, the same rescue crew was summoned to an imperiled ship, the John Minturn, off the beach just south of Mantoloking. This three-masted packet ship sailed as a passenger ship from New Orleans to its home post in New York City. Aboard were 51 passengers, including Captain Stark, his wife, two children, the crew, and 20 seamen taken onboard from the Cherokee, that burned and sank near New Orleans. The cargo, valued at \$75,000, consisted of cotton, foodstuffs, and hides.

The John Minturn made it safely to Sandy Hook. The weather was rapidly changing, with



expectations of a north-easter. Capt. Stark handed control of the ship to Harbor Pilot Thomas Freeborn. Gale force winds tore at the sails, and the boat was blown south, hitting a sandbar south of Mantoloking. The ship began to break apart after it hit a second sandbar about 200 feet off the shore. Help was quick to respond, arriving at about 3:00 am.

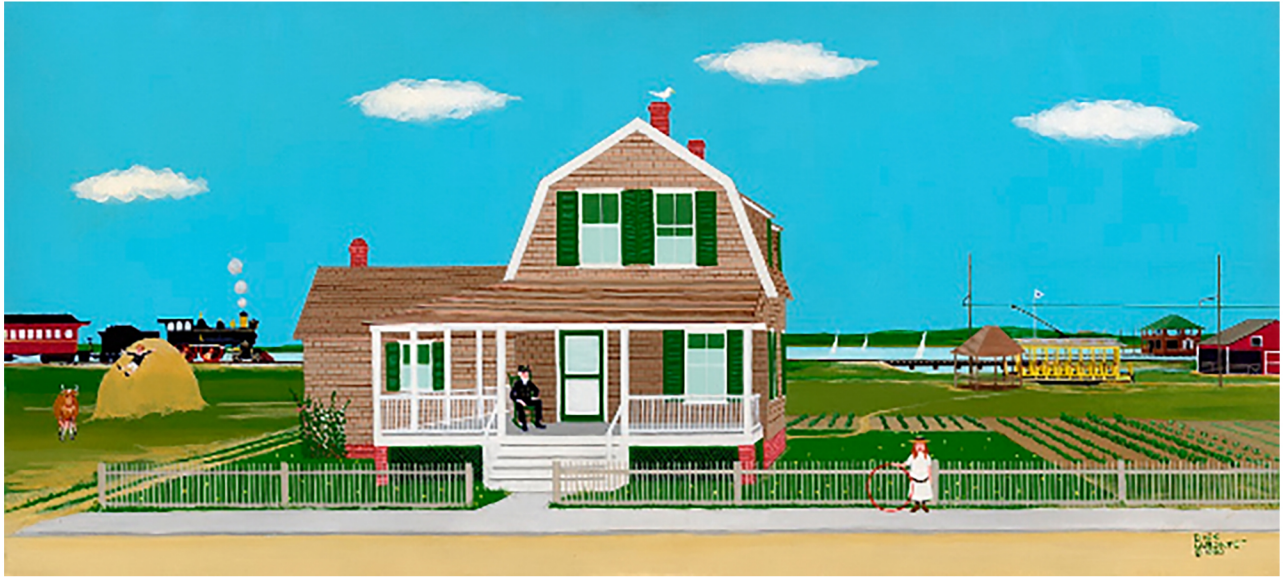
The rescue crew exerted every effort to bring the passengers to shore. Howling

winds, freezing temperatures, snow, and debris from the wrecked ship in the surf hindered their attempts. 38 people perished in this tragedy, and many of the bodies of those lay frozen on the beach.

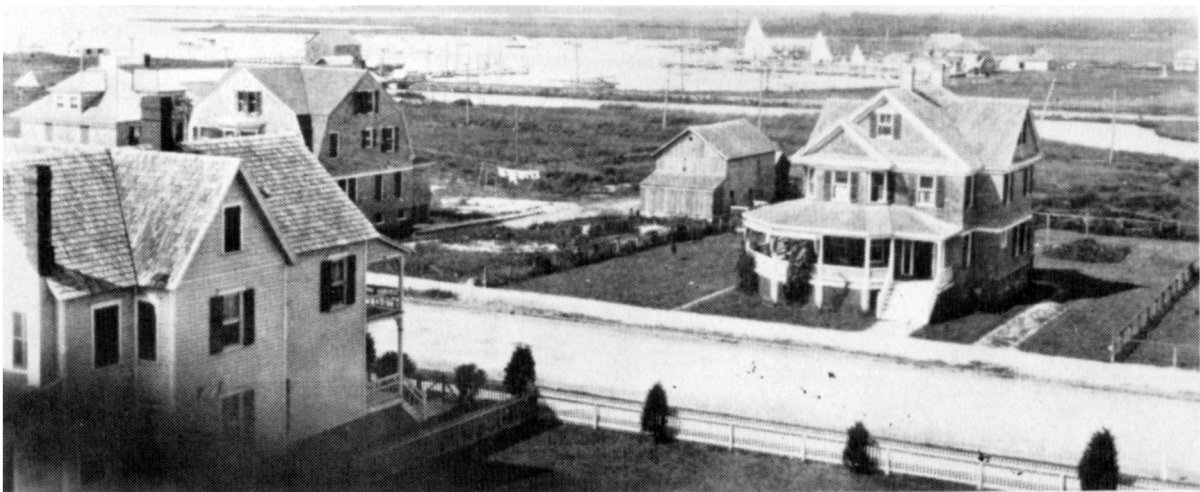
This disastrous event emphasized the necessity for improved rescue methods for those imperiled by maritime accidents. Within a year, U.S. Congressman Dr. William A. Newell introduced the first legislation for funding for Life-Saving Services.

Has this piece of history sparked your interest? The Bay Head Historical Society Museum and the Point Pleasant Historical Society are excellent resources for further information. I recommend "New Jersey Shipwrecks: 350 Years in the Graveyard of the Atlantic" by Margeret Thomas Buchholz and "Undiminished Violence: The John Minturn Storm of 1846" by Thomas G. Clark.

CAPT. ELIJAH CHADWICK'S HOUSE REACHES 150 YEAR MILESTONE



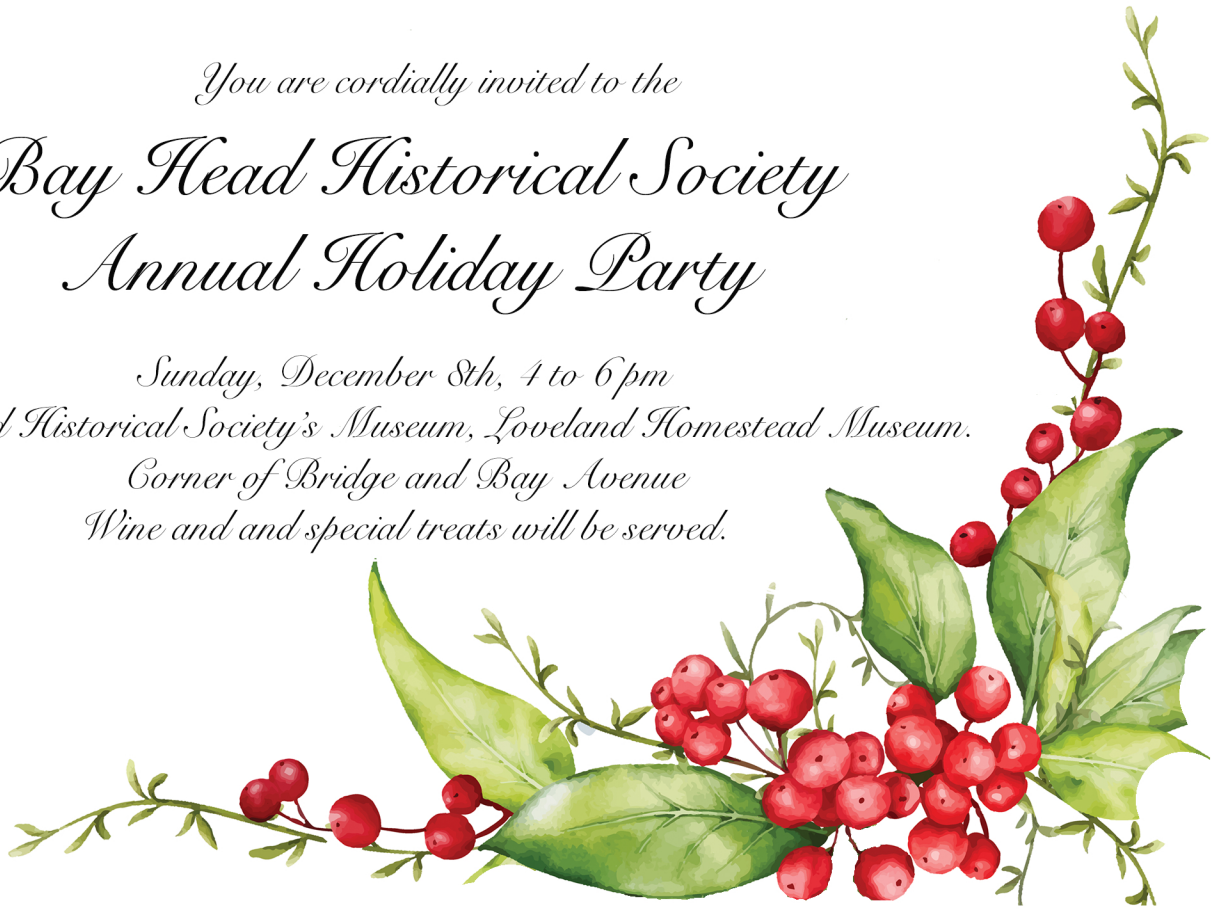
The Chadwick farmhouse was built in 1874. The above image by Dick LaBonte is representative of the home at the turn of the century. The house, originally on Main Avenue was moved to Lake Avenue at the east end of the Chadwick property. Before Bay Head was developed into a summer resort, there were only three buildings; the Chadwick farmhouse, John E. Johnson's family home and a railroad maintenance building. Capt Chadwick and Mr. Johnson owned large parcels of land, much of it sold to Meesers Mount, Howe and Harris; about two years they had incorporated The Bay Head Land Company.



Above is a photograph taken from the watertower in 1905. This beautiful farmhouse has survived fire, northeast storms, hurricanes and floods. It has been restored and carefully maintained by its current owners.

You are cordially invited to the
Bay Head Historical Society
Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 8th, 4 to 6 pm
Bay Head Historical Society's Museum, Loveland Homestead Museum.
Corner of Bridge and Bay Avenue
Wine and special treats will be served.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025 or donate. Your contribution will help maintain our collections and our buildings and grounds. This income allows us to present exhibits and programs that are interesting and educational. Your donation is tax-deductible; your check is your receipt. BHHS is a tax-exempt corporation (22-3219135). Mail your check to BHHS, PO Box 127, Bay Head, New Jersey 08742.

Individual Membership \$40

Family Annual Membership \$50____

Individual LIFE Membership \$400

Family Life Membership \$500____

Benefactor \$5000 You may decide if your donation goes to the general fund or is to be allocated to a mutually agreed upon project.

Business or Association \$150

Other Donation \$____

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