

# Point Pleasant Historical Society

## History Term Paper



Box 1273 Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

Editor: Sal Marino

April, 2019

Happy  
Easter

*Our Meeting on April 8th begins at 7:30PM*

**Our Guest Speaker** for this meeting is **Melissa Ziobro**, Specialist Professor of Public History, Monmouth University who will talk on a new **Bruce Springsteen** special exhibit of this world famous singer/writer on the anniversary of his 70th birthday year. All are welcomed.

### Pioneers of the two Points

It took many strong folks to settle in the area we know as Point Pleasant Borough and Point Pleasant Beach. This is only one of the many stories about the early businesses that formed our downtown.

### TOMAINO'S SHOE STORE

By  
Samuel J. Tomaino

The story of Tomaino's, one of the oldest shoe stores in the area, is the saga of a man who came from Italy in **1913**, worked hard, dealt honestly with his customers and rose to a point of eminence in the community.

It is the story of Samuel Tomaino, who came to America to visit who was living in Point Pleasant. He liked what he saw here so much that he decided to remain and went to work as a laborer on the railroad. Two years later, he opened a small shoe repair shop in Point Pleasant Beach, next to the south-east corner of Arnold and Bay Avenues.

Through hard work and a thorough knowledge of the shoe repair business gained in his native Italy, he prospered. In **1923** he married Nicoletta (Nicki) Mancuso of Long Branch. They had two children, Francis in **1924** and Joyce in **1932**. In **1925**, Samuel and Nicki opened a shoe store and repair shop converting a house with a front lawn into a storefront and upstairs apartment.

In **1949**, upon graduation from Rider College, Francis Tomaino assumed operation of the shoe store. In **1951**, he married Ann DeSimone of Point Pleasant. They had three children, Samuel in **1952**, Michael in **1955** and Barbara in **1959**.

Samuel Tomaino retired in **1961** and passed away in **1969**. Nicki passed away at the age of 98 in **2003**. She was active in the V.F.W. Ladies' Auxiliary, Senior Citizens (Chapter 1) and the Glorious Years.

Francis Tomaino retired in **1986** and closed the doors of Tomaino's Shoe Store after 60 years of operation. He left with much regret. Francis passed away on **August 25, 2017**. What a memorable family!

### The sad tale of

Cemeteries are both remembrance for passed on as well as a those interested in One such location in area is White Lawn nue. Amongst those include notable local as well as several



**Charles Newman** places of quiet those who have source material for their local history. the Point Pleasant on Gowdy Ave-laid to rest there founding figures markers to those

lost in shipwrecks that were common off our shores in the 1800's. There is a particular marker at White Lawn that can best be described as curious. It is a dark marble obelisk about 7 feet tall and it is the resting place of the Newman Family, mother Sallie (1880-1931), father John (1878-1968) and a son Charles (1904-1916) who left this earth at the all too young age of 13.

One is intrigued by the inscription on Charles' panel. It reads, "**I AM NOT AFRAID, GOD HAS MY HEART, V-A-N-I-S-H-E-D, I HAVE DISAPPEARED MAMMA.**"

What could possibly be the story behind this century of marker? A search of the Asbury Park Press archives revealed the circumstances of how Charles died in it's October 14, 1916 edition.

"Funeral of Charles Newman  
POINT PLEASANT, October 14-Funeral services for Charles W. Newman, 13 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Newman, who died at the home of his parents in West Point Pleasant as the result of lockjaw, were held yesterday afternoon from his late resident, Rev Elijah Reed of Belford officiating. Burial was made in White Lawn Cemetery by Director J.H. Harvey.

Young Newman became ill last week following an accident on the beach when an express wagon in which he was coasting turned over. He was thrown out and his groin pierced by a sharp splinter."

Lockjaw is the result of a tetanus infection, where the breathing muscles including the throat and jaw go into severe contraction. The end of this terrible ordeal is suffocation and in 1916 medical science did have no effective treatment for tetanus as we do today.

But one wonders if he wasn't a youthful fan of Harry Houdini? At that time Houdini was the biggest star in the world and it is quite possible young Charles was on of the escape artist's many admirers. Perhaps this was a nod to the dreams of a young man taken too soon? *by James Malone Jr.*

### Bennett Cabin Visitations on an Upswing

Since we have been opening the Herman Bennett Cabin on the third Saturday of each month, more and more visitors have been showing up. The docents (guides) have been doing a fine job of showing them around. Last month we had a nice contingent of folks from the Brick Township Historical Society.



*Though April Showers may come your way....*



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

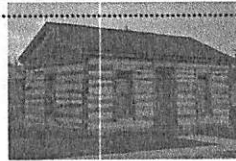
***Some things to Ponder in your Spare Time***

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

\*Can you cry underwater? \*Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

\*What disease did cured ham actually have? \*If a deaf person has to go to court is it still called a hearing?

\*Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the car-pool lane? \*Why are you IN a movie but you're ON TV? And finally, \*How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?



***Earth Day April 27th.***  
***At Riverfront Park. The Herman Bennett Cabin will be open and hosting a***



***YARD SALE!***

***Come over and support the Point Pleasant Historical Society.***



***Do you appreciate your Cell Phone?***

Jim Malone and I were at the museum the other day and conversation turned to our cell phones. Now Jim has an old flip-phone and I have an iPhone with apps galore. I say it's like having a library at my fingertips 24/7. That's how I use it!

Well how about some local history of the etymology of telephones right here in River City? The following is taken from William M.E.Hess's "On History's Trail". Vol.II, Chapter VII  
***"Do you remember how the telephone came to Point Pleasant? Of course not!.....two young men migrated here from Philadelphia in about 1890. They were Joseph W. Johnson and Frank Dampman. Dampman's father owned a hardware store back home and these two young men thought it would be a good idea to go into the hardware business here.....Point Pleasant Hardware Company. These men were interested in.....the telephone. The very first telephone put into operation here was a private line between.....Hardware Company store and the grocery store of O.B.VanCamp.....located on Arnold Avenue opposite the beginning of Bay Avenue.....Johnson and Dampman dreamed up the idea of using the trolley wire.....Their telephone worked all right.....they formed the Ocean Telephone Company. At the directors meeting immediately following the stockholder's meeting O.B.VanCamp was elected president and Joseph W. Johnson was elected secretary and treasurer....."***

***..The records do not show the number of telephone subscribers, but it is believed to be about 16, three of which were "long distance" .....one of these was to the store at Burrsville.....they simply used trees which lined the road to Burrsville (instead of poles). The other two "long distance" lines terminated in Manasquan, and that was a different problem. Poles had to be used to carry the lines to the bridge.....but the problem of crossing the channel where the drawbridge was did pose a problem. However, this was surmounted by the simple expedient of stringing the lines through ordinary garden hose and dropping that to the bottom of the channel.....and again strung on poles to the final connections."***

***So I ask again: Do you appreciate your Cell Phone? by Sal Marino, salemnj@gmail.com***