



April's Legendary Fogs and Gales

The month of April with its accompanying showers has surely brought some legendary storms and foggy conditions to the Jersey Shore. Here's the story of the wrath brought by three April storms over 110 years ago...

April 11, 1894: The Schooner *Albert W. Smith* becomes stranded during a blizzard ¼ mile northeast of Squan Beach due to a storm and 8 lives are presumed lost. From Page 1 of the April 12, 1894 *New York Times: Manasquan, N.J., April 11-When the early morning life-saving crew went on its patrol at 4 o'clock it saw through the storm the dim outline of a large ship on the beach. She appeared to lay over on her port side. The waves were pounding against her hull, throwing cataracts of spray and mist over her topmasts. From time to time, when the snowstorm abated slightly, the watchers on the shore thought they could discern figures on the deck of the vessel. These lulls were but monetary, and when the storm returned in its fury, nothing could be seen but the big dark hull rolling in the great waves. A piece of wreckage which floated shore bore the name Albert W. Smith. The life-saving station men, eager to save those on the doomed ships, attempted to launch lifeboats, but their efforts were unavailing. Some of the crew went back to the station for the life-saving apparatus. When they returned they found the masts of the vessel had been swept by the board. The crew fired a bolt over to the vessel, but there was no response to the effort, and inside of half an hour the vessel went completely to pieces. The number of men aboard the vessel, life-saving station men say, must have been at least ten. The *Albert W. Smith* was commanded by Capt. Derry. She left Philadelphia April 8, bound for Providence. She was of 602.26 tons, gross; was built at Kennebunk, Me., in 1873, and was owned in Providence, R.I. A dispatch from Point Pleasant to the Maritime Exchange yesterday said that Superintendent Havens of the Life-Saving Service reported that the schooner *Albert W. Smith*, which went to pieces near Squan Beach station in the breakers at 4 o'clock yesterday morning, lost all hands.*

April 20, 1901: The Schooner *Mola* drifted ashore 1.25 miles south of the Chadwick Life-Saving Station in a fog. According to the 1901 Annual Report of the U.S. Life-Saving Service, there was a strong east wind and high surf which caused the *Mola* to go over the outer sandbar and lie close to shore. Surfmen from both Chadwick and Toms River stations reached the wreck at 4:45 AM and safely landed the crew of eight men onshore and took them to the Chadwick Station, where the keeper supplied them with food and dry clothes. The *Mola* was eventually refloated and only suffered partial cargo losses.



Above: *The Mola*, image courtesy New Jersey Maritime Museum

Our April meeting will be held virtually on **April 12, 2021** starting at 7:00 PM! Jill Ocone will present about ship artifacts found in and around the area based upon research from her most-recent work for *Jersey Shore Magazine*. Please see the Virtual Meeting Link and Protocols below for meeting expectations and details.

Virtual Meeting Link and Protocols:

Zoom Meeting Link:

<http://bit.ly/PPHSAPRIL2021>

Type the link exactly as it is written above in your browser to join the meeting.

Please use your first and last name (if possible) so we know who you are.

Please keep your microphone on MUTE in order to reduce noise feedback during the meeting and presentation.

Only the first 100 guests will be admitted to the meeting due to account restrictions.

The meeting will last 40 minutes, also due to account restrictions. Because of the short duration, PPHS is unable to provide technical assistance to users during the meeting. If you are unsure how to use ZOOM, there are plenty of tutorials available on the Internet.

Please keep all chat messages and commentary professional.

Anyone posting or saying anything inappropriate and/or causing a disruption to the presentation will be removed from the meeting.

This is the first time we are attempting a virtual meeting. As such, we expect some kinks to arise. Please be patient with us as we navigate this new way to interact with you. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding and look forward to seeing you again at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 12, 2021!

April 19, 1910: A severe nor'easter damages homes in Point Pleasant. The image to the right is from the front page of the April 20, 1920 *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

April showers indeed bring May flowers, along with fog, snow, and treacherous seas. Here's hoping April 2021 is kind to us all!

SEAS BATTERING COTTAGES.

Fine Homes at Point Pleasant, N. J., in Danger of Being Swept Away.

POINT PLEASANT, N. J., April 19.—Battling desperately against the onrush of the tide before a stiff northeast gale Road Commissioner L. D. Van Note of Point Pleasant and a large force of men are endeavoring to save the ocean front cottage of Dr. John Taylor and the Murphy home from being swept away. The sea to-day undermined and carried away the porches of the fine Summer homes, and it is feared that if the tide is high to-morrow morning the cottages themselves will be swept out to sea.

When breaches first appeared in the bulkheading Commissioner Van Note and his street repairing squad, reinforced by many willing citizens, attempted temporarily to stop the breaks by filling them with bags of sand. The next tide undid their work, sweeping the bags and hundreds of tons of sand away.



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

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

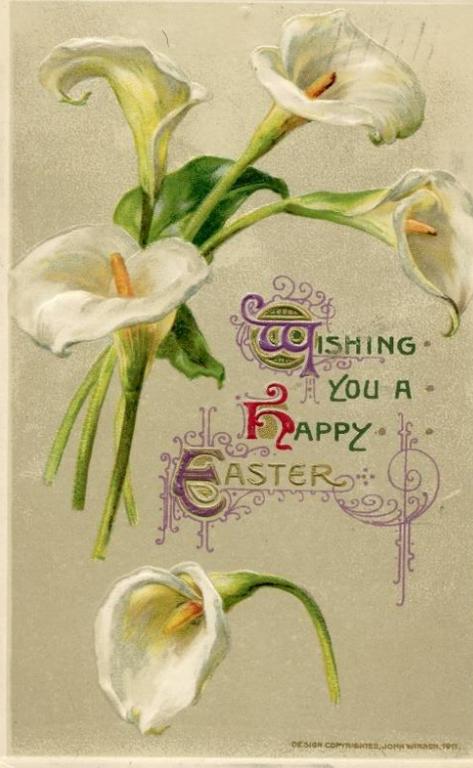
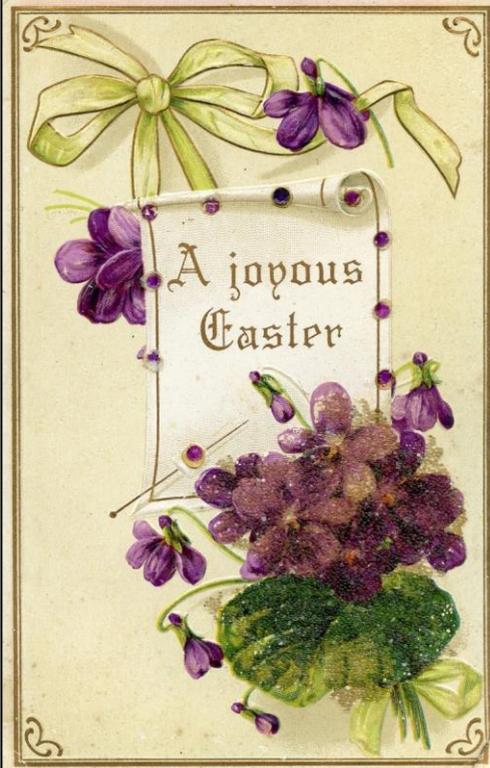
Point Pleasant Historical Society
Serving Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach

In accordance with the guidance from state and local health officials and our concern for our museum patrons, the Point Pleasant Historical Museum will remain closed to visitors until further notice.

Thank You!

A great and hearty "thank you" to those who have sent in their 2021 dues and/or donations. Your support helps with programming and keeping the history of Point Pleasant Beach and Point Pleasant Boro alive. Please remember to send in your 2021 dues if you haven't already done so.

Easter Greetings From The Early 1900s...



Postcards Scanned From The Collection of Jill Ocone

**Mark Your Calendar
 for our next meeting:
 May 10, 2021!
 Look for details in
 the May Newsletter!**

