

Enoch Lewis "Nucky" Johnson was an Atlantic City political boss and racketeer who unofficially ran the Republican political machine that controlled Atlantic City and Atlantic County from the 1910s - 1930s. Born in 1883 in Smithville, New Jersey, "Nucky" (a nickname derived from his first name) was allegedly involved in promoting bootlegging during Prohibition, illegal gambling activities and prostitution.

Johnson graduated from Atlantic City High School in 1900. In 1905, he was appointed undersheriff (his father was sheriff), and in 1908, he was elected sheriff when his father's term expired. He became secretary of the powerful Atlantic County Republican Executive Committee in 1909. In 1911, local political boss Louis Kuehne was convicted on corruption charges and imprisoned; Johnson allegedly succeeded him as boss.

Officially, Johnson held various jobs, including Atlantic County Treasurer (1914), County Tax Collector

Johnson's trademark was [Six Feet of Hair](#), a trademark that he used to promote his products, and goods he sold to his constituents.

He maintained a lavish lifestyle, documented during a federal tax investigation in 1936-1939. The investigation

In May 1939, after an extensive federal investigation, Nucky Johnson was indicted for income tax evasion.

Johnson was married twice. His first wife, Mary Johnson, died in 1913 of consumption. Johnson



Nucky Johnson - the "Boss" of Atlantic City 1925. Alfred M Heston Collection, Atlantic City Free Public Library

Johnson died on December 9, 1968 at the Atlantic County Convalescent Home in Northfield, New Jersey, and he is buried in a cemetery in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey.

Resources in the Atlantic City Free Public Library Atlantic City Heritage Collections:

Grace Anselmo D'Amato. *Chance of a Lifetime: Nucky Johnson, Skinny D'Amato and How Atlantic City Became the Naughty Queen of Resorts.* Harvey Cedars, NJ: Down the Shore Publishing, 2001.

Frank Ferrry. *Nucky: The Real Story of the Atlantic City Boardwalk Boss.* Margate, NJ: ComteQ Communications, 2013.

Nelson Johnson. *Boardwalk Empire: the birth, high times, and corruption of Atlantic City.* Medford, NJ: Plexus, 2002.

William McMahan. *So Young, So Gay!* Atlantic City, NJ: Press Publishing, 1970.

Martin Paulsson. *The Social Anxieties of Progressive Reform: Atlantic City, 1854-1920.* New York University Press: New York, 1994.

John Stoneburg. *The Boardwalk Empire: the Nucky Johnson story.* [S.l.: n.p.], [1968].

US Department of Justice and US Department of Treasury. *The Case of Enoch L. Johnson: a complete report of the Atlantic City investigation conducted jointly by the Treasury Department and the Department of Justice.* [United States: n.p.], [1942].

Chick Yeager. *The Republican Boss Era of Atlantic City, 1900-1971.* [S.l.: n.p.], 1981.

Local History Biography File - Enoch "Nucky" Johnson.

Local History Subject File - Organized Crime.

ACFPL Collection of Atlantic City Photographs (H009).

[ACFPL Living History Project](#) (interviews that mention Nucky Johnson include #2 Leon Binder, #23 Frank Hires, # 27 Leslie Kammerman, #33 James Latz, #52 Eddie Solitaire, and Anonymous Interview #5 "Chester").

Atlantic City Board of Trade advertising pamphlets, various years.