



# Port Norris

HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# Be a Part of History Today

The Port Norris Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of our unique village, located in Commercial Township in Cumberland County, NJ.

## Current Happenings:

**Next meeting: January 13, 2015 • 7 pm @ 1723 Main Street, Port Norris**



## Speakers Drew Tomlin, Dick Smith and Charlie Moore

Starting the New Year right, the PNHS will hold our first open meeting in our mortgage free building. The January 13th meeting will feature three local speakers.

Drew Tomlin will tell of ship building in Port Norris around the turn of the 19th century and of steamboats plying the Maurice River. Dick Smith will speak about Thomas Hand, a land owner and property manager also in the late 1800-early 1900's. We recently received a beautiful certificate made out to Thomas Hand thanking him for his donation to the Betsy Ross House Restoration fund. Come and see and discover who signed it. Finally Charlie Moore will be with us to share information on several items that he has donated. Exciting stuff!



## Window Dedication and Final Building Payoff

We started the Christmas season with a Thank You Open House for those who have donated windows, time and money to our organization. <http://www.historicportnorris.org/donate.htm>

At this time, Carole and Jim Robbins donated the final payment on the building. John and Janice Laws accepted the payment and congratulated the Port Norris Historical Society on their outstanding progress. There were Christmas decorations, lots of beautiful cookies and beverages. The afternoon was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our meeting room is now officially named the Sam and Marie Cobb room.



Above: PNHS Vice President, Dick Smith presents the final payment from the PNHS to John and Janice Laws.



Left: Carole and Jim Robbins present the donation for the final payment to PNHS Treasurer, Liz Hoffman.





## Membership and Renewal for 2015

For members it is time to renew for 2015. We have had a great year and we truly hope in 2015 we will continue to grow and carry on the work of the work in improving the building and offering exciting events like our January 13th meeting. If you are not a member, we would love to add your name to our growing list of members. Please give some thought to joining the PNHS. Membership fees are for Individual - \$10, Family - \$15, Benefactor - \$50 and over, and Student - \$1 (no voting privileges) and entitles you to discounts on our merchandise. Click here to **renew or join**, <http://www.historicportnorris.org/membership.htm>. Or mail your check to: Port Norris Historical Society, PO Box 187, Port Norris, NJ 08349. Thank you for your support. Membership is key to applying for grants as well as your dollars help us continue with all of our endeavours.

## Moment in History: Historical Sketch of Port Norris By Harry Barraclough

(Date Unknown, Printed as Transcribed)

"I remember my first visit to Port Norris, it was on Monday morning, February 4th, 1896. My father came to see about a house to move into, and I came with him. We came to the Bivalve side of the river on the steamboat "West Jersey" and at the place we landed there were four oyster boats we had to climb over, to reach the wharf and to say the least I was scared I was afraid I would slip into the river as I stepped over the iron rollers where the dredge chains rolled over in hauling in the oyster dredges when filled with oysters.

It was real cold that morning, there was plenty of ice in the river. I told Pop I didn't like it if I had to live where I had to climb over boats to get to Port Norris.

That night we stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heritage. Mr. Heritage was then the Postmaster and lived in the building just recently vacated by the N.J. Bell Telephone Co., corner of High and Main Streets.

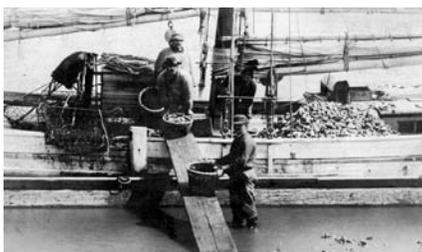
The next morning we went to see Mr. Rixsom Robbins, who owned "The Mansion" as the house next to the present Post Office, was called. He took us to look at the house, which we rented. He told me to go up on the third floor and that I could see the Delaware Bay from the window. I thought that was great to be able to see the water from our house!" Read More at <http://www.historicportnorris.org/historicalskech.htm>

To learn more about PNHS Legend Harry Barraclough [Click Here](#)



## Pickings of the Month: December 11, 1890

- H. H. Nicholson has his wagon out on the streets all trimmed up with Christmas goods.
- Joseph Turner has a full line of all kinds of toys for children and a nice line of Christmas goods.
- Cards are out for the wedding on Christmas night of Mr. Randolph, of Leesburg, and Miss Hand, of Port Norris.
- Port Norris was blessed with about four inches of snow, the most since the blizzard, and it has never been nicer sleighing than this time.
- Read More at <http://www.historicportnorris.org/pickings.htm>



## Watermen's Memorial Delaware Bay

The Bayshore Center at Bivalve, the Port Norris Historical Society and The McBride Enterprises invite Bayshore community members, families, friends and artists, who recognize the importance of memorializing many who have been lost in the Delaware Bay, to help envision, support and bring into being a Watermen's Memorial.

The memorial will be located at the Bayshore Center at Bivalve's Shipping Sheds on a wharf overlooking the Maurice River. It will be fully accessible to the public and viewed by land or along the river. An integral part of the memorial will be an opportunity for families to remember loved-ones, past, present and future.

The memorial will be a place of quiet contemplation, reflection, remembering and connecting with the Bay's past, present and future. A full presentation can be reviewed at <http://www.historicportnorris.org/watermen.htm>

*More public meetings will be held in early 2015.*





## New Project: Cookbook We need your Recipes

We are making a cookbook! We are looking for recipes and volunteers. If interested in helping or just have a great recipes to share you can email, facebook, or snail mail. Leave us your email and we will keep you up to date on cookbook meetings.

Email: [pnhs@historicportnorris.org](mailto:pnhs@historicportnorris.org)

Snail Mail: PO Box 187, Port Norris, NJ 08349

## Items for Sale

### OUR COFFEE IS BACK.

See all our items we have for sale by clicking here.

<http://www.historicportnorris.org/shopping.htm>

OR come and see us at our next meeting

**January 13, 2015**

*The canvas bags have a nice gusset and are silk-screen, you can wash them over and over and will still look great!*



**New Items  
Canvas Tote Bags  
and Ink Pens!**

*Merry Christmas Everyone &  
Happy New Year!*

Share your stories with us!

**See us on Facebook and our website [historicportnorris.org](http://historicportnorris.org)**

If you are getting this email from a friend and would like to be added to our list, please [click here](#) and we will add you.

If we received your email from you at one of our events and you do not wish to receive this newsletter, click here [web@historicportnorris.org](mailto:web@historicportnorris.org), we will remove you from the list. We do not sell or share your email with anyone!

#### Officers

Rachel Cobb, President  
Richard Smith, Vice-President  
Alvina Baum, Secretary  
Robin Berry, Assoc. Secretary  
Liz Hoffman, Treasurer

#### Trustees

Rev. E. Barnes  
Eileen Bernhardt  
Ginny Campbell  
Joanne Hickman  
Sam Ricci



#### Committees

Collections Chair - Robin Berry  
Membership Chair - Ginny Campbell

A few of our members,  
the men are camera shy!  
*Join us in 2015!*



**Port Norris**  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY