



Port Norris

Be a Part of History Today

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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: September 8, 2015 • 7 pm @ 1723 Main Street

Elections for the 2015 Legends

Delaware Bay Watermen's Memorial FUNDRAISER Meet the Artists & Preview Party on September 13

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon overlooking the Delaware Bay from a unique and wonderful perspective. Be among the first to see the design of the memorial statue at the studio and home of the artist, Deborah Waddington Smith.

Live music • Roasted Oysters • Great food and drink • Rain or Shine

Your \$50 contribution will help us raise the necessary funds to build the memorial right on the wharves in Bivalve.

This will be a place of inspiration and quiet contemplation.

People will come from near and far to quietly remember their loved ones.

Click Here for more information and tickets. Deadline Sept 8th! Tickets are Limited!

Moment in History: The Ricci Family • Thank you to Sam Ricci Sr. and family for your story. Part One

Why did they choose Port Norris? An even more puzzling question is why Berrytown? My grandparents immigrated from Italy during the late 1890's and settled in this farming community to raise their family. Their farm initially consisted of about 25 acres but gradually it was expanded to include more than 50 additional acres. I will estimate that an additional 50 acres were rented for farming. It is now June, 2015 and the strawberry flies, mosquitoes, greenheads, ticks and gnats in Berrytown are absolutely horrendous. I am hobby-farming the same fields that they and my parents farmed. Those blood sucking critter populations have been diminished substantially since the 1890's due to state control projects such as spraying the salt hay meadows and the drainage mitigation project by PSEG. I wear a half body mosquito net when the bugs are swarming, NOW, for instance.

Lena Girocco (1885-1947) and her husband Salvatore Ricci (1873-1913) were from Benevento, Italy near Naples, Italy. My grandfather died from a serious injury when a shotgun barrel ruptured as he was shooting it.

Later, around 1914, my grandmother re-married to Angelo Rinno (1886-1945) who was from Rome, Italy. I have no memory of my grandparents on my father's side. I don't know why, but my parents did not talk to us children about them. I was about 3 years old when they died. My father had a half-sister, Emma Rinno Ricci and eventually, Dagastine. I was not aware of the remarriage of my grandmother to Angelo Rinno until I was in the



All 10 children Ricci/Rinno family circ 1935

Moment in History: The Ricci Family Part One



A happy day on the Ricci/Rinno Farm



Left to right: Joe Dagastine, Ronnie Capaldi, Anthony Ricci, Lorraine Ricci, Sammy Ricci



Angelo Rinno in his truck

5th grade in Downe Township elementary school. My best friend, whom I spent much time with in detention, once called me Sammy Rinno off the cuff. My puzzled look caused him to ask if I knew that my name was Rinno. That was the first time I had heard the name. I guess my family kept the Ricci name because my father was Ricci. Getting back to the big question of why Port Norris? I am guessing that the immigrants must have gotten lost traveling from Philadelphia in search of Vineland, NJ. Vineland has a substantial population of Ricci's and it may be that there was a separation along the way, resulting in Port Norris as the destination.

To the best of my knowledge, there is no relationship to any of the Ricci's in Vineland. As I was growing up on the farm and during my school days I was called Sam "Ricci (RIKKI)" but when I attended events in Vineland, my name was pronounced "Ricci (Richy)" I learned that either way is correct. But I was curious why the difference.?

Our farm produce was taken to the Vineland auction block. Regionally called THE BLOCK. As the produce buyers were bidding on various farmers produce, the auctioneer would call for bids on Ricci (Richy) beans or lettuce or other crops. There was always confusion as to whose produce was being auctioned, Vineland Ricci or Port Norris Ricci. So my parents segregated their crops by indicating to the auctioneer that this was Ricci (RIKKI) produce. It was a simple solution to an on-going problem.

In preparation for harvesting lettuce, I was told to assemble lettuce crates after school for the next days harvest. I received 5 cents each. The crates arrived in bundles of about 10 in each bundle and the sides had to be drawn together and fastened with pre-installed wire binders. That evening after school, I assembled 200 crates and I had stacked them 10 high. I could have done more but the sky was clouding over and it looked like rain. As I was leaving the field, a strong dark thunder head started rolling toward me. Yep, you guessed it. All 200 crates were blown over and scattered. After the storm I gathered them and tossed them into a large pile.

My cousins from Philadelphia would visit for a few weeks every summer. We would live the country life. Fishing and crabbing were high on the list. Then there was frog-catching and releasing. Sometimes they were still alive when we let them go. Notice I didn't mention work! One day while hoping that a fish would bite, my cousin thought he would entice a fish by wadding a large chunk of bait on his hook. His statement was that you need big bait to catch big fish. A few minutes later he caught a 25 lb carp. I have tried that theory since and it works, sometimes. – *Sam Ricci Sr.*

To be Continued....

Picking of the Month July 29, 1889 The G. A. R. Post proved Saturday afternoon that they did intend to have a sham battle for about two o'clock, while it was raining, they marched from the hall over to the grove and made ready to fight. About five o'clock they marched to the base ball ground and did their best to show people how a battle was conducted; a mail delivery and dress parade were also shown. About dark a ballon was sent up and everything was a success in spite of three days' rain. See More Pickings at <http://www.historicportnorris.org/pickings.htm>

Heritage Day Review

On Saturday, August 22 we experienced life on the Bayshore during the Revolutionary War. We enjoyed living history displays and re-enactors throughout the day along with history exhibits and period music. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to chat with us. All of the presentations were well attended. Dr. Richard W. Hunter, Hunter Research presented the report on the The Revolutionary War Skirmish on the Lower Maurice River. The unveiling of the sign for the Dallas' Landing Skirmish Site was exciting. Hopefully, the finished sign will be in place before winter. The Mock up can be seen at the The Bayshore Center.

The professional performers made us feel as though we were living in the 1700's. The effect was charming. Credits go to Royal American Reformers, The Canaan, Litchfield-Berkshire County Militia Burralls Corps, The New York Regiment Fife and Drum Duo, and Patrick Peters as Dr. Ludwig Wirtenberg, a surgeon who served at Valley Forge.

More will be added to our website, and we will let you know when the full report is available.



Rachel Cobb



Top: Salute to the Reveloutionary Skirmish at Peak of the Moon.

Left: mock-up of the sign. Art by Bill Ternay.

Membership and Renewal for 2016

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. Click here to **renew or join**, <http://www.historicportnorris.org/membership.htm>

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.

See us on Facebook and our website 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 at one of our events and you do not wish to receive this newsletter, click here web@historicportnorris.org, we will remove you from the list. We do not sell or share your email with anyone!



Happy Birthday
Norris!

NORRIS ASKS

What was the date for the “Battle” Skirmish of Dallas Landing in Port Norris at Peak of the Moon? See answer below

For more information and a full New Jersey Timeline visit [NEW JERSEY REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA TIMELINE](#)

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