



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: March 10, 2015 • 7 pm @ 1723 Main Street, Port Norris



**Reminder: JOIN US – Storytelling Session
“Religion in the Bayshore Region”**

February 28th, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Bayshore Center at Bivalve, 2800 High Street. Port Norris

Moment in History: 1723 Main Street

The Jacob Shinn Post #6, Grand Army of the Republic, a Civil War Veteran Group was organized in Port Norris on Jan. 12, 1887. They initially met at the Knights of Pythias Hall in Port Norris. In 1889, the G.A.R. bought a piece of ground on Main St, Port Norris from Charles Lake.

By 1890 the G.A.R. had erected a building, constructed mostly by civil war veterans. The building is 20' x 40' with two stories. It has 8" x 8" sills on a brick foundation. Joists are 4" x 10" local white cedar. Siding is cedar clapboard and windows are trimmed in white cedar.

The roof is metal and the soffit is ship nose construction with 5 1/2" crown molding. All nails are cut nails. Each corner is wind braced.

In 1890 the second floor was used by the G.A.R. as its lodge headquarters. The first floor was rented to Gibson Andrews, who operated a dry goods store.

On May 14, 1891, the Prosperity Temple #5, Mason link was organized. This was a woman's lodge and they met every Tuesday in the G.A.R. Hall.

Perseverance Home #18 was organized Dec 6, 1894. They met each Thursday evening at the G.A.R. Hall.

Read more: <http://www.historicportnorris.org/building-history.htm>



Eureka

Who doesn't like found money? Several months ago Dick Smith was cleaning up around the building as he so often does. There was enough trash in the little closet under the stairs to require using a rake and a broom. Far back in the corner, the rake hooked a small box about the size of a one dollar bill which was labeled "Hersey's Cocoa Butter Soap". The box was faded and looked like just another bit of trash but it had something in it. Imagine his surprise when he opened the box to find that it contained MONEY. Stashed there at sometime in the past and overlooked by all the persons who have occupied the building in the years since, there were several silver certificates issued in 1935 as well as a few 1951 dollar bills. For good measure there was a 1923 silver dollar. Imagine his excitement to find yet another gift from the historic corners of the building that we are working so very hard to restore for Port Norris.

Pickings of the Month

February 25, 1888 There are a number of boys and girls of this place whose parents send them to school but if the parents would only drop into the old saw mill they would find them engaged in card playing almost every other day. Their names could be given if necessary. Such conduct is likely to lead into worse excesses.



February 18, 1890 Shoemaker John Hollinger narrowly escaped being burned Saturday night. A bottle of carbon bisulphur, a preparation used for invisible patches, on the shelf over where Mr. Hollinger was at work, bursted, running down on him. The heat from the lamp ignited it, setting fire to Mr. Hollinger's clothes. Mr. Yates, who was passing the shop at the moment, went to his assistance and the flames were soon extinguished.

February 22, 1890 The men on the freight trains of the Central Railroad have a holiday to-day, the trains being abandoned on account of Washington's Birthday.

Read More at <http://www.historicportnorris.org/pickings.htm>



Meet Norris

Norris is a young male cat from the marshes of the bayshore. He was smart enough to avoid the terrors of osprey and eagles in the area. You can read his story on the website <http://www.historicportnorris.org/newsletter.htm> Starting with this newsletter, Norris will ask a question. See how much you know about Port Norris. The answer is upside down next to the copyright line. Don't cheat. There will be lots of information about the churches in the area at the Bayshore Storytelling on February 28th.

NORRIS ASKS:
Do you know how many churches are in Port Norris?

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 improving the building and offering exciting events. 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.

Share your stories with us!

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



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