



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



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

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

The Port Norris Historical Society is sharing in this day for the first time. The community is invited to the Bayshore Center at Bivalve’s Storytelling Session to share stories or listen to tales about the founding of religious congregations, their triumphs, struggles and contributions to the Bayshore Region. Share a memory from your lifetime, a family anecdote or recollection. Bring photographs or news articles to share or just come to listen and learn. We want to capture the essence of those houses of worship which set the mold for the Bayshore Region’s religious culture. The event is recorded and the information collected may be used in future exhibits, and for research and education purposes as part of the Delaware Bay Museum & Folklife Center and the Port Norris Historical Society.

Visit our current web page on churches in the neighborhood.

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



Stained glass window in the
First United Methodist Church

January Meeting Review

The first meeting in January was held in our mortgage free building. It featured three local speakers and lots of information. From Charlie Moore: a variety of ship’s equipment was featured and explained. These artifacts were recently donated to the PNHS and were from the Newcomb & Newcomb Store in Bivalve.

Drew Tomlin told about ships built in or near Port Norris as well as a time when steam ships plied the Maurice River. Finally, Dick Smith explained the importance of Thomas Hand, Sr., a major land owner in early Port Norris. He owned many of the houses and rented to newcomers to town. His son Thomas Hand, Jr. was the great-grandfather of one of our benefactors. She has donated a beautiful certificate dated 1899 showing that Mr. Hand donated to the restoration fund for the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia. One of the signers was John Quincy Adams. We are very fortunate to be the care takers of these relics from the storied past of Port Norris.

It was a delightful evening, followed by a short social time, sharing more stories with cookies and hot chocolate on a January cold night.



Ginny Campbell looking over one of the hats in the Charlie Moore Collection.

Moment in History: First United Methodist Church Port Norris

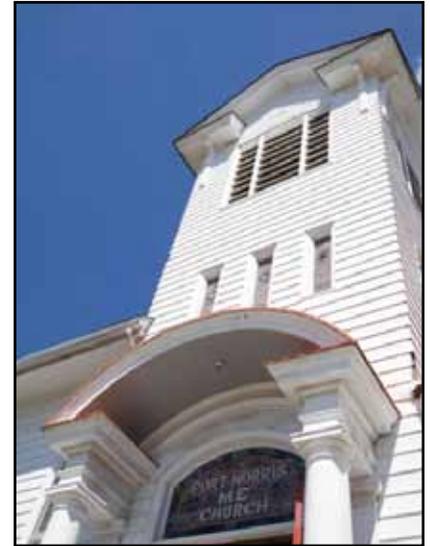
From THE HISTORY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH PORT NORRIS, NEW JERSEY
BY DAVID INGERSOL NAGLEE, B.A., B.D.

See full history at <http://www.historicportnorris.org/church-1782.htm>
(Editor's Note: It's a great read)

CHAPTER II – BEGINNING OF METHODISM IN PORT NORRIS

... In the year 1858, Methodism made a great stride in becoming firmly established in the village of Port Norris. The brand of Methodism was not that of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as represented by the churches of Mauricetown and Haleyville. The Methodism which entered in that year was under the auspice of the Methodist Protestant Church. This was a young branch of the old Methodist Episcopal Church in America. The branch had broken off from the mother church in the year 1830. The breach was a result of dissatisfaction over the authority of the Bishop and several other disciplinary matters. South Jersey was a fertile parcel of ground for missionary activity by this group. In a few years, the city of Bridgeton would give birth to one of its most powerful churches in its New Jersey Conference. But Port Norris saw the standard of Methodist Protestantism in the year 1858. Little is known of how the movement got its initial foothold since its life has long ceased in the village. It is safe to conclude that the Methodist Protestant Church started as a missionary station and ran into competition for several years with the Methodist Episcopalians from Mauricetown and Haleyville.

At first it appears as if the Methodist Protestants were the most successful in their activities in Port Norris. Let it be noted that they were first to organize a society as a legal incorporation in the village. The year 1858 saw the Methodist Protestant Church at Port Norris incorporated. The exact date of incorporation was March 10, 1858. After fulfilling the ten day notification period for an election of trustees, the people met and by plurality vote elected their trustees. These trustees were: William Lore, John Hand, and William L. Garrison. They took the title, "The Trustees of the Methodist Protestant church at Port Norris." The following day they drew up a draft for incorporation and its recorded at the county seat in Bridgeton, N.J on September 18, 1858. *Later the Methodist Protestants erected a building, which was located on East Main Street, about two blocks east of the present church building. The exact date of erection of this building is unknown. ...



Pickings of the Month: February 29, 1888

At the Baptist church last Sunday the service was an anniversary service of Rev. J. M. Scott's pastorate. At the morning service remarks suitable to the occasion were made by the deacons, the pastor and other members. E. J. Cook gave an interesting account of the formation of the church. Prior to 1880, the Baptists of this place, although belonging to the Dividing Creek Church, met in the old schoolhouse for worship, and in that year bought a lot and built a church costing \$1,200 and on April 16, 1880, the church was instituted with a membership of 63 persons, 60, of whom are still living. The membership increased about 26 persons to Sunday, January 13, 1884 when the church was destroyed by fire. The members went to work with a will and on Sunday the 9th day of November of the same year a new edifice costing \$5,262 was dedicated with a membership of 95, and the church clear of debt. The membership has steadily increased to the present time, to a membership of 207 more than half of which have associated themselves within the last two years. The Sunday school has 25 officers and teachers at an average attendance of 165. The church is now in sound financial condition. The evening service was a continuation of the morning service and a large number gave their experience as to what God has done for them in the past year. On Saturday evening of this week, the W. C. T. U. Will dedicate their new hall on Market Street. There will be speech making by several distinguished orators, singing by the combined choirs and other exercises by the members of the Union and Band of Hope.

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

Churches on our list - email us if you can provide more information.

Faith Tabernacle Church
First United Methodist Church
Haleyville Church of God
John Wesley United Methodist
Methodist Episcopal Church
Mauricetown Methodist Episcopal Church

Mauricetown Methodist Church
North Port Norris Methodist Church
Port Norris Baptist Church
Shiloh Baptist
St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church





MORE Pickings of the Month:

January 16, 1888

- A large party of ladies and gentlemen of this village went to Dividing Creek last Thursday afternoon on a skating party.
- A lady at Long Reach was wanting eggs with which to make a cake, but it appears the hens would not lay; but after a careful look in the nests, she was surprised to find a couple eggs, which she quickly gathered and told her husband to give the hens an extra feed. She then set about making her cake and was astonished to find that the eggs were hard-boiled ones that someone had placed in the nests. She does not care so long as it does not get in the NEWS.



January 29, 1888

- Miss Hattie Bloxsom arrived home from Philadelphia last night to attend the wedding of her sister, Miss Addie, to Walter C. Riggins to-day at 2 o'clock.



February 18, 1890

- Invitations are out announcing the wedding of Miss Emma M. Berry, daughter of our townsman, William H. Berry, to Joseph J. Low, of this place.



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



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..



New Project: Cookbook We Need Your Food Stories Too!

We are making a cookbook! We are looking for recipes and stories of favorite foods. If interested in helping or just have a great recipe 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 Snail Mail: PO Box 187, Port Norris, NJ 08349



Almost Valentine's Day... Share your stories with us!

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!



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 Richard Smith, Vice-President
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 Robin Berry, Assoc. Secretary
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