



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: April 14, 2015 • 7 pm @ 1723 Main Street, Port Norris



Moment in History: Published September 4, 1824

The Washington Whig *Special Thank you to Tom Hollinger for finding this newspaper clipping.*

The Washington Whig was the second Bridgeton, New Jersey, weekly publication. It began as a Democratic newspaper, but in the 1820s turned to support Henry Clay and John Quincy Adams; as such, it was a Whig party paper.

Friday, August 13, 1824 In the morning we started early for Port Norris, being provided with a conveyance by our kind stage man. I could not forbear remarking that the road on this route might be considerably improved by the adoption of M'Adam's system. We arrived at Port Norris to breakfast. It is delightfully situated on Maurice River, whose immense volume of water gives an impetus to so many mills and manufactories. A considerable trade in sheep-skins was formerly carried on here, but it is now abandoned and the inhabitants pursue those avocations usually followed in other villages, and which slowly, though surely lead to competence.

We hered embarke in a bateau, and proceeding down the majestic Maurice River, were presented with a succession of the most interesting scenery. On the east side were the fine farms and meadows of Evans neck, and on the west we thought we once had an indistinct view of the seat of Mr. Thomas B--z--d [Blizzard] at Turkey Point. During our progress I employed myself in endeavoring to discover, by anatomical dissection, the great desideratum of modern philosophers, the exact position of the pineal gland of the mosquitoes. I regret that I was unsuccessful. I was however more fortunate in my operations on an animal which is here called a green-header; having obtained the precise dimensions of the proboscis, and ascertained the numbers, position and properties of the teeth. It is a fine specimen, and I shall probably send it to my friend Doct. M. of N. York. Eleven o'clock found us at our long desired point of destination – the Centre of Maurice

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Laws & Henderson

Man on left is Edward O. Laws
Man on far right is Oscar Henderson.
Laws & Henderson was established in 1926. They started a fuel business in the 1940's. Mechanic work and a huge car washing business was offered to the local residents.



Laws & Laws Inc.

Laws & Laws Inc., John E. Laws standing by his "toys", a 1950 Chevy (Charles Bennett/previous owner) and a 1938 Fire Truck (Dividing Creek's original truck). John retired in 2005 and is now storing these in the garage. John was recognized as a Legend of Port Norris by the PNHS in 2012.

Thank you to John Laws for this information.

River cove, that far-famed seat of luxury and taste. Vain would be human language to describe the "wide, the unbound prospect" which lay before us. Having provided ourselves with instruments we proceeded to examine the properties of the water, to ascertain the depth, degree of impregnation with sea-salt, specific gravity, density and opacity of the fluid which is most favorable to the rapid production, high relish, delicate flavor, and plumpness of that choicest gift to man—the oyster. Having satisfied ourselves on these points, we were about to locate our 1000 acres apiece, agreeably to the memorial, when we were met by an unexpected embarrassment and difficulty. We found it impractical to fix any permanent land or rather water-marks by which our lines could be designated, and our property secured from trespass, and not having proper mathematical instruments we found it impossible to ascertain with accuracy the precise latitude and longitude of our corners, and I fear we shall have to take another excursion for that purpose. On the approach of 12 o'clock, after tickling our plates with a few of the most delicious oysters which the cove affords (what would the epicureans of New York and Philadelphia have given to have been with us) we filled our glasses with the precious fluid, and holding them between our eyes

and the glorious luminary of day, we fancied we saw the transparent liquid sparkling with gems and diamonds as ominous of its future indescribable value. Precisely at meridian, which we had no difficulty in discovering from the absence of all air, the smoothness of the surface of the bay and cove and the intensity with which the vertical rays of the sun beamed upon our roasting bodies we rose from the bench, and having taken off our hats in token of profound respect, drank, standing in the bateau, the following Toast. The Sagacious statesmen, correct expounders of maritime rights and the laws of common fishery, expert politicians, and most able, unexcelled, and, in the globe unequalled, financiers, whose wise heads first conceived the rational, the stupendous, the grand, the vast, the deep idea of extracting from 60,000 acres of salt-water, a permanent annual revenue to the state of New Jersey of 120,000 dollars. They cannot be suspected of drudging or diving for vulgar applause, or fishing for popularity.

Music—
 "The suns perpendicular heat,
 "Illumines the depths of the sea
 "And the oysters, beginning to sweat,
 "Cried—darn it, how hot we shall be"

OLD MORTALITY



Pickings of the Month

March 18, 1889

The tide rose so high Saturday that considerable damage was done to the railroad between here and Long Reach. The road bed is washed away so that trains cannot get to Long Reach. A work train was sent down from Bridgeton yesterday, but did not succeed in getting the breach repaired. An extra will be sent from Manchester to-day.

April 2, 1889 Quite a number of our oystermen planted their gardens before going on board their boats.

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

Membership and Renewal for 2015

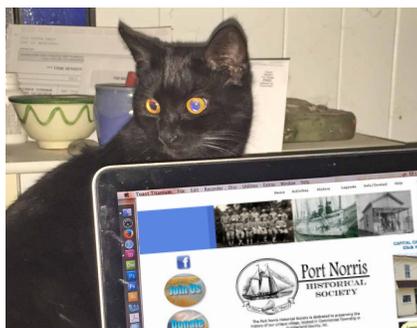
For members it is time to renew for 2015. We have had a great year and we truly hope in 2015 we will continue to grow and carry on the work of improving the building and offering exciting events. If you are not a member, we would love to add your name to our growing list of members. Please give some 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.

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!



NORRIS ASKS:

Do you know how many streets are named after Presidents in Port Norris?

See answer below

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

Trustees
 Rev. E. Barnes
 Eileen Bernhardt
 Virginia Campbell
 Joanne Hickman
 Sam Ricci



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