



# 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:

**BAY DAY - Saturday, June 6, 2015** Delaware 'Bay Day' is the largest FREE festival hosted by the Bayshore Center at Bivalve. It is a fun-filled family day celebrating the rich maritime history, vibrant culture and phenomenal natural resources of the Delaware Bay. Come by and see the PNHS exhibit. We will be debuting our first *Seafood* Cookbook. Our members will be there to answer your questions and share some Port Norris treasures. We look forward to seeing you. For details visit <http://bayshorecenter.org/bayday>

**Next meeting: June 9, 2015 • 7 pm @ 1723 Main Street, Port Norris**



**Number 500 Like on our Facebook page will get a 1 yr membership to the PNHS. So share us with your friends.**

### Moment in History: Elden H. Johnson



#### A Memorial Day Tribute



**Elden Harvey Johnson** (February 13, 1921 – June 3, 1944) was a United States Army soldier and a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions in World War II.

Johnson was born in the Bivalve section of Commercial Township, New Jersey. He joined the Army from East Weymouth, Massachusetts in April 1943, and by June 3, 1944 was serving as a private in the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. When his unit was ambushed on that day, near Valmontone, Italy, he deliberately drew the hostile German fire onto himself so that his comrades could escape. He succeeded in destroying a German machine gun position before he was killed. For these actions, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor a year later, on May 16, 1945.

Johnson, aged 23 at his death, was buried in Union Cemetery, Scituate, Massachusetts.

**Private Johnson's official Medal of Honor citation reads:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. Pvt. Johnson elected to sacrifice his life in order that his comrades might extricate themselves from an ambush. Braving the massed fire of about 60 riflemen, 3 machineguns, and 3 tanks from positions only 25 yards distant, he stood erect and signaled his patrol leader to withdraw. The whole area was brightly illuminated by enemy flares. Then, despite 20mm. machineguns, machine pistol, and rifle fire directed at him, Pvt. Johnson advanced beyond the enemy in a slow deliberate walk. Firing his automatic rifle from the hip, he succeeded in distracting the enemy and enabled his 12 comrades to escape. Advancing to within 5 yards of a machinegun, emptying his weapon, Pvt. Johnson killed its crew. Standing in full view of the enemy he reloaded and turned on the riflemen to the left, firing directly into their positions. He either killed or wounded 4 of them. A burst of machinegun fire tore into Pvt. Johnson and he dropped to his knees. Fighting to the very last, he steadied himself on his knees and sent a final burst of fire crashing into another German. With that he slumped forward dead. Pvt. Johnson had willingly given his life in order that his comrades might live. These acts on the part of Pvt. Johnson were an inspiration to the entire command and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces.

**Honored in ship naming:** The United States Army ship USAT Private Elden H. Johnson which operated in the Pacific Ocean at the end of World War II was named in his honor.

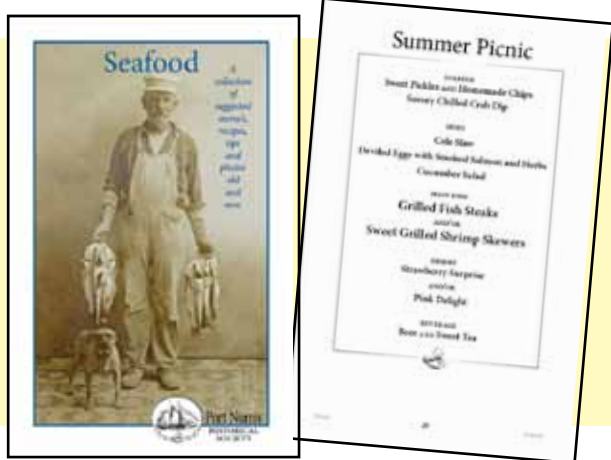
**Johnson Barracks:** In 1949 the former German "Panzerkaserne" at Fuerth/Germany was renamed to Johnson Barracks. From the 1970s Johnson Barracks was home of the 16th Engineer Battalion which supported two brigades of the 1st Armored Division and one brigade of the 2nd AD. It also contained warehouses and other facilities for various supply elements from William O. Darby Barracks.

**Pickings of the Month May 4, 1889** Blue fish arrived on our shore yesterday and will soon be in the market. There were several sturgeon fishermen harbored in the river last night.

**May 11, 1889** Dr. E. B. Sharp shipped his household goods to Bridgeton to-day, where he will make his home He will spend the Sabbath among friends here and will go to this new home on Monday next. Dr. S. T. Dey, of Baltimore, will take Dr. Sharp's place and will occupy the house vacated by him.

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

**Thank you** for buying paint for our building. The volunteers jumped right in to get started. They are Ron Garrison, John Lore, Jim Robbins, Dick Smith and Parker Stowman. Please note we are not painting to the bottom yet, we don't want to waste paint. We need to make siding and foundation repairs later this year. The painting will be finished once that work is complete. See more images at <http://www.historicportnorris.org/building.htm>



Our first recipe book will debut at Bay Day, June 6. The team worked hard to create a unique cookbook experience. Simply named SEAFOOD, it is a collection of recipes, tips, photos old and new and contains full menus for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. For a sneak peak, come out to Bay Day and check it out.

### Membership and Renewal for 2015

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](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](mailto:web@historicportnorris.org), we will remove you from the list. We do not sell or share your email with anyone!

### Does any one know how Brown Street got it's name?

Let us know and we will share here. [norris@historicportnorris.org](mailto:norris@historicportnorris.org)



### NORRIS ASKS What date was Port Norris founded?

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

