



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:

PNHS Next meeting: September 13, 2016 • 7:00 pm • 1723 Main Street



Moment in History: Biographical Review

From a book titled *Biographical Review Leading Citizens of Cumberland County New Jersey*
Printed BOSTON Biographical Review
Publishing Company 1896

STETSON L. BACON, M.D., the oldest resident physician and surgeon of Port Norris, N.J., where he has practised medicine for over a quarter of a century, was born at Woodstown, Salem County, this State, on the 21st of April, 1836, son of William and Mary (Ray) Bacon.

The father was a native of Cumberland County, having been born June 30, 1802, at Greenwich, where he spent his earlier life, and received his first schooling. After exhausting the educational resources of his native town, he entered the literary department of the University of Pennsylvania with the idea of becoming a minister of the gospel.

William Bacon early joined the Presbyterian church, and always had a leaning toward the ministry as a profession up to the time when he commenced his course of study at the University. Beginning then to have doubts as to the reality of his conversion, instead of going into the Divinity School after completing his college course, he entered the Medical School, and was graduated at the age of twenty years.

Some time later, when practising as a physician at Allowaystown, where he had settled, he was convinced, through the influence of his pastor, the Rev. Joseph Sheppard, that to preach the word of the Lord was his true calling. The flame of his desire for this work being kindled anew, he was ordained an evangelist, and journeyed through the lower counties of New Jersey, preaching the holy gospel with a deserved success, the cause being, as some one has aptly and truly put it, "a cause that never failed." In 1830 the Rev. William Bacon became the pastor of the Baptist church at Pitt's Grove. In 1833 he transferred the scene of his labors to Woodstown; and in 1841 he assumed charge of the little church at Dividing Creek, where he remained as pastor for eleven years. In all of these places he served both his Master and his (lock faithfully and well.



In the year 1852, overburdened by domestic affliction and the arduous nature of his duties, he decided to retire from that sphere of action and devote himself to his other profession, medicine, for which he was also eminently well fitted. For nearly a score of years he tended and guarded the bodies of men, as before he had watched over and pointed the path for their souls. At the earnest request of his fellow-citizens he served two terms in the State legislature, where his intelligence and strong moral worth commanded the respect and admiration of his associates in the House of Representatives. Dr. William Bacon died mourned by all who knew him, as a friend lost to all, in February, 1868. His wife, who was formerly a Miss Ray, of Philadelphia, survived him but twenty months, dying in October, 1869.

Dr. and Mrs. William Bacon had six children who arrived at the age of maturity Clementine, now Mrs. Sutherland, of Missouri; William Ray, of Trenton, N.J. ; Rebecca, who died in Missouri; Abel, who is also dead; Stetson L. , of Port Norris; and Smith, at present a resident of Bridgeton.

The grandfather of these children, Abel Bacon, was once a prominent citizen in this part of the State. The point of land known as Bacon's Neck was named after his progenitor.

Stetson L. Bacon, although born at Woodstown, did not spend much of his life there, but came with his father and mother to Newport when he was only one year old. Here the Rev. William Bacon had his residence while he was the pastor of the little flock at Dividing Creek — that is, for eleven years. Stetson L. received the rudiments of his broad education in the day school of this town, and then pursued a course of study at Tremont Seminary, a school conducted for young men by the Rev. Samuel Aaron.

Here Mr. Bacon spent two sessions, in 1854 and 1856. About this time he began reading medicine with his father and teaching school during the fall and winter months, besides attending a course of lectures at the Jefferson Medical College from which institution he was graduated in the class of 1858. Working very hard during this period with his various imposed and assumed duties, he successfully accomplished his worthy purpose, that of becoming a well educated physician; and he finally located with his father for practice at Newport, where he was for eleven years,

gaining the utmost confidence and respect of his fellow-townsmen.

After the death of his father and mother, overcome by grief, Dr. Bacon sold out his practice at Newport, and removed to Mantua, Gloucester County, where he was associated with Dr. Turner, but only remained there for four months, as Dr. Turner left the town, having been very sick. Dr. Bacon not wishing to take up a new practice there all alone, removed for the second time, coming to Port Norris. This place was at that period very small, as the railroad was only just being built. In fact, it was only constructed as far as Fairton; and the business interests of Port Norris, as well as its other interests, were in an infant state. Before the advent of Dr. Bacon there was no physician here, and his arrival and settlement was a very good thing for all concerned. Moreover, he was within easy reach of his old practice; and, as the town grew up around him, his business increased greatly with both sets of patients. He is the oldest general practitioner in Southern New Jersey at the present day.

Dr. Bacon married Miss Martha Washington Mayhew on the 23d of December, 1859. Miss Mayhew's father, John Mayhew, was one of the early business pioneers of the township, being a man who also proved his worth in different public capacities, being at various times Assessor and Collector, a member of the Township Committee, and a Freeholder.

He is still living, at the remarkable old age of ninety years.

Dr. and Mrs. Bacon have two children, a son and a daughter — Elizabeth, the wife of the Rev. William A. Walling, the wellknown Baptist minister of Wilmington, Del.; and William Ray, who graduated with the class of 1896 from the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y., with the degree of A. B., preparatory to undertaking the study of law at the Columbia College of the city of New York.

Dr. Bacon was an active member of the Cumberland District Medical Association when he lived at Newport, but now he does not often attend its meetings. In the fall of 1895 he was elected to the office of Coroner for Cumberland County, which office he now holds. For sixteen years he was Overseer of the Poor of Commercial township. His politics are distinctly Republican. During his earlier life he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

For many years Dr. Bacon has been an earnest, active, and untiring member of the Baptist church, although he has never been an officer of the congregation to which he belongs.

He owns a fine house in Port Norris, where he has lived for over twenty-four years, and possesses one of the best and most elegant private libraries in the county. He always has on hand at his office a large stock of drugs and medicines in practical and wise anticipation of any emergencies that may arise.

Source: Archives.org



This photograph of a Saw Mill was thought to be owned by Thomas Hand, Jr. . To the best of our knowledge, the mill was across the street from where the Methodist church is now. North Ave. & Main St. Circa mid 1800. Photo donated by Ethalinda Blackman

Historic Recipes

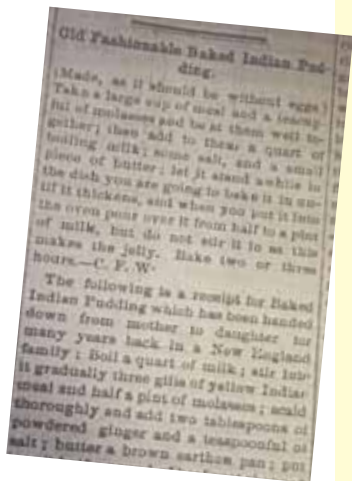
From the Bridgeton Chronicle 1875-1885

Thank you Tom Hollinger for sharing this with us.

Old Fashioned Baked Indian Pudding

(Made, as it should be without eggs)

Take a large cup of meal and a teacupful of molasses and beat them well together; then add to them a quart of boiling milk; some salt, and a small piece of butter; let it stand a while in the dish you are going to bake it in until it thickens, and when you put it into the oven pour over it from half to a pint of milk, but do not stir it in as this makes the jelly. Bake two or three hours – C.F.W.



The following is a receipt for Baked Indian Pudding which has been handed down from mother to daughter for many years back in a New England family: Boil a quart of milk; stir until it gradually three gills of yellow Indian meal and half a pint of molasses; scald thoroughly and add two tablespoons of powdered ginger and a teaspoonful of salt; butter a brown earthen pan; put into it half a pound of beef suet chopped fine; turn in a quart of cold milk; then add the pudding and stir up well: bake five hours. Serve either plain or with hard sauce; my rule for the sauce being a cup of granulated sugar to half a cup of butter well beaten together, and a flavored with either vanilla, lemon or grated nutmeg. – Maude Murray

Pickings of the Month

August 1, 1888 Geo. D. Fagan, who has been visiting the peach country in Delaware, reports that although the crop was at first supposed to be large, the yield, it is now thought, through the yellows and other causes will not reach half a crop, and that what they have does not compare with the Jersey peaches. Even in Medford, the greatest peach growing country over there, the yield will only reach about half of what was at first supposed it would.

August 2, 1890 A very interesting game of ball was played yesterday between the "Muskrats" and "Minks." Wm. Cobb and Harry Green were the battery for the "Muskrats," and George Conahay and Walter Sharp for the "Minks." The score was 11 to 8 in favor of the "Muskrats."



NORRIS ASKS

What did you do this summer?

Email us your answer. We would like to collect moments in time for our present day Pickings.

Click Here web@historicportnorris.org



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 Robin Berry, Assoc. Secretary
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 Rev. E. Barnes
 Eileen Bernhardt
 Virginia Campbell
 Joanne Hickman
 Sam Ricci

Membership and Renew for 2017

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, 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.

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Rachael Cobb