



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.



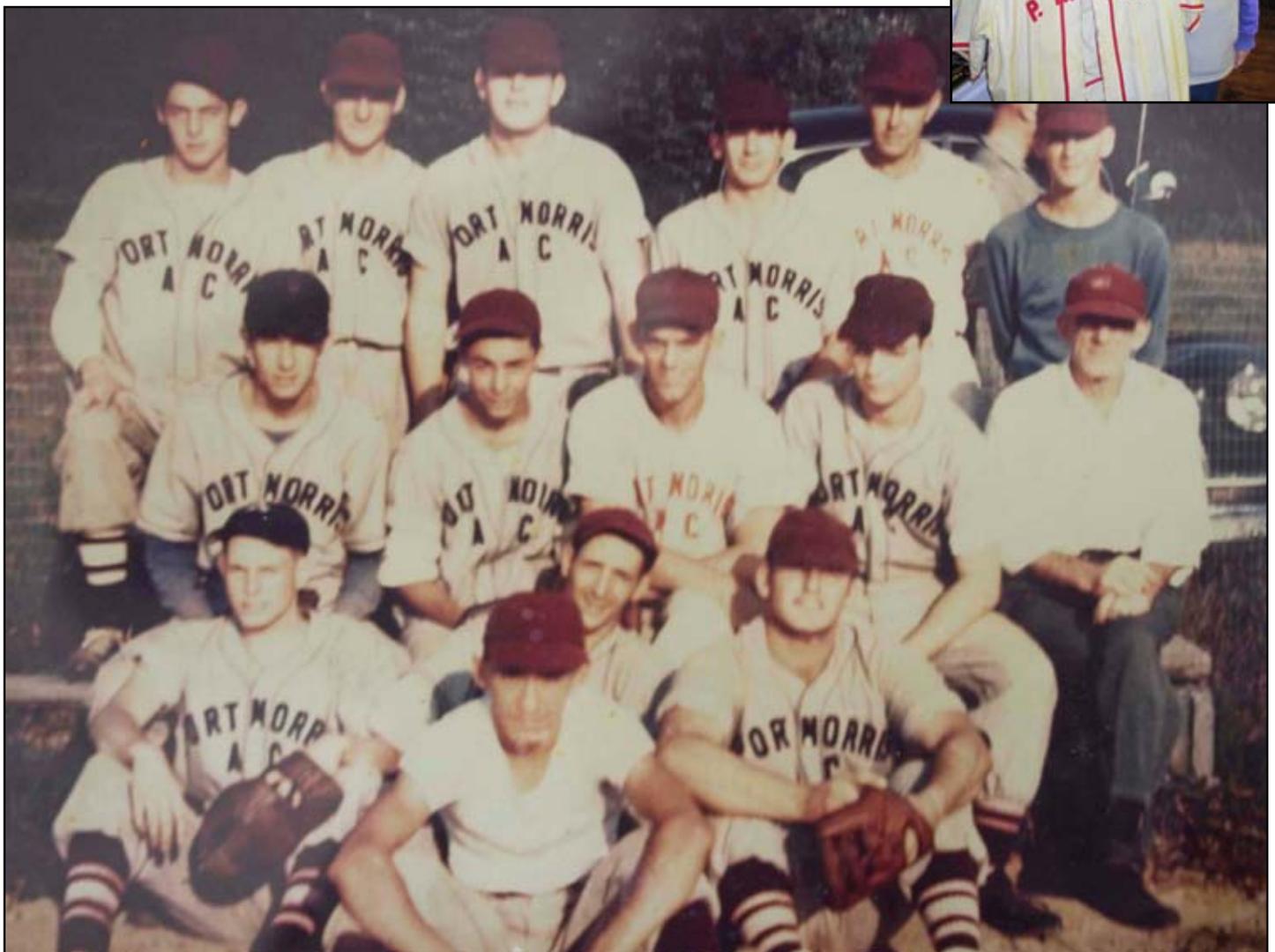
Current Happenings:

PNHS Next meeting: April 12, 2016 • 7:00 pm • 1723 Main Street

Batter up! Time for Spring training.

The PNHS thanks Mac Sockwell, for the donation, of his baseball uniform. He played ball until about 1960. He also has shared this image below from 1948.

Top Row L-R, Toby Postalwaite, George Campbell, Jimmy Bernard, Harold Pepper, Carl Reed, Buddy Bowden. Middle Row L-R, Ducky Taylor, Herschel Terry, Smiley Leach, Seymour Goldblatt, George Lehmuth. Bottom Row L-R, Mac Sockwell, Glendon Berry, Harvey Metsger, Charles Maxfield. Thank you Mac.



Moment in History:

March is Women in History Month. Helen Gandy was born in Rockville, New Jersey, one of three children (two daughters and a son) born to Franklin Dallas and Annie (née Williams) Gandy. She grew up in New Jersey in Fairton or the Port Norris section of Commercial Township. (sources differ) and graduated from Bridgeton High School. In 1918, aged 21, she moved to Washington, D.C., where she later took classes at Strayer Business College and George Washington University Law School.

Helen joined the Bureau in 1918 and worked exclusively for J. Edgar Hoover from 1921 (when he was named assistant director, with his appointment as Director coming in 1924) until his death on May 2, 1972. Serving over time as secretary, administrative assistant, and executive assistant, she took charge of Hoover's office and eventually supervised her own staff, becoming a legendary figure in the Bureau and playing a key role in shaping the evolving FBI over five decades. Hoover called her "indispensable" and she exercised great behind-the-scenes influence on Hoover and the workings of the Bureau. The picture was taken with Hoover in March 1953 as Gandy celebrated her 35th anniversary with the Bureau. Gandy died at age 91 on July 7, 1988.



If anyone, has information on her life in Commercial Township, we would love to learn more about her and the family.

Sources: Wikipedia and FBI Celebrating Women's History Month. Also see <http://www.spokeo.com/Helen+Gandy+/>

Scouting Follow up:

We want to thank John Lee, formerly of Port Norris, now living in Maryland, for his reply to the scouting articles, in our January 2016 Newsletter. Here is a portion of his letter to us and one of the newspaper articles he enclosed.

"I think I have a copy of that Boy Scout picture in one of my old boxes.... I think I am the one in the center of the first row, and am wearing a special neck band, ... maybe because of my achievements that previous week! Enclosed is a news clipping, for the God and Country Award I received as a Boy Scout. Missed getting the Eagle Scout award by one merit badge, but that is another story.

In looking back on my life, I have always felt fortunate to have grown up in Port Norris and in that environment (at that time) and for various reasons which provided me with a foundation to move forward in life." - John Lee

Article originally print 1951.

Scout-Dad Fete Attracts Many in Y Gymnasium Annual Affair is Featured By Lack of Speech-Making

Approximately 250 attended the annual Scout-Dad dinner last night in the gymnasium of the Millville YMCA. The affair was sponsored by Maurice River District, Boy Scouts of America and was unique in the fact that there were no speeches.

A feature of the dinner meeting was awards of the Order of Merit to Israel Reiner and Frank Parkin for outstanding work on behalf of the Boy Scout movement. The awards were made by Claude Reed, previous winner of the honor, and came as a complete surprise to the two recipients.

Charles Kindle, advancement chairman, presented the God and Country award to John Lee of Port Norris for his outstanding work in the church. Scout Lee was escorted to the front table by his pastor, Rev. R. Gordon McNaughton, Port Norris.



See the full size image in the January 2016 newsletter [CLICK HERE](#)

Two other scouts, James Friant and Thomas Godfrey, were honored as Star Scouts but were not present to receive their awards.

Another feature of the brief but impressive dinner meeting was the showing of a color film "Nature's Half Acre."

Ray Huggins, district vice chairman, served as master of ceremonies and Dean R. Sanders, chairman of activities, conducted the opening ceremony. Roger Nathan, district commissioner, conducted the closing service.

Ray Thompson, Maurice River District chairman, welcomed the Scouts and guests with a few brief remarks and group singing was led by Roy Fowler with Dick Ayres at the piano. Dr. Robert Jenks, pastor of First Methodist Church, invoked the blessing.

Mr. Huggins introduced the following persons who merely took a bow: District Commissioner Roger Nathan, Neighborhood Commissioners Howard Culley, Russell Konshak, and Gerald Hoskins; Advancement Chairman Charles Kindle; Camping Chairman William Spencer; Health and Safety Chairman, Maxfield Wallen; Leadership Chairman, Lou Nathan; Organization and Extension Chairman, Dr. Sol Gerson; Activities Chairman, Dean Sanders; Finance Chairman, Claude Reed; Assistant Finance Chairman, Israel Reiner; Former Council President, Harry Cox; Scout Executive, George French; Council President, John Cowan; Mayor Benjamin Corson, and Camp Kimble Director, Harry Papperman.

Picking of the Month March 4, 1889

Some days ago four of the best looking ladies in Port Norris paid a visit to Mrs. Hannah Chard, who lives about a mile out of Port Norris. Mrs. Chard says that if she lives until April 7th next she will be one hundred years of age. She relates that her husband died about seven years ago, that they had a family of twelve children, only four of whom are now living, and that she is of German origin and was born in New York state. To a remark that one of her sons made a short time ago, that she was too old to get on her knees and to pray, she replied that she hoped that was a duty she should never be too old to perform. She often speaks of going home and anticipates a most happy union in a home beyond. This aged lady is quite active for one of her years and enjoys the company of her many friends.

See More Pickings at historicportnorris.org/pickings.htm

**Storytelling Session In Review:
A Stroll Along Village Streets**

Saturday, March 12th, 2016, 2-4:00 Bayshore

Center at Bivalve • 2800 High Street, Port Norris, NJ

The afternoon of story telling did not disappoint. With a full room, Drew Thomlin, of Leesburg opened the topic with his extensive research, on the Tidal Wave, of 1950. Others continued the stories as they recalled this monumental event. Ben Stowman, Sr. spoke in detail about the Stowman Shipyards especially during the War. We then moved on to other life stories in the various villages over the years.



Membership and Renewal for 2016

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.

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!



NORRIS ASKS

DID YOU KNOW THE FIRST WOMAN ROTARIAN IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY IS FROM PORT NORRIS?

The Port Norris Rotary, membership also includes Evalina Sharp Vidal, a member since 1988 and the first woman Rotarian in Cumberland County.

Source: 75th Anniversary History of District 764, Chapter 31



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



Correction from the February Newsletter, this image is not Main Street. It is High Street, Arthur Rothstein, FSA Collection - circ.1963