



## Picking of the Month **May 28, 1890**

Shinn Post is making extensive preparations for decorating the grave of soldiers who are interred at the cemeteries in this place. Haleyville and Dividing Creek on Saturday next. Any persons who have flowers or plants to donate to the post should send them to the Post room not later than 8 o'clock on the morning of June 2d.

### Moment in History: Biographical Review

SAMUEL SHINN, who is or was a merchant, none the less respected because retired, of the town of Port Norris, N.J., and who is also the owner of the ice plant of this place, was born on the 20th of April, 1827, in Mauricetown, Cumberland County. He is a son of the late Allen R. and Abigail (Compton) Shinn. The grandfather of Mr. Shinn, of whom this slight biography is written, was also named Samuel. He was a resident of Mount Holly, N.J., during his whole life. He was accidentally killed here while he was working on the road one day, prying out the stump of a tree. His tool slipped and struck him on the forehead, killing him instantly. He left but one child — Allen R., the father of the present Samuel Shinn.

Allen R. Shinn was but a very young boy when the sad accident occurred, having been born on the first day of January, 1801, in the town of Mount Holly. There he continued to live until he was twenty years of age, when he went with a Mr. Marmaduke Taylor, a Quaker, to Mauricetown, then a very small community. After working for some time on Mr. Taylor's farm, Mr. Shinn married and settled down on a farm which he bought at Haleyville, where he spent his life in the pursuit of agriculture. He died in 1885, at the age of eighty-four years, his wife, Abigail, having preceded him into the valley of the shadow of death on April 28, 1873. She was a daughter of Mr. Gilbert Compton, of Haleyville, Cumberland County. Her father was one of the most prominent and well-to-do residents of Haleyville in its early days, being an extensive wood dealer there. He was also a ship-owner, and shipped his lumber to Philadelphia in his own vessels, acquiring a moderate competence in this business. Apart from these interests he engaged at the same time in farming, combining the busy life of trade with the quiet existence of a farmer very happily.

Samuel Shinn received a common-school education, and also studied at home on his father's farm until he was fifteen years of age, when, as his father had a large family to support, he decided to begin to earn his own living, and went off to work for a neighboring farmer. His first independent labor was driving a team and carting, and he continued to work at this and at similar odd jobs for several years. Almost as soon as he came of age, he married Miss Phoebe Ann Ladow, of Dividing Creek, and with his young wife made his first home at Mauricetown. There he took up the trade of a house carpenter, at which he worked for a few years. At the end of this period of carpentering he bought out the general merchandise store of Dallas L. Compton, at Haleyville, and carried on the business for himself very successfully for some

length of time. When there was talk of the railroad coming to the adjacent town of Port Norris, with rare foresight Mr. Shinn sold out his establishment at Haleyville, and bought a store at Port Norris. The railroad not being then constructed to that point, he was obliged to cart some of his merchandise all the way from Cedarville and Millville, and to transport a portion by water. He continued in business in Port Norris for twenty-four years, becoming the oldest business man of the town. For this long term of years he was as successful in his trade as he was clear-headed; and he has always been recognized as the head of the mercantile business in Port Norris, as he was its pioneer. On January 20, 1888, he sold out to Mr. J. O. Heritage, rightfully considering that, as he had acquired comparative wealth by his untiring industry, and being, moreover, more than sixty years of age, it was only fair that he should rest quietly from his labors and enjoy their fruits for the remainder of his life.

Although Mr. Shinn has retired from business he will not consent to remain entirely inactive, and to occupy his time he puts up ice winters and supplies the whole town with this commodity. His handsome house, which he built some twelve or thirteen years ago, stands on the corner of Main and High Streets, and is worthily accounted one of the finest in the town of Port Norris, attracting the eye as it does, even at some distance, with its smooth cement walks and shade trees. Besides his dwelling-place, he also owns his old store building, which he once occupied.

Mr. Shinn has been a most active supporter of the Republican party and a member of the Township Committee for the last ten years or more. His fellow-citizens have chosen him a delegate to party conventions a number of times. He is a member of the Order of Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 76, of which he is Past Chancellor; and he is also a member of Ariel Lodge, No. 56, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being Past Grand and the representative of his lodge to the Grand Lodge. Mr. Shinn has been intimately connected with the church history of Port Norris, belonging to the Methodist Episcopal church here, in which he at one time held the office of steward. When he first came to Port Norris he was the builder of the first church here; and when that edifice was accidentally destroyed by fire he was again called upon and helped to build the second, being each time a member of the Building Committee. For over thirty-two years Mr. Shinn has been a loyal supporter of the church he was so instrumental in establishing, invariably proving himself as active as he is zealous. Jacob C. Shinn was his brother.

Read full article:

[historicportnorris.org/biographical-reviews-2.htm](http://historicportnorris.org/biographical-reviews-2.htm)

Sources: *Biographical Review Leading Citizens of Cumberland County New Jersey 1896* and [archive.org](http://archive.org)

The Delaware Bay Watermen's Memorial Launch, Remembering Those Who Died on the Bay was held on Thursday, May 5, 2016. Please continue to follow the progress @ watermensmemorial.org



## 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](http://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://historicportnorris.org)

**Don't miss the new exhibit "Play on the Bay" at the Bayshore Center at Bivalve.**



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!

### NORRIS ASKS

#### Which PNHS member just graduated college?

Answer: Robin Berry! We are so happy for her and her new career. Best Wishes Robin.

Congratulations to all graduates in 2016!



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