



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: OPEN HOUSE @ 6:30 pm before our meeting.
PNHS Next meeting: December 13, 2016 • 7:00 pm • 1723 Main Street



Annual Fundraiser *Legends of Port Norris Dinner*

2016 Legends Honored November 13th

LEGENDS IN HISTORY • Samuel Shinn

20TH CENTURY

Willis Robbins, Jr • Joseph N. Fowler • Vera B. Sockwell

LIVING LEGENDS

Barbara Adams • O'Connell Brown

The Port Norris Historical Society celebrated their annual tradition of honoring those who have made a significant impact on our community. Be they business owners, community leaders, or simply great citizens, they represent what is great about Port Norris. [Profiles for each legend, will be added to the website.](#)



Alvina Baum, PNHS Secretary presents to Living Legend Barbara Adams, surrounded by her family.



Dr. Robert Cole, standing, grandson of 20th Century Legend, Willis Robbins, Jr. and his family.



Living Legend O'Connell Brown, center, holding his plaque surrounded by his family.



Ginny Campbell, PNHS Membership Chair presents a certificate to the family of 20th Century Legend, Vera B. Sockwell.

2016 PNHS Legend

Reprinted as it was published in 1923 from: Who's who in New Jersey: notable men and women in the professional business and political life of the Garden State—biographical sketches of today's leaders and those looming on the horizon by Souder, Harry James

FOWLER, JOSEPH NEAL, oyster planter and shipper. Born, Heislerville, January 1, 1878, son of William Errickson and Ellen (Randolph) Fowler.

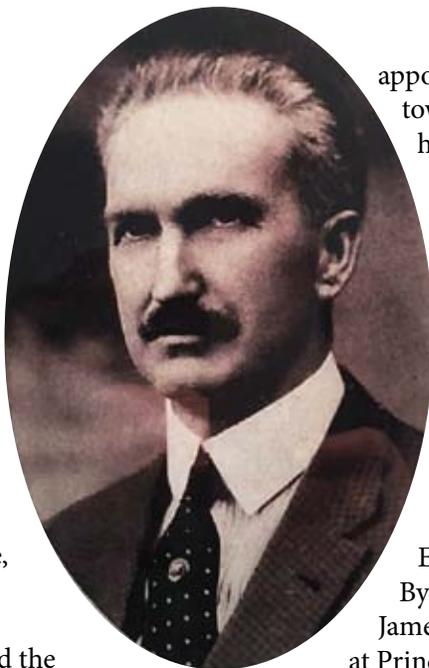
Mr. Fowler studied at the Port Norris public schools, Clark's Business College, Bridgeton, and the Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. from which he was graduated in 1898.

Finishing his scholastic course, he entered the employ of his father, who was an oyster planter and shipper, for whom he worked thirteen years. Upon his father's retirement, in 1912, he connected with J. D. Neal (in the same line) for three years, when, with James R. Morris, he purchased that business. The partnership was continued until 1918, when Mr. Fowler purchased Mr. Morris' interest.

He operates one of the largest oyster plants of Maurice River Cove, shipping the shell fish extensively to points in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland.

Mr. Fowler has affiliated himself closely with the affairs of Port Norris and the Maurice River valley. He gave several years of his life and much money to correcting sanitary conditions connected with the floating of oysters, and was largely instrumental in the development of sanitation in the Maurice River Cove.

He, Joseph Neal Fowler, was the inspector for the Board of Health of Commercial Township, having been



appointed by the Board in 1910. He served as township clerk for three three-year terms, having been first elected in 1904. He was appointed, in 1915, by Governor James Fielder, a member of the New Jersey Board of Shell Fisheries and served, until July 1, 1922, as chairman of the Department of Maurice River Cove. In that year he was elected president of the Board. While the United States was at war with Germany, Mr. Fowler served on Red Cross and Liberty Loan committees.

July 21, 1903, he married Margaret Elizabeth Wolf, of Chambersburg, Pa.

By this marriage two children were born—James McFerren, July 5, 1904, now a student at Princeton University, and Margaret Elizabeth,

May 3, 1910, a pupil in the public schools of Port Norris.

Mr. Fowler is a member of Neptune Lodge, No. 75, Free and Accepted Masons; Cumberland Castle, No. 65, Knights of the Golden Eagle; has been treasurer for twenty-six years of Idaho Tribe, No. 51, Improved Order of Red Men, and has passed several times through the chairs of Port Norris Council, No. 103, Junior Order United American Mechanics. He also belongs to the Port Norris Chamber of Commerce, Maurice River Cove Oyster Shippers' Association and the Oystermen's Protective and Sanitary Association of Maurice River Cove. He is active in Republican politics and is a Methodist. Hunting, motoring and fishing form his chief means of recreation.

Residence address, Main street, Port Norris; business address, Bivalve.

[Visit Our Full Legends List](#)



Belva Prycel, a remarkable artist, grew up in the Bayshore area. She now lives in Maine. We are very grateful for her donation of this painting. The painting is "Maurice River Sunset" In Loving Memory of her grandfather Captain Charles Tozour.

Come celebrate the season and view the painting in person on December 13th at 6:30 pm for an open house before our meeting at 7:00 pm.

A Photo Exhibit @ The Bayshore Center

Reflections. Port Norris Mud on my Boots, continues through Dec. 4th at the Bayshore Center's art gallery. This special exhibit celebrates the distinctive beauty of Port Norris, as reflected in an array of evocative new images from Rachel Cobb's personal collection. In addition, her cousin Carole Cobb Robbins shares a few photographs taken by her grandfather and Rachel's great Uncle Samuel Cobb, who was a well-known portrait photographer in Port Norris for many years.

Samuel Cobb is a past Port Norris Legend. You can read his full bio on the website, [click here](#). Stop by during regular Bayshore Center hours and view Rachel's new photos as well as historic images by Samuel Cobb, from the early 1900's.



Unknown gentleman and dog by Samuel Cobb
Photo: Courtesy of the Carole Cobb Robbins



October 2016 sunset looking from the Bivalve nature walk, by Rachel Cobb

Picking of the Month November 20, 1888

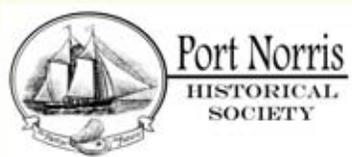
Captain George Randolph spends his idle moments waiting for the train in the evening spinning yarns. He can tell silver stories so perfectly that the small boys who listen commence immediately to look at the floor for nuggets of silver.



NORRIS ASKS

When did Thanksgiving become a national holiday?

In 1863, expressing gratitude for a pivotal Union Army victory at Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln announces that the nation will celebrate an official Thanksgiving holiday on November 26, 1863. The fourth Thursday of November remained the annual day of Thanksgiving from 1863 until 1939. Then, at the tail-end of the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, hoping to boost the economy by providing shoppers and merchants a few extra days to conduct business between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, moved Thanksgiving to November's third Thursday. In 1941, however, Roosevelt bowed to Congress' insistence that the fourth Thursday of November be re-set permanently, without alteration, as the official Thanksgiving holiday.



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.

**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!

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