



# 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: March 14, 2017 • 7:00 pm • 1723 Main Street**

## Legends of Port Norris

In 2008, the Port Norris Historical Society began a yearly tradition of honoring those who have made a significant impact on our community. Honorees come from three categories: 19th Century, 20th Century, and Living Legends. Be they business owners, community leaders, or simply great citizens, they represent what is great about Port Norris. As of 2016 we have honored 70 legends of Port Norris.

Our dinner will be November 12, 2017. We are taking nominations now.  
Legends Nomination Form for 2017 [Now Available Download PDF Here.](#)

## Living Legends 2008 – 2016



Sheriff Dan Adams was born in Port Norris on December 14, 1891. He was the son of J. Wesley and Ella (Jeffries) Adams. After attending Banks Business College, he worked for Keystone Telephone Company, and later as a lineman for New York Telephone Co. in Jersey City. For a 18 months, he was yard master at the West Side Avenue freight yard. also in Jersey City. He returned to Port Norris and worked for the Deleware Bay Sanitary Association in Bivalve. He was in charge of the health and sanitation department. He would work there for twenty years.



On April 10, 1917, Sheriff Dan married Catherine Lore, with whom he had one daughter, Emily Ann Lore Adams.

In November of 1939, he was elected Sheriff of Cumberland County, replacing Legend William P. Riffin. They would trade off this position over the years Adams serving from 1939-41 and 1945-47. Sheriff Dan was legendary for his size – close to seven feet tall, strength, and bravery. He once stood in front of a runaway horse and wagon on Main Street, grabbing the stirrups as they approached and bringing them safely to a stop.

An industrious man, Sheriff Dan also had a 162 acre farm, growing corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, and beans.

In 1945, he co-founded the Port Norris Rotary Club with Isadore Goldblatt and Harry Barraclough. He was chief of the Port Norris Fire Company from 1940 to '46, and was County Fire Marshall for twenty years. He was on the Board of Managers of the Firemen's Home in Boonton, NJ. He was a member of the Port Norris Baptist Church, as well as many civic clubs: Neptune Lodge #75, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Richmond Chapter #22 Royal Arch Masons of Millville, he attained 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite in Camden Consistory. He also belonged to Crescent Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Trenton, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Newark, the Elks Lodge at Millville, the Idaho Tribe of the Improved Order of Red Men at Port Norris.

After a brief illness, Sheriff Dan Adams died January 26, 1969 at his home on the corner of Brown and Church St, which is still known as "The Adams House" today. On November 22, 2009, Sheriff Dan Adams was recognized as a Legend of Port Norris.

Sources: "Prominent Families of New Jersey, Vol. I" (1945) by William Starr Myers, p.110.

"Dallas Ferry on the Wahatquenack" (1964) by Margaret Louise Mints, p.60.

Personal scrapbook of Robert L. Adams, brother of Daniel Adams.



## Valentine's Day Meeting 2017

The Port Norris Historical Society held its regular monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of February, which just happened to be Valentine's Day. One of our members, Sam Ricci, surprised each of the ladies by giving them a beautiful pink rose. It certainly was a lovely start to the evening. We began our meeting with a round table of Valentine stories. Here, for your enjoyment, are a few of those charming and humorous tales.

Carole Robbins shared the first time she met her husband Jim. Carole was about 12 and Jim about 15. Carole and her friend Maryann where at the house where Jim was going to plow a field. The girls were all excited that he was there, they knew him from school. One of the "cool" things Jim did, was hold a cigarette on his bottom lip like James Dean. Maryann was wearing rubber boots and Carole in her high top boy shoes. The girls say "Hi Jimmy", and he took a look at both girls and told them to go inside because they were wearing boy shoes.

Eileen Bernhardt shared a surprise she had while picking up heart shaped donuts for her husband. She and a friend made a quick stop at a WAWA for a drink and the donuts. While getting the donuts a worker came over and gave her a \$100. bill. The worker said someone wanted her to have it as a gift. She looked all around and did not recognize anyone,

so she thought maybe it was candid camera or something. She graciously accept the gift and went home with her heart shaped donuts and a \$100.

Sad story... 61 years ago on Valentine's Day, Liz Hoffman's aunt died in child birth with her 4th child, a son. When the boy turned 18, he got on his motorcycle and rode off. His older brother never gave up looking for him and one year he finally did find him. It turns out that the young man had become a heart surgeon.

Alvina Baum shared that her husband always give her a Valentine card, but the just sealed envelope was always still wet. Her husband was in the Navy and the only way he could get her a engagement ring was to buy one in the commissary and mail it. So Alvina received her first engagement ring from the mail man. Very special memory.

Alvina brought conversational candy hearts for each of us to read... For Keeps, Why Now, Made in Heaven, Sweet Kiss, Not Now, Always Forever, Please Forgive.

Thank you to all who shared stories at the meeting. If you have a story to share please let us know. [pnhs@historicportnorris.org](mailto:pnhs@historicportnorris.org)



## Do you recognize any of the Oystermen below?



This photo was donated to us by the Collingwood family. We would love to put names to the faces. If you know who they are please drop us a email. [pnhs@historicportnorris.org](mailto:pnhs@historicportnorris.org)

## Pickings of the Month

**February 8, 1890** On Tuesday many friends of John Trout, Sr., assembled at his home on Main Street, taking him completely by surprise. They immediately repaired to the kitchen where they soon had a table spread to suit the meat fastidious. After being seated the blessing was asked by Rev. E. Sharp, of Haleyville, after which Mr. F. Fagan proceeded to make an onslaught on the turkey. Among those present were: Rev. E. Sharp and wife, Benjamin Berry, Sr., and wife, Gilbert Stites and wife, Edward Cole and wife, F. Fagan and wife, Alonzo Chester and wife, Miss Jane Blizzard, Miss Matilda Berry, Elmer Trout, Master Hearl Blizzard, Master Willie Trout and others.

See More Pickings at [historicportnorris.org/pickings.htm](http://historicportnorris.org/pickings.htm)



## NORRIS ASKS

### Do you know where the Maurice River starts and ends?

Maurice River begins in Gloucester County, fifty-eight miles from its mouth at the Bay, and flows south, forming the eastern boundary between Salem and Cumberland Counties. From the dam in Millville to the Delaware Bay, the Maurice River is approximately twenty miles long. *Source: nynjctbotany.org/njoptofc/maurice.html*

## 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](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)

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!



**Port Norris**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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