



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

**It's time for membership renewal. Click here to pay online.  
See page 3 for membership details.**

**Thank you for your continued support.**

## Samuel A. B. Cobb Photography

Sam was born on Cobb Street in Port Norris on August 13, 1887. Sam attended Robbinstown School and his report card lists him as a 3rd year upper school student in the classical program of study. As a young man he held various jobs, first starting in his mother's notion store on Cobb Street. Next, he sold insurance, delivered for Bacon Brother's Bakery, strung telephone cable, and started a photography studio. You can read his full biography on his Legends page. [Click Here](#). He was honored as a Port Norris Legend November 9, 2014.

His photography was mainly focused around portraits. He also was called to photograph funerals and crime scenes. Sam was also a modern man. He managed to include himself in group photo shoots. He would set up his camera and set the timer and jump into the picture. He also liked to experiment with double exposures.

Sam was a man before his time. He was a free thinker with a Frasier Crane sense of humor. He exemplified Christian values and led by example. He believed in equal rights, and respected all without regard to race, ethnicity or social status. He was a gentle man, but not a push over.

Sam died November 10, 1962 at the age of 75. Sam's photos are courtesy of Carole Cobb Robbins, Sam's granddaughter.



Above was his stamp he put on his post cards. On the right was his photo studio. It is not known where it was in town. Note the skylights he had for natural light.



Self Portrait, date unknown.



Sam's photos were recently presented for the first time, as part of photo exhibit by great niece Rachel Cobb at the Bayshore Center. Rachel found they had similar visions in their work. This was a special treat. Sam's photos are courtesy of Carole Cobb Robbins.



Sam's lightening photo.



Rachel's lightening photo.



Sam liked to experiment, this is a double exposure. Keep in mind this was the early 1900's. And before Photoshop!



Few photographers at that time would photograph the deceased, or crime scenes. Sam had no problem with it.



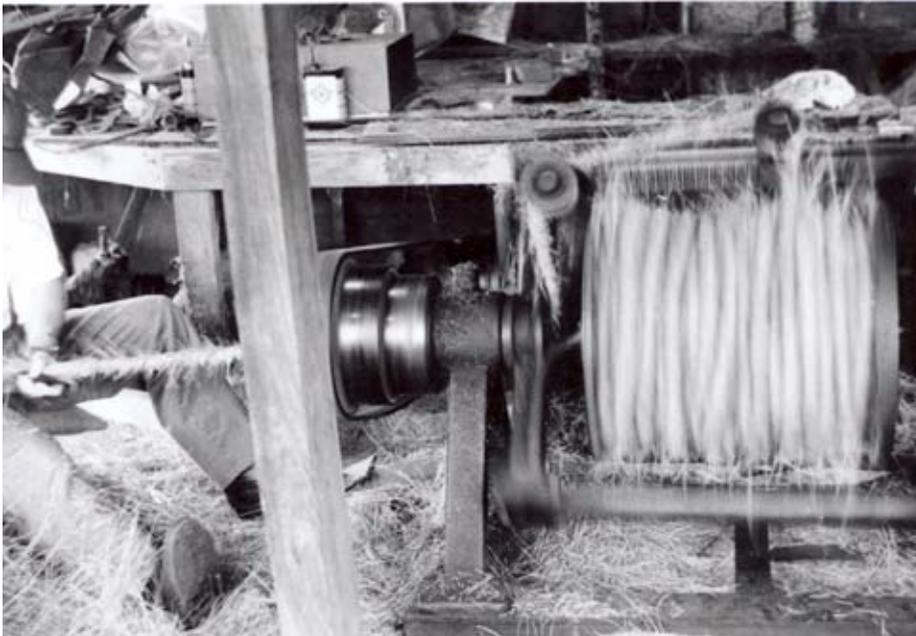
Left: Sam was also clever in marketing his own children. He would dress them up and put them in poses and print postcards for sale. This is one with Mahlon and Marie Cobb his 2 children.

Photo postcards are always a good find. Look for Sam's stamp in the corner. (on first page)

Right: This is a studio photo, people unknown, but this carpet pattern was from his studio. Any photos with that pattern, even without the stamp is his photo.

*Photos are not for reprint in any form with out written permission.*





Salt hay rope making. Thank you to the Vineland Historical Society for this photograph.

## Pickings of the Month

**January 25, 1888** One of our sail makers has a friend from Philadelphia, visiting him, who is a great reader and on Sunday evening after getting tired of reading concluded to write a letter. So he sat down to write and instead of moving the inkstand to a more convenient place, he took the inkwell and attempted to move it, but it being oval it upset all over the tablecloth. Then he was in a stew and said to the daughter of the house: Don't you come in here; don't you say a word and I will buy you a new tablecloth tomorrow. Oh, I wish I had gone home today for this will surely get in at Bridgeton News. After fixing things up the best he could, he retired, and all through the night mingled with his snores could be heard the sad words, I wish I had gone home.

**January 5, 1889** Passing down Main street (I believe it Main), running from the hotel to Robbinstown, I dropped into a room and saw six of the cutest, plumpest little pups scampering over the floor of an 8x10 shoemaker shop. They were the size of guinea pigs and of irish setter variety.

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



## NORRIS ASKS

Guess who just turned 90 on January 17th.

Happy Birthday to our Living Legend  
Clarence Berry!

Clarence Berry was recognized as a Legend of Port Norris on December 2, 2012. [Read More, Click Here.](#)



## 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!



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