



Port Norris

The Past for the Future

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.



Happy New Year 2021!

Honoring a Legend

We are sorry to share the news that one of our 2019 Legends has died at age 96.

Irene Green, 96, of Port Norris passed away on Monday, December 28, 2020 at Inspira Medical Center-Vineland.

Born in Haleyville to the late Bernita Smith, she was the wife of the late Melvin J. Green, Sr. Irene was a resident of Port Norris all of her life.

Prior to her retirement, Irene had worked as a training supervisor at the Vineland Developmental Center for 38 years and as a self employed housekeeper. Prior to that, she had worked in the commercial oyster industry in Port Norris. She was a member of John Wesley United Methodist Church for most of her life where she served as an usher and sang in two choirs, the Chancellor Choir and Sacrifice of Praise.



Irene also worked with the youth choir with her friend, the late Doris Bowser. She was also a voting delegate representing John Wesley United Methodist Church at the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Conference. In her free time, she enjoyed traveling, shopping and visiting with her friends at the Commercial Twp. Senior Center five days a week. Irene was a member of two chapters of the Red Hat Ladies and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Left: Irene (center) receiving her award with family and friends at the Legend Awards on November 2, 2019.

[Visit her Legend's page. click here.](#) Includes video.

The Robbinstown School

A little history as shared by Richard W. Smith

The building known as the Robbinstown School was built in 1856 as a house of worship for both Baptists and Methodists as sadly, both churches had been ravaged by fire. In 1867 it was transformed into a school and in 1874, Richard W. Robbins, who owned the land and also taught at the school, deeded the building to the school's trustees.

Soon a fence was erected to protect the students from the road and the trolley tracks. The building was heated by a pot-bellied stove, with the coal stored in a bin behind the door. Each morning a fire was started by the custodian and maintained by the schoolteacher during the day.

There were two outhouses, one each for boys and girls, and in 1952 they were replaced by indoor plumbing and in the same year a new oil burner was installed thus saying goodbye to the old pot-bellied stove.

Also, in 1952, Mrs. Rebecca Lore began teaching at the Robbinstown School. Her family lived next

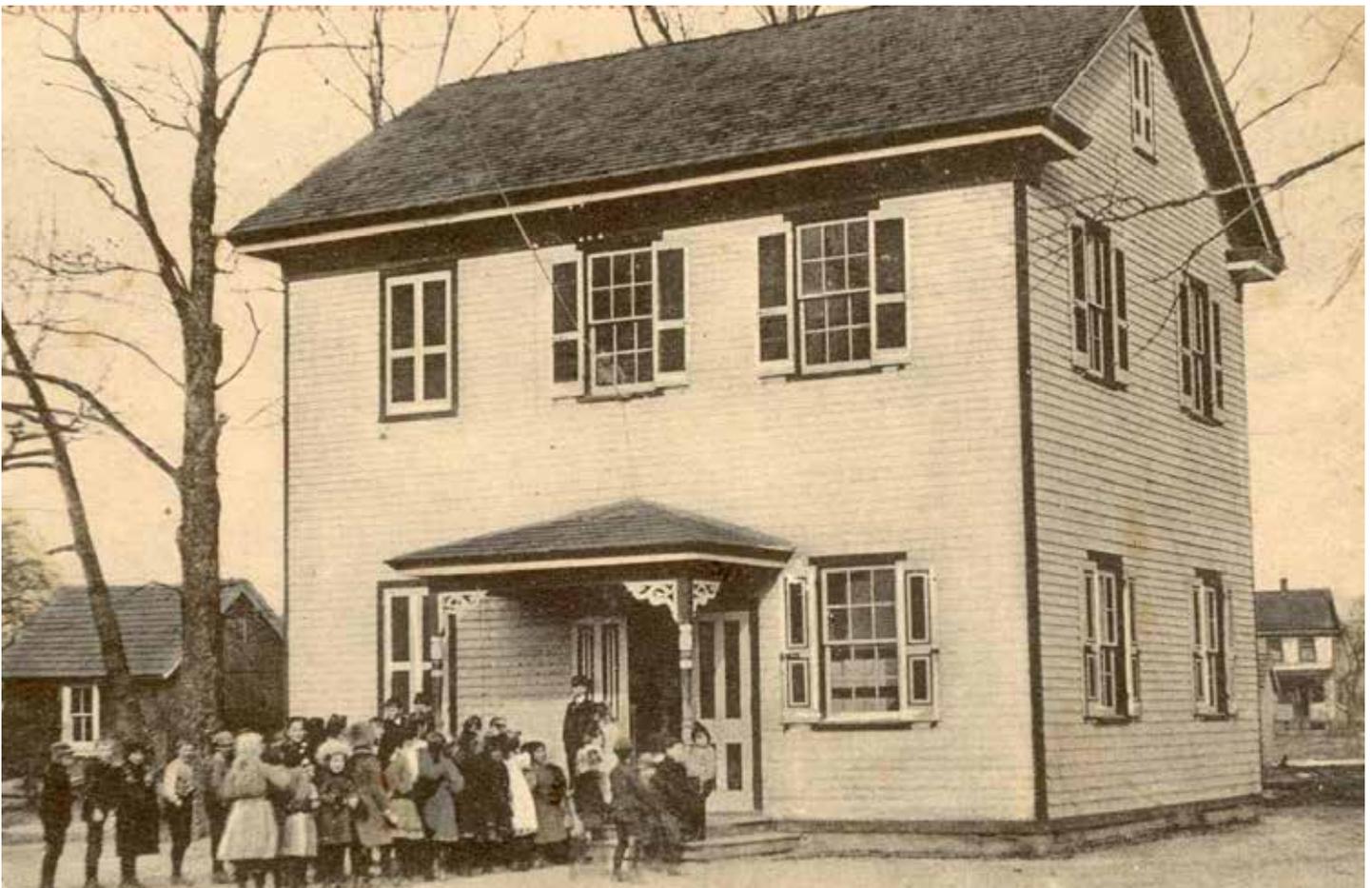
door to the school and owned a Springer Spaniel named Jack.

On school mornings, a handbell was used to call students to lineup for class, with boys and girls forming separate lines and every morning Jack would join the boys and follow them into school and sit among them during reading and other activities.

The students loved Jack and Jack loved the students, but when the County Superintendent paid a visit, he objected to the presence of a dog in the building.

Mrs. Lore, however, suggested he observe the interaction between the dog and the students before passing judgment and in the end, he concluded that Jack provided a learning experience for the students. As a result, Jack was allowed to continue "his education" at the Robbinstown School.

The school closed in 1967 and was briefly used as a Special Education Center. It is currently owned by Commercial Township and serves the community as a library.



Our newest addition to the Port Norris Historical Society Museum

This is the stove from the Robinstown School. We are thrilled to add it to our museum. The wording on the base says; Buckwalter & Co., Homer #50.

The ad below is for a different stove but similar. \$4.95 wow!

Do you have any images of the school, inside or out? We would love to add your images and stories to our new Education Exhibit that we are working on. Please email us at pnhsh@historicportnorris.org



ACME GIANT
BURNS ANY THING

At \$4.95 for the magnificent stove, you get the great big kind that burns anything, wood, coal, straw, kails, etc. about 40 cents per pound — it burns and burns until the end of material and labor, with but one small period of maintenance. It is the most economical stove in the world. It is made by the Acme Stove Co., and is the best stove in the world. It is made of the best material and is the best stove in the world. It is made of the best material and is the best stove in the world. It is made of the best material and is the best stove in the world.

\$4.95

PRICE REDUCED

THE IRONING CONSTRUCTION is perfected to give absolute fire control, all parts being carefully made, tested, stored and polished by our own special process, resulting in the production of the ornamental stove on the market, never before by any. It is made with heavy materials, and has a strong, solid base, heavy top and good, clean, well-ventilated, steel grate and sliding grate, has special heavy doors. The top is so arranged that a cover can be attached at any time. It costs to \$4.95 will not be broken by any price until 1900 to 1905 when from our Newark, Ohio, factory, according to demand and size of the stove ordered.

PRICES DELIVERED ON THE CARS AT OUR NEWARK, OHIO, FOUNDRY.

In Memoriam

We lost a member and a friend to the PNHS.
Our sincere sympathies to his family.

John S. Lee

July 29, 1937 - December 23, 2020

John S. Lee of Cambridge Maryland, Age 83, passed away on December 23, 2020. John was born July 29, 1937 and proudly grew up in Port Norris NJ.

Graduating from Rider college of Trenton NJ in 1959 with a B.S. in Commerce, John enlisted in the Army. He Served with the 504th Military Police Battalion in Georgia, until 1961. After the Army John moved back to NJ and started raising a family and pursuing his career in accounting. John became a Senior Staff Accountant with Peat, Marwick Mitchell & Co CPA's in New York. He had many long hours at work and commuting on the train in and out of the city. In 1969 John started his own Public Accounting Practice in Allentown NJ. During his 30 years in



John is a young man in his boy scout uniform and with his dog. He was so proud of his badges. He donated his boy scout items to our collection.

business, he became President of the NJ Society of CPA's from 1985-1986, and from 1986 to 1996 he was a Trustee for the NJCPA's Scholarship Trust.

After extensive traveling and hard work John retired from accounting in 1999 and moved to Cambridge Maryland. He was happy to enjoy the peaceful, relaxed and uncongested lifestyle on the Eastern Shore. John enjoyed occasional fishing, boating and crabbing, but loved attending the local auctions to collect pottery and antiques.

John will be lovingly remembered by his son Randall Lee (Donna), daughter Wendy Lee (Steve), and son Daniel Lee (Kate). John was predeceased by his daughter Sherri A Carlsen. He will also be fondly remembered by 5 grandchildren, Jason, Bill, Samantha, Jessica, Amie and 1 great grandchild Alayna.

A Memorial service will be held at Hoffman Funeral Homes 2507 High Street Port Norris on Saturday March 20, 2021 12:00 noon. Burial of Cremated remains will follow in Haleyville Cemetery. A visitation will be held on Saturday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

To email condolences and or tributes please visit hoffmanfuneralhomes.net



SCRAPBOOK PAGE

February 5, 1884

PORT NORRIS, Feb. 5.—There was a lively time at one of our residences the other night, and a Haleyville fellow was at the bottom of the trouble. He took a young lady home, and kept her at the gate so long that her feet got cold, and she took a flatiron to bed with her. Towards morning she got so warm, and straightening out, kicked Mr. flatiron out of bed and down stairs. Now at the bottom of the stairs stood a lamp, placed there by the careful mother of the household. When the flatiron and lamp came in conjunction the lamp gave way, and a fire ensued. The noise waked up the old folks, but strange to say the young lady slept on peacefully. The old gentleman jumped up and rushing through the fire and broken glass, grabbed some of his daughter's clothes, and tried to smother the flames. But there was too much fire and the clothes soon caught. By this time the rest of the family put in an appearance, and with old carpet and what water there was on hand succeeded in extinguishing the fire. But for their prompt action the young lady and the house might have been burnt up, as the pump was frozen and there was no apparatus at hand to put out the fire.

There was a very large surprise party at Capt. Samuel Lake's, last Friday, Feb. 1st., it being his wife's 50th birthday, and they had a grand time.

Several of our young men have seen something when they were out late at nights. Some say it is a panther or a bear; others a goat; some call it a wild-cat.

Extra meetings are going on in the M. E. Church.

Mr Hodder, pastor of the Baptist Church which was burned, says whoever put it in the paper, that they had \$4,300 raised, did not know what they were writing about. They have not got that much, but are very thankful for what is subscribed.

Mrs. Mary Tribbett has been sick.
Mr. Milton Cox is well pleased with his son.

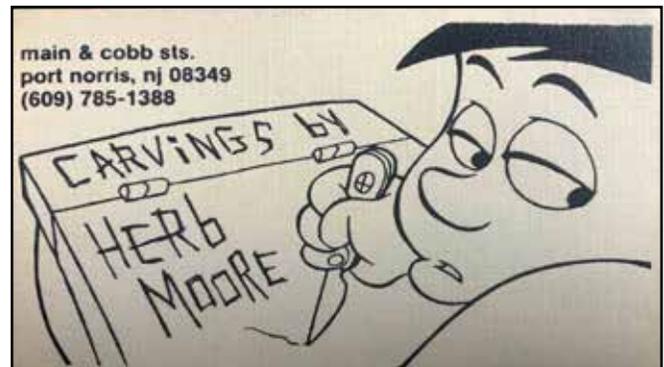
We have plenty of mud now. Who will be the first to start brick pavements?

A new hall is talked of. We hope the talk will not be all. Some say Port Norris beats any of the surrounding towns, but Dividing Creek beats with a hall, and Haleyville beats with a cider press.

Some of our young men have a telephone rigged out of the window in one house across the street to another, and talk to each other out of their bed rooms.

There has been some trouble at the pool room. Some person threw a piece of coal through the window, and it struck one of the players. The owner has offered a reward of \$30 to find out who did it. Some say they think it would be a good thing for the town if the pool room was done away with, and would not tell, if they knew, who threw the coal, as the pool players disturb the neighbors when the room shuts up after they are asleep. The crowd will go out toward their homes or boats hallooing and making a noise. D.

—Read the News.



How fun is this business card, recently discovered in papers, Dot Cobb was going through. Norman Cobb and Herb Moore were friends, and he saved his card all these years. Herb carved beautiful wooden birds.



Joan G. Robbins

March 20, 1942 -
January 20, 2021

We sadly share one of our active members has died. Our dear friend Joan Robbins died on January 20th. We will celebrate Joan's life in our next newsletter. Her obituary can be viewed in advance at hoffmanfuneralhomes.net/obituaries/Joan-Robbins-2/.

Joan will be missed by so many. And she truly will be missed by the Port Norris Historical Society.

Port Norris Pickings

January 10, 1889

The children of the school house are rehearsing for their entertainment to be given in the KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS HALL. The proceeds will be utilized for buying a new organ.

January 8, 1889

V. M. Rundell, principal of schools, has arrived and will resume his duties after spending the holidays at his home in Newton.



NORRIS ASKS In 1952, what was the teacher's name at the Robinstown School, and who also is a PNHS Legend?

Rebecca (Robbins) Lore
In 1951, she began teaching at the

Robbinstown School. She later served as Acting Principle of the Port Norris Elementary School on Brown and High Streets. On November 21, 2010, she was recognized as a Legend of Port Norris by the Port Norris Historical Society.

[See more historicportnorris.org/legends-16.htm](http://historicportnorris.org/legends-16.htm)



Please Note: Meeting dates and times are posted on the website each month along with the approved minutes from the last meeting. Everyone is always welcome. [Click here to view.](#)

Membership and Renewal for 2021

We would love to add your name to our growing list of members. Please give some thought to joining the PNHS. Membership Fees:

Individual - \$10.00 Family - \$15.00
Benefactor - \$30.00 Family \$35.00
Patron - \$50.00 Patron Family \$55.00
Student (under age 17) - \$1.00 (no voting privileges)
Membership 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.

Membership fees are tax deductible.

**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 if 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!

Officers

Rachel Cobb, President
Richard Smith, Vice-President
Alvina Baum, Secretary
Mary Linda Lacotte, Assistant Secretary
Sam Ricci, Treasurer
Elizabeth Hoffman, Co-Treasurer

Trustees

Eileen Bernhardt
Virginia Campbell
Gloria Guidera
Faye Hickman
John Hickman
Joyce Massey
Rev. E. Barnes, Lifetime Honorary Trustee

For a complete list of committees see our website. [View Here](#)