



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.

LEGENDS AWARDS APRIL 22, 2023



Remembering a Legend Rev. Ernest Ralph Barnes, Sr. Oct. 3, 1926 - Sept. 11, 2022

Submitted by Rev. Barnes in 2010

Rev. Ernest Ralph Barnes, Sr. was born in St. Mary's County MD on October 3, 1926. From the time he was four, he went back and forth from Maurice River to Maryland as his family worked in the oyster shucking houses. In 1933 they settled in Shellpile, where Rev. Barnes said he saw his first cockroach and mosquito.

Rev. Barnes graduated valedictorian from Port Norris High School in 1945. He was one of only two African-American students to complete high school that year. It was common during that time for children from Shellpile to attend school only until the sixth grade, when they then went to work full-time in the shucking houses.

Rev. Barnes worked a variety of jobs from Dupont to local farms to the shucking houses. He worked for Robbins Bros and Harold Bickings. He also owned several small businesses, including a small restaurant. Rev. Barnes went to school part-time, which led to work in the health field. He worked his way up from orderly to night charge nurse on the Alzheimer floor of the Veterans hospital in Vineland, where he worked for 20 years. During this time he continued his education, going to night school for horticulture. He started an edible flower business that he ran with his family for 13 years.

Reverend Barnes' biggest love is his church. He was called to the ministry in 1963 and was ordained in 1969. He started this career at the Shiloh Baptist Church Port Norris and worked in churches throughout the area. He has been the pastor at Macedonia Baptist Church in Egg Harbor Township for more than 30 years. He and his wife Gladys have 8 children.

On November 16, 2008, Reverend Barnes was recognized as a Living Legend of Port Norris. See his page: historicportnorris.org/legends-3.htm

We will miss him dearly. We honor his commitment to the Port Norris Historical Society. He has been added to our Honor Roll. Rev. Ernest Barnes, Lifetime Honorary Trustee, Legend (2008-2022)



Photos: Rachel Cobb



Legends of Port Norris Cookbook

REV. BARNES' RECIPES

PEACH COBBLER

1 3/4 pounds fresh peaches
1/2 cup (4 oz.) salted butter
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup whole milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Preheat oven to 350° F



Peel and slice peaches, you will have about 4 cups. Place butter in an 11 x 7 inch baking dish. Place dish in oven until butter melts. Stir together flour, sugar, milk, and vanilla in a bowl and pour onto melted butter. (do not stir)

Spoon peaches over mixture. (do not stir) bake in preheated oven until brown and bubbly, 45 to 50 minutes. Remove from oven, let cool, add a scoop of vanilla ice cream and enjoy!

VANILLA ICE CREAM IN 3 STEPS

2 cups whipping cream
1 can Eagle brand condensed milk
2 tablespoons vanilla flavoring

Whip 2 cups of whipping cream, and immediately fold in vanilla and Eagle brand condensed milk using sweeping motions.

Pour in 9 x 5 loaf pan and freeze 6 hours until hard.
Can use same method with your favorite flavor, Strawberry Chocolate, etc



Dominick Capaldi presenting Rev. Barnes with his Legends award, at the first Legends Award Dinner, November 16, 2008 at the Port Norris Fire House.

THE 2023 LEGENDS ARE...

Living Legends:

Joanne Hickman

John Maddox

**SAVE THE
DATE**

20th Century Legends:

Charles Amos (Mule) Camper

Ethalinda Blackman

Joseph Dagastine

R. Shirley Taylor

The awards will be held in person **April 22, 2023**. More details to come.
historicportnorris.org/legends.htm

A Christmas Poem

By Helen Steiner Rice

I found this lovely poem tucked away with a Christmas list that belonged to my mom,
Anne Wilk, who passed away in May, 2022 at the age of 102. ~ Ginny Campbell

I have a list of folks I know,
all written in a book
And every year when Christmas comes,
I go and take a look,

And that is when I realize
that these names are a part
Not of the book they are written in,
but really from my heart

For each name stands for someone
who has crossed my path sometime,
And in the meeting they've become
the rhythm in each rhyme

And while it sounds fantastic
for me to make this claim,
I really feel that I'm composed
of each remembered name

And while you may not be aware
of any special link
Just meeting you has changed my life
a lot more than you think

For once I've met somebody,
the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word
or of a friendly face

So never think my Christmas cards
are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list,
forgotten in between,
For when I send a Christmas card
that is addressed to you,
It is because you're on the list
that I'm indebted to

For I am but a total
of the many folks I've met,
And you happen to be one of those
I prefer not to forget

And whether I have known you
for many years or few,
In some ways you have a part
in shaping things I do

And every year when Christmas comes,
I realize anew,
The best gifts life can offer
is meeting folks like you.

And may the spirit of Christmas
that forever endures
Leave its richest blessings
in the hearts of you and yours.



From Days Gone By...

RILEY BROS.—Motor Cycles, Bicycles, Fire Arms, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods. Selling Agts. for Rambler Automobiles, Bridgeton and Port Norris, N. J. 5-20 d tf

December 22, 1904
Bridgeton Evening News

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PORT NORRIS, N. J.

Port Norris, N. J., Dec. 21, 1910.
An adjourned meeting of the annual meeting of the stockholders of this bank for the election of directors, and such other business as may be considered will be held at the hotel of Elwood Davis, Main street, Port Norris, N. J., Tuesday, Jan 24, 1911, at 12 o'clock, noon.

DAVID POWELL, Cashier.
12 21 d oaw wed 4t

December 21, 1910
Bridgeton Evening News

PORT NORRIS SHOW

The Port Norris Poultry Association will hold its second annual poultry show on Friday and Saturday of this week. The show will be held in the K. of P. Hall.

December 18, 1913
Bridgeton Evening News

And here are some kind words FROM PORT NORRIS.

Port Norris, Dec. 21.—

To the Editor of the News.

I am one of your many readers and in my judgment as to how the Evening News should be run I will say just run it through the press as it always has been run, as the News is O. K. and it is the only reliable paper in the State. The name of the News will sell it. Just get boys who will let their voices be heard. Very truly,

December 22, 1904
Bridgeton Evening News

N.

Four Days to Xmas

DEC. 21

Be Kind to the Weary Shopgirls

December 21, 1910
Bridgeton Evening News

From Days Gone By...

December 13, 1900

HAVE ORDERS 2 WEEKS AHEAD

President of Port Norris Oyster Company Says Business Is O. K. Considering Conditions.

In keeping with the optimistic trend in business and in an effort to chase away the "depression" bugaboo, the president of the Port Norris Oyster Company, Eli Newcomb, today issued a statement about the oyster industry from the viewpoint of the large concern which recently acquired a number of smaller concerns in a gigantic enterprise.

Referring to a recent article in which it was stated that a fourth packing house was closed down due to business conditions, Mr. Newcomb said:

"The way business is all over the country we feel very well satisfied with conditions in our industry. The shutting down of those small packing houses was to cut out expenses."

The head of the Port Norris Oyster Company added that the two packing houses now being operated are turning out more oysters than ever before, and added that the output for two weeks was 75,000 gallons of oysters, representing receipts aggregating \$180,000.

Working the two present packing houses at the highest point of efficiency, probably brought about the curtailing of the smaller houses.

Orders now being received indicate that the two packing houses will continue to operate at capacity in the immediate near future. The hours now in force at the plant are 5 a. m. to 7 p. m., and there is a brisk demand for the bivalves, considering the slowing up of business and industries everywhere.

These statements were elicited from President Newcomb to counteract the impression that the oyster industry is failing to hold its own with the trend of the times.

CENTRAL R. R. OF NEW JERSEY

Anthracite Coal used exclusively, insuring cleanliness and comfort.

Time Table in Effect mber 25, Nov 1900.

LEAVE BRIDGETON VIA. (ALL RAIL ROUTE

7.53 a. m., 2.56 p. m., for New York, Newark, Elizabeth, South Amboy, Red Bank, Toms River, Waretown, Barnegat, Whiting, etc.

10.35 a. m., 6.28 p. m., for Bayside and intermediate stations.

FOR PHILADELPHIA ATLANTIC CITY, BALTIMORE, WASHINGTON AND ALL POINTS SOUTH OR WEST.

Leave Bridgeton, 7.53 a. m., 2.56 p. m.
Above trains connect for all points on the Atlantic City Railroad.

CUMBERLAND & MAURICE RIVER BRANCH-

Trains leave East Bridgeton for Port Norris at 6.45 Mondays only. 10.43 a. m. and 6.39 p. m.

Through tickets to all points at lowest rates may be had on application, in advance to the ticket agent at the station.

J. R. OLHAUSEN,
Gen'l. Supt.

H. P. BALDWIN,
Gen'l Pass. Ag

December 1903

A \$2.00 Xmas Dinner for \$1.00 at

THE DAVIS,

PORT NORRIS, N. J.

Why worry yourself and husband in getting up Xmas dinner when you can bring your family and have a good day's outing at less expense than staying at home. Send in your order for number of plates wanted.

55¢ 6m 12p

E. J. DAVIS.

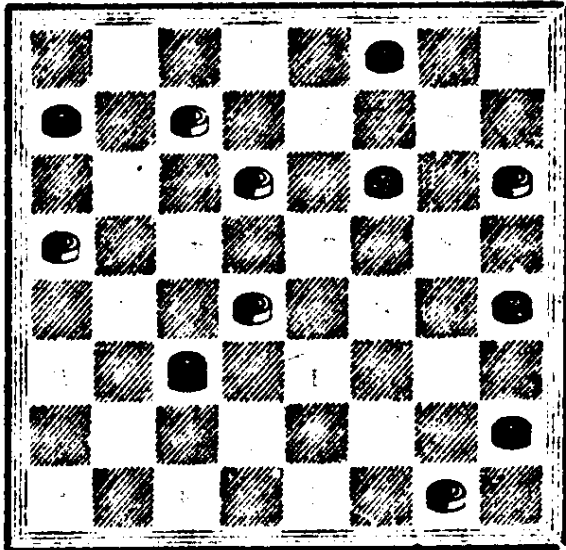
December 21, 1910

From Days Gone By...

CHECKERS AND CHESS.

Checker Problem No. 607.

Black—3, 5, 11, 20, 22 (king), 23.

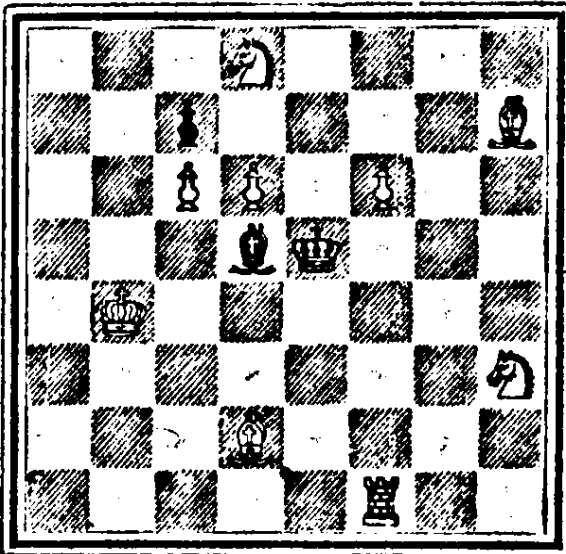


White—6, 10, 12, 13, 15, 32.

White to play and draw.

Chess Problem No. 607.

Black.



White.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTIONS.

Checker problem No. 606:

Black.

White.

- 1.. 27 to 31
- 2.. 19 to 23
- 3.. 31 to 27
- 4.. 23 to 19
- 5.. 18 to 22
- 6.. 27 to 23
- 7.. 22 to 26
- 8.. 8 to 11

- 1.. 1 to 5
- 2.. 7 to 3
- 3.. 5 to 9
- 4.. 9 to 13
- 5.. 10 to 14
- 6.. 14 to 17
- 7.. 13 to 9

Drawn

Chess problem No. 606:

White.

HAIR WORK done in all styles. switches, puffs, etc., combings and cut hair beautifully arranged. Mail orders given prompt attention. Port Norris car passes door. Mrs. James Wilson, Cedarville, 3 doors below Chamberlain Switch.
12-8 d 1 mo*

December 21, 1910

Bridgeton Evening News

January 2, 1902

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias to me directed, issued out of the Court of Chancery of New Jersey, will be exposed to sale at Public Vendue on

Saturday, January 4th, 1902,

between the hours of twelve and five o'clock to wit:—at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day at

THE HOTEL CUMBERLAND,

on North Laurel street, in the City of Bridgeton, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey, all tract or parcel of lands and premises, situate, lying and being in the Township of Commercial in the County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey, bounded as follows:—

Beginning at a stake in the middle of the road leading from Port Norris to Bucksbutem and runs thence by William Busby's line north sixty-seven and one-half degrees east twenty-four rods twenty-two links to Joseph Reeves' line; thence north twenty-seven degrees west fifteen rods; thence south sixty-seven and one-half degrees west twenty-one rods fifteen links to the middle of the aforesaid road; thence by the same south seven and one-fourth degrees east, fifteen rods and fifteen links to the beginning, containing two acres be the same more or less.

Seized as the property of Abigail Hinson, et vir., defendants; taken in execution at the suit of Jane M. Peterson, complainant, and to be sold by

WILLIAM C. HENDEE, Sheriff.

JAMES J. REEVES, Sol.

Dated Dec. 2, 1901.

Pr's fee \$7 56

From Days Gone By...

PORT NORRIS.

Dec. 16.—A concert will be given in the K. of P. hall December 23rd by the Shingle Society. The Zobo Band of Newport and the Oriental Band of Port Norris will furnish music. There will be recitations by Frances Lake, Miss Mame Heritage and Margaret Sheppard, of Newport; solos by Mrs. Morton Bateman, Misses Rebecca Fowler, Elizabeth Buzby and Maude Ferguson, and last, a dialogue entitled "The Family Jar," with its following cast of characters: "John Brooke," Wilson Banks; "Meg Brooke," (his wife) Miss Rebecca Fowler; "Mr. Scott," Chas. Fisher; "Lottie" (the servant) Miss Carolyn Hand. The entertainment is for the benefit of the M. E. Church.

Leslie Fowler, Henry Sockwell, Morris Wessel, Elbur Peace and Roscoe Miller, from Perkiomen Seminary, will return home Thursday to spend Christmas with their parents in this place.

Mrs. Ella Nora Fowler has been enlarging her house.

Leslie and Mary Hollinger are greatly improving from typhoid fever.

Mrs. Lizzie Smith has taken the boarding house at Maurice River.

December 12, 1905

Dollar Weekly News

December 9, 1930

PORT NORRIS

Port Norris, Dec. 23 —Harry Lake of New York has been visiting his mother.

Ed. Lynn Davis of Phila. passed Sunday at 'The Davis'."

Elbur Peace who is attending Penn. has been spending a few days with his parents.

Morris Wessell of Brown University is spending his Xmas vacation at his home here.

Mrs. H. E. Miller of DuBois, Pa., who has been visiting Miss Elsie Turner, returned to Pittsburg yesterday, where she will spend a few days before returning to her home.

Mrs. Daniel Newcomb was in Bridgeton yesterday.

Miss Lorana Dickel was visiting her aunt in Newport on Wednesday.

Mr. J. S. Turner is confined to the house with inflammatory rheumatism.

Major McDaniel was a recent Bridgeton visitor,

Mrs. Ross DeMaris was in Philadelphia recently.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Sockwell are on a visit out of town.

R. D. Eschbach of New York, representing Bowker Fertilizer Co., was in town on business Monday.

Port Norris, Dec. 26.—Mrs. Bert Riley, of Fairton, is spending some

time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Owens.

Mrs. Myrtie Lake, of Millville, is being entertained by relatives here.

Mrs. Frank Duffield, of Cedarville, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Berry.

Mrs. Eva Jones, of Colorado, is making an extended visit to her parents here.

William Morris, of Philadelphia, spent Saturday and Sunday at his home.

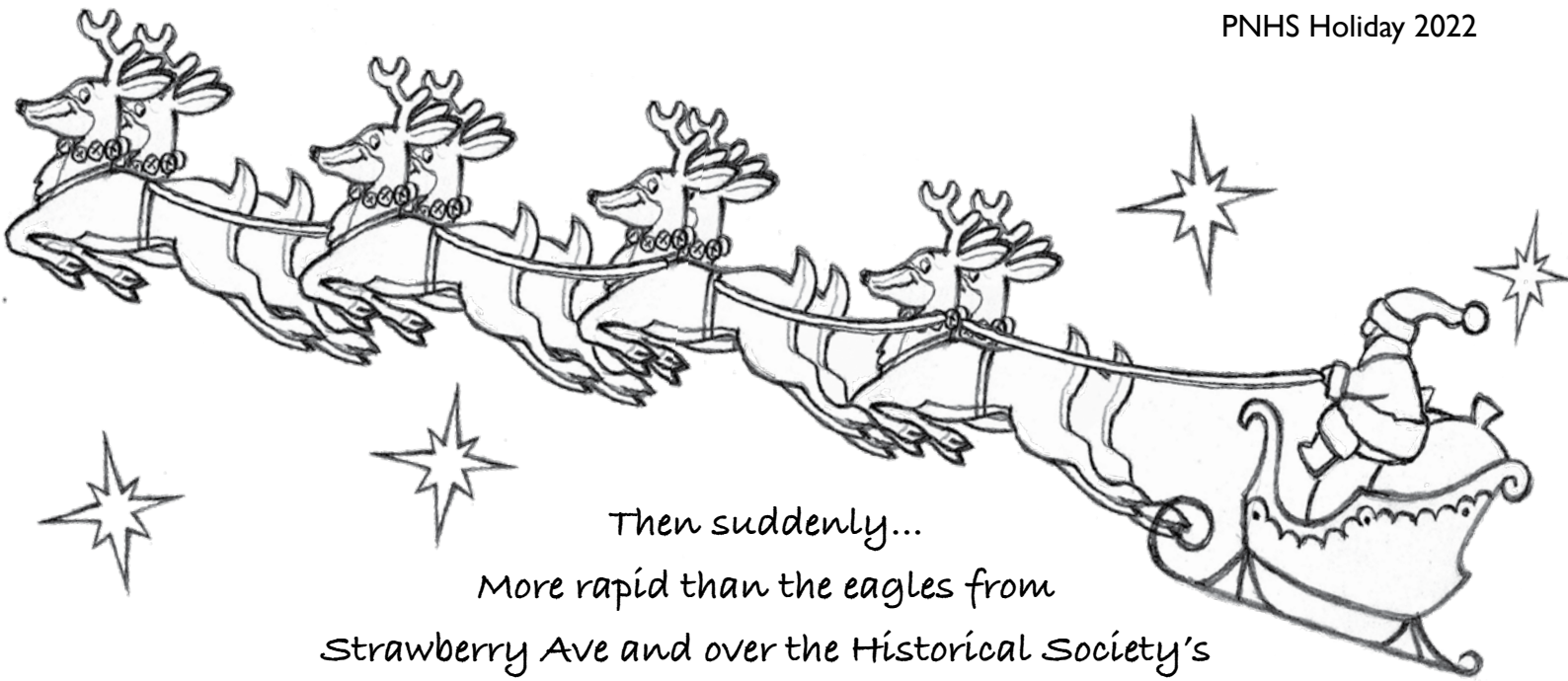
Miss Edith Lee, who is teaching out of town is spending her vacation with her parents.

E. S. Morris, of New York, passed Saturday and Sunday at his home.

PLEASANT EVENT AT PORT NORRIS

A jolly party of people, mostly relatives and friends from Dividing Creek, laden with baskets of good things preparatory to having supper, called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Robbins, at Port Norris, and greatly surprised them. A pleasant afternoon and evening was spent and Mrs. Robbins served one of her famous oyster suppers along with the other viands. Mrs. Robbins in her childhood days resided at Dividing Creek. Among those who were present were Mr. and Mrs. Robbins and Mr. and Mrs. William Terry and daughter, Miss Edith Terry, of Port Norris. From Dividing Creek Mr. and Mrs. George Nelson Terry, Mr. and Mrs. William Fleetwood and children, Marion and William; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bowker and son, Nelson; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mints and son, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Laws, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Terry, Mr. and Mrs. George Orr and daughter, Mrs. Howard Campbell, Mrs. Milton Pepper and son, Misses Alice Hall and Lida Garrison; from Elizabeth, Mrs. Arthur Pryce and son, Carroll.

November 11, 1930



Then suddenly...
More rapid than the eagles from
Strawberry Ave and over the Historical Society's
shiny new roof, they came, And he whistled, and shouted,
and called them by name;

"Now, Robbins! now, Berry! now, Rigg'in
and Adams! On, Capaldi! on Hollinger!
on Taylor and Rudolph!"

To the top of the docks! to the top of the Meerwald!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly and
before high tide, when they meet with an obstacle,
mount to the sky, so up to the house-tops the coursers they flew, with the
sleigh full of Robbins store toys, and St. Nicholas too.

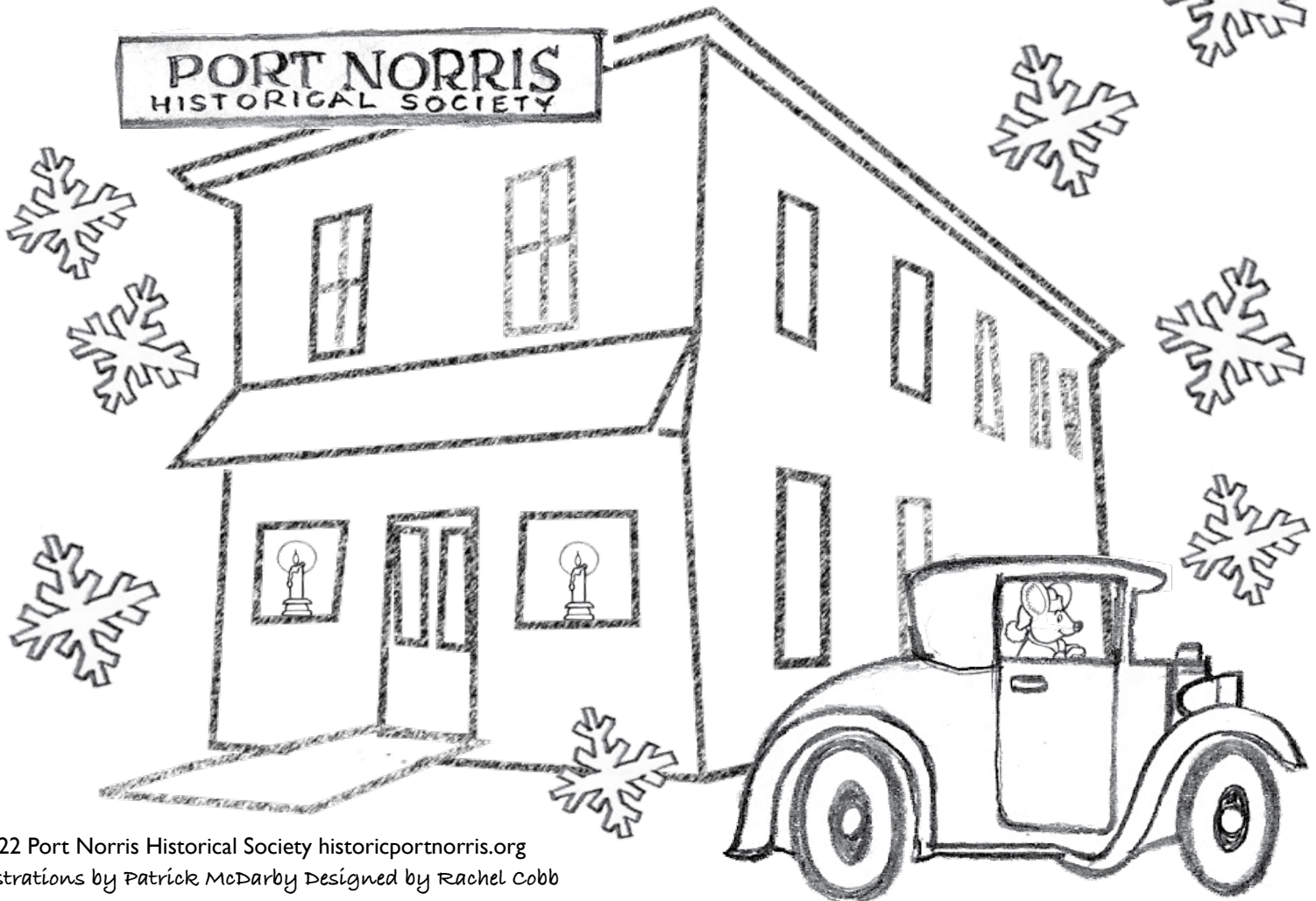




When he was finished, he gave a nod and up the chimney
he rose. He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,

And away they all flew over the Maurice River like the down
of a thistle. But they heard him exclaim, ere he flew out of sight, Halleyville,
then Mauricetown next stops. And

“Happy Christmas to all,
and to all a good-night.”



Membership and Renewal for 2023

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

General Individual - \$10. General Family - \$15.
Benefactor Individual - \$30. Benefactor Family \$35.
Patron Individual - \$50. Patron Family \$55.
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
Gloria Guidera, Corresponding Secretary
Mary Linda Lacotte, Recording Secretary
Sam Ricci, Treasurer
Elizabeth Hoffman, Co-Treasurer

Trustees

Eileen Bernhardt
Virginia Campbell
Faye Hickman
John Hickman
Joyce Massey

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



Full speed
ahead for



ASTYKAKE

Cup Cakes

.2 for 5¢

Freshness Guaranteed

December 12, 1930



Port Norris
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

A special thank you to Gloria Guidera and Virginia Campbell for their editing talents.

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.