

Port Norris Historical Society

Trustee Meeting, March 9, 2010

Present

Trustees: Alvina Baum, Ed Adams, Richard Smith, Steve Moore

Officers: Liz Hoffman, Donna Moore, Joanne Hickman

President Liz Hoffman opened the meeting at 6:35

Liz said she had an idea for the membership drive. She said she had wooden nickels from Centennial that she would donate. As an incentive, these could be given to members who bring in a new member. It was also brought up that reminders should be sent out to past members. Liz, as former Membership Chair, said memberships should now go to treasurer Joanne and then to Donna to record.

Ed Adams said the display case has been installed at Township Hall. Incorporation papers of Commercial Township donated by Township Clerk Hannah could be put in the case, as well as pictures and other Port Norris related items.

Dick Smith and Steve Moore have scheduled an oral history taping with Bill Riggin March 18. It was decided to try and tape as many as possible in the next year. Steve would then edit as his time permits. Other on the list to be taped include:

Rev. Barnes

Lee Robbins

Mrs. Robinson

Donna brought up a New Jersey Council for the Humanities grant which has a deadline of May 1. There was a discussion about trying for grant money for Point of Interest signs for Port Norris and bivalve. We may ask the Bayshore Discovery Project about joining in on the project.

Liz brought up Art Dixon and his interest in doing a mural in Port Norris. She said she asked him to attend a society meeting and will tell him to sketch a draft of his vision for the mural. The governing board will evaluate Mr. Dixon's proposal and decide on what assistance, if any, the society can provide.

The meeting concluded at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by secretary Donna Moore

Port Norris Historical Society

Regular Meeting, March 9, 2010

Present

Trustees: Alvina Baum, Ed Adams, Richard Smith, Steve Moore

Officers: Liz Hoffman, Donna Moore, Joanne Hickman

President Liz Hoffman opened the meeting at 7:05

Liz asked for any changes or corrections to January meeting minutes, which were sent out via email. There was approval of minutes of January minutes.

Treasurer Joanne Hickman reported that there is \$3,340.13 in the society checking account.

Liz told the group that there will be a Membership Drive featuring an incentive. She said she had wooden nickels from the Centennial that she would donate and these could be given to members who bring in a new member. Liz also said she would attend a meeting of the Vineland Historical Society to see how they operate. If anyone wants to join her it is the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the hospital.

Donna explained the research she has done on the deeding of Port Norris. She went to the county Court House and found these deeds for the tract of land that is Port Norris:

May 28, 1782 – Nicholas Krusand to William Dallas

Feb 7, 1802 – William Dallas to Jechonia Wood

Aug. 1, 1811- David Wood (son of Jechonia) to Joseph Jones

It was decided then that Port Norris must have been named after Jones' son Dallas in 1811. We will proceed with plans for a celebration marking said occasion, possibly by teaming up with the Bayshore Discovery Project. We will look into selling commemorative coffee as a fundraiser, playing on the name Coffee Jones.

Janice Burt did research on Joseph Jones and found the following information:

Joseph "Coffee" Jones was born 10 September 1780. He was the son of Norris Jones, son of Nathan Jones and Sarah Gibson, and Hannah Gibbons, daughter of Hannah Marshall and Joseph Gibbons. Joseph Jones was married to Catherine of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Their children were Ann, Norris Marshall 1801 in Philadelphia and Clement 1808.

Norris Marshall Jones, for which Port Norris was named, graduated from Harvard in the class of 1822. He was ordained a Presbyterian minister June 10, 1828. He married Elizabeth Attaway Briscoe, a widow, on 25 September 1831 in Maryland. Norris was Rector All Faith's, St. Mary's Co 1830 and Queen Anne's Kent Is. 1839; Philadelphia 1846. He also published 4 controversial church pamphlets, one in 1844 titled "To a

Methodist, by a Presbyterian of the Diocese of MD. He died in June 1869 in Philadelphia, apparently childless.

We discussed the oral history project and the school picture project. Oral histories will be done as soon as possible, with editing to be done as time permits. We will soon be putting together the pictures for the school project, with the group agreeing to spend about \$500 on this.

There were several donations received in recent months. Alvina Baum brought in two photo albums donated by Ethalinda Blackman. The pictures are from the Dorchester shipyard and feature ship launchings. A wood stove that was used on an oyster boat by Sy Hoffman was donated by his granddaughter.

April meeting – discussion of Bay Day participation

May meeting - We will meet at the Methodist Church to learn about the history of their stain glass windows.

Next meeting for general membership, April 13 - 7 p.m.

Next meeting for Governing Board, June 8 6:30 p.m.