



Timelines of
Point
Pleasant
History

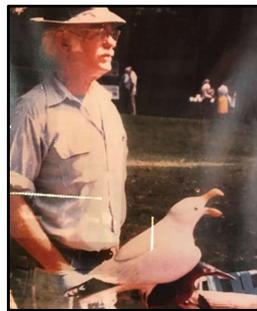
The Bennett Cabin



Did you
know...

The Bennett Cabin at Riverfront Park, 2302 River Road in Point Pleasant, is open to the public from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on the first and third Saturdays of the month between May and September. It is also open during many public events held at Riverfront Park. Admission is free. Donations accepted.

A Piece of Point Pleasant History, Circa 1920



Herman Bennett was the son of Nellie and Ira Bennett. Some knew him as the decoy carver or bird carver, others knew him as a carpenter or the sexton of the local Harvey Memorial United Methodist Church. But most knew him as the kind, gray-haired gentleman who lived in the log cabin on Dorsett Dock Road who pedaled his bicycle around town, stopping to talk to anybody about how Point Pleasant used to be.

The Cabin

Herman and his brothers and sister grew up on the Bennett Farm on Dorsett Dock Road. He and his older brothers and their friends built the cabin deep in the woods at the rear of their family farm. The cabin was their hideaway, their place to sleep out all night without a worry. The cabin was constructed of white cedar logs which were harvested from the edge of the Beaver Dam Creek.

When Herman grew up and was planning to marry, his father coaxed him to live in the log cabin. His future wife said, "Only if it could be moved closer to the road so we can have electricity when it reaches this side of town." So, Herman went looking for a good friend to help him move the cabin. He found Harry Odell. After several trial runs with cables and slings and heavy equipment, they resorted to taking it apart, piece by piece, log by log, and carried it across the small stream, through the woods and closer to the road. Between Herman and Harry, nothing was impossible. After all, it was only a 14' x 14' one-room cabin, of course!

After the reconstruction, they had to revisit the Beaver Dam Creek again to cut more logs for the bedroom addition. A short time after their marriage and their move into their new home, Herman and Harry had to visit the creek and harvest more cedar logs for a second addition, a bedroom for the Bennett's new daughter, Sally Ann.

The Bennett family were descendants of the Dorsett family. Herman was the last of a long line of Dorsetts and Bennetts to live on the 800-acre parcel of land established in the 1750s. Herman's great-great-grandmother was a Dorsett.



Point Pleasant Historical Society & Museum

416 New Jersey Avenue
PO Box 1273
Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742
(732) 892-3091

Web: www.pphsm.org
Facebook: @PPHSMNJ
Twitter: @PointMuseum
Email:
pbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

In addition to the model trains, other artifacts on display inside The Bennett Cabin include a number of decoy and bird carvings created by Herman Bennett and other local carvers, stone arrowheads, tools, and fossils found in and around the Point Pleasant Area, and a wide array of early 20th century tools.



Each December, the Cabin is home for the yearly Point Pleasant Christmas celebration which includes a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus who bring cookies and presents for all of the children who visit.



Did you know...

A model train display with four running trains and a variety of attractions is one of the main attractions inside The Bennett Cabin.

Disassembly

After Herman's death in 2001, his daughter sold the property and the cabin was going to be demolished. She made a phone call and a small group of volunteers went to the cabin and did an inspection, inside and out, and determined it could be moved...again. After all, it was now only a 14' x 42' three-room log cabin, of course! Nothing was impossible!

Our volunteer group met with the mayor and council with our ideas. We would need the cooperation of the town council and some help from the Department of Public Works, if this was going to work. They agreed.

After the family cleaned all of their possessions from the cabin, we were given permission. In 2003, with heavy frost on the roof, we began. A plan was drawn, many photos were taken, every piece of the structure was labeled or numbered and moved into storage. Our volunteer work force increased in size as we continued to work through the very hot summer months. The disassembly was completed and all the logs and other parts of the cabin were now in storage for whatever the future would bring.

Our small volunteer group became a sub-committee of the Point Pleasant Cultural Affairs Advisory Committee. There was now talk of a park on the Manasquan River, and so we became a part of the Point Pleasant Park Committee. After several field trips, multiple design drawings, and a lot of hard work, it was approved that The Bennett Log Cabin would be a part of the new Riverfront Park.

Reassembly

The cabin had now been in storage for eight and a half years. What would we find when we opened the storage trailer's doors? After several meetings and much discussion on procedure, plans were signed and permits were in place. We began reconstruction on June 1, 2009. None of our volunteers had built a log cabin before. This was a unique project of "the blind leading the blind." We soon realized there was no use for "squares" or "levels." Spikes were used instead of nails; chain saws instead of circular saws, and the rougher, the better. After, all, it is a log cabin!

At the end of the first day, many of the logs were sorted and put into place. By the end of the second day, the walls were together and some of the damaged logs were taken out and replaced. Now began the job of building new doors from wood salvaged from other parts of the cabin. Nothing was wasted. The windows had to be rebuilt, glazed, and put into place.

Roof rafters went up and the sheathing and shingles were applied. It was beginning to resemble a cabin. We enlisted a group of professionals from Quakertown, Pa., to do the "chinking," or filling the space between the logs. Our large group of volunteers soon became a smaller, hard-working dedicated group. Over 100-degree days turned into winter days with snowstorms and heavy wind coming off of the river. Shutters were constructed to protect the windows. We now had a cabin we could close up tightly. Electricity was brought to the cabin...again. Because of the cold weather, our work day became shorter.

We started the difficult job of hiding wires, fitting switch and receptacle boxes into the logs, all while adhering to the electrical code. In its previous life, the cabin only had one receptacle in each room, but now it had six or eight. The insulation and knotty pine ceiling was completed, and it was time to call the "chinkers" back to finish the interior. The cabin was soon ready to start its new life.

Copyright © 2019 Point Pleasant Historical Society and Museum (PPHSM). All rights reserved. The material published on this website is intended for general information only. The PPHSM is not responsible for the content of any third-party website to which links are provided from this website. Any links to websites are provided for your information and convenience only. The PPHSM does not endorse or control these websites and cannot guarantee that material on those sites is in all respects accurate, complete and current. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means including mechanical, electronic, photocopying, or otherwise without prior permission of the Point Pleasant Historical Society and Museum, P.O. Box 1273, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742.