



Please note that the September 2020 meeting will not be held in accordance with guidance from local and state officials as a result of the current pandemic. We hope to see you all again on October 12!

The Bennett Log Cabin

Herman Bennett was known as the gray haired gentleman who rode his bicycle around town and would stop and talk to anyone who would listen. He was a woodworker and a wood carver who could turn a block of wood into a beautiful shore bird or a decorative decoy. He lived in a log cabin on Dorsett Dock Road with his wife, Sarah, and his daughter, Sally Ann.

The cabin was built in the 1920s by the fathers of boys in the neighborhood as a place in the woods where they could camp out and get away from their parents and younger siblings. It was build from cedar logs taken from the nearby creek just at the southern end of the road. It was originally one room, 14' x 14' square.

When Herman and Sarah were to marry, his father suggested they make their home in the log cabin. Sarah said she would love to live in the cabin, but only if it were moved closer to the road so they could get electricity when it came to the neighborhood.

Herman went looking for his good friend, Harry Odell, to help him with this project. Together, they dismantled the 14' x 14' structure and transported it across a small stream. They reconstructed it on its new site and added a second room as a bedroom. Another room was soon added for the new addition of Sally Ann.

Herman lived in the cabin until his death in 2001. At that time, Sally Ann had to sell the property and the developer was going to clear the site, including the cabin. A small group of friends decided to dismantle the cabin and save it. It was in storage for eight years until the newly established Riverfront Park became the perfect location for The Bennett Log Cabin.

With permission from the Borough of Point Pleasant, another small group started the cabin reconstruction. With proactive thinking, every log was numbered and many photographs were taken before taking the cabin apart. It took two years to put it back together.

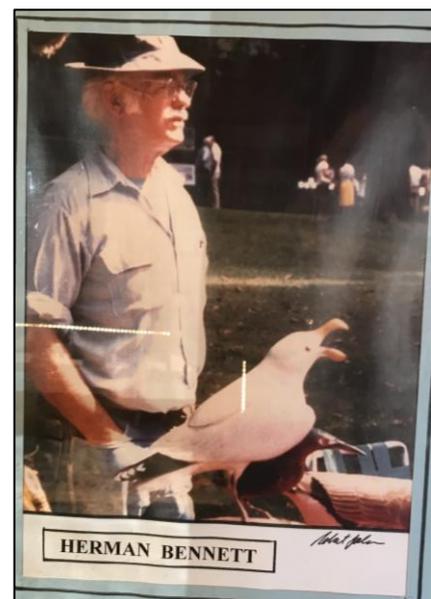
It is great to see the many ways the cabin is being utilized today. The Open Space committee uses for monthly meetings. Local Scouts use it for their ceremonial meetings. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was open to the public every weekend and, of course, at Christmas it is the location of the annual "Old Fashioned Christmas" event where Santa and Mrs. Claus, along with their elves, serve fresh hot chocolate and homemade cookies while presenting each child with a gift along with a "keepsake" photo by professional photographers. All of this is done free with money from donations. – *Rich Morris*



Left:
The Bennett Log Cabin at Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant.

Right:
Herman Bennett

Photos by
Jill Ocone



Visit our new website at pphsm.org!



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Welcome to “Sandy Barren Desarts!”

In this map of New Jersey from 1776, the southern Jersey Shore area is labeled as the “Sandy Barren Desarts.” While the names of some landmarks have stood the test of time, others have changed. Because of its location near the center of the 13 colonies and its location between Philadelphia and New York City, New Jersey was an important state during the Revolutionary War. More battles were fought in New Jersey than in any other state, including the Battle of Monmouth, the Battle of Millstone, the Skirmish of Manahawkin, the Long Beach Island Massacre, and the Affair at Cedar Bridge (Barnegat).

- Map provided by Sal Marino.

A brief history of Labor Day

Labor Day was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century to pay tribute to American workers and their contributions. It became a federal holiday in 1894.

The average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks during the height of the Industrial Revolution. People of all ages, including children as young as five years old, faced extremely unsafe working conditions while working in fields, mills, factories, and mines across the country. Such workers had insufficient access to fresh air, breaks, and sanitary conditions. Labor unions became more prominent as manufacturing replaced agriculture as the main source of jobs. As such, strikes and rallies protested poor conditions, hours, and pay, with some turning violent. The first “Labor Day parade” in United States History was held on September 5, 1882 when 10,000 workers in New York City took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square. New Jersey

was actually one of the first five states to pass legislation making Labor Day a state holiday in 1887.

Congress passed a bill designating the first Monday in September as Labor Day and a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories, and on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. New Jersey was actually one of the first five states to pass legislation making Labor Day a state holiday in 1887. Labor Day is celebrated on a Monday to give workers a three-day weekend. In a non-COVID world, Labor Day is commemorated with parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks as the day is also considered the “unofficial” end of summer and the beginning of back-to-school season. – Jill Ocone



In accordance with the guidance from state and local health officials and our concern for our museum patrons, the Point Pleasant Historical Museum is closed to visitors until further notice.

Answers from the June 2020 Newsletter Quiz
How Well Do You Know Your 08742 History?

1. D; 2. H; 3. G; 4. C; 5. A; 6. B; 7. F; 8. E.