



Dennis Historical Society

Newsletter

October 2018

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**The Next DHS Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9th, 2:00 pm at the Dennis Memorial Library
1020 Old Bass River Road, Dennis Village**

Members Welcome

Please send information & stories for the newsletter to Dave Talbott at the DHS Website email address: info@dennishistoricalsociety.org

Steve Hall's House

The *Hall House on Hall Street*, which was featured in two Dennis Historical Society Newsletter articles within the last year was memorialized in a woodcut print by local artist David T. Grose (1921-2016), entitled "Steve Hall's House." What follows is part of a longer article, *The Oldest House in Dennis*, by recent newsletter contributor, Martha Lang. It is included here, as a follow up piece to the original articles, because of Martha's personal recollections of the house, the artist and her special memories of Dennis.

In the mid-1950s, I was with my Aunt Barbara, when she stopped at David's house on Whig Street to talk with him about the importance of preserving the *Oldest House in Dennis*. They had an impassioned discussion about trying to prevent it from being torn down. They were adamant it should not be destroyed. David was young, handsome and blond. My aunt was verbal, curious and outgoing.

When I was a child, the month of August was special, because Aunt Barbara, a high school teacher from Fairfield, Connecticut, and amateur artist, was in Dennis. One of her paintings depicted the *Oldest House in Dennis*. She was always interested in history, including the Underground Railroad on the Cape, the Shivericks and the shanties they sang, and life of Prince Crowell. (Editor's note: Barbara's painting, along with a watercolor by Martha of the house, recently gifted to the Dennis Memorial Library, hang in the Library's reference room).

David Grose, a graduate of Pratt Institute, was a silk-screen artist. For decades he was a co-owner with the Berrien sisters, Kay and Mitzi, of Kaymar Gallery, an art studio on New Boston Road. This studio was adjacent to Hall Street and the Oldest House in Dennis. David must have seen it on his way to work.

David said it would have taken less time to re-shingle that house than it did for him to do the woodblock carving. His artwork also included silkscreen prints of Scargo Tower, Corporation Beach and Sesuit Harbor.

The summer of 1964, I worked at the Kaymar Art Gallery where David did silk-screening with the assistance of Francis Gibbs, the jolly, one-armed, retired fisherman. Other summer help did pochoir, a French word for stenciling. For hours we stood and stenciled the same color on hundreds of prints. Our only break from the monotony was Mitzi, a co-owner, and her outlandish stories. We were well-entertained.

I rode my one-speed bike, two miles from my family's cottage to the studio. I worked Monday through Friday from 8-1 and was paid \$1.25 an hour. Unlike the art students who worked there, and thought they knew more than Mitzi, I did as I was told. At that time, David rode a red Vespa scooter, always had a pipe, was never in a hurry, and very agreeable. He thoughtfully let all the help join him for the 10 o'clock break on the patio which included warm doughnuts and coffee.

That summer I bought my first art work. It was a framed copy of David's woodblock print of the Oldest House in Dennis. I was fascinated by the bleak feeling the print evoked and how it captured the mysterious desolation and starkness of Dennis. I paid twenty-five dollars, a week's wages. It still hangs on a wall in my cottage.

Seeing the picture of David Grose's woodblock print and the oil painting by my aunt, Barbara MacPhee, in the Dennis Historical Society Newsletters and seeing the picture of David Grose's woodblock print and the oil painting by my aunt, Barbara MacPhee in the DHS Newsletters brought back many happy memories.

And now for something completely different....

Those of you who are longtime Dennis residents will likely remember Donn and Nancy DeVita, who moved into Worden Hall on 6A in East Dennis circa 1966. Both were noted artists, and Nancy became well known for her series of highly accurate lithographs—based on the original nautical architectural drawings themselves—of the eight magnificent clipper ships built over a 14-year period in the mid-19th century at the Shiverick Shipyard adjacent to Sesuit Harbor.

Nora DeVita, their daughter and still an East Dennis resident, oversees her mother's legacy as one of the town's most historically significant artists via the website: NoraDeVita.com. There, Nora offers her mother's captivating lithographic images of those eight spectacular clipper ships for \$275 each. However, based on a partnership with the Dennis Historical Society and for a limited time only (now through December 10), Nora is offering to DHS members only these beautiful 17" x 26" to 18" x 27" unframed images that capture the grandeur of Dennis's maritime history for the special price of—and this is not a misprint—\$45 each, plus \$10 for tax, shipping, and handling (so, \$55 total).

These lithographs would make a wonderful present for the upcoming December holidays, whether for your Dennis relatives and friends... or for yourself.

To take advantage of this extraordinary special offer, DHS members should follow these three steps:

1. Visit NoraDeVita.com and choose which clipper ship lithograph (or lithographs) you wish to purchase.
2. Fill out the order form below, write a check made out to NORA DEVITA, and mail both to Nora DeVita, P.O. Box 331, East Dennis, MA 02641.
3. Mail early to assure timely delivery while supplies last.

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

_____ Belle of the West @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)

_____ Revenue @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)

_____ Webfoot @ \$55 (\$45 plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)

_____ Hippogriffe @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)

_____ Wild Hunter @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)

_____ Searsville @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)

_____ Kit Carson @ \$55 (\$45 plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)

_____ Ellen Sears @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)

\$ _____ Total amount of this order

Questions? Email Nora at nndevita@gmail.com or call her directly at 508.669.7122

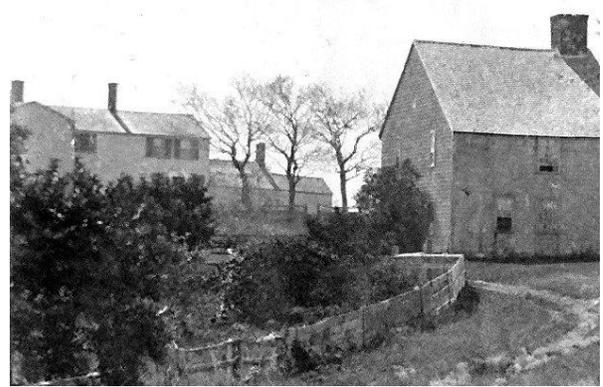
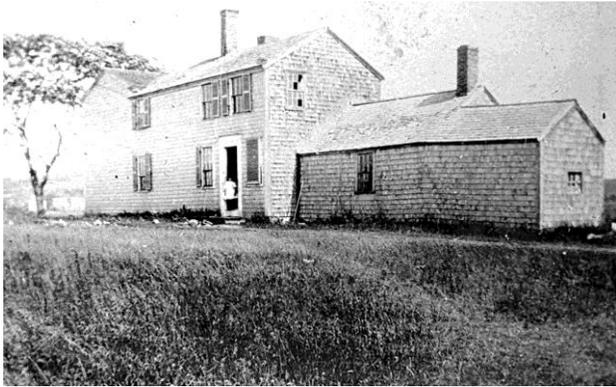
Editor's Notes:

Many of us of us have experienced seeing the *Golden Age of Sail* beautifully captured by Nancy DeVita in her detailed depictions of the magnificent vessels built at the Shiverick Shipyard in East Dennis. Now, thanks to the efforts of your Board's Publicity Director, Kevin Keeghan, and the cooperation of Nancy's daughter, Nora DeVita, these prints are available for **a limited time** to members of the DHS at **a very special** price. Please visit Nora's website to see these works of art and follow the instructions above to order your prints. This is a rare and exceptional opportunity to purchase a wonderful piece of Dennis and nautical history!

Thank you, Martha for sharing the personal connections of you and your aunt to David Grose and to *Steve Hall's House*! A major reason the house is again featured in our Newsletter is the connection which it has to last month's "*This Unknown House*," positively identified by DHS member, John Howe. John was the one who provided first hand

information about his family's relationship with the *Hall House on Hall Street* and the great picture of "Stevie Hall" at this time last year.

Here is the pictures of last month's *"This Unknown House"* and a cropped picture of the corner of the Hall House *and the house in the background*. There is no question they are one and the same!



(Photos from the Dennis Historical Society's Digital Archives)

Here is the text from John's August 30th email.

Hi Dave,

John Howe (we corresponded about the Stevie Hall house on lower Hall St. a few months ago). I am certain that must be our family house at 23 Hall Street, prior to the 1936 expansion in the north side. How fascinating! Compare it to the house in the background of the Hall house in the early 20C picture in your earlier newsletter. The house has seen several modifications including a gravel driveway, laundry yard and plantings, and the roofline was raised in the 1990s, but that is definitely the profile of the house as viewed from the northwest at the time our family acquired it in the early 1960s. Thanks for bringing this to public attention — the family will enjoy!

Best,

John Howe

'This Unknown House'



This month's "Unknown House" picture is from Album 06\Judith Reiss\House 2 from the DHS Digital Archives. No other no other information available, except that it was acquired in 2002, and it may be in South Dennis. If anyone can identify it, or provide any information, please email Dave Talbott atinfo@dennishistoricalsociety.org. With the identification of last month's house, readers are now batting .500. Let's make it .750 with this one!

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Dennis
Historical
Society's

Third
Annual
Apple
Pie
Contest

Saturday, October 6, 1-4pm
1801 Captain Theophilus Baker House
90 Old Main Street, West Dennis

To get entry forms by October 2,
contact Dawn Dellner at 508.237.6954
or at dawn.dellner@gmail.com



Dennis Historical Society
Annual Meeting and Luncheon



Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

The Riverway Lobster House
1138 Route 28
South Yarmouth, MA
Luncheon will be served at 12:00

Following a *very brief* Annual Meeting,
Our Special Guest Speaker will be
Christopher Marcort
Underwater Field Archaeologist
Wydah Pirate Museum, West Yarmouth

MENU
Upon Arrival
Cheese, Fruit and Crudité
First Course
Garden Salad or Quahog Chowder
Entrees
Baked Stuffed Shrimp
or
Chicken Francaise
or
Pasta Primavera
Dessert
Lemon Mousse Cake,
served with Coffee and Tea

RSVP with check by 10/13

DHS Events for October. Be sure to look for the Meeting/Luncheon Invitation in your mail!