



ANOTHER DELIGHTFUL LUNCHEON IS HISTORY

Once again thanks is due to the Stone Family and their fine crew at Lighthouse Inn for the excellent meal and the fine service at the town's 196th birthday celebration in June. Thanks are due also to the merchants of Dennis who contributed door prizes: Dunkin' Donuts, Harney's, Arbor-way Gardens, Lighthouse Inn, and also Isabel Flynn. Lucky winners were: Chris Harriman, Ben Hildebrandt, Phyllis Horton, Brendan Joyce, and Dick and Nancy Reid. If you missed this pleasant time, you will have 3 more opportunities before we plan the really big time for our 200th!

DENNIS FESTIVAL DAYS INCLUDE HISTORIC ACTIVITIES

See the calendar and also the Chamber of Commerce flyer for the events planned during these fun days of the waning summer. The Historic Centers will only be opened through September, so don't forget to visit them. The other events listed in this month's calendar are sponsored by D.H.S. and like most of our programs, are free to the public. However, due to the cost of the buses needed we will welcome donations by those attending. All of the activities in the Chamber's flyer look like fun, but one seems particularly appealing to local history buffs. Sight Loss Services of West Dennis is holding a Treasure Hunt of Historic Places. For a donation of \$5, to benefit this most worth-while service group, you will be given a packet of rhymed clues, which will direct you to historic sites around town. Every time you identify and visit one of the historic sites, you will be eligible to win one of the great prizes donated by our local businesses. Consult the blue Chamber of Commerce flyer for details.

THE STREETS OF OUR TOWN

Hippogriffe Road

Recently my good friend Rose McMurtry asked if I would do an article about her street in Dennis--Hippogriffe Road. I am happy to do so, not only to please Rose, but also because it gives me a good chance to tell you about yet another of Dennis' Master Mariners. If you've been listening all these years, you probably already know that Hippogriffe was the name of one of the 8 ships built at the Shiverick shipyard in East Dennis. You probably also know that a hippogriffe was a creature in Greek mythology, with the wings, head, and claws of an eagle, and the hooves and tail of a horse. I would love to know if the ship Hippogriffe had such a figurehead. Launched in April of 1852, she was a medium clipper of but 678 tons, and not one of the fastest of the Shiverick vessels. I have always been intrigued by the names of sailing vessels and often wonder who selected them--owner, builder, captain? I know that two of the Shiverick vessels were named for the spouse of the first captain--Brig Hope Howes and Ship Ellen Sears. The Schooner Searsville was named for the section of South Dennis where her first master, Benjamin Parker Sears, lived. So it appears that at least sometimes the captain had a say in the name. It may have been Capt. Anthony Howes who chose this somewhat fanciful name. Anthony is one of over 80 men named Howes, all natives of Dennis, who earned the title Captain. He is also one of the 5 sons of Capt. William Howes of East Dennis; all of whom were master mariners in command of clipper ships. Before Hippogriffe was launched he had commanded the ship Amulet on a global voyage, and had begun his custom of keeping a daily log. He was meticulous in recording longitude and latitude, kept track of the number of miles logged and weather conditions, and offers us a bit of insight into the daily life aboard a sailing ship in the 19th century. He deals with the quarrels of his crew members, slaughters pigs, and reckons how long the fresh water will last, as well as describing how he doctors the crew to keep them all working. The log for the Hippogriffe begins on the 18th of May, 1852, recording all of the facts, interspersed with personal remarks which show the captain to be a thoroughly likeable man. The Hippogriffe carried a crew of 24 and 1 passenger plus a mixed cargo bound for San Francisco. His log describes difficult weather conditions but at last he safely reached port and continued around the world for a financially successful trip. The name Hippogriffe became a familiar one to Pacific mariners due to an accident which occurred on a subsequent trip. On the morning of Oct. 29, 1858, she struck an uncharted shoal while nearing the south entrance of the Strait of Gasper in the Java Sea. Good luck and good seamanship enabled the crew to get her off, and she sailed on to Hong Kong. There it was discovered, so the story goes, that a piece of coral from the reef was firmly lodged in a large hole on her bow, which if not so filled, would have caused the ship to sink. Capt. Howes habit of careful logging helped the British survey ship Swallow to locate the dangerous shoal but not before another unfortunate bark struck it and was lost. Capt. Anthony continued on the Hippogriffe until 1861, then was given another Shiverick ship, Kit Carson. His successful career ended when he died in 1868. The Hippogriffe sailed under Dennis captains until 1863 when she was sold to interests in Calcutta. Her name is immortalized on sailing charts which show her shoal, and in Hippogriffe Road, one of the Streets of Our Town.

CALENDAR

AUGUST 20-AUGUST 27 DENNIS FESTIVAL DAYS

- Tue. Aug. 22 and Thu. Aug. 24 2-4 Manse open, special quilt exhibit and flower show by the Village Garden Club
- Wed. Aug. 23 and Fri. Aug. 25 2-4:30 Jericho open. Special exhibit in the Barn Museum, "Social and Political Associations in Dennis"
- Wed. Aug. 23 Historical Guided Bus Tour of the town. Meet at Wixon School at 9:30. Limit, 50 people. Call Chamber of Commerce 398-3568 for reservations.
- Thu. Aug. 24 7:30 P.M. Senior Center. Lecture "The Real Moby Dick" by Kathy Swegart.
- Sat. Aug. 26 9 A.M. Guided Walk on Simpkins Neck with Dr. Norton Nickerson. Meet at Hall 9 A.M. **sharp** for bus ride to the conservation site. Reservations. Limit 50 people. Call 398-3568
- Mon. Sept. 11 7:30 P.M. Board meets at Sarah's
- ***Watch for news of the Annual Board Meeting and Election of Officers in September**

"THE POOR ALWAYS YE HAVE WITH YOU"

We were talking last month about the efforts made by our ancestors to keep people from settling here who might be unable to support themselves and would become a burden to the town. It might seem as if every one who did settle here was wealthy, but nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, by today's standards, most of them would be classed as poor. There were very few, if any, who had an annual cash income from any source. Families provided most of what they needed with their own hands. Taxes were set in money but were paid in produce, most often corn, at a rate set by the General Court at Plymouth. The minister's salary, likewise, was paid in produce--corn, meat, or firewood. As late as 1770, Rev. Nathan Stone was recording in his journal the produce and wood that was brought to him by individual parishioners as their share of his annual salary. Even without the need for cash, some few families who lived here in the 17th century did need help to meet their basic needs and town records tell us some of the remedies employed to relieve their poverty. Many towns owned a cow which may have been given or willed to the town for the benefit of the poor. The "poor cow", it appears, was not presented to a poor family as a source of milk. It was, instead, kept by a farmer who raised cattle, and he paid to the town a settled upon amount for each "increase" of the cow, which I take to mean calf. Whatever he paid, probably in produce, was used to assist the poor. Another remedy for poverty in the early records of the town was indenture. Poor families, especially widows, arranged terms of indenture for their children, whereby they lived with and worked for a better off family and were provided with board, clothing, and taught to read and write. Indentures were usually until 21 years of age, and sometimes at the end of that time the child, now grown, was given a cow, a piece of land or a new suit of clothes. How sad it must have been for parents to place 6 or 7 year old children in someone else's home to act as servants to strangers. Widows without children sometimes hired themselves out under similar arrangements. The plight of paupers was the subject of discussion at town meetings, where often the selectmen were instructed as to how to deal with different cases. Sometimes a sum of money was appropriated for the selectmen to use to board a pauper, and eventually the title of Overseers of the Poor was added to that of Selectman. As the town grew, so did the number of needy, and soon other plans for the welfare of the town's paupers was implemented. I will tell you about the Alms House next time.

THANKS AGAIN, BILL

Already an honorary life member in appreciation of the many things he has contributed to the success of D.H.S. (especially in our acclaimed slide shows), Bill Scofield continues to aid and abet our doings in his usual fine way. We are particularly grateful for his work in copying the picture of the Schooner Searsville for the menu of our annual luncheon. It is very impressive and made a fine memento of a nice occasion.

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