



# Dennis Historical Society Newsletter August – September 2017

## Volume 40, No6

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**Board Meeting Tuesday, August 8, 2 pm, 1867 West Dennis Graded School, 67 School Street, West Dennis**

**Board Meeting Tuesday, September 12, 2 pm, 1736 Josiah Dennis Manse Museum, 61 Whig Street, Dennis**

**Board Meeting Tuesday, October 10, 2 pm, Dennis Memorial Library, 1020 Old Bass River Road, Dennis  
members welcome**

Please send information & stories for the newsletter to DHS, PO Box 607, S Dennis, MA 02660 or Diane Rochelle, email: [whiskeyboo@comcast.net](mailto:whiskeyboo@comcast.net)



## A Lid for Every Pot

As all who visited the Rose Victorian know, the assortment of amazing items was a wonder to see...each item had a story to tell, although we seldom knew what it was. But here is one we can share.

While looking for items to use to decorate for autumn one year, a pumpkin (or maybe tomato) shaped tea pot appeared, missing a lid. Some green leaves were added - instant decoration! A few years later, the teapot was included in a picture used on the website and Facebook page to say Happy Halloween.

One customer spied the teapot and excitedly called us - our 'pumpkin' teapot matched her 'tomato' pitcher - would we hold it for her? We would, but explained that the lid was missing. Undeterred, she and her pitcher came to the shop, and were brought home to live together, lidless but happy.

In the last few weeks at the Rose, in the far reaches of 'the maid's attic' we found another matching pitcher, and thought we might call the customer to tell her - but alas, no one could find her phone number. But then in the last few days, in the same area, we found not only a second pitcher but the teapot LID!

We were determined to reunite lid and pot, so turned to Facebook, posting the original picture with a request for the owner to call the shop...long story short - teapot, lid and three pitchers are reunited...when someone asked the customer if she collected pumpkin/tomato items she replied 'I do now!'

Jean Wickstrom, Rose Victorian Committee

## Happy Birthday Phyllis

Phyllis Robbins Horton celebrated a 90 years young birthday last month amid family and loved ones.

This photo is from a 2016 recognition with Dennis Board of Selectmen



## Rose Victorian Listing & Tag Sale

The Rose Victorian Tag Sale last month was a huge, huge success netting nearly \$8,000. Mere words cannot express the appreciation for so many hours of volunteer help from DHS members and others. The Rose Victorian Committee is immensely applauded for their efficient management of the event. Even Mother Nature cooperated giving us a beautiful day on Friday and a slightly damp day on Saturday. The property at 485 Route 28, West Dennis, is listed with oldCape Sotheby's International Realty, Christine McGrath Realtor. Visit [oldcape.com](http://oldcape.com) to view the listing. The gift shop is now closed and we await the final sale on Sept. 8 & 9 managed by Early Birds Estate Sales.

## The Dennis Historical Society needs your help

**There are openings on the DHS Board that need to be filled. We are looking for new directors so if can suggest anyone please let me know. We don't have a Newsletter Editor or a Publicity Chair. Two people could easily join together to take on Newsletter or Publicity thus making is easier. We also need a co-chair to assist Jinny Devine with DHS Programs. There may be other positions coming up. Please help us. There will no longer be newsletters or publicity if these openings aren't filled. Most of us are retired and trying to enjoy that retirement, but we all are committed to DHS or we wouldn't be members. DHS is strong and successful. It needs all of us to share the responsibilities. Thanks, Diane.**



### **Colonial Day at the Manse**

**Saturday, August 19 from 10 am to 4 pm, 61 Whig Street, Dennis**

A day filled with colonial demonstrations by costumed interpreters plus a pie, bake and book sale. Enjoy colonial trades, candle making, wool spinning, 18<sup>th</sup> century education, floral & herbal remedies, lawn games & events for all generations. Tom Kelleher, historian and curator of mechanical arts at Old Sturbridge Village, demonstrates the colonial cooper's trade. Annie Walker of Annie's Crannies hosts a cranberry exhibit and Ed Mason canes chairs. Lisa Parker will "teach" colonial education in the schoolhouse while Terri Fox dips candles over a kettle of hot wax. There will be spinners, rug hookers, weavers, colonial games and more. The Yarmouth Minutemen and their canon are a special treat this year. No admission fee, donations appreciated.

**Pie Bakers,  
Small Bread Bakers  
&  
Cookie Makers  
Needed!!**

**August 19  
Colonial Day  
at the Manse**



Volunteer bakers are needed to help provide bountiful goodies to sell. Contact Chris Talbott [dptmct@comcast.net](mailto:dptmct@comcast.net) if you would like to help out. Our newest PIE BAKER EXTRADORNAIRE is her helpful spouse, David! Who knows a new generation of gentleman pie bakers may be coming our way!

## Cooper

The word “cooper” comes from the Roman word “cuparius” (someone who makes wooden casks or “cupa”). Colonists and early Americans found wooden barrels and buckets extremely necessary through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They held liquids (water, fermented beverages, whale oil) and dry goods (grains, sugar, tobacco, molasses, gun powder, nails). They were used in the home, in commerce and in trade. There were wash buckets, soap firkins, hogsheads and kilderkins and tubs. The cooper would often chop down the tree he used, split the timbers to size for staves, dry the wood and hand craft a container that would be bound by shaped saplings, later by metal hoops. They favored white pine, cedar, Eastern white oak, ash, maple and hickory. Their tools were made for their trade. The draw knife was long with a handle on each end to shave and curve the staves. A long jointer prepared the angle ends so the staves were joined evenly. This was not a trade learned quickly.

Tara Vose Raiselis, Early American life, October 2014



**Songs of the Sea and More!  
Saturday, September 9 at 2 pm  
Dennis Memorial Library, 1020 Old Bass River Road, Dennis  
Co sponsored with the Dennis Memorial Library  
\$5 donation**

Join Julie Charland and Denya Levine for an afternoon of maritime songs and tales, folk songs and work songs of packets, schooners and clipper ships. Sea Shanteys evolved from chants that were replies to orders from first mates and foremen as sails were trimmed and cargo loaded. They live on as cultural entertainment from the age of sail.

**Oops! Editor's Correction:** in the July Newsletter the article “this Old House Job Chase’s Ship Chandler Store” is a reprint from Wicked Local Cape Cod written by Phyllis Robbins Horton.

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**West Dennis Cemetery Tour**  
**Friday, August 11 at 10 am**  
**Corner of Fisk & Pond Streets, West Dennis**  
**Rain Date: Sunday, August 13 at 2 pm**  
**Terri Fox guides you through the historic south side**  
**cemetery of Crow & Crowell**  
**No admission fee, donations appreciated**

**Autumn at the Manse**  
**Saturday, September 23 from 1 – 4 pm**  
**1736 Josiah Dennis Manse Museum**  
**61 Whig St, Dennis**  
**Celebrate “Fall for the Arts” in this historic**  
**atmosphere. Experience a one room school and**  
**colonial gardens. Refreshments served. No**  
**admission fee, donations appreciated**

