

# Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 26 Number 12

December 2003

## Calendar of Events

**DHS Board Meets  
Saturday Dec. 13  
10:00 to 12:00 AM**

**Josiah Dennis Manse**

All interested members are welcome.

**Sunday, December 14  
DHS Christmas Open  
House at the Manse.  
12 Noon-4:00PM**

Step back into a Colonial Christmas as costumed docents serve traditional refreshments, including Colonel Negus Punch!

Be inspired by lovely holiday decorations.

Corner of Whig St. and Nobsussett Rd., Dennis

**What's in Our Library?  
A workshop for members  
by Burt Derick.**

**January 21**

**10AM-12Noon**

Includes our genealogical resources, books, picture collections, etc.

Reservations are required as space is limited. To register, call (508) 385-3268.

**Save the day!**

**February 21 at Noon  
Covered dish luncheon.**

West Dennis Graded School. Details to come.

## A Season for Giving

*This issue will feature some of the many gifts we have received whether in the form of stories or more tangible artifacts.*

### The Friendship Quilt

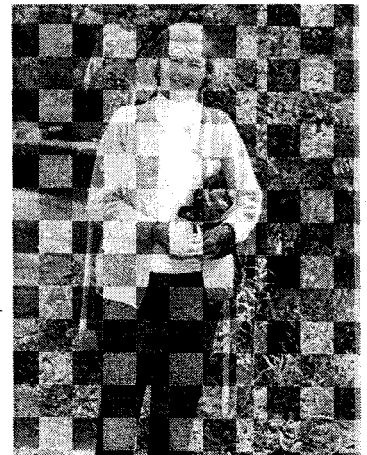
*Nancy S. Howes*

On August 19, 2003, while the Village Garden Club of Dennis was holding their annual flower at the Josiah Dennis Manse Museum, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Jenkins came to see me. They told me that a friend of theirs, Betty Parker from Wayland, MA who is 82 years old, had a signature or friendship quilt that was made and signed by ladies from Dennis and E. Dennis in the 1850s. She wished to donate it to the Dennis Historical Society. Mr. & Mrs. Jenkins did not know who to contact until their daughter saw a picture of me in the *Cape Cod Times* publicizing the flower show. What a nice coincidence!

As Mrs. Parker doesn't drive too far now, I had to wait until October 21 when a friend drove her here. You can only imagine how anxious I was to see this quilt and it was well worth the wait. What a great piece of Dennis history it is! Mrs. Parker remembered playing with the quilt as a child, but she never used it later as she did not like the muted colors.

Mrs. Parker's great-great grandmother Olive Bangs Crowell (born in 1794) worked on the quilt and it came to Mrs. Parker through her grandmother, Susie Olive Perkins Guillow. Could this have been a gift from friends to Olive Bangs Crowell when she left the Cape? The quilt measures 80" x 80"; the sashing is white with little blue circles on it. An appraiser designating it as a "snowball design" has determined that the squares were done in the 1850s but the stuffing and the backing were assembled at a later date—probably around 1890-1900. The names on the quilt are hand written or stamped in India ink on white chintz circles in the center of each red square. It is in very good condition with most of the names still readable. I have written the names down the best I could although the fancy penmanship of the signatures makes it difficult to be sure of some of the middle initials. Hopefully this quilt will be on display at the Josiah Dennis Manse next summer so visitors can see for themselves this lovely gift.

Thank you, Mrs. Parker. *(her picture at right)*



*The following is a list of names Nancy has copied from the Friendship Quilt which came in a pillowcase marked Olive B. Crowell No. 12 in India ink:*

Mrs. Olive Sears, E. Dennis	Solomon P Snow	Mary E. Sears, E. Dennis
Mrs. Nabby Crowell, E. Dennis	Susannah Sears, E. Dennis	Mrs. Edward Sears, E. Dennis
Thankful (F. or T.) Kelley	Olive Kelley, E. Dennis	Mrs. Benjamin Sears, E. Dennis
Maria J. T. Snow	Mrs. B. H. Sears, E. Dennis	Abbie M. Crowell, E. Dennis
Judah H. Sears, E. Dennis	Sarah C. Sears	Emily Sears
Olive H. Kelley, E. Dennis Mass.	Abbie Hedge, E. Dennis	Sarah Snow
Ruth A. Sears, E. Dennis	Miss Hannah Crowell, 1856	Mrs. Judah H. Sears, E. Dennis
Thankful Howes, E. Dennis	Sarah R. Sears	Abby (L.?) Kelley, E. Dennis, Mass
Susan G. Hall, Dennis Mass	Josephine T. Snow	Mrs. Dean Sears
B. (F.?) Chapman, E. Dennis	Nathan N. Sears, E. Dennis	Mrs. E. (F.?) Howes
Betsy Y. Sears	Mary J. Sears, 1856	?Abbie S.? Howes, E. Dennis
E. F. Smalley	Pauline Sears, E. Dennis	Mrs. B. F.? Chapman, E. Dennis Mass
Susie H. Sears, E. Dennis	Harriet A. Howes, 1857	Julia H. Sears
Sarah E. Sears, E. Dennis 1856	Mrs. Milton P. Hedge, E. D.	Mrs. David Kelley, W. Harwich
Daniel Crowell, E. Dennis	E. Addie Chapman, E. D.	Lucy Sears
Mary H.? Whelden, S. Dennis	Amanda (? ) Sears	Betsy Sears, E. Dennis 1857
Mrs. Barzillia Sears, E. D. Mass	P.S. Crowell	Eliza W. Crowell
E. (L.?) Bartlett, E. Dennis	Mrs. Silas Sears	Nancy (H.?) Sears, E. Dennis 1857
Hannah H. Howes, Dennis 1856	Harriet K. Sears, E.D. Mass	Sarah Dunham, Middleboro
R. F. Crowell	Maria S. Crowell, E. D.	Mrs. Freeman Dillingham, W. Brewster
Mrs. David (S.?) Chapman	Thankful Sears, E. D. 1857	?Ann M.? Freeman??
Lydia A. Sears, E. Dennis Mass Dec. 1856		

## The Perfect Gift

*Joan Monteiro*

On a table in the East Parlor at the Manse is a glass receptacle full of teaspoons. It looks like a footed vase, but it is actually a "spooner". It was meant to hold a bouquet of spoons, not flowers. Back in the early years of the twentieth century, my father and his brothers would get together before Christmas every year to decide what to get their mother for a Christmas gift. And every year they decided to get her a new spooner. What happened to the old spooners is anybody's guess. I like to imagine my grandmother spirited them away so she could say sincerely, "Just what I needed, a new spooner!"

## A Gift to the Town

Thanks to the DHS and the persistence and year-long hard work of Richard S. Howes, the Town of Dennis has been given a rare gift of the last remaining hearse house in Dennis. Hearse houses were once used to shelter the horse-drawn hearses when they were not in use for funerals, and in this case the hearse house had been shared by the Villages of Dennis and East Dennis. We return for the story of this particular building to our Newsletter of January 1997 and an article by Joshua Crowell.

*"To one being born and raised on Sesuet Neck early in the 20th century I often wondered why the residents of that area seemed to flow or to have flowed toward Dennis Village rather than that part of East Dennis known as Quivet for trade. Of course, from the*

## Members Discount Offer on DHS Items for Sale

<b>Books and Pamphlets:</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Discount</b>	<b>(Shipping)</b>
<b><u>A Few Memories and Digressions—1866-1912.</u></b> Autobiography of Thomas Irving Crowell, Boston and New York publisher, whose family came from West Dennis. Privately printed. Hard cover. 9"x 5" 119 pages.	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>	<b>(\$3.25)</b>
<b><u>Barns of Dennis, Massachusetts</u></b> by Sumner Perlman. Photographs of 43 Dennis barns. Soft cover. 5 ½"x 8" 103 pages.	<b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$16.00</b>	<b>(\$3.25)</b>
<b><u>Cape Cod Companion</u></b> by Jim Coogan and Jack Sheedy. Explores the history and mystery of Old Cape Cod. Paperback. 5 ½"x 8 ½" 205 pages.	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>	<b>(\$3.25)</b>
<b><u>Cape Cod Voyage</u></b> by Jim Coogan and Jack Sheedy. New book by Dennis authors and historians. Paperback. 5 ½"x 8 ½"	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>	<b>(\$3.25)</b>
<b><u>Cape Cod Remembrances</u></b> by Marion Crowell Ryder. Charming vignettes of life in the late 1800s and early 1900s for the Crowells, one of the early families in West Dennis. 7"x10" 128 pages.	Soft cover <b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>	<b>(\$3.25)</b>
	Hard cover <b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>	<b>(\$3.25)</b>
<b><u>Dennis, Cape Cod From First Comers to New Comers 1639-1993</u></b> by Nancy Thacher Reid. The first complete history of the Town of Dennis. How the town changed from a wilderness settlement through a long maritime history into a seaside resort. Hard cover. 8"x10" 960 pages.	<b>\$52.45</b>	<b>\$47.25</b>	<b>(\$5.50)</b>
<b><u>Dennis Journal</u></b> by Jack Sheedy. A collection of articles about Dennis written for the <i>Register</i> newspaper in 1993-1994, now printed as a book. Jack gives you the feeling of being with him as he explores the well-known and little-known places in Dennis. Soft cover. 5 ½"x 8" 96 pages.	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>	<b>(\$2.00)</b>
<b><u>Dennis Vital Records</u></b> compiled by Roberta Gilbert Bratti, Pauline Wixon Derick and Natalie Ross. From early 1700s to late 1800s. Hard cover, 3 volumes. 9 ¼"x 6 ¼" 1693 pages.	<b>No discount available.</b>	<b>\$105.00</b>	<b>(\$7.50)</b>
<b><u>History of Levi Crowell as written by himself including The Diary of His Incarceration In A Confederate Prison 1862.</u></b> Captain Crowell tells of growing up in West Dennis in the early 1800s, his days of sailing to South America and Europe. Privately printed. Hard cover 9"x 5" 114 pages.	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>	<b>(\$3.25)</b>
<b><u>Privateers, Pirates and Beyond: Memoirs of Lucy Lord Howes Hooper</u></b> New! Lucy's journals, transcribed by great-granddaughter Gerry Watters, tell of sea journeys and every day living, 1862-1909. Hard cover, 377 pages.	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$22.50</b>	<b>(\$3.25)</b>

Over, please

**Scuttle Watch** by Marion Crowell Ryder. A delightful story about an eight year old boy growing up in West Dennis 100 years ago and taking his first sea voyage with his father. Paperback 5 ½"x 8" 290 pages. **\$10.00** **\$9.00** **(\$3.25)**

**Sea Stories of Cape Cod and the Islands** by Admont Clark. Stories of Cape Cod by noted maritime writer. Hard cover 7"x10" **\$40.00** **\$36.00** **(\$3.50)**

**The Story of Two Old Houses** by William Jeremiah Burke. Tells the history of Jericho House and the Josiah Dennis Manse, how the town acquired them as museums. Pamphlet 6"x 9" 32 pages. **\$2.50** **\$2.25** **(\$2.00)**

**They Built Clipper Ships in Their Back Yard** by Admont Clark. The story of the Shiverick family and their shipyard that built the only clipper ships constructed on Cape Cod. Pamphlet 7"x10" 32 pages. **\$8.00** **\$7.00** **(\$2.00)**

### Other Items for Sale

**Dennis cup plate.** A collector's item, limited edition in clear or cobalt blue. **\$25.00** **\$22.50** **(\$2.25)**

**1858 Map of North and East Dennis.** Shows early homes and home owners names. Heavy cream colored paper 12"x18". Suitable for framing. **\$ 8.00** **\$7.00** **(\$2.50)**

**Howes Family Tree.** 1859 tree showing the descendants of Thomas and Mary (Burr) Howes who settled in Yarmouth (now Dennis) in 1639. 25" x 31". Suitable for framing. **\$25.00** **\$22.50** **(\$5.00)**

**Sears Family Tree.** Designed by Olive (Sears) Kelley in the mid-1800s, it shows the descendants of early settler Richard Sears who appeared in Dennis in 1639. 15" x 31". Suitable for framing. **\$25.00** **\$22.50** **(\$5.00)**

**Shiverick Ship Tiles.** Set of 8 silk screened tiles showing the clipper ships *Revenue*, *Hippogriffe*, *Belle of the West*, *Kit Carson*, *Wild Hunter*, *Webfoot*, *Christopher Hall*, and *Ellen Sears*. In blue or brown. 6"x 6". State color. **No discount available.**

**Individual tile** **\$8.00** **(\$3.00)**  
**Set of eight** **\$60.00** **(\$7.50)**

**Shiverick Ship Notepaper.** Package of eight notes with envelopes showing the famous Shiverick Clipper Ships built in East Dennis during the 1850s. **No discount available.** **\$5.00** **(\$1.00)**

**DHS Note Cards** A selection of nine cards with envelopes. Award-winning artist Howard Bonnington has rendered unique drawings of Jericho House, the Josiah Dennis Manse, and the 1876 West Dennis Graded School House. These have been printed on card-size quality stock. Three of each design. **\$7.00** **\$6.00** **(\$1.00)**

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These items are on sale at the Manse and Jericho during their open hours. Mail orders may be sent to **Dennis Historical Society, PO Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660.** Or you may call Lura Crowell at (508) 385-3268.

earliest settlement in 1639 church, which played a very important and mandatory part of the inhabitant's lives, necessitated traveling to Yarmouth, at least until 1721 when it was decided to have a church in the East Precinct (now Dennis Village). It followed that the parish burying ground was adjacent to the church. If a study were to be made it would be found that the earlier families of Sesuet Neck were buried in what is now the town cemetery in Dennis Village. There was another reason that the flow of commerce seemed to favor North Dennis rather than East Dennis. The reason was that Bridge Street in East Dennis apparently did not exist until sometime between 1831 and 1850. Before Bridge Street anyone wishing to travel by land from Suet to Quivet would have had to travel along Sesuet Neck Road to its junction with Paddock's Path then turn in a southerly direction and follow Paddock's Path (past what is now Prue Foundry) to Scargo Hill Road, turning easterly to travel on Scargo Hill Road and what is now Route 6A to East Dennis. The section of 6A between Paddock's Path and the east end of Scargo Hill Road did not exist until after 1831. This section was referred to, by the older folks, as the "new road."

The traffic flow as just described led to a geographical location of an important town owned vehicle. Up until the early 1900s it was customary for the town to furnish the hearse to transport a person's remains from home to the cemetery. (Most funerals were held at home.) The Town of Dennis owned **three such** vehicles. One served Dennis Port, a second was for use in South and West Dennis, and the third accommodated Dennis Village and East Dennis. Because of the traffic pattern described earlier, for convenience, the North side hearse house was situated on Sesuet Neck Road 100 yards east of Paddock's Path. That apparently was considered about equidistant from the two villages. As a matter of fact, the building still exists on private property on Paddock's Path.

Yes, the building, which was deeded to the Dennis Historical Society and then turned over to the Town, is still on the private property beside Paddock's Path and now awaits removal to its new location near the Village Cemetery.

There are other, surprising gifts of the season, and sometimes they are free! Today as I walked through the Manse garden to work on the Newsletter, along the brick walk there was a lovely violet in bloom. It reminded me of another poem entitled *The Violet* by young Lucy Thacher Baker of South Dennis. (1822-58)

*Why better than the lovely rose  
Love I this little flower?  
Because its fragrant leaves are those  
I loved in childhood's hour.*

*I gathered two or three—they seemed  
Such rich gifts to bestow;  
So precious in my sight, I deemed  
That all must think them so.*

*Though many a flower may win my praise,  
The violet has my love;  
I did not pass my childish days  
In garden or in grove.*

*Ah! who is there but would be fain  
To be a child once more;  
In future years would bring again  
All that they brought before.*

*Let nature spread her loveliest, By spring or summer nursed; Yet still I love the violet best, Because I loved it first.*

*Lucy T. Baker*

**Dennis Historical Society**

P.O. Box 607  
South Dennis, MA 02660-0607

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**THE WAY WE WERE**

*Manse Docent and Board Member Terri Fox has a way of giving just the right gift for the right occasion. Maybe we shouldn't give up on those old "fashion statements."*

My friend Anna Hannum is one fantastic lady! At 96 she's as sharp as a tack and an extremely talented crafter. Rug braiding and hooking, crochet, needlepoint and beadwork are just a few of her passions. In recent years she has begun having vision problems so she promptly found good homes for all the craft supplies she is no longer able to manage. In the picture you see Anna with her favorite mob cap which I made for her last year. You see, Anna has lost most of her hair, and she got such a kick out of my colonial costume and the caps I wear, I was sure she would enjoy one of her own to keep her head warm. This summer, after a short stay in the hospital, Anna ended up in the The Pavilion rehab in Hyannis for over two months before they'd let her go home. She wore her mob cap as protection from the air conditioning chill as well as a conversation starter. People asked if she was Amish, a Quaker or the member of some unusual religious cult. The Manse even got a call from the nursing staff to ask if we could sell mob caps to some other patients who wanted to copy Anna's fashion statement. Anna is happy at home now and still wearing her caps. She likes them and they suit her. Don't you agree?



**Anna Hannum**