

Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 29 Number 12

Send letters and stories to Lura Crowell, Editor, Box 607, S. Dennis 02660 or sesuefarm@verizon.net

December 2006

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 3

1:00-4:00 P.M.

Yarmouth Port

HSOY Christmas Stroll

Visit the museums, bed and breakfasts, inns and businesses as they welcome you with decorations, treats, and music of the season.

Tree Lighting 4:15 on the Common

Sunday, December 10

12:00-4:00 P.M.

Christmas Open House at the Manse

Experience a Colonial Christmas as the costumed interpreters serve you traditional refreshments. Stroll through the house and enjoy the holiday decorations.

77 Nobscusset Road
Dennis Village.

Sunday, December 17

1:00-4:00 P.M.

DHS Open House at Jericho

Celebrate the season at the beautifully decorated Jericho Historical Center. Enjoy the lovely rooms and the seasonal refreshments.

Cor. of Old Main Street
and Trotting Park Road

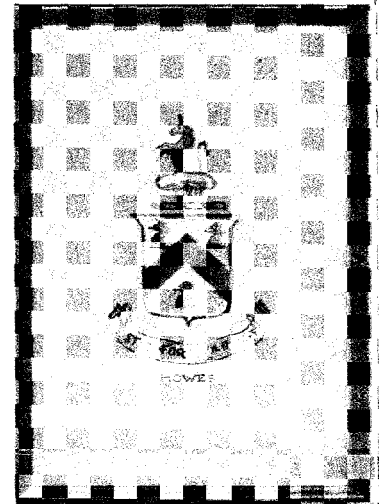
Howes That?

'Tis the season to celebrate, and this month we have good reason! The new *Howes Family Genealogy* compiled over the years by Robert A. Howes, Lt. Col. US Army (Ret), is at the printer and will soon be ready for distribution. This fully indexed volume contains thirteen generations of the Descendants of Thomas and Mary (Burr) Howes of Yarmouth as well as partial genealogies of other Howes families in America. The book can be ordered only from the Dennis Historical Society and further information is enclosed in this Newsletter along with an order form. One thing it doesn't mention is that members of the *Howes Family Association* and the *Dennis Historical Society* are entitled to a 10% discount on the price of the book. Reason to celebrate, indeed!

Nancy Thacher Reid's history of Dennis tells about the firstcomers to the area of Yarmouth. ... *Thomas Howes appeared in New England in 1637 when he and his wife Mary (Burr?) and sons Thomas, Joseph and Jeremiah were living in Lynn. (Note: Swift says they were in Salem in 1635.) Thomas was about 47 years old, their children all young. Family legend says that Jeremiah was born at sea during their passage from England. ... Like the Thachers, they were looking for a permanent home in New England and heard about the opportunities opening up to the east of Plymouth. Howes was ... planning to earn a livelihood by raising food supplies for the immigrants arriving in such large numbers in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.*

Thomas, Mary and their three young sons established their homestead in Nobscusset, now Dennis, in the vicinity of New Boston Road and Beach Street. All of the sons grew to maturity, and their descendants, which have been numerous, now extend into the thirteenth generation. At times in our history the Howes family has accounted for the largest percentage of the population of this town of any family. In the special census taken in 1837, out of 664 households in Dennis, 84 of the families had the surname Howes. ...

Thacher, Crowe and Howes...were the three men who were responsible for making the land division and organizing the town and church of Yarmouth in 1638/9. (pp. 10-12)



Noah Howes' Revolutionary War Pension

Miriam Howes Crowell Westwood preserved this account in her booklet "Dennis Days Gone By" which she put together in 1965-6. Noah Howes (1760-1838) was Miriam's great-great grandfather.

I, Noah Howes, was Born in that part of yarmouth that is Dennis now in the year of our lord 1760 and now am 72 years old. The first of August 1776 I Listed in Capt Elisha Nyes Company then Stationed at Tarpoland Cove at place So Called to Serve under him to the end of that year which was the time he had to Serve when I lifted in his Company Stephen Nye was Lieutenant and William Tobey insign & Barekia Bafsett at the head. —Again I Lifted in 1778 the Laft of June or first of July for Six months and was Liable to be Called anywhear in the Newengland States According to the Articles I Signed—Job Crocker was Capt Lot Dimick Lieut A Butler insign forgot his given name—we was first ordered to march for Rhode Island State and was Stationed at Tivertown first but when General Sullivan was going cary his Army on the Island I with others was Selected to go in the transport Boats to Cary on the Army with all their Bageg & then laid by them Night and Day till General Sullivan Saw fit to retreat off(f) —then I with others helped bring off(f) the Army and bageg—Again Soon After this their Came Some English Ships and Anchored in the Vinyard Sound—then we was Sent to gard the Sea Coft at or near Falmouth—after they Saild from their we was Sent to Dorchester hill to keep garrison their and remained to the End of that year which Completed the Six months I Lifted for—My residence has been in Dennis Ever Since the revolution Except when at Sea

T Noah Howes

(Did you remember that the letter "s" was sometimes written like an f?)

The reply:

Washington City, May 1st 1834

Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure herewith to enclose you a Pension Certificate for \$32.71 per year. Three years and more is now due. I regret it has been so long delayed and can only add that I have done all in my power. I hope it may be of some service to you and that you may enjoy it many years.

Yr friend, John Reed

A Handwritten Invitation:

*Mr. & Mrs. James P. Howes
invite you to be present
at the marriage reception of their daughter
Sarah,
to
Frank J. Prouty,
Thursday afternoon, January 24, 1889,
at half-past one o'clock,
East Dennis, Mass.*

James Paine Howes (1826-1901) and his father Eli Howes (1793-1878) cultivated the Howes berry in their cranberry yard on Sesuet Neck. Today a small park at the corner of Sesuit Neck Road and Bridge Street bears a stone marker in memory of James P. from his daughter, Sarah.

***Two Exciting Historical Volumes from
The Dennis Historical Society***

Dennis Source Records

**Volume 1:
Church Records**

Transcriptions of the Town of Dennis, Massachusetts
compiled by

Burton Nathaniel Derick

704 pages, 8 1/2 x 11, hard cover, blue cloth with gold embossing

This marvelous volume is ***an absolute must have*** for genealogists, historians and anyone whose ancestry originated in Dennis or who has an interest in early Cape Cod History. It is the perfect companion piece to the new **Howes Genealogy**.

Historian Derick points out that these church records contain ***valuable genealogical information*** not found anywhere else except in the early church vital records for all families with Cape Cod heritage. This book also provides an extensive and fascinating insight into the lives and customs of these early Cape Cod inhabitants.

This first volume contains five sections, each separately indexed and featuring a separate church. These are: Records of the 2d. Church in Yarmouth, The East Precinct, now Dennis (1727-1807); The diaries of Rev. Nathan Stone (1737-1804); Records of the South Dennis Congregational Church; Records of the Reorganized Latter Day Saints Church of Dennis Port (1866-1911); and the West Harwich Baptist Church Records (1773-1950).

**Privateers, Pirates and Beyond:
Memoirs of Lucy Lord Howes Hooper**

Transcribed by her Great Granddaughter

Gerry Watters

377 pages, hardcover, light blue cloth with gold embossing

This fascinating true story is an exact word-by-word transcription of a diary kept from 1862 through 1909. It begins when Lucy, a young woman from Dennis, Massachusetts, accompanies her merchant sea captain husband Benjamin Perkins Howes aboard the clipper ship Southern Cross. Journal entries include dramatic descriptions of the ship's capture by privateers. One subsequent voyage involves an encounter with Chinese pirates en route from Hong Kong to Japan, culminating in frightful tragedy.

This life chronicle provides a significant insight into everyday living in 19th Century New England and is interwoven with a woman's personal opinions and philosophies on religion and a variety of other subjects. Lucy's story demonstrates the great courage and determination of a remarkable woman.

Major Publication Announcement

The Dennis Historical Society and the Howes Family Association are pleased to announce the limited edition of the NEW

<h2>Howes Genealogy</h2> <h3>1637-2004</h3> <p>by Robert A. Howes, Lt. Col. US Army (Ret)</p>

670+ pages, 8 1/2 x 11, hard cover, bound in Royal Blue Buckram leatherette with gold embossing & sealed in plastic

First Howes Genealogy to be published in 114 years - since the 1892 book by Joshua Crowell Howes.

The **Howes Genealogy**, the culmination of over forty years effort by the author, is a crucial and significant milestone achievement and completely documents the family throughout the United States and elsewhere.

This fully indexed **Howes Genealogy** contains thirteen generations of the Descendants of Thomas and Mary (Burr) Howes of Yarmouth, MA as well as partial genealogies of other Howes families in America.

It is complete with important photographs, notable appendices and other material of substantial interest.

This volume will be available by December 2006, and can be ordered only from the Dennis Historical Society. Please complete the order form below and send it with your check or money order (no credit cards) to the address given below. Gift Orders: Please use a separate copy of the order form below for *each gift order* to be directly sent to the recipient. A gift card will be enclosed if indicated on the form.

	Number Ordered	Book Cost	MA Residents Sales Tax	Total	Shipping (See below)	Your Order	Gift Order(s)
Howes Genealogy		\$50	\$2.50	\$52.50			
Dennis Source Records		\$50	\$2.50	\$52.50			
Privateers, Pirates		\$15	\$0.75	\$15.75			
** Shipping Charge: \$10.00 for up to three books to a single address, \$20.00 for 4-6 etc					Total		

Shipping Instructions - *please print*. All shipments are by US Postal Service Priority Mail

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P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660

Men who went down to the sea in ships

If the Howes family accounted for the largest percentage of families in Dennis Village in 1837, it might be expected that in a town-wide disaster they would also suffer the most losses. In the 1841 gale Nancy Reid's History presents the storm through the eyes of Desire (Howes) Freeman (1808-1889) who lived in the old Prince Howes house in the New Boston section of the village. "In addition to her husband Freeman Hall (1808-1841), two of her brothers, Jotham Howes and Uriah Howes, Jr. were lost. Two other victims were her first cousins, Luther Howes, the son of her father's brother Abijah, and Albert Howes, the son of her father's brother Jeremiah. Albert was just one day short of becoming sixteen years of age. Three sons of Shear Jashub and Ruth (Vincent) Howes went down—Philip, Martin and Captain John of the *Isabella*. Other members of the Howes family who never returned were Elisha and Frederick, sons of Ira and Charlotte Howes, and Kimball, Daniel and Samuel Howes, all distant cousins.

"Urbana and Captain Noah H. Crowell,* sons of Aaron Crowell (1783-1871) and his wife Polly (Howes), were both lost in the *Bride*. The other victims were Gustavius Hedge, Stephen and Larned Sears, Marshall Kelley and Peter Crowell. Although most of the men were but boys, still nine widows and sixteen fatherless children were left when the toll was final."

(pp 328-9)

Give me that old time religion?

Miriam Howes Crowell Westwood (Polly Howes Crowell's great grand-daughter) tells us that in the early 1800's church and a hard religion played a large part in the life of the time. *Tradition is that one sect held their baptisms in what we call Scargo Lake. It was then, and in my childhood, called the Flax Pond, as there they retted the flax that was later woven into sheets and underwear. There were three churches in town, the orthodox preaching infant damnation. After the terrible October gale of 1841, when twenty men were lost out of the village, the coffins with six bodies recovered from the schooner Bride were placed in a row on the church platform for funeral services. The minister, the Rev. Robert F. Wallcut, preached that all who were not "converted" or church members were that day in hell.*

Polly (1786-1850) mother of two fine sons, said if that was where her sons were she wanted to go there too, and she never went into the church again.*

Another example of the narrow teaching of the times is of Capt. Daniel Howes, who was walking over Newcomb's Hill on a very cold and windy day, when he met a minister, coatless. Out of pity, Capt. Daniel took off his own coat and gave it to the minister. Later Capt. Daniel died from smallpox while on a voyage, but the minister refused him Christian burial or service in the church because he wasn't a church member.

The Howes are coming!

How can we forget the adventures of Captain Benjamin Howes who was murdered in China by pirates? His wife Lucy Lord Howes preserved this and other stories for us in her journals. Or what of Captain Marcus Lafayette Howes who was imprisoned for killing a sailor in self-defense in the course of putting down a mutiny and was later pardoned by President Benjamin Harrison? Then there was Obed Howes who kept the old tavern which still stands on the corner of New Boston Road. Or Captain Osborne Howes who served as president of the Boston Marine Society from 1860-1863. Howes and their stories are everywhere! What's more, the Howes are coming to Dennis on October 5-6, 2007 for a grand reunion. Will you be there?

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The Way We Were



And Howes About This?

There are those Howes descendants who are famous for other talents. Here's Margie Wheeler (whose grandmother was a Howes!) welcoming visitors to the Manse. Her picture was shown in the November/December *Cape Cod Magazine* to advertise our Christmas open house on the tenth. The truth is, you won't find Margie there on that day. She's gone South with our other snow birds where we hear she'll be an angel in this year's Christmas Show. Last year she performed as a tap dancing toy soldier. We can't wait to see her in this year's ballet outfit! Who says the Howes don't have more fun?

Happy Holidays!

