



### THE WINTER THAT (ALMOST) WASN'T

Last month I wrote of the expected cold, snowy days of January and sitting by the fireplace. Was I ever wrong!! If Mom's kitchen was smelling of homemade soup and baking bread she probably had a window open to take care of the excess heat, and I doubt if anyone was cuddled up next to the fire. The heather is blooming all over town, Jeff and Beth Deck's witch hazel tree on Sesuit Neck Road is blooming, daffodils are pushing up everywhere, my pink hyacinth is three inches out of the ground, and at the Josiah Dennis Manse a cardinal was singing his spring song hoping someone special would answer him. In Dennis Port we had two light dustings of snow that had disappeared by 10:00 A.M., but in Dennis Village there was only one. The warm weather has been the topic of conversation, and Old Farmer's Almanac has become one of the best-read books of the season. Even though everyone says they never saw a winter like this one I'm sure we are not seeing the first one. We have a saying in my family handed down from Great-great grandfather Capt. David (7) Howes--obviously when someone in his time remarked on a mild January-- "Don't you worry, 'Old Feb' will shake the bag!" It will be interesting to see what we have in store!

### REQUIEM FOR GREGORY DORLEY'S HOUSE

Our favorite guest writer, Josh Crowell, has come forth with two more stories for us. Here is the first one.

Have you noticed that the roof of the barn at 1661 Main Street, East Dennis has started to collapse? This barn is diagonally across from Geta Crowell's house. Gregory Dorley, called "Grigor" or "Gregor" by some of his contemporaries, was born in the Maritime Province village of Tracadie. He came to East Dennis in the middle 1800s and married Sophronia Sears about 1852. They lived in a house which sat in the field now occupied by Sesuit Meadows Condominiums, also known as Nuthatch Way. It is said that Mr. Dorley was a cobbler by trade, but could and did turn his hand to almost anything. He died in 1894 and with his wife, who outlived him by 24 years, is buried in the Worden Cemetery. After Mr. Dorley's death his widow went to live with her daughter's family in South Dennis. The Dorley's daughter, Abbie, had married Judah W. Baker, and two granddaughters still reside in the Mid-Cape area, Marion Baker in South Dennis, and Abbie Bearse in Hyannis. Around 1900 James Wallace Smalley, commonly called by his middle name, owned and lived at the 1661 Main Street location. Being a cranberry grower he apparently needed a large barn. He bought the old Dorley house, hired his brother-in-law, Thomas S. Howes, who was assisted by Henry Crowie, to tear it down board by board, and with that material built a barn on his property. Thus we see that although "Mr. Wallace's" barn has lasted nearly 100 years the end is probably imminent. This building, first as house and then as barn, has served its owners well and has given us a chance to tell you a little about Gregory Dorley.

(Ed.--Geta Crowell's given name is Gertrude. She is a retired school teacher, descendant of famous sea captains, and no doubt has some good stories to tell also. Perhaps we can prevail upon her some time. When Josh tells the story he pronounces Mr. Dorley's name as "Grigga Dolly"--just as any real Cape Codder would.)

### DHS MENUS

Twice a year we must come up with an interesting subject for the luncheon menu for the Mid-Winter Festivity and the Annual Birthday Celebration. This year's Mid-Winter theme was easy. Our entertainers, Jovial Jazz, somehow led me to think of the West Dennis Band--you know, both musical, both in West Dennis. Anyway, that idea led me to do a little research on past menus. We have had printed menus since the first DHS Birthday Luncheon at the Lighthouse Inn on June 19, 1977. This luncheon was inspired by the 1776-1976 Bicentennial Celebration Luncheon held the previous year by the Bicentennial Committee, practically all of whom were DHS members. The 1977 DHS menu featured: "Bass River Clam Chowder, Nantucket Sound Side Seafood Newburg, Cape Cod Spring Garden Green Peas, Native Strawberry Jellied Salad, Rolls and Butter, Beverage, Dennis Cranberry Sherbet and A big Birthday Cake especially baked and created for the occasion". All of this, with gratuity and tax included, for the advance price of \$5.00 or \$6.00 at the door. Remember those kind of prices when you went out to eat?! I was surprised to find that DHS does not have all of the past menus. Over the years we have dined in a number of interesting places--The Hereford House and The Columns (both now defunct), The Brass Kettle and Cape Half House (now with different names) Colonial House, Dennis and Lighthouse Inns, The Red Pheasant, Dennis Yacht Club, Christine's,--and the South Dennis Congregational Parish Hall--for which DHS procured a 1-day liquor licence from the town! Going through the old menus brought back a lot of great memories--most especially of what a grand group of people belong to DHS, and what good times we've had together. The menus missing from our collection are: February 1978 which featured the Ginn Block in Dennis Port, June 1978 and 1979 both held at Lighthouse Inn, June 1980 at the South Dennis Parish Hall, June 1984 at LHI, June 1990 featured the ship Southern Cross at LHI, and the 1993 Bicentennial Celebration at LHI featuring the Dennis Town Seal. If you do have one of these, and are willing to part with them, we'd like very much to complete our collection. Bring them to the Mid-Winter Festivity or send to DHS, Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660--and a sincere thanks to you. The book of menus will be on display at the luncheon.

### CALENDAR

Feb. 8 7:30 P.M. DHS Board meets at "The Cap'n's" with Brendan and Maureen Joyce.  
Feb. 11 12 noon 18th Annual Mid-Winter Festivity at Christine's. See below.  
Feb. 14 Happy Valentine's Day.

### UPDATE ON JERICO'S FENCE

Donations for Jericho's fence are beginning to come in. The Jericho Committee is pleased with the response and hope it continues. To date \$425.00 has been received from the following generous donors:

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hart	Mrs. Margaret Raycraft
Jean Bingham	Mr. and Mrs. James Martin
June Whitley	Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kelley II
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Lockhart	Mr. Robert Crowell
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McNamara	Mrs. Alice Hildebrand
Mr. Richard D. Ellis in memory of his Grandpa Capt. Richard E. B. Phillips	
Mrs. Faustina Barrows in memory of her grandfather Royal P. Kelley	
Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Parker in the name of Mabel Parker (Freeman)	
F. James Carr and Janet Bailey in memory of Alice Goodspeed, Jessie A. Carr, Esther Gibson, Edith Gibson, Mary Richardson, and Marion Rhinehard	
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Williams in the names of Jenna and Christopher Williams	
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dunham in memory of Josephine and Edward Crowell, Minnie and Charles A. Crowell	

The Jericho Committee has sent thank you notes to everyone and DHS would like to add their appreciation also. It is gratifying to know that our members will support the betterment of our historic properties. We are all caretakers of our town's history and are responsible for passing it on to future generations--hopefully in better condition that when we inherited it.

### COMFORT CAN BE DIFFICULT

In the first half of this century two gentlemen who were good friends operated businesses across from each other along Main Street (6A) in the village of (North) Dennis. About 150 yards east of the intersection of Old Bass River Road and Main Street, on the south side of the highway, was a meat market operated by David H. Whittemore (1861-1934). The market was adjacent to the Whittemore House, a rooming and boarding house operated by Mrs. Whittemore. The space occupied by the market and hostelry is now the site of Mike and Son's MOBIL Service Center. Diagonally across Main Street was the Post Office and General Store operated by C. L. Goodspeed (1878-1965). That building is now a florist shop. Mr. Whittemore was commonly referred to as "D" or "DD" while Mr. Goodspeed's full name was Charles Lovell Goodspeed. (His contemporaries knew him as Lovell but Allie Ellis preferred to call him Charlie.) One day Mr. Goodspeed, standing at his candy showcase, (now at the Josiah Dennis Manse) observed Mr. Whittemore, dressed as usual in a long, white, butcher's coat complete with straw cuffs, limping across the street from his shop. He was probably coming to get his mail or make some small purchase. Upon entering the store the conversation went something like this: Mr. G. opened with "D, you walk as though your feet hurt you." To this Mr. Whittemore replied, "Yes, Lovell, they bother me all the time." To this Mr. G. kindly suggested, "Have you tried soaking your feet?" This caused Mr. W. to retort, "My God, Lovell, I can't walk around with my feet in a pail of water all the time!"

This was Josh's other story. Thanks, Josh!

### LAST CALL FOR TICKETS

Tickets for the Mid-Winter Festivity are going like hot cakes--and the race between Cranberry Chicken and Yankee Pot Roast is neck and neck! We've heard from old friends, new friends, and friends we didn't even know we had--but that's great. The more the merrier. The Jovial Jazz group will have all of us tapping our toes as we deal with whatever February brings us for weather. Send your reservations in to Josh Crowell, Box 963, Dennis, MA 02638--you won't want to miss this fun time.

Dennis Historical Society  
P.O. Box 607  
South Dennis, MA 02660

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 2  
So. Dennis, MA  
02660

