

JANUARY 1978

1978 is shaping up to be a busy year for the DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Programs are lined up for the rest of the winter and into the spring. Members are already planning for the summer and working on on-going programs.

But first, an item of "old business". At the annual meeting in September, 1977, the report to be given by Mr. William Burke, Librarian, Josiah Dennis Manse, was inadvertently omitted. The report in full follows:

During the past year, the Dennis Historical Society Library in the Josiah Manse has been enriched by several notable acquisitions. The late Ernestine Perry gave many of her books and letters and Dennis Historical Records to the library. Old pictures collected by her husband, Leon Perry, were also left to the library, most of them relating to West Dennis. The valuable letters, diaries, pictures, and documents relating to the Fairbank family of Milton, Mass., which were at Jericho House, have been removed to the Josiah Dennis Manse Library.

The Fairbank Collection will be described in a book to be published by the Social Welfare Archives Center of the University of Minnesota. This book will be available to scholars throughout the United States.

A description of the contents of our library have been sent to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in Washington, D.C., for registration in the Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States.

This summer there was an exhibit of almost 100 works of fiction that had Cape Cod as a background. These were on loan from my personal collection and were placed in the exhibition case in the Josiah Dennis Manse Library.

The catalog of the entire book collection has been revised so that every item relating to Cape Cod is in one section of the catalog. There is also a looseleaf notebook containing the name of each book given or loaned to the library with the name of the donor and the date the books were given.

Mrs. Pauline Derick has donated to the library several historical and genealogical documents she has compiled, or copied from town archives, plus many valuable letters and manuscripts relating to old families of Dennis.

Mrs. Anson Howes has presented the library with many items of historical interest. Time does not permit me to list all the donors of these items, but I wish to thank them all.

The library's collection of early playbills and other material relating to the Cape Playhouse are doubly valuable since the unfortunate loss of similar records in the fire that destroyed the office of the Cape Playhouse.

We now have a whole filing case filled with clippings relating to Cape Cod.

During the past year, several old books with loose covers were rebound, including the set of Plymouth Colony Records, Freeman's History, etc.

We urge all friends of the library to donate their books, albums, old letters, etc. to the library for the use of posterity, and for safekeeping, and to persuade their friends to do likewise. If this is done, we will have, some day, a truly great archival collection in the Town of Dennis.

William Jeremiah Burke, Librarian
September 12, 1977

In regard to the upcoming programs, the Dennis Historical Society will present a program entitled "History and the Phonograph" with C. Benj. Thacher as guest speaker on Wednesday, January 18, at 7:30 PM at the West Dennis Community Building. Mr. Thacher is owner and curator of the Old Sound Museum in East Dennis, which houses his extensive collection of over one hundred antique phonographs and thousands of rare historical records. He is a well-known consultant on the history of recorded sound and has prepared exhibits at the request of the local schools and other organizations. He has recently returned from staging an exhibit at the World Trade Center in New York City at the request of RCA to introduce their new T.V. tape recording system. This coincided with the centennial of the invention of the phonograph by Thomas A. Edison. Mr. Thacher will be showing and demonstrating some of his marvelous talking machines including a model of Edison's tin foil, his first phonograph. The lecture will emphasize the place of the recordings and the phonograph in history and examples of early recordings from Mr. Thacher's collection will be used.

A Mid-Winter Luncheon is planned for Saturday, February 18, at the Hereford House in Dennisport. The Luncheon will consist of soup or chowder, boneless chicken supreme on a bed of rice, and dessert, and the cost will be \$5.00 per person. Reservations and payment must be made in advance. For reservations and further information, please contact Mr. Joshua Crowell at 385-3689, Whig Street, Dennis, MA 02638. There will be a brief talk on the history of Dennisport as a village and an exhibit of photographs.

For later in the spring, two more programs are planned. On March 8 at Carlton Hall in Dennis, Mr. Donald Eldridge will give a talk on Whaling on Cape Cod. His talk will be accompanied by slides, some of rare photographs from the whaling era. Then planned for April 19 is a program on the History of Railroads on Cape Cod by Mr. Howard Goodwin. That program will be held at the West Dennis Community Building. You'll be receiving more information about the exact times and content of these upcoming programs at a later date. Stay tuned!

Bulk Rate
US POSTAGE
PAID
So. Dennis, MA. 02660
Permit #2

Rev & Mrs Richardson
100 Main St.
South Dennis, Ma.