



### WE BEGIN OUR TWELFTH VOLUME

As we start our twelfth year of publishing the D.H.S. Newsletter your editor would like to thank those who help get the letter to you. They include Phyllis Horton, typist, and Isabel and Bill Flynn, who fold, address, and mail. Until recently, Peter Reid has prepared labels via his computer, but that responsibility has been taken over by Sarah Kruger. If you see any of these people, do thank them for their help. Also, thanks to all of you who take the time to comment about this letter. The compliments, of course, are nice to hear. But your editor also deeply appreciates additional information and corrections. So keep those cards and letters coming!

And by the way, is any one out there good at indexing? Many of the newsletters remain unindexed, and we appreciate any help in accomplishing this task.

### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE MANSE

All who attended this annual event should thank Susan Kelley and those who assisted her for the magical transformation of the simple old Manse into a Christmas delight. Our thanks to the Girl Scouts who greeted us with traditional carols, and to Steven Russell, for his less-traditional, but perfectly fitting, early music. To all who helped make this a memorable afternoon go thanks. Bill Scofield has captured the beauty of the decorations with his camera. The pictures can be seen at the luncheon in February.

### LIVE AND LET LIVE

Did you read recently that the building once called "The Casa Madrid" in South Yarmouth will soon become a counselling center? It was built as a private social club during Prohibition days, and the goings-on at this night spot were much talked about by local folks. There were reports that liquor flowed freely and that gambling took place. But when rumors began to circulate that the club existed due to the cooperation of the State Police, a move to close it was in order. The famous raid as described in last week's paper was the talk of the state for weeks. When the State Police entered, they found that the rumors were indeed true. It was alleged that among those people who were present was Mayor Curley of Boston, and that he was assisted out of a rear window, to avoid exposure. An interview quoted in the Times confirms that allegation. And the reason for his being assisted to escape? Well, the attitude of the day was, "Live and Let Live". We have many stories of the confusing times during Prohibition days here in Dennis. One involves an establishment the character of which was as suspect as that of the Casa Madrid. The business, known as Wytchmere Tavern, was conducted for parties from off-Cape. Rumors were prevalent that this wasn't just a pleasant place to have dinner. But local officials, barring reports of personal injury, weren't going to be involved. "Live and Let Live". Then one day State Police heard the reports about the sale of liquor at Wytchmere Tavern in West Dennis, and decided to investigate. Sure enough, a state trooper gained admission and was served illegal booze! In due time the State Police drafted a report to the Dennis Selectmen, stating the facts and asking, "What are you going to do about it?" After some consideration the Board replied, "What are we going to do about it? Why, nothing. You're the ones who found out about the liquor. What are you going to do about it?" I have not found any evidence that the Wytchmere Tavern was ever raided. Such were the times.

### MID-WINTER FESTIVITY

Once again we will brighten February's gloom by getting together for luncheon and sociability. It will be held at Christine's Restaurant in West Dennis. For a cost of \$10.50 per person, tax and tip included, you may choose from Baked Schrod, Boneless stuffed Chicken Supreme, or Yankee Pot Roast. Your meal will also include an appetizer, vegetable, potato, rolls and butter, dessert, and a beverage. We are in for an additional treat, for our speaker will be Joshua A. Nickerson of Chatham, well-known business man and author of a recent book entitled Days To Remember. He will reminisce for us on a Cape Cod in earlier days. Please be there. Reservation form is below.

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MID-WINTER FESTIVITY RESERVATIONS

FEB. 11

CHRISTINE'S--WEST DENNIS

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ people.

I enclose a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.50 per person)

Choice of entree: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Yankee Pot Roast \_\_\_\_\_ Fish

Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and send to: Mr. Joshua Crowell

Box 963, Dennis, MA 02638

## CALENDAR

Jan. 17 7:30 PM Board meets at Henry and Susan Kelley's home  
Feb. 11 12 noon MID-WINTER FESTIVITY Christine's of West Dennis  
Speaker--Joshua Nickerson RESERVATIONS NECESSARY See page one.  
Coming in April An afternoon meeting at Jacob Sears Memorial Library in East Dennis

### STORIES OF OUR FOUNDERS

#### Elizabeth (Jones) Thacher

Elizabeth Jones was a young woman, perhaps not twenty, when her great adventure to the New World began. It appears that she was an orphan. Her older brother Richard was already in New England, and was established enough to send for his family to join him. However, the prospects for an unmarried girl in New England in 1635 were hardly bright. Fortunately for Elizabeth, another emigrant planning to leave for New England was in need of a wife. Anthony Thacher had lately been the curate of St. Edmund's Church in Salisbury, of which his brother Peter was Minister. The family was staunchly Puritan and the brothers had long wished to leave the country to start a new life. Both brothers had recently been widowed, and the Rev. Peter had decided not to leave his home. But Anthony persevered. How he became acquainted with Elizabeth is not recorded. Anthony, approaching 50 years of age, was more a contemporary of Elizabeth's parents than of her generation. Nevertheless, a few weeks before the ship James sailed for Boston in April 1635, Elizabeth became the wife of Mr. Thacher, and step-mother to his five children, four of whom accompanied them on their voyage. If you have read the account of the Pilgrims passage on the Mayflower, you will understand the extensive preparation and planning, and the crowded conditions and discomforts involved in the process of emigration to a veritable wilderness. Suffice it to say that the James arrived in Massachusetts Bay Colony in June of 1635, having been favored with pleasant weather, and arriving in the New World together were Anthony and Elizabeth Thacher and his four children. Stopping for a time in Ipswich, they joined there with a cousin, Rev. John Avery, to make a journey to Marblehead to settle with their families. But their trip met with disaster. A fierce storm, now known as the Great Colonial Hurricane of August 15, 1635, swamped the vessel Watch and Wait on which they sailed and all aboard were lost, except Anthony and his young wife. Battered and half-drowned, they were cast up on a rocky island, thereafter called "Thacher's Woe", where they remained for some days before being rescued by passing fishermen. While mourning for family and the loss of all they possessed, they went on to Marblehead to try to reestablish their lives. The town, at that time, was populated by rough fishermen, and not very pleasant for Elizabeth and her well educated husband. Anthony began the search for a new location where he could achieve his dream of religious freedom and build his homestead. Elizabeth was often left alone in the fishing village while Anthony pursued his quest. At last, on January 7, 1639, Anthony was granted the right to join with John Crowe and Thomas Howes to establish a town and church at Mattacheeset and Nobscusset. But Elizabeth was now expecting a child, and so again she was left behind while Anthony began the task of carving a settlement from wilderness. As soon as she was able, she boarded a vessel with babe in arms and crossed Massachusetts Bay to dwell for the rest of her life in the new town named Yarmouth. There could not have been many comforts in the primitive homes the first comers hastily erected. The native Americans appeared friendly and helpful, but the English were ever watchful. Neighbors were far apart and each family was responsible for their own welfare. Town records tell of business matters--taxes, appointments of officers, the drilling of the militia--but not a word of the struggle of the women and children. Elizabeth gave birth to two more children, one during the worst winter the Indians could remember. She fed them, clothed them, cared for them in sickness and taught them to read and write, while Anthony attended to town business, developed his farm and dealt with the Indians. I remember when I began to gather the family genealogy many years ago my mother repeated something my grandmother had said. "It's not really important how proud you are of your ancestors. What matters is how proud can your ancestors be of you?" In my life of comfort, convenience, and comparative luxury, what can I hope to do to meet the standards of Elizabeth Jones?

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