



**YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE**

(Or--You Can Get There From Here, but it takes a while). Our perennial guest writer, Josh Crowell, has been ruminating again--brought on by conversations with some other long time Dennis residents. One of the joys of my life has been being privy to these conversations. One day I may write a book!--too!

"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 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 1900's 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 accomodated 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."

And Josh continues with another story on travel along the Old King's Highway. The next time you breeze along this stretch of road at 40 mph (or whatever) keep this story in mind!

**MORE TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES**

"For the purposes of this narrative let us assume that you wished to travel from the New Boston section of Dennis Village to Sesuet Neck (usually referred to as Suet). Now I quote from the writings of Capt. Thomas Prince Howes whose family had lived from earliest settlement in New Boston. This particular story tells a lot about travel in the late 1700's. "I have heard my father, Prince Howes, tell of his going to Suet Neck with his grandmother, Thankful, to visit her daughter. They rode horse-back as wheel carriages were extremely scarce at the time. Father went to open and close the bars. The open highway (now 6A) went as far as Elm Street (The Red Pheasant). Below was through gates and bars at every property line." It is to be assumed that beyond Seaside Avenue it was again open road to what is now Sesuet Neck Road and thence to Sesuet Neck. How may present day travelers would want to take the time to open and close bars and gates?"

Thanks, Josh! Every donation is gratefully recieved!

**DINING FOR DHS**

The Ways and Means Committee is planning another series of "Dining For DHS" and you are all invited. This popular event was so well recieved last year it was decided to make it an annual affair. Two dinners are being planned at Josiah Dennis Manse on January 21 and 22 at 6:00 P.M. and two at Jericho on January 28 and 29 at 6:00 P.M. They will be full course chicken dinners with dessert and if it's half as good as the last year's dinner I attended you are in for a treat. The proceeds from these dinners will go into the general fund to be used for special purchases or restoration projects. Sometimes we have very little advance notice when an important piece of Dennis history appears for sale. It's always nice to have money at hand to keep this Dennis history in Dennis. Come out to dine with your DHS friends in these historical settings and enjoy a pleasant evening while helping preserve our heritage.

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<b>DINING FOR DHS</b>	<b>\$25.00 per person</b>	
Josiah Dennis Manse	January 21 _____	January 22 _____
Number in party _____	6:00 P.M.	
Jericho Historical Center	January 28 _____	January 29 _____
Number in party _____	6:00 P.M.	

Mail to: Jim Coogan, P.O. Box 655, Dennis, MA 02638

or call Jim at 385-2332.....and Bon Appetit!

## CALENDAR

Jan. 21 & 22	6:00 P.M.	Dining For DHS at Josiah Dennis Manse. See article and reservation form on other side.
Jan. 28 & 29	6:00 P.M.	Dining For DHS at Jericho. See article and reservation form on other side.
Feb. 15	12 noon	Mid-Winter Festivity at Christine's Restaurant. Watch for exciting information in the February newsletter!

### IT'S HERE!!!

and it's big and beautiful! On January 5 your Society hosted a reception at the Josiah Dennis Manse for the sponsors of "Dennis, Cape Cod: From Firstcomers to Newcomers 1639-1993". It was a lovely party and many of the sponsors had an opportunity to visit with the author, Nancy Thacher Reid. These sponsors collectively gave over \$15,000.00 to the Society a number of years ago for start up money towards publishing the history of Dennis. Their faith and support has been sincerely appreciated.

The first impression of the book is its size (958 pages) and the striking picture of the Shiverick-built Clipper Ship Ellen Sears. The book is easy to read--it's like having Nancy tell you a story with pictures--over 300 of them! Everyone was thrilled to finally have the book in their hands and Nancy was thrilled to see so many enjoying the book she had researched for twenty years and spent five years writing.

President Brendan Joyce lauded Nancy for her monumental work and the Publication Committee for their zealous work in bringing the book to the public. They are: Henry Kelley II, Sarah Kruger, F. James Carr, and especially Lura Crowell who birddogged the book through the publishing maze on a daily basis in November and December, and Treasurer Josh Crowell who has done a great job of keeping the book orders and money straight.

For any of our members who would like to have one of these fantastic books send \$49.95 plus \$2.50 MA Tax (that is for MA residents only) and \$4.75 for Shipping and Handling to: Dennis History, P.O. Box 1793, Dennis, MA 02638 and we will send one to you.

Look for more book news in February's newsletter.

### WARMED CRANBERRY BRIE

When Nancy was told of the reception to thank the sponsors she said, "Oh, I hope you'll make that Cranberry Brie we had at Christmas". That was an easy request to honor not only because the recipe is easy (and good!) but because anything cranberry should have a special place at any gathering to do with Dennis history. It also made a hit with numerous sponsors and they asked for the recipe, so here it is.

### WARMED CRANBERRY BRIE

1/3 cup crushed cranberry sauce  
2 tablespoons packed brown sugar  
1/4 teaspoon rum extract  
1/8 teaspoon chopped nutmeg  
1 8-ounce Brie cheese  
2 tablespoons chopped pecans

Combine cranberry sauce, brown sugar, rum extract and nutmeg. Peel off top rind of brie cheese, leaving 1/4-inch rim. (This works best if Brie is allowed to sit at room temperature for a while.) Top Brie with cranberry mixture and sprinkle with chopped pecans. Bake at 500° F for 4 to 5 minutes. Serve with assorted crackers.

From The Island Cookbook by Barbara Sherman Stetson.

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