



JOSHUA CROWELL APPRECIATION DAY

He's the best treasurer we ever had. In fact, he is the only treasurer that D.H.S. has had in its over 20 years of existence. He is our ever-willing helper in any project D.H.S. undertakes. He is the voice of reason at business meetings and the advisor, teacher, and friend of each of his fellow Board members. He is Joshua Crowell, and President Phyllis and the Board surprised him just a little by proclaiming Sunday, June 28th, 1987, as "Joshua Crowell Appreciation Day." A poster with a picture of Josh announced it to the 70 D.H.S. members attending the annual spring dinner at the Lighthouse Inn. Phyllis pinned a boutonniere on Josh and a corsage on his "other half", "Miss Goodspeed", as his sons and their families grinned at his bewilderment. After the sumptuous buffet, for which we owe a debt of gratitude to Bob and Mary Stone, Josh was presented with the very first D.H.S. Certificate of Appreciation, and he and Elinor were installed as life members of the Society. Now, Josh, you can't rest on your laurels. There's plenty of work yet to be done. The Manse is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, and we can always use your help at the Jericho Barn any Wednesday or Friday. There are two slide shows booked for July and at least one in August. So hop to it! But don't say that nobody appreciates you. We all do! Thanks for being there for us.

IF YOU WISH TO LEARN, BE A TEACHER

Chris Harriman was at Josh's dinner, and we were talking about the annual school field trips, just concluded. Chris always interprets in the keeping room of the Manse, making butter, baking bread, and telling the children about all of the paraphenalia around the huge fireplace. She was delighted that one of the adults who accompanied the youngsters told her something that she had not known about the "toaster" which we have at the Manse. I was able to tell her a similar story and join in her delight in learning something new. Nearly every year someone adds to our knowledge about the town or the artifacts in the collections at the historic centers, during our field trips or bus tours. I took the fifth grades around town to visit historic sites this spring, and several children told me things about their families or their homes that I had not known. And I was equally delighted at the inventiveness of some. When we stopped at Hokum Rock, I told two legends about the rock's name. The older one is based on fact, for in the records of Plymouth Colony is written the story of an Indian from NobsCUSset who refused to obey the English laws. He caused so much trouble that he was banished to Rhode Island. In the records he is called "Hoken" and the rock presumably was named for him. There is a newer story, that says that long after Indians lived elsewhere in this town, one lone brave remained living in the cave of the great rock. Whenever anyone approached his dwelling place, he would say "Who come?", and so the rock became known by that name. Some of the children liked one story better than the other. There was one creative lad who didn't like either, and he wrote me a letter with a somewhat sanguine tale about a vicious Indian who choked to death anyone who invaded his territory. Says he, the rock should really be "Choke 'em" Rock, but it has been misspelled!

Let me add a very sincere word of thanks to the House Committees, the teachers and parents, and all the volunteers at the Manse and Jericho, especially our House coordinators, Lilla Smith and Meg Maher. We must also thank Josh Crowell and Bill Scofield who took the slide show on Dennis history to the fifth graders at Wixon. You boys must know that script by heart! All together, this spring D.H.S. has encouraged over 400 schoolchildren to become interested in their town's history.

FROM THE BOARD

We are still in need of a sign maker for house date boards....A large round of applause for Nancy Garfield, Jean Dunham, Helen Angell, Phyllis Horton, and Gertrude Lailey for spring housecleaning at the Jericho Barn....Thanks also to Peter T. Reid who has computerized our mailing list and shortened the job of getting the mail ready by a great deal....Plans are being made for a guided walk on one of the north side conservation areas during Festival Days. Watch for word about that next time....Please note, Board meets Thursday, July 23 - not our usual date.

'THE INDIAN LANDS ON CALM BASS RIVER'S SHORE....'

Thus begins a descriptive poem by Walter S. Morley, recreating the life style of the NobsCUSset Indians, who occupied areas of this town prior to the arrival of the English settlers. Our audio-visual team has assembled a beautiful set of slides to accompany this poem, and the slide show is one of the several we have prepared and show to groups and schools. George Stillson knows as much as anyone about the ancient Indian lands along Bass River's shores, because of his personal archaeological investigation. He will tell us some of the facts most recently discovered at the site, when we meet at 7:30 P.M. on July 15 at West Dennis Community Building.

CALENDAR

July 15 7:30 P.M. West Dennis Community Building. George Stillson, archaeologist, 'The Indian Lands on calm Bass River's Shore.' Slides and lecture, with artifacts from the site.

July 23 7:30 P.M. Board meets with Phyllis.

August 23-30 DENNIS FESTIVAL DAYS

August 26 7:30 P.M. West Dennis Community Building. 'The Story of the Shiverick Shipyard' slide show.

JULY AND AUGUST Our town's historic centers will be open on the following schedule:

Jericho House and Barn Museum Wednesday & Friday 2-4:30 P.M.

Special exhibit in the barn 'Cape Cod Remembrances' dedicated to the memory of the late Marion Crowell Ryder.

Josiah Dennis Manse Tuesday & Thursday 2-4 P.M.

Special exhibit in the Summer Kitchen 'The Family of Thomas and Mary (Burr) Howes; 1637 - 1987'

THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF DENNIS

In 1898 the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts decided that each municipality in this state must have an official seal. The matter of a seal for Dennis was on the agenda of the annual town meeting of 1899, and it was voted to leave the matter up to the Selectmen. We know that a seal was designed, and an embossing stamp, still in use, was purchased. But as with the legends of Hokum Rock, there are two very different traditions about who it was who actually designed the seal for our town. One is that there was a contest among the schoolchildren, but the name of the winner is not recorded. The second is that it was the work of Henry B. Heyman. A Chamber of Commerce brochure of the 30's attributes it to him, and since Mr. Heyman had only then just recently died, it seems credible. He was a teacher who taught manual training in the Yarmouth schools. He lived in Dennis in 1899, and some years before and after that. He was an active and popular member of the community, playing right field with the local baseball team. His name is often mentioned in social doings of the village. At one evening of fun at Carleton Hall, Mr. Heyman was voted the homeliest man present! Hope he had a sense of humor! Mr. Heyman is said to have been a genius with both pen and chisel. He was well known for his carvings, one a miniature fire engine, in great detail. He also carved a model of the State House. Works of his still remaining in town are the flaming torches on either side of the stage at Carleton Hall. There is no doubt, Mr. Heyman certainly had the talent to have been the seal's designer. The seal itself has a tern schooner in the center. That is a three-masted schooner of the type most often used by our local mariners, for fishing and coast-wise trading. Around the schooner is a graceful anchor chain and the words 'SEAL OF THE TOWN OF DENNIS, MASS. INCORPORATED 1793.' Curiously, there is a period after the date. Several years ago, D.H.S. issued a Pairpoint cup plate depicting the seal. One of them is displayed at our Town Clerk's office.

WISH YOU WERE HERE

Vacation time reminds us of postcards. Hardly any of us can resist the chance to tell our friends we're having a wonderful time and make them a little envious. Postcards are an old tradition for travelers, and appeared after the introduction of the official plain postal card, with a printed stamp, issued by the U.S. in 1873. They have become a favorite of collectors because of their variety and historic interest. Thanks to the efforts and experience in postcard collecting of Jean Dunham and Helen Angell, D.H.S. has begun a serious collection of postcards depicting scenes of Dennis. If you can add to our collection, please do. Duplicates are easily saleable and the money can be used to buy others we do not have. Also, any old postcards can be traded or sold to dealers and profits invested in cards of Dennis scenes. Many times postcards are the only pictures we have of neighborhoods now very much altered. Please look around and turn your old postcards in to D.H.S.

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