



### DHS CELEBRATES 201 YEARS

A lovely evening was enjoyed by all at the 201st Dennis Birthday Party at Lighthouse Inn. All hands gathered below decks for a little liquid refreshment (you know, a tot of rum, sugar and water before the mast at sunset as a reward for a good days work!) and some delightful conversation with friends, relatives, and neighbors. Birthday parties are special and this one certainly was. Rev. Dr. William Barker of Dennis Union Church (Josiah Dennis' church) gave the blessing and President Lu Crowell hosted a charming dinner party. Our good friend John Burton and his lovely wife, Alice, were our guests of honor. The menu featured John working on his diorama of the Shiverick Shipyard--now on display in the Maritime Wing at the Josiah Dennis Manse. For anyone who has not seen this work of art, do stop by the Manse this summer on Tuesday or Thursday, 2-4 P.M. Phyllis Horton distributed acid-free paper for everyone to write a message to go into the time capsule that would be sealed the next morning. Wouldn't it be nice to think that our great grandchildren would be around to read the message we sent to the year 2093?

Program Chairman Gertrude Lailey worked her magic again and we were delightfully entertained by the Klassical Kids Chamber Music Ensemble--Beth Demer, 8th grade, violin, Jeffrey Demer, 10th grade, oboe, and Dara Lawson, 9th grade, piano and viola. Such talent in those young fingers! Remember the names--we're sure to hear from them in the future--probably as guest soloist at Carnegie Hall! Thanks to the Stone Family for a great time. I'd say we kicked off our next hundred years in fine fashion.

### THE TIME CAPSULE IS SEALED

At long last our dear friend and Dennis town Clerk Elinor Slade is the "Keeper Of The Time Capsule". Bicentennial Committee members, friends, and curious bystanders on their way to purchase beach stickers were part of our closing ceremonies at Town Hall on June 18th. Selectmen Kathy Brown and Charles Crowell represented the town and presented Committee members with certificates for "a job well done". Phyllis Horton placed the last few items from the DHS Birthday Dinner, a chemical that would dissipate the moisture, and a material that would eat up the oxygen in the capsule, and Roland from All Cape Welders in Hyannis sealed the capsule shut. He affixed a plaque on the end directing the Town Clerk of 2093 (or whatever they will call that position by then) to open it on June 19th. Third grader Nathaniel Stone, son of Committee co-chairman Jonathan Stone wheeled the capsule into Elinor Slade's office. How nice it would be if his grandson or granddaughter was present at the opening!

Phyllis sent a DHS cupplate to her 2093 counterpart and a letter inviting them to come visit with her on the hill overlooking the pond at Swan Lake Cemetery, talk about the changes that have taken place in Dennis, and enjoy the best sunset view in the Town of Dennis.

### MANY STARS ARE BORN

A grand performance of "Dennis....An historical revue" with a cast of...."Mostly Old Cape Codders and a Few Washashores" played to an SRO house at the Gertrude Lawrence Memorial Hall at Dennis Union Church. Traditional dress rehearsal disasters boded well for a good performance. A stellar cast of Dennis officials and notables accompanied Harry "Cranberry" Thacher in his interpretation of his uncle Ben Thacher's very interesting and humorous play. Richard Sylver co-directed with Harry and Set Director Carol Horton was assisted by Lu Crowell, Polly Sherman, Joel Crowell, and Noah Thacher.

Among the more outstanding performances was Daniel Leonard Walker, retired Dennis businessman, Great story teller, and former Carleton Hall minstrel show star who exemplified the old adage "the show must go on" returning post haste from a Boston hospital to don his costume just before the curtain went up. Our esteemed DHS Treasurer Josh Crowell, also a minstrel show veteran displayed his thespian skills when cast as the village drunk. He also doubled as the Civil War Grand Marshal--for which he had prior training. Author C. Benjamin Thacher was also Narrator and Musical Director. Elinor Steever Slade, Henry Kelley II, and Phyllis Robbins Horton were readers.

Our first three settlers, Anthony Thacher, John Crowe, and Thomas Howes were portrayed by direct descendants Raymond Lincoln Thacher, William E. Crowell, Jr. and Richard S. Howes. The other actors who brought our history alive were Seth and Lura Crowell, Pauline Thacher Sherman, Christine Sherman Wilcox, Joanne Crowell, Paul Sullivan, Alton L. Robbins II, Peter McDowell, Robert F. Thacher, Jean Sears Tripp, Carol Anne Horton, Noah Thacher, Richard Sylver, Joel Goodspeed Crowell, Frances Hallett Webb, and Carol Walker Bell. Curtain by Edward Whelden and Lights by Jane Wardwell Stevens.

A genealogist could have traced almost the entire cast without leaving the Dennis Town Clerk's office, and the accents, being the real thing, sounded like Dennis in 1930. P.S. The aforementioned Harry (who never missed a rehearsal) is  $\frac{1}{2}$  Labrador Retriever,  $\frac{1}{2}$  traveling man, close companion of Link Thacher, and he stole the show!

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The DHS Board recently voted to send the membership billing out with the July newsletter. The Society's year runs from September 1 to August 31, and to be a voting member at the annual meeting in September your dues must be paid. Student dues are \$2.00, Individual--\$8.00, Family--\$10.00, and Individual Life Membership is \$100.00. Membership cards are available on request at time of payment by enclosing a self addressed stamped envelope. For our seasonal members, please be sure Membership Chairman Isabelle Flynnne has your change of address schedule to insure receipt of your newsletter. Any membership delinquent after Dec. 31 will be deleted from the mailing list.

## CALENDAR

July 13 7:30 P.M. Board meets at the Manse.  
July and August Manse open Tues. and Thurs. 2-4 P.M. Ickes Exhibit.  
Jericho open Wed. and Fri. 2-4 P.M.

### ANY CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS?!

Ye Olde Ed apologizes for a bit of misinformation contained in the ice story in February's newsletter. The home, butcher's barn, and ice house mentioned are still in their original location and known now as the Grose Gallery. The barn that became the Dennis Playhouse was two doors south at the home of Charles Smith Goodspeed, who also used his barn to butcher animals for folks in Dennis. We have a saying that is all too true, "Whenever a fact appears in print three times it becomes gospel."---and this bit of misinformation has already appeared twice! Thanks to Jim Carr for putting our barns in proper order---and the right barn on the Playhouse grounds.

### AUNT EMMA'S MINUTES

Aunt Susie and Aunt Emma (so called by everyone in Dennis Village) lived on Whig Street all of their lives. They were daughters of Isaiah B. Hall, the cooper. Both were retired public school teachers as well as long time Sunday school teachers. Both were true to their religious tenants. If one was slightly more religious than the other, Aunt Emma seemingly had the edge. Among her churchly connections Aunt Emma was long time Secretary of the Ladies Aid of the Dennis Union Religious Society (now the Dennis Union Church Women's Fellowship). Meetings were held at the homes of the various members. Refreshments were always served. Mrs. Geneva Goodspeed, as hostess of the day, served devil's food cake accompanied by tea or coffee. Aunt Emma's minutes of the meeting read at the next conclave referred to the cake as chocolate, for her religious convictions would not allow her to use the word devil. She was immediately taken to task by Mrs. Goodspeed, ie: "When Mrs. Robbins serves angel cake you call it angel cake, not white cake." Aunt Emma was a firm woman. Needless to say, the minutes stood as written!

This little gem is from our part time contributor, Josh Crowell. Thanks, Josh!

I would cordially invite anyone with a Dennis story to please tell it to me. As you can see Josh has added another tidbit to our glimpses of the past. I do know that many of you have things to tell about old buildings, old social doings, old aunties, uncles, grandparents, or even the old codger next door---that are all interesting and a part of the fabric of our towns history. Momentous occasions in our past are all well recorded, but it's these little slices of life known only to one or two that give the real flavor of gone-by days of Dennis. Please share these little vignettes with us. It doesn't have to be a large story---just one little item will be appreciated---and we can add it in somewhere. The important thing is to get the information. If you are hesitant about having a by-line in our newsletter we'll be happy to put it in as an anonymous donation. Send your story to Editor, Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660.

### GIFTS TO DHS

Over the past year DHS has received some very interesting and important gifts. We have been given a number of pieces of antique clothing by a number of donors. We now have a lovely antique Mason & Taylor of Springfield, VT doll, ca. 1879, some school books, and a charming pair of child's leather boots, ca. late 1800's from the Estate of Miss Susie Hall (see Aunt Susie in Josh's story). Eldon Davidson gave us an eclectic assortment of Dennis items including some unique cranberry scoops, a firkin, sleigh bells, and some great pictures and newspaper clippings. John and Alice Burton donated some antique tools that would have been used in ship building. Former Dennis Selectman Curt Livingston gave some memorabilia of his late father-in-law Selectman David Lane. Mildred Stewart gave us a quilt---the pieces were designed and cut by Marguerite Ickes and put together by Kitty Stewart and Dorothy Grippe, and most recently Seth and President Lu Crowell donated a pair of 19th century Chinese Polychrome Palace Vases brought to Dennis by Capt. Marcus Lafayette Howes and handed down through the family until they were passed along to us for generations of people to enjoy in the years to come. These vases are now on display in the Maritime Wing at the Manse. We most sincerely thank everyone who has so generously given to Jericho and the Manse in years past and ask anyone with pieces of Dennis history sitting in their homes to someday make a gift to the Society so those treasures will forever be a part of our tangible past.

Dennis Historical Society  
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