

Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 29 Number 7

July 2006

Calendar of Events

Mon., July 3, 6:15 PM
Old Fashioned Pie Sale
Dennis Village Green

Come buy a piece or a whole
homemade pie from the
Manse Bakers at their 8th
annual pie sale.

Saturday, July 15
10:00 AM

**Walking Tour of Historic
South Dennis**

Historian Nancy Thacher
Reid will lead a narrated
walking tour relating stories
of early village residents and
interesting sea captains.

Meet at the South Dennis
Congregational Church park-
ing lot. Rain date Saturday,
July 22.

Saturday, August 5
10:00 AM

Children's Lawn Party

This event is for children of
all ages featuring the stories
of Jim Coogan, local author
of books such as *Clarence,*
The Cranberry Who
Couldn't Bounce.

Face painting by Terri Fox.
Lemonade and cookies, too.
Held inside in case of rain.

South Dennis Library
389 S. Main Street

This is the fourth in our se-
ries of talks by local authors!

"Vintage Tranquilizers"

It seems that lately we've been hearing a lot about our leading politicians confessing to their need for "help" in getting through the day. Amid cries of *Mea culpa* and *I'm taking full responsibility for my actions*, we are, I suppose, expected to understand and give absolution. So when I found this old article from *The Yarmouth Register* dated May 3, 1957, I couldn't resist the temptation to reprint it here:

"Philip Dubin and Fred Jaques at Players

Pharmacy in East Dennis have been collecting old bottles of elixirs and pain killers. Who remembers 'Warner's Safe Diabetes Remedy, Dr. Kaufmann's Sulphur Bitters or Dr. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters?'

There is no way to place the actual date of these old timers, but Pharmacists Dubin and Jaques have a book, *The Standard Formulary*, published in 1901 by two experts who analyzed the old remedies. Dr. Hostetter's **Stomach Bitters contained 'gentian, blessed thistle, calamus, orange peel, oil of orange, sugar and 45 percent alcohol,'** making the concoction 90 proof or potent enough to cure temporarily almost any disorder.

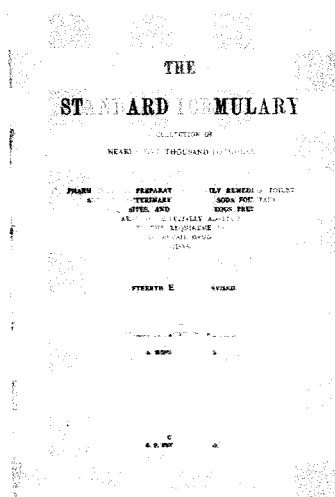
A cure for asthma in canaries was composed of: Tinct. Capsicum, chloroform, iron citrate and fenel water. ('Tinct. of capsicum' is red pepper if it makes any difference after the chloroform).

A paragraph from the Standard Formulary: *Of late it has become quite the fashion for the public in general to believe they are suffering from nervous disorders, and many so-called nervines have appeared upon the market. Some of these contain celery, others phosphorus and damiana, the latter also frequently containing kola, nux vomica, gentian, cinchona or columbo. These are known by such name as: 'Celery Nervine, Nerve Tonic, Nervous Debility Pills, Aphrodisian Elixer.'*

Could be time and men don't change...maybe it's just the labels."

Editor's Note: *Evelyn Kempton Crowell married Frederick Jaques, whom she met when she worked at the soda fountain at the Players Pharmacy. I now find that we are the proud owners of that famous "Standard Formulary." In case you're looking for more recipes and cures, I'm sure we could find something to brighten up your day!*

Lura Crowell sesuetfarm@verizon.net



News about members and friends:

Recently I visited Joe Solarz and his wife at their cozy home in East Dennis. Their yard was filled with lovely spring flowers and an enormous flowering cherry tree, a gift to Mrs. S. from Joe many years ago. Now 92 years old, Joe played the Reverend Josiah Dennis for 20 years when the Ezra H. Baker school children visited the Manse each spring to learn about Dennis history and life in colonial days. The children would look up at him in awe as he told them about the Reverend Dennis and his family and how our town was named after him in 1793 when it was officially separated from Yarmouth by the signing of the Act of Incorporation by John Hancock.

Joe was a tall man, and as he stood there at the door, the children really believed he *was* the Reverend Dennis. His wife had sewn the wonderful costume in which he cut such a convincing figure. This costume has now been donated to the Josiah Dennis Manse in the hope that we may find another gentleman willing to become the Reverend Dennis. Though we may find someone else to wear the costume, no one will ever replace Joe in the eyes of those who were here during those first 20 years.

Thank you, Joe, for your many years of dedication to the Manse and for passing on your great costume.



Joe Solarz greeting Ezra Baker School children
Photo by Howes

Nancy Howes

Here's an e-mail letter from our new member, Les Bowser, in Ontario:

"May 26, 2006

I was pleased to see a note in the March issue of the Newsletter welcoming me to the Dennis Historical Society. My interest in Dennis history involves Nathaniel Shiverick (1722-1799), a great uncle of Asa Shiverick, the namesake of the Shiverick Shipyard. Nathaniel was a captain of the sloop *Lovey* in the 1760s, and later a justice of the peace in Falmouth. I would be pleased to hear from any member of the Historical Society with information relating to Nathaniel Shiverick.

Sincerely, Les Bowser"

(How about one of our friends from the Falmouth Historical Society or the Woods Hole Historical Museum? We'd love to hear from you!)

We recently had an order for Gerry Watters' book *Privateers, Pirates, and Beyond...* from Gale Myers of Oregon. He was looking for information on Dr. Lord (1809-1892) and believes he is related to Gerry. The Appendix of Gerry's book has information on the Lords, but besides that I found this reference in the unpublished book by Miriam Howes Crowell Westwood called "Dennis Days Gone By" written in 1965-6. (Further information would also be appreciated!)

There were a number of stores, including one at Dr. Lord's near the road bearing his name today. When I was a very small girl, I went with Uncle James Otis Howes to buy grain there. A vivid memory is of this old man who was stone deaf. He had a long tube which Uncle James spoke into and Dr. Lord held to his ear, a forerunner of modern hearing aids.

Dr. Lord must have been an enterprising man. Besides his store, Nancy Reid's History (p458) tells of the first Scargo tower built in 1874 as an observatory for tourists and mentions that the following year Messrs. Lord and Crowell opened an ice cream and confectionary shop nearby.

More News

Old friend, **Dan Walker**, was surprised by family and friends as he celebrated his 90th birthday at the Center Stage Café in Dennis. With all those people there, it was amazing it could be a *SURPRISE!*

Paul Prue was given special recognition by Fire Chief Mark Dellner in honor of his 44 years of service with the Dennis Fire Department. His name will join that of **Joshua Crowell**, who also served the Department for many years as call Deputy Chief, on a plaque fixed to the stone at the base of the flagpole in front of Station 2. (A case of history repeating itself—Paul Prue, Jr. is also a Dennis firefighter, and Joshua Crowell (son of Joshua) serves as chaplain for the department.)

Welcome to new members **Bob and Sue Foskitt** who will summer on Main Street in Dennis and **Ben Muse** (does that sound familiar?) from Juneau, Alaska. We've received a notice from the post office that **Lisa Morales** of Albany, NY is now in Dennis as are members **Claudia and Michael Skol** of Champlain, NY. Just a reminder—if you want us to send your Newsletter to a summer address, just let us know.

Thank you, **Barbara Hart**, for your donation to DHS in memory of **John Marsh** of Yarmouth Port. He and **Althine** have been members for a long while, and we are saddened to learn of his death. Our deepest sympathy to **Althine**.

We were also sad to hear that former member and friend **Lorraine Hastings** passed away in New Hampshire.

We are very fortunate to have so many members and friends of Dennis history who care to preserve and share that history with DHS:

Dear Dennis Historical Society:

My husband, David Wood, is descended from the Howes family of Dennis, tracing his Howes' family lineage through his great-grandmother, Elie Mae Howes, her father, Carlton Howes, his father, Laban Howes, his father, Zenas Howes, etc.

We have scanned onto the enclosed CD copies of Howes family correspondence that has accumulated in our house since it was built by Zenas Howes in 1808. We thought that the Dennis Historical Society would like to have a copy of these documents for its records.

*Very truly yours,
Jane Pine Wood*

You bet we're happy to have this CD, and as soon as Burt has it catalogued it will be in the DHS library! So often we fail to mention the generosity of our supporters. I'll try to do better with help from Phyllis Horton who keeps track of all our gifts and archives. For instance, since January 2006 we have received the following:

Photo of Mrs. Aphia M. Tripp of Dennis Port, age 97. (She died at age 100.)

Donor: **Phyllis Horton**

Doll's bed with mattress, Circa 1900 Donor: **Joyce Nickerson Connell**

Will, deeds, Grange papers—1745 to 1928. Family of David Morton Howes.

Donor: **Theresa Cummings Norman**

1886 framed photo collection of members of the Boston Marine Society which included many Dennis Sea Captains. **1865 Album** presented to Mrs. Thomas S. Baker from her mother, **Phebe Shiverick**. Donor: **Nancy Crowell-Cotoia**.

Book: *Sail Away Ladies*, written and donated by **Jim Coogan**.

To be continued....

Dennis Historical Society
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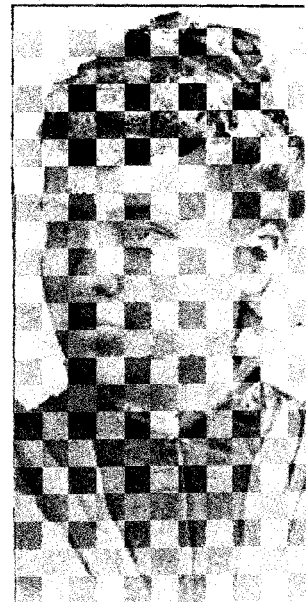
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The Way We Were

We are grateful to Katherine E. Flynn, Ph.D., CG who sent us a copy of her article for the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* Volume 94, No. 1, March 2006 "A Case of Mistaken Racial Identity: Finding Emma Dunham (nee Kelley) Hawkins" (1863-1938). *An acclaimed author of late nineteenth-century girls' religious fiction, Emma Dunham Kelley, in her late twenties, published two books and penned a third—a rare accomplishment in that era for a young unmarried woman of working-class background.* Somehow (it is believed the assumption was made from a quick study of this photograph of Emma which was included in her first novel *Megda*) it was assumed she was an early black author and she was duly listed in the Schomburg Library of Nineteenth-Century Black Women Writers published in 1988.

Thanks to Dr. Flynn's careful research we find that in reality Emma was the daughter of Isaac Dunham Kelley (1839-1863) who died at sea and Gabrelia Ann Chase (1841-1924) who were both from Dennis. Isaac's parents were Hiram Kelley (1800-1868) of Dennis and Abigail Howes (1799-1888) of Dennis Port while her mother Gabrelia Chase's parents were Warren Chase (1811-1854) of Dennis and Emeline Baker (1814-1879) of Harwich. This copy of the Quarterly will also be catalogued and available at the DHS library. Again our thanks to Katherine Flynn.



Emma Dunham Kelley

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