



#### WHERE IN THE WORLD WAS NICTHEROY HALL?

Quite a few of you have offered your opinion or suggestions about how to determine where this building stood. It was the site of the Memorial Day celebration in 1896, but the location as mentioned is only "West Dennis." Perhaps a few more clues will help to solve the mystery.

First, the name. My encyclopedia says it is the old spelling of Nitheroy, which is the capital of the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro. It is possible that a West Dennis sea captain visited there and brought the name to our town.

Second, the location. The newspaper account of June 6, 1896, mentions that the group formed a line of march and "marched around the square," a distance of about one mile. The only "square" I can think of in West Dennis is formed by Main Street, Fisk Street, and School Street, with the fourth side either Pond Street, forming a small square of less than a half mile, or Pleasant Street, a tad over a mile. Can any one think of another square?

Third, the size. Both the program and the account in the Yarmouth Register indicate that 400 or so people had dinner in the Lower Level between 12 noon and 12:45 P.M. and that 2500 people attended the ceremony in the third floor. Doric Hall which stood on Pond Street until about 1946, was much too small. Anyway, events are announced to be taking place in Doric Hall in the Register very close to the date of this event. One of our faithful readers has suggested the original hall of the Knights of Pythias, which organized in West Dennis in 1896, but that hall was above stores on Main Street near School Street which from pictures do not appear to be three stories or even two stories high, Also it hardly seems likely that a brand new organization would have so large a meeting place.

There is also mention made from time to time in the West Dennis news of a meeting place called "Baker's Hall." In as much as Mr. Frederick Baker is mentioned as kindly allowing the use of Nictheroy Hall for these ceremonies, that must be considered a possibility. Notes transcribed by Ellen N.B. Shaw from reminiscences of Miss Bessie Howes, long-time librarian of West Dennis, state that Baker's Hall was over the harness shop of S.F. Baker on School Street about where the West Dennis Public Market is now. Baker's Hall was reportedly the place where a meeting was called to organize the shoe factory which was built in West Dennis in 1887 next to the West Dennis Community Building. But would a hall over a harness shop be so large?

I'm betting on the old shoe factory itself!

Operation of the West Dennis Shoe Factory, which succeeded the original stock company, known as Casey Brothers Shoes, ended in 1894. Part of the building was used by Hiram C. Crowell as a grain store. Joseph Baker also had a bake shop on the premises. I have found no mention, however, of its use as a social hall. There was an unsuccessful move to reopen the factory in 1897 so we know it was still there at that time. The building was then razed and removed to West Harwich where it became the Wayside Inn, situated across from Friendly's. Later it was a school, which burned and was reestablished in Brewster as Sea Pines School. Phyllis has carefully searched the Post Cards collection, and the only building in West Dennis that she can find which had three floors is the shoe factory.

Now a little about how we got our program of the Memorial Day Exercises, 1896. Norton Nickerson received the program from his sister-in-law Mrs. Carl W. Nickerson. Some of you will remember Patti (nee Johnson) when she lived on Church Street in West Dennis and attended Dennis and Yarmouth schools (Class of 50). Patti received the souvenir from her aunt, Mrs. Archibald, with whom she made her home. Mrs. Archibald in turn had been given it by her neighbor, Miss Bessie Howes, long-time librarian. Norton presented it to the Kelleys on behalf of Patti, and they in turn have placed it for her in our archives.

Any update of information or comments will be duly reported!

#### DON'T MISS THE LUNCHEON DEADLINE!

Luncheon reservations for June 8 must be received by June 3. (See May newsletter). Entertainment to be announced. Help us honor our volunteers by your presence. We always have a good time when we get together.

#### CALENDAR

June 5 and 6           The third graders from Ezra H. Baker School have field trips at Jericho

June 7           9:30 A.M. Annual Lady Slipper Walk. Meet at north parking lot of the town office. Please call the Conservation Department for reservations.

June 8           12 noon    Birthday Luncheon at Lighthouse Inn (see article)

June 11          7:30 P.M. Board meets at Jericho House

June 14-22       Heritage Cape Cod '97.  
Events scheduled for Dennis are:

        June 15       Eventide Vesper Service at Dennis Union Church  
          5 P.M.     dramatization based on the ministry of  
                    Anna Howard Shaw

        June 21       "Colonial Chores"--Josiah Dennis Manse 1-4 P.M.

        June 22       Jericho Opening Tea--special flower show 12-4 P.M.  
                    See articles for details

#### BYLAW CHANGE RECOMMENDATION

At the April meeting of the Board of Directors it was voted to recommend that in the section of our Bylaws dealing with officers the following be substituted for the present Section B. Paragraph 2:

"All officers will be elected for the term of one year. The president may serve for only two consecutive terms."

This bylaw change will be presented to the membership at a brief meeting called at the Lighthouse Inn, June 8 at 1:30 P.M.

#### JERICHO IN BLOOM

It has long been a tradition at Jericho House to hold open house and a tea to launch each summer's season. This year's tea will be on Sunday, June 22 and will include a very special event. The graceful little house will be decorated with the cooperation of members of the West Dennis Garden Club, for an Historic Interpretation Flower Show, arrangements coordinated with historic paintings and prints on display in this 1801 Captain's house. The Barn and Driftwood Zoo will also be open and the public is invited. Come and bring a friend! Hours are 12 noon to 4 P.M. Jericho House is open this summer from 2 to 4 P.M. Wednesday and Friday.

#### COLONIAL CHORES

The special opening of the Manse on Saturday, June 22 will have as its theme "Colonial Chores", and will include demonstrations of many of the household tasks which colonial women and children needed to accomplish in order to keep their households up and running. You will see spinning and weaving, soap making, candle dipping and other everyday tasks which would daunt the modern housewife, so accustomed to pushing a button. The Manse opens for the season on June 24, and will have new hours-- Tuesday from 10 A.M. to noon and Thursday from 2 to 4 P.M.

#### LADY SLIPPER WALK

If you've been on this walk with Dr. Nickerson before, you know that we look at and enjoy more than the bountiful display of Lady Slipper's. Dr. Nickerson, (Norton), is a botanist, grew up in Dennis, and is a lover of Cape Cod and its flora and fauna. Come walk with us on Saturday, June 7 at 9:30 A.M.. If that is not convenient, APCC will sponsor a second walk, also led by Norton, on Sunday at 10 P.M. Both walks begin in the north parking lot of the town office. Call 394-8300 and ask for the Conservation Department to reserve your place.

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