



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 26 Number 6

June 2003

Calendar of Events

Board Meets June 11

7:00 PM at Jericho

Interested members are welcome.

Lady Slipper Walk with Shannon Goheen

Saturday, June 7

9:30 AM

Meet at Dennis Town Hall

Call 508 385-0376 for reservations.

Josiah Dennis Manse Open House

Sunday, June 22, 1-4 PM

Come for a Sunday afternoon visit to learn what is new at the Manse and the one room schoolhouse. The colonial gardens will be in bloom! Refreshments.
77 Nobsoussett Rd. Dennis

Opening Tea at Jericho House and Barn Museum

Sunday, June 29, 1-4 PM

Join the Jericho Committee for refreshments and a tour of this lovely sea captain's home corner of Old Main Street & Trotting Park in West Dennis.

Old Fashioned Pie Sale on the Village Green

Monday, July 7, 6:30 PM

Stay to hear the first concert

Members Preview Maritime Exhibit

On Friday, May 16, from 5 to 7 PM, members of the Dennis Historical Society were treated to hors d'oeuvres and a preview of Phyllis Horton's new maritime exhibit *Levi Howes, Master of the Seven Seas* at the Josiah Dennis Manse. If you were unable to join this members-only event, we hope you will drop by on one of the days the Manse is open this summer. Opening day is June 22 from 1 to 4 PM, and after that on Tuesdays from 10 AM to Noon and Thursdays from 2 to 4 PM beginning June 24 through September 18. In addition the Manse will be open Saturdays during September from 2 to 4 PM. Tours are by arrangement, 508 385-3528.

Boston Dec 14th 1838

Capt Levi Howes

Sir I hereby agree to give you four Thousand nine hundred & fifty dollars to Victual Man & Sail the Ship Harold on a Voyage from Boston to the Cape of Good Hope & from thence to Calcutta & back to Boston. but if the above named sum does not give you Seventy five dollars pr Month Saved from the first named Sum Shall be Credited to the Ship. The payment to be made in nine days after the Safe arrival of the Ship in Boston.

Christopher Hall

Jericho Hosts American Association of University Women



Members of the AAUW were treated to a special tour of the 1801 Jericho Historical Center and Barn Museum. Since the women were so pleased with their visit we would like to remind you all of the Opening Tea on June 29 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The barn museum features a store, antique tools and the Driftwood Museum.

Following this traditional opening day celebration, Jericho will be open on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM and Fridays from 10:00 AM to Noon through August 29. Group tours may be arranged by calling 508 394-6114.

Girl Scouts Present Manse with Certificate

Ruth Derick

The Josiah Dennis Manse was one of six Dennis sites hosting Girl Scouts of Southeastern Massachusetts on April 26, 2003 for a program of "Rainbow Bridging." Other locations were the Dennis Union Church, the Dennis Senior Center, the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Americore at the West Dennis Graded School House, the Cape Museum of Fine Arts Center and the Dennis Memorial Library. Approximately 100 girls attended the day's events along with their leaders and parents. Each of these sites provided a learning experience or skill which enabled the young ladies to achieve a Girl Scout badge required for Brownie Girl Scouts to "bridge" or move up to Junior Girl Scouting. Every level of scouting has its own badges, increasingly difficult as the girls pass through to the higher levels. Girls can earn Rainbow Bridging badges within their troop or at a special day's event such as this one, which was headed by Jane Hargreaves, Service Unit Administrator for Dennis Girl Scouts.

At the Manse twenty-two girls from Dennis, Harwich, West Yarmouth and Norton "walked back in time" with costumed docents to learn skills of days gone by and practice them to earn credit toward an *Across the Generations* badge and to complete their *Yarn and Fiber Arts* badge. Their busy schedule included making butter in the Keeping Room with Lu Crowell (to enjoy later with homemade bread and lemonade) and using tea to dye fabric; practicing knots in the Maritime Room with Burt Derick; carding and spinning wool and throwing the shuttle on the loom with Susan Kelley; crocheting or knitting and using their efforts to create snails or other shell creatures with Terri Fox, Chris Talbott, and Nancy Howes; learning about the quilts, samplers and needlework at the Manse as well as viewing a collection of fabrics from around the world with Jane Bacon; playing with the toys of yesteryear with Debbie Blake; and learning a variety of stitches to make a colonial puppet with Ruth Derick, Chris, and Terri and the other adults who pitched in as needed. All these activities were salted with tales of days gone by and of how people managed to live before videos and computers and the conveniences we currently enjoy. Melissa Hoeft, a Manse Junior Docent, and Carley Blake, a volunteer with the Yarmouth Militia, who were also in period costumes, assisted the docents.

Melissa and Carley were presented with Bronze Awards for their Community Service hours at the Bridging Ceremony held at the Senior Center to culminate the day's activities. Dignitaries in attendance included State Representative Thomas George; Mary Morgan, Representative of the Girl Scout Council of Southeastern Massachusetts; Wendy Garf-Lipp, Council "Communities Ties Manager" from Middleboro; and Faith Stineford of Harwich who portrayed Juliet Lowe.

Ruth Derick and Terri Fox deserve a special thanks for giving so much of their time, skills and enthusiasm as Co-Chairs of Bridging Day at the Manse!



Left: Ruth helping with stitches. When the puppets were done, they wore mob caps just like Ruth's.



Right: Burt showing girls how to make their required knots.

ANNOUNCING - - - A NEW PUBLICATION FROM DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Privateers, Pirates and Beyond: Memoirs of Lucy Lord Howes Hooper

The Dennis Historical Society is publishing a fascinating true story entitled *Privateers, Pirates and Beyond: Memoirs of Lucy Lord Howes Hooper*, compiled by her great granddaughter, Gerry Watters. This book is a word-by-word transcription of a journal written by Lucy from 1862 through 1909. It begins in 1866 when Lucy Jane Lord, a young Dennis, Massachusetts woman, accompanies her merchant sea captain husband, Benjamin Perkins Howes, aboard the clipper ship *Southern Cross* on a voyage to Hong Kong from Boston, Massachusetts. Journal entries include dramatic narratives of the ship's capture by privateers off the coast of Brazil during the Civil War.

Lucy's bland recording of the ship's mundane, daily chores is sharply contrasted by the chilling account of an invasion of Chinese pirates en route from Hong Kong to Japan. Hiding her children under piles of rope, her husband, Captain Benjamin Howes, is fatally shot by these pirates. Surviving crewmen help her return to Hong Kong. She chronicles her three-month stay in Hong Kong, the loss of some of her children, and the homeward voyage with her two-year-old daughter, Carrie, expressing the grief and loneliness of her great losses.

Lucy's pensive entries following her return home reveal her personal dilemmas as she adjusts to many changes and renews relationships with family and friends. She again faces adversity and longs to establish a family situation for her and Carrie. She eventually remarries, a marriage far different from her first, and is ultimately left with caring for her three children alone again. She has become profoundly religious through the years, which gives her courage to face the challenges ahead.

This life chronicle provides a significant insight into everyday living in 19th century New England and is interwoven with a woman's personal opinions and philosophies on religion and a variety of other subjects. Lucy's story demonstrates the great courage and determination of a remarkable woman whose trials and tribulations make for a great read.

The Dennis Historical Society is offering a pre-publication discounted price per book of \$20.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling for a total of \$24.00 (shipping price is \$4.00 per order). The post publication price, after June 30, 2003, is \$25.00 plus \$4.00. To obtain *Privateers, Pirates and Beyond* at the discounted price, please complete the information below and send it along with your check before June 30. You will acquire a unique insight into the history of Cape Cod, and also help the Dennis Historical Society – what a deal!

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Please enter my order for _____ book(s) at the pre-publication price of \$20 (plus \$4 shipping and handling, each). Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Mail to: DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P. O. BOX 607, SOUTH DENNIS, MA 02660-0607

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 30 JUNE 2003

School Days and Other Memories

This is a story about Arlene Rogers Garfield as told to Betty Dean Holmes.

Arlene Rogers Garfield, born in 1916, moved to Dennisport from Saugus, Mass. where she had attended a school with separate rooms for each class. When she entered Susie McHenry's classroom at the Dennisport School (where the VIC Hall is now located), Arlene was astonished to find some kids singing, some kids reciting, some doing arithmetic, and some doing still other things. Four grades all making different sounds!

Arlene said, "That morning I must have given Mrs. McHenry a snappy answer to something she said to me, for Mrs. McHenry said, *You are a saucy little brat*. I answered, *I am NOT a saucy little brat and I am going right home and tell my father you said that*. Mrs. McHenry replied, *You are not going to leave!* and made a lunge for me, but I just took off, right out the door. I was so angry, I stomped out of there all the way to where we were living with my grandmother on Depot Street, next to Captain William's Restaurant. I told my mother, *I am not going back to that school. It is a crazy place. I am not going back to that school ever!* My mother calmed me down and walked me back to school. She explained to the teacher that I did not know what was going on in such a noisy classroom." (As we might expect, Arlene found Susie McHenry a good teacher after all.) When the elementary school in Dennisport burned down, Arlene went to school in West Dennis for the fifth and sixth grades. The Dennisport children all walked in a group about three miles to the school.

Arlene's family bought a house on Division Street around 1927. They lived there all winter, but moved out in the summer, back to Grandmother's, and rented the Division Street house to summer visitors. That house was later torn down.

Arlene said, "My freshman year I went to school in South Dennis. During my sophomore year the John Simpkins School in Bass River opened and I graduated from there. My favorite teacher was Miss Rogers, the French teacher. She married Ben Chase who had the laundry on Shad Hole Road."

Arlene belonged to the 4-H club. "Esther Moody Dean got 4-H started in Dennisport and the meetings were held at her house during my grade school and high school years. I was also in Esther Dean's Village Improvement Club minstrel shows."

"Once on a date with Buddy Baker he took me to the Arcadia Hall in West Harwich where there was a dance marathon. We watched those tired people, leaning on each other, slowly moving around on the dance floor. My first date with Wallace Garfield was to go roller skating at the rink in Chatham, where they had a rink for skating and dancing right on Main Street."

Arlene married Wallace in 1937. During World War II Wallace was a Navy Seabee in a Combat and Construction Battalion. Arlene traveled to be with him while he was in the service. She worked in a laundry in Gulfport, Mississippi, and in California she sorted lemons and packed fancy grapes, earning bonuses with her rhythm and speed. While Wallace was in the Hawaii Islands and then on Iwo Jima, Arlene worked for the Navy making "informers," the forerunners of "walkie talkies." She also tested new microphones and telephones for Navy pilots.

After the war the Garfields returned to Dennisport where they set up their trailer on Cranberry Lane. They had no electricity or plumbing. Wallace went fishing with his brother, often leaving at midnight and returning at seven p.m., exhausted. "That was a hard year." The next year Wallace built a shed, installed a flush toilet and put a water tank on top of the shed so the sun would heat the water for a shower. Later they built a house on Cranberry Lane which they sold to move to #1 Cynthia Lane.

Arlene was a wonderful step-mother to Wallace's two children, Dean and Kay—a happy and successful woman!

Dennis Historical Society

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THE WAY WE WERE...

The picture of the Manse and schoolhouse and notes are from different 3rd graders who took part in the May school program this year.

May 6, 2003

Dear Josiah Dennis Volunteers,

“Thank you for taking the time to teach us about Josiah Dennis and some of the history of our town. My favorite room was the weaving because it’s fun to weave. Also I liked the bedroom of Josiah and Bathsheba Dennis because it was interesting. I never knew what beds were made of. Also the boys have to take out the chamber pots. I enjoyed my field trip to the Josiah Dennis Manse.”

“My favorite parts were churning the cream into butter, playing with the toys, and writing with a quill. When we had to leave, I really didn’t want to go because it felt like I’d just arrived there.”

“My favorite room was the spinning room. It was fun weaving the rug. It was also fun writing with ink in the schoolhouse. I learned a lot and had a great time.”

