



# Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 30 Number 6

Send letters and stories to Lura Crowell, Editor, Box 607, S. Dennis 02660 or [sesuefarm@verizon.net](mailto:sesuefarm@verizon.net)

June 2007

## Calendar

Saturday, June 23

1:00—4:00 P.M.

**Josiah Dennis Manse Opening**

**Reception**

New maritime exhibit:

**"A Sampler of Howes  
Captains."**

1745 schoolhouse and herb  
gardens.

**Dennis Book Signing by Scott**

**& Robin Walker**

Refreshments.

77 Nobsussett Road  
Dennis.

Sunday, June 24

1:00—4:00 P.M.

**Jericho House and Barn**

**Museum Opening Tea**

Join us for a tour of Capt.

Baker's full-Cape home.

The Barn features a country  
store, antique tools, and

Driftwood Zoo.

Refreshments.

Old Main Street

West Dennis

Saturday, June 30

10:30 A.M.

**Walking Tour of Historic**

**East Dennis**

Join Brendan Joyce for a fasci-  
nating stroll and learn the his-  
tory of this special area.

Meet at Jacob Sears Library

23 Center Street, E. Dennis

Rain Date Sunday July 1.

**Old Fashioned Pie Sale on the**

**Green, corner of Old Bass**

**River Road and 6A in Dennis**

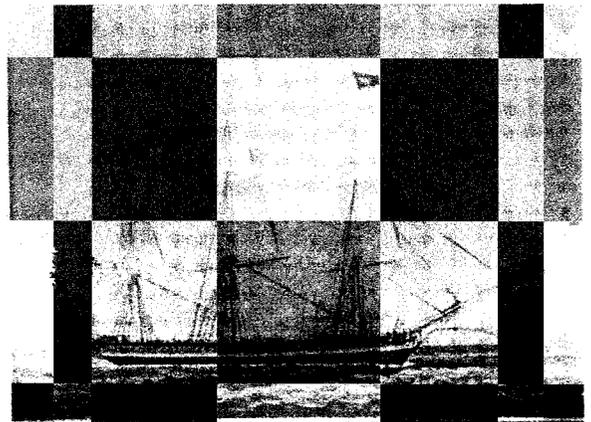
**Village**

**Monday, July 2, 6:00 P.M.**

**By the piece or the pie!**

## Captain Whelden's Gift Returns Home

Once upon a time in South Dennis there lived a sea captain, Seth T. Whelden (1786-1877), and his wife, Susanna (Nickerson) Whelden (1789-1867). Both belonged to the sixth generation of settlers to come from the "old country." In addition to their three sons, Seth and Susanna had four lovely daughters. In 1832 Captain Seth brought home from Liverpool four special tea sets as gifts for each of his girls which they took with them when they married.



Captain Whelden's ship *Woodbury*

One of the daughters, Susan Adelaide by name, married Barzilla Baker and they had a daughter, Susan Adelaide, who was given her mother's tea set when she married Henry Parker Jones. Their daughter, Ida Lewis Jones, was given the china when Ida became the wife of James Windsor. The Windsor daughter, Dorothy, married Joel Carroll to become the new owner of the family gift. And at last we begin the journey back to Dennis, for their daughters, Virginia (Carroll) Scott of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Joy (Carroll) Miller of Madison, Wisconsin, were left to decide what was to become of their great, great-grandmother's tea set.

Meanwhile, back in Dennis, sometime in July of last year, the DHS acquired from Eldred's Auction House in East Dennis a collection of documents called the Whelden Papers. Somehow through the internet Charles Scott found that information and sent an e-mail to DHS asking about the Whelden family. Burt caught the query and, since he wasn't sure yet what exactly was in the collection, he promised to let them know. Burt didn't forget! Months later he sent the Scotts a transcription of some of the documents which he thought might be of interest to them and in reply learned that Ginny and Joy had their Whelden ancestor's tea set. More than that, they wanted to see that it had a good home! Would not Jericho be the perfect place?

On March 16, 2007 Joy Miller wrote: *Dear Burt,*

*I have just made reservations for Ginny, Chuck, and myself at the Shady Hollow Inn. ....The inn was originally the home of Seth Nickerson. Was he a brother of Suzannah? The innkeepers (Ann Hart & David Dennis) are*

*interested in knowing more about the family. At present we have information only about our direct line. Perhaps we can all share a cup of coffee in their dining room and talk about Nickersons. ....*

*I'll let you know when I have mailed the tea set. In the meantime, the Scotts and I are really looking forward to our time on Cape Cod. Tapping your fund of information and learning more about our roots will be great fun.*

On March 29 Burt wrote:

*Joy- Pass the word—the tea set arrived in perfect condition! I have a meeting arranged with the Jericho Museum people to meet me there to have it all set up, photographed and archived. I will present you with some paperwork about it when you arrive. We will also visit Jericho while you are here (although not officially open yet, we will make special arrangements—yes, I've done that) so you can see it for yourself and the context in which it will be displayed. Continuing to look forward to your visit, and hope it will be fruitful for you.*

*Burt Derick, Dennis Historical Society*

The reply came back quickly.

*I'm delighted the tea set arrived in good shape. It is quite beautiful, isn't it? How nice that it has finally gone home to South Dennis.*

*All my Whelden/Nickerson/Baker best,  
Joy*



Here is a picture of Joy Miller and her sister Ginny Scott taken on April 14 at Jericho in front of the china cabinet where the Susan Adelaide (Whelden) Baker tea set is now on display. Several pieces of this imported tea set were also shown at the Maritime Exhibit which was sponsored by the Dennis Historical Society and the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth in May at the West Dennis Yacht Club. On April 24 Ginny and Scott wrote:

*Hi Burt and Ruth,*

*What a wonderful time we had with you during our genealogy visit to Cape Cod. You were most helpful to us in finding many new family lines as well as many new individual ancestors. We will always be grateful. ....The pattern for the Captain Seth T. Whelden tea set is "Tea Leaf"—according to our cousin Malcolm Lewis. This information he recalls from our grandmother, Ida Lewis (Jones) Windsor.*

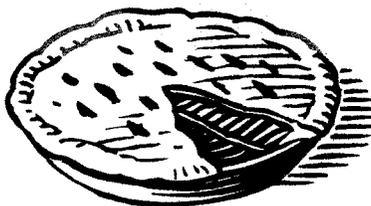
One last note, this one on April 28

*Dear Burt and Ruth,*

*It's hard to believe that one week ago, Ginny, Chuck, and I were leaving Cape Cod after more than a week of amazing discoveries and fun. You both enriched our experience immeasurably. ... Our drives in Dennis and Chatham introduced us to historical houses (many south-facing, of course), monuments, beaches, and the general home environment of our forebears. I loved it all, from Ruth's tour of the Josiah Dennis Manse to Burt's schematic explanation of the numerous Eleazers. When we were on our own, the pedigree charts and family group sheets you created made our library time in Barnstable, Dennisport, and Sandwich more worthwhile. In summary, thank you very much for sharing your time, talents, and terminal moraine with us!*

*Fondly, Joy*

Yes, thank you, Burt and Ruth for making DHS look so good!



**Don't forget, the Famous Manse Committee Pie Sale!**  
**It's Monday, July 2 at 6:00 P.M. on the Village Green.**  
**Buy a piece or a pie from the Manse Bakers' at their 8th annual pie sale. (Other goodies available, too.) Bring a blanket or a chair and stay to listen to the first concert of the season.**

Also, don't forget to come and meet authors **Scott and Robin Walker** at their **book signing on June 23 at the Manse** Open House from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. . Did you see the great write-up by **Nicole Muller in the May 24 issue of *The Register*** entitled "**Every picture tells a story**"? Also, did we tell you that **Robin and Scott** are donating all royalties on the book to the **Dennis Historical Society**?

On a sadder note we mention the passing of **Marie A. Brooke**, a postal worker at the **East Dennis Post Office** for 35 years. She always served with a **personal greeting** and a smile!

Our sympathies to the family of **Eldon Earle Davidson**, long time supporting member of the DHS, who **grew up in Dennis** and, after attending **Norwich University**, became a **Naval Aviation Cadet**. He was a **pilot** from 1943-1963 in the **Marine Corps**, serving two combat tours in **World War II** and another tour in **Korea**. After retiring from the Corps he was assistant manager at the **Raleigh-Durham airport** and was later hired as **executive director** of **Savannah International Airport** from 1964-1991. Although recently from **Georgia**, his roots were in **Dennis**.

**Coming in June:** On **June 8 & 9** the **third graders** from **Ezra Baker School** will be visiting **Jericho House and Barn Museum** for a glimpse into the **1800's** and how life in **Dennis** was different from the **1700's Manse** which they visited in **May**. Also in **June**, the **second and third graders** will be visiting the **West Dennis Graded School Room**, the **third-graders** having already experienced earlier school days at the **1745 Schoolhouse**.

Speaking of which, there were **108 children** and **28 adults** who visited the **Manse in May** and the children, guided by their teachers, wrote some very nice thank you notes. One child, with help at home, actually cut a **quill pen** and wrote to us in **ink**. He sent his note in **separately**.

*Dear Manse Staff,*

*Thank you for the great tour. I love the fresh bread and butter. It is very interesting how they catch whales and make salt. Sincerely, Ben Gordon Please accept this donation.*

Enclosed was \$1.13. How could we refuse? Thanks, Ben!

June 2007

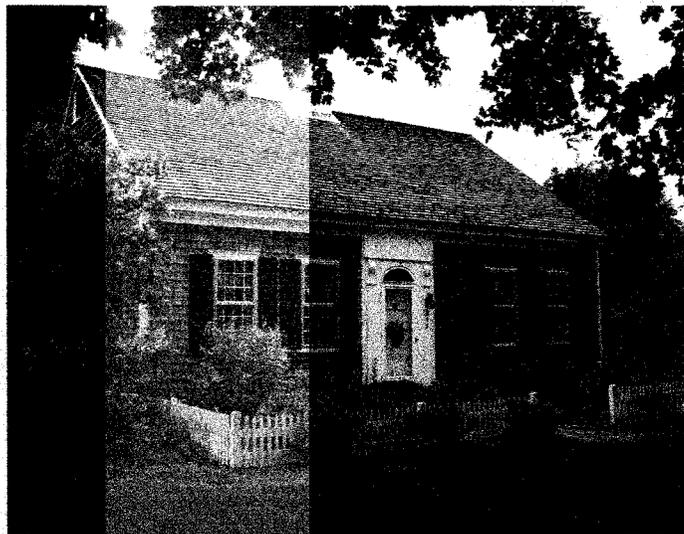
**Dennis Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 607**  
**South Dennis, MA 02990-0607**

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## The Way We Were

When Joy Miller and the Scotts were visiting, they stayed almost directly across the street from their ancestor's home, number 343 Main Street in South Dennis. Pictured at the right is the Captain Seth T. Whelden home. Since it is currently for sale, the visitors called and asked if they might see the inside. They had a wonderful tour of the old homestead, and were allowed to take pictures, thus adding to their wealth of family knowledge. No wonder they had such a good time!



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*A reminder to save the date of October 13 for our Annual Meeting which will be a luncheon held at the newest restaurant in town—the New Sea View! After the luncheon there will be brief annual reports from the Board of Directors followed by entertainment.*