



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

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Jericho Historical Center Driftwood Zoo

A few Friends of Jericho have started cleaning and repairing some of the displays in the Driftwood Zoo that is hidden away in the cellar of the barn at the Jericho House. The restored pieces will be put on display in the large glass-front case on the first floor of the barn.

Quite a coating of dust and cobwebs has gathered over the years since Sherman Woodward died and left his imaginative works of art to the Jericho Historical Center and it was housed in the Jericho barn. Sparkling clean and well lighted in the beginning, over the years the pieces of art have succumbed to dirt and dim light. Restoring the zoo is dusty, dirty work, but those working on it agree it is worthwhile and fun too.

I lived in South Dennis during my high school years and before I married and moved to West Dennis. Like everybody else in South Dennis during the early 20th century, I knew everyone who lived on Main Street in the village and went into most of the houses at one time or another. The Woodwards whose foster daughter, Jeannie, was about my age, often invited me to come over after school. Their house, facing Main Street, was on the south corner of Capt. Nickerson Lane.

I got to know the Woodward's, especially Sherman Woodward, who often insisted we come out to the barn behind their house and see his latest creation for the zoo. The barn, open to the public, was a fascinating place, filled with completed dioramas as well as works-in-progress and collections of miscellaneous wood, shells, dried seaweed and a lot of beach flotsam and jetsam.

Mr. Woodward told us that all these items had been found on beaches on Cape Cod or where he went in his travels for business and pleasure. He loved showing off his works and had a sign in front of his house inviting people to come in and see this unique "zoo." He was a popular speaker, too, and presented shows for clubs and schools. He managed to get the attention of the U.S. president too (His letters from Washington D.C. will also be on display).

Jericho is fortunate to have inherited these works of early 20th Century folk art by one of the town's prominent residents. If you haven't seen the "zoo", at least, don't miss this chance to see some of its best examples.

-- Peggy Eastman

The Dennis Historical Society Digital Archive

As you know, we have been developing a comprehensive Digital Archive under community Preservation funding. You can easily get to it through the DHS website or if you prefer by using the address "archive.dennishistsoc.org". To get to the DHS website just type in *Dennis Historical Society* into any web browser, and "Archives" is in the top banner. To date, there are several thousand items in that collection and we have had 220,739 searches for material as of this writing. Data entry goes on apace, and we will seek continuation of the project this fall at Town Meeting. There are thousands of items that are still to be made accessible to the public.

Most of the material has been privately digitized by and much transcribed by Burt Derick. While some of these materials can be 'mined' to provide comprehensive historical accounts of events, the histories of vessels and families, there is more than ample material to pick and choose amongst for inclusion in these pages from time to time. I've been wandering through the archive and have found lots of interesting tidbits, including a book by my great-grandfather's brother! With

great thanks to Burt for his efforts in scanning and transcribing this material, I'll be including excerpts (or snippets, whichever you prefer) now and then, complete with his notes and comments. Sorry, you'll have to wait to read the full documents until they get on-line.

EDITH MEGATHLIN

Edith Megathlin of West Dennis, MA, kept a diary that was found in a school composition book. Her diary was named "**My Trip At Sea In the "O. D. Witherell" of Dennis 1902.**" I'll include some bits from this some other time. However, I found a letter written to her that Burt transcribed to be quite interesting. It was from E. Nellie Anison/Arnison of Providence, written 19 Oct 1900, and was found in a school notebook of Edith's with this typewritten attachment:

"July 18, 1900.

Started from Providence on the 9.02 train for Boston and arrived at 10.30. Ernest met us. Mrs. Walker and the children, their guide and I stayed in the waiting room while Papa and Ernest saw that the trunks were sent in the right direction. After waiting an hour and a half we took a carriage to the boat. We had to wait a long time before we could board the boat, and when we did, Mrs. Walker made a bee line for the dining room to secure our places. We obtained fine seats but at the second sitting. I know Papa tipped the waiter afterwards and we were transferred to the first sitting.

I was so hungry about twelve o'clock that I could have eaten anything but not a bite did we get until half past five.

On board Ernest found Will Hughes, who had been transferred to Second Cabin. I am very glad for I can't be lonesome now.

When we were leaving the dock, Jack something, an Irishman, had such a pile of friends to bid him good by and they were half drunk. When the ropes were loosened it nearly pulled two of his friends into the water, three other bystanders were pulled from the dock. They looked like some drowned rats as they clim[b]ed on a slippery log, they were re[s]cued easily by the police who stood calmly by watching."

"Women from the Township of Dennis Who Went to Sea"

During *Old Home Week, East Dennis* in 1942 this notable volume was published, and the following excerpts are from an address by Rev. Alfred Ray Atwood, D. D., Pastor.

"We select a few of these women from the Township of Dennis who sailed in different periods and in a variety of ships, and let them represent the rest.

From Dennis, formerly called North Dennis, mention is made of the following :

Jerusha Sturgis (Hall) Howes, wife of Capt. Moses Howes, sailed around the world and their painted portraits now hang in Dennis Memorial Library.

Lucy (Lord) Howes, wife of Capt. Benjamin P. Howes, in 1865, was one day out from Hong Kong, when the ship was overhauled by pirates and all on board were killed except Lucy Howes, her baby and little girl and the mate. After the pirates left, Lucy Howes and the mate (said to be Henry W. Hall of Dennis) succeeded in getting the vessel back to Hong Kong.

(NOTE: DHS sells *Privateers, Pirates and Beyond: Memoirs of Lucy Lord Howes Hooper*. Buy it from our website and read the whole account!)

Lucy (Howes) Hall, wife of Capt. Marcus Hall, was the most experienced voyager among Dennis women, going to Hawaii, China, Australia, around Cape Horn nineteen times, and once around the world, during which trips she studied navigation and helped the mate take observations.

Several South Dennis women sailed the seven seas or on coasting vessels. Among these are:

Lucy Isabel (Rogers) Bray, wife of Capt. Edwin Bray, voyaged to England and also from Maine to Southern ports.

Jessie Rogers, wife of Capt. Nathan F. Rogers, sailed to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk and Maine, with their two daughters accompanying them, Nettie (Mrs. Chester C. Nickerson) and Jessie (Mrs. Herbert Homer).

Susan K. Thacher, wife of Capt. Peleg Thacher, last of our deep sea steamship captains, who commanded S. S. Persian, S. S. Indian, and S. S. Parthian, accompanied him on many voyages.

Bessie (Overton) Matthews, wife of Capt. David L. Matthews, the last of our coasting captains, toured our Atlantic ports.

Dennis Port women who went to sea, in numbers lead the list of seafaring women from this nautical town. Among them were

Huldah Gardner, wife of Capt. Albert Gardner, who was accompanied to Australia by their daughter Sarah, where she met, and later married, an able Australian named Mixner. Belle, Sarah's daughter, still lives in Australia.

Annie Swensen Doane, wife of Capt. Frank Doane, crossed the equator twelve times on her long sea voyages and pleasantly remembered and frequently related the parties accompanying the equator crossing when the uninitiated were thoroughly "ducked" with buckets of salt water.

West Dennis is justly proud of its women who went to sea and were capable sailors. Some were competent navigators.

Olive Sears, whose children and grandchildren remember her original and spontaneous verses concerning her sea voyages, was the wife of Capt. Benjamin Parker Sears. His ship was the "Searsville," a product of our East Dennis Shipbuilding Yard and designed by the late David Shiverick, Sr., grandfather of Olive A. Shiverick. This vessel was captained by Capt. VanBuren Chase in his early life, father of Carrie Chase, the wife of Bernard M. Sheridan, at one time principal of the Dennis South High School and later superintendent of schools in Lawrence, Mass.

Esther Kelley Crowell, wife of Capt. Luther B. Crowell, circumnavigated the globe three times, and had thrilling adventures with threatening tempests and ship thieves during her long life on the ocean waves.

East Dennis not only built, according to Dean Arthur W. Tarbell's "Cape Cod Ahoy!" some of "the famous clipper ships that once won for America the commercial supremacy of the seas," but East Dennis also produced stalwart sailors and capable captains who "sailed those great ships, which for construction, speed, and beauty of design, have never been surpassed."

Last but not least, East Dennis is glad to pay homage and honor to her brave and brilliant women who went down to the sea in ships.

Margaret Homer Howes, the wife of Capt. William Frederick Howes, visited Calcutta and other Eastern ports in the famous clipper, "Belle of the West."

Persis Crowell, daughter of Capt. Prince S. Crowell, married Capt. John Addy, who had commanded the "Hippogriffe" for her father. They embarked on their honeymoon in the "Christopher Hall", and after discharging a cargo of coal and merchandise in Hong Kong, sailed for Howland's Island, the little atoll that Amelia Earhart failed to find. Here they loaded with guano for Woods Hole, and passing the Navigator Islands, sent a boat to find the harbor of Apia, where they might barter casks of water brought from China, for fresh vegetables. Here the ship struck a hidden reef and went down, but all on board reached shore in boats, and several months later Capt. and

Mrs. Addy secured passage to England on a ship which touched at this lonely port. Mrs. Persis Addy gave the first endowment to the East Dennis church, the interest of *Elizabeth L. Hedge*, the wife of Capt. Milton P. Hedge, accompanied her husband on many voyages. At one time she completed a trip around the globe, several weeks being spent in China and Calcutta. This was the probable voyage on which their ship "Webfoot" made the record passage from Calcutta to New York. On another voyage, Mrs. Hedge returned from San Francisco to East Dennis by train, arriving here just a short time before her son Joseph was born.

Mary McLaughlin, long employed in the home of Capt. Prince Sears Crowell at East Dennis, married Capt. James Connolly, and accompanied him several years in his circumnavigating the globe. His ship, the "South American," struck an uncharted reef off the west coast of Africa. When the captain's wife came on deck she was lashed to the mizzenmast. Later she was lashed to the weather pin rail. When the deck began to break up, all went into the mizzen rigging for the night, where some of the crew of twenty-six men called loudly upon God to save them and others prayed. Daylight revealed the faces of the weary crew and some bore a look of hopeless terror. But the face of the captain's wife was illumined with hope, courage, and resignation to the will of God. The ship's carpenter made rafts of the spanker boom, gaff, royal, and skysail yard, and all reached shore, where they were soon surrounded by a party of native Hottentots. Later, picked up by a passing ship, they returned to East Dennis where Capt. Connolly for awhile corresponded for Boston newspapers and "The Pilot." At one time he was a lecturer at the East Dennis Lyceum.

Surely, "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep." But

"No matter where I chance to roam
As through this life I plod,
I praise this land, my dear old home,
The sands of Old Cape Cod.
And this I ask: When life is o'er
That my soul will go to God,
That my body lie on its native shore,
Neath the sands of Old Cape Cod." "

There is an additional compilation of seagoing wives that will be included in a later issue.

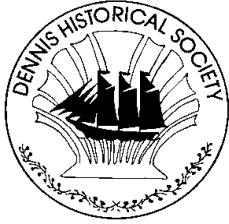
Pete Howes

DHS Book Sales Are Now "User Friendly"

Books can be directly ordered from the DHS website and paid for by using **PayPal**, a global e-commerce business allowing payments and money transfers to be made through the Internet. Online money transfers serve as electronic alternatives to paying with traditional paper methods, such as checks and money orders. Several payment options exist including credit card payments or direct bank transfers. No more printing out the form and sending a check by snail mail if you would like a more rapid response. Our Treasurer, Bob Hunter, made this happen for us!

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

Note: All members are invited to attend all monthly DHS Board Meetings. The next meeting is at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12 at the Jericho Historical Center, 90 Old Main St., West Dennis.



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<p style="text-align: center;">June 9 Saturday, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Walking Tour of Quivet Neck with Brendan Joyce</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meet at Jacob Sears Library, 23 Center St. E. Dennis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rain Date: June 10 @1:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June 23 Saturday, 1 - 4 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Manse Opening Reception”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Summer Exhibit: <i>“Dennis In The War of 1812”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tours</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Refreshments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">77 Nobscusset Rd. Dennis Village</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June 24 Sunday, Noon - 3 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Capt. Levi Crowell, Civil War Prisoner”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Refreshments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">West Dennis Graded School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">67 School St. West Dennis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June 24 Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Victorian Tea Party at Jericho”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Driftwood Zoo Revisited”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Refreshments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tours</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jericho Historical Center 90 Old main St. West Dennis</p>
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OLD FASHIONED PIE SALE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN
 Monday, July 2nd at 5 p.m. (Note: New Time!!)
 Manse Bakers 14th Annual Pie Sale
 Proceeds Benefit The 1736 Josiah Dennis Manse Museum