



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter June 2017

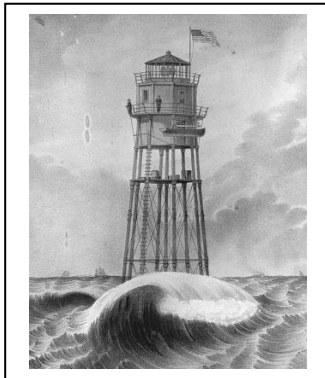
Volume 40, No4

Dennis Historical Society – copyright 2017 Internet: www.dennishistoricalsociety.org E-mail: info@dennishistoricalsociety.org

Board Meeting Tuesday, June 13, 2 pm, West Dennis Graded School, 67 School Street, West Dennis

**Board Meeting Tuesday, July 11, 2 pm, Dennis Memorial Library, 1020 Old Bass River Road, Dennis
members welcome**

Please send information & stories for the newsletter to DHS, PO Box 607, S Dennis, MA 02660 or Diane Rochelle, email: whiskeyboo@comcast.net



Minots Ledge Lighthouse
Cohasset, built 1847 – 1875

NOBSCUSSETT HOTEL

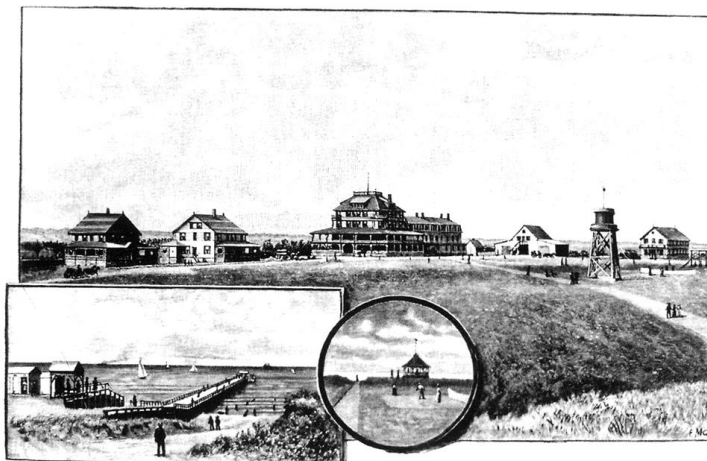
In 1870, James Lufkin bought Minot House in Scituate, took it apart and shipped it to Dennis. The barge carrying windows and doors arrived first. He rebuilt the house on a 60' high bluff overlooking the bay and named it Cape Cod Bay House. The 3 story French Empire hotel had 50 rooms under a mansard roof and was located at the end of Nobscussett Road near where Bay View Beach is now.

James quickly sold it to Charles Humphrey, who opened it in 1873 on 125 acres, 40 of which were the Black Earth Whaling Grounds. Bathing, boating, fishing, rambling, croquet, lawn tennis, swings, an ice house and a "never fail" spring were advertised. The following year a wooden observatory was built atop Scargo Hill.

By 1885, Dennis native and founder of Chicago's Tobey Furniture Company, Charles Tobey, had purchased it, re-naming it Nobscussett House. Charles enlarged the hotel to 4 1/2 stories, added several guest cottages, a billiard room and a bowling alley with dance hall above for his 200 guests. When decorated for the 1886 July 4th fireworks, it was described as "an immense cluster of jewels." The "Nobs" even sponsored a baseball team. In 1887 he built a pier into the bay from the bath houses and bathing pavilion. His brother Frank took over the hotel at Charles death in 1888. The Nobscussett House now boasted 215 acres including a golf course, tennis courts and a small boat. Rooms could be rented for about \$6 to 14 a week and suites for \$12 to 16. Children and nurses were charged \$7 a week as they ate in a separate dining room. Guests were transported by horse drawn coach from the train station.

The Scargo Hill Observatory, taken down by storms and forest fire, was rebuilt three times. A 30' stone tower built in 1901 still stands. The Nobscussett endured until the stock market crash and ensuing depression. It was torn down in 1930, the land subdivided, leaving the cottages lone survivors of a graceful and elegant past.

History of Barnstable County,
Massachusetts
Simeon L. Deyo
1890





THE NOBSCUSSETT HOUSE
DENNIS, MASS.

2016 DHS ANNUAL APPEAL

At the end of 2016, we conducted our second annual appeal. 72 members contributed and we raised \$6,910. Of that, \$1,895 was designated for special needs we identified at our museum buildings and \$5,015 went toward ongoing needs including programs and collections care. We want to thank you again for your support to our appeal! Our thanks also go to several area businesses that contributed, as follows: ARC Aquacultural Research Corporation, Bass River Marina, Hart Farm Nursery & Garden Center, Janine B Sport-Fishing Charters, Kate Byron, Realtor, Mid Cape Home Centers, Singer & Singer Law Office LLC and True Value Hardware of Orleans. Again, thank you for your support for the Dennis Historical Society!

Betsy Harrison, Past President

 <p>WANTED</p>		<p>DHS Newsletter Editor</p> <p>Begin Work Yesterday Maximum Pay Available Unbelievable Benefits Overtime Options Creativity Not Needed Apply NOW Whiskeyboo@comcast.net</p> <p>DHS Publicity Director</p>
--	---	--

CAPE COD AGRICULTURE; PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Reverend Alfred Ray Atwood, Pastor East Dennis Wesleyan Methodist Church, July 25, 1943
based on a paper "In the Past:" by Professor Henry C. Kittredge of Barnstable

"The Cape has never been a farmer's paradise. Cape Codders chose the sea not because the soil was useless, but because no one who lives beside salt water can long rest content with following a plow. At first, of course, the settlers had to farm...or starve. They spent their time clearing land and planting corn But neither wheat nor corn, flax nor onions, could do much in the light soil of the Cape without fertilizer; and fertilizer in the shape of seaweed and horseshoe crabs was ready at hand The settlers learned from the Indians how to plant horseshoe crabs with their corn; one quarter of a crab to a hill on fair soil and one crab to a hill on poor soil. Thus enriched, even very sandy soil would yield 20 bushels of corn an acre. Beside crops, Cape farmers raised cattle and sheep. plenty of pasturage and acres of salt marsh where hay was to be had Wolves were a constant source of annoyance as shown by the town records.

Kittredge goes on to remind us that cranberries, asparagus and strawberries became important commercial crops for later Cape farmers, writing "I am much interested to read what you say about the cotton experiment at Follen's Pond." Reverend Atwood replied, "A group of Quakers raised cotton and built a meeting house With the depletion there of soil, cotton growing ceased."

ROSE VICTORIAN HAPPENINGS

Beginning **June 2nd** the Rose Victorian Gift Shop will be open every **Friday and Saturday from 10 – 4 OR whenever the OPEN FLAG is flying!** The Back Barns, Kitchen and Linen shop will be open whenever we have enough volunteers to staff them. **Everything is On Sale!**

Our huge **5th Annual Yard Sale** will be **July 28 & 29, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

DHS is about to embark on the 5th Season as owners of this lovely Victorian property. When it was time to retire from the Sea, Captain Baker knew it was time to drop anchor; DHS finds itself in a similar situation. After much deliberation we are investigating the best way to find a new owner for this very special historical property. More news about this will be in the next newsletter, June Howes.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN
Bradford's History of 'Plimoth Plantation'
transcription of a manuscript by Gov. William Bradford, 1647
published by the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1857

A voyage of adventurers and planters aboard the Mayflower, 1620

“In all this viage ther died but one of y^e passengers, which was William Batten, a youth, servant to Samuell Fuller, when they drew near y^e coast. after long beating at sea they fell with that land which is called Cape Cod; the which being made & certainly knowne to be it, they were not a little joyfull. After some deliberation had amongst them selves & with y^e m^r. of y^e ship, they tacked aboute and resolved to stande for y^e southward (y^e wind & weather being faire) to finde some place aboute Hudsons river for their habitation. But after they had sailed y^t course aboute halfe y^e day, they fell amongst deangerous should and roring breakers, and they were so farr intangled ther with as they conceived themselves in great danger; And y^e next day they got into y^e Cape-harbor wher they ridd in saftie. A word or too by y^e way of this cape; it was thus first named by Capten Gosnole & his company, Anno: 1602, and after by Capten Smith was called Cape James; but it retains y^e former name amongst seamen. Being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees & blessed y^e God of heaven Being this passed y^e vast ocean, and a sea of troubles before in their preparation they had now no friends to welcome them, nor inns to entertaine or refresh their weatherbeaten bodys, no houses or much less townes to repaire too, to seeke for succore. y^t the barbarians shewed them no smale kindness in refreshing them, but these savage barbarians, when they mette with them were readier to fill their sids full of arrows then otherwise.

Being thus arrived at Cap-Cod y^e 11. of November, and necessitie calling them to looke out a place for habitation they having brought a large shalop with them out of England, stowed in quarters in y^e ship, they now got her out & sett their carpenters to worke to trime her up; but being much brused & shattered in y^e shipe wth foule weather, they saw she would be longe in mending. Wherupon a few of them tendered them selves to goe by land and discovere those nearest places They sett forth y^e 15. of nove^{br}. and when they had marched aboute the space of a mile by y^e sea side, they espied 5. or 6. persons with a dogg coming towards them, who were salvages; but they fled from them, & rane up into y^e woods, and y^e English followed them, But at length they found water & refreshed them selves, being y^e first New-England water they drunke of, and was now in thir great thirste as pleasante unto them as wine or bear had been in for-times. And proceeding further they saw new-stuble wher corne had been set y^e same year and heaps of sand newly padled with their hands, which they, digging up found in them diverce faire Indean baskets filled with corne, and some in eares, faire and good, of diverce collours, (having never seen any shuch before.) So their time limited them being expired, they returned to y^e ship and tooke with them parte of y^e corne, and buried y^e rest, and so like y^e men from Escholl carried with them of y^e fruits of y^e land, & showed their brethren; of which, & their returne, they were marvelously glad, and their harts encouraged.

.... And the rest marched throw y^e woods to see y^e land, if any fit place might be for their dwelling. They came also to y^e place wher they saw the Indans y^e night before, & found they had been cutting up a great fish like a grampus, being some 2. inches thike of fate like a hogg, some peeces where of they had left by y^e way So they made them a barricade (as usually they did every night) with logs, staks & thike pine bowes, y^e height of a man, leaving it open to leeward But aboute *midnight*, they heard a hideous & great crie, and their sentinel called, “Arme, Arme”; so they bestirred them & stood to their armes, & shote of a cupple of moskets, and then the noys ceased. They concluded it was a companie of wolves, or such like wild beasts; for one of y^e sea men tould them he had often heard such noyse in New-found land.

.... And this being the *last day of y^e weeke*, they prepared ther to keepe y^e *Sabath*. On *Munday* they sounded y^e harbor, and founde it fit for shipping; and marched into y^e land, & found diverse cornfields, & little running brooks, a place (as they supposed) fit for situation; at least it was y^e best they could find, and y^e season, & their presente necessite, made them glad to accept of it. So they returned to their ship againe with this news to y^e rest of their people, which did much to comfort their harts.

On y^e 15. of Desem^r. they wayed anchor to goe to y^e place they had discovered, & came within 2. leagues of it, but were faine to bear up againe; but y^e 16. *Day* y^e winde came faire, and they arrived safe in this harbor. And after wards tooke better view of y^e place, and resolved wher to pitch their dwelling; and y^e 25. *day* begane to erecte y^e first house for comone use to receive them and their goods.”

Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660-0607

Non-profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 24
South Yarmouth, MA
02664



Josiah Dennis Manse Opening Reception
Saturday, June 24 from 1-4 pm,
61 Whig St, Dennis

Tour the 1st minister's home with costumed docents.
The Shiverick Maritime Room highlights the long gone
Nobscussett Hotel. Experience a one room schoolhouse
and colonial gardens. Refreshments served.

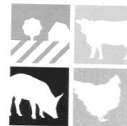
No admission fee, donations appreciated.

*1801 Captain Baker House
and Barn Opening*

Saturday June 17th 1-4 pm

Information and products from
these Dennis Farms will be
available:

Seawind Meadows
Hidden Acres
Annie's Crannies
Hokum Rock Farm
East Dennis Oyster Farm
Tuckernuck Farm
Not Enough Acres



*Celebrate Local
Farms*

At the Jericho Historical Center
On the corner of Old Main Street & Trotting Park Road
Where South Dennis and West Dennis Meet



The Dennis Historical Society: established to preserve, promote & protect the history of Dennis, MA