

Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 30 Number 5

Send letters and stories to Lura Crowell, Editor, Box 607, S. Dennis 02660 or sesuettfarm@verizon.net

May 2007

Calendar

May 1,3,4,7 &8
DHS School Program for
third graders at the
Manse.

The Largest Maritime
Exhibit Ever
at the
West Dennis Yacht Club
May 18, 19 and 20
Co-sponsored by the
Historical Society of
Old Yarmouth
and the
Dennis Historical Society
this exhibit will be a
feature of
Maritime Week on Cape
Cod.

Collections from both Societies will be on display as well as other artifacts from private homes. There will be a reception on Friday evening and the exhibit will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday.

Children under 12 will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Each child will receive a package of printed materials including a maritime history of Dennis and Yarmouth.

Dennis...a new publication by Scott & Robin Walker

A new addition to Arcadia Publishing's Postcard History Series is coming this June thanks to Scott I. and Robin E. Walker. (Scott is a 12th and 13th generation descendent of some of the earliest Northside families—Howes, Sears, Hall and Paddock.) Our authors came here first as summer visitors. They took up permanent residence 35 years ago.

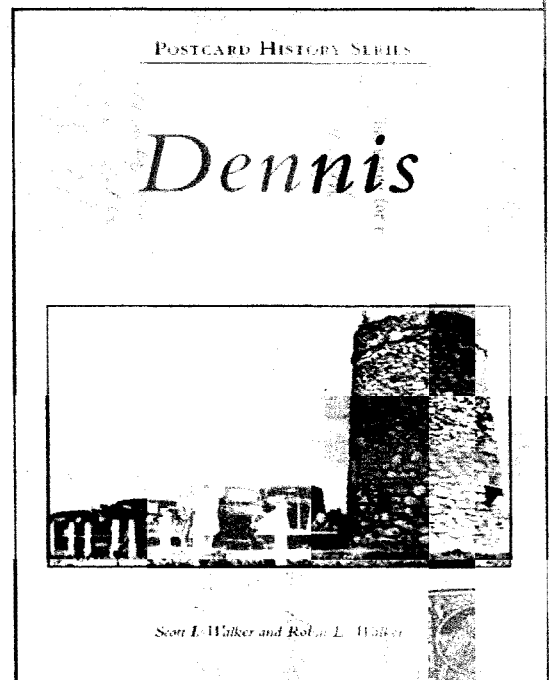
Their book contains images of over 220 vintage postcards, with accompanying descriptions and historical facts. The images cover the 1895-1960 time frame and depict the homes, streets, businesses and places of interest within the five villages of the Town of Dennis. This was the period when the area was undergoing a transformation to industry and tourism from what had previously been a predominantly seafaring and farming community.

Three quarters of the postcards used in the book were borrowed from local postcard collectors and the remaining fourth were from the collection in the archives of the Dennis Historical Society.

Arcadia is one of the leading national publishers of local and regional history in the United States, with a catalog of over 4,000 titles in print. Their new 128-page, 6 1/2" by 9 1/4" book will sell for \$19.95.

Although the publisher has scheduled a release date of May 28, you will surely be able to find the postcard version of *Dennis* in book stores early in June. The Dennis Historical Society will also have copies for sale. If you send a check for \$19.95 and \$4 for shipping to DHS Books at P.O.Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660, we will mail you a copy as soon as they arrive. The books will also be for sale at **Jericho** and **the Manse** this summer.

Our authors, who took their time and effort to put together this post card history, are generously donating the royalties from the sale of their book to DHS. **Scott and Robin Walker** will join us for a **book-signing at the June 23 Open House at the Josiah Dennis Manse from 1 to 4 P.M.**



News from members and friends

Lu,

Just finished reading the (March) Newsletter and it sure took me back! My first real job away from home was at the Willows when I was 13, doing everything from peeling potatoes to helping clean rooms to waiting tables, which was what I was hired for. Katie Jorgensen was the chief kitchen help and she was a honey! Then, next page was a story re the Van Iderstines. Mother [Evelyn (Kempton) Crowell] and Mildred were friends when I was young. Harry and Evelyn rode the same school bus and Evelyn sat in the seat in front of mine. Harry was a year younger and Evelyn was a year older. I think the fact that they came from PEI was the link with Mother (the Crowells always considered Mother a "foreigner".) Hadn't heard of that family for half a century! Bet that Newsletter reminds a lot of people of things they'd forgotten long ago.

Love, Ruth [(Crowell) Jahnke] Rockport, TX

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am sending you a check for a book, per your website. The book is *Scuttle Watch* by Marion Crowell Ryder. I am so pleased that you carry this book. I read it as a child and am thrilled to find it again. It is a must read for any Cape child. Thank you so much for keeping it in your store. You made my day.

Amy Holmes, South Dennis

I am thoroughly enjoying my *Dennis Source Records* book (which lists my church baptism.) The enclosed check is to cover the additional postage over what I sent. I did not realize the book would be sent priority mail. Thank you.

Lorraine Clarke (nee Wixon) Hot Springs, AR

(Thank you, Lorraine!)

New From Harvest Home Books

Life Members Jim Coogan and Jack Sheedy have done it again! Their newest book is a collection of more than 80 stories entitled *Cape Cod Harvest: A Gathering in of Cape Cod Stories*. It is a paperback book with 208 pages which will sell for \$14.95. We hope to add this book to our list of books for sale at the Manse and Jericho, but if you just can't wait, call 1-508-833-2952 or visit the Harvest Home Books website www.harvesthomebooks.com to place an order.

An e-mail to Nancy Howes and Peter Howes of the Howes Family Association
Nancy & Pete:

I know you are both members of the Dennis Historical Society Board and I would like to ask that you please personally convey my sincere appreciation to the Society. Please convey also my special thanks to Burt Derick who contributed in such great measure to the successful publication and distribution of the new *Howes Family Genealogy*. It has been a long uphill journey since 1960 and the Smith Corona Typewriter with which I started, to today having a current Published Genealogy and a Family Web Site! I am also quite pleased that the Dennis Historical Society will be the repository for updates, corrections, etc. for the Howes Genealogy, with the view to continuing the recording of our Howes Family History. Thank you all so very much!!!

Robert A. Howes Las Cruces NM

Well done, "Cousin Bob"! Thank YOU.

Still more....

From Hal Howes of McLean, VA comes one of those corrections: *In response to your request for corrections to the new Howes Genealogy that Bob Howes has just published, I offer the following: On p. 373, at #1342. Walter Straight should be spelled Walter Streight.*

We have received several other corrections which are now on file. Thank you all for your careful reading of the Genealogy.

From Priscilla Perry Sprunt we learned: *I have moved to a retirement facility (run by the Methodists) over a year now—but appreciate the Newsletter and hope my daughter Suze Peace will be able to receive these when I die. She is our historian in the family.... Recently I have become a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames XVII century—a descendant of Nicholas Cady of Massachusetts. Mother was Ernestine Wood Cady (Perry). Enclosed please accept my check to cover some of the restorations. (to the Manse) Mother would be pleased to know these precious homes are being cared for. (Ernestine Perry was a founding mother of DHS!)*

Edmond R. Nickerson wrote to the Board of Directors: *Enclosed please find an unrestricted gift...in appreciation of the transcription of the Seth Taylor Whelden Papers by Burton N. Derick. It is my hope that this contribution will be used in a manner consistent with Burt Derick's work and transcription affairs. The Board agrees with many thanks! More about those Whelden papers to come.*

From the letters of Louise Alexander

These letters were written to Louise Morgan ("Laurie") by Louise Alexander who signed them "Hero" or "Alison." The girls had known each other in Hope Street High School in Providence, but due to a set-back in family business, the Alexanders had to move back to the Cape to stay with "Aunt Hattie" (Alexander) (Farris) McVea on Main Street in South Dennis. In 1913 Louise Morgan married Gordon S. Fulcher. The letters she had kept through the years were transcribed by her daughter-in-law, Jane M. Fulcher in 1999.

Memorial Day, 1902 South Dennis

Dear Laurie,

Catch the salt breeze that blew into the envelope. How the wind does blow down the chimney, in the door, and best of all it roars all day long in the pines behind the house. You would think you were at the seashore just to hear the pines roar.

We live in the dearest queerest little village—old fashioned farm houses scattered along a sandy road, pine trees and a winding river for a back-ground. Nobody here bothers with a last name and everybody knows everyone else and apparently all take life comfortably and have a good time.

Ruth and I explored the whole house the night we came and fell in love at first sight. Don't you love a house that rambles about in the most delightful and unexpected way? Well, Aunt Hattie's house is only a story and a half and it looks such a cosy little dovecot on the outside, but when you go in, it all unfolds till you wonder where it stops.

While our little cousin, Evelyn, is at school, we three (What enviable bliss!) set out on exploring expeditions. One afternoon we stole across the old bridge [*Highbank?*] to the other side of the river—wandered about the woods in little by-paths to our hearts content—after a flower here or following a bird call there—now a glimpse of the river and now only the dark pines for company.At last we came out upon a dear little peeked-roof house and it looked so inviting we perched upon the fence to look at it.

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5/07

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The Way We Were

"Here comes Mr. Hersey," said Dorry, looking down the road. Now Mr. Hersey has a last name because he came from Boston and is important. He is our next door neighbor and he is just fine. He has been in the Civil War and his manners would do credit to any Southern gentleman. I was a wee bit scared of his ferocious gray moustache and thick bristling brows at first, but he is so kind I soon forgot them.

Well, Mr. Hersey took us into the little house and introduced us to a jolly old fisherman called "Uncle William" and his wife Hannah Maria. Uncle William is such an interesting old character and says the oddest things. He seemed glad to see us and smiled all over his tanned and wrinkled face.

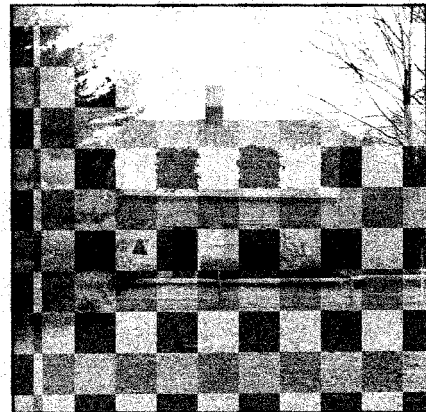
We stayed most of the afternoon and when we said we must go, he led us across the meadow to the river and rowed us home.

I have been on a four-mile tramp in the woods with papa this morning. I am sure I would have lost myself if I had tried to go alone.

Write and tell me how the whole Morgan family and everyone at school is progressing. Ruth and I send lots of love to you, dear Laurie. Share it with Madge like a good little girl. I'm going out in the back garden to dig.

With love, Hero

Andrew J. Hersey, clerk, lived on Main Street in South Dennis. William E. Baker (1828-1914) was the son of Josiah & 2nd wife Polly (Eaton) Baker. Hannah Maria was born in Yarmouth in 1847 and was Uncle William's third wife. Her parents were Phineas & Hannah (Lewis) Baker.



Could this be Aunt Hatties?