



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

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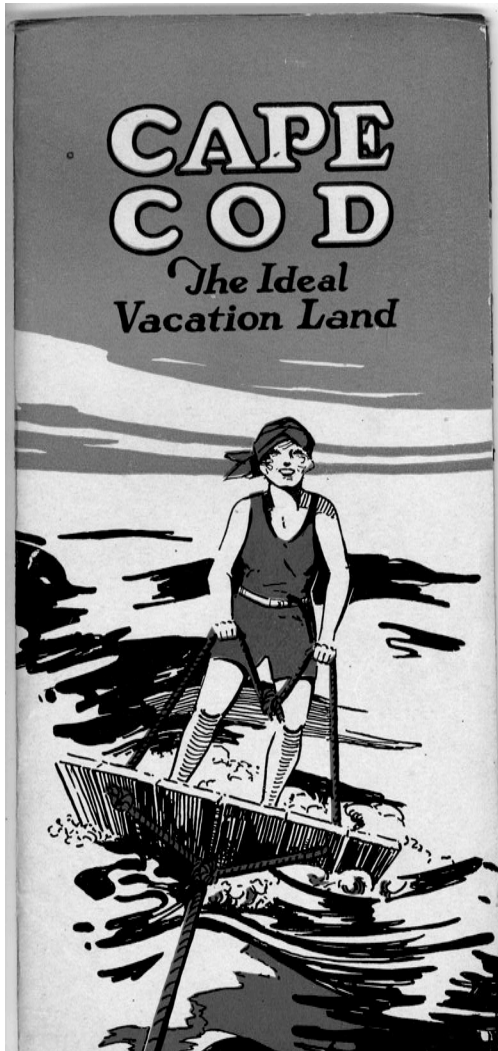
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And we have a new e-mail address**

**www.dennishistoricalsociety.org
info@dennishistoricalsociety.org**

Getting To The Cape In 1927

Recently Ruth Derick, Dawn Dellner, my daughter, Lynne and I visited the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA. Lynne drove. I love being a “designated rider” and the trip was flawless thanks to my GPS.

Two weeks prior to the trip DHS received two travel guides for 1927 and 1928 from our Audio-Visual specialist, Brendan Joyce. These were 4 ½” wide by 9” high brochures with 48 pages, an attached fold-out map and titled “Cape Cod – The Ideal Vacation Land”. There was a drawing of



an attractive young woman wearing a very modest belted, red-woolen bathing suit that came half way to her knees. Knee socks and a red head scarf completed her ensemble. This daring young woman is riding a wooden surfboard presumably being towed by a motorboat. The same picture is on both tour guides.

Inside is a brief historical sketch of all the Cape towns and ads of all sizes promoting primarily gift shops, restaurants and places to stay overnight or longer. “Modern Conveniences” meant they had indoor toilets – a novelty at that time. The other description was “good sanitary arrangements” – whatever that indicated, I leave it up to you.

Among the Dennis ads were: “Nobscusset Hotel, Accommodations for 150, the finest beach and view of Ocean on Cape Cod, Halfway between Plymouth and Provincetown on the Pilgrim Highway, H. D. Neal, Manager”. The Cape Playhouse had a modest ad and the one for “The Sign of the Motor Car Inn and Tea Room” said they also sold real estate.

Dean’s Radio, Louis Dean, Prop, Dennis Port advertised that he was an Atwater Kent and Kellogg radio dealer as well as Brunswick Panatropes & Copeland Electric Refrigeration. Phillips Garage in East Dennis offered Paige automobiles sales and service. Mrs. Ada Chase, Proprietor, of the Sunny Meade House in Dennis Port, Box 157, offered Rooms and Meals. Her telephone was “Harwich” 331-4. For the uninitiated that meant the telephone operator in Harwich Center, probably Geneva Eldridge, would put the line cord in

the 331 opening and depress her ring switch four times. If Miss Ada didn’t answer in 10-15 seconds she’d ring it again until someone answered. If she was out Geneva would take a message and

deliver it when she came home. Those were the good old days! There was “The Sunbeam, East Dennis, Dine and Dance, Lobster, Chicken and Steak Specialties.” I have no idea where this place was.

And then there was the Silver Slipper Inn in South Dennis, Mass. “On the Cape” Chicken, Steak Lobster Dinners – Private Parties Solicited – Telephone Harwich 164-31 (that meant three longs and one short). The Silver Slipper gained some notoriety during Prohibition when it was raided for dispensing intoxicating spirits. I surmise its name may have come from Silver Slipper Gin—a brand that was popular in the early 1900s.

The most interesting features of these tour guides are the driving directions of how to get here, by the north or south route. North came through Plymouth and south through Middleboro and Buzzards Bay. For example: 0.0 Copley Square by way of Dartmouth St., turn left on Commonwealth Ave. to 1.0 Charlesgate West, turn left and cross railroad and bear right and at next fork bear left at 3.2 Brookline Village cross Huntington Ave. on Jamaica Way and continue through Arbor Way etc., etc. all the way to Provincetown!

The guide also gave Railroad Time Tables, Connections to New Bedford, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket Steamboat Lines, Daily Steamer info for the *Dorothy Bradford* from Boston to Provincetown. “Round Trip tickets good only on day of purchase, \$2.00, One Way \$1.75”.

Also Motor Bus service effective June 12, 1927, connecting with trains. From Hyannis to Chatham it took one hour and ten minutes to cover twenty miles, making ten stops. There were seven busses a day from 6:15 A.M. to 9:15 P.M.

I suspect every trip to Cape Cod in 1927 was an adventure but there was no excuse for getting lost, not with those directions!

The ad I liked best was:

Dinner A Dollar
Breakfast – Luncheon – Dinner

Before and ThEATre Open 24 hours
After the Every Day
Dancing and Food
“As You Like It”
Dennis Mass.

Phyllis Horton

Helping Hands at Swan Lake Cemetery

Swan Lake is a private cemetery in Dennis Port and just about every old timer from the Port is buried there. Burt Derick is President of the Association and he and I are related to about 3/4ths of the people there.

For a few recent years stewardship of the cemetery was spotty, at best. Burt’s daughter volunteered to become an unpaid Superintendent and we all agreed to let her try. Rebekah has a great “can do” attitude and tackles every job with gusto, very much like her father but she’s a whole lot prettier.

Beka has developed a Facebook page at Swan Lake Cemetery Association, Inc., has put out signs about dog walking courtesy, and invites anyone capable of cutting down or trimming some of the trees, brush or vines to contact her at 508-280-4143, or rderick@hotmail.com. Just bring clippers and gloves. Kindly put your clippings in a pile next to the avenue and accept our thanks.

The cemetery relies heavily on donations for grass cutting in the summer. It has 501(c)(3) non-profit status and has received Community Preservation funds to repair broken stones and the receiving tomb.

Last year my sons, Rick and Mike, both excellent tree men, took down two 40 foot trees that would have done tremendous damage to many stones if they had blown over. They would be available for more work except that one lives in New Jersey and the other in Florida.

Just recently Rebekah talked some friends, mostly landscapers, into donating a weekend of work at Swan Lake. Seven loads of brush and limbs went to the landfill. When the work was done Burt and Ruth arrived with hot pizza and cold beer and everyone went home happy.

This burial ground holds the remains of veterans of every war from the Civil War to Vietnam with a few exceptions where they died in battle or prisoners of war and are buried at those locations. Their stones here mark their place in history and in our hearts. Benjamin Franklin Baker, the only native Cape Codder to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor, is in his family lot. He earned that high honor at the battle of Cienfuegos Bay, Cuba during the Spanish-American War. There are a number of markers over empty graves of mariners who were lost at sea, just as there are in every Cape burial ground.

When I “cross over the bar” I’ll be put up next to my dear husband on top of the hill overlooking Swan Pond. It has wonderful sunsets and is the only piece of waterfront property I’ll ever own.

Phyllis Horton

“More Tales From Our Past”

In 2010 DHS and The Historical Society of Old Yarmouth presented “Tales From Our Past” at Carleton Hall. This two show event was nearly if not fully sold out for both performances. It was a wonderful fund raiser for both organizations and a lot of fun to present.

On Saturday October 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday October 14 at 2:00 p.m. we’re doing it again – and have aptly named this event as “More Tales From The Past”. Please put it on your calendars as when we announce ticket sales later this year, we expect a sell-out.

Now, kind readers, we look for YOUR participation. Do you have any stories or skits that would last 2-3 minutes that you can share with us? More importantly, would you like to join our convivial group and present it yourself? We would love to have you participate. In either case, please contact Terri Fox, our “Coordinator Supreme” at terrifox1@comcast.net or (508) 760-0433.

DHS Book Sales Become “User Friendly”

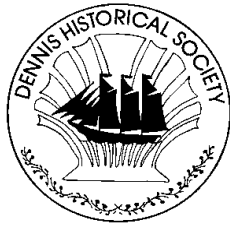
We are very pleased to report that, within the next week or so, books can be directly ordered from the DHS website and paid for by using **PayPal**, a global e-commerce business allowing payments and money transfers to be made through the Internet. Online money transfers serve as electronic alternatives 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.

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

Note: All members are invited to attend all monthly DHS Board Meetings. The next meeting is at 2 pm on Tuesday, May 8 at the Jericho Historical Center, 90 Old Main St., West Dennis.

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MARITIME DAYS EXHIBITS

Saturday, May 19th & Sunday, May 20th
Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Historian Phyllis Horton presents *TWO* new exhibits:

**“Dennis in the War of 1812” and
“Captain Levi Crowell, Civil War Prisoner”**

~~~ Plus guest author Deborah Hill ~~~

On Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Deborah will speak about her book, “*This is the House*” second edition. This story takes place on the Cape just after the Revolution and leads into the events prior to the start of the War of 1812. Learn more at: [www.deborahhillbooks.com](http://www.deborahhillbooks.com)

West Dennis Graded School House Museum, 67 School St., West Dennis

For more information: Call Phyllis at 508-394-0017 – prior to the event.

Refreshments

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F.Y.I.: Have you seen the Annual Report for the Town of Dennis 2011? For those on-cape members and all others who have not seen it, I just want you to know the Josiah Dennis Manse is on the cover and the book is dedicated to our own “Three Manseketeers” – Pete Howes, Dave Talbott and Dick Howes.

Congratulations!

Proudly submitted by: June Howes