



PAYING TRIBUTE

The Town of Dennis lost ten young servicemen in World War II. Four of the ten were honored at the time either by town action or by their families with public markers on town squares.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and the Dennis Historical Commission plans to honor the remaining six young men who gave their lives for this town and our country. The markers will be a bronze plaque on a pole with a hook for securing a wreath. Six suitable sites have been selected, each one in the village where the young man grew up.

The four men previously honored are Alfred G. Babineau of West Dennis, William O. King and Herbert L. Sears of Dennis village and Ernest Sears of Dennis Port. The men to be honored are Kenneth M. Chase and Wallace C. Doane of Dennis Port, William H. Crowell, Bernard Whitney O'Neil, and Sanford Vincent of West Dennis, and George B. Wilbur III of South Dennis. The Commission has been able to locate relatives for all of the young men except Sanford Vincent. If anyone knows where one of his survivors are please notify the Commission.

Many of us in Dennis grew up with these young men and remember them well. We have all grown older but they remain in our memories--forever young. I was baby sitting with Kenneth Chase's baby daughter on Sunday evening while Mrs. Chase attended church services. A knock on the door took me away from whatever radio program I was tuned in to. I opened it to find Arthur Perkins from Perkins Store in West Harwich with a telegram in his hand. The expression on his face told all that needed to be said. I sent him to church where he could deliver it to Mrs. Chase. Looking back I can see it was far better for her to receive the terrible news there surrounded by her friends and pastor than if she had been home alone with her baby on that Sunday night.

The Commission's budget for the year is \$1100.00 and the cost of the plaques is \$255.00 each, which means they could only contract for four markers. However, they feel it is important to recognize all six young men at the same time, so they are reaching out to the community to help fund the remaining markers. Contributions may be sent to the **Dennis Historical Commission**, Dennis Town Offices, P. O. Box 1419, South Dennis, MA 02660.

The Commission is hoping to dedicate these markers before the end of the year. The Department of Public Works has approved the sites and is preparing them for the dedications. Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #8074 of Dennis Port and Post #10274 of East Dennis have been requested to assist in the ceremonies. Further notice will be given in the Cape Cod Times, The Register, and next month's newsletter. We hope you will join us as we pay tribute to these young men from Dennis who gave the ultimate gift for our country.

THE RESTORATIVE POWERS OF DR. COREN

The title may sound like the announcement of a medical miracle, but it's not. Dr. Simon Coren of South Yarmouth is a retired medical doctor who has embarked on a second career as a restorer of antique paintings.

Dr. Coren bought his South Yarmouth residence as a retirement home 28 years ago while he was chief of emergency medicine at Sturdy Memorial Hospital. In furnishing this second home he purchased some 'less than perfect' oil paintings which needed different aspects of restoration. At that point he knew only that museums did that kind of work.

In 1970, while traveling in London, he found a hard cover edition of "Cleaning of Paintings" in a Trafalgar Square book store. He read the entire 300 page book on the plane trip home and returned with an eager desire to try his hand at restoring his damaged art pieces.

Today, twenty-five years later, Dr. Coren is a recognized expert in this field. Watching him work it becomes evident that his earlier medical training gave him the patience to perform the minute, painstaking work required in these restorations. Dr. Coren has also studied art restoration in graduate programs at New York University and at the International Institute of Conservationists.

Last spring Dr. Coren evaluated all the DHS paintings at Jericho and Josiah Dennis Manse regarding their condition. On his recommendation we had him restore the Sch. John Kranz Entering Leghorn, Marcus Lafayette Howes, Master. In several places the paint was lifting off the canvas and it needed cleaning. He returned it restored to its original beauty and brilliance, and it is under full sail in the East Parlor at the Manse. Dr. Coren now has the Searsville to work on. His comment when he took it out of the frame was, "My! now that's a challenge!" He then spent 15 minutes pointing out all the problems that need attention.

Dr. Coren documents all his work with photographs taken during the different stages of restoration. He will present a lecture to DHS on his work November 19, 2:00 P.M. at Carleton Hall. Do come and meet this most interesting man. Refreshments will be served.

One interesting bit of information about Dr. Coren. In 1964 he invented the painless and sterile ear piercing instrument that is used universally today. All you ladies with pierced ears should wear your most dazzling pair of earrings when you come to hear him speak!

CALENDAR

Nov. 19 2:00 P.M. "Restoring Antique Paintings". A lecture by Dr. Simon Coren.
Carleton Hall, Dennis village. Refreshments will be served.
Nov. 23 Happy Thanksgiving!

IT'S TIME FOR THANKSGIVING

Once again it's time for us to join family and friends around the table and express our thanks for the bountiful life so many of us enjoy. Today's trend for healthier eating has changed some menus but many folks still present a feast similar to what they grew up enjoying.

In my mother's and grandmother's time there truly was a 'groaning board'. One year Mother cooked a 24 pound turkey, plus stuffing. Try taking that out of a 350° oven! The turkey's breastbone just cleared the top of the oven in our cast iron Glenwood stove. My earliest memories are of the smell of roasting turkey just barely holding its own over the smell of steaming Eastham turnip. The pantry shelves were laden with cakes, cookies, cold puddings, a huge bowl of assorted fruits and nuts, a cheese board and several varieties of pies including two or three kinds of apple, mince, raisin, and squash, all made a day or two before. Most Cape Codders favored a hard squash such as Hubbard over pumpkin because they were better keepers. Meanwhile, a steamed pudding would be simmering on the back of the stove. All of these were waiting as "top off" to the turkey dinner which, besides the star attraction, included mashed potatoes, carrots, the aforementioned turnip, green beans, creamed onions, extra stuffing, parsnips, stuffed celery, fruit breads, biscuits, and an assortment of homemade pickles and relishes and cranberry sauce. All this for one day! Of course, there were plenty of people to help 'put it away'. One year Mother had her table extended as far as it would go, using every extra leaf, and stretching across our large dining room. Twenty-four people sat down together--in rather close quarters--but everyone had a grand time and did full justice to Mother's culinary skills.

At the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth in the fall of 1621 "after we had gathered the fruit of our labours; they four in one day killed as much fowle, as with a little helpe beside, served the Company almost a weeke,". In addition to themselves they also hosted local Indians and "King Massosayt, with some nintie men, whom for three dayes we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deere, which they brought to the Plantation....". That sort of makes Mother's twenty-four sound like an intimate little group.

Most Cape Codders in the first half of this century enjoyed a sumptuous Thanksgiving--not because they were wealthy, in fact most were very poor--but because they did subsistence farming. Almost everyone had a garden to eat out of in the summer and put food by for the winter. They had fruit trees, gathered wild berries that grew everywhere for preserves, jams, and jellies and almost everyone 'kept a few chickens'. The sea around us provided fish and shellfish for the taking (no licence required) and any boy or man who was a hunter could provide their family with ducks or venison (also no licence).

As you gather this year with family and friends you can count as one of your blessings that you probably won't be visited by a King "with some nintie men" that you will have to entertain and feast for three days. Have a nice Thanksgiving.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Perhaps it's the busy times we're all caught up in or maybe you've been concentrating on a big project. Whatever the reason we do need to hear from the members who have not paid their dues. Postage costs have escalated so much in the last few years we cannot afford to keep sending newsletters to unpaid memberships. Please indicate your choice for ~~an~~ ^{\$8.00} individual or \$15.00 family renewal and send it to DHS, Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660. We will be forced to cancel any membership not renewed by December 31. We love having you a part of our historical family and hope you'll stay on board.

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

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