

Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 29 Number 11 Send letters and stories to Lura Crowell, Editor, Box 607, S. Dennis 02660 or sesuetfarm@verizon.net November 2006

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Nov. 12

2:00-4:00 P.M.

A New Event!

**The Salon at Jericho
"Sand, Surf, and
Sea Stories"**

An eclectic interlude of readings, poetry, and music by harpist Thom Dutton will feature the talents of Cara and Frank Watson and Friends:

Joshua Crowell

Terri Fox

Wendy Prange

Limited Seating

Donation of \$10

includes refreshments.

Reserve seats by Nov. 9

by calling (508)760-0433

Jericho is at the corner of

Old Main Street and

Trotting Park Road in

West Dennis

Sunday, November 19

3:00 P.M. (Free)

**An Ecumenical Thanks-
giving Service**

This traditional service is offered in the historic Quaker tradition at the Kelley Chapel behind the Yarmouth Port Post Office.

Sit in the old pews in front of a pot-bellied wood stove

Enjoy traditional hymns on

the old pump organ. Spon-

sored by the Historical

Society of Old Yarmouth!

(508)362-3021

Off Pirates Point *the final chapter!*

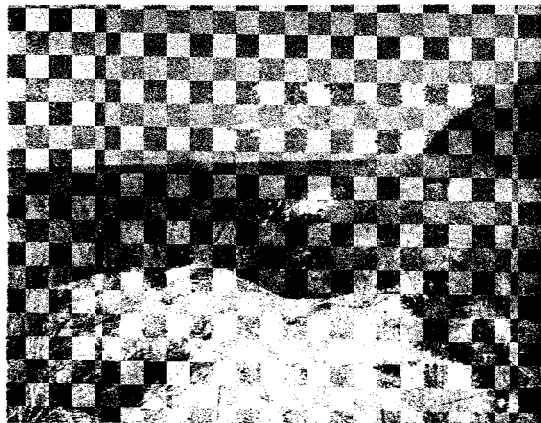
The Coast Guard was on the way and the latest haul of 8 cases of "good stuff" was hidden there on the dunes, covered with seaweed and eelgrass.

It was well after seven o'clock and there was only one thing left for me to do just at that hour. I strolled up the hill and I ran the limousine....right down through the briar cart-road, as near as the soft sand of the beach allowed.Once more, I lifted, balanced and loaded those first six cases of capture, right aboard the motor-car. With them, I climbed the hill where rested lovingly the cottage, ready, it seemed, to be an eager receiver....I "tubbed," shifted my togs and soon turned up to dine with my fellow partners, still filled with all their keenness of our tremendous piracy-at-sea.

As I sat at table, I slowly ...pecked at the various dishes laid before me. However, during all that time while I was at table, the maid was placed-on-foot, away out on the piazza, to watch carefully the progress made by the Federal boat in the offing. You see, over half of my "valuable capture" had been left on the beach; covered, yes, but all this was nearer in distance to them than I was to it. Within fifteen minutes since the beginning of dinner, the maid began her reports.The Coast guard apparently had completed their maritime act of capture and destruction of all things afloat. The boat had been turned and now was headed back towards our point just below us. Then a row-boat was launched as the power-boat anchored at the closest spot to our beach....A landing was made, almost at the very spot where I had made ashore. A bit exciting, what?

Hardly had I quite firmly persuaded myself on a complete loss of this "over one-half," than the maid shouted that the row-boat had started out again with all the men and without one box! But whether or no those boxes had been uncovered and then demolished was a question that might be asked....I lingered at our hill-top not a second later than I could assure myself that the threatened raid [was over]. I hustled down to the awaiting treasure....uncovered the green sea weed from just one of the boxes, leaving the other seven lying as they had been, and on that [one] I sat.

And all this had happened none too soon for one to prepare to meet the change in surroundings which suddenly popped up. [For] dashing over the distant dunes along the beach, and rushing the quarter-mile towards methere



came four lively men and two youths. You could easily see that here rushed on, a small crowd of eager and fairly excited men who were keen to find out about the game that had suddenly been sprung on the distant villagers. [Dennis] Naturally they would want to know where the stuff had flown; if there were any left for them to capture.... I remained sitting on the friendly, single box and said as they rushed up on their cruise of discovery, "Here's one case that came ashore (I didn't say **how** it came) and I hope and think it's some kind of real liquor. The last I saw of the long line of this stuff,...it was moving slowly toward the east, around that point which marks the mouth of the creek at the next town, [East Dennis] a mile or so away."

The hurrying bunch of seekers didn't waste another minute! They bolted up the sand-bank and sped at almost break-neck pace "over the hills and far away" towards the east. Calm had come at last. I found it so pleasing a friend! The dying lights with the sun which had set, down over the distant waters of the west, and my energetically pursued liquid-supporters who seemed to welcome capture—I found them all so comforting.

You may have some further interest in the final disposal of that promising prisoner with its cheerful offering right at hand. With strenuous help, it found its way, and quietly slid, into various little plots among the bayberry bushes. These [bushes] were at the top of the hill, all about the cottage, and their six feet heights covered with thickly growing dark-green leaves snapped back over the boxes as soon as they were rolled in around the roots. They were guarded, indeed! And never were they spied upon, save by the master.

It sounds a trifle boastful, I fear, but the hundred and forty gallons (and these were "imperial" gallons!) lengthened into welcome sixteen hundred bottles of gin (and dry at that) and proved to be most acceptable to friends and families, both far and near.

In the "**Ancient Mariner**" it mentions "water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink.".... Away down here, along the shores of the sea, there appears water everywhere, but it proved—at least one afternoon it did—to have carried safely on its glassy surface, a well separate drop to drink. [In fact] it turned out to be a most pleasing gallon or two, rather than a drop! At all events, the drop from any height, whatever its size, made a most pleasing splash.

Selah!

Thank you, B. Nason Hamblin!

In this month of Thanksgiving we have a lot to be grateful for. We have received generous donations from Life Members **Edmond Nickerson** of South Dennis, **Thomas E. Howes** of Beaverton, Oregon, and **Shirley Loud** of South Yarmouth. (In addition, Shirley gave two gifts of membership in the Society to friends.) The **Howes Family Association** has also presented us with a fine contribution in addition to moneys collected to sponsor the new Howes Family Genealogy which will soon be in print. Look for more information to come!

Thanks to **Dr. John Fulcher** of Avella, Pennsylvania for sending us a lovely compilation of letters written to his mother, Louise Morgan, from her friend, Louise Alexander, who spent some years here in South Dennis. This beautiful collection was transcribed by Dr. Fulcher's late wife, Jane M. Fulcher. Burt Derick has provided notes to help identify the locals described as "Aunt Hattie" or "Uncle Jotham." Thanks also to **Professor Scott Bates** who suggested to his cousin, Dr. Fulcher, that we might appreciate receiving a copy of the letters for our library.

A special thanks goes to **Jan Rollins and the Yarmouth Militia** who camped out at the Manse during our Colonial Open House. Do you know anyone who has pictures of their march to the Village Cemetery? We would surely like to have one!

About our Members

First, a welcome to new members, **Roger and Kathleen Sullivan**. Roger is a new member on the 1867 West Dennis School House Committee.

For those who might be interested in our membership statistics, as of October 11, 2006 we count 5 Honorary Life Members and 76 Life Members. We have 2 Patrons, 3 Contributing Members, 14 Supporting Members, 68 Family Members and 82 Individual Members. We send out complimentary Newsletters to 9 individuals, 10 libraries, and 20 historical organizations. We had 18 individuals and 15 families who had not renewed their membership as of this date, but dues envelopes are still being returned. *Have you sent in yours?* Check the date on your mailing label if you don't remember. And thank you to all of you who continue to support our programs and committees. From publishing to acquisitions, from school visits to research, we're hard at work preserving the history of Dennis.

We were sad to learn that long-time member **Ernest E. Lockhart** of West Dennis passed away at the age of 93. This amazing man served as the physiologist on Admiral Richard Byrd's Antarctica Expedition of 1939-41 and was granted a special medal authorized by the U. S. Congress. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, **Helen**.

We love your letters!

October 10, 2006

Dear Friends,

I just love getting the news of Dennis. I always expected to spend my retirement years on Cape Cod—but here I am 2,000 miles away and 8,000 feet higher than you all!

Keep up your good work!

*Elizabeth K. Govan
Estes Park, Colorado*

Your Board of Directors: For 2006-2007

Officers		Directors
President	Virginia Devine	Until 2007
Vice Presidents	Nancy Howes	Joshua Crowell
	Peter Howes	June Howes
Treasurer	Joan Martin	Until 2008
Assistant Treasurer	Lura Crowell	Terri Fox
Recording Secretary	Bonnie Hempel	Mary Kuhrtz
Corresponding Secretary	Ruth Derick	Until 2009
		Burt Derick
		Richard Howes

Historical Townspeople ?

Phyllis Horton was overheard telling about a young man from Dennis Port who was known to have "attacks" and was sent up to the Taunton State Hospital. There he spent his time running around with an upside-down wheelbarrow. "Why are you doing this?" he was asked. "To keep busy!" came the answer. "Well, why don't you run around with the wheelbarrow turned the right way up?" The reply: "Someone might put something in it! I'm not *crazy!*"

Dick Howes claims he knew a fellow from Dennis who went as far as South Station on a train trip to Boston. On his return he claimed "That's the biggest city ever seen under one roof!"

Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

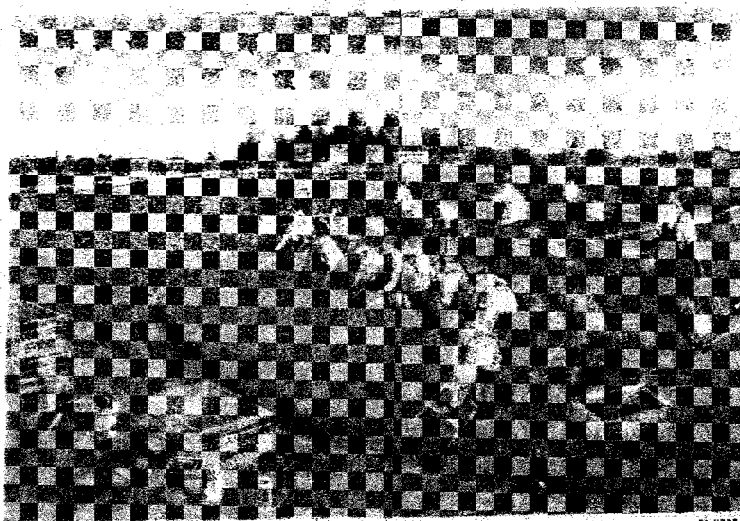
Non-profit
Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2
South Dennis, MA
02660

439 9/1/07
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Howes
58 Scarsdale Rd.
Dennis, MA 02638

02638+1303-SB R001

The Way We Were

It wouldn't be Thanksgiving without cranberries! On September 12, 1903 the *Yarmouth Register* predicted a good harvest. *West Dennis: The wheels of labor are whirring busily on the cranberry bogs just at this season. The harvesting commences this year at an unusually early date. Each morning may be seen loads of merry pickers wending their way to the scene of action, and each evening they return tired out, but happy in the consciousness of work well done and shekels yet to come.*



This one-penny post card was sent to farmer and grower Seth Crowell in 1943 to inform him that "M.L. Uram's monthly report to cranberry growers will be broadcast Tuesday, April 3 at 1:00 p.m. over WNBH - New Bedford -1340 and WOGB - Cape Cod-1240."

The card was from CRANBERRY CANNERS, INC. of Hanson, Massachusetts.