

FESTIVAL DAYS WERE FUN

Beginning with a fine lecture on "The Lighthouses of Outer Cape Cod", by Admont G. Clark, well-known author and historian, this year's Festival Days continued throughout the week to feature activities to draw attention to our historical heritage. The Flynns directed a well-attended Bike Tour through West Dennis on Monday. (How come it didn't rain, Isabelle?) Special thanks to Bob and Mary Stone, who provided coffee and for the riders, at the Lighthouse Inn, as Bob told of the history of that section of our shore. Pauline and Dutch Derick and Ferd Baxter also added to the success of the tour at other historic sites along the route. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Jericho House's quilt exhibit brought hundreds to that Historic Center, many of whom also enjoyed the exhibit about the NobsCUSSET Indians, and the slide show shown by Wilson Scofield and Bill Flynn. The Manse was open on Tuesday and Thursday, adorned with a flower show by the Village Garden Club, and children were invited to play old-fashioned games on the lawn of the Manse on Friday, led by Nancy Symington. Thanks to everyone who helped our visitors to learn something about our town's history during this week.

NOW IT'S DOWN TO BUSINESS

It's annual meeting time - and the membership of Dennis Historical Society is called to attend the Annual Meeting on September 10, at 7:30 P.M. at the Dennis Senior Center. We will keep the reports brief and will mail a more detailed annual report in October. We will have two presentations - a new life membership certificate has been designed by Gail Hart and these will be presented to our Life Members. Also, following a report by our Cup Plate Committee, the mold will be broken. There will be the election of officers and a vote will be taken on the by-law revisions as printed in the August edition of the Newsletter. Following the business meeting, we will hear a talk by Leonard Willcox, entitled "Come Walk With Me". Mr. Willcox has beautiful slides and pleasant narrative describing interesting places for early Fall walking. If you are a walker, you will enjoy knowing where these spots are. If you are not a walker, you will enjoy seeing the places where Mr. Willcox has been. All are welcome. No Charge. Please bring a friend.

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES

The By-Laws say that the Treasurer must send bills to all members whose dues are not paid by the annual meeting. You can save us the cost and time of billing by sending your dues to Isabelle Flynn, P.O. Box 607, So. Dennis, 02660. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish a membership card, or pay your dues at the annual meeting on September 10.

WOMEN WHO WENT TO SEA

I have told you a few of the tales of Dennis Women who accompanied their husbands on sea voyages. Now you will have an opportunity to hear more of their tales. Jim Coogan has collected some of the best stories and will tell them to us at our October meeting at Carleton Hall at 7:30 P.M. on October 9. This meeting is open to the public at no charge. Put the date on your calendar.

ANIMALS WHO WENT TO SEA

In the days when a voyage around the horn from Boston to California took 100 or more days, providing food and water for a crew of 20 or more was a challenge. Of course, sailors were accustomed to monotonous menus, but the Cape shipmasters often carried a crew made up largely of neighbors and sons of fellow sea captains, and it was known that their crews were well-fed. When provisions were brought aboard, live chickens and pigs were often among the barrels of salt pork and hard tack. When the Captain's family accompanied him, a cow or goat was also taken along. It was the cook's job to tend the animals and slaughter them as needed. I know of one animal who went to sea and lived to return to East Dennis. Capt. Joshua Sears had a reputation for being "a driver" - driving his vessel to its limits and driving his crew to distraction with his exactitude. But Capt. Joshua was a push-over for his little daughter Louisa. When "Lulu" and her mother accompanied Capt. Sears on the maiden voyage of the Shiverick ship Wild Hunter, Lulu was allowed to take along her pony, which she exercised by riding around on the deck. What do you suppose the crew thought about that?

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Nancy Symington has been leading old-fashioned games for children for several years now. The games she teaches require little in the way of equipment. How different from the games today's children play! Colonial children learned new games from the native Indians. One such game has given a useful word to the American vocabulary. It is a game using five flat bones, painted black on one side, white on the other. They are placed in a wooden plate and the plate is pounded on the ground, making the bones jump. Bets are taken as to the color combination which will come up. As the plate is pounded the spectators shout "Hub, hub, hub," as loudly as they can. Because of this, the game was called "hubbub," and that word became used for any noisy confusion. I'll bet you didn't know that!

CALENDAR

- Sept. 10 7:30 P.M. Senior Center Dennis Historical Society Annual Meeting
Program "Come Walk With Me", Leonard Willcox
- Sept. 13 7:30 P.M. Board will meet at Nancy's house
- Sept. 13 In Eastham Barnstable County Association of Historical
Organizations. Call Nancy Reid for details.

Oct. 9 7:30 P.M. Carleton Hall James Coogan, Jr., Women Who Went to Sea
Coming in November - "Best of Memory Days"

TAKING THE WATER CURE

Having written about the Hydropathic Institute, I began to think that perhaps other aspects of the history of medicine in Dennis might be of interest to you. You are all acquainted with the names of Anthony Thacher, Thomas Howes, and John Crow, the proprietors and first settlers here in what are now the towns of Yarmouth and Dennis. And you have become acquainted with old Peter Worden, who met the proprietors when they arrived. But how many of you have ever heard of Dr. Thomas Starr? His name appears often in the early records, indicating that he was a "chirurgeon" who was in Yarmouth in 1639 and for some years following. He is called Dr. Starr and his worth to the community is demonstrated by the fact that he is sometimes exempted from paying taxes, a courtesy also given to the clergy, the miller and the tavern keeper. He also did some farming and fishing, as did his neighbors, to sustain his family of at least two sons, Benjamin, born in 1647 and Jehosaphat, born 1649. He received several grants of land, one of salt meadow on the east side of Bass River at its mouth. A creek runs through this meadow now, as it did then, and Dr. Starr learned the Indian trick of stretching a net, or weir across the creek to trap the migrating alewives in the spring. For many years, our ancient records call this salt meadow, "the meadow near The doctor's weir" and today the creek is still known as Weir Creek.

Dr. Starr was the son of Comfort Starr, also a physician, from Kent County, England. He no doubt apprenticed with his father, as this was the most common way for a doctor to be educated. His method of treatment had to be the known procedures of that time - poultices, leeches, bloodletting - and his medicines were herbs with supposed or real healthful benefits. Whether he left the area to practice elsewhere or lived out his life in this area, I cannot say for certain. He was not a Puritan, and in the early records he is cited on several occasions as being highly critical of the Orthodox minister, Mr. Mathews. In one instance, he is cited as being "a jeerer and scoffer of religion". Ironically, his place as a physician was taken by the next Orthodox minister to serve old Yarmouth, the Rev. Mr. Thomas Thornton. It was far more common in those days for the health of the community to be overseen by the parish minister than for there to be a resident doctor. In fact, listed in the inventory of Josiah Dennis estate in 1763 are apothecary supplies. However, in between Rev. Thornton and Rev. Dennis there was a full-time doctor whose practice extended over the entire Cape. He was the eccentric Doctor Abner Hersey (remember the twelve-blanket winter story? see Dec. 1979). I will tell you something about him in a later issue.

WORDEN FAMILY REUNION

Wordens from all over the country will gather in East Dennis on the weekend of September 15 to view the site of their earliest American ancestor's home and burial place. The family has extended an invitation to any of us who wish to join them at any or all of the planned activities. They will convene at the Jacob Sears Memorial Library on Saturday, September 15, at 10 A.M. and will go from there to visit historic sites. Some of you native Cape Codders might be surprised to learn that you have Worden roots, through the marriages of Peter's daughter and granddaughters to Winslow, Burgess and Servern men. For information about the reunion, call Cynthia Hotalling at the East Dennis Library.

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

Sept 84

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DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING
 10 SEPTEMBER 1984

MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Isabelle Flynn reported that the total number of members has reached nearly 500. New members receive a letter welcoming them and giving a brief history of the town and the society. They also receive a copy of our by-laws. A letter has been composed which is given to new residents of the town, welcoming them to Dennis and inviting them to attend a D.H.S. meeting and/or become members. Also this year, a certificate has been designed by Gail Hart to be presented to Life Members.

Among our newest members are: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Kelley, Mrs. Sandra Sheedy, Miss Iris Jette, Mr. and Mrs. John Apone, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Webster, Mr. and Mrs. J. Richard Brophy, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Woods, Mr. Victor Rosenlund, Miss Joy Pride, Mr. and Mrs. Chester N. Twiss, and Mrs. Dorothy Bell. Greet these people when you see them at a meeting, and welcome them.

AUDIO-VISUAL COMMITTEE

Wilson Scofield reported that the slide show "DENNIS" is still in demand, having already been shown to over 3,000 people. He reported the purchase of a viewer/projector, which can be programmed to show slides accompanied by taped narrative automatically synchronized. This machine, affectionately called by the Board "The Black Box", was used to show the segment about the local Indians to the school children, during school field trips, and also at Jericho during Festival Week. Bill is in the process of duplicating all of the slides in "Dennis", so that each section can be shown separately with this machine. The A-V Committee has nearly completed work on the pictures to accompany Mr. Walter Morley's poem "The Indian Lands". Sound and pictures now must be coordinated. We have received a set of slides of pictures of the town's old houses, prepared when the Historical survey was done in 1974, and also a set of slides and a script about the Cape in the Civil War, prepared by Mrs. Barbara McPhee. As other projects are completed, we will work on using these and preparing accompanying tapes.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Maree Galvin and Lilla Smith reported on the Ezra H. Baker School field trips last June. Members were encouraged to attend while the children are there or to volunteer to help. Ten or more volunteers are needed at each house for five days, so new people are always welcome.

Sarah Kruger reported on the Junior High School historic bus tour of the town, conducted at the request of Pamela Lockhart for her fifth grade class. This was enjoyed by the children and we were pleased at their recall of things they had learned on their field trips in previous years. We would like to expand this program to include more fifth grade classes this school year.

STATE HOUSE EXHIBIT

Sarah Kruger reported on the contents and progress in arrangements for an exhibit on Dennis History to be featured in Doric Hall of the Massachusetts State House from Feb. 22 to March 29. We are drawing together posters, pictures, maps and artifacts which illustrate some of the distinctive aspects of the town's history, among which are the cranberry industry, saltmaking, the Shiverick shipyard, and the many industries associated with the sea. The beautiful posters created by Ann Guiliani to publicize our slide show will be a major part of the exhibit, as well as an 1850 nautical chart used by Capt. Moses Howes, a model of salt works and cranberry industries early tools. We would like also to enrich the exhibit and give it life by including personal artifacts from early Dennis families. If you are willing to loan us any such items, please call Sarah or drop a postcard to her at P.O. Box 607, So. Dennis 02660. All of the materials used in the exhibit will be fully insured and protected by being displayed in locked exhibit cases, and under the surveillance of the State House guards.

CUP PLATE COMMITTEE

Gertrude Lailey reported that all cup plates have been sold and a sizeable profit realized. Exact figures will be available when treasurer Josh Crowell has fully recovered from his recent major surgery, but is in the vicinity of \$3,500. Mrs. Reid thanked the committee, Jean Dunham, Gertrude Lailey and Elinor Crowell, for their hard work in marketing the cup plates so efficiently. D.H.S. has reserved 49 plates for sale during the town's bicentennial in 1993. There will be no more of this particular cup plate bearing the town's seal produced, as the mold will be totally destroyed by Pairpoint Glass.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was moved, seconded and passed that the secretary cast one ballot in favor of the slate nominated by the nominating committee. That slate is as follows: Nancy Reid, President, no 1st Vice-President, Sarah Kruger, 2nd Vice-President, Joshua Crowell, Treasurer, Phyllis Horton, Secretary, Jean Taylor, Corresponding Secretary. Directors for 3 years: Gertrude Lailey and Marge Hardy; Director for two years to fill the unexpired term of Sarah Kruger: Lilla Smith.

ORAL HISTORY

Mrs. Reid reported that excellent tapes were recorded at each of the village memory days, thanks to the good work of Ben Thacher. The tapes are presently being indexed and Ben will transfer and organize the stories into categories. Ben will also select the Best of Memory Days stories, and will play them back to us at the Nov. 13th meeting at West Dennis Community Building. The series was so popular and so much fun that the Board has decided to go around again, asking that the recollections this time be centered around social life outside of the home - that is church activities, doings at the halls, the grange, schools, clubs, etc. So search through your memory bank and come share a memory or two with your neighbors this winter. Tentative schedule below.

REPORTS FROM OUR TOWN'S HISTORIC CENTERS

In an effort to encourage interest in and support of our town's historic centers, we have invited the chairperson of each of the town-appointed house committees to present a brief report of the activities at their House.

Maree Galvin, Chairperson, Josiah Dennis Manse

Reporting on activities at the Manse, Mrs. Galvin mentioned the work of the herb garden committee, in creating a spot of beauty and interest on the Manse lawn. Festival Days activities at the Manse were well attended. The Cape Cod Embroiderers Guild will sponsor an exhibit at the Manse on Oct. 11, 12, and 13, open to the public. This is a fine exhibit, and the house and school house are perfect as a background for the beautiful handwork. The Manse will also be the site of the Christmas Open House in December. Field trips for the children in June were also mentioned in Mrs. Galvin's report, as well as plans which the Manse Committee is formulating to organize a permanent exhibit on Dennis' marine history. Portraits of Capt. Dean S. Sears and his second wife, Roseanna, were purchased at auction this summer and will be restored to become a part of this exhibit.

Freeman Bullard, Chairperson, Jericho House and Barn Museum

Reporting a busy and active year at Jericho, Mr. Bullard mentioned first the dedication of a room in the Barn Museum in memory of the late Kirkwood Brown, a founder of D.H.S. and former Selectman of the town. The dedication took place at the opening lawn party at the House in June. Mr. Bullard also touched upon the highlights of the summer season, including Dennis Festival Days, when a very popular quilt exhibit was featured as well as an exhibit about the Nobsusset Indians, arranged in cooperation with D.H.S. The Ezra H. Baker field trips were also a very busy and important event of the season.

DOINGS OF THE BOARD

Nancy Reid summarized the Board's actions which had not been included in previous reports. Many of these are administrative. She thanked the present Board for their hard work and excellent record of attendance at board meetings. Everyone on the Board has been willing to accept assignments and has done a fine job. Much of the time of the Board is spent in planning programs, and we are also occupied with organizational decisions and policies, keeping our by-laws up to date and maintaining our status as a non-profit organization. Much of the credit for the latter function belongs to treasurer Joshua Crowell. At present, the Board is reviewing and drawing up a policy on acquisitions. It will be reviewed by lawyer Bill Crowell, who gives us legal advice, and then will be presented to the membership for approval.

The two amendments to the by-laws were accepted unanimously, as printed in the August newsletter.

The Board's recommendation that dues remain the same for the ensuing year and the student dues be established at \$2 annually was accepted.

Under other business, Mrs. Albert Day suggested that programs and meetings of the Society be planned as often as possible at the Senior Center as it is the most easily accessible by the handicapped. Nancy promised to make this effort.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Subject to change, and additions - check your monthly newsletter.

Oct. 9	7:30	Carleton Hall	James Coogan	'Women and the Seas'
Nov. 13	7:30	West Dennis Community Building	- Best of Memory Days	
Dec. 9	3-5	Josiah Dennis Manse	Christmas Open House	
Jan. 13	3-5	West Dennis	Memory Day	
Feb. 3	3-5	South Dennis	Memory Day	
Feb. 16		Mid-Winter Luncheon		
March 3		Dennis Memory Day		
March 17		East Dennis Memory Day		
April 14		Dennisport Memory Day		
June 16		Dennis 192nd Birthday Celebrations and Tercentenary of Barnstable County		

WHENEVER WE HAVE THE RIGHT WEATHER

Winter Carnival at Scargo Lake