



NEW COLORS ON THE MASTHEAD

Dear readers. After much deliberation I have decided to "own up" to writing the DHS newsletter--for two reasons. The first is that in our effort to be 'historically correct' with our facts I have not been so in keeping Nancy's name on the masthead. Back in February 1990 Nancy issued an appeal in the newsletter for someone to assist her in gathering news so she could have more time to work on her book. The response was not exactly overwhelming--no one applied for the job. I had been typing the newsletter since late 1987 and knew that it was consuming a lot of her time, so I agreed to write the topical articles. This little agreement has mushroomed and good, bad, or otherwise I've been responsible for what you've read in these pages for some time now. Both Nancy and I write from a personal perspective and a future researcher who might be moved to write a biography on Nancy Thacher Reid would find some "unusual" facts about her in these newsletters. For instance, in January I wrote about my mother looking out the window to see if Mr. Alton could get through the snow drift at the foot of Christian Hill....well, Nancy called me chuckling over a phone call she'd just received from her brother, Ben. He asked her when in blue blazes did their mother live in Dennis Port? Nancy replied that she never did. and Ben said, "Then what did you write such a damnfool thing as that for?!" Nancy explained the circumstances and Ben cooled down. The second reason is: if my information is incorrect Nancy shouldn't be blamed for it. Rest assured, tho, when the book is published Nancy will be back here talking to you every month--she **promised!**

CAPE COD "GIRLS"

In last month's list of new members I listed Mr. and Mrs. George F. Watkins. It should have read Mr. and Mrs. George F. Collins. Isabelle had given me the correct name, but in true Cape Cod fashion I substituted Mrs. Collins' maiden name. There is a habit here of calling "girls" of any age by their maiden name long after they are married--in fact, forever. Folks "from away" look at us in a puzzled way and we have to explain. Cape Codders shake their heads knowingly and the conversation continues. So--shen I looked at the list, as I was typing, I said, "Oh, Marion Watkins," and proceeded to write Mr. and Mrs. George Watkins. Sorry about that George and Marion. Poor Marion had thought she was slipping and had signed her check wrong!

THE FESTIVAL WAS FUN

The Festival Days are history now and from our observation there was 'something for everyone'. DHS participated in a number of events and all were well received. The Dennis Village Garden Club had a lovely flower show at the Manse. The theme was "Weddings" and an antique wedding gown from the Manse collection was featured in each room. Jericho's Barn Museum was the focus of their exhibit this year. Don Swain introduced visitors to some of the antique tools in the barn that are a mystery to most people now. In Jericho House a display of antique irons was featured. The bike tour of Dennis Village was well attended, as was the Post Card Show at West Dennis Community Center. A number of people brought their own scrapbooks, cards, and pictures and we were delighted to see family material never before made public. The Open House at the Manse was a huge success. The home made ice cream and the colonial type foods drew an appreciative audience. More children were in costume this year--in the school house writing on slates or with quill pens, quilting, weaving, or playing games. They played a hoop game involving a wooden hoop with two sticks for each player that everyone was invited to try their hand at. It was the hit of the afternoon. Sincere thanks to everyone who had a part in making our DHS programs so successful.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be September 18, 2:00 P.M. at the Jacob Sears Memorial Library. We will have the usual business meeting, during which we will elect the DHS officers for the coming year and make a by-law change. Over the years our boards have become somewhat adept at making the business portion quite short and painless, so we can get on with the real reason for being there--entertainment and refreshments! The by-law change has been deemed necessary to help the Membership Chairman. It seems the present by-law is rather ambiguous about our fiscal year and how long a member would be kept on the roster without paying dues. The DHS year runs from September 1 to August 31. Dues are due and payable by September 1. Any member not paid up by the Annual Meeting will be ineligible to vote. A membership delinquent on December 31 will be removed from the mailing list. This change should tighten things up and make Isabelle's job easier.

We have a treat in store for us. Jim Coogan will present his new program, "Inventors, Entrepreneurs, and Opportunists". Jim says, "You will be surprised at what Cape Codders have been able to think up and profit from." Many of you have seen some of Jim's other programs and you know this one will be very interesting. Refreshments will be served. Do come and bring a friend to enjoy a pleasant Sunday afternoon in East Dennis.

A BIT OF LAST MINUTE NEWS

Just this week end--while the newsletter is in progress--the heirs of William Ernest and Annie Ryder Crowell are having a gigantic yard sale. Their grandson, W. Bradford, has purchased the old family homestead and needed to do just a little cleaning out in order to set up housekeeping. Brad invited DHS to come in before the general public and select anything that would enhance our collection. We did and Brad very generously donated them to DHS. Thank you, Crowells!

CALENDAR

Sept. 8 3-5 P.M. Thank-you Tea for all the Jericho volunteers. At Jericho.
Sept. 14 10:00 A.M. Thank-you Coffee at Josiah Dennis Manse for their volunteers.
14 7:30 P.M. DHS Board meeting at the Manse.
Sept. 18 2:00 P.M. DHS Annual Meeting at Jacob Sears Memorial Library. East
Dennis. See article on other side.

THE HOWES NEIGHBORHOOD

An article in the August 1994 issue of the Howes Family Association Newsletter brought to mind that the Howes family moved the seven miles from Dennis Village to Dennis Port by way of Chatham--sort of a round about way. Thomas (1) (1st generation) was one of the first three settlers of Old Yarmouth, now Dennis, whose land grant was situated on a goodly piece of Dennis Village. His grandson, Thomas (3), married an Eastham girl, Content Smith, and moved to Chatham. Their grandson, David (5), married a Yarmouth (Dennis) girl Rebecca Baker, and moved to what is now Dennis Port, where they had a son, oldest of ten--named David (6). He married Salome Nickerson and they had a son, the 5th of seven children, named David (7), (my great-great grandfather). He married Hannah Walker and they had a son David (8) who married Ella Howes.

The Howes newsletter stated there were twice as many David Howes in the Chatham vital records as any other first name and theorized it might have come from the tragedy of Isaac and Tabitha Howes who lost a son David at age 3 and another one also named David who died in less than a year. Chatham was a small town with strong family ties and apparently the name was used as a gesture of sympathy.

The Crocker Neck (old name for Dennis Port) Davids settled on Chase and Baker land no doubt acquired through Rebecca's father, Shubael Baker, and mother, Rebecca Chase. David and Rebecca were married in Yarmouth (now Dennis) in December 1788 by Rev. Nathan Stone and built their homestead at what is now 432 Main Street--just east of the Benny's Store parking lot. This area was known in later years as Christian Hill. As the family grew and married the original homestead acreage was subdivided along both sides of Main Street from Center to Sea streets--and Center Street from Main to Sea. This area was called the Howes Neighborhood and it had a district school on Center Street. Throughout most of the 1800's every house in this neighborhood belonged to a descendant of David and Rebecca. Three descendants still live there. The Sears Howes house was moved to South Dennis and belongs to another Howes descendant. One of the three still living in the old neighborhood is our new member Marion Collins, granddaughter of Capt. Fernandez Kelley and Susan Howes. Thomas (6) son of David and Rebecca became the first postmaster and changed the village name from Crocker Neck to Dennis Port. His home where he operated the first post office and a general store is still standing at 425 Main Street.

Most of the Howes men were involved in some aspect of maritime life or cranberries--and sometimes both. Some of the women were milliners, store keepers, a teacher, suffragette, and telegraph operator. The men, as near as I can determine, all belonged to Mt. Horeb Lodge of the Masons and from the middle 1800's on all the families belonged to the First Baptist Church of West Harwich and Dennis Port. They appear to have been sound citizens and the stuff which, over the years, made Dennis an All-American Town.

A VERY SPECIAL VISIT

The Manse Open House on Saturday had a most pleasant surprise. Long-time volunteer and 'keeper of the keeping room' Chris Harriman came from Windsor Nursing Home to see what we were doing with "her old house". She was pleased with what we were doing for Festival Days and we were delighted to have her there. Chris was a vital part of the Manse from its earliest days as town property and was especially involved in the third grade school program. She developed the keeping room program into what we use today on school field trips, also made curtains and costumes, gave a number of antiques to our collection, and gave countless volunteer hours to the Manse. On Saturday Chris even walked upstairs to see the changes we have made and put her stamp of approval on all that has been done in the last few years. Thanks for the visit Chris--it was like old times having you there!

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