



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 7

September 2001

Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 16 300 Years of Dennis Maritime History

Brief Annual Meeting followed by a narrated slide show. Phyllis Horton, Dennis historian, tells how the fortunes and misfortunes at sea impacted the lives of Dennis people. Refreshments.

West Dennis Graded School 2:00 PM

Sunday, October 14 A Walk On Crowe's Pasture

Walk on historic Crowe's Pasture with Dennis Conservation Officer Brian Malone. He will tell about the pasture land restored as part of the statewide "biodiversity initiative" program. Park at Quivet Neck Cemetery.

2:00 PM

Thursday, November 8 Were Vikings in New England?

Illustrated talk by Neil Good, Viking researcher, will explore the possibilities and detail the research to determine if the Vikings were on our shores. Refreshments.

West Dennis Graded School 7:30 PM

School House Given Coveted Preservation Award By Massachusetts Historical Commission

Ray Urquhart

The 1867 West Dennis Grade School House was selected by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for a coveted 2001 preservation award. William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, presented the award to the Town of Dennis at a ceremony in the state archives building attended by about 150 local officials and others. The Commission recognized the preservation work of 14 other projects completed by preservation groups located throughout the state.

Secretary Galvin noted that the Massachusetts Historical Commission "takes great pride in recognizing preservation efforts in Dennis by selecting the school house to receive a 2001 Commission preservation award. Through work on this project, a commitment to historical preservation has been demonstrated above and beyond what is normally expected. It is for this extra effort we have selected the School House for this distinctive honor. On behalf of the Commission, I wish to applaud you for your outstanding contribution to historic preservation."

The School House was accepted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in August 2000. The Register is the nation's list of buildings and sites retaining their historical character and are also important to local history. In September last year, the state House of Representatives adopted a resolution praising the Town of Dennis for preserving the 19th century school house, the only one remaining of five built beginning in 1859 to replace 12 one room schools formerly located throughout the community. Representative Thomas George introduced the resolution.



1867 WEST DENNIS GRADED SCHOOL HOUSE COMMITTEE

Picture: (L-R) Phyllis Robbins Horton, Raymond M. Urquhart, Chairman, Edmond Rhodes Nickerson, Nancy Thacher Reid.

Not pictured: Joan Martin, Burton N. Derick, Dorothy Trapp

SCHOOL HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE NEEDS MEMBERS

The 1867 West Dennis Graded School House Oversight Committee, a newly created seven member committee, will replace a school house restoration committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen in December 1997. This latter committee was formed first to determine if the 134 year old school house could be saved, and, if so, what resources might be required to accomplish this worthwhile goal. The Restoration Committee has completed its challenging tasks. The school house was dedicated to Dennis citizens at a ceremony attended by 200, including Wixon and Ezra Baker Elementary school children in October, 2000.

Now, the new oversight committee must be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to provide continuing watch over the preservation and uses of this local treasure. Two members of the Restoration Committee, Joan Martin and Burtin Derick, have both expressed interest in serving on the Oversight Committee, and have filled out "green cards" on file at the Town Hall. Society members and other Dennis citizens are urged to consider signing green cards as the first step to service on the important committee. The committee's charge follows:

1867 WEST DENNIS GRADED SCHOOL HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHARGE

The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a committee of seven (7) Town of Dennis registered voters for overlapping terms of three (3) years to provide architectural and historic oversight to the "1867 West Dennis Graded School House."

The Committee shall be advisory to the Board of Selectmen and make recommendations as follows:

- 1. Maintenance, repairs and administration of the School House so as to preserve the characteristics which contribute to its architectural integrity;*
- 2. Recommend innovative programs to help the citizens of Dennis and others to understand the role of the Graded School in the Town's daily life in the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries;*
- 3. Recommendations and costs associated with the establishment of an historic center celebrating the Town's history, seafaring heritage and educational opportunities of same to the public;*
- 4. Recommendations and oversight of care of the permanent placing or loan of artifacts in the School House.*

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFERS A TRIP TO THE STRAWBERRY BANKE, PORTSMOUTH, NH

The first sight of Portsmouth floods the senses with history. America's roots have survived in few places as they have in this, the third oldest community in the United States, founded in 1623, preceded only by Plymouth and Jamestown.

Unlike the reproduced villages of Williamsburg, VA and Sturbridge, MA, Strawberry Banke spans three centuries of change in an indigenous neighborhood. Thirty-five original buildings will eventually be restored, all but five on their own foundations.

Join us on Wednesday, September 12th as we travel with Bacon Tour Service to this historic area. The fee is \$55.00 per person. **Call Bacon Tour Service for reservations at 508-394-5739.** The tour leaves Patriot Square, South Dennis at 7:00 AM. Enjoy a drive along the beautiful New Hampshire coast leaving Newburyport for New Castle and then to Portsmouth. Lunch at Warren's Lobster House in Kittery, ME is included. In the afternoon we will visit the 1763 Moffatt-Ladd House and spend some time in Market Square and along the Piscataqua River.

ANNUAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS, DIRECTORS

The Society will elect a new president at the annual meeting on Sunday, September 16th. The Society by-laws limit the president to two consecutive terms. Other officers, including the treasurer, assistant treasurer, recording secretary and corresponding secretary are expected to be candidates for reelection. The terms of two directors will also end in September, but both are eligible for reelection to the Board. There is one Board vacancy. Jane Stevens resigned earlier this year. The Board has three appointed directors. Current members of the Executive Board are listed below:

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2000-2001

OFFICERS		TERM ENDS
President	Raymond M. Urquart	September 2001
Vice President	Marjorie Mantell	September 2001
Treasurer	Joan Martin	September 2001
Assistant Treasurer	Lura Crowell	September 2001
Recording Secretary	Bonnie Hempel	September 2001
Corresponding Secretary	Virginia Devine	September 2001
ELECTED DIRECTORS	(limited to 2 consecutive 3 yr. terms)	
	Brendan Joyce	September 2001
	Susan Kelley	September 2001
	Sarah Kruger	September 2002
	Nancy Sears	September 2002
	Nancy Howes	September 2003
	Jane Stevens (Resigned)	September 2003
APPOINTED DIRECTORS		
Dennis Historical Commission	Nancy Thacher Reid	September 2001
Jericho Historical Center	Marjorie Mantell	September 2001
Josiah Dennis Manse	Phyllis Horton	September 2001

SOCIETY TO PUBLISH MEMOIRS OF LUCY LORD HOWES HOOPER

Gerry Watters' mother, niece of Lucy Lord Howes, gave Gerry Lucy's diary filled with stories about Lucy's travels aboard deep water ships under the command of her husband, Capt. Benjamin Perkins Howes. The diary has evolved into a 400 page manuscript. The Executive Board of the Dennis Historical Society agreed in August to publish Gerry's literary work about this remarkable woman. The planned book's title is, *Privateers, Pirates and Beyond: Memoirs of Lucy Lord Howes Hooper*.

Twenty-six year old Lucy, her 30 year old husband and two young daughters were becalmed aboard a clipper ship, Lubra, sailing east of Hong Kong, when they were boarded by Chinese pirates. Crew members either drowned or were killed. Capt. Howes was shot in his cabin, and Lucy was struck by a piece of wood. The ship was ransacked, set on fire and left drifting. To hear how Lucy survived to tell the tale, you'll want to read this exciting new book!

Dennis Historical Society

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THE WAY WE WERE...

A letter received from Ann Sullivan

I am sending you a picture of Marion W. Collins on her 100th birthday, January 21, 2000. She is now 101, 2 months older than her life-long friend, Edward Chase. Marion was born just houses apart from Eddy. Her family home was at 89 Center Street, Dennisport. Marion, her brother Charley and Eddy spent many summers playing together on Cape Cod. Marion and Eddy are still good friends to this day and write to each other remembering those days. I am a good friend of Marion and she asked me to write and let you know she was 2 months older than her childhood friend.



Marion W. Collins
On her 100th Birthday

Thank you, Ann! This letter was in response to our May newsletter. In May we congratulated Edward P. Chase on his 101st birthday, believing him to be our oldest member. Ann Sullivan, of Warwick, Rhode Island, was kind enough to write and set us straight.