



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter February 2020

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**The Next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, February 11th, 2:00 pm, Dennis Memorial Library
1020 Old Bass River Road, Dennis Village**

Members Welcome!

Please send information & stories for the newsletter to Dave Talbott at the DHS Website email address: info@dennishistoricalsociety.org

Thanks to our readers, the editor was almost able to take the month of January off!

The first article was sent in by long time DHS member and past newsletter contributor, Scott Walker of East Dennis. He wrote in response to the "who, what, when, where and why" request for information which appeared with the pictures at the end of the December 2019 Newsletter. Thank you Scott!

Regarding "Mrs. H. Chapman at house";

The picture on the left is Hannah T. Chapman's still-standing home at 1661 Rt. 6A. A business known as Vintage Vines is located in a building on this property today.



(Image from the DHS Digital Archives sent in by Scott Walker)



(Current Google image of 1661 Rt. 6A East Dennis)

I was told the house dates to 1790. Hannah was first married to Abner Hopkins, who died in the mid 1840s, and they had a few children. By 1850, she remarried to John Chapman (stone mason and farm laborer according to census), moved into this home, and they had two sons together. Her Hopkins children also lived there with them. Years later, in the span of a year and a half, her husband John Chapman died in Feb, 1872; son Everett Chapman died a month later in March 1872 at age 19, and second son John Chapman Jr. died in July 1873 at age 23.....brutal. Hannah appears to have lived the next 30 or so years as a widow at the property. Many such women took in "boarders" to help make ends meet, and the 1880 census indeed shows a William Hayward, age 28, public school teacher, as a boarder in the home. The photo of Hannah below was taken with photographer facing North, directly toward Rt6A on the backside of the home. An earlier East Dennis Post Office building once stood directly across the street, and DHS has many photos of that since demolished structure.

Hannah T. Chapman (1811-1901)



(Image as it appeared in the December Newsletter)

Notice the big difference in the quality of the two images! The one on the right is correctly oriented. The orientation error in the December Newsletter was the fault of the editor.



("Old Lady Chapman" from the DHS Digital Archives)

The orientation of the newsletter photo is incorrect though....it was printed backwards from the glass plate. Attached, from DHS Archive is the same photo called "Old Lady Chapman". It is the same photo, printed in mirror image, or reverse. How do we know that this is the correct version of the photo (with picket fence to the right) and the newsletter version is the incorrect one

(with picket fence to the left)? Well, let's have a close look at the "ell" on the back corner of this same full cape home in the attached "John Chapman house" photo from DHS dated 1885. The shed roof and gable of the ell, the orientation of the ell in relation to the house itself, the way the ell protrudes from the side of the house itself, and the picket fence beyond all give a pretty good indication, in my opinion. I doubt there was another identical ell on the other (west) back corner of the house.



("Abner Hannah" from the DHS Digital Archives)

As for the other two "unknown photos", I'm stumped on the first one. The "John Sears Cottage" has another similar version in DHS archives with all the same people yet in slightly different poses. Must have been photographed minutes apart. Don't know where the cottage is though, or if still in existence.

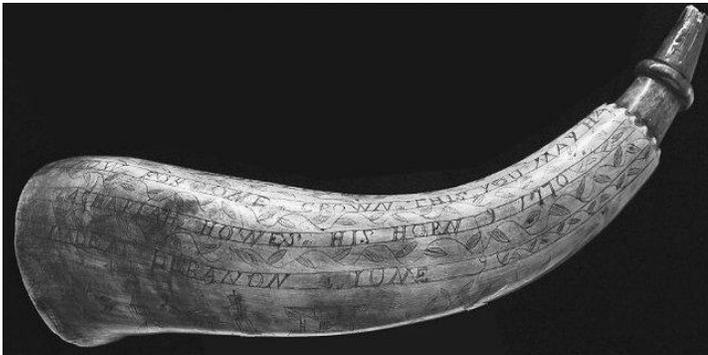
Scott Walker

The next article was provided by DHS Board Member Bob Poskitt. Thank you Bob!

A Howes Family Powder Horn

In late October of last year, Henry Kelley brought to my attention that an auction house outside Philadelphia was selling a powder horn made by a member of the Howes family. We went on line, pulled up pictures, and read the following description; "**Extremely Unique and Important Engraved Folk Art Powder Horn of Zachariah Howes dated 1770**" It had been part of a well known collection of 18th century items.

This unique horn was engraved by Zachariah Howes in Lebanon, Connecticut and completed on June 9, 1770. He was 16 years old at the time. The engravings depict a variety of objects including 2 warships, 2 forts, 2 churches, 10 chickens and some foliate designs with vines and leaves. Some of the renderings show on the two photos.



(Images are screenshots from the website of Morphy Auctions from the Collection of Steve & Marcy Hench, 10/30/2019)

The most unique feature on the powder horn may be the short poem written and engraved by young Zachariah. It reads...

"IF HORNS YOU LOVE IF HORNS YOU CRAVE/NOW FOR ONE CROWN THIS YOU MAY HAVE."

Editor's note: Despite the less than perfect rhyming, we may be seeing Zachariah advertising his business venture!

It was not long before we started asking the questions as to who was Zachariah Howes; how did he get to Connecticut, and why did he carve all those items into his horn at such an early age?

There actually are two Zachariahs listed in the Howes Family Genealogy from the 1700s. They were first cousins, and both great, great, great grandsons (descended through the Joseph line) of Thomas Howes and his wife Mary Burr of Dennis/Yarmouth. Thomas and Mary settled on Cape Cod in 1639 on land granted to them by the Magistrates of the Plymouth Colony. That land had been settled on previously by the NobsCUSset Indians under the leadership of the sachem Mashantampaigne. One Zachariah was born in Yarmouth, Massachusetts, the other in Lebanon, Connecticut.

In the early to middle part of the 18th century, families began to migrate from the Cape westward into Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York. Farm land was more abundant in those areas, and those who had colonized them were more tolerant of different

religious beliefs. Members of the Howes family and other well-known Dennis families pulled up stakes, left their friends and families, and moved west to start a new life.

The items that Zachariah carved into his horn must have represented something very special to him. Since we have no documentation to help us, one can only assume that his surroundings and events of the day may have played a part in his choices. We know that his father was a very religious man, so the church was a major part of Zachariah's early life. His engravings included two of them. We can also assume that farming was their livelihood, and that as a young man, he was probably responsible for some of the animals. His engravings included 10 chickens. But the obvious question is why the warships and forts?

To try to answer that question, we contacted the New England Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution to inquire about any military actions which might have occurred in central Connecticut in 1770. The SAR confirmed no active militia there, but did point out that the Boston Massacre had occurred in early March of 1770. That battle had sent a shock wave throughout New England and the colonies, as there were few colonists trained to fight the well-equipped British. About a year or so before, there had been a significant buildup of British soldiers (4 regiments with upwards of 8000 men) and warships in Boston Harbor. The famous Bostonian Paul Revere (well-known night rider and silversmith) published a broadside (large sheet of paper printed on one side, a poster) in late 1768 showing a harbor filled with warships armed with cannons. That depiction was important in alerting communities and families of the growing danger from the British. It is very possible that the Howes family in Connecticut had seen that poster.

Over 200 years ago in colonial times, everyone grew up very fast, and young men Zachariah's age were often at sea in distant ports. With the Boston Massacre occurring on March 5th 1770, it would not have taken long for riders to spread the word of the battle into neighboring states like Connecticut. In his teenage years Zachariah was probably eager to do his part to protect the family if the need arose.

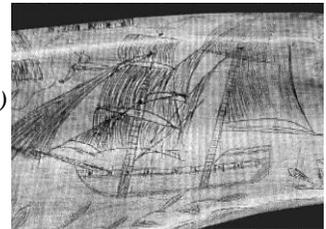
Having gone hunting often with his father, older brothers, and uncles, Zachariah saw the immense pride the men had in their own powder horns. By 16, he was probably a fairly good hunter, and must have been eager to have his own horn. Not long after hearing of the Massacre, Zachariah started making one.



(Stock Photo from Alamy.com)

In studying the print of Boston Harbor made by Paul Revere, you can readily see the design of the warships and the placement of the cannons. Since this picture could have been included in newspapers and also periodicals, it is not unreasonable to assume that Zachariah copied warships on to his horn. And knowing that the local forts were essential to a good defense, he included two of them as well.

(Warship on the powder horn engraved by Zachariah Howes)



This powder horn is now part of an 18th century collection of rare artifacts in Pennsylvania from both the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. The owner is a passionate historian who values the stories behind each unique item including the Howes horn. I have been in contact with him and he looks forward to the opportunity of sharing more information about this amazing piece of local and national history with us.

Bob Poskitt

The location of one of the houses pictured in the January Newsletter from the glass plates has been identified and some information has been provided about the other.

Thanks to DHS Board Member and Dennis Historical Commission Chair, Diane Rochelle, we have been provided with the following: "Home of Mrs. Seth Crowell" is the house of Captain Seth Crowell, 1885. This house was destroyed by fire 1909? Replaced by house on same site by William Driscoll, present owner Eleanor Claney, 1961, north side of Route 6A.

"Home of Mrs. Louiza Clark", August 23, 1886, later moved & burned, no address. According to the information provided by Diane, the three women on, or at the carriage are Miss M. E. Homer, Miss Bertha Howes, Miss A. B. Homer. Thank you Diane!

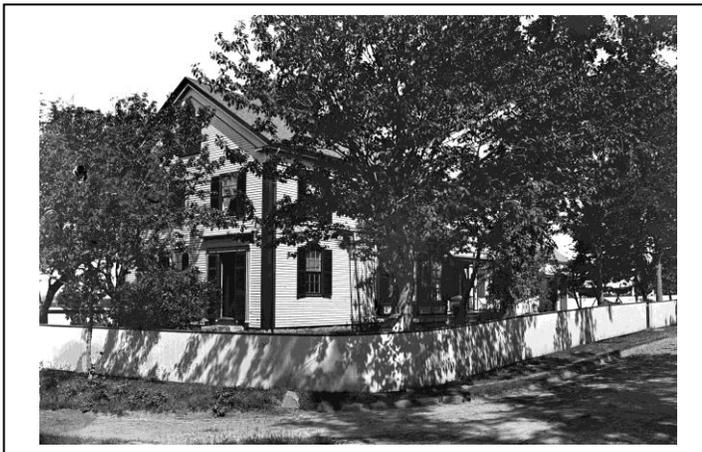
And from long time DHS member, Seth Crowell we learn: My great-great grandfather had a brother named Seth. This is where I got my name after it was used by my grandfather. He married Clarissa Paddock. Their house was on Rt. 6a almost opposite Eldred's Auction House. It burned down around 1900. The house owned by Fred Demaio (maybe not spelled this way) and presently for sale was built in about the same place. If the "Mrs. Seth Crowell you referred to is Clarissa you have some of the history.

Thank you Seth!

Alert: "The Best Of the Best," learn how Curator Phyllis Horton selects items for the DHS Collections. Saturday, 2:00 pm, February 22, Dennis Memorial Library, Dennis Village...don't miss it!

**Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660-0607**

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"Mrs. Elijah J. Howes House"



"House of Joshua Sears"

Two more picture from the glass plate negatives donated to the DHS by Henry Kelley. Like last month, although these pictures were labeled as quoted, there is absolutely no information about them. Each, undoubtedly has a story to tell. If any readers can share some family history or knowledge about of these pictures, please email me. It would be so terrific to know the *who, what, when, where and why...*thank you!

Coming up in March, great information on the glass plate of "John Sears Cottage" provided by Ray Sears, and more amazing stuff from Scott Walker!