



# Dennis Historical Society

## Newsletter

### July 2020

**Volume 43, No7**

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**Hopefully, the next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2:00 pm at the 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](mailto:info@dennishistoricalsociety.org)

### ***More History and Some Memories of 1661 Main Street, East Dennis***

The following article was emailed to us by DHS member and now newsletter contributor, Steven W. Martin. It was written as a follow up to the article ***Regarding "Mrs. H. Chapman at house"*** which appeared in the February 2020 newsletter, and is another wonderful example of what members know about our history and are willing to share.

*I read with interest the piece by Scott Walker on the Chapman house at 1661 Main in East Dennis in the latest DHS Newsletter. As you can see from this, it got me excited. That house was owned by my mother and grandparents from about 1929 to the mid 1960s and before that by my great grandfather James Wallace Smalley (Everyone called him Wallace), who apparently bought it from the Chapman heirs about 1909, remodeled it extensively in the next 4 years and called it "The Cedars." It was the house where my brothers and I and my cousin Ray Sears and his sisters spent much of our summers in the 1950s and 60s. Anyway, I had been doing a little bit of work on who lived in the house over its existence, and it seems to correspond closely to what Scott Walker found.*

*I have always seen the house listed as built by/for John Chapman, circa 1790. I think this is the John Chapman who lived 1761-1820 married to Hannah Paine (1765-1835), though it could be his father, also John Chapman (1728-1815). The younger of these two Johns had 7 kids, the youngest of which was also a John Chapman (1805-1872). A couple of these Chapmans built other houses along Main Street, but I think this is the J. Chapman listed with the house at 1661 Main in the 1858 Cape Atlas. By the 1880 Atlas, the house is listed with Mrs. J. Chapman. This I am pretty sure now is Hannah T. Stover (1811-1901) who first became Hannah Hopkins, had 4 children (William, Nathaniel, Abner, and Sarah) with an Abner Hopkins who died in 1841. She then married John Chapman 12-6-1846, whose first wife had died and had 2 more children with John Chapman -- the children were another John Chapman (d. 1873) and an Everett Chapman (d. 1872). (Interestingly each of the first 3 John Chapman's married a Hannah -- Hannah Lincoln, Hannah Paine, and Hannah Stover).*

*So looking at the 1850 Census, I think living in the house in 1850 was John Chapman, Hannah Chapman and 7 kids (4 born Hopkins, 2 born Chapman by first wife, and one born Chapman with Hannah). In 1860 there was John and Hannah Chapman, and 7 kids ages 31 to 7. In 1870, there was just John and Hannah and one child, Everett. Both John and Hannah are buried in Quivet Neck.*

*One of Hannah Chapman's kids, Abner Hopkins (1839-1892) married Abbie Sears Kelley (1842-1903) and had a son Ralph Hopkins (1880-1947). After Hannah T. Stover Hopkins Chapman died in 1901 and Abbie SK Hopkins died in 1903, the only Chapman heirs left alive were a Hopkins daughter, Sarah Hopkins, and a Hopkins grandson, Ralph Hopkins. On Sept 9, 1909, this Sarah and Ralph conveyed to Wallace Smalley the property for "one dollar and other valuable consideration," according to the Registry of Deeds.*

*I had seen the picture of the John Chapman house in the DHS (you also have the postcard views when it was my great grandfather's house and there is a view of the house in the late 1920s in winter in one of Geta Crowell's albums DHS has. I have some photos of the house in the early 1900s that you may be interested in and want to share with Scott Walker. They came from an album put together by my grandmother Marie Foster Smalley (James Wallace Smalley's daughter) from about 1907 to 1920. I am attaching 4 though I have more.*

*The first is the most interesting, taken about 1909 before Wallace started the remodeling. It shows the Chapman house much as it had been in that 1882 picture you have of the house. It also shows a little girl and her toy horse standing in*

*the dirt road of what now is 6A. I think that may be Geta Crowell who lived right across the street and was a good friend of my grandmother and mother, and who we loved to visit when we were kids. She would have been 3 or 4 then.*



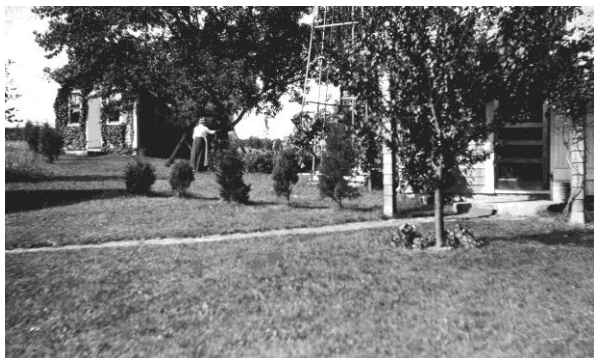
*1661 Main Street, Steven W. Martin Collection*

*The second picture from about 1910-1911 shows the dramatic remodeling changes made to the house, the dormer, porches and Edwardian style of windows that you see a lot on the Cape from this period. The third picture is dated 1912 and shows the remodeling mostly done and the house pretty much as I remember it as a boy. Note the windmill at the back of the house. They pumped water into a cistern in the attic to pressurize the system and give them running water. The final picture I am sending now shows James Wallace Sears and his wife Mary Emma Howes Sears (my great grandparents) in front of the house in 1914. Please feel free to share any of this with Scott Walker, or use it in a Newsletter.*



*1661 Main Street, Steven W. Martin Collection*

*I am sure Scott is right about the "Old Lady Chapman" picture orientation and the placement of that little shed at the end of the ell on the driveway side. We called that ell the mudroom. There was no ell on the other side of the house. I expect that little shed disappeared with Wallace's renovations. It would have been about where the windmill is in the attached photo of the back yard. There are stories about that little building in the backyard which had a big slate top pool table in it bolted to the floor. We played there a lot as kids. Supposedly the "pool room" had been moved there by Wallace either from the Shiverick yards or from Wallace's father's house (James Anthony Smalley, the cultivator of the Smalley cranberry) which was on Sesuit Neck across from the Shiverick yards.*



*This photo shows Mary Emma in the backyard of the property. Clearly visible is the base of water pumping windmill, the blades of which show above the east end of the roof ridge in the 1912 photo described above. The outbuilding with the vine covered doorway in the background is the "pool room." What an exciting place and time to remember!*

*Our thanks to **Steve Martin** for sharing his photographs and this piece of his and our history. We're not done with this house yet, Ray Sears has a connection with it too!*

**Contributions to the newsletter by our readers are greatly appreciated. Our memories are our history!**

## *An Unexpected Connection to a DHS Newsletter*

I have always been fascinated by connections through coincidences. Here is one I think you will find interesting! After the DHS Annual Meeting/Luncheon last autumn, I received an email from Carolyn Duch and Gary Urgonski. It read, in part, as follows and was accompanied by these pictures.



*Images by Carolyn Duch and Gary Urgonski*

*We recently found this bottle when our septic system was being replaced. It says "DRS HULBERT & KELLEY DRUGGISTS WEST DENNIS". A preliminary search indicates it's from the late 1880s. It might be interesting to find out if there are still any descendants locally. Not sure that it's story-worthy, but we love it and wonder how it landed in our yard. Although our house was built in 1680, it was not moved to this location (54 Pine St) until the 1930's.*

I filed the email away for future reference. The coincidence occurred two weeks ago. I was reading back issues of the DHS newsletters on our website, which I highly recommend for enjoyment in these troubling times, and bingo, I came across an article written by Nancy Thacher Reid (February 1987) entitled "**The Story of Another of Dennis' Medical Men**" which I am reprinting because of the connection/coincidence.

*Horatio S. Kelley, Jr. was the son of a fishing boat captain. He was born in 1855 in the house still standing at the northeast corner of Upper County Road and Telegraph Road. When his father was away fishing, young Horatio tended his father's store which stood beside the house. Western Union had established a telegraph office there in the year of Horatio's birth and Horatio and his sister Annie became proficient operators.*

*Early in life, he had decided not to pursue the life of a fisherman, but instead he went to college at New York University, where he graduated from the college of Physicians and Surgeons in 1884. He met and married a New Hampshire girl, Annie S. Sanborn, who was his companion and friend throughout his life. The young couple came to his home town to set up practice.*

*Dr. Hurlburt of South Dennis was happy for the assistance in his busy life, and the two doctors established a drug store in West Dennis. Here Dr. Kelley dispensed patent medicines, prescriptions and good advice. Among the products available were some compounds of the doctor's own invention. The most famous were Cedarosa soap and Dr. Kelley's headache compound.*

*As Dr. Hurlburt aged, Horatio bought out his interest and also established another store in Dennis Port. In 1892 he and his popular young wife had built for them the fine house on Route 28 in West Dennis, now Basketville. They were not blessed with children, but were beloved by neighbors and patients. Animal lovers both, they had a cat or a dog always, in addition to fine horses kept in their fashionable carriage house.*

*Of Dr. Kelley we have many testimonials, not only about his skills in healing, but also about his generosity and interest in his village. But, tragically, the man of healing was himself to become a victim of disease for which there seemed to be no help. Before his new home was ten years old. Dr. Kelley began to show symptoms of an illness, the exact nature of which we may never know. He was experiencing difficulty in walking, and in two years time was confined when awake to a wheelchair. Still he continued to oversee his practice and the drug store, keeping up professionally through contacts with more active colleagues and by his reading. He remained interested in the welfare of his patients and the good of the community even as his own health deteriorated. He and Mrs. Kelley went off Cape to consult with well-known specialists, but none could find a cure for his increasing disability.*

*In 1912, at the age of 57, Dr. Horatio Kelley died, his beloved wife at his bedside. His mourning neighbors were bereft at hearing the sad news. The cause of his death is listed as "hardening of the spinal column", and had he lived today, his death may not have come so tragically soon. He was for many years remembered and fondly spoken of by those who knew him.*

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## *Notes To Our Readers*

Often, this space is taken by up to three of Kevin's great posters advertizing the month's upcoming events. With all three of the Town of Dennis Museums closed for the 2020 Summer Season, our only hope is that the evolving pandemic guidelines will make it possible for Terri Fox to be able to conduct her cemetery walks. Please see the DHS 2020 Calendar for the time and place for these events. If the walks are cancelled, it will be announced on the DHS website. The cancellation of events so far this summer has also been announced by email. If you did not receive these emails, it means we don't have your email address. Please go to <http://www.dennishistoricalsociety.org/> and send us your email address. You can do it right on the home page--Receive Our Emails. Be sure to fill in your name as it appears on your newsletter.

Coming up in August: Thanks to member Suze Perry Peace of DeLand Florida, the "*Southside Unknown*" in the May Newsletter has been positively identified. The information about the house she calls "*Lilac Knoll*" is both interesting and exciting!



*"House" #23, Photos from Jericho, S. William Baker Collection*



*Photo by Dave Talbott, May 26, 2020*