The acorn doesn’t fall far from the tree

Last month, while working on the October Newsletter, out of the blue, and much to my delight, I received this amazing email. No sooner was the ink dry on the October issue, when I began looking forward to working on November’s!

Hi Dave, I’m a historical society member and daughter of Nancy Thacher Reid, former historical society president and author of the Dennis Town history book! I have written a little story that might fit with the newsletter. I’m attaching the story and three photos for you to check out! The photos are of the schooner mentioned in the article, the house and the family of Captain Roland Kelley. You may use any of these that you think fit. Let me know what you think about the article, Katharine Thacher Peace

Thrilled, I wasted no time in responding!

Thank you Katharine! The article is excellent, and I had no trouble with the format. I will definitely use it in a future newsletter; the readers will love it! The pictures will go with it beautifully! Wishing you and your family the very best.

Take care, stay safe, Dave

Fate of a Dennis Schooner

My parents, Richardson and Nancy Thacher Reid, live in a beautiful Victorian home in the historic district of South Dennis. It is ten rooms of vintage elegance, complete with gingerbread trim, a gabled window (once my bedroom) and a regal "tower" from which Bass River can be seen through triangular windows. This impressive home at 480 Main Street was completed in 1892 by Captain Roland Baker Kelley, and it remained his pride and joy to the end of his life.

Roland Kelley, born 1851, son of Elisha Kelley and Eliza Jane Crowell, was brought up in South Dennis and married my great-grand-aunt, Amelia Thacher, in 1872. The couple would have seven children, the youngest, Gertrude, born in the new house. There was a huge housewarming party when the home was completed, and the newspaper lists a menu of gastronomic delights as well as the entertainment, which was provided by the Kelley children singing and playing various instruments.
The 2021 Annual Meeting

The Dennis Historical Society Annual Meeting was held on October 12, 2021. Because of the cancellation of this year’s luncheon due to the coronavirus, it was decided that there would be two separate meetings, but they would be conducted on the same day. This year’s Annual Meeting commenced at 2:00 pm with the regular Board Meeting starting after the Annual’s adjournment. The minutes are on file with Clerk/Recording Secretary Bonnie Hempel. The most important item on the agenda was the election of Officers and Directors. Here are the results of the election.

Dennis Historical Society’s Officers and Directors for 2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Candidates for Election* or Re-election italicized)

PRESIDENT………………………………..Betsy Harrison
TRANSITIONING PRESIDENT……….Dave Talbott
VICE PRESIDENTS…………………..Terri Fox, Phil Catchings
CLERK/RECORDING SECRETARY…Bonnie Hempel
TREASURER……………………………Larry Symington
ASSISTANT TREASURER………………June Howes
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY…..Ruth Derick

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Bill Collins, Dee Collins, Pat Corcoran, Ann Croston, Bo Durst, Terri Fox
Kevin Keegan, Mary Kuhrtz, Bob Poskitt, Diane Rochelle, John Schofield*, Jan Ward

CURATOR/ARCHIVIST EMERITUS….Phyllis Horton
DENNIS MARITIME MUSEUM DIRECTOR EMERITUS….Phyllis Horton

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

HISTORICAL COMMISSION……..Bob Poskitt
JERICHO HISTORICAL CENTER…Dawn Dellner
MEMBERSHIP…………………………Jan Ward
JOSIAH DENNIS MANSE………….Terri Fox
MARITIME MUSEUM at WDGS…..Pat Corcoran
CURATOR/ARCHIVIST………………Dawn Dellner
LIBRARIAN…………………………Ruth Derick
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN………Paul Lapense
PROGRAMS…………………………….Betsy Harrison
PUBLICITY……………………………Kevin Keegan
TECHNOLOGY………………………Jan Ward
DIRECTOR AT LARGE………………Patty Sakellis
2021 Historic Preservation Award

DENNIS HISTORY … REIMAGINED: This year’s Burton Derick Historic Preservation Awards were presented by Diane Rochelle, chairperson of the Dennis Historical Commission, for four recent renovation/restoration projects in Dennis. The presentation occurred at the Josiah Dennis Manse Museum on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, August 21st, as part of the Manse Committee’s annual Colonial Day festivities.

The properties recognized this year were (clockwise from top left) 858 Route 6A (Main Street), Dennis, built circa 1780 by John Hall (Cape Cod style of architecture); 20 Corporation Road, Dennis, built circa 1798 by Nathan Hall (Federal style of architecture); 46 Pleasant Street, East Dennis, built circa 1853 by captain Joshua Sears (Victorian Eclectic style of architecture); and 30 Upper County Road, South Dennis, built circa 1870 by William Allister (Greek Revival style of architecture).

Burton “Burt” Derick, a 12th-generation Cape Codder who grew up in Dennis Port and South Dennis, was a longtime local historian, meticulous researcher, and indefatigable champion for the preservation of early Dennis homes. These annual awards for historic stewardship have been given in his memory since 2014.

In addition to chair Diane Rochelle, the Dennis Historical Commission includes Bob Poskitt (vice chair), Bill Collins, Josh Crowell, Chris Flanagan, Sarah Kruger, Tim Scannell, Ken Van Tassel, and Julian Weiss.

Press release by DHS Publicity Director – Kevin Keegan

Dennis Historical Society House Signs

Own an historic house in Dennis? If your home was built prior to 1900, DHS House Signs are available. These signs are professionally lettered in black on white azek and measure 16” x 5 ½”. The price, which includes verification of date by the Dennis Historical Commission, is $125.00 for non-members and $100.00 for members. If the name of the original owner cannot be verified, only the date will be used. If the exact date cannot be determined, “circa” will be used before it.

Please mail your check made out to the Dennis Historical Society for the appropriate amount, and mail it along with the information on your house to P.O. Box 607 South Dennis, MA 02660. You can also place your order by emailing the information to info@dennishistoricalsociety.org, and then making a PayPal donation to the DHS by clicking on: Get Involved, Donate, DONATE and entering the appropriate amount. Delivery time will vary, longer if research is necessary.

Happy Thanksgiving

Wishing everyone a truly wonderful day!
Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660-0607

2021 DHS Annual Appeal

Next month, members will receive their Society's 2021 Annual Appeal letter asking for support for wish list items for each of our three museums.

Please give generously! Your contribution will greatly assist our museum volunteers in fulfilling our Mission Statement.

To Preserve, Protect & Promote the History of Dennis, Massachusetts
(For some, it may still be tax deductible)

Looking for the Perfect Gift for this Holiday Season?
Visit the DHS Website.
Type www.dennishistoricalsociety.org in your browser and click on Bookstore
You will find a great selection of books which will make a very special gift for a very special person!

Anna Howard Shaw
The true story of one of Dennis' most famous 19th century residents: trailblazing minister, suffragette, and friend to Susan B. Anthony
A delightful and memorable presentation by the Reverend Connie Bickford
November 13, 2pm, Dennis Union Church
A $5 donation is suggested
Sponsored by the Dennis Historical Society and Dennis Union Church