



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

December 2022

Volume 45, No.12

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The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13th, 2:00 pm at the Jacob Sears Memorial Library
23 Center Street, East Dennis

Members Welcome

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

Third Time's the Charm!

Finally, on October 29th, 2022, for the first time since October 26th, 2019, the Dennis Historical Society was able to hold its *Annual Meeting/Luncheon!* After two consecutive coronavirus cancellations, over sixty members and guest gathered at The Sea View in Dennis Port.

With arrival scheduled to begin about 11:30, President Betsy Harrison welcomed everyone just before noon and following the *Pledge of Allegiance*, the first course was served. Everyone enjoyed a delicious three course luncheon expertly prepared and presented by the staff at The Sea View...*thank you to all the staff!* Two more *thank yous* are very much in order, both were precipitated by our president. The first was Betsy recognizing that in keeping with the season, it was necessary to have centerpieces on the tables with an autumnal feel. She went to see the folks at the Hart Farm Nursery and Garden Center in Dennis Port. For many years, owners and long time DHS members Nancy and Don Kossack have been very generous supporters of our *Annual Appeal*. Betsy came away with enough pumpkins and gourds to make beautiful arrangements for our seven tables...a gift from the Hart Farm. The second was her arranging a *show and tell* to occur during the salad course. Enlisting the assistance of Board Members Dawn Dellner and Bob Poskitt, two articles were brought from the Jericho Barn. The *show* was to hold each object up for all to see, with the *tell* being identification of the objects. The prize for each correct answer, a copy of our speaker Jim Coogan's newly released novel *Cape Cod Passage*...more about our speaker later. One article was properly identified, a wooden handled tool for pruning the edges of cranberry plants to stop encroachment into the bog's irrigation channels. The other, which no one guessed, was a roller used to slide the rain covers on and off the vats where sea water was evaporated during the hay day of the saltworks industry on Cape Cod...*thank you Hart Farm, Bob, Dawn and Betsy!*

Dennis Historical Society Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is recommending approval of the following
Candidates for Board of Directors:

2022-2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT.....Phil Catchings
TRANSITIONING PRESIDENT.....Betsy Harrison
VICE PRESIDENTS.....Terri Fox, Dave Talbott
TREASURER.....Larry Symington
ASSISTANT TREASURER.....Diane Rochelle
RECORDING SECRETARY.....Bonnie Hempel
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.....Ruth Derick

ELECTED DIRECTORS

*Bill Collins, Dee Collins Pat Corcoran, Ann Croston, Bo Durst,
June Howes, Kevin Keegan, Karen Ketchum, Mary Kuhrtz,
Bob Poskitt, John Schofield, Maureen Sullivan, Jan Ward*
(Candidates for election or re-election are italicized)

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

HISTORICAL COMMISSION.....Bob Poskitt
JERICHO HISTORICAL CENTER.....Dawn Dellner
JOSIAH DENNIS MANSE MUSEUM.....Terri Fox
WDGS, MARITIME MUSEUM.....Pat Corcoran
CURATOR/ARCHIVIST.....Dawn Dellner
LIBRARIAN.....Ruth Derick
ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS..Paul Lapense, Maureen Sullivan
MEMBERSHIP.....Jan Ward
PROGRAMS.....Betsy Harrison, Dave Talbott
PUBLICITY.....Kevin Keegan
RECEIVING TOMB.....Terri Fox
TECHNOLOGY.....Jan Ward
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.....Dee Collins
DIRECTOR AT LARGE.....Patty Sakellis

During dessert, it was time to get down to business, and Betsy called the meeting to order just after 1:00 pm.

After reports on the year 2022, and the Society's accomplishments and condition by the President, Secretary/Clerk Bonnie Hempel and Treasurer Larry Symington, it was time for the Nominating Committee's report by Dave Talbott - the election of the Officers, Board Members, including Elected and Appointed Directors, for the upcoming year. To the left is the slate as presented.

The vote was unanimous, and all terms will begin in January 2023. After the voting, Dave asked newly elected President Phil Catchings and new Board Member Karen Ketchum to stand and be recognized with a round of applause. Unfortunately, the other new Board member Maureen Sullivan was unable to attend.

Before relinquishing the podium, Dave took a minute to thank Betsy from all the membership for the amazing job she has done as our president and presented her with an engraved pewter ring dish with these three lines –

*Betsy Harrison
DHS President
2021-2022*

Quoting from the card which accompanied the present, Dave read part of the expression of appreciation felt by all the members – *thank you Betsy from all of us for the wonderful direction and leadership you have provided during your term. We are all very appreciative and grateful!*

After lunch, it was time for guest speaker and noted Cape Cod author Jim Coogan - a bit about him from Betsy's introduction - *Jim was raised in Brewster. He is a graduate of Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School and Boston College.*

After almost three decades as a classroom history teacher, Jim retired to become a full-time writer. Over the years he has written or co-written 13 books and numerous articles for local newspapers, including a regular column for the Cape Cod Times. His latest book, *Cape Cod Passage: A Novel of People and Events That Have Shaped the Narrow Land* was published in September. He currently lives in Sandwich, Massachusetts.

Speaking without notes in his relaxed yet authoritative style, Jim provided his audience with the perfect combination of glimpses back about growing up on the Cape, especially his recollections of the days when Dennis Port was the hub of happenings in the Mid-Cape area, and his topic – *Cape Cod Women Who Went To Sea*. That topic was beautifully highlighted with stories, mostly from his book *Sail Away Ladies*, about the roles of women, mostly sea captains' wives who accompanied and supported their husbands on voyages aboard schooners, whalers and clipperships. The life of the women aboard these vessels was dealt with in fascinating detail. Ed. Note – *Sail Away Ladies* continues to be a best seller in our museums and bookstores including the one on the DHS Website.

After a question and answer period, Jim signed copies of many of his books and generously donated copies of his latest to the DHS and Dennis Memorial libraries....*thank you Jim for an amazing talk and your generosity!*

When Betsy asked for a motion to adjourn, it was obvious to everyone that a wonderful time was shared by all!

More about John Hall's Resting Place

It is really nice when we all get a bit fascinated and involved with a question about local history that has an air of mystery. Such was the one posed by a member which appeared in the July and September issues of the newsletter. Here is an email from that member, actually a synthesis of two which your editor took the license to combine –

Hello Dave,

I'm sorry it has taken me so long to respond and thank you for the September Newsletter that helped so much with the search for "John Hall's Resting Place."

The contribution from Diane Rochelle had so much info and the historic map had very clear details.

It seems as if we can conclude that John Hall certainly must be in the Hall Cemetery.

I was able to see a copy of Cemetery Inscription of Dennis Massachusetts by Burton Derick and the detailed descriptions and illustrations do show that there are 4 unmarked graves near the entrance to the cemetery. So I think 2 of those could be, or probably are, John and Bethia Hall, but I should probably make it clear that my conclusion is just my personal opinion!

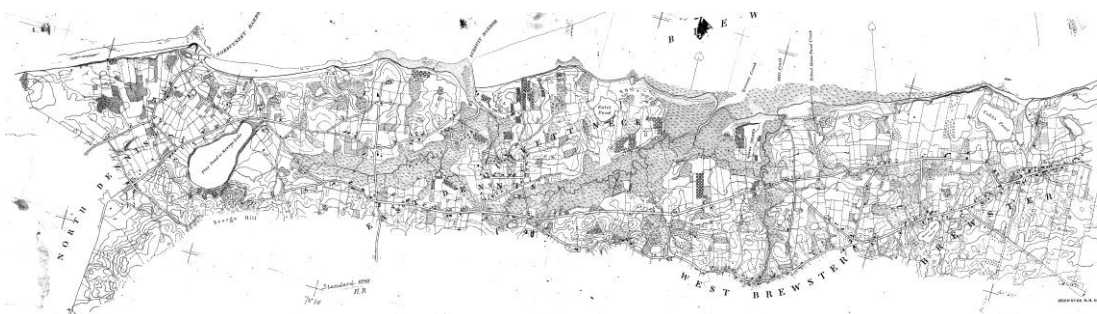
The book was certainly helpful in trying to understand the small, hidden, family graveyard. He must have been a very valued member of the Historical Society. Also, I was able to find the resource that he referenced in Cemetery Inscriptions of Dennis MA when he mentioned "Hall's Genealogy," as he explained some of the connections of those buried in the Hall Cemetery. The book has been digitized by Google so I found it online, but I think it is probably in the local library - The Halls of New England, Genealogical and Biographical, by Rev. David B. Hall, A.M. The information in The Great Migration and The Winthrop Fleet by John Charles Anderson tells of John Hall's many sons, so there must be a lot of descendants searching for him!

Thank you again for all the answers you have provided! I hope it's a beautiful autumn in Dennis, MA.

With best wishes,

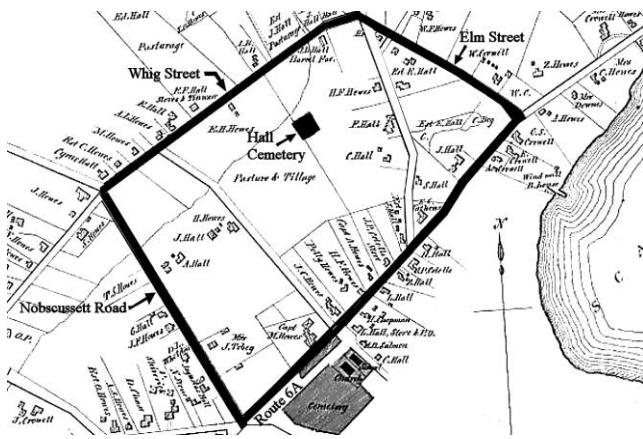
Older and Better!

The map of Dennis which appeared in the *John Hall's Resting Place* article came from *Barnstable County 1880*, Geo. H. Walker & Co. As was mentioned in the article, it was the oldest I could find which clearly showed the area in Dennis Village which was germane to the query. Thanks to a DHS member and retired Professional Engineer PE from South Dennis, I received an email with a map attached that was *older and better!*



U.S. COAST SURVEY
Benjamin Peires, Supdt.
NORTH SHORE OF CAPE COD
FROM NORTH DENNIS TO BREWSTER
Scale 1:1000
Surveyed in Aug. Sept. and Oct.
1868

As one might expect from a retired PE, when I downloaded and then enlarged the image, I was blown away by the detail and clarity. Here is the area of Dennis in 1880 which appeared in the September Newsletter from thirteen years earlier, 1868.



Copied and cropped from the Barnstable County Map 1880



Copied and cropped from the U.S. Coast Survey Map 1868

Notice the detail of the individual lot or plot lines and the addition of the topographic or elevation lines on the Coast Survey Map. Ed. Note – for some reason, the map stopped just west of Hope Lane. I had to add Nobscessett Road to match things up. What is out there is amazing, and the willingness of our members to share what they have tucked away is too...*thank you!*

This Unknown House

It's been awhile since we had one of these, and it was terrific using the new Digital Archive to search for the picture and info!



Dennis Historical Society

- Home
- Keyword Search
- Advanced Search
- Random Images
- Archives
- Library
- Objects
- Photos
- People

Photo Record

[← Return to Search Results](#)



Object Name	Photograph
Catalog Number	13774
Description	House with people in yard; label on old envelope is wrong W. Dennis, Grammar School, Graduating Class & Teacher; modern no. 19; has contact print.
Title	House with people in yard
Place	Dennis, MA
Provenance	BRIAN DEVANEY COLLECTION - GLASS PLATES. A collection of some 77 glass plates produced by John Elmer Baxter of West Dennis. Some are in the original envelopes, most are not. All were scanned at high resolution, and the non-emulsion side only cleaned for the scanning. The plates were basically of 4 sizes, and they were organized by size then in no particular order.
Collection	Brian Devaney
Classification	Special Collections Collections of Photo Albums Brian Devaney Collection
Attachments	FAF9d890-3D25-AADD-A090-770630471140.pdf

[Email to a Friend](#)

Using the Keyword Search and putting a check mark in the Items with Images Only, I typed in "old house," then by clicking on Search, 18539 Items were searched with 2113 results. Now, the journey and the fun began! I scrolled through the images until finding one I wanted to use. Here, what's shown is amazing! By reading the Description, I quickly learned that it is indeed an unknown house. In the Provenance, I learned where the picture came from. And, by clicking on the Attachments, a pdf of a remarkably sharp glass plate image which you see below opened. A click on the PrintSysRg key allowed me to open the image in a photo program where I cropped and tweaked it, saving it as a jpg. This is the same procedure used to produce the image on the left.

Screenshot from the DHS Digital Archive

If anyone can identify *This Unknown House* or can provide any information about it and the people (including the child in the window), please email me at info@dennishistoricalsociety.org.....*thank you!*
Ed. Note – By going to the Archive, typing 13774 in the Keyword Search, clicking on the Attachments and when the pdf opens click repeatedly on the + sign, you will be able to get a close look at the people. The clarity of the glass plate is incredible...*enjoy!*



Screenshot from the DHS Digital Archive

Coming up in January – the much requested story behind Frontier Valley

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

Non-profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 24
South Yarmouth, MA
02664

OPEN HOUSE

at the Dennis Maritime Museum
Saturday, December 10,
as part of the West Dennis Stroll



Visitors welcome 11am - 4pm
67 School Street, West Dennis
2nd floor/wheelchair accessible
FREE ADMISSION (donations gladly accepted)

A Special Invitation for DHS Members

*There will be a Meet & Greet
hosted by the Manse Committee*

*Josiah Dennis Manse Museum
Saturday, December 10th, 5-7 pm
61 Whig Street, Dennis Village*

*Please bring a shareable
hor d'oeuvre; beverages will be provided –
see the Manse decorated for the holidays
and enjoy time with friends!*



Step back in time for a
COLONIAL CHRISTMAS
during the Dennis Village Stroll



Join our costumed docents December 11
from noon to 3 pm for jolly good cheer –
and punch and cookies – at this year's
Josiah Dennis Manse Holiday Open House



Wishing everyone a Joyous Holiday Season!

