



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

September 2022

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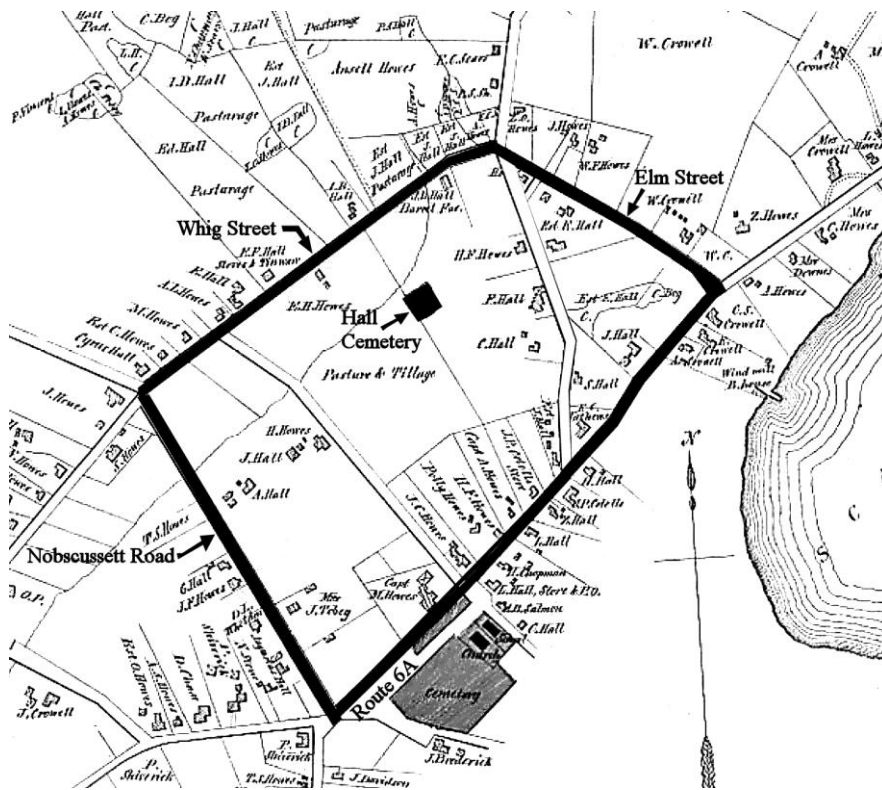
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The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th, 2:00 pm at the Dennis Memorial Library
1020 Old Bass River Road, Dennis Village

Members Welcome

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

John Hall's Resting Place



From Barnstable County 1880 – see the preponderance of Hall properties

As you may remember, in July's issue, a member had emailed asking for help in determining the location of John Hall's final resting place. So, what have we learned from our history detectives about where John Hall is buried? Some things, but not as much as was hoped! In fact, with all the research that our inquiring member had already done, and the links which she provided to us, there is probably little, if any, information that is new, except to the rest of us.

Initially, there were strong indications that John Hall was buried in Yarmouth Port on land that is now the course at the Kingsway Golf Club. The information was correct, but it was a later John Hall, not the one we were seeking. After visiting the site, Board Member John Schofield reported that the date on the marker was 1801, 105 years later.

The information which suggests a likely location came from another DHS Board Member and Dennis Historical Commission Chair, Diane Rochelle.

Deacon John Elisha Hall (Coventry, England, christened 6/27/1610 - Yarmouth 7/23/1696 age 86, buried on his farm; Hall Cemetery no marked burial) living in Charlestown c1630, original member with Bethiah of First Church of Charlestown, farm on Mystic River; took freeman oath 5/14/1634, Highway Surveyor in 1639; living in Barnstable, c1641, able to bear arms in 1643, constable 1647.

Living in Nobscussett, E Precinct of Yarmouth c1651, 147 acre farm (between Thomas Howes land & John Crowe land) at head of Chase Garden River which ran on his land; he also had 15 acres west side of Coys Pond; Highway Surveyor 1653; Selectman 1685; will signed 10/7/1693 and probated 8/29/1696; homestead built c1641, later Josiah S Hall lived there. The table of early Hall Family burial locations was also provided by Diane.

Possibly buried on farm:

Bethia, wife #1 Deacon John Elisha Hall	(1612 – 1641)
Elizabeth, wife #2	(1621 – 1683)
Samuel, son	(1635 – 1693)

First Marked Burials in Hall Cemetery

Bethiah Hall, wife of Gershom Hall	(1641 – 1696)
Batha Hall, daughter of Samuel Hall & Pasench	(1698 – 1698)
Hannah Hall, wife of Joseph Hall	(1666 – 1710)

Unfortunately, I was unable to find a map which was old enough to determine the boundaries of the properties owned by Thomas Howes and John Crowe. The map above is from *Barnstable County 1880*, Geo. H. Walker & Co. I have outlined an area bounded by Nobscussett Road Whig Street, Elm Street and Route 6A. Above and to the right of the center is the location of the Hall Cemetery. Information points to him being buried in this area.
Thank you to all who participated!

A Bequest to the Dennis Historical Society



Ethel MacQuarrie and her daughter Susan Hobson

Ethel M. MacQuarrie (Foley), 92 passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. Born on October 7, 1928 in Dennis, MA, Ethel was the daughter of Charles and Mary Foley. She had fond memories of growing up on the Cape with her twin brother, Oren, and her sister, Irene. Ethel was the great-great-granddaughter of Asa Shiverick, founder of the noted Shiverick Shipyard in East Dennis, MA in the early 1800s.— from Ethel MacQuarrie’s obituary, the Watson Funeral Home, Riverside, RI.

Ethel was a supporter of the Dennis Historical Society for many years. The photo of her with daughter Susan was taken at the Josiah Dennis Manse Museum when they met with now Curator Emeritus Phyllis Horton to officially gift the *Howes (Mayflower) Chest* to the Society. The chest, brought to America in 1637 by Thomas Howes and his wife Mary (Burr) Howes in the hold of the Mayflower III, had been on loan by the family for many years.

Continuing her years of support, Ethel generously remembered the Dennis Historical Society in her will. At the request of the family, the amount is not to be disclosed. ***A very heartfelt thank you to Ethel and her family!***

Memories

The response to the request in the August Newsletter continues to be encouraging and very rewarding! There have been many who have emailed requesting the pdf of the 1956 Map and the *memories* have started to come in. Here is an example from member Judy Pierce Livingston which appeared in the DHS email the same day the issue was delivered.

By 1956, I was in college so I was no longer in Dennis. However, I can tell you about my eighth grade year, 1950-1951.

I lived on Quivet Neck in East Dennis and went to Ezra Baker School. At that time Ezra Baker was grades 1-8. Each grade had only one class. I was in the eighth grade. Our school bus first went to Sesuit Neck and then came to Quivet Neck. On Quivet Neck there were six of us who boarded the bus: Jeannette and Paul Sears, Henry Homer Sears, my brother, sister and I. From East Dennis we went to South Dennis and picked up the students there. Our bus driver, Mr. Embler, was very strict. Girls had to sit on one side of the bus and boys on the other. No one was allowed to stand at any time. If anyone were to do so, Mr. Embler would stop the bus and glare at everyone through his rear view mirror. Of course we were



Ezra Baker School, DHS Digital Archive, car is a 1951 Oldsmobile scared to death!

*After school I used to ride horses with my friend Alison Stone who lived on Sesuit Neck. She had two horses. We loved galloping on the flats at low tide. After school on Wednesdays we took the Dennis bus to Carleton Hall for square dancing lessons. We did so well that a group of us in grades 6-8 were chosen to be a demonstration group. The caller, Dick Anderson, had us go to various places to put on exhibitions. We were called *The Dennis Polka Dots* and we wore costumes with polka dots. One weekend we went to Martha’s Vineyard for an exhibition and we stayed at homes of people there.*

A group of parents formed the Dennis-East Dennis Recreation Association in order to plan activities for teenagers. Every Friday night we went to what we called “Recreation” held in the basement of Jacob Sears Hall. At that time, Jacob Sears Hall was a place where covered dish suppers, square dances and performances were held. The library was only a couple of rooms that are now the children’s library. In the basement was a ping pong table and we also played games on Friday nights.

The youths of Dennis and East Dennis did everything together. In Dennis there was Carleton Hall where square dances, chicken pie supper, covered dish suppers and performances were held. When there was a square dance the entire family attended and everyone danced, including first graders. The Nickersons always led the grand march.

*At the end of our eighth grade year at Ezra Baker we spent hours rehearsing for the eighth grade graduation ceremony. We gave speeches and sang about three songs. The music teacher spent a lot of time teaching us the songs and rehearsing them. The girls wore white dresses for the graduation and the boys wore suits. The graduation was held on the stage of the Cape Cinema. **Thank you Judy for such a wonderful look back!***

So, the project has started. Please continue to think back to wherever your mind is willing to take you. The initial emphasis is on the 1950s, but your Society would love to receive any 20th Century recollections. Please email them to Dave Talbott at info@dennishistoricalsociety.org. **Thank you!**

Josiah Dennis Manse Museum's Maritime Room

In May, to fill a staffing gap for the Ezra Baker Third Grade School Program, I volunteered to work in the Maritime Room. Although a member of the Manse Committee for many years, I had not served as a docent because of all the experienced and knowledgeable committee members that had the positions so well covered. Suddenly, it was time for me to go back to school. I had the *Docent Handbook* in my computer, and I began to study! It wasn't long before I realized that this was good stuff, and if much of it was new to me, maybe the membership would find it interesting too. Here is a bit of our maritime history, excerpts from the Maritime Room's chapter in the *Docent Handbook*.



Two Masted Fishing Schooner by Howard Bonington

Early on, Dennis mariners learned that fishing for the abundant codfish, flounder and mackerel was the next best way to make money from the sea that surrounds us. For over 350 years, about 90% of our mariners have been fishermen.

Cape Codders were always a poor lot who survived mainly, by subsistence, living from the land and sea. If a poor person went to the shore when a boat came in and asked for a fish, the fisherman felt duty bound to give him one. There was an old superstition that one must share with the needy what God had so freely given them. To break that tradition would mean bad luck. That same superstition still holds among the locals in the fishing ports of Provincetown, Gloucester, and New Bedford.

The coastal traders worked their schooners up and down the East Coast buying and selling, as if they were running a store on Main Street. The fishermen took their little schooners out to the Banks, or up to the Bay of Chaleur, chasing the cod and mackerel in some very heavy weather for those little boats. The deep water men

were the heart of Dennis, but the fishermen were the soul! The two-masted schooner was the most popular ship made in Dennis shipyards and sailed by Dennis fishermen or traders. Most fishermen had one or two-masted ships. Some would go out day fishing and return every night. Others would go out to the banks and could be out for up to ten days. That was about as long as the salted fish would stay fresh. Every trip over one day would have salt on board to preserve the catch. There was usually a "salt boy", about 10 years old, whose job it was to stand in the hold and throw salt on the fish as they were thrown down below. There was a saying that "the ship couldn't go home until all the salt was wet" (had been used). That was often a young boy's introduction to life at sea.

A three masted schooner was about as large as most coastal traders used. A few of them were built on the Cape. Some larger ones, up to seven masts, were built elsewhere and sailed by Cape captains, mostly to foreign ports.

Captain Richard E .B. Phillips of Dennis Port was Master of the Cross Rip Lightship in January 1914, when it was involved in the rescue of the crew of the 3-masted schooner John Paul that went down between Nantucket and Cape Cod in a raging blizzard. Four other Dennis men were involved in the rescue. They all received letters of commendation.

In February 1918, the Cross Rip made headlines again, but this time it was of a tragic nature. Nantucket Sound had frozen from Cape Cod to south of Nantucket. The Cross Rip was surrounded by icebergs and trapped in the ice. Lightships had no method of power, they were merely floating lighthouses. Captain Phillips was on shore leave, and Mate Henry F. Joy of Dennis Port was in charge. Following a blizzard, Mate Joy realized the anchor chains had parted, and the Cross Rip was being moved at the mercy of the ice and tides. He walked three miles over the ice to Nantucket Island to request permission for his men to abandon the station. Permission was denied. The disappointed men remained on board, faithful to their creed: "You have to go out, but you don't have to come back." On February 20th, another blizzard struck, and following that, the ice began to break up and move out to sea. It took the Cross Rip and her crew with it. The last sight of her was when she rounded Great Point, Nantucket flying the distress signal.

A month after the Cross Rip was lost, a Boston based dragger, fishing on George's Bank, pulled up the lightship's rudder and American flag. Years later, a dragger out of New Bedford found the Cross Rip's bell off Nauset Beach, Orleans. We have Captain Phillips' spyglass which was not on board at the time. The wooden quarter board displayed here is from the companionway of the Cross Rip. It washed up on the Depot Street beach in Dennis Port a year after the tragedy. Ironically, Henry Joy lived on Depot Street.

This is a brief glimpse at some of what is available in the Josiah Dennis Manse Museum's Maritime Room. Be sure to visit and see it and all the rest the Manse has to offer on September 17th, *Autumn at the Manse* from 1 - 4 pm, 61 Whig Street in Dennis Village. In addition, if you like things nautical, don't miss the Dennis Maritime Museum at the West Dennis Graded School on September 9th, 1 - 4 pm, 67 School Street. The *Nantucket Basket* exhibit will still be on display...don't miss it either!

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AUTUMN AT THE MANSE

Saturday, September 17, from 1-4pm

**Time travel to the 18th century for a very special
one-day-only event at the iconic 1736 home
of the minister for whom Dennis is named**

JOSIAH DENNIS MANSE
61 Whig Street in Dennis Village
FREE ADMISSION (donations gladly accepted)

DENNIS MARITIME MUSEUM

at the West Dennis Graded School House



**Last chance: open Wednesdays and Fridays
from 1 - 4pm through September 9**

FREE ADMISSION (donations gladly accepted)