The Dennis Historical Society's 2018, Annual Meeting/Luncheon was held at 11:30 on October 20th, at the Riverway Restaurant. The meeting was attended by forty-eight members and guests. Concluding a very enjoyable half hour of socializing, President Diane Rochelle welcomed everyone, and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was warmly and thoughtfully delivered by Ken Durst. Diane then delivered her President's report on the year's activities, citing in particular, the sale of the Rose Victorian. Not included in her report were the countless hours she worked overseeing the sale. In addition, Diane spoke of positions filled, our very successful Annual Appeal, and the wide variety of excellent programs and events in which your Society participated. 2018, was under Diane's leadership, one which found us working hard and successfully to preserve, promote and present the history & heritage of Dennis. She was followed by Treasurer Larry Symington, who reported on the state of the DHS finances, which included the proceeds of the sale of the Rose. Larry's report was accepted as presented.

After lunch, Betsy Harrison gave the Nominating Committee's report with its recommendation for the slate of Officers and Board, which were as follows:

**2018-2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**ELECTED DIRECTORS**

**V**PRESIDENT, Dave Talbott  
**V**ICE PRESIDENTS, Terri Fox and Betsy Harrison  
**T**REASURER, Larry Symington  
**A**SSISTANT TREASURER, June Howes  
**C**ORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Ruth Derick  
**C**LERK/SECRETARY, Bonnie Hempel  
**T**RANSITIONING PRESIDENT, Diane Rochelle  

**APPOINTED DIRECTORS**

**H**ISTORICAL COMMISSION, Bob Poskitt  
**J**ERICHO & MEMBERSHIP, Dawn Dellner  
**J**OSIAH DENNIS MANSE, Terri Fox  
**W**DG S, MARITIME MUSEUM, Phyllis Horton  
**C**URATOR/ARCHIVIST, Phyllis Horton  
**D**IRECTOR AT LARGE, Patty Sakellis  

**L**IBRARIAN, Ruth Derick  
**A**SSISTANT LIBRARIAN, Paul Lapense  
**P**ROGRAMS, Betsy Harrison  
**P**UBLICITY, Kevin Keegan  
**T**ECHNOLOGY, Jan Ward

The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

After the voting, Clerk/Secretary Bonnie Hemple made her report, citing in particular the hard work of Bob Poskitt with the digital archives and Kevin Keegan with publicity during the year. Bonnie's report was accepted as presented.

Dave Talbott presented a gift from the Board to Diane Rochelle thanking her for her term as our president. The card which accompanied the present read, in part, "you guided us through the difficult decision to sell the Rose Victorian, and then spent countless hours overseeing the sale. In addition, your leadership inspired the Board by example."

While desert was being served, the guest speaker this year, Christopher Macort, Underwater Field Archaeologist for the Whydah Pirate Museum in West Yarmouth, began his fascinating talk. Sometimes, speakers can have you looking at your watch. Chris had his audience so wrapped up in his presentation that the time flew by! The riveting narrative...
started with the historical background of Samuel Ballamy, who became captain of the infamous pirate ship Whydah. It included how he journeyed to Cape Cod around 1715, was smitten by local beauty Goody Hallett in Wellfleet, and how he left the Cape to seek his fortune treasure hunting off the Florida coast. Ultimately, he became the pirate know as "Black Sam Bellamy." Dead by the age of 28, his career as a pirate captain lasted little more than a year, but he and his crew captured at least 53 ships, making him the wealthiest pirate in recorded history. According to Chris, they were the originators of the black pirate flag with the skull and crossed bones. This background brought the audience up to the fierce spring storm of April 26, 1717, when the Whydah sank off the coast of Wellfleet.

“The problem was the majority of the treasure sank immediately with the ship,” said Chris. From that day forward, the remains of the Whydah rested on the ocean’s floor. Finding the wreck and its purported riches became the quest of Provincetown resident, Barry Clifford.

Using a map made during the same era as the wreck and a magnetometer to detect metal underwater, Barry spent years searching for the ship. He finally struck gold when he began to discover artifacts dated around the time of the Whydah. In 1985 Clifford’s findings were authenticated when he discovered the ship’s bell, with the inscription “Whydah Gally 1716.” With the discovery, Macort says the ship’s treasure “became reality again—and went from legend to history.”

Having provided this background, Chris went on to relate his experiences diving on the wreck of the Whydah which included details of feeling ones way along the bottom, unable to see but a few feet in the murky waters, always worrying about encountering a dreaded great white shark! He spoke about the techniques used in returning items which had spent almost three centuries in the ocean to their original beauty; of hundreds of slave bracelets made of copper and bronze; of bones, pistols, fabric and other recovered relics which are on display at the Whydah Pirate Museum. Thank you Chris for such an exciting and informative talk!

After Chris's talk concluded, Diane accepted a motion for adjournment. That motion brought to a close, a very enjoyable combination of business, our Annual Meeting, and pleasure, a delightful lunch, socialization, and a fascinating presentation by a terrific speaker.

Editor's Note:

For the second month in a row, our Digital Archives threw us a curve! Remember, the primary source of our archives is, and has been, the willingness of families to share and have their personal photos scanned, one by one, from their albums. Many times, photos are unlabeled, and sometimes, not often, they are not even of Cape Cod, let alone Dennis. This month we have another Kelley to thank for the proper identification, our own Henry. I asked Henry if he and last month's correct "Unknown House" identifier, Bob Kelley were related, he said only by their love for, and their fascination with history. The photo below was sent to me by Henry and is from The Colonial Houses of Worship in America- Built in the English Colonies before the Republic, 1607-1789, and still standing, by Harold Wickliffe Rose.

(Pembroke Friends Meeting House(1706) N. Pembroke, Mass.) ( November's "Unknown House")

The photo angles are different, but comparing the architectural features one by one, it is inescapable, they are identical!
"This Unknown House"

DHS Glass Plates from Joanne & William Crowell. There are 8 boxes of 4x5-inch glass plates, most of which have a list of contents. The plates have now all been mixed, and there is no positive identification of them.

(Adapted with permission from the Dennis Historical Society's Digital Archives)

This month's "Unknown House" picture is from PhotoAlbum 05\Glass Plates\Box 301, the DHS Digital Archives. No other information available, except what appears next to the picture above. If anyone can identify it, the person, or provide any information about the picture, please email Dave Talbott at info@dennishistoricalsociety.org.

With the identification of last month's house, readers are now batting .666!

____________________________________________________________

Last chance for this special offer. It ends this month.

Based on the original nautical architectural drawings themselves—of the eight magnificent clipper ships built over a 14-year period in the mid-19th century at the Shiverick Shipyard adjacent to Sesuit Harbor, Nancy DeVita became well known for her series of highly accurate lithographs.

To take advantage of this extraordinary special offer, DHS members should follow these four steps:

1. Visit NoraDeVita.com and choose which clipper ship lithograph (or lithographs) you wish to purchase.
2. To save cutting up your newsletter, copy this form, or provide the information requested along with the lithographs you want.
3. Write a check made out to NORA DEVITA, and mail both to Nora DeVita, P.O. Box 331, East Dennis, MA 02641.
4. Mail early to assure timely delivery while supplies last.

Name: ____________________________

Street address: ____________________________

City_____________________________________ State_________ Zip_______________

Email address: ____________________________

Belle of the West @ $55 ($45, plus $10 tax, shipping, handling)
Revenue @ $55 ($45, plus $10 tax, shipping, handling)
Webfoot @ $55 ($45 plus $10 tax, shipping, handling)
Hippogriffe @ $55 ($45, plus $10 tax, shipping, handling)

Questions? Email Nora at nndevita@gmail.com or call her directly at 508.669.7122

Looking for a Special Gift?

Please visit the DHS online Bookstore!

Type www.dennishistoricalsociety.org in your browser and then click on Bookstore.

You will find a great selection of what will make the perfect gift for this Holiday Season.

Highly recommended is Dennis, Cape Cod, by Nancy Thacher Reid, the definitive volume of Dennis History!

The 2017 DHS Annual Appeal

Soon, members will receive their Society's 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, Promote & Present the History of Dennis, Massachusetts

(For some, it may still be tax deductible)
Wishing everyone a Joyous Holiday Season!

CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSE
December 9, Noon - 3:30pm
As part of the Dennis Village Stroll, enjoy natural holiday decorations and treats at the home of the town’s namesake minister.
Whig Street and Nobscauset Road
FREE ADMISSION (donations gladly accepted)

CHRISTMAS AT CAPTAIN BAKER HOUSE
Saturday, December 15: 1-4pm
As part of the West Dennis Stroll, enjoy treats and decorations at the 1801 Captain Baker House at Jericho Historic Center, 90 Old Main Street.
FREE ADMISSION (donations gladly accepted)

Join the Holiday Fun!
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
at the Dennis Maritime Museum at the West Dennis Graded Schoolhouse
Saturday, December 15th, as part of the West Dennis Stroll
Open 11 am-4pm
67 School Street, West Dennis
Handicap Accessible

Please don't miss these wonderful holiday events!