



# Dennis Historical Society

## Newsletter

### December 2018

#### **Volume 41, No12**

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**Board Meeting Tuesday, December 11, 2 pm, Jacob Sears Library, 23 Center Street, East Dennis**

**Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share!**

**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)

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**

**PRESIDENT, Dave Talbott**

**VICE PRESIDENTS, Terri Fox and Betsy Harrison**

**TREASURER, Larry Symington**

**ASSISTANT TREASURER, June Howes**

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Ruth Derick**

**CLERK/SECRETARY, Bonnie Hempel**

**TRANSITIONING PRESIDENT, Diane Rochelle**

#### **ELECTED DIRECTORS**

*Pat Corcoran, Ann Croston, Phil Catchings*

*Kathy Dorshimer, Bo Durst, Mary Kuhrtz,*

*Bob Poskitt, Jan Ward*

(Candidates for election are italicized)

#### **APPOINTED DIRECTORS**

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION, Bob Poskitt**

**JERICHO & MEMBERSHIP, Dawn Dellner**

**JOSIAH DENNIS MANSE, Terri Fox**

**WDGS, MARITIME MUSEUM, Phyllis Horton**

**CURATOR/ARCHIVIST, Phyllis Horton**

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE, Patty Sakellis**

**LIBRARIAN, Ruth Derick**

**ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, Paul Lapense**

**PROGRAMS, Betsy Harrison**

**PUBLICITY, Kevin Keegan**

**TECHNOLOGY, Jan Ward**

The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

After the voting, Clerk/Secretary Bonnie Hempel 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.”

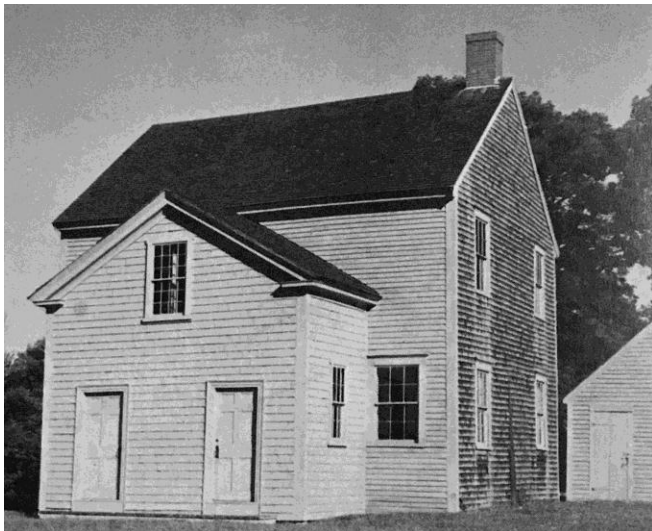
Having provided this background, Chris went on to relate his experiences diving on the wreck of the *Whydah* which included details of feeling ones way along the bottom, unable to see but a few feet in the murky waters, always worrying about encountering a dreaded great white shark! He spoke about the 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.

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#### **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

***(Photo & information from the  
Dennis Historical Society's Digital Archives)***

This month's "Unknown House" picture is from Photo\Album 05\Glass Plates\Box 3\01, 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](mailto: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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Belle of the West @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Hunter @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)
<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)	<input type="checkbox"/> Searsville @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)
<input type="checkbox"/> Webfoot @ \$55 (\$45 plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kit Carson @ \$55 (\$45 plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hippogriffe @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ellen Sears @ \$55 (\$45, plus \$10 tax, shipping, handling)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount of this order      Questions? Email Nora at [nndevisa@gmail.com](mailto:nndevisa@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](http://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  
the History of Dennis, Massachusetts**

*(For some, it may still be tax deductible)*

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

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02664

❧ *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 sweet  
Yuletide treats  
at the home of  
the town's  
namesake  
minister

Whig Street and  
Nobscussett  
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!*