



Dennis Historical Society

Newsletter

March – April 2017

Volume 40, No 2 Send letters & stories to Dennis Historical Society, Box 607, S. Dennis 02660 or to whiskeyboo@comcast.net
Internet: www.dennishistoricalsociety.org Copyright 2015 - Dennis Historical Society E-Mail info@dennishistoricalsociety.org
Board Meeting Wednesday, May 10, 2:00 pm, 1877 Rose Victorian, 485 Route 28, West Dennis, members welcome

Peter D. Howes

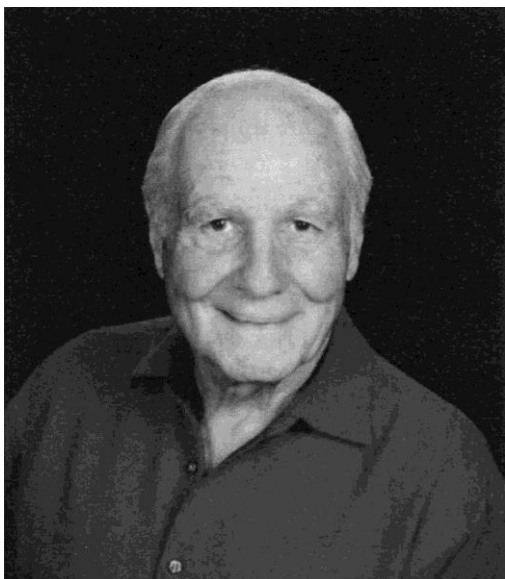
The Dennis Historical Society Board sadly announces the passing of Peter Howes, Editor of this newsletter since January 2008 (more than 200 issues) and former three-term DHS President.

Pete was Chair of the Restoration Committee of the 1693 Josiah Dennis Manse, talented grant writer, dedicated Manse docent – in costume – and doing countless odd jobs there. He oversaw the transition of DHS ownership of the Rose Victorian and tackled every problem that followed. He was on the Long Range Planning Committee and set up the DHS Website which he maintained and upgraded. He also was the motivator, manager and writer of the funding proposals for CPC funds to help digitize over fifty thousand DHS and Town of Dennis records and get them online. He answered emails sent to the DHS Website, packaged and mailed books ordered from the DHS online bookstore and was the author of two books – “A Dennis shipmaster” – about his great-grandfather, Captain Ezra Howes 2nd of Dennis Port and his ships *L. A. Plummer* and *Golden Eagle* which he wrote primarily for his family and – “Capt. Levi Crowell Civil War Prisoner, His personal Biography” – with the profits going to DHS.

Past President Betsy Harrison wrote that “Peter was very smart and effectively used that huge analytical, problem solving brain whenever he was facing an issue or dilemma ... remained calm throughout ... which calmed everyone else down!”

Pete will be sorely missed by the Board, not only because of his vast store of knowledge and willingness to take on any job but also because he was a helluva **NICE** guy.

We are all better for having known Pete. He truly loved Dennis (he spent every summer of his youth in Dennis Port with his grandparents). He was laid to rest in Swan Lake Cemetery, Dennis Port – final resting place of generations of his ancestors. He is up on the hill overlooking Swan Pond, without question, one of the loveliest water views in Dennis. He joked about it being the only waterfront property he ever owned.



Rest well, thou good and faithful servant.”

Thanks to Dave and Chris Talbott for suggestions

PRH (Cuz)

Building a House the Old Fashioned Way

16 New Boston Road, Dennis
Reverend Nathan Stone Diaries
Dennis Source Records, Volume 1
Compiled by Burton N. Derick

1766, Mar 24 Cold. a Light snow preceeding Night there went 9 carts for my (house) from Barnstable

Mary Stone diary: the People went and brought home our timber

1766, Mar 25 there went three carts more and brought it all the way. blustering cold weather

1766, Mar 26 marked out my Seller

1766, Mar 27 there came a great Number of hands and Dug it out.

Mary Stone diary: the People dug our Seller Snowed Some

1766, Apr 2 went up to See my Suller mr Bacon and Sam^l Eldredge began to Stone my Seller

1766, Apr 5 pleasant this day and the week past went to view the suller which appeared according to my mind

1766, Apr 14 mr hinckley came and Leveled the Sells for my house

1766, Apr 15 raised my house. heavy rain PM ...

Mary Stone diary: our house was raised rained very hard

1766, Apr 17 had 12 thou^d Boards 1 thou^d Clapboards Come from east

1766, May 20 *Mary Stone diary: went to see the house*

1766, May 26 pleasant, Small began to mak Brick.

1766, Jun 4 at Night Set my brick a fire

1766, Jun 7 finished burning my brick.

1766, Jun 9 mr Cob came to build my Chemy

1766, Jun 10 my wife delivered 3 PM (Nathan Jr)

1766, Jul 14 moved to my own house



1766, Nov 3 raised my barn.

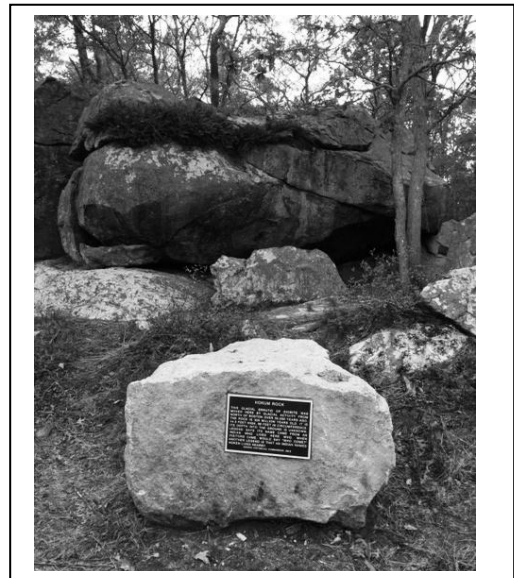
1766, Dec 4 the 4 put my Pump to the Well.

Could this be the Indian who may have lived near Hokum Rock?

1764, July 7

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 5, p.151

Wheras there is an Indian, called Hoken, that hath bin a notorious theife, and besids former thefts, of late hath broken up the house of James Bursell, of Yarmouth, for which hee was committed to prison; and hee made an escape by breaking of prison, and since stole a horse, being insolent in his carryage and an incorrigible theife, that will not be reclaimed, but lyeth sherking and lurking about, wherby many persons are greatly in feare and danger of him; wherefore the Court doe order M^r Hinckley and lefitenant Freeman or any other majestrate that can light off the said Hoken, that they cause him to be apprehended and sold or sent to Barbadoes, for to satisfy his debts and to free the collonie from soe ill a member.



**Hokum Rock Conservation Lands
Hokum Rock Road, Dennis**

2017 – 2018 member renewals have been mailed. Thank you for your continued support as a member of DHS. Your presence keeps our society alive and the history of Dennis from being forgotten.

Diane Rochelle, President

**Dennis Historical Society Newsletter
December 2008**

A Note From The President

I am proud and honored to have been selected by you to preside over this organization that has been the curator and promoter of Dennis History for so many years. I thought that I'd best take this opportunity to let you all know a bit about my background.

Despite my Dennis-heritage name, I mainly grew up in Taunton through college, went on to earn a degree in Physics, spend some time in the Navy and while working, earned an MBA. My work was involved in R&D, manufacturing, marketing and management. I probably should add travel to the list for these all required extensive travel and once living in the Marshall Islands for two years. Mergers, acquisitions and new adventures changed the name of the company where I worked from time to time, and several of the company changes only resulted in new stationary and business cards!

June and I moved to Dennis from Sudbury after I retired, although I had a small place in South Chatham since 1980. However, I actually had been visiting Dennis from my very earliest years as my great grandfather was a Dennis Port tern schooner Captain, and my grandparents summered and then lived in the family home at 435 Main Street in Dennis Port, a building now occupied by a restaurant. The waving fields, then behind the house, were once farmlands and now sprout condominiums. Houses have replaced the beach plum bushes on Scargo Hill that was my grandmother's favorite picking place, and Benny's parking lot has replaced other family homes.

But enough about me. What would I like to see DHS accomplish in the next two years? Here's a few things to think about – and hopefully you can help with the answers. Increasing our membership, especially with the 'next generation' is a major challenge. We're not alone in this need, as all organizations such as ours have the same problem. How can we, as an organization, be more exciting and attractive? Next, I'd like to see Jericho and its wonderful barn become a key town museum. Do we have some men out there who would like to be our "Barn Masters"? More folks to be docents? The Jericho House and Barn have a lot to offer! And how about more general participation from our members – ideas, tales & stories for the newsletter, ideas and helpers for future DHS "Events" (the things that are found in our calendar) for folks to attend, members dropping in at our monthly meetings, etc.

We all have so much to offer! Please help DHS preserve yesterday's history for tomorrow's generations.

Peter D. Howes

In his own words, a beginning, with so many more accomplishments to come: author and historian, steward and costumed interpreter, singer and traveler, executive and retiree, first class all the way, no finer gentle man always to be loved, never to be forgotten just like the historical figures he brought to life.

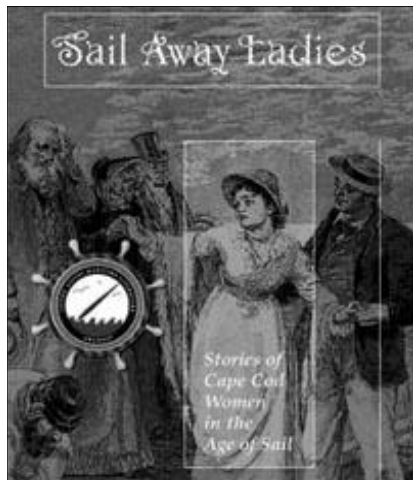
*Dennis Historical Society members
Josiah Dennis Manse
Jericho Historical Center
West Dennis Graded School
Rose Victorian
Pauline Wixon Derick Library*



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Local Author Jim Coogan tells tales of
"Sail Away Ladies", those brave sea captain's wives
Saturday, April 29, at 2pm
Dennis Memorial Library
1020 Old Bass River Rd, Dennis
\$5 donation
Sponsored by DHS & Dennis Memorial Library



FESTIVAL OF MUSEUMS



May 6,
2017

Visit our DHS Booth
Cape Cod Museum Trail Festival of Museums
Saturday, May 6 from 10 am to 4 pm
Hyannis Youth & Community Center
141 Bassett Lane, Hyannis
Free admission