



OH, HOW OUR OLD HOUSE SHINES!

July 1st at the Josiah Dennis Manse was a lovely day--both inside and out. About 125 people toured our rejuvenated antique house and came away pleased with the changes that have taken place. The most charming change is the new Children's Room and the most exciting change is the new Maritime Room, so if you have any children around this summer (or someone who is young at heart)...or have any Old Salts around...do bring them to see what's happened at the Manse...open Tuesday and Thursday, 2-4. Very special thanks to Nancy and Dick Howes, Mig Maher, John Burton, Susan and Henry Kelley, Josh Crowell, and Phyllis Horton for making it happen.

THE HOWES FAMILY ASHFIELD REUNION

Four of our members attended the Howes Reunion in Ashfield, MA, along with approximately 300 other Howes Cousins. It was a very interesting and informative week end. The Ashfield branch of the family moved there from Dennis in 1781 to till the rich soil of western Massachusetts and raise livestock. Their rocky homesteads in the Berkshires are far different from our seaside homes, but they have prospered from the land as our Howes' prospered from the sea. Still, their roots are here in Dennis where Thomas and Mary Howes settled in 1737. Cousins arrived from all over the country and Canada, and everyone eagerly awaited the arrival of cousins from Australia, descendants of Cordelia and William Howes who emigrated there from West Dennis, but they never arrived. Nevertheless, a grand time was had by all with guided country tours...talks on the Howes Circus, Howes Brothers Photography, and maple sugaring...band concert and dinner at the Mohawk Regional High School. Don't you wish you were a Howes?! Family reunions are catching on around the country. Yankee magazine regularly lists many of them...why not look for your family reunion and if it's not there...start one? It's very interesting to find long lost relatives.

DUES NEWS

Your Board has reluctantly agreed to raise the dues for the oncoming year because of an expected increase in postal rates. The single membership will be \$6.00, family membership \$8.00, and the Life Membership is becoming more of a bargain by staying at the past rate of \$100.00. Membership Chairman Isabel Flynn will be sending your dues notice with next month's newsletter.

WELCOME ABOARD

Our Membership Chairman has announced the new members since March. She is pleased to report: Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Daniels, Mr. Robert P. David, Mrs. William Murphy, Mr. Gilbert R. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cotting, Ms. Elaine Tammi, and is especially pleased to announce a new Life Member, Mrs. Charles M. Lattanzio. Welcome, one and all!! Please do plan to attend our activities and don't be shy about lending a hand if you can. We can always use a helping hand, and that's a good way to meet the fine people involved with DHS.

A NEW MARITIME ATTRACTION

The Maritime Room has our latest acquisition on display. It's a painting of the Clipper Ship Wild Hunter, purchased at auction for us by our new "perennial buyer" Henry Kelley II. Henry is pressed into service whenever something new and exciting for our Dennis collection is available at the last minute. The Wild Hunter was built here at the Shiverick Shipyard and Capt. Joshua Sears was master. His wife and daughter, Louisa, accompanied him on Wild Hunter's maiden voyage. Louisa was allowed to take her pet pony along, which she exercised by riding around the deck. The captain and his crew were East Dennis men. Capt. Joshua was known to be a "hard driver" of both his ship and his men, and the Wild Hunter was kept in tip-top shape. She was considered to be the model of maritime beauty and order wherever she went.

MONSTERS THAT COME FORTH FROM THE SEA

Any area which has a culture that entwines with the sea has an abundance of legends and tales--tall and otherwise--which have to do with humungous creatures. Cape Cod is no exception. Perhaps the most famous Cape Cod sea monster was that described by George Washington Ready, long-time Town Crier at Provincetown, as reported in the Yarmouth Register in 1886, "A recent sighting at Provincetown was told in the press by an otherwise sane captain of a present day fishing vessel. But all of Cape Cod is accustomed to strange tales from Provincetown." How do Dennis citizens feel about the following? Please bear in mind that the lake we now call Scargo was for many generations known as Flax Pond.

"There is a large pond in North Dennis known by the name of Flax Pond. Considerable excitement of late has existed among the good people residing near this pond by the appearance of a large fish which frequently makes its appearance out on the surface of the water but whether like Mrs. DeLacy's ship or a sinuous serpent pursuing in shining wake I have been unable to ascertain. From the information which has been obtained from those who have seen this monster, he is thought to be about 20 feet long, his motion very slow, and in his appearance he resembles a finback, but in the manner he came in this pond, the most knowing among us is unable to tell." (Yarmouth Register, 8 Dec. 1830.) I think the Chamber of Commerce might do something with this. Move over, Nessie!

CALENDAR

August 18 thru 26 Dennis Festival Days. See Chamber of Commerce flyer.
 August 21 10 A.M. Historic Bike Tour of West Dennis led by Isabel and Bill Flynn.
 Rain date August 22.
 2 P.M. "Dennis" Slide Show at Dennis Senior Center.
 2-4 P.M. Josiah Dennis Manse and Old west Schoolhouse open. Special
 Flower Show by Village Green Garden Club. Also on Aug. 23.
 August 22 2-4:30 Jericho Historical Center and Barn Museum open. Also on Aug. 24.
 August 24 9:30 A.M. Historical tour of Dennis, narrated by Nancy Thacher Reid.
 Seating limited to 43 people. Make reservations with Dennis C of C.
 September 12 7:30 P.M. Annual Meeting. Carleton Hall. Video show on Lifesaving from
 the National Seashore.

A MAN CALLED JOB...continued...

In the meantime, Job and Polly were propagating the family name. From the date of their marriage in 1796 until the death of his still young wife in 1813, they became the parents of 9 children. After Polly's death, Job married for a second time Phebe Winslow, by whom he became father to 7 more children, 14 of the total family being sons. Job encouraged his sons to be a part of his growing maritime enterprises. Most of his sons were agreeable and became master mariners, or otherwise involved in the maritime industries. Both of his daughters married sea captains. In 1834, Job Chase's involvement with the fishing and coasting industries were the incentive for his petition to the General Court to allow him to build an island pier off the shore of what we now call Dennis Port, which was to be below the low water mark and was to be no greater than 200 x 100 feet size. This was the beginning of the port at Crocker's Neck, which for the next 30 years was to be the economic center for this town. Economically, it seems that the sun shone brightly on Job Chase, but look at the family record:

- 1816 First wife, Polly Eldridge, died, leaving 9 children, the oldest age 19
- 1822 Son Ozias lost at sea, aged 18
- 1825 Oldest son Job lost at sea, aged 26
- 1825 Joshua S., son of Job by his second wife, Phebe, died, aged 1½ years
- 1827 son Whitman, aged 21, lost at sea
- 1831 Son Sears, aged 29, lost at sea
- 1835 Son Judah, aged 22, lost at sea

Two other sons, Jonathan, born in 1800, and Ziba, born in 1811, are also recorded as lost at sea, but dates are not given.

One might consider forgiving a man who, after all of these vicissitudes chose to "curse God and die". But Job Chase was made of sterner stuff. In the midst of personal loss, he kept the faith, and pressed on, supporting the other men who were a part of the growing fishing fleet with his expertise and his capital. In the midst of all of this personal tragedy, Job Chase continued to have new vessels added to the fishing fleet. He petitioned the General Court and received permission to build a wharf out from the shore at Dennis Port to his early island pier and encouraged businesses to erect stores and shops on this wharf. He remained a loyal supporter of his church, an active participant in town affairs, and a devoted and much respected father to his children, their spouses, and his many grandchildren, some of whom, by the way, were also victims to the sea. An interesting side note to the life and trials of Job Chase--of the many vessels in his fleet which were built for him almost all had as part of their name the word "Hope". Was this a tribute to his mother, or was it an expression of a philosophy which sustained him throughout his many trials? It would be the work of several years to accurately trace the tragic stories of the sons of Job Chase, and the grandchildren and sons-in-laws whose lives were intertwined with the sagas of sea adventures. At the center of those many and varied stories is old Job--patient and faithful to the end, a benefit and blessing to his community throughout all his life, becoming a community leader and helping others to succeed in the thankless and often fatal life of those who go down to the sea in wooden ships. The career of many of his vessels, the Royal Hope, the Hope and Polly, Lady Hope, Hope Return, Hope's Lady, New Hope, and many, many more, are a vital part of the history of Dennis Port and Cape Cod. They are also a monument to one man, Job, who in the midst of tragedy, dared to hold on to hope.

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