



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 28, number 8

August 2005

Calendar of Events

Saturday, August 20
10:00 A.M.--4:00 P.M.
Colonial Open House-
Josiah Dennis Manse
77 Nobscusset Road
Dennis Village

Enjoy a 1700's reenactment as costumed interpreters demonstrate early American skills, food, candle dipping, dyeing, children's games and adult pastimes. Visit the 1745 one-room schoolhouse, and see the Colonial Militia Encampment performing drills.

Sunday, August 21
11:30 A.M.-4:00P.M.
Old Fashioned Skill
Days at Jericho
Old Main St., W. Dennis

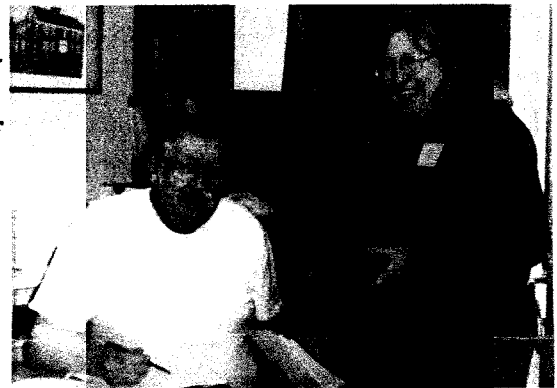
A new century requires new skills for 1800's living. (Ask about the modern washing machine and the vacuum cleaner!) Costumed guides will demonstrate some of these changes as Dennis reached out to the country and the world! Children's games. Refreshments.

A good spot for watching the antique cars on parade!

He's Done It Again!

With special thanks to his dear wife, Ruth (McNutt) Derick, who assisted him with the annotations, with her "special eye" in deciphering some of the handwriting and with her endless patience, Burton Nathaniel Derick has

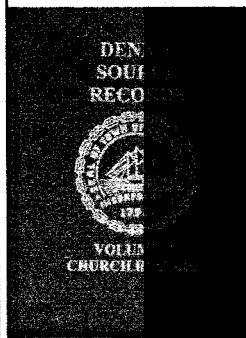
brought out his latest book *Dennis Source Records, Volume I: Church Records, Transcriptions of records of the Town of Dennis, Massachusetts*. A good 8 1/2 by 11 inches in size, you won't need a "special eye" to read these pages which are transcribed from small hand-written diaries and other private papers and church records and pre-



Ruth and Burton Derick at Manse Library

sented to the reader in a wonderfully easy-to-read format! Here we find the records of the 2d Church in Yarmouth, the East Precinct (now Dennis) from 1727 to 1807. The early entries are made by the Rev. Josiah Dennis himself. There are also the diaries of the Rev. Nathan Stone who was called here after the death of Josiah Dennis. Other records tell the history of the South Dennis Congregational Church, the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Dennis Port, and the West Harwich Baptist Church.

With notations of births, baptisms and deaths, some of which are not found in other town records, there are also notes of visits to the sick, recipes for curing whooping cough, comments on the weather, tales of altercations among church members and daily accounts as "May the 16 (1770) had 2. 1/2 lb of butter Churned. You never know what a turn of the page will bring! Copies may be ordered at \$50 plus \$5.00 shipping from the Dennis Historical Society, P.O. Box 607, S. Dennis, MA 02660 or purchased at the Manse and Jericho. Burt can be reached directly bderick@cape.com.



Book Signings

On Saturday, August 20 Burt will be on hand at the Manse to sign copies of his new book during the Colonial Open House. If you should have to miss this event, he will be available at Jericho on Sunday, August 21 to hand you your signed copy of his 800-page Volume I. Burt is already working on Volume II and is planning a four-volume set. Other volumes will include *land, population/inhabitants, tax and town records*.

In his introduction Burt answers "Why?" Why spend countless hours on researching and transcribing these old records? *As a native of this town, its history is my history. I was early made aware of my roots from my mother, Pauline Frances (Wixon) Derick, whose love of history was instilled in me at an early age. The countless hours she spent over 50 years researching and transcribing records was the foundation for me to continue the effort following her death in 1997. Inspiration for these books comes from many sources. Most notably are the many people who cross my threshold looking for information from the library my mother and I have compiled.*

Hope to meet you at one of these special Dennis Days events!

Manse Gardens in the News



Jean Twiss (*left*) and Mary Raycraft (*right*) are members of the Manse Garden Committee who have worked hard to make the gardens bloom with plants appropriate to the 1700's. Their efforts have paid off with a special recognition by the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. The Manse Gardens are to be placed on the list of **Historic Gardens in Massachusetts.** .



Members of the Manse Garden Committee are Mary Raycraft, Jean Twiss, June Howes, and Nancy Howes (with a little help from her friend).



Nancy and Richard Howes

New members of the Garden Committee are Cheryl Dei and Judy Beeten from the Village Garden Club of Dennis. Thanks to all!

A Walk Through History

Join Phyllis Horton on a walk through **Sea Captains Cemetery** on Wednesday, **August 24 at 10:00 A. M.** at the South Dennis Congregational Church, 210 Main Street, South Dennis. Learn of the captain who **returned home in a pickle barrel** and of the Chinese woman who was buried far from her native land. Because our cemetery walks have been very popular in the past you might want to get there early so you won't miss a single story. Let's hope for a lovely day!

Member News

A welcome back to **Melissa Hoeft** and **Jane Hargreaves**. Be sure to say hello to our newest members, **Barbara and William Hill** of Harwich, **Ellen and Robert Hurd** from Marion, **Judith Shannon** of Dennis Port (thanks to Courtney), and **Edward Jarosz** of East Dennis. We're happy to have you join us.

We are sad to tell you that we have lost two of our Lifetime Members. **Michael Dubin**— who ran the Players Pharmacy in East Dennis for many years as well as Dubin Associate, a real estate business which he managed with his wife **Judith**—died after a difficult struggle with **Parkinson's** disease.

Frederick Eble of East Dennis, who volunteered with the Friends of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library and the Quivet Neck Cemetery, has also **passed away**. Long time friends, they will **be long remembered**.

Girl Scouts Present DHS With Hand-Made Story Book

As part of their studies of local history, Dennis Girl Scouts brought us a lovely book with pictures and stories to illustrate their journey through the historic places in the town. From the legend of **Princess Scargo** and the Indian Burial Grounds at Scargo Lake to a visit to the West Dennis Graded School House— from the Dennis Union Church and old cemetery to **Hokum Rock**, they experienced their town and its historic past. This book which is in the Manse Library is worth a look. Ask to see it when you visit the Manse.

Historical Names?

It seems that **David Howes** was doing a job for **Richard Sears** when he ran into a little problem and had to leave his boat in **Seth Crowell's** pasture overnight! (*this was in 2005*)

Hysterical Tales?

Remember **Allie Ellis**, the fellow who drove his horse and wagon "uphill" all the way home from town meeting? (*Feb. 2005*) Well I wish you could hear someone who knew these old stories better than I do tell this tale of Prohibition Days. It seems that a ship lost (or dumped?) a load of booze which washed ashore on Corporation Beach. Word got around and the local men grabbed up the bottles and made off with them. But Allie stopped for a drink—or was it more than one? At any rate he was still on the beach when the Coast Guard arrived: "I'll take all the whiskey you've got!" demanded the coxswain. To which Allie replied (stuttering) "W-W-Well, y-y-you'll have t-to t-t-tap me!"

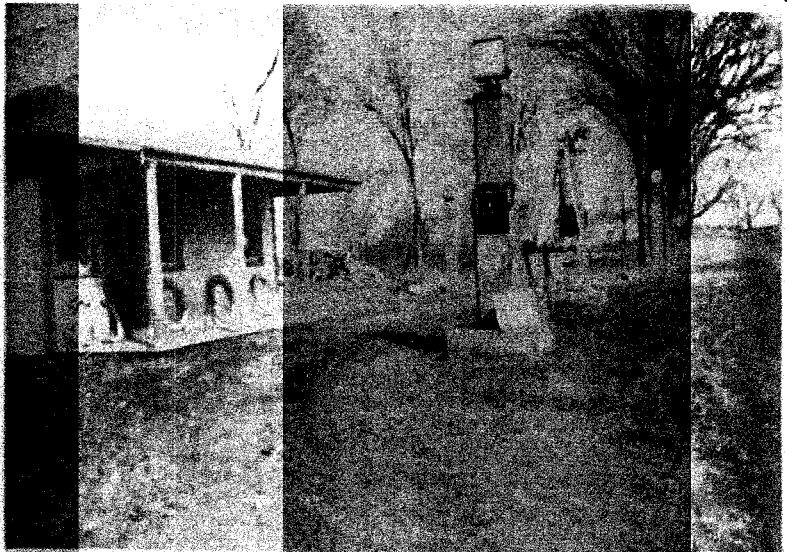
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The Way We Were

Remember when gas was **cheap** and service was routine? Then you might remember the old "Colonial Gas Station" which stood near the corner of Old Main Street and Trotting Park Road, diagonally across from the 1801 Captain Theophilus Baker homestead (today known as **Jericho!**) and directly opposite the 1867 Captain Elnathan Kelley homestead. The station itself stood at what is today an unimproved parcel of land numbered 85 Old Main Street. A cement base for one of the old gas pumps still remains in the ground, just above grade level, near a telephone pole. The gas station operation was discontinued and the structure was moved to a location just around the corner at 702 Route 28 as part of the Buccaneer Way development. In the 1990's it was the location of "Del's Lemonade" and hot dog stand and a breakfast restaurant. The lines of the old building remain the same. (2001)



Francis Baker collection of photos, Edmond Rhodes Nickerson negative
Thanks to the efforts of Michael Donovan and Michael Chilinski