



SPECIAL THANKS FOR OUR 200 YEARS

How nice it would have been if our Dennis citizens of 200 years ago could have attended the Bicentennial Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving at the Nathaniel H. Wixon Middle School in South Dennis on November 28th. Once they had recovered from the shock of our current day lifestyle of automobiles, modern school buildings, public address systems, and our way of dress, I'm sure they would have been surprised and pleased with the way our different religions are able to meet and interact with harmony. I hope they would have left the service wishing for the same kind of unity in their time.

The service differed in some aspects from today's style of worship. The congregations of our 1793 forefathers were gathered into the church by a drum beat. The psalms were lined - a liner singing a phrase and the congregation repeating the phrase. Hymnals were not in use at the time and musical instruments were limited or not used at all. The service progressed from the 1793 Gathering of the Community and lining of a psalm to the present day use of choirs, instrumental music and differing creeds.

The service opened with 10 year old Sean Sylver of Dennis, a student at Wixon Middle School, drumming the choir and clergy into their places. Sean was dressed in colonial costume which lent a special historical touch to the service.

Reverend Joshua Crowell of Essex, CT and Dennis, a direct descendant of John Crowe and his wife Elishua, one of the first three settling families of Yarmouth (now Dennis) gathered the Community for the service and gave his sermon "Old Commitments - Fresh Starts". He said that he had studied some of the sermons of Rev. Nathan Stone with thoughts of using a little of his 1793 material. That was quite a chore as Rev. Stone's handwriting was extremely fine and spidery, and as Rev. Crowell very politely said, "Rev. Stone preached during a rather arid time in American theology." Thankfully Rev. Crowell spoke of Nathan Stone's contributions to the community rather than the contents of his sermons. He reminded us of where our roots are and how far we have come as a community, and counseled us to keep our spirit of neighborliness alive because that is the ingredient that shaped us into the community we know as Dennis. As we start towards our next 100 years it is that same spirit of being neighborly that will keep Dennis as a nice place to call home.

Rev. Crowell was ably assisted in the service by Rev. James Nures, M.S. of Our Lady of the Cape Catholic Church in Brewster, Cantor Bruce Mellin of the Cape Cod Synagogue in Hyannis, and Rev. Albert Ronander, Retired, who lined the psalm. Choir Director Noel Tipton led a combined choir from Dennis churches who were accompanied by Mary MacMillan on flute, Bo Ericsson on cello, and Sarah Ford on bagpipes who led us in singing Amazing Grace. Bagpipes were banned from early church services because they were considered an instrument of war and called "the Devil's organ". Young people from several churches, some dressed in costume served as ushers.

Fruits and vegetables gathered for the service were given to the Salvation Army Food Kitchen in Hyannis and \$121.32 was collected for the Dennis-Yarmouth Ecumenical Council for the Homeless (D-YHECH).

This was one of the closing ceremonies of our Bicentennial year, and despite torrential downpours, over 200 people came for a special afternoon of thankfulness for all the blessings given to us and our town. Thank yous to Nancy Thacher Reid for thinking of this unique way to celebrate our big year and to Mary Aeltine and Phyllis Horton for putting it together.

HISTORY FOR SALE

DHS has a number of items for sale that might have a special appeal to anyone interested in Dennis history. The list is as follows:

Booklets and Books:

<u>Master Mariners of Dennis</u> by Neva O'Neil	\$2.50
<u>The Story of Two Old Houses</u> by W. Jeremiah Burke	2.50
<u>They Built Clipper Ships In Their Back Yards</u> by Admont Clark	8.00
<u>Cape Cod Remembrances</u> by Marion Crowell Ryder	Soft Cover 10.00 Hard Cover 15.00

History of Levi Crowell as written by himself

An account of his incarceration in a Confederate prison	15.00
<u>Scuttle Watch</u> (A juvenile novel) by Marion Crowell Ryder	10.00
<u>Dennis Then and Now</u> - A young people's history workbook	6.00

Other Items:

"Sears Folly" Saltworks Tile	6.00
Ltd. Edition Cup Plate - Dennis Town Seal	25.00
Picture of Howes Family Tree (copy - suitable for framing)	25.00
Picture of Sears Family Tree (copy - suitable for framing)	25.00
1858 Map of Dennis (Dennis Village and East Dennis)	8.00
Complete set of back DHS newsletters	20.00

MA tax is included in the listed price. Special arrangements can be made for mailing these items. Call Lura Crowell at 385-3268 or write to Dennis Historical Society, Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660. These items may also be obtained at the Josiah Dennis Manse and Jericho Historical Center during the summer months.

P.S. Of necessity this newsletter is written in script because ye olde ed's typewriter demolished the regular daisy wheel. We'll be back on track next month.

CALENDAR

Dec. 5	11:00 A.M.	Flag disposal ceremony (see below).
Dec. 5	2 - 4 P.M.	DHS Christmas Open House at Jericho. Refreshments include our famous Col. Negus Punch. Come join our festivities.
Dec. 8	7:30 P.M.	DHS Board meets with Susan and Henry Kelley.
Dec. 9		Hanakkah begins.
Dec. 21		Winter begins. Snuggle up to the fire.
Dec. 25		Merry Christmas.
Dec. 31		New Years Eve. A Happy New Year to one and all!

BICENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE

As our big year of celebration come to a close we need to think of what will go into the time capsule which will be opened on June 19, 2093. Our first thought was to include many things telling of our special year, but as we become more aware of historical conservation and preservation we are discovering that many items in use today will be undecipherable in 100 years. The experts at New England Document Conservation Center in Andover have advised us that video tapes and oral cassettes made now will probably have faded to blank tapes or completely disintegrated in that time. Add to that the fact there will probably be no machine to play it on as our technology is changing so rapidly and there is seldom space enough to save one of everything as the years go by. Remember when every department or music store sold a record player with only 33 1/3 speed? Also, they recommend that we use black and white photos as the current color process will probably also fade to nothing. Today's newspapers are so acidic they will fall apart when the capsule is opened. Sounds sort of discouraging, doesn't it? Items (including cloth and paper) placed in the great Egyptian pyramids over 4,000 years ago are displayed in museums today and it's doubtful that many things from our culture will survive for 100 years! It makes you long for the good old days when things were built to last.

One suggestion we have adopted from NEDCC is to have 100 of our citizens who are interested in being heard from in 100 years write on acid-free paper to be placed in the capsule. Examples of what to write about are: what you like about living in Dennis, a sample of what you do in an ordinary day, what you think about our past or hope for the future, or anything that will show our descendants what life was like in Dennis in 1993. The acid-free paper may be picked up at the Dennis Town Clerk's Office and should be returned by December 18th. All ages are invited to participate. Please use a ball point pen or a dark pencil. Also, if you have any super ideas of something that should be included call Phyllis Horton at 394-0017 or write her at Box 275, Dennis Port, MA 02639.

WITH HONOR AND DIGNITY

The Girl and Boy Scouts of Dennis and the Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post #8074 from Dennis Port will conduct a flag disposal ceremony on Sunday, December 5, at 11:00 A.M. at the Merrill Vietnam Memorial Park, Rte. 28 in West Dennis. This will be a very moving ceremony as our country's flags that are faded, torn, and no longer fit for use are disposed of with honor and dignity. If you have a flag that needs to be disposed of properly you can bring it to the ceremony or leave it beforehand at the Dennis Fire Station on Rte. 28.

ORANGE CHESS PIE

Here's another recipe from the Josiah Dennis Manse Open House last summer. This one went fast. If you make it you'll discover why. This also has been adapted from an old recipe.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ½ c. unseasoned bread crumbs
slightly dampened with milk | ½ C. each orange and lemon juice |
| ½ C. butter | 1 tsp. orange rind, finely grated |
| 1 C. sugar | 1 9-inch pie shell, unbaked |
| 6 eggs | |

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the eggs one at a time and beat the batter well after each addition. Add the bread crumbs (if they are too wet squeeze out some of the milk), the orange juice, lemon juice, and orange rind. Beat well and pour into the pie shell. Bake the pie at 350° for 45 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Check after 35 minutes and watch carefully to avoid burning. Makes one 9-inch pie.

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2
So. Dennis, MA
02660

