



UNCLE EDWIN'S DESK

One day, a few weeks ago, PRH received a call from Eldred's Auction house that there was an item to be sold that next week in which the DHS might have an interest. PRH called NTR to arrange to look at the item, and stopped to pick her up on the following Monday. (Good thing she did, as NTR had forgotten the appointment!) We were joined at the Auction House by Susan Kelley and met with Mr. Eldred himself and John Schofield, and were taken to the large exhibit room and shown a rather ordinary antique slant-front desk. It had come from the home of two maiden sisters--Sarah Belle and Johanna Olivia (better known as "Miss Eva") Crowell. A clue to the origin of the desk was visible when Mr. Eldred proceeded to open the desk. The key was labelled with an old manila tag which said: "Uncle Edwin's desk--Hannah Paddock." Hannah Paddock was a name very familiar to us. She was born and lived in Dennis and was an active suffragette, holding teas, circulating petitions and keeping in touch with such nationally known Woman's Rights leaders as Anna Howard Shaw, Lucretia Mott and Abby Kelley Brown. She was one of the first women in town to ride a bicycle, wearing Amelia Bloomer's pants when so engaged. She was a founder of the Dennis Village Improvement Society, and had written into the bylaws that at least one woman should always serve as a member of that board. But who was Uncle Edwin? Why was his desk found in Miss Eva's home and why was Hannah Paddock in possession of the key to his desk?

We all went home to do some genealogy. Starting with Hannah Paddock, we were able to document an amazing compilation of the entwining of families within the history of our town. It was Hannah Paddock's mother's family which was the key to solving the puzzle and provided us with enough information to write an historical novel--and it would be a best seller.

The story begins in 1805, when Aaron Crowell (1783 - 1871) married Polly Howes (1786 - 1850). Polly was the daughter of Huldah (Hopkins) and Noah Howes. Aaron and his brother Jeremiah were housewrights and shipwrights. Among the vessels which they built at the shore near Corporation Beach were the schooners *Sally and Betsey* and *Five Sisters*, and the sloop *Star*. Their real claim to fame as shipwrights, however, is that Asa Shiverick, Sr., founder of this town's most famous shipyard, was their apprentice and from them learned his trade.

Aaron and Polly were the parents of 12 children, nine of whom survived to become adults and were productive citizens of this town. It may take several newsletters to tell you the life stories of these nine people, and in the end you will know a great deal about Uncle Edwin and his family [To be continued.]

NTR

TO ERR IS HUMAN.....

.....but to really foul up takes talent! Please accept my apology! Susan Kelley is in charge of decoration when our Christmas Open House is held at the Manse. But it is the members of the West Dennis Garden Club who do the decorations at Jericho. I knew that! I also know that the West Dennis Garden Club contributes a great deal of time at Jericho for other occasions, and has also been very supportive of the efforts to maintain and now to restore the West Dennis Community Building. So I apologize for not giving credit where credit is more than due, by not acknowledging that it is the West Dennis Garden Club members who are responsible for decorating the Jericho House for our Christmas Open House. And I want you should be very grateful to this dedicated group of workers who share their talents with us at Jericho and at other sites on the south side of town, so if you know a member of the West Dennis Garden Club, give her or him a hug. And do plan to attend the Christmas Open House at Jericho and see the beautiful results of the Garden Club's efforts on December 13 from 2 -4 P.M.

WE PLAN OUR MID-WINTER FESTIVITY EARLY

The board is planning a somewhat different Mid-Winter Festivity this year. Our Annual February celebration will be a Pot-Luck Luncheon at West Dennis Community Building, and for a program, we are planing our own private "Antique Roadshow". Details will be in your next newsletter, but we thought we would alert you. John Schofield will be our antique expert, and as you go up to your attic to fetch the Christmas decorations, you might want to look around for Gramma's compote, or that old chair that used to sit in Aunt Hitty's front hall. Plan to bring them to our February luncheon and John will tell you if you should place your heirlooms on display in the front parlor--or take them back up to the attic.

WANTED: ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE PHYSICAL CHALLENGED

Both the committees of Jericho and the Manse are exploring ways to make our historic centers friendlier to visitors who are physically challenged. One of the things the Manse committee needs to accomplish this purpose is a small foldable wheelchair. Has anyone in our vast circle of readers such a chair? It must be narrow enough to go through our tiny doors. Please call Phyllis if you can help us (394-0017).

CALENDAR

- December 5 Historic House Tour, Quivet Neck 1-5 P.M. Benefit Friends of Strings
Tickets on the day of the tour, Jacob Sears Memorial Hall
- December 9 7 P.M. DHS Board meets
- December 13 Christmas Open House at Jericho 2-4 P.M.

UPCOMING

Mid-Winter Festivity in February--- See Article on page one

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS TO MIG

The Josiah Dennis Manse Committee held a brunch on November 4 to honor Margaret (Mig) Walker Maher. Mig recently retired as secretary of the Manse Committee after many years, but will remain on the committee.

Mig has been a faithful volunteer for more years than most of us can remember. She started working on the third grade school program with Esther Wigginton Howes, and then ran the program for years. It's hard to keep a good school teacher down when there's an educational program to run! Mig taught for a number of years at the Ezra H. Baker School (beginning when it was still known as Dennis Consolidated School.) She has also been a gracious hostess to the Manse visitors, sometimes filling them in with some anecdotes that are not part of the regular presentation. She is a house cleaner without equal on our cleaning days--and a spell-binding teller of old Cape Cod stories. If anyone can keep a crowd in stitches--it's Mig! Ask her to tell you about going through the woods to Chatham during the blackout of World War II to deliver a load of fish! At age 85 we're allowing Mig to slow down a little but she can't quit, we won't let her.

Mig was honored with a life membership in the Dennis Historical Society, some lovely flowers, and a framed portrait of her volunteer friends, in costume, at the Manse. Thank you, dear Mig, for the years of dedication, the love and the laughs we have enjoyed from a Real Cape Codder.

PRH

BUTTERNUT SQUASH AND APPLE SOUP

The very best part of doing a brunch on Cape Cod is that everyone contributes and some great dishes come forth. This one brunch for Mig could produce a cookbook all by itself. One of the dishes that had people asking for the recipe was a soup made with butternut squash and Granny Smith apples. In one of my old cookbooks there is a recipe for Pompion Soup made by early settlers. I've tried it, and it's all right, but this one is much better.

Butternut Squash and Apple Soup

4lbs. peeled, diced butternut squash	1 lg. Spanish onion
6 peeled, sliced Granny Smith apples	3 tbsp. oil or butter
1 1/2 quarts chicken stock	2 cinnamon sticks
1 Cup maple syrup	1 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 pt. light cream	salt and pepper to taste
1 pt. heavy cream	

Saute onion in oil until soft. Add all remaining ingredients except the cream and cook until tender. Cool. Remove cinnamon sticks. Puree mixture in small batches in the blender. Return to pot and reheat, but do not boil. Add cream. Serve. This makes a large pot of soup. Serves 16 cups or 8 bowls.

Have also at other times added celery, carrot, garlic, ginger (fresh or ground), wine (Marsala, sherry, or white), brandy, or curry powder--not all at once, of course. Experiment and enjoy! This is especially good after a stint of raking leaves, a brisk walk on the beach, or ice skating.

PRH

TRIVIA QUESTION

NTR, in her report to the Selectmen at a recent meeting, informed the Board that an historical marker was to be placed on Old Fort Field. None of the Selectmen could identify that location. Can you? Answer next time.

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