

Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 29, number 2

February 2006

Calendar

Thursday, Feb. 16

1:00 P.M.

Genealogy in Dennis
Burton Derick and members of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society will acquaint us with the excellent genealogical resources in the **Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall Street Dennis Port**



Sunday, March 12

3:00 P.M.

A Celtic Musical Journey

Thom Dutton, the Cape's Troubadour Harper, will perform a wonderful selection of Celtic music & stories. Refreshments will be served and there is a suggested donation of \$5.00 at the door.

Dennis Memorial Library
1020 Old Bass River Road in Dennis Village

Anyone who has heard Thom Dutton will tell you, **"Don't miss this one!"**

Scrapbooks *(Don't throw yours out!)*

Today if you go on line you can find out just what you need to become proficient at making a scrapbook—ideas and tools which include luxury albums, paper, totes, glue kits, stickers, die cuts and more! You can even download free printable "scrapbook planner forms" or subscribe to a magazine called *Scrapbooks*. There are warnings about using only acid free papers and advice about classes and clubs and helping children learn to organize. You can find supplies at stores from Snows Home and Garden to A. C. Moore or even the Christmas Tree Shops. Scrapbooks are "really in!" They're everywhere.

We may not have found any of the new stickers-and-shiny-paper kind of scrapbook, but Mary Kuhrtz knows a treasure when she sees one. Mary came across some scrapbooks kept at the Jacob Sears Memorial Library in East Dennis—nothing fancy, just old news. The pages are yellowed and the acid in the newsprint will eventually ruin the old articles, but in the meantime let's have a look. From the files of *The Register* we learn that in February 1935 *The south shore of Barnstable harbor has been solidly frozen. so the razor fishermen mounted their dories on sleds and hauled them across the ice until they reached open water, from there proceeding to the fishing grounds.* In the same article it was noted that *Anson H. Howes of Dennis filled his two ice houses with clear ice 9 1/2 inches thick, with the help of several men in the village.*

We read that in February 1910 *Mr. and Mrs. Watson F. Baker of South Dennis had been married 32 years and a company of friends numbering about 35 called on them to the couple's surprise. After partial recovery from the unexpected call, Capt. L. R. Baker, representing the guests, presented the couple with a lamp, and Mrs. Jethro Baker read a tribute in rhyme. In February 1885 Mrs. Abbie Small of South Dennis, after having been confined to her bed for 12 years, was able to do light housework. (Now there's something to get out of bed for!) Also at that time Massachusetts Latter Day Saints held a conference in Dennis Port. And Schooner Ellen R., Capt. Baker, had been 34 days going from Dennis to New Haven, 110 miles.*

In East Dennis, Mrs. Ralph Richardson reported in 1960 that *Michael Dubin, a senior at the Mass. College of Pharmacy, was among those cited for excellence in scholarship during the first semester. Michael also took his third degree in the Masons....Over thirty-five Masons from the Cape attended, going to Boston on a special chartered bus. All this from just one old scrapbook!*

Of St. Valentine and Dennis Sweethearts



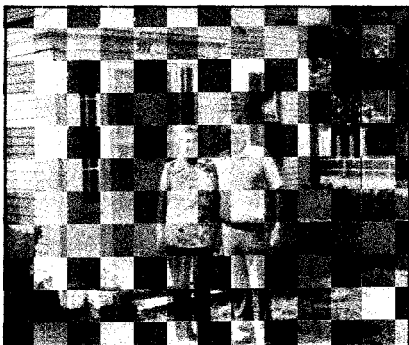
James T. Snow
Dennis Port
Courtesy of
Phyllis Horton

It seems that our late Joshua Crowell had a bit of a romantic streak. He gave his special gal, Phyllis Horton, a daily calendar in 1991 on which every page was a message about LOVE. However, one page had reprinted the "first matrimonial ad in the New World" which some sharp fellow had sent to the Boston Evening Post in 1759 hoping to attract a bride.

TO THE LADIES: *Any young Lady between the Age of Eighteen and Twenty-three, of a Midling Stature; brown Hair, regular Features and a Lively Brisk Eye; of Good Morals and not Tinctured with anything that may Sully so Distinguishable a Form;*

possessed of three or four hundred pounds entirely her own Disposal, and where there will be no necessity of Going Through the tiresome Talk of addressing Parents or Guardians for their Consent. Somehow this seems to lack romantic appeal. Whatever would St. Valentine have said?

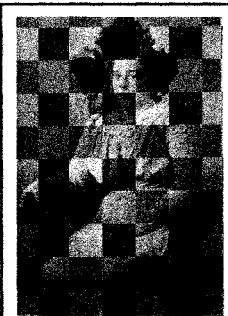
Legend tells us that St. Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When he was discovered, Valentine was put in prison and sentenced to death. I'm guessing the Saint would have said that a good marriage is worth a little trouble. We know that Valentine would have approved of the marriage of Phyllis



Orion and Pauline Derick
September 3, 1978
Photo from their album

Horton's great-grandfather James T. Snow and Hattie Ellis as "they were head over heels in love!" And approved again if he had seen Orion and Pauline Derick as they celebrated their 39th anniversary in 1978. Or to see Will Kennedy and his lovely bride!

The Inside History Newsletter tells us *Some believe that Valentine actually sent the first Valentine greeting himself. While in prison he fell in love with a young girl who visited him there. Before his death they say he wrote her a letter which he signed "From your Valentine." What really happened to Valentine can be disputed. Some say he was beheaded while others contend he became sick in prison and died. And all for Love! Here's one last and curious story for Valentine's Day: In 1835 St. Valentine's remains (so they say) were given to an Irish priest, Father John Spratt, by Pope Gregory XVI after Spratt impressed the Pope with his passionate preaching during a visit to Rome. The gift, in a black and gold casket, can still be viewed every Valentine's Day at the Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland. (If you go, do send us a picture!)*



Hattie Ellis Snow
2nd wife of James
Courtesy of
Phyllis Horton



Will Kennedy with his bride
Pauline (Nickerson) 1946
thanks to Alex P. Kennedy

You Might Like to Know (or you might become hopelessly confused)

At this time of year if we haven't heard from you we must assume that you are no longer interested in being a member of the Dennis Historical Society. That means that although you have been receiving the Newsletter, this may be your last issue. The date on your mailing label is to remind you when your membership expires. If there is no date, it's probably because you are a life member or because you have been receiving a complimentary copy of the Newsletter. (We do exchange Newsletters with other Historical Societies, so if you are sending us a copy of your Newsletter, we will continue to send ours to you.)

What might be confusing is the term of our **Membership Year**. To correspond with our present **Fiscal Year** and the receipt of dues, our membership year runs from **September 1 to August 31**. Those who pay dues by the annual fall meeting are then eligible to vote at that meeting as active members. (If you join in the summer months of July and August you will be considered a member until August 31 of the *following* year.)

Now our **Newsletter Year** begins in **January** and goes **through December**. So if you join during the year you will receive back issues of the Newsletter from January and your subscription will not expire until the January issue of the following year. (This year we're late at removing names from the mailing list, but because of increased postage costs, it will have to be done by the next issue of the Newsletter—meaning some of you have been receiving "complimentary Newsletters" since January.)

If you're not completely confused by now let us remind you that **dues for Individual Members** are \$15 a year, for a **Family** they are \$25 a year, and if you donate more you will be a **Supporting Member** at \$50, a **Contributing Member** at \$100, and a **Patron** at \$250! So many choices!

If you have **any** questions about membership, you may write or call Lura Crowell, P.O. Box 216, E. Dennis, MA 02641 (508) 385-3268 or e-mail me at sesuetfarm@aol.com. While you have this information in front of you, I'd be very happy to receive your stories and pictures about Dennis for the Newsletter the same way. If I had more Dennis news stories, past or present, you wouldn't have to read about Santa Claus or St. Valentine. Anyway, thanks, and remember that we can also be reached at dennishs@cape.com. No excuses! Be in touch!

Member News

We were saddened to learn of the death of Nancy Sears, a resident of East Dennis since 1949 and a former Board Member of the Dennis Historical Society. She also served the town of Dennis on other boards and committees, including the beach committee, the planning board, and finance committee. From 1987 to 1989 she was on the board of selectmen, serving as chairman from 1987 to 1989. She was also instrumental in the formation of the Dennis zoning bylaws. Our sympathy to those she left behind.

E-Mail letter answered

Re information on John Hall—There's little doubt that John Hall came over in the Winthrop fleet in 1630. The ships in that fleet, arriving early July 1630, were *Mayflower*, *Whale*, *Talbot*, *William & Francis*, *Hopewell*, *Trial*, *Charles*, *Success*, *Ambrose*, and *Arbella*. The Dorchester Company arrived in the *Mary & John* for which a passenger list exists. In most cases there are no passenger lists, so it's impossible to say who was on which vessel.

Burt Derick

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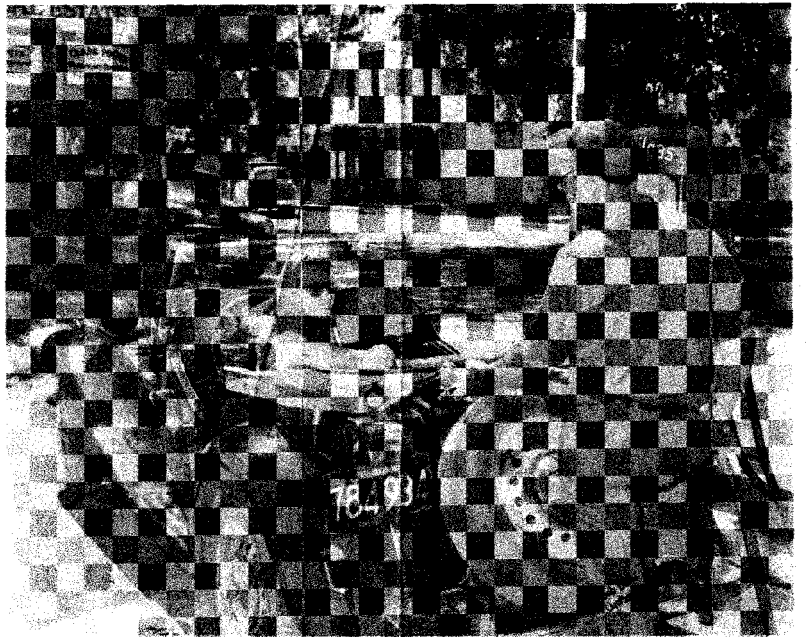
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02660

The Way We Were

In keeping with our "sweetheart" theme for February, here's America's Sweetheart, June Lockhart, in a publicity photo for 1953 (probably by Bob Dixon of Oyster Harbor) which was taken at the Dennis Garage on Route 6A. At the time June was in Dennis performing at the Cape Playhouse.

That's Dan Walker at the pump, being most obliging. If you can read the sign you'll see that the Mobilgas price was a whopping 32 cents a gallon. Across the street is Goodspeed's store and one-time post office. Today it is an antique shop.



We are grateful to Carole Bell for allowing us to use this photograph.