



SUNDAY SOCIAL AND TAFFY PULL

January 12 from 3-5 P.M. at Carleton Hall in Dennis Village, we will enjoy a typical old-fashioned neighborhood party. Tables will be set up with games and puzzles of all sorts. The games are authentic antiques, given to D.H.S. by the Fairbanks family. Some are interesting for their complexity, some for their simplicity, but all are interesting. In fact, they are so interesting that the collection has been the subject of several exhibits, one at Ezra H. Baker School, one at the Old West School House during Dennis Festival Days, and most recently, at the Sandwich Glass Museum. You who are Senior Citizens may remember some of them. Those of you who are younger may be intrigued by the variety. All of you will have fun looking at them, playing them, or watching others trying them out. In addition, an old-fashioned taffy pull will be part of the afternoon - and we get to eat the taffy! That kind of fun is hard to come by. Do join us and bring a friend for a nice old-fashioned afternoon. Guaranteed, no football scores! Snow date - January 19.

CELESTIAL FIREWORKS, 1859 STYLE

It was a fine day in June, 1859, when the ship Webfoot sailed out of New York harbor, with a cargo of stores bound for San Francisco. It was the third California voyage for Capt. Milton Hedge aboard the largest of the Shiverick ships. She had proven herself to be a reliable and profitable investment for the Dennis citizens who owned her. Mrs. Hedge and her son, John Milton, not quite two years old, accompanied Capt. Hedge on this trip. During the 60 days it took to reach the tip of South America, the young man made himself very popular with the crew, one of whom made him a canvas suit to protect him in the bad weather which was so often experienced in rounding Cape Horn. And to be sure, the Webfoot did encounter severe weather. As she entered the Straits, "with the wind in her teeth", she was met with snow squalls, rain and hail. Reduced to short sail, and sometimes bare poles, she beat her way for nearly a month before emerging on the west coast of Chile. During that time, young John Milton took the fierce wind, cold and storms in stride. Clad in his canvas suit, he was as much at home above decks, with a rope about his waist to secure him to the rail, as he was below decks, and it is reported that his chief concern was when the next meal would be announced. At one time snow and hail fell so heavily that shovels were needed to clear the decks. Waves broke over the decks and water damaged part of the cargo. And all during this stormy passage, whenever clouds broke and patches of sky appeared, mysterious lights were seen shooting up in streaks against the darkness. It was Aurora Australis, a phenomena so little understood at that time that it struck fear in the hearts of the crew. Capt. Hedge described the lights to a reporter in San Francisco and he called them the most magnificent sight he had ever seen. At times the sky would be as red as blood, reflecting on the water and turning even the foam to flame. Often the lights of green and white would streak almost to the zenith of the heavens. At other times the glow upon the horizon was as if thousands of acres of woodlands were ablaze. St. Elmo's fire flickered at the ends of masts and spars, and the flashing streaks reappeared reflected on the rolling waves. It must surely have been an exciting experience for young Master Hedge and his mother. The Webfoot arrived in California in October and continued on to circumnavigate the globe. But no part of the voyage could have been as impressive as the celestial fireworks witnessed while the Webfoot was rounding the Horn in September of 1859.

MID-WINTER FESTIVITY *** A FOUR STAR EVENT

A tradition almost as old as our Christmas open house is our annual mid-winter luncheon - and it's almost as popular. This year's event will be held at the Colonial House Inn in Yarmouth Port on Saturday, February 15. Social Hour will begin at 12 noon and luncheon will be served at 1 P.M. As usual, there will be door prizes and entertainment, including background music by a classical guitarist as we dine. The menu offers a choice of Chicken Pie Colonial (with mushrooms and cheese in a delicate pastry shell), Fish Dejournee (with a stuffing of lobster, crab and shrimp and Newburg sauce), or Roast Beef. Also included: A salad, vegetable, ice cream parfait, coffee, tea, or Sanka. The cost, including tip and tax is \$9.25 per person. PLEASE NOTE! Reservations should be received by February 8th, using the reservation form below. Those who call late will be disappointed. We are always sorry to have to say "No" to old friends. So get your reservation in right away. If you find you cannot attend, we will try to sell your reservation to those on our waiting list.

MID-WINTER FESTIVITY RESERVATIONS FEB. 15 COLONIAL HOUSE INN

Please make reservations for _____ people.

I enclose a check for \$_____ (\$9.25 per person)

Choice of entree: _____ Chicken Pie _____ Roast Beef _____ Fish Dejournee

Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and send to: Mr. Joshua C. Crowell
P.O. Box 963
Dennis, MA 02638

CALENDAR

January 12 3-5 P.M. Social and taffy pull at Carleton Hall.
January 19 Snow date for above.
January 14 7:30 P.M. Board meets with Phyllis.
February 15 12 noon, social hour. 1 P.M., luncheon. MID-WINTER FESTIVITY.
Colonial Inn, Yarmouth Port. Reservations required. See article.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

Quite a while ago I was talking with a member of D.H.S. who had a concern. She said that the sign erected by the Department of Public Works marking Quivet Creek on Route 6A misspells the name of the creek. I checked, and sure enough, the sign says, "Quivett Creek". I thought I would write a letter to the D.P.W. and get that spelling corrected. So I delved into the ancient records to try and document the correct spelling, which both of us thought should be "Quivet". And guess what I found, spread upon the records as they say, "Quivett", "Quivit", "Aquivett", and "Quevet", among other variations. And to make matters worse, the name of the other neck in East Dennis appears in as many forms, including, but not limited to "Suet", "Sasuet" and "Sisuit". I don't think I would get very far with the D.P.W. with evidence like that!

Capt. William Frederick Howes, writing in 1867, describes East Dennis in this way: "East Dennis still nestles, as all little villages do of course, upon the neck, or two necks, whose names I dare not orthographize, are familiar to the oldest inhabitants..." I had to look up "orthographize", and it means "a system of spelling, especially of spelling correctly". Ah, and herein lies our problem. First, our ancestors were haphazard spellers, at best, misspelling such common words as "which" (wiche) and "share" (shear) in the most formal documents. Secondly, both necks of East Dennis bear Indian names, and the Indians did not spell at all, for they had no written language.

I recently came across this quotation from the eminent Cape Cod historian, Rev. Frederick Freeman:

"To attempt uniformity in the writing of Indian names and thus to propose an orthographical standard, would require that none now have an accurate knowledge of Indian orthoepy." Rev. Freeman sure had a way with words. I think he means we might as well leave the sign as it is. But I looked up "orthoepy" and that word means: "the art of correct pronunciation". Perhaps the "oldest inhabitants" could propose a uniform pronunciation for Sesuet and Quivet. Can you take one more poem?

"We drove the Indians out of the land,
But a dire revenge the Red men planned.
For they fastened a name to every nook
And every boy with a spelling book
Will live to toil till his hair turns gray
Before he can spell them the proper way."

OUR TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE - THIS YEAR AT JERICO

Compared with afternoon socials and taffy pulls, Christmas Open House is a relatively new tradition in town. This year's open house carried out a tradition started eight years ago - a tradition of cooperation between the house committees and D.H.S. to open the town's historic centers alternately at Christmas time for an afternoon of holiday fellowship. Our sincere thanks to Ann Chalmers and the members of the West Dennis Garden Club who decorated the Jericho House so tastefully. Also to Jean and Bill Taylor for the pre-party planning. Gertrude Lailey and Phyllis Horton were in charge of hospitality at the party, and they were ably assisted by Sarah Kruger, Isabel Flynn, Jean Lieberworth, Lilla Smith, Gail Hart, Beverly Gordon and Roxie Avakian. Thanks are also due to those of you who helped provide goodies. And a word of thanks to Col. Negus for the punch recipe. We'll see you all next year at the Manse.

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