



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

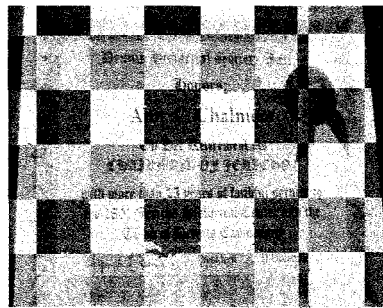
Volume 28 Number 1

January 2005

A Special Day at Jericho

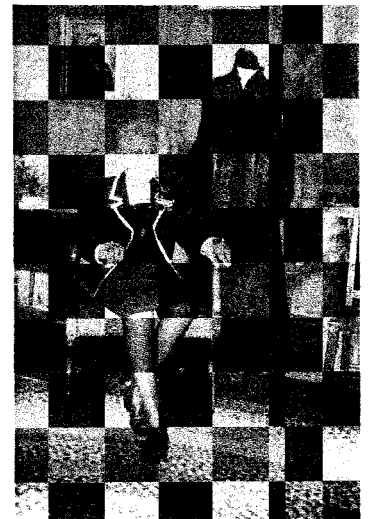
At the DHS Christmas Open House at Jericho the Society recognized and honored Ann C. Chalmers for her years of dedicated service as Chairman of the Jericho Committee. The Friends of Jericho decorated the house and set a beautiful table with punch and other homemade refreshments for the many guests who came to wish Ann all the best in her retirement. In spite of her recent illness, the Celebrity of the Day greeted her guests during the three hours the house was open with graciousness and humor. She was overheard to say that she was the third child in her family and the third daughter. You know what her parents thought about her arrival... "That's the biggest disappointment my parents ever had." She may have been "only a girl", but she had the skills and ability to keep old Jericho going for these many years. It will take more than one new committee member to do the same. It's hard to follow in such footsteps, but the Town of Dennis is seeking new Jericho Committee Members. If you love this old house with its barn and store museums, we hope you will fill out a green card at Town Hall and lend a hand.

Former Jericho Committee Member Meredyth Williams (Mimi) is shown below serving punch. She, too, has recently had to resign from the Jericho Committee. We hope some of the Friends will feel a call to service and perhaps some of our DHS members as well. Because this is a town committee, members need to be residents of Dennis to serve. Lovely Ladies, we wish you well. Thank you for all you have done for Jericho.



Ann Chalmers

Mimi Williams



Just Imagine...

Imagine a cold Saturday in December 1744, the entire Cape is snow covered. As the Reverend Josiah Dennis carefully makes his way down an icy path that is now Nobscussett Road, his thoughts are on the sermon that he will soon deliver to his congregation. These thoughts are interrupted by greetings from two ladies dressed in red wool cloaks. Mistress Howes and Mistress Crowell are returning from a trip to the mill and stop to ask him if he received any of the fruit that was on the ship that had come in that week. He replied that he had and that Mistress Dennis had already made many sweets from what they had received. As they are about to depart he asks them if they would like to stop by the Manse for tea and sweet treats. He issues the invitation for Sunday after church and asks them to invite others to come by in the afternoon.

He quickly realizes that he should inform his wife Bathsheba so he returns to the Manse to tell her. While she does not mind sharing what they have, she wishes the house could look a little nicer. She calls their daughters and asks them to accompany their father to the woods and marshes and bring back some greens and berries and anything they can find that will bring some color and cheer into their home. Two hundred sixty years later, hundreds of visitors dropped in "after church" to find the Manse decorated in the same simple way that Bathsheba might have done, using native pine, cedar, holly, winterberry and bayberry. There were plenty of sweet treats and refreshments for all who stepped through Reverend Dennis' front door into the 1700s. A lovely visit was had by all. Thank you members of the Manse Committee!

Mary Kuhrtz

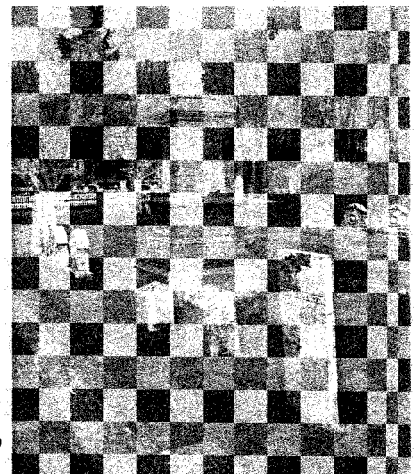
Time to put the baby to rest...

After our December Issue of the Newsletter we received a call from Barbara Durst saying that she had been mistaken about the name of the baby who was portrayed by a doll in Polly Dillingham Foster Crowell's portrait. (Nov. Issue) A trip to the Quivet Cemetery to check the gravestone brought about the call and the information that the baby had been a girl of 15 months—Emma Lauraetta. Her stone is the tall one in the foreground of the picture of the Prince S. Crowell monument and family plot:

*Lovely Emmy, thou hast left us,
Beauteous flower, thou has decayed,
But to bloom in brighter beauty
In that world of endless day.*

Perhaps this would be an appropriate place to remember those long-time members of DHS who have recently passed away: friend and member Arthur Ross; charter member Gertrude "Geta" Crowell; and our dear membership chairman for 20 years, Isabelle Flynn. *My Friend* by Lucy T. Baker 1834

*May you in virtue shine above your sexe;
And no vain cares your gentle soul perplex:
When death consigns your body to the tomb
May angels waft you to a heavenly home.*



Membership News

We want to thank the Howes Family Association for their generous contribution to the DHS. We are also grateful to Mary Stone for her donation to help with the Newsletter and to Henry Kelley for his gift to cover the cost of the glass plate negatives recently acquired at auction. This donation was given in memory of his father Louis (Johnny) Kelley.

New members who were not listed in the last issue are Robert and Virginia Galante of S. Yarmouth (a very belated welcome!) and William and Barbara Hill of Harwich. Glad to have you join us!

We have letters to share:

Greetings from Indiana! ...Yes I've discovered the Allen County Public Library (also a DHS member!) and their Genealogy Dept, which covers the entire third floor of the building! I've spent many hours there researching my family, and my wife's family (Rockwell), which we've been able to trace back to 1543! Rockwells helped settle Windsor, CT in the 1630's. Fort Wayne's Genealogy Dept is the 2nd largest in the country (1st is Salt Lake). Besides family history the library has books on every town in the US, Great Britain, & Ireland.

I located all the usual Cape Cod history books—including Nancy's Dennis book and even our books, CC Companion and Voyage. The Cape Cod books will be helpful to me, as I am still writing for Cape publications.....Look for me in the pages of Cape Cod Life, Barnstable Patriot, and Cape Cod Guide.

Regards, Jack Sheedy

And what fun to hear from Hope (Crowell) Hallett!

Recently I noticed a question about Hockum Rock & can tell you the native understanding about how the name came about.

An Indian met a man (Dennis man) near Scargo Tower. He was so startled he said, "Who Come?" & the rock near by was named "Who Come (Hockum) Rock"

Like the legend of Princess Scargo, there are several versions of this tale about Hokum Rock.

From *Dennis, Cape Cod* we read

July 1674 records of the Court: (p 73)

Whereas there is an Indian, called Hoken, that hath been a notoriuse theife, and besides former thefts, of late hath broken up the house of James Bursell of Yarmouth, for which he was committed to prison; and hee made an escape by breaking out of prison, and since stole a horse, being insolent in his carryage and an incorrigible theife, that will not be reclaimed, but lyeth shirking and lurking about, whereby many persons are greatly in feare and danger of him; wherfor the court does order Mr. Hinkley and Leiftenant Freeman, or any other magistrate that catch sight of the said Hoken, that they cause him to be apprehended and sold or sent to the Barbadoes, for to satisfy his debts and to free the colonie from so ill a member.

His eventual fate is not known. There is speculation that Hoken gave his name to "Hokum Rock," a tremendous clump of rock left in Dennis by the retreating glaciers. There is a more modern theory for the origin of the name of that rock pile. It is said that in the nineteenth century an aged descendant of the Nobscussets lived in the cave beneath the rocks. Whenever someone approached his abode he would call out, "Who come?" In fact, the name of the rock is written "Who-Come" in several old deeds. Perhaps the ancient Indian of the 1880s was really the ghost of that old reprobate Hoken.

Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660-0607

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit
Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2
South Dennis, MA
02660

THE WAY WE WERE

Picture Post Card Perfect! What could be lovelier than **this** scene on Quivet Neck following the after-Christmas snow storm on December 27? Our man about town Martin Halpert has an eye for capturing the best a Cape Cod winter has to offer. But this doesn't give you the whole picture. Almost everywhere on the Cape there were trees and power lines down. Some of our neighbors on Sesuit Neck had to move out temporarily as they were without heat and a way to cook meals for two days. It was a might chilly according to those who stayed home with a wood stove or fireplace to keep the pipes from freezing. But it was a great lesson for visiting grandchildren who (although they enjoyed playing games by lamplight) learned why people didn't stay up late on cold winter nights. For once it was early to bed and no arguing!

