



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

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Tea With Lu

Long-time DHS members will remember Lura Crowell who for a number of years was the membership chairman, newsletter editor and sometimes writer. She also served fourteen years as a committee member and docent at the Josiah Dennis Manse Museum. In her personal life Lu and husband, Seth, ran Sesuit Neck Farm and she was known far and wide for her beautiful flowers and vegetables that she sold from a road-side stand on the honor system. To put it mildly she was a bundle of energy. Anyone could become tired watching her work.



All this activity came to a heartbreaking halt in June 2007 when Lu was walking her dog, Babe, and met up with a miniscule tick who gave her several different tick-borne diseases. She was hospitalized then rehabbed and came home with heart damage. A few days later Lu was back at Cape Cod Hospital with a terrible stroke. After more good care and rehab she arrived home in November with a new set of “wheels” that is now her constant companion.

Every year around the first of December the East Dennis Ladies Aid Society has a Holiday Tea. The ladies don their best afternoon frock and take tea together at the Community Church. They also have “Tea to Go”.

For two years some of Lu’s old Manse or DHS friends have bought tea to go and spent the afternoon with Lu. She loves to see us and, of course, we love to see her cheerful smile. We talk and laugh about the pre-2007 “good old days”.

This year had a new excitement in our visit. Lu had told me recently that she has dreams about giving the docent’s tour at the Manse telling all the stories about the artifacts and the olden times.

The restoration work being finished up at the Manse is now in full compliance with the American Disabilities Act requirements and we asked Lu if she would like to reprise her docent’s role this summer. Her answer was, “I’d like that”.---so come around in June and July and perhaps you’ll find Lu in her mop cap, gown and wheels telling the old stories again!

Phyllis Horton

The 1918 Influenza Epidemic

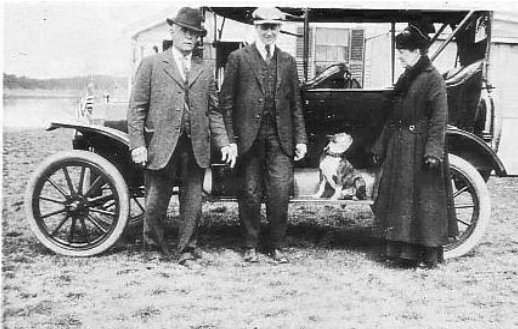
Richard Barker graciously sent some very interesting material for your reading pleasure. The 1918 influenza epidemic killed fifty thousand world-wide, infecting one fifth of the world’s population. A first wave of influenza appeared early in the spring of 1918 in Kansas and in military camps throughout the US.

“As the result of your suggestion that you are interested in “nuggets” I am attaching excerpts from letters written in 1918 during the influenza epidemic between my father and his family. My father, Dale Barker was in the Army at Ft. Meade in Maryland. His mother and father and 15-year-old brother, Roland, lived in Somerville and traveled to and from West Dennis.” (signed) Richard Barker *Here is the first of these excerpts.*

“The following is from a letter to my father from his father, dated Sunday, October 6th, 1918.

Dear Dale,

This is moving day and we are getting ready to go to Som. tomorrow morning. Aunt Emma came down with us Wednesday and will go home with us. Think she has enjoyed the trip as it is quite a change for her. The weather has been fine the last few days and have taken several rides in the fliver. The ride through the woods at this time of year is certainly beautiful so many different colors in the foliage.



1918 Ford, James & Annie Barker, 15 year old son Roland & dog Snuff. Outside of their home overlooking Bass River on Uncle Barney's Road.

People seem to think we are foolish to go home now and risky too, as there is so much sickness around Boston. But I think they have the upper hand of it now though the deaths from it is pretty large but they are not having quite as many new cases. Think by what the papers say today that it is working south and west from here. Quite an increase in the number of cases at Camp Meade. You must watch out and take all precautions possible as a preventative. Can you imagine what Boston looks like with all schools, churches, saloons, theatres, etc closed up tight. Something never heard of before.

Roland wants to get back though. His school won't open for another week at least. He is secretary of the G.E.K.s. Has something to do in calling the dance off that they were to have next Saturday which is very important. However we have made quite a long stay here this year and I'm quite willing to quit. It is pretty hard to realize that it is near the middle of October.

Should judge from the letter Mamma had from Mrs. Porter that you had made quite a hit with her which is very nice and I told Mamma she had better send the letter to your Aunt Waring to let her know what her friends think of you.

Your last letter received and note what you say in regard to coats. It seems from the prices you quoted that Uncle Sam was not giving you anything for nothing. Think the price for coats is pretty stiff. No doubt he expects to get some of the money he pays you back again. Don't see how much better you are off than you was when getting \$45. per and found. Cannot advise you what to do. You must decide which is the most serviceable and comfortable for you to wear and act accordingly. Sorry to hear that there is a possibility of your making another change. Was in hopes you were settled there for sometime to come until the end of the struggle which according to accounts we read in the papers I don't think it can last many months longer.

Mamma just told me to tell you, you had better get some kind of jacket to wear under your coat before you get a cold on you. Every thing around here is very quiet. No card playing, church suppers, etc. Have the laboratory finished, crops gathered. Result is 1½ Bush Potatoes, 2 pecks Beans. All the preserves such as Beach Plum Jelly, Pickles, Picklelilly, etc that we want and what vegetables we wanted. All summer had sweet corn up to Sept. 25th and plenty of Lettuce, Carrots, Beets, and green Beans we could eat. As Roland is also writing you think this will be about all from me tonight. Hope you are well and will keep so, by accepting some of the advice you give us in concerning your health. Probably will have to have your Sunday letter to us forwarded to Som. From So. Y. as we won't be here. As one heat never decides a race would advise you to give the stable Sargent another try before acknowledging defeat. You must be getting to be an expert on riding out after dark. Riding is more or less risky so you must be careful you don't meet with some accident.

We are all feeling quite well thank you. With much love from all, affectionately, your Dad''

Richard Barker

Sale of a Servant

[1745-11-25 Mercy Taylor; a bill of sale of a servant Sabrina from the estate of Shubael Taylor to Sylvanus Bourne:]

[Front:]

These presents Witness that I Mercy Taylor of Yarmouth in the County of Barnstable Widow as Administratrix on the Land Chattels Rights and Credits of Shubael Taylor late of Sd Yarmouth Deceased In Consideration of the Sum of one hundred forty & five pounds (old Tennor) in hand paid by Silvanus Bourn of Barnstable in the County aforstd Esq^t Do herby Sell tranfer Set over Convey and Confirm unto him the Said Silvanus and to his Heirs Exer^s Administrators or

assignes, Sabina a Sarvant for life part of the Estates of Sd Deceased of which he Died Siezed which Sd Sabina is a maid Sarvant Supposed to be part negro born of a Spanish Indⁿ Woman Slave or Sarvant for life then to my Hond Father the Revnd M^r Joseph Lord of Chatham which sd Sarvant Sabina was given to me by my Sd Hond Father before my Inter marriage with sd Shubael Taylor Deceased and sd Sabina now Dwells with sd Silvanus In Witness wherof I the Said Mercy have herunto Set my hand and Seal this twenty fifth day of Nov^r AD 1745

[Witness:]

Mercy Taylor

[seal]

William Bourn
Isaac Gorham

[Rear:]

Nov^r 25th 1745

I hereby acknowledge that I have actually rec'd the one hundred forty & five pounds mentioned as a Consideration of the Sale of my Servant in the within writeing bill of Sale

Sign'd in presence of
William Bourn
Isaac Gorham

Mercy Taylor

Burt Derick

Newsletter Addition

This Newsletter contains the center section of the Woods Hole Historical Museum's Fall/Winter *Mainsheet* that is reprinted with our gratitude for their kind permission. As you will see, it has a strong Dennis connection. The box at the right from that edition and relates another activity in progress. These are two logbooks of Captain Anthony Howes of the *Amulet & Hippogriffe* that have been returned after Burt Derick scanned them. Burt is transcribing both logs, and both Societies will have copies of the digital records and the transcriptions.

As some Dennis Captains moved to Woods Hole, we are both seeking additional valuable old records that we can share.

Woods Hole and Dennis Reconnected

The most positive outcome of the September visit to our Museum of the Cape and Islands Historical Association was the reconnection between Woods Hole and Dennis (see Captain Anthony Howes Log article, center insert). As noted, there was a strong connection in the late 1800's. Pete Howes, descendent of some of these Howes captains, is now president of the Dennis Historical Society. We were thrilled to meet and welcome him especially since his newsletter is by-far the favored lunch-time reading in our Museum. Thanks to his enthusiasm, their Community Preservation Grant, and our whole-hearted approval, the Howes logs will be traveling from our organization to his so that they can be scanned and digitized with their new equipment. Shortly there-after, the logs will be returned to us, along with a digitized version. Dennis Historical will retain a digitized version as well, so we can both share in these precious documents of our joint past. Now that's co-operation at its best!

The Final Manse Overhaul Update

The Manse overhaul is completed with only one or two minor items to be accomplished. Loam and grass seed will wait for April when it is warm enough for the grass to grow.

The Grand Reopening is planned for June 25. Look for further announcements.

Board Meetings

Please NOTE THIS CHANGE. Board meetings have been moved to the *third (not the second!)* *Wednesday at 3p.m.* All members are invited to attend monthly DHS Board Meetings. The next meeting is at **3 pm on February 15th** at the Jericho Historical Center, 90 Old Main St. West Dennis.

PLEASE NOTE – THE NEWSLETTER CANNOT BE FORWARDED

Have a Seasonal address? Moving? PLEASE NOTIFY US at dennishs@cape.com or send us a note! The Post Office Will **Not** Forward Your Newsletter. You lose a newsletter and the USPS charges us \$\$\$.

When your newsletter is returned we have to remove you from the mailing list until we learn where you are.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS for 2011: *A sneak preview mark your calendars!*

MARCH: Event pending – more in March newsletter

APRIL: “Your DHS Library And Its Resources” – with Historian Burt Derick

May: Maritime Days Exhibit – “The Bounty of the Seas” at the
West Dennis Graded School, by Historian Phyllis Horton

JUNE: Brendan Joyce will lead a **Walking Tour of Historic Quivet Neck**

June: On the 25th the “Grand Re-Opening Celebration” of the MANSE

JULY 4th: 13th Annual Pie Sale on the Green

JULY: Walk Through West Dennis Cemetery *with Terri Fox*

AUGUST: Walk Through Swan Lake Cemetery *with Terri Fox*

AUGUST: “Colonial Open House at the Manse”

AUGUST: “Summer Fun Days at Jericho”

AUGUST: “Open House at West Dennis Graded School”

SEPTEMBER: “Twilight Cemetery Visions” *a ghostly evening walk!*

SEPTEMBER: Annie’s Crannies *the life of Cranberries & more*

OCTOBER: “Fall For The Arts” a Cape Wide Event with all three town
museums participating

OCTOBER: Annual meeting & luncheon at **LIBERTY HALL**, South Dennis

DECEMBER: “Teddy Bear Victorian Tea Party” *at Jericho Hist. Center*

DECEMBER: “Christmas Open House & Festival of Trees” *at the Manse*