



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

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Send letters & stories to Dennis Historical Society, Box 607, S. Dennis 02660 or to pjhowes@verizon.net

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E-Mail info@dennishistoricalsociety.org

The next Board Meeting: is Tuesday, June 9 @ 2:00 P.M., The Josiah Dennis Manse, Dennis Village

(Now, the following 'taint about Dennis, but I've certainly heard some tales 'bout the olden days hereabouts. Seems likely, but you be the judge.)

Take Your Medicine, Boy

Back when, a down-home Southern remedy was just what the doctored ordered.

The boy was trouble. You could see that as he pushed through the door, then came stomping past the booths in the Huddle House in his toddler-size cowboy boots. He was wearing a strawberry-jelly scowl, his shirt had ridden up his belly, and his hands, which I am sure were sticky, were touching everything. His tired mother noticed, too late, that he was on the lam, and caught up with him just about the time he made it to our booth. His round cheeks were red—it was clear he had a cold—and he sneezed and then coughed a good-bye as he was dragged away.

"Reminds me of you," my brother Sam said over his ham-and-cheese omelet.

My mother nodded.

"You was bad to get colds," she said, and watched as the boy went, protesting, up the aisle. She loves boys.

Well let's hope, I thought to myself, they don't treat his ailment the same way my people treated mine. If they do, the poor child will be as tight as Dick's hatband by time for beddy-bye.

They called it, oddly, a toddy. Their homemade remedies for the cold, flu, and croup varied a little, depending on which grandparents were mixing the concoctions, but the active ingredient was always the same. It required, to start, a few tablespoons of corn whiskey, which some people—but nobody I know who'd ever had any—called moonshine. Hooch was more like it.

Busthead. Popskull. There wasn't anything nice about it.

Into the glass the old women of the family squeezed a lemon, if they had one; lemons were dear in the foothills of the Appalachians in those days, for mill workers and pulpwooders and roofers. Then, they stirred in a tablespoon of golden honey.

If there was no honey, they took a hammer and broke off a big chunk of peppermint candy and let it melt in the glass. Sometimes, if the child coughed loud enough and their hearts broke and their fear rose, they would place the chunk of peppermint in the toe of a white sock and bash it with the hammer, or just swing it against a post on the porch. It melted quicker that way, beat to dust.

I remember once they gave this medicine to my brother Sam.

He said he did not remember it.

"I reckon so," I said.

He does remember he went to sleep.

My mother recalls there was giggling.

I do remember the first time they gave it to me. I am not sure how old I was, but I was in school, so had to have been at least 6. The pepper-mint did not do the job, and the corn whiskey burned a hole from my lips to my lower intestine, but, oh, what a wonderful feeling it was when the fire went out. The world went soft. The world turned gold. I floated. I flew into the dark. Moonshine. I get it now.

I know they would not have hurt us for anything in the world. Nothing was more precious, to these people who worked so hard with their hands for so little, than their babies. They simply used what they had.

I am glad that little boy in the Huddle House lives in a more enlightened time, but maybe just a little sorry too.

Bragg, Rick, Southern Living Feb. 2015 pp 136

New Shades for the Old Jericho Barn

With the long-awaited arrival of spring comes increased sunshine, which is exuberantly welcomed by Cape Codders, wearing sunglasses to protect their eyes from the sun's damaging rays.

Sadly, this also means that the contents of the Jericho Historical Center's barn are at risk of fading. To prevent sun damage, the Jericho Committee is seeking donations to purchase 12 new shades for the barn's windows.

Two donations have already been received, but 10 more are needed before the order is placed. If you wish to donate a shade, please send a check for \$60 made out to Jericho Historical Center with "Barn Shade" on the memo line to Dennis Historical Society, P.O. Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660. For more information, call Jericho Chairwoman Dawn.

Nicole Muller

An Unhappy Spouse

[1856-04-27; letter from wife Sarah to Obed; pink paper, embossed with "Harrison" logo:]

South Dennis, April 27' 56.

Dear Husband,

Disappointed in not seeing you last night, I tho't I would write a line, couldn't you look in upon wife and little ones last night, or was it not worth the trouble? I sat up for you, but, as Gracie says papa didn't come. when will you come home now? I miss you very much and so do the little ones. do you not want some clean clothes? I have not been very well – Rhoda is with me. Grace & Obed are well.

Ellis has gone bye, and left Margaret.

Miller went away this morning –

Veranus^[1] is at home to-day –

They have a new minister evry Sabbath.

Eunice came up here to see you this morning. she wants to go out to Philadelphia with you, and Hope too, - can they go? if so will you send me word to-morrow by letter. and if you are coming home before you sail.

she is about ready to go down to Boston. I shall feel sad and hurt if you do not come, and so will the little ones I sould have sent you some clean clothes, but did not know what to do.

Obed if you can I want you to get me a small "Stuffed chair," and a cheap "hearth rug," and some oranges, some sugar, and a ham. I have a great many wants. do not forget the oranges, and Obed & Gracie want some walnuts. Polly Ann just came in and says I must scold you [page] for not coming home, but I told her I tho't you would have come if you could. all want to see you. ten weeks last Friday since you went away. are you going to have your garden planted?

Mrs. Baker was here last week and seemed to want some money very much. she said she must have a month or two of her boy's wages. But when you come home you can see to all these things.

Very sad have I felt to day. it is a year since Puella^[2] left us. the spring grass is green on her grave now. her dying words to me seems almost prophetic, will the Summer's sun shine on my grave? if so, may I go to that better world where I hope she now lives.

with much love

Sarah.

[remainder in margins:]

Both children are on the table, and you must excuse the writing I wish you would get you some Dickey's in Boston.

Answer this immediately will you, for Eunice would like to know I shall expect you home. I wish you might not have to go to sea.

Derick, Burton, Dennis Source Records V2, Obed Whelden Collection

Junior Docent Tea a Hit at Jericho

Sunbeams streamed through the windows of the Jericho Historical Museum on Saturday, May 2, welcoming guests to a bountiful table of goodies and cheerful greetings from Chairwoman Dawn Dellner and committee

¹ Veranus Baker Nickerson, son of Eleazer Nickerson & Mercy (Whelden), daughter of Miller Whelden Sr., grandfather of Obed.

² Sarah's sister Puella Gray Swift, born at Edgartown 15 Sep 1819, d. unmarried in South Dennis 28 Apr 1855 of "Nervous Consumption"; buried South Dennis.

members Pat Corcoran, Ruth Derick, Margaret Eastman and Ruth Derick and DHS board member Nicole Muller, a Friend of Jericho.

A springtime afternoon tea was the perfect venue for introducing the museum and barn to prospective junior docents for both Jericho and the Josiah Dennis Manse.

Three-year veteran junior docent Eleanor Sears demonstrated to eager guests, including Strell Landry and daughters Katie, 10, and Maryann 15, how to assemble May baskets using seasonal fresh flowers, craft paper, cotton balls and small plastic liners.

Junior docent coordinator Ruth Derick encourages young ladies ages nine and older who are interested in learning about Dennis history as well as old-time skills to consider



Enjoying the goodies at the May 2 junior docent tea at Jericho are, from left, Katie Landry, Maryann Landry and veteran junior docent Eleanor Sears.



Strell Landry, far left, watches as her daughter Katie signs the Jericho guest book and Eleanor Sears, third from left, observes Krista Swanson assemble a May basket under Dorothy Rosseland's curious eye.

becoming junior docents. Anyone interested may call her at 508-398-3183.

Nicole Muller

Cold Storage Road

Called the Crowell Cold Storage Plant, it burned on March 12, 1910 and was replaced by one of concrete block and refrigeration (ammonia cycle) cooling. When electric refrigeration became available in 1920, it fell into decline and eventual disuse. Finally in 1927 the building was dismantled when the town purchased the property for a parking lot on the east side of Sesuit Harbor. Both Cold Storage Road and Cold Storage Beach were named for the plant.

During Prohibition it is said that more whiskey than fish rode up the fish conveyor into the plant.

Gazetteer Of Dennis - Burton N. Derick, Editor

-Buying a Car in 1950-

5% Down Payment and
36 Months to Pay for
Qualified Veterans

1950 Nash Tudor	1395.00
1949 Mercury Fordor	1395.00
1949 Ford Club Coupe	1195.00
1949 Ford Fordor	1095.00
1949 Ford Tudor	1095.00
1947 Chevrolet Fordor	695.00
1947 Ford Tudor	795.00
1946 Chevrolet Fordor	695.00
1946 Packard Fordor	695.00
1947 Nash Brougham Tudor	695.00
1939 Ford Tudor	175.00
1938 Dodge Fordor	125.00
1942 Nash Fordor	395.00
1950 Ford 1/2 ton panel	995
1949 Ford 3/4 ton express	995
1948 Ford stake pickup	895
1948 Dodge pickup	795

GALLOWAY'S SALES DEPT.
YOUR FORD DEALER

330 Broadway

Tel. 550

Newburgh, N. Y.

Open Evenings Till 9

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



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South Yarmouth, MA
02664



June Hours – All 3 shops
Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10-4
485 Main St., Rt. 28
West Dennis

Quivet Neck "Talkabout"

Dedicated To Brendan Joyce



Presented by Mary Kuhrtz

Saturday ~ June 13 ~ 2:00 p.m.

Jacob Sears Library
23 Center St., East Dennis.

Saturday, June 27, 1-4 p.m. MANSE OPENING RECEPTION

Tours By
Interpreters In
Period Dress

Refreshments



Exhibit
Growing Up In
Dennis in the
1700's

1736 Josiah Dennis Manse Museum, 77 Nobscusset Rd., Dennis Village

Sunday, June 28, 1-4 p.m. OPENING TEA AT JERICHO

Tours of
House & Barn

Afternoon tea
will be served



Exhibit
Growing Up In
Dennis in the
1800's

1801 Jericho Historical Center, 90 Old Main St., West Dennis