

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MARCH NEWSLETTER

Mid-Winter Festivity

A most successful day was held at the Hereford House in February--the star of the day, the Village of Dennisport. The enthusiastic group gathered at noon for a social hour and the talk seemed to be largely reminiscences of Dennisport people. We sat down for our meal and the talk suddenly turned to the excellent luncheon, so nicely served by Bob Healey and his friendly, gracious staff (surprise of surprises--strawberry shortcake for dessert!).

After brief remarks by President Byron Peirce, which included thanks to Mary Hood Hagler for making arrangements, and a word of appreciation to the Hereford House, Mrs. Orion Derrick gave a most interesting talk on the history of the settlement and growth of Dennisport. Those of you who are newcomers may not be aware of the part this village has played in the history and character of our town. All agreed the talk was very informative.

Each person attending took home an attractive NobsCUSset Blue souvenir menu with a reproduction of a postcard showing Main Street, Dennisport about 1900, from the collection of Mrs. Richard S. Hall. And surely, all took home the memory of a very pleasant mid-winter festivity. Let's hope this will become an annual tradition, starring each of our villages in turn.

Bicycle Tour

Those who missed the talk at the luncheon can learn about Dennisport by joining our guided bicycle tour planned to cover "the Port" in May. Tours of the Northside villages are in the planning stage. We presently plan to conduct guided bike tours of each of the five villages once during the summer, as well as providing maps for self-guided tours for bicycle enthusiasts.

Whaling on Cape Cod

Donald F. Eldredge of Chatham will be the speaker at our meeting on March 8, at Carleton Hall, Dennis at 7:30 P.M. He will speak and show slides on Whaling on Cape Cod. This program is open to the public without charge and all are welcome.

Coming in April

Do any of you remember boarding the train at South Dennis Depot for the trip to Boston? In April we will have a talk by Mr. Howard Goodwin about the railroads of Cape Cod. He will speak at 7:30 P.M. at West Dennis Community Building on April 19--you won't want to miss this interesting talk.

The Great Blizzard of 1717

Winter of 1978 proved to be a series of Close Encounters of the snow kind for Cape Cod. The Great Blizzard deposited only about one foot of snow here in Dennis, but the area was not so fortunate in 1717. Josh Crowell has in his possession a handwritten note which we quote with his permission:

Great snow (of) 1717 when Grandmother Howes was born. People had to be removed from the second story of their buildings, and many cattle perished. It commenced snowing the 21st of February and snowed 21 days. This statement made to me by my mother September 22, 1848 and many times previous.

(signed) Obed Howes

... the above recorded for the satisfaction of those who may come after."

Now that's a blizzard! Does any have a reminiscence to share about other snow storms on the Cape? Send them to Box 607, So. Dennis, MA 02660.

CALENDAR

March 8	7:30 PM	Donald F. Eldredge, "Whaling on Cape Cod", Carleton Hall
April 19	7:30 PM	Howard Goodwin, "Railroads of Cape Cod", West Dennis Community Building
May 6	10:00 AM	Guided Bicycle Tour of Dennisport (Rain date, May 13)
June 19		Town of Dennis - 185th Birthday Celebration