



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 2

March 2001

Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 10

Covered Dish Luncheon

Bring a covered dish, plate and eating utensils.

**West Dennis Graded
School**

12:00 Noon

Wednesday, March 14

DHS Board Meeting

All interested members are invited to attend.

Jericho Historic Center

7:00 PM

Sunday, April 22

Backstage at the Cape Playhouse

Marcia Mobleau, noted author and Playhouse publicist, will tell some stories about people and events at this famous summer playhouse.

Refreshments.

**Jacob Sears Memorial
Library, East Dennis**

2:00 PM

Wednesday, May 16

Who Wants to be a Cape Cod Expert?

Jack Sheedy, local author, will narrate a slide show about Cape Cod. Come and test your Cape knowledge.

Refreshments.

**West Dennis Graded
School**

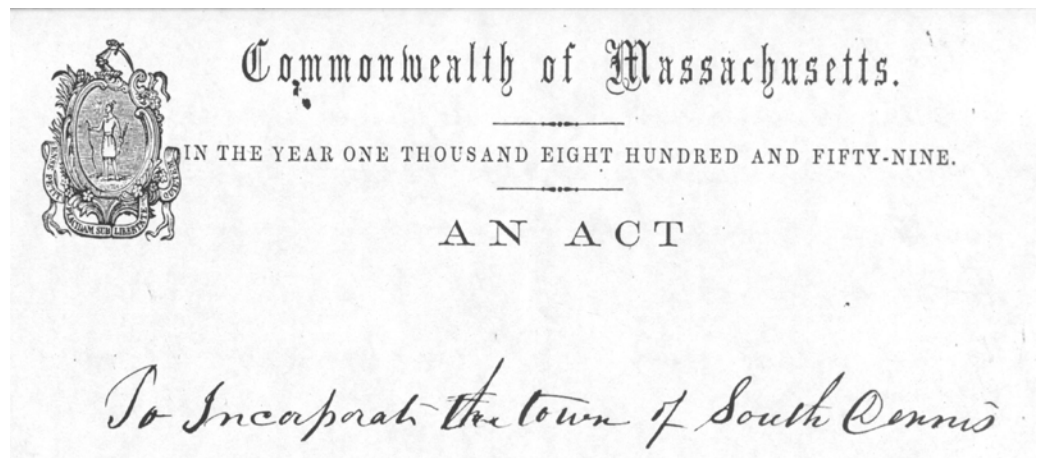
7:30 PM

THE FIRST (AND CONTINUING) CIVIL WAR

Burt Derick

As many most of the Dennis natives know, there has been an ongoing divisiveness between the north and south sides of the town. South siders have historically considered the north siders as snobs, and north siders have considered the south siders as of low station. Why this originated, and when, has never been determined. Sad to say, it appears to continue with some of the newer residents, for reasons which are not apparent (something in the air?).

This issue is not new. The following document was discovered among the effects of Charles Underwood of South Dennis, the originals of which are in the possession of Edmond Rhodes Nickerson of South Dennis.



Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: ---

SECTION 1. All that part of the town of Dennis lying south of the following described lines Viz beginning at a stone monument standing in the division line between the towns of Yarmouth and Dennis at a stone on the south side of Chatham or Monomoy road so called; thence East Southerly by the southerly side of said road one half the distance to the division line between the towns of Harwich and Dennis; thence crossing said road at right angles to the northerly side of said road;

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THE FIRST (AND CONTINUING) CIVIL WAR

(Continued from page 1)

thence East Southerly by the northerly side of said road to a Stone Monument standing in the division line between said towns of Harwich and Dennis, is hereby incorporated into a separate town, by the name of South Dennis, and the said town of So. Dennis is hereby vested with all the powers and priviliges rights and immunities, and shall be subject to all the duties and requisitions to which the other towns are entitled and subjected by the laws and Constitution of the Commonwealth.

SECTION 2. The inhabitants of said town of South Dennis shall be holden to pay to the collector [page] of the town of Dennis all arrearages of taxes legally assessed upon them before the act takes effect and all there proportion of such state and County taxes as may be assessed upon them before one one half of all state and county taxes which may be herafter assessed upon the town of Dennis before the taking of the next valuation succeeding the valuation of 1861.

SECTION 3. The three paupers now in the Almshouse to wit. Elijah Wixon, Betsy Howes and Deborah Nickerson shall during their natural lives be supported equally by said towns of Dennis and So. Dennis, and the said towns shall be respectively liable for the support of all other persons (with the exception above named) who now do and who may hereafter stand in need of relief, as paupers, who settlement was gained by or derived from a settlement gained or desired within their respective limits.

SECTION 4. The towns of Dennis and So Dennis shall hold all the real and personal estate situated in their respective limits (except the Iron Safe and library) which shall be the joint property of the two towns together with all the fishing or other priviliges or immunities whatever as its proportion of the property and privileges of said town of Dennis

SECTION 5. The town of So D. shall remain a part of the same districts Rep. Senators Councillors and Congressional as the town of Dennis until said districts are altered by due authority of law.

SECTION 6. & SECTION 7. as pr Book

While this was proposed to some degree, it never made its way into full debate in the Great and General Court.

An analysis of this attitude is difficult, and can only be speculative. It is true that the old-comers settled first on the north side, and that at least part of the south side of town remained Indian land for many years. It is further true that settlement of the south side happened soon after the first arrivals, but by less-enfranchised families (Berry, Jones, Wixon, Chase, Baker), many of whom were Quakers. Despite the humble beginnings, the south side for a long time was the economic center of the town, in both fisheries and shipping, which was sure in incur some resentment. No doubt the south-siders would try to impose their will on the north, and the north resented it.

Despite the fact that we are a town of villages, each of which has a different character, we should stand united in the fact that we are a town first and foremost. What is good for one village builds us as a town, and what is bad for another village diminishes us as a town. Coming together for a common purpose of a sense of history, preservation, and maintenance of the character of the various villages is intensely important. Whatever parochial attitudes still exist must be set aside so that we can all come together in the common causes of the great Town of Dennis.

IT'S TIME FOR A 1939/1999 RERUN

Phyllis Horton

Remember what a grand time we had at the covered dish luncheon two years ago? After numerous requests, we are doing it again. Your contributions last time reinforced what I have heard many times, "Cape Cod cooks are **the very best!**" We'll be hard pressed to top last time, but I'll bet we can do it! So, it's time to pull out the recipes and dust off the old stand by or get adventurous and try something new – either one is sure to be a winner. Once again you men are being challenged to prove your culinary skills that were so evident last time. Show us what you've learned from Emeril on Channel 58. Bring your plates and eating utensils. We'll have the coffee or tea, rolls and butter. After you are comfortably full you'll have a chance to work some of it off by belting out a few old time favorites while Nancy Thacher Reid "tickles the ivories." The afternoon will be a replay of some wonderful dinners held throughout Dennis in earlier times, some that I remember well, especially when Mrs. Lilla showed up with her Boston Bag, but that's another story. Maybe I'll tell it at the luncheon. We'll meet at the West Dennis Graded School on Saturday, March 10th at 12:00 noon.



And talking about food...

The Josiah Dennis Manse Cookbook Committee is hard at work!

Nancy S. Howes



Working on (and enjoying!) "Breads" are (left to right) Dorothy Bell, Jane Bacon, Terri Fox, Bonnie Main, Phyllis Horton, Jean Twiss, Ruth Derick, Muriel Hanger, and Nancy Howes

Photo courtesy of Richard S. Howes

What a great mid-winter activity! The Josiah Dennis Manse Cookbook Committee is having a wonderful time gathering recipes for a series of cookbooks to be published soon.

The seed for this idea was planted during a brunch given in honor of Margaret "Mig" Maher when she retired as secretary of the Manse Committee after many years. As we sampled what others had cooked, we realized that these recipes were so good that they should be shared.

On alternate Tuesday mornings we are cooking and sampling dishes we hope to include in our first cookbook, "Brunch at the Manse."

If you have recipes to share in any category, please call Ruth Derick at 398-3183 or mail them to the Josiah Dennis Manse, P.O. Box 963, Dennis, MA 02638. Please mark "recipe" on the envelope.

Dennis Historical Society

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THE WAY WE WERE...

The Helping Hand Society, Part I

Last month, we wrote about the Helping Hand Society, Parts I and II. Burt Derick provided a photo of the original group. Picture here are:

Gladys (Chase) (Trott) Cahoon, Rose (Chase) Rogers, Agnes (Chase) Small, ? Medora (Long) Nin, Marnie Baker, Marion (Baker) Wixon, (possibly) Elizabeth (Frizzell) Lynch, Lilla (Long) (Garfield) Edwards, Josie (Sisson) Nickerson, Nellie Pierce, Eliza (Chase) Bassett, Sarah Berry, Rena Garfield, Bessie (Wixon) Perry, Mary Young (wife of Charles Young), — Kelly, (mother of Charles), Alice Chase (mother of "Skeezix" Lawrence), Maude (Snow) Estey, Alice (Snow) Eldredge



RLDS Church Ladies circa 1930