

Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 30 Number 3

Send letters and stories to Lura Crowell, Editor, Box 607, S. Dennis 02660 or sesuetfarm@verizon.net

March 2007

Coming Events

**Saturday, March 10
2:00 P.M.**

"Canton Porcelain"
(the dishes that came on
the clipper ships)

Mary Kuhrtz will show
examples of china
brought back from the
Far East as ship's ballast
which are now highly
collectible. Many Den-
nis sea captains engaged
in this trade.

Refreshments will be
served.

Dennis Memorial Library
1020 Old Bass River Rd.
Dennis Village

Correction, Please!

Before you tuck away
the bright yellow DHS
calendar for 2007 which
was mailed out with the
February Newsletter,
please change the date of
the Society's Christmas
Open House at the
Manse
to December 9
from 12:00 to 4:00 P.M.
We wouldn't want you
to miss this traditional
gathering because of a
misprint!

The Nathan Stone, Jr. House

Last month we showed you a picture of the house at 632 Route 6A in Dennis Village. Phyllis Horton described what it must have been like to live in that old house and now we learn more about the family who first lived there:

Nathan Stone, Jr. was born 10 June 1766 to the Rev. Nathan Stone and his wife Mary (Cushing) Stone. He was the oldest of their nine children and was born at the Rev. Josiah Dennis Manse. His parents were living there with the Widow Phebe Dennis while their home on New Boston Road was being built.

[Rev. Stone was the second minister for the East Precinct of Yarmouth (later the Town of Dennis). He succeeded the Rev. Josiah Dennis, the man Dennis is named for. It is believed that Rev. Stone suggested the town be named for Rev. Dennis as he was still dearly beloved thirty years after his death. The town was incorporated and so named by the Massachusetts Legislature on June 19, 1793.]

Nathan, Jr. married on 18 September 1792 Miss **Patience Baker**, daughter of Moses Baker of Yarmouth (now Dennis) and his wife Thankful (Gray) of Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard. Patience was born 12 May 1772, the third of nine children. The marriage was performed by the Rev. Nathan Stone.

Nathan and Patience were the parents of ten children. Three of their sons: **Jacob**-age 22, **Moses**-age 20, and **Abiel**-age 10 were drowned at Salem MA on 9 December 1815. Only two of their children lived to old age.

Nathan, Jr. was a noted housewright. It is believed that a number of historic homes still standing in Dennis were built by him, including his own home. He served 33 years as Town Clerk and Treasurer of the East Precinct and the Town of Dennis from 1789 to 1836. Nathan was a Justice of the Peace. He also served as the town's first Postmaster from 1797 to 1836. His house was the first Post Office in Dennis. The mail was delivered from Yarmouth.

Nathan, Jr. is credited with making the Jury Selection Box, about 1811, which was used by Dennis Town Clerks for selecting jurors for the Court in Barnstable until 1987 when the state revised the jury selection process. This box is now owned by the Dennis Historical Society.

Patience died on 19 July 1821 at age 49. **Nathan** married secondly in 1832 Miss **Abigail (Nabby) Bourne** of Barnstable, daughter of Dr. Richard Bourne. **Nathan** died on 28 December 1839 at age 73 and **Nabby** followed him on 9 June 1842 at age 63. **Nathan**, his two wives and some of his children are resting in the ancient section of the Dennis Burial Ground on Route 6A.

Phyllis Horton, Archivist, Dennis Historical Society

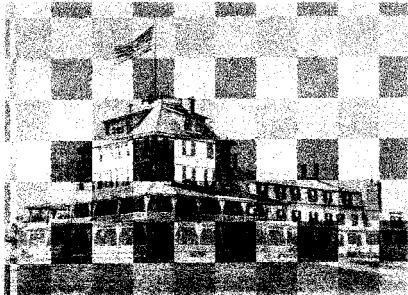
Once Upon a Time

Presidents' Day weekend brought quite a few visitors to the Cape motels (especially those with indoor swimming pools for the kids!) Some of these visitors were checking out the houses or cottages or condos available for summer rentals. As I was looking through the DHS post card collection, I found some accommodations that were perfect—once upon a time.

You might like the ambiance at the Bass River Lodge in West Dennis. Back when H.A. Eager was the proprietor in 1924, you could stay there for \$15 to \$25 a week. The Lodge was open from June 15th to October 1st. The writing on the picture showed where the sender's bedroom was, where her sitting room was located, and even where her "napping room" was on the porch. Not a bad place to spend a vacation.

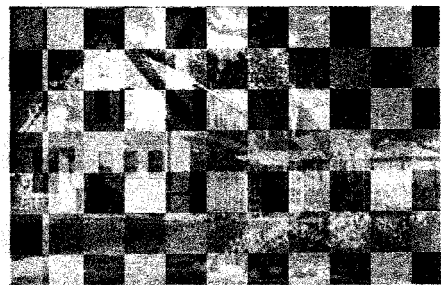


Over in Dennis in 1907 you could stop at the NobsCUSset Hotel when H. D. Neal was manager. "This is one of the oldest and most popular hotels on



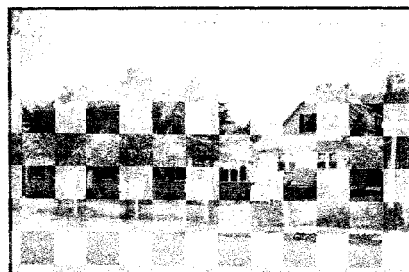
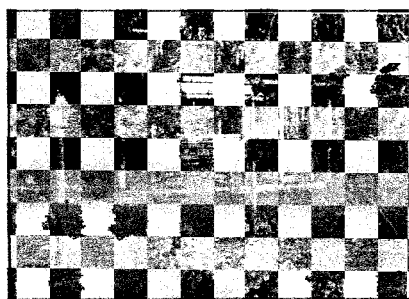
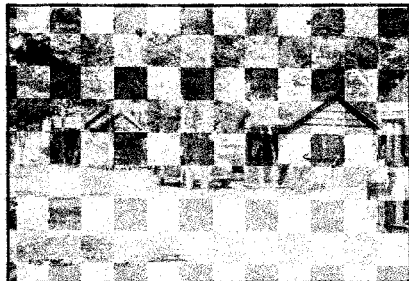
Cape Cod, catering to both permanent and transient guests. It has all modern improvements. The finest hard white sandy gradual sloping beach on the coast, perfectly safe for surf and still-water boating and fishing. Every breeze an ocean breeze. 240 acres of playgrounds. Dance hall, bowling alleys, tennis, golf, etc. Plenty of piazza room. An ideal place to rest, and central for auto tourists, with good roads. New garage connected. Railroad station, Yarmouth. Auto meets trains." The message reads *Having a slick time—WSM*

If the NobsCUSset was just a little too busy for you, there was always The Willows nearby on Seaside Avenue. If you "fone Dennis 84" you could talk with Mrs. Hettie H. Howes and make arrangements for room and board. "The Willows is a large old fashioned type house equipped with modern conveniences. It is especially a summer place, but also accommodates guests at all seasons of the year. RATES: Room and Board \$4 to \$5 per Day \$22.00 to \$30.00 per Week." *A vacation home and bounteous table that hardly need to be advertised. You have only to enjoy the atmosphere, Aunt Hettie's food, to sleep in one of the cool rooms, to enjoy the green lawns, the flowers, the games, the drives, and you find yourself being made over into a new being.* (A Guest)



If you really loved the area you might consider building your own home at NobsCUSset Shores: "NobsCUSset Shores, one of the most desirable properties fronting the sea at Dennis, is now being developed into an attractive site for a refined summer colony. Approximately two hundred acres of rolling field and woodlands are contained in this property which is within a short distance of the King's Highway.Having all the advantages, without the usual attendant disadvantages, NobsCUSset Shores is an ideal site for an exceptional, exclusive summer colony in the heart of Cape Cod. The homesites range in price from \$800 to \$3000. Convenient terms may be arranged." (Today you can rent a two-bedroom house here for only \$2600 a week.)

Over in Dennis Port there were lots of choices for vacation accommodations. You could go to Saltwinds and the Ocean View Guest House (top right) at the corner of Depot Street and Old Wharf Road. Or there was always Campers Haven which might be affordable. And don't forget Grindell's Ocean View Park on the beach where you could rent a nice little cottage. (lower right) Later Grindell's would house a trailer park for a different type of summer rental. There was also a spot called Ocean Grove with cabins and tent sites. (top left) Summer people flocked to our fine Dennis Port beaches! Not wanting to guess at the cost for



staying at these particular sites back in their heyday, I went looking for post cards which included that information. Back when the penny postcard cost three cents to mail (late 1950's?), you could stop by Glenn Haven (lower left) also in Dennis Port. Here we read:

Rates are Reasonable

Cottages (2 persons)—\$75.00 per week

Cottages (4 persons)—\$100.00 per week

Additional persons can be accommodated in these cottages for \$2.00 per day each. No additional charges. All utilities, blankets, and linens are furnished.

Just out of curiosity I went on line and "Googled"

Dennis Port MA summer rentals. Do you really want to know?

Today you may find a motel room for around \$80 a day, or a cottage or condo for somewhat over \$1100 a month. (That's on the less expensive side.) And I could not find Hettie Howes' home cooking included with any of these prices!

If you've been keeping up with Dennis news, you'll know that we have a contract with Brown Lindquist Fenuccio & Raber Architects, Inc. to assess the needed repairs to and restoration of the Josiah Dennis Manse. Once this assessment has been completed, we will need to apply for CPA funds to undertake the restoration.

Meanwhile, thanks to a generous donation by Harry, Pamela and Megan Van Iderstine, we can begin to consider the possibility of a state-of-the-art archival storage room at the Manse to be dedicated to the memory of Raymond and Mildred Van Iderstine. The Van Iderstines emigrated to Dennis from Prince Edward Island in the late 1920's. In 1930 Harry was born in the family home on the corner of Whig Street and Corporation Road. Raymond supported them by working as head gardener for the Cape Playhouse. In 1932 Raymond died from burns when a propane heater exploded in an actor's cottage where he was working. Mildred then had to support her family by doing domestic work and by selling her hooked and braided rugs to summer tourists. Young Harry did odd jobs for the Chaffees who lived down the road in the Manse. Later he worked for Arthur Sears in his garage. Graduating from Yarmouth High School in 1948, he moved to Long Island where he married Pamela, who was from West Virginia. They later moved to West Virginia where Harry operated a foundry until his retirement.

Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02990-0607

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

The Way We Were

Back in 1944 (when you could still send a post card for a penny) this confirmation was sent to the Holtons of Auburn, Mass. The description read: "The Lighthouse and cabins are located at West Dennis Beach, where delicious meals are served in the Lighthouse. Mr. and Mrs. Everett W. Stone, Props. Tel. Harwich Exchange". The handwritten message was as follows:

*We are expecting
you and the Ingrahams on
Saturday, June 24.*

Sincerely, The Stone Family

