



THE SUBJECT WAS GRAVESTONES

Michael Cornish of Allston was our speaker at the April meeting. He had a large and enthusiastic audience, one which lingered over the post-lecture collation to ask more questions of our expert guest. Those of you who don't attend our programs are missing some very good times. Try to come this month and bring a friend.

GROWING UP ON CAPE COD

"The good old days" when we were young probably look better in retrospect than they ever did in daily life. Still I know that you will enjoy the reminiscences of Donald Sparrow, a tenth generation Cape Codder who grew up in Eastham in the 30's and has some entertaining stories to tell. Those of you who also grew up on Cape Cod will certainly relate to the wholesome innocence of that childhood. Those of you who were not that fortunate may be surprised at the simplicity of our towns in those good old days. Don't miss this afternoon. We will serve refreshments and you will probably hear some other Cape Codders adding some of their own retellable tales.

RECENTLY RECEIVED FOR OUR ARCHIVES

The gift of Mrs. Francis Tobey Hall, Jr., in loving memory of her husband, a panoramic photograph of the village of Dennis, circa 1900, taken from the top of the Nobscusset House, a resort hotel which stood at the end of Nobscusset Ave. from 1872 (when it was called the Cape Cod Bay House) until 1930, when it was dismantled and removed. The view is startling because there is hardly any vegetation except grass and very few houses, where today stand hundreds. You may see this photo at the May meeting of the D.H.S. Our sincere thanks to Mrs. Hall, who also gave us a view of Dennis Beach, undated but probably about 1920. Beach styles surely have changed since then!

HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

I've recently received a delightful letter from a lady in Yarmouth Port who had some interesting remembrances of turn-of-the-century Cape Cod. She was born in Yarmouth Port in 1894, and her father was Dr. Pulsifer, who had an extensive practice in Yarmouth and Dennis in that era. As a little girl, she would come in her father's buggy to Dennis or East Dennis and would spend the day at a home where there were children of her age, while her father made his rounds. Dr. Pulsifer would have his noon meal wherever he was calling at 12 o'clock and end up his day at the home where his daughter was playing. She remembers Capt. Calvin Howes's new house, built in 1899 - "the first hardwood floors I ever saw", and the excitement when a telephone was installed in Dennis (probably at Luther Hall's store) so that Dr. Pulsifer could be summoned in an emergency. It's hard to envision the town in those quiet days. It confirms my finding that the Cape has changed more in the past fifty years than in the previous 300. Thank you, Mrs. Dolan, for your very nice note.

ANNUAL BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON - JUNE 22

Once again we will gather at the Lighthouse Inn at West Dennis Beach for a celebration of the town's birthday - the 193rd anniversary of our incorporation as a separate town from 'old mother Yarmouth'. Our social hour will begin at 12:30, with luncheon at 1:30 in the dining room with the spectacular view. Reservations must be made, and a form is included for your convenience. Please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope, and your check for \$10 per person. The menu: Melon Ring with Sherbet, Choice of Chicken Bianco or Broiled Scrod (please indicate which you prefer), Potato and Vegetable, Rolls and Butter, Beverage, and a Birthday Cake for dessert. Sounds good! There will be door prizes, and entertainment, and the usual witty and sparkling company, so do be there. Mail your reservations to:

Mr. Joshua Crowell  
P.O. Box 963  
Dennis, MA 02638

BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

LIGHTHOUSE INN

SUNDAY, JUNE 22  
12:30

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE:

\_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN

\_\_\_\_\_ SCROD

@ \$10, tax and tip included.

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose check and stamped, self-addressed envelope. Thanks.

## CALENDAR

- May 18 3 P.M. Senior Center. Don Sparrow - 'Growing Up on Cape Cod'.  
(Please note that the Senior Center is handicapped accessible).  
May 27 7:30 P.M. Board Meeting at Phyllis' house.  
May 31 10 A.M. Annual Lady Slipper Walk on the Indian Lands. Bring your umbrella.  
June 2-6 Ezra Baker Field Trips - please volunteer!  
June 22 ANNUAL BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON. 193rd Anniversary of the town's  
incorporation.

### SORRY, NO DANCING ALLOWED

It might have been a very acceptable thing to the "Upper 10" of the South side of Dennis to hold a grand ball at Baker's Hall in the 1880's, but to hold a dance in East Dennis in the same decade was a very different story. The village church in East Dennis at that time was a Methodist Parish - and the Methodists forbade dancing. The minister of that church in the 1880's was a woman - the first woman ever to be ordained a Methodist minister in the United States. Although not personally opposed to dancing, having been brought up by a Unitarian mother, Rev. Anna Howard Shaw nevertheless felt obliged to uphold the principles of the church which she served. She had been called to serve a parish in a village where religious viewpoints were widespread. A group of prominent citizens of East Dennis were semi-organized and called themselves the Free Religious Group. From what little I can gather, they were free-spirited folks, whose main purpose seems to have been to oppose and even ridicule the straight-laced Methodists, rather than present a religious outlook of their own. Knowing that the church opposed dancing, they tried to arrange to hold a dance at Worden Hall on the evening of each affair that the Methodists planned there. Soon after Miss Shaw began her ministry, the annual church Christmas Fair was to be held, and the Free Religious Group let it be known by way of those who were sure to get the news to Miss Shaw, that they intended to dance that evening. Miss Shaw was one who always did her homework and came into every situation prepared. Fair Day was no exception. As the day progressed, Free Thinkers began to gather at the Hall. They were mischievous and a bit rowdy, but Anna bided her time until supper. She then rapped for attention and informed the group that in spite of their plans, there would be no dancing that evening, for the Hall had been rented for the day to the Methodist Wesleyan Church and only the activities which the church endorsed could take place. Anyone who danced would be arrested the following day, and she produced the law which covered this situation. After some discussion and a lot of protest, Rev. Shaw convinced the crowd that she meant every word she said. If there was any hope that the revelers had of dancing after the fair was over, that too was squashed, as a stubborn Anna was the last to leave the Hall, and locked the door herself. Anna Shaw's strength of character got her into and out of many confrontations in the seven years she preached in Dennis and East Dennis. The night she did-in the plans of the Free Religious Group won her the begrudging respect of many.

### ANOTHER MYSTERY TO HELP ME SOLVE

Dancing was O.K. in the village of Dennis, at least in 1899 when two glamorous Balls were held during July, both sponsored by "The Big Six". The first was on the Fourth of July, and it was so successful that a second was planned for July 28. They were held at Carleton Hall, Professor Backus provided the music, and they were both attended by many of the summer people as well as folks from Yarmouth and the South side. Does anyone out there know who the "Big Six" were and how they got their name? I'll be watching the mail.

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