



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 37 No. 9 Send letters & stories to Dennis Historical Society, Box 607, S. Dennis 02660 or to pjhowes@verizon.net **November 2014**
Internet: www.dennishistoricalsociety.org Copyright 2014 - Dennis Historical Society E-Mail info@dennishistoricalsociety.org
The next Board Meeting: is **Tuesday October 11 @ 2:00 P.M., Jericho Historic Center, 90 Old Main St. West Dennis**

Worden Hall

This venerable hall in East Dennis has gone through many transformations since it was built on the King's Highway (now Rte.6A) in 1866. That was the era of many new fraternal organizations that all needed a place to meet and Worden Hall filled that need. It was named for and built on property of the Worden family who were settled in this area ca. 1626. Peter Worden, Sr. is thought to have arrived in America as an elderly man in 1624 on the Little James. His will was dated on 9 February 1638/9. His estate included land in the town of Clayton, Lancastershire, England as well as his estate in Yarmouth (now Dennis). He was the first Englishman to die and be buried in the Town of Dennis. The family moved to Rhode Island in the late 1600s but the area has borne their name ever since.

In 1866 a group of stockholders erected a hall for the use of Sesuit and Quivet Neck residents. It was named Worden Hall because it sat on their ancestral grounds. The East Dennis Lecture Association met at Worden Hall and heard lectures pertaining to the day. They also held other social events including the Annual Turkey Supper which had Cape-wide attendance. The Yarmouth Register of January 1896 said: "It is free thought and good turkey supper that do it every time. There is no better thing on earth to belong to than this association".

In 1902 the Kuyvet Tribe of the Order of the Redmen was organized, meeting at Worden Hall. In our DHS collection we have the sash and other regalia from this organization. The purpose of this fraternity was both social and charitable.

At the turn of the 20th Century the East Dennis Social Club was alive and well. Members had joined from across the Cape. They also specialized in turkey dinners and events that affected Dennis and the Cape. This club continued into the 1950s but eventually faded away as technology (TV) gained in popularity.

The hall served as the voting place for East Dennis and also as the distribution place for ration books in World War II. I remember well working there with others on Saturdays when I was in high school. As a Dennis Port girl a whole new world opened up giving out ration books to northsiders. To this day I remember the conversation and atmosphere of enrolling a certain Mr. Greenleaf. He was 80 years old and had been an old bachelor all his life, smoked a very ripe pipe, burned a wood stove and obviously had had few baths along the way. To say his 'presence preceded him' is putting it mildly. I dispensed ration books in all five villages and Mr. Greenleaf is the only one that remains in my memory.

Worden Hall eventually became an art gallery and home for Donn and Nancy DeVita. Donn was the art teacher at Wixon Middle School in South Dennis for many years. Nancy created paintings of all the Shiverick clipper ships built in East Dennis in the 1850s. This old hall now enters a new phase. It will be a private residence in the back and available for small functions in the front.

Our old landmark will continue to nurture and entertain the Cape's residents. May it do so for many years.

Phyllis Horton

The Customer is, Always (Excerpt)¹

"Flour came in large barrels, and a busy cook would buy it that way, by the barrel. Anyone who just wanted a little could have it in a brown paper bag (which bag was likely made on a machine invented by Luther Childs Crowell, of West Dennis). One local woman who enjoyed a fabulous reputation for her prize pies, cakes and cookies bought a barrel at a time. She insisted on King Arthur Flour, would have none other. One time when she came for her flour, there was a problem. The flour barrels came UNLABELED, the flour was all the same grade, and came from the same mill, and the company sent along several assorted

Saturday, November 15,
2:00 P.M.

"Story of the Shiverick Shipyard"

By our historian *Brendan Joyce*
\$3.00 Donation
Jacob Sears Library
23 Center St., East Dennis

¹ Thacher, Ben, "Whose Boy Be You", pp65, 66

labels, so the storekeeper could label a barrel with the brand the customer preferred. Except, Charlie Underwood was currently out of King Arthur labels. Charlie was up for the challenge. He was temporarily out of King A. he told her, but had some due in the first of the week.

"In the mean time, why, you just take this new stuff home, I'll put the barrel on the buckboard for you, and, say, maybe Tuesday, if you don't like this flour, why, bring it back, and exchange for a barrel of good King Arthur, and I shan't charge you for what you use!"

The lady knew a deal when she saw one, so she took the flour home, did a fine double bit of baking, even put up several loaves of bread and then on Tuesday, brought what remained of the flour back, Wouldn't do, she wanted her King Arthur. Charlie took the partly used barrel to the back room, refilled it from another barrel, put the top on tight, and affixed a King Arthur label. The woman left content, but returned two days later, madder than a wet hen. Seems she got part way down in the barrel, and she found her own flour sifter!"

Annual Meeting

During this meeting that was held on October 25 at Riverway Lobster House Restaurant in South Yarmouth, the following folks were elected for 2014-2015:

Executive Committee

President...Betsy Harrison
Vice Presidents...Dave Talbott, Terri Fox
Treasurer... Larry Symington
Assistant Treasurer... June Howes
Recording Secretary... Bonnie Hempel
Corresponding Secretary... Ruth Derick
Transitioning President...Peter Howes

Elected Directors

Bo Durst
Nicole Muller
Diane Rochelle

Appointed Directors

Dennis Historical Commission... Don Robitaille
1736 Josiah Dennis Manse...Terri Fox
1801 Jericho Historical Center &
Membership...Dawn Dellner
1867 West Dennis Graded Schoolhouse..Vacant
1877 Rose Victorian...Patty Sakellis
Curator/Archivist...Phyllis Horton
Librarian... Ruth Derick
Audio/Visual...
Brendan Joyce
Photographer...Richard Howes

Blanch Linwood Howes Wedding Dress

Those of you that have visited the maritime wing of the Manse have seen this dress that is one of the prized mainstays of the collection. We have a new photo to share, but first must relate the history of the dress.



Capt. Marcus Lafayette Howes was Master of the sailing ship "John F. Kranz". Capt. Howes and his wife, Desire Hall Howes, lived about a block east of the 1736 Josiah Dennis Manse on Whig Street. Capt. Howes sailed all over the world during his deep-water career. When Capt. Marcus Lafayette Howes was in port in Calcutta, he received word from a newly arrived Dennis captain that he was the father of a new baby girl named Blanche. He had known on his departure that a child would be born while he was away. He purchased a bolt of silk to bring back to be used for baby clothes. Instead of baby clothes, her mother decided to save it for her wedding gown. She married Seth Crowell of East Dennis on June 24, 1896. The material was called "pineapple silk" as fibers from a pineapple plant were woven into the silk fabric.

This is a photo of Nancy Crowell Allen wearing the dress during the Pageant of Brides in Dennis, May 1954. Nancy is our member Seth Crowell's 1st Cousin.

Cobble, Slump or Crisp?

After that first rush of eating ripe summer fruit out of hand, it's time to make a cobbler. Or maybe a slump or a crisp. The effect is the same: gilding the fruits in golden layers of pastry. Single fruits. Mixed fruits. Served alone or with cream, (warm, whipped or iced). After turkey. In pace of turkey. For breakfast or before bed, Whenever the mood strikes you. But what to make?

Is it Fool or Flummery?

Betty: Fruit layered with buttered crumbs.

Buckle: Similar to a fruit-filled coffee cake.

Cobbler: Deep-dish pie with pastry or biscuit crust.

Crisp or Crumble: Sweetened fruit with a crumbly topping.

Fool: Fruit cooked with milk, cream or custard.

Flummery: A thickened fruit pudding.

Fruit Dumplings: Dumpling batter simmered in hot stewed fruit.

Pandowdy: Similar to a cobbler; during baking, the crust is broken up and mixed into the filling.

Slump, Grunt: Old-fashioned desserts consisting of fruit and dough steamed in a kettle.

Courtesy of Prime Time, August 1994

DHS Books

You just might have read excerpt from many of the books that we have published over the years these in this Newsletter. Why put up with the dribs and drabs that I publish when you can have the whole thing??? With the holidays upcoming, we gently urge you to purchase one of these wonderful volumes through our Internet bookstore, found on the DHS web pages. Shipping costs for multiple items depend on how they can be most inexpensively packaged. Go to the DHS website and order some before you forget! Here are our offerings:

Cape Cod Remembrances	Marion Crowell Ryder	\$8.00
Dennis Source Records VI Church Records	Burton N. Derick	\$45.00
Dennis Source Records V2 Annals of South Dennis	Burton N. Derick	\$45.00
Dennis Cape Cod	Nancy Thacher Reid	\$45.00
Capt Levi Crowell, Civil War Prisoner	Peter D. Howes, Editor	\$15.00
Howes Genealogy 1637-2004	Robert A. Howes	\$45.00
Privateers, Pirates & Beyond	Gerry Watters	\$7.00
Scuttle Watch	Marion Crowell Ryder	\$9.00
They Built Clipper Ships	Admont Clark	\$5.50
Whose Boy Be You	Ben Thacher	\$13.50
Gazetteer of Dennis	Burton N. Derick, Editor	\$13.50

MEMORIES OF THE PAST

This manuscript by Joshua Eldredge Howes of Dennis, born in 1839 was written in 1916. You have read excerpts in prior Newsletters. Brian Cook, his great-great-great-grandson, has done a masterful job of editing and is seeking the means to publish it for the public. He kindly provided me with an early copy. Burt Derick provided Brian the manuscript and editorial comments that have been incorporated. This book is a vital period piece and brilliant window into the past, and DHS will be considering ways to help in printing this volume.

Pete Howes

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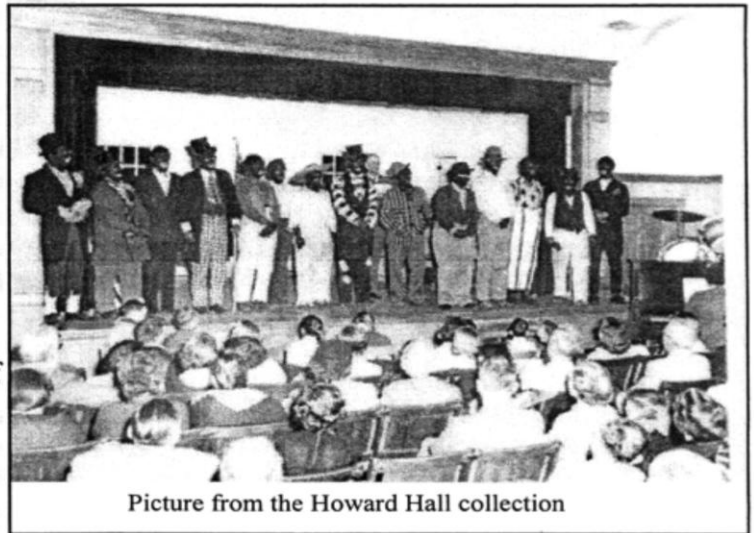
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THE WAY WE WERE

MINSTRAL SHOW AT CARLETON HALL

When they all got together these citizens of Dennis had everyone wondering what was coming next. Some of the showmen were Norman Hallett, Ralph Richardson, Dick Sylver, Howard Hall, Roland Taylor, Earl Whittemore, Lyndon Howes, Bob Eldred, Ernest Crowell, Phil Dubin, Dan Walker, Clark Potter, Paul McDowell, Joe Walker, Clint Gardner and Chris Nyland. Mig Maher and Edie Howes were known to do a song and dance routine in blackface. The orchestra was made up of Roland Taylor on the trumpet, Phil Dubin on the violin with Dan Walker playing the banjo. Earl Whittemore whistled, Howard Hall played the bones and Bob Eldred recited poetry. And this was in 1956!



Picture from the Howard Hall collection

When Ed Brooke was running for election in Massachusetts, supporter Howard Hall is known to have said, *Anyone who determines their vote on the color of a man's skin is a damned fool!*

(November, 2003 Newsletter)