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#### DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER Volume 21 No. 10 October 1998 **Co-editors Phyllis Robbins Horton and Nancy Thacher Reid**

# THE CROWELLS ENTERTAIN US AT DHS ANNUAL MEETING

The DHS Annual Meeting was well attended and enjoyed by all. President Kitty McNamara conducted a short and concise annual meeting. Recording Secretary Beth Crowell Deck listed our accomplishments for the year (my, but we've been busy!) and assistant treasurer Lu Crowell showed us that treasurer Joan Martin and our Finance Committee are being diligent stewards of our funds. Richard Howes gave the Nominating Committee report and our new (or returning) officers are: President, Catherine McNamara; Vice-President, Raymond Urquhart; Recording Secretary, Beth Deck; Corresponding Secretary, Tom Moran; Treasurer, Joan Martin; Assistant Treasurer, Lura Crowell; Directors for 3 years, Brendan Joyce and Jean Goheen, and Nancy Howes to fill the 2 year term vacated by Ray Urquhart . Best wishes to our new Board as they care for our interests in the coming year.

Nancy Crowell-Cotoia and Sylvia Crowell Homer, assisted by Barry Homer at the projector, narrated a very interesting slide show, "Captain Peter H. Crowell, Portrait of a Master Mariner, 1837-1823." Nancy and Sylvia are great granddaughters of Capt. Crowell, a West Dennis native who got his seafaring start here and later moved to Medford to form the partnership of Crowell and Thurlow and oversee the largest coasting fleet in the United States with 70 schooners and a dozen other sailing vessels. They later added steamships to their fleet including the S.S. Dorothy Bradford and the S.S. Steel Pier, both of which made regular excursions from Boston to Provincetown. They remained in business until after World War I. In his 86 years Capt.. Crowell added some interesting pages to Dennis' maritime history. If you missed this presentation and see it listed somewhere again, do plan to see it. It's a very good show.

Nancy and Sylvia generously donated their honorarium to the DHS Maritime Fund in memory of their great grandfather, Captain Peter H. Crowell. Thank you, ladies.

# **A NATURAL GIFT AT THE MANSE**

Thanks to the sharp eyes of Joanne Crowell we have discovered an American elm tree growing near the 1770 schoolhouse on the Josiah Dennis Manse grounds. It is a beautiful specimen about 40 feet tall. It's amazing that Joanne noticed it as it was surrounded by wild cherry trees and overgrown with bittersweet vines. The Dennis DPW cleared out surrounding trees, bushes and vines which opened up the area and uncovered an old gateway in the stone wall. In my younger days the highways and byways of Dennis (and the Cape) were lined with stately elm trees which formed a green canopy overhead. It was a favorite nesting for Baltimore Orioles. You could look up in many places and find their gray, pouch-like nests hanging from the ends of branches and swaying gently in the summer breezes. The flash of orange and white of the orioles really stood out against the dark green leaves.

Unfortunately, a beetleborn fungus called Dutch Elm Disease killed 99% of the Cape's elms. We are delighted this one survived. Look around in your neighborhood and see if you have a lucky survivor. If you do, please let us know @ Editors, DHS Newsletter, Box 607, South Dennis MA 02660. Thanks, Joanne.

## **A NOTE FROM THE JERICHO COMMITTEE**

A thank you from the Jericho Committee and DHS for the following: a lovely child's bed (seen in the children's corner at Jericho) given by Mr. and Mrs. Al Reylek: and baby clothes, button shoes and a lovely shawl given by Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Kelley of Dennis Port and Connecticut.

**DHS GATEWAY TO THE 21st CENTURY** The Dennis Historical Society recently took a leap into the future by purchasing a Gateway 2000 computer. This will allow us to catalog all our holdings so information can be available at a moment's notice. It will also make it easier to keep track of your memberships, print newsletter labels. and who knows what else? A few board members are "computer whizzes" and some of us others are slowly learning the ropes of this new voyage. It's an exciting change for the Society as we look forward to being in a new century with a new century tool. e also have a new computer center to put it on from the Mill Store, courtesy of the Baroni family. Our sincere thanks to the Baronis. Thanks also to Burt Derick who researched and order the computer, assembled the furniture, and got the computer up and running.

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### CALENDAR

Oct. 14 7 P.M.	Board Meets at Manse
Oct. 18 9 A.M.	Dedication of the Dennis Pathway and walk
Oct. 18 2 P.M.	Pathway Walk, led by George MacDonald. Flax Pond
Oct. 22 2 P.M.	Senior Center
and 7 P.M.	Informational Meeting — The Land Bank
	See article below

#### Coming in November

Nov. 6-8 1:00- 5:00 P.M. Regional Historic House Tour -- sponsored by Heritage Cape Cod See article below

## **DEDICATED TO WALKERS-CAPE COD PATHWAYS**

Cape Cod Pathways is a project which is supported by the Cape Cod Commission and the Barnstable County Commissioners with an advisory board made up of members from the Cape Cod National Seashore, all Cape towns, conservation groups, businesses and others. The aim of "Pathways" is to have a network of walking trails from Provincetown to Falmouth, and crisscrossing trails from north to south. A walking weekend is scheduled for October 17 and 18 with walks planned on nearly fifty miles of trails which have been developed and dedicated. Dennis will officially become a link in Cape Cod Pathways on Sunday, October 18 at 9:00 A.M., when our portion of the Cape-long trail will be dedicated. Walkers will have the opportunity to traverse the entire four miles of the Dennis section, guided by Natural Resources officer, Jaime Cabot. Then at 2 P.M., October 18, DHS will sponsor another walk around Flax Pond, the most scenic portion of the Dennis Pathway, led by George MacDonald of the Conservation Department. Meet at the Flax Pond Conservation Parking area on Setucket Road, (near the intersection with Mayfair Road.) Wear your walking shoes, bring your camera and, if you're a birder, don't forget your binoculars. This is a shorter walk than that in the morning, so you just might want to do both. Let's hope for "October's bright blue weather!"

## **THE LAND BANK**

The Dennis Historical Commission will host an informational meeting on the important matter of the Land Bank Act at the Dennis Senior Citizen's Center at 2:00 P.M. and again at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 22. The speakers will include a representative from our legislative delegation and also someone from the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod (APCC) and from Cape Cod Realtors. These two groups opposed each other on the other two land bank bills but have found a common meeting ground they can both support to help preserve some of the beautiful areas left in our dear old Cape Cod. Please do come to one of the meetings and listen to the speakers. There will be an extensive question and answer period to allow everyone a chance to have their questions and concerns answered. You'll also have time to visit with Dennis neighbors over cider and donuts. Come on out to the Senior Center, ask your questions and cast an informed vote in November.

### **HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR**

Heritage Cape Cod is another cooperative effort among many Cape organizations, including DHS, whose purpose is to direct attention to the cultural and historical heritage of this pleasant peninsula. This organization is sponsoring a regional historic house tour on the weekend of November 6,7, and 8. More than thirty-five residences and historic buildings will be open from Falmouth to Provincetown 1:00 P.M. to 5 P.M. Tickets are \$20 for admission to all of the houses all of the days. They may be obtained from the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, at Puritan Clothing or by mail with a stamped self-addressed envelope and check to: Heritage Cape Cod, P.O. Box 2105 Sandwich MA 02563. For information call: 508-888-1233.

## LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA ANSWER

The Sacred Cod in the State House faces north when the Democrats are in the majority in the House and South when the Republicans rule. Bet there's nobody working there who remembers when it headed south!

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Dennis Historical Society P. O. Box 607 South Dennis, MA 02660-0607

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