Our Lady of the Cape, Brewster

Why are we including an article about a Brewster church in your Dennis Historical Newsletter? Mary Walker of Dennis was instrumental in getting the Catholic services at Carleton Hall, and later in getting the church built on Stoney Brook Road in Brewster.

Originally the people of Brewster were served by priests who came from Woods Hole to Sandwich where they took the train to Harwich to say mass. In 1907 land was purchased on Route 6A in East Brewster and the church known as the Immaculate Conception Church was built by the men of the parish.

Prior to 1961, residents of Dennis would travel to West Harwich, East Brewster or Orleans to attend mass. In April of 1961, Fr. Joseph A. Nolan, M.S. of the LaSalette Order was appointed by Bishop Connolly as Administrator of a newly created parish to be known as Immaculate Conception Parish. Services were held in the East Brewster church and Carleton Hall in Dennis until a new building was erected on 28 acres of land off Stoney Brook Road, the geographical center of the parish.

Much of this information is contained in the 1978 souvenir booklet put out by Our Lady of the Cape. This booklet contains a picture of Mary, shovel in hand, at the ground breaking ceremony on December 8, 1961.

Mary, an Irish immigrant, came to Dennis as a housekeeper for Dr. Sam Crowell. She married Benjamin Walker, and was the mother of Joseph, Margaret (Mig) and Daniel. She and Ben built their home at 19 Corporation Road, Dennis in 1923. For many years they rented rooms to actors from the Cape Playhouse.

(Many of our members will remember Mary’s children. Mig and her husband, Fred Maher, postmaster of Dennis, later moved into her parents home. Mig taught 2nd grade for many years. Dan, with Paul McDowell, ran the original Dennis Garage on Route 6A, where the Homestead Condos are today. Joe established the J.P. Walker & Sons oil business, which is now run by his son, Joe.)
DENNIS FESTIVAL DAYS

Jericho Historical Center
Jericho’s open house demonstrated skills necessary for everyday life in an 1800’s household, including spinning, knitting, making braided rugs, and quilting. The open house was very well attended, and provided a perfect place to view the antique car parade! Joan Monteiro is shown here, demonstrating her craft to Jasmine and Jade Fuchs of Rochester, NY.

Photo by R.S. Howes

Josiah Dennis Manse
The Manse holds the record for the youngest “docent,” Deana Furman. Deana comes from Arlington, MA and vacationed here for a month this summer. Deana visited the Manse last summer for the Colonial Open House, and liked it so much that she returned this summer! She worked as a docent while the house was open this summer, and volunteered for our open house in August. Deana is pictured here with Ruth Derick.

Photo by R.S. Howes

Looking to get a start on your holiday shopping? Let us help!

Price List

Dennis: Cape Cod (history) $51.45
The Story of Two Old Houses $ 2.50
Scuttle Watch $10.00
Cape Cod Remembrances (soft) $10.00
(Cape Cod Remembrances (hard cover) $15.00
History of Levi Crowell $15.00
1858 Map of N. & E. Dennis $ 8.00
They Built Clipper Ships $ 8.00
Sears Folly (tile) $ 6.00
Cup Plate (Collector’s item limited edition) $25.00
Howes Family Tree (31” x 25”) $25.00
Sears Family Tree (29.25” x 24.5”) $25.00
Dennis Journal $ 8.35
A Few Memories & Digressions $15.00
Master Mariners of Dennis $ 8.00
Lighthouses of Cape Cod $31.45
Dennis Vital Records $100.00
Shiverick Ship Tiles $ 6.50
Complete set of eight, in blue or brown $50.00
Cape Cod Companion $14.95

All above items include Massachusetts sales tax, but not shipping and handling. Please call Nancy Howes at 385-3528 if you have any questions!
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Acquisitions  
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Photography  
Richard S. Howes, 29 Corporation Road, Dennis, MA 02638 385-3528

Audio-Visual (DHS Slide Shows)  
Brendan Joyce, 4 Sea Street, Box 428, E. Dennis, MA 02638 385-6492
THE WAY WE WERE…

Sorting Cranberries

It’s cranberry harvest time! Today, modern machines make short work of picking and sorting the berries for the market.

Here we have pictured workers who are sorting the good berries from the bad, and removing the chaff. In the background is a cranberry separator, which helped to sort the berries by “bouncing” the good berries away from the soft ones.

Visitors to the Jericho Barn may remember seeing a cranberry separator on display.

“Uncle” Jim Hinckley
Original from Marion Baker