



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter December 2020

Volume 43, No12

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The next Board Meeting will be conducted by email on Tuesday, December 8th

Please send information & stories for the newsletter to Dave Talbott at the DHS Website email address: info@dennishistoricalsociety.org

2020 Had A Lot of Good Too!

As much as the year 2020 is the year we would all like to forget, there is much good to remember and much for which to be grateful. For the Dennis Historical Society, it was an opportunity to honor Phyllis R. Horton for her years of service, dedication and devotion to preserving the history of Dennis. Despite the restrictions imposed upon us by the coronavirus, we were able to honor Phyllis with a *Very Special* addition of this newsletter featuring a tribute written by the DHS Publicity Director Kevin Keegan. On November 2nd, a framed copy of the front page of the newsletter was delivered to her with flowers and thank you card from the Board. Over many years, Phyllis has written dozens of articles for our newsletter. As we move deeper into the holiday season, here is one of her articles. Last printed in December 2017, it reminds us all of how much joy there can be in a simple, but beautiful tradition.

Bayberry Candles on New Year's Day

There is a tradition in my family, and perhaps in other old time Cape families, to burn a bayberry candle on New Year's Day.

When I was a senior at Yarmouth's John Simkins School (Dennis had no high school in those years), I caught the West Yarmouth bus to the Barnstable town line, then walked to the Colonial Candle Co., opposite Bradford's Hardware in Hyannis, to Mrs. Walter (Mabel) Baker's home. She was the founder of Colonial Candle Co.

A senior at Barnstable High School joined me. We sat across from each other at Mrs. Baker's kitchen table with a tray of hot wax between us and painted Christmas trees on the side of column candles with the hot wax.

Directly across from me on her kitchen wall was an embroidered sampler with the verse: "On New Year's Day, Bayberry candles burned to the socket, Bring health to the home and money to the pocket." Every box of her bayberry candles had a paper inside with that same verse on it. A company that purchased Colonial Candles now promotes them at Christmas time with a different verse.

My great grandmother, Phebe Chase Murray, said the same verse when she burned hers on New Year's Day. She also went out of her front door leaving it open, then ran around to the back door coming in rapidly and closing it with a bang. She then hurried to close the front door. The idea being that she took all her troubles with her and got to the back door before they did. I always thought it was somewhat strange, but didn't want to question my great grandmother. However, in recent years I have learned of other old Cape Codders who did the same thing, some banging pots and pans while going around the house. I have also learned there were many other superstitions that was part of their daily lives. Perhaps that was their diversion where we now have TV or the Internet.

I have Grandma Phebe's hog scraper candlesticks that she used and every New Year's Day I burn bayberry candles to the socket in them no matter where I am on that day—just to be on the safe side and to honor Gram's tradition.



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Happy New Year to you and may 2021 be a wonderful year for all of you, Phyllis

Preserving Your Family History & Information

I am quite sure that 2020 saw numerous projects undertaken which might not have occurred in a normal year. One such undertaking in our household would definitely not have. Over many years, decades actually, our home became the repository of family pictures. Many of them date back to the early days of photography. Some were in albums, but most were loose in boxes and drawers. Many, especially those from the 19th and early 20th centuries, were not labeled. Fortunately, among many sterling qualities, my wife Chris has incredible patience and the ability to take a seemingly overwhelming project and reduce it to *one day at a time*. She loves to do jigsaw puzzles too! All this is leading up to an email which Board Member and DHS Librarian, Ruth Derick sent me early in the fall. Ruth, as only one dedicated to preserving history could, suggested guidelines for productively putting our unexpected spare time to good use.

Hi Dave--

Good to talk with you.

For our members and friends, as we all have more "at home" time, now would be a good idea to make an effort to:

Label and identify photographs as well as those pictures stored in your cell phones. Identify old as well as new. Sometimes a collection of pictures have been given to the library where there is a familial look but no identification. Do take pictures of family now. Collections are often from marriage, birth and baby pictures, school and old age with few in between.

Take pictures of and label family treasures and heirlooms. Write up stories that go with them. A plate used for birthday cakes? I have a gold edged plate that was always used for a molded salad, originally from my grandmother. She married in 1906.

Create a family genealogy chart which provides births, marriages, deaths and the location of same. Include physical characteristics, family skills and abilities and also occupations; musical interests, sports, watercraft, cooking, passion for books, gardening and canning, carpentry, the go to person for family history. The list goes on. Who in the family looks like the gr. gr. grandmother?

And do make up a medical history for yourself and that of your predecessors. Illnesses are not necessarily inherited, but a weakness or tendency often is; i.e., breast and ovarian cancer, heart problems. All of this is for your benefit, your own personal information and that for your children and grandchildren.

In addition, as you go through your photos, please look for old and new pictures of Dennis to share with the DHS Library. We would like to expand our collection of 19th and 20th century pictures. School pictures? Current pictures of the five villages. As you go through your photographs, would you be willing to share with the Dennis Historical Society, old and new pictures of Dennis? We have a limited collection of 19th and 20th century pictures. We have a scanner at the library for items you would like to share.

Note: When our library is again open, we will be glad to share genealogy charts and sources and provide suggestions as to where you can find additional family information.

Ruth Derick, DHS Librarian

Thank you Ruth!

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When the Stars Align

Question: What do ice cream, an old house, a past newsletter and the Dennis Historical Commission have in common? We'll start with an email from Board Member Bo Durst:

"For a long time I've wondered about this house but especially now as I go to the Smuggler to get ice cream and wait for it to come out, I wonder about the old house across the street. It is actually on the corner of 6A & Bridge St. It has a lovely old barn but the house (seemingly forever!) has curtains drawn & the front door covered. I don't know the address or who owned it. It's just a shame to see it sitting there boarded up. Wondering if anyone knows if it's been sold or abandoned or what. On the c. 1880 map it belongs to Mrs. M. Paddock."

This is the email which I sent back to her: *The property shows online as either 1548 or 1551 Old King's Highway. The 1858 map shows it as J. Paddock. It was in an article in the May 2019 Newsletter which I have attached. Also is a screenshot of the house from Google Maps. As you see, I have copied Diane on this. I am sure she will send us what*



Image Courtesy of Google Maps

MA Historical has on this house and the proper number. We will both learn something new when we hear from Diane.

In the May 2019 Newsletter, we were all treated to a fascinating article entitled "Paddock Household" provided by Leslie Ray Sears, III and his sister Pamela Sears Cooper. The article began with this intriguing paragraph: *In the 1880 Dennis census, when Isaiah Hall, 1880 census enumerator, reached the house at the northwest corner of the Old King's Highway and Bridge Street in East Dennis, (just a few miles away from our great-grandfather's house) he recorded the following on page 14 of enumeration district 12 "dwelling house (in the order of visitation) #160, family #170: Mary C Paddock, age 56, keeping house."*

From Bo: *Thanks for finding that article. I remember it, but not for the house--for the information about Anna Howard Shaw. I have information on her as my great, grand Aunt Persis Crowell Addy (daughter of Prince & Polly Foster Crowell) was a friend of hers. From The Ministry of a Pioneer, Anna Howard Shaw in Dennis & "Women in Ministry", p. 2? "She preached very briefly as a supply minister in Hingham, and was called to preach in East Dennis in October, 1878. Two years before Anna had spent a summer vacation in East Dennis, where she met Persis (Crowell) Addy. Mrs. Addy, a widow, was the daughter of Capt. Prince S. Crowell, a retired sea captain and a very wealthy, prominent man. Mrs. Addy's husband had died at sea during their wedding tour around the world. She went to Boston to live with Anna, but within a year became ill. In spite of the best medical help available, Mrs. Addy died of a brain tumor in March, 1878. She had planned to take Anna to Europe that summer, so she left Anna the sum of \$1,500 and made her promise to take the trip. This Anna did, and her horizons broadened."*

How to get off the original topic of the house!! It is a wonderful little pamphlet which I'm sure is in the DHS archives. Perhaps parts of it would make an interesting article for the newsletter--maybe about her going on to becoming a doctor. Will be anxious to learn what Diane may find out.

Here is the type of information which is continually updated by the Dennis Historical Commission, especially by its Chair Diane Rochelle. Information on historic homes in Dennis can be requested by contacting the Commission at: <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/historical-commission>.

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

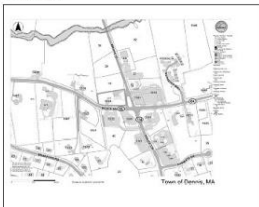
Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
378-1		OKHD	DEN.22

Photograph



Jacob Sears Library Slide DHS arch

Locus Map



Recorded by: DR
Organization: DHC
Date (month/year): 1/13

Town/City: Dennis
Place (neighborhood or village): East Dennis
Address: 1554 Route 6A (Main Street)
Historic Name: Judah Paddock
Uses: Present: residence - rental
Original: residence
Date of Construction: c1790
Source: town
Style/Form: colonial
Architect/Builder:
Exterior Material:
Foundation: contin wall
Wall/Trim: wood shingle
Roof: asphalt shingle
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (with dates):
11/2/2010

Condition:
Moved: no yes Date:
Acreage: 1.230
Setting:

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN ADDRESS

Area(s) Form No.

Route 6A - JUDAH PADDOCK HOUSE circa 1790

Owned by Frederick Cooke. The house was built by [end of page, remainder missing]
Notes of Mrs. Dean S. Sears

1985 house survey photo #8, William Azeltine

Judah Paddock House & Barn - House of Miss Paddock, East Dennis. Built 1790 Judah Paddock House, ca. 1790. Now (1977) owned by Frederick Cooke. It was once known as the "Red Tavern." On 6A opposite Shell Gas Station, JWH. B) Nathan Sears Barn - Nathan Sears Barn as it appeared in 1885. End of land off School Street. Built from lumber from a wrecked schooner. JWH - photo 4 Henry Sears Glass Plates Album 12.

Village: East Dennis Location: #1554 Route 6A
Historic Name: Judah Paddock Date: 1790's OLD FORM B

- Historical Connection:
Significance to: Town
Theme: Travel, Development of town
- Town: Dennis (East) Street Address: #1554 Route 6A
Name: Judah Paddock
Use: Original: Residence, Commercial (1900's tavern) Present: Residence
Present owner: Cooke Open to public: No
Date: 1790's Style: Hip roof Source of date: Dean S. Sears
Architect:
3. Condition: Good, altered
4. Description:
Foundation: Low, stone Wall Cover: Shingles
Roof: Hip Chimneys: 2, center, end
Stories: 2 Porches: 1 Attachments: Wings, Ell, Shed, all connected (plus barn)
Façade: Regular spacing Entrance: Front, side
Gable end: Windows: Cornerboards
5. Location
6. Footage from street: 20 feet Frontage on Street: 350 feet
Recorder: Henry & Susan Kelley For: Dennis Historical Society Date: April 1969
Relation of surrounding:
1. Outbuildings:
2. Landscape features: Open
Predominant features: commercial building
3. Neighboring structures:
Style: Modern Use: Residential, commercial Conditions: Good
Description of historic importance: Judah Paddock, an early post-master in East Dennis, erected building on a corner of his land for a post office. Coating captain. In early 1900's became a tavern. The owners previous to present had an antique shop in barn.
Biography/Reference: Freeman, Deyo

Jacob Sears Library slide #36 - Judah Paddock, house of Miss Paddock, East Dennis. Built 1790, now owned 1977 by Frederick Cooke, once known as the Red Tavern, on 6A opposite Shell Gas Station

Notes: Due to the vast uncertainty created by the coronavirus, there will not be a Dennis Historical Society 2021 Calendar accompanying the January 2021 Newsletter. Should it become possible to schedule events in 2021, a calendar will accompany a future issue of the newsletter.

For those who didn't receive the October Newsletter, it has been posted on the DHS Website early. Go to www.dennishistoricalsociety.org and click on the "Newsletter" tab.

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02664

 *Wishing everyone a Joyous Holiday Season!* 

***Looking for the Perfect Gift for
this Holiday Season? Visit the
DHS Website.***

Type www.dennishistoricalsociety.org in
your browser and click on **Bookstore**.
You will find a great selection of books
which will make a very special gift for a
very special person!

The 2020 DHS Annual Appeal

Soon, members will receive their Society's
annual appeal letter asking for support for
wish list items for each of our three museums.

Please give generously! Your contribution will
greatly assist our museum volunteers in fulfilling
our Mission Statement.

**To Preserve, Protect & Promote the
the History of Dennis, Massachusetts**
(For some, it may still be tax deductible)