



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter May 2023

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The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16th, 2:00 pm at the Dennis Memorial Library

1020 Old Bass River Road, Dennis Village

Members Welcome

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

Time Machine

The title of this article encapsulates the update/briefing presented by Jan Ward to the Board at its meeting in March. Those who attended were handsomely rewarded. In addition to being a member of the Board, Jan wears the hats of Appointed Director of both Membership and Technology. Not only was her talk about how the *PastPerfect* program allows the Dennis Historical Society to preserve the past, but it was also about how this tool allows its members and the public to transport themselves into it.

Recalling from last November's newsletter, in the autumn of 2020, Jan and Curator Dawn Dellner, embarked upon an incredibly ambitious project - to move the DHS Website's Digital Archive (DA) from its current platform to a new platform using *PastPerfect*, a software program used by more than 11,000 museums and societies to manage their collections and contacts. With that move successfully completed, the last tie to the original DA will be severed at the end of April.

Combining a real-time internet connection to both *PastPerfect* and the DHS Website, plus a PowerPoint presentation she had prepared, Jan methodically went through how all the pieces fit together. Beginning with some background on the amazing capabilities of *PastPerfect* and its ability to handle membership information, dues and donation tracking, the generation of reminder letters and emails, store the inventory our collections at the museums, library and the whole of the DA, she went into a detailed description of how to use the latter. After entering the Dennis Historical Society's website, clicking on the Archive tab, she clicked on *Access the Digital Archive*>> to open the Archive's Home Page and Search options. A detailed accounting of how to use all of the search options followed, seen below as they appear on the website, and as they were presented in Jan's PowerPoint slides -



Dennis Historical Society

- Home
- Keyword Search
- Advanced Search
- Random Images
- Archives
- Photos
- People

Welcome to our Digital Archive!

Tips for Searching

Keyword Search

Keyword Search allows you to perform a general search across multiple fields for any catalog records online. Keyword searches use OR as the default connector between words (e.g. a search for *Hanley Ranch* will return records associated with *Hanley OR Ranch*). If you want to find records where both keywords are found, type in AND between the two words. To search for a specific phrase, be sure to put the phrase within quotes (e.g. "Rocky Pine Ranch"). You can also use the asterisk (*) as a wildcard (e.g. a search for *histor** would come up with records containing *history, histories, historical, etc.*). Searches are not case sensitive.

Advanced Search

Advanced Search can help you be more specific with your search. You can search for a word or phrase within a particular search category or use multiple categories to further narrow down your search results. For example, searching *White* in the *People* field will bring up any records associated with a member of the *White* family, without having to sift through black & white photographs. You can also search *People* and *Creator* records through *Advanced Search*. Phrase searching with quotes and use of wildcards (*) are available in *Advanced Search*.

Random Images

Random Images is a great way to just browse the collection. Each *Random Images* page displays a random assortment of images from the records online. If something piques your interest, click the thumbnail to view a larger version of the image.

Catalog Searches (Archives / Library / Objects / Photos)

The individual catalog searches can also help narrow down your search, by only searching with a selected catalog. If you only want to search for *Photos*, click the **Photos** button and type in your keyword(s) or phrase. You can also browse records within that catalog without performing a search. Phrase searching, wildcards (*) as well as AND/OR statements are available when performing catalog searches.

People

If you are interested in searching for the *People* and *Creators* associated with the collection, **People** provides a way to browse and search these records.

Dennis Historical Society | P.O. Box 607 South Dennis, MA 02660 | info@dennishistoricalsociety.org

Public Site – link off of the DHS Website

<https://www.dennishistoricalsociety.org>

Archive tab / Access the Digital Archives

- **Keyword Search** - allows you to perform a general search across multiple fields for any catalog records
 - Searches fields: Object Name, Title, Description, Search terms, People records, Creator, Author, Photographer, Artist
- **One word search** – will find any record with "Scargo" in the fields above
- **Multiple word searches** – use " " for exact search; use AND and OR's
 - OR is the default connector

From Jan Ward's PowerPoint Presentation

Advanced Search

- **Advanced Search** can help you be more specific with your search.
 - Search for a word or phrase within a particular search category or use multiple categories to further narrow down your search results.
- **People and Creator fields** - If exact match request, use quotes ("Ln, Fn")
- **People records** give specific persons and their Bios (if updated by Ann Croston)
- Use of wildcards (*) are available in *Advanced Search*.

From Jan Ward's PowerPoint Presentation

The next time you visit the Archive on the DHS Website, be sure to have the tips in this newsletter close at hand!

Jan's presentation concluded with the slide at the right. It is a request and also a challenge – one you may find to be interesting, enjoyable and most of all very beneficial to your Society. Earlier this month, an email came into our website from one of our members questioning the labeling of one the photographs in the DA. You can find the image by entering the number 8749 in the Keyword search box. The search result used to say – *Postcard of a house that is likely in Maine, not Cape Cod*. The member was quite sure that the house was the Chapman house on Rt. 6A in East Dennis, across from Worden Hall. And saying - *the windows, two separate front steps and fence are all identical and I think I can see the garage in the far left corner*. Plugging the Chapman house into the Keyword search box, yields *Photograph 11459*. Even though the angles of the photographs are quite different, comparing the architectural features and the granite fence leaves no doubt that they are the same house! Ed. notes – the porch railing was added later; you will also find that Jan was so quick to correct the DA error that 8749 no longer says *likely in Maine, not Cape Cod*.

Next steps – HELP!!! Get involved

- Eliminate duplicate records – over 267 duplicates have been documented; work in progress
- Find photos of “photo records” with missing photo
- Find Archive records Photos (408 with missing images)
- Work on Bio of People records
 - Birth, death, marriages, children, spouses
 - Eliminate duplicate people records – Example:
 - SEARS, J. HENRY SEARS, J.H. SEARS, HENRY J.
- Inventory of all museums for Object Catalog (see reports) – true up location and object
- Cleanup SEARCH TERMS – millions of them that are unnecessary (clogs the system)
- Addition of new Archive and Photo records
- Reconciliation of Inventory (Object) records from reports

From Jan Ward's PowerPoint Presentation



Postcard 8749 (the house in Maine), DHS Digital Archive



Photograph 11459, DHS Digital Archive

Here is a DA feature mentioned before, but worth mentioning again because of its importance. When the result of the Keyword Search opens, if you click on the picture (arrow #1), the Image Viewer opens. This is ONLY a preview of what is available. Be sure to click on the Attachment (arrow #2). A high resolution pdf file of the photograph will open.

The screenshot shows the website interface with a search result for 'House in Maine'. An 'Image Viewer' window is open over the search result, showing a preview of the house. A white arrow labeled '#1' points to the image in the search results, and another white arrow labeled '#2' points to the 'Attachments' field in the metadata table.

Title	House in Maine
Date	Undated
Collection	Postcard Collection - Misc
Classification	Special Collections Maine Postcards
Search Terms	House
Attachments	28F2C6A8-D682-465B-927D-637735490716.pdf

Screenshot of Postcard 8749 before Jan corrected it

This is where the HELP comes in! Please reread Jan's last slide above. When you peruse the DA, keep all the needs described in mind and make notes. We welcome any information you glean about the entries. When you find things that need addressing, email them to info@dennishistoricalsociety.org. For example, Keyword Search 11634, and let us know what you find that needs fixing...*Enjoy the journey and thank you!*

We conclude this month's issue with a poem by long time DHS member Pam Eaton of Dennis. You may remember the hauntingly beautiful poem she wrote which was in the July 2019 Newsletter – *Chinese Woman Elegy*. If you don't remember it or missed it, please enter dennishistoricalsociety.org in your browser, click on the Newsletter tab, scroll down and click on July 2019 and enjoy it anew! Pam's new work was first published in the newsletter of the *Cape Cod Genealogical Society* of which she is the editor. I am sure you will enjoy this one too!

The Legend of Scargo



Panoramic photo by Pam Eaton, the original was in color

A Wampanoag Indian Tale of the Formation of Scargo Lake on Cape Cod

Column 1

It was many and many a year ago in a village by the sea,
A special daughter was born; a beautiful babe was she.
Her father named her Scargo; he was the Sachem of the land.
His people, the NobsCUSsetts, under his command.

Princess Scargo grew up loyal and worked cheerfully at her duties,
Her smile was kind and loving and she soon became a beauty.
Her parents, family and tribe looked upon her with fondness,
And all the peoples of Cape Cod had heard of her goodness.

One day a young brave, of a neighboring Wampanoag clan,
Visited the NobsCUSsetts and thus true love began.
The brave was smitten with the Princess, enchanted by her grace;
He could not turn away from her lovely, smiling face.

The Princess was enamored too and received his tender kiss.
Her heart was full of first love and a wonderful feeling of bliss.
The brave told her he had to leave for a far-away place off-Cape,
To fight in his own Sachem's battle, a journey he could not escape.

He gave her four silvery fish, swimming in a wooden bowl.
To keep them alive, she had to find a fresh water hole.
The brave traveled to his combat duty and left the Princess to find
A nearby puddle just big enough which brought her peace of mind.

She missed her Brave and vowed to take care of the fish,
With a hope that he would survive and return, that was her abiding wish.
The water dried up, two fish perished; the Princess now in dismay.
Her tears filled the puddle to save the others, but was there a better way?

A footnote from the email which accompanied Pam's poem when she added her observation about the shape of Scargo Lake – *I put in the little Google Map of the Lake, but I just lifted it off the Internet, so I don't know if you could possibly use it or not. Are maps copyrighted?*

Ed. Note – We'll use it and give credit.

Scargo Lake Resembles
the Shape of a Fish

Column 2

Her father had a plan which would please his daughter Scargo.
The fish would survive in a bigger pond with much more room to grow.
He called upon his tribesmen, to dig a hole deep and wide;
The women and children too, and he would work by their side.

He shot four arrows, in four directions, to mark the boundaries at each edge.
They began digging within the guidelines to meet his promised pledge.
The dirt removed from the excavation formed a giant hill alongside
This deep kettle hole so very close to Cape Cod Bay seaside.

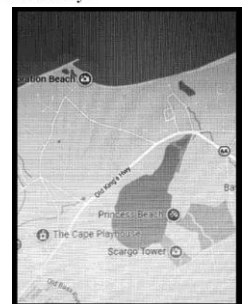
Soon the rains came and added to the water from fresh springs far below,
Filling up the hole with blue water like an exquisite adagio.
Scargo released her fish into the pool, soon known as Scargo Lake.
It brought her relief to save the fish, but her lonely heart still ached.

She would climb the hill and watch for signs of people traveling through.
She yearned for the sight of her returning Brave, with his love that was so true.
It brought her comfort to see her Scargo Lake in the shape of a fish,
And once in a while, she spotted the movements of a shimmering, silver swish.

At long last, one day her Brave appeared; the two joyfully reunited.
Their families and both tribes' people were pleased and delighted.
On the shores of Scargo Lake, they lived out their lives together,
Never to be apart, married happily after ever.

Did you know descendants of the silvery fish swim in Scargo Lake today?
Come and pay a visit, to see this spot near Cape Cod Bay.

Thank you again Pam!



(Image courtesy of Google Maps)

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GUNPOWDER AND GREASEPAINT

Join Cape Cod Military Museum's Joseph Yukna for a fascinating WWII journey from an antiaircraft firing range in Sandwich to Broadway with Dennis's own Gertrude Lawrence

**Saturday, April 29, at 2pm
at Dennis Memorial Library**

**SPONSORED BY DENNIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
& THE DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A \$5 DONATION IS RECOMMENDED**

Membership

Come on members, you're doing great, but we're not there yet! If you haven't renewed for 2023-2024, please do so today!

If you've lost the application we mailed you, another is available on the DHS Website -go to <http://www.dennishistoricalsociety.org/> and click on *Get Involved/Membership*

You can either download the membership form, and mail it with a check, or you can renew using PayPal.

Thank you!