The Dennis Historical Society's 2019 Annual Appeal

December 2019

Dear Friend(s) of the Dennis Historical Society,

Your response to last year's Annual Appeal was so supportive to the museums and so helpful in adding to our collections that your Board unanimously agreed to make "wish lists" the theme of this year's appeal.

Here is an update as to how your contributions were spent during the year.

*The 1736 Josiah Dennis Manse Museum*…The interpretive sign for the Josiah Dennis Manse and West Schoolhouse will be erected at the Manse accessible parking lot before the opening of 2020 season in June. This sign will allow visual informational access to both museums, even if they are closed benefiting all visitors. Virtual tour access will be by QR code or website information located on the sign, both in text and braille. The virtual tour will be filmed in late spring when the museums have been refreshed. It will be activated after the sign is erected.

*The 1801 Jericho Historical Center*…Generous donations last year allowed us to work with the costume department of Old Sturbridge Village to research historic fabrics and have dresses and aprons made for docents that help us authentically portray farming life in 1830s Dennis.

*The Curator's Discretionary Fund*…Very notable acquisitions made by our Curator were a Baker family photo album which was found at an auction in Pasadena and offered by email to DHS. In addition to 33 other photographs from the 1860s, the album contains pictures of Theophilus Baker at age 12 and 17. Three volumes of the papers of Captain William Howes, local history/primary source, covering the years 1830-1847 were acquired during the late summer.

These are this year's project/categories in need of funding. Please give to the wish list item of your choice.

*The 1736 Josiah Dennis Manse Museum*…The West Parlor, in June of 2020, will become the Dennis Family Store, featuring Phebe's Cupboard. Josiah's wife Phebe was a "healer" and her cupboard will hold her apothecary supplies and healing herbs, plus tinctures, syrups, salves and remedies. The funding will be used to purchase various items that would have been sold in the store along with the containers to display them, and the printing of descriptive signage for the items and their relevance and purpose in the 18th century. $1,500 will be the approximate cost.

*The 1801 Jericho Historical Center*…The Captain Baker House and Barn Museum needs better signs. Visitors often say they have driven past the corner more than once trying to find it! Three signs are needed— one on Old Main Street, one on Trotting Park Road and one on the back wall of the barn. They will identify the property and help people locate it. The signs would be professionally manufactured by a local sign company and be appropriate in design and character with the mid to late 1800s. Estimated cost is $1,500.

*The Curator's Discretionary Fund*… is again intended to make it possible for our curator, Phyllis Horton, to act quickly to bid at auction, or to purchase items to add to the Society's collections. There are times when the opportunity to make an acquisition is momentary. Giving someone with Phyllis's expertise the ability to act quickly on such an occasion can be of great importance. We are seeking $3,000 for this purpose.

Thank you, in advance, for considering our request. We have enclosed a return envelope for your convenience. Your contributions will enable us to continue to fulfill our mission, and bring items so important to our history, home to Dennis.

With best wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season,

The Board of Directors of the Dennis Historical Society