



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter June 2024

Volume 47, No.06

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**The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11th, 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

An Event Worth Waiting For!

There will be so much more to come in a future issue, but in anticipation of the big event next month, I asked Jericho Committee Member, DHS Board Member and the *Little Engine that Could* for the entire project Bob Poskitt to send me some pictures and write a teaser about this monumental reopening event. As with anything in which Bob gets involved, the response was exactly what I hoped for....excellent!

Re-opening Celebration of the Jericho Historical Center



Photo by Bob Poskitt

Join the Dennis Historical Society, our friends and our neighbors for the Re-opening Celebration of the Jericho Historical Center on Saturday, July 13, 2024. Located at 90 Old Main Street at the corner of Trotting Park Road in West Dennis, festivities will start at 10:00 am and continue through 3:00 pm with the reopening ceremony scheduled for 1:00.

The Jericho Historical Center has been closed the past couple of years for extensive restoration. Now, thanks to generous grants from the Dennis Community Preservation Committee, both the House and the Barn will reopen. There will be tours, light refreshments and colonial games available for the children.

Come and enjoy the fun with us and be sure to bring your visiting family members and friends. Parking will be available at the nearby Ezra Baker School.

Thank you Bob!

We are Seeking South & West Dennis Descendants of the Baker Family for our July 13th Museum Reopening



Photo by Bob Poskitt

If you are a descendant of the Baker family of South Dennis and/or West Dennis, please contact Dawn Dellner (dawn.dellner@gmail.com) for information about the reopening of the 1801 Captain Theophilus Baker House and Barn at the Jericho Historical Center, 90 Old Main Street, West Dennis.

The property reopens Saturday, July 13, as the Jericho Committee and DHS will be celebrating the restoration of the buildings, recognizing the people who made it all possible, and sharing the history of the property. Having Baker descendants there will make the day extra special.

**Thank you Kevin for this excerpt from
your April 30th DHS Digital Digest!**



Photo by Bob Poskitt

More about Minnie

The March 2024 Newsletter concluded with excerpts from the diary of Mary “Minnie” (Homer) Sears. Thanks to the research of DHS Board Member, Publicity Director and Editor of our monthly *Digital Digest*, Kevin Keegan, there is information to share about the keeper of the diary. I received the following email from Kevin on April 4th.

Just made it to the P.O. Box and have read the newest newsletter: wonderful Swan Lake Cemetery story by Jack Sheedy, as well as the recollections about the WDGS from Eleanor Koehler.

I actually saw the diary (or a transcription) of Mary “Minnie” Homer Sears at the DHS Library. Mary grew up in my house (granddaughter of Stephen Homer) and was a sister of Thankful Homer Sears (wife of Seth Sears and seen below standing at the fence of the Enos Sears House on North Street in Quivet Neck) and Kate Homer Barnard (the subject of that long article I wrote for you a few years ago for the newsletter —she died in childbirth in Boston amid substantial controversy— and pictured in the oval portrait in the article). Ed. Note – The newsletter is available on the Society’s website – see May 2021.



1888 Main Street, East Dennis – photo by Kevin Keegan

Born 25 Oct 1848 in East Dennis, Barnstable, Massachusetts, U.S.

Daughter of (father unknown) and (mother unknown)

Mother of [Henry Edmund Sears](#) and [Joseph Homer Sears](#)

Wife of [Henry Howes Sears](#) – married 17 Feb 1870 in East Dennis

Profile manager: [L. Ray Sears](#)

Profile last modified 13 Dec 2019 I Created 26 Feb 2019

This page has been accessed 79 times.

Sources

- [Yarmouth Register](#) – 9 Mar 1901
- [Dennis VR](#) p. 789
- [Cemetery Inscriptions of Dennis, plot 1504](#) p. 152



[Henry Howes Sears tombstone](#)

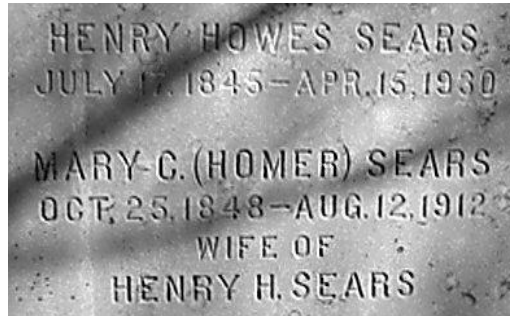


[Mary Caroline \(Homer\) Sears](#)

Courtesy of WikiTree

So, I just learned from this (see below, left) that Minnie was the mother of Joseph Homer Sears—the man for whom J.H. Sears Road in Quivet Neck is named. I always knew the H. in J. H. Sears was for Homer, but I had never been able to figure out the connection.

In addition, on April 7th, Kevin wrote - I walked the Worden Cemetery this morning and Mary/Minnie is not there. However, I revisited the site of the screenshot I sent you, and she is in Quivet (Neck) Cemetery. Ed. note – information extracted to the left.



Inscription on Henry Howes Sears’ tombstone, cropped from a photo provided by Kevin Keegan from the Sears Family Association Website, created and maintained by long time DHS member and historian L. Ray Sears III – Ed. note - more about Ray on the next page.



“Minnie” Sears DHS, DA

Another Connection!

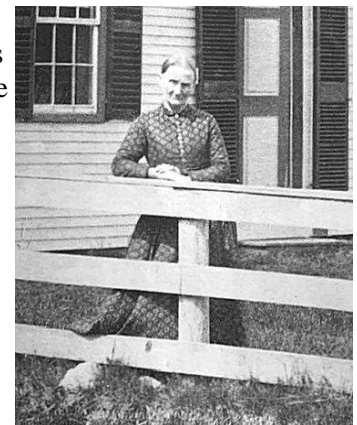
The picture below, 27 North Street, Quivet Neck, appeared in the in the February 2019 Newsletter in the *Unknown House* series. Even though the date board on the house says it is, this is not the house of John Sears. Thanks to DHS Treasurer and DHC Chair Diane Rochelle the correct name and date for the house – Enos Sears, c. 1830.

Thanks to Kevin, the woman in the picture is Thankful Homer Sears, the wife of Enos Sears and Minnie’s sister. This is the picture to which Kevin referred above.



Both Photos from the DHS Digital Archive

Thanks again to Kevin and to Diane!



Thankful Homer Sears

Anna Howard Shaw Revisted

Please go to the DHS Website, click on the Newsletter tab and scroll down to the May 2019 issue. You will find a fascinating article entitled *Paddock Household* written by L. Ray Sears III and his sister Pamela Sears Cooper. After reading that article, think back to late autumn 2021, if you were fortunate enough to attend, and recall the wonderful talk given by Reverend Connie Bickford which the Society cosponsored with the Dennis Union Church. Remember also, the poster created by Kevin Keegan. Actually, there were two, identical except for the dates. The first was for the event when it was scheduled for April 25, 2020, then cancelled because of Covid. Rescheduled, the talk took place on November 13, 2021.

Now, thanks to an email sent to us in April by Ray Sears, we have another memory of Anna Howard Shaw. This time, it's in poetry and a collaboration between Ray, again, his sister Pamela and another sister Marilyn Sears Lindsey. Marilyn added a new member to the family with the initials *AI*. The poem was created by starting with an OpenAI prompt based on the original article by her siblings and plugging in *Anna Howard Shaw*....siblings in a truly amazing, history driven family!

Anna Howard Shaw

*In the heart of the nineteenth year, beneath the sun's persistent glow,
Lived Anna Howard Shaw, a spirit none could overthrow.*

*Born amidst the frost of February, a pioneer by fate,
She carved her path with will so fierce, love deep and courage great.*

*A daughter of the English soil, to the New World her family sailed,
In the wilds of Michigan, her spirit never quailed.*

*A preacher, doctor, suffragette, in her many souls did dwell,
Against the tide of her time, she rose, her stories grand to tell.*

*With hands that healed and words that stirred, she walked a path so rare,
Breaking chains, she boldly claimed, a women's right to share.*

*The pulpit first, where she did preach, a rarity in her day,
Her voice, a beacon, far and wide, lighting up the way.*

*The medicine called her heart to serve, her empathy to guide,
In a world where women rarely healed, she stood a source of pride.*

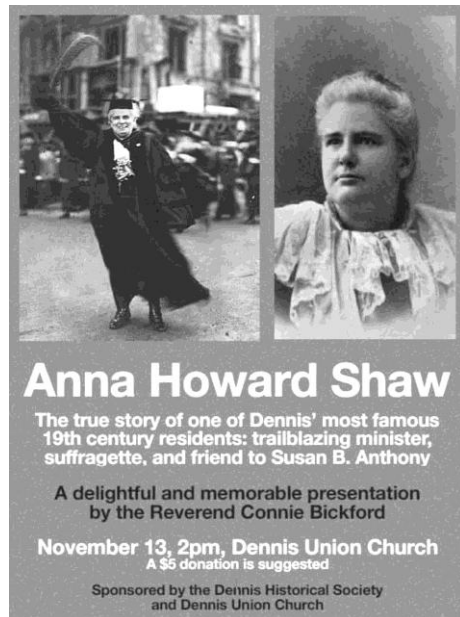
*But greater still, her battle cry, for suffrage rang so true,
With Susan B. and Cat beside, their strength in numbers grew.*

*The Nineteenth Amendment, her dream's reward, at last was passed,
Though she did not live to cast her vote, her legacy was vast.*

*For in her fight, she laid a path for generations hence,
To seek their rights, their dreams to chase, without hinderance.*

*Anna Howard Shaw, a name that echoes through the halls of time,
A testament to courage, change, and to will sublime.*

*Her life, a beacon for the rights of women far and wide,
Reminds us all to stand up tall, with history our guide.*



Poster by Kevin Keegan



AHS Courtesy of the National Park Service

Thank you to the Sears Siblings!

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02664

West Dennis Cemetery Walk

with local guide
Terri Fox of the
Dennis Historical
Society Board of
Directors

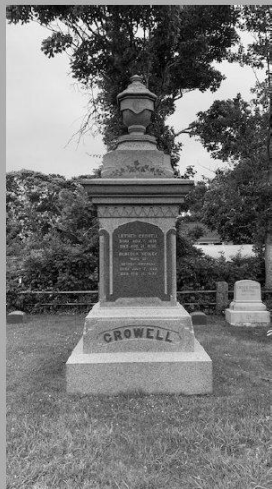
**Friday,
June 21st,
at 10am**

Rain date:
Sunday, June 23rd, at 2pm

FREE ADMISSION

WEST DENNIS CEMETERY
AT THE INTERSECTION OF POND AND FISK STREETS

(Note: No parking in the cemetery itself)



JOSIAH DENNIS MANSE

OPENS FOR THE SUMMER SEASON
SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1 - 4 PM



LEARN TO LOVE THE 18TH CENTURY
AT THE 1736 MANSE MUSEUM

61 Whig Street in Dennis Village

Free admission (donations gladly accepted)