



Dennis Historical Society Newsletter September 2024

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**The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10th, 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

At Long Last, Jericho Historical Center Reopens!

The Jericho Historical Center reopened on Sunday, July 14 after several years of restoration. It was an event celebrated by neighbors and friends alike. Among her many roles on this memorable occasion, Dawn Dellner, the Chair of the Jericho Committee, greeted a special and unexpected visitor Captain Theophilus Baker.

The Captain arrived to see what all the commotion was about. The former owner, who built the house now known as Jericho in 1801, had been resting peacefully in the cemetery of the South Dennis Congregational Church for over 220 years. He was delighted to attend!

Although an experienced Ship Master, Master of Ceremonies was a new role, but one to which he quickly adapted! Much to everyone's delight, he warmly welcomed everyone to the event and introduced a stellar array of speakers which included: Phil Catchings - President of the Dennis Historical Society, Paul McCormick – Town of Dennis Selectboard, Chris Flanagan - State Representative and Dawn Dellner - Jericho Historical Center Director.

More than 90 neighbors and visitors attended, and they were delighted with the day's activities!

The House and Barn were open for tours from 10 am to 3 pm. Visitors enjoyed the new exhibits in both buildings, especially the Driftwood Zoo in the Barn, revived under the artistic direction of Dee Collins with help from members of the Friends of Jericho, and the Before and After Pictures of the Restoration Project that was generously funded by the Community Preservation Committee.

Following that event, Captain Baker invited guests around to the front of the house to admire the unique and detailed architecture surrounding the front door. He was eager to show everyone this feature that had been so expertly restored. It was a photo opportunity many could not resist.

The Jericho Committee is grateful for the support and hard work of the many individuals and groups involved in the restoration project. The Committee members and other volunteers will be welcoming visitors for tours throughout the summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm.

Ed. note - the Captain was portrayed by Bob Poskitt, a committee member and major mover and shaker of the project.

Thank you Bob Poskitt for all your hard work and for contributing the article!

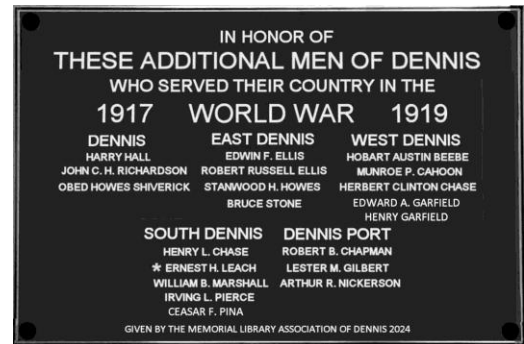
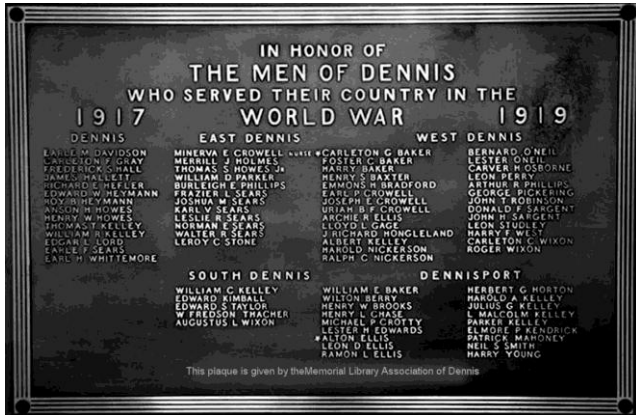


*Selectman Paul McCormick, Captain Theophilus Baker, State Representative Chris Flanagan, Selectman John Terrio and a group of delighted visitors.
Not sure who to credit for these, but many pictures were taken this day by Dee Collins, Don Robitaille and Sue Poskitt – thank you!*

Righting a 100 Year Old Wrong

During the week of July 15, 2024, the Dennis Memorial Library celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of its original building. The week's activities culminated on Thursday the 18th with an *invitation only* gathering hosted by the library's trustees to celebrate the anniversary by saying thank you to the staff, volunteers and donors who collectively make the library the incredible community asset that it is today!

A highlight of the evening was the dedication of a new plaque which is now in the library's entryway. On a table as one enters, is a handout which is reproduced below explaining why the trustees wanted the new plaque to accompany the original. The words in the handout were extracted from the *welcome/thank you/plaque/enjoy* talk made by the chair of the trustees.



When the building was dedicated in 1924, a plaque was installed. Previously located above the mantel in the original building, it is now in the entry way. The Memorial in the library's name is to honor and remember those from Dennis who served their country during the Great War. The plaque was given by Dennis Grange No. 260.

Our research has revealed that only members of the Grange are on the plaque. The names of twenty Dennis veterans are missing!

Tonight, the library is correcting an oversight which goes back 100 years. Tonight, a new plaque is unveiled in the entry way above the original which addresses a century old injustice. As of today, the Dennis Memorial Library is finally honoring all ninety-six of those from Dennis who served their country during World War I and living up to its name.

Ed. note – for a glimpse of what Dennis was like in the 1920s in words and pictures and a peek at what libraries of the future might be like, visit Dennis Memorial and see the posters on display in the second floor meeting room...also, check out the plaques on the way in or out.

A New Look at Cape Cod

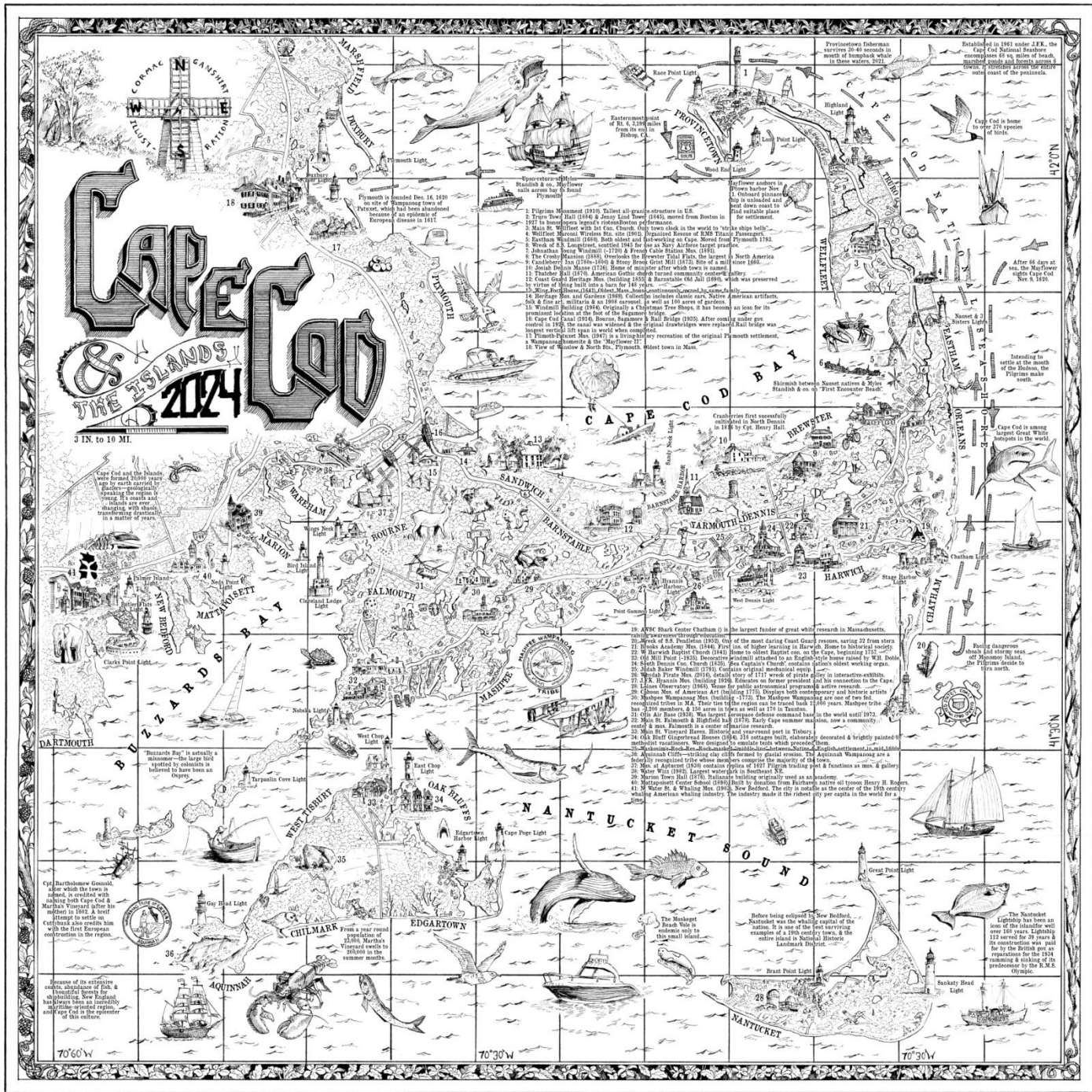
Late in June, the following email came in to the DHS Website –

Hello, I am a Massachusetts-based illustrator who is currently working on a pictorial map of the Cape (see attached Boston map for reference), and I wanted to reach out to the historical societies/organizations of each respective town to inquire about features, buildings, events you would like to see included/feel are underrepresented. I aim to include more granular and personal aspects of the peninsula's history beyond the 10,000 ft. view of general research. It would be invaluable to hear your informed opinions as someone hoping to do the region justice. Thank you, Cormac Ganshirt, Illustrator

To which I replied –

Hello Cormac, Attached is a scan of a brochure published a number of years ago by the Dennis Chamber of Commerce...hope it helps! Best of luck with your project! Dave

Ed. Note – the brochure which I emailed him was the blue covered *Dennis, Historical Sites Guide* which our museums have handed out for years. It was published to promote and support our Society by the Dennis Chamber and what is now the Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod. If you have never seen a copy, please email info@dennishistoricalsociety.org, and I will email you the brochure. A copy of Cormac's map is on the next page. I will email that too on request.



Map Courtesy of Cormac Ganshirt, Illustrator

The email exchange concluded with the following –
Thank you so much Cormac....the result of your efforts is amazing!
Question: I am the editor of the society's monthly newsletter. May I have your permission to share our email exchanges and your map with our membership?
I would like others to see the talent exhibited in your work!
 Best,

And –
Thank you for your kind words!
I would greatly appreciate it if you shared with the society; I have been having a blast working with different historical societies across the cape. Take care,

The DHS 2024 Annual Meeting/Luncheon is coming on Saturday, October 26th, 11:30 am at the Encore Bar & Bistro. Details will follow in the mail. Mark your calendars and don't miss it!

Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660-0607

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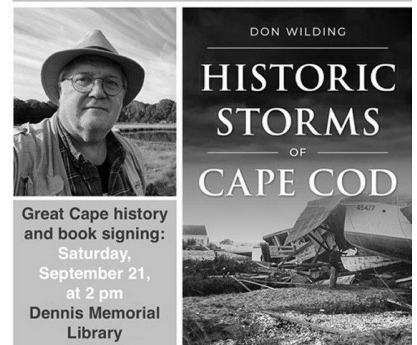
AUTUMN AT THE MANSE
Saturday, September 14, from 1-4 pm

Time travel to the 18th century for a very special one-day-only event at the iconic home of the minister for whom Dennis is named

JOSIAH DENNIS MANSE
61 Whig Street in Dennis Village
FREE ADMISSION (donations gladly accepted)

The Dennis Historical Society is looking for one or more dedicated, volunteers to help maintain its **Digital Archive**. The work requires computer skills that will enable the learning of software, such as PastPerfect, Excel, and photo and document management. The use of a scanner to upload images to the system is available and a laptop can be provided, if needed. There are many tutorials available, and “on-the-job” training can be provided. For further details, please email info@dennishistoricalsociety.org with the email subject: **Digital Archive Volunteer**. Thank you!

THE DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2024 LECTURE SERIES CONCLUDES WITH LOCAL AUTHOR DON WILDING'S LOOK AT HISTORIC CAPE COD STORMS



Great Cape history and book signing: Saturday, September 21, at 2 pm
Dennis Memorial Library

1020 Old Bass River Road in Dennis Village
Co-sponsored by DHS & Dennis Memorial Library
A \$5 donation is suggested