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# The Hyannis Historical Society

## March 2026 Newsletter



Now that we are mostly dug out and plowed, our thoughts and hopes turn to Spring. We know that there is still a lot of bad weather to come, but daylight savings time is just around the corner. More light has to help, right?

### **Some Fun Things**

This month's fun things are coming from the renovations taking place at the Hyannis Public Library. First on the list is a well found underneath the old kitchen in the Hinckley building. The builder took a picture of it:





Also found was this 1915 brass fire extinguisher in the attic.





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Lastly, there was a 1798 penny, worn almost beyond recognition:

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**Also, just for fun we have  
A Page of Ads From the 1928 BHS Yearbook, The Clipper**

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**Does anyone know anything about The Blue Tavern?**

**From Cape Cod Magazine about 1915**

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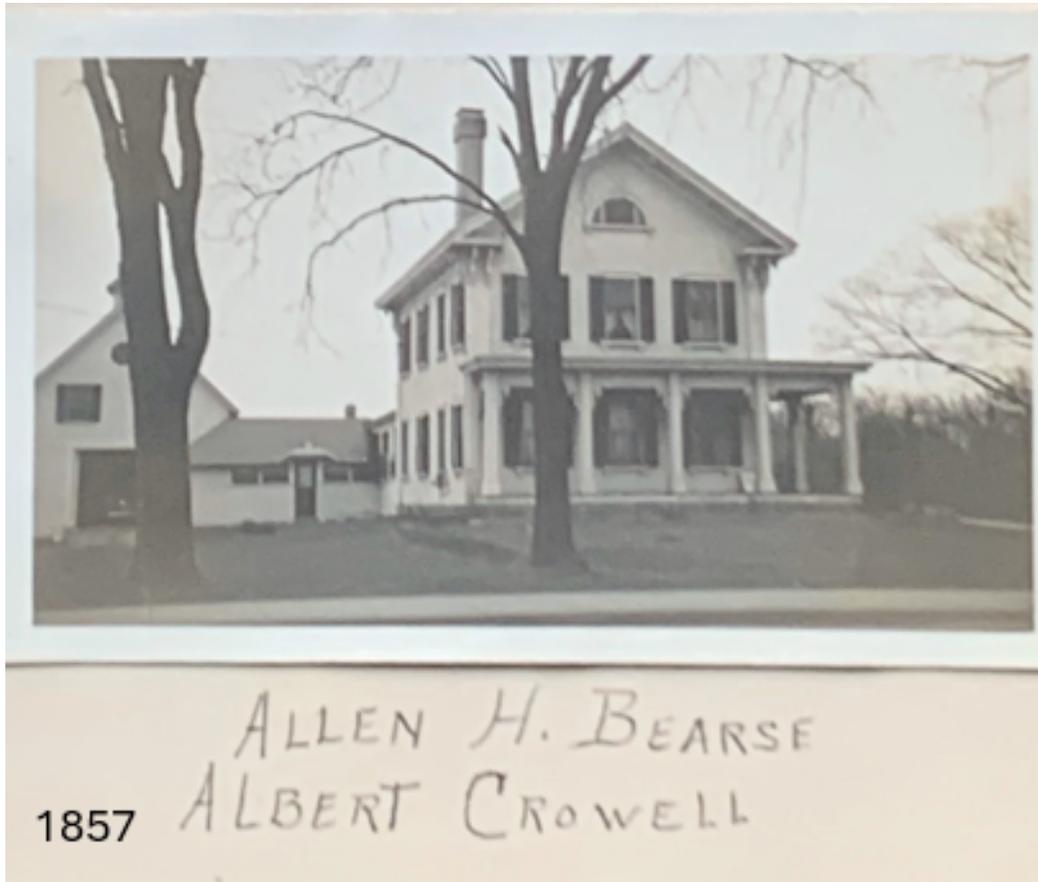
Hyannis, Cape Cod  
TEL. 459-B

## How about Elizabeth Jennings Thomas or The Treasure Shop?

## The Captains House Tour Resumes

Last month we left off at the corner of Camp and Main Streets. We now briefly leave Main Street to see a couple of houses on Camp Street. Before going there, we should note that there are several lovely 19th century homes on Cedar Street that do not happen to have been captains houses (as far as we know).

First on Camp Street, on the right at #48, is an imposing house that was the home of both Captain Allen H. Bearse and Captain Albert Crowell. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Photographed about 1939





The way it looked in 1986



As it looks today

The Harris book of hyannis sea captains says only that Crowell was from Harwich. Bearse was a deep sea sailor and clipper captain who sailed to the Far East. He went to sea at the age of 10 and got his first command at 19. Two brothers, Franklin and Warren, were also clipper captains. Both Allen and his brother Franklin captained the famous “medium” clipper ship *Winged Arrow*, built in 1852 to be a blend of extreme speed while still being able to carry a substantial cargo. Franklin got his captainship of that ship when he was a Mate and the captain died at sea. Franklin quelled a mutiny and finished

the voyage to Hong Kong, all at age 21. He did so well negotiating the sale of the cargo and purchasing items for the return voyage that the owners appointed him permanent captain upon his return.

In those days the captain acted as the owners' representative when abroad.

Next, and on a very different note, we have the house of a captain Elisha Loring, at #99.



Photographed about 1939



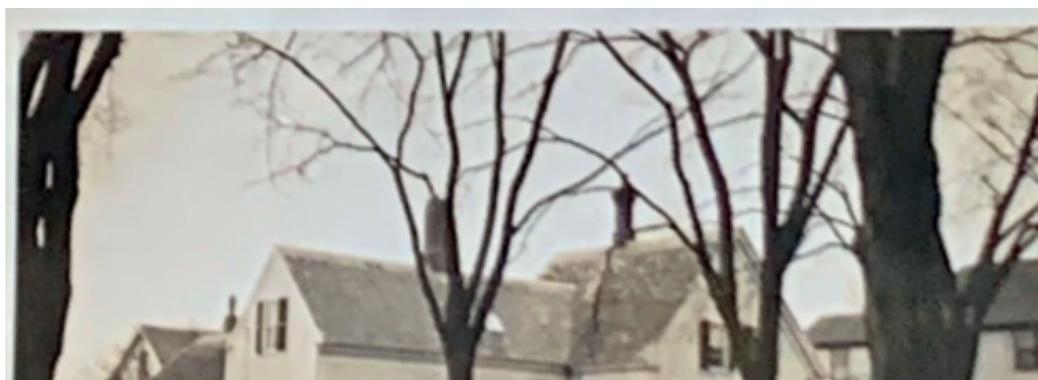


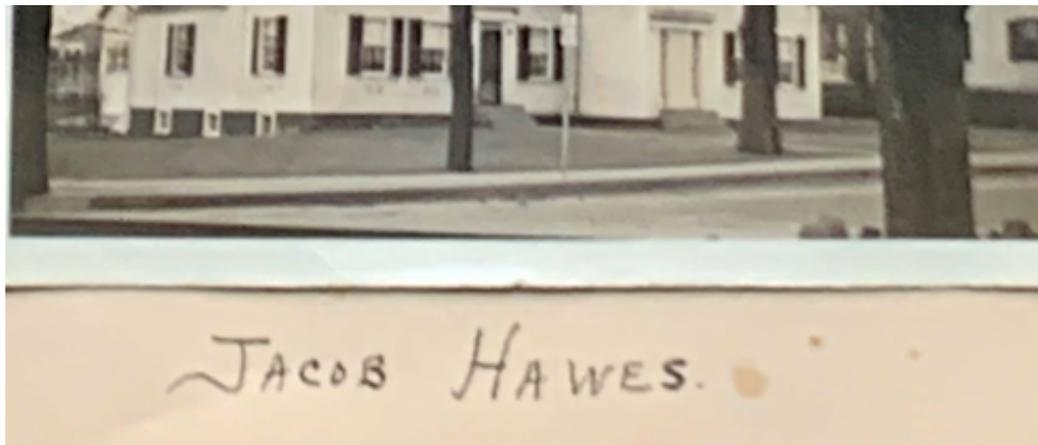
As it looks today.

As you can see, there is a much different story here. Many Loring were Hyannis sea captains. Elisha began by captaining schooners and eventually graduated to steamships. According to Aurin Crocker, who tracked many vessels during his lifetime, Loring had a steamship that was part of the T. Lewis Packet Line that went aground off Block Island during a snowstorm in 1912 and was a total loss. Crocker says the ship was called “Fashion” but we have not been able to find a record of that wreck. Anyway, this house is so modest that the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System does not even include it on its map of historic homes in Hyannis.

At this point, we turn around and go back down Camp Street and cross over Main Street onto what is now called Lewis Bay Road. To our right, on the corner, is what is now a vacant lot.

It was the location of this home, built in 1800 and owned at one time by Captain Jacob Hawes. Here it is as photographed by Dr. C. E. Harris in about 1939:





In 1981 it was still there and was recorded by the Town of Barnstable for the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System. Here is their photograph from 1981:





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The property today.

Jacob Hawes (1797-1840) was a coastal sailor. His son, Jacob Jr. sailed as a First Mate on a ship to China with sealed orders to take on board a load of “Coolies,” local men who had been lured by false promises of employment and who would later be sold as virtual slaves. He refused to be a part of that and went ashore. There he caught cholera and died 3 days later.

To our left, at 104 Park Street is a little house that dates back to 1770. Although it is not a captains house, it is notable for its age and for the fact that that it was once owned by B. F. Crocker, one of the founders of the West Barnstable Brick Company.

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A little farther down Lewis Bay Road, on the right is the site of the

home of Captain Bartlett Brown. it is now gone and the site is an entrance to a parking lot.



Bartlett Brown (1814-1872) was originally from Yarmouth. He was a captain of steamers plying the coastal trade. The house pictured below was close to the Brown house. Built in 1854 it still at least gives us the historical feeling.





That is enough for today. Next month we will return to Main Street for more examples of yesteryear; examples that remind us that at the turn of the century Hyannis was described as, “the prettiest village on Cape Cod.”