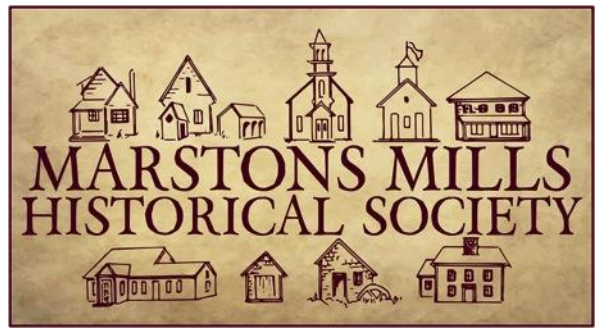


Marstons Mills Historical Society
Holbrook Davis
(By David Martin and Jim Gould)
October 15, 2020



P.O. Box 1375 Marstons Mills, MA 02648
marstonsmillshistorical.org

Holbrook Davis, a 99-year-old resident of the Seapuit area of Marstons Mills and Osterville, was born May 10, 1921 in Pittsburgh. By his recounting, he grew up in the shadow of the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh and attended Shadyside Academy there. He and his family summered on Seaview Avenue in Wianno during the 1920s, and moved full-time in 1930 to a brick mansion which his parents built south of South County Road in Marstons Mills (it was torn down in 1950). He attended public school in Osterville. Holbrook recalled breaking his leg in 1931 and having his leg set with a beef bone screw in a Boston hospital.

Holbrook's father, Edward Kirk Davis, led the ALCAN Aluminum Corporation in the early 1920s.

Holbrook attended Milton Academy in the class of 1939 and then Harvard, originally class of 1943. His service in the American Field Service in World War II in Tunisia interrupted his time at Harvard; upon his return he entered the ROTC program there, graduating in 1945 with a degree in geography. He briefly attended McGill University in Montreal. Holbrook is the oldest member of the Wianno Club.

After World War II, the Seapuit Golf Course had declined. Holbrook's father bought the nine-hole golf course from Mr. Parsons, who had lived in a house that was behind Holbrook's current house. On this site the Seapuit Inn had been in use for golfing visitors and was replaced by Holbrook's current house, built by Rodgers & Marney in 1950. Holbrook's father placed the distribution of the land into the hands of Holbrook's brother Joel; no land was sold to either Jewish or African-American people.

During the early years of living in Seapuit, Holbrook rode horseback. On one occasion when he was riding with his father on a winter day, he selected two street names for the Seapuit area – Ice Valley Road and Smoke Valley Road. Riding-horses were kept at the house and at the stables with workhorses that plowed the fields. The Davis estate included a cranberry bog, which led his father to join a cartel similar to what he had experienced in the aluminum industry.

Holbrook reflected on the social stratification that existed and exists in society. He pointed out that one originally could look out a window and see the homes of President Lowell of Harvard and Mashpee Indians.

When he retired from his career in the aluminum industry, Holbrook bought the House & Garden Shop in Osterville and built two other adjacent buildings as well, replacing the gas station next to the Baptist church.

After the war, Holbrook married Sally Maynard, who was related to the North family. They first lived in a house that his father had moved from across South County Road, now occupied by

his sister, Mrs. Paul Cote. He was a Unitarian at Milton and Montreal, but his wife “took him by the ear” to the Episcopal Church, and he’s been Episcopalian ever since.



This Interview transcript is to be used exclusively for individual research purposes, and may not be reproduced or published without express written permission from the Marstons Mills Historical Society.