

Banks - History of Martha's Vineyard

Charles Edwards Banks. 1911. THE HISTORY OF Martha's Vineyard DUKES COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS, IN THREE VOLUMES. BOSTON. PUBLISHED BY GEORGE H. DEAN
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" Heel of the Cape" between 70° 27' 24" (Cape Poge light) and 70° 50' (Gay Head light) west longitude; and 41° 18' 04" and 41° 28' 50" (West Chop light) north latitude

19 1/4 miles E-W; N-S 9 3/8; about 100 miles square; 64,000 acres of land

The narrow gut which divides Chappaquiddick is not always a constant condition, as it has been closed at its lower opening within the memory of the living. It is probable that Chappaquiddick was once a part of the Vineyard, and the name given to it by the natives "the Separated Island"—may indicate that in their traditional knowledge the breach between the two was made by the action of the waves and storms. Nor are these the only changes of importance in the progress of the ages ; for it is regarded ascertain "that Martha's Vineyard has been connected with the mainland since the close of the glacial period. The animals and plants of the island are in no way peculiar. We can hardly believe," says our authority, "that several large-seeded plants and many of the land animals have found their way across the five miles of water which separates the Vineyard from the continent."

Nantucket is practically devoid of trees, while the greater part of the Vineyard is forest-clad, and in "The channel of Vineyard Sound does not exceed seventy-five feet in depth. General and Statistical earlier days undoubtedly had a much heavier growth than at present.

Four glacial deposits: Gay Head plateau, which rests on a bed of tertiary clay; frontal moraine...hills on the north shore between Tashmoo and Menemsha...marked by the deposition of countless massive blocks of syenite, so numerous "that on the steeper parts of the hills the bare masses of angular fragments remind the observer of Cyclopean masonry."; third ... the kames, from a Scotch word signifying a comb...the drifts on the eastern shore of Lagoon pond, on Chappaquiddick and on the northeast shore of Tashmoo pond. T... detrital material having irregular depressions or valleys as a result of swift currents of sub-glacial streams cutting through them. The last, or terrace drift, composes the great "Ragged Plain" sloping southward with gentle undulations to the sea, a formation better shown on this island than in any other part of New England.

Erosion - The late Professor Henry L. Whiting estimated the recedence on the south beach at about two hundred feet, at Nashaquitsa cliffs two hundred twenty feet, and at Chilmark pond, one hundred eighty feet in a period of forty years covering his work in the coast survey. In addition to this, what he terms the "overshot" into the ponds on that side represents encroachments greater than the effects of normal sea-dash, amounting to between five and six hundred feet in the Chilmark and Tisbury ponds.^ In consequence of this, a group of small ponds connecting the Great Herring pond with Katama bay have been obliterated. This included the Crackatuxet pond of the first settlers. The tip end of Chappaquiddick on which the lighthouse now stands was once an island known early as Capawack and later as Natuck. It was doubtless connected by the great storm of 1722, which also closed an opening into Pocha pond." The whole eastern fringe of Chappaquiddick was probably an outer bar of beach separated from the rest of the island. From analogy and historic references it can be inferred that Squipnocket pond was open to the sea on the south after the settlement by the whites. A document dated 1694 refers to the neck of land joining Gay Head to Chilmark, where the main road now runs, as "the place where the casks were rolled over out

of one into the other pond when a shippe was left on the south side of the island."^ The present drawbridge on the "Beach road" connecting Cottage City, spans an opening into Lagoon pond which was made about sixty years ago. The original opening was at the western end of the beach, adjoining Vineyard Haven, and the ferry to Woods Hole in early days found its harbor inside the opening. Similar phenomena have been observed at the south opening of Katama bay in very recent years, and the changes in that strip of beach due to sea-dash have been frequent and striking. The north side of the island has suffered less, but both East and West Chops have shown considerable erosion, and within the past decade the general government has fortified these two points by jetties and riprap to prevent further loss and the shoaling of Vineyard Haven harbor.

The minimum temperature rarely goes to zero—about once each season—and remains only a few hours at most. It does, however, go below 32° on an average of 86 times each year.

Dense fog prevails on thirty-five days of the year

there are 230 days without frost, while the other parts of the state only enjoy from 140 to 160. [Same as ACK]

Once or twice in a generation the harbors and the surrounding waters will be frozen enough to prevent navigation, as in the recent winter of 1905. The winter of 1856-7 is also remembered by the older inhabitants as one of such severity

Referring to Brereton: "The only vegetable mentioned by him are Peas, "which grow in certeine plots all the Island over." It seems certain that he failed to observe the other legume, cultivated by the natives, the bean,^ and it is quite probable that, had he gone into the interior of the Vineyard, he would have found fields of corn, and squash vines trailing through them. Corn was pre-eminently the Indian's cereal, called by him "weatchimin," and our word "succotash" is derived from their term " msickquatash " which means literally, corn beaten in pieces."

Of the trees mentioned in Brereton's list, the cypress has disappeared...if there be any hazelnut or "cotton" trees on the island at present, they are unknown to the author....The cedar, also, has practically varnished, and only gnarled and bent specimens survive as the relics of "tall and straight" ones seen by the first explorers.

the great plain land is a dense jungle of the "scrub oak" which thrives despite repeated devastating fires covering large areas. Professor Shaler states that "originally this region was heavily wooded, mainly with coniferous trees, the present prevalence of the deciduous species being due to the peculiar endurance of their roots in the fires, a capacity which does not exist in the conifers."

Brereton is our first authority on the fauna of the Vineyard, although we cannot be sure that he has not included in his lists some animals seen by him on the mainland... only two which can be said to exist today, the fox and rabbit.

The list of birds would not be complete without special mention of the heath-hen or pinnated grouse, which has been on the island for at least a century. It was probably brought here for breeding as a game bird, and in 1824 laws for its protection were passed by the voters of Tisbury, where it is found to-day in its feeding grounds on the plains. A cock, hen, and their young may frequently be seen from the state highway in that town. [Footnote: 'It is traditional that when an effort -n-as made in the State Legislature to secure a law for the protection of the heath hen, an error of the printer in the title of the bill made it read " An Act for the protection of the Heathen of Martha's Vineyard."']

Oysters have practically disappeared, but at one time must have been plenty in the ponds bordering the south beach. Indeed, one of them is named Oyster pond, presumably because of its being one of the principal places where the beds existed.

Population

From 1641 to 1670, the period elapsing between the first settlement at Great Harbor and the beginning of the new town at Takemmy, the entire English population was resident at the east end of the island.

1742 - about twelve hundred persons resident in the county, exclusive of negroes and native aborigines.
1762 - 2460 whites; 46 Negroes; 313 Indians; 328 houses

Indians

There were large, open spaces, overgrown with grass and planting fields which they had cultivated for centuries. Wood in his *New England Prospect* (1634) speaks of the Indian custom of burning the ground each fall: "there is no underwood save in the swamps and low places; for it being the custom of the Indians to burn the woods in November, when the grass is withered and the leaves dried it consumes all the underwood and rubbish." Morton refers to the same thing, and we can readily believe their statements that on the coming of the English to this coast there were open fields covered with grass. It is a fair presumption that the Vineyard presented a general aspect of fresh verdure to the explorers, for its virgin soil had not been exhausted by the improvident whites, nor its groves of beeches, cedars, and firs denuded...

The hills and meads of the island were clad in a rich covering of evergreen that is now all gone, and its place taken by the walnut and hickory and the endless prospect of dwarf oaks that now struggle for a parched existence on the great plains of Tisbury and Edgartown. It is difficult for us to conceive of Noman's Land, which is now as innocent of any foliage as an infant's poll, once supporting great forests and a thicket of undergrowth, yet in two centuries the whites, without forethought or wisdom, had despoiled it of its verdure and rendered it an unproductive, barren isle, where for centuries the aboriginal occupants had preserved its fertility and the productiveness of the Vineyard, sparing the trees as a part of nature's household economy. On Noman's Land, in the swamp, may be seen the trunks and stumps of huge cedars, the decaying remains of a noble forest growth that existed two hundred years ago.

The aboriginal name for the island was Noe-pe¹, a compound term consisting of the radical Noe, signifying, middle of, midst, amid, and the generic -pe, which in all Algonquian dialects signifies "water,"—and thus we have the full and free definition "amid the waters," a name of singular beauty and poetry. While this might be said to be applicable to any island, yet it appears to have a deeper significance.

[The Indians]: noted that this island was at the meeting place of the currents coming from the northeast and southwest. This phenomenon, now well known to the residents here and to all those engaged in navigating our coast, results in a subdivision of the daily tides, by which we have four instead of two as common elsewhere along the New England littoral, two ebb and two flood, churning northeastward through the Vineyard sound and Buzzard's Bay and southwestward over the treacherous Nantucket shoals. "The region about Martha's Vineyard," says a report of the U. S. Coast Survey, "is the dividing space between the co-tidal hours of XII and XV, and in this locality the combination of two apparently distinct tidal waves is observed. This combination presents the most singular forms, giving at times four high tides in one day near the junction of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard sound. These tides exhibit diurnal and semi-diurnal elements. The semi-diurnal waves exhibit two heads at the locality of the greatest interference (Falmouth), one of their meeting points."

¹ Banks attributed this to a letter by Rev. Thomas Mayhem Oct. 22, 1652

Smith, Winslow, Wood, Gorges, and others, call it the Isle of Capowack

The evolution of the name Cape Poge is easy of demonstration. The name was originally, as I believe, Capoag or Capoak, and by giving each vowel its syllabic value in pronunciation, we have Capo- ag, or Ca-po-ak, which was, probably, an Indian name of a definite locality; and the early voyagers, hearing this pronounced and noting the phonetic resemblance of the first syllable to our geographical word "cape," immediately applied it to that portion of the island answering the physical features of a cape, and the map-makers accordingly registered their decrees. DeLaets map of 1630, showing the Vineyard, we see the legend "C. Ack," or Cape Ack...DesBarres chart of 1781 it is Capoag (one word)

From all evidence now obtainable the tip end of Chappaquiddick was a separate island two hundred years ago, and was then called the island of Natuck or Capoag, as shown by the following deeds: I. 388. Pahkepunnasso, sachem of Chappaquiddick, sold the island called Natuck to Thomas Mayhew, 16 (6) 1663. IV. 158. Micajah Mayhew leased "the island of Natick alias Capoag near unto Chappaquiddick," 4 March, 1727. IV. 328. Micajah Mayhew leased the "Isle of Capoag which lieth a Uttle to the Easter Northard of the Isle of Chapaquidet" 27 February, 1729

The Vineyard was apparently divided into four governmental sections, of which two, Chappaquiddick and Gay Head, were separated by natural boundaries from the main island....By a straight line drawn from the Blackwater brook emptying into the sound, to Watchet, the sachemships of Nunnepog and Takemmy were divided...

These sachems were not always natives of the Vineyard, but in what manner they acquired their rank and entered into the enjoyment of their prerogatives is not known,—probably by selection of the mainland chiefs.

Indeed, Brereton found them in 1602 speaking some English, if we may credit his roseate view of all the things he saw. He said: They pronounce our language with great facilitie; for one of them one day sitting by me, upon occasion I spake smiling these words: "How now (sirha) are you so fancie with my Tobacco; which words (without any further repetition) he suddenly spake so plaine and distinctly, as if he had beene a long scholar in the language.'

The following legend relates to the beginnings of the aboriginal life upon the Vineyard: "The first Indian who came to the Vineyard was brought thither with his dog on a cake of ice/ When he came to Gay Head he found a very large man, whose name was Moshup. He had a wife and five children, four sons and one daughter, and lived in the den. He used to catch whales, and then pluck up trees, and make a fire and roast them. The coals of the trees and the bones of the whales are now to be seen. After he was tired of staying here, he told his children to go and play ball on the beach that joined Nomans Land to Gay Head. He then made a mark with his toe across the beach, at each end, and so deep that the water followed and cut away the beach; so that his children were in fear of drowning. They took their sister up and held her out of the water. He told them to act as if they were going to kill whales, and they were all turned into killers (a fish so-called). The sister was dressed in large stripes; he gave them a strict charge always to be kind to her. His wife mourned the loss of her children so exceedingly that he threw her away. She fell upon Seconnett, near the rocks, where she lived some time, exacting contribution of all who passed by water. After awhile she was changed into a stone. The entire shape remained for many years, but after the English came some of them broke off the head, arms, &c, but the most of the body remains unto this day. Moshup went away nobody knows whither. He had no conversation with the Indians, but was kind to them, by sending whales &c ashore to them to eat. But after they grew thick around him he left them." Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., I, 139.

Another tale which has come down to us from the Vineyard Indians is as follows: "One day he decided to go to Cuttyhunk, which was but a few strides for one so famous as he, but he did not wish to get his feet wet, and taking some stones in his apron he began laying the foundations of a bridge. While engaged in this absorbing occupation a monster crab bit his toe and firmly held that member in its great claw, which caused Michabo to roar with pain, and in his anger he threw his load in every direction in his efforts to release himself. The rocks thus scattered mark the place now called the "Devil's Bridge," a fateful spot for mariners. On another occasion an offering was made to him by his subjects of Nope, of all the tobacco on the island, and filling his great hopuonk or pipe, he sat down in front of his "den" and enjoyed this huge smoke. After taking his fill of this diversion, he turned over the bowl and knocked the ashes from it, and as they were carried by the wind to the eastward, they fell in a heap and formed the island of Nantucket, which was known as the Devil's Ash Heap by the natives."

"The natives of the Elizabeth Island say that the Devell was making a stone bridge over from the main to Nanamesit Island, and while he was rowling the stones and placing them under water, a crab caught him by the fingers, with which he snatched up his hand and flung it towards Nantucket, and the crabs breed there ever since." ("Memoranda of Naushon," by Wait Winthrop, 1702.) ^Mrs. Mary A. Cleggett Vanderhoop, of Gay Head, prepared a very interesting series of popular articles on the "History and Traditions of the Gay Head Indians" for the New Bedford Standard, which were published in the summer of 1904, and the

The local legend is to the effect that Squantum lived with Moshup as his wife, and that her eyes were square, and to hide this hideous deformity, she wore her hair over her face. Twelve children were born to them, all daughters, and they lived an ideal home life in the "Den" on Aquinnih, the Indian name for Gay Head. Her life was so subordinated to this domestic situation that we do not hear much of her miraculous deeds except in the manner of her "taking off." Traditions differ as to this event, some saying she jumped from the highest of the chromatic cliffs of the western end of Nope, and passed forever out of sight into the blue waters of the Atlantic, while a more romantic version is to the effect that, led by Moshup along the glistening sands of the beaches of Gay Head and Squipnocket, the twain disappeared in one of the huge hummocks near "Zac's Cliff's."

The Indian fishing stations on the island are well defined by the names which have survived. Kataamuck (Katama), a crab fishing place; Chickemmoo, weir fishing place; Uncawamuck (Eastville), further or utmost fishing place; Quanaimes, the long fish place; Ashappaquonsett, where the nets are spread, and others along the sea inlets and creeks.

Champlain christened the Indian Nope as Ia Soupocneuse, meaning "the suspicious" literally, or freely translated "the doubtful."

From Gorges: While I was laboring by what means I might best continue life in my languishing hopes, there comes one Captain Henry Harley unto me, bringing with him a native of the island of Capawick, a place seated to the southward of Cape Cod, whose name was Epenowe, a person of a goodly stature, strong and well proportioned.

Dermer 1616: "Departing hence (Manamock, i. e., Monomoy), the next place we arrived at was Capavek, an island formerly discovered by the English, where I met Epenow, a savage that lived in England and speaks indifferent good English, who foure yeeres since, being carried home, was reported to have been slaine with divers of his country men by Saylers, which was false."

An examination of contemporary literature of that period, printed books, letters, public records, legal documents, etc., confirms this curious fact; and as a result of an extended search the author feels safe in saying that in the public and private records of the 17th century, the name Martin's is applied to the

Vineyard, to the practical exclusion of Martha's, and this phenomenon has the repeated sanction of Mr. Thomas Mayhew himself, the Governor and "Lord of the Isles," in public and private papers. [Long list of citations of either Martin's or Martha's]



The Figurative Map (1614), a Dutch production, and the result of the active efforts of the West India Company of Amsterdam in exploration, shows Nantucket, or Chappaquiddick, and the Vineyard joined together as one island, and this arrangement is repeated in Dudley's *Arcano del Mare* (1646), and in Blaeu (1662 and 1685).

In the state archives of Massachusetts can be seen two surveys, covering the entire island, made in 1795, by order of the General Court, one embracing Edgartown and Tisbury, and the other Chilmark and Gay Head.



Mayhew, with this island domain now under his control, began to consider plans for colonization and settlement. Watertown neighbors became interested at the first, and on the 16th of March following (1641-2), he made a grant to five of them "to make choice for the Present of a large Towne" with authority equal to that of the proprietors in admitting subsequent inhabitants, and also a future grant of "another Townshipp for Posterity." ^ These five associates were John Daggett, Daniel Pierce, Richard Beers, John Smith, and Francis Smith. Of these only John Daggett took up his ^ *Dukes Deeds*, I, 189. ^ This map was probably used by Mayhew and Forrett to show the location of the territory purchased by the former. It was the only English map of the region available at that date to show the island. Wood's map of 1633 had no representation of the Vineyard or Nantucket, and only a shapeless delineation of what he called "Elizabeths lie." ^ *Dukes Deeds*, VIII, 83. 84 share in this first grant from the two Mayhews,

Whether any Englishman settled even temporarily on Martha's Vineyard before the Mayhews came is not now known, and Thomas Lechford, who was personally acquainted with Mayhew and who sailed for England in August, 1641, wrote in his descriptive work on New England, published the following year, that "Eastward of Cape Codd lyeth an Island called Martin's Vineyard uninhabited by any English." ^

But the most competent witness on this subject is Governor Winthrop, whose invaluable "Journal" of the beginnings of the Massachusetts Bay settlements down to his death, is, next to the public records, the most unimpeachable authority of the times he treats. His book is almost a diary of events under his personal observation or knowledge, and he records the most trivial as well as the most pregnant circumstances with impartial hand. It has stood the test of comparison as to times, places, persons, and events, with the official records bearing upon them, and has merited the credence universally accorded it by historians.

The story of the supposed landing and settlement of John Pease and his companions first obtained currency and publicity about a century ago or about 175 years after the alleged events transpired. It has no support outside of the descendants of one of the four (or more) supposed settlers. There are no Vincents, Nortons or Trapps who have garnered this tradition in their families,

1693 -It made no particular difference to the Massachusetts officials whether the island came in as Capawick, Martin's or Martha's Vineyard, or as *'an Island lying within ten leauges of the Maine," it was in, and they went right ahead to provide laws for its proper government.

Thos. Mayhew Jr, Missionary work - The first attempt to Christianize the natives of New England took place on Martha's Vineyard, three years before the famous "Apostle" Eliot began his work on the main land.

His English Flock being then but small, the Sphere was not large enough for so bright a Star to move in. With great Compassion he beheld the wretched Natives, who then were several thousands on those Islands, perishing in utter Ignorance of the true god, and eternal Life, laboring under strange Delusions, Inchantments, and panick Fears of Devils, whom they most passionately worshipped.

He first endeavours to get acquainted with them, and then earnestly applies himself to learn their Language. He treats them in a condescending and friendly manner. He denys himself, and does his utmost to oblige and help them. He takes all Occasions to insinuate and show the sincere and tender Love and Goodwill he bare them; and as he grows in their Acquaintance and Affection, he proceeds to express his great Concern and Pity for their immortal Souls. He tells them of their deplorable Condition under the Power of malicious Devils, who not only kept them in Ignorance of those earthly good things, which might render their Lives in this World much more comfortable, but of those also which might bring them to eternal Happiness in the World to come; what a kind and mighty God the English served, and how the Indians might happily come into his Favour and Protection.

The first Indian that embraced the Motion of forsaking their false Gods, and adoring the true one, was Hiacoomes, which was in the Year 1643...

Mr. Mayhew having gained Hiacoomes, he first imployes him as a faithful Instrument to prepare his Way to the rest of the Natives, instructing him more and more in this new Religion, showing him how to recommend it to them, and answer all their Arguments and Objections against it. And then in 1644, he proceeds to visit and discourse them himself, carrying a greater and more irresistible Light and Evidence with him. 'Rev. Thomas Prince, in " Indian Converts," 280-292.

In short, by the end of October 1652, there were two hundred eighty two Indians, not counting young Children in the number, who were brought to renounce their false Gods, Devils and Pawaws, and publickly, in set meetings, before many Witnesses, had freely disclaimed and defied

their 'See letter of Thomas Mayhew, Jr., dated Oct. 22, 1652, printed in "Tears of Repentance." (London, 1653.) The Missionary Mayhews tyrannical Power;

Mayhew departed for England and the ship was lost – They refused to consider this a farewell, and followed him homewards till he came to a spot on the "Old Mill Path," since known in song and story as the "Place on the Way-side," where by this time had gathered hundreds of others in anticipation of his return to meet with them.

THIS ROCK MARKS THE "PLACE ON THE WAYSIDE" WHERE THE REV. THOMAS MAYHEW, JR., SON OF GOV. MAYHEW, FIRST PASTOR OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD, AND THE FIRST MISSIONARY TO THE INDIANS OF NEW ENGLAND, SOLEMNLY AND AFFECTIONATELY TOOK LEAVE OF THE INDIANS, WHO, IN LARGE NUMBERS, HAD FOLLOWED HIM DOWN FROM THE WESTERN PART OF THE ISLAND, BEING HIS LAST WORSHIP AND INTERVIEW WITH THEM BEFORE EMBARKING FOR ENGLAND IN 1657, FROM WHENCE HE NEVER RETURNED NO TIDINGS EVER COMING FROM THE SHIP OR ITS PASSENGERS. IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF HIM THOSE INDIANS RAISED THIS PILE OF STONES, 1657-1901.

ERECTED BY THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. THE LAND GIVEN FOR THIS PURPOSE BY CAPTAIN BENJAMIN COFFIN CROMWELL, OF TISBURY ; THE BOULDER BROUGHT FROM GAY HEAD, A GIFT FROM THE NOW RESIDENT INDIANS. TABLET PURCHASED WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MAYHEW'S DESCENDANTS.

Dukes County = MV, Gosnold, Nomans Land = 71,000 acres;

Dukes co. 1883 Census - Report of Mass. Board of Agriculture: 33,645 ac farm land; 371 farms; 4893 ac cultivated; 18,000 ac pasture or unimproved; 9200 ac woodland; 1858 unimprovable

County of Dukes County: "The Shire Town" pp. 1 Vol. 1

Edgartown – county seat due to primogeniture;

By 1708 Chilmark slight lead in taxable value for first time; greater lead 1720 (Chilmark 38, Edgartown 3, Tisbury 11); 1720 Chilmark voted to petition to move the place for Dukes Co court. No action.

Organization and Jurisdiction of the County of Dukes County pp 258-262 Vol. 1

On the first day of November, 1683, the Provincial Assembly of New York divided the province into several counties and incorporated them by name, including Kings (now Brooklyn), Queens (Long Island), and Dukes, the last being decreed to "containe the Islands of Nantuckett, Martin's Vineyard, Elizabeth Island, and Noe Man's Land." [N. Y. Col. Mss., Vol. XXXI.]

"Dukes County was referred to the Gouverneur and Counsell." Nantucket heretofore had been conducting its own affairs under a local autonomy subject to a certain suzerainty of the Mayhew proprietary government, while the outlying Elizabeth Islands with Noman's Land were under the jurisdiction of the

Lord of Tisbury Manor. Sept. 21, 1686:- Its ordered by the Court that henceforward the Court shall be held the last Tuesday in May at Nantucket, and the last Tuesday in September at Mathews Vinard.

Conflict over whether court should be moved from Edgartown. Part of Edgartown response:
Again: That altho' the other two Towns have Increased faster than we for some time past yet there is no Rational prospect of their doing so in the Future; for the Island has now as many Inhabitants as the Land will comfortably support; so that if there should be any further increase of Inhabitants it seems they must be supported by whaleing. Fishing & seafaring business, and as there is no other safe harbour except this (as we have before observed), so it seems that this must be the Place for Carrying on such business, and there is a prospect (with Divine blessing), of an Increase herein, in this place inasmuch as the Situation of this is much more commodious than that of Nantucket, and since our People seem now to be running into it, as there sailed from this Town the Summer past nineteen Masters of vessels and upwards of fifty Sailors.

And as in duty bound shall ever pray &c. Edgartown Jan'y 8th 1762. JOHN NORTON JOHN SUMNER

In Edgartown records, under date of Jan. 22, 1655, appears the following entry: "The common seale of this place shall be a bunch of grapes." The entry above quoted respecting the seal undoubtedly applied to the entire island, the "bunch of grapes" being an allusion to the name of Martha's Vineyard, and not to Great Harbor, which was then the name of Edgartown.

[C. Banks found the following in DC.] The earliest representation of this seal in the Athearn Mss. is 1722, and from this the drawing was made.



Military Activity

Although the island Indians were subject to the "kingship" of Metacomet, of Philip, of Pokanoket, Rhode Island, it is evident from contemporaneous writings that they did not continue entirely under his influence when he began his war against the English upon the mainland.

The war was not a long one, though a terrible one while it lasted. Beginning in June, 1675, it was ended on Aug. 12, 1676, when the great son of Massasoit fell at Mount Hope dead from a shot leveled at him by a soldier under Benjamin Church's command. It caused no disturbance whatever at the Vineyard.

On Oct. 20, 1690, Lieutenant-Governor Leisler wrote to the Earl of Shrewsbury that "a French Barq Songo and 2 sloops crusing near Long Island, making some spoil on Martins Vineyard, Nantuckett and Block Island Alarming the Inhabitants, having no ports of force.

Immediately upon his arrival as governor Sir William took measures to defend the province from invasion by the French and Indians, who, encouraged by the failure of his expedition against Quebec in 1690, were

renewing their incursions upon the out-lying settlements of Massachusetts. The two frigates, the Sorlings and the Newport, of the English Navy, detailed for constant duty on this coast, were not adapted to pursue small craft in shoal waters, and hence the project of fitting out an armed vessel of light draught for the protection of vessels in Vineyard Sound, was started by the governor and council as early as March 7, 1692-3. Five hundred pounds was voted for "building and fitting of a small vessel mounted with ten guns and a suitable number of oars." This act was passed Dec. 11, 1693, and by the first of June of the next year she was ready for service.

We now come to the great campaign in which New England valor found opportunity to display itself, under talented leadership, and the glory of it was celebrated in song and story for generations — the siege of Louisburg, Cape Breton. An old narrative poem thus begins the account:

"Come all New England galant Lads
And Lend to me an ear
And of your Brthem mighty acts
I will in short declar
brave Peprell with three thousand men
perhaps some hundreds more
did Land the very first of May
Upon Cape Briton Shore."

The combined fleet arrived before Louisburg on the last day of April, 1745. Successful in June 17

The name of Sergeant Joseph Luce has been found among those published, and there occur the names of Lieutenant Peter West and Thomas West, all Tisbury name.

1775 - The provincials were formidable on land, but on the sea the men-of-war flying the royal ensign were practically unopposed. The Vineyard Sound was a favorite rendezvous for these naval operations on the part of the king's forces. Then, as now, it was a great highway for the coasting trade between New England and the South, and under the favoring lea of Homes or Tarpaulin Coves his majesty's armed vessels of war would wait like hawks to pounce upon their prey. In the early part of 1775 the armed sloop Falcon, Capt. John Linzee, commander, hovered around these sheltering inlets and did a profitable business in this line. A copy of her log, obtained from the Lords of the Admiralty, shows for the period between the 10th and 30th of May of that year, how she fired at and brought to anchor thirteen (13) vessels, and held such of them as prizes as were of value/ This is assumed to be only a sample of what was being enacted all the time by the vessels of the royal navy, and is mentioned to show how closely the island was to these constant evidences of war.

July 1775 - By this time it became a serious question of military defence of the island, as the armed vessels of the king were continually making depredations, and alarming the people. In addition to these regular naval vessels, there were a large number of small craft belonging to Tories in the large seaports, who, under the protection of the guns of the fleet, raided isolated coast towns, cut out craft lying at anchor, and doing damage to the property of the patriots. These little privateers, belonging to the Tories, were called "Picaroons," and some of them did work about the Vineyard.

...the tactics pursued by the captains of the British vessels which put into Homes Hole and Edgartown Harbors with demands for water and supplies. In the latter part of August his majesty's ship Nautilus[^] Captain John Collins commanding, dropped anchor in Homes Hole. He sent ashore a demand for some supplies, accompanied by a threat in case of refusal to comply. It was the usual custom, although some commanders never forgot their courteous breeding.

[Towns asked Mass for help in developing defenses and troops.]

On Dec. 9, 1775, both houses of the General Court had appointed a committee to consider some serious charges made by Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut against the inhabitants of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. The substance of the allegations was that supplies in excess of the requirements of the two islands had been shipped to them, "and there is a great reason to suspect that the inhabitants of the said island of Nantucket have abused the indulgence of this Court by supplying our enemies with such provisions &cas were admitted to be Transported to them for their Internal consumption only."... the committee passed a resolve that the committee for correspondence of Falmouth should suspend the granting of permits in the future to any vessels loading for the two islands, "until further order of this Court," and further directed the selectmen of Sherburne (Nantucket), and each town on the Vineyard "to make strict enquiry into the Importation of Provisions into their respective Towns since the 28th of September last, and of all provisions now in said Towns and to make returns thereof on oath, as soon as may be."

March 21, 1776 - The Prayer of your Petitioners therefore is: That your Honours would be pleased to order six hundred men from the continent well furnished with Arms, Powders and other necessaries, or such number of men as your Honours shall in your wisdom judge most fit and proper to be stationed in the County of Dukes County for the Defence thereof, 525 of said men to be stationed on the Island of Marthas Vineyard & the other seventy five thereof at the Islands called Elizabeth Islands. And that your Honours would be pleased to order to be sent to Marthas Vineyard for the Defence of the several Harbours there seven cannon and to Tarpaulin Cove, the only harbour of Elizabeth Islands, two cannon.

Marthas Vineyard, June 9, 1776 FIELD ORDERS.

1st All profane cursing and swearing and Card playing in or near the camp forbidden. I shall take notice of the first crime of that Nature which comes to my knowledge.

2nd. Forty men including Capt. Benja. Smith stationed at Edgartown near the Harbour. Twenty men at Homes's Hole East side including one Lieut. Thirty men West side including one Lieut. Twenty men Lumberts Cove including one Lieut. Forty men at Manamsha including one Lieut. These are stations until further orders.

3rd Those stations that have more Men Remove them forthwith to the station at Manamsha.

4th, Each party to keep suitable Guard. Turn out Boat and other Parties when Required by their officers. Hail all Boats as their officers shall Direct. In Alarm the parties to repair to the Alarm, Leaving the Guard. Capt'n Nathan Smith having no particular Station to see that preparations be made on the West side of Homes's Hole for Cannon and to visit the other Stations. Lieut. Bassett to Intrench at Manamsha as soon as he can procure Tools.

Field Orders:

As there appears some danger of an attack every soldier is required to repair to his Barrack at Eight of the Clock ever}' Evening on Tattoo Beating. Per BARTAH BASSETT Com. Marthas Vineyard Sept. 10, 1776'

The Vineyard Abandoned to Neutrality.

In the autumn of 1776 our army numbered only 10,000 effectives, owing to sickness among the raw levies, furloughs, and the casualties of war. At this time the British troops were being reinforced each month with the "Hessian hirelings" and their strength was thrice that of ours. Every available man was needed at the front now, as Washington was aware that Howe proposed to end the rebellion at one blow, in an attempt to surround him at New York. Gradually the forces of the king pushed Washington back to the heights of Harlem, and to White Plains, and the struggle for the command of the Hudson was becoming desperate. So far it had been a losing one for the Americans. The call for men was urgent, and the Massachusetts General Court sought to supply the requirements at the expense of her own frontiers. The greater end was paramount, and she sacrificed the seacoast- defence establishment as her contribution to the general result. Accordingly, on November 16, after the battle of White Plains, and on the day of the

fall of Fort Washington, the council passed the following order affecting the Vineyard : — Council Chamber, November 16, 1776.

To Barachiah Bassett: You are hereby in a Pursuance of a Resolve of the General Court of this State ordered forthwith to discharge the officers and men stationed at Marthas Vineyard excepting twenty five men, including one Lieutenant one Sergeant & one Corporal from the Service of this State and you are hereby also ordered forthwith to discharge from the above service the officers and men stationed at the Elizabeth Islands, excepting twenty one men, including Lieut. Nye and two sergeants and you are directed to designate the Persons to be retained still in the service agreeable to the above order; after which you are to look upon yourselves as discharged from the Military service you have been engaged in at the said Marthas Vineyard and Elizabeth Islands.' Similar notices were sent out to the commanding officers of the seacoast-defence men at Plymouth, Truro, Dartmouth, Falmouth, and elsewhere, so that the Vineyard was not alone in the reduction of her local forces.

General Court Jan. 20, 1777 – “The removal of stock &c to the main-land is recommended.” This last sentence was ominous. It foreboded an abandonment of the island to the enemy, if that policy should be adopted.

Chilmark, January 27, 1777.

To the Honourable, the Council and House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts Bay in General Court Assembled: The Petition of a number of Inhabitants of the Town of Chilmark in the Island of Marthas Vineyard and in the County of Dukes County Humbly Sheweth: That the said Island of Marthas Vineyard (especially the Western Part thereof where your petitioners reside & where there is a Road for shipping) is by its situation at least as much exposed to the Enemy now possessing Rhode Island as the Islands called Elizabeth Islands in the same Town. For the Protection of which last mentioned Islands much greater (tho' we do not think too great) Provision is made than for the protection of Marthas Vineyard: when the last named Island is of much greater value in itself of vastly greater importance to the Public than the others. There being on Elizabeth Islands but seventeen families and about one hundred souls; when there are on Marthas Vineyard at least five hundred families and about 2780 souls, exclusive of Indians living by themselves, and this last named Island is also much better accommodated than Elizabeth Islands with Harbors and Roads for shipping by means of which Harbours of Marthas Vineyard, and a few soldiers there stationed, with the Pilots and other Inhabitants of said Island a very large part of the many rich Prizes taken from the enemy during the present war have (after they have waited some time in said Harbours for a fair wind & for an opportunity to proceed to the Port to which they were bound, without Danger of being intercepted by the Enemy) safely arrived either at Dartmouth or Providence or at some other Place where they might be discharged of their Cargo. All which advantages accruing to this and other American states from the Harbors of Marthas Vineyard while that Island remains in the Possession of Friends to the Common Cause of these States will not only be lost to this and the other states of the neighboring continent, if said Island or its Harbours should be possessed by the Enemy, but the advantage the Enemy will hereby gain will perhaps be no less pernicious than the possession of that Island & its Harbors hath hitherto been advantageous thereto.

On which account your Petitioners (with great deference and submission to your Honours superior wisdom & judgement) presume to declare that they apprehend it to be of great importance not only to the Inhabitants of Marthas Vineyard but also to this and other American States that it be kept from falling into the Hands of the enemy. But this without further Protection from your Honours we see no way to prevent For we apprehend this Island to be in great Danger of such an attack from the Enemy as the Inhabitants thereof will not be able to withstand. For the number of men on this Island able to bear arms hath of late been greatly diminished & is still diminishing by their shipping themselves on board of continental & other cruizers against the enemy; and also not a little weakened by our

Disagreement of opinion with Respect to the most proper course we can take for our safety. For while your Petitioners with many other Inhabitants of this Island are fully satisfied that the present war is on the American side just & necessary, and are ready to exert themselves to the utmost in every suitable way in support of the American cause, There are yet (we are sorry to find ground to say it) some here who have manifested at least a Doubt of our being in the Right, in taking up arms and fighting against the Forces of the King of Great Britain, and they with others have openly expressed a Belief that Britain will conquer & subdue America, and have labored to infuse such a belief into others; and whatever effect this hath had, it is a certain matter of Fact that there is a considerable number of men here who appear to be very Doubtful which side will finally overcome, and obtain what they are contending and fighting for, and who therefore chuse to be as stil and inactive as possible in the present contest and are accordingly averse to doing anything towards the Defending of this Island by arms. To which Principle we impute it that when ten Freeholders of this Town by a writing under their hands, lately requested the Selectmen to call a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town to consider and determine what it was proper for them to do for their safety in this Time of Danger. This Request was not complied with. By which means we found ourselves obliged to petition your Honours in the way we do, as Individuals, suscribing our names hereto. In short we wish that your Honours might have a just and full conception of the Danger this Island is in by Means of its exposed situation (while the Enemy is so powerful & no further than about twelve leagues therefrom) when it is so weak & defenceless a state as it now is, & also what Imporatance it is that it be kept from falling into the hands of the Enemy. A true representation hereof we have here given But not too full and clear a representation as to convey to your Honours such an idea of the state of the Island with respect to the present American troubles, as your Honours would have if you had been some time resident here. And with regard to the state of this Island which we have represented the Prayer of your Petitioners is That no such measure may be adopted to keep the stock on said Island from falling into the Hands of the Enemy as that of removing it to some other place. For if nothing better than this can be done with the stock belonging to Marthas Vineyard, to what a state of wretchedness must the owTiers thereof be reduced! For if that stock be removed where will they find pasture or Hay for it? And if for want thereof they are obliged to sell it, where will they find Buyers who will give them anything near the value thereof? And in this way the People of this Island would be likely to suffer almost a total loss of their Stock. They would suffer also for a time at least (and who knows for how long a time ?) the loss of their Houses and lands, which they must depart. For without stock they will not be able to till it. And if this Island be forsaken by its inhabitants, it will (without such a Protection as would be now sufficient for their Defence) in all Probability be taken possession of by the Enemy; and how detrimental this would be to this & the neighbouring states; we have already in some measure shewn. Your petitioners also pray That seeing this Island is so exposed & in so weak & defenceless

a state as hath been shewn, no men maybe taken from hence to serve as soldiers elsewhere. For as said Islands when all the men now to the most proper course we can take for our safety. For while your Petitioners with many other Inhabitants of this Island are fully satisfied that the present war is on the American side just & necessary, and are ready to exert themselves to the utmost in every suitable way in support of the American cause, There are yet (we are sorry to find ground to say it) some here who have manifested at least a Doubt of our being in the Right, in taking up arms and fighting against the Forces of the King of Great Britain, and they with others have openly expressed a Belief that Britain will conquer & subdue America, and have labored to infuse such a belief into others; and whatever effect this hath had, it is a certain matter of Fact that there is a considerable number of men here who appear to be very Doubtful which side will finally overcome, and obtain what they are contending and fighting for, and who therefore chuse to be as stil and inactive as possible in the present contest and are accordingly averse to doing anything towards the Defending of this Island by arms. To which Principle we impute it That when ten Freeholders of this Town by a writing under their hands, lately requested the Selectmen to call a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town to consider and determine what it was proper for them to do for their safety in this Time of

Danger. This Request was not complied with. By which means we found ourselves obliged to petition your Honours in the way we do, as Individuals, suscribing our names hereto. In short we wish that your Honours might have a just and full conception of the Danger this Island is in by Means of its exposed situation (while the Enemy is so powerful & no further than about twelve leagues therefrom) when it is so weak & defenceless a state as it now is, & also what Imporatance it is that it be kept from falling into the hands of the Enemy.

A true representation hereof we have here given But not too full and clear a representation as to convey to your Honours such an idea of the state of the Island with respect to the present American troubles, as your Honours would have if you had been some time resident here. And with regard to the state of this Island which we have represented the Prayer of your Petitioners is That no such measure may be adopted to keep the stock on said Island from falling into the Hands of the Enemy as that of removing it to some other place. For if nothing better than this can be done with the stock belonging to Marthas Vineyard, to what a state of wretchedness must the owTiers thereof be reduced! For if that stock be removed where will they find pasture or Hay for it? And if for want thereof they are obliged to sell it, where will they find Buyers who will give them anything near the value thereof? And in this way the People of this Island would be likely to suffer almost a total loss of their Stock. They would suffer also for a time at least (and who knows for how long a time ?) the loss of their Houses and lands, which they must depart. For without stock they will not be able to till it. And if this Island be forsaken by its inhabitants, it will (without such a Protection as would be now sufficient for their Defence) in all Probability be taken possession of by the Enemy; and how detrimental this would be to this & the neighbouring states; we have already in some measure shewn. Your petitioners also pray That seeing this Island is so exposed & in so weak & defenceless a state as hath been shewn, no men maybe taken from hence to serve as soldiers elsewhere. For as said Islands when all the men now therein continue there is so weak & defenceless how improper a thing must it be if it can be avoided, Still further to weaken it by taking men from thence where they are so much needed? And besides how greatly must it distress a Man who has a wife & several small children, or aged feeble Parents to take care of to be compeled to hazard his hfe in War at a great distance from them and leave them in a place exposed as this is to the outrageous hostilities of the Enemy, when by continuing with them he might afford them some help & Protection. What we have offered we pray your Honours to take into your consideration and Intreat that besides suffering the men here to continue in this place your Plonours would be pleased to send a number of men to this Island for its Protection as your Honours in your great wisdom shall judge proper and that your Honours would afford for the Protection of the Elizabeth Islands at least an equal number of men to that which was last stationed there and your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray.

It is evident that a considerable number of Tories remained in Chilmark, even at this date.

ABANDONMENT OF THE ISLAND CONSIDERED

In the House of Representatives March 29, 1777 Whereas the Island of Marthas Vineyard is so situated that it must put this State to great expense to defend it, should our enemies make it an object of their attention, and as the removal of the inhabitants of said Island to the Maine would be attended with many and great inconveniences to them and cost to the State, therefore. Resolved: that it be and hereby is recommended to the Inhabitants of Marthas Vine3-ard to send off said Island as many of their cattle as are not absolutely necessary for their present and immediate support, that they may be in a better capacity to retreat from the enemy, if they should be attacked by a force they are not able to oppose.'

This was sent to the Council for concurrence, where it met with some dissent, as but fifteen members concurred in this recommendation. Accordingly, two days later, after consultation between the two bodies, another draught of this plan, modified in some particulars, was passed by both branches of the General Court. This new form is as follows: — In. Whereas the Island of Marthas Vineyard is so situated

that it must put the State to great expense to defend it should our Enemies make that an object of their attention, and as the removal of the Inhabitants of said Island to the main would be attended with many and great Inconveniences to them and cost to the State Council March 29, 1777 -- Therefore Resolved: that it be and it is hereby recommended to the Inhabitants of Marthas Vineyard to send off said Island as many of their cattle, sheep and other goods as are' not absolutely necessary to their present support, and it is recommended to the Justices of the Peace. The Field officers and Selectmen of the several Towns on said Island to consult and agree upon such a mode of conduct of the People of said Island to pursue as they may judge most proper an it is recommended to said Inhabitants strictly to pursue the mode that shall be so pointed out for their safety.

Tarrpoland Cove Island, March 31st 1777

Gentn

:

As you have seen fitt to appoint me to the Command of a Company stationed here I think it my Duty to Inform your Honners that I Rased the Company soon after I Rec'd your orders there for and I took my station. I also think it my Duty to Inform your Honners what military stores I Rec'd from Maj'r Dimuck which are as follows: 20 Rounds in Cartridges a man 45 lb powder 122 lb Lead in balls 140 flints 2 Cannon 22 Cartridges of Powder for the Cannon balls. I humbly think it will be the best that there be ordered a further supply of Powder for the Cannon as without them I shant be able to keep the Harbour there having ben severall attempts maid by the Enemy to Ly in the Harbour, which would Cut of all Communication from Dartmouth the Vineyard from the Main

*Mass. Hist. Soc. Proceedings, iqoo.364

The Vineyard Abandoned to Neutrality that Vessels can not pass, but by the help of the Cannon I have been able to keep them out and make no Doubt shall be able to keep the Harbour Clear if not over powered by a number of ships. Your Honners will observe that 63 at least Cartridges of Powder for Cannon is wanting and I humbly pray that y'r Honners will order in the hand of Benoni Nichoson appon'd Commasury for the Company what is wanting or as Your Honners shall otherways think fitt. I Remain With Great Respect your faithfuU servant ELISHA NYE.

To the Hon'ble Councill of the State of the Massachusetts Bay.*

1778 To the Honorable the Council Sz: House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts Bay. The Petition of us the Subscribers Inhabitation of the Town of Tisbury in Dukes County. Humbly sheweth that whereas your Petitioners are situated on an Island that Doth not Produce its own Provisions but are obliged to seek it out of the State of Connecticut and the Govener and Commites of that State oblige our Boats to Enter and Clear & give Bond as Tho' they were vessells of one hundred tuns, and as there is no Naval officer in this Island by which menes our Boats are not able to Carey Proper vouchers that they have landed there Cargos at this Place for whant of which they have been accused of going to Ne^vport. For Remedy thereof we Pray your Honours to appoint sum met Person to that office, and we would not Dictate your honers in this case. But we would Propose for that office to your honers Shubael Cottle, Esq as met Person and Living near the water and in the Midest of the Boats that follow that Impl(o)y, or other ways Provide for us as you in your grate wisdom shall think Proper as in Duty Bound shall ever Pray.

the raid of General Sir Charles Grey in the month of September, 1778, supported by a detachment of troops, numbering over four thousand men, convoyed by a dozen ships of the line and a score of transports. The year 1778 was the darkest for Great Britain since the beginning of the Revolution of the American colonies. Her ancient enemy, France, had acknowledged the independence of the thirteen states of America, and treaties of alliance and commerce passed between Louis XVI and the Continental Congress, greatly to the joy of the struggling patriots on the Delaware, just emerging from the sufferings

of Valley Forge, and to the chagrin of the English ministry, who now felt that another war had been practically declared.

The sight must have been a thrilling one — two score vessels including twelve ships of the line. It amazed and terrified the peaceful people, now removed from participation in the war and behaving as neutrals.

Col. Beriah Norton was its head, and we have his account of what transpired from his own statement. He says: th 10. General Gray, Commanding a detachment of his Majesty's army, arrived at Martha's Vineyard Sep'r 10, 1778, when I waited on him on board ship & agreed to deliver him 10,000 Sheep & 300 head of Cattle, the General informing me at the same time that payment would be made for the Same. The General then required the Stock to be brought to the landing the next day.

General Grey adds further particulars: On our arrival off the Harbour the inhabitants sent persons on board to ask my intentions with respect to them, to which a requisition was made of the arms of the Militia, the public money, 300 oxen and 10,000 sheep: They promised each of these articles should be delivered without delay.

Messengers were dispatched to the settlements "up island," and we may imagine the astonishment of the isolated farmers, aroused by these notifications, delivered in hurried words, to collect all their horned cattle, milch cows excepted, all their sheep and swine, and drive them down to the harbor at the "Hole" without delay, or suffer military punishment!

Some led a few pets into the woods and tied them up in dense thickets. It is stated that one panicstricken female drove her cow up into the attic, where she was locked safely during the four days that the raid lasted.

The morning of the nth (Friday) came and found the people all over the island, under guidance of the militia, stirring early to start on their long and irksome drive from Chilmark, Edgartown, and Middletown, with sheep and cattle, raising long clouds of dust along the highways.

The troops in various detachments scoured nearly the whole island, and gathered up everything that was eatable that they could lay their hands on; live stock of all kinds, vegetables, corn, rye, etc. Brigadier Joseph Otis, then at Falmouth, gives us a picturesque description of their work. He says they caryed off and Destroyed all the corn and Roots two miles round Homes Hole Harbour: Dug up the Ground everywhere to search for goods the people hid; even so Curious were they in searching as to Disturb the ashes of the Dead: Many houses had all RifSed and their Windows broke.

^Those living about Homes Hole were the greatest sufferers from the raid. Undoubtedly, much was done to annoy and damage.

Thus passed Saturday, the 12th, and Grey records that he "was able to embark on board the vessels which arrived that day from Rhode Island 6000 sheep and 130 oxen" up to that date.

	Sheep.	Cattle.
Chilmark	3903	106
Edgartown	3919	112
Tisbury	2752	97
	10574	315

raiders spent in destroying property. General Grey says that they were occupied "in destroying some salt Works, in burning or taking in the Inlets, what vessels and boats could be found."

In Old Town Harbor, Martha's Vineyard: 1 brig of 150 tons burthen, burnt by the "Scorpion." 1 schooner of 70 tons burthen burnt by ditto. 23 whale boats taken or destroyed. A quantity of plank taken. At Holmes Hole, Martha's Vineyard: 4 vessels, with several boats, taken or destroyed. A salt work destroyed and a considerable quantity of salt taken. Arms taken at Martha's Vineyard: 388 stand, with bayonets, pouches, etc., some powder, and a quantity of lead, as by artillery return. 1000 sterling, in paper, the amount of a tax collected by authority of the Congress, was received at Martha's Vineyard from the Collector. Cattle and sheep taken from Martha's Vineyard. 300 oxen, 10,000 sheep.
CHARLES GREY, M. G

JAMES ATHEARN PERMITTED TO VISIT BRITISH GENERAL. Seeking Redress.

Towns developed a detailed list of what was taken, what remained.

Redress Refused. The Commander in Chief knows of no arrangement between General Grey and the people of Marthas Vineyard in relation to the cattle as herein stated, and does not see fit to institute an inquiry into the matter at present. JOHN ANDRE Adjutant*

Norton went to GB to pursue this. Was given that right back in US, but to no avail.

Sought redress from the US or help in pursuing claim.

Office for Foreign Affairs, 25th Sept 1787 The Secretary of the United States for the Department of Foreign Affairs to whom was referred a Memorial of Beriah Norton, dated the 15th September, instant.

...they shall think fit and right. It appears to your Secretary that Marthas Vineyard being American ground the enemy had good Right, flagrante Bella, to take away all sheep and cattle they found there without paying anything for them. If however from Motives of Policy they gratuitously (and not in the way of Capitulation or Convention with the American Government) promised payment, that promise being left in Statu quo by the Treaty, must be considered as having been made at a time and under the circumstances which exempt Britain from any responsibility to the United States for the Performance of it, and consequently it would not be proper for the United States to take any measures respecting it.....The sum in Demand is doubtless important to the Individuals interested in it; but as national Interposition should be confined to objects which affect either the National Interest or the National Honor, your Secretary is of opinion it should not be extended to such concerns and affairs of Individuals as are unconnected with, and do not touch or affect the National rights. All which is submitted to the Wisdom of Congress. JOHN JAY.'

Whale Fisheries

The Indians found here by the first settlers were really the pioneer American whalers. In their frail birch-bark canoes they attacked these monsters of the ocean with an audacity that astonished the English planters. Their light craft were the models of the first whaleboats of the white men, and to this day the Yankee whaleboat, the most seaworthy light craft afloat to-day, is a replica of the sharp, double-prowed canoe in all its essential characteristics.

In those days whales were exceedingly plentiful in our waters, and "drift" whales, so-called, were common spectacles upon the beaches of New England, carried up there lifeless, after some titanic struggle, to dry and decay in the sun and winds.... The earliest reference to this is under date of April 13, 1653: — Ordered by the town, that the whale is to be cut freely, four men at one time and four men at another; and so every whale, beginning at the east end of the town. Edgartown Records, I, 149. William Weeks and Thomas Daggett had been chosen whale "cutters" the previous year.

Long Island, Cape Cod, and Plymouth had been for years pursuing these leviathans of the deep, before Nantucket began her career in this field of human endeavor, until she gradually drew from the "seven seas" of the known earth the livelihood denied by her own sterile soil and contracted acres. Our own settlement was not more than ten years old before the subject of whales found mention in the records.

In 1658, when the elder Mayhew bought Chickemmo, the Sachem sold with the land "four spans round in the middle of every whale that comes upon the shore of this quarter part and no more."^ This claim of the Indian chiefs to the rights of flotsam and jetsam upon the shores of their domains was similar to the sovereign rights obtaining in civilized countries, and was admitted by Mayhew upon the Vineyard. When land was thus bought from them these "privileges" were particularly enumerated, and in turn when the land passed to another the "rights of fish and whale" were always included.

The Vineyard being an island which could support agricultural industries as well, did not depend upon whaling and the fisheries solely, as its chief occupation, as Nantucket was obliged to do, but in the proportion as its sons undertook the calling, they stood in the foremost group of men who carried its name into distant seas.

From Greenland to the Guinea coast they were to be seen in the first half of the 18th century keenly scenting the haunts of those monsters of the deep, far from the hospitable shores of men of their race. Davis Straits (Greenland), 1746 Coast of Guinea, Barbadoes, 1763 Baffin's Bay 1751 Western Islands, 1765 Gulf of St Lawrence 1761 Brazil,^ 1774

The Revolutionary war gave almost a finishing stroke to the business of whaling in America. When the war began there were in the whole American fleet of whalers between three and four hundred vessels of an aggregate of about 33,000 tons, manned by about five thousand seamen. Of these perhaps a quarter belonged to Nantucket and the Vineyard, of course the greater part credited to the former island.....The Revolutionary war gave almost a finishing stroke to the business of whaling in America. When the war began there were in the whole American fleet of whalers between three and four hundred vessels of an aggregate of about 33,000 tons, manned by about five thousand seamen. Of these perhaps a quarter belonged to Nantucket and the Vineyard, of course the greater part credited to the former island.

Travel and Taverns. by ferry, packet, and steamboat.

In 1726, a year before the death of Chase, Samuel Barker of Falmouth was licensed by our County Court as ferryman between "homses hole & woods hole,"

In 1741 another ferry was established by our county authorities, to run from Lambert's Cove to Wood's Hole, and John Cottle was appointed the first ferryman.

Mail Packet service - probably by 1800 regular boats began to run between New Bedford and the Vineyard, and this also accommodated the neighboring island of Nantucket, to which as early as 1807 the line was extended.

First steamers – 1830s

COUNTY HIGHWAYS.

The first road to be laid out or traveled was the "Mill Path" connecting the settlement at Great Harbor with the mill set up on the "river" in Takemmy. This path doubtless followed the old Indian trail between Nunnepog and Takemmy, skirting the heads of the inlets on the south shore. This "path" was probably in

existence long before the purchase of the four associates in 1669, and is the oldest county highway on the island. It did not follow originally the exact line of the present road, which was laid out in the last century, but ran the same course substantially. The continuation of it beyond old Mill River to the "School House Path" of early times, and the south road in Chilmark, makes the highway of travel from Edgartown to Gay Head.

The "Old Town" or "Ferry" road from Edgartown to Homes Hole came into existence in 1700 as a result of a presentment by the Grand Jury indicting the county for neglect to provide a way.

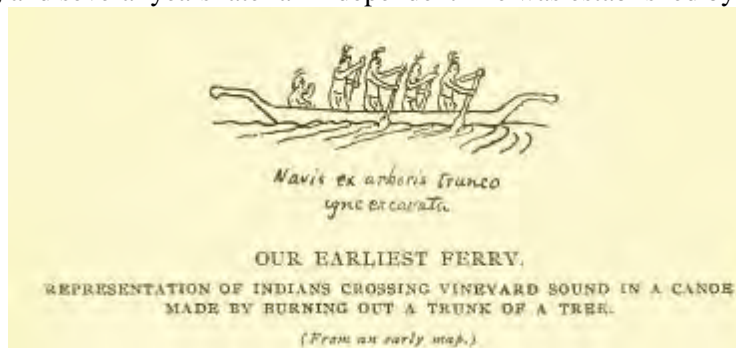
The "Homes Hole Road" designates an old county highway leading from West Tisbury to Homes Hole. It was scarcely more than a "path" for carts, and is first mentioned in 1701, though it had been existing, probably, from the date of settlement of West Tisbury. The exact course of it cannot be determined, as there never was an official survey, but it followed in a general direction the road which now leads from West Tisbury, through Middletown to Lambert's Cove, thence across the Chickemmo region to the existing state highway, west of the head of Tashmo. In December, 1770, a number of the inhabitants of Tisbury petitioned for the official layout and acceptance of this road. The recently constructed state highway connecting Tisbury, West Tisbury and Chilmark follows, in part, the old roads laid out two centuries ago between these towns.

Over a century ago there was a system of telegraphy in operation from the Vineyard to Boston, by means of signal stations on the hills along the coast, by way of Falmouth, Sandwich, Plymouth, Marshfield, and thence to Scituate and Hull. The following advertisement appeared in the Salem Gazette of Sept. 14, 1802...The character of it may be surmised as a combination of the semaphore and flag system, with a signal code devised by the "patentee." It is an indication of the importance of the Vineyard at that period in mercantile and maritime circles. For a number of years a semaphore staff signal service was in operation between this island and Nantucket (about 1845), the staff being erected on Sampson's Hill, Chappaquiddick, and later on the Highlands of East Chop.

In 1857 a submarine cable was laid by Mr. S. C. Bishop, between Nantucket and the Vineyard, via Maddaket and Tuckernuck. It was not successful, though irregular service was rendered by it, when it was in repair. After four years of interrupted operation, through repeated breaks, it was, in 1861, abandoned as a means of communication. The U. S. Signal Service of the government, to perfect its work of forecasting the weather, laid a cable from Nantucket to the Vineyard, and thence by Cedar Tree Neck across the Sound to the Elizabeth Islands, and on to Wood's Hole. This was completed in November, 1885, and offices for the local officials were opened in Oak Bluffs in May, 1886, in Edgartown in June, 1886, and in Vineyard Haven in November, 1886, and the public were accorded the privilege of using the wires for the transmission of private despatches, when not in use for government work.

Vineyard Telegraph Company. In 1887 the Bell Telephone system was installed on the Vineyard, and several years later an independent line was established by Dr. C. F. Lane; both are now in

operation.



Life in the Vineyard during Colonial Times

“The conditions of life which obtained on this island were not in any sense at great variance from that lived by colonists in other sections of New England, but certain local conditions obtained which had a particular significance and effect not found elsewhere.”

The people who settled this island were of pure English stock, almost without exception, and the life which they led Life in Vineyard Towns During Colonial Times here was that of the yeomanry of England at the same period, modified only by local circumstances and that absence of class distinction which formed the basis of the social fabric in the mother country. It was a democracy of the simplest type, at first, strongly tinged with a theocratic character, which affected a return to the Mosaic forms of law and morals, but there was little display on the Vineyard of that extreme kind of intolerance which was peculiar to the Puritan of Massachusetts. These early islanders brought with them their English customs, lore, and ideals, and in their own way applied them to their changed surroundings.

It was the custom in the colonial days for the bride's father to give her a "marriage portion" or dowry, and this was usually in the form of a lot of land for a homestead..... But this dowry was not always forthcoming and the lack of it was the origin of a custom which it is to be hoped was more honored in the breach than in the observance. The dowryless bride was held to be naked of this world's goods, and as a penalty or reminder of her unfortunate state was obliged to be married in a semi-nude condition. These were known as "Shift marriages," sometimes called also "Smock marriages," for the reason that the woman was clad only in a chemise or smock. This kind of a marriage was reserved by law and custom for widows. By it the new husband was relieved of any debts of his predecessor, and began life with his widow-bridal free from incumbrances. It was the custom for the woman thus clad to cross the king's highway and then be married. An instance is recorded in the records of Edgartown in 1757: "Elijah Webster of Lebanon and Elizabeth Trapp of Edgartown were married March 28, 1757. The said Elizabeth appearing naked excepting her shift at the time of marriage."^ It seems scarcely credible that such a proceeding could have taken place in a civilized community as late as 1757, and yet it was not an uncommon event in other parts of New England until the beginning of the 19th century, and one occurred in England in 1860! These sacrifices of modesty to the cupidity of the new husband for the purpose of evading debts were an old English custom. It is believed, and so we hope, that they took place after dark, but we can imagine that there was little of gayety about a wedding for a woman like Elizabeth Trapp who had to parade across the highway on a cold March night, thinly clad in her chemise as a preliminary requirement. Another form of shift marriage was this: The bride was immured in a closet, disrobed during the ceremony, her hand thrust out of it as the door was held sufficiently ajar to permit this portion of her body to take part in the sacred rite of matrimony.

In the family the eldest son was accorded special consideration on account of primogeniture, and this had not only a social but a financial advantage....In material value, when the father's estate came to be divided, a double portion became his. For example, if there were five children, the property would be divided into six parts, of which the eldest son would be awarded two. A knowledge of this will help to settle many disputed questions of heirship and children.

Housing - The dwellings were probably log huts at first, built in the manner of construction familiar to all. The cracks and chinks were daubed with clay and the roof covered with salt hay laid in the form of a thatch. In the early divisions of land in Edgartown there were "thatch lots" set apart for each of the proprietor's holdings, and they were held as such and passed from owner to owner under this designation as late as 1680.

Clay pits were of considerable value, and usually when one was found it was reserved for a general town use. The first mention found of a brick kiln is about 1700 at Chickemoo, but undoubtedly one must have existed before that. [from MHC paper on W Tisbury - Middletown was incorporated as "Tisbury Townet' in 1671 under New York jurisdiction. Northern "Chickemoo" territory was purchased in 1659, and annexed to Tisbury Manor (later Chilmark) in 1671.]

The general fuel was wood at first, but peat was used as a substitute later in some places. Peat is mentioned as early as 1788, and is still used by some of the inhabitants of Gay Head.

Of course the tallow candle was the luxurious artificial light of colonial nights, and it is not necessary to recite the methods of making that well-known domestic article — the "tallow dip." The well-to-do people of that period indulged in wax candles, made of the barberry (bayberry), sometimes called the candle tree, wax. The scarcity of this bush on the island made it a luxury...As the whale fisheries was one of the pursuits of the people here before 1700, it is highly probable that whale oil was employed in some form of primitive lamp and used by the settlers to penetrate the gloom of their long winter evenings.

Journal from eminent jurist and citizen of Boston, Judge Samuel Sewall who travelled there in 1702, 1706, 1712, 1714 I was glad to hear that the Gay-Head Indians had of their own account, met together and run a Fence across the Neck. Fifth-day, April 8, 1714. at Mr. Ebenezer Allen's in Marthas Vineyard sent for Mr. Benjamin Mayhew, who has land adjoining the Gayhead neck, I informed him that the Gay-head Indians have made their Half of Fence, on the side towards the Sound, and desired him to make his Half, that the Neck might be closed; which he agrees to.

Sixth-day, April 9, 1714. Fair Weather: Cold Northerly Wind. Visit Abel's widow. Go to the top of Prospect Hill, from thence to the Sound and by Mr. Thomas Mayhew's direction viewed the River falling into the Sound, and the shoar all along to the end of the 327 Rods which extends South-ward to the middle Line, containing about 1000 Acres which belongs to the Corporation.

April ID, 1714. The wind being excessive high we did not goe to Holmes' Hole, but view'd Watsha neck all over, being conducted by Mr. Simon Athem and B. Haws: find much of it good for Herbage and Tillage. Sat awhile in the Wigwam where Elizabeth, Stephen Spokes' Widow dwells: eat roste Alewife and very good Hasty Pudding.

There was a malt-house at Edgartown before 1700, and the vessels that touched here in their voyages to and from St. Kitts, Barbadoes, and Jamaica, furnished the rum and aqua vitae to those who indulged in "strong drink." The use of liquor was well-nigh universal in the 18th century. I need only cite its regular appearance at ministerial ordinations, church raisings, funerals, and weddings, as pertinent evidence on this point.

"perambulating the bounds," and was unaccompanied by any form of hilarity. Indeed it was a serious and solemn business, like all their life work, and the selectmen of the towns, which had adjoining division lines, met, soberly walked round the landmarks, saw that they were in place, and "renewed" them in their respective town records.

February the 10th 1740 Wee the Subscribers being the Selectmen of the Towns of Tisbury and Chilmark, being Mett in Order to Perambulate & Renew the Bounds between the sd Towns and accordingly Wee agree to Renew a Rock lying in the Wash of the Sea on the North side of the Island; and a Great Rock Lying at the East End of the Middle Line. Commonly known by the Name of the great Rock; and further to a Stake with a heap of Stones round it at a place Commonly known by the name of Cases field And to a black Oake Saplin Markt at the North side of the Road a Little to the Westward of the House of Mr

Eliashib Adams. All which we find to be the Bounds Renewed by the Select men hereto Samuel Lumbert | Selectmen Silvanus Allen | Selectmen Shubael Luce j 0} Tisbury Eliashib Adams j oj Chilmark

The ploughing and all heavy farm work was done by oxen, while the hand implements have not been altered to any extent at the present time...The regular crops on the farm consisted of hay as the principal product, with necessary sowings of "Turkey wheat" (corn), rye and oats. Here and there barley was preferred. Salt grass was a great desideratum for the cattle, and meadow grass of this kind was highly prized by the early settlers.

the following instances of their first mention shows when each kind appears in chronological sequence: Cattle in 1651; hogs in 1652; horses in 1653; sheep in the same year; goats in 1668; and domestic fowl, such as hens, ducks, and geese, before 1660. Dogs are referred to in 1661, and this must have been a native breed of canine, belonging to the Indians, and raised by them for hunting purposes. [and he says earlier]... They were driven down from Boston by the "Bay Path" so-called, through Plymouth and Falmouth, thence to be ferried over the sound in the little sailing vessels of the period.

All cattle ran at large as there were few fences. Not until 1664 was there a "general fence" to corral their herds. It became necessary therefore to provide some way of telling one's own animals. The device employed in England of cutting the ears was resorted to, and the private "ear marks"

The lack of fences to corral cattle was made up in part as time went on by the growth of hedges, in some places, and by the digging of ditches in others.

The disposal of the dead was attended with little ceremony or waste of time by our ancestors. Usually within twenty four hours of the time when the last breath had fled from the body the clods were falling on the coffin.

VOLUME 2

Annals of Edgartown

The beginnings of the history of Edgartown took place in Watertown, when, on March 16, 1641-2, the grant of township was made by the two patentees, Mayhew senior and junior, unto five of their townsmen as previously stated, and the first foundations were laid in that year when young Thomas Mayhew set foot on the shores of its "great harbour," with his companions, to consummate the title and take possession....We can picture them as busy in clearing the land east of Pease Point Way, felling timber, building houses, laying out lots, tilling the soil, and fishing in the adjoining waters.

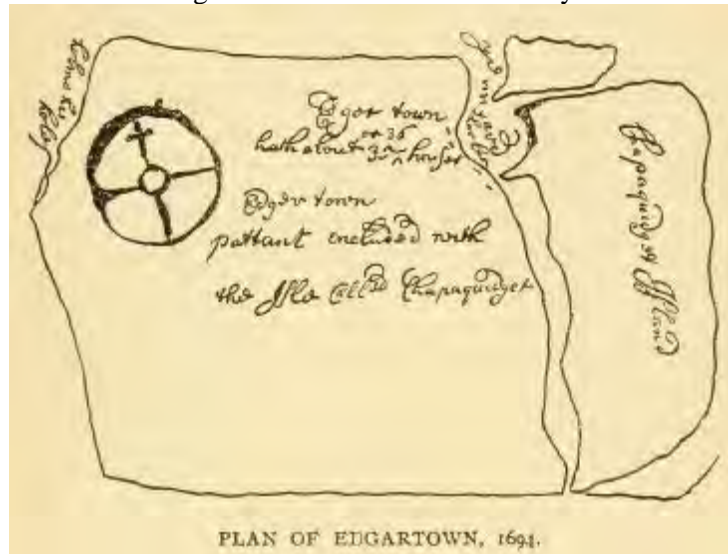
Tewanquatick, Sagamore of Nunnepog, for such was the Algonquian name for the place which Mayhew chose for the town site. "fresh pond or water place."

Early days Mayhew signed his address - "Upon the Vyneyard" or "the Vyneyard"

Great Harbor first appears in 1652. Great Harbor began to be applied slowly to the settlement now known as Edgartown, while the newer village was called Middletown, probably because of its location in the center of the island....there is but one Edgartown in the world!

What more natural suggestion could have been offered than that Great Harbor should exchange its indefinite name for a distinctive title in honor of the Duke's only son, Edgar, a possible future King of England? Whoever was responsible for the suggestion, it was then decreed that Great Harbor "for the future shall be called by the Name of Edgar Towne, and by that Name & Style shall be distinguished and Knowne." There can be no mistake in the word. It is plainly "Edgar Towne" in the patent of

incorporation. The young Prince did not live to know or appreciate the honor intended. In fact, he was dead when his name was bestowed on our county seat, his demise having occurred June 8, (1671, just one month before, a fact doubtless unknown to Lovelace and Mayhew when the choice was made, owing to the infrequency of communication with the mother country....The death of young Prince Edgar, scarcely four years old, has made him practically an unknown personage, even though of royal birth....King James, his father, came to be thoroughly hated and feared in the colonies on account of his religious affiliations, and except in this instance, which was doubtless done as a stroke of policy, there was no disposition in Puritan New England to honor him or his family.



Algonquian place names – lots of info.

Katama. The same name occurs on Long Island, (Indian fishing stations upon Long Island, pp. 54-57). It means "a crab-fishing place."

Nonnamesset. — This appears to have been an alias for Pohoganut, or Aquampache, to which reference should be made. (Deeds, II, 32; IV, 157.) It is also a name for one of the Elizabeth Islands.

Pohoganut. — The first reference to this name is found in a deed, Burchard to Norton, May 2, 1682, when "Pahoggannot is the spelhng (IV, 36). The next mention is in an Indian deed, in 1684, where it is written Pahauknit (Ibid., 1, 18). Again, in 1700, as Pahocknit. In 1704, in a conveyance from Joseph Norton to Samuel Smith, the following language occurs: "a cove of water on the east side of a small neck of land called Nonnamesset . . . commonly called Pohoganit." (Ibid., II, 32.) This would seem to establish an alias for Pohoganut. The meaning of the word is, "at or on the cleared land," and the same word in its variations appears throughout New England, as Pokanoket, Pancanauket or Pockenocket. This was the name of King Philip's home near Mount Hope, R. I. Pahauknit was probably a planting field of the Nunnepog Indians.

Will Lays Plain. — This is commonly called at the present time Willie's Plain, and is said to refer to a son of the first Nicholas Norton, named William, who lost his life there in a well which he was engaged in digging. As Nicholas Norton had no son of that name this legend must be cast aside, and the records appealed to for the true title. "Will Lays pond" is mentioned in 1716 (Deeds, III, 357); Ponit, the sachem of Homes Hole sold to Henry Luce, Feb. 4, 1717 or 1718, a tract of land bounded on the south-west by a cart path running from Chickemmoo "to the place called Will Lays Plain" (Ibid., IV, 183); and "Will lays

Plain" is mentioned in 1726 (Ibid., IV, 151). It got its name from one William Lay, an Indian of Edgartown, known as Pannunnut. In his youth he lived in the family of Governor Thomas Mayhew and in later years became the principal Indian magistrate. He preached at the Indian church at Chilmark about 1690.

May 8, 1653 – First division of common land. Ordered that the meadows upon the pond is to be devided into twenty equal parts beginning at the path of meadow over the ware, and so to Hannah Mayhews marsh only the Pasture and Hannah Mayhew is to have that meadow that lies upon the Pastures neck: so all the rest of the meadow is to be devided into eighteen parts: [list names]
This division of "Meadow" is believed to be what was since known as "The Planting Field," [really???] which was situated on the north side of the town between Weeks' Neck and Mills' or Miles' Brook. Each lot consisted of ten acres, and a tract of two hundred acres was therefore thus allotted.

Feb. 6, 1654, the town voted that "the twenty-five lotts are to Bear Equall Charges & so are to have equal Priviledges." ^ This limit remained in force for many years and represents the number of the home lots bordering on the harbor from Pease's Point to Katama, varying in size from eight to forty acres, the largest number containing about ten acres. Thomas Mayhew and his son held the only lots of forty acres....The original "Five and Twenty" retained the names of their first owners for nearly a century, and long after they had passed from their possession,

The next division of lands held in common was known as "Lots on the Line," and it took place about 1659, the significance of the title being thus explained under date of August 22, that year in the record: — Ordered By the town that the Line shall Run from Wintuckett four Rods to the Westward of the Great Pond By the Ox pond and so By the upper End of Goodman Weekes his Lott to John Peases Lott.^ It referred to a purchase line bounding rights acquired of the Indians, and was sometimes called the Old Purchase Line.

The division of the various "Necks" of land occupes considerable space in the land records of the town. On May 20, 1653, three men, Thomas Mayhew, Sr., Thomas Burchard and Philip Tabor, were selected "to devide to the Inhabitants out of all the necks so much land as thay in their Best Judgment shall see meat." ^The principal "necks" were Crackatuxet, Quanomica, Felix, and "the little neck by Crackatuxet." It is probable that the "thatch" lots were on one of the small necks bordering on the Great Herring Pond.

The next division was of the "Plain," the largest tract held in common that was laid out up to this time, and it was surveyed and divided by Richard Sarson, Thomas Bayes and Isaac Norton into forty lots, receiving con firmation on Feb. 14, 1676 by the town.

The next division was on Feb. 27, 1684, when a tract in the northwest part of the town, towards the Tisbury Hne, called the Woodland was divided into lots, being forty-two shares.* It is supposed the East Pine and West Pine lots are comprised in this division.

COMMONAGE AND FIRE-WOOD RIGHTS.

Among the privileges which were attached to the proprietorship of lots, was that of "commonage" for cattle and liberty to cut fire-wood. The record shows that in 1653 a commonage comprised feeding for eight cows, or equivalent, and the extent of a commonage as it existed in 1663 is more particularly defined:—

Voted that a commonage is 12 great cattle or horses a man may keep upon a commonage for sheep and goats 8 for one cow or horse: it is agreed that every man that hath more than twelve great cattle or eight sheep or goats for every cow or horse that they must hire commonage of others is to be at 12 d a year for a beast and not more.

Expressed by Willm Vinson, Richard Sarson, Thomas Daggett & John Edy, which judge they have commonage to spare, but that those that are overstocked do not provide commonage of such as have it then they must pay for every beast to the town one shilling an six pence that is for every beast more that they can keep upon their own with six pence over and above falls to the town in good¹

Fire-wood rights were specifically granted as appears by a grant to Robert Codman in 1657, of a "commonage of wood." It was found necessary in 1683, to restrict the quantity taken

Voted that every man shall have a load of wood or timber for his use for a share and he that shall have any more shall pay five shilling for every tree that shall be cut without order from the town till further order/ One year later the following modification was made : Voted that all wood in the Old Purchase that is not layd out to be common for men to cut for their occasions.

Nicholas Butler August 13, 1671 died:

This is a True Record of the petickeler parcellis of Land of Mr. Nicolas Butler, which Lands are upon Marthas Vineyard Partickrally as foUoweth: first my house Lott with that Lott which I Bought of Mr. John Bland: adjoining to it is Twenty acres More or Less with one acre of Meadow I Bought of Mr. Browning, Bounded by the Sea on the East, Mr. Blands Lott on the South, the Plaine on the West, John Butler on the North: with my Divedent att Catemy forty acres, More or Less, Bounded By the Sea on the East, the Sea on the South, Mr. Blands lands on the West, the Plaine the Sea on the North North: More two thach Lotts, one Lying (at) Meshackett Bounded by John Foulger on the West, John Doggett on the East: the other Lying att Monaqua Bounded By Thos Doggett on the West, John Pease on the East: this hath four acres of upland Joyning to itt More or Less: More one Ten acre Lott upon the Line Bounded by Thomas Burchard on the East, the Common on the South, Thomas Doggett on the West, the Common the North: More Two acres of Meadow Lying att Chapequideck Bounded By the Pond on the North Lying over against my house, Mr. Mayhew the youngers Meadow on the South: this Meadow is two acres More or Less: More four Acres of Meadow to two Given to my house Lott and two I Bought of Thomas Joanse Lying on the North end of Chapequideck John Wakefield Now in Possession By his heirs Joyning to Mine is More or Less: More three acres of Meadow one Bought of Peter Foulger and Two of John Pease: this Meadow is More or Less Lying att the East End of Chapequideck Joyning and Bounded By Richard Smith on the North, By John Foulger on the South: with a full Commonage and a Six and Twentieth part of fish and whale: More three acres att Crackatuxett Bounded By Mr Mayhew the Elder and Thomas Birchard.'

Highways

Pease Point Way.—This well-known thoroughfare is next in point of interest and age. It is mentioned in 1660 for the first time. It extends from the harbor, at a point near the present location of the Harbor View Hotel, on the southerly sid....through Cleveland Town "Cleveland town" (a few houses just out of the

village), thence still southwesterly to the Great Pond. It was the great highway which enabled the settlers to travel from the north end of the town to the Plains.

Planting Field Way.—This road intersects Pease Point Way, north of Main Street, and is of great antiquity, leading as it does to the "planting field" lots, which were laid out in 1653.

Plain Road.—This provided an outlet from the Slough, southwards, and is first mentioned in 1662, though a cart path must have been in existence for a number of years.

Swimming Place Path. — Extending from the Swimming Point towards the Great Pond this road was a necessary "cross path" in that section. Mention is first made of it in 1675.

Mashacket Path. — This old path is doubtless of greater antiquity than the first record of it would indicate (1677), and it is one of the names which has survived the two-and-a-half centuries.

Sanchacantacket Path. — After this region came into the plans for extending the area of settlement, a path was required to reach there, and it became in effect an extension of the main highway leading out of the village. It was first mentioned in 1678.

Mill Path. — The mill at West Tisbury, which was set up before that town was settled, gave the name to an old path which led from Cleveland Town to Takemmy, south of the present road. It is described in the first volume.

Wintucket Path. — This road, leading to Wintucket from the old Mill Path, is mentioned in 1708.

Moh Street. — The road or way bearing this curious name received its baptism about 1762, and retained it for many years. It ran from the "Mill Path" to the "Meeting House Way,"

Penny Wise Path. — There was a locality bearing this title in Edgartown as early as 1734. "Penny Wise" (a place) is mentioned in a deed from Joseph Norton to his grandson John, in that year. "Penny Wise Path" is referred to in 1735, as near the "middle line." "Penny Wise Way" was described as near the road from Edgartown to Homes Hole; also near the Claypit. The "Pennywise Path" is the first road beyond the homestead of the late William Jernegan, on the left side of the old Homes Hole road. It leads by the north side of the Dark woods to and by the south side of the West woods, on the West Tisbury road. A continuation of it meets Pease's Point Way at Great Pond. It was called "Pennywise Path" because it was laid out as a shorter way to Homes Hole than Pease's Point Way. But it proved to be as long if not longer than the old way, so was called Pennywise.

Tarkill {Tarkiln} Path. — There were kilns for extracting tar from wood in the Penny Wise region, and this path ran to that locality as early as 1738. "Penny Wise Swamp" is mentioned in 1743.

INDUSTRIES

This town has never been a manufacturing centre, and but few records are to be found relating to the production of finished articles of merchandise from the raw material.

In 1850 the largest single industry of this character was the oil and candle works of Daniel Fisher & Co., with a capital of \$40,000 invested in the business, and the annual product for that year was 118,000 pounds of candles, 13,200 barrels of strained and refined oils. With other minor products the annual value of this business was reported to be \$284,370, an industry far exceeding indirect cash income to the town the whale fishery interests. The general government was supplied with oil and candles for the lighthouses by this firm, and this business grew in importance in later years till the time of the Civil War. Whole

cargoes of oil were contracted for at one time, involving values of over \$100,000 at a purchase, and the industry gave employment to many men.

The general fisheries in 1850 yielded a value in product of \$15,325, of which \$4,500 is credited to the Mattakeeset herring fishery, the latter representing a catch of 1,250 barrels. At the present time the shell fisheries are an equally important industry, and rival in value the other sea foods collected in these waters for the metropolitan markets.

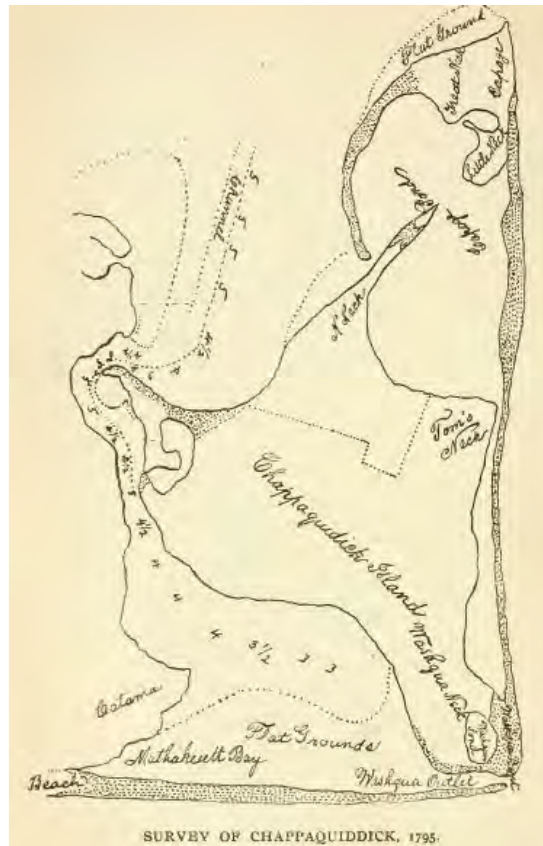
In the years preceding the Revolution the manufacture of salt by the process of evaporation of sea water in large wooden vats or pans was an important industry, and it was followed up as late as 1840. This business, at one time so valuable in the state, has entirely disappeared as an occupation hereabouts since the development of salt mining in other sections of the country.

The only mills operated in town have been propelled by wind power and were local grist mills only.

CHAPPAQUIDDICK

For the purpose of preserving the individuality of this insular part of Edgartown, it will be considered as a separate section and given special treatment. From the earliest times it has always borne the name by which it is now known. It is an Algonquian word, compounded of Tchepi-aquiden-et, which is translated as "the separated island,"

sagamore named Pahkepunnassoo



Chappy

The value of this island to the settlers was its excellent grazing facilities, a place where cattle could be safely pastured without the need of fences to restrain their ranging. Each of the "five and twenty" lots had its share in the division of the land, with rights of pasturing a specified number of great cattle and small stock to a commonage....These rights of grazing were subsequently rented out by those who had no cattle. In 1703 there were nearly two hundred and fifty "great" cattle, besides sheep, entered for that year by the proprietors or their tenants. The "great" cattle, horses, oxen, cows, were taken over every fall, about October 5th and brought back in the spring, about April 25th, by the way of the Swimming place. At slack tide of low water the animals were driven in and made to swim across the "river." Such was the extent of this business that the proprietors held annual meetings to regulate the affairs of the "separated island." Elaborate regulations were drawn up to guard against trespassing and overloading the quotas of each share, To add to these complicated privileges there was great uncertainty among the proprietors themselves as to what they owned, either in severalty or in common. There had been a division of the meadows about 1668, but "the certain bounds were not known except of some particulars," and a second division was made in 1679, "which though the writings thereof are lost, yet have generally (been) improved and acknowledged."^ Such a condition naturally caused confusion and trespassing on the lands reserved to the Indians, who lived in considerable numbers on this island, as one of their settlements.^

This reservation assigned to the Indians was on the north side of the road leading from Collop's pond eastward, and comprised all the land to the shore bordering the harbor and bay.

Indian Sachem (Joshua Seeknout)... entered a test suit against Thomas Pease and others at the October term, 171 2, in an action of trespass "on the southeast part of it (Chappaquiddick) at a place called Wassaehtaack alias pocha."

Under date of Dec. 19, 171 5, the referees made the following decision: (i) The English should have the undisputed fee of the neck called Menechew, saving one share to the sachem; (2) The Indians should have the sole possession of the Island of Chappaquiddick for themselves and posterity, never to be sold without the consent of the Provincial government; (3) The English should have the right to mow the salt marshes (saving the "wobshaw grass" for the Indians, use in making mats), paying therefor one shilling per acre annually; (4) The winter herbage should be shared in common by both English and Indians "as stented for the number of grate catle goats and sheep between October 25 and March 25th yearly," the English paying Seeknout " the fifteenth goat and for every fatted Beast one Shilling & Sixpence" annually; and (5) the proprietors were restricted to a total of one hundred head of great cattle for grazing purposes. This decision afforded the usual loophole for the English and payment was refused to the sachem in many cases on the question of what constituted a "fatted beast."

Capoag (Capawack, Cape Pogue). — The earliest known aboriginal name attached to the Vineyard. ... It applied to the pond properly and became identified with the point or cape.

Menechew. — A neck of land, "being the northernmost part of the said Island"

Natick. —This was, in the first eighty years after the settlement, an island at the northern tip of Chappaquiddick, sometimes called Capoag island. The narrow and shallow channel which separated it from the main portion of the island was closed up during a great storm, about 1725, and it has ever since remained a part of the peninsular formation (Deeds, I, 388; IV, 153, 328; VI, 401, 520). See Great Neck.

Pocha. — This is one of the earliest place names of the island and marked the southeastern point, as early as 1665, having also an alias, Wassaehtaack. The word is derived from Pok-sha-muk, signifying "where

there is a breaking in," as a pond formed by the inrush of the sea. There is a Potchey or Pochey in Eastham on the Cape.

Wasque. — The southernmost point of Chappaquiddick was early called Wasque, an abbreviation of Wannasque, meaning "the ending or point." Wasqua hill is mentioned in 1742 (Deeds, VI, 401).

Great Neck. — After Natick Island became a part of the main island it was later called Great Neck.

Little Neck. — A small part of the original Natick was known in 1790 as Little Neck.

Tom's Neck.— This name was attached as early as 1790 and still belongs to the small neck of land on the eastern side of the island.

For the first hundred years after the settlement, this island was occupied solely by Indians, and their numbers had fluctuated during and since that time, through epidemics and immigration. In 1698 there were 138 Christianized natives, perhaps two-thirds of the entire population. In 1765 about 80 were left and in 1790 there were 75, "not more than one third of whom are pure."^ In the next century enumerations taken at irregular times give the following figures: In 1807, 65; in 1828, no; in 1849, 84; in 1861, 74, and at the close of the last century, 7.^ The Des Barres map of 1781 shows twenty-three houses on the island, both English and Indian, indicating a population of about 175 of the combined races. The census of 1790 makes no separation of those resident here, but counting the families known to have lived on the island, it is estimated that about 190 constituted its population.

Chappaquiddick was one of the 'praying towns" of the Vineyard established by the Mayhews as a result of their mission work, and in 1670 Joshua Momatchegin was ordained as one of the ruling elders of the native church, gathered by the elder Thomas in his capacity of religious instructor. The converted Indians on the east side of the Vineyard were gathered into one congregation at first, but after the death of Hiacoomes in 1680 the Chappaquiddick tribe were set off as a separate body and continued under the charge of Momatchegin.^

Annals of West Tisbury

The present limits of West Tisbury represent the old township of Tisbury as it was originally laid out...West Tisbury occupying as it does the original settlement once called Middletown is therefore the historic Tisbury,... The Algonquian name of this locality was Takemmy...

Through this section flows the largest stream on the island, and this big "river" when the whites first purchased Takemmy in 1669-70 was called "Old Mill River" giving evidence that some sort of a mill had been erected there by previous settlers or residents of the island long before its purchase from the natives, possibly soon after the settlement of Edgartown.

The road leading from Edgartown to Takemmy was and is still called the "Mill Path," and the road from Chilmark running east to Takemmy was also called the "Mill Path" as early as 1664.

The full etymology of it is Tackhum-min-eyi, of which -hum is a special affix, and implies exertion of strength, as he forces him or it after the manner expressed by the root Tack, i. e., to pound, grind, strike the object which is -min, (Grammar of the Cree, 86, 87). Min was the generic term for any small berry, nut or grain. Here it denotes the grain, par excellence, corn, (Trumbull). In the Narragansett and Massachusetts dialects Mayi, May or Meyi, signifies a path, road,

West Tisbury had no known population before 1670, when the four proprietors made their first purchase of the soil and opened it up for settlement. From a computation based on the genealogies of families known to have been living here ten years later (1680) we can enumerate about 120 souls resident then. The map of Simon Athearn (1694) shows twenty-two houses in the town, and as families always exceed houses in numbers, we may reckon 25 families of five each at that date, or a total of 125 souls.



Note.—This interesting and valuable plan of Tisbury in 1694, is the first one of its kind known to the author, and is a part of a sketch of the entire island. It is here printed with the east to the top for the convenience of reading the written descriptions made by him on the map. These legends are as follows, beginning at the top:

-
- holms his hole
- holms his hole have hitherto payed rat(e)s to tisbury
- this included lands is Claimed by and pay rat(e)s to Chilmark its Called Chikkemoo
- this included is pattant from York Called the town of Tisbury
- the meting house
- a farm claimed by two patants

The plan shows two houses in the Chickemoo district, and twentytwo houses in the town of Tisbury, besides the meeting-house, in 1694. The position of the meeting-house bears out the views of the author as to its location at that date. It was the first house of worship built, and occupied the present site of Agricultural Hall. The "farm claimed by two patants" is, undoubtedly, the Quinames property, a part of the Manor of Tisbury.

The settlement at Great Harbor had continued for twenty five years to be the sole settlemint on the island, but by 1666 the necessity for an extension of their territorial occupation became more apparent, and it is probable that by this date some persons had taken up land here, or occupied it for tillage purposes. Doubtless the attraction to this place was the fine water courses and the fertile meadows, which have made this the garden spot of the Vineyard. In what way the Original proprietors of Tisbury were induced

to invest in this territory is not known. They had no previous association with the Vineyard as land owners, nor were they connected by marriage with any of the existing families on the island. Surmises on the influences which caused them to turn their faces hither would be useless. It is sufficient to state that on the first day of July, 1668, as a result of previous negotiations, Thomas Mayhew gave authority to William Pabodie and Josiah Standish of Duxbury, and James Allen of Sandwich to enter into agreement with the Sachem of Takemmy to buy what land they wished within his bounds,

1669 - From the mouth of Tyasquan River to the Bridge and from the Bridge in the path that goeth to the school house till it doth meet with the Bounds of Nashowakemmuck, from thence in the Bound line to the Sound: Secondly from the mouth of Tyasquan to a tree in the vally by the house of papameek marked and from that tree to another tree marked tree westerly marked and from that parellect with the bound line between Nashowakemmuck and Takemmy: and also from the tree in the valley aforesaid near paapameks house in the winter 1668, it is to run Eesterly one mile and from that miles end it is to run Southerly unto the water that comes into the vally where Titchpits house and his sonnes were in the winter 'Dukes Deeds, I, 239. 1668 aforesaid which includes all the land or neckes westerly to Coskenachasooway.'

The Sachem also granted by this same deed for a further consideration of ;^65,-all "the meadow upon all the neckes of land on the South side of the Island in his bounds."

1671 - I Josias Sachem of Tackkomy do sell and Inlarge the Lotts of the English further on the East side unto the East sid of the deep woody valiy in the cart way goeing to the town 'and so to run upon a straight line unto the mille from the marked tree & from the marked tree by papemikes field and so taking in all the Land and neckes westwardly as appeareth by trees marked on the east sid of the woody vally, by me Josias, James Allen and John Eddy.

the territory bordering on the Old Mill river, north from the Tyasquin, was selected for the location of the "home lots," and these were declared to be limited to forty acres each, measuring forty rods on the brook and "eight skore polls" in length, east and west. This forty acres represented one share and twenty acres half a share. The location of these original lots is shown on the map accompanying this, to which reference should be made for a more particular representation. It will be seen that most of the lots were on the west side of the brook where all the prominent shareholders located, which seems to indicate that the selections made were by mutual consent rather than by lot. The only important exception is the location of Simon Athearn on the east side, without any near neighbor, a lot which he had occupied before 1672.

1681 - [as had acquired all except necks to east of Tississa, which was considered valuable meadow]: a certain neck of land lying within the sachemship of Takemmy, commonly called Mussoowonkwhonk, being next to Sekonquit eastward: and bounded by the uppermost end of the west cove of water: and from thence upon a square line to the vally which runs from the east cove of water: and from thence by the said east cove of water unto the sea for the use and benefit of the EngHsh town.' This was the neck between Long Cove and Pasqunahommons Cove. This was the neck between Long Cove and Pasqunahommons Cove. The next purchase was made of Josias the Sachem on Jan. 6, 1681-2, and included Scrubby Neck and the western half of Watcha as far as he controlled, as follows:

It was not until two years after that the remaining neck, Seconquit or Charles', was acquired. On March 29, 1683, Josias with the consent of some "parties concerned," local native magnates, sold to the townsmen this neck, which was thus described: a certain Neck of land called Seconquet, known to the English by the name of Charles his Neck: bounded Westerly by a cove of water and by the Deep Bottom unto the highway: and Easterly by a cove of water called Seconquet: and from said cove upon a straight line unto the aforesaid highway.^

1693 - that peter robinson and John Manter be constituted and apoynted this towns Atorneys to use their cunning in defending this towns right of the medow gras and hay on Seconquit, peanaskenamset and mossoonkhonk effectully to prevent any Indian or Indians directly or indirectly to have any improvement by Confedryce or otherwise for the space of three years:

Manaquayak. — A pond in Tisbury, called sometimes "Old House Pond."

Newtown. — The name applied generally to the settlement in Tisbury in distinction to Old Town at the east end of the Vineyard. It is more particularly applied to North Tisbury and occurs as early as 1750

Tiasquin. — This early Indian name for the New Mill river is of uncertain origin. This stream was crossed by a bridge, probably constructed by the settlers soon after their occupation, and it is referred to often, as in 1664, a deed from the Sachem Pamehannet to Thomas Mayhew, recites certain bounds as "from the bridge of the river called Tyasquan" (Deeds, I, 83). The Algonquian word Tooskeonk, means a fording place, ford or bridge, and while it may be accidental yet it can be the source of this name — the ford or bridge river. Another possible origin is Tisashg-om-(uck), "where we go to cut grass," meaning the meadows along the lower parts of this stream.

Tississa. — This was a neck of land lying between "Tyers" cove and Deep Bottom cove, and was generally known in the records as "Copeck alias Tississa" (Dukes Deeds, I, 301).

Waskosim's Rock.—This is the well-known landmark, now as of old forming one of the boundaries between Tisbury and Chilmark, It is first mentioned in the town records under date of Feb. 9, 1681-2, as "a place called Wasqusims," and again in 1702 as "Waskosims" (pp. 10, 274). It may have obtained its name from some Indian who had a wigwam in that vicinity.

Wechekemmipihquiah or Wechepemepquah. — This was one of the Indian names of Scrubby Neck, known also as Pasquanahomman's Neck, one of the planting fields of the Indians before the advent of the white settlers. The meaning of this word is "cornfield," from Wachimin, corn, and pequauke, clear place, or field. This is mentioned in a deed dated 1700 (Dukes Deeds, I, 46), under that designation, but it has had several aboriginal titles.....Another alias was Peanaskenamset (Deeds, II, 245), occurring in 1693. I[^] its full form this should be written as Uppeanashkonameset, meaning "a place where flags grow," or literally, "at the covering-mat place," designating a low marshy spot where the cat-tail flag (*Typha Latifolia*) grows in abundance. This plant was used by the natives for covering their wigwams, in making mats, baskets and such like articles, while the down which surrounds the fruit was used for the filling of cushions for the head. The same name designates other Indian localities in New England. Mossoonkhonk (1693): a field in Tisbury where meadow grass was cut and which became the subject of a dispute with the Indians as to proprietorship. Mos-soon-khonk, means "that which is sheared, or made bare" hence "a mowing meadow."

The only one of the original purchasing proprietors of this town who remained as a settler, except James Skiffe, was James Allen, the progenitor of the Vineyard Aliens

JONATHAN LAMBERT. He was born in 1657 and had married Elizabeth Eddy, daughter of John Eddy of this town in 1683,... In 1694 he bought a tract of land bordering on Great James pond of the Sachem Josias, and ever since that date the name of Lambert's Cove has been a memorial of his residence in that region....Here he lived until his death, and his sons and grandsons remained on the paternal acres until it became thoroughly indentified with the family. His life was uneventful as he was a deaf mute, and the records give but little to indicate any public activities. Two of his children were also unfortunately afflicted with congenital deaf mutism, the first known cases on the Vineyard...Sewall refers to him during

his visit in 1714 to the island: "We were ready to be offended that an Englishman, Jonathan Lumbard in the company spoke not a word to us, and it seems he is deaf and dumb."*

Henry Luce - When he came to the Vineyard, or through what connection, is not known, but he had acquired before Feb. 1, 1671, a home lot on the west side of Old Mill river about forty rods north of Scotchman's Bridge road.^



The situation of West Tisbury has been such that there has been no demand for taverns in its limits, as transient travelers were infrequent visitors to the centre of the island and such as came were guests of private individuals.

The mills of the early days on the island were all operated by the under-shot wheel, as there was not sufficient fall of water to use the other form. The under-shot wheel was set directly in the running stream or placed close to a sluice leading from the dam.

The mill privilege on Old Mill river, the larger and more valuable, seems to have been unused for nearly a century after the "first purchase," as we have no record of a mill on that stream until 1760, except that it was a site "where a mill anciently stood." It is probable that the first mill erected there before the white settlement was a crude affair, and that it had fallen into decay. The erection of a mill on the Tiasquin in 1668 or 1669 seems to warrant such an inference, as there could be no urgent business requiring the capacity of two mills so near together. We are reduced to such speculations for want of a definite allusion to the continued existence of a mill on this stream in any records of property transfers covering this ancient site.

David Look. Look had purchased, two years previously, William Case's share, March 18, 1807, and thus became the sole proprietor of the two grist mills on the Old and New Mill rivers.

Farther up Old Mill river, where Dr. Daniel Fisher built his grist mill, another power was available and was early utilized.

TIASQUIN RIVER. Benjamin Church of Duxbury built the first grist mill in this town about 1668, "which mill standeth upon the westernmost Brook of Takemmy," ... He sold it Nov. 19, 1669 for ;ⁱ20 to Joseph Merry of Hampton, together with one eighth part of the first "purchase." Merry operated this as a grist mill until March 5, 1675,... She died Jan, 15, 1877, and David N. Look, a grandson of Robert, bought it of her executors. For two centuries its wheel had turned to the flow of the Tiasquin river. Of this time it had been in the possession of the Look family for one hundred and fifty-six years, which is almost an unprecedented record of continuity of occupation in the succeeding generations of one family. The last proprietor closed its career as a mill soon after coming into possession, removed the building and converted it to other uses. The second mill built on this water-course before 1850 was set further up the stream and was owned by Matthew Allen. It came into the possession of his son-in-law, Captain George Luce, who rebuilt the property about 1860 and operated it for twenty years or more as a grist mill.

The Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, founded in 1858, has its headquarters in this town.

The layout of the first roads in town, the Mill road, the Scotchman's bridge and the road leading from Nashowakemmuch to North Tisbury, is not of record.

Mill Path. — The first road in town was the "path" leading from Edgartown to the Old Mill brook. It has already been described (vol. I, p. 460). It was the "great road" of the settlement and a part of the county system of highways.

School House Path. — Contemporary with the Mill path and a continuation of it from the brook to the Chilmark line, was this highway, now the south road. Both of these were old Indian trails.

Scotchman's Bridge Road. — This was the first highway mentioned in the records, as early as 1671, and was doubtless laid out when the home lots were plotted. It was originally the road midway of the lots running east and west the entire section.

Homes Hole Path. — This road led from the Mill path on the east side of the Old Mill brook to Homes Hole, following very nearly the present road over the plain.

Lamherts Cove Road. — This was a way laid out in 1751 by the owners of land as a combination of the North Shore road from West Tisbury village, and it was provided that it should extend through Chickemmo, "towards the Northeast as may be best for Conveniencie of Said Road and as may be Leaste for Dammage on each Mans Land untill it comes to goe thro Saviges Line." It then intersected the Homes Hole path near its present junction.

Division of Town. In 1850 the village of Homes Hole had outgrown in population the western section of Old Tisbury and was gradually developing at the expense of the smaller settlements in the rest of the town. The interests of these two portions of the town were not homogeneous the one was a compact village with a maritime and manufacturing population, and the other was chiefly devoted to agriculture and fishing. Several miles of "ragged plain" separated West Tisbury, Homes Hole and North Tisbury, and the inevitable jealousies and disagreements arose between the village and the town regarding improvements to roads, school facilities and the proper balance of appropriations. This became more and more acute as the village of Homes Hole thrived and grew and demanded modern streets, sidewalks, fire protection, lighting, water supply and all the requirements of a compact settlement....older men could remember the time when the "Hole" was an insignificant part of Tisbury town.

At the first meeting, held in the former village, the proposal failed by a vote of 115 yes to 161 no; and at one of the largest town meetings ever held the second test vote, 150 yes to 204 no, resulted in its final rejection. The people of West Tisbury renewed the contest the next year, and it was decided by the General Court in favor of the petitioners without use of the referendum. It became a law April 28, 1892, when signed by the Governor, William E. Russell, and the new town of West Tisbury celebrated its victory by a torch-light procession and a jubilation meeting at Agricultural Hall.

Christiantown - The beginnings of Christiantown carry us back to the year 1659,... The government of Christiantown, as far as the management of the land was concerned, was vested in Governor Mayhew and five Indians as Trustees, and their heirs and successors from the year 1669,... The Indian population of Christiantown is first reported in 1698 as 82, and no other record is known for the next sixty years. In 1762 it was 54; in 1790 it was 40; in 1828 it was 49 and in 1858 it was 53, of which number 23 were males and 30 females...The settlement of the bounds of Takemmy and Christiantown in 1709, by the survey of Otis and Bassett, kept the English in check for a number of years, but the cupidity of the white man, and the ignorance of the red man, worked out its inevitable result.

Chickemmoo – Purchased by Mayhew - section of land on the North Shore,... the said Thomas Mayhew is to have four spans round in the middle of every whale that comes upon the shore of this quarter part and no more: the hunting of Deire is common, but no trappes to be set:... In 1684 it is written in one deed Kutchickemmo,^ the prefix, meaning great, thus only qualifying its definition, which is "a fish weir" or "a place of the fish weir," perhaps "place of great fish weir."^ This had reference probably to the present Herring creek on the east corner bound of Chickemmoo, where our aboriginal predecessors undoubtedly set their nets for the alewives that annually ran up into Chappaquonset pond to spawn. In local parlance it is pronounced Chekamy. This tract of land became a well defined section of two towns, widely separated from the parent settlements of both, and was always given special treatment by them. For this reason it is here treated as a distinct local entity....mentioned in 1734 (ibid., VI, 140). The modern spelling is Makonikey.

This line bisected Chickemmoo into a northern and a southern half,

James Pond. — The first occurrence of this name is in 1682 and it probably was so called on account of James, Duke of York, as in 1700 it was designated as "Pond Royall." Before this it had been called Onkakemmy pond and Each-poquassit pond. The modern name for it is Great James pond.

When the elder Mayhew and his grandson Matthew secured the town charters for Edgartown and Tisbury in 1671, it will be recalled that a third grant was made to them personally at the same time, for the Manor of Tisbury. The particulars of this grant will be detailed elsewhere, and it will be only necessary to say that this latter manorial grant included several scattered tracts of land in Chilmark and the Elizabeth Islands, including Chickemmoo, which was within the bounds of Tisbury. Chickemmoo being

administered by the Lords of the Manor of Tisbury thus became an independent parcel of territory within the chartered limits of another town, and such an anomalous situation

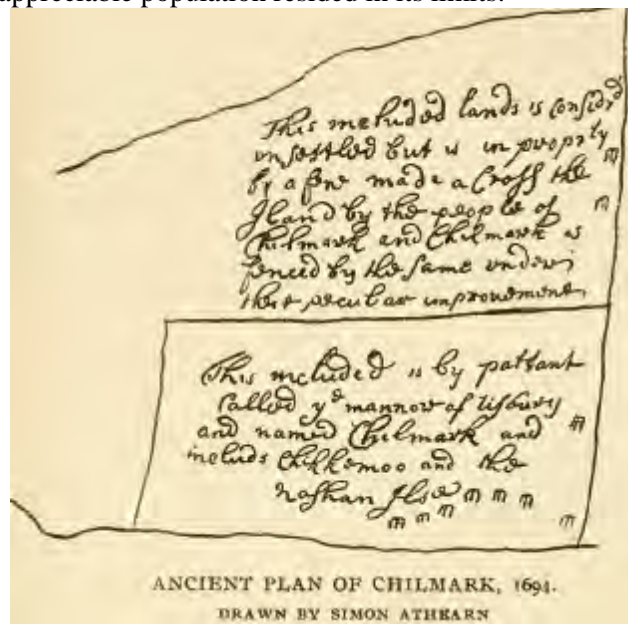
1736 Chickemmo annexed to Tisbury - they live Eight Miles from the Meeting House in said Town, and but four from Tisbury Meeting House, which they must pass by in their Travell to Chilmark; And therefore praying That the whole Tract of Land called Checkamo with their Inhabitants and their Estates

Annals of Chilmark

Chilmark was a unique town, territorially, for many years, as it comprised three outlying tracts, widely separated, viz: Chickemmo, which was within the corporate limits of Tisbury, Nomans Land and the Elizabeth Islands...In 1736 Chickemmo was made a part of Tisbury, and in 1864 the town of Gosnold was formed from the Elizabeth Islands.

First Use of Name - March 26, 1680, where Mayhew calls himself "of the town of Chilmark in the Manor of Tysbery." The reason for the bestowal of this name is found in its relation to the Mayhew family at the time Thomas Mayhew lived in the adjoining parish of Tisbury. It was undoubtedly found that confusion arose from the use of the names of Tisbury Manor and Tisbury, a condition which Mayhew remedied by reviving the old familiar title of one of the ancestral homes of his family.

Chilmark was the last of the three original towns to become settled, and it is not until toward the end of the 17th century that any appreciable population resided in its limits.



This included lands is considrd unsettled but is in propr(ie)ty by a fenc(e) made a Cross the Hand by the people of Chilmark and Chilmark is fenced by the same under their peculiar improvement. This, included is by pattant Called the manner of tisbury and named Chilmark and includes Chikkemoo and the Nashan Ise.

Keephikkon. — This place is mentioned in 1663 (Dukes Deeds, I, 93). This word has a great variety of forms, Keephickon (1671), Keipheigon (1675), Cephecand (1678) and Ciphccan (1684). The modern spelHng, Cape Higgon, is a blunder, similar to the error made in Cape Poge. It means "an artificial enclosure,"

Menemsha. — Monamesha, Unanemshie and Manamshouk...The name originally did not belong to the creek or the pond, but probably indicated a standing tree or pole placed on one of the hills near the creek, or it may have been the name of the locality itself, "as seen from afar." The terminal -unk is an inseparable generic denoting a solitary standing tree, while the adjectival prefix signifies "a vision" (Massachusetts). The reading would therefore be, "the observation tree or pole,"erected for the purpose of signalling, when the whales were in sight. Monamansu-auke, meaning, "place of observation," may apply to Prospect hill, the highest on the Vineyard in the region of the Menemsha pond.

Nashowaquidsee. "at the little divided island," referring, probably to the insular formation between Menemsha and Squibnocket ponds.

Quinames. — A neck called "Quanaymes" in Nashowakemmuck, is mentioned in a deed dated May 17, 1664, and again in a deed dated 1678 (I, 265). The definition of this word is "the long fish" (eel), and refers to a locality where the Indians caught them....Matthew Mayhew sold to his brother John, Nov. 8, 1687, certain "land called Quanso or Quanimset " (Deeds III, 174).

Sqieppunocquat. — Squibnocket, modern. The definition is "A place where the red ground nut grows." M'squepunock-ut; it was probably the bulb of the orange red lily (*Lilium Philadelphicum*) which grows in great profusion around this region. In various dialects it is known as the meadow ground nut. The Indians ate the roots, which are long in boiling, and they taste like the liver of sheep.

Beetle Bung Corner. — The junction of the Middle road and the Menemsha road has been called by this curious name for nearly two hundred years. A clump of hornbeam trees growing near this spot gave it the name of Beetle Bound Tree corner as early as 1729 (Deeds V, 67), because the trees marked a boundary. The name Beetle "Bung" corner is a clumsy and meaningless corruption of the original signification of the name. Hornbeam wood was used then in the manufacture of beetles for loosening the bungs of casks and hogsheads, and the trees were sometimes called beetlewood trees.

Fulling Mill Brook. — The Fulling Mill brook is mentioned in a deed dated 1694. It starts in a swamp near the middle road and empties into Chilmark pond.

Nabs Corner. — The junction of the Chilmark-Tisbury line and the South road has borne this name for over a century. It derived its name from one Abigail Dunham, single woman, who lived near there, before 1800, and achieved considerable notoriety during her life.

New Mill River. — Matthew Mayhew conveyed to Capt. Benjamin Skiffe in 1696, the right to use "New mill river," "to improve for a mill" (Dukes Deeds I, 125). It flows along easterly, parallel to the Middle road, crosses the Tisbury line and continues its course through that town.

Pease" s Brook. — Mentioned in a deed, 1697, as near the Sugar Loaf rock in Chilmark. It empties into the western end of Chilmark pond, after a long circuitous route starting beyond the Middle road.

Sugar Loaf Rock. — This well-known landmark is first mentioned in 1677,

Accordingly on the day in which the two patents of Edgartown and Tisbury passed the seals, there was issued another, creating Tisbury Manor out of the several purchases made by Mayhew in the present territory of Chilmark, Tisbury and the Elizabeth Islands,

There were no proprietors, nor "home lots" as in the other towns for the reasons already explained. Consequently there was no formal division of the original territory of Chilmark, as occurred in Edgartown and Tisbury.

Diary Rev. William Homes - Xber 25. 1720. * * Our people here, some of them, brought a drift whale ashore at Sqiubnocket on friday and cut her up on Saturday.

July 9 [1737] and the night after it, we had excessive rains which raised the rivers upon this island to such a degree that the dams of the water mills were carryed away by them, and the mowing grovmd near the rivers was very much damnified, to the great loss of several of the inhabitants.

7ber 6, 1741. We had this summer a drought that hurt both the grass and the Indian corn very much. This was accompanied with an unusual number of grasshoppers that devoured both grass and corn.

Chilmark has never been a tavern town, and no record has been found by the author showing that a license was granted for the express purpose of "keeping a publicke house," except in one year. Undoubtedly Chilmark was one of the towns referred to in 1694, which "thinck it inconvenient to have such houses."

The South Road. — This was the first "hie way" in the town and probably existed as a foot or cart path from the earliest occupation by the English. Undoubtedly it followed the old trail used by the Indians in their intercourse between Takemmy and Nashowakemmuck. It was a continuation of the "Mill path" or "school house path" from Tisbury, and was gradually extended as the settlement grew.

Menemsha Rd - It is the road which leads from North Shore past Beetle Bound corner to the South road at the Ephraim Mayhew place.

Tea Lane. — According to tradition this road derived its name from an incident that occurred during the embargo on tea, in the days prior to the Revolution. Captain Robert Hillman (146), returning from a voyage to England, brought some of the "forbidden fruit" for the use of an invalid aunt, the wife of his uncle Silas (45). The patriotic authorities learning of it, endeavored its seizure, but were unable after Town Records. I, 15. several searchings to locate the depository, which was the barn, and Aunt Eunice had her cheering cups in spite of the officials whose duty it was to confiscate this contraband article that became the exciting cause of the great struggle.

Middle Road. — Upon petition of Samuel Tilton, 2nd, and 150 others this road was laid out by the County Commissioners, Dec. 30, 1845, from Baxter's Corner, West Tisbury, to the Gay Head line, including a bridge over Harry's creek. The length as surveyed was six miles, 290 rods, having a width of two rods.

North Road.— The County Commissioners, upon a petition of John Hammett and 216 others, accepted the layout of this road, Sept. 17, 1849, and it was finished two years later. It extended a distance of 6 miles, 74 rods, from the village of North Tisbury to Menemsha creek.

Three brooks, the New Mill river. Roaring brook and Fulling Mill brook, having their sources in the high hills of Chilmark, afforded sufficient water power to run several mills.

Fulling Mill. — The earliest one established was the fulling mill, some years prior to 1694, of which Benjamin Skiffe was owner and manager. How long it was in operation as a fulling mill is not known, but the map of 1795 shows it in existence at that date.

Grist Mills. — There was a grist mill on New Mill river, probably before 1700, as Benjamin Skiffe was granted the privilege to establish one in 1696 (Deeds, I, 125) and the map of 1795 shows one at that date near the Tisbury line. A grist mill was built on the Roaring brook, probably by John Hillman (12), before 1728,... A new one was erected on this site in 1849 by Francis W. Nye, and the mill is still standing, though not in operation. A grist mill was established about 1850 on the Fulling Mill brook by Samuel Tilton, and was in operation for about ten years.

Sheep – Grey's raid - lost about 50% of sheep. In 1837 the farmers had a total of 6470, of which 1600 were merinos, and the average weight of each fleece was two pounds. The production of wool in that year was \$5,180. In 1850 the farmers owned 5,568 sheep,

Bog Iron - Long before the Revolution bog iron was taken from the swamps on the estate once owned by John Hillman and in the possession of his heirs.* It is stated that during the war of Independence the product of this mine,- if it may be so called, was smuggled across the Sound to the forges of Taunton and converted into ammunition when the supply of lead became diminished. Crevecoeur's map of 1782 notes the location of this mine as one of the principal points of interest on the island...During the war of 1812 this mine furnished the ore that was cast into balls for the guns of the "Constitution," if we may rely on legend, and it is not difficult to give this tale some credit.

There were tan pits in operation as early as 1726,' situated on the east side of Peaked hill, near the middle road: not far from the town hall.

Hiram and Francis Nye, who had come here from Falmouth, established a paint mill about 1850, for grinding colors out of the clayey deposits found near the shore. The highest annual production while it was in operation was about 46,000 pounds, valued at \$5,000, and the mill was situated on a brook now called Paint Mill brook.

About sixty years ago Messrs. Smith and Barrows established a plant for the manufacture of pressed brick near the outlet of Roaring brook. It was a large industry for the town at first, employing a dozen laborers, and the production was about 600,000 bricks of the value of \$2,400 annually. While there was wood enough to burn the bricks the manufacture continued, but after twenty years the fuel was exhausted and the works had to be abandoned. Nothing remains but an old water wheel, a wooden flume to supply it with water, a smoke stack and ruined walls. The clay beds are not yet exhausted.

Nomans Land

First place landed by Gosnold – called MV, not clear why name was transferred to larger island.

When Gosnold and his companions landed here it was "a disinhabited island,"... They found it "full of wood-vines, gooseberry bushes, whortleberries, raspberries, eglantines, etc. Here we had cranes, steames, shoulers geese and divers other birds which there at that time upon the cliffs being sandy with some rocky stones, did breed and had young. In this place we saw deer; here we rode in eight fathoms near the shore where we took great store of cod,as before at Cape Cod, but much better."



FIRST REPRESENTATION OF NOMANS LAND.
FROM THE SIMANCAS MAP, 1610.

The subsequent history of the island, after this elaborate introduction to the world, is practically a blank for over half a century, and but for its appearance on the maps of this period nothing is known of it.

Called "Hendrick Christiaensen's Eylant" in 1616 and "Ile de Hendrick" in 1646, both having reference to the Dutch explorer of that name who probably visited it. The curious name of "Dock Island" appears on a map of 1675, but it was not repeated in later charts.

in 1666 was first called "Nomans Land," also the Isle of Man. The origin of the name "Nomans" is not known. It is usual to attribute it to a combination of two words, No Man's Land, as descriptive of its ownerless condition, but while this is the easiest conclusion it does not seem to be the correct one. The word is scarcely ever divided and its almost universal spelling is Nomans Land from the earliest times. There was a great Powwow on the Vineyard called Tequenoman residing here when the English came and it is possible that he had jurisdiction over, or ownership of, this small island which came to bear the last half of his name, (Teque)nomans Land. This name became attached to it at the time above noted and has been its sole title ever since. The Indian name (1666) was Cappaquit.

The first record of any settlement here is in the early part of the 18th century. Judge Sewall in 1702 says of Nomans Land, that the "Inhabitants (are) mostly of the 7th day Indians," i. e., Sabbatarian Baptists. It is probable that with the purchase by Norton in 1715 the first Englishmen came here to live. His son Jacob came here to reside soon after and in 1722 was granted a license as innholder of Nomans Land ...Doubtless he continued a resident with his family till his death, and Samuel Norton (413) who married his sister, Mary (71) is called in 1740 "of Nomans Land." These two families numbered twenty souls in 1750, and there may have been others living there besides. They were probably engaged in fishing, as at that time the surrounding waters were considered "the only certain places for Fishing for Cod." It is not supposed the place was valuable from an agricultural point of view, though in 1745 it was testified that the island was valued at \$10,000, old tenor. Another early settler was Israel Luce (67), [b. 1723, d. 1797], who removed to Nomans Land as a young man and spent the rest of his life there as a resident and was buried there. His sons Daniel (290), Thomas (292), and Ebenezer (294) remained on the island with their families until their deaths. George H. Butler was a resident about forty years (1860 to 1898), and Henry B. Davis with his family are the only inhabitants of the island at the present time.

The status of this island up to 1714 was an anomalous one, though being practically unoccupied except by Indians, it gave little concern to the people of the Vineyard. In the act of Oct. 30, 1714, when Chilmark was made a township, "an Island called No Mans Land" was included in its corporate limits.

Annals of Tisbury

The town of Tisbury, incorporated July 8, 1671, included the present town of West Tisbury, the region originally settled by the early proprietors, — and the limits of the town remained intact, territorially, until May 1, 1892, when as a result of a long continued agitation, the old town was divided. The portion

formerly known as Homes Hole Neck retained the corporate name and ancient records of Tisbury, and the settlement at West Tisbury, where the town had its first beginnings, took the latter name.

NOBNOCKET. This was the ancient name bestowed by the natives on all the territory covered by the village of Vineyard Haven, in the present town of Tisbury.

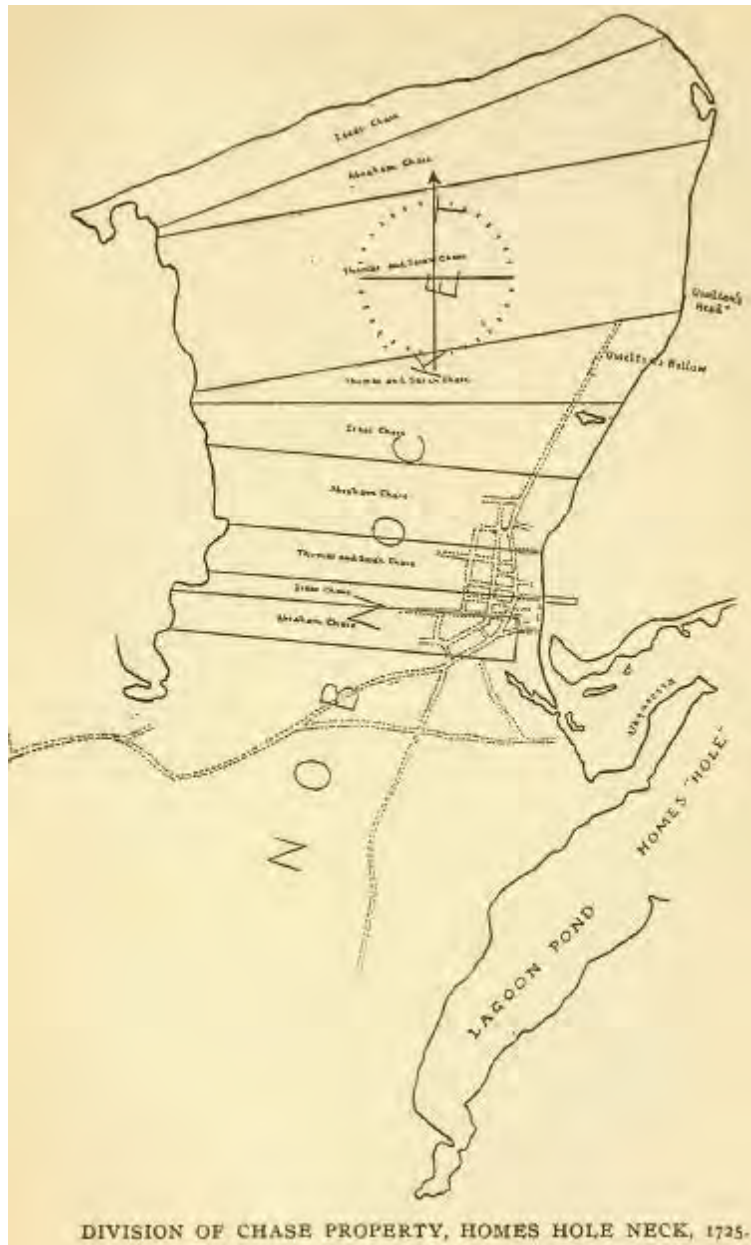
HOMES HOLE. This is the oldest place name on the Vineyard, dating from 1646, when "the eastermost chop of homses hole" is first mentioned, ... The word "hole," as given to a small inlet of water affording shelter to boats, ... In our case, however, it has another origin, which is doubtless aboriginal, as it is probably derived from "Homes," meaning an old man (Roger Williams, Key.), and the entire name signifies "old man's hole." ... The word "homes" indicates decrepitude as applied to an aged person, and probably was applied to an old chief who made this place his abode when the first settlers, in 1642, came to the island. This name was retained for nearly two hundred years, when it came to be changed to Holmes Hole, after the spelling of the family of Holmes who had settled here in the previous century. ^

The name of Holmes Hole became officially eclipsed in 1871, as a result of persistent agitation on the part of a number of residents. The original name had in it but a faint suggestion of dignity or character, and to hail from a "Hole" was a source of chagrin to many of its inhabitants when traveling abroad. A number of substitutes were suggested, including Tisbury Harbor and Vineyard Haven, and the latter finding the most favor with the majority, it received its confirmation on Feb. 21, 1871,

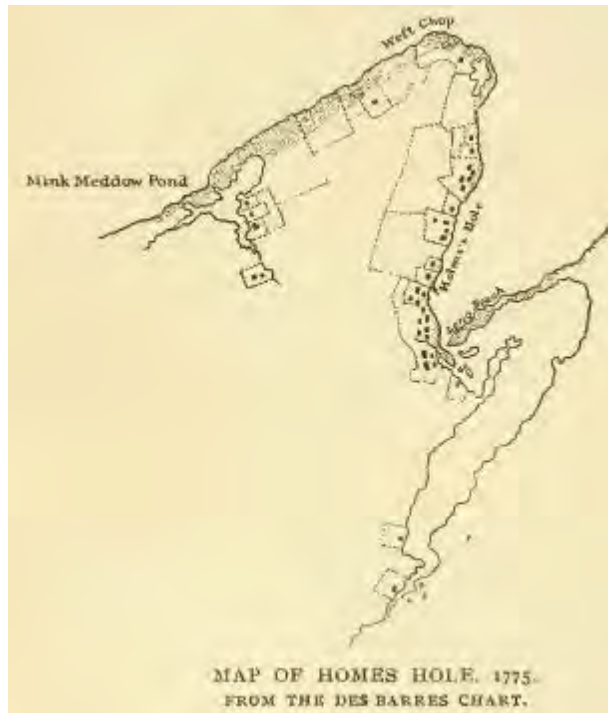
Lagoon. This body of salt water was originally called the harbor of Homes Hole, and later, until about 1740, Waketaquay pond or some form of that Algonquian place name... It is first of record as the "lagoon of salt water" about 1743, as far as known, being then so called in a deed.

It is probable that for many years subsequent to the settlement at Edgartown, West Chop, like its opposite neighbor, East Chop, remained uninhabited by whites. – into 1660s

There were no proprietor's divisions of lots in Homes Hole that are of record, but the six shareholders must have made some allotments in severalty, as appears by scattering references to such a division.



In this second pastorate of "Reformation Adams" the first known camp-meeting held on the Vineyard occurred in July and August, 1827, in a grove near the West Chop lighthouse.



MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE. This town was the first on the Vineyard to have a public hospital. The harbor of Homes Hole was much frequented in colonial days by sailing craft from all ports on the north and south Atlantic coasts, and diseases of a contagious character, like small pox, were frequently spread by the crews of vessels riding at anchor here, while weather-bound. In August, 1763, the town gave Dr. Samuel Gelston of Nantucket permission to "Cary on and Practice Inoculation of the Small Pox in Soume Suitable Place at Homeses hole" under certain provisions and restrictions.

West Chop. — Under provision of an act approved March 3, 1817, by which the sum of \$5,000 was appropriated therefor, a lighthouse was built on the point of West Chop, on the bluff. Constant erosions of the shore by the swift tidal action at this exposed locality caused the government to remove it further back in 1830, and again in 1846 to its present position, for similar reasons.

INDUSTRIES. Salt Works. — At the time of the Revolution there were large pans on the shores of Bass creek, where salt was manufactured by the ancient method of evaporation of sea water. They were in existence in 1840, and others at or near the herring creek, owned by Isaac Luce, were erected at least twenty years previously.

Whale Fishery. — This town had an indirect connection with this business through its seafaring men, who went out as masters or sailors of vessels outfitted elsewhere, but there was no local establishment for the accommodation of whalers.

Herring Fishery. — The fine herring run and fishery at Ashappaquonsett has been a famous and prolific domestic industry from time immemorial, and it is a common heritage of the townsmen unto this day. But it represents a century of wasted opportunity for the development of an industry productive of revenue for the town. As an annual free-for-all spoliation it neither benefits the few nor profits the town as a whole, as managed in the past.

Harness Factory. — In 1872 a harness factory was established by R. W. Crocker and from small beginnings, grew to be a large and valuable industry. At times nearly a hundred people found employment through its operations, directly or indirectly was finally destroyed by fire.

Corn Mill. — A steam grist mill was established on Water street in 1881 by William J. Rotch and is yet in operation, under the management of William P. Bodfish.

FORTIFICATIONS. There are no annals of a military nature in connection with this town that are worthy of record, except some earthworks constructed during the Revolution.

SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH, 1856. ,The first cable to be laid between this island and the main land had its shore connection at West Chop, and it was constructed by the Cape Cod Telegraph Co. as a part of their existing system.^ This was in 1856,

The steamer Neptune with a party of invited guests sailed from Boston, and on the following morning, July 16, 1856, took in tow, in Homes Hole harbor, the schooner Wm. T. Conquest of New York. The schooner was placed in position at Woods Hole and commenced paying out cable, which in two and a half hours was satisfactorily laid from Woods Hole to the West Chop, a distance of five miles.

THE GREAT FIRE. On Saturday night, Aug. ii, 1883, occurred the greatest disaster in the history of the town. A fire started in the harness factory, and before it could be smothered the whole building was ablaze. Quickly the adjoining structures caught fire, and before an hour had elapsed it was seen that a disastrous conflagration was in full sweep. The destroying flames took a southerly direction, burning many buildings on Main street on both sides its entire length. A property loss of more than \$100,000 was • involved in this conflagration, a terrible blow to the small village. It was the greatest disaster in the annals of the island....Baptist meeting-house, 32 dwelling houses, 26 stores, 12 barns, and 2 stables

the town owns, by purchase in 1907 at a cost of \$95,000.00, the public water works, the Tashmoo Spring, the purest water supply in the state, which is one of the town's most valuable assets.



Oak Annals of Bluffs

The Algonquian name for this tract, above described, was Ogkeshkuppe (Agescape, 1660, Aukeshkeppe, Ogkeshkupbeh, etc.), the definition of which is "the WTt or damp thicket, or woods," probably referring to the swampy grounds bordering on Squash meadow and Farm ponds,

It was later called Sanchacantacket neck, but this appellation was evidently given to it by the English settlers, from the pond on the southern border. The meaning of Sanchakantacket is believed to be "at the bursting forth of the tidal stream," having reference to the opening of this pond at the bridge, where the tides are so strong.

The earliest English name for this territory was given in 1646 by Thomas Mayhew, when he called it the "Eastermost Chop of Homses Hole," The word is a variation of chap, the jaw of a vise or clamp. In the plural, it signifies the mouth or entrance of a channel, as the chops of the English Channel. It was called "Farm Neck" for the first time in the records, February 2, 1703-4... This name was derived from the first grant of five hundred acres, made in 1642 to John Daggett "for a farm," which covers the present settlement of Oak Bluffs.

The Gore. — A tract of land lying to the northwest of Boults farm (now belonging to Henry Constant Norton) and west of the road to Eastville.

Great Woods. — The tract of about two or three hundred acres extending from the Gore to the old Homes Hole road, formerly belonging to Bayes Newcomb, and later to Peter and Ichabod Norton.

On Dec. i, 1642, probably after their first visit to their island domain, Thomas Mayhew, Senior, Thomas Mayhew, Junior, and John Smith, granted to John Daggett, a neighbor of theirs in Watertown, the following lands on the Vineyard twenty acres of land upon the point beginning at the great stone next to my lot, and twenty acres of meadow: and also five hundred acres of land for a farm: he have liberty to take up wherever he the said John Doggett wishes, only provided he take not up his farm within three miles of the spring that is by the harbor in my lot aforesaid, before I that is Thomas Mayhew the elder have made choice of twenty acres of meadow and a farm of five hundred acres for myself, the which choice not being made within one year insueing the date hereof, then the said John Doggett have liberty to chuse for himself.^ This was a grant both liberal in terms and in the amount alienated by them.

Daggett had a home lot in Great Harbor and this tract of 500 acres 3 miles from a spring near Mayhew's house. Mayhew reneged on his grant and Daggett had to sue (successfully). It is doubted whether the owner ever resided on his "farm." He had a home lot, as previously stated, in the village, and his son Thomas also resided near by, but the son's relations with Mayhew did not permit him to be independent. It is the author's belief that the youngest son, Joseph, was placed upon the farm as soon as he became old enough to attend to business affairs, probably about 1667, when he was twenty years of age, and that he made it his home, and here married his Indian wife. In so far as a guess is of value, Joseph Daggett was the first white man to reside in the present limits of Oak Bluffs, and here, in all probability, his half breed children were born, Alice, Hester and Joseph.

DIVISION OF SANCHACANTACKET NECK. Up to 1664 the most northern section which had been divided for the use of the settlers in this region was at Weenomeset, or Felix neck, but ten years later another move northward was made.



QUASQUANNES — SQUASH MEADOW. The oldest known name for the region which became the site of the camp meeting, and later the settlement of Cottage City, was of record, in 1660, as Quasquannes. This is probably an Indian's personal name, because the place was so "called by the English," for it is well understood that the native never bestowed personal names on places. It covered the region comprised in the "farm" of John Daggett, while just north of it was the body of water which was designated by the whites, as early as 1684, the "Squash Meadow" pond and swamp. On the fertile ground surrounding this pond the Indians doubtless had fields of squash growing here when the whites came. The word squash is derived from the Algonquian noun askutasquash, which was the name for this vegetable cultivated by them. The English adopted the plural asquash as a singular noun and formed a new plural, squashes. The portion covered by "the farm" was in the dominion of Wampamog, the sachem, in 1660, who sold it to Daggett, and in 1682 the "Squash Meadow" was the individual property of that Indian from Ipswich, son of the Sagamore Masconomet, known here by his English name of Tom Tyler.

....To the northward of him lived Ebenezer Smith on the highland of East chop, while westward on the shores of the Lagoon were the dingy wigwams of the remnants of the Indian race. Over all this section great groves of tall pine and spreading oaks furnished welcome shade to the herds of cattle that browsed in the "Great Pasture" on the borders of Squash meadow, and the only sounds that echoed through these woods were the calls of lowing kine, the bleating of a stray sheep, and the occasional crack of a woodman's axe.

THE FIRST CAMP MEETING. The origin of the town of Oak Bluffs dates from the establishment of the annual "camp meetings" held in an oak grove on the shores of Squash Meadow pond. This location was

discovered and recommended to those who had been previously attending similar meetings at Falmouth, Sandwich and Monument, by Jeremiah Pease (776), an enthusiastic Methodist "brother" and local exhorter, and by him it was surveyed and laid out. This grove was on the south side of the pond, and open fields bordered it on all other...The first camp meeting held in this beautiful grove was in 1835, and began on Monday, Aug. 24th....Annually for ten years, in the last week of each recurring August, these meetings were held in this grove (1835-1844),....[then spectators started coming on boats from New Bedford]... The crowds of spectators increased yearly from about three to twelve thousand on that day, and as a rule excellent order and respectful attention was observed.^ In this period the number of tents in the encampment gradually increased from fifty in 1848 to 320 in 1858...This settlement of white canvas, laid out in regular form and policed, came to be spoken of as the White City, Canvas City,.... as their number yearly increased the loveliness of the location and the possibilities of the island as a summer home became more generally known to thousands of people from all parts of New England. The original religious purpose of the meeting gradually found a strong competitor in the desire and custom of many of the campers to make a prolonged stay before and after the meeting for social and personal enjoyment....Permanent cottages began to be built about 1859,.... The demand for land for building purposes followed, and the organization of promoters of real estate interests came as a necessity. The • first of these companies was composed of the leaders of these meetings, the "Martha's Vineyard Methodist Camp Meeting Association," so called, which received its charter from the Massachusetts legislature in 1860....incorporated in 1868 under the name of the "Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Co."... "The Vineyard Grove Company" and in 1870 it was incorporated. Roads, parks, circles, drives and plank walks were laid out and a wharf constructed for the convenience of landing by large steamboats or smaller craft....A hotel was soon erected and this section of the town began to grow rapidly. The board walk skirting the pond, 3,500 feet in length, fifteen feet wide, containing nearly 200,000 feet of plank, was lined each summer with booths and "bazaars"... Various other tracts to the northwest of this property were exploited in the following years: Belleview Heights and Sunset Height and bordering on the Lagoon came Bay View and Lagoon Heights. Other sections felt the stimulating effect of this feverish growth, and plots of land called by the fanciful names of Green Meadow, Forest Hill, Oak Grove, Harbor Heights, Prospect Heights, Sea View Hill, Grove Dale and Ocean View found ready purchasers at equally fancy prices. Up to 1872 the "boom" was continuous and genuine, and upwards of a million dollars must have been expended in improvements made by the various companies land promoters. The panic of 1872-3, however, put a stop to this excitement, and property values fell and real estate languished.

The extreme northern end of the easternmost chop became a settlement apart and distinctive before the 18th century. The nearest settlers were at Major's cove and Farm pond, and a stretch of several miles separated them from their neighbors. This locality, next to Chappaquiddick, was the last stand of the Indians of the town, and during the following century and a half the smoke from their wigwams

It will be recalled that this Alice Sissetom (or Setum) was the Vineyard Pocahontas, the Indian wife of Joseph Daggett. Part of this land subsequently descended to Daggett's daughters, Esther and Alice, the half breeds.

First Settlement

Edward Cottle, Jr. was the first person who lived at Onkaw, the ancient inheritance of his wife's Indian grandmother, Alice Sissetom.... region subsequently known as Eastville. Here he was surrounded by Indians of the Sanchacantacket tribe, of which tribe his children were quadroons.

This was a neighborhood full of the romance of the sea, and these new settlers brought to it the additional mystery of family "skeletons" from other regions, as will become detailed in the sketches of their lives. The men of this little hamlet got their living from the deep in all lines of endeavor, and not the least of their sources of supply was that seemingly ghoulish business of wrecking, of profiting by the unfortunate dead of the storms and tides of the Vineyard sound. Whether justly or in humor this place was known

in local parlance as the "Barbary Coast," in token of the avocation of most of its people, and many weird tales are told of the hard bargains driven with luckless skippers who had drifted on the treacherous shoals of these waters.

So far as is known, the first individuals here professing to be Methodists, were two colored persons, John Saunders and his wife. They had been slaves in the state of Virginia. By extraordinary efforts and rigid economy they had been enabled to purchase their freedom. They set out in a vessel bound to some port in Massachusetts, which stopping for some cause in Homes Hole harbor, these persons concluded to land at Eastville. They arrived in 1787 and remained in this vicinity several years. John, being an exhorter (having as is understood held this position among his fellow slaves) preached occasionally to the people of color, at "Farm Neck."... In 1792, Saunders removed to the adjacent island of Chappaquiddick, where there was also a settlement of colored people,

The remoteness of Eastville from the village of Edgartown contained the germ of the idea of an independent existence of this part of the town...The growth of the summer resort around the Squash Meadow region following the development of the campmeetings, and the general increase of a resident population in that section, accentuated the idea of future autonomy. This took definite form about 1872, when the residents of Eastville and the newer settlement at Vineyard Grove joined together in a campaign for separation from Edgartown.

The residents of Eastville, when they were almost the only permanent population of Farm Neck, had no natural affiliations binding them to the old town. They had no decent roads, nor school houses, and felt neglected by the voters of the older village in the distribution of annual favors at town meetings. They were a hopeless and helpless minority, comprising not more than fifteen families, and they chafed under the yoke. It was seven miles by a sandy road to the post office, the town hall and a good school house. As a result of these conditions they traded and received their mail at Homes Hole, and all their interests were in this association with the people of that settlement.

As an instance of this almost fatuitous disregard for the convenience of the citizens of the north end of the town, may be cited the refusal to build a bridge across the narrow channel emptying the Lagoon. The people residing in this section had no outlet to the westward towns on the Vineyard except by water, while a mile only separated them from the village of Vineyard Haven, where they could have convenient mail facilities and the other benefits that a large settlement affords. Requests for appropriations to build this connecting link were repeatedly voted down.

Another instance of this nature was the refusal to build a road through the farms along the Eastville shore, until the residents of that section gave the town bonds that it should not cost the town anything.

For three successive years, 1878, 1879 and 1880, these petitioners for division took their case to the General Court for relief....The struggle developed exceedingly bitter feelings between the people of the two sections, and before its close the petitioners had practically abandoned attendance at town meetings because of the personal ill-treatment which they claim to have received at the hands of their opponents.

on February 17, 1880, the Bill incorporating the new town became a law.

Originally called Cottage City. when, in 1906, it was proposed to give the place a dignified name scarcely any opposition was manifested. The large consensus of opinion was in favor of the earlier title of the place, Oak Bluffs, and on Jan. 25, 1907,

There is one lighthouse in the town, situated on the highlands of East Chop. It was built in 1869 by the late Capt. Silas Daggett of Vineyard Haven as a private enterprise.

Annals of Gay Head

Dover cliffs name didn't extend beyond Gosnold.

Some time before 1662 it was "called . . . by the English Gayhead - gaily colored cliffs

The Algonquian names at that period were Aquinniuh and Kuhtuhquehtuet,

The stone wall referred to has been the dividing line between Nashaquitsa and Gay Head for nearly two centuries.

The inhabitants being of Indian extraction and of a roving disposition, gave but little concern to the census takers before the 19th century.

Aquiniuh (1662).—This name as applied to Gay Head, is composed of the words, Ukque-adene-auke, or Acquiy adene-auke, meaning "land under the hill," perhaps referring to the shore under Gay Head itself.

Ever since the settlement of the Vineyard, in 1642, Gay Head has remained an Indian reservation and town, and very little of its annals in two hundred and sixty-seven years of existence relates to the white man or the white man's customs and development. Every attempt of the Caucasian to introduce himself with a view to permanent attachment has resulted in his withdrawal from the field, and today this peninsular and insular town is unquestionably Indian in the warp and woof of its very fibre.

The Society for Propagating the Gospel had been for many years looking out for the moral and spiritual welfare of the natives, and its representatives in New England, comprising some of the most influential and wealthy men in the Province, saw that this state of affairs, with a landlord across the ocean, was not for the best interests of their wards. Accordingly they entered into negotiations with Lord Limerick to buy out his interests in the Manor of Martha's Vineyard. This was successfully accomplished. May 10, 1711, and the company, upon payment of [£]550, "lawful monies of Great Britain," secured the title of Lord of the Manor and the fee of Gay Head. This purchase was made, as Judge Sewall states in his diary, "with the main design of benefitting the aboriginal natives." Livery and seizin was completed Oct. 6, 1712, when Major Benjamin Skiffe and Samuel Sewall, Jr., as agents for Lord Limerick delivered to Penn Townsend, Esq., attorney for "the Corporation," . . . It was simply a change of landlords for the natives, and they were still tenants on the soil once owned by their fathers. In 1714 a "ditch of four feet wide and two feet deep" was dug across the neck and "set within with Thorns and Barberries," and the Corporation gate erected and closed to signify the exclusion of the public from the reservation.

It is a singular fact that no record has yet been found, if one ever were made, which shows a conveyance of the rights of this corporation to the fee simple of Gay Head, and its other real property on the Vineyard occupied by the Indians. The exact legal status of the reservation during and after the Revolution is therefore a question of ethics and equity.

Whatever the theoretical condition may have been, the state practically assumed control, directly and indirectly, of the property, and in the confusion and antagonisms created by the war, no attempt was ever made afterwards to challenge this authority. The tribe at Gay Head became, in common with others elsewhere, the "involuntary wards of the state."

There was but one English built house in 1727, but fifty years later they had outgrown their wigwam state.

A visitor in 1786 states that "they burned nothing but bushes, this part of the island affording no wood, and suffered much from cold weather, though peat was procurable in plenty."^ Twenty years later the condition of the native was discouraging to another visitor, who recorded the opinion that they were intemperate, immoral, and dishonest, though he added that they were more industrious and neater in their person and houses than their people elsewhere.^ Another traveler of this time said: "We sat by a peat fire, for this fuel is abundant on the peninsula, and wood is rare." This fuel still furnishes comfort to the present generation in seasons of inclement weather, unless a coal laden vessel unfortunately goes ashore here and jettisons or loses her cargo, when it is washed ashore in sufficient quantities to permit the adoption of metropolitan manners for a temporary period. In 1838 it was stated by an authority that "their dwelling houses, upward of 35, are mostly one story and are comfortably built. "^

The reservation was still an undivided tract in 1800, and a visitor some years later stated that "each man cultivates as much as he pleases, and no one intrudes on the spot which another has appropriated by his labor."^ This anomalous condition existed in 1849 according to the commissioner. "While one proprietor has but half an acre and another has over a hundred acres, there is no heart-burning, no feeling that the latter has more than his share. 'I have all I want' says the former, and he is content.

The General Court created this reservation into the "District of Gay Head" in 1862,

Richard Pease commissioned to determine boundaries and ownerships: his report was submitted to the Governor and Council in the spring of 1871, and was ordered printed in full. It was a most valuable document, comprising a mass of valuable historical notes on the people and their lands from the earliest settlement, with a complete census of the inhabitants to illustrate the subject of his report.^

Committee appointed by General Court in 1870:

1862 abundantly shows; because they are worthy and well qualified now as they probably ever will be under the dominion of any neighboring town; because they are far remote from the nearest adjoining town by from four to seven miles; because the people of that town have been and are still strongly opposed to the annexation of Gay Head to them; because the people of Gay Head are (with one exception) unanimous for a separate township; because other things being equal, the wishes of the parties most interested ought to be consulted; and finally, because having already governed themselves in reality for the past few years (since 1862) a continuation of this control, while it would work no injury to any other interests, would be of great benefit to the people of Gay Head — giving them renewed assurance of the confidence of the Commonwealth in them and inspiring them to further effort towards improvement — we unanimously recommend that Gay Head be incorporated as a township by itself.'

The recommendation of this committee was concurred in by both houses and the act of incorporation as drawn by them was approved by the Governor, April 15, 1870, by which, after two centuries of retarded development, the last of the Algonquian race on this island became American freemen.

The words of the Sachem Metaark, spoken in 1681, now seem prophetic: Know yee all People that I Metaack and my principall men my children & people are owners of this, this our land forever. They are forever ours and our offspring forever shall enjoy them.

the famous cliffs. These were leased to a corporation known as the Gay Head Clay Co. in 1893, at an annual rental of \$500, and the clay was shipped elsewhere to kilns as material for bricks. The variegated hues of the clay do not resist the heat of burning and disappear in the oven, coming out a uniform color.

PATHS, HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES. One hundred years ago a visitor to this town stated:

"on the Indian lands there are no made roads, and for the most part only horse paths." This condition existed for about fifty *years more, when a continuation of the county road from the Chilmark line to the lighthouse was laid out. Its construction was without design and unscientific, and soon became a continuous sand rut for lack of repairs.

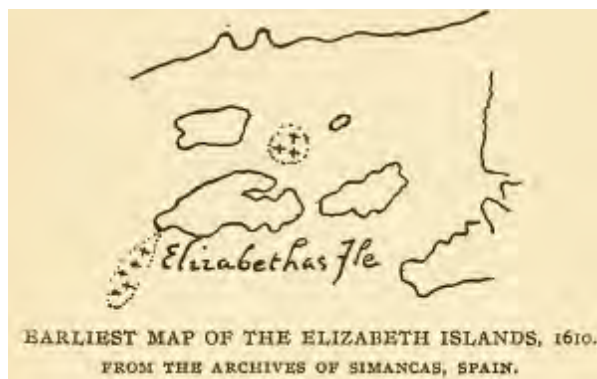
This headland has been the scene of many marine disasters since its settlement by the English, a line of reefs making out far into the Sound, hidden from view, and strong currents setting unwary mariners onto the Devil's Bridge, to be dashed and broken in pieces by the pounding of the waves. In the night of Jan. 14, 1782, occurred a disaster laden with sorrow for the people of the Vineyard, as the master and more than half of the crew were residents here.

1884 – City of Columbia wreck – Attempted rescue. The volunteer crew of Gay Headers, consisting of Thomas C. Jeffers, in command,... A second crew manned it, all Indians, except the captain, James T. Mosher. They were Leonard L. Vanderhoop, Thomas C. Jeffers, Patrick Divine, Charles Grimes, and Peter Johnson. They had rescued thirteen men

The toll of the sea from this unnecessary wreck was one hundred and twenty-one souls

The native population of Gay Head preserved the traditions of their race in the matter of burials, although the town has not proved to be rich in the funeral memorials of its dead. Few graves, which have accidentally been opened, have yielded up much archaeological treasure. Small articles, such as stone fishing implements, arrow points, corn, and tobacco, have been found buried with the Algonquians of Gay Head. Naturally they had no well-defined grounds set off for their burials, as this was not an Indian custom, but there is a considerable collection of graves on Abel's neck, and a tradition is that Hiacoomes, the first Indian preacher of the Vineyard, is here interred. This seems quite unreasonable, as he w^{as} a resident of Chappaquiddick. On the old Congregational meeting-house lot are many graves, and on Meletiah's hill, in the rear of the site of the Baptist meeting-house, may be seen still more. Most of them are marked with rough stones, and the inscriptions are nearly obliterated. In fact, scattering memorials of the dead are to be noticed all over the peninsula.

Annals of Gosnold



This group of islands was known as Nashanow to the Indians of the seventeenth century,... The meaning of this word Nashanow is uncertain, but probably signifies the midway islands, between Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound.

The testimony of Old Hope, the Indian of Mannomett, as foUoweth: Saith, that hee knew the Uttle island, lying next Saconessett, called Nanomeesett, and a necke of land or little Hand called Uckatimest, belonging to the great Hand called Katomucke, and another little iland lying between the said great iland

and Nanomesett belonging to Job Antiko, his grandfather Comucke, and soe to Jobs father, Thomas Antiko; and said Hope further saith that the said great iland, called Katomucke, and another little iland called Peshchameesett, to belonge to Webacowett.

There is a singular absence of Algonquian place names, exclusive of the names of the islands forming the group, and this is a further indication that it was not much more than a place of resort and rather less than an abode.

1862 – committee sent to investigate petition for separation from Chilmark - "is a portion of the small town of Chilmark owned principally by non residents and very sparsely populated ; and that all the legal voters are but sixteen in number, part of whom are tenants and laborers, temporary residents, and they are not sensible of unequal taxation."... yet the great influence of Mr. Forbes prevailed, and the prayer of the petitioners was granted....Gosnold was chosen in honor of the first discoverer, and on March 17, 1864, the new town was added to the list of independent communities in the state.

This island, the largest in the group, which is about eight miles long and nearly two miles wide, has had several names attached to it since the coming of the English to this locality. Its Algonquian name was Cataymuck (1654) or Kataymuck, varied as Katamiwick (1666), the translation of which, like that of Cataama on the Vineyard, is "great fishing place." It was called Tarpolin Cove Island as early as 1682, and for many years after; Elizabeth's Island (1702), Naushaun (171 7), Winthrop's Island (1727); but the title of Naushon has sur-

When this beautiful island passed into the possession of Major General Wait Still Winthrop it became the suburban estate of a man of wealth and culture who made it his playground and proceeded to develop it as such.

He began the improvement of it at once, procured tenants to develop and cultivate the land, while he gathered here and there game and edible birds and wild animals to stock the place. As early as 1698 his correspondence shows the installation of a buck and doe moose and wild turkeys. Here the younger Wait Winthrop spent his vacations and amused himself with studies of the aboriginal lore of the islands. Being on the great highway of coastwise commerce it was a frequent port of call for ships to replenish their water barrels at Tarpaulin cove. It is probable that this cove or the "French Watering Place" was the location of the first house on the island. Captain Kidd, the pirate, made harbor here on his last voyage before his arrest. Winthrop writes, under date of July 12, 1699: "Captain Kidd and his crew are kidnapd here they left som smale matter at Tarpolin with the man there."

After the death of Wait Winthrop, Nov. 7, 171 7, his son John and daughter Ann Lechmere, on Jan. 11, 171 7, sold it to James Bowdoin of Boston....the name of Elizabeth Island alias Tarpolin Cove Island in the present tenure and occupation of John Weekes and [Joseph] Fuller."

Since its acquisition by the Bowdoins, to the present day practically, it has been a country gentleman's demesne, and there is attached to it all the accompaniments of the life of the squire and his tenants from generation to generation. The Bowdoin family were the "Masters of Naushon" for one hundred and twenty-five years, continuing and maintaining the traditional standard of generous living first set by Major General Winthrop. The sons of the first Bowdoin, James and William, stocked it with deer that they might have a park after the manner of the nobility of England, and in 1766 they procured the passage of a law protecting these animals from destruction by the poachers. Descendants of these deer still roam the island, and its subsequent owners have stocked it with English and Scotch game birds and varieties of our native prairie fowl.

Lieutenant Governor James Bowdoin, by his will dated March 23, 1789, proven Nov. 16, 1790, bequeathed this property "to my dear son James Bowdoin, the whole of my share, viz: one half of the Islands Catamock or Naushon, Nanemasset and Ankatarmy (Uncatena)," and this third James Bowdoin, by marriage with his cousin Sarah, an only daughter of his uncle, William Bowdoin, acquired the other half. The new owner enjoyed his inheritance for about twenty years, and by will dated June 4, 1811, bequeathed it to his nephew James, the son of Sir John and Lady Tempe (nee Bowdoin), upon condition of his assuming the name of- Bowdoin, his mother's family. In default of heirs the property was devised to James Bowdoin Winthrop, and under like default to Bowdoin College as residuary legatee. James Temple Bowdoin died Oct. 31, 1842, and the Trustees of Bowdoin College entered suit for the property, claiming possession to the exclusion of young James Temple Bowdoin, in whom the property was entailed.before a trial was had a compromise was agreed upon by the parties, who agreed to the sale of Naushon with all the stock and other personal property thereon to William W. Swain of New Bedford and John M. Forbes of Milton for the sum of \$20,000, of which Temple received seven and the college three-tenths

The joint ownership of Swain and Forbes lasted thirteen years, during which time the islands were used for sheep raising and general agricultural purposes in addition to its development as a country estate. Swain sold his interest to Forbes Nov. 7, 1856, and ever since that date it has been in the possession of the family, being inherited by J. Malcolm Forbes, son of John M., and in turn by his heirs, a period of sixty-seven years. ^ In the history of the island it has been the property of but three families; Winthrop, 48 years; Bowdoin, 115 years; and Forbes, 67 years, covering a total of 228 years as a gentleman's suburban estate. The Forbes family, as the last "Masters of Naushon," has emulated successfully its predecessors in the high ideals of the establishment created by the Winthrops and the Bowdoins, and it bids fair to pass on under their tenure with this unique reputation untainted by commercial exploitation.

PASKITCHANNESSET. Pasque - The island includes more than a thousand acres which the club has divided into two farms, erected commodious buildings, including club house, ice house, stabling &c. The club has also vegetable and flower gardens, sail boats and row boats, and the river which sets a mile into the island is stocked with a hundred thousand menhaden as bait for the use of the club.^

POOCUTOHHUNKUNNOH — CUTTYHUNK The Algonquian name for the historic isle, as given above, is a compound of Pohqu-etahun-kunnoh, which means an open, cleared (broken up) field, which had been cultivated, a planting field. It may have been bestowed in consequence of the brief cultivation undertaken by Gosnold as related by his journalist, or to similar work done by the natives.

On the Northwest side of this island, neere to the sea side, is a standing Lake of fresh water, almost three English miles in Compasse, in the midst whereof stands a plot of woodie ground, an acre in quantitie or not above: this lake is full of small Tortoises and exceedingly frequented with all sorts of fowles we determined to fortifie our selves in the little plot of ground in the midst of the Lake above mentioned where we built an house and covered it with sedge, which grew about this lake in great abundance; in building whereof we spent three weeks and more."This pond still exists with the "rocky islet" in its centre and is now called Gosnold's Island.^ According to the journalist of the voyage Cuttyhunk was then "full of high timbered oaks cedars straight and tall, beech, elm, holly, walnut trees in abundance, hazelnut trees, cherry trees, sassafras trees, great plenty all over the island, a tree of high price and profit; also divers other fruit ^Brereton, "Briefe Relation," pp. 7, 8. ^On it was erected, in 1903, through the efforts of a number of patriotic men living in this section, a stone tower as a memorial of the first discovery and settlement of Englishmen on our soil. trees." This seems almost a fairy tale in the light of present day condition. The "stately trees" either existed mostly in his imagination for colonizing purposes, or else they have melted before the devastating axes of former generations. Fifty years ago not a tree was growing on the island and not even a decayed or decaying stump could be seen above the surface. Even now but a few

small shade trees are to be seen, the survivors of many planted, struggling for existence through the cold blasts of winter, and the constant wear and tear of the winds from the ocean.

The fame of this island because of its first discovery and occupancy by Gosnold has been the occasion for a number of pilgrimages hither by persons interested in the history and antiquities of New England. The first of record is that made by the Rev. Jeremy Belknap, one of our earliest historians, when in 1797 came to Cuttyhunk for the particular purpose of identifying the locality where Gosnold built his fort and storehouse.

To this spot I went on the 20th day of June, 1797 in company with several gentlemen (foot-note, Capt. Tallman of New York, John Spooner, Mr. Allen, pilot, of New Bedford) whose curiosity and obliging kindness induced them to accompany me. The protecting hand of Nature has reserved this favorite spot to herself. Its fertility and its productions are exactly the same as in Gosnold's time, except the wood of which there is none. Every species of what he calls 'rubbish' with strawberries, peas, tansy, and other fruits and herbs appear in rich abundance unmolested by any animal but aquatic birds. We had the supreme satisfaction to find the cellar of Gosnold's store-house: the stones of which were evidently taken from the neighboring beach: the rocks of the islet being less moveable and lying in ledges. The whole island of Cuttyhunk has been for years stripped of its wood, but I was informed by Mr. Greenhill, an old resident farmer, that the trees which formerly grew on it were such as are described in Gosnold's Journal. The soil is very fine garden mould from the bottom of the vallies to the top of the hills and affords rich pasture.* *Dr. Belknap's Biography, II, pp. 113-5.

Gosnold in early 1900s - Of assessed land there are 8,486 acres, and there are 28 horses, 31 cows, 5 cattle, and 2,220 sheep.

by the charter of William and Mary it became on Oct. 7, 1691, a constituent county of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. At the time of the incorporation of Dukes County there were only four counties in Massachusetts, namely: Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk, which were each incorporated May 10, 1643, and Hampshire, May 7, 1662. Next came Barnstable and Plymouth, June 2, 1685, followed by Bristol on June 21, 1685.

The people of Nantucket did not desire to have further connection with Martha's Vineyard, after the separation from New York, and wished to dissolve the county organization and become a separate county by themselves. Requests for this arrangement were made to the General Court of Massachusetts in 1694, by the leading men of Nantucket.

"If I may adventur," wrote Simon Athearn to the General Court on March 12, 1694-5, "to shew my opinion concerning marthas vineyard & Nantucket being a County as when under York – It will be uneasy to the Inhabitants, and disturb peace and Trad, But it will be most easy for each Island to keepe their particular sessions at home & in case of appeale to sum supearior Court: Besides it will be a province Charge to heire a vessel once a year to Carry the Justices of the Supearior Court to Marthas Vineyard or Nantucket." [Mass. Col. Archives, CXIII, III.]

28th of May, 1695, the following act was passed by the General Court of Massachusetts:- AN ACT FOR THE BETTER SETTLEMENT OF THE ISLANDS OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD, AND ISLANDS ADJACENT.

That the Islands of Martha's Vineyard, Elisabeth Islands, the Islands called Nomans- Land, and all the Dependencies formerly belonging to Dukes County, (the Island of Nantuckett only excepted) shall be, remain and continue to be One County, to all intents and purposes; by the name of Dukes County.

[Whether intended or not this statute created a county "by the name of Dukes County" instead of "Dukes," and in consequence all legal phraseology used in connection therewith has always read "County of Dukes County" and it so continues down to the present day.]

From this time until the year 1717, Nantucket Island alone constituted Nantucket County. In that year it was Ordered, that Tuckanuck is to be accounted a part of Nantucket.

Attempt to expand Nantucket - At a town meeting in Sherborne on the Island of Nantucket, Sept. 11, 1771, Voted, That a remonstrance be sent to the Governor to lay the state of inoculation before him in a true light, and to desire him to sign a bill to annex Muskeket and Gravelly Islands to this County, by a majority of 114 voices against 4. "Vetoed" by governor.

On Oct. 19, 1805, the town of Chilmark, at a special meeting, voted that a committee of three persons, Benjamin Bassett, Matthew Mayhew, and Allen Mayhew, be authorized to petition the General Court "to alter the name of Dukes County to that of Mayhew." No action or further record.

