

History Chapter

10-19-11

Connections

Katama Bay + Mattakesett Bay to EGP

WT to Edgartown via Dr Fisher's Road - water tower

Chappy to MV via Swimming Place

ACIC to MV for whaling - place of a safe

for captains and some crews; unloading site

for cargo in bad weather

MV - mainland for wood

OB → Eds RR

Landscaper for dispersal of oaks

History of connections + movements of material
people, animals. Some enduring, most not,
some like RR highly transient; some
like Chappy to Eds ephemeral + recurring

Legacies + Inertia

Mgt - learning from past; learning what nature does + what it can do; work with the possible; retain/restore - not quite the right words - keep aspects of past vs force nature into someth novel, untested

Tree forms - legacies of the past; molding relics; transient forms
Quansoo, Menemsha Hills, Spring Point etc - magical trees - short, broad, extending, contorted - surrounded by taller, straight trees

Cedar Tree Neck - Sassafras contorted, compact, shaped

Wasque Pines - wind + salt shaped

Naushon - Beech - try to immerse; confour - fit oak + beech

Uproots - branches from new stems, linear shoots - confined to a small range of spp? RM, Be not oak, pine - so more prevalent on Naushon than MV

Legacies/Inertia - Interaction of processes operating on multiple scales

Men Hills - leaves on ground from last fall, wood + dead trees from 2006, contorted trees from 19th C, hills from 20K BP, erosion over millenia, cart path from 18th C

Processes interact. Must know all, formation, decay

Adjacent all these areas - extensive grasslands - where are they from?

Big field @ 7 Gates - surrounded by woods - assumption that ~~came~~^{field} came from forest. Katama big field near ocean + surrounded by open suburban landscape, pond, low woods - question whether ancient - same on ACK - context dependent

Rumex popping up
on Woods property

Where did fields come from? When Thos. Mayhew arrived - woodlands or open fields ringed with houses? Fields and Woods finely tuned by human activity? Champlain, Cronon, Mann

Makes a difference to conservation. - interpretation, attitude, management. Surely will influence how we manage

Basic historical reality - regardless of ancient roots, over the last 350 yrs openlands have been maintained, expanded, shaped, and conditioned by ^{Colonial} human activity agriculture - cutting, clearing, mowing, plowing, burning and grazing. The latter is especially important - upwards of 20,000 sheep, x cattle + oxen, horses, pigs, chickens, ducks, goats

Assumption - memory or history as far back as one can reconstruct it is the way it was for a long time - or forever. Rare species - to first ^{knowledge} of abundance - generally 19th C. Indians to Norton, Woods, Champlain

But these were peculiar times and not necessarily indicative of long-standing conditions

Assume because it was there it is native and more abundant

Species on banded up, disturbed sites, eroding bluffs - but bluffs are time transgressive, continually moving so rare spp. are moving. Into former woodland.

Beech - Status. Was it more abundant? Where it is abundant does it depend on unique conditions? Future increase? Constraints on it - fire, hurricanes. Factors favoring it - grazing + browsing

Inertia - Once something established it is difficult to remove. Tendency to perpetuate. Pines - fluke of e.g., disturbance vs seed source allows to establish. Will grow for 200 yrs, producing seed many years + scattering it, likely to perpetuate

Intro - MCF tree blows down on horse path through the plain; couple hundred of yards away pine tree casts seeds that lodge on torn edge of sedge tuft and take root. One hundred and fifty years later the pines stand in a row. Today, mowing along the firelines is yielding the same impact - pines rooted along the margins

Future is uncertain, would like to project future responses and conditions - and yet we cannot decipher past and interpret the present. How will land change + respond. What should we be prepared for and act. Should we anticipate and act?

Wait and see? Hope to accommodate?

Cannot find complete analogs - but partial: (1) some partial analogs, (2) range of past events and anticipate extremes, (3) evaluate reactions, and (4) examine for larger lessons - Maya - not how to do it. How did people cope in the past?

(4)

Deforestation - how extensive

Barren plain to dense woods
No forest to forest
scruggly woodlands to forest

Reforestation - how did it happen so quickly and comprehensively

vs ACK, BI - anecdote of real maps on BI - to see real trees
in forests of Amelanchier

less deforestation than envisioned. Many scrub areas included
woodland plants + intact woodland remnants; including trees
e.g. tree oaks in what looks like exclusive SO

Extent of primary woodland is important + critical. Big differences
MV vs BI vs ACK vs Cape + W Mass

Primary woods, roadsides, invisible woodlots, fence lines, pasture trees
shade trees, wood pastures - invisible?

Time transgressive - primary is snapshot - by 1898 - X acres
lost and Y acres gained.

Secondary woodlands - critical distinction where real - gradations
of impact (soil disturbance) and original spp. removal.

Eliminate native flora. Inertia in its recovery and reestablishment.

Insertion of new flora. Inertia in its removal, decline and
replacement. Competition.

Change soil conditions, biota, genetics

Sieve - elimination of some spp; addition of others;
preferential enhancement; differential reduction;

Big nuthed spp - how fast can move

Photos	Successional cedars	Secondary Woods
	Successional pine	Open oak
	Open oak in younger forest	Sport Woods
	Hurricane trees	Stools

How did heavily seeded trees recover and spread so quickly
 Not old field WP. Few dispersers - squirrels are
 few. Passenger pigeons? Eudora that were
 abundant? Jays?

Each site tells a story

Pine distribution - what explains this?

Woodshed for major industry? Brick kiln

Release of forest from intense and chronic pressures.
 old stools and many sprouts

Areas to examine: PP, across stone walls, v. distant 2ndary
 woods; adjacent 2ndary woods

Gaylussacia clones in open pastures

Succession begets succession → geometric growth

Chapter - Making the Modern Landscape

Succession interacting with development

Forest maturation

Insects

Much greater amt pasture over tillage helps account for rapid succession - accumulate shrub, trees in pasture

Fires 18xx - 2000

Roads vs 1850

Great Plain over Time - Maps

Emerging Conclusions

Entire landscape worked - variation related to land - soils, water, energy, coast - but differentially. Leaves enduring differences

Forest recovery as so much left; remnants in fields and woodlots; Much less deforestation than anticipated

Explore modern variation relative to history / land

Connections -

Other Figures

1850 - today Comparison : e.g. Horse Farm @ Tiah's Cove
Side by Side

Table - % land Tillage, English upland hay, salt marsh meadow,
Pasture, Unimproved - Compare w/ 1850 → Woodland

W Great Plain - Map series - Wasteland, Woodland

^{4?}
1698 - "a barren ragged plain of no town", Athearn

✓ 1784 - "Tisbury Wood Land"

1794 - "Waste Land, Tisbury"

1830 - Woodland

1850 -

✓ Human Population - Percent of maximum - MA, US, Ack, MV
1650 or 1775 → present

Proprietors Pattern for W Tisbury

Old Photos

✓ MA Pop'n distribution thru time (match MV - for Malcoms MV)

~~1830 Map vs Modern~~

Hobson, Jenny

From: Foster, David
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 5:03 PM
To: Hobson, Jenny
Subject: pp

David R. Foster 978.724.3302
Director, Harvard Forest, Harvard University
324 N. Main Street Petersham, MA 01366

From: <Foster>, David Foster <drfoster@fas.harvard.edu>
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 5:02 PM
To: John Flender <jflender@verizon.net>
Subject: Re: Possible source of info

John

Thanks very much. An interesting trail indeed.

David

David R. Foster 978.724.3302
Director, Harvard Forest, Harvard University
324 N. Main Street Petersham, MA 01366

From: John Flender <jflender@verizon.net>
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 3:38 PM
To: David Foster <drfoster@fas.harvard.edu>
Subject: Possible source of info

Hi David,
In looking through some old records I found the following reference to a visit I made to the Mass Land Court. Perhaps they may have some useful information. I was there in October of 2003; so helpful Tom Gavaghan may no longer be around.
John

Massachusetts Land Court, Tom Gavaghan

There is a lot of material in the Engineers Vault. Tom was very helpful, but without specific case numbers it is hard to access their data. They have two old hand-drawn atlases of DukesCounty. (Sheets 11 & 12 cover the Paint Mill Area. Unfortunate the atlases are in bad shape and only refer to Land Courted property. There are, however, some other property lines that might be helpful. The atlases are in Unit 42, drawer 12.

Notes to incorporate into Chapter

Windmills and saltworks are not in evidence today, but may be observable through archaeological excavation. Both structures were commonly dismantled once they were inactive and were incorporated into other structures, making them difficult to detect. This re-use of materials is typical of the Islands and the Cape -- a boon to local residents using the material, and a bane to the archaeologist

Saltworks 1776 etc on

Salt – preservative; fish-packing, tanning; obtained from West Indies before Revolution; Triangular Trade route; Revolution created shortage; Saltworks method developed by Capt John Sears, Dennis, MA: 20' x 10-12" deep; wood, nicely joined; Four adjoining classes of drying bin (vats, pans *Banks 1911*) called the "water room, pickle room, lime room, salt room". Water pumped into first with windmill; then gravity fed; each covered with roof. (*James Norton; Saltworks in Holmes Hole – Intelligencer*)

Naval Stores

On Chappaquiddick pitch pine harvested for pitch, which was manufactured to create grease for carts, turpentine, and rosin. 17th C - many homes lighted by the fireplace, in which large pine knots were burned to create a short-lasting, intense fire (*Capeco 2001; his source is unclear*)

Brick Mill

About 1850 Messrs. Smith and Barrows built a plant for manufacture of pressed brick near outlet of Roaring Brook; large industry, dozens of laborers, production about 600,000 bricks, \$2,400 annually. After twenty years fuel was exhausted and it was abandoned. produced up to 800,00 bricks annually with 70 employees;

Between 1831 and 1855, the number of sheep in the study unit fell nearly 60 %. The decline was greater on the mainland (86%) and Nantucket (80%) than on Martha's Vineyard (22%). However, during the Civil War virtually every town added a few sheep to their flocks in order to profit from the premium on locally produced wool... The rise was short-lived, and in the forty years to 1905 the Cape lost nearly 88% of its flock and Nantucket 94%. By contrast with the rest of the region, however, the sheep decline in Dukes County was slower. In 1905, Dukes reported 21% of the state's sheep. Gosnold and Chilmark were the leading sheep-grazing towns in the state.

1830-60 burst of wharf building due to commercial cod industry.

Edgartown but also HH for whaling with Dr Fisher's oil works continuing to 1876 . Decline after Civil War but still 8 whalers in 1882, last in 1896.

Decline of salt – ~1840 removed duty on imports

Dr Fisher

Decline of Whale oil, Dr Fisher: candle company persisted as Edgartown largest employer after DF's oil refinery closed (MVM www);
Crocker (Mill) Pond – dam built by S Athearn; in 1858-1860 Dr. Fisher built a house (Camman site), mill, and enlarged the dam; Fisher's dam is slightly E of the Athearn mill site; Fisher - 2 ½ story mill; English equipment, millstones from France; the miller, Nicholar Martin from England, lived in Camman House; wheat flour went to DF's hardtack factory for 15-20 years; mill purchased in 1885 by Pudolphous Crocker owner of VH saddle business; 1909 sold to WLWebb (Shaler's son-in-law); Fisher Mill quiet after 1880 (Dimmick 2007); Ice House for SGates. All Eliz Bramhall. Cost \$30K VG 9-27-40. at that time there was not in the United States a more complete mill for making flour. Annual Report of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture 1883. MARTHA'S VINEYARD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. JAMES S. GRINNELL.

Dr Fisher Rd - completed in 1860: "a fine dirt road when he finished it over which his four-horse trams could be driven at a gallop" (VG Sept 1940/Sept 3 19991); "track through the scrub oak wilderness" (*CG Hine 1908*). Builot with permission form each town VG 9-27-40

My Dear Sir,—I have made a poor hand to-day, among the plovers, though I have had a good deal of pleasant driving over the plains. The mode of shooting is from a wagon... My eye is hardly quick enough to see the birds in the grass, and I am a little too much out of play to be sure of them when they rise... My companion to-day Dr. Fisher, a principal man here, is an excellent shot. He killed a dozen birds. (D Webster 1849)

Largest dealer in sperm and whale oil in the United States. VG May 1946/June 17 2006. Oil and Candle works – largest in US, all in world other than GB. "Dr. Fisher is considered the boldest operator in the purchase of oils in the market and buyers are probably as much or more influenced by his opinion in their operations then by any other person" New Bedford Mercury. 3-2-1855

Priester Estate.

Longfellow, Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes entertained; Seldom left MV except Naushon and Boston (State Senator)

Dr. Fisher was Fabulously wealthy, extremely progressive, literally a fanatic where the welfare of the Vineyard was concerned. VG 5-1-53

Woods place – root cellar, barn built for DF; Stone exclosure – pig sty with stone floor; house for farmer torn down; heavy retaining walls for growing fruit. VG 9-27-1940

Old Sculpin Gallery – housed candle factory, grain store, boat builder's shop; Once occupied the grain dock owned by DF.

Illumination Night evolved from the popularity of strolling through the campgrounds to marvel at the tents lit by thousands of spermaceti candles, made from whale oil were manufactured at Daniel Fisher's Edgartown factory,

Whale oil processing plant (warehouse) is county jail site.

MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report. EDGARTOWN. 1984

Edgartown's population rose steadily until 1860, reaching in that year an all-time high of 2118. In 1855 360 men were employed on the whale ships, probably representing the majority of Edgartown's working population. The sharp decline in this business, however, brought about a similar decline in the town's population: by 1870, Edgartown had returned to the same size it had been in 1830. Edgartown's foreign-born population amounted to less than 3% in 1865. As a result of the whaling industry, over half this group was made up of a small Portuguese-born population.

Whaling dominated the town throughout the period, as the number of whalers rose from 195 in 1837 to 255 (1845) to 360 in 1855. Almost all the land-based industries were subservient to whale ships, as small shops produced hats, boots and shoes, blocks and pumps, boats, tinware, casks, or woolen clothing for the whalers or their ships. The largest of these industries was the oil and candle works of Dr. Daniel Fisher (1799-1876). He is said to have "cornered the whale oil market" and obtained a contract to supply all the government-operated lighthouses. His oil works was said to be the "largest in the world" (Hough, p. 18). By 1855 the works produced nearly \$470,000 worth of oil and candles, much the largest single product value reported that year. The whaling industry was hard hit by the business depression of 1857. The enormous quantities of whale oil soon overstocked a market much less inclined to buy, and prices fell dramatically. Any possible recovery of the business was further compromised by the discovery of petroleum in 1859, in the long run virtually eliminating the demand for sperm and whale oil as illuminants. In 1865, the number of men employed in Edgartown whalers had fallen to 180 as whale bone -- the Bowhead's baleen -- became increasingly sought after.

Greek Revival entries, including the Captain's House (1832), the Edward Coffin House (1839), and the Jeremiah Pease House (1858).

The Beach Road to Oak Bluffs was opened in 1872, and in 1902 was improved as a macadam state highway.

By 1915, 10% of the population was Portuguese born.

By the early 1930s, an airport had been established at Katama in the south.

Edgartown Golf Club (1926).

MHC W Tisbury

Ritchie (1969:3) Wampanoag population on Martha's Vineyard in 1600 A.D. at 1,500.

Daniel Fisher built 5 mills on Mill River -- lowest was Athearn's.

West T's population 460 in 1895, 441 in 1915, 260 in 1940.

MHC Oak Bluffs

Nicholas Norton (died ca. 1690) is said to have utilized a small brook that was from a marsh to Sanchacontacket pond for a mill site since a dam still existed there and early deeds make reference to it.

Tisbury to the west completed the Lagoon

Bridge in 1871 to provide direct access from Holmes Hole to

Cottage City along Beach Road through Eastville. In 1872,

Edgartown built a Beach Road along the east coast to Cottage

City. The Vineyard Grove Company built a bridge across Squash Meadow Pond (later Lake Avenue) dividing it into Lake Anthony on the north and Sunset Lake on the south. The Company also constructed Highland Wharf at the head of Commercial Avenue.

A horse railway line was constructed in 1873 from Highland Wharf south to a loop around the Camp Ground circle at Trinity Park. This line was extended to New York Wharf at Eastville in 1892, and to the Prospect House at Lagoon Heights. Meanwhile, in 1874, steam railroad service was opened from the Oak Bluffs Wharf south

The Cottage City Electric Railway Company was formed in 1895, underwritten by nonresident capital, with a powerhouse at Eastville. Service extended west to the Lagoon Bridge, but the route in Vineyard Haven remained a separate line for some time, and electric service was never extended south to Edgartown. Beach Road to Edgartown, however, was improved as a macadam state highway in 1902. In 1900, Lake Anthony was opened to Nantucket Sound and dredged to become Oak Bluffs Harbor.

There are no population figures available before incorporation in

1880, when 672 were reported as year-round residents. By the end of the period, this figure had risen to 1245, nearly twice the earlier number. A substantial portion of this rise were the new Portuguese immigrants which in 1885 made up 7% of the population; by 1905 the 235 Portuguese represented 20.6%. This was much the highest number of Portuguese on the island

MHC Tisbury

Five of the island's eight salt works were at Holmes Hole, representing 76% of the Vineyard's total salt capacity.

Center, Franklin, Church, and Spring Streets were established in 1854; part of William Street was laid out in 1864.

Holmes Hole took longer to develop an important maritime commerce than Edgartown. The first deep-water wharves were not constructed until the 1830s, when two marine railways were also established. The harbor was much frequented by vessels passing through Vineyard Sound, "particularly when the winds are contrary. The deep harbor made Holmes Hole an important port and agricultural products as well as large quantities of wool were sent through the port. The first submarine telegraph line was laid across Vineyard Sound to West Chop in 1856 by the Cape Cod Telegraph Co.

The year 1845 was the peak of Tisbury's whale fishing. In that year four whaling vessels were reported owned in Tisbury employing 121 men. The sperm oil brought back was valued at \$36,000. One ship was reported in 1865. Another side of the fisheries was the Ashappaquonsett herring run, "a famous and prolific domestic industry from time immemorial" (Banks), which that year employed 100 men and netted \$15,300.

In 1889, a new road north from Main Street (West Chop Avenue) was cleared and graded.

Residential development continued to extend west from Main Street, especially in the Spring/Pine Street area. New resort development extended north along West Chop Road to West Chop, where the West Chop Land and Wharf Company developed a district of large Shingle Style summer estates in the 1890s.

File Name:

Tilton/Skiff Mill

Jenny -

DRF

Type and add to industry

Silas Tilton/ Vinal Skiff Mill

In 1766 Silas Tilton (cordwainer) purchased from Samuel Allen eight acres on the North Shore abutting an unnamed river and pond on the west side of the property. He also acquired the "privilege of building a mill on said river" (V.10, p.571 – Dec. 13, 1766). In the 1771 Mass Tax Valuation List Silas Tilton is shown with one house and shops, annual worth of the whole real estate of £1:15:0, 2-cattle, 26-goats and sheep, s-swine, 5 acres of pasture, 1 cow the pasture to keep, but no mention of a mill.

By 1781 he had built a mill. See reference to mill in deed Samuel Allen (Yeoman) to Silas Tilton (Cordwainer) . "Land in the northern part of the land that I live on next to the sea...near the stream or brook that leads from the mill..." (V. 12, p.292 - Oct. 3, 1781).

On April 14, 1791 Silas Tilton (yeoman) sold to Vinal Skiff (1759-1829, weaver) 34 acres at Kiphiggon with buildings, mill, water rights, etc. (V.13, p.279). Banks states that Tilton moved to Easton, NY.

The operation of, if not the title to the mill passed from Vinal Skiff to Stephen Skiff (possibly his son: 1787 – 1857) as indicated in the following deed reference: "Beginning at the West end of a rock and marked B on the East side of Stephen Skiffs Mill..." (V.26 p.321 – March 27, 1837)

I don't seem to have gone further to trace the title to the property from Vinal Skiff to Jeremiah Stewart who sold to Wing and King in 1864 two acres on which to build a mill and another half acre for a wharf as well as the right to use Howland Brook (Paint Mill Brook) and the existing dam and mill pond.

From there see "Chilmark's Paint Mill...", Dukes County Intelligencer August 2005

JOF – 6/28/2013

MV History

+
Daniel Fisher Vineyard Gazette
July 14, 1961

History
Mills

1961 → 1871 ?

Just about
a century

Terribly confusing
article

Mills Old and Modern

7/14/61

R. W. Crocker Equipped North Road Mill Fewer Than 70 Years Ago

An unverified report has it that consideration is being given to the possible remodeling of the mill building on Crocker's Pond, so-called, at North Tisbury on the North Road in order that it may be used as a dwelling. Mild agitation has resulted among those who have believed that this is the last mill on the Island which is operable. It is not the last island mill which could be operated although it is the last water-driven mill. But so far as may be recalled, it is not ancient, nor is it the oldest of Island mills still in existence.

The present mill undoubtedly sits on one of the dams built more than a century ago by Dr. Daniel Fisher of Edgartown. The split stones which face the dam are identical with those to be seen at Fisher's Pond farther west on the same highway. But this dam was repaired and the mill building constructed and equipped by the late R. W. Crocker of Vineyard Haven, who owned the farm and operated it considerably less than seventy years ago.

Turbine Replaced Old Wheel

Mr. Crocker installed machinery in this mill which was modern at the time and may still be regarded as modern, and in this restoration or more correctly replacing, of an older mill, there was no large water wheel, but a turbine of iron. It might be added that the iron turbine had replaced the old-fashioned wooden, under-shot wheel at Manter's Mill in Chilmark, many years previous to this.

Far fewer than sixty years ago, Crocker's Mill was in operation, although the volume of business which it did was not great. Nevertheless there were people from various parts of the Island who carried corn and rye to this mill on occasion, and payment for the grinding was taken in the form of "toll" in the ancient fashion, that is, a percentage of the grist so ground.

But the older mill is in Vineyard Haven, located in the S.B.S. grain-store, so-called. The Banks History states that this mill was established in 1881 by the late William J. Rotch of West Tisbury, and it was known as Rotch's Mill for many years.

Meal Carried Aloft

Originally this mill was operated by steam, a tall metal stack lifting above the building. Meal and cracked corn ground in this mill were carried aloft to the bins on the second floor of the building from which they descended through shoots for sacking as required. All parts of the mill were of metal with the exception of some of the driving-pulleys.

When electric power became available, this mill was converted to a motor-drive, and it continued to be so operated as long as it was in use. Grinding has not been carried on there for many years but aside from the disconnecting of the electric cables, the plant stands as always, ready to be operated if the wires are connected.

Men who acted as millers and who operated this mill include Albert Rotch, still living on the mainland, the late Edward Dahill, and Augustus Norton.

Mill Q
Development

8-21-13

~~Gravel Pit~~ Fulling Mill Brook

~~Turbines~~ Where was Wm + John + Samuel Tilton's
Grist Mill - N of Middle Rd?

Cottle Grist Mill Tannery	Lamberts Cove
------------------------------	------------------

Nicholas Norton Bark Mill
1610-1690 Boulton's Farm
MUM has map - Jill Bouck

Other dam upstream of Fisher Pond?

Tiasquam - primarily grist mills, plus carding + fulling mill

Dams replaced, rebuilt, enlarged, collapse

Dam upstream to add to storage

Tanning - unclear how bark etc ground. Needs for water conversion to steam

- Near source of Fulling Mill Brook
- East side of Peaked Hill Stone slabs + race still visible
acc. Mitch - large w/ big tail race.
- Lambert's Cove area - near head of Blackwater Brook
- Near Grecker Pond across road from
- East side of Indian Hill Rd
- Farm Neck

Iron Ore

Near headwaters of Blackwater Brook

Wind Mill - grind corn; pump water for softers

- Off Plautin Field Way
- Mill Hill - W side Katama
- Chappys

Tar Kilns

Paper Mill

2 Nye Brothers on Roaring Brook

Notes Regarding MV Mills from John Flender

Mills

Tiasquam River (New Mill River)

M 4. Reuben Tilton Grist Mill c. 1760 at Middle Road near "Hewing Field" Mayhew p.130 At least two mills along Tiasquam between Meeting House Way and Glimmerglass (Luce's) Pond a grist mill and one for fulling woolen goods.

Deed V.?, p.427 Thomas Tilton to Reuben Tilton mentions Reuben Tilton mill (1823?)

M 8. Grist Mill site: Wm. B. Mayhew bought half interest from James Allen in 1815. Located upstream from Glimmerglass (?) Pond

M 7. James Allen Carding and Fulling Mill 18th century. Wm. B. Mayhew bought interest in 1815. Located at the end of Glimmerglass (?) Pond Banks, p 68. "There was a grist mill built on the New Mill River probably before 1700, as Benjamin Skiffe (1655-1717/18) was granted the privilege to establish one in 1696 (Deeds 1,125) and the map of 1795 shows one at that date near the Tisbury line." (Banks acknowledges on p. 37 that it is not known whether Skiffe built the mill.)

Banks WT p. 105 Mathew Allen site upstream from Church, built before 1850. Acquired by Allen's son-in-law Capt, George Luce who rebuilt the property in 1860 and ran for about 20 years or more as a grist mill.

Banks WT p. 104 Church, Pabodie, Standish site. First grist mill built in W. Tisbury (~1668) Ran until about 1877-78. Long description of the history of this mill. Mayhew p. 134 Church mill built 1665. Long description. Mill located about 300 yd. up-river from South Road. Ran until 1877
Norton p.74 Benjamin Church built first mill in 1665.

Old Mill River

OM#1 { Note: It is thought that a mill existed in present day W. Tisbury prior to the one built in 1668 on the Tiasquam (Church, Pabodie, Standish). The road from Edgartown to W. Tisbury known as "Mill Path" was in existence (according to Banks V.I, p. 460. See also WT p 3,182.) long before 1669. Banks also makes reference to the establishment of a mill (Cottle) on Old Mill river "where a mill anciently stood" (WT

p. 102) presumably this mill was located at the site of the existing mill on the Edgartown-W. Tisbury Road.

Mayhew p. 133 Reference to mill set up on "Old Mill River" where it passes under "Mill Path" (Edgartown Rd.) since road was known before settlement in 1664.

Note: According to Chris Egan Superintendent of the TTOR Long Point property, the millstone used as a door step at the house on the property (the old hunting camp) came from the Garden Club mill site. The stone (partially broken) is 5' in diameter and 3 1/2 to 4 1/2" thick. It has a hole 7 1/2" in diameter, (pictures taken 7/19/00).

Banks WT p102 Cottle Mill built sometime after 1726 and before 1760. Stopped being used shortly after 1874. Long description of this mill.

Hine p. 177 see ad for 1000 yd. satinet dated Nov. 6, 1873

Mayhew p. 143 David Look (Owner of Church Mill) bought Cottle mill in 1809 and converted that building into a woolen factory.

Mayhew p. 137 Mayhew suggests that some mill building existed when Cottle sold the property to Cobb in 1760 "with every utensil etc." When David Look took it over he installed looms and carding machinery. When Thomas Bradley bought the mill he replaced the old building in 1846 with a new factory for the manufacture of satinet, a heavy woolen fabric used largely for whalemens' jackets. Building now the Martha's Vineyard Garden Club Center.

Norton p. 74 John Cottle built a grist mill on old "Mill River" in 1700 sold it to Cobbestate of Campbell

Banks WT p. 103 Poorly documented ^{which? Athearn Pd → Printers} grist mill built by Ezra ⁺Ahern some years before 1792 at the site of the Dr. Fisher Mill. Brook shows the remains of an old dam.

Banks WT p. 103 Dr. Fisher mill mentioned.

Mayhew p.56 Dr. Fisher's mill "located on the "Old Mill River" in N. Tisbury at the spillway of the lower pond.. Sometimes called "Crocker's". Dr. Fisher also owned mill rights to the upper pond "Fishers Pond".

Norton p. 74 Fisher mill near Middletown on Simon Athearn place. Sold after his death and later torn down.

#2

Note: July 15, 2000 there is a millstone doorstep at the TTOR building at Long Point which the superintendent, Chris Egan, says came from the mill in W.T. now owned by the Garden Club. He says George Manter knows the history of the mill. Also there is supposed to be a history of the mill in the membership list of the Garden Club.

Fulling Mill Brook

*Built entrance way ~1850
Bridge built by Hillman
Big House off H Host Rd - only fireplace left
Built drive + road*

M 1 Fulling Mill c 1694 Fulling Mill Brook at South Road. Benjamin Skiffe purchased 100 acres at this time. Dam and stones still visible. Earliest wool processing mill. *at Boulders but no proof*

Low Bank was ref to upstream Mills - J F doubts

Banks p.67 Earliest mill in Chilmark est prior to 1694 located several rods north of South Road. Old dam still visible from bridge crossing river. Period of operation unknown, but shown on 1795 map.

M 2 Grist Mill at the same location as the fulling mill.

M 9 William and John Tilton Grist Mill on the north side of middle road on land bought from Benjamin Skiffe in 1702. *Skiffe adopted Tilton boy - Wm*

M 10 Samuel Tilton Grist Mill 1850 at Middle Road site as M9
Banks p.68 Grist Mill est. about 1850 by Samuel Tilton. Operated for about 10 years. Building devoted to other uses.. (Wrong This was Bassett's mill.) *Bassett*

Roaring Brook

No real evidence except "possible dam" on JF sketch + foundation

M 3 Hillman Grist Mill c. 1730 On Roaring Brook just below Prospect Brook. Stereo photos at Hist. Soc.

Banks p.68 Grist Mill probably built by John Hillman (-1687-1728) before 1728. Operated after his death by his widow and her brother-in-law Benjamin Hillman. Francis W. Nye erected a new mill on this site in 1849. Building standing in 1908.

Mayhew p. 118 Mill ran until 1900. Last miller was Will Manter.

Hine p.162 (Photo) When pushed it could grind 30 bushels of corn a day. Some time since it ran (1908), but owner ran it in April 1906 to make some real corn meal.

M 6 Mayhew-Nye-Manter Grist Mill 1769 located as at M 3 Rebuilt in 1849 by Francis Nye who was killed by lightning at the mill (wrong: in Tisbury). Later run by

*Tilton - built house
Beldon House - big box-like on N side of S Rd
Sold to LaRusso
to E of Fulling Mills
Brook flows thru it + by house
Diverted water to E - 3 built another mill. La Russo folk stone + has on stump*

“Uncle Billy” Manter and “Aunt Rebecca” who kept store and displayed a light in a window as a beacon for mariners in the sound.

Hine p. 162 Statement that paint and clay for soap making were also ground here. Manter was last miller; kept grocery store when brick works were operating and “..there were folks to buy.” Manter was highest grade for credit.

M 5 Daniel Jones Grist Mill Located as at M 3. Last working grist Mill, early 20th century. Jones was Hillman's son in law ran Hillman mill.

*Broken into
Barn that is remnant of mill - new roof like
Paint Mill photo at Town Hall
Chilmark*

Paint Mill Brook

Banks p.69 “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 the Paint Mill brook.” (King was on Paint Mill Br. 1866. Nye was on Roaring Brook ~1848-1858.)

Norton p. 82 50,000 lb. paint ground annually at the height of the industry.

Brook near Majors Cove in Oak Bluffs

Banks OB p.37 There is a reference to a mill on a small brook that separated the farms of Henry Constance Norton and B.H. Kidder and ran from a marsh into Sanchacantacket Pond. (No brooks shown on current topo) Tradition suggests that at one time there was a mill on this brook for grinding oak bark. It is also thought that Nicholas Norton (1610-1690) operated it. Norton was believed to have been a tanner.

Banks reports that remains of an old dam were visible.

Banks OB p.9 There is a reference to “the Old Mill dam” in the description of Boult’s Farm in the deed dated 1686.

There is reportedly an old map at the DCHS showing the location of the mill. Jill Bouck knows where it is located.

Blackwater Brook-Lamberts Cove

Mayhew p. 114 The Cottle family acquired property in this district and built a grist mill. John Cottle, miller was living hereabouts in 1736.

Vineyard Haven

Hine p.88 Flour mill on Water St. about 1908

Banks T p. 66 Steam grist mill est. 1881 by William J. Rotch still running (before 1908). Under the management of William P. Bodfish.

Tanneries (Tanning Pits)

Chilmark

Banks p. 62 Footnote ref. To "Tan Fatts" and "Tan Yard" at source of Fulling Mill Brook 1743.

Banks p.69 East side of Peaked Hill not far from the Chilmark town hall as early as 1726. May have been operated by Thomas Blair who lived next to pits at that date. (In 1850 the town hall was located on the north site of Middle Road between Tabor House Road and Fulling Mill Brook, (see map in "Brick Barns" for location of town hall)

Mayhew p. 129 Tanning pits located near the source of Fulling Mill Brook (Chilmark) as early as 1726. Thought to have been operated by William Stewart who lived half way up Bassett Hill, the next incline east of brook.
(From the 1771 Tax valuation data) The following are shown as operating Tanhouses in Chilmark: Jonathan Bassett, Silas Bassett

West Tisbury

Mayhew p. 114-15 Near head of Blackwater Brook in W. Tisbury operated by the Luces (last to be operated on the island)

Daggett p.26 Obed S. Daggett (1850-1934) worked in a tannery at Lamberts Cove shortly after his father died in 1886. Was paid \$5-6 a week, but later received \$0.10 per day more for arriving an hour early and getting steam up so the men

on Walling Map "Tannery"

could start working at 7:00. Normal work week 10 hr/day, 6 days/wk. 60 hr wk., but in the case of Daggett 66 hr.

T1, T3

Daggett p.35 A tannery was located at Black Water Brook at Lamberts Cove and was operated by the Cottle family for several generations.

T4

Daggett p.35 Early tannery located near the brook on the property once owned by Shubael Gray just below the Locust Grove School but on the opposite side of the road. (School was located (1884-1927) on North Road across the road "from the old mill" (Daggett p. 116) (Tannery must have been near the Seven Gates Mill & Crocker Pond.)

T5

Mayhew p. 116 Job Gorham ran Tannery on the east side of the Indian Hill Road on the little pond-hole near the road.

(From the 1771 Tax valuation data) The following are shown as operating Tanhouses: In Tisbury: Rowlan Rogers, Francis Norton, Isaac Robinson, Seth Hammet

Edgartown

Banks E.p87 & 129 Nicholas Norton was a tanner by trade and may have operated a tannery in Edgartown.

Oak Bluffs

Banks OB p. 14 Local tradition has it that John Boulton was a "tanner of moleskins", but is probably not true.

T6

^{Farm Neck Tannery}

Banks OB p.20 Simeon Butler bought part of the Daggett Farm in 1733 and operated a tannery there until 1750 when the property was turned over to his sons Ebenezer and Thomas

Banks OB p.56 It is suggested that Malatiah Davis (1717-1795) who, it is said, came to the Vineyard in 1740 entered the employ of Thomas Butler in his tannery business.

Banks Vol. III p. 146 M.D. came to Vineyard..."to enter die employ of Thomas Butler of Eastville in the tannery operated by the Butler family. He moved to W. Tisbury in 1778.

An acquaintance at the VH library mentioned that there was a mill near Boulton's Farm and that it was shown on a map in DCHS. (see O-1,O-41) He thought the mill might

have been owned by Nicholas Norton. He thought Norton was a tanner. (Banks also suggests he was a tanner V.II, E., p.87) The mill dam and a tan mill are shown on property that may have been owned at one time by Nicholas Norton. (Thomas Butler - Farm Neck, farmer (1676-1721); (Nicholas Norton: (1610-1690) (There is another Thomas Butler b.1721, d.~1781. He was a tanner, and lived at Farm Neck. His father, Simeon, ran the tannery before he died. (Somewhere I found the date as 1769. Banks, V.II, OB, p.20 says that Simeon turned the tannery over to his sons Thomas and Ebenezer in 1850.)

Nicholas Norton's will leaves "...a tract of land lying at Saniacantacket joining to the mill Creek which I bought of Mr. Sam." (Banks V.II, E., p.88) ^{Huntington} Diary of William Butler Intelligencer, Nov. 1966 & May 1967 points out that like most Vineyarders of that time Butler engaged in a great variety of occupations, although he considered a tanner by trade. These included teaching, raising sheep and farming, although everyone in those days engaged in farming. It was referred to "...as a way of life".

Dukes County: (from the 1849 Gazetteer) One tannery listed which employed 3 and produced 700 hides, presumably in 1845)

(From the 1771 Tax valuation data) The following are shown as operating Tanhouses: In Chilmark: Jonathan Bassett, Silas Bassett. In Tisbury: Rowlan Rogers, Francis Norton, Isaac Robinson, Seth Hammet. (Included above) All data for Edgartown missing.

Iron Ore

Banks C p.68 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. Ore was reportedly smuggled to Taunton during revolution for conversion into ammunition when the supply of lead became diminished. (See Crevecoeur's map of 1782 for location.) (See Dr. James Thacher "Observations upon Iron Ores" Mass. Hist. Col., IX, 257

Banks C p.69 Ore from above swamp used in war of 1812 to make cannon balls for the "Constitution" Hines p.161

Mayhew p. 114 Iron ore was taken from the bog at the headwaters of Blackwater Brook in 1814 and sent to Col. Murdock's foundry in Carver to make cannon balls for the "Constitution".

Freeman p. 11 General reference to iron ore found “near runs of water and swamps”. “Sells for ten or eleven shillings a ton on the Sound; and considerable quantities have been exported to the forges on the Main, where it is esteemed, when mixed with other ores, (see also Col. Hist. Soc. IX. 257)

Barber (1841) p. 148 Iron ore delivered to the sound sold for \$2 a ton.

Hine p. 161 Ref. to 1782 map in “Letters from an American Farmer” locating source of bog iron shipped to the forges in Taunton. Further references to ore going to Carver, “every pound was weighed on the Homes Hole beach by Jonathan Luce, Sr. and then shipped in small ‘wooden ships’ to Wareham and thence to Carver.

Thacher p.257 Reference to an iron mine of considerable extent and value on M.V. brought to “our works” in large lumps of a reddish brown colour affording about 25 per cent, and is worth six dollars a ton. Iron from this ore exhibits a peculiar degree of smoothness and lustre. P. 258 first furnace in Plymouth Co. in Pembroke in 1702 (short lived). Another in Carver (the Federal furnace 7 ½ mi. from Plymouth) erected 1794.

Wind Mills

Edgartown

WM 1

Mayhew p. 151 The Jernegan grist mill stood on the little knoll back of the schoolhouse (presumably off Planting Field Way. Millstones now (1956) doorsteps at Hist. Soc. Squire Cooke house. (6/28/00 stones no longer doorsteps, but still on grounds. They measure 33” diam. & 9” thick.) See also Des Barres Atlantic Neptune 1776 (The site appears to have been near the intersection of Mill Street and Planting Field Way.)

WM 2

Mayhew p. 151 Wind powered grist mill located on Mill Hill on west side of Katama Road.

Banks E. p. 189 The only mills in Edgartown were propelled by wind power and were local grist mills only.

Barber (1841) All grinding of corn and grain done by wind mills. Salt made to a considerable extent. Water raised by pumps worked by windmills. Water led by troughs to cisterns or vats that were filled to a depth of 3 or 4 inches in which it was dried by the sun.

Chappaquiddick

WM3 1930 map

Mayhew p. 153 There was a grist mill powered by wind. Part owner and agent was Perry Davis of Providence.

Oak Bluffs

WM4

Mayhew p. 111 Windmill located near State lobster hatchery see also Des Barres Atlantic Neptune 1776.

Hines p. 77 On the lagoon "...where the bank began to rise was once a windmill for grinding corn."

Lagoon Point

Vineyard Haven

WMS

Banks T p.82 Illustration of "Old Windmill on Mill Hill 1795"

Hine p. 123 Freeman notes in 1807 only one windmill in Tisbury. Location not given. Actually was on Manter Hill, then known as Mill Hill. Was built 1812-15 (photograph), by Lothrop Merry. Also shown in the background of a photograph "Wreckage from the City of Columbus" Photo not in Hine. Wreck occurred Jan. 18, 1884.

Norton: p. 57-58: This appears to be the best and most accurate description. Timothy Chase (1745-1818) built early mill on a site north of the village. This mill collapsed shortly after Chase's death in 1818. Lothrop Merry then built another mill about 1820 on a site where the current town hall stands. Lothrop sold this land to Capt. Thomas Bradley in 1833. He in turn sold the mill to Capt. Tristram Luce in 1842 and moved it to a site not far from Chase's mill. In 1888 the mill building was purchased by Asa B. Cary and moved to become part of his summer house overlooking the harbor.

Chilmark

WM6 ?

M11 Windmill-Menemsha site 1775 (from Des Barres)
Des Barres Atlantic Neptune 1776 shows a windmill located approx. 1/2 mile East of the opening to Menemsha Pond.

Gay Head

WM7

Mayhew p. 125 Mention of the "site of the Gay Head windmill" It appears to have been located not far from the Gay Head Cemetery.

Nomans Land

Mayhew p. 122 There is mention of a "grist mill used to grind corn in the fall..."

WM8 Wood, A.M. p.97 Windmill used to grind corn and grain located not far from the site of the farmhouse. One of the mill stones still visible (1930)

Tar Kilns

Banks E p. 184 There were kilns for extraction tar from wood in the Penny Wise region, and the Tarkill Path ran to that locality as early as 1738 (Deeds VI, 386)

Candle Factory

Norton p. 39 The largest industry carried on was the candle factory of Dr. Daniel Fisher. (Daniel Fisher & Company). It was said to be the largest in America with a capital of \$40,000 and an annual income of over a quarter of a million dollars. In 1850 it produced 60 tons of candles and 13,000 barrels of refined and strained oil. The business flourished until after the Civil War when petroleum was discovered in PA.

Miscellaneous Items:

MVHS-Library Building-Maritime Museum:

White clay jug made at Makoniky Clay Works c. 1890

Firebrick from Menemsha Clay Co. 893-1915

Beach stones exported to New Bedford for its cobblestone streets.

Banks, Charles Edward, MD - b. 1854, d. 1931.

Stationed on MV 1889-1892.

V. 1 & 2 published 1911

The Vineyard Haven Windmills

The earliest reference to a windmill in Tisbury (Vineyard Haven) appears in Banks, V.11, Tisbury, p.82 (1911) as a drawing with the caption "The Old Mill. 1795 Mill Hill, Vineyard Haven"

Freeman, p.21 (1807) reports that in addition to a mill for dressing cloth, there was one windmill and three watermills in Tisbury. No specific location in the town is given.

The Crapo map "Plan of Edgartown" (1830) shows a windmill west of the center of the town of Homes Hole.

Hine, p. 122-123 (1908) has a photograph taken in 1884 of a windmill located in open, high ground referred to at that time as Mill Hill (Manter Hill in 1908, located between Main & William one or two streets north of Church). In the photograph the mill is obviously not being used. The text mentions that Lothrop Merry built it between 1812 and 1815. Hine noted that the mill could be seen in a picture "Wreckage from the City of Columbus", (I have been unable to locate that picture.) Hine also writes that by 1908 the mill had been moved to form part of the dwelling of a summer resident;

Cary (Walker) Scheller mentioned that she had lived in the "Mill House" as a child. Her maternal grandfather, Asa B. Carey bought the house when Cary's mother was one year old. (She thinks this was about 1873.) Later he moved the mill building because was going to be tom down. He thought it was a shame to loose the structure. Her mother said that the mill had been moved from Chappaquiddick. and that the millstones were still are on the property. As mi aside Cary mentioned that her grandfather bought the house from Molly Merry.

It seems likely that the structure now incorporated in the Mill House was the Lothrop Merry windmill which was standing but in poor condition in 1884. According to Freeman, there was a windmill on Chappaquiddick in 1807. This is probably the same mill as the one shown on the 1830 Henry Crapo map near Snows Point. Neither mill appears on the Walling map of 1858, although several other windmills are shown. This omission suggests that both were no longer used.

It seems unlikely that the Mill House windmill structure was moved from Chappaquiddick to become part of a summer residence when the one nearby was in poor condition as a result of having stood idle for some years and was probably soon to be torn down.

September 17, 2001

Article from the Vineyard Gazette - August 23, 1943

Among the old landmarks of Vineyard Haven, the most interesting one is the old mill first built "up Island" then moved to Edgartown, and finally to Vineyard Haven to the spot where Associates Hall now stands. Later it was purchased by Dea. Tristram Luce and moved to the land where Capt. Owen Tilton's house now stands. In 1883 it was purchased by Col. Cary and retained its individuality 'til 1886 when Maj. Cary had it moved to its present position; and it's now a component part of the Major's cottage - and the old mill has lost its identity. No doubt it has stood the storms and winds of half a century.

undated: Photograph of Vineyard Haven and mill on Chris Baer's web site,

undated: Photograph of Col. Cary's Mill House on Chris Baer's web site.

Information from Norton (2000) p.57

Timothy Chase, referred to in Banks V.III, p. 79 as a miller (1745-1818) built a windmill that Norton shows as being located about half way between a cart path (presumably now Main Street and the shore and north of his house and south of Molly Merry's house. This mill collapsed shortly after his death. Lothrop Merry built a second windmill in 1820 on the Town Hall site. This mill was moved to site near the original Chase mill. In 1888 General Asa B. Carey bought it and moved it down the hill to become part of his summer residence. (The Norton reference appears to be the most accurate source of information on VH windmills.)

Registry of deeds information:

V.66, p.523 James Gray to Asa B. Carey 1880: Land in Tisbury starting at the NE corner of Shubase(?) D. Smith at high water VH harbor, W by Smith and Harding lot 313 rods to land now or formerly owned by Ebenezer Norton, thence N to a well known bound by a ditch and westward of a cart path, thence N 8 more rods to land formerly belonging to Mary Merry, thence E by lands belonging to Tristram Luce 313 rods to VH harbor thence S by harbor 16 rods to start.

V. 69, p.126 Grafton Luce (?) to Asa B. Carey July 19 1881 Land with dwelling house thereon. Beginning at a stake and stones adjoining land of Tristram Luce at the NW

corner of said described premises, thence S. by T. Luce 129' 6" to a stake and stones adjoining lands of Rodolpheus W. Crocker, thence E by said Crocker as the fence stands 300' to the VH harbor, thence N. by the harbor 128' to lands of T. Luce, thence W by Luce to start. This is the property conveyed by Matthew Merry to Grafton Luce 12 July 1845 V.31, p.19/20 and by Thomas Luce to Grafton Luce 19 April, 1853, V. 36, P.67

V.92, p.373 ??? to Asa B. Carey Lot in Vineyard Haven (seems unrelated) 1894

V.104, p. 101 Edward W. Whittemore to Asa B. Carey one half undivided interest in lot adjoining Carey's house lot. Starting at the SW corner of Carey thence E on the S line of Carey 145', thence S 7' 10", thence W along the N line of the house lot of Harriett Burre? 145' to the NE corner of said lot, thence N 1' 3" to start

V.104, p.1 15 ??? to Asa B. Carey one third of the mill lot assigned to Georgina A. Savage in the partition of the estate of Tristram Luce. Starting at the county road at the middle of a private way leading to the residence of Carey, thence N by said road to the Grove Hill Lot, thence E by Grove Hill Lot to the VH harbor, thence S by Carey to the center of the private way, thence by center of private way to start. Containing 2A more or less.

For Timothy Chase see Deeds file "Norton, Butler, Bradley Chase Search" for V.9, p.828.

Summary of Info on Mill House

Asa B. Carey purchased a summer dwelling on about a lot of .9A in Vineyard Haven in 1881 (V.69, p. 126). The property had been owned by Mary (Molly) Merry and upon her death in 1843 the property went to Matthew Merry who sold it to Tristram Luce in 1845 (V.31 p.19/20). Tristram Luce in 1853 sold it to Grafton Luce (V.36 p.67) who deeded it to Carey. It is not clear when the mill building was moved and attached to the Carey house. Norton's date of 1888 is probably the correct one. However, in

Note July 16,2003: A note in the Tilton Genealogy notebook at MVHS indicates that there is a photo of the VH windmill provided in 2000? by Robert Tilton who lives/lived on the site. Info on the mill provided by Walter Renear of VH.

John Hillman Mill (Roaring Br.)

Banks (II, C., p.68) a grist mill was built on Roaring Brook (just below Prospect Br.- Chil. M. P. #M3 c. 1730.) probably by John Hillman (#12) before 1728 and was operated after his death (1728) by his widow (Ruth Cottle d. 1760) and her brother in law, Benjamin Hillman (#13) (Deeds VII, 224).

Banks (III p 195, 196, 198) Benjamin Hillman removed to Dartmouth 1729, but returned to Chilmark. d. 1745. John (#12) Hillman's estate administered by his widow in 1728 was divided in 1743. Tax Valuation list of 1771 shows John Hillman (#35), b.~ 1722 as owning .25 mill. He removed to Williamstown sometime after 1782; d. 1784

A new mill was established on this site by Francis W. Nye in 1849. Mill still standing (~1910) but not in operation. Stereo

Chil. M.P. Stereo photo at MVHS. (see below)

Mayhew-Nye-Manter Grist Mill (Roaring Brook)

Chil M.P. M6 Location at M3 Rebuilt 1849 by Francis Nye. (see above) Later run by "Uncle Billy" Manter & "Aunt Rebecca" who kept a store.

Chilmark Census Records: William C. Manter
In 1850 shown as 55 a paint grinder
In 1860 shown as a miller
In 1870 shown as a miller

Ebba - Hillman = Jones ?

Daniel Jones Grist Mill (Roaring Brook)

Chil M.P. M5 Location at M3 Was last working mill-early 20th century.

Mill Site investigation February 3,2001

Roaring Brook: We walked down to the brick works from the end of the Prospect Hill Road and prowled around. Lots of old foundations and retaining walls, some of which appear to be unrelated to the major activity at the bottom of the valley. There is very little left of the wheel, but probably enough to take some measurements. Access is

very difficult because of the underbrush, vines and poison ivy. Summer access would be impossible. There is a bridge across the brook at the end of the road at the top of the path leading down to the brick works. The mill site shown in the Chilmark Master plan is probably fifty to one hundred yards upstream from the parking area at the end of the road. An inhabited dwelling (Roaring Brook Construction Inc.) prevented us from exploring further.

Hi John,

Two Nye brothers did build a small mill on Roaring Brook. Not anywhere as big as the one on Paint Mill Brook. And they did not ever own the property, they leased it. I haven't done a lot of work on the Paint Mill Brook property, but I'm also under the impression that the large mill there was also a Nye family endeavor. I'm still off island and am going from memory, not my actual notes. But I've almost finished a complete title search for both sides of Roaring Brook and here's what I've gleaned about mills there from the deeds:

The first mill was John and Benjamin Hillman's grist mill — mid 1700s — located on the west side of the brook. This is the one known as the Daniel Jones mill. (One of John Hillman's daughters married a Jones who bought a share in the mill from Ruth Hillman, John's widow.)

The first brickyard on the west side of the brook began around 1821. It was not started by Smith and Barrows, but they bought it before the decade was over. It was bought and sold quite a few times by down island and off island investors before Nath. Harris bought it in 1867.

William Mitchell bought property on the east side of the brook in 1837 and began a small brickyard there as well.

The Nye brothers leased property on the east side of the brook around 1849 and erected a mill there. (Can't remember who owned it at the time but I've got it in my notes. I'll be back on island later this week and can give you the deed references.) They were grinding clay for paint and apparently grinding grain as well. The Jones mill was no longer operating by this time. William Manter apparently worked there and called himself a "paint grinder" in the 1850 census. Manter eventually bought the property and this is what's known as the Manter Mill. He ground grain and clay in small quantities.

The Chilmark China Clay company was started around the turn of the century by Sydney and Charles Harris, Nathaniel's sons. It operated on the shore west of the brook.

Ebba

3/11/03

The Reuben Tilton Mill

Reuben Tilton, born Aug. 26,1735 was the son of Thomas and Jemima Tilton. He married Abigail Tilton on Jan. 28,1762. She predeceased her husband on July 10,1801. Their children were: dau. Jamima born Jul. 24,1764, son Thomas born Oct. 24,1766 and son Asa Tilton born Dec. 1,1769 (Banks V.III, p.476). No record of Reuben's death has been found, but the last deed he signed was dated May 29,1826. Very little else is know about him other than the fact that he was referred to in the same deed as "Deacon". (Bk.22, p.488 - 1826 and Bk.26, p.321 - 1837)

Banks refers to Reuben Tilton as a "miller", which is undoubtedly correct, but during his early years, his livelihood appears to have been derived from farming. The Massachusetts 1771 Tax Valuation List shows him living in Chilmark and having an "annual worth of the whole real estate" of £1, and owning 2 oxen, 1 cattle, 26 goats & sheep 1 swine, 12A. pasture, 2 cows pasture will keep, 3A. tillage and producing of 30 bushels of grain per year, but no interest in a mill is shown. By that time he appeared to be well established at the age of 36. His fortunes continued to improve and by 1788 he was being referred to in a deed as "gentleman" rather than "yeoman" as appeared in earlier transfers. The 1790 Census again lists him in Chilmark as head of a household of "5 free white males of 16 years and upward including heads of families", and "3 white females including heads of families".

The status of an early mill on the New Mill River is an interesting one. In August of 1696, Benjamin Skiff purchased from Matthew Mayhew, for twenty shillings, the right to the "use, liberty and sole improvement" of the New Mill River for the "driving of one or more mills of any sort". (Bk.1, p.125) Skiff's apparent success with his operation on the Fulling Mill Brook must have encouraged him to try to expand his activities on another stream. In 1702, Skiff transferred to William Tilton (1668-1750) and his younger brother John (1670-1759), the right "to build and set up a grist mill" on the New Mill River. (Bk.2, p. 134) William Tilton already owned land on the river, having acquired a tract on the north side from Mayhew in February 1696. (Bk.1, p.204). The 1696 Tilton land purchase, however, was not recorded until 1707, well after the mill rights were first granted.

No other references to any interests in mill rights or to mills on the New Mill River were found until March 2, 1759 when Thomas Tilton deeded to each of his sons a part of the "mill lot" on the north side of the river (Bk.9, p. 1,2,3, & 19). There is no indication where this terminology originated. Although all four deeds contain the typical language "..with all the rights, title, privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging.." there is no specific mention of any buildings or mill on any of the four parcels.

Thomas Tilton died in 1801. His will left everything to his son Reuben (other than a small legacy to his granddaughter). There is, however, no specific mention in his will of a mill. (I./532)

Reuben Tilton undoubtedly owned a grist mill on the New Mill River. There is a reference to "...Reuben Tilton's mill pond..." in an 1818 deed (Bk.28, p.303) and to "...my grist mill..." in 1823 (Bk.21, p.424). One can speculate that given the production of 30 bushels of grain in 1771, he could, with the needs of neighbors justify the construction sometime shortly after 1771, probably early in the forty-seven year period between 1771 and 1818, but nothing has been found to give a more accurate date.

The Census of 1800 lists the Reuben Tilton household as being comprised of two males 26-45, two males over 45, one female 10-16 females 26-45 and two females over 45. He is not listed in any subsequent census of Dukes County.

In May of 1825 Reuben sold what appeared a substantial part of his real estate (170 A.) to Samuel Tilton, junior, "mariner" (Bk.23, p.166), subject to a mortgage to Huldah Coffin (Bk.21, p.424). Although the mill is not specifically mentioned in either deed, when Samuel Tilton died in 1851, a grist mill valued at \$30 was included in the inventory of his estate. (1./1028) The real estate was sold at public auction (see ad Vineyard Gazette, Oct. 24, 1851) in November to Warren M. Tilton (Bk.35, p.516). Since the mill was specifically included in Samuel Tilton's estate, it was probably still in existence, but whether it was operated during his lifetime is not known. It is unlikely that Warren M. Tilton ran the grist mill.

What became of Reuben Tilton is not known. The last reference found was in May of 1826 when he bought 1 acre of land from Belcher Athern. There is no record of his death in Chilmark and no probate of his estate in Dukes County. There is a note in the records of the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society that his son Thomas removed to Farmington, Maine in 1826, and Reuben now 91 may have gone with them.

Notes taken January 2001 at various places

Barber. 1841, p. 148: Iron ore delivered at the sound \$2/ton

p. 151 Chilmark, 6,470 sheep including 1,600 merinos. Average weight of fleece 2 lb. value of wool produced \$5,180
Population 699

p. 153 All grinding of corn in Edgartown done by windmills, there being no waterpower. Salt made to a considerable extent.

Water raised by pumps run by windmills and led along troughs
To fill cisterns or vats which are filled to a depth of 3"-4"
Dried by sun. Domestic manufacture of wool in Edgartown
Considerable. Flannel blankets and many thousand pairs
of stockings, mittens and caps or wigs made and sold annually.
Map shows three towns in 1839.

The Diary of Samuel Sewall (1674-1729)

Edited by M. Halsey Thomas; Farrar, Straus & Giroux - New York 1973

p. 464: Vineyard Trip: Mon. Apr. 6, 1702-Thur, Apr. 9. 1702

p. 550: Vineyard Trip Sept. 2, 1706-Sept.9, 1706

p. 749: Vineyard Trip Apr. 5, 1714-Apr. 12, 1714

Intelligencer Aug, 1985, p.25-35 "Stepping Stones" were downstream from the mill in
1809 was bought by David Look. Later bought by Capt. Henry Cleveland
- made Satinet. It was deserted for some time and later opened in summers
by Barbara Look and the Strater girls, and later still by Alice Mathewson
who had a tea room. (Not much info, but several old maps.)

May, 1970 p. 157 Old, poor quality photo of Edgartown windmill -no date

Feb. 1988 p. 120 The Day the Dam Broke. Mr. Crocker's dam gave way Over at
Middletown.

Feb. 1989 p.94 Map of Edgartown. Relate to windmill May 1970

Aug. 1990 p. 14 Benjamin Skiff built a fulling mill on Fulling Mill Brook
Remains of dam can be seen along the brook,
DeCrevecour's 1783 map. DeBarres' map of 1776 of Gay Head &
Chilmark - (Atlantic Neptune) windmill shown in Menemsha area

Nov. 1990 p. 90 Reference to white clay being sold.

Feb. 1991 p. 117 Ref. Edgartown shoe factory established two year.

Nov. 1966 p.29 Wm. Butler was a tanner same as father & grandfather From
1792 Diary

May 1967 p.99 Ref. To child drowning in tanfat in West Tisbury 1792
p. 100 employed getting bark

See Vineyard Magazine V.1, #4

Diary of Rev. William Homes of Chilmark

Aug. 30, 1724 Jabez Athern received into the church.

July 9, 1737 The night after it we had excessive rains which raised the Rivers upon the island to such a degree that the dams of the water mills were carried away by them and the mowing ground near the river was very much damaged, to the great loss of several of the inhabitants.

M.V.H.S. Library card catalog check: Iron, Industries, Saltworks, Tan, Tannery Bog. Daggett, Seth: Invoice and sales book 1808-1816 - 656.3 F15.24 Intelligencer Aug. 1983 Edgartown & Eliz. Isd. Bits & Pieces, also Saltworks in Homes Hole.

**Notes taken at "Ancient Mills and Waterways of Martha's Vineyard"
(A talk given at Brookside Farm, Chilmark on August 14, 2000 by Dr. Mitch
Mulholland, professor of archaeology at U Mass Amherst**

Although many historical maps of MV show mills, none show any saw mills. M. believes there were some, however.

M. thought that the streams were larger at the time the mills were in operation.

The Garden Club mill was first a grist mill then a carding mill and finally a satinett mill. He referred to it as the Cottle, Look, Satinett mill 1700-1874.

The oldest mill was the Church mill which operated until about 1870. This is the mill operated by the Look family. The tail race is clearly visible.

The mill upstream on the Tiasquam and across the road from Brook side (Reuben) started in 1730.

The millstone at the Preister Pond mill lies in the brook bed below the dam. It was in operation 1792-1870.

A map dated 1795 shows "a small waterwheel on the Blackwater Brook. M. observed the tail race, (not clear if it was upstream or below the Lamberts Cove Road.)

There was a large tannery on the Blackwater. Big stone slabs and a tail race visible.

The Grist Mill in the Fulling Mill Brook operated 1702-1850. (Dates may have referred to the fulling mill. The wheel is there. (I think he meant the millstone.)

The Paint Mill specialized in red and yellow pigments used to make painted rugs which were fashionable in the period. Buildings gone or converted to other uses. There were a couple of mill upstream on the brook.

In 1890 the Kaolin Brick Works were located a Makonikey. The made yellow kaolin fire bricks which were used at the Makonikey Hotel. The plan was to use lignite peat to fire the kiln, but it did not produce enough heat, and the company closed.

On the Mill Brook was the Ezra Athern grist mill which was purchased by Dr. Fisher in 1840 (and was rebuilt I believe) Fisher also bought the rights to five other dams on MV.

The Brick Works operated from 1840 to 1870's. M. suggested that bricks had been made there as early as 1650, but said that there was no firm evidence of that. He mentioned the existence of grist mills upstream on the Roaring Brook.

M. said that the mills were used to grind a variety of materials including corn, wheat and even limestone. (It wasn't clear if he was referring to the Roaring Brook mills or was making a general statement regarding MV mills.)

After the talk, M. confirmed my belief that there were two mills on Smith Brook.

Molly and I also met Granville and Lynne White who bought the 63A. across the road including the Reuben Tilton mill site. The property also includes the original Tilton house which is still in its near original configuration. They appear to be quite interested in the mill site and in going over the site with M.

Reference in the hand out at the party referred to the article in the Gazette in July 1927 "Tiasquam River Mills" (July 9, 1929: Slim waters of the Tiasquin once turned six mills.) This is probably the one reprinted in the Gazette on p. 10 of the 6/9/00 issue.

Mill right-New Mill River

V.1, p. 204

Matthew Mayhew to Wm. Tilton, Yeoman
Feb. 14, 1696 (entered July 3,1707)

Land in Chilmark northward from brook called the new Mill River containing land as bounded Eastward by a line drawn parallel with the bound line of land late in the ? of Richard Elingham now of James Allen, Esq. at the distance of forty pols or rods from said line or boundary and is to be in the same breadth from said brook until it be extended and come to the westernmost part of a field enclosed b ? said brook being the boundary ? said line and extension of said field by said brook, also one share of right in common in said town (No mention of mill rights.)

V.2 p.230

William Tilton to John Tilton
December 6, 1708

... land northward of a brook called new mill river containing **one half of all that tract** which William Tilton bought from Matthew Mayhew on February 24, 1696 (1/204) being the west or northerly end of said purchase.. .bounded at the southeast or easterly end by a straight line drawn across the middle of said purchase of land also the one half of one share or right in common in said town to have and to hold said land and right of common.....

Matthew Mayhew to Capt. Benjamin Skiff: Aug. 30, 1696; V. 1, p. 125 (Rights)

V. 1, p. 125

COPIED

Matthew Mayhew to Capt. Benjamin Skiff
August 30, 1696 (entered Sept. 18,1696)

Know all men by these presents that whereas Matthew Mayhew of Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard is possessed in his own right of certain lands by a stream in the town of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard as likewise of said stream or river commonly called the new mill river Know ye the said Matth. Mayhew in consideration of the sum Of twenty shillings to him paid by Capt. Benjamin Skiff for divers good _____ him_____, hath given and granted _____ by these presents doth grant convey and confirm to the said Capt. Benjamin Skiff the use liberty and sole improvement of said

stream or river to the intent when he or his heirs or assigns shall judge the same to be advantageous or to be profitable to use and improve the same **for driving one or more mills of any sort** and doth further by these presents give and grant free liberty and power to the said Benjamin Skiff his heirs and assigns for ever to make one or more trenches or other conveyances to the stream and for diverting the usual course of said stream through any of the lands of him the said Matthew Mayhew always provided it be not greatly prejudicial to the interest of such as improve of shall improve the adjacent lands for pastures, com, or meadows respecting the same only and not respecting any who may pretend any other use or for said stream or brook. In witness whereof said Matthew Mayhew hath to these presents subscribed and put to his seal this one and thirtieth day of August etu. Dom: one thousand six hundred ninety and six.

V. 2, p. 134

COPIED

Benjamin Skiff, Esq. to William & John Tilton
March 2, 1702

Know all men by these presents that whereas I, Benjamin Skiff Esq. Of the Town of Chilmark on Marthas Vineyard having obtained a grant of Maj? ___ Matthew Mayhew of Edgartown, of a Stream or River in Chilmark called the new mill River; as may appear by a deed under his hand, bearing date the thirtieth day of August anno: Dom one thousand Six hundred Ninety and Six Do by virtue hereof give and grant full and free liberty unto William Tilton and John Tilton of said Chilmark **to build and set up a grist mill** on said stream and to maintain the same to them and their heirs for ever without any loss or hindrance from me the said Benjamin Skiff or from any person or persons from by or under me giving them the said William and John Tilton such liberty for trenching or turning the water for the convenience of the said mill as if myself might do by virtue of said deed always provided that they shall not improve the said Stream to the use of any other mill whatever and in witness and Confirmation hereof I have hereunto subscribed with my hand and put to my seal this second day of March and in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and two.

John Tilton³ acquired land on the north side of the New Mill River referred to in later deeds to his children as the "mill lot" from his brother William in 1708 (2/230). This deed, however, and a 1696 deed from Matthew Mayhew to William Tilton (1/204) make no mention of it being the "mill lot". Shortly before his death in 1759, John Tilton³ divided what he then described as "the mill lot" into four and separate lots and transferred them to: (from west to east) Samuel⁴ (1723-1778), Joseph⁴ (1710-1796),

John Jr.4 (1705-1783). and Thomas4. (1702-1801). - (see V.9, p.3, 1,2 and 19 respectively)

Banks lists his wife Abigail, and three children who at that time were Jamima 26, married to Silas Cottle, Thomas 24, unmarried and Asa 21 also unmarried. According to Banks, Thomas married Fear Hawkes on Oct. 24, 1805 and Asa married Sarah Smith on Mar. 19, 1801. Notes at MVHS indicate that Thomas removed to Farmington, Maine in 1826. Reuben may have also gone to Maine with Thomas and died there. Banks reports that Reuben was a "deacon of the church", a reference supported in V.22, p.488 (May 29, 1826). Banks also states, but incorrectly, that Reuben Tilton died before 1810. The last reference to Reuben Tilton is in the above mentioned 1826 deed for an acre of land in Chilmark.

V.28, p.303 dated 1818 mentions Reuben Tilton's mill pond.

V.21, p.424 dated 1823 states my grist mill..." (Reuben's)

V.22, p.488 dated 1826 Reuben referred to as Deacon

V.22, p.488; 5/29/1826 (7/12/1826): Belcher Athern, yeoman to Deacon Reuben Tilton, yeoman, 1A

Mills on the Paint Mill Brook

In 1766 Silas Tilton, a cordwainer, purchased from Samuel Allen eight acres on the North Shore abutting an unnamed river and pond on the west side of the property. In the same deed he also acquired the "privilege of building a mill on said river", all for thirteen pounds eight shillings. Three years later he bought an adjoining twenty-one acres for thirty four pounds thirteen shillings, but there is no indication that a mill had been built. According to the 1771 Massachusetts Tax Valuation List, Silas Tilton had "one house and shops adjoining, annual worth of the whole real estate of £1:15:0, 2-cattle, 26-goats and sheep, 2-swine, 5A. of pasture, 1-cow the pasture will keep, but again, no mill.

As was his stated intention Silas Tilton did build a grist mill, but there is no evidence to indicate when it was completed. It would seem reasonable to assume that it was in operation during the 1770s and 1780s. In 1791 he sold the property including the grist mill to Vinal Skiff.

Skiff was referred to by Banks as a land surveyor, but if correct, he, like most Chilmark residents of that era, probably engaged in a number of activities. When he purchased the grist mill, he was referred to as a "weaver", a profession confirmed in 1829 when he willed his "looms and all weaving tackle" to his son Stephen.

In addition to the looms, Stephen also inherited the grist mill, and probably operated the mill. In 1845 he sold the land "with dwelling house, barn, grist mill and other outbuildings" to Charles Smith, who in turn sold the property in 1862 to Jeremiah Stewart. In the latter transaction there was no mention of the grist mill and was probably a speculative purchase since several deeds refer to him as a "mariner".

Although Stephen Skiff may have run the mill at some during the sixteen years following his father's death, it seems less likely that operations were continued by Charles Smith, referred to as a "gentleman" living in Edgartown. Smith probably acquired the property as an investment, as he had with other properties elsewhere on the island. The subsequent sale was in 1862 to Jeremiah Stewart, referred to as a "mariner". His purchase was probably a speculative one.

In 1864 Franklin King, a merchant living in Dorchester, began purchasing land adjacent to the same stream on the North Shore of Chilmark. He acquired the former Skiff mill site as well as water rights to the stream from Stewart. He also bought neighboring land as well as certain mineral rights on a near-by farm owned by John Tilton. As indicated in the various deeds it was King's intent to build a facility to

make "paint and brick kiln paint". The last of these purchases was made on May 29, 1866, and a few days later he transferred these properties to E. & F. King & Co., a partnership with Joseph W. Colburn of Boston.

It is not clear from the deeds whether the original intent in acquiring the water rights was to power the mill or to use the water for the processing of the raw materials, but the question became moot when the following article appeared in the September 27, 1867 Vineyard Gazette.

"On the north side of town is an establishment for manufacturing clay of diverse colors for paint. About a year and a half ago, this establishment was destroyed by fire; but has since been rebuilt on a more extended scale. It is operated by steam power and makes from six to eight tons of paint per day.. The paint mill is situated about two miles eastward of the brick yard, and has a wharf for the accommodation of its business."

The few other references to the Paint Mill found in the Vineyard Gazette are summarized below:

November 15, 1872; A vessel at the Paint Factory wharf, Chilmark, took in cargo of 1000 barrels of paint last week. She grounded and remained in that condition through one full tide, but finally succeeded in getting afloat without sustaining much damage.

November 21, 1884: Messrs. R. R. and F. H. Reed (Rodney Richmond and his son Francis Henry) had dug and delivered to the paint factory during the season just closed about 150 tons of paint material, nearly half of which had been ground by Mr. N.T. Norton (Nahum T.) for the proprietors Messrs. E. & F. King & Co. (At the time, Francis Henry was 35. - see article in Nov. 1924 "The Vineyard Magazine".)

It is unclear exactly when operations at the mill ceased. The company purchased a parcel of land on "Tea Land Cross Road" in 1888, suggesting that there was still some activity at that time. However, according to Nason's Gazetteer of the State of Massachusetts, in 1855 "...the principal business (in Chilmark) besides farming is whaling, fish-trapping and brick making." There is no mention of the mining of clay or the manufacture of paint, suggesting that if the factory was still operating, it was doing so in a relatively small scale.

1874

and a grain mill near
Cape Higgon !!

By 1897 Joseph W. Colburn had died and Franklin King, the surviving partner with the executors of the Colburn Estate sold the property to Everett Allen Davis on November 23, 1897.

9/14/03

V.31, p.516 dated 1851 refers to the "...dwelling house of Samuel Tilton deceased and Warren M Tilton and Hannah Tilton..." This must be the Reuben Tilton house, since he sold all his property to Samuel Tilton in 1825 (V23, p. 166) and Warren M. Tilton bought that property from the estate of Samuel Tilton in 1851 (V.31, p.516)

Warren M. Tilton (Banks #357) b. Nov. 9, 1798, d. Oct. 5, 1879 unmarried
Not shown on the Tax Valuation List of 1771

References to Reuben Tilton's Mill or Mill Pond:

Mar. 3, 1759: V.9, p. 1, et seq. "the mill lott"

Aug 31, 1818, V.28, p.303 "fence running into Reuben Tilton's mill pond"

Sep. 8, 1823 V.21, p.424: ..."stones... standing on the margin of a brook near my (Reuben's) grist mill..."

Sep. 15, 1823; V.21, p.427: "near a brook runneth to the mill of the said Reuben Tilton"

May 31, 1825: V.23, p. 166 "...to the water of my (Reuben's) mill pond water..,"

Apr.4, 1851 V.37 p.5 5 3 "mill pond belonging to the heirs of Samuel Tilton, deceased"

December 29, 1857 V.38, p.82 .beginning at a corner of the county road near where a mill stood..."

Jernegan Mill – Edgartown
Banks, V.1U, p. 383

1711 Samuel Osborn, Jr. born

1728 William Jernegan born (VG 9/20/1929 says 1738 probably wrong)

1733 Mary Osborn born (dau. Samuel Jr.)

1749/50 Wm. Jernigan/ Mary Osborn marry Feb. 8

1753 Samuel Osborn, Jr. died (after Oct.8)

1794 Mary Osborn Jernegan dies Feb. 2

1794 Wm. Jernegan marries Mrs. Eunice (Coffin) Coffin Sept. 28

1795 Richard Whelden Jernegan born Sept. 18

1815 Richard W. Jernegan marries Lydia Marchant Vincent Nov.23

1817 Wm. Jernegan dies July 26, Will probated Sept 5

1869 Richard Jernegan dies as a result of a fall in the mill.

V.G. Sept. 20, 1929 1775 Mill owned by Samuel Osborn, Jr. (this date probably should be 1749)

1775 William Jernegan purchases part of Mill from his father-in law, S. O., Jr.
(this date probably should be 1753-?)

1817 William Jernegan dies leaves mill to son Richard

1869 Richard Jernegan dies as a result of a fall in the mill.

1870 Mill torn down (VG 9/3/29) Was located a few rods back of the former North schoolhouse now (1929) the Carol Apartments

According to Hine (p.27) there were four windmills for grinding corn in Edgartown, one of them on Chappaquiddick.

According to Mayhew (p. 151) the millstones from the Jernegan Mill were used as doorsteps at the Squire (Thomas) Cook House at the Historical Society. (There are now two millstones on the grounds, but they are no longer used as doorsteps.)

	Grooved Stone	Smooth Stone
Diameter	33"	33"
Thickness	9"	Est. 9"
Hole Diameter	4"	Est. 4"-4½"
Keyway		4½ - 6½"
Note:		Cut-off shaft In stone

Material: Probably granite

Deed Reference:

Apr. 9, 1850; V.33, p.521 Chase Pease, yeoman to Leavitt Thaxter 1/10th undivided part of land and 1/10th part of the grist mill formerly standing thereon in Edgartown. (This is probably not the Jernegan mill since his mill was tom down in about 1870.)

See also V.41, p.231

Nye's Paint Shop (1843 - 1858)

The first known building at this location was Nye's paint shop, probably constructed shortly after the property was bought in 1843.

Nye was born in Falmouth, the son of Francis Nye and Phebe Cushing. In June 1844, less than a year after buying this property, he married Mary P. Downs (1827 – 1891), the daughter of Capt. Charles Downs, and the granddaughter of neighbor William Downs, who had died the previous October. In 1850 the young couple was living with Mary's parents.

By about 1850 Nye had also become the proprietor and two-thirds owner of a paint and grist mill on the north shore of Chilmark. According to an article in Issue #5 (1924-25) of *The Vineyard Magazine*, "The mill ground paint is oil; the paint being colored clay, dug from nearby hills." Historian Charles Banks noted that "The highest annual production while it was in operation was about 46,000 pounds, valued at \$5000.

Francis' brother, painter Hiram Nye (1817 -1898) followed his brother to the island between about 1846 and 1850 and by 1851 he had become an equal partner and co-owner of the shop. He was married to Sarah ____ (1823) of Falmouth.

In August 1841, catastrophe struck the Nye family.

¹⁸⁵¹
The Aug. 1, 1851 Vineyard Gazette reported the tragedy that occurred in the paint store; "One of the severest thunder storms within our remembrance, passed over the Vineyard on Tuesday forenoon last, by which two valuable lives were lost, add three or four persons injured. At Holmes Hole, Mr. Francis Nye. Jr., and Mrs. Elwina Norris, widow of Capt. Howes Norris,, were instantly killed. Mr. Nye was in the cellar of his paint shop, on the Main street. The fluid entered near the building from the roof, striking the chimney, which it shattered, passed below, breaking out the window, and rendered the shop a complete wreck. A portion at the fluid descended to the cellar, instantly depriving Mr. Nye of life. It struck him on the head and shoulder, and passed of by the hip and feet. The skin was peeled off and the flesh badly burned. Mr. N's shoe was cut directly in two, lengthwise, Mr. Nye was a business man of excellent character, and his loss is greatly to be deplored. He leaves a wife and one child. There were 2 other persons in the building at the time, one of whom was rendered senseless – the other had an arm paralyzed. They are convalescent."

Nye's estate included 1/64 part of the whaling ship *Ocmulgee* a Holmes Hole whaler which later gained infamy as the first northern whaler sunk by the Confederate warship *Alabama*, as well as a 1/16 part of the home-town whaling bark(s?) *Malta* and *Cutfelt*. His half-interest in the paint shop was valued at \$375, but his stock is trade, including window glass, varnishes, and an astonishing variety of colored paints, was

valued at nearly \$4000. In November 1852, Francis' widow Mary sold the paint shop property to Hiram for \$350 (William Case Manter bought the paint mill property in Chilmark and established a grist mill and general store there.)

Vineyard Gazette
June 24, 1847

MOUNT PROSPECT PAINT MILL -We are pleased to announce that Messrs. H & F. Nye. of Holmes Hole, have recently erected and put in operation at the "Roaring Brook" in Chilmark a Paint Mill. They grind Paints of all kinds, in oil and water colors, in the best possible manner, and dispose of them on as reasonable terms as they can be obtained anywhere. All orders left at their store at Holmes Hole will be promptly attended to. They also have for sale, oils, glass, paper-hangings, and all other articles in the line. The Messrs. Nye are gentlemen of enterprise and public spirit; and we hope that all those on the Island who deal in the articles they manufacture will bestow their patronage on them. Let us help one another and those among us who are willing to help and be helped, should at once emigrate to—Oregon.

Deed Reference:

Apr. 9, 1850; V.33, p.521 Chase Pease, yeoman to Leavitt Thaxter 1/10th undivided part of land and 1/10th part of the grist mill formerly standing thereon in Edgartown. (This is probably not the Jernegan mill since his mill was torn down in about 1870.)

See also V.41, p.231

From Mill Summaries:

John Hillman Mill (Roaring Br.)

Banks (p.68) a grist mill was built on Roaring Brook (just below Prospect Br.-Chil. M. P #M3 c. 1730 probably by John Hillman (12) before 1728 and was operated after his death (1728) by his widow (Ruth Cottle d. 1760) and her brother in law, Benjamin Hillman (13) (Deeds VII, 224).

Banks V.III p 195, 196,198 Benjamin Hillman removed to Dartmouth 1729, but returned to Chilmark in 1745. John Sr.'s estate administered by his widow and divided in 1743. Tax Valuation list of 1771 show John Hillman (Jr.) as mill owner. He removed to Williamstown 1782 d. 1784

A new mill was established on this site by Francis W. Nye in 1849. Mill still standing (~1910) but not in operation. Stereo

Chil. M. P. Stereo photo at MVHS. (see below)

John Hillman Mill (Roaring Br.)

Banks (II, C.,p.68) a grist mill was built on Roaring Brook (just below Prospect Br.-Chil. M. P #M3 c. 1730.), probably by John Hillman (#12) before 1728 and was operated after his death (1728) by his widow (Ruth Cottle d. 1760) and her brother in law, Benjamin Hillman (#13) (Deeds VII, 224).

Banks (III p195,196,198) Benjamin Hillman removed to Dartmouth 1729, but returned to Chilmark. d. 1745. John(#12) Hillman's estate administered by his widow in 1728 was divided in 1743. Tax Valuation list of 1771 shows John Hillman (#35), b.~1722 as owning .25 mill. He removed to Williamstown sometime after 1782; d. 1784

A new mill was established on this site by Francis W. Nye in 1849. Mill still standing (-1910) but not in operation. Stereo

Chil. M.P. Stereo photo at MVHS. (see below)

Mayhew-Nye-Manter Grist Mill (Roaring Brook)

Chil M.P. M6 Location at M3 Rebuilt 1849 by Francis Nye. (see above) Later run by "Uncle Billy" Manter & "Aunt Rebecca" who kept a store.

Chilmark Census Records: William C. Manter

In 1850 shown as 55 (sic) a paint grinder

In 1860 shown as a miller

In 1870 shown as a miller

Comment by Railton 6/1/05

The 1850 Census does not list any paint mill, although one Chilmark man's occupation is given as "Paint Grinder." He is William C. Manter, 35 years old, unmarried and living with Isaiah and Maria Hillman, whose daughter, Rebecca, he married five years later.

Hillman Mill on Roaring Brook

According to Mayhew (Martha's Vineyard, A Short History and Guide, p. 118) "A grist mill was built on it (Roaring Brook) by John Hillman shortly after he became a resident of Chilmark and rebuilt by the Nyes in 1849." The description of John Hillman in Banks (V.II, C. p.30-31) is vague about the year he took up residence in Chilmark and suggests it was between 1698 and 1711. His date of death is not known. Banks (II, C. p.68) states that John Hillman (12) 1787-1728, built a grist mill on Roaring Brook before 1728. It was operated by his wife (Ruth Cottle) and her brother-in-law Benjamin Hillman (13) see deeds VII/224 -copied.

According to the Banks genealogy, John Hillman, (Jr.) was born in about 1687 and died in 1728. His son John Hillman (III) was born about 1722. Banks indicates that the latter removed to Williamsburg, Mass. sometime after 1782. The 1771 Tax Valuation List shows a John Hillman owning .25 mill in Chilmark. This Hillman was in all probability John Hillman, III. No John Hillman is shown in the 1798 Census. The only Hillmans listed in Chilmark are: Samuel, Abigail, Ezra, Silas, Robert, Urial, & James's heirs.

With respect to the Nyes, a John Nye is listed in the 1798 Cansus. An announcement in the Gazette of June 24, 1847 states that H.(iram) & F.(rancis) Nye erected the Mount Prospect Paint Mill on "Roaring Brook". A later ad (June 6, 1851) for paints, oils, etc. by Francis Nye alone suggests that Hiram was no longer involved.

Hine (Martha's Vineyard - 1908, p. 162) states that the old grist mill built in 1849 by Francis Nye is located at Roaring Brook on the site of an earlier mill and that it ran as late as April 1906, but not commercially. Mill was also used to grind paint and clay for soap makers, (photograph suggests building was well up the hill, since no high ground can be seen in the background.

Things to Check:

Probate: John(2)Hillman d.1728 see also 1743 for divison (I/77),

2-39 Admin., 3-153 Division, 4-82 Assign. Dower

Richard(2) Hillman d. 1743 (I/153) 3-142 Admin., 3-152 Inventory

Johnathan(2) Hillman d. 1778 (I/365)6-154,(I/677) 12-125

David(2) Hillman d. 1785 (I/443) 7-151 Will

Benjamin Hillman d. 1748 (I/161); 3-207 Inventory, 3-217 Div'n (copied)
1784(1/431)

Deeds: John Hillman Grantee from 1680 to 1771

John Hillman Grantor from 1771 to 1800

John Nye Grantee from 1771 to 1850 (he is in 1798 census)

Other Nyes grantee from 1771 to 1850

Francis Nye grantee 1771-1851 (name in 1851 ad)

Hiram Nye grantee 1771-1847

Check Deeds VII, 224

3/10/2003

Conversation with Elise & Robert Elliston and Ebba Hierta on 3/23/03. The Ellistons have a copy of a lease of the site for a mill for grinding corn, paint and other products dated 1848 (no day shown) from Alpheus Packard to H.& F. Nye. Lease was for 12 years at a rate of \$8 per year unless packard disposed of the property, whereupon the annual lease rate would go to \$15 per year. Packard's mother was a Tilton (?).

The Ellistons have a little "Shaker Almanac" dated 1886 with an ad on the back "Wm. C. Manter dealer in groceries and provisions".

Rebecca Manter was living in the Cagney house in 1906. She was moved, against her will to Vineyard Haven later that year.

James Austin owns the first house on the right side of the Prospect Hill Road leaving the Elliston. He is a geophysicist whose hobby is glaciers

Basil has some material on the Manters, and perhaps the mills. Coco says he knows a lot about mills.

I looked up Francis Nye's estate in probate today. He died intestate. Hiram, (I'm assuming his brother, but not actually sure) was the administrator. The inventory lists Francis as 2/3 owner of the Chilmark Mill and 1/2 owner of the paint store in Holmes Hole. Hiram bought Francis's property in Holmes Hole from widow Mary for \$350 in 1852, but that's as far as things went There was no final accounting in the probate files, no more mention of what happened to the mill.

Also in later in 1852, Hiram bought another property in Holmes Hole as well as a pew in a church — indication that perhaps he moved there for a spell. A child was born to him in Tisbury in 1852, but vitals listed his residence at the time as Falmouth.

Ebba 3/28/2003

Bassett Mill

William Bassett (1702-1780) a blacksmith by trade came from a long line of metalworkers. According to Banks (V.III, C, p.30), his father, Nathan (1666/7-~1742) was also a blacksmith in Chilmark, having moved from Falmouth in about 1694. William lived near the headwaters of the Fulling Mill Brook where he had a millpond in 1768 (V. 10, p. 22S). The use of a mill at that location is not known, but the 1771 Tax Valuation List shows "tanhouse" in the assets of both Jonathan and Silas Bassett, and the mill may have been a tanbark mill. It seems unlikely that he would have built a mill to grind grain or finish wool, there being other facilities in the area to satisfy these needs. The Bassett mill probably was not used after William's death in 1782?, and by 1798 the operators of the tanfatt (Jonathan and Silas) had moved out of town. The property was inherited by his daughter Catherine and deed references from 1811 and 1814 mention bounds as an "old mill dam", the terminology suggesting a long-abandoned facility.

Bassett Genealogy (from Banks)

Nathan Bassett 1666/7-1742 Blacksmith (#25)

Samuel 1693-1770 Blacksmith (#31)

Cornelius (#51)

Samuel 1749- ? to NY after 1791 (#91)

Ebenezer 1752-? To NY in 1799 (#92)

John 1753-? To NY before 1800 (#93)

Rev. Nathan 1700/01-1738. Moved to Charleston SC in 1724 (#35)

William 1702—1783 Blacksmith (#36)

Nathaniel 1727-1804 Lawyer (#70)

Nathaniel 1789-? (#110)

Katherine 1794- after 1850 (#111)

Nathan 1735-? Moved to FL before 1798 (#73)

Mayhew 1777- (#130)

Francis 1779- (#131)

Nathan 1785- (#133)

William 1788- (#134)

Ira 1788- (#135)

Fortunatus 1742- (#75)
William 1772- (#150)
Fortunatus 1775- (#151)
Cornelius 1778- (#152)

John 1706-1791 Blacksmith (#38)

Jonathan 1741- (#82)

Joseph 1743-1826 moved to Goshen, MA before 1800 (#83)
John 1786- (#161)
Joseph 1788- (#162)
Silas 1790- (#163)
Mayhew 1798- (#164)

Silas 1746-1834 moved to Chesterfield, MA 1774 then Goshen, MA (#84)
Benjamin 1752-1830 soldier, selectman, judge. To Cincinnati 1814 (#85)
M.V. Historical Society February 2003

Box 134B oversize: Letter from John Trumbal to Beriah Tilton re CLAY.

Box 134B oversize: Jonathan Bassett, Jr. Correspondence w/ Beriah Tilton, Jr.

1815 Box 26: An account of Mary Bassett 1673-1743 (wife of Nathan #25)
dated Nov. 16, 1728. Primarily of a religious nature. No mention of mills or
related subjects.

Box 25, env. 17, 974,42: William Bassett court record Feb. 28 1734/35
Obligation of Thomas Mayhew to William Bassett (not in Box 25 - env. 11?)

Box1s sep. env. William Bassett Land assignment with Wm. Mayhew 1735

Letter Wm. Stewart & Nath'l Bassett re oxen breaking down stone wall and
damaging corn, etc.

1771 Tax Valuation List - Chilmark:

#0139 Samuel Bassett: 1 horse, 40 goats & sheep, 1 swine (Banks #91)

#0241 Nathaniel Bassett: 1 cattle, 40 goats & sheep, 46.5A, pasture, 4A. Tillage, 44 bu. corn per yr. etc. No blacksmith data. (Banks #70)

#0256 Nathan Bassett: 0.50 houses & shops adjoining. No R.E. (Banks #73? see below)

#0257 Jonathan Bassett tanhouse, 1 horse, 1 cattle, 4A. tillage, 10 bu. Grain/yr.
(Banks #82 #0258 Joseph Bassett: No data (Banks #83)

#0259 Silas Bassett tanhouse, 1 oxen Removed 1774 (Banks #84)

1790 Census Data – Chilmark

Family Head	FWM>16	FWM<16	FWF		Age
Bassett, Jn	1	4	2		
Bassett, John	2		2		
Bassett, Nathan'l Jn	1	6	2		
Bassett, Nathan	4		3	Banks #73	52
Bassett, Benjamin	1	1	6	Banks #85	38
Bassett, Nathaniel	1	1	1	Banks# 70	63
Bassett, Jn	1	3	2		
Bassett, Ebenezer	1	4	2	Banks#92	38
Bassett, Lydia	-	1	3	Wid. Cornelius	44
Bassett Samuel	1	2	4	Banks #91	41

1798 Valuation List - Chilmark (only 3 Bassetts listed)

Samuel Bassett: 1 cow. Nothing suggests blacksmith (Banks #91 age 49)

Nathan Bassett or Nathan'l.: record not legible, probably Nathan'l (Banks #70 age 71 Data indicates farmer: 4 oxen, 4 cows, 3 yearlings, 1 horse, 40 sheep 2 swine, Dwelling, barn, crib, 8A. upland mowing, 40A. pasture etc. Nothing suggests blacksmith. Banks lists another distant relative Nathan 1738-1792 who came to C. about 1763, but he wouldn't have acquired this much property, (not #73 who had gone to NY)

Joseph Bassett: no data (Banks #83 age 55)

The First Athern Mill

The first Athern mill on the Mill Brook ("old Mill River/Brook") was probably build by Jabez Athern (1678-1761) on land inherited from his father Simon Athern who died in 1714 or 1715. According to probate records (Probate I, 50) quoted in Banks (II, W. Tisbury, p.27) his assets included neither reference to a mill, nor to any items associated with a mill. The first mention of a mill appears in "Records of the Town of Tisbury" (Swift & Cleveland p. 113), when at a town meeting held on March 25, 1743 it was ordered that a pound be built at the "...Easterly Corner of Jabez Atherns Enclosure by his mill..." According to Bramhall ("Seven Gates Farm...") the dam was probably located "just west of the present (1988) Camman house... "and slightly west of the mill dam built by Dr. Fisher. Of the Athern mill, Banks writes, "...the brook shows the remains of an old dam, and the grist mill of Ezra Athern (1713-1801) is mentioned in 1792".

Dec. 13, 1766 Silas Tilton purchases 8A. and the right to build a mill from Samuel Allen.

1769-1781 Additional land purchases by Silas Tilton.

April 14, 1791 Vinal Skiff purchases from Silas Tilton in two deeds 94A. of land and buildings including a mill and the right to improve the stream for the purpose of running the mill.

April 19, 1829 Vinal Skiff dies, willing his grist mill to his son Stephen

December 27, 1845 Stephen Skiff sold 140A "with dwelling house, barn, grist mill and other outbuildings" to Charles Smith.

May 1, 1862 Valuation List: No listing for Paint Mill or for any mills other than Manter's Grist Mill.

July 29, 1862: Charles Smith sold 1S0A. with buildings (but no mention of a grist mill) to Jeremiah Stewart.

September 26, 1864 John Tilton sells the right to mine certain minerals on his farm to Franklin Tilton for a period of 50 years. (Deal probably negotiated by L. M. Wing)

October 3, 1864 Jeremiah & Emily Stewart sell a parcel of land, water rights and the right to use the mill pond where the Vinal Skiff mill stood to Franklin King.

April - August 1865 Additional purchases by King of land and rights

March 29, 1865 - July 29, 1865. Wet clay was brought in by G. Norton (Mill record books)

January 5, 1866 First mill destroyed by fire.

June 6, 1866 Franklin King transfers his entire interest in the mill property to E. & F. King & Co., of Boston. The firm was a paint manufacturer and manufacturers' representative that he owned in partnership with Joseph W. Colburn.

September 1867 Second mill, larger than the first and run by water and steam power was reported to be back in operation producing 6-8 Tons of paint per day.

1870-1877 some data regarding clay dug, shipments made and hours worked available.

Although most shipments were sent to Boston and resold, some paint was sent directly to customers as far as New York City to the west and Augusta, Maine to the east. A major use of the product was in the manufacture of oilcloth floor carpers.

April 13, 1883 Joseph W. Colburn died suddenly at the age of 51 in Boston. The inventory in the administration of his estate lists a "paint mill lease" with an "uncertain" value.

1884 E. & F. King probably reorganized after the death of Colburn.

1884 It was reported that 150 tons of "paint material" (clay) were dug and delivered to the mill.)

1887 Some clay was dug, but no records of shipments were found. Records very spotty.

1889 The paint mill not mentioned in the Nason/Varney Gazeteer, probably based on 1885 census data.

November 23, 1897 Franklin King as sole surviving partner of E. & F. King & Co. sells the entire mill property to Everett Allen Davis for \$300.

August 29, 1898 Franklin King dies in Boston.

Type of beginning as "Questions/Notes for John"

Meadow, Woodlay
Thos Dunham | 821
MHC? JFK Library

ask John about this
send John photo of Fisher Pond dam + box
M/I Industries

Notes from John Fleuder Discussion about x 7-5-2013

Has copies of account book - will send disc

Fulling Mill area - "Industrial heartland of Chilmak"

Sluff 1554

John lost ^{all of his} footnotes - w/ deeds; ^{Art} Railton refused to include these in the Paint Mill article in the ^{referenced and other information} Intelligencer.

S side dam - millstone - granite; ~2005; reported stone in brook

Bog iron - Sargus - bog ore; unclear how widespread or important that was

Pits - Jay Fleischman - ^{"great wall of Chilmak" built by person who bought his land} scoured stream; may have damaged or removed things.
^{between N and Middle Road; Julie Fleuder's husband; Bart}

Cleared Field - David Fleuder's ^{son-in-law} building new barn near ^{big} Radar hill road; has cattle on land ^{same fellow who is} part of Peabody Mill reserve

- DF bought big chunk in middle region; ↗

DF has real estate all over the world

mill site unknown, though believes some remains exist

Maconkey = Ask Brendan?

~~JF says~~

Brick Kiln - Edda -

TOR - 20 ac. John is unclear whether that includes brickyard but DF believes Chris Kennedy indicated this. Check with CK.

2 histories of No Mans - ^{volumes that author's wrote the in} orange ^{reprint}; ^{the mother of original} 1930. JF has copies, also at libraries.

Dr Fisher - ^{check with} Dana @ MVM - ^{JF believes is a} ^{part-time} ^{someone writing} biography.

- Mayhew ^{at} Museum is also knowledgeable

Peter Van Tassel retired from DCHS, May also be around

Fisher Pond - ^{this is the upper Pond} storage ponds; ^{pond = Crocker Pond} 7 Gates Farm; State of Art mill - big turbine

so-called Fisher Mill; ^{was} rebuilt + run; ^{in 1900s} heard in VT; Patterson at 76 wanted ^{it} to rebuild ^{but he} ^{died first} ^{reportedly}

Darrel Fisher DF - bought water rights - to Mill River

between Fisher and Crocker Pond there is

~~Fisher Pond~~; Below Polly Hill - Stone Work $\frac{2}{3}$ of unknown purpose,
Unclear if there ever was a

? Mill between Athearn + Mill Pond. John looked as there is some
reference but it is very gentle terrain. Ask Littlefields

.. Wind Mill - ~~unk capacity; any pictures w/ machinery;~~
John unclear on the relative power and capacity of a wind mill versus
water powered mill

Edgartown ^{Windmill} - photo in town; JF has reproduction, fairly poor,
believes it may be the one near David Fisher house,
School in view nearby

Look Family -

Virginia Brooks - ^A Look by marriage; ^{Filled with} Look papers in house
much uncertainty of where mills were.

Fully Mill (1893 topo) - shows pond no longer there
assumes mill at big rock - mill?

Go upstream at ^{there is a} open field - ^{was} dam when pd shown; mill? JF uncertain
near bottom ^{of stream} - brook under road - owner diverted to near

Beldon House - big square house w/ 2 chimneys - now

Beldon

Frank LaRusso - ^{he} pulled out old millstone

Actual sites - unclear

1695, the ^{next} subseq near Beldu House;

So-called ~~Nickerson~~ ^{Bassett} mill at dam over which they built Middle Road
^{Stone work + dam} upstream of Middle Road

Roans Brook - Elfrons have copy drafted for Nye leasing
property for mill; JF - sketch showing mills on RB Brook
^{early}

Hewing Field ^{reference} - square timber

Sawmills - no records ^{of any on island} saw pits are mentioned

Ganz - ^{They built a} reproduction of ^{the} original house that burned; JF has photos of the original

Marguerite Cottle? lumberyard
might be a source for the Cottle

Aquinnah Library area - Windmill, Not far from the cemetery
so was reserved in some deals

Different kinds of clay = white clay - more desirable; ^{made} Pipes.

Sabinet mill - lot of stuff ^{manufactured} over long time

1974 - Thesis Tufts -

Janet Van Tassel - Economic Transition of MVineyard ^{at that's}

1974 - MIT Thesis, JF has copy. MVM has copy.

Kathy Thompson - head plany bdy; Librarian Chilmad
Not sure why JF

~~FOR~~ Long Pt - millstone - doorstep (old hunky camp) ^{of the} Garden Club
mill site

Majors Cove ~~Burles DB 37~~ - small brook w/ mill for grinds oak
bark

N.S. Shaler, J.B. Woodworth and C.F. Marbut 1896.

The glacial brick clays of Rhode Island and southwestern Massachusetts. U.S. Geological Survey Extract from the 17th annual report 1895-96.

30,000 at
underlain by clay
on MV

Starts w/ MV clays - origins, ^{Cretaceous and Tertiary} Red & white - not very suitable for bricks

Very massive beds - above $\geq 200'$ thick

T+C beds - occupy almost all the high-lying ground in W island
Views beds as results from uplifting forces, then worn down
Believes they extend below the plain

Many clays e.g. Boston Basin - have pebbles and boulders in them - indicate glacial action - have scratches on surface - impedes brick making
"dropped from bergs"

Woodward part of article - discusses glacial thrusting
Modern mined clays on MV - all Cretaceous

Shaler on Economic Results

Some MV clays better suited for more valuable pottery than those from any other deposit on Atlantic Coast - but tilted, much broken up - costly + difficult to use - best access - Gas, Wood but v. complicated. No where are the clays easily accessible by boat - "Vessels have to take their cargoes from wharves on a coast which is exposed to heavy storms, and which is accessible with safety for only a part of the year, and then only in quiet weather."

NSS has watched MV for 10 yrs.

Even though clays are excellent never came into general use

"Conditions seem unfavorable for the utilization of the materials in the manufacture of bricks, pottery, or ordinary pottery..."

Large establishment for making bricks on the north shore of the island came to ruin "Another on the same shore, where the clays were ground and lixiviated in order to prepare them for use in manufacturing oilcloths, has been allowed to fall into decay"

NSS Advice

Cut out a passage thru the sand beach at Menemsha Pond to make a harbor at relatively small cost

Other clays have more iron - shrink + warp on burning

Roaring Brook - worked clays of this age - found it difficult to obtain products of satisfactory quality - interest in nature of the clay

Glacial period separated by clays into 3 great epochs

Citation
inserted
into Edmister

Flender, J.O. 2005. Chilmark's Paint Mill, An Ancient Manufactory.
Journal of History of Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands
47: 3-17

1764 - first reference to paint. From Gay Head. Paint = very fine powder from
clay and mill. Shipped the mixed w/ oil.

1847/48 - 1st paint mill - Chilmark. Mount Prospect Paint Mill at Roaring Brook
by Francis and Hiram Nye. ~ 1/2 mile upstream from N Shore. Site
of early grist mill. Run by Wm Mauter - 1850 Cusuc - Paint Grinder.
Gradually shifted to corn and grain. Brick mill downstream. Mauter
and wife also ran a saw for all men.

Boston

Franklin King - ERF King Co - import paint, oils, dyes. Hired Lindsey
Moore Wing of Falmouth. Wing - partner in oilcloth factory W Falmouth
Most of Chilmark paint for oilcloth.

Access to ocean and transportation, water for power, clay. 2 possible
places - Roaring Brook + Howland Brook (smaller). RB = Smith and
Barrow brickyard

1864 - 50 yr lease w/ John Tilton - excavate yellow and red clay at
farm on Keephigon, + other material except white, blue, black clay or iron.
Purchased 2 acres from Jeremiah Stuart - for mill; 1/2 acre for wharf
and access between. Bought other farmer rights to clay and other colors.

1866 - fire; rebuilt. Vineyard Gazette "Carpet Paint Factory" even larger
and larger pond

1865 - interest in Peaked Hill purchased for clay.

Diverted 2nd stream for more power + steam engine

1866 bought more land + transferred ownership to company ERF King Co

1924 VG interview Francis Reed - dug clay - pale yellow, "M" yellow

and Oxfordshire. Dried it under 40-50 sheds with roofs, similar to salt sheds. 4-5 days to dry in a baseball and smaller pieces.

Pound ^{with market} and hoe. Lived in huts in summer. Pits 36-40' deep

Map P 9 \$0.70 - 1.30 wet ton \$2 dry

Ground and put in barrels - shipped $\sim 1/2$ to Boston, ^{King} Company
rest to Maine, New York

1870 Census - 6 men full time, 750 tons; made 5000 barrels

Mostly yellow and red. Most for oilcloth. Flax or jute on frame with thick paint applied

Wharf into Sound - many shoals

Depression mid 1870s; strike action 1876-7, some 1878

1880 - water wheel + engine condemned

1887 - last delivery of clay; mill operated ~ 1893 , wharf continued to be used by various

Cost of shipping; wood shortage; cost of clay and transport; introduction of linoleum - all possible reasons for decline

Nov 23 1897 - Franklin King sold to Everett Allen Davis - Probate Judge \$300. Built land holdings in Paint Mill Brook area, 1910 sold 228 ac. to George Dexter Eustis, called Holly Holm or Hollyholm - estate.

Now Robert Ganz family.

Great photo of mill and bare hills Town of Chilmark 1880s

History

Hobson, Jenny

From: Foster, David
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2013 7:55 AM
To: Hobson, Jenny
Subject: pp
Attachments: Mill Land purchase deeds.pdf

David R. Foster, Director 978.724.3302
Harvard Forest, Harvard University
324 N Main St. Petersham, MA 01366

From: John Flender <jflender@verizon.net>
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2013 2:17 PM
To: David Foster <drfoster@fas.harvard.edu>
Subject: Re: Re: A Question

David,
In looking through some old deeds (see attached list), I have come to the conclusion that the use of "Yeoman" or other term on a deed was to identify a particular individual. A yeoman was perhaps a person who did not have any unique trade, profession race, etc.; or where the unique identifier was not known to the person writing the deed. For example, Silas Tilton of the town, aforesaid (Chilmark) cordwainer, but later Silas Tilton of Chilmark, yeoman; Samuel Coombs, Indianman of Chilmark; Vinal Skiff of said Chilmark, weaver, but later, Vinal Skiff of Chilmark, yeoman; Jeremiah Stewart of Chilmark, mariner; Stephen Tilton of Chilmark, husbandman; Alvin Flanders of Chilmark, farmer. It seems unlikely that the use of yeoman has any pejorative economic significance, since they all were landowners.
I have checked the Abel's Hill cemetery listing and find that none of the above other than Jeremiah Stewart and Alvin Flanders were buried there. However, they may have been, and the grave marked with a simple field stone.
I hope all this is sufficiently confusing!
John

on 7/23/13, Foster, David<drfoster@fas.harvard.edu> wrote:

John

Thanks – this is all such fascinating stuff. I see that these were taken fairly verbatim but figured that you have some sense as to what the titles and their hierarchy were, so thanks for those thoughts.

Your response raises another question – where were the yeomen buried?

Looking forward to more discussions.

David

David R. Foster, Director 978.724.3302
Harvard Forest, Harvard University
324 N Main St. Petersham, MA 01366

From: John Flender <jflender@verizon.net>
Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2013 2:44 PM

To: David Foster <drfoster@fas.harvard.edu>

Subject: Re: A Question

Hi David,

My mention of titles, Yeoman, Gentleman, Mr. ... Esq. are all taken from deeds. I assumed it referred to the individual's economic or social status, but that is strictly conjecture. But it is interesting to note that I recall one example where in individual is referred to as "Yeoman" in one deed and some years later in another deed appears as "Gentleman". Social or economic mobility or perhaps both! The term "Esquire" or "Esq." is frequently found on gravestones in the Abel's Hill Cemetery, but never "Yeoman". That certainly fits with the idea of economic or social status.

I will look at the deeds I have copied to see if there is any pattern to the use of these terms.

John

On 07/23/13, Foster, David<drfoster@fas.harvard.edu> wrote:

Hi John

Been delightfully sidetracked from mills looking at farms (Mermaid yesterday - great time with Allen and Caitlin, Slip- Away the new farm on Chappy the day before) and hunkered down at the Gazette going through their clip-p-ings files where I dug up some interesting tidbits on Dr Fisher and Nathaniel Shaler.

But I was struck in some of the notes you gave me the use of the term "yeoman" and wondered how you understood its use on the island and in various documents. It isn't a term that crop-s up- very often in e.g., Worcester County records.

Hop-e you are doing well. I'll be following up- with more mills...I did run across one note that said that Dr Fisher's mill was dismantled and became the center of RW Crocker's harness factory in VH. Not sure where that notion came from!

David

David R. Foster, Director 978.724.3302
Harvard Forest, Harvard University
324 N Main St. Petersham, MA 01366

10/0/03

Paint Mill Land Purchases					
Date	Bk./pg.	Grantor	Grantee	Amount	Area
Dec.13,1766	10-571	Samuel Allen Yeoman	Silas Tilton Cordwainer	13:06:08	8A
Mar.14,1769	10-571	Jethro Allen Yeoman.	Silas Tilton Cordwainer	34:13:00	21A.
Jan.20,1777	10-572	Samuel Coombs (Rachal) Indian man, Laborer	Silas Tilton Yeoman	50:00:00	30A
Feb.7, 1781	10-628	Stephen Tilton Husbandman	Silas Tilton Yeoman	\$63 Span.mill	20A
Oct.3,1781	12-292	Samuel Allen (Bulah) Yeoman	Silas Tilton Cordwainer	15:00:00	5A.
Apr.14,1791	13-279	Silas Tilton (Joanna) Yeoman	Vinal Skiff Weaver	50:00:00	34A
Apr.14,1791	13-280	Silas Tilton Yeoman	Vinal Skiff Weaver	75:00:00	60A
Jul.11,1791	13-281	Deliliah Tilton of New Bedford Seamstress	Vinal Skiff Yeoman	10:00:00	5A.
Dec.27,1845	31-79	Stephen Skiff of Tisbury -----	Charles Smith Tis. Gentleman	\$4,000	140A
Jul.29,1862	40-351	Charles Smith of Tisbury	Jeremiah Stewart	\$3,000	150A. ?
Sep.26,1864	41-418	John Tilton (Mary) -----	Franklin King	\$475	clay rts.
Oct.3,1864	41-428	Jeremiah & Emily B. Stewart -----	Franklin King	\$800	--
^{Mar 30} Apr.10,1865	41-546	Elijah Howland (Sophronia) yeoman	Franklin King	\$40	--
^{Mar 30} Apr.10,1865	41-548	John Davis (Sophronia M.) yeoman	Franklin King	\$600	160A.
¹⁶ Aug.25,1865	42-65	Elijah & Sphr. Howland -----	Franklin King	\$30	1A.
^{Jan 30} Feb.15,1866	42-259	Jeremiah Stewart (Emily B.) mariner	Franklin King	\$20	50 rods
^{Apr 6} May 29,1866	42-358	Jeremiah & Emily B. Stewart -----	Franklin King	\$17.50	wtr.,clay
Jun.6,1866	42-403	Franklin King of Dorchester	E. & F. King & Co.	\$800	--
Jun.6,1866	42-405	Franklin King merchant	E. & F. King & Co.	\$600	160A
Jun.6,1866	42-406	Franklin King merchant	E. & F. King & Co.	\$70	50 rods
Jun.6,1866	42-408	Franklin King -----	E. & F. King & Co.	\$30	1A.+rts.
Jun.6,1866	42-410	Franklin King (Sarah G.) merchant	E. & F. King & Co.	\$40	--
Mar.15,1888	87-29	Catherine C. Manter	E. & F. King & Co.	\$15	--
Nov.23,1897	125-478	E. & F. King & Co. -----	Everett Allen Davis	\$300	--



Silas Tilton/ Vinal Skiff Mill

In 1766 Silas Tilton (cordwainer) purchased from Samuel Allen eight acres on the North Shore abutting an unnamed river and pond on the west side of the property. He also acquired the "privilege of building a mill on said river" (V.10, p.571 – Dec. 13, 1766). In the 1771 Mass Tax Valuation List Silas Tilton is shown with one house and shops, annual worth of the whole real estate of £1:15:0, 2-cattle, 26-goats and sheep, s-swine, 5 acres of pasture, 1 cow the pasture to keep, but no mention of a mill.

By 1781 he had built a mill. See reference to mill in deed Samuel Allen (Yeoman) to Silas Tilton (Cordwainer) . "Land in the northern part of the land that I live on next to the sea...near the stream or brook that leads from the mill..." (V. 12, p.292 - Oct. 3, 1781).

On April 14, 1791 Silas Tilton (yeoman) sold to Vinal Skiff (1759-1829, weaver) 34 acres at Kiphiggon with buildings, mill, water rights, etc. (V.13, p.279). Banks states that Tilton moved to Easton, NY.

The operation of, if not the title to the mill passed from Vinal Skiff to Stephen Skiff (possibly his son: 1787 – 1857) as indicated in the following deed reference: "Beginning at the West end of a rock and marked B on the East side of Stephen Skiffs Mill..." (V.26 p.321 – March 27, 1837)

I don't seem to have gone further to trace the title to the property from Vinal Skiff to Jeremiah Stewart who sold to Wing and King in 1864 two acres on which to build a mill and another half acre for a wharf as well as the right to use Howland Brook (Paint Mill Brook) and the existing dam and mill pond.

From there see "Chilmark's Paint Mill...", Dukes County Intelligencer August 2005

JOF – 6/28/2013

Comments about Salt Works

Banks: Vol. I page 381: Report of raid by Gen. Grey quoted. A salt works at Homes Hole destroyed and a considerable quantity of salt taken. (Sept. 1778) No mention of any salt works at "Old Town Harbor" where several ships were destroyed, or elsewhere on MV.

Banks: Vol. II Tisbury

Page 66: There were large pans on the shores of Bass Creek (Homes Hole) at the time of the Revolution. They were still in existence in 1840. Others at or near Herring Creek (Lake Tashmoo) owned by Isaac Luce erected at least 20 years previously. (ie. in 1820 or earlier.) See picture opposite p.8 of salt works on the shore at Homes Hole in 1838.

Hayward, John: A Gazetteer of Massachusetts 1849

No salt works mentioned

Walling, H.F.: Map of ...Dukes County... 1858

No salt works mentioned

Barber, John Weaver: Historical Collections 1841

Page 153: Edgartown: Salt made to a considerable extent. Water raised by pumps worked by wind mills is led by troughs to cisterns or vats filled to a depth of 3"-4" in which it is dried by the sun.

Freeman, James: A description of Dukes County - 1807

Page 21 Edgartown: three sets of salt works containing 2,700 feet.

Five sets in Tisbury containing 8,900 feet. Manufacture increasing and there will be more than double the present number of feet in three or four years.

Mayhew, Eleanor Ransom: A Short History of Martha's Vineyard - 1956

Page 91. Near the start of Howard Avenue (Vineyard Haven) were extensive salt works (no date) These were probably located at the Lagoon. See map opposite P. 89

Page 113. Salt Works operated by Isaac Luce on the west shore of the creek leading into Lake Tashmoo.

Page 150: The old salt works in Edgartown were located on the waterfront north of the causeway. (Causeway not shown on map opposite p. 141.)

Hine Charles G.: The Story of Martha's Vineyard - 1908

Page 27: Over a hundred years ago... there were three sets of salt works in Edgartown

Page 100: The British at the time of Gray's Raid (Sept. 10-15, 1778) burned all the salt works. (Certainly in Homes Hole, but elsewhere not known.)

Norton, Henry Franklin: Martha's Vineyard... -

Page 39: A large number of salt works along the waterfront in Edgartown

Page 75: Salt works on the shore of Lamberts Cove (no date)

MVHS: There is a picture hanging in the museum tool shed showing Homes Hole in 1839. The caption refers to the Peter West salt works and to his house located above the works. This picture without the West reference appears in Banks V.2, Tisbury, p 8.

Salt Works

Banks E p.188 Before the revolution the manufacture of salt by evaporation of seawater in large wooden vats was an important industry in Edgartown.

Freeman p. 21 Three sets of salt works in Edgartown in 1807 containing 2700 feet.

Freeman p. 21 Five sets of salt works in Tisbury in 1807 containing 8900 feet.

Manufacture increasing, double number of feet in three to five years.

Banks WT p.66 At the time of the revolution there were large pans on the shores of Bass creek (at Homes Hole), where salt was manufactured by the ancient method of evaporation. They were in existence in 1840.

Salt works at the herring creek, owned by Isaac Luce were erected at least twenty years previously.

Banks T p.8 View of Homes Hole 1838 showing salt works on the shore.

Note: Bass creek was the outlet of the Lagoon and was located in the vicinity of the present day Pier 44. There was also an important herring fishery at the outlet of Tashmoo Lake.

Hine p.100 At the time of Gray's raid (Sept. 10-15 1778) the British burned all the salt works. (Not clear whether this reference includes all of the Vineyard or just Homes Hole.)

Norton p.39 There were a number of salt works along the Edgartown waterfront.

Norton P. 75 Salt works on the shore of Lamberts Cove and smoking houses for herring on the hill. Makonikey clay used for bricks.

Intelligencer, Aug. 1983 Good article. Pictures of windmills at saltworks on Cape Cod. Good map of V.H. showing Merry windmill. No Vineyard pictures of windmills. Ref. Barber's Historical Collections (of every town in Massachusetts) published 1839.

Local reports say there were salt works at Seven Gates (Saltworks Beach)

History of the Mills on the Fulling Mill Brook

An early fulling mill located approximately 500 feet north of present day South Road on the Fulling Mill Brook was built some time before 1682. Although no earlier reference to this mill has been found, its existence is indicated by the purchase by Benjamin Skiff from Matthew Mayhew on July 20, 1682 of two parcels of land, the latter of which is describes as:

"...half an aker of land & Swamp lying angular between the abovesaid brook where the fulling mill now standeth and the forementioned footpath."¹.

Although Skiff undoubtedly acquired mill rights on the brook from Matthew Mayhew before 1682, no record of such a transaction was found. Mayhew was probably reluctant to sell the land before he was certain that Skiff had actually built a mill and operated it successfully.

In 1694 Pain Mayhew joined Skiff in the purchasing additional land bounded "westward by the fulling mill brook"². A later deed indicates that the fulling mill had been operated by Skiff.³ The partnership with Pain Mayhew lasted until 1704 when an agreement dividing the land acquire in 1694 was reached.⁴ At that time the mill was operating and apparently Skiff continued to run the mill until his death thirteen or fourteen years later.

In his will dated Feb. 15, 1717/18 Benjamin Skiff expressed the wish that Beriah Tilton (1703-1779),..."a lad that now dwells with me..." have his (Skiff's) "...housing, mill and lands adjoining..."⁵ At that time Beriah was about 14 or 15 years old and presumably he continued to live with Skiff's widow, Hannah. Beriah apparently ran the mill for many years after Skiff's death as indicated by the reference to him as a "clothier in deeds dated 1740 and 1757 In 1751⁶ Hannah Skiff transferred to her "cousin" Beriah Tilton her interest in the "...land and meadow land whereupon my dwelling house now stands with said land adjoining, also a neck of land lying south of a road..."⁷ There was no mention of the mill in this deed, however.

Although much of the Skiff land left to Beriah Tilton (1703-1779) was left by him to his only son William (1736-1816), there is no mention of the mill in his will dated June 8, 1779⁸.

¹ Deeds V.1, p. 346

² Deeds V.1, p.233

³ Deeds V.2, p.62

⁴ Deeds V.2, p. 62

⁵ Probate I/27;)V.1, p.64 – 67)

⁶ Deeds V.6, p.449 & V.8, p.455

⁷ Deeds, V.8, p.493

⁸ Probate, I/387

The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771⁹ provides some insight into the Chilmark mills, although it fails to reveal anything about the Skiff mill. The list shows that a total of 4¾ mills were owned in Chilmark at that time, but one page of the List has been lost and the missing page contained the ownership information on all but a ¼ interest in one of them. However, in the 1790 census¹⁰, both William, and William Junr., are all shown as living in Chilmark. The General List of Lands, Lots, Buildings and Wharves of 1798 shows William Tilton owning a dwelling with 40 perches of land and 266 acres valued at \$3,140 (five parcels). William Junior owned a dwelling with 20 perches and one parcel of 12 Acres valued at \$155.¹¹ Again, no mention of any mill.

The Des Barres chart of 1776¹², one of the Atlantic Neptune series, shows a number of buildings on the eastern side of the Fulling Mill Brook just north of the road up-island (now South Road), but none of the buildings on the chart is identified. It is, however, indicative of considerable activity in the area.

In 1794 William Tilton, "Yeoman" sold to his oldest son William Tilton Junr., "Clothier" a parcel of land bounded as follows:

"Beginning at the western corner of that land of the Grantors which is known and called by the name of the old orchard and from thence extending Northwesterly on a straight line by land whereof Jonathan Allen Esq. Died seized & Sixty rods to the watering place (so called) thence northeasterly on a straight line forty rods, thence southeasterly on a straight line parallel with the first mentioned line sixty rods to an orchard which lyeth to the northward of the Grantors dwelling house, thence southwesterly by said Orchard last mentioned by a fence at the head of the a way leading from said house and by the aforesaid old Orchard forty rods to the first described bound, forever reserving to the said William Tilton the Grantor his heirs and assigns the use and improvements of the Mill Pond and stream which are in the said tract for the purpose of turning the Mill below and also the use of the road through the southeast corner of the tract of land as fully to all intents as if this Deed had not been made."¹³

The Mill Pond mentioned in the foregoing deed was located upstream from the original Skiff mill dam and was a much larger pond. It is not clear where the "mill below" was located, but subsequent deeds suggest that the reference might be to the grist mill at what is known today as the Tilton-Blackwell-Belden house. (See reference in 1814 deed below.)

⁹ Massachusetts Tax Valuation Lists of 1771

¹⁰ Heads of Households in the First Census of the United States (1790)

¹¹ General List of Lands, Lots, Buildings and Wharves

¹² Des Barres. American Neptune, Chart

¹³ Deeds, V.13, p.357

In 1811 William Tilton sold to his son Beriah Tilton (now 48) a fifty-three acre parcel of land bounded in part by "an old mill dam"¹⁴. The description of the property places it at the north end of the Fulling Mill Brook and locates "the old mill dam" at the northern part of the property. As will be discussed later this was probably the dam that formed Nathan Bassett's mill pond.

In 1814 William Tilton sold to his third son Samuel (1782- ?):

"...a Tract of Land containing by estimation two Acres be the same more or less which said Tract is bounded as followes viz. South by the highway Westerly by Tristram Allen North by William Tilton Junior and Easterly by the road leading from the highway to the meeting House, reserving to my self the use and improvement of the Grist Mill and the yard & Garden, and one fourth part of the Apples annually growing on said Tract, said land situate in Chilmark aforesaid."¹⁵.

The "road leading from the highway to the meeting House" was the southern end of the present day Tea Lane. It now serves as driveway for the Tilton-Blackwell-Belden house. Parallel stone wall define the course of the road north of the house.

In 1815 "Jonathan Bassett, Junr." wrote to "Beriah Tilton, Junr." (From Ohio describing life in the Cincinnati area) and closed with a post script "Tell William that clothiers are very much wanted here."¹⁶ It is thought that the William mentioned was William, Junr. the son of William Tilton and who was also Beriah's cousin.

The next reference is found in the estate of William Tilton dated Aug. 20, 1816 where the inventory includes, "...one tract of land next to the fulling mill of William Tilton..."¹⁷. This reference is, in all likelihood, to his son, William, Jr., because of the 1815 letter mentioned above, and because of the 1794 deed wherein William Junr. was referred to as being a "clothier". It is unclear, however, when this mill was built, or whether it was built by the senior or the junior William Tilton. No record of a transfer of the mill to the younger William has been found.

In 1831 Thomas Dunham prepared a rather crude map of the town of Chilmark on which two mills are shown on an unnamed brook, by location, assumed to be the Fulling Mill Brook.¹⁸ Mill stones found near the "Tilton-Blackwell-Belden" house off South Road point to the location of the grist mill mentioned in the 1814 deed, and suggest that both a fulling mill and a grist mill were operating at that time. While both mills may have existed, in 1831, it is possible that only the gristmill was in operation.

¹⁴ Deeds, V.19, p.379

¹⁵ Deeds, V.19, p.384

¹⁶ Martha's Vineyard Historical Society: Box 134B

¹⁷ Probate, I/595

¹⁸ Dunham, Thomas. Map of Chilmark, May, 1831

A later map (1858) prepared by H.F. Walling¹⁹ shows a house identified as belonging to W. Tilton located on the east side of the old road that ran between the South and Middle Roads. (a continuation of the present Tea Lane) This is probably the "Tilton-Blackwell-Belden" house. Although Walling identified other mill sites on his map, none are shown on the Fulling Mill Brook.

The southern Fulling Mill Brook sites were examined in February and March of 2001. The remains of a dam approximately 600 feet north of the South Road are located just west of the walking trail. The dam is situated where a significant drop in the brook bed would provide the logical place for a mill wheel. A short distance below the dam the brook flows into a swampy area with little additional drop until it passes under South Road. No indication of any dam along this section of the main watercourse was found. Approximately 1,100 feet north of South Road there is a second and much longer dam at a place where the vertical drop appears to be much less than at the earlier site. At neither location is there any definite indication of the foundation of a mill building. In all probability, the lower dam was the site of the original Skiff fulling mill. The upper dam must have been the site of the second and later fulling mill attributed to William Tilton (Jr.) in the 1817 Probate inventory of William Tilton (Sr.). Several hundred feet above the upper dam in the area previously flooded, the brook divides. The western branch passes through a breach in the dam, follows the original course of the brook through a breach in the lower dam, under the Fulling Brook Mill Trail to the South Road. A nautical chart dated 1880²⁰ and a USGS topographic map based on an 1887 survey²¹, both show only the upper pond approximately 1000 feet north of the South Road. However, on a later map based on a 1942 survey²², no such pond appears. It would seem logical that the upper dam was breached in the intervening years.

The eastern branch of the brook follows what appears to be a canal running parallel to the western edge of the meadow and its original, but at a greater elevation than the original brook bed. The waterway passes through a stone culvert under the trail and continues through a stone wall to a site near the "Tilton-Blackwell-Belden" house. Here the grist mill was located at a place where the relatively high elevation of the water lever maintained in the canal could be utilized most efficiently.

One of the millstones has been recovered from the swampy area below the remains of the mill site by the current owner of the property who asserts that another still lies buried in the same area.

Further upstream on the Fulling Mill Brook just above Middle Road is what remains of a dam that formed the mill pond of William Bassett. William Bassett (1702-1780) a blacksmith by trade, came from a long line of metalworkers. According to

¹⁹ Walling, Henry F., Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket, Massachusetts. Smith & Co., Boston 1858

²⁰ Vineyard Sound, from Wood's Hole to Cuttyhunk appearing opposite p. 150 in the Atlantic Coast Pilot, Second Edition, Boston, 1880 to New, York, Washington D.C. 1880

²¹ U.S. Geological Survey, Gay Head Sheet Edition of 1893

²² U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Geological Survey, Squibnocket Quadrangle Edition of 1944

Banks, both his father and grandfather were blacksmiths in Chilmark. William lived near the headwaters of the Fulling Mill Brook where he had a mill pond in 1768²³.

Presumably there was a mill of some sort there, but no reference to it has been found. It seems unlikely that he would have built a mill to grind grain or finish wool, there being other facilities in the area to satisfy these needs. More likely his mill was used in the pursuit of his trade either to operate the furnace bellows or to power mechanical hammers. The property was inherited by his daughter Catherine and deed references from 1811 and 1814 mention bounds as an "old mill dam", the terminology suggesting an abandoned facility.

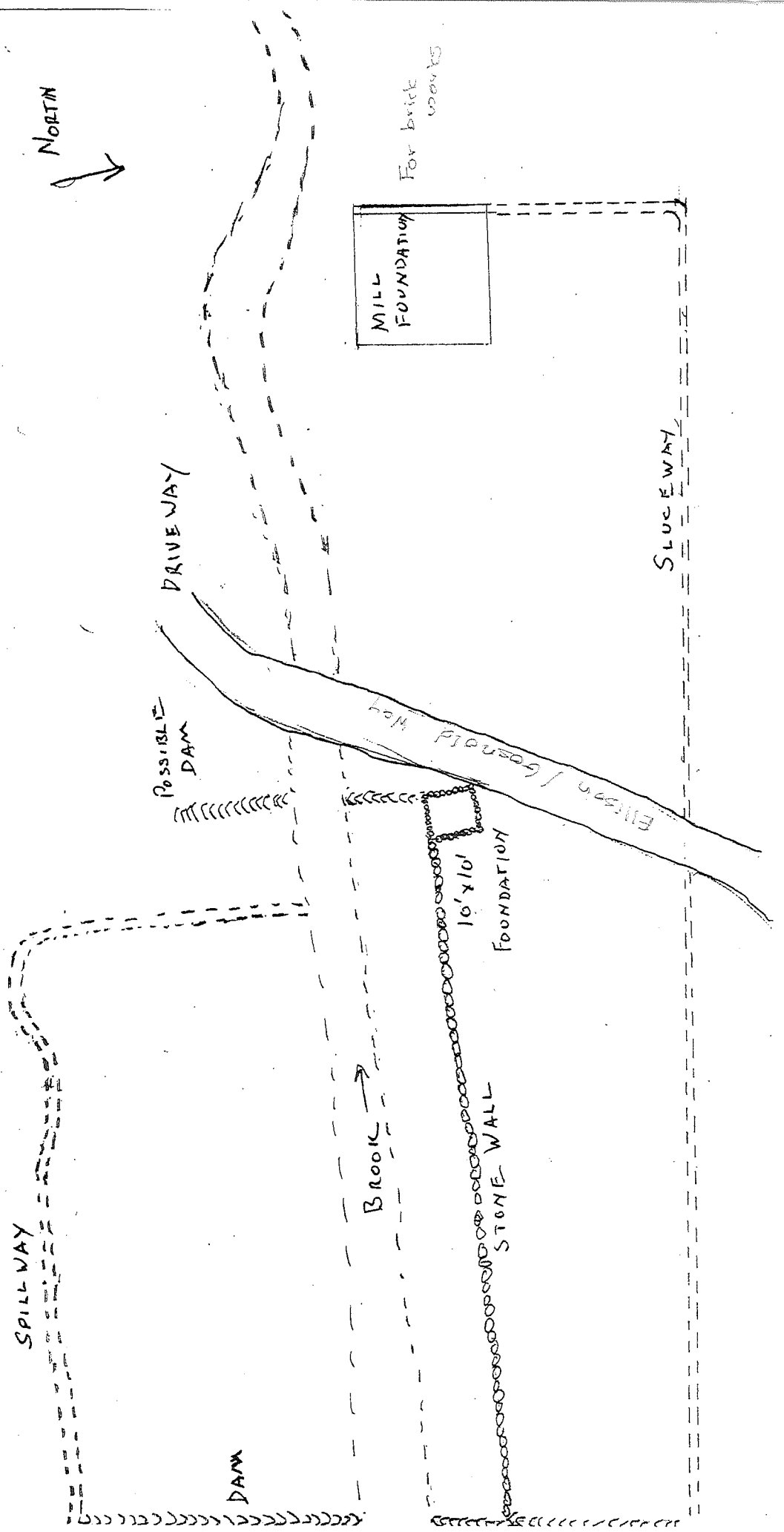
July 20, 2003

²³ Deeds: V. 10, p. 225

Grid Mill near Brickworks - Roavins Brook

John Fleuder v2005

APPROXIMATELY TO SCALE
1" = 30'



John's
Flender

6-2015
File

Fulling Mill Brook

Benjamin Skiff Mill

First reference found: July 20, 1682 (Deeds V.1, p. 346) Purchase of land where a mill was standing. This mill and land was willed to Skiff's adopted son Beriah Tilton, who turned it over to William Tilton, and by him to William Tilton. Jr. in 1794 (Deeds V.13, p. 357). Sometime in the 18th Century the large pond which was upstream from the original mill site was built. This pond appears on the 1907 edition of the USGS Chilmark topo. In his 1794 deed William Tilton reserve the right to use the water in the brook to run a mill located near the so-called Beldon House just to the east of the brook and north of South Road. I don't know how long either of these mills ran.

Bassett Mill

There was reportedly a mill on the Fulling Mill Brook at a site over which the Middle Road was subsequently built. A dam up-stream can be seen and some stonework where the brook passes under the road. The only reference I found was in V.10, p.225, August 31, 1768 where William Bassett refers to "my mill pond". In a 1744 deed a William Bassett is shown as a blacksmith. It may have been the same person. The use of the mill is not known.

Tiasquam River

Look Mill

The first mill on the Vineyard was built west of West Tisbury just north of State road by Benjamin Church in 1668 and was ultimately acquired by the Look family in 1715. They ran it for 150 years.

Other Mills on the Tiasquam

Going up stream the picture is less clear. There were two mills near the West Tisbury/Chilmark town line. I know nothing about the ownership or history of these mills. There are several ponds in that area now, some of which were built, or enlarged in recent times.

Reuben Tilton Mill

Probably built in the late 1700s by an earlier Tilton, it was run by Reuben Tilton for many years and later by Samuel Tilton. It was listed in the latter's estate (1851) and valued at \$30. It is unlikely that it ran after that date, if indeed it was in use when Samuel Tilton died.

Mill Brook

Satinet Mill

First Bbuilt in about 1700, the existing mill building located just south of West Tisbury on the road to Edgartown was restored some years ago and is now used by the Garden Club. I don't recall the history of this mill, but it is well documented and was run until about 1875. (See the Garden Club History

Priester's Pond Mill

Once again I don't remember much of the history, but it was a relatively early mill, I think, built by one of the Athern family. There is Land Bank property there at the start of North Road.

Fisher Mill

Located on Seven Gates Farm, this was one of the later mills built by Dr. Fisher supposedly to grind wheat to be used to make hardtack. It employed a turbine rather than the conventional over- or undershot water wheel. There is probably some information about the enterprise in the history of Seven Gates. Dr. Fisher also built Fisher Pond upstream to collect water to run the mill.

Roaring Brook

Hillman Mill

I have heard references to an early mill having been built by one of the Hillmans, but was never able to document its existence. It was thought to have been located upstream from the Elliston property at the end of Gosnold's Way.

Frances Nye's Mill

Built about 1849, this one was reportedly the last operating mill on the Vineyard. The site is located on the Elliston and has been cleared and somewhat restored. There is quite a bit of information about this mill. Like the Fisher mill this one employed a turbine.

The Brickyard

Not actually a mill, a large overshot waterwheel provided the power to run the brickmaking operation.

Paint Mill Brook

Skiff Mill

I find a reference in my notes to a mill built by Skiff but can provide no information.

Paint Mill

See The Dukes County Intelligencer Aug 2005

Other Mills

Smith Brook (Tisbury)

There were reportedly two mills on Smith Brook between the Lambert's Cove Road and the shore. I found what I believe was the site of one of them.

There may also have been a mill on the brook near Cottle's on the Lambert's Cove Road, but I never investigated the area or made any inquiries.

Here is some data that I found

- 1771 Tax Valuation List Five mills in Chilmark
- 1790 Freeman, 1807: Chilmark Carding/Fulling Mill dressed over 4,000 yd. p.21
(I believe this is the Satinet Mill.)
- 1805 Freeman, 1807: Chilmark Carding/Fulling Mill dressed 3,200 yd. p.21
(I believe this is the Satinet Mill.)
- 1807 Freeman, Five water mills in Chilmark, small, 2-3 bu. corn/day. p.21
- 1830 Dunham Map: 1-Tiasquam River, 2-Fulling Mill Brook, 1-Paint Mill Brook
(The mill on the Paint Mill Brook may have been the Skiff mill mentioned above since the paint mill would not be built until after 1860)
- 1858 Walling Map: 1-Tiasquam, 1-Roaring Brook

Miss

History

John Tobey Daggett

Parents - Obed Sherman + Maria Roberts Daggett

Parents
1884-1934
lived on MV
at CTN

Printed VG May 4 June 29, 1962

House 1772 - Mayhew Norton

Tannery was at Black Water Brook on Lamberts Cove run by Cottle
Another near brook on property once owned by Shubael Gray below
Locust Grove School on opp side of road).

Shubael Gray was 2nd husband of Lucy, father's sister. Her 1st husband
was Erford Burt of Taunton who died not long ^{many years} after marriage.

Took peat from low swampy area. Father sold several bags to
Boston firm to dig peat.

Wharf built on Hough property near their western line to
load peat. None of peat used as fuel. And peat diggers
short liver

Father grew turnips, potatoes, vegg. all over property

Barn originally 500' away - moved

2 work horses, 2 cows, 2 pigs, chickens

fertilizer from sea - waste fish, sea + rock-weed - brought by
Portuguese

Father would harvest 200 tons ice - preserve fish + in house

ice house now gone. Horses had clamps on shins to walk on ice

Cut with horse plow + finished by hand

Farmstead is now being overgrown with oaks + shrubbery. Set
red pines out in old turnip field 1942 + then later in larger field
to SE 3-4000 grown v. well

JTD

Parrots began taking guests in 1898, probably at suggestion of N Shaler. Frequently walked to their house using his cane to plant bulbs.

Trap fishing

Land at W end of Neck pond was a cranberry pond. N part partly overgrown, S good crop. Parthenia Mingo - one armed from Christian town often picked

Ship carried lumber ME to Mid Atlantic + brought back coal beachcombed lumber, 14 barrels of oranges

Almost every spring a fire on the Plain n where the air field is. Accidental or intentional? Always produced blueberries.

Box turtles rare - found one with GHL and 1874 on bottom

Locust Grove School - in grove of least with ~~5~~ 4-5 tupelo nearby built 1882 near Crocker Pond. Moved to present location 1886. Across road - fine brook with old stone bridge. School was 1 1/2 mi away on Indian Hill Rd. Everyone in N of town except Lambert's Cove which had one

Henry H Norton - stone cutter learned trade in Quincy. Did my headstones

Col. Albert S Berg ^{6'5"} Newport Ky. Wife was NSS sister. On Confederate side while NSS Union

Father went to 1893 Chicago World Fair with
Augustus Wesley (Wesley House OE). Returned by
DC and called on Col. Berry, then KY congressman.
Treated him royally.

Shortly after Wesley House damaged by fire and
AW confessed. Shock to father who visited him
in jail.

M+M George A. Hays bought Chas Athearn house
joined with Benj. Kilmer house
GAT kept a complete diary

Sev. Indian cemetaries in neighborhood - small one on
knoll to right of road Burton White property
20-30 field stones

Berry Land to E of Dasset, House to W

+ has
Grew patches between CTN Pd + Sound

Crawbery bog to W towards sandy beach

THE RIPARIAN OWNERS OF TISBURY GREAT POND

John W M Whiting January 11, 1995

What is now known as "The Riparian Owners Association" was originally a group who called themselves "The Proprietors of the Low Lands and Meadows around Tisbury Great Pond." To understand what its function is and how it has changed a brief history of the pond is in order.

Although the geological history of Martha's Vineyard is complex, there is general agreement among geologists that the Island was formed by glacial action. Ritchie (1969) summarizes it as follows: "Most of Gay Head, a narrow strip along the northwest coast and all of the northeastern part of the island including Chappaquiddick Island, are mantled to varying depths with morainal materials attributed to the early Wisconsin stage of glaciation. The remainder of the island, comprising the entire central area extending to the south shore, is covered by outwash deposits of early Wisconsin age. Much of this outwash material consists of older sediments of Upper Cretaceous provenience, plowed by glacial action from the old coastal plain foundation of the island....The ponds on the south shore...occupy long, narrow, parallel meltwater channels crossing the outwash

plain from the early Wisconsin ice front. Drowned in their lower reaches and estuaries by the rising sea level, they have been closed to the ocean by bay mouth bars created by shore currents which compose South Beach." (Ritchie 1969 p.2)

Since it is estimated that the Wisconsin glacier ceased to advance and began to melt about 10,000 years ago, the south shore bay in the outwash plain was presumably formed by this time. It is not clear, however, when the bay barred across and Tisbury Great Pond came into being. The best evidence for estimating this is provided by Mal Jones and George Manter. In the spring of 1965 when the ice was thick enough to hold heavy equipment they took a core sample of the pond bottom on the west side of the pond, just off the Ford camp on Zephania's Point. This site was chosen because bottom soundings indicated that it was probably over the valley made by the confluence of Mill Brook and Tiasquam River as it cut its way to the ocean at the end of the ice age 10,000 years ago. They went down through the bottom silt for 22 feet before they hit preglacial hardpan, and the bottom section was sent off island to be analyzed. It consisted of salt marsh peat and was carbon dated as being laid down 10,270 years B.P. (before present) with 275 year margin of error.

The core was divided into one foot sections and each section was carefully analyzed for the presence of various species of

shellfish and for the types of sand. It was assumed that the presence of mature shellfish that only thrive in waters with a high salinity level would indicate when the beach had barred across. The decrease in the frequency of mature oysters in section #16 (see figure 1) suggests that the bay may have been closed in by a barrier beach when this section was laid down. If it is assumed that the silt was deposited at a constant rate, each one foot section would represent approximately 500 years of silt deposit. This would make the date of section 16 about 8,000 BP. Sand churned by ocean surf has a greasy texture. This type of sand was found until section #9. This suggests that the beach was not formed until 4500 B.P. If either hypothesis is accepted, it should be noted that immature clams, snails, scallops, quahogs and mussels continued to occur in the more recent segments of the core. Since these shellfish cannot live in fresh water, the water in the pond must have been brackish during this period. Therefore there must have been periodic openings to the sea to let in salt water.

The beach is now opened by human intervention but since, according to the archaeological research of Ritchie (1969), humans did not arrive until about 4,000 years ago when the Wampanoags arrived, the pond must have opened itself for at least 500 years. This could happen by flooding over the beach and

eroding a channel. This regularly happens after the pond is flooded by a hurricane surge.

It is improbable that the Wampanoags opened the beach. When they first came to the Island they were primarily hunters and gatherers. Their sources of food were the white tailed deer and the quahog. No tools were found in the early sites that would be useful for digging a channel through the beach. Later on when they became farmers and started raising corn, they had ground breaking equipment, but there is no available evidence that it was used to open the beach.

Whenever the bay was barred across and a barrier beach formed it was probably considerably south of its present location. Folklore has it that in the early part of the last century one could skate from Tisbury Pond to Edgartown when it was frozen. (Chamberlain, 1964 p.229). This may be an exaggeration, but maps made in the middle of the last century show that there was open water from Long Point to upper Chilmark Pond. (see figure 2). By the end of last century the beach had moved in so that Chilmark Pond and Quenames Cove and Long Cove were cut off from the main pond. To keep Black Point Pond from also being cut off from the main pond, Crab Creek was dug by the Riparian Owners and maintained so that Black Point Pond and its surrounding marshes would remain connected to the Great Pond, and

its proprietors legitimate members of the Riparian Owners Association.

This inward movement of the beach was described by my grandfather. "The changes along the southern shore of the Island give an interesting illustration of what may be termed a 'rolling beach', and the power of the ocean sea-dash upon the sandy shore to drive this material before it....Where the beaches have been low, particularly in front of the several ponds, the overshot of the sands has made a greater encroachment upon the ponds and marshes inside of the beach than occurs in the outer shoreline opposite. The general recedence of the shoreline I should estimate at from 175 to 200 feet....At Tisbury Great Pond the outside waste west and east of the inlet is, respectively, about 180 and 140 feet, while the corresponding encroachments upon the pond are, respectively, 680 and 480 feet. Quite a peculiar coincidence occurs in the present opening into Tisbury Pond with that of 1846, which is almost identical in location and extent, except that it is further inward, while between the years 1860 and 1865 the opening was about three-fourths of a mile further eastward." (Henry L. Whiting 1886 p263 ff).

The eastward movement of the beach opening reported by Whiting is a persistent phenomenon presumably resulting from the rotation of the earth. In the 1920's the opening was just east of

Crab Creek. By the 1970's it had migrated further east than its present location, and the Sewers relocated it near Crab Creek again. It has since migrated eastward to its present location.

Assuming that the Wampanoags did not open the beach, evidence from the core indicates that the beach must have remained open for long periods or, more likely, opened itself. Fed by Mill Brook and Tiasquam river, run off from the banks and seepage from the aquifer would slowly fill up and eventually break through the beach at a low spot and the pond would drain and remain open to the sea until closed by the action of wind and tide. A hydrologic study of the pond reported in Fugro & McClelland (1992) reported that the net increase in pond storage was ten million gallons a day, so self opening is quite plausible.

Not only does the presence of salt water shellfish indicate that the pond was regularly open in Indian times but there is good evidence that they used the pond as a source of fish that must have had access to the ocean. It was customary for the Indians when they first settled the New World to occupy the drainage of some river or stream. Since they were primarily hunters, they followed their game whose migration was influenced by the presence of drinking water. Since water was also important to humans these new immigrants chose to settle near a stream and

hunt and forage in its drainage. The Wampanoags that came to the Vineyard were no exception. One of the settlements that they established, called Taakemy, ran from Indian Hill to the South Beach and included the drainage of Mill Brook and the Tiasquam River both of which flowed into Town Cove of the Great Pond. This drainage included all the lowlands and meadows surrounding the Great Pond and all its coves. It included Long Cove, Black Point and Little Black Point Ponds and Quenames Cove.

The Pond and various locations in the Taakemy drainage were given place names by the Wampanoags (see map). Quenames, the name for the location around Black Point Pond and Quenames Cove is of particular interest. "Quenames" is an Algonquian term meaning "the place to catch eels". Large wicker eel pots and eel wiers were in use by the Wampanoags when the Europeans arrived. In fact this equipment was borrowed by the riparians owners and used by them until very recently. The eel is anadromous, that is, it spawns in the ocean near Bermuda. After they are hatched, the little eels swim back to the fresh or brackish water where there parents grew up. Here they live until they become full size, six or seven feet long. At this point their skin turns to a silvery color. In the Great Pond this peens in November. They then seek to get out of the pond and make their way back to their birthplace near Bermuda and start a new generation. Thus, if the

pond had been completely shut off from the sea they could not have reproduced themselves and there would have been no eels in the Pond and Quenames would have been a meaningless place name.

Alewife and smelt were other anadromous species of fish that inhabited the Pond. Their life history is the reverse of that of the eel. They live in the ocean and spawn in fresh water streams. In March they could be seen swimming back and forth along South Beach seeking an opening. If the beach is open, they will swarm in and swim up Mill Brook and Tiasquam River to spawn. Crabs also must migrate between the Pond and the ocean in order to reproduce themselves, but like the eels and unlike the fish they spawn in the ocean and spend their adult life in the brackish pond. Thus the so-called "edgers" leave the pond in the summer to deposit their eggs in the sea. After hatching, the tiny crabs return to Tisbury Pond.

These fish provided another resource for the Wampanoags that lived in the Taakemy drainage. They also presumably harvested oysters and soft-shelled clams. For some reason, probably a too low salinity level, neither quahogs nor bay scallops will grow to maturity in the pond. The many small arrowheads that can be found indicates that the wildfowl that frequented the Pond were hunted by the Wampanoags.

When the Europeans arrived, they also settled in the

Taakemy drainage. The two brooks provided drinking water for themselves and their animals. They also made dams and built mills which were used to grind corn, saw lumber and weave cloth ??.

Furthermore the meadows and lowlands around the Great Pond were found to be excellent summer pasture for stock, particularly sheep. The "blue grass" that grew there when the pond level was at the proper height was thought to be especially good for fattening spring lambs. In fact the French consider lambs raised near the sea (pres de sale) to be a delicacy. "Black grass", another type of hay that grows only on marshes, makes exceptionally good bedding for the winter stalls of the farm animals. Manure from this type of bedding was especially useful since it would not seed itself in the cornfield and gardens.

The newcomers to the Taakemy drainage were not only farmers but also fishermen. They adopted the eel fishing gear from the Wampanoags and have used it until very recently. The new settlers also seined the alewives when they came in to spawn and set traps for the smelt.

To control the level of the pond in order to utilize the marsh hay and see that the pond was open to the sea to let the alewives and smelt in and the eels and crabs out at appropriate times for them to spawn, the new settlers of the Tisbury Pond drainage apparently decided that they could not leave the opening

of the pond to nature. An extant 1694 bill to the riparian owners for laborers and horses used for opening the beach indicates that this was the case.

The decision as to when to open the beach after it had closed turned out to be complex. The farmers were concerned about the marshes and the fishermen about letting the herring and smelt in and the eels out at the appropriate time. To settle these diverse interests, the interested parties formed an association. They called themselves "The Proprietors of the Low Lands and Meadows around Tisbury Great Pond". Since, to make a successful opening, the water level of the pond must be high enough and the weather must be mild. The success of an opening also depends on the phase of the moon. The Proprietors therefore appointed a board of three "sewers". Richard Miller, one of the current riparian owners investigated the origin of this term and discovered that a Royal Commission of Sewers was appointed by Queen Anne "who had the authority for the repair and maintenance of walls, ditches, banks, bridges, gutters, sewers, gates, causers, bridges and streams and any other defenses by the coast of the sea and marine ground lying and being with a specified district liable to inundation by the sea or rivers." (Oxford English Dictionary 1971). Miller, also noted that a Mr Mayhew was one of the persons reported to have been appointed to

the Royal Commission of Sewers. Since a Mayhew was one of the original proprietors of the low lands and marshes around Tisbury Great Pond, it is highly likely that the idea of appointing a Board of Sewers with the authority to open the beach was borrowed from Great Britain.

The Board of Sewers of Tisbury Great Pond were appointed each year by the Proprietors of the Low Lands and Meadows soon after the new settlers arrived. Sewers were finally given official status in 1904.

A study of the fish species to be found in the Pond was carried out in the fall of 1906 by the United States Bureau of Fisheries Station at Woods Hole. The findings of this study were reported in a pamphlet by William Converse Kendall published by the Bureau of Fisheries. Eighty five different species are listed, most of them salt water species. Kendall also reported: "There is authentic history of the early importance of the fishery at this pond, particularly for striped bass, smelts and alewives. One record of the former abundance of striped bass is that in December 1848, 18,000 of those fish were taken by one set of a long shore seine in one of the inflowing streams. They were carted to Vineyard Haven and shipped by two schooners to New York."

Up until 1870 fish were taken from the pond by residents of

Chilmark and West Tisbury as well as by the pond proprietors. No fish were cultivated until 1869, when one of the riparian owners, Mr Allen Look, decided to see if perch could be bred in the pond. Mr Look and his sons therefore planted 1,200 to 1,400 breeding white perch, in the pond, which species previously did not exist there. The experiment was successful. Ten years later they began seining and harvested some 200 barrels. This experiment enabled the Riparian Owners Association, of which Mr Look was a member, to obtain from the Massachusetts Board of Fisheries and Game, a lease of Tisbury Great pond for the purpose of cultivating useful fishes.

The Pond Proprietors thus became fish farmers. They now called themselves "Lessees", and met annually and appointed supervisors to arrange seining and to see to it that sufficient herring and smelt could get up the brooks to spawn so that they would reproduce themselves. Also, the smaller perch were thrown back and they arranged for the beach to be opened at appropriate times so that the fish ready to spawn could get in the pond and the fingerlings could get out. The fish caught were barreled and sold. The net proceeds, after a fee was paid to the Town and an amount set aside to cover the cost of opening the beach, was divided among the Riparian Owners according to the number of rods of shore front they owned. It was reported that the net proceeds

for 1875 was \$1,015.31 of which the town's share was \$50.71. (Kendall, 1906)

Minutes of the annual meeting of the lessees from 1875 to 1945 indicate that the income from the herring catch was appreciable. As late as 1928 the riparian owners received a surplus of twenty cents for each rod of storefront that they owned. The last recorded distribution of funds was May 29 1931. The lease from the Commission of Fisheries which had been in effect since 1873 was not renewed. Individual fishermen continued to seine herring on a small scale.

It is not clear why this epoch of fish farming came to an end. One reason suggested is that the market for alewives collapsed. They had been used as codfish bait, but a change in the methods of the cod fishing industry made them no longer useful. However for over fifty years the cultivation of useful fish in Tisbury Great Pond was a successful enterprise.

According to the Kendall report (1906) regarding shellfish in the pond: "It is said that oysters abounded up to 1825. That year the pond remained closed throughout the season, and in August the water became hot and stagnant, killing all the oysters. Mr Look and sons have planted some in the last few years, but they have not done well." It should also be noted that there were no adult sized oyster shells in the Jones-Manter core

sample except in the lowest three feet, although seed oysters appeared quite regularly. Furthermore there were no oyster shells of any size in the top, most recent, section of the core sample.

By 1945, however, mature oysters abounded all around the shores of the main pond. Perhaps the Look experiment was successful after all, or according to folklore, a schooner load of oysters were bought from the Cape and distributed in the Pond. Although the residents of Chilmark would often gather "a family mess", oysters were not commercially harvested until after World War II when a group of us: Willfred Huntington, John Mayhew, my brother Everett Whiting and myself decided to try to cultivate them and set up the Quansoo Shellfish Farm. When we tried to obtain a lease, we discovered that, according to Massachusetts law, the Towns, rather than the Bureau of Fisheries had control over the harvesting of shellfish. We had to get a grant from Chilmark if we wished to carry on our attempt to cultivate oysters. We therefore applied to the town and we were given a grant for the exclusive use of about ten acres of pond bottom, winning approval in a special town meeting by the narrowest of margins.

We found that the wild oysters were so gnarled and twisted from setting and growing on one another that the off Island markets would not take them and the Island market was limited. We

also found that they were difficult to shuck and there were no skilled shuckers on the Island. We were, however able to sell our wild oysters to an off Island company who had professional oyster shuckers. We also found oyster growers on the Cape who would buy seed oysters from us to plant and grow on their beds.

Neither of the above enterprises were very profitable and we decided that we had to raise our own oysters. We therefore read up on the natural history of the oyster. We found out that a mature oyster may produce either eggs or sperm, younger oysters were more likely to be male and older oysters female. We also discovered that an adult female produces a million eggs. Someone estimated that if all the eggs of one female oyster were fertilized and grew to maturity and this happened to all the offspring for eight generations, it would result in a mass the size of the earth growing at the speed of light. This was obviously not happening at our beds in Tisbury Great Pond.

Clearly most of the millions of eggs that were released each year by the "female" oysters never reached maturity. They began as a microscopic free swimming organism that would live for a few days and then die if it was not lucky enough to be found by an oyster sperm, which was also microscopic and free swimming. The chances of such a mating are very small and the difficulties do not end here. A fertilized egg becomes what is called s oyster

spat. It grows fins and swims about searching for a clean, hard surface, called cultch, which it will attach itself to and stay there for the rest of its life. As soon as it has attached itself to the cultch it will lose its fins and start growing its shell. Since shell grows faster in the summer than in the winter, this shows up on the shell like tree rings, its age can be determined by these rings. They reach maturity in about four years and seldom live longer than eight or nine. The oldest one that I have observed had 14 rings and was nearly a foot long.

The best natural cultch for oysters in Tisbury Great Pond consist of the pebbles and rocks that have washed out of the banks and form a ring around the edge of the pond. Silt from the brooks cover much of the center of the pond and thus is not a suitable oyster habitat. Older oysters also provide cultch and this results in crowding and the gnarled wild oysters that we found when we started.

With this information we decided that to have a successful oyster farm we had to set out fresh cultch at the appropriate time. We experimented with various methods and found that baby oysters grew fastest and the meats of mature oysters were best if they grew at least a foot above the bottom. We tried hanging bags of oyster or scallop shells as cultch from rafts but, unfortunately, our rafts were all blown away by a hurricane. We

finally settled on making slim bags from galvanized chicken wire and filling them with cultch and then leaning them against one another.

Since fungus quickly grows on cultch after it is set out, the best time to set out the cultch is just after the oysters spawn, which is when the water temperature gets warm enough, usually by May or June. The Shellfish Farm therefore made weekly tows with a plankton net and examined the contents under a microscope. We learned to recognize oyster spat and could thus determine when to put down the cultch. We also found that if the beach was opened just after spawning when the oyster spat was free swimming many of them would be lost by being washed out to sea. This information was made available to the sewers who used it as one of the bases for deciding when to open the beach.

One experiment that was not successful was an attempt to open the beach with a sandsucker pump mounted on a navy surplus dukw. We had thought that this devise would enable us to open the pond when it was at any level and thus have better control of the salinity level. Since the beginning of our enterprise, we had monitored salinity levels in various parts of the pond and at different depths. If the salinity level got too low we would report it to the Board of Sewers who would open the beach if they thought the pond was high enough to do so. We had thought that our

dredging equipment would solve this problem, but it didn't work efficiently and had to be abandoned. Since low salinities only occurred when the pond was filled with fresh water and therefore high enough to open by traditional means, this was no loss to our oyster farming project. Not all our experiments failed, however. We developed an efficient method of harvesting oysters. We constructed a dredge could be pulled behind a small boat powered by an outboard.

In addition to oysters we harvested steamer clams which grew in abundance around the pond shores. They grew about eight to ten inches under the bottom in the shallow waters near the shore. Since the tidal movement in the pond was minimal, the clam beds were not exposed at low tide and therefore could not be easily dug with a clam hoe. When a group of us were having coffee at my house one morning, Willie Huntington said, "There ought to be a way to harvest the clams in the Pond." We brainstormed the problem and came up with the idea that since steamer clams were lighter than sand but heavier than water, if these three materials were mixed up and then allowed to settle, the clams should end up on top of the sand rather than ten inches underneath where they grow. We also thought that a jet from a pump powered by a gasoline engine would be a good way to mix up the clams, sand and water. Much to the distress of my wife,

Beatrice, we unhitched the pump run by a gasoline engine that provided the water for our house, took it down to the pond, started it up and directed a jet from a garden hose into a clam hole. Sure enough, when things settled a large steamer clam set on the surface of the sand. It was then easy to construct a jet rig clam digger consisting of six to eight jets that could be dragged along the bottom leaving a row of clams behind it which could be picked up by a specially constructed rake. This rig is now widely used. With this invention, clams turned out to be a more profitable crop than oysters.

In the mid 1950's the shellfishing lease held by Quansoo Shellfish Farm ran out and the application for renewal was voted down by the town. At a special town meeting the voters decided that commercial oystering should be possible for all Chilmark citizens and therefore no private grants should be made. Oystering is now being carried on by individual fishermen both on the Chilmark and West Tisbury side of the pond. To fish commercially in the pond a town permit is required. In 1984, according to the report of the Shellfish Constable, 18 commercial permits were granted, 15 for oysters, 1 for clams, and 2 for eels. All oysters less than 3.75 inches long must be thrown back and ten bushels was the weekly limit.

In the 1980's the harvesting of shellfishing in the pond was

threatened by reports of such high fecal coliform counts that the boards of health of West Tisbury and Chilmark shut down the pond to shellfishing. The towns financed a number of studies on the degree of pollution in the pond and what may have caused it.² The studies agreed that the pollution was worse in the upper reaches of the pond, and worse in the summer than in the winter. They concluded that the coliform levels were not dangerously high south of Big Sandy and the Town Boards of Health opened the pond for shellfishing in that area of the pond. The studies did not agree on the sources of the pollution. One of them attributed the high levels of coliform to waterfowl and livestock. Other studies concluded that the high coliform counts found at the mouths of Mill Brook and Tiasquam River was the result of stormwater runoff from road areas. Whether road runoff, waterfowl or livestock is the culprit is still being debated. I favor the waterfowl hypothesis. The population of Canada geese that summer and breed on the Vineyard and frequent the pond is now up to 600. A flock of this size produces a lot of feces. It should also be noted that they breed in the brooks and raise their broods in Town Cove.

This large resident flock of Canada geese is the result of another Pond enterprise. Since the Vineyard is on the eastern flyway for migrant waterfowl, large flocks of geese and ducks

stopped at the ponds in the fall on their trip south and again in the spring on their trip north. When I was a boy, flocks of white bellies (bald pated widgeon) numbering in the thousands almost completely covered the surface of Black Point Pond. Huge flocks of bluebells fed on the clams and mussels around the shores of the great pond. Perhaps the most striking were the Canada geese which were the favorite game for the local gunners.

The Tisbury Great Pond Gunning Club was established about 1900 by a group of wealthy hunters from off Island. They bought large tracts of land around the pond and built cabins where they lived during the gunning season. They hired Jim Look who lived on the east shore of Pear Tree Cove to be the club manager. The arrangements for the hunters were sumptuous. A small shack was built with a wood stove installed to keep the hunters warm while they waited for the Canada geese, which was their game, to arrive. A long wooden blind ran along the beach where tame geese were pegged as live decoys. When the manager heard a flock of wild geese approaching he opened a pen contains a half dozen young geese who flew up to greet the wild flock. When they discovered that the flock were strangers they wheeled and came back to the shore where their parents were pegged. The wild flock usually followed them in and were easy prey to the hunter who had set himself up behind the blinds. Blinds were established both on

Tisbury and Black Point ponds. Unfortunately for the club, the use of live decoys was prohibited by federal law in the 1930's and the hunting club ceased to exist. The live decoys, since they could no longer be used were released and became what is a large flock of year round residents.

By 1950 swimming and sailing and lying on the beach had replaced seining herring and decoying geese as the major use of the pond. The hunting shacks were bought and turned into summer cottages, and the majority of the riparian owners were no longer farmers and fishermen.

The first sailboat on the pond was owned by my uncle, Judge Everett Allen Davis who lived in West Tisbury. In 1897 he bought a plot of land on the west shore of the pond at Old Fields where he built a bathes and horse stable. He also bought a catboat which he named the Pilgrim. During the summer when the weather was favorable he would hitch up his horse and buggy, and with his wife Georgian, drive to Old Fields where he would rig up the Pilgrim, sail around the pond and then spend the night in the bathes.

When my uncle Everett died in 1928 I inherited the boathouse and my brother, Everett, got the Pilgrim. Soon after this some of the other riparian owners bought sailboats and by 1950 there were enough boats to have weekly races on Sunday afternoons. There

were sometimes as many as 20 boats, no two of which were the same size or type. The races started from "Big Sandy" where a committee would decide on the handicaps. The starter with a megaphone would then start the boats at different times and they would race around a set of buoys and finish at Big Sandy. At the end of the season there was a final race. The first such race occurred during World War II when rum was the favorite drink around the pond and the prize for the winner was therefore a bottle of demarera [sp?] rum. This custom has continued to the present. The final race is still called "the demarera". The number of boats racing has greatly decreased, however.

The beach was traditionally opened by a wooden dredge specially made for the purpose. This dredge was pulled by a pair of horses and guided by a man. Several men with shovels and beach hoes also helped. This equipment was used to dig a small channel from the pond to the ocean. This was done when the pond was flooded to at least three feet above the level of the ocean so that the pond water would flow out, cutting a large channel as the pond drained until it reached sea level. The ocean tide would then flow in and out of the opening, flooding the pond with salt water at high tide and draining it when the tide fell. A heavy surf might close this channel or "opening" in a few days, but it usually remained open for a month or two.

A document on file in the Library of the Dukes County Historical Society, "Minutes of Deposition Relating to Oyster Pond", 1823, gives us a historical view of the Pond openings. Two members of the Tisbury Pond Board of Sewers, William Mayhew Esq. and Captain Samuel Hancock were interviewed as to the feasibility of opening Oyster pond. Hancock was asked to describe the method used in the opening of Tisbury Great Pond. He claimed that "the beach was eight to fifteen rods wide and is opened by men with shovels and by oxen with drags. The opening is sometimes difficult and we are from one to six days in effecting an opening. Sometimes the opening is immediately shut up by a sudden shift of wind and the labor all lost by a bar across occasioned by the roll of the sea...He thinks that the cost of opening Tisbury Pond to be about \$150 per annum. Thinks it is necessary to open Tisbury Great Pond about four times a year for the benefit of the meadows and land adjoining about four times a year. Tisbury Pond is principally opened by proprietors... principally in the fall when the fish are running and there is gunning we are assisted by fishermen and gunners from the different towns, but at other times the labour falls on the proprietors exclusively" (M.V. Historical Society, Document 76.8.2)

Finally it should be noted that about the same time that the

last lease ran out and the income from the sale of herring and perch ceased, tractors replaced horses and oxen in the farms surrounding the pond and a bulldozer replaced the horse drawn dredge and beach hoes as a means of opening the beach. Before the bulldozer, opening the beach was a festive occasion. All the riparian owners came, the men bringing beach hoes or shovels, the women with a picnic lunch and the children with screams of delight. The elders would stand watch telling the children not to break down the banks and giving their opinion as to whether the opening would "run out" or not. Rather than taking all day, the bulldozer only takes a few hours. Beach hoes are no longer of any use, and the opening of the beach is no longer a picnic. Furthermore the cost of a bulldozer is much greater than a pair of horses or a yoke of oxen and there is no money from the sale of herring to help pay for it.

In 1994 there was not enough funds in the till to cover the cost of beach openings. A failed attempt raised the cost and many of the members of the Riparian Owners Association had neglected to pay their dues. If all Riparian Owners paid their dues, it should be adequate to cover beach opening costs.

Ordinarily there are three openings, spring, summer and fall but the amount of rainfall and hurricanes disrupt any standard schedule. The pond must be at least forty inches above the level

of the ocean for a successful opening.

There are a number of groups who benefit from beach openings but do not share in the cost. They are:

1. The owners of lowlands and meadows in the Black Point Pond - Quenames Cove area who, for some reason have been left off the list of Riparian Owners since 1978 when Bob Sturgis revised the list of Riparian Owners. This area has traditionally been considered part of Tisbury Great Pond, and in my opinion, should be included in the current roster of members.

2. From the beginning South Beach was not considered part of the Low Lands and Meadows. It did not have to be drained to harvest marsh hay. Therefore anyone who only owned shore front on South Beach was not considered a riparian owner. In the early days most beach owners were also owners of the marsh so this made little difference. When the Quansoo and more especially the Black Point Beach Associations were established, this was no longer the case. Nearly 150 people became members of these associations and enjoy swimming and fishing in the opening. Since they are not members of the Riparian Owners Association they have no say in when the beach should be opened, nor do they share in the cost of the openings.

3. The Quansoo Beach association, since it owns a parking lot which is in the area of low lands and meadow is, as an

association, a member of the Riparian Owners Association but the Black Point Beach Association is not. Since parking lots can get flooded if the pond gets too high, the associations have concern over beach openings.

4. Pond opening is important to commercial fishermen who use the Pond but they are not members of the Riparian Owners Association. They therefore have no official say as to when it should be opened nor do they share in the cost.

I hope that these discrepancies can be discussed in the next meeting of the Riparian owners. Perhaps a special meeting should be called for this purpose.

1. Acts, 1904 -Chap. 203 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE DRAINAGE OF THE LOW LANDS AND MEADOWS AROUND CERTAIN GREAT PONDS IN THE COUNTY OF DIKES COUNTY.

SECTION 1. The proprietors of the low lands and meadows around any great pond in the county of Dukes County, excepting the Edgartown Great Pond, or a majority of such proprietors in interest, either in value or area may organize and hold meetings in the manner provided in chapter 123 of the Revised Laws for organizing and holding meetings for the proprietors of general fields. Each

proprietor shall have the same right to vote at such meetings as is provided for proprietors of general fields in said chapter.

SECTION 2. Whenever the proprietors of low lands and meadows around any great pond, excepting the Edgartown Great Pond, or a majority of them organize, as is provided in the preceding section, they may choose three commissioners who shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified, and who shall sworn to be faithful and impartial in the performance of their duties. They may also choose a clerk and collector and such other officers as may be necessary or convenient.

SECTION 3. The commissioners shall do or cause to be done whatever may be necessary to properly drain the low lands and meadows around such great pond, and shall assess the cost thereof upon all the proprietors whose lands are benefitted by such draining according to the area, quality and situation of each person's part thereof, and to the benefit he will derive from such improvement, and shall submit a written account of their doings to said proprietors annually, together with a full account of all recipes and expenditures.

SECTION 4. The commissioners shall give the collector a warrant to collect and to pay over and account for the assessments to such person as they may appoint. In collecting the assessments the collector shall have the powers and shall precede in the manner provided for the collector of town taxes.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 2, 1904

2. Division of Water Pollution, DELE. 1977. "1975-106 Martha's Vineyard Water Quality Study

Poole, Bruce M. May 1986. West Tisbury Microbial Investigation of Great Pond. Prepared by SP, Inc. 29 Congress St. Salem Ma.

Saunders Associates. 29 June 1990 Road Runoff sampling Tisbury Great Pond tributaries. Prepared for Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group. Funded by Tisbury Great Pond Riparian Owners.

Sherwood Lynn 1989 Sanitary Survey report of Tisbury Great Pond in the towns of West Tisbury and Chilmark. Mass Division of Marine Fisheries.

Smith, R.H 1984 Results of Water quality monitoring program. The Martha's Vineyard Commission (includes bacteria data on Mill Brook and Tiasquam River.

Fugro-McClelland(East),inc. 1992 Water quality study of Tisbury Great Pond, Prepared for the Towns of West Tisbury and Chilmark

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4. Jones, K. M. 1973. Unpublished salinity and temperature profiles (#2 to #20; 30-July, 1973 to 10-September, 1973).
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7. Martha's Vineyard Commission. August, 1977. Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed 208 Water Quality Management Plan for Martha's Vineyard. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
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12. Smith, R. H. March, 1984. Results of the Water Quality Monitoring Program. The Martha's Vineyard Commission. (includes bacteria data on Mill Brook and Tiasquam River).
13. Turenne, James. 28-December, 1990. Ground-penetrating radar study. USDA-Soil Conservation Service. (from Bill Wilcox)
14. West Tisbury Board of Health. October 1990-December, 1991. Unpublished data on temperature, salinity, and fecal coliform bacteria. (from John Powers)

Henry Whiting grandson

Whiting, John W.M. 1995. The Riparian Owners of Tisbury Great Pond. MS loaned from Sam Richardson.

TGP - The Riparian Owners Association, originally - Preservation of Low Lands and Meadows around Tisbury Great Pond.

1965. Mal Jones + George Kautz covered pond bottom on W side off Ford's Camp on Zephania's Pt. - covered old valley confluence Mill Brook + Tiasquam River. 22 feet of silt 10,270 BP

Mature oysters + section 16 (1st section) ~ 8000 BP

Immature clams, snails, mussels, quahogs + to recent section.

Partly brackish - periodic openings, only seed oysters + quahogs.

Wampas did not open beach.

Open water Long Point to Chilmark Pond. - Chilmark Pt, Quenamus Cove + Long Cove cut off end of 19th C. Crab Creek cut to keep Black Pt Pd from being cut off. - by R Owners so could remain part of ROA.

Believes beach opened + stayed open. - Stores 10 mgals/day
Quenamus - place to catch eels. Get 6-7' long + turn silvery - then swim to get out.

Quahogs + bay scallops won't mature in pond

Blue grass around pond superb for fattening lambs

Black grass on meadows. Great for bedding.

1694 bill to riparian owners for laborers + horses to open beach.

Control over openings to "Proprietors of Low Lands etc." Appointed
3 sewers.

1906 TGP fish study - 85 spp.

Dec. 1848 - 18,000 striped bass - one set of long shore seine on
inflowing stream

1869 Allen Look planted 1200-1400 breeding white perch. successfully -
not there before ROA began to lease TGP from MA
Board Fisheries and Game to cultivate fish

allowed small perch, herring, smelt to get in; controlled opening
1875-1945 proceeds considerable - 1931 last recorded distribution

Kendall 1906 report - oysters abounded to 1825. That year pond remained
closed and water hot + stagnant - all died.

After WWII Wilfred Huntington, John Mayhew, Everett Whittier + ^{brother} JW
set up Quansoo Shellfish Farm - Town not state control
Granted 10 ac. Wild oysters turned

Eggs + sperm free swimming - mate to form spat - swim looking for
hard surface "cultch" - they lose 1" + fins. Shell grows faster in
summer than winter - annual time 4-9 yrs. 14 - 15" long

Pebbles + rocks. Used galvanized wire, fill w/ cultch.

Put cultch out just after spawning.

Steamer harvester - pump stir bottom + skimmer that sets on top

1950s town reject QSA ~~ag~~ renewal + let all individual fishermen
in.

1984 18 commercial permits - 15 oyster, 1 clam, 2 cells
Oysters < 3.75" thrown back

Geese contaminant

TGP Gunnis Club ~1900, Bought large tracts. Hired Jim
look as club mgr. Live decoys - let geese fly up would wheel
around and fly back to parents. Blinds on TGP + BPP
1930s prohibited live decoys.

1st sailboat JW uncle - Judge Everett Allen Davis - WI
1897 - Catboat "Pilgrim" built hover stables + bathhouse
1926 he died JW inherited bathhouse, brother Everett
got Pilgrim

1950s races WWII rum was prize so the "demarcum"

Beach open - wooden dredge by bays. Shovels + bars
When beach 3' above ocean.

Would stay open few days but usually 1-2 months.

1873 - MV Museum - Minutes of Deposition Relative to Oyster Pond.

Interview w/ 2 sewers - Wm Mayhew + Capt Saml Haugset
on opening Oyster Pond - Men w/ shovels + oars w/ dredge
1-6 days. Sometimes immediately closed.

Need to open TGP 4x year

Now - like 3 openings - Spring, Summer, Fall. - 40' above sea level

July 2009

Coastal Maps

Joseph Garver HU Map Library

Information/Inspiration/Illustration

Resources to locate additional maps -

Local, family, regulatory maps - e.g. Naushon

Reproduction of maps - sources of existing digital etc. reprods.

Facilities? Permissions.

Cartographic services - capturing, combining and conveying cartos.

Approach to thinking about scientific use of maps

How many maps are stand alone vs produced for books

e.g. p. 15 John Foster

Witness Tree

1830 state survey map → State BioMap

MV HF Paper

Coast + Geodetic Survey

MV J Biogeog Paper

Cape Cod -

1890s USGS - Forest

Joseph Garrow

7-8-09

US Coast + Geodetic

HO Map Archive

T Chart - digital 1:10,000

Steve Mague

NOAA

Steve@durawdanastas.com

Nickerson Archive - Cape

Navy Survey of Cape - orig. manuscript

County Atlas

\$9500 for 90

Digitized ↓

Harvard Map Collection

Imaging Services

Digital Maps

Georeferenced - downloaded - all

Boston Public Library

Lib. of Congress

Michael Buler

another source

Map Dealer

Boston Rare Maps

Am Ant Soc

MA Hist. Soc. Map Exhibit this year

Mass Hist Soc.

State Library -

Hydrography **DRF notes from Maps – July 2012**

Notes to go with Brian Hall's map – Water features and topographic 6-12-2012

No streams east of the line from Rhoda Pond to Mill Pond. Smith Brook west of Rhoda Pond only stream in Tisbury.

One minor exception – stream from red maple swamp to Little Duarte Pond, Mattakeset Herring Creek.

Two big streams – Mill Brook and Tiasquam River – very similar – both confined to narrow southwest to northeast trending valleys between two morainal ridges. Both largely wetlands or wetland confined streams; very gentle gradient. Both empty into tributaries of Tisbury Great Pond. Each collects very little water from tributaries. Why does west area of Tisbury Great Pond serve as an effective tributary – why not dry?

Other streams flow via gentle ground to coast.

Fulling Mill Brook and Mill Brook (c) to south coast.

Roaring Brook, Paint Mill Brook, Blackwater Brook, Smith Brook and many small streams to Vineyard Sound. Aquinnah – unique with highland and streams diving north and south.

Many ponds artificial.

Shoreline – run futures as sea level rises, what will coastal ponds look like?

Glacial Topography
DRF notes from Maps – July 2012

From Map: Water Features and Topography 11 x 17 6-21-2012) (shows relief with shading)

Katama to Duarte Pond ~ outwash over moraine – topography is very subtle but distinct from the plain. Undulations and depressions – buried features so subtle. Includes small ponds – Duarte, Little, Dodger Hole, Jernegan. But very few relative to west.

Long bottoms only extend east to Oyster Pond. From there to Edgartown (Paqua and Jobs Neck east) they don't extend far up into the plain as the do off Tisbury Great Pond, Long Cove, Watcha, Oyster Ponds.

Also don't extend in from Chilmark Pond or Black Point Pond.

HV Maps

Robert N. Oldham + Roger A. Barlow 1986
1:100,000 Geologic Map Cape + Islands
DOI USGS Map I-1763
+ ice recession + low Sarmatic
LC G3762.C35 1986.04

G3762.L55 1991.T7
Elizabeth Sorensen Long Pt Wildlife Refug

Benj. Smith 1795 Tibbung + Edgar town
G3762.M31795.S6 1956

E F Webster + RE Forbes 1910
G3762.N45 1910 W4

M McClery 1847 Holmes Hsh + Tarpaulin Cove
harbor G.3762.V4P5.1847.US1

Figure 1.

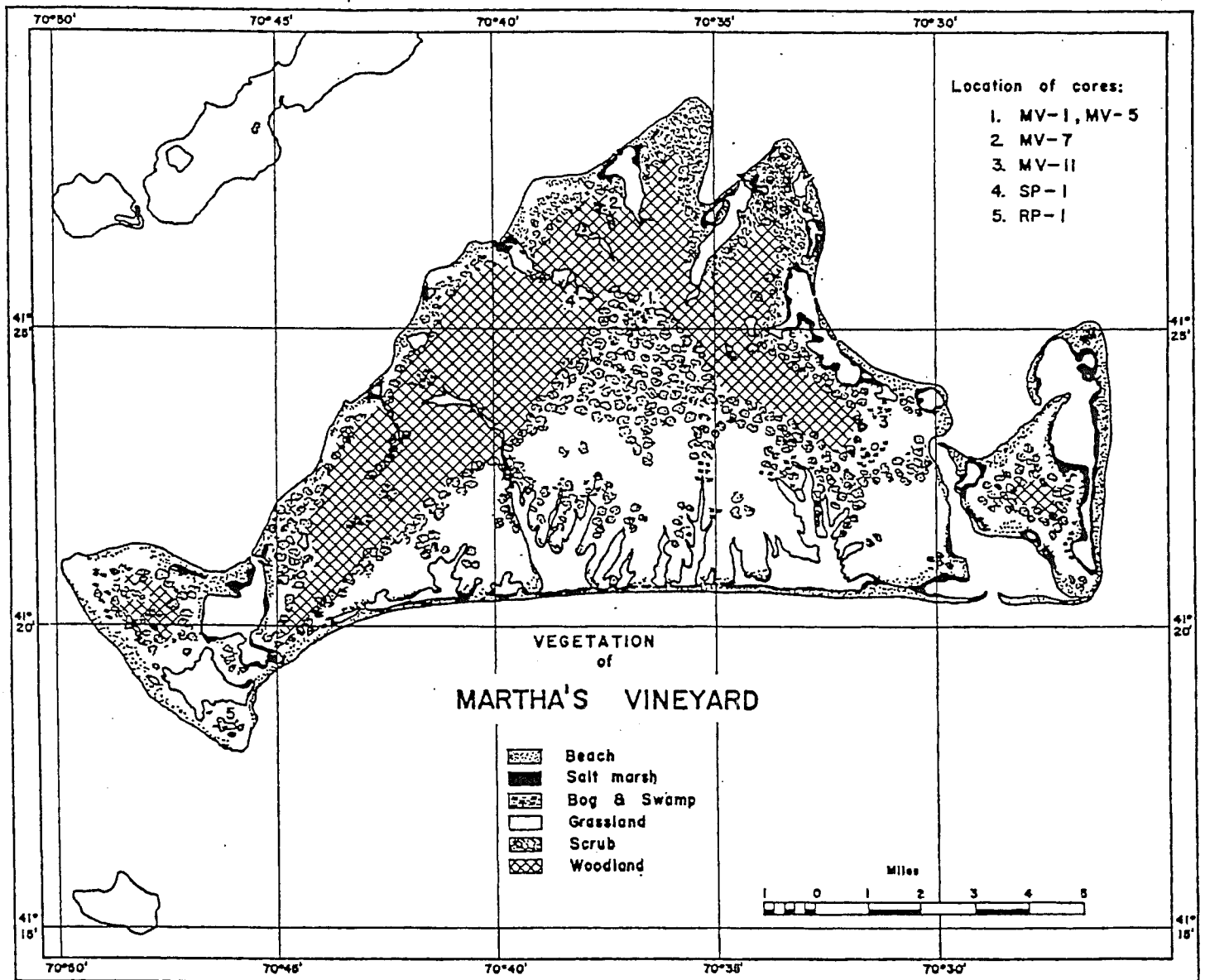
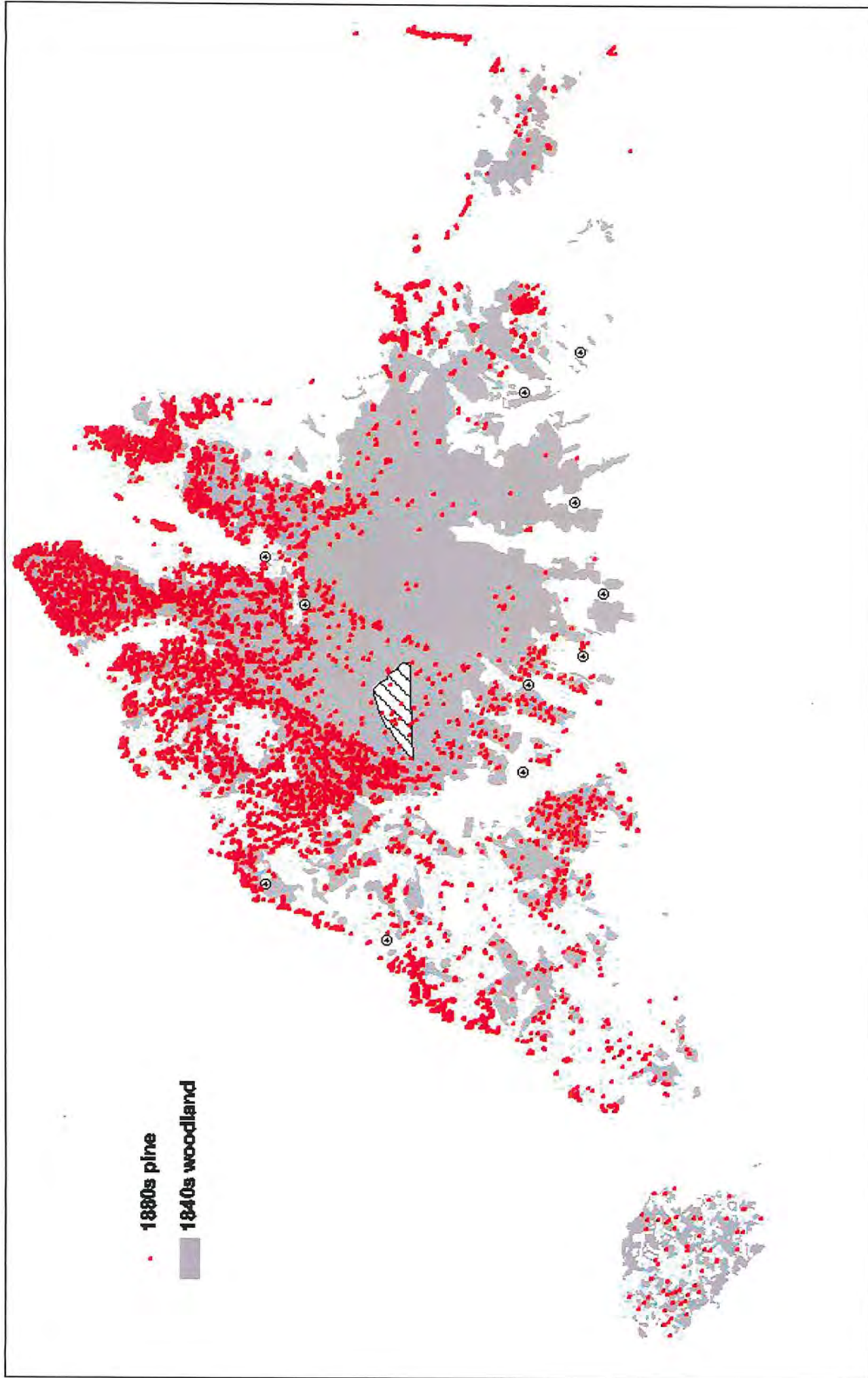
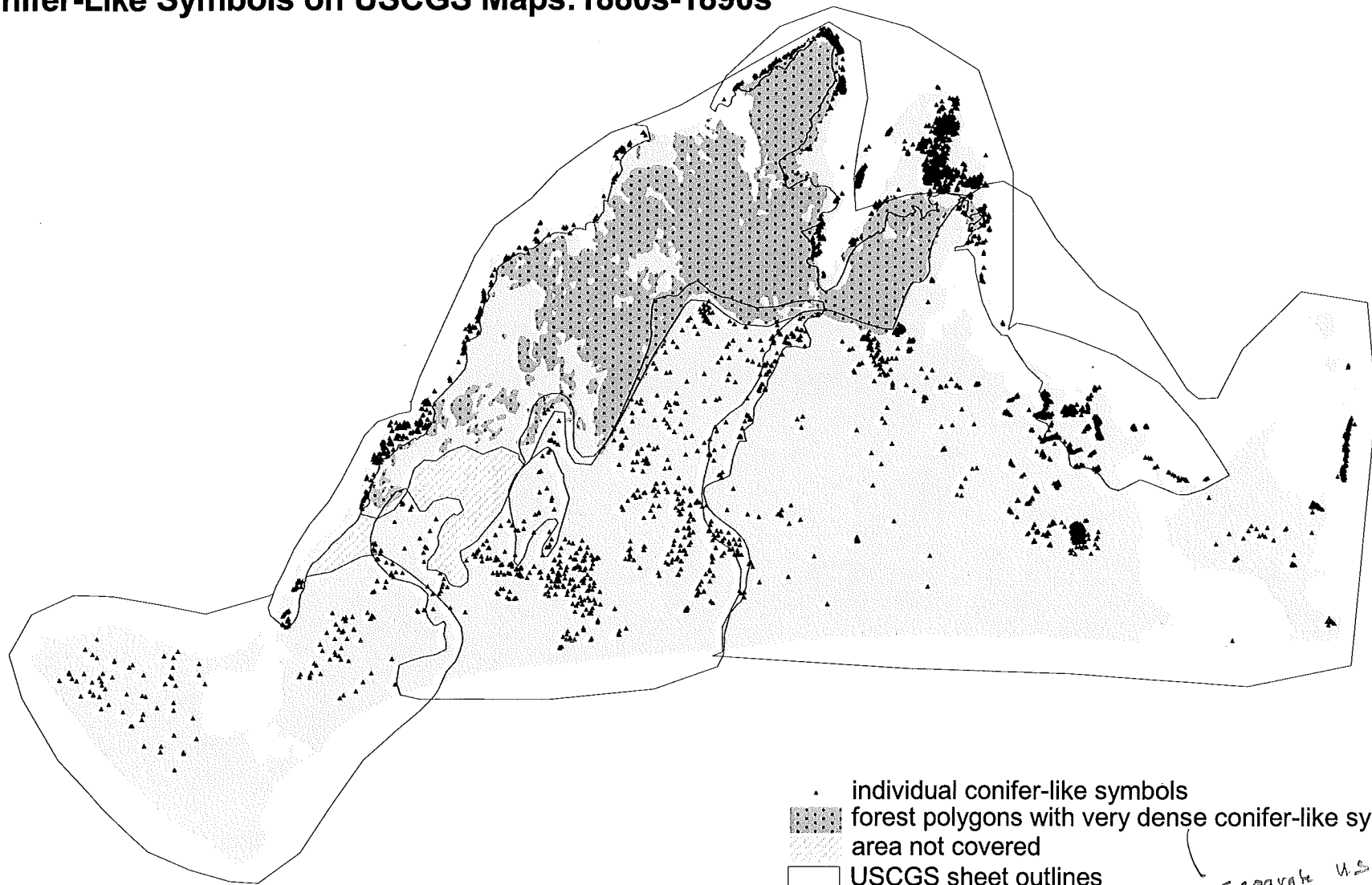


Fig. 1.—Distribution of major vegetational units on Martha's Vineyard. Boundaries determined from aerial photographs and field mapping. Core sites 1-5 indicate locations of samples shown in Figure 3.

1880s Pine on 1840s Woodland

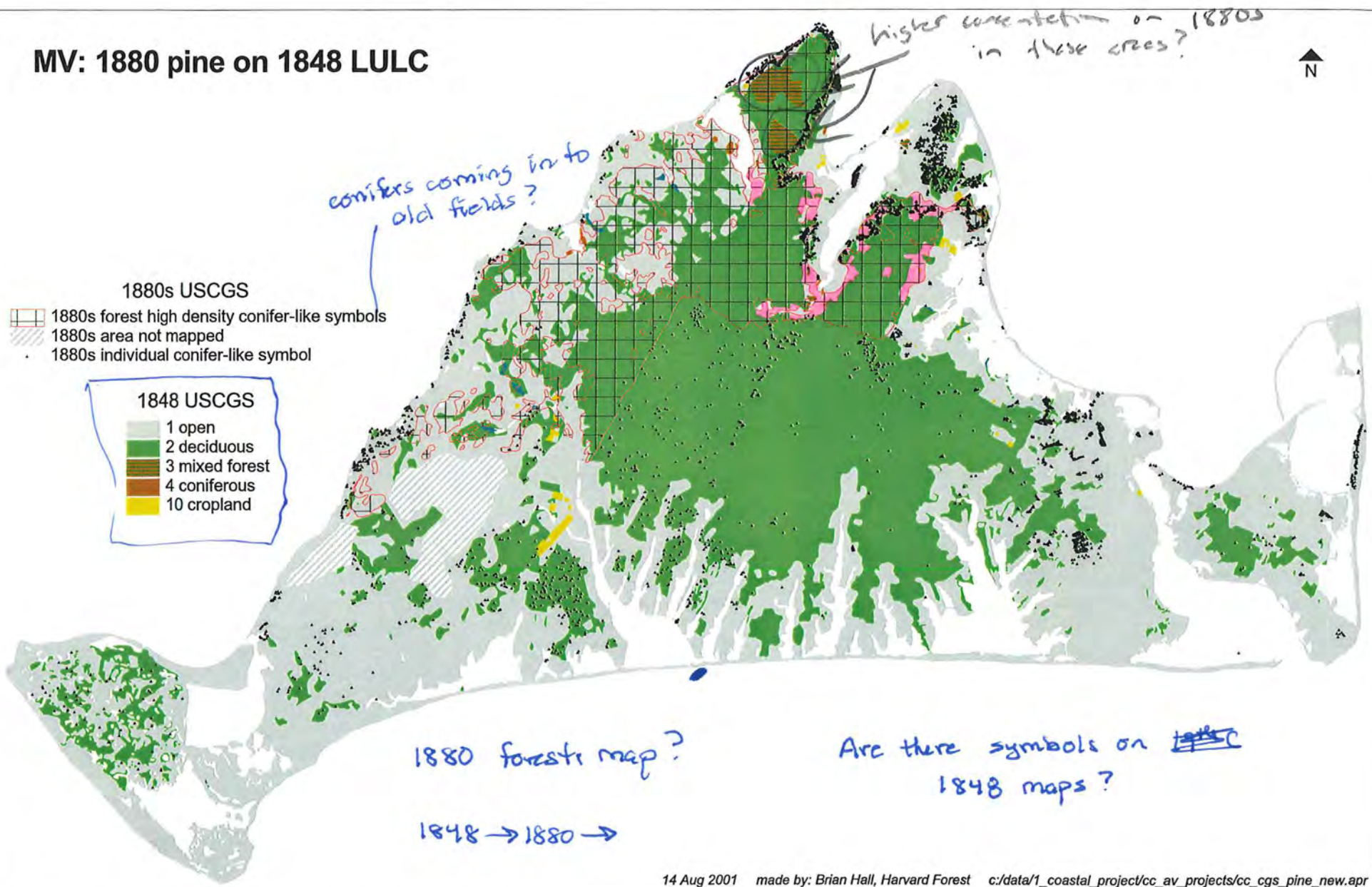


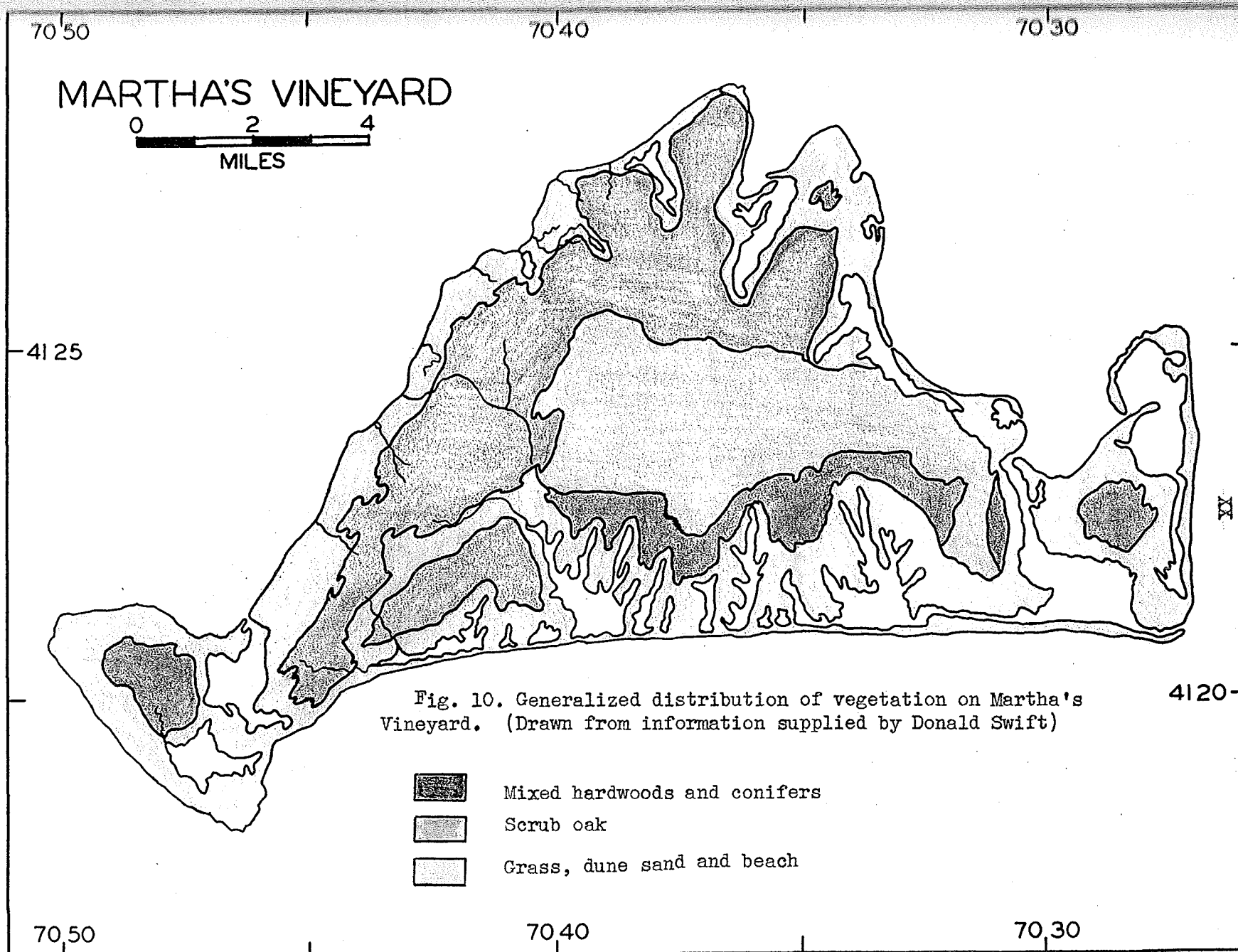
Conifer-Like Symbols on USCGS Maps: 1880s-1890s



0 5 10 Kilometers

MV: 1880 pine on 1848 LULC





Figures - History

Fencelines - 1850 and extracted patterns

Fires - 18xx-2000 Size and direction on moraine/outwash

H.L. Whiting Journal - July 1886

Great Plain - 1698, 1784 (Tisbury Woodland), 1794 Tisbury Wastland
Crevecoeur

West Tisbury Proprietors - Where did this come from?

HL Whiting 186x

1850 AW, Roads, Topo, Fencelines, Wetlands Paint mill figure - Flounder

Developed Land + Buildings

Buildings over time

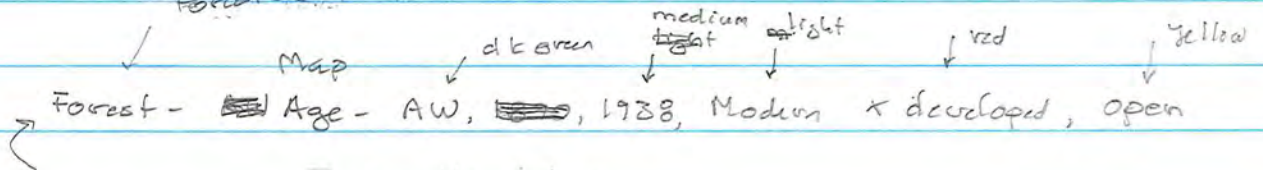
Protected Open Space

Dams, Millponds, Mills vs Hydro/Wetlands/Stream/Poorly Drained/Ponds

Forest Cover 1850, 1890s, 1938, 2005-10
40 50 70-75

Roads 1850 - Modern

Forest Cover - Through Time / Changes Single Long Part



Figs Vegetation

Scrub oak Distribution - SO, TO/SO, PP, SO, PP/Hc - 3 subtypes

Mixed forest "

Conifer Plantation

Bar graph - Woodland Acres 1850, 1890, 1938, 1971

Separate Primary + Secondary 2005

PP = PP/O, PP/Hc, PP/SH

#Acres + % Island - add # of acres in Secondary box

AW - Protection status overlay all Conservation + all

AW 1850 - when lost 1850-90, 90-38, post-38

Conservation

Landscape Blocks vs Conservation status

History

Emphasizes land use - activities that shaped the island and ways in which the variation in the island influenced human land use

Differences across the towns

Distribution, activity, settlement, development, Ag + forest cover, housing

1850 Stone wall patterns
Agriculture - rise, decline, patterns

Industry - fisheries, wharves, salt works, wind mills
- connection to resources, power

Reforestation

Development 1950 → Housing complexes thwarted
Conservation Projects never done

Timeline position

Subject: (none)

Date: Wednesday, December 31, 2014 7:16:10 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Foster, David

June 13, 1862

The Selectman of this town have granted a license to Mr. Peter West, to plant, grow, and dig oysters, in a certain part of Squash Meadow Pond, for 20 years...

...The old oyster pond was a famous place of resort, and hundreds upon hundreds of bushesl of the fines of bivalves were taken from its waters. We learn that it is again becoming stocked, and we shall hail with delight the day which once more brings our village; as of old, cart load after cart load of these fine shell-fish.

David Foster, Director 978.724.3302
Harvard Forest, Harvard University
Petersham, MA 01333

GIFT FOR THE GRANGERS



WE PAY FOR ALL!

FAITH
HOPE

CHARITY
FIDELITY



↓ bold
PCC Discussion with John W
Management

7-18-13

Intensive Traditional Pasture

- 10-15 cows full time grazing. No rest period.
- Supplemental hay in winter
- No amendments (?)
- Mow weeds ~~twice~~ twice a summer

Rotational "Mob" Grazing

- Equal sized area broken into smaller units
- 10-15 cows full time grazing but moved every few days to week across units
- What at end of summer? Graze intensively? Mow?

Hay Field

- Amend with lime and organic fertilizer
- Seed ~~stumped~~ ^{stumped} areas with grasses, possibly other areas
- Mowing regime - once a summer - after July 15/August 1;
twice a summer May/June - August
- Possibly graze at end of summer

Continue crews of guys clearing and prepping land until done
Eliminate exotic conifers

Remove large islands; stump some of these, especially the large one

Remove dead + poor trees

Need water source for pasture - movable with the mob

Remove ^{or consolidate} some of big boulders

Area with most stumps → pasture. Hay field in center?

JW - objective would be to support all of the animals for a 20-30 cow farm on the 75ac. Hay only for winter.

Biggest problem for farmer is taxes; by making land available for animals, mowing
ca \$2500 to farmer. Fencing, water, checking on and care for animals, mowing
Farmer should centralize animals' health.
Get NRS to do farm analysis, soils etc. Free service. Plus any science sampling
needed for cows & farm structures.

5-23-13

MCFSF

Notes from Historical Society 4-98

Willie's Plain

Will Lay's Plain Gazette editorial - see Gazette morgue

Peter Norton 1784 deed - Will Layes Plain, Little Pond, Great Plain
Tarkill Path

J. C. Allen Tales and Trails of MV

History

Glenn Motzkin, 02:26 PM 9/2/99 -, Felix NEck

Date: Thu, 2 Sep 1999 14:26:43 -0400 (EDT)
X-Sender: gmotzkin@pop.fas.harvard.edu (Unverified)
X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Version 1.4.4
To: drfoster@fas.harvard.edu
From: gmotzkin@fas.harvard.edu (Glenn Motzkin)
Subject: Felix NEck

David, On Tom Rawinski's message he also said that he had cored 2 of the gnarly white oaks he had told us about at Felix Neck, which are apparently due north of 'Turtle Pond'. ~ 50 cm DBH: one was 214+ years old and the other 186+. Pretty interesting. I wonder how many of the other gnarly trees we've been seeing on the coast are quite old? Glenn

typed

MV History

10-14-11

McCalliey 1981

ACK House lots ~60 sq rds ~22 ac.

Beautiful photos
New Hist Assoc.

1.5ac per sheep 1670 27 proprietors ea ^{could have} w/ 270 sheep

No textile capacity - no streams, wind fiddle - so wool shipped to mainland

1699 - Parliament forbid trade in woolw goods

1846 fire - > 400 bldgs

1859 oil - Titusville PA ^{competition}

RR connection for New Bedford + elsewhere

Peak pop'n ~10,000

ACK

Baldwin 1928

HBT 12.28(54) Capt Gardiner @ Saconset - planting pines on tracks to

300 ac - ^{couldn't get WP} Fitch + some Norway from Cape + France (P. sylvestris)

1781 - 10,000 sheep 580 cattle

1779 - Fuel famine whw harbor froze - no wood from mainland

Josiah Sturgis - 1847, 1852, 1853 - pine plantations

Sturgis + Gardiner Pine lands on current state Platts

1912 ACK Civic League decided 50 ac to start for forestation exp

1919 50 ac added WP best growth - no weevil + SP + RP

Jap Black Pine 30 yrs old most premises

ACK
Guba 1965

Tilled land - as many divisions as rights. Annually proprietors voted on
which areas to till, pasture, cattle vs sheep

Boundaries - furrow or post + stones

1801 wretched tillage ~ 1350 ac. 5% 16,000 sheep at bary + occ.

confined to small area for crop enrichment never housed

Lancaster 1979

Rev. F.C. Ewer 1869 map - Notes: 1630 - "The island covered with forest trees,
mostly oaks"

1659 "the soil rich and the island covered with oaks and other trees"

Lancaster conf

1791 - 1st ^{ACK} whaling vessel to Pacific
 1820 7266 pop'n 72 whaling ships
 1836 Great Fire 1838 Great Fire never recovered from fire
 1840 9712 pop'n 1846 Gr. Fire ↓ whaling
 1850 8779 1872 - Popular waterway spot
 ~ 1660 ~ whole island into sheep commons

NY Pub Lib

→ 1834 ^{of ACK} Wm Coffin maps 750 ac of peat swamps, the strata of peat being from 1-14 ft thick, of a good quality and much used as fuel. No wood worthy of notice"

House timbers from Exeter NH
 whale oil - chief industry - cut in half by intro of camphine, another 30% by lard oil, deathblow - kerosene

1869 - last whaler
 Had up to 5 windmills
 Cranberry pecked ~ 1900 Gibbs Swamp - world's largest bog ^{cranberry}

Donahue 1983

Concord 1635 - 1st Boston Bay Inland settlement - common pasture/open field system of England - bulk common pasture, proprietor strip w/ tilled + meadow; crop rotation, fallow
 Ave 30 cals / household / yr
 1830s improved stoves - cut woodl use by ~ 50%

2000 Herbarium/Cheraw

Edg - ditch + mound - field + property lines; woods swc
 1st divisions - home lots - Sarva between Gr Rd + Kat Bay. Plants fields to N
 Kat^{anna} - peripheral from earliest occ - part of Edg Plaine - 40 ac lots divided among proprietors 1646 - Plain Rd 1662 - map how been Indian trail

Chappy - excellent grazing 1703 - 250 graze cattle spr/fall
Des Barres 1776 - fields

1784 Crevecoeur - Kat^{anna} Sheep Pasture w/ woodland to W + Chappy

1830 Crepe

Proprietors of lots - Commonage - cut wood + graze

1653 - 8 cows 1663 - 12 graze cattle or horses or 8 sheep

"Throughout the early historic period the Plains area [of Edgartown] functioned as a broad, open area used for common pasturage, with smaller woodlots interspersed"

Dr Fisher - candleworks scion; far industry around Pennington area
Edgartown oil + candleworks - largest in world

from 1882-3 notes

Chart 1883

Wamp^{anoags} "Every year, fewer signs of Indian settlements"

1612-13 epidemic "Thereby Divine Providence made way for the quiet and peaceful settlement of the English in those nations"

Cotton 1674 MV Praying Towns

Nashamoisset (S Edg) Sengelkontakit (N Edg)

Torkiming (Takemp-Tis) Nashuakemmik (Chilmt)

Talhemo (part of Chil) Chappy

1792 440 in Dukes - 75 Chap, 276 GH, 25 Sengel, 40 Xsawtown, 24 Nash

Anon

Anon Aquinnah Cultural Trail 27 afford^{able} housing

Now 901 members 300 on MV 477 ac^{of} ancestral land

1987 Fed^{eral} Act^{of} knowledge^{ment} of tribe - after 2 petitions

1998 name changed

GH - annual decision where to plant/follow; N, S + E common pastures - Middle, S, Duff - grazings divided by walls

Amon

Hog Pasture, Middle Pasture, Felt's Pasture (best for livestock)
N Past + cranberry bogs - wiped out 1938

Waste^{osims} Rock + Middle Line - sep. Wamp^{anoo} + Meghew lal
Middle Line - From WR^v - straight to Menem Pd - now Chil^{mark} + WT
Xiantown - 1659 1 sq mi set aside for converts

Barlow 2010

Sassafras - 1574 Nicholas Monardes Sp physician book -
Joyfull News out of the Newe Founde World - medical uses of
plants esp sassafras - used by Indians

Sassafras is remedy " for them that bee lame and creppelles and
them that are not able to see" ^{creep.}

1584 → explorers to bring it back. 1603 Co to exploit
it. Jamestown annual quote of Sas as charter condition

Eisenstadt

Thos. Hart Burton house at Menemah Pd on Harry Cr.
1800s Men "creekville" narrow waterway
1905 Men Pd opening dredged + jetty, causeway
1938 rebuilt WT(?)

Old Mill Pd ← - orig factory for satinot - heavy wool
fabric from sheep for seamen pea jacket

1998

Kulsholka et al

Chitmark
Tisbury Manor 1671 NY jurisdiction Manorial demesne - all
residents subject to lord of manor - Meghew
Abel Hill - 1st meeting house

Chitmark - Washowakemuck - trail to Takimong

1704 - S Rd laid out - continued Mill path on old native trail

1726 Tenney near Pecked Hill

1700
 1696 - grist mill on New Mill R
 1694 Fully mill - on F Mill Br
 1728 Grist Mill - Roay Br.
 Before Grey's Raid 20,000 sheep Chilmark
 Wool to CT + MA 1832 - 7000

1831 - Brickyard

K Stanley 2001

Martin Pring 1603 "the Country yeeldeth Sassafras a plant of sovereigne vertue for the French poxe, and as some of late have learnedly written good against the Plague and many other Meladies..."

Breveton "We stood a while like men ravished at the beauty and delicacy of this sweet soil"

Aq + Cheppy - like separate lands wife Penner

Henry Luca - one of orig Eng homesteaders of Tibby
 1687 60ac near James Pd

Map of home lots drawn by Banks - not 100%
 E-W rd = Scotchman's Bridge Lane

1860 - Littlefield - cleared land + built wells acc to folk
 1926 Magout + Howard Butcher - 40 ac.

Crowell 1932

Lincoln Crowell Cape Cod District Forest Wardw
 Heavy oak beams in houses - tall straight trees; wide clear pine paneling - large diam in dense forest
 Salt + glass - much wood

Sandwich proprietor - June 21 1714 - vote to leave the bones of pine on common lands - sim vote in Plymouth + Edgartown

Pine tar - lubricant greasy wagon wheels

Swamp Magnolia (*M. glauca*) reported by early botanist

Better outwash soils of middle glacier - orig forest = hemlock +
hollock w/ WP - Be, YB, WD, RD (v. rare now), Chest, WR,
Pignut + lupelo

S slopes ^{of the} moraine - inferior trees - SO, BO + Be, Tup, PP

Swamps - W Cedar

Light soils - WP + Hollock PP on exposed silt

But if much burning - more PP

"It was a common occurrence at the annual town meetings during
the middle of the 18th C to appoint citizens to fire the woods."

Freeman "On April 21, 1754, forty-two men were appointed
by the Town of Sudwich to fire the woods before
April 16th"

Outwash - excellent as land except where too far from water
too deep for wells. So.

Some areas used cisterns - village of Forestdale

Trees today - sprouts + fir resistant w/o fire - WP, Be, Hick

Need to address issue of glaucous trees in heavy brush

"There are 260,000 acres of land in Barnstable County, probably
160,000 acres will never have a greater value than of forest land.
Wealth originates from land through the application of labor. To be
truly prosperous we cannot allow land to lie idle... for "idle land
means idle men."

Intensely private plantations exist on Cape

"On the whole today from a foresters point of view our woodland is nothing but a patch of weeds."

Banks 1911

Heath hen - imported, Laws to protect it - 1824

Will Lays Plain = Willie's Plain = In draw of Eds. ^{artown} Supposedly son of Nicholas Morton (Apocryphal) 1716 ref ^{to} Will Lays Rd

1684 divided Eds Woodland - presumably East Pine + W Pine

1743 Pennywax Swamp

Pennywax path "It leads by the north side of the Dark woods to and by the south side of the west woods, on the West Tibby Road"

Tarklin Path - take tar from Pennywax region

1738 Deeds VI, 364

1850 - Dr F^{isher} 118,000 pds candles 13,200 barrels oil

Norton 1923

N-S rd thru state forest - Waldron's Farm Rd to Duane Pt

Dr F from Sharon MA 1800 ^{came to} ^{inward in} ^{at} ^{new} ⁱⁿ VT 1824; introduced candlemaking largest candle factory in U.S. > \$250k annually

Founder MV National Bank; Friend of John Hays Forbes

Built grist mill near Middle town

Hine 1908

Fights ^{between the} farmers + fishermen on pond drains

Little Pt - never dries - low when wet, high when dry

Hurston 1769 All land on DB side = Farm Neck - Nortons, Butlers, Luc, Smith
 Dr F^{isher} part owner at one time or other of most of Eds wholy
 ship Hardtack factory in Eds, Carrut mill
 N^{orth} Tisbury
 Cattle - sold on ACK + wholy ships

Glenn email Sep 2 1999 Tom Rawinski
 Cored 2 gnarly oaks @ Felix Neck due N of Turtle Pd
 ~ 50 cm one - 214+ yrs old; other 186+ yrs

J.C. Allen Tales + Trails of MV MV Hist Soc.

Peter Norton Deed 1784 - Will Lages Plain, Little Pd, Great
 Plain, Tarleill Path

Tom Dunlop - Gazette articles 1940s on MV LV
 history

Swift + Cleveland 1903 Tisbury Records 1669-1864 oldest orig volumes on MV
 MV people - mostly from Plymouth + ~~South~~ Mass Bay Co.

Tisbury 1st BK Nov 19 1665 - 1st record conveys mill + privileges
 on Trasquin or New Mill R from Benj^{amin} Church to Jos^{eph} Merry
 Church~~Merry~~ - mill writ of town of Duxbury in New Plymouth Co.
 to Jos^{eph} Merry - one mill on ^{westernmost} Wamsut brook in Takemyn

Jan 31, 1671 "ye deep woody valley in cartway going to town of T^{Tisbury}"

Dec 4 1685 - fence 4'3" - any ditches or fences built be cast
 up banes (spoils) shall have hedges or pales so equiv^{alant} to 4'3"

Demeritt 1991

VT 1820-50

late 1830s-40s - shorter growing season; cooler summers; weather more unpredictable - corn hurt by frost; potatoes, oats, wheat good w/ cool weather - good dairy, ^{cheese} meat, produce

1823 Champlain Canal - Valley linked to NYC w/ ind to come Movement into N VT

Clearing forests + settling land "imprint of world's first civilizations on a vast wilderness"

Most rural farmers - mix of animal husbandry - chickens, sheep, cattle, cows, swine + peas horses w/ hay, pasture + arable production - small grains - wheat, rye, oats, + corn, potatoes + carrots, buckwheat, turnips, peas, flax, beans + such + fruit - apples + plums

Diverse + flexible rotation

Little Ice Age

Great climate fluctuations LIA 17th-19thC - cooler, ↑ variability + more freq ^{west} displacement of circumpolar vortex 1°C difference

Warms assured due to clearing

More specialized ^{agriculture} as economies tougher - climate + market forces

English grains - wheat + rye ^{planted} among stumps

Transport - took out produce but brought it in; stopped wheat, started buying flour

Corn - more important ^{east} in SNE ↑ in N as climate warmed Potatoes

Hay - need for up to 6 mos.

1,68 m sheep in VT - 1839

By 1860 much less diversity

Wasque - Cape Poge

Capece 2001

Photo - sheep grazing ^{on} Wasque after fire

Substantial portion of MV open at Eur^{opean} arrival. Eur followed Ind^{ian} practices

Modern plant + animal comm^{unities} - due to this history 1653 - sheep onto Chappy

1660s Edg - passed measures to limit trees cut + # livestock on Chappy

Grazing - seasonal via Swimming Place - shallow + short - fall into April pastures regrow in summer w/ wool cut

Wasque - 1st documented purchase 1727 from sachem Jacob Seckmoul by

Simon Butler son of Capt John Butler - 1st whitey capt on MV. Fish family by marriage

Pocha Pd + 210 ac + 300 ac. salt + brackish marsh - large + least disturbed salt marshes on MV

1845 Pocha Pd Meadow + Fishing Co. - granted ^{rights} to construct dike on inlet to P Pd

Early 1900s - dike Pocha Pd + Cape Poge Bay - spring spawning for herring barreled to NYC; conflict hunters, farmers, landowners

Subdivision; mid 1900s most of Cape Poge to TDR, Massive fundraising - 1967-71 Bariff writes consolidated by Mrs Seth Waterman TDR bought Wasque Wasque Pt Trust

Coastal heathland + grassland - remain open naturally as tolerant to salt spray which kills most other plants

1703 - first mention of ferry - Isaac Chase - MV to Falmouth

1723 - Great Gale 1723 attached ^{Cape Poge to} remainder of Chappy + closed E end Pocha Pd

1767-1827 peak whaling

1834 Tisdale Smith consolidated land on Wasque - used for sheep pasture

1854 - last documented washing + sheery in Shear Pen Pd

1892 Chappy fire likely incl. Wasque Cape Poge divided into summer communit^y - County Club fails 1907 depression

1909 Wasque to State St Trust Co almost developed - Chapp-by-the-Sea thru 1930s - Wasque sheep pasture

1775 - DeBarnes
1795
1830 Crapo

1858 - Walling

11

1674 - 60 Wamp families 1790 75 total

Chappy - Indian Town Info 1830s of West C Woodlands owned by
Wamps Ind Muffy house N Neck

1680 - limits 400 br cattle, 200 sheep, 1 horse on commons

Cape Poge - from Capowale - mistakenly applied to all MV

Also Natuck before attached to Chappy by East Beach = Cape Poge B

Deed Oct 28, 1742 - Benj. Pease + Benj. Netick (Wamp) - describe
closing of Pochie Rd by Gele 1723 - recall Cape Poge separate

1764 - 1st structure Cape Poge "pest house" quarantine small pox
many gravestones → 1960s

1720s Cape Poge leased in spring - Shear Pen Rd for shearing

WWII 40 men on Chappy - 20 of lighthouse; beach for amphib ^{assault}

1826 last sig on Cape Poge - 140 ac. plowed + planked corn - Gr + L Necks

All of Wasque under cultivation - hay etc. - from real estate
ad.

Fall ~ Oct 5 livestock to Chappy 1703 - 250 cows, oxen, horses

pastured on uplands + saltmarsh. April ~ 25 - into Shear Pen
washed + sheared

Brands used

1665 - Law against Mass sheep export 1660 - Export of sheep + wool prohibited

1699 - No export among colonies or countries

1704 - chief sheep areas NE -
MV, B, Mass Bay, ACK

1778 - 10,574 sheep 315 cattle

Ecls - 3719 + 112, 5

also 52 tons hay, 23 whhbois

1782 - 20,000 sheep 2000 cattle

carding mill Chilmart - 5000 lbs annual

1840s - tariff restricted wool imports - 1846 removed ↓ sheep

1880 - 9225 1890 - 12000

Taken by
Eng?

1802 - Cape Post lighthouse

1854-55 > 20,000 ships passed

Wasque Neck - sep by surge-line - NW corner Pocho Pd SW to Kot Bay
 Henry Buttr b. 1672 - bought up land on Washque Neck, 1742 - S part
 Cape Post Beach

Pocha Pond - Wassagechtaak - from Poksha-muk "where there is
 a breaking in" - from CP Bay

PP may have been connected to Kotome Bay w/ CP sep from Chopp
 became until 1722 PP open to Atlantic near Wasque Pt
 used as harbor. closed + less saline - had cranberries
 at W end 1800s

Chap 185 Acts of Mass. Leg 1845 - Inc. Pocho Pd Neckout Fish Co
 empowered to close outlet by dike at Tom's Neck Rd
 dike to travel over - free for public

Dike - flumes allowed water to escape at low tide, but kept
 saltwater out at high. Flooded w/ fresh at winter.

Dike opened for herring ^{+ shad} in spring

Dike - massive decline shellfish - fight w/ land owners + salt marsh

To enhance shellfish - narrow spit formed by stone jetties at Cape
 Post - Spit between CP Bay + Ocean - silted channel + abandoned

1949 - state approved opening dike + inlet - huge ↑ scallops
 yrs after - worthless

1892 CPT adli beach surveyed for subdivision - hotel + wharf

1913 Wasque - 775 housing units Ch-by-th - In - grid streets
 parks, clubhouses, clocks few lots sold

1959 CP donated to TOR

Dec 1967 Washva Pt Trust formed to purchase Washva in 5 units + sell to TOR

Jan 1968 TOR bought 1st 1971 - all 5

Bridge - deteriorated 1970s, closed to vehicles 1981 + pedestrians in 1988. Since summer 1995 - open to public.

Peters 1977

Salt hay - wild marsh hay, blackgrass, bluegrass, three-square

Necks had Thatch lots - where salt hay collected for roofing

House lot, lots near ponds, thatch lot, access to common lands

Necks probably fenced off

Pond People - name for those along ponds

Polygonal - at or on the cleared land - 1 large neck encompassing
 3 smaller ones - Paqua, Isaac's

1792 diary - Wm Butler from Farm Neck Dukes Co. Intelligence 1966
from Huxtable 1967 1967

interesting daily work descriptions - tanning, farming

1807 - 15,600 sheep - half of wool exported - CT, rest local production

1790 - Fullis mill pressed > 4000 yds cloth 3700 in 1806

Smith owned > 400 ac. Polygonal

Net stretched across Oyster Pt + dressed with houses the length

Shaker 1874

hole = deep-cut indentation or passage between 2 masses of land

Oaks in oak bluffs - 10' high

Pass "at once into the forest which covers the great level region of the W half of the island"

Extent + unbroken character of the forest amazing - up to 10 mi w/o habitation
 maze of old paths

The whole has the charm which comes from the limitless
 a wash in the eyes of people living E of it
 cool - overarched lanes or open new-felled woods

Central Veth - N + W Tis

Ag in decay - no newly won forests - every side one sees the gains
 of the woods on the fields. Many deserted houses
 Vast fields near ponds - once cleared + cult - now forest fully
 Great potential in soil

T^o - ave 2^o above Boston; cool summer; winter 10^o above Mesa B₂
 Cape Cod catches arctic winds

Remnants of tribe - Ind blood almost washed away by mix of negro +
 white kink hair mutants

Merame hills - boulders of puddingstone, syenite from near Wash
 Indescribable loneliness

Alt - remnants of cliffs set back four miles - no water

Raleigh 2000

Long Pt Secougit

Nests
 Described as plain, meadow, field, cornfield + woodlands

Scrubb nests - Wachepump gush = plowing field

Tississa - Kupprave = heavily wooded - so mixed

Whelks hunted from boats (sic) + taught whites

Nere wdr complete Eng control by ~1700

1803 LA Purchase 1825 Erie Canal Lowell 1820-50

Mid 19thc 329 wholy ships - New Bedford

Whelks up to 50% fat

Dr Fisher - purchased 600 ac in Tisbury + built or purchased
dams along Mill Brook, contracted w/ farmers to grow whelk
+ built a road connect his mills to Etown

Swamp at head of Long Cove - crawling land w/ 2 bridges + dikes to
control water flow

Farmers continued to burn fields

Long Pt - stackyard in center of field for winter hay - pastures +
hayfields - Long Pt less heavily grazed than other areas
open except 3 woodlots

Hunt Clubs of Great Ponds - wealthy industrialists

Oyster Co set up shuckling checks on TGP

TGP opened since 1700s - not clear if Indians did

Watcha Club - 1st hunt club - 1903 - S Scrubby Neck + area
between Watcha + Oyster Pds Clubhouse W of WPd

TPd Club - Long Pt 1912 - bought most of Sequoyit. 470 ac + the Long Pt
Clubhouse - near Middle Cove Pd

By 1913 - entire area TGP to Oyster Pd - in 2 clubs

Live decoys 1913 - Weeks-McLean Act outlawed market hunt

1912-1919 105 - 1861 birds - 334 shooting days

caretakers maintained club house, blinds + flgers (docks)

When E-WT road paved - quick route was grassy Deep Bottom -
drove + created road

Wild rice planted to ↑ food

Ditch built to connect TGP + LCP to regulate water for ducks
feeding on pondweeds in TGP

TGP opened since 1715 - Mrs Johnson D White rented horses + drive
for \$1.85 to open pond

By 1900s - legally mandated "An Act to Provide for the Drainage of
the Lowlands and Meadows around certain Great Ponds in the County
of Dukes County" - maintain meadows + allow eudromus
+ catadromous fish

Later interest - prevented flood allars, maintain systems

"Sewers" elected to oversee opening

Master Nail - TGP high water mark when nail reached - spillway
at Muddy Cove. Once reached, pond opened + would drop 4'

Mal Jones - if open at 36" great risk will fail - he has a nail at 42'

Pool closes naturally + GW rises, Behind opens sand bar develops
so next opens to E where water is deeper. Thus to W
~ 80 yr cycle - related to Nward beach mound. After 80 yrs -
sand bars overwashed by barrier beach

Open naturally in pre-sett NA - unclear?

1930s white perch stocked - so debris - leases terminated

1950 V Shellfish Co + Quansoo Shellfish Co - leases from C+T to
harvest oysters. Dredged for oysters, hydraulic pump for dams
rapid overharvest

1941 Jos. Walker kept sheep on N Scrubby Neck for Walker Co
Wool.

4 fires on Log Pt 1900 - S Neck 1929 - 2 Waldron's Bottom
+ one Watche 300 ac. 1946 - most N of Watche Path
into Gr Plain

1938 blew down orchards E Pt

Grazing + fire ↓ woodlots → forests

Coarse sands like S LPt - open longer than richer, fine sands
Bottoms - coarse + forest - refugia for spp that existed
w/ people for 100s to 1000s of yrs

Watche Club → Richard Vuker → sold 327 ac to Scrubby Neck
TPC terminated - Carl Gilbert, Wm Rogers, Fred. Blodgett
retained 1/3

Dec 27 1968 - CG, WR, FB donated to TDR 1/30 for 10 yrs

1975 WT looking for S beach access - agreement TDR, WT +
JPC road thru Pasquonahampton's Neck - beach party
12 blocks retained

LP Wildlife Refuge - one of greatest conc. rare spp in state

TGP

1982-93 Pond closed + reopened to oyster harvest

LPWR gradually fragmented from St Forest

1776 - map ditch from LP swamp to Deep Bottom Pd

1850 - Fences across to Thanks Cove + off Nat Homers Pd

Photo
TP Clubhouse
1912

Elk - Naushon harbor islands wooded until 1928 here the
logged for salvage Coffer here evidence on Cape + Is - scarp

Unsettled - grazed by goats into 1940

Goat 1000 sheep 1900; 300 1930s; deer ~500 when coyotes
arrived - now ~45 1 fire at Light House Pt

Hawthorne visited in 1850 MV w/ Dr Fisher - shoot plover

Nathaniel Shaler of MV

NS description 1874 - PD interprets as recovery as trees taller than
earlier descriptions

NS - Plans on good for growing lumber - presumed doomed
forestry expts

Swan Neck Club

Pimpney mouse - Edo - before 1928 clear view of Cape Posse +
Pocho Rd

Freeman 1907 - ~~mid~~ 1800s - Chapp 50 ac w + 50 10-15' + 300 ac ^{Scrub}

Edo - Sampson's Hill - always small stand of trees + Sarcocolla

15000 sheep 1:400 #

From MHS 1815 Grazing intensity

What land area
was used for
calculations
?

MV 15000	0.25	Naushon 2600	0.47	Nash 1000	.64
Posse 500		Cully 600	1.16	Pen 150	1.51
No Man's 600	0.92				

Dr Albert Koch - Ger. Geologist VH → GH

travelled via Stonewell Beach as Harriett's Cr Bridge - 1847

Lagoon Pd Br - 1871

Dunwiddie 1994

Short-eared owls + grass sparrow - once common - former no
long nest, few ss present

Intro sp - mink, deer, squirrel, cottontail, skunk, raccoon

Pre-1871 forces no longer operate; total potential area for SP Grasses/
is much less - remaining sites - small + fragmented

Fire history

Freeman 1807

Holmes Hole harbor 20-30 vessels there 1000-1200 / yr

Lagoon connected by 4 rod wide opening 5' deep - Wickataquey Pd

Old Town Harbor - between MV + Ch Island; One of best harbors in the
US. In winter discharge cargo here + run to ACK

Matakeeset Bay - opening to sea - 50 rods x 4' deep Washqua Outlet
blocked in 1792 for 6 mos until NEast storm

Never shut before or since

Beach 50-60 rods wide

1st 3 ponds connect to Matakeeset Bay by canal - Great Pd = 3rd

Oyster Pd #6 - canal opened 2-3 times / yr - filled by SE storms

Newtown Pd - Tibburg - naturally open to sea (TGP?)

Chil Gr Pd - 2 parts connected by artificial creek

Cliffs to W - lost 1/2 mi in 80 yrs (stonewall? Squibnocket?)

Stone Well Pd - connected to Men Pd

Squibnocket Pd - separated by v. narrow beach - communicates w/ Menem
Pd by recent Indraw canal

Wawaytick Creek runs from Men Pd shallow

Middle Ground - breaks some of force of W winds

Konrsky Cliff - clay

Tashmo separated by beach - empties by Chappaquonset stream

Pd on Chilmark - Tis low 70' asl 1 acre - no bottom

Little Pd never dries

Brooks - Ø - Eds; few in Chilmark; largest in Tis

Peat used as wood became scarce

Soil good or bad as depart hills Edg - dry, sandy - good for corn

More than 1/2 T+E covered with shrub + bitter oak + of little value
not enclosed

GH - best soil on Is

Chilmark - more grass; Upland mow 1800/ac; salt mar 1 ton/ac
black grass 1 1/2 ton

Description of
each ha

Along brooks into Newtown Pd - 70-80 ac fresh meadow 1 1/2 ton/ac

V little wood left in E+C T is 2/3 of that on island

#4-S/col from Buzz Bay, Weymouth, Com't

All houses w/in 1-2 mi of coast - interior will remain uninhab

Skunk, muskrat, mink, mice, mole, rabbit, others - no deer, fox, squirrel

Eel v. abundant

Canal refreshed many times in summer - Newtown Pd - improves
Oysters

Horses + cows - 400 New cattle 2800 Pigs 800 cattle - 600 killed each year

15000 sheep - run at loss many perish ea winter

1 windmill Chippy, 4 Eds, 3 watermill Tis + 5 in Ch

3 self work E 5 in T

Ch - not as worn out as E 50 ac wood w/ 30 10-15' 300 ac 50

— Over —

Navshon - 120 cattle, 1600 sheep, 700 lamb, 20 horses
1000 ac at W end in 3 farms w/ 300 sheep, 400 cattle
300-400 dev

No Man's - no trees; peat

Ind @ Glt - 26 framed houses 7 wigwam

RV 406 Fellows Family Collection 1797-1856 David 1778-1856

Guardian of Indians

Had indentured Almira Coleman (alias Quarry) 1825

Folder 9 Guardian of Indians + People of Color 1828-32

16 " " " 1835

18 Dukes County Mining Co. - formed for Gold Rush

19 Land Maps

RV 239 Gold Rush + Vineyard

HBH

106-7 Open Land Fdn

Folder 84 Mills of Dr David Fisher 121 Prospect Hill

38 Gay Head 124 Rams Hill

59 Indian Hill 130 Scrubby Neck

63 Katama 133 Seven Guts

74 Maps 140 Squib-Hornbl.

113 Peaked Hill 142 Tashmoo

157 Wasque

158 West Chop

159 WT

RV 233 NV Ag Society Records / greatgranddaughter Prudence Noss - donated

Virginia Whiting Newhall - daughter HLW

some of material

March 26 1858

HLW was Secretary when started

Box 1 Corr + Report from 1883 on MVAS

Box 6 Statements of Crops

5 "

12-28-11

1848 vs Continuous Woodland

Stonewalls, houses, roads

Soils

Areas of PP

Overlay for photo

CW vs

Examine discrepancies

- SO 2010
- TNC forest types
- Big forest blocks
- High priority types + spp.
- Proximity - roads, coast, pop'n centers

1830 vs 1848 - e.g. Chappy

down to Pocho Marsh

CW = Modern Forest + SO that has been in W or SO 1848 →

Blocks of CW Conserve - large CW w/ less perforation

Blocks of modern woodland - F + SO

Pines - 1890 where are they relative to LU?

Modern " " " " " "

1861 map

7-2-13

Pos	1841 Census	CC	MV	C	E	T	ACK
	Tillage	7324	1057	272	433	352	450
	Eng upl hay	2817	1095	696	233	166	796
	Salt marsh mown	9014	384	197	160	27	125
	Fresh Meadow mown	1209	324	59	150	115	
	Σ Dryland Aceded For	146,223	45,479	18,724	12,838	13,718	12,823
	Pasture	31,382	22,920	12,820	5,871	4,169	35
	Unimprov	45,042	8,488	1,789	3,041	3,658	5000
	Σ P+U	88,118	32,694	14,693	8,912	9,089	10,405

→ Tally 1841, 1851, 1860 to get averages

Unimproved - combination woodland + rough pasture?
big area where question exists

Pasture >> all other uses - helps to explain rapid recovery of forest - may be improved but still had many native plants as not so intensively managed or used

Examine % pasture vs forest pattern

Pasture: tillage + hay expect C >> E w/ former land better for sheep latter for crop

MV Book History

8-29-12

Basic exploration

History, of all- plants, animals, land + people

- History, Natural History + People → Modern + Future
- How to read a landscape
- What makes sense of place
- How geomorphology (stage) organizes + interacts w/ people
- Inertia / Legacies
- Pseudo-history - use fieldwork; see variation; recognize what did happen; what endured; see anew; look at primary documents; see new sources of info.

Conservation: Future

- Traditional / New farming
- Fire
- Pests / Pathogens / Disease
- Trees in our woods - disappearing shapes, disappearing
- ... spp, new species
- Lessons from history - lack of stable past, no stable future; but past had long periods of quiet
- Unique ^{landscape} features - Central Plain, Fields
- Landscape-scale needs - for process, for spp for people

Please type + email

1861 map details

1861 MV Map Details

2-22-10

v 7-2-13

Vast central wooded plain - flat and depopulated uninhabited extending in bulge to south between TGP and EGP and then north up the two chops - West Chop the entire length to the tip and East Chop more discontinuously

West Chop

Swaths extending outward - up toward the west side of Lake Tashmo - Chappaquonset Pond. Continuous woodland past Holmes Hole and pond. Big Pasture on E side Tashmo
Small fields up the E side of W Chop. Old road = Old Lighthouse Rd - goes to HH Light + tip of W Chop
Otherwise broad forest expanse with no roads

Path N-S through West Chop Woods

~~Old~~ Old Road out to Mink Meadows - W of W Chop along E side of Tashmo

Nice section of the ancient way

Now - Main forest is W Chop Woods + small parcel between Mink Meadows GC and Franklin Street

Rest fragmented by MMGC, powerline, roads, houses

S of HH

Continuous forest in Wedge-Triangle between WT Road + Edg Rd to Stone Hill Path - No fields

Fields + small woodlots between E Rd and Lagoon Pd

Head of Lagoon Pd

Crop fields in lowland on both sides of head. Extending out Duarte Pond, which doesn't show.
Little Pd Road goes from Duarte Pd to Little Pd

7-3-12

Fences

Create polygons of different areas according to patterns

Aguionah - Unique; small, rather haphazard, combination of enclosed and open; great assortment - lines; many small, some intertwined and connected
 two large polygons - central rectangle; larger to Menemsha Pond; large open to Squib Pd; smaller open to SW Coast and GH Cliffs

Similar to hydrography as spreading to coast

Also confined to WNW to ESE axis - none to N shore - broad beach and wetland and dunes/Moshup Trail/S exposed coast

Chilmark - Rural Agrarian - Small to very large closed to open interconnected fences. Many small enclosed concentrated with separated by large polygons. Independent of political boundary - cross C/I^W boundary and similar in C, WT, E, Chappy; Independent of fence type and geomorphology as similar in C/WT and E/Chappy.
 Within region - broad orientation

CH - WNW - ESE Katama - NW - SE NWT - NW - SE

NC - NW - SE SC - Morri mix NW - SE

~~SE Pd~~ - Agrarian - Fairly dense, open to closed, small rectangular

outskirts of town, coastal, cultivated field

Multiple orientations - overall and within

Squib - dense and variable, flowing from NW to E; Chilmark Pd - mixed orient on

Pd; Indian Hill; Merry Farm?; Head of Lagoon, E Chop; ~~Chap~~ E Catter - S

King Pt

Village Catter - WT - small, open, reflect Proprietors, axis NS, EW, NE-SW of roads

VH - Coastal + Harbor; no ag use; E - doesn't wrap around harbor; what area free
Orient to water and SW-NE

Other
 • Neck fences
 Wague, N Neck, SE
 Katama, E side ESP
 (multiple fences) E Chop;
 Felix Neck, S Shore - Jobs
 Neck, Pagan Pond, Long
 Point, much of Tibbony
 Great Pond, Black
 Point Pond, Black
 • Coastal division
 down to coast to
 break into a series
 of fields - stone wall
 beach to head of
 Chilmark Pd, much
 of NW shore from
 Menemsha; Katama
 Bay both sides;
 Harbor side of East
 Chop
 • Almost no fences
 along roads. Why not?
 Not indicated? Not
 present, but roads
 of the properties
 boundaries.

Roads

7-02-12

1850 I. Major through roads

- ① E to WT - Cross plain. With a few connectors to S Shore - not many down necks, only to head of coves where houses + cult fields were.
 Exceptions Quansoo, ^{Oyster Watcher, SW+SE} Jobs Neck, Katama SW ~~SE~~,
 Longest shot - Dyke to Lambert's Cove

II Major arteries - Katama; Herring Creek + SE; E Chop; Eastville, Vlt; Pohogoot; New Lane/Scrubby Neck; Quansoo

- ② Daniel Fisher Road - Why separate road? Not direct. Arcuate. Not even direct to the ponds + mills. E-WT shouldn't have lots of gates? Freight road, not multiple use?

③ E to Head of Lagoon

④ WT to Holmes Hole Rd

III Short spurs to points - Menemsha both sides, Cape Higgon, Mink Meadow, Rhoda Pdl, Trapp Pdl, Sangekontadot Pdl.

IV ~~Other~~ Patterns

1. Chilmark - WT. From Pricesters Pond Corner to Chilmark modern Center
 Network of large, open polygons that include roads that no longer exist
 (road from Ag Society across Woods to North Road; Road from Ag Soc. Square NW corner ~~to~~ to Middle Road; Kings Highway), and polygons that aren't closed.

2. Aquinnah - Network of small largely closed polygons.
 All interior

3. Chappy - Main road to cove, Cross Road, Little Field Rd

Fences DRF notes from 1850 map – July 2012

Create polygons of different areas according to patterns.

Aquinnah – unique; small, rather haphazard combination of enclosed and open; great assortment – lines; many small, some intertwined and connected two or three large polygons – central rectangle; large open to Menemsha Pond; large open to Squib Pond; smaller open to southwest coast and Gay Head Cliffs. Similar to hydrography as spreading to the coast. Also confined to west-northwest to east-southeast axis – none to the north shore – broad beach and wetland and dunes/Moshup Trail/south exposed coast.

Chilmark – Rural, pastoral, agrarian – small to very large closed to open interconnected fences. Many small enclosed concentrated separated by larger polygons. Independent of political boundary – cross Chilmark/West Tisbury boundary and similar in C, WT, E. Chappy; independent of fence type and geomorphology as similar in C/WT and E/Chappy. Within region – broad orientation.

Chappaquiddick – WNW-ESE, Katama – NW-SE, NWT – NW-SE, NC – NW-SE, SC-more mix NW-SE.

Agrarian – fairly dense, open to closed, small rectangular outskirts of town, coastal cultivated fields. Multiple orientations – overall and within. Squib – dense and variable, flowing from northwest to east; Chilmark Pond – mixed orientation on pond; Indian Hill; Merry Farm ?; Head of Lagoon, East Chop; East Center - S; King point.

Village Center – West Tisbury – small, open, reflect proprietors, axis north-south, east-west, northeast-southwest of roads.

Vineyard Haven – coastal and harbor; no agriculture use; E oriented to water and SW-NE doesn't wrap around the harbor; wharf area free.

Other

Neck fences – Wasque, North Neck, SE Katama, east side, Edgartown Great Pond (multiple fences) East Chop, Felix Neck, South Shore-Jobs Neck, Paqua Pond, Long Point, much of Tisbury Great Pond, Black Point Pond.

Coastal division fences – straight down to the coast to break into a series of fields – stonewall beach to head of Chilmark Pond; much of northwest shore from Menemsha; Katama Bay both sides; Harbor side of East Chop.

Almost no fences along roads. Why not? Not indicated? Not present, but roads offer properties boundaries.

Fences

Fences - wood rail; stumps, stone, hedges, ditch + rail

IH-A6 Chappj Indraws - ¹⁸⁴⁹ without wood fuel or fencing: purchase - so
pasture cattle w/ tethering rop

Fence - importance peacekeepers; neighbors, races

IH-A8

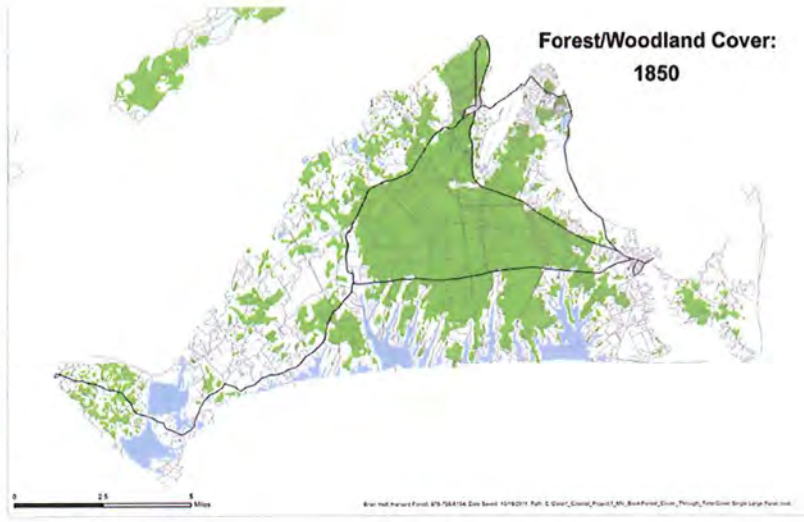
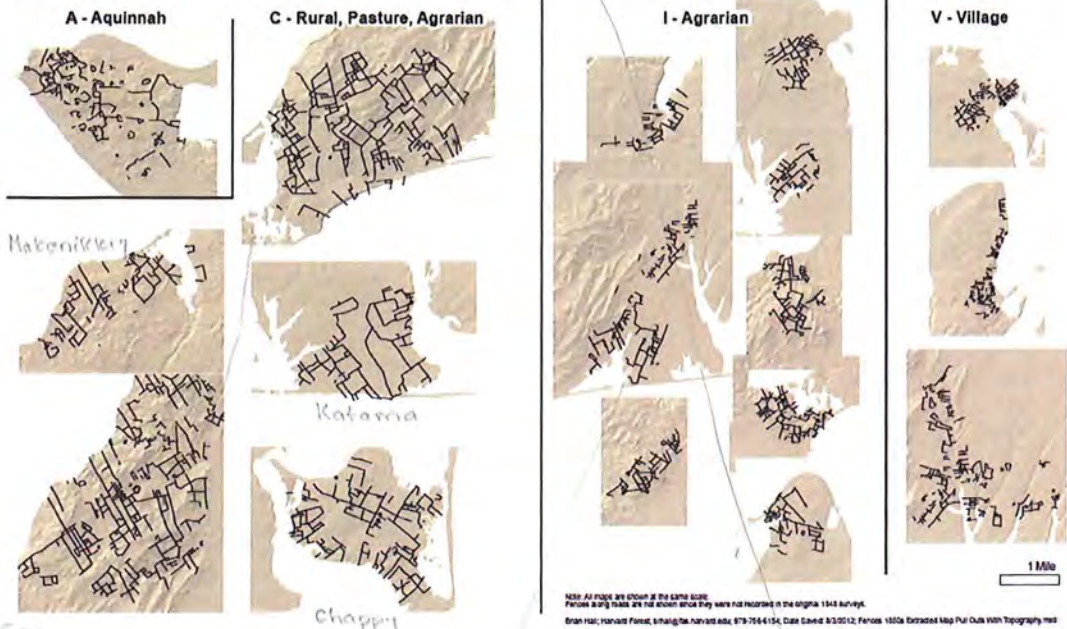
WT 1689 - all fences 4 ft 3"; ditches or fences built by casting
uppanes/spoils - 4'3" 2 new judges + savoirs of law
Fence viewer 1773, 1863

IH-A9

Freeman enclosure description - fences rails + stones

Fence Pattern Types - 1850

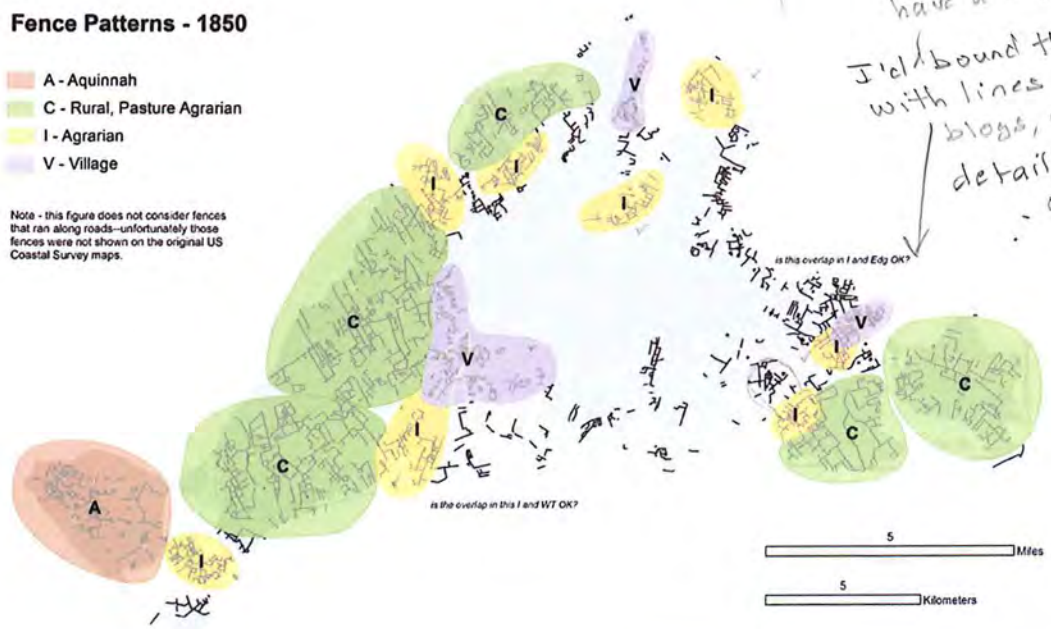
combine



Fence Patterns - 1850

- A - Aquinnah
- C - Rural, Pasture Agrarian
- I - Agrarian
- V - Village

Note - this figure does not consider fences that ran along roads—unfortunately those fences were not shown on the original US Coastal Survey maps.

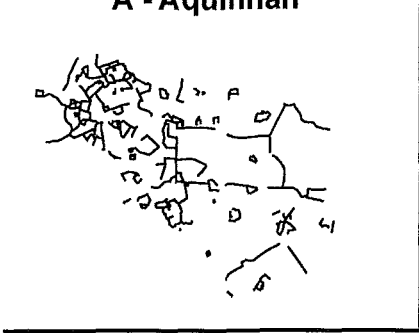


have a larger map, would I'd bound these with lines not blobs, and a thumbnail of forest in corner of map



Fence Pattern Types - 1850

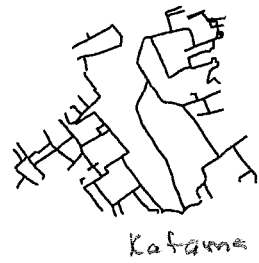
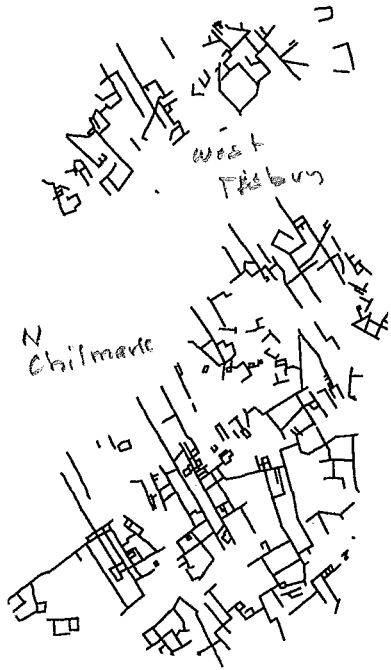
A - Aquinnah



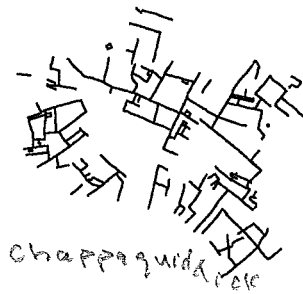
C - Rural, Pasture, Agrarian



Southern Chilmark

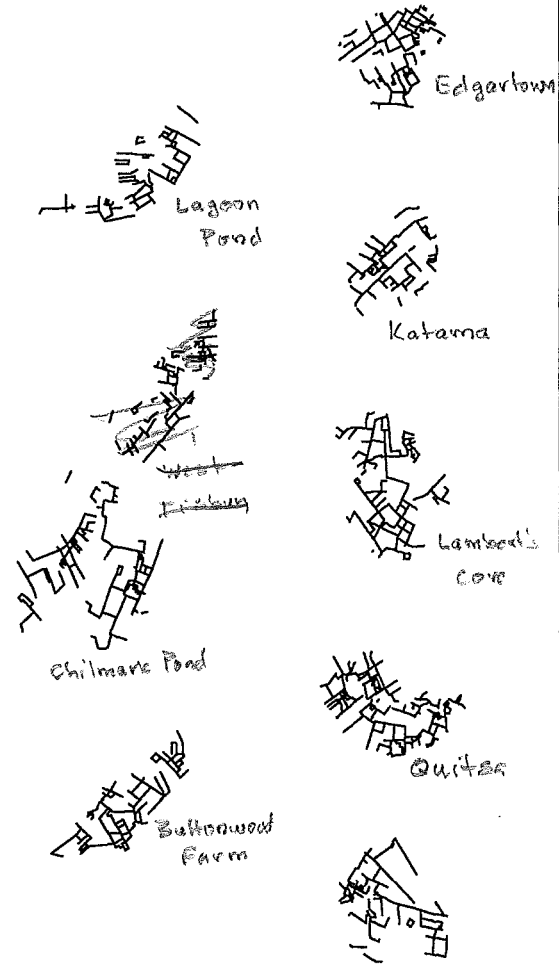


Katama



Chappaquiddick

I - Agrarian



Edgartown

Lagoon Pond

Katama

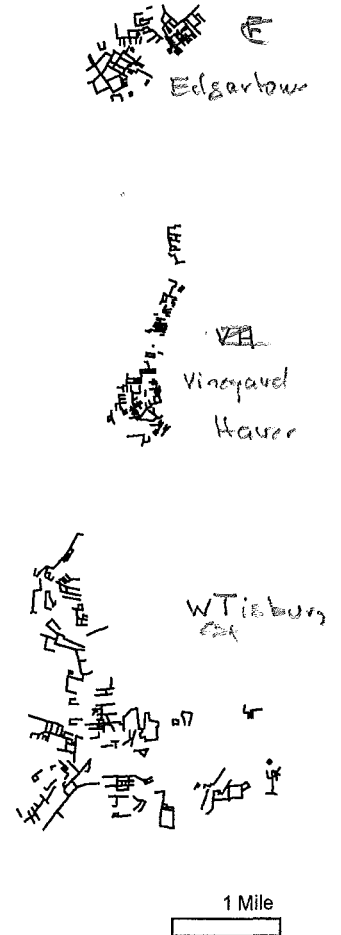
Lamberts Cove

Chilmark Pond

Quince

Buttonwood Farm

V - Village



Edgartown

Vineyard Haven

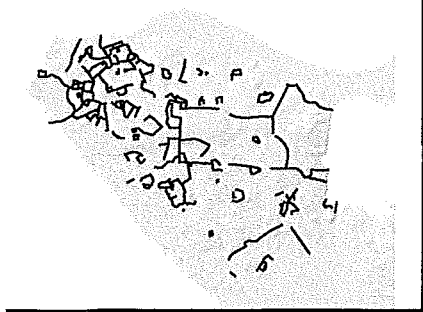
W Tisbury

1 Mile

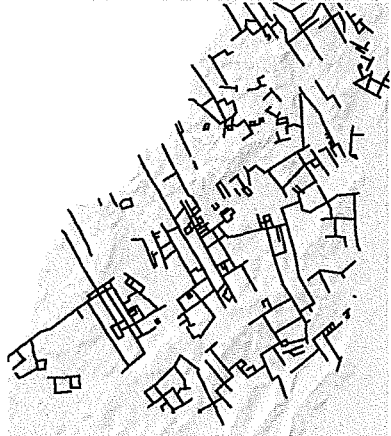
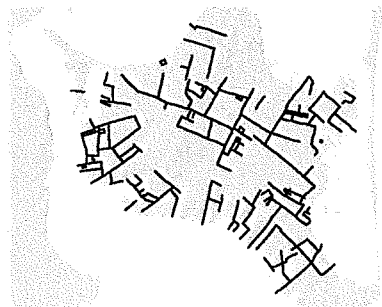
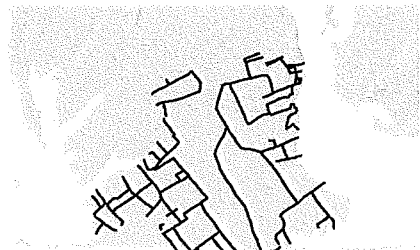
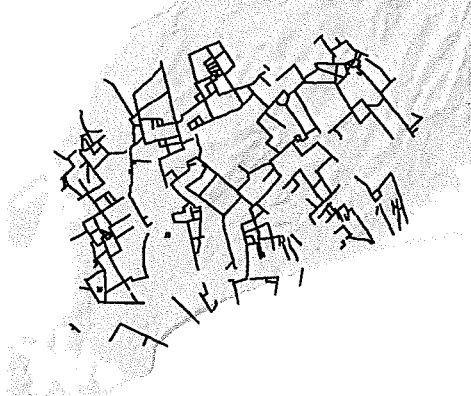
Note: All maps are shown at the same scale.
Fences along roads are not shown since they were not recorded in the original 1846 surveys.

Fence Pattern Types - 1850

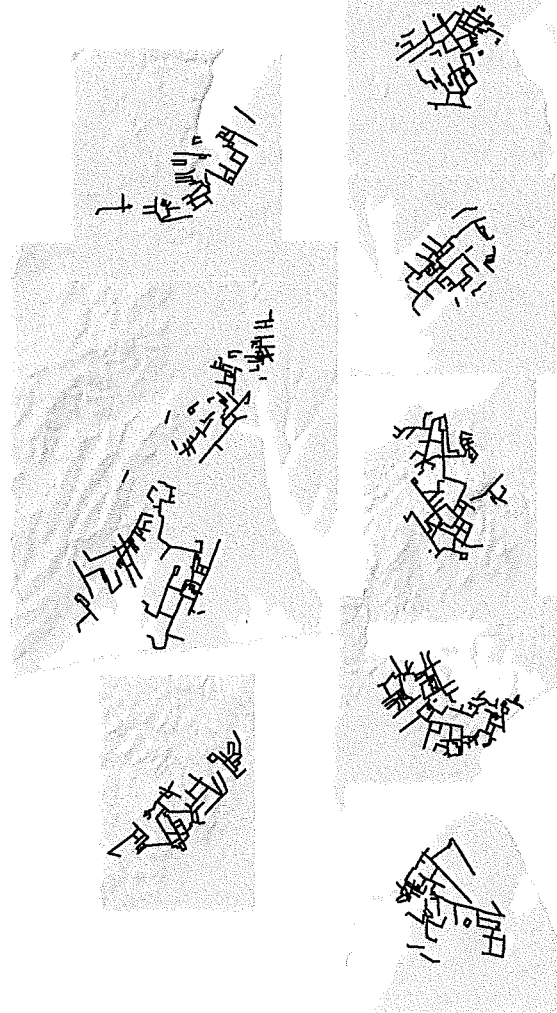
A - Aquinnah



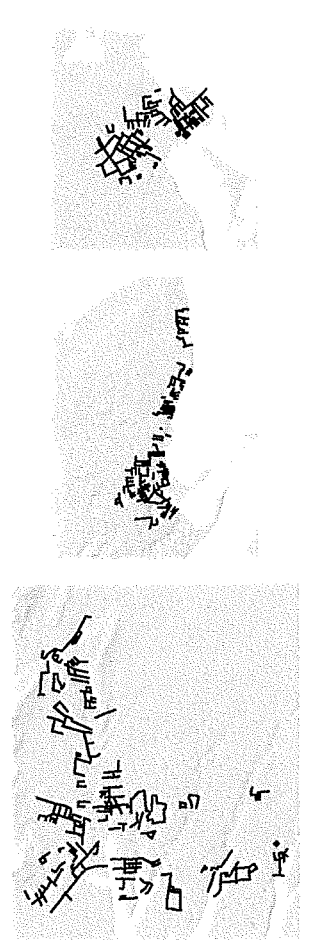
C - Rural, Pasture, Agrarian



I - Agrarian



V - Village



1 Mile

Note: All maps are shown at the same scale.
Fences along roads are not shown since they were not recorded in the original 1848 surveys.

Bald



Box. The "barren ragged plain of no town"

History

When Simon Athearn wrote these words in 1698 he articulated a sentiment that would be repeated and felt by many people up to the present. Lacking surface water and dominated by sandy soils the plain would ~~not~~ support neither grazing nor reliable crop production and therefore was unfit for human settlement. ~~It~~ A detailed understanding of its vegetation is elusive other than the fact that it remained "wooded" by ^{various combinations of} trees and scrub oak and huckleberry for the past four centuries. Pitch pine was scattered, as ~~was~~ indicated by descriptions and Whiting's detailed map from 1850. ~~The~~ ^{The} "ragged" ^{descriptor} quality of the landscape and other references indicate that tree growth was often poor and ~~by the mid~~ through ~~the mid~~ the 19th century ~~the~~ much of the expanse had been reduced by fire and the cutting and scavenging of a wood-hungry island to a ~~short~~ stunted growth of sprouts. Only ~~in~~ ^{with island-wide reforestation and forest growth} the 20th century did the distinctive pattern of forested upland and low scrub oak hollows emerge.

Inset figure of four maps

1698 ^{Simon Athearn} "a barren ragged plain of no town"

1784 ^{Grove} "Tisbury Wood Land"

1794 "Waste Land, Tisbury"

1830

Insert Quotes
~~DRF will~~

Bold

Figure ~~Illustration~~. Grazing on the Islands ^{pastureland} and ^{and people} on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. ^{Not bold} Separate panels. [For pre-Grey's raid show a range of 12,500-20,000 dropping down to 2500-10,000 1776.]

The Vineyard and Nantucket exhibit some distinctive differences in a general pattern of ~~and~~ a long-term rise and decline in agriculture. Following a century and a half of forest clearance the extent of pastureland peaked ^{on the Vineyard} in the mid nineteenth century and then declined gradually dropping abruptly in the early 1900s. A much more dramatic decline, accompanied the disastrous ^{in grazing animals and human population} fire and ^{subsequent} depopulation of Nantucket. ¹⁸⁴⁷

Although the number of sheep and cattle on the Vineyard ~~at the~~ at the time of Gray's Raid is uncertain the population of sheep and cattle rebounded and remained generally high through much of the nineteenth century.

Bold

Figure. Population. ^{Overall} Population growth in ^{The human population of} Dukes County ~~was~~ grew steadily to 1850 when it stabilized for 50 years before rising gradually until the great boom that commenced in the 1970s. The changing geographical distribution reflects the decline in agriculture, the splitting ~~off~~ of West Tisbury ^{and} Tisbury, and formation and ^{and} growth of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~popu~~ Oak Bluffs. Gosnold was separated from Chilmark in 18xx and Gay Head was formally incorporated in 18xx

Bold

Figure. Nineteenth Century Forest Harvesting. A unique data-set from 1885 census records provides insights into the age, abundance, and composition of the forest on the island and across the state. Broadly, the greatest harvesting of wood occurred ~~at the base~~ in ^{western, north central and} southeastern Massachusetts, in forests less than 30 years of age although some older forests ~~are~~ occupied the Berkshires especially. The species harvested, ^{show considerable sp variation regionally and} are interpreted as reflecting the general composition of the forest. Pine (presumably white pine outside the southeast where pitch pine dominated) and Oak were abundant in the east, chestnut in the center of the state, and beech, birch and maple ~~dominated in the~~ were prevalent outside the southeast. Young forests dominated on the Vineyard with Tisbury producing much more wood than other towns.

Table. 1850 (or average 1830-70) percent land in tillage, upland hay, salt marsh meadow, pasture, unimproved, woodland

Box, Dr Daniel Fisher.

If you search on his name today if his house and its availability as a rental space for weddings and large events that ~~are~~ jump into view ~~and~~ but in the middle 19th c Dr Fisher was a dominant economic power whose yielded great influence across the island and well beyond. According to journalist Parker Willis he was "the tallest, strongest-built, healthiest, and handsomest, as well as wealthiest and most influential inhabitant of Martha's Vineyard". He certainly was the wealthiest for by 1856 when he founded the Martha's Vineyard National Bank his ~~the~~ ownership of whaling ships, ^{and the largest sperm-catch-} oil and ^{and} candle ~~works~~ factory in the US ~~was the island's~~ provided the greatest employment on the island and produced over 118,000 pounds of candles, and 13,200 barrels of refined oil, and ~~an annual~~ ^{\$} 285,000 income annually. Fisher's influence extended well beyond the ~~busy~~ thriving wharfs and downtown area of Edgartown however. To supply his ships with food for their long voyages he built a hardtack operations and invested in the ^{up-island} milling capacity, ~~and~~ by purchasing the series of four ^{(five) stone} dams ~~in~~ extending upstream on Mill Brook from Priesters Pond. Purchasing an additional 600 acres of land he engaged local farmers in producing the necessary grain. Although ~~the~~ wheat production faltered and the hardtack industry closed after his death in 1876 Dr Fisher developed "one of the most complete mills in the the US for grinding wheat and bolting flour" (Grinnell) and left an enduring ~~path~~ legacy in the arced path, ^{extending from the outskirts of Edgartown to Middletown} that ^{bears his name.}

The ^{emergently} ~~rather~~ circuitous route provided many advantages to the ^{well-established east-west} publicway: it ran across the heads of the deep hollows that

INTRO

The limit of land and water is the most striking 7-2-13
and important outline which exists in nature
HLW

1850 Map

~~Map Viewer 1850 + today - e.g. Horse Farm head of Tich's~~

Look at history of NE - 1850 great inflection forest cover + pop'n; HDT
from despair to forest succession; RR, Industrial Revolution; beginnings
of reorganization. On MV - critical - Gold Rush, Dr Fisher etc.
Peak impress on land - would love to know what that looks like

→ ~~Box on HLW - Add Notes; reservoirs + details~~

~~Timeline - Pre - 1850 with maps of development~~

~~Box CGS - matching the 1850 maps; history; details on MV~~

~~gearing up to actual survey; amt of change - Nashogmeter
cliffs 50' in 9 yrs "It may be worth inquiring whether some
effective means should not be adopted to preserve these landmarks"~~

Past activity over shadowed + overrun

use journals - HDT

MA unique 1830 - statewide view + pattern to match

extent of transformation, but low res, unknown standards,

uneven standards, much georeferencing. Even better

1850 - MVM story of finding it; 1850 highwater mark for CGS

1/2 to 1% of total federal budget; enables GIS;

Maps applied to BioMap

1858 - Walling Maps - towns, cultural

Major Qs - How much forest survived - did any come through
to the present; what was it like? How did it recover so
extensively? Differences w/ ACK, BI tie to LU

What was land like? How was it used and did it come to know?

Ag, roads, industry, settlement pattern - where were they?
where absent

Differences across island - how much of modern striking
variation in past? How connects

1850 Notables

Thriving, exciting, booming time
land, water, towns, countryside, great
optimism, rapid change
great national + international
recognition
Walking maps

- Fish { 1845 Poucha Pond Meadow and Fishing Co incorporated + granted power to construct dike spanning PP inlet for herring
- Ag Trans ^{Hatsy} 1854 - Final documented washing + shearn of sheep at Shear Pen #
- Maritime 1854-55 20,000 ships pass Cape Pose Light
- ~~M. Whaling ~1847-50 Nantucket pop'n peaked 1840-9712 1846 great fire 1850-8779~~
- ~~Even spread MA Pop'n evenly spread - Boston, Salem, ACR largest~~

- Connectivity Time of changing communication 1845 Semaphore signal
MV-ACR - Sampson's then East Chop 7-16-1856 E Ch - Woods Hole telegraph

- ~~Cultural 1849 Gold Rush~~

- ~~Ag + Boom Middle Road (1845 Petition) + North Rd (1849)~~
- Ag + Cultural 1850 - J Pease + Commissioners land out rd E-HH
- " " 1850 Division of Chappy tribe's land by Jeremiah Pease + Richard ^{Beetle}
Ongoing surveys + processes; focus on Indian land +
differences Chappy, GH, Christian town - Leavitt Thaxter guardian
1856 Commissioners Report -> Pease Report 1871 C40

- 1864 Gosnold separated from Chilmark
- ~~Ag Transition 1858 - Mar 26 announcement Meetings on island farms - resolution on Ag Socich~~
- ~~Cultural 1850 - first permanent cottage 1st fair Pres. Leavitt Thaxter HLW Sec.~~
- ~~" 1858 - 320 tests 1825 - 1st meet~~

- ~~Fishing 1850 - creek cut Motta-kant Bog - EGP~~
- ~~Ind 1850 2nd Look's mill; Grist mill on Felling - Saml Tilton
1849 - 2nd Grist Mill on Roaring Brook by Francis Nye~~
- ~~Fish 1852 - 553 swordfish caught;~~
- ~~Ind ~1850 Smith + Barrows built plant for pressed brick - outlet Roaring Br.~~
- ~~" 1847/48 Paint Mill - 1st Chilmark ~1849 Francis Nye Mill~~
- ~~" Comm 1856 DF founded MV Natl Bank; 1859 Titusville~~

- ~~Leisure/Cultural 1850 Hawthorn shot plover w/ Dant F
1849 - Dant Webster~~
- ~~Industry Wheli. 1850 - Largest industry - oil + candle mfg. led to mills ~1860~~
- ~~Cultural 1840 DF House built~~
- ~~Ag Trans 1846 removal tariff on wool imports - so begins decline~~

7-6-13 ✓

Woodland

WT - Gosnold, Composition - PO IH 3 Q

Clearing - Edg, WT, harbors + refuge - Lamberts Cove,
heads of ponds from Indian clearings

Extent - % + distribution
23,886 ac.

Variation - GH - used twigs + peat

SO - Great Plain, - T + E - Free #3 + 4

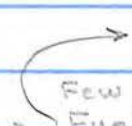
PP - Chops - Pennwise Area E + W chops

Oaks +/o Helicopters from

Beech greatly reduced - moist protected sites largely Morav.

Beetlebug RM

HT + Age - Freeman #4

Uses -  always focus on this - 1657 IH-8
Few sawmills, lumber near water
Fuel - export to ACK - 1885 - IH #2

Bark - tannins

Timber - Bayboards

Plains -

Indian Lands - J Pease survey woodlands + peat IH 9
Leavitt IH-10

General

Overall - Webster IH-7
Strother 1860 - IH-5; NSS IH-6

Extent of Woodland + Extent farming surprising

Balance of activity

Eastrille - Walling
Great Woods

OB - farmland, vast Woodland, cleared sites for towns

Freeman¹ &
NSS IH-6

→ E - thriving port - sheds, factories, stately homes

open yards w/ horse sheds

Freeman² &

→

Fields

GH - Commissioner IH-11 + LT IH-11

Chilmark + WT hills - expanding out from WT

+ Middletown villages

WT - NSS - IH-4

Distribution of houses - F#5

Towns Separated - scrub oak wilderness, ragged plain, taking down bars

Sails, boats - Shaker - cloud of sails

DW - Prodigious # vessels

1850 - Illustration Captions ~~and~~ Boyes

I-1. From the earliest times fences were important peacekeepers and were actively legislated and overseen as the regulators of activity, defining property boundaries, preventing livestock from trampling neighborhood gardens and enabling farmers in manage their lands efficiently. In 1689 the West Tisbury voted that all fences would be a minimum of 4 feet and three inches ~~a height that is~~ and appointed two men as judges and savours of fences. The town fencible viewer endured as a regular town appointment. Fences were of three broad types. When wood was abundant in early days it yielded rails and stumps that were readily assembled into ^{adequate but} impermanent boundaries. More enduring are the rock and stonewalls erected across the morainal towns of Chilmark, Aquinnah and much of West Tisbury. Many of these were built to the required height or capped with wood. Across the outwash regions the ditch and ridge system was employed ^{by "casting up penes or spoils" inside} in which a ditch was dug ~~along~~ the line and a ridge was formed of the spoils outside. The reach an effective height the ridge supported a wooden fence that became a post and wire fence in the late 19th and 20th centuries. The modern affinity for rock walls lead to some odd ^{and expensive} deviation from the ancient pattern, including ~~some~~ imported stone, ~~chiseled~~ chiseled and tightly fit ^{exposed} ornamental fencelines, and the appearance of massive rock walls on sites that lack any subsurface stone.

At an island scale the distribution of fences corresponds to areas that were cleared of forest ~~and~~ farmed as shown on the 1850 map. Broad areas across the Great Plain down into Pohogonot and into West and East Chop ^{up} ~~lacked~~ ^{were wooded} fences. ~~was~~ Across the rest of the landscape today the secondary forest are filled with elegant rock walls

I-4 AB
A9

and straight but subtle ditches and ridges of earth. Locally, the density and pattern of the 19th century fencelines tell a story of varying ~~activity~~ ownership and land-use activity. A tightly ^{and} densely reticulated pattern characterized the villages of Holmes Hole, West Tisbury, Middletown and Edgartown that opened up slightly in adjoining agrarian areas where they delineated gardens, small tilled fields, property lines, and small pastures. In the rural ^{where pastures ~~and~~ predominated} the fencing opened considerable, in ~~expanses.~~ ^{of} Chilmark and West Tisbury from Menemsha to Makonnick, across Katama and on Chappaquiddick. Some distinctive local patterns emerged including immense fields in some locations, the use of single fencelines to enclose some of the necks on the south shore, and the long fence that divided the Indian lands on North Neck and Tom's Neck from those across the south shore region of Chappaquiddick. A completely unique pattern of fencing appears on Gay Head where ^{ownership was broadly treated as communal,} the land was divided into large open pastures and small enclosures protected crops and gardens from roaming livestock.

Q - JH 4-8, 9

Examine roads versus fences 1850

Agriculture

Diversified ^{+ widespread} - ~~over the years~~ much of the population had animals and crops. Sea captains to judges had

Back to early days
Commonly 12 goats
or horses
1 = \$ ship/boat

vegetable gardens, chickens, occasional cow or pig and horse. Miller didn't just run the mill - daily rhythm + seasonal when crops or water power available.

see also JF-A1
G - A-2 Affkarr, Waldron,
A-4
A-B Norton

True farmers often did other work had other sources of income, trades, resources; diverse holdings of land, equipment and animals.

Clearings w/ animals

cattle 1651
hogs 1652
horse/ship 1653
goats 1668
fowl 1650s

Probate listings of small farmer and large - with many animals, cranberries

led to variation in finding thru landscape - need everywhere from town where it became ornamental to rural.

No self-sufficiency - farm, town or island

Variation through time but diversified with consistent elements.

1681 WT laid out
swamp to those
w/ near
JFA7

Broad sweep - rise to mid 19th c and fall - broader and more gentle than ACK or Cape

But punctuated - Grey's Raid - enigmatic as well-documented w/ details and specific articulation for damages. But rapid rebound. Individually devastating

Local shocks with tariffs, droughts, tough winters

A-3 Devon
1838
vs
NSS A-6
vs
TEFF 185
A-7

Spatial patterns

Tilled land, diverse vegetables in gardens near every house and as larger concentrations for commercial sale. Also scattered orchards - apples for consumption and especially cider which was the common, regular drink of the countryman.

Larger cropfields and cultivated - outskirts of settlements, on easily worked ~~to~~ stone-free or less stony land, fine for moisture holding

corn (Turkey wheat)
rye
oats
some barley

Kaleidoscopic - rotation among uses with farmers changing crops and uses, rotation to maintain fertility and productivity and reduce populations of damaging insects root diseases.

IH-A3

Constant effort to maintain fertility. Animals placed on crop fields after harvest - use any extra and manure field, Recycle and compost manure, crop waste, organics. Import material from outside farms - bedding of pine needles and salt hay for chickens, winter bedding, soak up valuable manure dressing to spread. Other organics - muck from wetlands, seaweed, leaf litter from forests

IH-A2
F1807 - Chil - none of swamps large - several cleared + convert into fresh meadow and cutting of trees and shrubs
IH-A4 - employed carting manure - put into corn hills
Pond openings - 1900s - legally mandated in Act to Provide Drainage of Lowlands + Meadows
Willoughby - went after pine needles brought 3 loads of seaweed - one for pig pen 2 to bark house
2 bags pine needles - PD 20
IH-A5

Pond grass - eel grass, and cutting of trees and shrubs
Swamp ~~ing~~ draining - remove water, use area for hay cranberries, pasture
Cutting, mowing, some burning to open areas and keep open
Wetlands in (woods) adjacent streams, along and at heads of ponds, salt marsh fringe
coordinate w/ pond openings, dikes, dams
increase usable land -> woodlots, pasture, hay, cranberry
Meadows - different season, naturally replenished by floods, tides, groundwater; tricky

1841 - Account for ~~64~~ 70-80% 77 74 69
Cact > E > T

Tillage - < 5% town 1.5-3.7% + ch
2% - 8% of pasture

Eng Upl. Hay - < 5% similar 1-3.7%

Salt marsh mown - less hundred to few hundred acres much less th. CC

Pasture - 46% (E) - 30% (T) to 69% (C, G, A)

Unimproved - 24% 26% 10%

Freeman 1807

A-1
or JH-A3

Comparison w/ CC MV 50% Pasture vs 21% CC
1% Salt mown 5%

What is 1850 map Wood vs Open

C much greater % pastured + Upland Hay

E Tillage - greater than T, much > C

Ploughing + heavy work Oxen - tillable fields could be small

Katama - 1784 Crevecoeur - "Sheep Pasture", Squid necked Pasture, Salt Meadows
Big pastures - commons, the private large areas - fenced necks
Chappy

Pasture Grazing Intensity - 1845 - ~~Nashawana~~ Penikese + Cutthroat
> Nash + No Mox
> Naushon > MV

~~W~~ Summer Grazing Peaked Hill - WI + C animals

A-5 Ag Socch 1858

1841 Census

Do we have 1831, 1851, 1860 ? Averages compare to latter

	MV	C	E	T	Chilmark included Gosnold + Aquinnas
Σ Upland Acreed for Total	45,477	18,724 (77.4)	12,838 (74.3)	13,918 (68.8)	
Tillage	1057	272 (1.45)	433 (3.39)	352 (2.5)	
Ever Upland	1095	676 (3.71)	233 (1.81)	166 (1.19)	
Salt marsh mown	384	177	160	77	
Fresh meadow "	324	59	150	115	
Pasture	22,920	12,830 (62.8)	5871 (45.7)	4169 (30.0)	Cape 21% = Pasture
Unimproved	8,488	1789 (9.6%)	3041 (23.7%)	3658 (26.28)	
m ²		13.3 + 19.1 + 5.4 = 37.8	27.0	25 + 6.6 = 31.6	
Modern Σ		12,224	17,280	20,224	
		24,192			

Salt marsh mown MV 0.84% of Σ Upland CC 5.0%
 so much less salt marsh

Pasture MV 50.4% of Σ Upland CC 21.1%

Tillage 95% Pasture 2.1% 8.4 7.4

C T E

Upl - Unim 16,935 10,260 9791

% of modern Σ 70% 50.7 56.7

↑ % 1841 not unimproved = improved

also 2x Upland way why - would expect where workers had
 So Chilmark - much greater % pastured + improved

Edgartown greater tillage

Tillage only 2-8.5% of pasture

Cape > salt marsh and much less pasture (21%)

1830-50

old forested - moraine, plain, E Mor,
Chappy

W Moraine, Plain, E Mor,
Chappy
Sizes of polygons - on
What is size distribution of polygons
1830 vs 1850?

Put 1850 on GPS

~~What~~ What are sizes of polygons?

1830 - 1850 difference

What are the amounts in different categories?

lost, gained, remained, 1830, 1850, remain unforced
incomplete.

Overall

Central core of woodland across the Great Plains from
Tisbury center to outskirts of WT, east across
Edgartown Great Pond and excluding Katama. Extended
North through to West Chop and much of Farm Neck to
Oak groves. Extends into ^{Lower Lamberts Cove to} Buttonwood Farm, restricted
area of Cedar Tree Neck

Chilmark - Nabs Corner

Brg extension south of WT - E Rd into S of Airport
and Polygonot Area

Broad area W of E town - Muddyhouse Weg

Litchfield Rd on Chappy

1850 - Adds detail - reduces ^{in E} broad brush up E Chop, on Chappy
in E Plains and along E GP, down some S Shore Necks
around Duartes Pd

But adds substantial woodland in W + SW

Continuous up W Chop - Inner Lamberts Cove, across W
moraine, Tabor Rd to Tea Lane

Adds many smaller areas

1850-90

Area in each category

Increase/change in diff

Sizes

soils / glacial landscapes

Map soils + wetlands

Full expansion across West Chop to NW Coast and Tashmoo

Broad expansion between Tashmoo and Lamberts Cove + through

inner Lamberts Cove including Nip + Tuck Farm - Norton Farm

Whole area surrounding Indian Hill down to Cedar Tree Neck

Scattered to larger to W Moraine

Taber Rd area - Band in 3 blocks from Boaring

Brook and Tiasquam River through Tiasquam to Nibe Cove

Adjustment (+/-) across S shore + Choppy

Details like cedars out Cape Pog

Variation between the two:

real - gain especially + some loss - most of difference

change in criteria - add cedars on Cape Pog, wetlands

and scrub

Expansion in wetlands vs uplands ?

1890-1938

Broad expansion -

Chappy, Fringes - Katama, S Shore, E Chop, Makonitey Head, Gay Head, Stonewall Beach, Squibnocket Ridge (Woodland)

Infilling + consolidation - W Moraine from Indraw Hill through Sew Gates to Abels Hill + Chilmark Ctr - Muremah. Pd

Relatively little ~~consolidation~~ perforation
field opening around Little Pd

1938-2005

Woodlands - many but not all with oaks + trees - e.g. Squibnocket

Infilling + Consolidation

Gay Head, W Moraine, Makonitey Head + Lamberts Cove, Base of Lagoon Pd, Farm Neck, Chappy to shore, Katama + Katama Bay, head of cove, Squibnocket

Some infilling associated with home construction
Katama - add houses + farming

Deforestation - 3 types

- ① Coastal creep + loss - minor
- ② Major deforestation esp for industry + land mgmt
- Airfield, Golf Course, Gravel Pit, Middle town developmt; MDSF mgmt - fire breaks, other clearings
big area in WT NE of Scotchman's Bridge
- ③ Perforation

Material goods and social concerns

As documented by the appointment of official town positions in Tisbury - Records 1669-1864

- 1681 Allen + Mayhew appointed to lay out swamp or low land to those men with none or but little
- 1773-74 Elected officials: Town Clerk, Selectmen, Fence-viewers, Surveyors of highways, Wardens, Overseers of Poor, Hogreeves, Surveyor of Lumber, Scalers of Leather, Constable, Molocher, Town Treasurer
Those expected administrators + others
- 1792 Surveyor and packer of fish, surveyor of beef and fish
- 1807 Surveyor of wood and bark
- 1839 Field drivers, school comm., health comm., tithing men
- 1842 Committee of vigilance to see that non-residents don't trespass on town rights to shoot Hthen first 7 days of Dec.
Printed in N.W. Bedford Mercury
- 1862 overseer of poor, Pound Keeper, Fish Comm., Police Office
- 1864 Do away with Liqueur Agency + dispose of liquor
Licenses dealer in old junk + 2nd hand ware

Timeline + Map

~~16xx~~ ~~Manhattan~~

1646 Edg Plains divisions
Edgartown Charter

Middletown →

1671 Tisbury Charter - Thos Mayhew Sr + Sr. land granted for Township
Signed at Manhattan 7-8-1671

(1666?) Chilmark = Tisbury Manor, Tisbury = Mayhew home in England

1671 First divisions of land in the plain surrounding Mill River

1714 Chilmark incorporated as town - includes GH, Monomsha, No Maws
Gosnold

1855 Gayhead divided from Chilmark

1870 Gayhead incorporated

Gosnold - Nonamesset, Kucatawa,
Monomasset, Monomsha, Wepukel
Tasque, Nashawewa, Penikese,
Gull, Cuthbert

1863 ^[1864] Gosnold separated from Chilmark

1871 Holmes Hole name changed to VH

1880 Oak Bluffs separated from Edgartown named island from
Cottage c. 1909
OB settled 1667

1892 W Tisbury separated from Tisbury. WT adopted a lower
tax rate - as agricultural town.

1659 Xiantown 1 sq mi set aside for converts

1635 Concord 1st Boston Bay Island settlement

1674 Cotton - MV Trading Towns - Nashamesset (SEI), Sengokontakit (NEI)
Toikimig (Tis), Nashuakemik (C), Talhama (C), Chappoy
Could do timeline of Indians

1736 Chickamao (formerly part of Manor of Tisbury (Chilmark) with No Maws and Elizabeth Islands) made part of Tisbury

1680 First use of "Chilmark" to distinguish Manor of Tybery from Tisbury

1846 Zenith of whaling at Edgartown - 18 ships

1874 Martha's Vineyard Railroad opened

1898 November 28 - "Great Hurricane". Greater storm than 1815 acc. to Banks

1607 Martin Puing anchored in Edgartown harbor on Whit Sunday. Called it
Whitsun Bay

1871 Vineyard Haven - official name for Homes/Holmus Hole

1743 "Lagoon of salt water" used

1725 Chase property (W Chop) on HH divided into E-W lots
all Chases - 9 lots

1827 First camp meeting held near West Chop

1817 West Chop lighthouse built ^{to Woods Hole (5 miles)}

~~1856 Telegraph cable to West Chop, by Cape Cod Telegraph Co.~~

1883 V4 fire 32 houses, 26 stores, 12 barns, Baptist meeting house

1902 Tashmo Spring purchased by ~~John~~ Trebury - "one of the town's most valuable assets" according to C.E. Banks

1646 Oak Bluffs area called "Easternmost Chop of Homes Hole" by Thos. Magnew. "Chop" = ^{jaw of a} vise or clamp, Plural = entrance of channel

1835 First Camp Meeting in oak grove on Squash Meadow pond
By 1858 320 tents and over 12,000 day visitors

1860 Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association chartered. Incorporated
in 1868 as Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Company.

1880 Eastville area incorporated in new town - Cottage City

1907 Oak Bluffs name changed

~1662 Gayhead name by British - "gayly colored cliffs"

Aquinick - "land under the hill"

1754 Four foot wide ditch dug across neck between Nashagwits and Squibnocket
Ponds (or Quitsa and Stonewall Pd?)

1710 Society for Propagating the Gospel purchased Gayhead from Lord Limerick
Control assumed by state after the Revolution

1862 Reservation turned into District of Gay Head

1870 Gay Head incorporated as town

1805 Chilmark appointed a committee to petition General Court
to change name to Mayhew County.

entered

MV ms

Notes

X-Sender: brhall@fas.harvard.edu
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.0
Date: Fri, 30 Nov 2001 09:50:16 -0500
To: "~~David R. Foster~~" <drfoster@fas.harvard.edu>
From: Brian Hall <brhall@fas.harvard.edu>
Subject: Re: MV

MV Witness trees:

Tisbury (inc modern West Tisbury): 36 witness trees, Carya 8.3%; "white oak" 30.6%; "red oak" 50.0%; "pine" 5.6%

Edgartown: 32 witness trees; Carya 3.1%; "white oak" 43.8%; "red oak" 21.9%; "pine" 28.1%

What about Witness tree data - does this show anything?

We should talk to see if there are other historical data that we should incorporate into the paper. What I am doing for now is pulling together as best a first draft as possible for you, Glenn, Tim et al. to read over.

Thanks, D

5-23-13 ✓

Notes

BH - Forest area - 1830 map - 20,901 ac 1850 map - 23,886

Compared 1:80,000 1860 and 1870 maps - same forest cover except in
College City area (where forest was developed) and some new roads

Douglas Graham of NOAA sent scan of original T. Sheets; BH georeferenced
Cultural Land on 1860 maps not on photo-lithographs (from
1846-?)

entered

Green 7-2-99 email. Tom Rawinski cored 2 gnarly oaks at
Felix Neck - due north of Turtle Pond; ~50 cm dbh - 214", 186"

duplicate

Return-Path: kruegler@fas.harvard.edu
X-Sender: kruegler@pop.fas.harvard.edu
Date: Fri, 14 Aug 1998 13:40:50 -0400
To: drfoster@fas.harvard.edu, gmotzkin@fas.harvard.edu
From: Christopher Kruegler <kruegler@fas.harvard.edu>
Subject: Vineyard Gazette lead
X-UIDL: 681e9e52e50f7cd795577ccce6c1508c

History

David and Glenn:

Tom Dunlop, a part-time writer for the Vineyard Gazette who also works out of NYC, called for either of you today offering the following, having been shown a copy of David's letter to Peter Van Tassle.

A series of historical pieces was done in the Gazette in the 1940s bearing on the Vineyard's land-use history. The series was stimulated by the creation of the navel base. He characterized the series as somewhat casual "oral history," and not 100% reliable, but thought it might constitute a useful source for you.

If you have not yet visited the Gazette offices on the Vineyard, he could give you more direct guidance for finding this material, if you called him in NY at 212-874-0473.

"In return," since he writes about the island, he said he would be happy to be kept aware of your work as it goes forward. I made appropriately friendly but noncommittal noises.

CK