

Industry Resource Extraction – History

Highly disorganized set of notes that was compiled by assembling bits and pieces from various documents and sources. Much information added through discussions with John Flender and review of his notes and materials.

Gale Huntington. Island Energy in Years Past - Intelligencer

What was left was an Island almost without trees.

Initially MV wood went to ACK, stopped as MV ran out of wood.

Peat – cut into bricks; stacked to dry; stored in peat house; stone with wooden roof; other outbuildings wood – peat house stone as moisture from peat rots wood. Some in Chilmark

Asa Smith peat house; Anderson Poole house has 2 ponds that were peat bogs; James Vincent peat house.

Windmills

1781. Des Barres. 3 windmills shown: N Rd-Menemsha Cross Rd; Katama peninsula; N Holmes Hole (Wind mill on bluff at NE corner of Lagoon Pd – Eastville?)

Norton article 1983 Intelligencer on saltworks has map of VH showing Merry windmill.¹

Edgartown Grist mills all wind power (*1911 Banks*); 1800 - 4 windmills Edg for grinding corn, one on Chappy; Manter Hill (Mill Hill) windmill built 1815-1817; photo without sails in 1884 (*CG Hine 1908*)

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

John Flender - 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 have been the one near Daniel Fisher's house. School in view nearby

Aquinnah Library area – Windmill, not far from the cemetery

John Flender on Wind Mills

Edgartown

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.)

¹ John Flender. Comments about Salt Works.

See also Des Barres Atlantic Neptune 1776 (The site appears to have been near the intersection of Mill Street and Planting Field Way.)

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

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

Oak Bluffs

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."

Vineyard Haven

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

M11 Windmill-Menemsha site 1775 (from Des Barres)
Des Barres Atlantic Neptune 1776 shows a windmill located approx. ½ mile East of the opening to Menemsha Pond.

Gay Head

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..."

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)

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 an 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.

COMMUNITY-WIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Mitchell T. Mulholland, Christopher Donta, Thomas L. Arcuti

Menemsha Pond area:

A windmill was located on the' higher elevations in the eastern portion of the Village (DesBarres 1781; Figure 36).

Chilmark Center/Wequobske/Peaked Hill Unit

The "Windmill-Menemsha Site" (CMP 1985: Site MII) is shown on the Chilmark Master Plan as located northeast of Bliss Pond (Context Extractive Industry, eighteenth century). A review of the DesBarres map, however shows the mill to be farther to the west, northwest of the intersection of Menemsha Cross Road and North Road (DesBarres 1781; Figure 36).

1858. Walling Grist mill – Priester's Pond

Salt (Check locations and numbers on various maps)

Decline of salt – ~1840 removed duty on imports

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*)

Holmes Hole

First saltworks on MV on shore of Bass Creek in 1778 (acc. to Banks: Vol. I page 381, not substantiated by JN); destroyed by Grey; considerable salt taken. New one in 1800; acc. to Daggett 1802 Saltworks at Frog Alley, hollow behind Hatch Road, 1/3 way down West Chop; by 1807, 3 in HH: 2 on North Shore, 1 Herring Creek (Lake Tashmoo; owned by Isaac Luce, erected

by 1820². See picture opposite p.8 of salt works on the shore at Homes Hole in 1838. On W side of creek to Tashmoo. Page 91. Near the start of Howard Avenue (Vineyard Haven) were extensive salt works (no date).³; 1 Lambert's Cove; 1828 – 10 saltworks in Tisbury; 3 in 1847 (*James Norton*); large pans on the shores of Bass Creek 1776 (Banks) in 1840. MVHS museum tool shed shows HH in 1839, refers to Peter West salt works and house.⁴ Salt works at Lamberts Cove and smoking houses for herring on hill⁵

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

Tisbury & Edgartown

"Next in importance to the manufacture of wool is that of salt." 1800 Edgartown had three sets of salt works, containing 2700 feet; Tisbury, five sets with 8900 feet. Expects double that in 3-4 years (*Freeman 1802*)

Salt Works Dock at Seven Gates Farm (*Bramhall 1988*)

Edgartown. Salt made to considerable extent. Water raised by wind driven pumps into troughs and cisterns or vats 3-4" deep where dried.⁶ Early 1800s 3 sets of salt works in Edgartown.⁷ Mayhew, Eleanor Ransom: - 1956. Page 150: The old salt works in Edgartown were located on the waterfront north of the causeway.

J Flender. MVHS: 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.

Brian Hall notes from

Massachusetts Historical Commission. 1986. Historical and Archaeological Resources of Cape Cod and The Islands: A Framework for Preservation Decisions.

Salt Manufacture page 287:

In an economy which otherwise left little room for land-based industries, the manufacture of salt by solar evaporation was the study unit's chief "manufacturing" industry in the Federal and Early Industrial periods. Boiling was the most common way of making salt. Prior to the Revolution, this method had been used on the Cape for more than a century. In the 1770s, the restrictive acts of Parliament made the importation of foreign salt exorbitantly expensive, and its cost climbed to two to three silver dollars per bushel. In 1775, in one of its first acts designed to encourage infant industries, the Massachusetts

General Court placed a bounty of three shillings per bushel on its manufacture. These factors encouraged the construction of many small saltworks for boiling sea water. In Harwich, Job Chase and Obid Smith had twelve 16-gallon kettles set in masonry protected from the weather, and similar works were located in Falmouth, Barnstable, and other Cape towns. Ammiel Weeks of Harwich is credited with being the first to test the practicality of making salt by solar evaporation, about 1775.

² John Flender. Comments about Salt Works. Attributes to Banks.

³ Ibid. Attributed to Eleanor Ransom Mayhew. A Short History of MV 1956.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid. H.F. Norton p 75.

⁶ Ibid. Attributed to John Weaver Barber. Historical Collections. 1841

⁷ Ibid. Attributed to C. G. Hine 1908.

be located on Sesuit Neck in East Dennis. Amos Otis described the original works as being “one hundred feet long, and ten feet wide, and all on the same level. The flooring was of white pine plank, laid on oak sleepers, the latter running crosswise. The gunnels were of plank, eight inches deep, and secured by upright pieces, mortised into the ends of the sleepers, and by knees passing under the flooring and on the outsides of the gunnels. The corners of the vat were also secured by knees; the roof was curiously fashioned ; rafters, grooved on either side, were permanently fixed to the gunnels, at the distance of five or six feet from each other; the doors were made of a corresponding width, and consisted of several boards of the same length, with the rafters clamped together. These slid obliquely upwards and downwards in the grooves of the rafters, and were prevented from swagging in the center by board rafters placed between the principal ones. It was soon found necessary to have a separate vat to chrysalize the salt, and a partition was placed across, and the kine boiled over. . . . A little before the close of the war (1780), Mr. Sears procured one of the pumps of the British ship-of-war Somerset, wrecked on the coast of Cape Cod, and erected it for the supply of his manufactory,”

On average, every thousand feet of saltworks produced about 268 bushels (seventy-five pounds) of salt annually...

Page 293: A variety of reasons are given for the decline of the saltworks. The cost of Maine pine, used almost exclusively in the vats, increased, thus making it uneconomical to repair the works. Competition from the rapidly developing domestic saltworks was given as another reason. As early as 1810, when Barnstable County produced 70% of the state's salt, Massachusetts-produced salt accounted for less than 6% of the product then being produced in the U.S. The salt springs of Virginia and Kentucky produced nearly ten times the Massachusetts quantity, while New York already produced three times as much. A third reason was the withdrawal of the state bounty in 1834. Probably the chief reason for the decline in production, however, was the lowering of the duty on imported salt. Ever since 1790 there had been a duty of at least ten cents a bushel. In February, 1840, a joint special committee to the legislature reported on the effects of the proposed lowering of the salt duty by Congress.

James Norton Saltworks in Holmes Hole - Intelligencer
Salt – preservative. Fish-opacking, tanning,.

From West Indies before Revolution. Triangular Trade route. Revolution created shortage.

Method developed by Capt John Sears, Dennis, MA. 20' x 10-12" deep; nicely joined. Four adjoining classes – water room, pickle room, lime room, salt room. Water pumped into first with windmill; then gravity. Each covered with roof.

1st on MV – at HH in 1778 – destroyed by Grey. Banks – on shore of Bass Creek – not substantiated. Then, new one in 1800. By 1828 – 10 saltworks in Tisbury. 1807 – 3 in HH, 2 N Shore, 1 Herring Creek, 1 Lambert's Cove.

Declined after 1812 – 3 in 1847.

Daggett 1802 Saltworks – Frog Alley; hollow behind Hatch Road 1/3 way down Chop.

John Flender. Comments about Salt Works. No Date

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.

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)

Naval Stores – Tar kiln

1684 - Edgartown woodland divided – East Pine and West Pine (*1911 Banks*)

Tarkill (Tarkiln) Path and Pennywise Region

There were kilns for extracting tar from wood in the Penny Wise region; path by 1738; "Pennywise Swamp- 1743 (*1911 Banks*); area also known as the Dark Woods (*Herbster & Cherau*)

Pennywise path "*It leads by the north side of the dark woods to and by the south side of the west woods on the West Tisbury Road.*" [1738 Deeds VI, 364]

Pitch production – kiln possibly at the bottom in the Pennywise Path (*MVC*)

Chappaquiddick

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 (*Capece 2001; his source is unclear*)

Tannery and Tanning

Peaked Hill –

Tan pits by 1726, on east side, near Middle Road, “not far from town hall” (*Banks 1911*)

Farm Neck: Butler Meadow – old mill for grinding tanbark (*CG Hine 1908*);

Simeon Butler operated a tannery on the shores of Farm Pond from 1733-1750. The tan barn was located just south of Farm Pond. He left it to his son Thomas [sons acc. to *Banks 1911*]; property was used as a tannery until 1825 (*www/Friends of Farm Pond*).

1776 - tannery barn on the south shore of Farm Pond, which had several distinct arms; both now gone (*Editorial VG 10-14-2010*);

Elijah Butler, b. 1738; tanner resided at Farm Neck, , moved to Maine (*www:History, Vineyard.net, Butler*);

Chappaquiddick – bark of oak used to supply island tanneries (*Capece 2001*; he links land ownership on Chappy by Simeon Butler to tannery; Simeon received first deeded purchase of Wasque from sachem Jacob Seeknout in 1722);

John Flender

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 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.

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

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.)

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.

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)

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.

Hewing Field Reference – squared timber. Possibly simply a field extensively used for that purpose.

Sawmills – no record of any on island; saw pits are mentioned

1974 – Thesis Tufts- Janet Van Tassel – Economic Transition of Martha’s Vineyard

Brick Kilns

Chickemmo

First mention of brick production ~1700, assumes earlier as purchased 1659 (*Banks 1911*)

Chimney there in 1659 (mis-citing Banks?). In 1939 the Makonikey plant consisted of small office, smoke stack, tumbled down kiln, brick pile (photo - but looks like Roaring Brook area?) (*Dean 1939*)

Kaolin and Clay Products – tracks from kiln to wharf, but used peat (*Hough 1936*)

Roaring Brook - Nice photo of brick mill, chimney, water wheel (*CG Hine 1908*)

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. Remains ... old water wheel, a wooden flume to supply it with water, a smoke stack and ruined walls. The clay beds are not yet exhausted. (*Banks 1911*); Brick mill gave up for lack of wood (*CG Hine 1908*)

Three separate companies produced bricks: Smith and Barrows, The Boston Fire Brick and Retort company, Vineyard Brick and Tile Company. After local timber exhausted company imported fuel wood from off-island and brickyard became less profitable. Relics: chimney, iron wheel, rods, and the stone banks of canals that diverted Roaring Brook onto the overshot water wheel. (*A. Smith MYTimes 2011*)

Acc. to P.G. Harris, Nathaniel Harris, a Boston banker, bought brickyard, 600 acres between Menemsha and Spring Point, and mineral rights on >1000 additional acres in 1860s; he foreclosed on the Smith and Barrow Brickyard and rebuilt it in 1868 as Vineyard Brick and Tile Works; produced up to 800,00 bricks annually with 70 employees; 2007 can see site of foreman’s house, foundation of the “French House” (French Canadians workers lived there in summer); according to PGH the last trees used for fuel were chestnuts [sic] from the great plain; closed due to no more fuel

1960s Nathaniel L and Catherine P. Harris sold several parcels and donated the Menemsha Hills Reservation to TTOR. TTOR had conservation restrictions on 70 acres of Flora Harris Epstein, who died in 2010-11; land willed to TTOR includes the brickyard.

Norton-Harris house: constructed before 1715 with a thatched roof and built “plank framing” beside the pond at the center of Nomans Land. Acc to PGH: Jacob Norton bought Nomans in 1713; Hurricane 1815 destroyed pretty much everything on island; after the house was floated to Jethro’s Landing, beside the brickyard. Reassembled at its current site, overlooking the brickyard at Roaring Brook; two arches remain of the two-story brick barn; “They built the barn out of rejected bricks,” said Vida Poole, daughter of Flora Harris Epstein. Barn destroyed by hurricane of 1944. (*Safford 2007 and A. Smith MYTimes 2011*)

Old footpath connects to Old Holman Road ancient way to transport raw clay from Harris family mineral rights (family owned mineral rights throughout) on the N shore to be shipped or for brick works at Menemsha Hills or Great Rock Bight. *MVLB Records*

John Flender: Ebba Hirta at library in chulmark has extensive information – TTOR- 20 ac. [Now owned by TTOR].

Gay Head

Cliffs leased to Gay Head Clay Company in 1893, annual rental \$500, clay shipped off island to kilns for bricks; the hues disappear with heat to a uniform color. (*Banks 1911*)

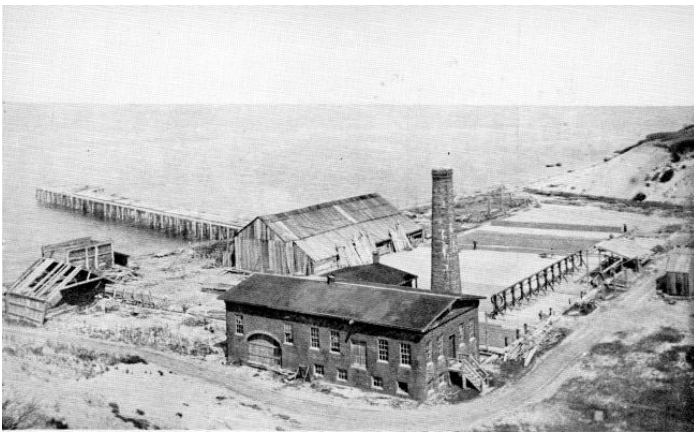
Edgartown

1871 Guide Book – Edgartown produced 30,000 bricks annually by steam (*Banks 1911*)

John Flender: Jay Fleishman (“great wall of Chilmark” built by person who bought his land) rerouted stream; may have damaged or removed things. Different Kinds of Clay = white clay – more desirable so it was reserved in some details; made pipes



Hine 1908





For Whale Oil, Candles etc. See Dr. Daniel Fisher Notes

Peat

Peat mentioned by 1788; still used by some of the inhabitants of Gay Head (*Banks 1911*)

Water mills in early days all under-shot wheel set directly in the running stream or placed close to a sluice leading from the dam as insufficient fall of water (*Banks 1911*)

Gale Huntington. Island Energy in Years Past - Intelligencer

What was left was an Island almost without trees.

Initially MV wood went to ACK, stopped as MV ran out of wood.

Peat – cut into bricks; stacked to dry; stored in peat house; stone with wooden roof; other outbuildings wood – peat house stone as moisture form peat rots wood. Some in Chilmark.

Asa Smith peat house; Anderson Poole house has 2 ponds that were peat bogs; James Vincent peat house.

Bog iron

Saugus – bog ore; unclear how widespread or important that was on MV. Much lore about cannons and what not, but it isn't clear how much fact underlies this.

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.

"Old" Mill River (general info from *Dionis Coffin Riggs –Old Mill River – Intelligencer*)

3 ½ miles long; origins near Dunkel property in Roth Woodlands; called Mill River until 1668 when Benj Church built grist mill on Tiasquin River; then "old" and "new".

Downstream from the Old Mill Stepping Stones in lieu of Bridge; from George Hunt pasture to Capt James Cleaveland's cranberry bog (Tom Maley's pond); cranberry bog had ditches etc. was flooded in winter to protect plants by opening sluice gate at Old Mill.

First mill is a mystery (possibly established soon after settlement of Edgartown; mill privileges unused for nearly a century with no record site except "where a mill anciently stood" until 1760; *Banks 1911*); acquired by David Look and William Case; David Look purchased William Case's share, March 18, 1807, and thus became the sole proprietor of the two grist mills on the Old and New Mill rivers (*1911 Banks*); Look converted the Old Mill to a factory for carting wool and weaving cloth; bought by Capt Henry Cleaveland to make satinet for jackets (Capt. Henry Cleaveland - whaling captain; ship Niantic, one of the earliest ships with passengers to arrive in San Francisco in the California Gold Rush in 1849; retired and purchased the mill Tisbury. His daughter married into the Campbell family who eventually gave the mill pond to West Tisbury; (VG 4.8.2010)

HBH VG 5.1980 – undershot; called Factory Pond; satinet – all wool; current structure built 1846; home lot of Josiah Standish; passed to Edward Cottle; sold in 1700 to son John, then son Sylvanus in 1726 who sold in 1760 to Samuel Cobb with house and barn; Eleanor May hew – road known as Mill Path in 1664; 1809 David Look acquired and installed carding machinery, then looms for cotton cloth; death 1837, widow operated until 1845, sold to Thomas Bradley who refurbished the dilapidated Look mill (VG 1846); 1859 sold to Henry Cleaveland; sold to Thomas Campbell 1874; final advertisement 1873;

Scotchman's Bridge – named for Robert Cathcart from Scotland before 1690.ⁱ
The first record of Robert Cathcart on the Vineyard is in 1690 when he purchased a lot of land in Tisbury from Arthur Biven, a tract of twenty acres in the northernmost home lot on the west side of Old Mill brook. He married about this time, Phebe, daughter of Thomas Coleman of Nantucket. In WT began the occupation of innkeeper, which he followed throughout his life,(3) and in March, 1693, he was chosen town clerk, an office which he likewise held to the date of his decease. In 1696 he bought a new homestead lot on the west side of the South (Chilmark) road, just south of the Whiting estate, and in 1706 added the southern half of this lot, making in all about thirty acres. Here he conducted a "shop," kept an ordinary and acted as town and proprietors' clerk until the spring of 1718 when death terminated his career.(4) His birth is estimated as in 1650, and he was therefore about 68 years of age. His widow Phebe, who was evidently many years his junior (she was b. June 15, 1674), married Samuel Athearn the following year. Five sons and six daughters of Robert and Phebe Cathcart are known, and while the family was prominent in Tisbury through that century, it is now extinct in the male line on the island.(5) It is supposed that the name "Scotchman's Bridge" in West Tisbury derived its name from Robert Cathcart, who may have built it, or from one of his sons. In 1701 he was licensed "to keep publike house of Entertainment," and for many years after, probably till his death about 1719, "Kithcarts," as it was called, was one of the well-known hostelries of that day. It was located on the west side of Old Mill river, not far from the store now occupied by S. M. Mayhew & Co. Banks 1911

Littlefield Pond (Albert's Pd; Albert Littlefield's grandfather) - dammed for aesthetics - view from house; Ann Nelson (owned Bunch of Grapes) is Albert III's daughter

Virginia Berresford's pond, off Old Courthouse Rd; visible off Old Courthouse Rd; then ford now a bridge; 1795 map shows 2 mills but no ponds.

Photos of stone bridge in 1882 and 1909; originally was a ford (*Dionis Coffin Riggs –Old Mill River – Intelligencer*)

Mill Pond

Johnson Whiting dug a canal "about a hundred years ago to divert some of the water from this system to create Parsonage Pond (VG1.18.2012)



Tiasquin - Tiasquam

Look's Pond and Mill

Tisbury first book, November 19, 1665 – first record conveys one mill and privileges on westernmost brook [Tiasquin or New Mill River] in Takemmy from Benjamin Church (millwright of the town of Duxbury in New Plimouth Company) to Joseph Merry Church one mill; land originally bought of Josias sachem – 120 pounds (Swift, W. S. and J. W. Cleveland 1903); Acc to Banks - Benjamin Church built the first grist mill about 1668; sold it Nov. 19, 1669 to Joseph Merry of Hampton; Merry operated it as a grist mill until March 5, 1675; sold to Tristram Coffin or ACK; passed to Jethro Coffin grandson who sold cord or grist mill 1715 to Thomas Look (also of ACK) transferred to son Samuel in 1718; to his sons Noah and Job 1748; brother Elijah purchased in 1763/1777 until his death 1800 and to his sons Robert and Elijah; Job's son David purchased in 1804/1805; he and his widow until she died Jan, 15, 1877, David N. Look, grandson of Robert, bought it of her executors; it had been in the possession of the Look family for one hundred and fifty-six years, almost an unprecedented record; David N closed mill soon after coming into possession, removed the building.

Other(s)

Davis Pond was once the site of a fulling mill for cleaning and thickening wool

The second mill built on this water-course before 1850 set up stream owned by Matthew Allen... his son-in-law, Captain George Luce, rebuilt about 1860 and operated it for twenty years or more as a grist mill.

Grist Mills on New Mill river; Benjamin Skiffe granted the privilege to establish one in 1696 (Deeds, I, 125); map of 1795 shows one near the Tisbury line. Not known whether one was built for him (Banks 1911)

John Flender: Look Family – Virginia Brooks – A Look by marriage; trunk filled with look papers in house.

So-called Basset Mill at dam over which they build Middle Road
Stonework & Dam upstream of Middle Road

Roaring Brook

Grist mill, probably by John Hillman (12), before 1728; new one erected on this site in 1849 by Francis W. Nye, mill still standing, though not in operation; could grind 30 bushels of corn daily; some operation; mill used to grind corn, paint, and clay for soap makers until around 1900 (acc to Hine 1908); Roaring Brook – “roars as gently as any sucking dove; those who named it must have come from a flat country where any sort of babble from a brook seemed ferocious” (*CG Hine 1908*)

"Aunt Rebecca [Hillman Manter] put a candle in the second floor of the grist mill for ships to use as a lighthouse," acc. to Robert Elliston, current owner of the property. Foundation of the mill, from when William Manter ran a grocery store beginning of the 20th century. (*Safford 2007*)

John Flender: Elliston have copy draft deed for Nye Leasing property for mill; JF –sketch showing mills on Roaring Brook

Wool Production Knitting

Sheep 1807 - 15,600; wool crop of 23,400 pounds; half purchased for export, chiefly by residents of Connecticut for about 30 cents a pound; wool crop of 22,380 pounds in 1850 [Van Tassel 1974?] (*Lloyd Raleigh 2000*)

1800 – great knitting industry – 15,000 pairs of socks per year and 3000 pairs of mittens per year. Hine 1908

Harness Factory

1872 R. W. Crocker, grew to be a large and valuable industry. nearly a hundred people found employment through its operations finally destroyed by fire. (*Banks 1911*)

Corn Mill

Steam grist mill on Water street in 1881 by William J. Rotch and is yet in operation, under the management of William P. Bodfish (*Banks 1911*)



MV RR OB-E opened – Aug 22 1874

Nice photos – PH from Roaring Brook; WT mill *CG Hine 1908*

HF Norton 1923 Was curator DCHS 1949-61

There was a saw pit in the neighborhood, to which these great trees, many of which were three feet in diameter, were hauled by oxen and sawed into convenient dimensions by hand, one man in the pit and another above....

Whaling and Fishing -- Odds & Ends; Not to pursue in any detail

Herbster and Cherau Edgartown

Influx of Portuguese fishermen so 1276 by 1915; 1370 in 1940 with Portuguese dropping from 18 to 14%

1652 – Thomas Daggett and Wm Weeks – appointed “whale cutters for this year”. Town meeting 1653 drift whales “to be cut out freely, four men at one time, and four at another, and so every whale, beginning at the east end of the town”. Drift whale industry flourished into 18th C.

As whaling declined fishing increased. 1852 – 553 swordfish caught. Mattakeeset Herring Fishery very profitable – 1850 creek cut from M Bay to EGP.

Early 1800s – coopering

Deep-sea whaling did flourish on the island during its Golden Years from about 1820 to 1860. The first ship from Edgartown to engage in deep-sea whaling was the *Apollo*, which sailed on July 5, 1816 under the command of Captain Jethro Daggett, bound for the Pacific Ocean. Another Edgartown ship *Hector* was called the “luckiest whaleship afloat,” and from 1826 to 1853 she brought into port 19,697 barrels of sperm oil. In 1860, there were 11 Edgartown-owned whaling ships, five Edgartown-owned barks, and two Edgartown-owned schooners (Norton 1923). An Edgartown whaler, Captain Charles W. Fisher, is credited with capturing the largest sperm whale ever killed, which yielded 168 barrels of oil, while master of the *Alaska* in 1884 (Banks 1911). Most of the oil processing was done at the Edgartown wharf, which by the early 1800s, had replaced Nantucket as the port of call for many of the region’s whaling vessels.

Another prominent leader in the industry was William Martin, an African-American captain who was born in Edgartown in 1829. Between 1853 and 1887, Martin led many whaling voyages out of the Vineyard and New Bedford. Martin’s home still stands on Chappaquiddick.

1859 – Oil Titusville, Ohio

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

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. MHC Tisbury

Silas Tilton/ Vinal Skiff Mill JOF – 6/28/2013

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 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 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 Pond) and the existing dam and mill pond.

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

Paint Mill

Flender, J. O. 2005. Chilmark's Paint Mill (Map page 9. Great Photo of mill and bare hills; Town of Chilmark 1880s)

1764 – first reference to paint from Gay Head. Paint – very fine powder from clay; milled; shipped then mixed with oil.

1847/48 – first paint mill – Chilmark. Mount Prospect Paint Mill at Roaring Brook by Francis and Hiram Nye from Falmouth (?). ~1/2 mile upstream from North Shore. Site of early grist mill. Run by William Manter - 1850 census – paint grinder. Gradually shifted to corn and grain. Manter and wife also ran store.

Franklin King – E. & F. King Company, Boston; import paint, oils, dyes. Hired Lindley Moore Wing of Falmouth, a partner in oilcloth factory West Falmouth. Most of Chilmark paint was used for oilcloth.

Location: Access to ocean and transportation, water for power, clay. Two possible places – Roaring Brook and Howland Brook (smaller). Roaring Brook = Smith and Barrow brickyard.

1864 – 50 years later lease with John Tilton; excavate yellow and red clay at farm on Keephigon and other material except white, blue, black clay or iron. Purchased two acres from Jeremiah Stuart for mill; ½ acre for wharf and access between; bought other farmer rights to clay and other colors.

1865 – Peaked Hill purchased for clay. Diverted second stream for more power and steam engine.

1866 – fire; rebuilt. *Vineyard Gazette* “Carpet Paint Factory” even larger with larger pond.

1866 – bought more land and transferred ownership to company E & F. King Co.

1924 – *Vineyard Gazette* interview Francis Reed who dug clay – pale yellow, “M” yellow and Oxford ochre. Dried it under 40-50 sheds with roofs, similar to salt sheds. Four to five days to dry into baseball and smaller pieces. Pound with mallet and hoe. Lived in huts in the summer. Pits 36-40 feet deep. \$0.90 – 1.30 wet tone, \$2.00 dry; ground into barrels; shipped ~½ to Boston King Company; rest to Maine, New York.

1870 Census – 6 men full time, 750 tons; made 5,000 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; little action 1876-7, some 1878.

1880 – water wheel and engine condemned.

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

Decline: cost of shipping; wood shortage; cost of clay and transport; introduction of linoleum

Nov 23, 1897 – Franklin King sold to Everett Allen Davis, Probate Judge \$300. Built land holdings in Paint Mill Brook area. 1910 sold 228 acres 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.

John Flenderlost all of his footnotes – w/ deeds references and other information; Unfortunately Art Railton was not interested in including these in John’s Paint Mill article in the *Intelligencer* and so they appear lost.

Ganz –they built a reproduction of the original house that burned; JF has photos of the original

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

Fulling Mill Brook

The Fulling Mill brook mentioned in a deed dated 1694; some years prior to 1694, Benjamin Skiffe was owner and manager; shown on map of 1795 (Banks 1911?); carding mill processed 5,000 pounds of wool annually; fulling mill next to it, pressed over 4,000 yards of cloth in 1790, 3,200 yards in 1805 (*Raleigh 2000*). Grist mill established on the Fulling Mill Brook about 1850 by Samuel Tilton, operated for about ten years.

Additional Notes on Mills – Compiled by John Flender (2013)

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 reserved 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.

History of the Mills on the Fulling Mill Brook. John Flender. July 20, 2013

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."⁸.

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"⁹. A later deed indicates that the fulling mill had been operated by Skiff¹⁰ The partnership with Pain Mayhew lasted until 1704 when an agreement

⁸Deeds V.1, p. 346

⁹Deeds V.1, p. 233

¹⁰Deeds V.2, p. 62

dividing the land acquire in 1694 was reached.¹¹ 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 (Skiffs) "...housing, mill and lands adjoining..."¹² At that time Beriah was about 14 or 15 years old and presumably he continued to live with Skiffs widow, Hannah. Beriah apparently ran the mill for many years after Skiffs death as indicated by the reference to him as a "clothier in deeds dated 1740 and 1757. In 1751¹³ 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..."¹⁴ 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, 1779¹⁵.

The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771¹⁶ 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 census¹⁷, both William, and William Jr., 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."¹⁸ Again, no mention of any mill.

The Des Barres chart of 1776¹⁹, 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

¹¹Deeds V.2, p.62

¹²Probate I/27; (V.1, p.64-67)

¹³Deeds V.6, p. 449 & V.8, p.455

¹⁴Deeds, V.8, p.493

¹⁵ Probate, I/387

¹⁶ Massachusetts Tax Valuation Lists of 1771

¹⁷ Heads of Households in the First Census of the United States (1790)

¹⁸General List of Lands, Lots, Buildings and Wharves

¹⁹Des Barres. American Neptune, Chart

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 [DRF- makes it sound like it may be well-removed form the mill] 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."²⁰

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.) [DRF – So here JF is suggesting that the big pond was not for the fulling mill on the main stream but the grist or other mill near the house].

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"²¹. 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."²².

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."²³ It is thought that the William mentioned was William, Junr. the son of William Tilton and who was also Beriah's cousin.

²⁰ Deeds, V.13, p. 357

²¹ Deeds, V.19, p.379

²² Deeds, V.19, p.384

²³ Martha's Vineyard Historical Society: Box 134B

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..."²⁴. 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.²⁵ 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.

A later map (1858) prepared by H.F. Walling²⁶ 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 1880²⁷ and a USGS topographic map based on an 1887 survey²⁸, both show only the upper pond approximately 1000 feet north of the South

²⁴Probate, I/595

²⁵ Dunham, Thomas. Map of Chilmark, May, 1831

²⁶ Walling, Henry F., Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket, Massachusetts. Smith & Co., Boston 1858

²⁷Vineyard 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

²⁸U.S. Geological Survey, Gay Head Sheet Edition of 1893

Road. However, on a later map based on a 1942 survey²⁹, 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 level 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 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 1768³⁰.

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.

John Flender: Fulling Mill area – “Industrial heartland of Chilmark”

Skiff 1654

Fulling Mill much uncertainty of where mills were 1893 topo – shows pond no longer there

Assumes mill at big rock – mill?

Go upstream at open field there is a dam where pd was shown; mill? JF uncertain

Near bottom of stream brook under road – owner diverted to near

Belton House – big square house w/ 2 chimneys – now Frank LaRusso – he pulled out old millstone. Actual sites of stones and mill – unclear

Fulling Mill Brook

500' N of S Rd: built before 1682 when B Skiff purchased from Matthew Mayhew (July 20) 2 parcels including one where fulling mill stands. Skiff likely bought rights before but no record. [Skiff bought rights, land wasn't sold until mill was built and operating]³¹

²⁹U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Geological Survey, Squibnocket Quadrangle Edition of 1944

³⁰Deeds: V.10, p. 225

³¹J Flender Notes. History of the Mills on Fulling Mill Brook.

M 1 Fulling Mill c 1694 Fulling Mill Brook at South Road. Benjamin Skiffe purchased 100 acres at this time in association with Pain Mayhew. Mill run by Skiff. The two men split in 1704 but Skiff ran mill until his death ~1718. Left mill in will to Beriah Tilton (15 yrs old who lived with widow Hannah Skiff) who ran it perhaps until 1757. Tilton died 1779 left land to son William but no mention of mill³². Dam and stones still visible. Earliest wool processing mill.

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. [JF notes indicate that grist mill was located at Tilton-Blackwell-Belden house. Also indicates that there was a much larger mill pond upstream from original Skiff mill dam. S end of Tea Lane extends down E of Fulling Mill Brook and is the driveway of the T-B-B house. Defined by stone wall N of house.]³³

1831 Dunham map shows 2 mills assumed to be FMB. Mill stones near T-B-B house are grist mill and possibly it and fulling mill both operating then (or both existed and only grist mill running). Walling 1858 shows T-B-B house but no mill.³⁴

2001 – JF explored. Dam remains 600' N of S Rd. Assume fulling mill. Drop there then level through S Rd. 1100' N of S Rd – second, loonger dam with less drop. Neither site has clear foundation. Upper dam likely 2nd and later fulling mill attributed to Wm Tilton in 1817 probate of Wm Tilton Sr. Mill divides several hundred feet above upper dam in area previously flooded. W brach passes through breach in dam and follows original course to breach in lower dam, under FM Tail to S Rd. Upper pd only shows on 1880 nautical chart and 1887 survey (USGS 1893) as 1000 feet N of S Rd. E branch of brook follow apparent canal to W edge meadow, then through stone culvert under trail through stone wall to site near T-B-B house. Grist mill site. One millstone recovered by owner who says another remains.³⁵

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

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.)

Nathan Bassett mill pond above old mill dam at N end of property.³⁶

Wm Bassett (1702-80) mill pond with dam just above Middle Road. Blacksmith from line of blacksmiths. Near headwaters of FMB. Deeds to mill pd 1768. No reference to what kind of mill. Operate furnace bellows or mechanical hammers? Deeds 1811, 1814 “old mill dam” so abandoned.³⁷

³² ibid

³³ ibid

³⁴ ibid

³⁵ ibid

³⁶ ibid

³⁷ ibid

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.

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.

Mill Brook

Satinet Mill

First built 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. Many different products manufactured over long time

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 Athearn 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.

Unclear if there ever was a mill between Athearn & Mill Pond. John looked as there is some reference but it was very gentle terrain. Ask Littlefields.

Old Mill River

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 ½ to 4 ½" thick. It has a hole 7 ½" 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. satinete 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 satinete, a heavy woolen fabric used largely for whalers' 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 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.

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.

Roaring Brook

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 "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.

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

Maconikey

Mill site unknown, though believes some remains exist. [DRF – MVLB owns land there with remains of coal/peat pit]

2 histories of No Mans – orange volume is recent; that author's mother wrote the original in 1930. JF has copies, also at libraries

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 Boulton'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.

Notes Regarding MV Mills from John Flender

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 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 known 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 two 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. (I./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. They 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 poles 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

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.

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 18.11, catastrophe struck the Nye family.

The Aug. 1, 1831 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 as 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 pl95,196,198) 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, Uriah, & 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 Athern's 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.

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 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 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 Pond) and the existing dam and mill pond./From there see “Chilmark Paint Mill...”, Dukes County Intelligencer August 2005 JOF – 6/28/2013

MHC Oak Bluffs

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

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In the following notes, Brian only added in items that were not mentioned in either David’s or John Flender’s notes. In fact most of the industry-related content of these PAL reports came from Banks, 1911.

AQUINNAH

BRH notes from:

Report No. 1335. TECHNICAL REPORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY. TOWN OF AQUINNAH Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts
Holly Herbster Suzanne G. Cherau

Grist mill:

“There appears to have been some limited small-scale land-based industrial activities during this period. Zaccheus Howwaswee, an acting leader of the Old South Road native community,

entered an appeal at the General Court for a grain mill that was granted in 1839. The grain mill was reportedly destroyed in 1855, and no reappeal was ever drafted for funds to construct another mill (Hornblower 1991:71-72).” There is no locational info given in the PAL report for this grist mill, however they got their information from a master’s thesis by Harriet Hornblower 1991 The Gay Head Cliffs as a Placeway of Identity and Power for the Gay Head Wampanoag. Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, Boston University Graduate School, Boston, MA. I was unable to find in a very short Google search; we could follow up with her if needed (professor at UMASS Lowell?).

Brickworks on Aquinnah:

“over sea than overland (Levitas 1980). A brickworks also reportedly originated in Aquinnah sometime in the nineteenth century when a man named Mitchell came from Ireland, established a farm at Gay Head, and made crude bricks on the site. His brickworks gradually grew until it was acquired by Nathaniel Harris and later passed on to his two sons, Sidney and Charles. At one point, the brickworks operated three kilns and shipped approximately 17,000 bricks a day to Chilmark and off island from a private wharf. The remains of a narrow gauge rail line are reportedly to exist in the vicinity of the former clay pit site near the shore of Menemsha Pond. In 1861, the native community voted to stop all proprietors from selling clay individually, and instead to sell 100 tons worth of clay to support the poor and indigent.” Page 49.

“The material progress of Aquinnah in the late nineteenth century was also focused on the utilization of its white clay resource, under the direction of the Gay Head Clay Company beginning in the 1890s. The clay sources at the cliffs were leased to the company in 1893 for an annual fee of \$500 (Banks 1911, 3 :G.H. 19). The clay sources at the cliffs and the clay pit site and wharf near Menemsha Pond were included in this lease. The particularly high quality clay was shipped to brick kilns on the mainland via schooners anchoring at the Menemsha wharf near present-day Lobsterville (Huntington 1969). The revenue generated by the clay works substantially increased the town's ordinary income from a mere \$213 in 1890 to \$1025 in 1900. In 1910 the town's receipts had more than doubled to \$2196 (Banks 1911, 3:G.H. 19).” Page 53.

Appendix F, Table 2. Suggests that the Mitchell/Harris brickworks were on the same site as the Gay Head Clay Company. The accompanying locational map shows them to be at the top of Clay Pit Road and are shown (but not labelled) on the USCS 1890 map (note the road is now where the railroad is shown on map):



The PAL report got their brickworks information came from: Adams, Virginia H., Mary Kate Harrington, and Emily L. Paulus 1998 Gay Head! Aquinnah Community-Wide Historic and Architectural Survey, Gay Head/Aquinnah, Massachusetts. PAL Report no. 944. Submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA.

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TISBURY

MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report. TISBURY
Report Date: 1984 Associated Regional Report: Cape Cod and the Islands

During the Federal Period (1775-1830), “Five of the island’s eight saltworks were at Holmes Hole, representing 76% of the Vineyard’s total salt capacity”. Their source was not given but it might be Freeman, 1807.

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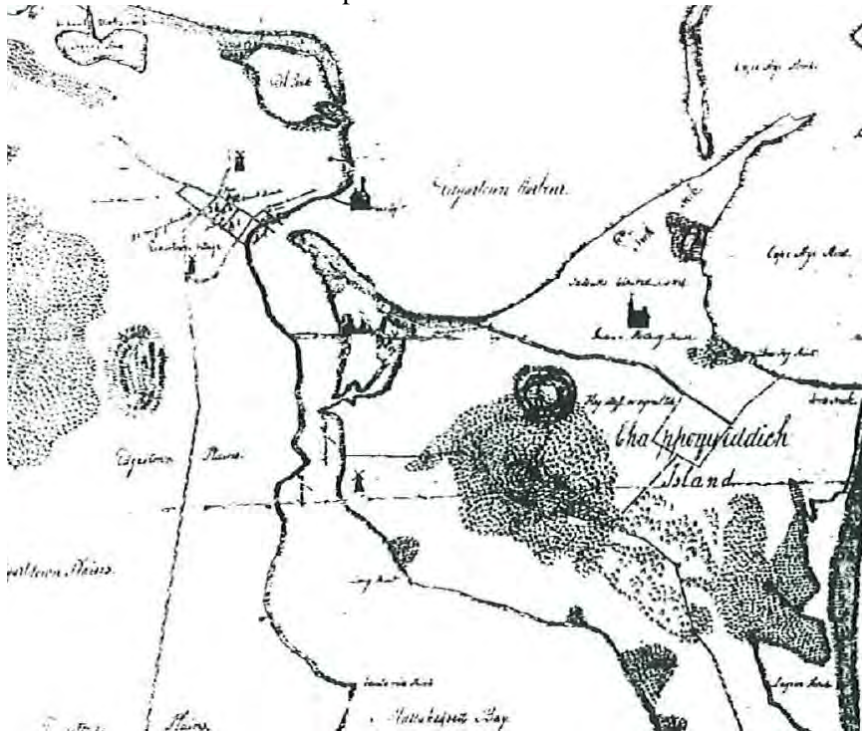
EDGARTOWN

Technical Report: Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey Town of Edgartown Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts. Herbst and Cherau, 2000

Federal Period:

“Land-based industrial enterprises were still limited to wind-powered gristmills, although some coopering businesses had been established to produce barrels for the growing whale fleet. Three salt works were also present in the town by 1807.”

Wharves etc on 1830 map:



Herring Fishery From Banks: The Mattakeset

“Herring Fishery was one of the best-paying and profitable of the fishing industries in Edgartown and on the island. About 1850 a creek was dug from Mattakesett Bay to Edgartown Great Pond (see Figure 5-8). When the herring came into the bay seeking a place to spawn they would follow this creek and be caught by the thousands (Nolion 1923; Poole 1978). That same year the creek yielded an income of \$4,500, which represented a catch of 1,250 barrels (Banks 1911).”

- no more notes because the only other industries the report mentions are taken from Banks, 1911 including some mills and the tar kiln at Pennywise/Dark Woods.

DAVID IS LOOKING INTO OAK BLUFFS AND WEST TISBURY REPORTS

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Brian Hall notes from

Massachusetts Historical Commission. 1986. Historical and Archaeological Resources of Cape Cod and The Islands: A Framework for Preservation Decisions.

This report does not have much specific information on particular industries on Martha's Vineyard, but it does a good job of laying out the regional and broad historic patterns on the island.

MOSTLY DIRECT QUOTES:

Page 131: Trolley service in the study unit was initiated at Oak Bluffs in 1873 when a horse railway was routed from Highland Wharf south to a loop around the Campground circle at Trinity Park. In 1892 this Line was extended west to New York Wharf, and to the Prospect House at Lagoon Heights. Horsecar service also operated briefly on Nantucket between 1890 and 1894, when the Beach Street Railway Company ran a route from Main Street along Brant Point Road to the lighthouse. Electric street railway service was introduced in the 1890s, and the Oak Bluffs line was converted by the Cottage City Electric Railway Company in 1895. A powerhouse was built at Eastville, and the Line was extended west to Lagoon bridge. Two years later, neighboring Tisbury opened the Martha's Vineyard Street Railway, which ran from Vineyard Haven Wharf east to Lagoon Bridge, where passengers could transfer to the Cottage City line.

Sheep/Wool Page 232:

The isolation of the islands made them more heavily dependent on the products of their own cultivation. Of the towns reporting on the islands, Edgartown reported 3.1% and the sheep-raising territory of Chilmark 1.2% in tillage.

Prior to Gray's Raid in 1778, there were said to be 20,000 sheep on Martha's Vineyard.

15,600 sheep were estimated on MV in 1810. Exposed conditions produced heavy fleeces.

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.

Wharves Page 244:

By the early 19th century, the success of maritime commerce began to be reflected in a series of technological innovations that brought physical changes to many of the towns. The construction of wharves and docks is an example.

... wharves authorized by the legislature were located in Falmouth (1819), Edgartown (1822), and Sandwich (1829). These wharves appear to have continued the use of colonial crib design. The introduction of the wooden-pile wharf in the 1820s was a significant technological advance over crib wharves and led to a period of rapid waterfront development... Between 1830 and 1860, over 100 new wharves were authorized by the legislature. Although the list is incomplete, thirty-eight were built in Provincetown, ten in Harwich, nine in Edgartown and Dennis, eight in Chatham, six in Truro and Tisbury... With a few exceptions, this burst of wharf construction appears to have been a function of the successful commercial cod fisheries.

By comparison with the Cape, coastal traffic on the islands was slight. Of the two Vineyard ports, Vineyard Haven (276 tons of shipping) had about three times the tonnage of Edgartown as well as all the passenger traffic by steam vessel from New Bedford and Woods Hole. Five small Tisbury schooners took clay, paving stone, bricks, fish, and hay between Vineyard Haven and Boston, New Bedford, Fall River, and New York.

Whaling Page 260:

Because of the shallowness of the bar at the entrance of Nantucket Harbor, Edgartown had already become an outfitting port for Nantucket whalers. The town had had its own small fleet prior to the Revolution, numbering twelve whalers by 1775. Edgartown, however, did not re-enter the business until 1816, when sent out the ship Apollo, followed by the Loan two years later. By 1822, there were seven whaling vessels sailing directly from Edgartown, including the Almira, which that year made first voyage to the Pacific for Ahraham Osborn.

The 1830s also saw whaling rise to prominence in Holmes Hole where, as in Woods Hole, one individual, Thomas Bradley (1787-1873), was largely responsible. In 1835 he purchased the 338-ton ship Delphos from Boston, sending her to the coast of Brazil, and in 1837 to the Pacific and Indian oceans. The Pocahantas became the most successful of the port's whalers and was followed by the Macon (1839, but wrecked five years later), and in 1844, the 458-ton Ocmulgee. Edgartown also expanded its whaling, maintaining its second rank after Nantucket in the business. Eight ships and a brig began whaling careers in that decade, four of which, the Vineyard, Champion, Splendid, and Mary, were Pacific whalers that returned repeatedly to those grounds into the 1870s. In the 1840s, smaller Atlantic whalers were added to the Edgartown fleet, but few lasted out the decade. Seven more Pacific whalers began sailing out of Edgartown in the 1850s, but only one, the Europa, survived the Civil War and was sold soon after bringing home survivors of the Arctic disaster.

The Edgartown oil works of Dr. Daniel Fisher (1799-1876) were said to be the largest in the world; for a number of years his works supplied all the federal government lighthouses.

The ravages of the Civil War and the losses to the Arctic disaster of 1871 (together with the substantial rise in insurance rates that followed) cut sharply into Edgartown's prosperity. Nevertheless, as late as 1882, the town still had eight whalers, and the last did not leave port until 1896.

Cooperage Page 284:

Most of the cooperage in the study unit was done for the whale industry. The largest consignment came from Falmouth, which produced 9,000 oil casks, by ten men, valued at \$12,000. Edgartown sold 3,000 barrels to the whaling ships. By 1855 Nantucket was the leading manufacturer of oil casks. Twenty-six men employed by nine shops produced over 20,000 casks. Provincetown, Yarmouth, Edgartown, and Tisbury each produced 1,000 casks, while Falmouth's single shop turned out 2,600. The rest of the barrels appear to have been made primarily for the mackerel fleets.

Cloth/wool page 297:

Even before passage of the Wool Act, two major sheep-raising areas were Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. They had supplied neighboring towns with wool before 1699.

The post-Revolutionary period saw the introduction of carding machines in most of the fulling mills in the study unit. Woolen cloth was not the usual product of the region's wool. Instead, wool stockings, often for sale, dominated the region's households.

As late as 1831, Tisbury and Edgartown reported inhabitants knitting coarse woolens, including stockings, of which both towns sent over 1,000 pairs to Boston and New Bedford for sale

Another mill to produce for the whalers was the Look woolen mill in West Tisbury. In 1845, Holmes Hole whaling merchant Thomas Bradley purchased the mill and began turning out a popular brand of satinet ("Vineyard satinet", favored by whalers. His mill was still turning out "the real old fashioned Vineyard satinet" in 1873, though it closed not long afterward. Bradley's mill was one of the longest-lived. The competition from large mills in other parts of the state made woolen cloth increasingly unprofitable after the Civil War.

Iron making page 303:

Small-scale mining of iron took place where local deposits were available. Bog iron deposits in Chilmark, however, were worked in the 18th century, and as late as 1812 the ore was shipped across the Vineyard Sound to the forges of Bristol and Plymouth counties.

Brick making/Clay page 306:

Although brickmaking had been begun in Chilmark as early as 1831, the two major brickyards in the Cape, in West Barnstable and West Falmouth were phenomena of the Late Industrial period. Through the 19th century, Gay Head Indians mined the white clay from the Vineyard Sound cliffs for firing off the island. Much of this clay found its way to Pottersville in Somerset, where the Indians bartered it for other necessities. Vineyard clay deposits also provided the raw material for the Chilmark paint mill of Hiram and Francis Nye of Falmouth, who in the 1850s and 1860s turned out red and yellow "carpet paint. "

Chapter 6 Summary of Historical Development

Plantation Period 1620-1692

The first European settlement of Martha's Vineyard occurred in 1641-42 when the Great Harbor area of Edgartown was settled. Although settlement grew slowly, this area developed as one of two local cores during the period. In 1653 a meetinghouse was built for the settlement as well as a mill (possibly) in Takemmy (West Tisbury). The second local core on Martha's Vineyard during the Plantation period was in the vicinity of the old Tisbury Manor on the west bank of the Mill

River, north from Tiasquin in West Tisbury. Settlement in this area did not develop until 1670 although, as noted above, a mill and roadway to Great Harbor had been built earlier. By about 1674, scattered settlement had also been made in the area around Holmes Hole and East Chop.

Colonial Period 1692-1775

Although it operated on a smaller scale, the final regional core, Edgartown, paralleled Nantucket in several ways. With an excellent natural harbor, Edgartown developed a strong maritime economy during the 18th century while retaining its traditional agricultural base. Edgartown also enjoyed the commercial and political advantages of being shire town for Dukes County. By the end of the period, two local cores had also developed on Martha's Vineyard. Tisbury, though primarily an agricultural and milling community, served as a secondary administrative center down island. The second local core, Holmes Hole, was a maritime village that grew around the harbor between East Chop and West Chop. By the end of the Colonial period, Holmes Hole had become an important port in the coasting trade.

Federal Period 1775-1830

On Martha's Vineyard, Edgartown Village on Great Harbor remained the focus of a regional core that extended across the eastern part of the island. Harborside development continued, and with the town's growing commercial importance it was established as a port of entry in 1789. The local economy was stimulated by the formation of a small whaling fleet. Lighthouses were built at Cape Poge in 1801 and at Edgartown Harbor in 1828. In 1803 a new county courthouse was located here, and after 1807 Edgartown no longer shared court sessions with Tisbury Village. A county jail and keeper's house were added in 1825. The local elite established a Masonic lodge in 1819 and an academy in 1825. Baptist and Methodist societies were organized, and a new Congregational church was built. The Edgartown regional core extended north to the local core at Holmes Hole, where the growing port village separated as the East Parish of Tisbury in 1796. A Masonic lodge was established here in 1783. Baptists organized even earlier, in 1780. Commercial traffic grew so that by 1817, Holmes Hole was made a subport of entry for Edgartown. On the east side of the harbor, a secondary settlement developed at Eastville, and a marine hospital was located here in 1788.

Early Industrial Period 1830-1870

On Martha's Vineyard, the eastern Edgartown regional core remained the focus of island development. The area's population increased, and Edgartown Village continued to grow through the 1840s as a shipfitting and processing center for Edgartown and Nantucket whalers. A new Methodist church was built, a new courthouse was erected in 1859, and a commercial focus developed around the customs house and bank. With the decline in whaling, however, Edgartown's fortunes faded. In the northern part of the regional core, Holmes Hole Village grew significantly as new meetinghouses were built, residential expansion took place, and marine industries located along the harbor shore. The village's distinction as the region's third most important whaling center and as a port of call along the main coasting routes resulted in the location here of a marine hospital (1866) and seamen's chapel (1867). By period's end, however, the emerging focus of activity within the regional core was the expanding summer resort on East Chop. Methodist camp meetings were initiated in the area in 1835, and by 1858 the annual gatherings of the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association at Wesleyan Grove involved the creation of a Canvas City of more than 320 tents. Eastville grew as the local landing point and service center. By period's end a street plan had been laid out, the construction of a more permanent Cottage City had begun, and the Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Company had undertaken real estate speculation in the development of adjacent lands as a secular resort.

On Martha's Vineyard, West Tisbury Village remained a local core, although the town's focus shifted increasingly to Holmes Hole. An academy, new churches, and agricultural fairgrounds were all located here.

The western part of Martha's Vineyard also retained its peripheral position. Chilmark lost population, although small-scale extractive industries were located along its northern shore. The Native American reservation at Gay Head was made a district in 1862. The Elizabeth Islands separated from Chilmark as the town of Gosnold in 1864, but they remained sparsely populated. Sport fishing clubs were established on Pasque Island and Cuttyhunk Island.

Late Industrial Period 1870-1915

The Tisbury/Oak Bluffs regional resort area on Martha's Vineyard was also marked by relatively high population growth rates, as the focus of island activity shifted north from Edgartown to Cottage City and Holmes Hole. Development in the north was marked by the separation and incorporation of both Cottage City (1880) and Tisbury (1892) as autonomous towns during the period. At Cottage City, camp ground development continued at Wesleyan Grove and Vineyard Grove, while the Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Company built a secular, seaside resort to the east. The Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute was located in the north. Hotels, tabernacles, cottages, and shops were all built during the period. However, attempts to extend island resort development from Cottage City south to Edgartown, including the extension of a railroad (1874) from Oak Bluffs to Katama Point, were generally unsuccessful. In Tisbury, an estate district developed at West Chop. The continued importance of Holmes Hole as a harbor of refuge for the coasting trade was marked by the location here of a Boston Seamen's Friend Society (1893) and a new marine hospital (1895).

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.

Early Modern Period 1915-1940

On Martha's Vineyard, Oak Bluffs and Tisbury remained the primary centers of the regional resort area on the eastern part of the island. Both towns had rates of population growth higher than the regional average, while Edgartown to the south experienced more moderate growth. Residential expansion continued at the edge of Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs. Oak Bluffs remained the island's resort focus, and development continued at its amusement area and at the Circuit Avenue business district, with the addition of movie theatres and gift shops. To the south, yacht and golf clubs were established at Edgartown.

The region's other major peripheral area was the western part of Martha's Vineyard. Small fishing hamlets developed at Menemsha in Chilmark, lobsterville in Gay Head, and Cuttyhunk in Gosnold. Scattered coastal seasonal residences also were built, but all four towns in the area lost population over the period.

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.

Changes in the Land 1940 - 1985

On Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, residential growth has extended out from the established centers and has remained dispersed beyond these areas.

On Martha's Vineyard, the highest rates of population increase have occurred in the western part of the island, where West Tisbury (148%) and Chilmark (116%) have seen residential growth. Gay Head has grown more moderately (73%), as have Edgartown (61%) and Oak Bluffs (25%). To the west, Gosnold lost over half (-54%) of its population.

Changes in Regional Agriculture

The post-1940 period has been one in which a significant reduction has taken place in the extent of farming activity within the study unit. Between 1951 and 1980, the percentage of land in agricultural use declined from 15.1 % to 7.7 %. While cranberry production continues to be a significant economic activity in many towns, abandoned bogs are evident in a number of areas. Forest regrowth has occurred on many abandoned agricultural tracts, yet farm abandonment has often taken place in conjunction with residential or commercial development as well-drained agricultural lands have attracted new construction. The decline in farming has also resulted in the abandonment and loss of specialized agricultural structures, farmstead complexes, and the late 19th-century residences of farm and farm worker families. The exception to this pattern of decline has been the cranberry industry, which has expanded operations in much of adjacent southeastern Massachusetts as well as on the Cape.

COMMUNITY-WIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

By Mitchell T. Mulholland Christopher Donta Thomas L. Arcuti

Late Industrial Period (1830-1870). Population decline continued in Chilmark during the period, exacerbated by the loss of Gosnold and Gay Head. While industry flourished in Chilmark, even the largest of these businesses employed a limited number of people. From a high of 476 in 1870, the population fell to 353 in 1890, and eventually to 282 in 1910.

Modern Period (1915-1940). The period is characterized by a further decline in population and the growth of summer residences. Scattered development of summer homes occurred at Nashaquitsa, Chilmark Pond, and Menemsha (MHC 1984: 13). Menemsha became an important base of operations for cod fishing, and later, swordfish fishing.

For example, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries salt-making was an important occupation of almost anyone who had land near salt water. There was a lucrative market for salt until the mid-nineteenth century when salt mined from inland states replaced the laborious process of salt-making from salt water.

The earliest endeavors were sawmills (*BH note: This is just a boilerplate paragraph used in the Chilmark and West Tisbury reports...they provide no evidence of sawmills.*) that provided lumber for local building, grist mills that ground corn and wheat for flour, and fulling establishments that processed wool for cloth. Most of the early mills were powered by streams, a few by the wind. Other more commercial ventures revolved around the numerous clay pits in town which provided cays for bricks and other products. Later, in the nineteenth century, brick, tiles and paint products were produced in Chilmark, their products shipped to other ports for sale.

Water powered mills were generally restricted to the Tiasquam River, West Tisbury River, Fulling Mill and Roaring Brooks. Archaeologically, the water powered mills are quite visible, and are in locations that generally have not been developed. Their dams and foundations are visible today along the Tiasquam River, Roaring Brook and Fulling Mill Brook. While they are subject to flood related damage, the general plan of several mills is intact. Dams are earthen and stone, breached by floods, but the remnants of the dams are clearly visible in places. Some mills such as the Fulling Mill in the south of town, have mill races, mill wheels and dams that are still remarkably intact. [DRF This makes no sense]

. Generally only postmolds, salt residues and other faint features remain of these once important industrial sites.

Clay pits are indicated as a point of interest on several historic maps. The nature of the products is not known. Trades people produced bricks and probably tiles. Redware pottery may have been produced from the clay bodies from these sources. Benjamin Skiffe owned and operated a fulling mill on Fulling Mill Brook before 1694. The mill processed wool and fibers for cloth and continued to operate at least until 1795. A grist mill was constructed before 1700 also by Skiffe on the Tiasquam River. Another grist mill was built by John Hillman on Roaring Brook before 1728. These mills ground corn, wheat and fibers for local consumption. Iron ore was extracted from the swamps around the farm of John Hillman as early as 1743 and shipped from his dock on Vineyard sound.

The extent of this industry is unknown. A tannery operated somewhere on the east side of Peaked Hill by 1726 (Banks 1966[1911]:67-69).

Federal Period (1775-1830). The Massachusetts Survey map of 1795 (Anonymous 1795; Figure 39) shows three hydro-powered mills, located on Roaring Brook, Fulling Mill Brook, and the Mill Brook that enters Tisbury. South Road is also indicated ending just southwest of the town center. Maps of the late eighteenth century show several clay pits, especially on the northern coast, near Paint Mill and Roaring Brooks.

Early Industrial Period (1830)-1870). New industries grew in Chilmark during the period. Hiram and Francis Nye established a paint mill on the northeast coast in 1850. They used the clay deposits from the area to grind colors (particularly yellows and reds). The highest annual production amounted to 46,000 pounds. After twenty years, wood fuel, culled from the local forests was exhausted, forcing the mill to shut down (? Wood shortage in paint mill?—BH). Another grist mill was built on Fulling Mill Brook by Samuel Tilton in 1850 (Banks 1966[1911]:67-69). Dunham's map of 1830 shows many of the exploitable natural resources of the town, but industries are not shown (Figures 40 and 41).

In the nineteenth century, a brickyard was established at the outlet of Roaring Brook (Figure 49). Abundant clay pits supplied the raw material for the bricks, and the forested areas provided the fuel. The large brick-making industry and brickyard was located at the confluence of Roaring

Brook and Vineyard Sound. Possibly started as early as the seventeenth century (CMP 1982, Henry F. Norton [deceased]), the business prospered in the nineteenth century. Today there are massive ruins of this once lucrative business at the foot of the hill where the brook meets Vineyard Sound (Figures 50-53). From 1797 on, the operation was run by Isaac Morehouse, and Preston Norton before the 1820s. The William Mitchell brickyard was located on the east side of the brook in the 1820s. The complex was taken over by the Smith and Barrows Company, between 1836 and 1864, and during this period has an annual production of 600,000 bricks earning the company \$2,400 annually (Banks 1966[1911]:11:69; Josephs 1974:99-100). Clay was extracted locally. The 1830 map of Chilmark (Dunham 1831; Figures 40 and 41) shows clay sources along both banks of Roaring Brook in the vicinity of where the ruins are today. The company was purchased by the Boston Fire Brick and Clay Retort Manufacturing Company, owning the operation for only a year before selling it in 1867 to Nathaniel Harris (Josephs 1974: 100). The business was renamed the Chilmark Brick and Tile Works. The Boston Fire Brick Company moved its operations to Gay Head. Harris ran the operation until sometime in the 1870s. Walling's map of 1858, shows the increase in settlement throughout the town (Figure 44). The brickyard and a grist mill are shown at Roaring Brook, three grist mills on the Tiasquam River (in Chilmark and West Tisbury), Flanders' store on Middle Road, a blacksmith's shop west of the town center. No mills are shown on Mill/Pease's Brook or Paint Mill Brook. On Whiting's map of 1856 mill ponds are shown on the Tiasquam River, Tisbury Mill River, and Paint Mill Brook (Figure 42).

Site CHL-HA-601 is a Paint Mill complex constructed around Paint Mill Brook (Figure 54). The mill was constructed around 1850 (Mayhew has the date as 1847 [Mayhew 1956]) by Hiram and Francis Nye (*BH Note – Flender says that Nye mill was on Roaring Brook not Paint Mill Brook – so was the saltworks mentioned below on Paint Mill or Roaring Brook?*) from Falmouth (Ball 1966:69). The paint mill was built in the area of earlier salt works (Mayhew 1956). The mill exploited several clay deposits located in the immediate vicinity and was known in its heyday for its red and yellow carpet paint (MHC 1984: 10). Water power from the brook powered the milling operation which converted the clay to powder. In 1956, only a remodeled portion of the house remained. This was an industry of considerable size with several brick buildings, a conveyor belt, and storage sheds. A pier/wharf complex was located on Vineyard Sound and used for shipping. Site CHL-HA-9 (Unmarked smallpox graves, CMP 1985: Site 00) is also located off the north side of North Road. Interred are smallpox victims from ships visiting the Island.

Roaring Brook: Several historic sites are located in the area, and are shown on the town's Master Plan (CMP 1985: Sites HH and 39). The most prominent is a 2-3 acre brickyard complex which occupies the level land southwest of the confluence of Roaring Brook with the Sound. This site is discussed in more detail under UMAS Survey below. At the top of the hill on the east side of Roaring Brook, three grist mills are recorded in the Chilmark Master Plan (CMP 1985: Sites M3, M5, M6). One of the sites may have been in operation as late as the early twentieth century. More detail is provided on these sites below. A mill is shown at the head of the ravine of Roaring Brook in 1795 (Anonymous 1795; Figure 39).

BH was only able to find citations for 2 gristmills in the area;

During the reconnaissance survey evidence was noted of mill remains, probably associated with CMP 1985: Sites M3, M5, and M6. Evidence includes two possible foundations, a stone raceway, a bridge abutment, and possible dam. The Hillman Grist Mill (CMP 1985: Site M3), believed to have been in operation in 1730 was located just below the confluence of Prospect Brook with

Roaring Brook. There is a stereoscopic view of this mill at the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society (CMP 1985: 135). The Mayhew-Nye-Manter Grist Mill (CMP 1985: Site M6) and store which originated in 1769 (CMP 1985:135) was located on the east side of the brook. The Daniel Jones Grist Mill (CMP 1985: Site M6) is believed to have been the last operating grist mill in town. It was in operation in the twentieth century. In this area a stone bridge abutment is evident east of the Prospect Hill Road at the confluence of the two brooks. On the lawn of the Elliston house, a stone lined raceway and a possible stone foundation were observed.

Chilmark Center/Wequobske/Peaked Hill Unit

Site CHL-HA-608 (CMP 1985, Part III, House 4) includes the Benjamin Skiffe fulling mill and grist mill which were located near the crossing of Fulling Mill Brook and South Road (Context Extractive Industry). The mill was established prior to 1694 (Banks 1966[1911]; Chilmark Master Plan:67). The mill is shown on the 1795 map (Figure 39) but it is unknown how long it stayed in operation. The foundations of the mill may have been located on the east side of the brook. Whether these are part of Skiffe's operation is Site CHL-HA-609 (CMP 1985: Sites M9 and MIO - Context Extractive Industry) includes stone foundations located just south of Middle Road where the brook passes beneath the road. These foundations are believed to have been associated with two grist mills, the William and John Tilton grist mill, and the Samuel Tilton grist mill.

UMASS Survey. Fulling Mill Brook was covered by a reconnaissance from its crossing of Middle Road, south to south road. A conservation area/walking path follows the course of the brook between Middle and South Roads. During the walkover, the remnants of mill foundations (interpreted as two foundations) were observed at and immediately south of Middle Road. One of the foundations (probably part of a dam/bridge) borders Middle Road. These are interpreted as the ca. 1702 William and John Tilton Grist Mill (reported by Peter Colt Josephs; CMP 1985: Site M9) and the ca. 1850 Samuel Tilton Gristmill (CMP 1985: Site MIO). The area north of Middle Road was not walked but is reported to contain foundations and steps. These features may be related to the mills.

Following south along the brook, just north of a large cleared pasture on the east side road, there is a large multi-structure house foundation. The house foundations are substantial, mortared field stone, and quite deep_ Brick chimney supports still stand. There were at least two additions. This is the site of the Benjamin Skiffe House site. The structure was burned in the twentieth century, probably in the 1930s or 1940s judging from the artifacts in the cellar hole (cast-iron bathtub fragments, cast iron sewer pipe, plumbing fixtures, etc.) An outbuilding foundation is located east of the house foundation, and to the north along east side of the walking path there is another outbuilding foundation. However the occupation of the house into the twentieth century reduces its integrity. While the fire destroyed the wooden structure, the less perishable features are in good condition. The area surrounding the house site may have historic archaeological potential because it may have been in use since the seventeenth century. Features from this time period may still exist below the surface. It would require an archaeological survey to determine the data potential and significance of the site.

Traces of the old Fulling Mill Dam are visible on the west side of the brook at the point where it crosses the pathway (west side of the walking path). On the east side of the brook on the property of a Mr. LaRusso the foundations of a wheel pit and a possible raceway were observed. One mill wheel is still near the wheel pit, the other is sitting on top of a post and is serving as a table.

Tisbury Great Pond/Town Cove/Quansoo Unit

Historic Potential. The area of highest historic potential is along South Road. Early Industrial sites may be located along the Tiasquam River in the north. DesBarres' map of

1781 (Figures 36 and 37) shows early settlement along the road, and only one residence 1,000 ft or so to the south of it. The entire area to Quonsoo had only three resident families by 1858 (Walling 1858; Figure 44). There is a reference to a mill in the general area given by Banks (1966[1911]:16), but there is no other evidence of a mill in the area.

Tiasquam Unit

Site CHL-HA-610 (Reuben Tilton Grist Mill) is the remains of a 1760 grist mill located on the Tiasquam River and Middle Road (Context Extractive Industry). This site is shown on the 1795 map of Chilmark (Anonymous; Figure 39). The remains of a large earthen dam are clearly visible at this location. Evidence of mill structures was not observed at the site but may be located through archaeological investigation~ The site is immediately west of a local site known as the "hewing field", a field used for hewing timbers for house construction (presumably in the seventeenth or eighteenth century when the method was common. An MHC site form is being prepared for this site. The dam was breached during a flood, but otherwise the site appears to be undisturbed... Other unmapped industrial sites are probably located along the Tiasquam River in the north.

Squibnocket Unit

Historic Potential. Curiously and in contrast with other sites in western Chilmark, the subsistence resources that attracted Native people to this area, did not immediately attract European settlement. On the 1781 map (DesBarres 1781; Figure 36) no buildings are shown in the Squibnocket Unit, nor are there any lot divisions. The CMP shows the Abner Mayhew house on the south shore of Squibnocket Pond in the eighteenth century, but this is not mapped in 1781. Two residences are shown on Walling's map of 1858 (Figure 44), in the north along the shore of Squibnocket Pond. On the east, near Great Island, was J. Mayhew. On the west, near the peninsula a Mayhew is shown. On the 1897-1898 maps (Hodgkins 1897-1898; Figures 47 and 48) only five lot divisions are indicated, with one possible house (perhaps the same location as J. Mayhew's residence). In summary, Squibnocket was very lightly settled in historic times. No industrial sites are known. Round Pond [DRF-the pond on Squibnocket?] is shown in historic maps as a tiny round pond surrounded by a large swamp. Today the pond has been considerably enlarged. Whether this was related to agricultural or industrial use is unclear.

Chilmark Center/Wequobske/Peaked Hill Unit

The "Windmill-Menemsha Site" (CMP 1985: Site MII) is shown on the Chilmark Master Plan as located northeast of Bliss Pond (Context Extractive Industry, eighteenth century). A review of the DesBarres map, however shows the mill to be farther to the west, northwest of the intersection of Menemsha Cross Road and North Road (DesBarres 1781; Figure 36).

East of Peaked Hill, there were tan pits (Site CHL-HA-607) at this location around 1726 (Banks 1966[1911]). The operation was near Middle Road, not far from Town Hall. The context is Extractive Industry). There are no recorded prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in this unit. Historic Potential. This unit was the one of the primary settlements of the seventeenth and eighteenth century. Numerous farmsteads were built in this area. Many still exist today. Foundations of structures that were abandoned may exist in the area. Mill Brook was undoubtedly named for its suitability for hydro-power, but this study revealed no mills on maps or other documents. If mill dams existed along the brook, a careful reconnaissance along the brook on both sides would locate these. It is possible that the tenure of mills was short and occurred in between historic maps. There are several areas along the brook where drops in elevation would have produced adequate head for water-powered mills.

Fulling Mill Brook/Chilmark Pond Unit

A conservation area/walking path follows the course of the brook between Middle and South Roads. During the walkover, the remnants of mill foundations (interpreted as two foundations) were observed at and immediately south of Middle Road. One of the foundations (probably part of a dam/bridge) borders Middle Road.

These are interpreted as the ca. 1702 William and John Tilton Grist Mill (reported by Peter Colt Josephs; CMP 1985: Site M9) and the ca. 1850 Samuel Tilton Gristmill (CMP 1985: Site M10). The area north of Middle Road was not walked but is reported to contain foundations and steps. These features may be related to the mills.

Traces of the old Fulling Mill Dam are visible on the west side of the brook at the point where it crosses the pathway (west side of the walking path). On the east side of the brook on the property of a Mr. LaRusso the foundations of a wheel pit and a possible raceway were observed. One mill wheel is still near the wheel pit, the other is sitting on top of a post and is serving as a table.

Other possible historic archaeological sites are likely along South Road and the other historic roads in the unit. Foundations may exist in this area. Along the road that parallels Fulling Mill Brook, the Skiffe House should be fully mapped and recorded before any development may occur. Single family homes are encroaching on this area. The stone features reported by Josephs north of Middle Road should be mapped and documented. They could be a part of the mill community located south of Middle Road.

Tisbury Great Pond/Town Cove/Quansoo Unit

Historic Potential. The area of highest historic potential is along South Road. Early Industrial sites may be located along the Tiasquam River in the north. DesBarres' map of 1781 (Figures 36 and 37) shows early settlement along the road, and only one residence 1,000 ft or so to the south of it. The entire area to Quansoo had only three resident families by 1858 (Walling 1858; Figure 44). There is a reference to a mill in the general area given by Banks (1966[1911]:16), but there is no other evidence of a mill in the area.

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Site CHL-HA-610 (Reuben Tilton Grist Mill) is the remains of a 1760 grist mill located on the Tiasquam River and Middle Road (Context Extractive Industry). This site is shown on the 1795 map of Chilmark (Anonymous; Figure 39). The remains of a large earthen dam are clearly visible at this location. Evidence of mill structures was not observed at the site but may be located through archaeological investigation.

Historic Potential. The Reuben Tilton grist mill (CHL-HA-16) is plotted on the Tiasquam River on the 1795 Mass. Survey and 1857 Walling maps (Figures 39 and 44). Other unmapped industrial sites are probably located along the Tiasquam River in the north.

COMMUNITY-WIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF WEST TISBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

By Mitchell T. Mulholland Timothy Binzen Christopher Donta

BH did not take notes from this publication instead he used the maps and “find next” feature in Adobe Acrobat to find the industrial sites. We can add notes if useful.

General Information on Windmills

<http://www.history.org/foundation/journal/autumn02/windmill.cfm>

Scholars are confident that Robertson's was a post mill—one of the two prevalent types of North American windmills. Post mills had a house-like structure that bore the machinery and sails. It stood on a solidly anchored post of large timbers. Balanced on the post, the house could be positioned to point the arms into the wind. Millers moved it by pushing a tail pole, which ran from the mill to the ground and often rode on a wheel.

Then there was the tower mill. Tower mills had fixed bases that contained their grinding stones and gears. The upper level, where the sails flew, was moveable.

A miller had three ways to adjust its operation. He could set the sails to conform to weather conditions. He spread canvas in light winds and reduced it when wind speed rose. He could regulate the flow of grain to the millstones. And he could adjust the distance between the stones.

Nothing, however, got a miller's attention faster than the "hot" smell of millstones rubbing.

For masters of this machine, a windmill's output could be impressive. Black perfected a system that worked best with three men, including himself. Under optimum conditions, a steady wind and a lively team, Black could produce 180–200 pounds of cornmeal an hour.

Major repairs required a millwright. Most millers, however, probably could stitch a sail or fix a slight gear problem, Black said. A miller also might "dress" millstones, keeping the furrows in the face of the disks deep and the lands rough.

William Robertson's windmill closely resembled the one located in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area today – a narrow, two-story house balanced on an oak post and fitted with four 26-foot frames rigged with linen sails. When the wind rose – a 20- to 30-mile-per-hour breeze was best – the miller pivoted the house to harness the power of the wind.

The sails spun a shaft mated to a geared wheel of 51 teeth called a "rack." The rack drove a perpendicular wooden cage gear called a pinion. The pinion turned a shaft that spun a running millstone against a fixed bed stone below. Wheat and corn fed through a hopper between the stones emerged as flour and meal.

Keeping everything running smoothly – the running stone had to turn from 105 to 110 times a minute – was tricky and dangerous. For his skill and trouble, the miller received one sixth of the grain he ground.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windmill>

The **post mill** is the earliest type of European [windmill](#). The defining feature is that the whole body of the mill that houses the machinery is mounted on a single vertical post, around which it can be turned to bring the sails into the wind. The earliest post mills in England are thought to have been built in the 12th century.

By the end of the 13th century, the masonry [tower mill](#), on which only the cap is rotated rather than the whole body of the mill, had been introduced. The spread of tower mills came with a growing economy that called for larger and more stable sources of power, though they were more expensive to build. In contrast to the post mill, only the cap of the tower mill needs to be turned into the wind, so the main structure can be made much taller, allowing the sails to be made

longer, which enables them to provide useful work even in low winds. The cap can be turned into the wind either by winches or gearing inside the cap or from a winch on the tail pole outside the mill.

Windmills have been used to power many other industrial processes, (gristmill, sawmill) including [papermills](#), [threshingmills](#), and to process oil seeds, wool, paints and stone products.

Windpumps are used extensively on farms and ranches in the central plains and southwestern United States and in [Southern Africa](#) and [Australia](#). These mills feature a large number of blades, so they turn slowly with considerable [torque](#) in low winds and are self-regulating in high winds. A tower-top [gearbox](#) and [crankshaft](#) convert the rotary motion into reciprocating strokes carried downward through a rod to the pump cylinder below. The farm windpump was invented by [Daniel Halladay](#) in 1854.

The Eastham Windmill, located in Eastham, Massachusetts, is the oldest windmill on Cape Cod. It was constructed by Eastham resident Thomas Paine in Plymouth in 1680. It was first moved to nearby Truro in 1770, then finally to Eastham in 1793. In 1808 the windmill was moved to its present location, near the Eastham Town Hall and the Eastham Public Library. Eastham Windmill, as part of the Eastham Center Historic District, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.



In 1854, Daniel Halladay constructed the first of what is considered the American windmill in Connecticut. Halladay's design was much simpler than the Dutch mills, and it was much less

expensive to produce. In the late 1800s, a basic mill could cost as little as \$1.50 to build. Halladay's mill design used wooden vanes rather than sails, and the vanes were set on simple towers above water wells.

Read more: <http://www.grit.com/Energy/Windmills-Harvest-the-Breeze.aspx#ixzz2YGxfPf9o>

Unlike the water-powered mill, the windmill is completely medieval. There appear at the same time two competing designs. One was the German or post mill, which first appears in the twelfth century, while the other was the Dutch or stationary mill. The German model had the entire mill built on a central post, hence its name of "post mill". As the direction of the wind shifted, the miller simply turned the mill to best advantage. The Dutch mill is more familiar. The mill building is stationary (hence the name) while the top with the sails moves on a pivot; so the sails turn with the prevailing wind, but not the entire building. By the beginning of the sixteenth century, just before European settlement in North America, the weight of the milling equipment became so heavy that the stationary mill largely replaced the post design. water was preferred because it generated more power, was more reliable, and more easily controlled.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smock_mill

The **smock mill** is a type of [windmill](#) that consists of a sloping, horizontally [weatherboarded](#) tower, usually with six or eight sides. It is topped with a roof or cap that rotates to bring the sails into the wind. This type of windmill got its name from its resemblance to [smocks](#) worn by [farmers](#) in an earlier period. Smock mills differ from [tower mills](#), which are usually cylindrical rather than hexagonal or octagonal, and built from brick or stone masonry instead of timber. The majority of smock mills are [octagonal](#) in plan,^[1] with a lesser number [hexagonal](#) in plan,

There is an operating smock mill on [Nantucket Island, Massachusetts](#). Built in 1746 by Nathan Wilbur, a Nantucket sailor who had spent time in Holland, the "Old Mill" is the oldest functioning mill in the United States. It is the only surviving mill of the four smock mills that once stood on Popsquachet (windy hill in the Native American language of the Wampanoags) overlooking Nantucket town. Until late in the 19th century, there was a fifth Nantucket mill called "Round-Top Mill" on the site of the present New North Cemetery. The Old Mill was in deplorable condition when it was sold for twenty dollars in 1828 to Jared Gardner for use as "firewood." Instead of dismantling it, Gardner, a carpenter by trade, restored the mill to working condition making it capable once again of grinding corn. The mill was sold again in 1866 to John Francis Sylvia, a Portuguese miller of Azorean descent, who operated it for many years with his assistant Peter Hoy until it fell into disuse in 1892. In 1897, Miss Caroline French purchased the mill at an auction for \$850 and donated it to the [Nantucket Historical Association](#) (NHA). The NHA restored it in 1937 and continues to maintain it, grind corn and guide tours of the mill during the summer and early autumn.

Saltworks

Jennifer Stone Gaines and John York

From Sprintsail: A Journal of the History of Falmouth and Vicinity, Vol. 21, No. 1. Winter, 2007.
Woods Hole Historical Collection, Woods Hole, MA

In a diary written in 1823 by Samuel Chapman of East Dennis, he records building and repairing saltworks around the Cape. He walked two days from his home to Monument Neck (now called Gray Gables) in Bourne to build a new saltworks for a relative, stopping along the way in West Barnstable on Sunday to hear a preacher. Four men worked on this project; they spent their first month hand-sawing planks from pine logs to be used for the vats and roofs. Most of the second month was spent de-barking and boring out more pine logs for the water pipes. He recorded that they spent Friday, July 4, 1823, caulking the vats, filling the first string of vats with sea water, then "at 4:00 we gave a heap of oysters a little bit of a touch. At sunset, knocked off and call 16 it Independence Day." The next day they continued the work on the vats, and on Sunday went to church three times. On Monday, in their first real break from work, they rowed a skiff across the Bay "to spy on the town of Wareham" and returned to Back River to go huckleberrying and to visit "Uncle Caleb's house." It took the four men five months to build the saltworks of 23,000 square feet, probably about 100 square vats. D
