

MV Diaries – William Butler

Typed by Linda Hampson from the Dukes County Intelligencer

William Butler Diary

1966 Vol. 8.2 page 23. Martha's Vineyard in 1792 – A Diary. William Butler.

Notes by Huntington. 30 wigwams at Sengekontacket – Majors Cove. Small settlement at Lagoon Pond.

Feb. 8 Very hard weather for sheep, being a great deal of snow on the ground – employ'd by looking after cattle, sheep &c. [Wm. Butler – like father – tanner by trade – also farmer, sheep raiser, teacher. Talks about being on the West Side or East Side (of Lagoon Pond)].

March 14 Employ'd mending fences.

March 15 Rode to New Town.

March 16 Came down from Chilmark.... brought down from Bassets 36 ½ lb flax being the sixthpart of what came off 2 acres ground.

March 17 Employ'd opening Farm Pond Crick – set it a running

March 20 Employ'd getting withs on the Plains [probably for weir or eel pots].

[1792 many Martha's Vineyard people moving to Maine – New Vineyard – due to population explosion and the lack of good land].

March 24... cutting posts.

March 27 Employ'd mending fences.

1967 Vol. 8.4 Wm. Butler Diary continued

April 4 Employ'd shutting in the meadow. It is now as forward in respect to grass and weather as the first day of May in a Common Spring.

April 5 This day Peter Norton carried away a half a load Sedge Hay – gave 20 shillings for same.

April 6 Employ'd plowing at home.

April 9 Employ'd plowing at home – sold 400 wt. hay. Ansall Norton bought 500 English hay of E. Butler.

April 21 Up at Squibnocket yarding sheep type ____.