

## History – DRF Notes and Excerpts V

One of many documents containing miscellaneous notes from readings on the history of the Vineyard. These were compiled over a six-year period beginning in 2011.

**McCalley, J. W. 1981. *Nantucket. Then and Now.*** (beautiful photos, Nantucket Historical Association)

Nantucket – house lots ~60 square rods ~22 acres.

1.5 acres per sheep – 1670 - 27 proprietors each could have 270 sheep. No textile capacity – no streams, wind fickle – so wool shipped to mainland.

1699 – Parliament Act forbid trade in woolen goods.

1846 – fire - > 400 buildings

1859 – oil – Titusville, PA

Rail road connection for New Bedford – competition and elsewhere

Peak population ~10,000

**Baldwin, H. I. 1928. *The Trees of Nantucket.***

H. D. Thoreau 12-28-54. Capt. Gardiner at Siasconset – planting pines on tracks to 300 acres – Pitch and some Norway, from Cape and France (*P. sylvestris*), couldn't get white pine.

1781 – 10,000 sheep 580 cattle

1779 – fuel famine when harbor froze – no wood from mainland.

Josiah Sturgis – 1847, 1852, 1853 – pine plantations. Sturgis and Gardiner Pine Lands on current State plantations.

1912 - Nantucket Civic League deeded 80 acres to the State for forestation experiment.

1919 – 50 acres added. White pine best growth – no weevil and scrub pine and RP. Japanese Black Pine 30-years-old most promising.

**Guba, E. F. 1965. *Nantucket Odyssey: A journey into the history of Nantucket.***

Tilled land – as many divisions as rights. Annually proprietors voted on which areas to till, pasture; cattle versus sheep.

Boundaries – furrow or post and stones.

1801 – wretched tillage ≈ 1350 acres 5% - 16,000 sheep at large and occasionally confined to a small area for crop enrichment, never housed.

**Lancaster, C. 1979. *Nantucket in the Nineteenth Century.***

Rev. F. C. Ewer – 1869 map – Notes: 1630 – “*The island covered with forest trees, mostly oaks.*”

1659 – “*the soil rich and the Island covered with oaks and other trees.*”

1791 – first Nantucket whaling vessel to the Pacific.

1820 – 7,266 population, 72 whaling ships.

1836 – Great fire, 1838 great fire.

1840 – 9, 712 population, 1846 – great fire ↓ whaling – never recovered from fire.

1850 – 8,779 population; 1872 – popular watering spot.  
~1660 ~ whole island into sheep commons.

**Coffin, William 1834** NY Public Library

Maps of Nantucket 750 acres of peat swamps, the strata of peat being from 1-14 feet thick, of a good quality and much used as fuel. No wood worthy of notice.

House timbers from Exeter, New Hampshire

Whale oil – chief industry – cut in half by introduction of camphene, another 30% by lard oil, death blow – kerosene.

1869 – last whaler

Had up to five windmills

Cranberrying peaked ~1900. Gibbs Swamp – the world's largest cranberry bog.

**Donahue, B. 1983. *The forests and fields of Concord: an ecological history.***

Concord 1635 – 1<sup>st</sup> Boston Bay Inland settlement – common pasture/open field system of England – bulk common pasture; proprietor strip with tilled and meadow; crop rotation, fallow.

Average 30 cords per household per year.

1830s improved stoves – cut woodland use by ~50%.

**Herbster, H. and S. G. Cherau. 2000. *Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey. Town of Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.***

Edgartown – ditch and mound – field and property lines; wooden fence

1<sup>st</sup> division – home lots – south area between Great Pond and Katama Bay; planting fields to the north.

Katama – peripheral from earliest occ – part of Edgartown Plain – 40 acre lots divided among proprietors  
1646 – Plain Road 1662 – may have been Indian trail – Katama Road.

Chappaquiddick – excellent grazing 1703 – 250 great cattle spring/fall.

**Desbarres, J. F. W. 1776. *Map of Martha's Vineyard (Western Part) and the Elizabeth Islands, Massachusetts.***  
fields

**Crevecoeur, J. H. 1784. *Martha's Vineyard with Its Dependencies.***

Katama sheep pasture with woodland to the west and Chappaquiddick.

**Crapo, H. A. 1830. *A Map of Edgartown, Shire Town of Dukes County.***

Notes on the Wampanoag Indians

Proprietors of lots – commonage – cut wood and grazing.

1653 – eight cows, 1663 – 12 great cattle or horses or eight sheep.

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

Dr. Fisher – candle works scion; tar industry around Pennywise area. Edgartown oil and candle works – largest in the world.

**Chase, H. E. 1883** *Notes on the Wampanoag Indians* from 1882-3 notes

Wampanoags “*Every year, fewer signs of Indian settlements.*”

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

Cotton 1674 Martha’s Vineyard Praying Towns.

Nashamoies (south Edgartown)  
Toikiming (Takemmy – Tisbury)  
Talhomo (part of Chilmark)

Sengekont akit (north Edgartown)  
Nashowakemmuck (Chilmark)  
Chappaquiddick

1792 – 440 in Dukes – 75 Chappaquiddick, 276 Gay Head, 25 Sengekont akit, 40 Christiantown, 24 Nash

**Anonymous. (undated)** *Aquinnah Cultural Trail*

Now 901 members; 300 on Martha’s Vineyard, 27 affordable housing; 477 acres of ancestral land.

1987 - Federal acknowledgement of tribe – after two petitions.

1998 – name changed.

Gay Head – annual decision where to plant/fallow; north, south and east common pastures – middle, south, old east – grazing divided by walls.

Hog Pasture, Middle Pasture, Fatty Pasture (best for livestock).

North pasture and cranberry bogs – wiped out in 1938.

Waskosims Rock and Middle Line – separated Wampanoag and Mayhew land.

Middle line from WR – straight to Menemsha Pond – now Chilmark and West Tisbury.

Christiantown – 1659 – one square mile set aside for converts.

**Barlow, V. 2010.** *Species in the Spotlight: Sassafras, Sassafras albidum.*

Sassafras – 1574 Nicolás Monardes, Spanish physician book – “*Joyfull newes out of the newe founde worlde*” – myriad uses of plants especially sassafras – used by the Indians.

Sassafras is remedy “*for them that bee lame and creepelles and them that are not able to goe.*”

1583 – explorers to bring it back – 1603 to exploit it. Jamestown annual quota of Sassafras was charter condition.

**Eisenstaedt, A. 1988.** *Eisenstaedt, Martha's Vineyard*

Thomas Hart Benton house at Menemsha Point on Herring Creek.

1800s - Menemsha “creekville” narrow water way.

1905 – Menemsha Pond opening dredged and jetty, causeway.

1938 – rebuilt.

Old Mill Pond [West Tisbury (?)] – original factory for satinet – heavy wool fabric from sheep for seamen’s pea jackets.

**Mulholland, M. T., C. L. Donta and T. L. Arcuti. 1998. *Community-Wide Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of Chilmark, Massachusetts.***

Chilmark – Tisbury Manor 1671 – New York jurisdiction – Manorial demense – all residents subject to the lord of the manor – Mayhew.

Abel Hill – first meeting house.

Chilmark – Nashowakemmuck – trail to Takemmy.

1694 – Fulling Mill – on Fulling Mill Bridge

1669-1700 - Grist Mill on New Mill Road

1704 – South Road laid out – continued Mill Path on old native trail.

1726 – Tannery near Peaked Hill.

1728 – Grist Mill – Roaring Brook

Before Grey's Raid – 20,000 sheep in Chilmark; wool to Connecticut and Massachusetts - 1832 – 7,000

1831 Brickyard

**Stanley, Karin. 2001. *Hennery Luce his Lott***

Martin Pring 1603 “*the Country yeeldeth Sassafras a plant of sovereigne virtue for the French poxe, and as some of late have learnedly written good against the Plague and many other Maladies....*”

Brereton “*We stood a while like men ravished at the beauty and delicacy of this sweet soil.*”

Aquinnah and Chappaquiddick – like separate lands

Henry Luce – of Tisbury, one of the original English homesteaders, wife Remember; 1687 60 acres near James Pond.

Map of home lots drawn by Banks – not 100%.

East-west Road = Scotchman's Bridge Lane.

1860 – Littlefield – cleared land and built wells according to Polls.

1926 – Margaret and Howard Butcher – 40 acres.

**Crowell, L. 1932. *Cape Cod Forests***

Cape – heavy oak beams in houses – tall straight trees; wide clear pine paneling – large diameter in dense forest.

Salt and glass – much wood.

Sandwich proprietors – June 21, 1714 – vote to lease the boxing of pine on common lands – Similar vote in Plymouth and Edgartown.

Pine tar – lubricant, greasing wagon wheels.

Swamp Magnolia (*Magnolia glauca*) reported by early botanist.

Better outwash soils of middle glacier – original forest = hemlocks and hardwoods with white pine – beech, yellow birch, white oak, red oak (very rare now), chestnut, white ash, pignut and tupelo.

South slopes of the moraine – inferior trees – Scrub oak, black oak and beech, tupelo, pitch pine.

Swamps – white cedar.

Light soils – white pine and hardwood, pitch pine on exposed sites.

But if much burning – more pitch pine.

*“It was a common occurrence at the annual town meetings during the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to support citizens to fire the woods.”*

Freeman *“On March 21, 1754, forty-two men were appointed by the Town of Sandwich to fire the woods before April 6<sup>th</sup>.”*

Outwash – excellent agricultural land except where too far from the water, too deep for wells.

Some areas used cisterns – Village of Forestdale.

Trees today – sprouts and fire resistant; without fire – white pine, beech, hickory.

Need to address the issue of planting trees in heavy brush.

*“There are 260,000 acres of land in Barnstable County; probably 160,000 acres will never have a greater value than of forest land. Wealth originates from land through the application of labor. To be truly prosperous we cannot allow land to lie idle;.... For idle land means idle men.”*

Interesting private plantations exist on the Cape.

*“On the whole today from a forester’s point of view our woodland is nothing but a patch of weeds.”*

**Banks, C. E. 1911. *The History of Martha's Vineyard***

Heath hen – imported. Laws to protect it – 1824.

Will Lay’s Plain = Willies Plain = Indian of Edgartown. Supposedly son of Nicholas Morton (apocryphal) – 1716 reference to Will Laves Pond.

1684 - divided Edgartown woodland – presumably East Pine and West Pine.

1743 – Pennywise Swamp.

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.”*

Tar Kiln Path – take tar from Pennywise region.

1738 – Deeds VI, 364

1850 – Dr. Fisher – 118,000 pounds of candles; 13,200 barrels of oil.

**Norton, H. F. 1923. *Martha's Vineyard: History, Legends, Stories.***

North-south road through State Forest – Waldron’s Farm Road to Duarte Pond.

Dr. Fisher from Sharon, Massachusetts 1800 – Came to Vineyard Haven in 1824; introduced candle making; largest candle factory in the U.S. > \$250,000 annually. Founder of the Martha’s Vineyard National Bank; friend of John Murray Forbes; built grist mill near Middletown.

**Hine, C. G. 1908. *The Story of Martha's Vineyard.***

Fights between the farmers and fisherman on pond draining.

Little Pond – never dry – low when wet, high when dry.

**Huntington, E. G. 1969. *An Introduction to Martha's Vineyard and a Guided Tour of the Island.***

All land on OB side = Farm Neck – Nortons, Butlers, Luce, Smith.

Dr. Fisher part owner at one time or another of most of Edgartown's whaling ships. Hardtack factory in Edgartown; grist mill North Tisbury.

Cattle – sold on Nantucket and whaling ships.

**Glenn's Email – September 2, 1999 – Tom Rawinski**

Cored two gnarly oaks at Felix Neck, due north of Turtle Pond ~50 cm dbh

One – 214+ years-old; another 186+ years-old.

**J. C. Allen, 1938. *Tales and Trails of Martha's Vineyard.* Martha's Vineyard Historical Society.**

Peter Norton – Deed 1784 – Will Laves Plain, Little Pond, Great Plain, Tar Kiln Path.

Tom Dunlop – Gazette articles 1940s on Martha's Vineyard land use history.

**Demeritt, D. 1991. *Climate, Cropping and Society in Vermont, 1820-1850.***

Late 1830s-40s – shorter growing season; cooler summers; weather more unpredictable – corn hurt by frost; potatoes, oats, wheat good with cooler weather – good dairy, cheese, meat, produce.

1823 – Champlain Canal – valley linked to New York City with ind to come.

Movement into north Vermont.

Clearing forests and settling land “*imprint of the world's finest civilization on a vast wilderness.*”

Most rural farms – mix of animal husbandry - chickens, sheep, cattle, cows, swine and possibly horses with hay, pasture and arable production – small grains – wheat, rye, oats and corn, potatoes and carrots, buckwheat, turnips, peas, flax, beans and squash and fruits – apples and plums.

Diverse and flexible retinue.

Great climate fluctuations – Little Ice Age 17<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> century – cooler, ↑ variability and more frequent displacement of circumpolar vortex – 1° difference.

Warming assumed due to clearing.

More specialized agriculture as economics tougher – climate and market forces.

English grains – wheat and rye – planted among stumps.

Transport – took out produce but brought it in; stopped wheat, started burying flour.

Corn – more important in southern New England; ↑ in north as climate warmed; potatoes.

Hay – need for up to six months.

1.68 m sheep in Vermont – 1839.

By 1860 much less diversity.

**Capace, J. 2001. *Land-use History of Cape Poge and Wasque.***

Photo – sheep grazing Wasque after a fire.

Substantial portion of Martha's Vineyard open at European arrival – Europeans followed Indian practices.

Modern plant and animal communities – due to this history – 1653 – sheep onto Chappaquiddick.

1660s - Edgartown – passed measures to limit tree cutting and number of livestock on Chappaquiddick.

Grazing – seasonal via Swimming Place – shallow and short – fall into April; pastures regrew in the summer when wool was cut.

Wasque – 1<sup>st</sup> deeded purchase 1722 from sachem Jacob Seeknout by Simeon Butler son of Captain John Butler – first whaling captain on Martha's Vineyard. Fish family by marriage.

Pocha Pond and 210 acres and 300 acres salt and brackish marsh – large and least disturbed salt marshes on Martha's Vineyard.

1845 – Pocha Pond Meadow and Fishing Company – granted rights to construct dike on inlet to Pocha Pond.

Early 1900s – dike Pocha Pond and Cape Poge Bay – spring spawning for herring; barreled to New York City; conflict hunters, farmers, landowners.

Subdivision; mid 1900s most of Cape Poge to The Trustees of Reservations. Massive fundraising by Mrs. Seth Wakeman – 1967-71 five different units consolidated. The Trustees of Reservations bought Wasque, Wasque Point Trust.

Coastal heathland and grassland – remain open naturally as tolerant to salt spray which kills most other plants.

1703 – first mention of ferry – Isaac Chase – Martha's Vineyard to Falmouth.

1723 – Great Gale 1723 attached Cape Poge to remainder of Chappaquiddick and closed east end of Pocha Pond.

1767-1827 peak whaling.

1834 – Tisdale Smith consolidated land on Wasque – used for sheep pasture.

1854 – last documented washing and shearing in Shear Pen Pond.

1892 – Chappaquiddick fire likely included Wasque; Cape Poge divided into summer community – Country Club Estates.

1907 – Depression.

1909 – Wasque to State Street Trust Co., almost developed Chappaquiddick-by-the-Sea; through 1930s – Wasque sheep pasture.

**1775 - Desbarres, J. F. W. 1776. *Map of Martha's Vineyard (Western Part) and the Elizabeth Islands, Massachusetts.***

1795

**1830 - Crapo, H. A. 1830. *A Map of Edgartown, Shire Town of Dukes County.***

**1858 - Walling, H. F. 1885. *Atlas of Dukes County.***

1674 – 60 Wampanoag families – 1790 – 75 total.

Chappaquiddick – Indian Town – into 1830s at least 100 woodlands owned by the Wampanoag; Indian Meeting House – N Neck.

1680 – limit 400 cattle, 200 sheep, 1 horse on commonage.

Cape Poge – from Capawak – mistakenly applied to all of Martha’s Vineyard.

Also Natuck before attached to Chappaquiddick by the East Beach = Cape Poge Beach.

Deed October 28, 1742 – Benjamin Pease and Benjamin Natick (Wampanoag) – describe closing of Pocha Pond by Gale of 1723 – recall Cape Poge separate.

1764 – first structure Cape Poge “pest house” quarantine small pox; many gravestones → 1960s.

1720 – Cape Poge leased in spring – Shear Pen Pond for shearing.

World War II - 40 men on Chappaquiddick – 20 at the lighthouse; beach for amphibian assault.

1826 – last hay on Cape Poge – 140 acres plowed and planted with corn – Great and Little Necks. All of Wasque under cultivation – hay, etc. – from real estate ad.

Fall ~ October 5 livestock to Chappaquiddick – 1703 – 250 cows, oxen horses – pastured on uplands and saltmarsh. April ~25 – into Shear Pen washed and sheared.

Brands used.

1660 – export of sheep and wool prohibited.

1665 – law against Massachusetts sheep export.

1699 – No export among colonies or countries.

1704 – chief sheep areas in New England, Martha’s Vineyard, Block Island, Massachusetts Bay Island, Nantucket.

1778 – 10,574 sheep; 315 cattle; Edgartown – 3719 and 112, 5. (taken by the English?); also 52 tons hay, 23 whaleboats.

1782 – 20,000 sheep, 2,000 cattle; carding mill in Chilmark – 5,000 pounds annually.

1840s – tariff to restrict wool imports – 1846 removed; ↓ sheep.

1880 – 9,225; 1930 - <3,000.

1802 – Cape Poge lighthouse.

1854-55 >20,000 ships passed.

Wasque Neck – separated by fence-line-northwest corner Pocha Pond, southwest to Katama Bay.

Henry Butler born 1672 – bought up land on Wasque Neck, 1742 – south part of Cape Poge Beach.

Pocha Pond – Wassaehtaak – from Poksha-muk “*where there is a breaking in*” – from Cape Poge Bay.

Pocha Pond may have been connected to Katama Bay when Cape Poge separated from Chappaquiddick.

Until 1722 Pocha Pond open to the Atlantic near Wasque Point; used as harbor. Closed and less saline – had cranberries at west end – 1800s.

Chapter 185, Acts of Massachusetts Legislature 1845 – include Pocha Pond, Meadow and Fish Company empowered to close outlet by the dike at Tom’s Neck Road. Dike to travel over – free for the public.



Dike – flumes allowed water to escape at low tide, but kept saltwater out at high. Flooded with fresh at winter. Dike opened for herring and shad in the spring.

Dike – massive decline shellfish – fights with landowners and salt marsh.

To enhance shell fish – narrow spit formed by stone jetties at Cape Poge – spit between Cape Poge Bay and ocean – filled channel and abandoned.

1949 – State approved opening dike and inlet – huge ↑ scallops – years after – worthless.

1892 – Cape Poge and adjacent beach surveyed for subdivision – hotel and wharf.

1913 – Wasque – 775 housing units Chappaquiddick-by-the-Sea; grid streets, parks, clubhouses, docks, few lots sold.

1959 – Cape Poge donated to The Trustees of Reservations.

December 1967 – Wasque Point Trust formed to purchase Wasque in five units and sell to The Trustees of Reservations.

January 1968 to The Trustees of Reservations bought first; 1971 – all five.

Bridge – deteriorated in 1970s, closed to vehicles in 1981 and pedestrians in 1988. Since the summer of 1995 – open to the public.

### **Shaler, N. S. 1874. Martha's Vineyard. *Atlantic Monthly***

Hole = deep-cut indentation or passage between two masses of land.

Oaks in oak bluffs – 10' high.

Pass “*at once into the forest which covers the great level region of the west half of the island.*”

Extent and unbroken character of the forest amazing – up to 10 miles without habitation- maze of old paths.

The whole has the charm which comes from the limitless.

A waste in the eyes of people living east of it.

Cool – overarched lanes or open new-felled woods.

Central Valley – North and West Tisbury.

Agriculture in decay – no newly won forests – every side one sees the gains of the woods on the fields. Many deserted houses.

Vast fields near ponds – once cleared and cultivated – now fences falling.

Great potential in soil.

Temperature average 2° above Boston; cool summer; winter 10° above Massachusetts Bay; Cape Cod catches arctic waters.

Remnants of tribe – Indian blood almost washed away by a mix of negro and white; kink hair; mulato.

Moraine hills – boulders of puddingstone, syenite from near Boston.

Indescribable loneliness.

Gay Head – remnants of cliffs eaten back for miles – in water.

**Raleigh, L. 2000. *Land-Use History of Long Point Wildlife Refuge***

Long Point – Seconquit.

Necks described as plain, meadow, field, cornfield and woodlands.

Scrubby Neck – Wachepemepquah – planting field.

Tississa – Kuppiauk = heavily wooded – scrub oak mixed.

Whales hunted from boats (sic) and taught whites.

Neck under complete English control by ~1700.

1803 – Louisiana Purchase; 1825 Erie Canal; Lowell 1820-50.

Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century – 329 whaling ships – New Bedford.

Whales up to 50% fat.

Dr. Fisher – purchased 600 acres in Tisbury and built or purchased five dams along Mill Brook.

Contracted with farmers to grow wheat and built a road connecting his mills to Edgartown.

Swamp at the head of Long Cove – Cranberry bog with two bridges and dike to control water flow.

Farmers continued to burn fields.

Long Point – stockyard in center of field for winter hay – pastures and hayfields – Long Point less heavily grazed than other areas; open except three woodlots.

Hunt Clubs of Great Ponds – wealthy industrialists.

Oyster Company set up shucking shakes on Tisbury Great Pond.

Tisbury Great Pond opened since 1700s – not clear if Indians did.

Watcha Club – first hunting club – 1903 – South Scrubby Neck an area between Watcha and Oyster Ponds; clubhouse west of Watcha Pond.

Tisbury Pond Club – Long Point 1912 – bought most of Seconquit; 470 acres and the Long Point; club house – near Middle Cove Pond.

By 1913 – entire area - Tisbury Great Pond to Oyster Pond in two clubs.

Live decoys – 1913 – Weeks-McLean Act outlawed market hunting.

1912-1919 log: 1,861 birds shot – 334 shooting days.

Caretakers maintained club house, blinds and flyers (decoys).

When Edgartown-West Tisbury road paved – quick route was grassy Deep Bottom – drove and created road.

Wild rice planted to ↑ food.

Ditch built to connect Tisbury Great Pond to Long Cove Pond to regulate water for ducks feeding on pond weeds in Long Cove Pond.

Tisbury Great Pond opened since 1715 – Mrs. Johnson D. Whiting rented horses and driver for \$1.85 to open pond.

By 1900s – legally mandated “*An Act to Provide for the Drainage of the Lowlands and Meadows around certain Great Ponds in the County of Dukes County*” – maintain meadows and allow anadromous and catadromous fish.

Later interest – prevented flooding of cellars, maintain oysters; “Sewers” elect to oversee opening.

“Manter Nail” – Tisbury Great Pond high water mark when the nail is reached – spilling at Muddy Cove. Once reached, pond opened and would drop 4’.

Mal Jones – if open at 36” great risk will fail – he has a nail at 42”.

Pond closes naturally and ground water rises. Behind opening sand bar develops so next opening to east where the water is deeper. Then to the west ~80-year cycle – related to northward beach mount. After 80 years – sand bars over washed by barrier beach.

Open naturally in pre-settlement; NY – unclear?

1930s white perch stocked – so debate – leases terminated.

1950 Vineyard Shellfish Co. and Quansoo Shellfish Co., leases from Chilmark and Tisbury to harvest oysters. Dredged for oysters, hydraulic pump for clams – rapid overharvest.

1941 Joseph Walker kept sheep on North Scrubby Neck for Walker Co. Wool.

Four fires on Long Point – 1900 – South Neck; 1929 – two Waldron’s Bottom and one Watcha 300 acres; 1946 – most north of Watcha Path into great Plain.

1938 – blew down orchards on Long Point.

Grazing and fire ↓ woodlots → forests.

Coarse sands like south Long Point – open longer than richer, fine sands.

Bottoms – coarse and frost – refugia for species that existed with people for 100s to 1,000s of years.

Watcha Club → Richard Keeler → sold 327 acres at Scrubby Neck –

Tisbury Pond Club terminated – Carl Gilbert, William Rodgers, Frederick Blodgett, retained 1/3.

December 27, 1968 - Carl Gilbert, William Rodgers, Frederick Blodgett donated to The Trustees of Reservation 1/30 for ten years.

1975 – West Tisbury looking for south beach access – agreement The Trustees of Reservation, West Tisbury and Tisbury Pond Club road through Pasquanahommon’s Neck – beach parking; 12 blinds remained.

Long Point Wildlife Refuge – one of the greatest concentrations of rare species in the state.

1982-93 Tisbury Great Pond closed and reopened to oyster harvest.

Long Point Wildlife Refuge gradually fragmented from state forest.

1776 – map ditch from Long Point swamp to Deep Bottom Pond.

1850 – Fences across the Thumb Cove and off north of Homers Pond.

**Dunwiddie, P. W. and M. Adams. 1994. Landscape Change on Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands 1640-1993.**

Great Plain – highest fire frequency on the Cape or Islands. Since earliest description – stunted second grade oak forest.

Some areas – no recorded burning but have nice grassland and heathland; Pasque and parts of Gay Head.

Chappaquiddick and West Tisbury moraine – extensively grazed and cleared shore to shore but experienced rapid regeneration – some closely grazed meadows → mature oak in < one century – possibly resprouted root boles.

Naushon E.

Martha's Vineyard Outwash – flat, well drained, little land use as no water.

Gay Head – can consider as an island – less well-drained, but highly exposed – < two miles shore; very little woodland.

Chappaquiddick – similar land use and exposure but poorer soils – sediments over moraine almost completely cleared – regenerated with coastal brush and pitch pine reacts.

Pasque – very exposed and slow to regenerate like Gay Head.

Naushon Desert – similar, open – regenerates expts – no known fire.

NW – Similar to Nash and Gay Head, now rapid to shrub.

Naushon – intermediate Pasque and Gay Head \_\_\_\_

Manter's Roaring Brook Grist Mill ~1728 → early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Several brick works on North Shore, Roaring Brook 1851-1971 dikes; current owners – Harris bought in 1866.

Paint Mill – exported colors.

Eliot Forbes – Naushon – 25 houses – many old single oak and beech – almost no coppice anywhere on Naushon.

Nashawena – two family house – one a camp; Pasque fishing club destroyed 1938; two houses and large workshop.

Nashawena and Cuttyhunk joined when Gosnold there.

1904 Nashawena purchased.

Elliot – Naushon harbor islands wooded until 1938 hurricane then logged for salvage. (other hurricane evidence on the Cape and Islands scattered).

Uncertain – grazed by goats into 1940.

From Gonzalo Leon 100 sheep 1900; 300 1930s; deer ~500 when coyotes arrived – now ~45; one fire at Lighthouse Pasture.

Hawthorne visited Martha's Vineyard in 1850 with Dr. Fisher – shoot plover.

Nathaniel Shaler description of Martha's Vineyard 1874 – Peter Dunwiddie interprets as recovery as trees taller than earlier descriptions.

Nathaniel Shaler – plains only good for growing lumber – presaged doomed forestry exports.

Swan Neck Club

Pimpnymouse – Edo – before 1928 clear view of Cape Pogue and Pocha Pond.

Freeman 1807 – 1880s - Chappaquiddick 50 acres W & BO 10-15' and 300 acres scrub oak.

Edo – Sampson's Hill – always small stand of trees and swamps with trees.

15,000 sheep 1:4 acre.

From Massachusetts Historical Society 1815 grazing intensity.

Martha's Vineyard 15,000 0.25; Naushon 2,600 0.47; Nashawena 1,000 .64; Pasque 500 Cuttyhunk 600 1.16; Pen 150 1.54; No Man's Island 600 0.92. (what land area was used for calculations?)

Dr. Albert Kock – General Geologist Vineyard Haven → Gay Head.

Travelled via Stonewall Beach as Hariph's Cr Bridge – 1847 – Lagoon Pond Bridge – 1871.

**Dunwiddie, P. W. 1994. *Martha's Vineyard Landscapes: The Nature of Change***

Short-eared owls and grass sparrows – once common – former no longer nest; few grass sparrows persist.

Intro species – mink, deer, squirrel, cotton tail, skunk, raccoon.

Pre-settlement forces no longer operate; total potential area for SP grassland is much less – remaining sites – small and fragmented.

Fire missing.

**Freeman 1807**

Holmes Hole Harbor 20-70 vessels there; 1000-1200/year.

Lagoon connected by four rod wide opening; five feet deep – Wickataquay Pond.

Old Town Harbor – between Martha's Vineyard and Chappaquiddick Island; one of the best harbors in the U.S. In the winter discharges cargo here and run to Nantucket.

Matakeeset Bay – Opening to sea – 50 rods x four feet deep; Wasque Outlet blocked in 1792 for six months until northeast storm.

Never shut before or since.

Beach 50-60 rods wide.

First three ponds connect to Matakeeset Bay by canal – Great Pond = third.

Oyster Pond #6 – canal opened 2-3 times/year – filled by southeast storms.

Newtown Pond – Tisbury – naturally open to sea (TGP?)

Chilmark Great Pond – two parts connected by artificial creek

Cliffs to west – lost ½ mile in 80 years. (Stone wall? Squipnocket?)

Stone Wall Pond – connected to Menemsha Pond.

Squipnocket Pond – separated by very narrow beach – communicates with Menemsha.

Pond by recent Indian canal.

Wawaytick Creek runs from Menemsha Pond.

Middle Ground – breaks some of the force of the west winds; shallow.

Konickey Cliff – clay.

Tashmoo separated by beach – empties by Chappaquonset stream.

Pond on Chilmark-Tisbury line 70' \_\_ 1 acre – no bottom.

Little Pond never dry.

Brooks – Ø-Edgartown; few in Chilmark; largest in Tisbury.

Peat used as wood became scarce.

Soil good or bad as depart hills; Edgartown – dry, sandy – good for corn.

More than ½ Tisbury and Edgartown are covered with shrub and bitter oak and of little value; not enclosed.

Gay Head – best soil on the island.

Chilmark – more grass; upland mowing 1,800/aces; salt marsh 1 ton/acre; black grass 1 ½ ton.

Along brooks into Newtown Pond; 70-80 acres fresh meadow 1 ½ ton/acre.

Very little wood left in Edgartown and Chilmark; Tisbury ~2/3 of that on the island.

\$4-5/cord from Buzzards Bay, Waquoit, Coxit.

All houses within 1-2 miles of coast – interior will remain uninhabited.

Skunk, muskrat, mink, mice, moles, rabbits, others – no deer, fox, squirrels.

Eel very abundant.

Canal refreshed many times in the summer – Newtown Pond – improves oysters.

Horses and colts 400; Neat Cattle 2,800; pigs 800; cattle 600 killed each year; 156,000 sheep – run at large; many perish each winter.

One windmill in Chappaquiddick; four in Edgartown; three watermills in Tisbury and five in Chilmark;

Three salt works in Edgartown; five in Tisbury.

Chilmark – not as worn out as Edgartown; 50 acres wood; white and black oak 19-15' feet 300 acres scrub oak.

Naushon – 120 cattle, 1,600 sheep, 700 lambs, 20 horses.

1000 acre at west end of three farms with 300 sheep, 40 cattle; 300-400 deer.

No Man's Island – no trees; peat.

Indians at Gay Head – 26 framed houses; 7 wigwams.

**Swift, W. S. and J. W. Cleveland. 1903. *Records of the town of Tisbury, Massachusetts. Beginning June 29, 1669 and ending May 16, 1864.* Wright and Potter, Boston, MA.**

Oldest original volumes on Martha's Vineyard.

Martha's Vineyard people – mostly from Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Tisbury first book, November 19, 1665 – first record conveys mill and privileges on Tiasquin or New Mill Road from Benjamin Church to Joseph Merry Church – millwright of the town of Duxbury in New Plimouth Company to Joseph Merry – one mill on westernmost brook in Takemmy.

January 31, 1671 – “*ye deep woods valley in cartway going to the town of Tisbury.*”

December 4, 1685 – fences 4'3” – any ditches or fences built be casting up banes (spoils) shall have hedges or rales to equivalent to 4' 3”.

Town Charter – Oldest historic muniments of the Vineyard. Old parchment is intact – only one of three granted by Lord Lovelace. Land granted to Thomas Mayhew Sr. and Jr. by James Forrest agent to William Earl of Sterling. Portion of the island near Middle on the south side granted to individuals – freeholders for a Towne-ship. They purchased Indian rights. Formerly called Middletown. East – land of sachem Towonquatek; west by Nashowakemmuck; south by Qua-niems and a fresh pond; north by Sound.

Inhabitants, Freeholders and Associates and Heirs, Successors and Assignees.

Ye Lands, Soyles, Woods, Meadows, Pastures, Marshes, Waters, Fishing, Hawking, Hunting and Fowling.

Pay yearly – two barrels of good merchantable codfish to be delivered at Bridge of this City (NY?) Signed/sealed at Province of Fort James, New York on Manhattan July 8, 23<sup>rd</sup> year of Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> of England, Scotland, Ireland and France 1671.

New England town records – developed from England where organized community was a parish. Records by law for parish – marriage, baptisms, burials. Rector/vicar of parish = clerk. Kept book = records of established church. Nothing on material interests – except in towns with mayor and corporation – London.

New England – Social system – separation of church and state. Community unit = town conducted material interests. Church – subordinate – spiritual welfare. Town – political entity of colony; independent. First duty of freeholders or proprietors who were incorporated – procure suitable book to keep true record of acts of townsmen in meetings legally assembled by warrant. Also changed vital statistics to include births and deaths not baptisms and burials.

Vineyard people – largely from Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth colonies. First town records – Edgartown – Tisbury ¼ century later has oldest original volumes. Edgartown – records – copy with oldest book to 1730.

Tisbury – first book 50 pages, November 19, 1669 – first record conveys mill and privileges on Tiasquin or New Mill River in (West Tisbury) deed from Benjamin Church (noted Indian fighter) to Joseph Merry.

Last – March 11, 1683/4 (1683).

Second book “new book” March 17, 1687.

William Swift began deciphering almost illegible writing – 1894 and transcribed.

PP to print.

1. Discussion of land sales referencing purchase from Indians.
2. Church to Merry. Millwright of the town of duxburie in Newplimouth county sold to Joseph Merry of Hampton in Norflek County, Massachusetts – one mill on westernmost Brook of Takemmy and land bought of Josias sachem – 120 pounds.
- 2-3. June 17, 1670 – Josias alias Katanummin Sachem of Takemmy sold land to William Peabody, Josias Standish, James Allin – sells them his privileges – “*make them free from herding their cattle so y<sup>e</sup> cattle shall have liberty.... to grass within the commons of tackemy...*”
4. January 31, 1671 – Josias expands land sale to mill and *east side of y<sup>e</sup> deep woody vally in cart way going to y<sup>e</sup> town of Tisbury*. James Allin and associate.

October 20, 1690 Thomas Mayhew Governor – Conveys neck of land west of Holmes harbor to town of Tisbury.

Many descriptions of lot sales.

February 9, 1681 – Allen and Mayhew appointed by the Freeholders to *lay out swamp or Low land to those men who had none or but little to there house Lots making them Equall as we Could with others. Have laid out all swamp land beginning at Wasqusims, first to henery Luce,..... Them Swamp at head of mill pond book etc.*

Every person – swamp and upland.

May 17, 1682 – *Town gave Peter Robesun 20 acres with fire wood and grazing for cattel.*

March 11, 1683 – *every freehold should have a devidant of 25 acres of leand layed out to every wholl shear.*



March 17, 1687 – No man shall keep > 100 sheep, 1-year-old, on common – hole share and 50 for half. Fine – two shillings and six pence to informer for each sheep.

October 17, 1687 – *No person shall carry out the bounds of the first land purchases any Brush stakes or wood or timber, forfeit 4 shillings to informer and town.*

June 22, 1688 – divide among freeholders – *all wood and woodland also all lands clear from brush or already in grass with water and watering left for common.*

February 15, 1688 – *medo(w) and mash on tissia neck* – divided out according to each man's propriety.

August 28, 1688 – *Any rams running on commons after September 3 taken home with 12 pence reward.*

December 4, 1689 – all fences – 4 feet and 3 inches – judged sufficient. Any ditches or fences built be casting up panes (spoils) – *shall have hedges or rales so equivalent to 4'3"*. Two men – *judges and savairs of fences.*

February 6, 1695 – limit certain day to drive sheep on commons at sheering time; 5 days of good weather to drive sheep or pay someone two pence per sheep. Shere sheep and cut and mark lambs.

February 12, 1695 – *no swine on commons from April 1 to June 30; ½ to person who takes them up.*

September 2, 1697 – *no sheep or rams on common September 6 to November 17.*

February 27, 1699 – Area to be laid out for proprietors – people who have cut any timber or fencing have seven days to carry away.

September 12, 1715 – Tax (bounty?) for destroying crows and blackbirds.

February 25, 1737 – Selectmen – Tisbury and Chilmark met *to perambulate and renew y<sup>e</sup> Bound Marks in Dividing Line.*

Minister – use of Personage, provide sufficient pasturage for two cows and one horse and woodland sufficient for firewood and £133.

August 8, 1763 – provision for Dr. Samuel Gillson of Nantucket to inoculate for small pox at Holmes Hole.

March 17, 1773 and 1774 – Town elected officers – Town clerk, Select-men, Fence-viewers, Surveyors of Highways, Wardens, Overseers of Poor, Hogleves, Surveyors of Lumber, Sealers of Leather, Constable, Moderator, Town Treasurer.

1775 – Protest of treatment and nullification of charter; advise residents against mob behavior and against taxes.

Concur with measures of American Congress. Desire to stay British.

August 21, 1775 – Seek permission to raise men for defense by sea or land; only small supply of men, arms, ammunition.

December 13, 1776 – serious – sad and alarming circumstances – county and country under; question of action if under attack by the King’s troops.

1792 – Also – *Surveyor and packer of fish; surveyor of beef and fish.*

1792 – exclude people from catching oysters in Newtown Pond to carry off island or sell by cartload.

1807 – surveyor of wood and bark.

1808 – fence viewers reconcile debate.

1812 – concern with British goods and price of bread.

1814 – people restricted to Martha’s Vineyard by embargo law, fishermen, etc. need to get out.

1814 – Grand jury found Tisbury did not keep public road in lawful repair.

1817 – Seek to regulate herring fishing; support the poor.

1822 – votes on when to put up and take off sheep and cattle on commons; no transients can hunt or shoot game.

1823 – Reconsidered to except hunting of heath hen; \$5 fine for Heath Hen – split with poor and complainant.

1825 – regulation on taking clams.

1835 – restrain cattle, horses and swine from running at large; 1841 and goats.

1839 – field drivers, school committee, health committee, \_\_\_\_\_

1842 – Law for preservation of grouse or heath hen be suspended in Tisbury to allow inhabitants to kill, take or sell from December 1-10 – without dogs.

November 14, 1842 – Warrant to prevent illegal hunting and shooters of heath hen first ten days in December.

Committee of vigilance to see that non-residents don’t trespass on town rights to shoot heath hens the first 10 days in December. Printed in *New Bedford Mercury and Weekly Register*.

1862 – Town support – schools, poor, incidental expenses, highways, bridges, interest on town debt.

Tax Collector, Selectmen, Field Driver, Oversee of Poor, Surveyor of Lumber, Pound Keeper, Surveyor of Highways and Measurer of Wood and Bark, Fish Committee, Fence Viewer, School Committee, Fish Committee, Health Committee, Hog Reeves – 4, Police Office.

1862 - \$125 to induce men to volunteer in the army. Pay \$500 or more if necessary to procure quota; bounty paid to men that enlist or previously enlisted; nine months.

Call by U.S. president for 3,000 soldiers to be drafted from several states.

\$250-300.

1863 – Constitutional Amendment to Vote – Vote at Agriculture Hall in West Tisbury. Amendment 23 – no foreign birth can vote or hold office unless two years residence after naturalization; except child of a U. S. Citizen born abroad; votes 24 no; 6 yes.

Work out taxes on roads – 10 cents per hour for man and 12 cents per hour for team.

1864 - \$125 per Army volunteer. Part of quota for 300,000 called for by the President.

To see if town will do away the Liquor Agency and to instruct selectmen the way and manner to dispose of Liquor remaining.

License dealers in old junk and second hand wares.

Joseph M. Crowell appointed agent to Purchase Intoxicating Liquors and sell same at Homes Hole to be used in the arts or for Medicinal, Chemical and Mechanical; purposes and no other.

Last May 17, 1864.

### **MV Agricultural Society**

James S. Grinnell. 1883. Annual Report of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture. *Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society*.

Note: Although this describes a visit to the Fair at the Ag Society it offers a much more expansive view of the Island in the early 1880s along with a lengthy discussion of Island history.

Delegated by the Board of Agriculture to attend the Annual Cattle Show and Fair of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, on the second and third days of October last, I landed at Cottage City on the afternoon of Monday, the first, and was at once driven over to West Tisbury, in the centre of the island, where the society has a building and grounds for their exhibition.

The island of Martha's Vineyard, or "Martin's" Vine yard, as formerly called, — the Indian name of which was Capawack, — lies five or six miles south of the mainland, is of irregular shape, about twenty-one miles long from east to west, and from five to ten wide. It has now five towns, — Edgartown, Cottage City (set off from Edgartown in 1880), Tisbury, Chilmark, and Gay Head (formerly part of Chilmark). The eastern shore is generally a bluff, some thirty to fifty feet above the ocean, thence to West Tisbury is a nearly level plain, thirty or forty feet above the sea. The land then rises with a broken character to the west and north, in two ridges of from two hundred to two hundred and fifty feet in height for miles, the highest point being three hundred feet.

Among these hills and between the ridges there is excellent pasture, with valleys of good mowing and tillage land. There are several large brooks which, with their tributaries rising among the hills, furnish water for stock, and in some cases power for small mills.

About twenty-five years ago Dr. Daniel Fisher of Edgartown, a man of great enterprise and business capacity, who had acquired a large fortune in the oil business, believing that wheat could be grown and good flour made upon the island, bought some six hundred acres of land lying on one of the largest of these brooks, and built on the line of the brook five heavy, expensive stone dams, making as many capacious reservoirs. At the lower one, in 1860, he built a very fine mill for grinding wheat and bolting flour, containing every appliance known in those days for perfect milling; and at that time there was not in the United States a more complete mill for making flour. He imported the best wheat grown in Maryland, and for a time made the finest flour known.

At his death the enterprise was given up, though the mill remains in perfect order, but only used for grinding corn, as no wheat was ever grown to supply it. With that supine indifference common all over the State,

the farmers of the Vineyard prefer to buy their flour at a cost of twice what they could produce it for; and from 1850, when they raised the enormous crop of forty-five bushels, there has not been enough grown on the island to make an entry in the census returns down to the present time. Mr. Whiting, with a desire to stimulate wheat-raising, has grown over thirty bushels to the acre, and from one acre's produce received six barrels of superfine flour from this mill. On the south slope of the island from these hills are four large brooks emptying into the sea, and two on the north side.

Gay Head, the high point on the western end of the island, — so named from the singular and brilliant appearance it presents from the ocean, the bluff, one hundred and fifty feet high, seamed down to the water's edge with ridges of variegated clays of different colors hornblende and lignite, — gives its name to the small township, of rough but excel lent pasture-land, and also to the light-house which crowns its summit. It contains an inexhaustible supply of fire clay, about two hundred tons of which are annually exported to Providence for fire-brick ; kaolin or porcelain clay of the finest kind is also there found.

The last of the pure-blood Gay Head Indians died some years ago ; the population left, of brave and daring boatmen and fishermen, is some Indian, some white, and more negro blood, intermixed beyond the power of any ethnological Harvey to trace the circulation.

There are upon the island, in various places, large deposits of muck, peat, vegetable deposit and swamp mud, of more or less value to compost for manurial purposes, together with kelp, rockweed and seaweed, which is at times thrown upon parts of the coast in large quantities.

The whole extent of the island is 26,390 acres of farm land, of which 4,740 are under cultivation, 5,736 in wood, 15,716 unimproved or pasture land, and 1,298 unimprovable.

There is a great amount of good wood, largely of oak, on the northern and western parts of the island, and in the lower, moister and less exposed localities I noticed many grand oaks that would girt quite six feet.

On the south-eastern part of the Vineyard some hundreds of acres have been sown with the seed of the common pitch pine, and carry trees thirty and forty feet high, showing well what might be done with enterprise and patience. These have not suffered from a fungoid growth, destroying the foliage and trees, as have the pines on the neighboring island of Nantucket. Whether they were the same variety no one could inform me.

Remains of submarine forests have been found at Vine yard Haven and in other places, showing that the island was once heavily wooded, as also Gosnold, the first discoverer, so states.

A large part of the territory is good farming land, and would compare favorably with that of almost any town in eastern Massachusetts, or indeed with many of those on the hard hills of Worcester West or Franklin, and is susceptible of producing much more than it now yields.\* \* In " Letters from an American Farmer," printed in 1782, which attracted much attention at the time, and after, Hector St. John, the author, says, — " Edgar is the best seaport and the shire town. Chilmark has no good harbor, but the land is excellent, and no way inferior to that on the continent. It contains excellent pastures, convenient brooks for mills, stone for fencing, etc. Tisbury is remarkable for the excellence of its timber, and has a harbor where the water is deep enough for ship<sup>3</sup> of the line. The stock of the island is 20,000 sheep, 2,000 neat cattle, besides horses and goats. They have also some deer and abundance of sea fowl."

The Vineyarders have long been noted for their hospitable and cordial treatment of visitors; they are a hardy race and have sent over every sea on the globe their brave sailors and skilled fishermen, who carry with them such a devoted fondness for their island home, that it ultimately brings back to their beloved Vineyard almost all who are not " in the deep bosom of the ocean buried."

Martha's Vineyard owes most of the prosperity that attends her to the whale and other fisheries, for although at the highest, in 1845, she had but fifteen vessels and \$250,000 capital, all from Edgartown, her brave men manned the ships from other ports, and from before that to the present time returned with their hard earnings to invest them in farming. Our census returns show that of the classified occupations there are in Dukes County four hundred and thirty-four persons engaged in the fisheries, and three hundred and thirty-four in agriculture.

The total domestic and agricultural products are \$149,128. The products of the fisheries are \$133,797. The total of farm property, \$799,283 (which is capital). The capital in the fisheries is \$220,695.

Thus it will be seen that the agricultural products gave to each person engaged in agriculture \$446.50 for the year; and the products of the fisheries \$308.33 to each person in that occupation. The agricultural products

return but 18| per cent. on the capital invested, while the fishery products give about 60J per cent. on the invested capital.

There are on the Vineyard one hundred and fifty-four mariners and forty-four master mariners, who, I presume, take a hand at farming, occasionally. Indeed, I was told that more than half the farmers were also fishermen, and that in addressing a full-grown Vineyarder as " Captain," I would be right three time out of five.

Still there is a great deal of agricultural earnestness among them all, and I do not believe there is a society in the State where its bounty is better earned, more largely distributed, and so generally appreciated, as in this very one.

The three south-eastern counties of the State, where the soil — whatever it was in the earlier days of dense woods, festooned with the vines of the purple grape, which delighted the eyes of the discoverers, and gave to this district the distinctive and captivating title of Vineyard — is much of it sand and drift, and not so responsive to the labor of the husbandman as many other more attractive lands in other parte of the State and country. The occupation of fishing, often very remunerative, and fascinating from its dangers, and the temptation to follow the sea is so strong, that many leave, preferring to plough the ocean than to continue the same- named operation on the unresponding sands of the Cape.

The Vineyard, while suffering with the other two counties, is peculiar, as showing less change in its population than any other county in the State, probably due much to this control ling love of their home, — this nostalgia which will not admit a permanent expatriation.

Nantucket has not so large a population now as she had in 1790. She culminated in 1845, and has been waning ever since. Barnstable has 4,000 less than she had twenty years ago ; and the Vineyard has increased but a thousand over the 3,265 she had a hundred years ago. For the first fifty years, with occasional set-backs, she added but about five hundred inhabitants, and has only increased her population the other five hundred since 1840, and that increase has been in Edgartown and Tisbury.

Dukes County, including Gosnold, according to our State census, the only one giving opportunity for comparison, contains 33,945 acres of farming lands, in 371 farms; having 4,893 acres of cultivated land, appraised at \$30.12 per acre ; 18,000 acres of pasture or unimproved land at \$9.34; 9,200 acres0 of woodland at \$12.42, and 1,858 acres of unimprovable at \$1.43 per acre.

On these 371 farms are 978 buildings, or a little less than three buildings to each farm; in that respect a little better than the average of the State.

The average value of all the buildings on each farm in the State, of which there are two and two-thirds, is about \$1,482; the average value of all the buildings on each farm in Dukes County is about \$666. The value of the individual buildings on each farm in the State is less than \$560 each; in Dukes County each building on every farm averages \$253.

The domestic animals on each farm in the State are valued at about \$388 ; those on the Vineyard farms at about \$260.

But the item showing their greatest deficiency and a neglect of good farming, and consequently a loss of products and of profits, is that of agricultural implements and machinery. This not only shows in figures, but was discernible at the fair and in the fields, and is a matter of common remark among themselves ; it indicates thriftlessness and lack of wisdom which, until amended, will always stand in the way of successful farming.

The average value of the agricultural implements and machinery on each farm in the State is about \$120 ; of the same in Dukes County, \$39, or less than one-third of what farms average throughout the State.

No farmer, nor set of farmers, can use old-fashioned, clumsy, past-dated tools, and stand in the same rank or successfully compete with those who keep abreast of the times with the new and perfected implements and machines of the present day. To use a shackly, one-horse wagon of ten bushels capacity, with a patched and rotten harness, for carting out manure, instead of a strong, handy dump-cart for one or two horses, and the same for harvesting ; or an old-time, rickety plough, an old-fashioned A harrow, for preparing the land, and a little old one-horse plough or corn harrow, in place of a fine iron or improved wooden-beam steel or chilled-iron plough, a wheel harrow, a Thomas smoothing harrow, and a shapely Planet cultivator or Prout's horse hoe, for properly cultivating the growing crop ; or a mere scythe with a ten- year-old snathe, a hand-rake and fork for getting in hay, in stead of a good mowing machine, a tedder and a horse rake ; and an old spade to chop up such roots as he may have, instead of an easy, quick-working vegetable and root cutter, shows in any farmer an inert, inactive

disposition, quite inconsistent with the spirit of this age, which so long as it prevails will most assuredly hinder the advancement of him who uses such tools, and just as surely will drive the succeeding generation of boys from the farm to the lively employment of braking freight cars on a railway, driving a city grocer's wagon, or to cast their bread on the waters from a mackerel smack or a whale-boat. Farming at the best is a laborious occupation, a constant struggle against the forces of nature. The elements, excessive moisture or drouth, heat and cold, all kinds of vermin and insects above the surface of the ground and below it, dependence on middle men, and the inability to unite and to make and sustain fair paying prices for their products, are all combined to make the farmer realize that primeval malediction — Cursed is the ground for thy sake ; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life ; thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee, and in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

I know these remarks are not germane to a report on the Vineyard Fair, but I cannot lose this opportunity to iterate what has been often forcibly said, that the farmer who scrimps his beasts, his family and himself, pinching their stomachs, and depriving himself and his household of every thing but the bare necessities of living, toiling early and late in all weathers, risking his health, often inducing sickness, and generally inducing himself with a full and permanent suit of rheumatism, all to scrape together day by day small dribblets with which, when they amount to a hundred dollars, he hastens to the nearest savings bank, burying it for the small returns of three and a half per cent. a year, — does not have the same happiness in his family, does not accomplish the same good for his neighbors and the community around him, and finally does not, with all his savings-bank investments, leave his family in as respectable and comfortable condition as if he had turned his money back on the farm, in bettering his buildings within and without, making the waste places a fruitful spot, by clearing, ditching and reclaiming land, in buying improved animals for increased products, and improved implements and machines which should ease the unceasing work in his declining years ; by liberal management and generous treatment attracting and retaining around him, in one or more comfortable farmer's homes, those children who, repelled by the hardships and unloveliness of the cheerless farm, have sought more congenial situations, and have found sympathy and appreciation in other occupations and in other parts of the country.

The temperature of Martha's Vineyard is much more favorable than in the most of the State, not varying much from that of Nantucket, where there are two hundred and thirty days without frost, while the other parts of the State only enjoy from one hundred and forty to one hundred and sixty, the lowest temperature in winter being from 18° to 25° higher than in the Connecticut River Valley. The Vineyard, however, has some advantages over Nantucket in not receiving the sharp north east winds which sometimes sweep down around Cape Cod but hardly ever touch this island. It is a noticeable fact that while the mean summer temperature of the water in Massachusetts Bay is 52°, in Buzzard's Bay on the south and in the water around the Vineyard and in the Sound, it is 72°. The influence of the Gulf Stream seems to be very perceptible on the south shore ; three times within the past twenty years the islanders have been visited by the golden mullet, a very delicate fish of the South, and never known to be north of the Carolinas. Some years ago a true pelican was shot in one of the salt ponds opening into the sea.

While fishing will always be a large element in the support of the inhabitants of Martha's Vineyard, there is an item I think likely to bring a considerable revenue to the island which, though not agricultural, may be one which the farmer-fishermen of this locality can pursue, and it is oyster culture.

The enormous consumption of this popular bivalve has already created anxiety as to the supply, which many intelligent fishermen fear will not keep pace with the demand.

Prof. Baird of the United States Fish Commission, who is doing more than any one man in this country to increase food supply for the people, has, with Prof. Riley and other assistants at the Station of the Commission at Wood's Hole, found a safe, sure and expeditious way of producing oysters by artificial fecundation.

But beyond this, and which is of much more consequence, is an economic plan for retaining in large ponds or aquaria for the purpose, the embryo or spat after fertilization, till the young oysters shall, free from all outside dangers, attach themselves to twigs, fascines, shells, prepared tiles, and other things arranged for them, till they are large enough to be safely planted out in suitable beds. When it is known that a large female oyster will produce about 60,000,000 eggs, it will be at once imagined how small a proportion of them ever grow into oysters that come to a market. When in a state of nature most of them are swept away in the salt water unfertilized, and the others are for a long time defenceless, subject to destruction by every variety of marine enemies ; but if they

can be preserved in their tender infancy the increase can be controlled to an almost limitless amount, and safely and economically transplanted to suitable beds, where they will rapidly grow.

There is a number of ponds on the southern shore of the island and some on the northern, admirably adapted to the planting and cultivation of oysters, when they can be furnished as readily, as safely and as cheaply as Prof. Baird thinks they can be from his Station.

These ponds, separated from the ocean by only a few feet or rods of a sand bank, are very suitable for this purpose, having a sandy bottom, fed by fresh water from the land side, which can readily be made salt enough by cutting channels through the narrow sand banks into the ocean three or four times a year, with a few days work of men and teams, through which at high tide the salt water will flow in, sufficient to make the water brackish enough for the oysters, — to furnish them food and lime for their shells, and to bring the water to the specific gravity of 1.010 to 1.020, the proper range for oyster culture. Oysters bred in these ponds would have a great advantage of freedom from their worst enemies, the star-fish and the drum, which would not be likely to get into the ponds, and if they did, the water would be too fresh for the dreaded star-fish to live in. These ponds being comparatively shallow, the oysters would probably grow and fatten very rapidly.

It seems probable to me that before long the people of the Vineyard may be able to export many thousands of bushels of oysters of good quality, grown at a comparatively small expense.

The whole character of the eastern end of the island has been changed within a few years, having become a place of great summer resort, first by the Methodists, and later by comfort and pleasure seeking people, who, attracted by the fine air, delicious breezes, and the grand ocean scenery, have made permanent residences there, mostly in the shape of "cottages," from the small box of twelve feet by twenty-two, to the large, ornate, pagoda-like structures of many wealthy proprietors.

The "cottages" of all kinds now number about twelve hundred, and in the height of the summer season, when the camp-meeting is being held, and the hotels and cottages are filled, it is said that there are not less than twenty thousand people on the island.

In 1835 the first modest beginning of a Methodist camp-meeting here was made at "Wesleyan Grove," in the town of Edgartown, on high land about five miles north of the village, in a beautiful oak grove. Nine tents were pitched, and some eight hundred people attended the services. The beauty, the seclusion, the wholesomeness of the location, with perhaps a touch of sentimentality, finally decided the people of that persuasion in the southeastern part of the State, in 1868, to take an act of incorporation, with authority to hold land and other property, and to make rules and by-laws for their government and protection.

Such has been the marvellous growth of this place, set off from Edgartown, and incorporated as "Cottage City" in 1880, that now one thousand cottages of all kinds are spread over the ground in which twenty thousand worshippers supplant the place of the few hundreds and the nine tents of fifty years ago.

While these consumers, with not one item of production among them, not so much as a head of lettuce or of that most insignificant of vegetables, a single radish, are to be fed, many of them for three months or more, one would suppose that market-gardening would have become quite extensive, and that the business of supplying all these people with the common spring and summer vegetables and berries would form a very important item in the Vineyard resources; but I was told that most of the articles of this sort were brought from Boston and New York by way of New Bedford, as well as most of the meats.

But surely the Vineyarders could arrange with the market-men and supply them with better vegetables from their own gardens than those from the mainland two or three days old. According to the census of 1875 (though matters have improved since that, but the Federal census does not descend to such small things), no asparagus, no lettuce, salads nor greens, no celery was raised and sold on the island; only fifteen bushels of tomatoes, two thousand quarts of strawberries, fifteen hundred bushels of sweet corn, and \$332 worth of cucumbers, — a very small part of the consumption of from ten to twenty thousand people in three months. Of the lambs sold the census report give no return; but the farmers told me that owing to New Bedford competition they could not get paying prices. There is something wrong in this, for they can and do have earlier and fatter lambs than the New Bedford market can afford, and with the class of people who summer on the island, and with proper arrangements with the dealers, they ought to make their lambs a very paying product.

Of dressed poultry they sold, during the year, \$3,270 worth, and of eggs, \$6,300 worth. The poultry and eggs together amount to \$700 more than all the beef and pork killed on the island.

Of pork they made 43,133 lbs., the number of pigs not given ; but if each one dressed 250 lbs. it would only make one hundred and seventy killed, — not half a pig for each farm on the Vineyard, — which we, on the continent, would think pretty small allowance, and which, I should suppose, would not be enough with which to fry the orthodox codfish- balls, let alone what should go into the honored pot that holds the inestimable baked beans. ,

Of beef they slaughtered during the year 47,720 lbs., and if the reported hides corresponded there would have been seventy-three beasts dressing 654 lbs. each; but while Tisbury gives fifty-eight hides to 15,000 lbs. of beef, making each one dress about 260 lbs., Edgartown apparently wrapped in one hide 5,900 lbs. of beef, showing that the hide does not always go with the carcass. The Vineyarders received 9 6 cents for their beef against 9 cents average of the State; for their 13,830 lbs. of mutton, 12 cents, against the rest of the State 9 cents ; and for their pork 10| cents, against 10 cents elsewhere.

In 1858 Mr. Henry L. Whiting of the United States Coast Survey, and now one of the Harbor Commissioners of Massachusetts, having some years previously bought a farm in West Tisbury, had become impressed, in his official visits to every part of the island, by a belief that with the concerted action of the farmers in a society receiving the bounty of the State, the possibilities of increasing the agricultural capacity of the Vineyard, having naturally a good soil, and rich in beds of peat, muck, and in the drifting seaweed, might be largely extended.

Having interested some leading farmers they took the first steps towards providing the necessary funds, and the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society was accordingly incorporated in February, 1859, the necessary land purchased, and a convenient building erected by the following October, when the society held its first cattle-show. The society seems by the returns to have been successful. It has gradually paid off all its indebtedness, at one time over \$2,000 ; it pays annually for premiums entirely within the purview of the law as strictly agricultural, more than it receives from the Commonwealth, and it pays nothing for horse-trotting.

The morning of Tuesday, October 2, the first day of the Fair, was about as stormy and unpromising a day for a cattle- show as the calendar could show, with a howling south-east wind and a pouring rain.

Notwithstanding this, which must have kept away many even of these amphibious islanders, to whom water presents few terrors, there was a fair attendance of farmers with their animals.

Over sixty entries of neat stock were represented by more than seventy head of oxen, cows and young creatures, many of which were very good. The milch cows, with a cross of Ayrshire, and occasionally of Jersey, looked well, considering the very dry condition of the pastures. Two or three yokes of steers were very fine, and would have been credit able at any fair in the State; the young cattle, though pinched by the drought and curled up by the pelting storm, were promising looking.

There were in 1879 upon the island 1,381 head of neat stock, 557 of which were milch cows, and 274 oxen and steers, which, as working animals, I was glad to see, had not entirely gone out of use. In 1845 the islanders had 1,820 neat cattle; in 1850, 1,709; in 1855, 1,690, and so on, decreasing at every decade to the present time, or rather to the time of taking the last census for the year 1879. Since that, I find by the State valuation returns that the milch cows have increased to 738 — a very satisfactory gain for three years.

As butter is a large and profitable product here, the Vine- yarders are very properly cultivating the Ayrshires and the Jerseys.

I would most strongly urge upon the members of this society to bring into the island one or more pure-bred Jersey bulls, as I learned that they were quite commonly breeding to grade bulls, a practice which will surely run out their stock, and certainly will not permanently increase their good milk and butter cows, which are what they want.

Of swine there were but four entries. There are but 265 swine on the island anyhow, not one for each farm, let alone the 1,473 other dwelling-houses. The Vineyarders have something to learn about the profitableness of keeping pigs. With such an extent of pasture land, the best place for them on the farm in summer ; and for winter, with sea-weed to be had for, the hauling, and 390 tons of salt hay, which might be largely increased, and with inexhaustible beds of real muck, how easily they could grow and fatten pigs ; especially as they have from their butter-making about 270,000 quarts of skimmed milk, and from their cheese about 2,800 quarts of whey, with which the young pigs can be most successfully started. What they do with all their skimmed milk I don't see. The 20 calves they vealed, and the 212 they raised in 1875, couldn't use it all, for they made in that year 313,388



quarts of milk, from which they made 15,416 lbs. of butter. In 1880 they sold 183,584 quarts, and also made 22,782 lbs. of butter, which, at even twelve quarts to a pound of butter, would require the skimming of 273,384 quarts of milk. So much for pigs.

Of sheep there were twenty-four entries, covering forty seven animals. The islanders still continue to regard wool as the prime object in sheep raising, considering the flesh of mutton and lamb as secondary, and accordingly offer, first, premiums for fine-woolled sheep, and then for natives and grades; and this, too, when their 9,225 sheep only shear 25,782 lbs. of wool, or two and three-quarters of a pound to the sheep, worth twenty-six or twenty-seven cents per pound, while mutton is worth ten to twelve cents per pound, and early lambs from six to eight dollars each, and grass lambs from four to six dollars.

Every delegate who has visited this society has commented upon its capacity for raising sheep and lambs for market, and has recommended the introduction of some of the hardy Down sheep to give good shape and early maturity to the lambs, and has insisted on the importance of shelter and better care for the winter than the sheep on the island are wont to receive, to keep the ewes in condition, to save the lambs and to improve the fleece. Perhaps a comparison may stimulate them. Franklin County, with 11,000 sheep of all kinds, — including wethers, barren ewes and yearlings, — raises over 8,000 lambs, which are valued straight through at \$4.35 each, and sends to market over \$16,000 worth of mutton. Dukes County, with a safer sheep-raising country and over 9,000 sheep, raises only 1,400 lambs, valued at \$1.50 each, and sends to market only \$1,700 worth of sheep meat. The islanders say that the improved sheep are not hardy enough for them. No sheep that wears wool is hardy enough to thrive, scarcely to live, on such treatment as most of these Vineyard sheep receive, when they are kept the whole winter unhoused and scantily fed, if at all. It is no wonder that the wool comes off, becomes dead and of little weight ; or that they raise less than 16 per cent. of lambs to the sheep, while the Franklin County shepherd, by care and feed, brings up 95 per cent. of his lambs, and reckons at least 125 lambs to the 100 ewes.

With such a range of pasture, and with winters ninety days or more shorter than ours in the interior, the islanders ought to beat in market with early and grass lambs every county in the State, except Nantucket. They are comparatively free, too, from ravages by dogs. It is said that history repeats itself. In the matter of sheep husbandry in this State this is true, so far as this.

In the laws of Massachusetts Bay, October 18, 1648, it is enacted that, "if any dog shall kill any sheepe, the owner shall either hang his dog forthwith or pay double damages for the sheepe ; if the dog hath bene seene to course or bite any sheepe before, not being set on, and his owner hath had notice thereof, then he shall both hang his dog and pay for the sheepe."

In the legislature of 1882 the Massachusetts Senate passed an amendment to the "dog law," to the effect that if the owner of any dog having killed sheep was known, he should pay for the sheep or kill his dog.

This harmless and wise enactment was in the House attacked by a Boston lawyer and dog-breeder so effectively as to defeat it, by abuse of the dog law, ridicule of sheep husbandry and derision of the farmers, thirty odd of whom there present sat cowed, abashed and tongue-tied as the dog owners triumphantly killed the bill. Truly the men of 1648 were wiser in their generation.

The display in the hall was exceedingly good. The women of the island are as skilled with the needle as those of a former generation were with the spinningwheel and the loom.

Seventy-five years ago there were here three carding mills, which carded 6,000 lbs. of wool, and there were two fulling mills, which dressed 4,000 yards of cloth, out of the 17,775 yards of all kinds which the women of the island wove on the eighty looms in the various farm-houses, valued at about 75c. per yard, and they knitted 7,406 pairs of woollen stockings, worth \$4,448.

There was a large display of useful and of very handsome articles of needlework, and the very great interest felt by the women of the island, and their ingenious and active industry, were manifested in 342 entries of the different classes of needlework, fancy work, worsted work, mats, rugs and knitting, with the inevitable bedquilts.

To almost any one of these busy workwomen might be applied the words of the wise man, " She seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands."

Of bread of all kinds there were fifty-eight entries, much of it looking very palatable.

There were twenty-four entries of butter, looking well, and some as fine in appearance and taste as would be found anywhere.

There were four entries of fair-looking small cheeses.

The Vineyard, in the last census year, 1879, produced 705 lbs. of cheese; in 1875, — perhaps by some mistake of the assessors, — only 70 lbs., and that from Chilmark. In 1850 and in 1855 they made over 4,000 lbs. Strange as this decline seems, from that to 705 lbs., it is only one percent greater than that in the great cheese-producing county of Berkshire, and in the State at large, — on the farms. But in the State, the cheese factories produced a third more than double all that was made in home dairies, and there is no factory in Dukes County.

There were 22,782 lbs. of butter made on the island in 1879, 15,000 in 1875, 14,000 in 1870, 14,700 in 1865, 18,000 in 1860, 28,000 in 1855, 23,000 in 1850, and 20,000 in 1845. In 1879 they sold 45,896 gallons of milk; no price given. In 1875 they made 78,347 gallons, valued at 22c. per gallon, as against 17c. for the rest of the State. Unfortunately, our census for that year is deficient in not discriminating between the milk sold and that made into butter and cheese. In 1870 they are reported as selling 8,565 gallons, and in 1865, 16,189 gallons.

Apparently the cows of the island do not come up to the standard of those of the State at large, which averages 1,183 quarts to a cow, while that of Dukes County is only 570 quarts by the census of 1875, and 670 by the census of 1879.

The vegetables were very good, — cabbages, squashes, and various turnips, — while the potatoes could not be surpassed in quality. The apples and some other fruits were uncommonly good, considering the very dry season which everywhere prevailed.

Cranberries, eleven entries in number, were of two varieties, the large, light-colored, bell-shaped, and the small, round, dark-red kind, more solid and more valuable than the larger and handsomer ones. It seems to me that this should be a much larger crop on the island than it is. There are now between thirty and forty acres in cranberries, part cultivated and part natural bog.

The expense of preparing a cranberry meadow, "bogging," levelling, sanding and setting, varies from \$250 to \$400 per acre, if labor and team are hired, dependent on the "lay of the land," facility for draining and flowing, and the convenience of sand for covering the meadow. Moisture is indispensable, and much labor required to keep out grass and foul stuff indigenous to such land. The plants will give a full crop about the fifth year, and after that, except for frosts or destructive insects, against which flowing is the protection, will with care yield to the acre from fifty bushels up into the hundreds, worth from three to five dollars per bushel. One meadow there was mentioned as having the past season produced ninety barrels on two acres, then worth \$12 per barrel, and waiting for a rise, — \$540 for an acre's crop. I was told that there are many acres which could be brought into cultivation for this valuable vine, and readily flowed, which is a prime necessity to the successful cultivation of a cranberry meadow.

I believe this crop will yet be a very important one for the people of Martha's Vineyard,

The second day of the Fair was beautiful, and brought out these good people in crowds.

To these Vineyarders, isolated as they are, — doomed never to see on their ocean-bounded home the gorgeous gilded chariot which bears on its pinnacled height visions of spangled beauty, which soon after float through the air on a trapeze, or on a bare-backed, fiery steed, whose lack of apparel they strive to rival, dashing recklessly around the ring of "the greatest moral show on earth under canvas;" forbidden as they are by the "dissocial sea" ever to view there the pride, pomp and circumstance of contingent war, which wraps in blue and yellow glory the bloodless warriors of the main land, as they follow the rattle of the spirit-stirring drum and "the vile squeaking of the wry-necked fife," or the becoming band in full imperial uniforms, through the perils of a sweltering Fourth of July or the horrors of a wet muster in September, — the cattle-show is their great holiday, a combination of all the shows on the mainland. They come for good, honest, unrestrained enjoyment, and they have it. Not a sign of disorder or incivility or intoxication was noticed. All were happy, and listened to a band from New Bedford, which gave satisfactory music and pleased the people.

The exhibition of horses continued at intervals through the second and third days. A ploughing-match came off at eleven o'clock on the farm of Mr. Whiting, of two horse-teams and one of oxen, attracting but little attention. One of the ploughs was a novelty there — a Casaday sulky t plough — which did good work, and was a great credit to the owner who had the enterprise to introduce such an advanced implement on the island. There was a base-ball match between two local clubs, a foot race and other civil games to amuse the crowd.

On Thursday the third day, in the afternoon, the large hall was crowded; the very handsome and able address of Mr. Everett A. Davis, which justly gave great satisfaction to the members of the society, some music, a

few short speeches to while away an hour, and the twenty-fifth exhibition of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society had become a thing of the past.

Two hundred and eighty-one years ago last May, Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold discovered the "Vineyard." First landing on the small island now called "No Man's Land," he gave it the name of "Marthae's," or "Martin's" Vine yard. The larger island upon which he went the next day, about four miles north, has, however, retained the name to the present time. He then sailed round the high bluff at the western end, now known as Gay Head, which he called Dover Cliff, from the somewhat resemblance to the chalky cliff of that name which he had recently left behind him in his English home.

He anchored in a splendid bay which he called "Gosnold's Hope," and from there selected one of a group of small islands between the Vineyard and the mainland, which he called "Elizabeth," in honor of his mistress the queen of England, where he established a settlement intended to be permanent, but which, however, continued but one month, as those who came with him as settlers expecting to be planters, frightened by the Indians, and thinking their supply of food to be insufficient, sailed back to England, thus ingloriously leaving the first settlement ever made by white men in New England. They carried with them, beside some furs, about one hundred tons of sassafras (still abundant in that neighborhood), regarded at that time as a sovereign specific for a certain disease then prevalent, enough they thought to glut the drug market of London.

On what is now called "Cuttyhunk" they dug and stoned a cellar, built a log house and fortified it with stockades. Within a few years the cellar was distinctly traced, but now the inconsiderable town of "Gosnold," with its one hundred and fifteen inhabitants, is the only monument to that brave captain who made the first settlement in New England, and who, five years afterward, when, with the famous Capt. John Smith, endeavoring to found a settlement in Virginia, died of a terrible plague.

Although the colonial charter of 1692, from William and Mary, conveyed with other territory this island to our fore fathers by the name of Capawack, with no allusion to any Martha, the colonial government soon after in the same year assumed for it the name of "Martha's Vineyard," which it has ever since borne, though perhaps it might seem that the reasons for calling it by that name rather than "Martin's," are not quite conclusive.

The antiquarians who decided this depended entirely upon the "relation" of Gabriel Archer, a gentleman who, with John Brenton and others, accompanied Gosnold; but the subsequent record evidence is much against them. An eminent historian says that "it is greatly to be regretted that the history of the discovery should have been so neglected."

The account of this voyage exists only in "Purchas' Pilgrims," printed in 1625, and consists of three papers. One is a good, stately, but filial letter to his father from Gosnold himself, somewhat descriptive of his voyage, but mentioning no name as given to this island. The narrative of John Brenton, who accompanied Gosnold, is interesting and quite particular; but he gives no name. Gabriel Archer, who was also in Gosnold's small vessel, carrying thirty-two persons, twenty of whom intended to settle as planters, was the only one of these who made any record. Archer's "relation" is a very interesting paper. He says Gosnold named the small island "Marthae's Vineyard;" and again mentions the name with the same spelling. When Archer wrote this, whether at the time or from memory afterwards, does not appear. His "relation" is certainly incorrect in some particulars as a careful study of the voyage will show. In coming by Cape Cod, which still bears the name given it by Gosnold, he says they steered west. If they had done so there would have been a speedy ending of that voyage. He should have said south. He is also confused in his statements of the islands, and of the navigation after leaving Cape Cod; and he may be incorrect in the writing of this name.

In 1603, the next year after Gosnold's return, Captt Martin Pring or Prynne, spelled differently by different writers, made a voyage to the same places discovered by Gosnold, but makes no mention of the name of Marthae's Vineyard. Nor from 1602 down to the landing of the Pilgrims, and long after, although some voyage was made to that or some place near, as often as every other year, was there any use of that name by any one as known.

Nearly forty years — long enough for the inaccuracy of forgetfulness to have obliterated any certain recollection of the name, — had passed, when Mr. John Forrett, agent for the Earl of Stirling (who claimed, under a grant from the "Plymouth Company," given at the order of Charles the First, all the islands on the coast from Maine to the Hudson River), in 1641 conveyed, with Mr. Frederick Vines, agent for Sir Ferdinand Gorges, "to

Thomas Mayhew and his son Thomas Mayhew, Jr., of Watertown, the right to plant on Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Isles, the same as he had previously granted of the Island of Nantucket."

In 1644, and once in 1659, Mr. Thomas Mayhew writes as from Martha's Vineyard, but in all other cases from "Martin's" Vineyard. In 1643 the settlement was established at Edgartown by a detachment of colonists with their young minister from Watertown, which was a colonial hive for swarming. In 1644 was one of the early acts of the "Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England," that the government of Massachusetts Bay may receive "Martin's Vineyard into their jurisdiction if they see fit," it never up to that time having been under the control of any of the colonial governments.

In 1650 Mr. Thomas Mayhew, the grantee under Lord Stirling, who seems to have devoted himself to christianizing the savages, writes from there that the "natives of 'Martin's' Vineyard were mostly Christians, and that all the island was in a measure leavened."

In 1654 Capt. Humphrey Atherton was authorized "to pasture sheep on 'Martin's' Vineyard and Nantucket, he performing the law for keeping sheep."

In 1658 the commissioners of the united colonies wrote to Mr. Thomas Mayhew of "Martin's" Vineyard concerning the Indians there.

In 1662 one John Doggett (who might reasonably have complained when they wrote his name Doghead), of the island called "Martin's" Vineyard, at the October court at Plymouth, complained against the town of the said Vineyard for the title of certain land in the enjoyment of which he was disturbed, and prevailed. Nicholas Morton and John Pease of "Martin's" Vineyard were appointed to answer to the suit. This same Doggett, at the July court in Plymouth, complained against one Geo. Robinson of "Martin's" Vineyard for defamation, and Robinson was ordered "to pay five pounds, and to make acknowledgment to the court and at home on training day at the head of the company."

October 25 of the same year Doggett was tried for "un civil carriage" to Mary Robinson and acquitted.

The same year the commissioners of the colonies wrote Mr. Robert Boyle, governor of the "corporation for the propagation of the gospel among the Indians," that Mr. John Eliot had baptized divers of the Indians on "Martin's" Vineyard.

The next year Simon Bradstreet, president of the commission, wrote Mr. Boyle on the matter of the Indians at "Martin's" Vineyard.

In 1664 Mr. John Eliot asked that ten pounds be paid to Samuel, an Indian of the church of "Martin's" Vineyard, as a teacher at Nantucket.

In 1667 there was ordered by the government to be paid for schools, to Thomas Mayhew of "Martin's" Vineyard, thirty pounds, and for nine teachers, all at "Martin's" Vineyard, thirty-two pounds.

In the same year, in an investigation, King Philip denied killing persons on "Martin's" Vineyard.

In 1672 there were paid for Indian teachers on "Martin's" Vineyard and Nantucket fifty-seven pounds.

In 1680 a protest was entered before Nathaniel Morton, secretary of the court, by Alexander Watts, master of the sloop "Anne and Elizabeth;" sailing from New York, on his course from "Martin's" Vineyard he went ashore on Cape Cod.

In 1681, by order of court, Samuel, an Indian boy, was bound as "prentice" to the widow of John Tucker, late of "Martin's" Vineyard.

Thus much for the fourteen instances from the earliest colonial records of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay, where this island is called "Martin's" Vineyard, and not one where it is written Martha's. From 1664 till 1692 the island was under the government of New York, and the following is the record there:—

In 1641 James Forrett, agent of the Earl of Stirling, and Richard Vines for Sir Ferdinand Gorges, conveyed to Thomas Mayhew of Watertown, and Thomas Mayhew his son, "the right to plant and inhabit on Martha's Vineyard," as granted on Nantucket.

The same year Thomas Mayhew and his son sold a "large towne" on Martha's Vineyard to John Doggett and others, — and that's the last of "Martha's" Vineyard in the New York records of the islands.

In October, 1659, Thomas Mayhew of "Martin's" Vineyard sold the island of Tuckanuck to Tristram Coffin and others.

May 14, 1670. — In the minutes of the council of New York, at Fort James, Mr. Mayhew's business of "Martin's" Vineyard was taken up. A letter was read from Mr. Mayhew, desiring "to be resolved in what nature

'Martin's' Vineyard and those parts are, as to government." "The patent of the duke includes ' Martin's ' Vineyard," etc.

"The duke's patent, wherein 'tMartin's' Vineyard is included is shown to young Mr. Mayhew."

The same year and month Gov. Lovelace wrote to Mr. Thomas Mayhew about his land in " Martin's " Vineyard, and also sent official notices to all who held any interest in " Martyn's " Vineyard to appear, etc.

June 28, 1671. — Governor and council to the petitioners of Nantucket: — "They may join with their neighbors of ' Martin's ' Vineyard," etc.

July 6, 1671. — Governor and council having under consideration Mr. Mayhew's affair about " Martin's" Vineyard : "Mr. Mayhew to bring in what he hath bought at 'Mar tin's ' Vineyard," etc.

Before the governor and council, July 7, 1671 : — Grant ed, that the court is first to be held at ' ' Martin's " Vine yard, etc. "Mr. Mayhew is to be governor over the Indians at ' Martin's ' Vineyard."

July 8, 1671. — Gov. Lovelace issued commission to Thomas Mayhew, to be governor of the island, "Martin's" or Martha's Vineyard.

Same year. — Gov. Lovelace commends to the governor of New Plymouth, Mr. Thomas Mayhew of "Martin's" Vineyard.

1674. — Gov. Andros of New York issued order for settling government in t ' Martin's " Vineyard.

1675. — Thomas Mayhew, " uppon ' Martin's ' Vineyard," writes : — "I had a grant of Mr. James Forrett, agent to the Lord Stirling, for these isles," etc.

1675. — In council, a petition being presented by Mr. Tristram Coffin and Mr. Matthew Mayhew, from " Martin's " Vineyard.

April 29, 1675. — Gov. Andros issued orders for the courts of the two islands of ' ' Martin's " Vineyard and Nan tucket, etc.

Sept. 2.8, 1675. — Council voted " to send a great gun to each of the two islands, Nantucket and ' Martin's ' Vine yard."

1685. — Thomas Dongan, lieutenant-governor of New York and vice-admiral, orders the pursuit of a pirate ves sel, supposed to be near to " Martin's " Vineyard.

1687. — Gov. Dongan confirmed to certain parties their rights on a certain island lying southeast of ' ' Martin's " Vineyard, known by the name of Nantucket ; an island which was purchased heretofore for a valuable consideration by Thomas Mayhew, Sr., of " Martin's " Vineyard, and Thomas Mayhew, Jr., his son, of James Forrett, agent to Wil liam, Earl of Stirling, etc., and referring to Gov. Lovelace's, patent of exactly the same words to Thomas Mayhew in 1671. l

Aug. 12, 1692. — Council minutes upon reading a letter from Maj. Mayhew of " Martin's " Vineyard, etc.

Oct. 31. — Order of council concerning the government of " Martin's " Vineyard.

Feb. 10, 1692. — Council of New York addressed the king against any attempt to take from New York "Martin's" Vineyard, etc.

Here we find in the colonial records of New York three instances of the island being called "Martha's," and sixteen where it is called " Martin's." This ends the colonial record, but there is some recorded evidence of tradition outside, showing that the island was only known as Martin's Vine yard.

Thomas Lechford, a lawyer who lived some years in Bos ton, in his " Plaine dealing, or newes from Newe England," in 1641, is the first one to speak of this island before it was deeded to Thomas Mayhew. He says : " Eastward off Cape Codd lyeth an island called ' Martin's ' Vineyard, uninhab ited by any English."

John Josslyn, in his " Voyage," written in 1670, says : —

"Twenty miles out to sea, south of Rhode Island, lyeth ' Martin's ' Vineyard, in the way to Virginia. This island is governed by a discreet gentleman, Mr. Mayhew by name. To the eastward of ' Martin's ' Vineyard lyeth Nantucket islandt"

John Winthrop, in the " History of New England," says in 1643 : — " This yeare some of Watertown began a planta tion at ' Martin's ' Vineyard beyond Cape Cod."

In Hubbard's " Indian Wars," published in 1677, a rude map, one of the first drawn of New England, shows " Mar tin's " Vineyard south of Rhode Island.

Nathaniel Morton, in his "Memorial," published in 1669, says, "The Isle of Capawack now called 'Martin's' Vine yard." • • A later edition of this interesting work, by the learned and venerable Judge Davis, has a

copy of the map taken from "Hubbardts Indian Wars," described as "A Map of Newe England, being the first that ever was here cut, and drawn by the best pattern that could be had, which, being in some places defective, it made the other less exact, yet doth it sufficiently show the situation of the country, and conveniently well the distance of places."

William Hubbard's "History of New England" in 1680 calls it "Martin's Vineyard."

It would seem as if all these citations might throw some doubt as to what should be the real name of this island when not one instance is found of its being called "Martha's Vineyard." Gosnold named the island north of the Vineyard, where his permanent settlement was to be located, Elizabeth, for his queen. Virginia had already been named for her. Later, Cape Ann and Annapolis were called for Queen Anne, and Maryland for the consort of Charles I.; but there was no royal Martha, no distinguished woman of that name, save her of St. John's gospel, who had died some time previous, having been canonized July 13, A. D. 303, and there is no suggestion of any other woman for whom he should have called it.

In the voyage down the coast Gosnold gave to unimportant localities convenient names. To "Cape Cod" he gave the name it has ever since borne. "Point Care" he called a dangerous shoal on which he nearly ran. Another headland he called "Point Gilbert," for Bartholomew Gilbert, an explorer and captain of the time, and second officer on this voyage. A reef uncomfortably near their course he named "Tucker's Terror," from the alarm it gave one of his voyagers, and "Gosnold's Hope" was Buzzard's Bay; and it is probable that he might have called the small island at which he touched for some friend or promoter of his voyage, most likely for Capt. John Martin, with whom not long after, he sailed to Virginia, both being members of the governing council of the "London Company," and undoubtedly friends as they were co-workers in this undertaking. On the one hand we have a "relation" made by one accompanying the discoverer, who himself, with all the others, are silent on this matter. When this was written, at once, or long after the voyage from memory, we know not. This "relation" was not printed, and this name not known, for more than twenty years, and then only by a single mention in only one book, with a curious spelling, and not recognized after that for nearly twenty years more, when the owner, who had received it by grant without a name, conveyed it through an agent, presumably taking the one he gave from Purchas, where it stands to this day, with no imaginable reason for its bestowal. On the other hand, we have an unbroken tradition, running from any time after the discovery of the island down to 1692 of individuals most directly interested in the island, — of the grantee and owner, — of various of the inhabitants, — of all the historians of the times, and of the records of three colonial governments and of two courts of judicature, — all agreeing on a name for the giving of which there was good occasion, and which would have been quite consistent with the discoverer's habit of giving names to unimportant localities.

Tradition is often more conclusive, more thoroughly convincing than a questionable writing, and especially so when its sources are consentaneous and unvarying. Upon tradition depend many of the facts and deductions in that holy book which is our guide in this life and our directory for that which is to come. How much, too, of historic lore, interesting, valuable and fully credited, has come down for years before being embodied in print.

Will it be deemed an impertinent inquiry by a curious but unlearned investigator, with all these citations before him, whether Capt. John Martin, as a brave explorer of this new world, and as an associate and co-worker with Gosnold, had not as reasonable chance to be immortalized in the nomination of this fair island by his friend its discoverer, as any unheard of, imaginary and improbable Marthae?

JAMES S. GRINNELL.