

Island History and Landscape Appearance

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.

Brian Hall – forest area – 1830 map – 20,901 acres. 1850 map – 23,886 acres.

Compared 1:80,000 1860 and 1890 maps – same forest cover except in Cottage City areas (where forest was developed) and some new roads.

Douglas Graham of NOAA sent scan of original T sheets; Brian Hall geo-referenced cultivated fields on 1860 maps not on photo-lithographs (from 1846-?)

General Information, Background and Facts

Historical Info: Gazette archive; Dunlop articles on Martha's Vineyard land use history

Photos – old houses with woods (*Hough 1936*)

EGP – 150 acres – second largest fresh-water pond in state. (*Dean 1939*)

“Sturdy roots flourished in the new soil, and then came two centuries of fishing, fowling, sheep raising, grinding at mills besides island streams, piloting, ship chandlery, whaling, yes, and statesmanship at home and abroad.” (*Hough 1936*)

Wood use: Average colonial use: 30 cords per year; 1830s cut 50% by wood stoves (*B Donahue*) “hundreds of wasteful fireplaces, where ancestral shins were toasted and ‘all outdoors’ heated through chimney flues large enough to exhaust a brickyard.” (*Banks 1911*); one family wood for 100 years from one 40-acre woodlot (*Ogden 1961*)

MV wood went to ACK, until MV ran out of wood.

Tisbury self-sufficient in wood, Edgartown had to import most of its firewood. (*Freeman 1802*)

Peat – cut into bricks; stacked to dry; stored in peat house; stone with wooden roof; outbuildings wood; peat house stone as moisture rots wood. Chilmark - Smith peat house; Anderson Poole house with 2 ponds that were peat bogs; James Vincent peat house. (*Huntington-Island Energy*)

“It was a common occurrence at the annual town meetings during the middle of the 18th 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 6th.” (*Crowell 1932*)

Chapter 3 of Acts of 1714 “...the harbor of Cape Cod... is in danger of being damnified, if not made wholly unserviceable, by destroying the trees standing on the said cape (if not timely prevented), the trees and bushes being of great service to keep the sand from being driven into the harbor by the wind.” Cited in *Hollick 1902?*

The old wide boards were called "Bayboards" because they came from Buzzards Bay. (*Norton 1923*)

Tidal mills operated periodically through day. (on Cape, any evidence on island?)

July 9 [1737] - excessive rains raised the rivers to such a degree that the dams of the water mills were carried away and mowing grovmd near the rivers much damnified

Shaler “Of [ACK or MV], the latter is very much better, as it gives a rich soil, beautiful drives, brooks and woods, features denied to its bleaker sister to the east.”

October 6, 1741. summer drought hurt grass and Indian corn very much. along with an unusual number of grasshoppers that devoured both grass and corn.

Tides - US Coast Survey, "dividing space between the co-tidal hours of XII and XV... combination of two apparently distinct tidal waves...giving at times four high tides in one day near the junction of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard sound...locality of the greatest interference (Falmouth), one of their meeting points." (*Banks 1911*)

Pond Openings - Tisbury Great Pond and other great ponds been opened since at least 1715 when Mrs. Johnson D. Whiting rented a team of horses and a driver for \$1.85 to open the pond. In 1900s, openings legally mandated in "An Act to Provide for the Drainage of the Lowlands and Meadows around certain Great Ponds in the County of Dukes County." "Sewers" elect to oversee opening. "Manter Nail" - TGP high water mark when the nail is reached - spilling at Muddy Cove - pond opened and would drop 4'. Pond closes naturally and ground water rises. Behind opening sand bar develops so next opening is to east where the water is deeper ~80-year cycle – related to northward beach mount. After 80 years – sand bars over washed by barrier beach. (*Lloyd*); Wm Butler: March 17 Employ'd opening Farm Pond Crick – set it a running;

"Most of the inlets of the southern ponds are opened artificially for the purpose of improving the fisheries and to prevent the over flow of marshes by the fresher waters of ponds. When once opened the width and depth of the inlets are established and maintained according to the power and condition of the tides and the wave action of the ocean. They sometimes remain open for several months and again are closed by the first heavy storm." Henry L. Whiting letter to F. M. Thorn, Superintendent U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey. September 1886.

"perambulating the bounds,"...selectmen of the towns, which had adjoining division lines, met, soberly walked round the landmarks, saw that they were in place, and "renewed" them in their respective town records. (*Banks 1911*)

(*Banks 1911*) – misinterpretations.

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

It seems certain that he [Brereton] failed to observe the other legume, cultivated by the natives, the bean,' and it is quite probable that, had he gone into the interior of the Vineyard, he would have found fields of corn, and squash vines trailing through them. Corn was pre-eminently the Indian's cereal, called by him "weatchimin," and our word "succotash" is derived from their term "msickquatash" which means literally, corn beaten in pieces.

There were large, open spaces, overgrown with grass and planting fields which they had cultivated for centuries." "We can readily believe their [Wm. Wood, Morton] statements that on the coming of the English to this coast there were open fields covered with grass.

The hills and meads of the island were clad in a rich covering of evergreen that is now all gone, and its place taken by the walnut and hickory and the endless prospect of dwarf oaks that now struggle for a parched existence on the great plains of Tisbury and Edgartown. [based on NSS]

"...the low shore of the eastern end of the island, whose interminable sand—its barrenness scarcely veiled by a thin copse of scrubby oaks—is engaged in a give-and-take struggle with the sea." (*Shaler 1874*)

(Edwin Athearn 1995) Worked at Mystic and on Charles W Morgan; grandfather sailed many voyages; Eduard Stackpole (ACK) was Curator of Mystic Maritime.

1663-4 W Chop or **HH** Neck sold to whites. (*T-MHC 1984*) [Acc to Tom Chase the parallel strips of land divided up on W Chop were 13 for 13 kids belonging to 1725 Chase Map]

1664 First road laid out/traveled - "Mill Path" connecting Great Harbor with mill on the "river" in Takemmy... continued beyond old Mill River to "School House Path", and south road in Chilmark; Road from Chilmark east to Takemmy also called the "Mill Path".

1733 - Simon Athearn's estate: T- mansion at the Great Neck west of Tississa; woodland between "Pine Hill" and home of Jabez Athearn near today's Priester's Pond; "the sixteenth part of [Tisbury common lands]," land in Tississa and Charles' Neck, and on the plain of the Old Mill River; C - salt meadow; E - ~1000 acres land and buildings, 302 sheep, twelve cows, two pair of oxen, six steers, two heifers, a bull, eight yearlings, six swine, one mare; two harrows, one plow, pitchforks, hoes, a cart, a grindstone, 60 pounds of sheep's wool, two looms, three spinning wheels, a pair of wool cards, looking glasses, a pewter platter, napkins, two large Bibles, brass candlesticks. Farm with roads, fences, and buildings, covering much of three necks. (*Lloyd*)

1762 - letter "the Island has now as many inhabitants as the Land will comfortably support; (*Lloyd*)

1775 *Des Barres Map* Squibnocket open SW with spit curling inward; Quitsa, Menemsha, Stonewall Pds connected; Chilmark Pd connected; TGP breach; Shanscomtacket Pd open across from Felix Neck;

GH - Central area not in lots, no houses; periphery - lots with houses scattered

W - "Tisbury or New Town", cluster of buildings up Mill River; Big Lots along S shore with no buildings backed by small lots with buildings.

C - Line of big lots Menemsha Hills through 7 Gates. Stonewalls?

E - Katama area large rectangular lots; Chappy - island; Shear Pen Pond; Wasque Beach"

1784 *Crevecoeur*

GH - Squidnocket Pastures. "Gayhead Swamp full of Peat"

S Beach - "The Great Beach against which the Sea Continually Beats"

"Tidsbury Wood Land" c of island; W into Chilmark Town, N through W Chop, E up into the E Chop; and S into center of Island

Woodland N of Great Pond (Pohogonot?)

Katama = "Sheep Pasture"

Chappy - Large "Wood Land" in center; "Salt Meadows" along W side Pocha Pond;

1790 *Peleg Coffin map*

Squib Pd - open to W; Menemsha open to NE; TGP not open; Eel Pd open to N; Sengecontacket open across from Felix Neck; Chappy - island; Pocha Pd connecting through to S.

GH - Six triangles - wigwams

1795. "*Chappaquidick Island*". Unknown from Banks. "Washqua Outlet at E-most point; North Neck: fenced off from Tom's Neck and main island;

1796. *State of Massachusetts from the best information.* Squib Pd connected.

1802 *Freeman (August 13, 1807)*

DCI preface to reprint of Freeman's Description of Dukes County for MHS publications; Freeman Church of England became American Episcopal Church in 1785; Freeman was founder of American Unitarian Society; Influenced MV's Joseph Thaxter who began preaching Unitarian;

gave Freeman most of his information about MV; Freeman a founder of Mass Historical Society; member of Humane Soceity that erected huts along beaches; purpose of Freeman's visit;

"None of the swamps in Chilmark are large. Several of them have been cleared, and converted into fresh meadows; but the greatest part of them are filled with bushes and small trees. Some of them have springs of good water, a few of which give rise to brooks; and others of them contain peat; which, as wood has grown scarce, begins to be much used."

"The soil of Edgartown is not as good as that of Tisbury and Chilmark: it is sandy and dry, but not unfavourable to the growth of corn. The soil of Tisbury is in general a heavy, gravelly loam; a portion of it is sandy, and a smaller portion inclining to clay. More than one half of these two townships is covered with shrub oak and bitter oak, is of little or no value, and is not enclosed."

"The land is generally horse-hoed with a harrow, not with a plough. Garden vegetables and potatoes are raised sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The land is manured for potatoes; and the produce is forty or fifty bushels to an acre. Seaweed has of late been much used: it is laid on the potatoes, and covered with earth. The land is made to yield great quantities of pumpkins, which are green, thick shelled, and of a good taste."

There is more grass land in Chilmark than in the other two townships. Upland English mowing, in this place, yields about eighteen hundred to an acre; the salt marsh, a ton; and the black grass marsh, a ton and a half. This black grass is frequently overflowed by the water of the ponds, which it surrounds, and much injured. For the sake of drawing off the water, a passage from them into the sea is opened during the summer; but it is liable to be shut again with the first southerly gale. Another kind of grass, called creek stuff, grows on the borders of the ponds, and the greatest part of it in the water. It is a coarse sedge, and is worth about one third of English hay... In Tisbury there are no upland English meadows, except those which are made by manure: they are of small extent, and produce about a ton to an acre. Bordering on the small rivers and brooks, which run into Newtown Pond, there are about seventy or eighty acres of fresh meadow, which affords hay of a better quality than common fresh meadow hay: the produce is about a ton and an half to an acre. There is very little salt marsh, creek stuff, or black grass, within the limits of the township... In Edgartown there are about a hundred and forty acres of English mowing land; a hundred and thirty, of fresh meadow; and a hundred and seventy of salt marsh. Very little of the English mowing land deserves the name, the greatest part of it being strips of land on the borders of the salt marsh, between it and the upland. It produces a fine grass, resembling spear-grass, and from a ton to a ton and a half to an acre. The proper English upland mowing ground yields about fifteen hundred to an acre. The fresh meadow is on the borders of the ponds, is of a good quality, and produces about a ton to an acre. The salt marsh yields not more than a ton to an acre; and much of it, not more than five hundred: the grass is short sedge, and is of a good quality. Some of the marshes of late have produced black grass, and yield a great burden... The best hay of the island is of an excellent quality; and affords more nutriment, than hay which grows at a greater distance from the sea... Not much butter and cheese are made in Edgartown and Tisbury: in Chilmark there is a greater quantity; but of the former, not more than two thirds; and of the latter, not more than one quarter, sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants."
(Freeman 1802)

"Very little wood land is left in Edgartown and Chilmark: in Tisbury there is more than in both the other townships, about two thirds of the whole island. The trees are principally of white and black oak, and are about thirty feet high: few exceed fifty feet. In Chilmark there is not half fewel enough of wood for the consumption of the inhabitants; and in Edgartown the greatest part

of the fire wood which is used is brought from other places, chiefly from Buzzard's Bay, Waquoit, and Coxit: the price of a cord is five or six dollars." *Freeman 1802*

"All the houses are within a mile or two of the sea coast: the internal parts of the island will probably always remain without inhabitants...where the land is enclosed, it is in the eastern part entirely fenced with posts and rails, which are chiefly brought from Buzzard's Bay. As many spots however are not worth enclosing, and are destitute of water, they are left in common. In the western part of the island, the land in general is fenced with stone walls. The stones are large, flat pieces of granite, and can be laid in such a manner, as to admit spaces between them; by which labour is saved.

"On Martha's Vineyard, including those on Chappaquiddick, the horses and colts have been estimated at four hundred; the neat cattle, one year old and upwards, at twenty-eight hundred; and the swine, at eight hundred. Six hundred animals of the beef kind, part of which is sent to market, some of it to Nantucket, are perhaps killed every year. Many goats were formerly kept on the island; but they were of little profit to their owners, and have been greatly injurious to the present generation, by preventing the growth of trees on that vast plain of bitter oaks, which lies between Edgartown and Tisbury. These mischievous animals are still to be found in the same places, but their number is unknown. Of the number of sheep there are different estimates. One man raises it as high as twenty thousand; another supposes it to be half that number; whilst another says, that it does not exceed nine thousand," "The sheep run at large during the whole year, chiefly on the commons: ...

"The land [Chappaquiddick Island] is sandy, but is of a better quality, and has not been so much worn as the opposite land in Edgartown. There are about fifty acres of wood: the trees are white and black oak, and are from ten to fifteen feet in height. There are three hundred acres of shrub oak. The east and north parts are level; but the west part of the island rises into hills sixty feet high:..." "This island is seven miles and a half long, and a mile and a quarter broad, and contains five thousand five hundred and sixty acres. There are on it four farms, four dwelling houses, at which are milked from forty-five to fifty cows. The soil in the eastern part is a sandy loam and good; in the western part it is light, and not so good. The principal part of the mowing land is at the east end; but bodies of salt marsh lie on the southerly side of the island. (*Freeman. 1802*)

Lamberts Cove flourishing community 1800: 3 stores, 2 schools, 3 wharves before VH had any; salt works; smoking house on hill; lumber yard; fish weir, cranberry bog; Makonikey clay. *MHC – WT*

1844. *Lithograph. MV. Simca Borda.* Chappy – Breach to east – “Norton’s Pt”; “Indian ?Lands?” shown fenced to North Neck; enclosure in center island at corner to Edo’s

1792. Wm Butler diary. Employ’d getting bark, on west side mustering up calf-skins, removing hair from hide with lime, employ’d getting withs on the Plains; Employ’d carting manure— putting into corn hills; [Note from Huntington: 1792 many Martha’s Vineyard people moving to Maine – New Vineyard – due to population explosion and the lack of good land

Squibnocket, sheep still grazed in common. (*Peters*)

1850 Peak

Forest: 1830 map (20,901 ac) 1850 map – 23,886 (BHall)

Tisbury popn peaked 1860/65: 1803 people, 5568 sheep; 125 farms, same as Edgartown, >2x people employed in farming; 60 % MV cranberries, T> 80% of firewood harvested in the county; 50% MV butter, 4200 lbs cheese in 1850; 553 tons of English > any MV town. T's 20 acres cranberries 60% of the county. *MHC – WT*

3 most important MA towns: Boston, Salem , ACK – made Holmes Hole important. ACK ships discharged oil at Edg. (*Hough 1936*)

ACK - 1840 – 9712 (1846 great fire; decline whaling) 1850 – 8779 popn; 1900 cranberrying peaked; Gibbs Swamp – world's largest cranberry bog

Semaphore staff signal service MV-Nantucket (about 1845), the staff being erected on Sampson's Hill, and later on the Highlands of East Chop. (*Banks 1911*)

7-16-1856 The telegraph cable is laid from E. Chop of Holmeshole to Woods Hole. (*JPease Diary*)

“In the Gold Rush of 1849 alone a great company had departed and at all times men moved away, usually by routes through the far seas.” (*Hough 1940*)

Middle Road 12.30.1845 petition of 150 laid out by County Commissioners from Baxter's Corner, WT to Gay Head line, bridge over Harry's creek. 6 miles, 290 rods long, width of two rods.

North Road 9.17.1849 - County Commissioners, petition of 216 others, finished 2 yrs later, 6 miles, 74 rods, from village of North Tisbury to Menemsha creek

Visuals: NSS-S of WT: broad smooth fields, Isle of Wight; maize-wheat as good as CT Valley *Hine 1908*; WMoraine; land mostly cleared rounded masses chiefly granitic, white colour; seen at a great distance *Hitchcock 1824*; “MV gives a rich soil, beautiful drives, brooks and woods, features denied to its bleaker sister to the east” 1874 NSS

“WT is a quiet rural village near the centre of the Vineyard, located on a high plain, in the midst of what appears to be the best agricultural portion of the island...the views from the breezy hill-tops which rise to the westward of Tisbury offer varied and uncommon attractions. Around and beneath him he may see, looking eastward, the extensive plain that lies toward Edgartown, like a sea of green sward, with islands of stunted forest and white farm-houses dotted over the surface, like sails on the ocean. To the west is a tumult of hills, grass covered, specked with flocks of sheep, and broken with numerous detached and massive granite rocks, which seem to have no kindred with the earth where they are found, but are said by geologists to have been brought there by icebergs in former times. Perhaps they were; but who knows?”

“Toward the south and east is a plain chiefly covered with a growth of stunted shrubbery.... There is a fair proportion of woodland, the chief growth of post oaks, which seldom attain a greater height than twenty-five or thirty feet; and the only tree or shrub which seems to attain its full size under the influence of the salt winds is the lilac...The land produces good grass; and under a proper system of cultivation the crop of cereals is found profitable. (*Strother 1860 – Harpers*)

E Plain – “the beauty of the plain consists in this, that on horseback, or with any vehicle, you may strike out from the beaten track and make a course for yourself wherever you please upon a firm foundation of smooth, closely-matted grass-ground.”....”the plain spotted with sheep”...”oak forests in the interior”. (*Devens 1838*)

The island is every-where, so far as I had opportunity of seeing, a perfect desert, excepting the garden plots in its several towns. For aught I know, it might have been a “vineyard” when the

veritable Martha was alive; but in these degenerate days, the whole island is not worth one acre of ordinary Indiana land. It is astonishing how these Yankees can talk about their “farms,” as if a wide sand-barren, incumbered with dwarfy, miserable, moss-covered, shrub-oak bushes, with scarcely a square yard of natural soil, where the lichen of the dumpy trees has hard work to live, can be called a *farm* in the American sense of that English term”. (*Tefft 1850*)

“Although G. is twenty miles from E. and it is necessary in going thither to take down and put up some thirty pairs of bars, it will well repay the perseverance of the visitor.” (*Devens 1838*)
GH – “Scarcely a tree is to be seen on this part of the island” (*Hitchcock 18xx*)

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. (*Shaler 1874*)

“...there is always a cloud of sails along the horizon, marking the course of the shipping from Europe to all our ports south of Boston, and in the nearer distance shoals of fishermen and yachts vie with the gulls in their effort to vary the sober beauty of the sunlit water.”

"Huddled together so close that abuse and badinage can be plentifully exchanged by the crews, lie the motley throng: lumber ships from Maine, their decks piled high above the bulwarks with the yellow, fragrant spoils of the pine woods; colliers from Nova Scotia with voluble Frenchmen for crew, Frenchmen still in every word and feature though their ancestry is as long on our soil as the Yankee; coal ships from Philadelphia, manned with the typical tobacco-stained, taciturn American sailor. Along with these, a herd of vessels engaged in interminable and seemingly objectless wandering up and down the seas in search of hard-earned gains. Here and there trim, dandified yachts bring their white paint and polished brass into glaring contrast with the grime of utilitarian trade.”

“A break in the land brings into view the deeply embayed haven of Holmes's Hole, one of the famous refuge harbors of our coast.” (*Shaler 1874*)

1850 - Several miles of "ragged plain" separated West Tisbury, Homes Hole and North Tisbury;

Southeastern MV – plain covered with low shrub oak (*Hitchcock 18xx*)

“Another track through this scrub oak wilderness - half moon known as Doctors Fisher’s Road...”
Hine 1908

1872 bridge installed; Lagoon Pond; Beach Rd opened; suggestion high bridge - Robbins Rock

the hotel was soon full of friends, some of whom I well recollected, all tendering boats, men, tackle, &c., for fishing; guns and company for the plover plains... All sorts of expeditions were planned before we parted at ten o'clock. Among others these, namely; to-day blue fish; to-morrow, shooting on the plains; next day sword fish; the next a party to Gay Head, and so on. (*D Webster 1849*)

E to GH: The eastern end of the island is a sandy plain, the western a region of high, rocky hills. In both the roads are bad. (*D Webster 1849*)

From Woods Hole: The number of vessels which pass up and down this [Vineyard] Sound is prodigious. A hundred of them sometimes put into Holmes Hole in a day, if a head wind arise. Nearly all the coasting trade between the East and South, goes through this passage, as do often

ships from South America, the West Indies, and India...Ships come this way to avoid the south shoals of Nantucket, which stretch off fifty miles to the southeast from the visible part of that vast and extensive sand-bank. Of late years, however, since improved chronometers make shipmasters more sure of their longitude in thick weather, it has become more usual to keep to the eastward, and make no land till they see Cape Cod. (D Webster 1849)

Jeremiah Pease Diary: 8-23-1850 Mr. John P. North having stuck a nail in the ball of his foot a few days ago, dies this morning about 5 o'clock of the Lock Jaw, his spasms were violent a short time before his death, the wound being very trifling closed up in a short time, he was walking the street 2 or 3 days before his death.

Decline

“Used farmland has surrendered slowly to thickets of bayberry, huckleberry and to the spires of young cedars” (*Eisenstaedt-HBH 1970*)

“The most conspicuous element in the vegetation is the large number of oaks which in many places form square miles of low dense woods. *Q. ilicifolia* is the most abundant species, but *Q. stellata*, *Q. tinctoria*, *Q. palustris* and *Q. alba* are also plentiful....” “All are stunted in stature, although this may be due to the fact that the timber throughout the island is second growth, and possibly the original trees may have been much larger.” (*Hollick 1893*)

1883 Census Dukes co. Report Mass. Board Agriculture: 33,645 ac farm land; 371 farms; 4893 ac cultivated; 18,000 ac pasture/unimproved; 9200 ac woodland; 1858 unimprovable (*Banks 1911*)

“The aspect of the two islands differs greatly on account of the peculiarity of the vegetation. Nantucket is essentially treeless, while the greater part of Martha’s Vineyard is forest-clad. This difference is probably owing to the greater exposure to the sea winds suffered by Nantucket, which is due to its smaller size and greater distance from the shore. In part the deforested condition of Nantucket may be attributable to the fact that for nearly two centuries its fields were used as open sheep pastures and the young trees were constantly browsed down by the flocks. Martha’s Vineyard, on the contrary, has held its woods; only a small strip on the southern shore shows any tendency to become sterilized in respect to forest growth by the action of the sea winds *NSS 1888*

Chappy and WT moraine - grazed and cleared shore to shore but rapid regeneration –closely grazed meadows → mature oak in <one century –resprouted root boles? (*Dunwiddie&Adams 1994*)

George Haskell Willoughby Diary 1880-83 (Chappy): 3-4-1880 Got one load of swamp wood. 5-17-1880 Went into woods for my summer’s wood. I shall have to go once more to get enough. 5-22-1880 Went to the common and got a load of wood. 7-28-1880 Went coaling. Got 138 strap tubs full. 9-29-1880 Brought a load of dry cow dung to burn. 9-18-1880 Went after pine needles, got 1 bag. 10-28-1880 Got another load of seaweed. Put dirt on the seaweed around the house to keep from blowing away. 11-4-1880 Brought 3 loads seaweed – one for pig pen, 2 to bank house. 12-20-1880 2 bags pine needles – put litter in pig pen. 1-17-1881 Went to see folk clearing Mr. Enis wood lot for stumps & wood. 1-24-1881 Went after sumac to tan the kidd skin. 4-1-1882 Our wood is gone and we are burning whatever we can lay our hands on.

1871 HLW – East Chop eroded 3 feet annually 1846-71; ~ 1890s E&W Chops “within past decade the general government has fortified points by jetties and riprap to prevent further loss and shoaling of Vineyard Haven harbor.” (*Banks 1911*)

1905 – Menemsha Pond opening dredged and jetty, causeway. (*Eisenstaedt 1988*);
1936 Second opening in Sengekontacket

“None of the woodlands of the Vineyard can be called forests. Some of the better woodlands will probably develop into stratified communities barring further disturbance. These “good woodlands” are restricted to protected valleys and slopes of the moraine that forms the northwest coast of MV. The most prominent trees in these stands are white oak; beech; and sassafras.”
“The Vineyard today, therefore, is somewhat bedraggled in a vegetational sense. The dependence of the early colonists on the forests for timber and fuel is evidenced by the depauperate woodlands”; Priestler’s Woods-developed understory – WO 43.5” & 35”; Be 49” & 38”; RM 32”; BC 18.5”; Locust 17”. WO stumps – 285 & 330 years old [335-380 years today!] (*Ogden 1961*)

1939 population 5700; 40,000 summer “The resort industry of the Vineyard appears to have a firm foothold”!! “The writer knows that the following invitation, if answered, will assure the Vineyard of a means of Livelihood. ‘By land or sea or air....we hope you will make the Vineyard your summer homeport. We wish you a good voyage. We offer you the old whaling captains greeting....’Come aboard”’. (*Dean 1939*)

Eel grass “Where there had been great areas of the waving green grass reaching up to the mirror of the sun there was now nothing but shifting sand” (*Hough 1940*)

Bought house in “Northern Pines” W side of Tashmoo; Tashmoo opened to sea few months earlier, channel dredged. (Edwin Athearn 1995)

Edgartown

E - Five areas: Chappy, Great Pond, Katama, North Shore, Plains



Chappy – Sagamore Pahkehpuunnassoo Chappy = “place of separate island”

Great potential for archaeology around Dr Fisher’s old factory site. Also might find Tar Kiln area sites as remote and undeveloped. May have extended from N section onto Plains section.

1646 – Original Home Lots

1646-52 – Division of “Town Lands” – 10-40 ac. In S portion bordering on Great Pond and Katama Bay; “Dividend Lots” included a division on Chappaquiddick; “Great Harbor” first appears in 1652 (*Banks 1911*)

1653, May 8 – First division of “Common Land” or “Planting Field” among 20 proprietors on N side of town between Weeks' Neck and Mills/Miles' Brook. 10 acre lots; 200 acres allotted; known for years based on these twenty-five shares, “Five and Twenty” (*Banks 1911*)

1653 (1663) May 20... Thomas Mayhew, Sr., Thomas Burchard and Philip Tabor selected to divide the Principal "necks": Crackatuxet, Quanomica, Felix, and "the little neck by Crackatuxet."

Quanomica divided into 37 shares; valuable fodder with marsh grasses; On necks "Thatch Lots," roofing material for houses and barns

1654 Feb. 6 "the twenty-five lotts are to Bear Equall Charges & so are to have equal Priviledges." = number home lots bordering on the harbor from Pease's Point to Katama, varying in size from eight to forty acres..most about ten acres. T Mayhew and son ... only lots of forty acres....These original "Five and Twenty" retained the names of their first owners for nearly a century

1659-"Lots on the Line," Line shall Run from Wintuckett four Rods to the Westward of the Great Pond By the Ox pond and so By the upper End of Goodman Weekes Lott to John Peases Lott.

1664 Sanchacantacket Neck, most northern section; divided for settlers at Weenomeset, or Felix neck, ten years later another move northward. Divisions gradually spread form town

1675 Swimming Place name – passage between Green Hollows and Snow's Point.

1676 - Feb. 14 – 40 "Plain Lots," Largest tract of land in common on the plains, between Great Pond and Katama Bay; Plain Road – may be Katama Road Herbster/Cherau

1684, Feb. 27, Woodland tract in NW towards Tisbury Line divided into 42 lots; East Pine and West Pine lots

English population: 75-1653; 100-1660; 125-1676. Herbster/Cherau

"Throughout the early historic period the Plains area [Edgartown] functioned as a broad, open area used for common pasturage, with smaller woodlots interspersed." "rather thick and interspersed with short stunted oak shrubbery...with the exception of a small part thereof which may be termed woodland..." (*Crapo 1830*)

Wood: 1657 Robert Codman [all proprietors] granted "a commonage of wood"; 1683 restricted wood use "every man shall have a load of wood or timber for his use for a share and he that shall have any more shall pay five shillings for every tree that shall be cut without order from the town until further notice" (Banks). 1684 modified : all wood in the Old Purchase that is not layd out to be common for men to cut for their occasions. *Banks 1911*

1671 - Nicholas Butler August 13 died: This is a True Record of the petickeler parcellis of Land of Mr. Nicolas Butler: first my house Lott bounded by the Sea on the East, Mr. Blands Lott on the South, the Plaine on the West; adjoining to it is Twenty acres More or Less with one acre of Meadow; with my Divedent att Catemy forty acres; two thach Lotts, one at Meshackett, the other att Monaqua; this hath four acres of upland; one Ten acre Lott adjacent the Common; Two acres of Meadow Lying att Chapequideck two acres More or Less; four Acres of Meadow Lying on the North end of Chapequideck; three acres of Meadow att the East End of Chapequideck with a full Commonage and a Six and Twentyth part of fish and whale three acres att Crackatuxett.

... town divided into landed class and comparatively landless class; non-proprietor resident could own land but had no rights to the commons unless they were purchased or rented.

Necks probably fenced off at the head of each cove - water and ample meadow land for grazing.

Ditch and mound often with wooden fences. *Herbster Cherau* ; "marked trees" set off property: saplings bent along line at a right angle to the ground and then up again; still found along boundary line every 100 feet or so. (*Peters*) [Really?]

"Penny Wise Way" near E-HH road; also near the Claypit; leads by N side of Dark woods to and by S side of West woods, on the WT [?] road. A continuation of it meets Pease's Point Way at Great Pond. Called "Pennywise Path" because it was a shorter way to Homes Hole than Pease's Point

Way. But proved to be as long if not longer than the old way, so was called Pennywise [?].
Pennywise - 4 ancient ways: Pennywise Path, Tar Kiln Path, Three-Cornered Rock Road, Dr.
Fisher's Road. Three about east property: Pease's Path, Sandy Valley Road, Middle Line Path.

Peter Norton Deed 1784: Will Laves Plain, Little Pond, Great Plain, Tar Kiln Path (*Allen 1938*)

Pohogonot – old Sachem; son Tashmoo *CG Hine 1908* Pahagahott, Pohoganut, Pohoganit, 1682
deed – Pohoganut - "at or on the cleared land (Banks); Pohogonot Farm owned by descendants of
Samuel Smith, bought it in the early 1700s.

Oyster Pond net stretched across; drawn to south end by horses for smelt and perch; fish packed
fresh sent to Boston or New York until 50 or 60 years ago...(*Peters*)

1849 Custom House built

1855 - Oil & candle factory "largest in the world" \$470,000 production. (*Hough 1936*)

1855 - 360 men on whaling ships some Portuguese. Decline 1860-1870; only 180 by 1865.

1860 – E - all-time high 2118.

1870 – population of 1500; by 1895 Cottage City split off and Edgartown had 1125

Chappy



Chappy - compounded of Tchepi-aquiden-e "the separated island," First 100 years after the
settlement, occupied solely by Indians. 1674 - 60 Wampanoag families; 1698 - 138 Christianized
natives, ~ two-thirds of the entire population. 1765 – 80; 1790 – 75; 1807 - 65; 1849 - 84; 1861 -
74, 1899 - 7. Des Barres map 1781 - 23 houses, English and Indian, so population about 175 total.
Census 1790 - 190 total.

Tip end of **Chappaquiddick** separate island called Natuck or Capoag in deeds: Pahkepunnasso,
sachem of Chappaquiddick, sold the island called Natuck to Thomas Mayhew, 16 (6) 1663. IV.
158. Micajah Mayhew leased "the island of Natick alias Capoag near unto Chappaquiddick," 4
March, 1727. IV. 328. Micajah Mayhew leased the "Isle of Capoag which lieth a Uttle to the
Easter Northard of the Isle of Chapaquidet" 27 February, 1729 (*Banks 1911*)

1781 Des Barres Map "Old Town Plains" = Entire Katama peninsula

Meadows divided among Edg settlers around 1668 with grazing rights to land owned by Indians.

North Neck – center Native community: burial grounds, meeting house, home sites; 1800s Indians
crowding into North Neck with whites on farms. NN – poor soils, heat from peat, little

employment except long whaling voyages. Early 1900s meetinghouse for Indians repaired and held church services. Community once extended from NN to Tom's Neck.

- 1680 - limit 400 cattle, 200 sheep, 1 horse on commonage; ~ October 5 livestock to Chappy (1703-250 cows, oxen horses pastured on uplands & saltmarsh); ~April 25 into Shear Pen wash/shear
1720 - Cape Poge leased in spring
1722 - Wasque 1st deeded purchase from sachem Jacob Seeknout to Simeon Butler son of Captain John Butler – first whaling captain on MV. 1742 –Henry Butler bought Wasque Neck, south part of Cape Poge Beach.
1723 – Great Gale attached Cape Poge to Chappy,
1764 - first structure Cape Poge “pest house” quarantine small pox; many gravestones → 1960s.
1834 – Tisdale Smith consolidated land on Wasque-sheep pasture. Wasque Neck – separated by fence-line-north[S?]west corner Pocha Pond, southwest to Katama Bay.
1826 - last hay on Cape Poge – 140 ac plowed and planted with corn – Great and Little Necks. All of Wasque under cultivation – hay, etc. – from real estate ad.
1830s Chappy Indian Town>100; Wampanoag woodlands; Indian Meeting House at N Neck.
1850 5-24 J Pease Diary: engaged in dividing Indian land on Chappaquiddick through early June.
1854 – last documented washing and shearing in Shear Pen Pond.
1892 – Chappaquiddick fire likely included Wasque;
1930s – Wasque sheep pasture

Pocha Pond – Wassaechtaak – from Poksha-muk “*where there is a breaking in*” – from Cape Poge Bay. Pocha - one of the earliest place names, southeastern point, 1665. Through 1722 Pocha Pond open to the Atlantic near Wasque Point used as harbor; 1723 closed by Great Gale (Deed 10-28-1742 Benj Pease, Benj Natick (Wampanoag) – describe closing); Pocha Pond - 210 ac w/300 ac salt and brackish marsh – largest and least disturbed salt marshes on MV. 1845 – Pocha Pond Meadow and Fishing Company –rights to construct dike on pond inlet. (Ch. 185, Acts of Massachusetts Legislature 1845; dike free travel over for public); spring spawning for herring; barreled to NYC; conflict hunters, farmers, landowners. Closed less saline –cranberries at west end – 1800s. flumes allowed water to escape at low tide, kept saltwater out at high; opened for herring/shad in spring; dike-massive decline shellfish; Bridge deteriorated 1970s, closed to vehicles 1981, pedestrians 1988. Summer 1995 – open to the public.

Indians: 1848-84; 1860: 17 families; 36 male, 38 female; island divided. (1899-7)Whites “as usual, obtained the better portion. That belonging to the Indians, is bleak and exposed, the soil light, sandy, gravelly, and barren, and without wood for either fuel or fencing, yielding, as well said by the commissioners in 1849, ‘a precarious subsistence to the most untiring industry’. Their fuel is peat procured from meadows on the territory. What fencing they have is of material procured from abroad, which is so expensive that little is used, and they are obliged to pasture their cattle in the tethering rope—a mode unknown to most of the population of the State...The young men usually go to sea, or seek other employment, away from home, till they have obtained money enough to build a comfortable home, and then employ their time in fishing...” Great advantage for work being near Edg. Most have framed houses, many with barns, cattle swine; 34 horned cattle, 11 swine, 1 horse; among 8 families. Women can vote if unmarried, liberty of speech. Since 1849 laws of 1829 in effect including divisional fence on N side of highway – helps by keeping whites from cutting across with animals. No religion but attend meeting at “Marine Church” - Sampson’s Hill (across the line). School poor, not part of the great state school system. (Earle Report 1861).

1850 division of tribe’s land by Jeremiah Pease and Richard Beetle, pursuant to 1828 Act: 487 acres among 17 families, reserving 205 acres for public purposes; Commissioners: A road or

cartway, by gates and bars, for the accommodation of all concerned, is reserved to and from Cohog Point, on the Southeast side of said Neck; and also, on the Southwest side of said Neck from the Pond to the Harbor. (2012 VCS Appeals Court Brief on Kitris Case)

“We have also reserved a road leading from the Swimming Place Road, so called, to Sampson’s Hill, for the accommodation of the persons herein named, to whom the wood land is set off; and a road leading from the Landing Place to the road on the Northeast side of the Indian Line fence, said road being twenty feet in width.” “It is also intended that the persons, to whom the Peat Swamp is set off, shall have the privilege of passing to and from their several shares of said swamp with carts, teams, &c. for the purpose of taking their Peat &c.”

Jeremiah Pease Diary 1823 December 27 Survey the Indian line Fence so called on Is. of Chappaquiddick; JP Diary ~1850: Description of land to support the Poor – near E harbor, also “on the cliff near Edgartown harbor... to Cape Poge Pond, 79 acres. “Should any Persons hereafter appear having legal claims in right of heirship upon the Indian Lands on the Island of Chappaquiddick it is understood that they shall receive their share out of the lands set off for the support of the poor.” “We have set off in Common (under the following regulations) the Peat Swamps on said Island of Chappaquiddick belonging to said Indians and People of color, viz; Indian Land bounds – 581 ¼ ac. description. Indian Wood Land 111 ac. and 56 rods; Hon. Leavitt Thaxter – Guardian for the Indians and People of colour and overseer of the Poor of said Indians and People of colour.

Shares of woodland, shares of land at the landing place, shares of the Peat swamp.... for each family shares of the Neck; It is also intended that the persons to whom the Peat Swamp is set off shall have the privilege of passing to and from the several shares of said swamp, with cart teams etc. for the purpose of takin their Peat etc; “It is understood that those persons who have a sufficiency of Peat formerly set off to them, were not entitled to any part of the new division of the Peat swamp....”; The Peat contained in the Swamp lying near the Meeting House shall remain free for all those families who may not have a sufficiency of Peat contained in the land set off to said Families, and those who may have more Peat contained within the land set off to them, than shall be sufficient for their own use, shall have no claims upon the remainder, but it shall be divided among said Inhabitants according to the judgment of the Guardians and Overseers; The privilege of picking Cranberries shall ever remain free for the Indians and People of Colour but no one shall be debarred from making any improvements upon Cranberry Swamps, within their respective territories which shall render them more beneficial to their interest.

Chappy and Christiantown groups more assimilated; “A letter from Leavitt Thaxter, guardian of the Chappaquiddick and Christiantown tribes of Martha’s Vineyard, described as “both surrounded with a white population, with whom they have intercourse, the tendency of which, is, to assimilate them in manners, customs, &c.” (Bird Report 1849); Jeremiah Pease Diary 1849: Boundaries for Christiantown; “We have also divided the Wood Land belonging to said Indians and People of Colour at Christiantown, lying detached from their other lands in the following manner; Division line fence between said Indians, and the White Inhabitants, wall or fence, stone wall, watering place which was formerly reserved for the White People and Indians one rod from the corner of the stone wall and a heap of stones; Lays out “Boundaries of the Whole Tracts of land owned by the Indians and People of colour in Christiantown.”

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

1659 Chappaquidick is an Island east of Martha's Vineyard, separated from it by a strait, about a quarter of a mile wide. *Daniel Gookin 1659*

1849 Island of Chippaquiddick. In strictness not an island, but a peninsula connected with the main land on the seashore, at its southeast corner, by a narrow isthmus. (D Webster 1849)

1861 Indians. Population, including one family in New Bedford and one in Edgartown, was 74 in 1860. 1848-85, now not more than 60. (Earle Report 1861)

West Tisbury

Occupied by 1666 – due to fine water courses and the fertile meadows

1668 - Quansoo, Tississa, Pasquanahommon's Neck, Deed June 27 (Land Records Vol. A, p. 86) area around Tisbury Great Pond as "ye plain and ye meadow, cornfields, woodlands."

1699 - Deed January 4, "field" on Pasquanahommon's Neck (Land Records Vol. B, p. 598), Mosoowonkwonk, a "mowing meadow," Banks). Scrubby Neck's Wachepemepquah "planting field" or cornfield; Each neck divided into sixteen shares, commonly held. (*Lloyd*)

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

1669 - November 19 Town Records oldest on MV; 1st record conveys mill & privileges on Tiasquin or New Mill River; deed from Benjamin Church (Indian fighter) to Joseph Merry

1693 - Peter Robinson and John Manter apoynted towns Atorneys in defending this towns right of the medow gras and hay on Seconquit (neck E of Deep Bottom)

1671 – first division in plain surrounding the mill River, where soils were fertile. [*Lloyd*]; territory on the Old Mill river, N from the Tyasquin, selected for "home lots," forty acres each, most on the west side of the brook where all the prominent shareholders located. Exception - Simon Athearn on east side, with no near neighbor, occupied before 1672. First roads in town: Mill road, Scotchman's bridge (first highway in records laid out when home lots were plotted. midway of lots running east and west the entire section.) 1671 Henry Luce, Feb. 1, home lot on the west side of Old Mill river about forty rods north of Scotchman's Bridge road

1671 - January 31, "ye deep woods valley in cartway going to the town of Tisbury."

1681 - February 9; Allen and Mayhew appointed 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.*

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

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

1689 - Dec 4; 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.*

1693....Uppeanashkonameset,"a place where flags grow," "at the covering-mat place," low marshy spot where the cat-tail flag (*Typha Latifolia*) grows used for covering their wigwams, baskets

1694 Jonathan Lambert b.1657 deaf mute bought land on Great James pond from Sachem Josias,

James Pond. —1682 James, Duke of York, 1700 designated as "Pond Royall." Before called Onkakemmy pond and Each-poquassit pond. Great James pond. *Banks 1911*
 1699 - February 27, Area laid out for proprietors – people who have cut any timber or fencing have seven days to carry away.
 1773 - March 17, and 1774; Town elected officers: Town clerk, Select-men, Fence-viewers, Surveyors of Highways, Wardens, Overseers of Poor, Hogreves, Surveyors of Lumber, Sealers of Leather, Constable, Moderator, Town Treasurer.
 1792 – Serveyor and packer of fish; surveyor of beef and fish.
 1807 – surveyor of wood and bark.
 1839 – field drivers, school committee, health committee,
 1862? 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 Reevers – 4, Police Office.

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

Notes from Karin

Maps. The early Simon Athearn map of figure 26 shows twenty-two houses and a meeting house in the town of Tisbury in 1694. The “farm claimed by two patents” (towns) in the lower southwestern corner must refer to the Quansoo homestead of the late John Mayhew.

The early settlement map of West Tisbury, based on 17th and early 18th century deeds and probate records, was probably drawn by Charles E. Banks around 1900. My research tends to confirm its accuracy. It gives us a very clear picture of the early town, its houses, and the first land sales and transfers. Here we can see the long narrow proprietors’ lots laid out on either side of the Old Mill River (in the center of the drawing). The houses that still survive are (from the top): the Simon Athearn house, the Henry Luce house, Josiah Standish’s homestead, and across from him, Isaac Robinson’s house; in the lower left is the mill on the Tiasquam and nearby was the house of Thomas Look (the present Baker place).

Last is the Walling Map of West Tisbury of 1858 (not illustrated). At this time, Henry L. Whiting had already bought the Josiah Standish (Cottle) place, John Johnson owned the Isaac Robinson (Cathcart) house, and Job Look was in the mill house along the Tiasquam.

MFCSF – The Great Plain

1694 Athearn Map “a barren ragged plain of no town”, “no man land”

1849: T-E: public stage wagon, crossed level sandy country covered with shrub oaks (D. Webster)

1859: "Having passed from the township of Holmes Hole into Tisbury, the road lay through what would have been an oak forest, except none of the trees [exceeded] some four feet in height--[our guide] affirming this to be their mature growth, and that no larger ones had grown since the forest was cleared by the original settlers." (*SPNEA*)

1880: 8-27-1880 Arose early and went to Christian Town. See Mr. Saunders about donkey. In going up I passed through that wonderfull scrubland. The most part of the undergrowth is about 2 ft high. The land appears good and there isn't very much trouble to clear it in my opinion. The land is very level and I could see 2 or 3 miles in all directions and then I couldn't see out of this wilderness of scrub oaks. (G Willoughby Diary); CHappy Fires: 3-29-1881 Scrubbed the edge of the swamp; burned off edge of swamp. 4-1-1881 Pulled barberry bushes. Burned whole piece fire got away from us but plowed around to control

1888: On the sand plain the woods are of stunted oaks and other dwarf varieties of trees, but the growth is vigorous enough to give a wooded aspect to the surface and thereby to distinguish it in a very marked way from the neighboring and otherwise similar island of Nantucket.”

“In plowing, this protective covering [of vegetation and humus] is broken up and destroyed; hence very thin soils frequently do well in timber when they will make no return to tillage. This generally untillable area [the terrace drift or plain] of Martha’s Vineyard has an extent of about thirty-three thousands acres. At present about twenty-five thousand acres of this area is covered by low, scrubby woods, principally composed of varieties of small oaks; the remainder consists of abandoned fields which are slowly returning to the condition of forest. Frequent fires sweep over the district, destroying the parts of the trees which are above ground, but not injuring the roots, from which a tangle of stems quickly springs up. Originally this region was heavily wooded, mainly with coniferous trees, the present prevalence of the deciduous species are due to the peculiar endurance of their roots in the fires, a capacity which does not exist in the conifers.”

“The greater part of this land is not at present valued at more than \$2 per acre and much of it could probably be bought for a less price. It is all near the sea, and therefore its timber product would be readily accessible to market. The timber trees best suited to this soil have yet to be determined, but it seems to me from an inspection of the existing trees on the island that, in the several parts of this field, suitable localities can be found for larches, catalpas, ailanthus, which ash, white oak, hickory and black locust, all excepting the white oak, trees of tolerably rapid growth and all of much commercial value.”

"This woodland is the growth which has sprung up since the pine forests, which originally covered nearly the whole Island, were swept away by the ax. Now a pine is a rare object; we may ride ten miles without seeing a specimen. But in the mysterious succession of the forest, there has come an amazing variety of oaks. The trees are all young; in most cases, from the saddle ...the eye ranges above their tops for miles over a billowy sea of deepest green. The shape of the leaves vary in a confounding fashion...The extent and unbroken character of the forest is amazing; in one direction we may journey through the woods for ten miles without a trace of habitation or culture. Through it runs a maze of paths made before the rich foliage could bar the way. The oaks seem to disdain to grow wherever a wheel has run, so the disused wood roads remain unencumbered..."

”Their [the Plains] valleys [bottoms=troughs], often several hundred yards in width, do not present the smooth downward grade so characteristic of ordinary valleys; their floors are generally more irregular than those of an ordinary stream could be.” *NSS 1888*

1928 "...an uninteresting waste with a lure and attractiveness that I could not at first appreciate... to the westward, scrub oak for miles, unbroken to the hills of West Tisbury and Chilmark..." scene from the old fire tower on the state reserve (*Gross*)

Recitations of NSS: “The great plain land is a dense jungle of the "scrub oak" which thrives despite repeated devastating fires covering large areas. Professor Shaler states that ‘originally this region...’” (*Banks 1911*) "Once the Great Plain had been wooded with conifers, but it had been cut and burned over, so that even a hundred years ago it supported a scraggly growth of scrub oak, not much larger than brush. Here and there a deformed pine or blasted oak of larger size stood above the scrub, roosting place for hawks, eagles or crows. On the Great Plain the sweet fern grew, wild flowers in profusion, and, especially after a spring fire, blueberries and huckleberries of large size and succulence!" (*Hough*)

1930: “...the Great Plain, thickly grown over with scrub oak that barely reaches the height of an average man. Lonely, wind-swept and haunted by swooping hawks... the Great Plain has always been looked upon as a waste place. Scarcely anyone has ever lived there and succeeded in wresting a livelihood from the soil, not because it is infertile, but because of the early frost." "Hardly a spring passes that does not see a fire started somewhere on the plains." (*Anonymous*)

1934 "A great plain makes up the remainder of the Island. Most of it is barren and uninhabited and is covered with scrub oaks." (*Woodworth & Wigglesworth*)

"The Great Plain is, perhaps, the largest uninhabited stretch of land in the State of Massachusetts" (Huntington 1969)

"Many of the plantations were planted by hand. Two men to a team went out into the scrub oak with grub hoes and pails of young seedlings from state nurseries." "Later, as the pines grew the scrub oak was cut out to release the newly planted pines." "... the hardwoods were later girdled to release the conifers," (*Whiting 1976*)

"...Management for plantations and timber is not sound or practical from a silvicultural or economic perspective, and that such vegetation exacerbate the potential for serious fires." (*DEM 1994*)

Fires Long Point: 1900, Scrubby Neck in April; two 1929, one from Waldron's Bottom towards Oyster Pond, other burned two barns at Watcha and 300 ac owned by Bradley Martin; 1946, burned most of land N of Watcha Path, TGP NE through Great Plain; *VGazette*, folder on fires. 1903 - 1968, fifteen fires ravaged the Great Plains, burning a total of 40,000 acres (approximately). Great Plain – highest fire frequency - Cape & Islands. (*Lloyd*); Jeremiah Pease Diary: March 16, 1847 NW cold fresh wind a Fire commenced in West Tisbury this morning and came in contact with the woods burned over a very large tract, the wind blowing strong the fire came down near the place where Mr. Beetles house stood (near Wintucket) it continued to burn until late the afternoon of the 17th the damage done was great.

Tisbury

1646 Homes Hole - oldest place name on MV, T Mayhew, "the easternmost chop of homses hole"; hole - small inlet affording shelter to boats; Homes - an old man (Roger Williams, Key.), so... old chief? Changed to Holmes in 19th C, after family who settled in 18th C (*Banks 1911*); no proprietor's divisions of lots in HH, but the six shareholders must have made some allotments as scattering references to such a division.

1663-4 WChop or HH Neck sold to whites.

1701 "Old Town" or "Ferry" road (E-HH) improved due to Grand Jury indicting the county for neglect to provide a way.... (*Banks 1911*). Map E-VH Rd straight through Stony Hill on to Lamberts Cove

1725 Chase Map - parallel strips of land dividing W Chop - for his 13 kids (*T-MHC 1984*; *T Chase*)

1748 Try houses for rendering whale blubber present at Holmes Holes. (*Allen 1908*)

1784 "Tisbury Wood Land: center of Island, W into Chilmark, N through W Chop & into E Chop
Crevecoeur

1792 - Separate parishes (T/WT) as long disagreement over ministerial taxation –(*T-MHC 1984*)

1802 "Very little wood land is left in Edgartown and Chilmark: in Tisbury there is more than in both the other townships, about two thirds of the whole island. The trees are principally of white and black oak, and are about thirty feet high: few exceed fifty feet. In Chilmark there is not half fewel enough of wood for the consumption of the inhabitants; and in Edgartown the greatest part of the fire wood which is used is brought from other places, chiefly from Buzzard's Bay, Waquoit, and Coxit: the price of a cord is five or six dollars." *Freeman 1802*

1817 March 3 - lighthouse at West Chop. Erosion - moved in 1830 and 1846 (to present position)

1830 - First deep-water wharves, slower maritime development than Edgartown. important for wool and ag goods. Ashappaquonsett herring run (Not sure where that shipped from)

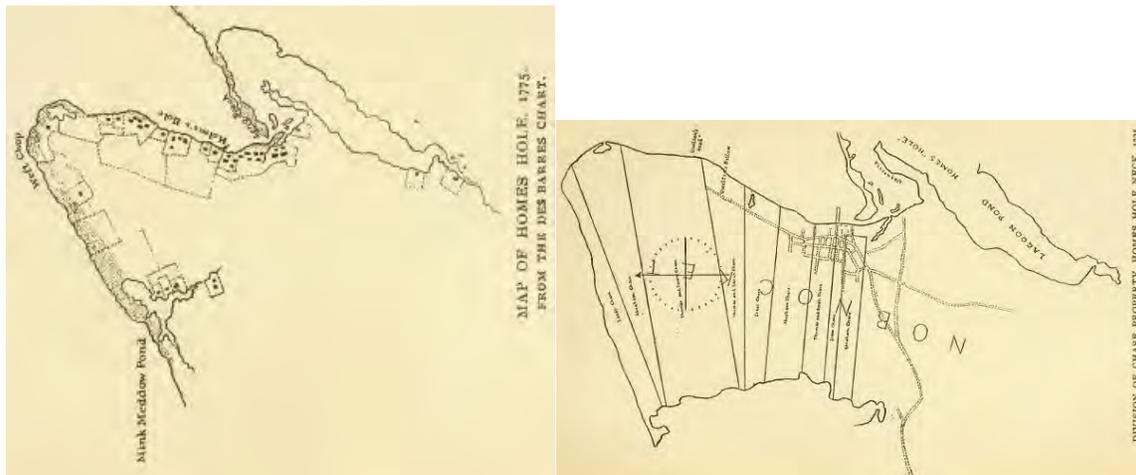
1850 - Several miles of "ragged plain" separated WT, HH and North Tisbury... *Banks 1911*

1860 Tisbury peaked at 1803 popn, 5568 sheep, 553 tons English Hay; 60% MV cranberries, 80% firewood, 50% butter, and 4200 lbs cheese in 1850. (*Lloyd*)

1862 Resolution by Jeremiah Pease adopted unanimously: HL Whiting Esqr of Tisbury of the U. S. Coast Survey service be employed to determine of the bounds fifty one rods south from Tashmoo

spring and on the Mill road south of said first bound: Also course and distance from the last bound to bound on Watcha Neck and from bound at the stepping stones to that next the S of Tashmoo spring marking the point were line crosses the HH road. March Records
 1865 HH - 5 of island's 8 salt works, 76% of capacity, 100 men (*T-MHC 1984*)
 1871 Feb. 21, Changed to Tisbury Harbor and Vineyard Haven *Banks 1911*
 1872 bridge over Lagoon Pond; Beach Rd opened; suggestion high bridge - Robbins Rock
 1872 W Chop – 1st proposed development “lands mostly covered with forest trees”;
 1883 Great Fire greatest disaster in the annals of the island; Saturday night, Aug. ii, started in harness factory; burned Baptist meeting-house, 32 houses, 26 stores, 12 barns, and 2 stables
 1887 Tashmoo Springs – 1st public water supply on island; (*Hough 1936*).
 1892 April 28, WT/T separated; HH more prosperous, commercial; older men could remember when the "Hole" was an insignificant part of Tisbury town. *Banks 1911*
 1907 town purchases public water works at Tashmoo Spring, among town's most valuable assets.
 1933-35 Hollis Smith (surveyor) and Bigelows of WChop built Mink Meadows. “The Bigelow family...has put me in charge of building a golf course there in the middle of the best forestland anywhere on the island”. “Four Lanes will be cleared to form a rectangle while leaving a square section of trees in the center”. “Hired woodchoppers to destroy hundreds of beautiful trees”. “We did not have the sense to be concerned or sentimental about it. Trees were firewood”. EBA worked Cleatrac tractor w/ disc harrow, cultivator, heavy wood sled for boulders. Cleared all stretches of rectangle, brought in road grader, much loam. (Edwin Athearn 1995)

“Homes Hole Path” - Mill path on E side of Old Mill brook; ~ the present road over the plain
 "Homes Hole Road" old county highway WT-HH through Middletown to Lambert's Cove, across Chickemmo region to state highway, west of the head of Tashmoo (*Banks 1911*)
 Lagoon Pd - until about 1740 Waketaquay pond ... "lagoon of salt water"
 Webetaqua- Norton House; head of Lagoon; v old; famous springs; shell mounds, pestles, skeletons.



Ashappaquonsett - fine domestic (not commercial) industry herring fishery from time immemorial.

Chilmark

1659 Christiantown – one square mile set aside for converts. (*Aquinnah Cultural Trail*)
 1669 Government of Christiantown (land management) vested in Governor Mayhew and five Indians as Trustees, and their heirs and successors
 1671 third grant for the “Manor of Tisbury” - scattered tracts in Chilmark, Elizabeth Islands, Nomans, Chickemmo (unusual - independent parcel of territory in chartered limits of another

town); New York jurisdiction; Manorial demense; all residents subject to the lord of the manor (Mayhew); Abel Hill – first meeting house. (*Mulholland et al. 1998*) -
 1680, March 26 Mayhew pens "of the town of Chilmark in the Manor of Tysbery" confusion use of Tisbury Manor and Tisbury... no proprietors, nor "home lots" or formal division. ...no appreciable population until late 17thC
 1714 official township
 1736 Chickemmoo annexed to Tisbury
 1861 Christiantown – 14 families, 23 male, 30 female; recent mortality 16/48 in last 11 years! 390 acres divided; one 10 ac common lot good pasture; hilly, stony, good walls; land much worn out and exhausted; most young men go to sea; "A large ship owner in the whaling fleet remarked that an Indian would always draw a larger share than another man of like general qualifications...an old whaling captain said that an Indian would see a whale further than any other person...much sought, as seamen...generally, if smart, have the situation of boat-steerer...generally well-housed; like Gay Head less comfort and convenience than Chappy; More assimilated than Gay Head; no regular worship; (Earle Report 1861)
 1864 March 17, Gosnold separated form Chilmark; influence of Mr Forbes; Mostly tenant farmers

Waskosims Rock and Middle Line – separated Wampanoag and Mayhew land; Middle line from WR – straight to Menemsha Pond; now Chilmark and West Tisbury. (*Aquinnah Cultural Trail*)
 Chickemmoo - Kutchickemmo "a place of the fish weir," "place of great fish weir." likely Herring creek, alewives into Chappaquonset pond. line bisected Chickemmoo into N and S half [?]
 Beetle Bound Tree corner (1729 Deeds V, 67) marking a boundary. Beetles for loosening the bungs of casks and hogsheads - also beetlewood trees.
 Pease' s Brook (1697 deed) - circuitous route beyond Middle road to W end Chilmark pond *Banks*
 Menemsha "the observation tree or pole,"erected for the purpose of signalling, when whales in sight. Monamansu-auke -"place of observation," Prospect Hill?, in the region of Menemsha pond.
 Sqieppunocquat. — Squibnocket, "A place where the red ground nut grows." M'squepunock-ut; orange red lily?? (*Lilium Philadelphicum*) which grows in great profusion ...meadow ground nut. Indians ate roots, which are long in boiling, and taste like the liver of sheep. (*Banks 1911*)
 Tiasquin = New Mill River

Old footpath connects to Old Holman Road ancient way to transport raw clay from Harris family mineral rights throughout to N shore for shipping or brick works. *MVLB Records*

Noman's Land once had great forests ... in the swamp huge cedar trunks, stumps (*Banks 1911*)
 1616 "Hendrick Christiaensen's Eylant"; 1646 "Ile de Hendrick" after Dutch explorer
 1666 "Nomans Land" also the Isle of Man; origin unknown; Possibly after (Teque)nomans Land; Indian name (1666) was Cappaquit
 1702 Judge Sewall "No Man's Land - well watered, wooded, mostly inhabited by 7th day Indians".
 1714 Oct. 30, Chilmark made a township, included "an Island called No Mans Land (*Banks 1911*)
 1715 purchase by Norton; son Jacob resided soon after until death;1722 granted license as innholder of Nomans Land; Samuel Norton 1740 "of Nomans Land; originally part of Gosnold
 1750 – 20 English incl. Israel Luce, sons Daniel, Thomas, Ebenezer in 1745; fishing; cod;
 1911 – no wood, peat fuel; George Butler (resident 1860-1898), Henry Davis family only inhabitants (*Banks 1911*)

Gay Head

1642 - Eng settled, remained Indian reservation/town; no record of conveyance of fee simple rights; state practically assumed control of property; tribe became 'involuntary state wards (*Banks 1911*)

- 1681 Sachem Metaark prophetic: Know yee all People that I Metaack and my principall men my children & people are owners of this, this our land forever. They are forever ours and our offspring forever shall enjoy them. *Banks 1911*
- 1702 Diary Judge Samuel Sewall (1674-1729; travelled there in 1702, 1706, 1712, 1714): boat Woods Hole (Mr Robinson's?), takes little more than hour; stop at Chases then ride to Tisbury; Dine and meet extensively with Major Mayhew and Mr Sherriff Allen; Ride to Gay-head Neck to Abel's Wigwam; pleased by goodness of his house, especially furniture (two great spinning wheels, one small one for linen and a loom); Abel sowing wheat, gave good water and milk; English house of Harry, four good oxen; 58 houses; Mayhew says will accommodate 58 more; less than 40 rods of fence takes it in – 1000 acres (Diary);
- 1714 ditch four feet wide, two feet deep across the neck, set with Thorns&Barberries; Corporation erected/closed gate to signify exclusion of the public from the reservation. (*Banks 1911*)
- 1727 One English built house; fifty years later they had outgrown their wigwam state.
- 1786 visitor "they burned nothing but bushes, this part of the island affording no wood, and suffered much from cold weather, though peat was procurable in plenty."
- 1800 Undivided tract
- 1806 traveler: "We sat by a peat fire, for this fuel is abundant on the peninsula, and wood is rare."
- 1838 "their dwelling houses, upward of 35, are mostly one story and are comfortably built...each man cultivates as much as he pleases, and no one intrudes on the spot which another has appropriated by his labor."
- 1849 commissioner. "While one proprietor has but half an acre and another has over a hundred acres, there is no heart-burning, no feeling that the latter has more than his share"“about thirty years without any guardian, and the division of their lands, and indeed the whole arrangement of their affairs, except of the school-money, has been left to themselves."
- 1849 Leavitt Thaxter, guardian of Chappaquiddick and Christiantown tribes: “[t]he Gay Head Indians are differently situated. They live on a peninsula, and have little intercourse with the whites; consequently, they are more peculiar in their manners and customs, and not so far advanced in the art and science of agriculture” “None of the lands are held, as far as we could learn, by any title, depending for its validity upon statute law...The rule has been, that any native could, at any time, appropriate to his own use such portion of the unimproved common land, as he wished, and, as soon as he enclosed it, with a fence, of however frail structure, it belonged to him and his heirs forever. That rule still exists.” (cited by Bird Report)
- 1856 Commissioners Report 1856 House Doc. No. 48: ...“very irregular, abounding in hills and valleys, ponds, swamps, fine pasture-land and barren beach, with occasional patches of trees and tilled land.” “[o]wing to too close Feeding, and other causes, the sands of the beach, no longer covered, as formerly, with an abundant growth of beach-grass, become the sport of the breeze, and are every year extending inland, covering acre after acre of meadow and tillage land; many acres of which have, within the memory of our informants, been thus swallowed up, and now lie wholly waste and useless... It is painful to behold this Sahara-like desolation, especially when the conviction becomes irresistible that, unless some remedy is found, the whole will eventually become one cheerless desert waste [Indians ignore 1811/1813 acts, hold land in common. Sold 150-300 tons clay annually from GH Cliffs, 150-300 bushels cranberries; \$235 from pasture leases on common lands directed by committee to public purposes mainly support of poor]
- 1860 “From Tisbury we visited the Indian reservation at Gay Head...Here, on a dreary point, cut off from the main body of the island by a couple of fresh-water ponds, dwells the scanty remnant of the aboriginal inhabitants of the land. The moment we enter the reservation the appearance of every thing indicates a thriftless and inferior people. The hills are treeless and shrubless; a number of ordinary cattle may be seen browsing on the luxuriant grass; but no signs of cultivation or improvement are visible except a few lonely, unpainted, and unornamented wooden houses, and several sorry patches of corn or kitchen vegetables, weed-grown, neglected, and

forlorn... The only roads in the reservation (except the main road to the lighthouse) are narrow foot-paths through the grass, leading from house to house..." (Strother 1860)

1861 Distinct bands/communities – Chappaquiddick, Christiantown, Gay Head; Much ignorance, great prejudice in white general population about them.; GH 450 acres held in severalty; fenced, occupied by several owners; remainder by tribe in common; population increasing unlike others with much emigration for employment; 46 families, 106 male, 98 female; uneven, hilly, great variety of soil, some excellent quality, fine pasturage for cattle; cattle brought from other parts of island for pasturage with income to support poor; other income – cranberry bogs and clay (alum and manufacturing); when cargo boat comes men, women and children go and each receives an equitable portion; competition from Chilmark, monopolized business as load clay board much cheaper; "The land is generally rough, affording abundance of stone for fencing, and a considerable portion of what is not taken up and enclosed, or is not used as pasturage, is grown up to bushes, which afford convenient summer fuel for common culinary purposes. Any member of the tribe may take up, fence in, and improve as much of this land as he pleases, and, when enclosed, it becomes his own. The benefit to the plantation of having more land subdued and brought into cultivation, is considered a fair equivalent for its value in the natural state, and the title to land, so taken up and enclosed, is never called in question. ... To outsiders it seems strange that such a community should live together in peace, from generation to generation, holding real estate in common and severalty, yet without any recorded title of that held in severalty, or any written law regulating its transfer or descent; nearly all young men go to sea; many don't return but new foreign men arrive, mixing blood and names; isolated, for blacksmithing, physician, drugs etc. must go 7-15 miles; little employment; all in frame or stone houses, most built in last 20 years; much recent improvement in wind-mills and for grinding grain; never adopted the Act of 1828, which is fortunate; Baptist Church of Barnstable Association; The support of the poor is a severe tax upon the people, absorbing the entire revenue of the public lands-the largest, best, and most valuable portion of the property of the tribe... They are poor, and they are by no means all industrious, or skilful in the tillage of their valuable lands. But they seem to be improving in all respects, and to be much attached to their town organization, without any very strong desire to become a political member of the State. (Earle Report 1861) Concerning the Act of 1828, Mr. Earle: "The provision for the appointment of a guardian was not the only objectionable feature of the Act of 1828. The guardian was empowered 'to punish, by fine not exceeding twenty dollars, or by solitary imprisonment not exceeding twenty days, any trespasses, batteries, larcenies, under five dollars; gross lewdness and lascivious behavior, and disorderly and riotous conduct, and for the sale of spirituous liquor within the territory, or on the lands of said Indians and people of color; and said guardian, or other justice of the peace, may issue his warrant, directed to the constable of said Indians and people of color, or other proper officer, to arrest and bring before him any offender against the provisions of this Act; and, after judgment, he may order execution to be done by said constable or other proper officer; and if said guardian, or other justice of the peace, shall adjudge any offender to solitary imprisonment, such offender shall not, during the term of said imprisonment, be visited by or allowed to speak with any person other than the jailer, or said guardian or justice of the peace, or such other person as said guardian or justice of the peace shall specially authorize thereto ; nor shall such offender be allowed any food or drink other than coarse bread and water, unless sickness shall, in the opinion of a physician, render other sustenance necessary. With such a provision in the Act, making a discrimination so odious and unjust, between themselves and other prisoners, the Indians would have been greatly wanting in self- respect had they accepted it. It is a provision disgraceful to the statute book of the State, and discreditable to the civilization of the age. Yet, two tribes, the Chappequiddick and the Christiantown, were made subject to the provisions of this law, without the power to accept or reject it, and are governed by it to this day."

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

1867 Anonymous: Inhabitants involuntary wards of the State; their property into its own keeping, they can make no sale of their land or improvements out of their tribe, and so there are few or no purchasers. They can make no valid contract, and can neither sue nor be sued in the courts. "

1870 April 15 legislation - last of the Algonquian race on island became American freemen.

1871 Richard Pease appointed to complete survey Gay Head. (Pease Report to the Governor and Council in 1871)... Report of the Committee, 1869 Sen. Doc. No. 14, E67, under Pease's "active and judicious supervision, order is being rapidly brought out of chaos and the limits of each person's lot marked out by stakes and bounds."

1878 Commissioners report: had completed a division of the common land and assigned each lot to inhabitants "adjudged to be entitled thereto," ... did not divide the cranberry lands or the clay cliffs...the commissioners expressly provided for... the right of various individuals, some identified and some not, to take peat from various lots. [e.g., Lot 193 "[r]eserving however any right or rights to peat on the premises that may justly belong to any person or persons, to them, their heirs and assigns]. Commissioners expressly reserved an access easement: "[r]eserving for the use of the proprietors, in the Herring Fishery, for the purpose of fishing and clearing the creeks, a strip of land, one rod wide, on each side of the creek, so long as needed.

Marshpee – 16,132 acres; stunted wood, good growth; 1842 provision allowing division and distribution of wood; considerable sums brought in; but led to decline in agriculture; new growth destroyed by fire; many ponds – good fishing; abundant trout and herring; extensive woodlands Sandwich and Barnstable and perhaps Plymouth – only place in state other than Naushon with deer; with cutting and fire easier access to deer (Earle Report)

Deep Bottom cove, 1849 four Indian families remained. Lloyd

1642 - 3000 Indians (may be MV and ACK together) so 1500

1694 – 3000 on both

1698 – 1000 MV

1720 – 6 villages – 800 total

1747 – GH 26 houses 113 souls

1749 – GH 165 souls 400 cattle

1764 – 313 – 86 E, 39 T, 188 C

1764 – 276

1807 – 20 at Sanchakantacket; Christiantown 32; GH – 26 framed house, 7 wigwams; 142 with 100 more absent – whaling or out to English family service – so 242; no sheep 1848 – GH 174

1860 – GH 237

1870 – GH 227; Milch cows – 48; Oxen – 42; Young Cattle – 69; Horses – 29; Swine – 51; Sheep – 4; Bushels corn raised – 627; Bushels potatoes – 1034; Bushels root crops – 310; Tons hay – 167

1911 - Peat heat in inclement weather; Many graves Abel's neck; old Congregational meeting-house lot; Meletiah's hill behind Baptist meeting-house, Most rough stones *Banks 1911*

Oak Bluffs

1642 - first grant 500 acres to John Daggett 1703 February 2, "Farm Neck" from "for a farm," ... youngest son, Joseph, in charge of farm by 1667, when he was twenty, married Indian wife. ... his half breed children were born, Alice, Hester and Joseph. *Banks 1911*

1835 Aug 24, First camp meeting in grove...320 tents in 1858...permanent cottages around 1850; Oak Bluffs on Jan. 25, 1907

Sanchakantacket believed "at the bursting forth of the tidal stream,"

OB –land "Farm Neck" – farm and sheep pasture of Norton, Butler, Luce, Smith (Huntington 1969)

Chop variation of chap, the jaw of a vise or clamp; plural, it signifies the mouth or entrance of a channel,

Great Woods -1784, 1888, 1930 maps forest; 200-300 ac; Gore (Small triangular piece land) to old HH rd (Banks 1911; S Woodlands Reservation 2011:234 ac (228 woodland); *MV LBank Records*

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

Dr. Walton Brooks McDaniel ~1900 on Cottage City "a forgettable town that could do worse than change its name"

Elizabeth Islands

Nashaun well wooded: other Elizabeth Islands, except Nanamesset, have no wood. About three fifths of the trees are beach: remainder of the wood is white and black oak, hickory, and a little pine. About one half of island in wood and swamps; swamps grow white cedar. Some firewood sold, and transported from the island. Very little ship timber remains, not more than three hundred tons; but it is of a superiour quality."

"These islands are the property of James Bowdoin, Esq. whose stock on them consists generally in summer of about a hundred and twenty head of horned cattle, sixteen hundred sheep, seven hundred lambs, and twenty horses; and in winter, of a hundred head of horned cattle, seventeen hundred sheep, and twenty horses. About a thousand acres at the west end of Nashaun are set off into three farms, on which are generally kept three hundred sheep, forty head of horned cattle, and ten horses, exclusive of the above mentioned stock. The milk obtained from the cows is for the most part converted into cheese, which has a high reputation. On Nashaun there are about three or four hundred deer: seventy were killed the last autumn." (*Freeman. 1802*)

Cuttyhunk

1607 - Cuttyhunk "full of high timbered oaks cedars straight and tall, beech, elm, holly, walnut trees in abundance, hazelnut trees, cherry trees, sassafras trees, great plenty all over the island, a tree of high price and profit; also divers other fruit Brereton

1797 - Cuttyhunk for years stripped of its wood, but I was informed by Mr. Greenhill, an old resident farmer, that the trees which formerly grew on it were such as are described in Gosnold's Journal. The soil affords rich pasture. Dr. Belknap's Biography,

ca 1860 - Fifty years ago not a tree was growing on the island and not even a decayed or decaying stump could be seen

"The first I/sland called/ Marthaes Vine/yard.", which was about three or foure leagues from the *maine*, captaine *Gosnold*, *my selfe*, and some others, went ashore, & going round about it, we found it to be foure English *miles in compasse* (No *Mans Land has four* and one-quarter miles of shoreline; Martha's Vineyard is approximately *60 miles in circuit*), without house or inhabitant, sauing a little old house made of boughes, couered with *barke, an olde piece of a weare of the* Indians, to catch fish, and one or two places, where they had made fires. The *chiefest trees of this island are Beeches and Cedars*; the outward parts all ouergrown with lowe bushie trees, three or *foure foot in height*, which beare some *kinde of fruits*, as appeared by their blossoms; Strawberries, red *and white, as sweet and much bigger than ours* in England, Rasberries, Gooseberries, Hurtleberies (huckleberries), *and such; an incredible store of Vines, as well in the woodie part of the Island, where they run upon every tree, as on the outward parts, that we could not goe for treading upon them: also, many springs of excellent sweet water, and a great standing lake of fresh water, neere the sea side, an English mile in compasse, which is*

maintained with the springs *running* exceedingly pleasantly thorow the woodie grounds which are very rockie. Here also in this Island, great store of Deere, which we *saw*, and other beasts, as appeared by their tracks; as also diuers fowles, as Cranes, Hernshawes, *Bitters*, *Geese* Mallards, Teales, and other fowles, in great plenty; also, great store of Pease which grow in certeine plots all the island ouer. On the *North side* of this Island we found many huge bones and ribbes of Whales.... (Benninghoff 1948)

ACK Population: 1820 – 7266; 1840 – 9712; (1846 great fire, never recovered); 1850 – 8779
Whale oil use cut 50% by introduction of camphene; another 30% by lard oil; death blow kerosene
Gibbs Swamp – 1900 peak cranberry world’s largest cranberry bog

1801 observer “The almost total want of trees, houses, and fences, in the interior part of the island, makes the road very uninteresting to the traveler”.

1834 750 ac peat; fuel; no wood worthy of note; House timbers fra Exeter NH (*ACK ThenandNow*)

1854 HDT “this island must look exactly like a prairie, except that the view in clear weather is bounded by the sea...there is not a tree to be seen, except such as are set out about houses”.

(*Dunwiddie 1992*) Very slow forest recovery. Few surviving trees took decades to grow, reproduce and spread. Pitch pines brought in 1847 and 1850s. As more plants in and established invasion spread exponentially. Seed availability increased; birds etc. attracted and spread; shaded soils kept moist; canopy blocked wind and salt spray; succession increased at ever expanding rate. Trees established under protective cover. “Even when they have been saved from the developer, these areas are still threatened by the succession of pine, scrub oak, and other taller woody plants...” Brush cutting, mowing, grazing. (*Dunwiddie 1992*)

“Moors” appeared around 1900. Previously just pasture. Nostalgic images of Scotland. Before European settlement – heathlands restricted areas close to shore. Widespread with clearance and pasture. Botanists in 1800s – few flowering specimens due to grazing. (*Dunwiddie 1992*)

Japanese black pine – very salt tolerant, fast-growing; Japanese honeysuckle, autumn olive; Scotch Broom; no skunks or raccoons yet; (*Dunwiddie 1992*)