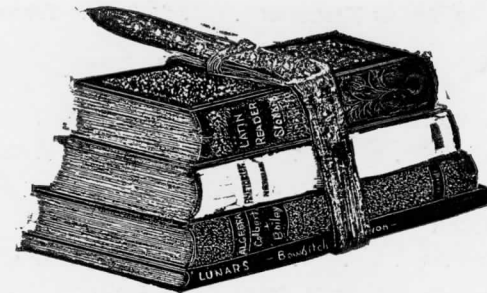


THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

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DUKES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.
EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



DUKES COUNTY ACADEMY

by
DIONIS COFFIN RIGGS

illustrated by
SIDNEY N. RIGGS

5
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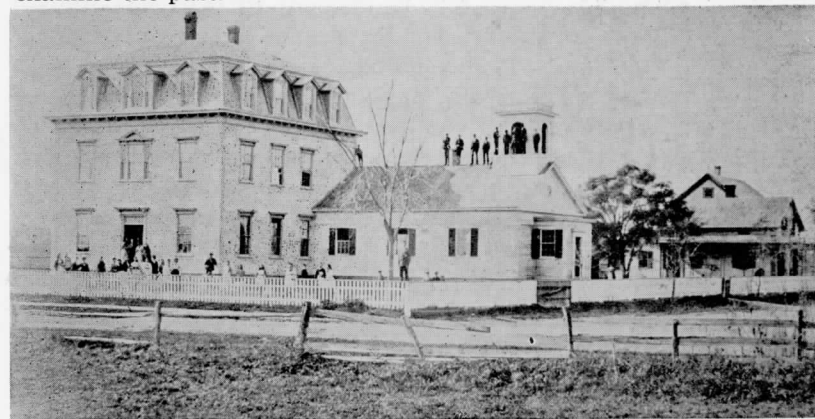
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DUKES COUNTY ACADEMY

In the center of the island of Martha's Vineyard stands a big square building, three stories high including a mansard roof: the West Tisbury schoolhouse. At noon on a warm day in May, or in sunny days of October the teacher, Mrs. Priscilla Fischer, sits on the wide stone step at the south of the building surrounded by ten or fifteen children with gay lunch boxes and thermos bottles. A stranger might wonder why such a big schoolhouse was ever built for one teacher and a handful of children. For the answer we must examine the past.



DUKES COUNTY ACADEMY

In West Tisbury, 1870

In earlier days small schoolhouses served different sections of town: Lambert's Cove, Locust Grove, Scrubby Neck, the North and South Schoolhouses in Holmes' Hole, to mention some. Those buildings are now gone, or have been put to other uses. The formerly large and sprawling town of Tisbury, composed of the West Parish and the eastern, or Holmes' Hole, has been divided into two towns

West Tisbury, the second oldest town on the island, expanded westward from Edgartown because the first settlers needed the water power to be found in up-island streams. Houses became clustered around the mills, one of which is now the Garden Club. One was at North Tisbury, one near the West Tisbury-Chilmark

line. Settlements sprang up along the Vineyard Sound shore and along the edges of the Great Ponds. Each had its own school.

As the port of Holmes' Hole grew, town meetings were held there in alternate years. Finally the two sections had little in common, and in 1892 the township was divided.

But in 1797 the officials, not only of the town but of the whole County of Dukes County, were interested in founding an institution for higher learning, where graduates of local schools could study Latin, philosophy, higher mathematics, navigation. The Reverend Asarelah Morse, Edmund Cottle, and Peter West were chosen in Tisbury to join other committees "for to consult about the Establishment of an academy."

Nothing tangible came of it, however, until the next century when two academies, Thaxter's and Davis's, were established independently, in Edgartown. That was a long way for the youth of Chilmark and Tisbury to go. Capt. James F. Cleaveland of Tisbury boarded at Thaxter's as a boy. Sometimes, after a visit home, he was driven down to Edgartown over the sandy road that took a horse over an hour to travel. But he often walked home weekends. He used to point out the ruins of a house at Wintucket where an old woman gave him cold milk whenever he stopped there on his long walk.

Many of the sailors of that period received their schooling at Edgartown. Contrary to a popular misconception the sea captains of the early and middle eighteen-hundreds were well-educated men. They had to be, for their responsibilities on shipboard were great, and their business and social obligations in various consulates were important. That the Tisbury and Chilmark youth must be educated for the special calling of the times was one of the primary reasons for the interest of up-island authorities. It was why an early curriculum (1840-1841) of Dukes County Academy features these sentences: "In the Male Department attention is given to practical Mathematics and Astronomy, such as Lunar Observations, and measuring altitudes, distances, elongations, etc. A first rate sextant and chronometer are kept for this purpose, — and nightly instruction given to such as are willing to pay for it."

In 1832 David Look Esq'r was elected to the Massachusetts Legislature as representative from this district. Through his influence \$3,000 was granted by the State for the establishment of Dukes County Academy. This feat is memorialized on his tombstone

in the West Tisbury cemetery. He must have been a very public-spirited citizen according to the eulogy engraved on the stone. This was probably composed by his widow, Hannah Nickerson Look. She herself is remembered by her gift of the town clock in the church steeple.

The committee must have started building shortly after receiving the grant. The Town Record for December 1834 states that town meeting was "holden at the Academy in the Western Parish," as were meetings following that date. Before that they were usually held in the church.

Land Court records indicate that David Look deeded an acre at the northeast corner of his property to the Trustees of Dukes County Academy for the sum of fifty dollars. (He had owned the whole section from Look's Brook, where his family had run the mill for several generations, to the present Music Street.) This transaction took place in 1836. The Academy may have been built on its present location before the land was turned over officially. Or it may have been moved, after the land purchase, from a location near the "meetinghouse" which was in the cemetery at that time. It is not clear in the records. M. P. Spear says in 1840 that the Academy had been in existence a little over three years. Other authorities indicate an earlier start.

The Academy was fortunate in having Leavitt Thaxter for the first principal. He was the son of "Parson" Joseph Thaxter who made local history as the Congregational minister and general advisor in Edgartown for forty years. Before he was called to the island Joseph Thaxter was Representative to the General Court from Hingham, and during the Revolution he was chaplain of Prescott's regiment at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He was a graduate of Harvard, class of 1768.

The parson's son Leavitt was born in Edgartown in 1788, and became almost as well-known as his father. With excellent preparation he was able to enter Harvard early, but before taking up the profession of teaching he went to sea. As a sailor, though not a combatant, he became involved in the War of 1812, and was imprisoned by the British in Calcutta, India.

Later he taught in Williamsburg, in the western part of Massachusetts, where he met and married Martha Mayhew, granddaughter of Paine Mayhew who had moved there from Chilmark. For several years he was in charge of a large and successful academy in

Sparta, Georgia. In 1823 he returned to Edgartown, and two years later established Thaxter's Academy. His father wrote to him, "By my advice you have devoted yourself to the instruction of youth. The office is the most important and useful in which man can be employed." A quotation from a pupil indicates that he made the schoolroom "a place of delight," "a paradise for those thirsting for knowledge, but a hard and thorny way to the idle and obdurate". At recess "he bountifully provided for them the means of amusement."



First Principal of the Dukes County Academy

From 1836-1847 Leavitt Thaxter was also State Senator, and he was Governor's Councillor in 1839. His many responsibilities probably kept him from a long tenure at Dukes County Academy, but he gave the new institution a fine start.

The second principal of the Dukes County Academy was Robert Coffin. In the Coffin Family History there is a Robert Allen Coffin born in 1801, the oldest son of Matthew Coffin of Edgartown who moved to Williamsburg, Massachusetts. He might easily have been

a pupil in Leavitt Thaxter's Williamsburg school and served as teacher on the Vineyard because of the double associations.

In the files of the Dukes County Historical Society may be seen a small brochure about four by six inches, enclosed in old blue paper, bound crudely with heavy linen thread. It has a loop of thread by which to hang it. Inside is written in pencil, "Whitten Manter's Book or Catalogue" and that name is listed as one of the pupils. In the cemetery at West Tisbury a tombstone tells that a Whitten Manter died in 1781 at the age of 82, but a boy who might have been his grandson, who *must* have been the owner of our "Book or Catalogue" died at the age of 23 at the island of Rora-tonga.

In this "catalogue" (reproduced in full in the appendix) Matthew Spear is listed as principal; Samuel E. Skiff and Sarah E. Chase as assistant teachers. James Athearn Jones, writer, who became a well-known poet of the day, was president of the Board of Trustees. The list of students gives fifty-five in the "Male Department", headed by Capt. John Adams, and finishes with children of ten or eleven years. James Cleaveland's two brothers, Sylvanus and Daniel were listed here instead of at Thaxter's in Edgartown. They were fourteen and eleven years old at the time. Both sailed with their brother James on their father's ship *Niantic*. Sylvanus became a sea captain, Daniel a doctor.

In the "Female Department" twenty-two were enrolled, including "Jane Mingo, a native educated by a charitable Lady."

The description of the island in this catalogue would do credit to a modern Chamber of Commerce: "cases of sickness are scarcely known" the "moral condition of society" in West Tisbury was beyond reproach, due primarily, the book states, to the fact that liquor was "unobtainable except from the Physician."

It can be seen from a later report of Mr. Spear's when he was on the School Committee, (see appendix) that he felt a keen responsibility for education, and that he had energy, ingenuity, and a sense of humor.

The front page of the Vineyard Gazette of April 15, 1847 is largely taken up by this annual report. It concerns the lower grades of the public schools, but it is interesting as an indication of the pupils' training before they entered the Academy, and it throws some light on M. P. Spear, who was then chairman of the Tisbury

CATALOGUE
OF THE
OFFICERS AND STUDENTS
OF
DUKES COUNTY ACADEMY,
AT
WEST TISBURY, MASS.

For the Term ending February 20th, 1841.

PUBLISHED FOR THE TRUSTEES:
BY BENJ. LINDSEY, NEW-BEDFORD.
1841.

Flyleaf of Dukes County Academy Catalogue 1841

School Committee. He was principal of the Academy at the time of the "catalogue" in our possession.

He sent his report to the Gazette "knowing by former experience that an efficient hearing is not likely to be obtained amidst the excitement of the Annual Town Meeting." Furthermore he wished his report to reach not only male adults, but also the mothers and the pupils themselves.

He listed the teachers and the "wages" received, and told of some of the problems and characteristics of each district. Some of the young teachers "sustained themselves well and promise much future usefulness." One district "exhibited decided improvement, especially in penmanship in which branch their teacher greatly excels." One teacher "possesses a very happy faculty of communicating oral instruction by means of the blackboard." One young thing had trouble with the older boys.

Mr. Spear believed there should be less confinement of children, more oral instruction and less committing to memory, above all he deplored the use of "rod and ferrule, those instruments of a barbaric age." He thought "a healthy moral influence" had taken their place in the schools.

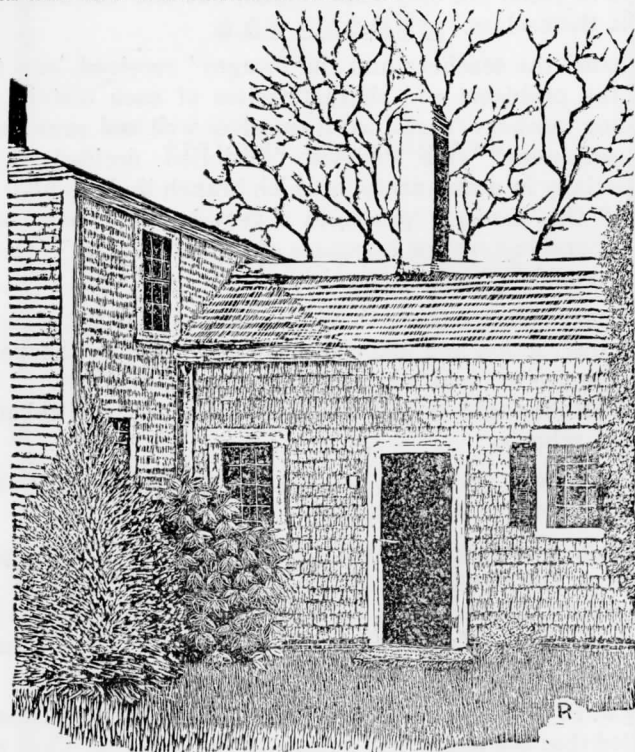
Mr. Spear was succeeded in 1846, the year before he made the foregoing report, by W. S. Butler.

T. D. Blake was principal of the Academy in 1847. Mr. Spear in his report on the public schools says Reverend Thomas D. Blake "an experienced and excellent teacher" taught four months in the northwest district. (Mr. F. N. Blake and Miss S. C. Blake were also teachers in various sections of town.)

During J. P. Washburn's term of office, which followed, the trustees decided that the pupils had outgrown the building. They ran an advertisement in the Vineyard Gazette of July 1849 asking that contracts be submitted for building a new one. The old schoolhouse was sold to Obed Nickerson, brother-in-law of David Look. He moved it to a location on the side of the Mill Stream, and built a fine new house to go with it, using the old academy as a kitchen ell. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Dreschsler who have enlarged the main building, but still use the first Dukes County Academy as a kitchen.

The trustees laid down very exact specifications for the new building, not only in length and width, but how deep the stone

foundations should be laid below the surface; dimensions of sills, joists, flooring. A belfrey was described, with so many Gothic windows in it, and a scuttle to enter it. Certain wood for flooring was specified, and the threshold was to be of white oak. "The house is to be furnished with blinds for all the windows, made of good material and in a workmanlike manner."



The Original Dukes County Academy, now the kitchen ell of the Drechsler house.

The building was finished according to plan, and was used as the Academy for many years.

In 1868 Moses C. Mitchell came to the island. He was a graduate of Waterville College (now Colby University) class of 1862. He was a born educator in spite of his violent and undisciplined temper. Stories have been handed down about his vigorous treatment of pupils, but with every story of his unreasonable attitude goes a nod of appreciation for the way his students remembered their lessons, grew to love books, and to find lifelong com-

panionship with learning. As long as they lived Moses Mitchell's pupils had little patience with ineffectual teaching.

My mother used to say, again and again, about an unruly child, "He ought to have gone to school with Mr. Mitchell," just as my grandfather said, "He ought to go a voyage before the mast."

Once when little Mary Wilder Cleaveland was sent to the cloakroom for discipline she jumped out of the window and ran home. She said later, "I was treated unjustly, and father should have gone to find out about it." But flouting authority had no approval in a sea captain's family, and the child was sent back promptly to make peace as best she could. I think she was demoted from her high place on the spelling line, which meant a great deal to her. But when I appealed to her in later years for the pronunciation or spelling of a word, or a difficult grammatical construction, she'd say, "I learned that from Mr. Mitchell."

She also said that Mr. Mitchell kept a doorknob on his desk to use as a disciplinary missile; that when some boys were talking he threw a book and, missing his target, hit poor little Susie Luce and made her cry.

From another source (Johnson Whiting) I heard that Mr. Mitchell broke up a conversation between two boys in the back of the room by throwing an open penknife. It quivered in the wall between their heads. Mr. Mitchell went right on with the lesson. From the same source I learned that Mr. Mitchell could jump right over the picket fence, wooden leg and all: that he used that wooden leg (Mrs. Mabel Johnson is the authority for this) to hasten boys upstairs to the vacant third floor for further chastisement.

All these tales are told in a forgiving spirit because of what Mr. Mitchell's teaching meant. There are so many of these stories, from many different sources that even allowing for the exaggeration of years, Moses C. Mitchell was obviously someone to remember.

When he ran Mitchell's Boys' School in Billerica, he had one of his former West Tisbury pupils, Sarah Johnson, for music instructor. By that time she was a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music. "How is it," she asked him, "you seldom have any discipline trouble here?" And he answered, "When I learned to control Moses Mitchell I had no more difficulty with the boys."

By the time Moses Mitchell arrived in West Tisbury the school

had outgrown its 1849 structure. The new principal could see possibilities in enlarging the Academy. He had conceived the idea of starting a private boys' school in addition to his administrative and teaching duties in the Academy. The island seemed an ideal place, particularly "from a moral point of view." "Is it not a lamentable fact that such schools are too often located in the very midst of, or in close proximity to, those dens of iniquity to which, after the duties of the day, boys can and *will* resort?" His approach was not altogether negative, for he stressed the fact that the boys would find ample opportunity for recreation and amusement in the area, in fishing, boating, hunting, bathing, all of which he would supervise carefully. He made arrangements for combining the two types of schools, a plan which worked out to the advantage of all concerned.

He began immediately to collect funds and succeeded in raising over \$3,000. Then an appeal to the State Legislature with the 1833 precedent before them, brought forth a grant of \$5,000.

Mr. Mitchell and the trustees did not wait for the money to be put into their hands, but asked Hariph Smith, local carpenter and contractor, to put their plans into execution immediately. It was none too soon, for the Reverend Mr. H. B. Marshall of Holmes' Hole had a similar idea in mind. In the same issue of the Gazette (July 1, 1870) that describes the beautiful new building of the Dukes County Academy ready to commence its new term in December, there is a letter from Mr. Marshall. He stated that the Martha's Vineyard Seminary would be completed and ready for a fall term of school. He described a similar curriculum and advantages.

This was bound to have an effect on the already established academy, particularly on the expected grant. Someone was sure to say, "If we give to one why shouldn't we give to another?" With the aid of the Reverend Mr. Sturtevant, the beloved West Tisbury minister, who went to Boston as special agent in the case, the bill was passed. "It is a source of regret," said "A BOSTON CORRESPONDENT" "that the most adverse influence that appeared in connection with this whole question — and the only influence that came near defeating the bill — arose in an indirect way, from the new seminary at Holmes' Hole." He went on to compare the differences between the two institutions. The seminary, he stated, was a *private* school "with no guarantee to continuance beyond the purposes of its originators" while the Dukes County Academy was run by elected trustees.

The Reverend Mr. Marshall had an answer in the next issue of the Gazette. He had done no lobbying on behalf of the seminary, but if the fact that it existed was a threat to the Academy, "it still exists." He further stated that he was in favor of the grant, and he hoped it would be used for the purpose for which it was granted.

Actually the Academy did go on for many years beyond Mr. Mitchell's time, but the Martha's Vineyard or Oak Grove Seminary, was short-lived.

While the new building was in process of construction Mr. Mitchell was not idle on behalf of his own school. He had a pleasant dwellinghouse built on adjacent land, (shown on the right side in the 1870 photograph) roomy enough to accommodate the boarding school boys. It was here that he brought his bride, and where his son Alexander was born. This building was later the home of Mr. Raymond, the blacksmith; then it became a tea-room, Canary Cottage, before it was torn down in the 1940's.

He also built a dormitory and study hall on the other side of his dwelling. This is now the West Tisbury Public Library.

The reputation of the Academy grew rapidly under Mr. Mitchell's direction. Boys came to it from all over the country, a fine class of boys, and they became an integral part of island life. Mr. Mitchell encouraged their being entertained in homes of island people. Many of the boys came back in later years. Several of them married Vineyard girls. Some spent the rest of their lives on the island, or came frequently in summer: Everett Allen Davis, Herbert Burt, Warren Foote, Arthur Klous, to mention a few. Everett Allen Davis' uncle has narrowed the choice of schools to the Dukes County Academy and another boys' school. Wanting very much to come here, and knowing his uncle, the boy voted for the other school. The uncle sent him here. Later he married Georgiana Whiting, and eventually became Judge of Probate Court for Dukes County.

The construction of the new building was described in detail in the pages of the Vineyard Gazette, July 1, 1870. The issue of March 31, 1871 gave a description of its interior and told of the competence of the teachers. The winter term had closed with prize readings and declamations that took place in the Upper Hall, in the third story under the mansard roof. Special mention was made of the settees that were designed and manufactured especially for this hall by the enterprising firm of Mayhew and Adams who had a "factory" farther along Music Lane.

D. C. ACADEMY

AND

Family School for Boys,

West Tisbury,

Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

M. C. Mitchell, A. M., Principal.

The old academy building was not abandoned but was attached as an ell on the north side of the new structure. One of my school-mates of early days said to me recently, "Didn't you ever wonder why that little door, going nowhere, was in the north side of the upstairs room?" It was not until we saw the 1870 picture that we realized the door was intended to be an entrance to the attic of the old building, moved away before our school days. The strip of concrete where children played hop scotch was the Music Street entrance to the newly attached old building, which was used in Mr. Mitchell's day, and for many years after, as the primary department.



The 1849 building of the Dukes County Academy now on the property of Everett W. Whiting.

This building program, and the fact that he believed in sparing no expense for the school, led Mr. Mitchell into heavy debt. He owed a tremendous sum to the S. M. Mayhew Company for food, but when it was suggested that he go into bankruptcy, he said, "Not Moses

Mitchell!" He had to leave the island, but he paid back every cent he owed. One of the brothers of the firm, Mr. Ulysses Mayhew, told that at the fiftieth anniversary of Mitchell's Boys' School, celebrated in Billerica in 1920.

A few people on the island have memories of the school in Billerica. They speak with admiration of Moses Mitchell and the well-run school, of marching to church on Sunday in their snappy uniforms. Two homesick little boys ran away, but were brought back. "Needless to say we received the treatment." They speak with affection of Mrs. Mitchell. To quote a Vineyarder: Back to Mitchell's in 1899 for my second year. I liked it there, but you had to learn or else." By 1906, "While Mr. Mitchell was present and threw great awe over the boys, his son Alex was the active operator of the school." It was run by three generations of Mitchells. The building in Billerica burned down in 1937.

The Dukes County Academy had dwindled by the 1890's. When Bernice Mayhew (Mrs. Percy Brown) attended, the old building was a storeroom. Her teacher, Miss Ella Bray, a recent graduate of Wellesley, made her leave her Latin book there when kerosene was spilled on it, until the smell wore off. Clara Look Athearn remembered playing in the old primary building on rainy days.

This building too was moved away, probably in the late 90's, to the land of Judge Everett Allen Davis, and used as a carriage house. It is still standing, reduced to the status of a garage for farm machinery, but sturdy and showing its honest construction. The belfry has been removed, but the school bell is safely stowed away in the possession of Everett Whiting.

The Academy continued to educate for twenty years after Moses Mitchell's day. There were some excellent teachers, but the excitement of growth was missing. No new teen age boys came, bringing an aura of sophistication. Public School education all the way through High School was being taken care of by the Towns.

In 1893 the Trustees turned over the Academy building to the Town of West Tisbury for use as a school. They served merely as landlords.

The High School class of '96 held their Prize Speaking Exercises in the Congregational Church instead of in the big third floor auditorium.

By the time I went to school in West Tisbury (1906) the third floor was considered unsafe. Once the door was unlocked for us

to watch a fire raging on the Plains. From that height we could see smoke rolling toward us, turning and twisting as the wind caught it.

Still the school seemed very grand as we formed lines at the east, which was still the front. In bad weather we lined up in the cloakroom besides the front door. The older pupils went upstairs, boys taking the right-hand stairway, girls the left. The small children marched straight ahead to piano music, stood by their places to salute the flag and say the Lord's Prayer. The first day I sat down in the double seat with a boy. All the children laughed, except the boy, and me. The teacher, Miss Effie Littlefield, kindly pointed out a seat across the aisle where I might sit with a girl.

The room seemed very large and full of children. There were five grades in the room downstairs. The teacher's desk was at the north, a big coal-stove in the northwest corner. Windows at the back let in plenty of sunlight, with additional sun in the late afternoon from the large windows at the west. Occasionally one of us borrowed a knife and went over to sharpen a pencil into the coal-hod, and looked longingly out-of-doors. When we could stand confinement no longer (school wouldn't be out until four) first one, then another, would raise hands, the teacher would nod, and we'd leave, one at a time. The old-fashioned toilets were behind high board fences at the northwest corner of the building.

At recess the boys played ball in the playground beside the school; the older girls walked, arm in arm, two by two, along the black concrete walk that circled the building. The younger ones played London Bridge is Falling Down, singing out of key. At noon we sat on the fence between the school and the Agricultural Hall to eat our lunches, then balanced on the fence like circus performers. When the bell rang we went inside reluctantly, on our way stepping on white stones that Mr. Mitchell himself had set into fresh concrete to spell out the date of the Academy's most promising year, 1870.

D.C.R.

APPENDIX

Tisbury Town Records	1834
Dukes County Court House Records	1836
West Tisbury Monument Inscription	1837
Dukes County Academy Catalogue	1840-41
Vineyard Gazette	1847-71
Dukes County Academy Catalogue	1873-74
Banks: Principals of Dukes Co. Academy	1833-93

From Book 26, page 3 Dukes County Court House Records 1836

Know all men by these Presents, That I David Look Esq. of Tisbury, in the County of Dukes County and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of the sum of fifty dollars to me paid by the trustees of Dukes County Academy to my full satisfaction. —

The receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, sell & convey unto the said trustees of Dukes County Accademy one Acre of land lying at the Northern corner of my Homestead around & adjoining the roads on North & East for Dukes County Accademy, so long as said Accademy shall remain on said premises be employed as an Academy. —

To have and to hold the above granted premises, with the privileges & appertenances thereunto belonging to the said Trustees of Dukes County Accademy, to them, their heirs & assigns, to their use and behoof forever. And I the said David Look, Esq.r for myself and for my heirs, Executors & Administrators, do covenant with the said Trustees their heirs & assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee of the afore-granted premises; that they are free from all encumbrances; that I have good right to sell and convey same to the said trustees, to them, their heirs — as aforesaid, and that I will and my heirs, executors & Administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said Trustees, to them, their heirs & assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In witness whereof I the said David Look & Hannah Look wife of the said David Look hereby relinquish her right of Dower & thirds in the above described Land, have hereunto set our hands & seals this sixteenth day of February in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & thirty six. —

Executed and delivered in
presence of us
David Nickerson
Obed Nickerson

David Look Esq.r (seal)
Hannah Look (seal)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Dukes County ss. June 23, A.D. 1836. There personally appeared the above named David Look, Esq.r & acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act & deed Before me Matthew Manter Justice of the Peace

Entered June 24th 1836 —

Monument: West Tisbury Cemetery 1837 Tombstone of David Look — North side.

DAVID LOOK, ESQ. was eminently distinguished for his hospitality, integrity, and uprightness. He was for many years a Representative to the state Legislature, and thro' his influence, a grant of Three Thousand Dollars, was obtained from the state for the establishment of the Dukes County Academy at Tisbury. Respected and esteemed by his fellow citizens, and most

beloved and honoured by those who knew him best, he has finished his course on Earth and we trust has joined the Society of Angels and Gloried spirits in the kingdom of his Heavenly Father.

South side.

There are some individuals who live more for others than for themselves, who are counsellors to those who need counsel, consolers to those in affliction, and a guide, a blessing and an aid to all around them, for the end and purpose of their existence is to benefit others, and when Death removes such, it is a whole community which mourns their loss, for they are precious treasures, wheresoever their lives be cast. Such an one was he whose death we now lament, dutiful and devoted as a husband, fond and affectionate, cordial and sincere; as a friend upright and conscientious and benevolent, and his memory will be blessed for the tears of his wife, and the needy, shall speak his praise, and bear testimony to his many virtues.

Front (East)

Sacred to the memory of DAVID LOOK, ESQ. who was born Dec. 6, 1766. He died April 28, 1837, aged 70 yrs. 4ms. and 22ds.

Back (West)

This monument is erected by his widow, Hannah Look.

Dukes County Academy Catalogue 1840-41

Page 2

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

James A. Jones, Esq. President,
Asa Johnson, Vice President,
Dea. Charles G. Athearn, Secretary,
Capt. Calvin C. Adam, Treasurer,
Mr. John Look,
William A. Mayhew, Esq.
Mr. Obed Nickerson
Capt. Allen Tilton,
Capt. Hiram Weeks.

FORMER BOARD TRUSTEES

Rev. Ebenezer Chase, President,
Asa Johnson, Vice President,
Dea. Charles G. Athearn, Secretary,
Capt. Barnard Luce,
Capt. Bartlett Mayhew,
Wm. A. Mayhew, Esq.
Mr. Obed Nickerson,
Capt. Allen Tilton.

Page 3

MATTHEW P. SPEAR, Preceptor

Samuel E. Skiff,

Assistant Teachers.

Sarah E. Chase,

MALE DEPARTMENT

Names	Residences
Capt. John Adams	Chilmark
Henry Mc'Collum	Tisbury
Joseph Thaxter	Edgarton
Samuel E. Skiff	Chilmark
Jonathan Mayhew	Chilmark
Charles Skiff	Chilmark

Richard Luce	Holme's Hole
Ellsworth Luce	Holme's Hole
Charles Athearn	Tisbury
Miles Johnson	Tisbury
Sylvanus Cleaveland	Tisbury
Zadoc Athearn	Tisbury
Damon Norton	Edgarton
George Davis	Chilmark
Bartlett Mayhew, Jr.	Tisbury
David Look	Tisbury
Joseph Nickerson	Tisbury
Thomas P. Wood	Tisbury
James Johnson	Tisbury

Page 4

Names	Residences
Cyrus Manter	Tisbury
Athearn Manter	Tisbury
Benjamin Manter	Tisbury
Stillman Manter	Tisbury
David O. Butler	Tisbury
Timothy Mayhew	Tisbury
Richard Thompson	Tisbury
Josiah Vincent	Tisbury
George H. Butler	Tisbury
Daniel Cleaveland	Tisbury
Whitton Manter	Chilmark
Edmund C. Weeks	Chilmark
Joseph Tilton	Chilmark
Samuel Tilton	Chilmark
William S. Weeks	Chilmark
George O. Tilton	Chilmark
Mayhew Look	Chilmark
John Davis, Jr.	Chilmark
Francis Tilton	Chilmark
Elijah Smith	Cutterhunk
Sidney Smith	Edgarton
Edmund Luce	Tisbury
Thaddeus Luce	Tisbury
Hervey Luce	Tisbury
John Godfrey	Tisbury
Wm. Brandon Mayhew	Tisbury
Nathaniel Peaks	Tisbury
Edward Johnson	Tisbury
Willard Johnson	Tisbury
Allen Look	Tisbury
Charles E. Luce	Tisbury

Page 5

Edward Chase	Tisbury
Robert Look	Tisbury
Caleb T. Athearn	Tisbury
Thomas West	Tisbury
Washburn Spear	Brunswick, Maine

Gentlemen, 55.

FEMALE DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth Luce	Holme's Hole
Adeline A. Johnson	Tisbury
Julia Ann Look	Tisbury
Sarah Chase	Tisbury
Saphrona Look	Tisbury
Mary E. Look	Tisbury
Eliza C. Wilkins	Deering, N.H.

Mary C. Davis	Chilmark
Mary Bird Hancock	Chilmark
Ann Hancock	Chilmark
Eliza Adams	Chilmark
Celia Skiff	Chilmark
Frances Mayhew	Edgarton
Julia Ann Coffin	Tisbury
Charlotte A. Cathcart	Tisbury
Ann Cathcart	Tisbury
Nancy U. Chase	Tisbury
Martha Manter	Tisbury
Ann Frances Johnson	Tisbury
Lucy Mayhew	Tisbury
Lucy Look	Tisbury

Jane Mingo, a native, educated by a charitable Lady.

Ladies, 22 Total, seventy-seven.

Page 6.

With the exception of a few gentlemen engaged in Nautical education, all the foregoing pupils attend daily to exercises in English Grammar; also to exercises in English composition every second week. In the Female Department particular attention is given to projecting, drawing and coloring maps. Landscape and Ornamental Drawing is attended to. Daily lessons in Vocal Music from half past eight to nine o'clock, in which exercises male and females unite. The school is furnished with Philosophical, Astronomical, and Nautical apparatus. Lectures given on subjects requiring them. A small library and good prospect of being increased. In the Male Department attention is given to Practical Mathematics and Astronomy, such as Lunar Observations, and measuring altitudes, distances, elongations, &c. A first rate sextant and chronometer are kept for this purpose, — and nightly instruction given to such as are willing to pay an extra price for it. Four terms each year, commencing first Mondays in December, March, June and September.

Tuition fee \$2.00 for English; \$2.50 for languages and some branches of Mathematics. This price of tuition has reference only to citizens of Dukes County: — if from elsewhere, the usual Private Academy fee is demanded.

Some of the textbooks approved and used in Dukes County Academy are as follows:

The Bible, Upham's Elements of Mental Philosophy, Comstock's Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, Newman's Rhetorick, Goodrich's History of the U. States, Sullivan's Political Class Book, Colburn and Bailey's Algebra, Bowditch's and Lyon's Lunars, C. G. Burnham and Emerson's (Third Part) Arithmeticks, Andrews and Stoddards and Cleaveland's Latin Grammars, Spear's Easy Lessons in Latin, for beginners, Liber Primus, Andrews and Stoddard's Latin Reader, Anthon's Series of Latin Classics, and Fisk's English Grammar.

Dukes County comprises the Island called Martha's Vineyard, the Elizabeth Islands and Nomansland. The main Island, Martha's Vineyard, is easy of access at any season of the year. The distance from its northern shore to Falmouth, the nearest point of main land, is estimated at five or six miles. The Academy is located in the center of this island, equally distant from Edgarton and Gay head, the eastern and western extremities.

In point of local situation, perhaps no seminary in the Union possesses greater advantages. Surrounded by the Ocean — only about one-fourth of a mile from an inlet of the same on the southeast, and more immediately surrounded by beautiful farming land, the air is perfectly pure and salubrious; and cases of sickness, except such as may be traced to accident, are scarcely known. The moral condition of society may be stated in a few words: there is neither a poor nor an intemperate individual in the township; nor is there the means of intemperance, as no intoxicating drink is kept, except by the Physician. As a natural consequence, instances of vice are exceedingly rare.

The Academy is yet in its infancy, having been in operation only a little more than three years. The Trustees have not, heretofore, admitted pupils residing beyond the limits of the County, except in a very few instances. Pupils from a distance will hereafter be admitted during the Summer and Autumnal Terms. Board, in genteel families, can be obtained on reasonable terms. Reference may be made to Mr. George Baker, New Bedford — and in Boston, to Mr. Rogers of the Marlboro' Hotel, and John A. Bolles, Esq. Court Street.

Vineyard Gazette Apr. 15, 1847

FELLOW CITIZENS: The time has now arrived when it becomes the duty of your committee to make the annual report; and knowing by former experience that an efficient hearing is not very likely to be obtained amidst the excitement of the Annual Town Meeting; and furthermore, being desirous that our report should reach not only the male adults, but also the mothers, and the pupils themselves, the class most interested, we have concluded to convey to you, through the medium of the press, the following statistical facts and recommendations.

(We find that the sum of \$976.03 was divided amongst all the districts in town, according to the number of scholars between 4 and 16 years of age, making \$2.00 per capita, and a surplus of \$6.00 which was given to the South East District.)

The following table shows by whom, how long, and at what wages each of the schools has been kept. Board included in all cases.

District	Teacher's Name	Length of School	Wages
South East	M. Damon Norton	3 mo.	12
South	Miss Julia A. Coffin	3 ½ mo. Summer	12
	M. Jophanes Smith	3 mo. Winter	28
North West	Rev. Thomas D. Blake	4 mo.	30
Lambert's Cove	Miss Julia Ann Look	4 ¾ mo.	14
North East	Mr. F. N. Blake	2 ¼ mo.	28
H. Hole South	Mr. F. A. Boomer, principal	5 ½ mo.	33
H. Hole South	Miss S. C. Blake, assistant	5 ½ mo.	15
H. Hole Primary	Miss M. P. Butler, principal	5 ½ mo.	15
H. Hole Primary	Miss E. C. Daggett, assistant	5 ½ mo.	8
H. Hole North	Miss E. R. Lambert, summer	3 mo.	12
H. Hole North	Mr. John Smith, winter	3 ½ mo.	28

FURTHER STATISTICS AND OBSERVATIONS

Although four of these teachers, Norton, John Smith, Jophanes Smith, and Miss Coffin, were young, this being their first or second term in a public school, yet they have sustained themselves well, and promise much future usefulness.

The scholars of the *South East District*, although few in number, are by no means deficient in energy of character; — and your committee are happy to

add, that the examination exhibited a decided improvement, especially in penmanship, in which branch their teacher greatly excels.

In the *South District* the grammar classes probably excel those of any other district in town. The teachers employed in this district have given great interest to this neglected study, by laying aside, to a great extent, the use of the text books, and giving the facts from their own lips; a practice we hope to see extensively imitated, not only as regards grammar, but every other science taught in our schools.

The *North West District* had an experienced and excellent teacher; but we fear there has been a want of interest on the part of those immediately interested. Some of the parents in this district take a lively interest in education, while others seem to appreciate no study except arithmetic; — and it happens here, as elsewhere, that those pupils who study nothing but arithmetic, usually fail to learn even that. Of the 57 scholars attending here, only 6 attended to English language, and 3, we believe to geography. The best teacher in the world, thus hampered, could make but little progress. Those, however, who had employment sufficient to keep their mental apparatus moving at all, made good improvement.

Lambert's Cove District employed an experienced female teacher. It happened here, as it frequently does, where a female is employed to take charge of a winter school, that there was some slight difficulties, owing to improper conduct on the part of large male scholars; but, in regard to modes of instruction and general improvement, we believe this school is second to no one in town. This teacher possesses a very happy faculty of communicating oral instruction by means of the blackboard; and the excellent effects of this kind of instruction were strikingly apparent at the examination.

The *North Eastern District* also had an experienced teacher and an excellent school; two features of which, we think, deserve particular notice. First, uncommon punctuality, the Register exhibiting but one tardy mark during the term; and secondly, the entire absence of every species of punishment, the conduct of the scholars having been so unexceptionable as to justify the teacher in taking this course. In all respects, we believe entire satisfaction was given.

The *Holmes Hole District*, as may be seen by reference to the foregoing table, is divided into two departments, *Primary* and *Grammar*.

The primary department, considering the great number of small children collected together, was remarkably well managed. — The modes of instruction, the discipline, and the general improvement, were, we believe, entirely satisfactory. Several scholars were withdrawn from the Grammar School, near the commencement of the term. The withdrawal was occasioned by unnecessary severity on the part of the principal, towards certain female pupils. — This school, owing to the great number of pupils and other causes, is considered the most difficult one in town; and how far this circumstance may be pleaded in extenuation, we leave everyone to judge for himself. The examinations of this department exhibited great improvement in reading, geography, and mathematics.

The *North Holmes Hole District* may be considered as having been very fortunate in its selection of teachers. This school is either very peaceable, or the teachers greatly excel in their modes of discipline. The improvement, in all branches studied, was perfectly satisfactory.

Our schools, as a whole, probably, have never been in a more peaceable and healthy state than during the past year. The *rod* and the *ferrule*, those instruments of a barbaric age, have been almost entirely laid aside; — and in their place a healthy moral influence is beginning to be felt. — In view of the moral improvement already alluded to, we have reason to hope the time is not far distant, — if it has not already arrived, — when those exhibitions of brute force, which have heretofore disgraced the schools of our country, shall be “like angel’s visits — few and far between.”

CONFINEMENT

As all true education consists in maintaining an equal balance between the physical, intellectual, and moral natures, your committee feel bound to urge a reduction of the great amount of confinement imposed upon young people by our present system. We are too much inclined to suppose that confining our children in the school house, six hours a day, will, in some way or other, educate them. No idea can be more erroneous. So far from contributing to a sound education, any moment of unnecessary confinement only serves to counteract the object we seek. During every moment of infantile wakefulness, the hands, the arms, and the feet, are perpetually in motion. When they walk, and for years afterwards, we perceive no diminution of this active principle. Now our children are usually sent to school from four to five years of age. And why, in violation of their physiological nature, should they be confined from five to six hours a day? Who is benefited by such violation? The only answer that can be given, is, “that the child is out of the mother’s way.” If this is the only object, it would be a great saving to employ the undertaker at once, for employed he must be before the natural time, if the child is thus treated. It is true, we cannot see very plainly, the effect of one day’s confinement: and for this very reason we remain blind to the injury we are inflicting. Nature, ever true to itself, will throw off the pernicious influences for a long time; but we should remember there is a point, beyond which, even nature cannot aid, — and then it will be in vain that we utter the exclamation “the Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away.” Children at the age we are speaking of, being too young to use a book, draw all knowledge they receive in school directly from the teacher; consequently, there is no need of long confinement. We recommend your teachers let them play under the shade trees, in warm pleasant weather; but they, again, refer to you, averring that this course will give great offence. Although we have not time to pursue this subject, yet we were unwilling to pass it over in silence; and we hope the few remarks, here thrown out, may be instrumental in leading to a proper investigation of its merits.

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Another improvement we wish to recommend has more immediate reference to the teacher than the parent. We mean that there should be more *oral instruction*, and less *committing to memory*. In order to give even an abstract of all the advantages derivable from such a change, we have need to write a book, instead of an annual report. The reader will not need to put into exercise any uncommon amount of his imaginative powers, to conceive that a person unacquainted with English grammar, may commit to memory every word of a treatise upon that subject, and yet remain as essentially ignorant of that subject as he was before he commenced. On the other hand, a few lessons, directly and judiciously addressed to his understanding, will enable him to classify all

the words in the language. The same is true of all other sciences taught in our schools. If the captain of a ship wishes to learn (sic) a green-hand how to make a certain knot, he does not set him to committing to memory a treatise on knot-making, but takes the ropes and shows him. Your committee have labored hard to induce your teachers to adopt the same kind of instruction.

In other words, we exhort your teachers to advance from behind the shadow of the text books, and be to their pupils what they ought to be, — not *school-keepers*, — but *instructors*. If the text book is to be the chief instrument in the intellectual culture of our children, if they are to draw their stock of knowledge principally from that source, why be at the expense of building school-houses and employing teachers? It is not our object to discourage the use of text books, but we wish the explanation to come first from the teacher, and the book consulted afterwards. — Let the child, in this way, be gradually introduced to the use of the book; and thus taught to love it, by finding in it those principles which, in some measure, he understands, and in which he already feels, a lively interest, and the moment the pupil is able to draw his whole stock of knowledge from books and the beautiful works of creation, which everywhere meet his gaze, that moment, he ceases to require the aid of a teacher; and thenceforward, by his own office, he may advance to any attainable degree of literary perfection . . .

Children are extremely fond of knowledge; but its elements must be adapted to their capacity, and so minced that they may be safely swallowed. Witness the thrilling interest they manifest in the stories of travellers, or of sea-voyages. Now the teacher who shall take advantage of this trait, and present knowledge in such a dress as will keep up the interest, has a great advantage over him who blindly follows the order of the book, right or wrong. He may thus, from hour to hour and from day to day, watch the expanding facilities of his pupils, presenting those truths, and those only, which they can fully comprehend; — and thus lead them pleasantly, and safely, and even rapidly, into the wide field of scientific and literary knowledge.

. . . we cheerfully and respectfully submit the foregoing report to your candid consideration.

M. P. Spear
Chas. Cottle
Thos. Bradley,

Tisbury Sup.
School Com.

March, 1847

Vineyard Gazette July 12, 1849

NOTICE

Proposals are invited by the undersigned until the first day of August next, for furnishing materials and building a School House for the proprietors of Dukes County Academy, to be located in West Tisbury, on the lot owned by that Institution, of the following dimensions and description, viz: Stone to be laid fifteen inches below the ground, upon which a foundation of hard brick is to be laid in good lime mortar, eight inches thick, and two feet high above the surface of the ground, with stone piers to support the floor. The house to be 26 feet front and 40 feet rear in the clear, and twelve feet posts; sills, girts, plates, tie beams and posts, to be 7x7 inches, rafters 4x7, flooring joists 3x7, studding and braces 3x4. — the building to be covered with sound, square edge boards, free from sap, the upright to be first covered with sheathing paper and then with first quality clapboards, laid not more than 3½ inches to the

weather; the roof to be covered with first quality shaved pine shingles, laid not more than 4½ inches to the weather; the roof to be covered with sheathing paper before shingling — 8 box window frames the sashes to be 1½ inches thick, to contain each 12 lights, 10x14 inches, to be glazed with glass suitable for first class dwelling houses; the upper sashes of all the windows to be hung with weights, and fastened with strong bronze fastenings of good quality; two box window frames in the attic, to be finished in like manner with glass 10x12 inches; one circular window in front attic, to be finished as indicated by the draft in the hands of committee; one door frame and door in front 1¾ inches thick, finished according to the draft with a double bolt lever lock of first quality. A belfry to be placed on the roof, with scuttle in roof of house to enter thereto; belfry to be 7½ feet square and 10 feet high above the ridge of the house, with four open gothic windows inside, and top to be seated with planed boards, matched; a platform and steps of plank in front of the house to ascent thereto; threshold for front door to be of white oak, all others hard pine; under floor to be of sound, square-edged boards; upper floor to be of good merchantable boards; floor in the attic to be of merchantable boards, to be laid single and matched; the building on the first floor to be divided into entries and schoolroom, with stairs to lead from the entry to the attic, with good substantial railing; schoolroom and entries to be skirted 3 feet high; 2 inside doors 3 feet wide, 1½ inches thick, to be made of good stuff and in good workmanlike manner; platform to run across the end of the schoolroom 5 feet and seven inches high; sheet lead to be used around the scuttle, chimney, belfry and over doors, windows and all other places where it is necessary.

House to be plastered to the ground; a chimney of suitable size to be placed in back end of the house, with one ventilating flue; one ventilating register to be placed where the committee may direct. All the outside wood-work, except the roofs, and all the inside wood-work, except the floors and stairs, to be putty stopped and painted two coats of such color as the committee shall direct; doors to be grained and varnished; a recitation room to be finished in the attic, about 10x14 feet; in a plain substantial manner. All the timber to be square-edged, and free from sap or rot; sills of pine, all other timber to be of hemlock; all the covering and under floors to be of good square-edged hemlock; all other boards and planks to be of pine, thoroughly seasoned and free from rot or sap; and all that is in sight to be free from shakes and knots. A plan of the House is provided by the Committee, showing more definitely the manner and style of building.

The house to be furnished with blinds for all the windows, made of good material and in a workmanlike manner, and to be finished on or before the first day of November next. Payments as follows: — One-half when the outside is finished, the balance 90 days after the house is completed.

John D. Rotch,	
W. A. Mayhew,	Building
Bartlett Mayhew,	Committee
James Mayhew,	

Tisbury, July 10, 1849.

Vineyard Gazette, July 1, 1870
DUKES COUNTY ACADEMY

The Dukes County Academy Association, with a view to affording the rising generation increased facilities for a liberal education, and, having through

the generosity of certain individuals, secured additional capital, are about to erect a new building in connection with the present academy, and fit up an institution worthy the name of Dukes County Academy.

The institution will have a capacity sufficient to accommodate 208 pupils, comprised in three departments, a primary, grammar school, and a scientific department.

The new structure will front on the street passing Agricultural Hall; the present academy building being moved and joined to the new building will front on the street passing the Congregational Church, westward. The new building will have a front of 36 feet and rear of 42 feet, two stories high with a French roof: the height from top of underpinning to top of roof will be 42 feet.

The main hall or entrance will be twelve feet square, with stairs on either side communicating with the second story. On each side of the hall there will be a dressing-room, one for young ladies and one for young gentlemen, both of which rooms will be handsomely furnished and fitted up in neat style; the object being convenience, and to inculcate habits of neatness on the part of the pupils.

From these rooms are doors communicating with the main school room. This room is for the highest department. Here young ladies will be taught all the branches of an education requisite to fit them for entering society or gaining a livelihood; and young gentlemen will be taught civil engineering and surveying, philosophy and mechanics, mercantile business and the languages, — in short all the branches of a scientific education to fit them for the business of life or to enter college. A door on the north side of this room opens into a passway 5 feet wide, leading from the new to the old part; on each side of this passway there will be a room 10 by 12 feet; that on the right for a library and apparatus room; that on the left for a dressing room connected with the primary department. From this passway we enter the primary school room, — the present academy. This room is to be thoroughly renovated and newly seated.

The second story of the new building is to be a duplicate of the lower story, with dressing rooms and fixtures the same. This room is for the grammar school. The room in the French roof is to be used as a hall for school exhibitions and declamations, and in this room will be taught the department of vocal and instrumental music.

The institution is to be under the charge of Moses C. Mitchell, A.M., the late popular and successful principal in the academy, who will have a corps of able assistants in the several departments. Children from abroad of both sexes, over 10 years of age, will be admitted to the institution and will be at all times under the direct control and care of the principal.

It is the aim of the corporation to make this a model institution in all its details, and they feel that in the quiet village of West Tisbury, children and youth will be out of the reach of the debasing influences to which they are exposed in our larger towns and cities.

The first term will probably commence in December next.
 West Tisbury, June 27, 1870.

Vineyard Gazette March 31, 1871

DUKES COUNTY ACADEMY

The winter term of this institution closed on Tuesday last. The new academy building put up at a cost of some eight thousand dollars, is both externally and internally finished in excellent style. It is of wood, three stories, including a French Roof. The seating is on the most approved modern plan, and other arrangements are in good taste. The rooms are exceedingly pleasant. The old Academy building is made to form an "L" to the new, and is fitted up in correspondingly good shape. The Hall in the third story of the New Building, is sufficiently spacious for Exhibitions, and County Educational Meetings. This Institution is beautifully located, and would be one of the most pleasant resorts for scholars from other parts of New England. Mr. Moses C. Mitchell, the principal, is a laborious, thorough, and most efficient and successful Teacher. To him also is due much credit for his aid in procuring fixtures for the rooms. Mr. M. is assisted in the school by Miss Emma A. Stone, a graduate of a female college in Maine, Teacher in the Languages, and Miss Ruth H. Nickerson, well-known in the County as a successful teacher, Teacher of Geography and Music. The examination on Tuesday last was an admirable success, evincing a high degree of competency, readiness and thoroughness on the part of the teachers, and diligence and excellent deportment on the part of the students. The methods pursued were good, and the exercises impartial. Besides classes in the common branches, classes in Latin, Greek, and Geometry, were excellent. Music was well adapted. Two young gentlemen are preparing to enter Brown University from this Institution the ensuing summer. Many of the students live at a distance of some miles, and yet of the eighty-nine in attendance the past term, more than one half of the number — notwithstanding the severity of the winter, had neither been absent nor tardy. The Trustees and Visitors present expressed great satisfaction at the results. The school is worthy of the confidence of all. It is hoped that the enterprise shown by the corporation and citizens will be backed up by the appropriation of the \$5,000, already voted by the House of Representatives and now awaiting action by the Senate, the particular object of which is to help pay the running expenses of the Institution. An Exhibition for Prize Readings and Declamations, took place in the Upper Hall on Wednesday evening.

CALENDAR FOR 1873-4

Fall term of 14 weeks commences Aug. 27th, closes Dec. 3d.

Winter term of 13 weeks commences Dec. 15th, closes Mar. 16th.

Summer term of 13 weeks commences Mar. 30th, closes June 29.

Scholars taken any time for not less than one term.

Expenses, including washing, care of clothes, per year	\$350.00
Expenses, including washing, care of clothes, per term	120.00
Music — Organ or Piano	15.00
Painting, &c.	8 to 12.00

All bills payable *each term in advance*, and no money refunded save in cases of *protracted sickness*.

Each pupil is expected to furnish his own napkin-ring, fork and spoons.

The number in the family *will not* exceed twenty.

Boys are here prepared for any college in the country, in the most thorough manner.

Special attention paid to the *elements* of an education.

This school is located near the geographical center of *Martha's Vineyard*, eight miles from Vineyard Grove and Oak Bluffs, and a delightful drive of two miles from *South Beach*, where the *surf bathing* is unsurpassed on the Atlantic coast.

While our school is so located as to be *entirely* free from those pernicious influences which seem ever to cluster around such institutions, the boys will find ample opportunity for recreation and amusement on the grounds, in fishing, boating, hunting and bathing — all of which will be under the direct supervision of the principal, and conducted with the *greatest care* to their *health* and *safety*. No pains will be spared to make all contented and happy; in short to make this a Model Family School.

We desire to call particular attention to the *location* of our school in a *moral point* of view. Those contemplating sending boys away to school cannot be too particular to select for them schools where the temptations to vice are as few as possible. Is it not a lamentable fact that such schools are too often located either in the very midst of, or in close proximity to, those dens of iniquity to which, after the duties of the day, boys can and *will* resort? Such are our facilities for good order, and freedom from those influences which tend to abstract the mind, that we do not hesitate to guarantee to those placing boys in our charge, perfect abstinence from *intoxicating liquor*, and a degree of *general improvement* which cannot be reasonably expected in any other school with which we are acquainted. The *climate* of *Martha's Vineyard* is mild. We are not subject to the extremities of heat and cold which characterize our New England climate generally. Being surrounded by salt water, the heat of summer and cold of winter are greatly modified by the sea breezes which constantly blow across the island. In fact, the location has been selected as *particularly* adapted to the wants of a *Boys' Boarding School*; and it is our belief that, for this purpose, the location is *unequalled* by any other school in the country.

For further particulars address

M. C. MITCHELL

REFERENCES.

D. A. Cleaveland, M.D., Middletown, Ct.
 Prof. H. L. Whiting, Cambridge, Mass.
 Hon. R. P. Spaulding, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Hon. Josiah Quincy, Boston, Mass.
 H. K. Corning, Esq., New York.
 George W. Blunt, Esq., New York
 Z. Pratt, Esq., Martha's Vineyard Camp Ground.
 Jos. T. Pease, Esq., Edgartown, Mass.
 J. Bodine, M.D., New York
 Rev. H. Vincent, Edgartown, Mass.
 Alonzo H. Quint, D.D., New Bedford, Mass.

We shall be pleased to refer any who may desire it, to those now having boys in our charge.

Principals, Dukes County Academy 1833 - 1893

Leavitt Thaxter
 Robert Coffin
 M. P. Spear, 1840
 W. S. Butler, 1846
 T. D. Blake, 1847
 J. P. Washburn, 1848
 Henry Baylies, 1850
 F. N. Blake, 1852
 Robert McGonigal, 1854
 J. W. Allen, 1855
 S. W. Matthews and G. B. Muzzey, 1856
 Bartlett Mayhew, 1857
 Atwood Severance, 1858
 Henry M. Bishop, 1859
 C. R. Parker, 1861
 Simon W. Hathaway, 1862
 J. G. Leavitt, 1863
 I. N. Kidder, 1864
 C. G. M. Dunham, 1865
 N. C. Scoville, 1866
 Wm. B. Allen, 1867
 Moses C. Mitchell, 1869-72
 J. T. Merrick, 1876
 E. A. Daniels, 1877
 G. H. Calver, 1879
 F. E. Perham, 1880-82
 P. R. Kendall, 1881
 S. S. Sanborn, 1884
 Addie Weeks, 1886
 James Richmond, 1887
 J. R. Flint, 1888
 Mary C. Humphrey, 1889
 Amy S. Rhodes, 1890
 Ella W. Bay, 1891
 Edna Merrill, 1892
 Lena B. Carlton, 1893

Banks: *History of Martha's Vineyard*
 Vol. II Annals of West Tisbury Page 109