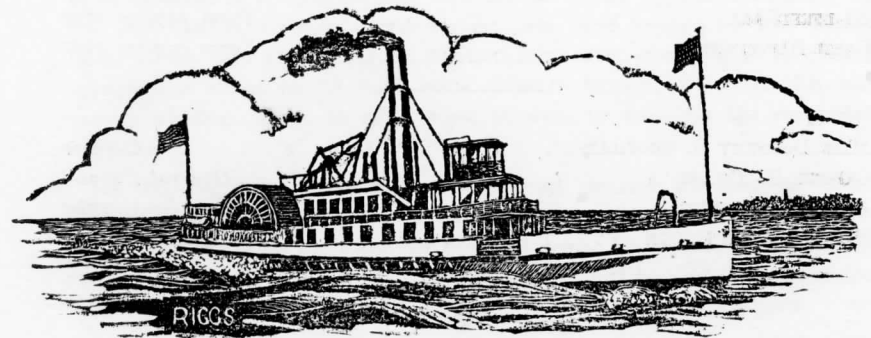


THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

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EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



THE STEAMER MONOHANSETT AND
THE HARD WINTER OF 1885.

by
CAPTAIN CHARLES C. SMITH

PLANT LIFE AND THE ISLAND COLONISTS

by
NELSON COON

THREE POEMS

by
FRANCES BAILEY

MARTHA'S VINEYARD IN 1792 — A DIARY, Continued

by
WILLIAM BUTLER

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THE STEAMER MONOHANSETT AND THE HARD WINTER OF 1885

by

CAPTAIN CHARLES C. SMITH

Editorial Note

Captain Smith was born in Edgartown in 1826. As a boy he sailed fishing and freighting in "home waters" with his father, Captain Holmes Smith. When he was fifteen he went whaling on the ship Adeline Gibbs with Captain Gustavus Baylies. He went up the ladder of command very quickly as was to be expected of a Vineyard boy. His second voyage he was boatsteerer on the ship Canton, Captain Jared Fisher. His third voyage he was second officer on the ship Abram Barker, Captain Ichabod Norton, and on his fourth voyage first officer on the bark Belle, Captain Borden. That was his last voyage whaling. When he came home he went to work for the steamboat company.

He was 1st mate of the new paddle wheel steamer Monohansett under Captain Hiram Crowell when she went south for war duty in 1862 and he continued to serve on her after she returned home. He became her master in 1867. From then on, and until his retirement in 1890 he served on all of the Island steamers, photographs of some of which are reproduced here.

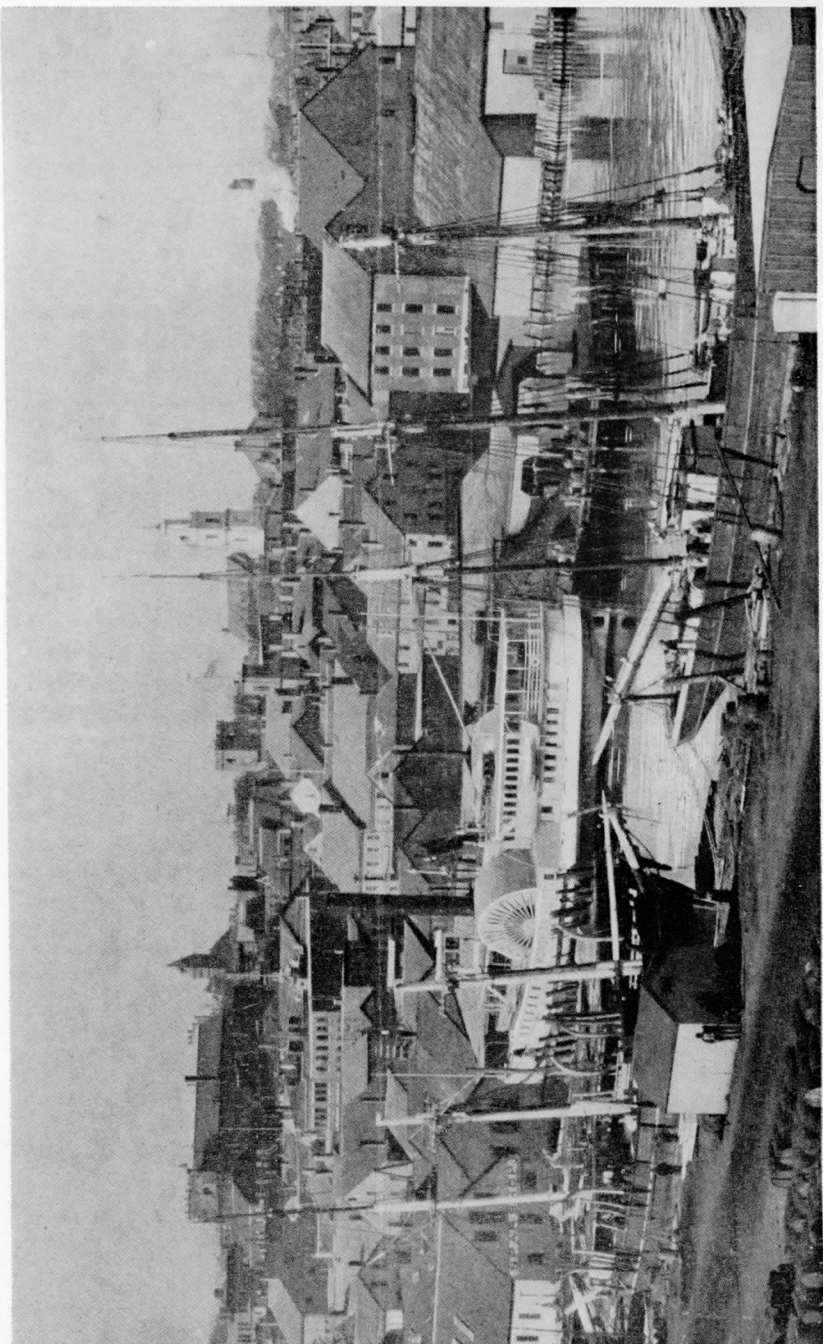
This article consists of entries from Captain Smith's journal for the steamer Monohansett for the year 1885. Routine entries noting departure and arrival times have largely been omitted. And as will be seen, because of the ice, anything like a regular schedule that winter had to be abandoned. The Monohansett was lucky if she could get through at all, and so were the people of the Vineyard and Nantucket.

Jan. 30th, 1885. Weather fine wind NW moderate. Considerable ice in the Bay and river.

Saturday Jan. 31st. Left N.Bedford at 11:AM for W. Hole, arrived 12:40 P.M. Left for V. Haven 12:56 P.M. arrived 1:40 P.M. Left for C.City 2:10 P.M. arrived 2:30 P.M. Left for Edgartown 2:36 P.M. arrived 3:15 P.M. Fine weather wind to the NW. moderate weather softening. Latter part light canting to the eastward.

Feb. 1. Boat at Edgartown.

Monday Feb. 2nd. Left Edgartown for C. City. . . . arrived W.Hole 9:08 A.M. Left for N. Bedford 11:20 A.M.



Monohansett in New Bedford getting a new coat of white paint for the summer of 1897. Photograph, The New Bedford Morning Mercury.

arrived 1:00 A.M. Clear weather with fresh NW winds and cold. Tide and ice in W. Hole passage had stopped us from getting through. Returned to the wharf after trying four times and waited for the tide to slack.

Tuesday Feb. 3rd. Left N. Bedford 11: A.M. weather fine wind NW moderate. Came down through Quix Hole on account of ice in the Bay.

Wednesday Feb. 4th 1885. Weather overcast wind moderate from east to NE during fore part of the night. Lots of ice in the Bay. Went to New Bedford via Quix Hole. Weather softening.

Thursday Feb 5th. Wind at NW moderate. Clear weather. Came down by way of Quix Hole. Ice in the Bay.

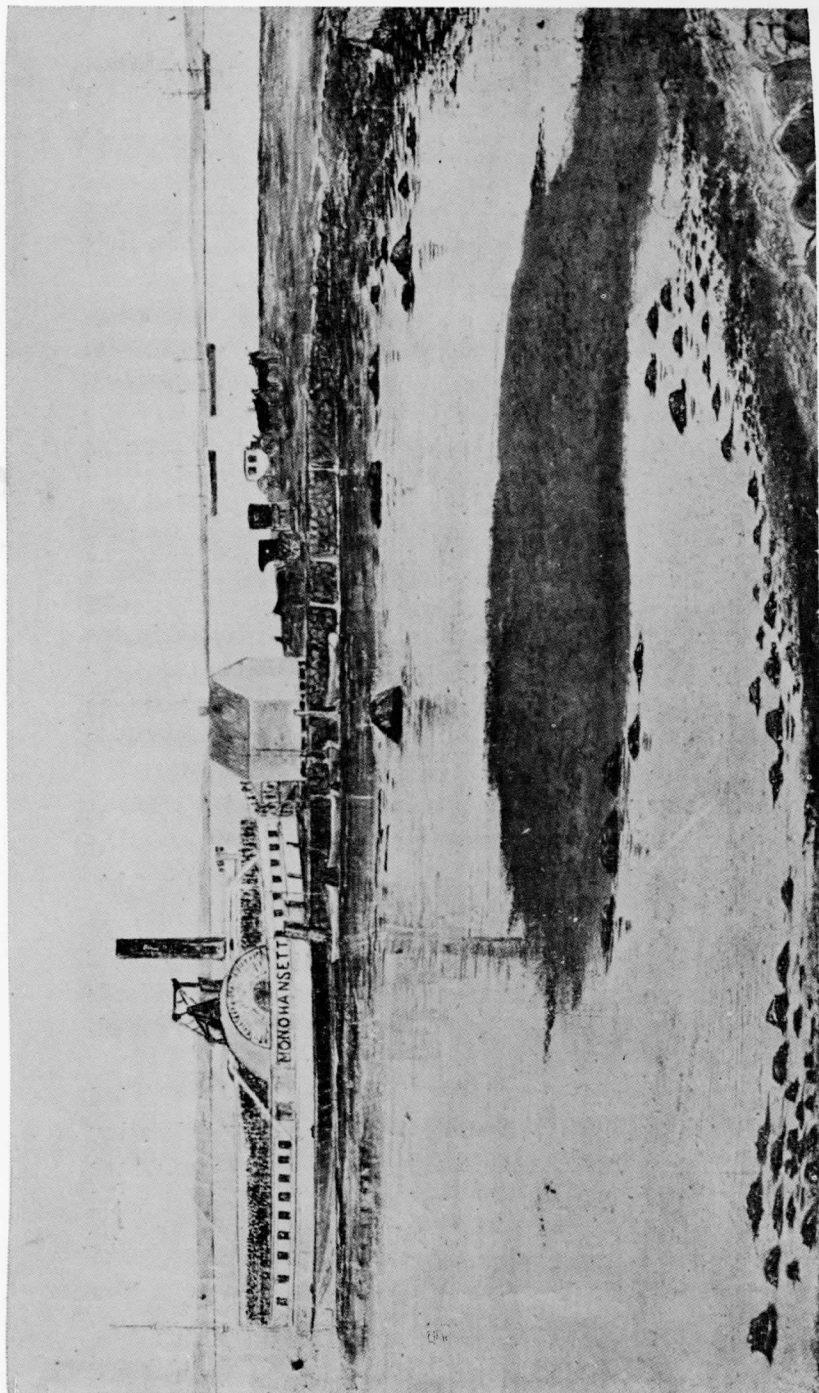
Friday Feb. 6th. Left Edgartown for C. City 7:00 A.M. Wind N by E. Fresh weather. Cold with light snow. Came through Quix Hole. Run through 3 miles of purty good ice in the Bay. Wind canting to the North in the latter part and clearing.

Saturday Feb. 7th. Left N. Bedford for W. Hole 11:02 A.M. Failed getting through Quix Hole and come around Sow and Pigs. Weather fine with fresh NW winds.

Sunday Feb. 8th. Boat at Edgartown. Left for C. City at 3.40 P.M. Tide up for the night. Fearful of getting caught at Edgartown with the ice. Wind canted to NNE colder.

Monday Feb 9th. Left Cottage City for Vineyard Haven at 8:05 A.M. Left Woods Hole for N. Bedford at 10:12 A.M. Went as far as Quix Hole and returned to Woods Hole on account of the ice. Gave up going to New Bedford.

Tuesday Feb. 10th Boat at Edgartown. A gail of wind from SE to South. Heavy rain and fog. Wind moderating with dence Fog in stead of rain. Ice breaking up. Gave up going to N. Bedford for the day. Latter part wind vearing to S ward. Clearing during the night blowing fresh from WNW.



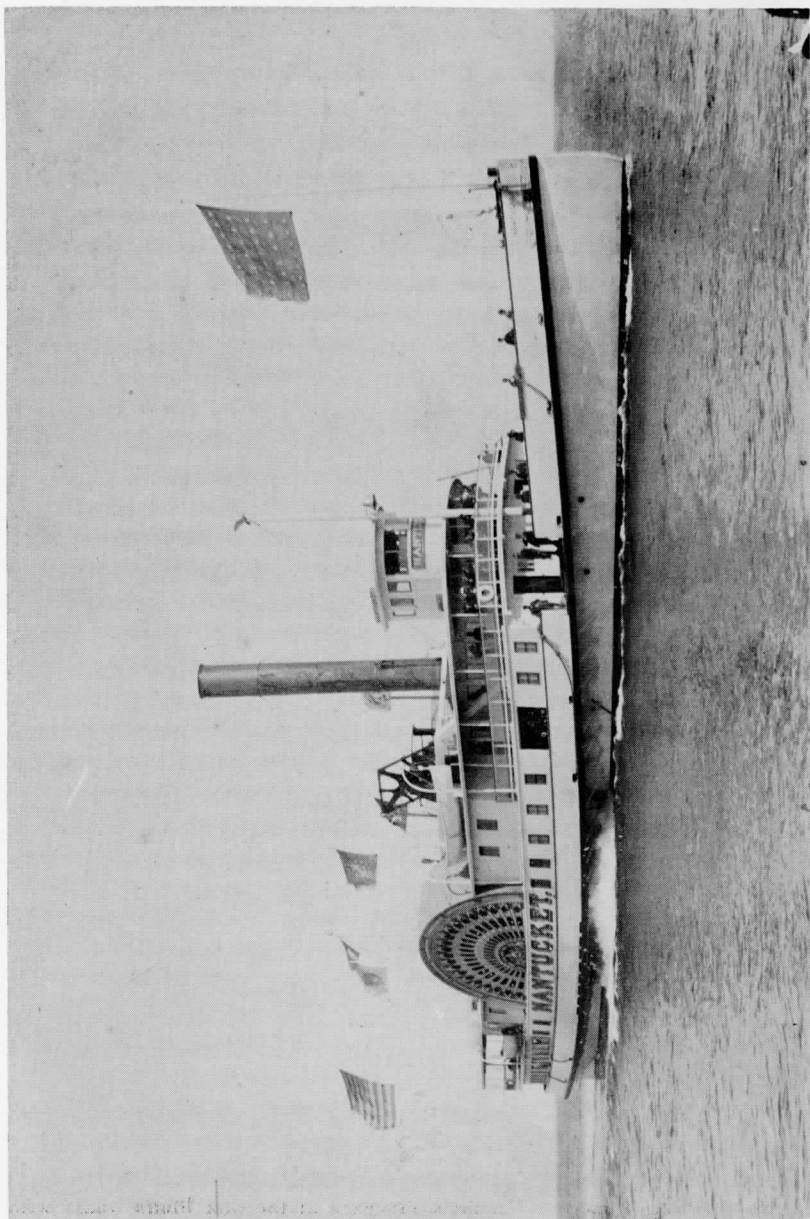
Monohansett at the Woods Hole landing, 1870. From a painting by Franklin Lewis Gifford. Courtesy of the Woods Hole Public Library.

Wednesday Feb. 11th. Wind fresh from NW by W. Very cold clear weather. Postponed trip to New Bedford and made the return trips to the Vineyard on account of the wind and ice. Two days mails and passengers to the Vineyard. Island Home did not come up from Nantucket. Thursday Feb. 12. Left C. City 1:15 P.M. for Edgartown. Went down to the ice and gave it up and returned to Cottage City. Towed schooner I.L. Campbell into W. Hole. Plenty of ice in upper harbour at Woods Hole. Wind from the NNW. Very cold but moderating.

Friday Feb. 13th. Left C. City for V. Haven 7:45 A.M. arrived 8:05 A.M. Left for W. Hole 7:13 A.M. arrived 8:50. Left for C. City 11:45 A. M. arrived 12:30 P.M. Left for Nantucket 12:33 P. M. Arrived off the water works about one mile from shore at 3:10 P.M. Saw people on the shore but saw no move to get to us. Stopped as



Steamers Island Home and Martha's Vineyard at the Oak Bluffs wharf with the train about to leave for Edgartown and Katama.



The Steamer Nantucket with flags flying. Probably about 1885.

long as prudent. Arrived W. Hole at 6:45 P.M. The Sound covered with ice. Ice heavy from Cross R. L. Ship to Nantucket and returning. At 6:00 P.M. thick snow. An Ungodly site of snow.

Saturday Feb. 14th. Left Woods Hole for V. Haven and Cottage City at 11:53 A.M. Returned to W. Hole for the night. Wind NE with thretning sky and snow squalls. Blowed heavy with snow all night.

Sunday Feb. 15th. Wind NE with thick snow. Stopped snowing at 6½ A.M. Wind canted more to the North commenced moderating about 10 A.M. Continued moderating generally until night. Blowed off steam to repair tubes that gave out.

Monday Feb. 16th. Left Woods Hole for Cottage City at 6:50 A.M. Arrived 7:35 A.M. Left for New Bedford at 9:30 A.M. arrived 12:45 P.M. Wind ESE blowing up fresh. Island Home came up from Nantucket. Blew up a very heavy gail in the afternoon and night with heavy rain.

Tuesday Feb 17th. Left New Bedford for Woods Hole at 11:15 A.M. Weather cold. Wind NNW fresh. Fell in with ice in the Bay. Gave up Woods Hole and passed through Quix Hole. A very rough day. Broke the rim of the port wheel and some of the arms.

Wednesday Feb 18th. Passed Woods Hole. Arrived at New Bedford at 12:30 P.M. Wind N.E. moderate. thretning snow. At ten A.M. had spit snow. At 11:A.M. thick snow. Plenty of ice every whear. Clearing in the latter part.

Thursday Feb. 19th. Boat at New Bedford. Fine weather. Plenty of ice. Repairing the paddel wheels that was brok in the ice the day before.

Friday Feb. 20th. Left for W. Hole at 8:48 A.M.. Arrived 12:13 P.M. Left for V. Haven 12:30 P.M. Weather fine and cold. Wind moderate WNW with plenty of ice. Had run through the ice to within three miles of Quix Hole but



The Martha's Vineyard at the Oak Bluffs Wharf, and Monohansett on the way to Vineyard Haven in complete disregard of the waterspout which can be seen on the horizon. That was the afternoon of August 19th, 1896.

gave it up and passed outside of Sow and Pigs and in to the Sound. Ice heavy.

Saturday Feb. 21st. Left Woods Hole for Cottage City and returned to W. Hole. Weather fine. Wind fresh NW. Plenty of ice in the Sound.

Sunday Feb. 22nd. Left Woods Hole for Nantucket at 8:20 A.M. Weather fine. Wind NW. Got to within three miles of Great Point. Ice very heavy and gave it up and returned to Woods Hole. Took the North Channel boath ways. Wind moderate.

Monday Feb 23rd. Left W. Hole for C. City at 11.42 A.M. arrived at 12:30. Returned to W. Hole. Moderate and cold. Plenty of ice.

Tuesday Feb. 24th. Left Woods Hole for Nantucket at 6:50 A.M. Took ten tons of Government coal at Little Harbor before starting for Nantucket. Anchored off the Life Saving station on the back side of Nantucket at 10:20 A.M. Landed passengers and mails of seven days. Took return mails and returned to Woods H. saving the train by calling them back. Lots of ice. Anchored three times before we could land on account of ice. Wind moderate and varyable in the after noon.

Wednesday Feb 25th. Snow with moderate NE winds freshening in the after noon. Plenty of ice evry where.

Thursday Feb. 26th . Very fine weather. Wind varyable and moderate. Ice all around. Air warmer.

Friday Feb. 27th. Went to C. City and return. Wind NE to SE. Ice on the move.

Saturday Feb. 28th. C.City and returned to W.Hole.

Sunday March 1st. Left Woods Hole for Nantucket at 5:12 A.M. Run through drift ice down to Cros R. Light Ship. Then run in to heavy ice and packed drift ice. Got to within 3 miles of Great Point. Heavy ice clear to shore. Broke the rim of our starboard wheel. Fixed the wheel as best we could. Saw the Island Home to the SW of us about two miles. Headed for each other and come alongside at 9 A.M. She left Nantucket at 5 A.M. We put our freight and passengers aboard of her and took her freight and passengers. She went to Nantucket and we went to Edgartown. Ice clearing out very fast.



Harriet Frances Bailey. 1918-1938.

THREE POEMS

by

FRANCES BAILEY

Editorial Note

In the past century and a half Martha's Vineyard has produced poets of real stature. To name only three, Hannah Smith, James Athearn Jones, and Emma Mayhew Whiting. And some of our living poets are so well known that they certainly need not be mentioned here.

Had she lived, though, Frances Bailey might have produced work as fine as that of any of our poets past or present. She died in 1938 when she was only twenty years old. Because both Henry Beetle Hough and Joseph Chase Allen recognized her importance as a poet we do have one slim volume of her work which was published with their encouragement.

Recently, Arthur Bailey, Frances' brother presented the Society with a collection of her memorabilia. This consists of photographs, letters, a diary, a few short stories, school papers, one bobby pin, and a dozen unpublished poems. Marion Lineaweaver very kindly chose these three of the poems for this issue of the *Intelligencer*.

NO TITLE

I am not dots nor clouds nor wind
I sit apart like a god or a mystic.
For one great moment I am apart
From the life of men
But I am one with life.
When I shall go down from this high
And into the street below
I shall lay down my godlikeness
And I will be a dot again

SONNET

The winter of the ticking clocks will come
Bright still the sight of shining sail and sky
The birds have formed a black distorted Y
Retreating with the sun away from home
Away to hot green lands and water clear
As perfect emptiness. Bright corals lie
In southern oceans silent as an eye.



Frances with her brother Arthur on the beach near the Roaring Brook.

Warm earth spreads nectar that the birds hold dear.
 The ticking clocks, the slow enclosing cold,
 The sudden brilliant beauty of the fall
 Are ours to love. The crooked winter light
 That streams across the snow in patterns old
 As the music of the wild bird's call
 Lies in our bone through perfumed southern night.

I DREAMED

I dreamed of waters rising high
 And suddenly upon the land
 Too swift for any aid
 For you and me. I made no cry
 Because I dreamed you held my hand
 And I was not afraid.



Frances with the late Captain Ernest Mayhew at Menemsha.

PLANT LIFE AND THE ISLAND COLONISTS

by

NELSON COON

Editorial Note

Nelson Coon, the president of our society, has written this article for the *Intelligencer* because of interest in the newly redesigned, and about to be replanted, herb garden by the Cooke House kitchen door. This herb garden has been a center of attraction ever since it was placed there by the Martha's Vineyard Garden Club. And it has always received the special care and attention of Mrs. Gladys Reid our past president.

C. Donald Woodward, a new Island resident, and a landscape architect connected with the Valley Forge State Park is the author of the herb garden's new design.

Mr. Coon is a past president of the New England Botanical Club and has written several books on the use of herbs. He is now engaged in preparing a check list of plants of Martha's Vineyard.

As a modest collector of paintings and prints emanating in the Far East, I have always been interested in the necessitous inclusion in all works of art out of Japan and China of representations of both Flora and Fauna, a bird with a flower, a bush with a butterfly, or a weed with a wiggling worm—a circumstance which surely shows the essential wisdom of the East in knowing the extent to which the two forms of life on this planet are intertwined. And if the association is important in the wide world—equally is it so on such a tiny spot as our Island.

To begin with, it is notable that the Island bears the name of The Vine (grapes) while all who read our history, know that it was in the search for the root of a plant with supposed medicinal values, that the Island was found and named by Gosnold in 1603. That plant was Sassafras, a tree which still grows plentifully here, although its values have long since been proved to be nil.

In surveying the flora of the Island, collectors have noted (and there are likely many more than this) some 800 species of plants, but in these notes we can only take note of a few of those which



The kitchen door of the Cooke House and the herb garden. Photograph by Nelson Coon, summer of 1966.

have been of some economic or historical interest in times past. And it may be well to try to imagine the plant life of the Island as it was found by the Peases and Mayhews and the others who were the early settlers.

We have already noted sassafras, the hunt for which was the spur to a great deal of the earliest Coastal exploration. The suggestion that a medicinal-tasting extract of the roots of these trees was a cure for syphilis, a disease (which like the reputed cure) had probably come from Mid-America, created a high-priced market for this drug plant and it was not difficult for adventurers to make a small fortune by returning to Europe with a hold full of Sassafras.

And so it was that Gosnold, cruising along our shores, found not only his sassafras but a soft-climated Island fragrant in the fall with grape-laden vines offering, with a little selection, fruit of a size and quality quite equal to the cultivated ones of Europe. Small wonder that he called it a "Vineyard".

What use the then Indian inhabitants of the Island made of these grapes we do not know, but the records would indicate that these were surely treasured, as were the dried fruits and berries of other plants — such as the Rum and Choke Cherries, Blueberries, Blackberries, etc which, when dried, were ingredients in their Pemmican.

Of wild plants there were others which were edible including the ground-nut and the "Jerusalem artichoke" which were surely but supplements to the "standard" cultivated vegetables, which, coming all the way up from Middle America, had made the Indian culture possible — Corn, Beans, and Squash. Of all of this sort of



CLETHRA ALNIFOLIA VITIS LABRUSCA

Wild grapes. From a drawing by Frances McGaw.

thing we can do little but conjecture and glean hints by the exploration of their language.

Aside from borrowing the knowledge of the values of these truly American crops from the Indians, one supposes an equally valuable knowledge was of the use of the medicinal herbs which had been extremely well developed into an empirical *materia medica* by the Indian Squaws, who were, in spite of the fact that a few men were called Medicine Men, the real doctors of the tribes and who were seemingly not unwilling here on this Island, to share their knowledge with the belaboured housewives who were coping with large families and household responsibilities.

Reliable information indicates that even not so many years ago folks in then-remote areas of the Island would consult the squaws of our Gay Head tribe while, nation-wide, the not-inconsiderable Indian knowledge of medicine was the basis for whole schools of herbal medicine which combined European knowledge with the native. A reading of the labels of many medicines today would reveal traces of such knowledge. Just a sampling of what was used might be of interest here:

Witch hazel — A decoction of which was used for anointing wounds

Choke cherry — A then-and-now ingredient in cough and other syrups

Cranberries — Used, says a Colonial writer, against scurvy

Sumach — The berries used as a cooling and medicinal drink

American Pennyroyal — A useful stomachic

Jewelweed — "A remedy for bruises of what-kind-so-ever" Presently a very good antidote for Poison Ivy

Sweet Fern — Like the above, the crushed leaves for Ivy poisoning and in general a good astringent

Tobacco — Not only ceremonially used but as a soporific and medicine

Puffball powder — Marvelous coagulant for bleeding

These then are just a few of the plants that were used in early times and we know that each squaw had her own special knowledge

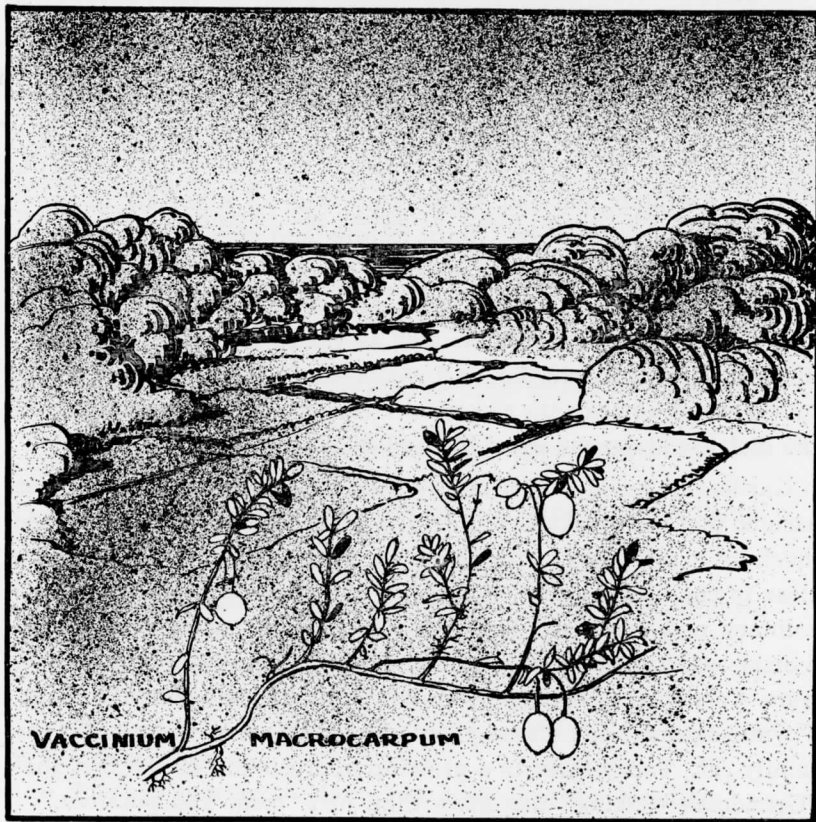
and experience to draw upon plus some advice from the Gods above, one of whom in Island lore was known as Granny Squannit. It is interesting to note in this consideration of primitive medicine that modern scientists are more and more exploring this once scorned knowledge, and it is quite possible that the healing of the sick in communities which were willing to accept the wisdom of the Indians, was as likely as for cases in the care of the questionably-trained 17th century medical men.

We can turn from medicine to the gardens of the Island settlers who perhaps appreciated less than they should have, the diet of the Indians, and who had brought with them from England the vegetables which their forbears in turn had been given by the Romans and the Saxons — Wheat, Peas, Onions, Cabbage, Radishes Turnips, and the like. We know that many of our Island families had come from the mild, fertile, garden-conscious county of Wiltshire in England, and had expert knowledge of a variety of vegetables, as well as of fruits. Ships coming and going from southern England could and did carry seeds of many things. A Connecticut Valley seed company of 150 years ago listed 8 varieties of Peas, 5 of Cabbage, 4 of Lettuce, as well as Beets, Carrots, Cucumbers, Melons, Onions, in addition to 9 varieties of "Indian" Beans which by then had gotten into commerce. Surely, even then, variety in the diet would depend upon the ambition of the gardener.

Gardening having been one of man's first occupations we can assume that the vegetable and fruit garden of Colonial times looked much as it did today, with the most certain addition of a section close to the kitchen door of some of the more immediately useful culinary and medicinal herbs, for then no super-market offered a dizzy assortment of condiments in cans. According to taste there were Coriander, Savoury, Caraway, Dill, Sweet Fennel, Sage, Thyme, Onions, and Parsley with perhaps some Catnip for the family cat. Today there is a growing appreciation of the fact that "Grandma's cooking" was more than just "meat and potatoes."

We have mentioned "Fruits" and here in addition to the abundance of the bounty of the Island wayside (Grapes, Cranberries,

Blueberries, etc) there was ever the hankering for something familiar, and American horticultural history shows a demand (much greater than the supply) for young fruit trees of which the basic supply must needs come from the Old Country. Pears and Apples were first, Quinces were a must, and as many Cherries and Peaches as possible. There were a number of early manuals prepared on the grafting and growing of fruit trees as well as instructions for cider and wine-making, and that such drinks were popular is shown by many early court records of drunkenness. A good guess is that even the most pious of Island settlers had no qualms against the



Cranberries. From a drawing by Frances McGaw.

use of good wine, for did not the trusted Bible recommend "a little wine for the stomach's sake?"

Over and beyond the Island plants which were required for sustenance and healing there were a number of plants of generally economic usefulness. First of course, was the use of the then good oak forests for building material, evidence of which is found in the oak-beams in our Cooke House and many another Island home. Vast quantities of trees were used also in the fires which heated the brick-kilns at Lambert's Cove and, of course, there were many uses of selected trees for furniture, for tools, and for all the crafts of what was almost a "wooden era."

Visitors to the Island are always interested in the name of trees which make up the clump at Beetle-bung Corner at Chilmark, not perhaps quite understanding that a "beetle" was a mallet and the "bung" — the plug that stopped the barrels that carried whale and other oils. The wood of this tree of which there are still some huge specimens extant is very hard. The name of Beetlebung is purely local, it being more commonly known as the Sour Gum, or Pepperidge Tree.

With a present dependence on Fossil fuels, on plastics, metals, and the like, only a minor dependence is on the plants of the Island but one local factory today gathers quantities of the Bayberries to use in Iron-waxing Pads while others cut logs for feeding the old and new fireplaces which have never lost their living charm.

With this brief glance at the useful plants of Martha's Vineyard we might take a quick look at the question of ornamental gardening in Colonial Days, for regardless of poverty and hardship, the desire to have a "blooming plant" is a universal desire. Certainly with the heritage of English Cottage Gardening that our settlers came with, we can assume that some flowers appeared in even the humblest cottage very quickly, and they weren't plastic ones, either.

A list compiled by Favretti (cf. bibliography) tells us that the most commonly grown plants in the 1700's were many of those popular today. Roses were ever at the top of the list with fragrant rose geraniums likely as a winter house plant, rambling and fram-

ing the kitchen window and (as we now know) transforming the heat and carbon dioxide of the gathered family into cheering and fragrant green.

Other plants which are known to have been used at that period for summer bloom include Snapdragon, Cornflower, Love-lies-bleeding, Four O'Clocks, Yarrow, Mugwort, Canterbury Bells, Lily-of-the-valley, Lupines, Peonies, and Johnny-jumps-ups. And right at hand and gathered from the wild would be the none-lovelier Butterfly Weed; in the spring the Arbutus; and in the fall our native Asters and Golden-Rod. Planted or not — there were plenty of flowers for the children and their mothers to gather.

In this slower paced Colonial time, with less distractions of communication and travel (and more especially the isolation of the Island life) the knowledge, appreciation, and even love, of the plants which nature and man offered to the Island Colonial people made such associations of plants and people very important.

Visitors to our Museums this summer may glance only casually at the kitchen herb garden which has been so carefully prepared, but we can all remember that behind these and other plants on the museum grounds which have largely been assembled on the base of their appropriateness — behind these plants and plantings, we should picture how much a part of life plants were to all the early Islanders.

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MARTHA'S VINEYARD IN 1792 — A DIARY (Continued)

by

WILLIAM BUTLER

Tuesday April 3. Came down from Mr. Smith's in the fore part of the day.

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

Thurs. Apr. 5. This day Peter Norton carried away a half a load (of) Sedge Hay — gave 20 shillings for the same — blustering rain.

Friday Apr. 6. Employ'd plowing at home.

Monday Apr. 9. Employ'd plowing at home. Sold 400 wt hay. Ansall Norton bought 500 English hay of E. Butler price 3 shillings a hundred.

Tues. Apr. 10. This day was a proprietors meeting at Capt. Davises concerning the trunk through the Farm Beach Nothing alter'd from the former regulations.

The proprietors in this case were not the proprietors of Sandy River in Maine but of Edgartown. The "trunk" was at the end of a right of way from the common lands through William Butler's land giving access to the shore.

In 1707 there had been a bitter wrangle over this right of way between John Butler, William's great grandfather and the proprietors of Edgartown. At that time John Butler had tried to close the right of way. The matter had finally been decided by arbitration. Both arbitrators had been from the Cape in order to insure their impartiality, and their decision was that access to the "trunk" must remain open.

Sat. Apr. 14. Yesterday Ben Smith and Col Norton was up in our neighborhood. Their business was to muster up evidence against Esq. Cooke concerning excise matters.

Tues. Apr. 17. Inferior Court sets at Edgartown.

Wed Apr. 18. Last evening at Mr. Smith's. At court in the afternoon. A criminal case try'd between Col. Norton and Esq. Cooke. The Col. cleared. Came home this evening.

Sat. Apr. 21. Up at Squipnockett yarding sheep — found 26. Left there last fall 40.

Sun. Apr. 22. Mr. Mayhew preached among the Indians. Did not go to meeting neither any of our folks. Very cold. N East wind. I can't help having serious or rather meloncholly tho'ts at times — although don't allow my self to be any way dejected. People shou'd endeavor to make the best of every thing — evil thoughts will come too often. Neither shou'd we allow our selves or others to foretell or prophesy ill to our selves.

Mon. Apr. 23. Employ'd ploughing — warm weather.

Tues. Apr. 24. Mr. Thaxter preach'd a lecture at Widow J. Claghorn's from Acts ch 28 For in him we live and move and have our being; as some of your own poets have told you. For we also are his offspring.

Wed. Apr. 25. Reading M'Fingal a pamphlet intituled M'Fingal a modern Epic Poem in Four Cantors. A singular circumstance has taken place of late between Nathan Bassett and Lydia Norton now his wife Not many days after marriage it appears he was concerned with other women which Lydia perceiving first reveal'd the secret to his friends and soon after to hers. But previous to this he had concluded to sell all his interests and go to Mohawk River. She finally agreed to take one hundred dollars and return home.
Esq. Norton.

Sat. Apr. 28. Saw Dr. Smith formerly of old Town and Esq. Norton.

Sun Apr. 29. At old Town — in the afternoon Mr. Thaxter preach'd again. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. At Mr. Smith's found them well — Becca seemed lively and pleasing.

Mon Apr. 30. Came down from Mr. Smiths This day run lines with Rufus Davis and fixed the line where to set the fence. We mutually agreed to set off from a certain stump lying in the meadow about six or eight rods to the Southward of Davises tan barn. From thence to west corner of Shubael Norton's lot. From thence straight up keeping said stump in range to the head of the Farm. Thence above of a parrellel line with the fence standing between the land of Malatiah Davis and my self till it

meets with our own lands — the above bounds were agreed on by us for the fence to stand for the future.

In the light of that is it any wonder that modern surveyors sometimes find it difficult to follow the ancient bounds?

Tues. May 1. This day had Dr. Nathan Smith to dine with us — Thomas from old Town.

Wed. May 2. Employ'd carting manure — putting into corn hills.

Thursday May 3. Moderate weather. Employed carting manure.

Friday May 4. Dr Smith is very sociable at our house. It appears to me he has a notion to get a young wife. What will be the consequence I cannot tell — but he seems very amorous.

The object of Dr. Smith's amorousness was Williams unmarried sister. However, she must have spurned the doctor's suit for she died an old maid.

Sat. May 5. Very warm — begun to plant.

Sun. May 6. I still keep up the term of reading the Bible. eight chapters a day.

Tuesday May 8. Employ'd planting.

Wed. May 9. Drove up cattle to Squipnockett.

Thurs. May 10 Dr. Mayhew this day came to Cornelius Marchants wife. By our request he called to let blood from mother. He took about two thirds of a pint.

Friday May 11. Set out for Pohognut about 5 in the afternoon. Call'd at Benj. Coffins — purchased 3 goat skins of the old gentleman at two shillings. Found all well at Mr. Smiths — Our friend Thomas was there — and spent the evening.

Mon. May 14. Took place this day the fray. Employ'd fencing off the meadow below the house.

We could wish that William Butler had told us a little more about "the fray." It was evidently an altercation, almost a fight between Esq. Smith and Tim Johnson. (See the entry for May 17.)

Tim Johnson was William Butler's hired man and probably an Indian. As a result of the fray William Butler seems to have been forced to let him go, and he was not happy about it, for in the entry

for June 16 William says: "Timothy Johnson left us this day I feel rather confus'd at thoughts of his departure."

Tuesday May 15. This day a number of old Towners came up, among which were Sarson, Hilley, Temple, Cook, Thankful Daggett, Sall Daggett, Hannah Ward & c. At Squipnockett fencing — made a half wall fence next to Samuel Norton's land.

Wed. May 16. Employ'd with H. Butler fencing at Squipt. Rain in the afternoon which put us by.

Thurs. May 17. Came down from Chilmark in the evening — left Henry there. Last Monday the scrable between Esq. Smith and Tim Johnson happened It appeared that Tim had the better of him in the struggle but did not attempt to hurt the old fellow — but only defend himself against a whipping.

Friday May 18. Employ'd planting potatoes.

Sat. May 19. Nabby Pease arriv'd from Sandy River — Sally Francis from Providence.

Tues. May 22. Employ'd fencing in the cornfield at Squash Meadow.

Squash Meadow was the name of the area that now includes most of the village of Oak Bluffs. It was also the name of the two ponds that are now Oak Bluffs Harbor and Sunset Lake. William Butler's wood lot which later became the site of the Wesleyan Grove Camp Meeting was also a part of the Squash Meadow area.

Wed. May 23. This day muster'd up plank for a tanfat.

"Tanfat" seems to have been consistently used for tan vat. Hannah Smith and Rebecca Smith (the neice of the Rebecca whom our William was courting) both so call it in their diaries for 1813 and 1823. The editor can not be sure whether this was purely a localism or whether the word was so spelled and pronounced elsewhere. Hannah Smith tells of a child drowning in a tanfat in New Town (West Tisbury)

Thursday May 24. Another visit this day at Mr. Smiths. All things pleasing.

Sunday May 27. Rain — Eliakim and I had something of a dispute. Cannot think but that a man has a Right to take his property where he can find it and prove property.

Tues May 29. This day settled with Abigail Pease and squar'd all off.

Wed. May 30. Brought home a tanfat from Wm. Coffins. Expect he will charge 12 shillings for making.

Thurs. May 31. Put our hides in lime. Up at Mr. Smiths. . . . The weather seems very dry. Congress is adjourned to November first.

Friday June 1. Employ'd harrowing Corn. Rec'd of Abigail Pease a note on hand on Mr. Hindes — 6 shillings due on it.

Sat. June 2. Rain. Employ'd carting wood.

Mon. June 4. Employ'd getting bark. On the west side mustering up calf-skins.

Tues. June 5. It is hard for a man to do anyways near right. To discover faults in others is easy, but to see them in ourselves almost impossible, much more to correct them. This day have experienced something in others pernicious and find my self guilty of the like. The circumstance is thus — some years ago there was two of our Neighbors sheep frequently found in our grainfields. They would jump over most any fence. Rather incautiously I will venture to say, without informing the owners, I ham string'd them. The present is thus circumstanced.

From which the editor gathers that some of William's sheep had been jumping fences, and the neighbors had not forgotten what had happened before. In the previous day's entry "Employ'd getting bark." The bark must have gone into the new tanfat that William had just had made.

Thurs. June 7. This day a hard storm of rain. Wind N.E.

Friday June 8. The storm still continued — wind and rain — A schooner from the West Indies gone on shore at the head of the harbour. This day Wm. Beetle found due to me 1 pound nineteen shillings four pence which I promised to turn in to Aunt Beetle on my account. Uncle Eben has been here twice this day. Forced to write for him some secret affair he has discovered. I told him I would write some other time and have put him off for the present.

Sat. June 9. Washing sheep at Squipnockett. There was

some difficulty between Moses Lumbert and Zach Norton. The case was thus — Lumbert and J. Stewart had held Rights of Esq John Allen on Squipnockett for a number of sheep. It appeared by numbering their sheep which I did myself as they drove them from the wash pen that they had about 200. That was the whole number paster'd in the Esquir's place and on John Coffin's right. It also appeared evident that nearly half of them had been out of their pasture (and) into Zach's and other pastures during the whole spring.

Norton said he ought to have compensation for keeping the sheep. Lumbert said no, there was no order on Squipnockett and he would not compensate. It appears to me some body ought to pay for it. If Esqr. Allen has taken in more sheep than his land will keep, he ought to be reimbursed for as many as would appear to be over what the land would keep.

Jeremiah Stewart told me he had lost 30 sheep. He shore about 100 on the day before the storm, but not withstanding all care that was possible by housing them and baiting in his meadow he lost the above number. Deacon Davis lost seven at Jacamia.

Sun. June 10. Just at night rode up to Mr. Smiths — found Becca a good deal exercised with the tooth ache. Had a term of it my self in the morning but shook it off in some measure.

Mon. June 11. Came down from Pohognut. Draw'd my hides out of lime and haire'd them. I find hides should be well limed to get off the short hair.

Friday June 15. Employ'd with Allan and Joseph Warner hoing. Have been very much troubled with ague and tooth ache. But have kept about my business until this afternoon.

Some Publications of the Dukes County Historical Society on Sale at Island Book Stores and in the Society's Library

Whaling Wives by Emma Mayhew Whiting and Henry Beetle Hough. A new edition. 294 p., illustrated. Cloth \$4.50.

Bartholomew Gosnold Discoverer and Planter, New England — 1602, Virginia — 1607 by Warner F. Gookin and completed by Philip L. Barbour. 271 p. Cloth \$8.00.

Capawack Alias Martha's Vineyard by Warner F. Gookin. 58 p. Cloth \$1.00.

Martha's Vineyard A Short History and Guide. Eleanor Ransom Mayhew, Editor. New 1966 edition with added index. Maps and illustrations. 191 p. Paper \$2.50.

The Wampanoag Indian Tribute Tribes of Martha's Vineyard by Milton A. Travers. 78 p., illustrated. Paper \$2.00.

The Heath Hen's Journey to Extinction by Henry Beetle Hough. 31 p., illustrations. Paper 50¢.

The Fishes of Martha's Vineyard by Joseph B. Elvin. With 36 illustrations of fishes. Paper 50¢.

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