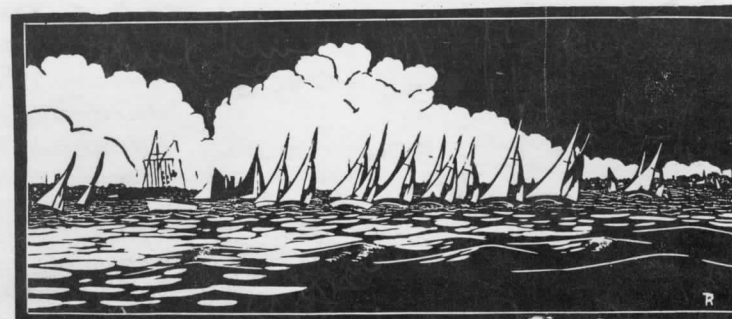


THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

Published by
DUKES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



Sengekontackett Pond's Other Name

by DORRIS S. HOUGH

Martha's Vineyard, 1890 - Photographs

by ALEXANDER M. ORR

A Letter From Cottage City

by ADDIE B. HOBBS

Seven Edgartown Prints

by SIDNEY N. RIGGS

Grandmother's Courage

by L. P. SELOVER

DCHS News

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 Edgartown, Massachusetts

Sengekontackett Pond's Other Name

by DORRIS S. HOUGH

Editorial Note.

Anthier's is the other name for Sengekontackett Pond. In fact, perhaps it is the name most frequently used by most Vineyarders. But what does the name mean? Who was Anthier? Miss Hough gives us the answer to those questions in the following delightful little article.

When my sister and I were little girls my father used to take us around the Island in his old Ford and show us his favorite spots, and tell us stories that went with them. I especially remember the time he took us down the road from Cottage City to Edgartown - a road of sand and small stones, no black top then! - along the shore of Sengekontackett Pond. Nearby to the south end of the Pond he stopped, and we walked the rest of the way around the edge of the pond, where we could clearly see its rounded, bay-like end.

"This," he told us, "is Aunt 'Thiah's Pond."

"Who was she?" we asked.

"One of your great-great many times great grandmothers," said Papa.

"She was Governor Mayhew's daughter and her name was Bethiah. She was a year or so younger than Hannah, who was the old Governor's eldest daughter and who grew up to be a handsome and very smart woman, and helped in the government - but Bethiah had the curls!

"But when the sisters were getting grown up, they both faced a real problem. The men who came to settle in their grandfather's new colony were mostly married men with young families, and there just weren't young men the right age to provide the Mayhew girls with beaux. Finally a nice young man, Tom Daggett, did arrive, and of course, Hannah married him.

"I'm sure," Papa went on, "the Governor must have been mighty glad when Thomas Harlock showed up, and not only wanted to settle on the Vineyard, but became a good friend of the Governor and then fell in love with Bethiah.

"So they were married, and the Governor gave them this end of the pond and a big piece of land around it for their wedding present."

"But that didn't make her an aunt," my sister and I objected.

"Oh, no," said Papa, "she was an aunt already. Her brother, Thomas Mayhew, Jr. - you remember the place by the wayside? - (my sister and I nodded) - he had left three little boys and two little girls, and they were already devoted to their Aunt 'Thiah. You see, they were too little to say her whole name. And sister Hannah had lots of children, and Bethiah had three little ones of her own, - and there were lots of little Peases and Folgers and Vincents and Butlers and Nortons around, and they all called her Aunt 'Thiah, and came to her pond to wade and swim and paddle canoes and fish and do all the other things children can find to do in ponds, and Bethiah gave them all cookies and gingerbread.

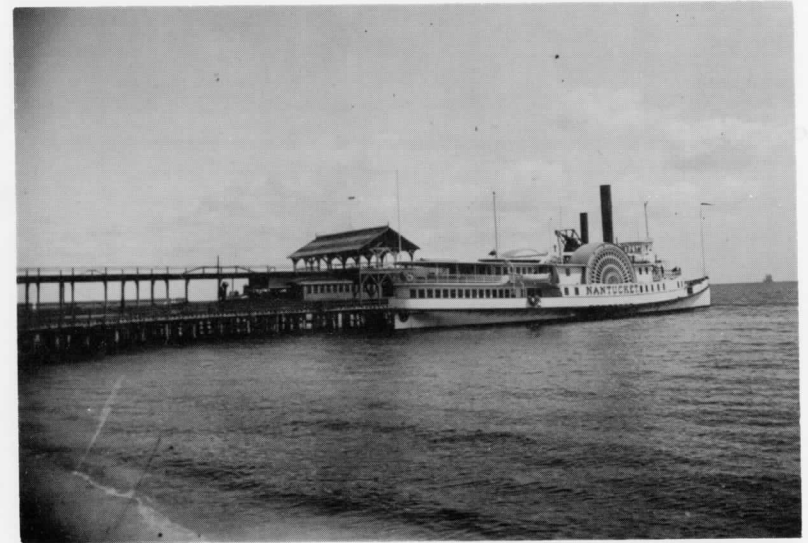
That is how this end of the pond became "Aunt 'Thiah's Pond."

Martha's Vineyard, 1890 - Photographs

by ALEXANDER M. ORR

Editorial Note.

Alexander M. Orr was a summer visitor to the Island for many years. These photographs, of surely almost professional quality, were made in 1890 when he was only fifteen years old.



The *Nantucket* at the dock at Cottage City and the train about to leave for Edgartown.



From the bathing tower looking south with the little train coming from Edgartown.



Cottage City from the bathing tower.



The Cottage City Post Office.



Oak Bluffs Club Landing.



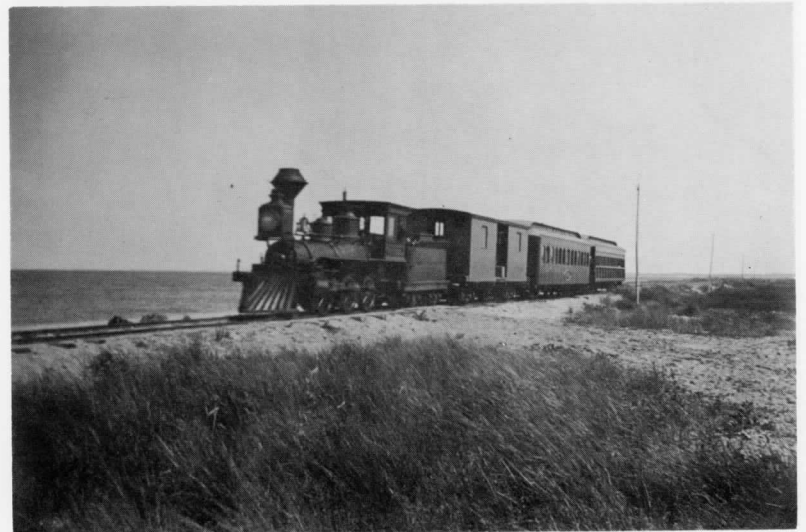
Bathers from the Rob Dock.



Mattakeesett Lodge, Katama.



Edgartown Harbour with a whale ship, whaling schooner and cargo sloop in the background.



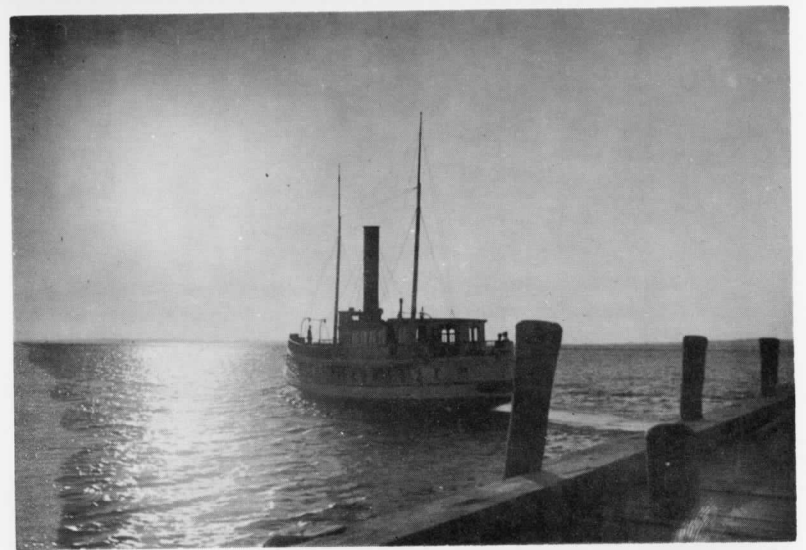
The little train of the Martha's Vineyard Railroad.



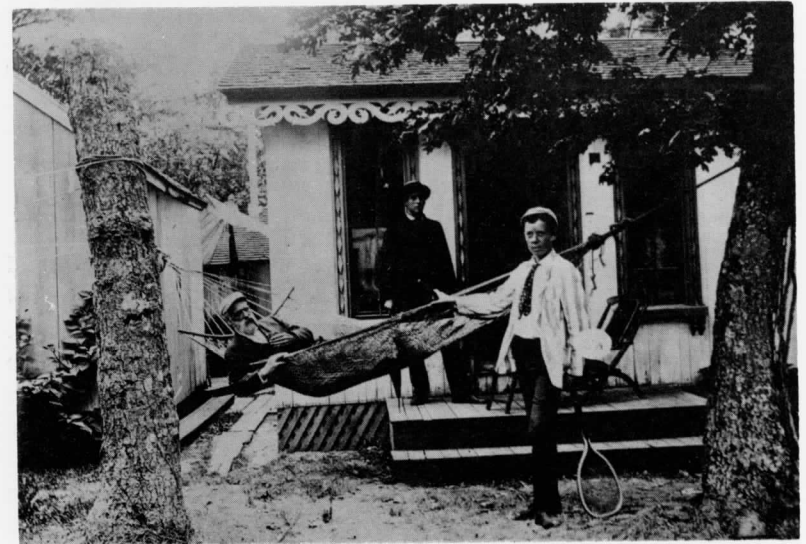
Children of a more formal day.



Indian ox cart, Gay Head.



The *City of Portsmouth* by moonlight. This small steamer ran between Woods Hole and the wharf that was built for her at West Chop from 1889 to 1895 when she was condemned. After that the steamers of the Island line made regular stops at the wharf for almost twenty years more.



Capt. Knowles and a typical summer hammock.

A Letter From Cottage City

by ADDIE B. HOBBS

Editorial Note.

This letter from Cottage City was donated to the Dukes County Historical Society by the law firm of Dangel & Sherry. It gives such a fine description of how a young lady might spend two weeks on the Vineyard in the summer of 1899 that we are printing it here in full. Everything in the letter speaks for itself; courses at the famous Summer Institute, an excursion to Gay Head on one of the paddle wheel steamers, listening to the band concerts, of course going to church, and riding on the trolley car both to Vineyard Haven and Lagoon Heights. But let Addie tell it.

Sunday

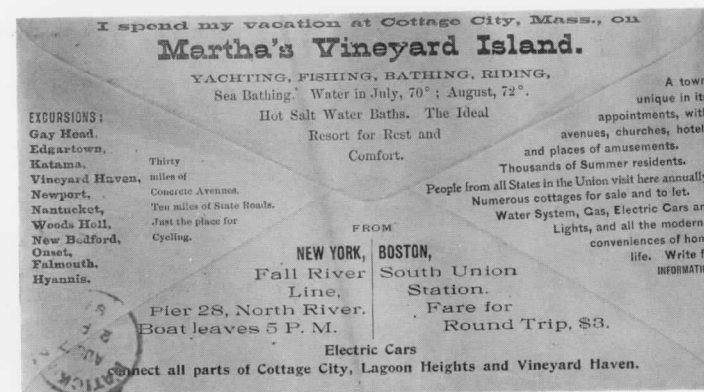
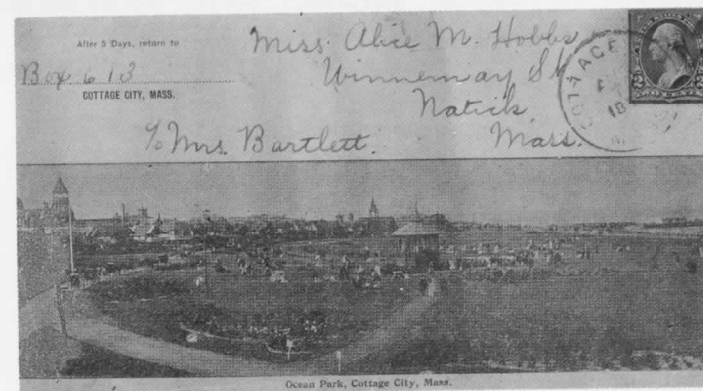
Dear Alice, -

I presume mamma wrote you that I was in Cottage City, so you will not be surprised at the rather loud envelope which I will send you. I came last Monday, Maidee came too - she for the trip, I for the summer school and we fell quite easily into a good lodging place. Mr. Wightman is prin. of the Faulkner Gram. School, Malden, and we take our meals just across the park which is in front of the cottage.

Cottage City is a very nice place but will not try to tell more. I have a book of views which I will show you when I see you and which will give you quite an idea of the place. I take 2 periods a day at the Institute - both in Nature Study. This breaks up the forenoon but in the afternoon we go about.

Went last Thurs. over to the town of Vineyard Haven to look about. The cars go around the harbor close to the water and we saw a good many wrecks in all stages of decay - all the result of last Nov's storm. There is one wreck "Island City" right off Cottage City beach and right in front of our cottage, also the result of the same storm. Have also been over on the electric to Lagoon Heights where is anchored the "Spray" the boat in which Capt. Slocum went around the world alone in four years ago. We went on board and got some souvenirs.

We have been to walks of course and to band concerts. The band plays forenoon, afternoon and evening in some part of the place. Last Wed. evening we heard it in Ocean Park, the picture



Here is Addie Hobbs' "Rather loud envelope."

of which is on this envelope. Sat. there was no school so we took the trip to Gay Head which is a two hours sail from here and a delightful trip we had. I got considerable of the different colored clays which compose the cliffs.

Today, this forenoon, we went to church in the Meth. Tabernacle where they hold the camp-meeting services. This evening we thought to go to the Baptist church, there is no regular Cong. church here, to hear Mr. Wightman, Senior, who lives here and is an ex-minister, preach but now they tell us he is not going to preach so do not know where we shall go. There are two other

lodgers beside ourselves here, Miss Cooley and Miss Gibbs who are the editors of the magazine "Favorite." So you see we are in a literary and educational atmosphere.

Had a letter from mamma yesterday and Russell is still visiting she said.

Will close now with love from your sister

Addie

Address -

Addie B. Hobbs

Box 613

Cottage City

Mass.

c/o Mr. J. L. Wightman

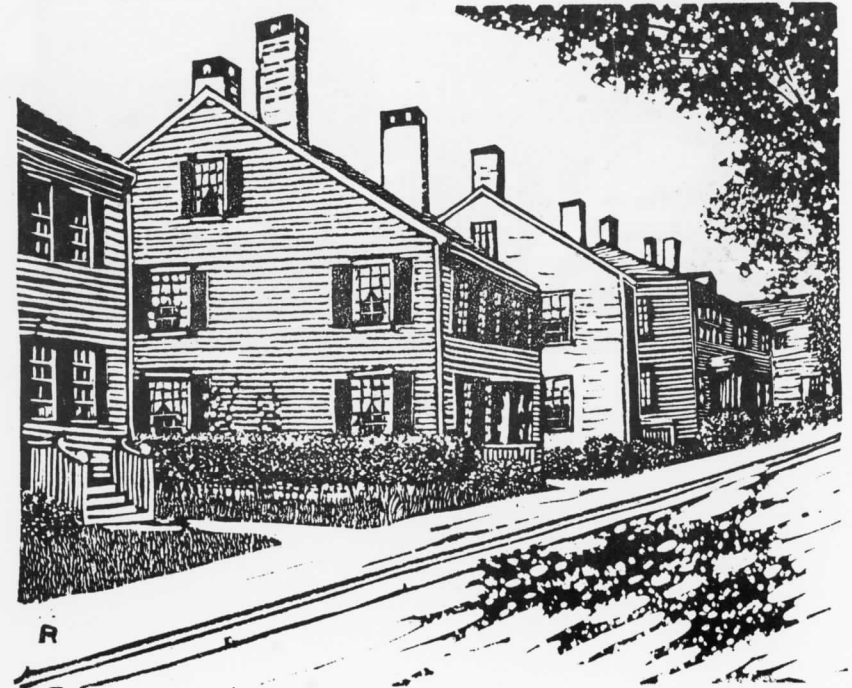
P.S. Write soon if at all for shall not stay but one more week. You know you never answered my last letter.

Seven Edgartown Prints

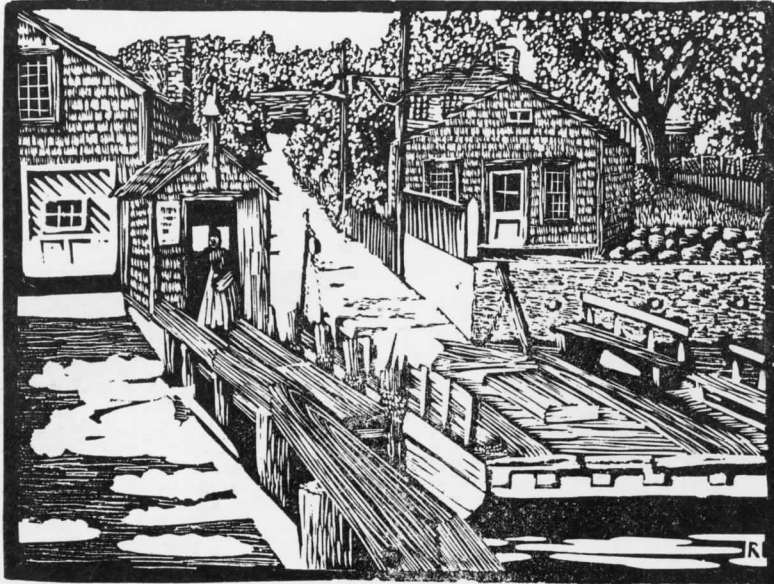
by SIDNEY N. RIGGS

Editorial Note.

Certainly Dr. Riggs needs no introduction to readers of the *Intelligencer*, for his cuts have brightened its covers almost from the first issue. Here are seven of his prints of Edgartown.



North Water Street



The Chappaquiddick Ferry Landing



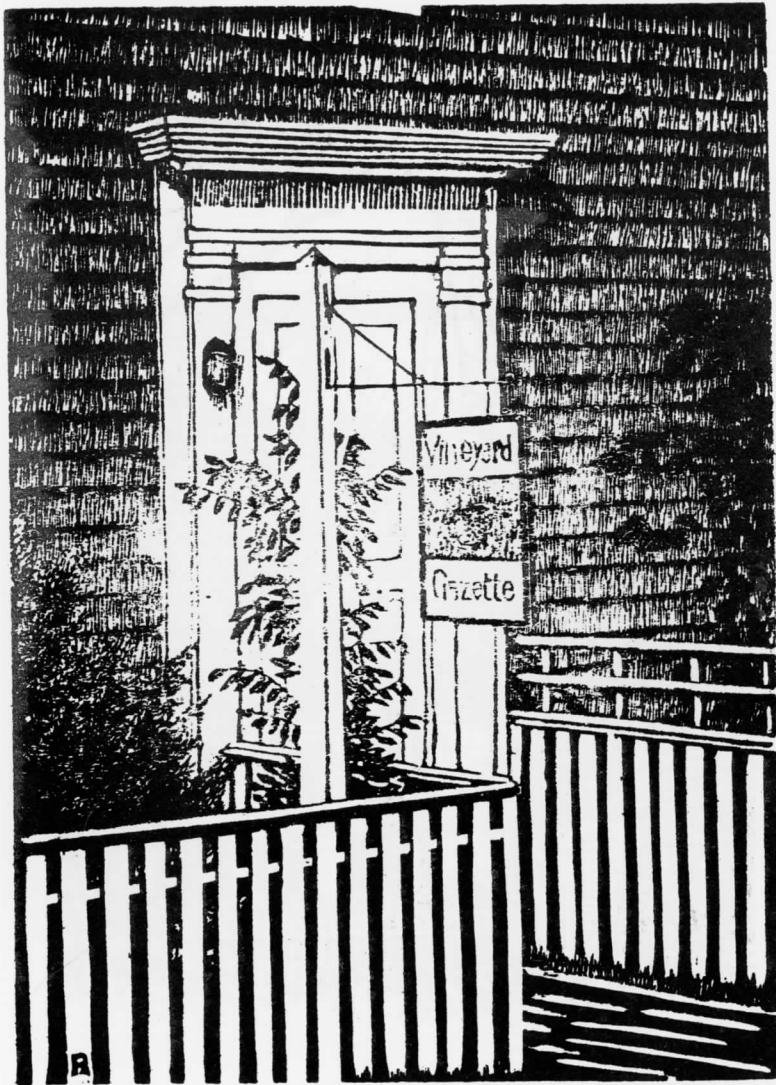
This was formerly Osborn's Wharf.



Orin Norton's Blacksmith Shop.



The old Congregational Church building on South Summer Street which now is the home of the Federated Church.



The Vineyard Gazette - Front door and famous sign.



The Ancient Pagoda Tree on South Water Street.

Grandmother's Courage

A True Story of 1776

by L. P. SELOVER

Editorial Note.

This poem about the Vineyard at the time of Gray's Raid was found by Mrs. Eunice Coke-Jephcott in a box of old papers purchased at an Island auction.

L. P. Selover was Mrs. L. P. Selover. The *Vineyard Gazette* of April 27, 1893 carried this notice, and so she must have been a local business woman: "Those who intend to paper their rooms this season will do well to call on Mrs. L. P. Selover and see her sample books just received."

In the Fall of seventeen seventy-eight
When we were at war with Britain great
The Tisbury folks one morning bright
Looked out on a scene that unnerved them quite.
For anchored sure in her waters blue,
Of British warships lay eighty-two.

A brave three hundred had marched away
To help to conquer the foe at bay,
And those who stayed to till the soil
Were left no arms their foes to foil -
And then the wisest held their breath,
Had they come for plunder or battle and death?

Ten thousand sheep they drove to the shore,
Of cattle three hundred head and more.
The fields were swept of the new-mown hay
By thousands of Britains under Gray.
And from the homes on baking day
They took the puddings and pies away.

In a low green valley three leagues away
Just overlooking Katama Bay
There stood the home of a soldier brave
Who had marched away his country to save
And left his wife to bake and brew
And most of the farming work to do.

Her flaxseed she sowed for her linen web
And combed and spun and wove it, 'tis said.
While wool was carded. The patient reel
Stood waiting toe work of the spinning wheel.
The looms were set and the web was made
The garments were cut and the stitches laid.

And Matty was often heard to say
She spun, wove and made the suit of gray
That her husband wore when he went out
To help put the Britishers to rout.

She was singing one morn the "Harvest Home"
When looking out on the soft green lawn
She saw in front of her open door
A band of Red Coats on the shore.
They wandered around through barn and field
And took the most of her precious yield
But two good cows were feeding still
In the pasture behind a hiding hill.
Soon came the British and asked for meat
And Matty brought it on nimble feet,
And left them, greedily taking their fill,
For the pasture land behind the hill.

Little she recked her head was bare
And the wind made sport with her loosened hair
As she bounded across the acres wide
To the spot where Molly, her pet, was tied.
And as she sped across the wold
She repeated the law as she'd been told:

A barrel of beef and a single cow
Is what the laws of the land allow.
And I have two, so one must go.
Then she spun her axe with one fierce blow
And one of the cows was lying dead
On the grass where a moment before it fed.

One soldier missed our Matty's face
And hastened to find her hiding place,
When he saw the beast upon the ground
And knew the work of a fresh-made wound.
Then Mattie had dropped her axe, and now
Was standing beside the living cow.

And face to face with a bitter foe
She spoke from her full heart's overflow,
"You have taken my fowls and oxen and then
The sheep from the fold and the pigs from the pen,
The corn from the crib and hay from the mow
But you shall not take my only cow!

" 'Tis all I have for the one at your feet
I've killed to furnish my barrel of meat."
Round Molly's neck her arm she placed
And her dark eyes flashed in the soldier's face.
He drew his sword and, "Curse you!" he said,
As he held it high above her head.

"I bid you quickly release your hold
Or share the fate of the smitten fold!"
Only an instant she held her breath
At the shining blade 'twixt her and death.

"You have met the foe in equal strife
Where swords were clashing - life for life,
And now on defenseless woman's head
The fierceness of your wrath you'd shed.
I stand undaunted, my child is near,
Would you take my life were your mother here?"

And then just tripping across the green
Came a lovely maiden of seventeen.

The soldier looked in the earnest face,
And back the sword went to its place,
And said, "I've stood the storming of shot and shell
To quail before a Vineyard belle.
You're the pluckiest woman I've ever met.
No harm shall come to you or your pet."

And soon he was marching across the plain
With a kettle of brownbread from Mattie's crane
While Mattie was having a little talk
About her dear new-fashioned clock.

"I do just hate to disturb it," she said,
"But I must have its weights of lead
And replace them with iron spikes of their weight."
And soon she consigned the lead to its fate,
Saying, "Little I thought at fifty years
I'd be running bullets for musketeers."

Then working as with a purpose true,
She conquered as was her want to do,
And soon the bullets were on their way
To the Yankee general across the Bay.
Then word came back, "They'll be sure to hit
When mixed with such metal as Mattie's grit!"

That is the story as told to me
When the British were here by land and sea
Of grandmother's courage at threatened fate
In the fall of seventeen seventy-eight.

Once again we report a pleasant summer season, with interested visitors from all over the world. It is surprising how many find their way to our door, here on the Island of Martha's Vineyard. During the four summer months, June through September, over 6800 people are estimated to have gone through the Thomas Cooke House.

We have a policy wherein the rooms are accessible to the public, and there are no "do not touch" signs, leaving the visitors on their honor to treat our museum objects with appreciation and respect. Due to this permissive custom, our museum has been called a "touch museum" by some of the more travelled small-fry.

Along with the regular employees listed in our last issue, we have had the assistance of at least four volunteer workers who have given us a lift in the work. Judith Mac Kay, a history major from Northwestern University, came on her "day-off" to guide visitors through the house. On his "time-off" Paul Carleton of Key Largo, and Edgartown, cleaned and oiled some of our guns and instructed our college student in the care of the collection. In the fall, after our college students had returned to their campus life, we had the assistance of Mrs. Lane Lovell, summer resident of Edgartown, and Mrs. Peter Langmuir, summer resident of East Chop. Both share a genuine interest in the house and grounds, and were able to project this interest and enthusiasm to our guests.

Our annual meeting was held on August tenth, a very hot and humid evening, when over one hundred crowded into the parish house of the Congregational Meetinghouse close by. Reports were given by officers of the Society, followed by a talk on "Whaling Old and New" by Douglass C. Fonda Jr., founder and president of the Whaling and Marine Manuscripts Archives, Inc., Nantucket. Mr. Fonda also presented a film on modern whaling, which depicted scientific studies being made to secure international cooperation in protecting such species which are threatened with extinction.

At this meeting, it was voted to reappoint Dr. Sidney N. Riggs and Mrs. William Silva for another three-year period as members of the Council. At the next Council meeting which followed, the

same slate of officers was re-elected to serve another year. With deep regret, the resignation of Mrs. Philip Drew, as genealogist was accepted. She has served faithfully for four years and we are grateful for all she has done to answer the numerous inquiries of those writing for help with their family lines.

On September 14-18th, the Curator and Mr. Chatterton, attended the thirty-first annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History, in Portland, Oregon. It was a fine conference, attended by approximately one hundred, sixty-five people, with informative and stimulating sessions on topics pertinent to our historical societies. It was personally exciting to meet people in our common field from other parts of the country, and much was gained in learning the broad concepts of our work as educational institutions, pledged to collect, preserve, and teach history with a relevance to today's current trends in thinking.

Along with the experience in Portland, the Chattertons also enjoyed a visit to the Maritime Museum at San Francisco, to see the exhibit on the Whaling Period, and also saw the Golden Gate and the Port of San Francisco, so well-known to our Vineyard whaling captains.

As an educational institution, we have continued to receive visits from schools and camps, among which have been the sixth grade of Edgartown, the students of the elective courses on Island History and Maritime History from the Regional High School (Mr. Hoar and Mr. Thomas, teachers.) Other groups have been the Trailside Country School of Killington, Vermont, the sixth grade of Moses Brown, and the freshman class from Concord Academy.

The cooperative relationship between the Regional High School and the Dukes County Historical Society has been reaffirmed by the presence of high school students in our library. This has been facilitated by the new school ruling which allows the students to leave the premises during the school hours, and to drive their own cars. This will permit their using our library during the hours we are now open, but may eventually require an extension of our time and may require more staff.

We are very pleased to announce the acquisition and purchase of the model of the *Spray* which was made recently by Walter Titcomb of Syosset, Long Island. The dimensions of this model

are correct, for Mr. Titcomb went into considerable research to be sure of this. The model was transported to the Historical Society by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Guernsey, of Old Westbury, Long Island. Mr. Titcomb had been advised of our Society by Walter Teller of Princeton, a summer resident of the Vineyard, who has just published a new biography entitled *Joshua Slocum* which tells in very readable form the dramatic story of Slocum's life and his famous voyage on the *Spray*. It seemed fitting that the model be housed in the museum on the Vineyard, so that not only our school children, but our summer visitors, will hear the story of the intrepid sea captain who first sailed alone around the world.

ACCESSIONS

BOOKS:

Massachusetts Customs Houses, compiled by members of the Historical Activities Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1970. Mrs. Ralph Hornblower, Chilmark and Plymouth, Mass.

Daniel Ricketson and his Friends, Boston, 1902.

Daniel Ricketson Autobiographic and Miscellaneous, New Bedford, 1910. Mrs. Richard H. Norton, Higganum, Conn.

Register of the Commissioned Officers of the U. S. Revenue Marine to May 1, 1873, New York, 1873.

An Introduction to Ancient and Modern Geography..., by J. A. Cummings, New York, 1822.

The New American Practical Navigator..., by Nathaniel Bowditch, New York, 1845. Mrs. Henry B. Brainerd, Dover, Mass.

To Raise a Nation (Historical novel of Hawaii), by Mary Cooke, 1970. Mrs. John Keim, Stirling, N. J.

Acts and Resolves of Massachusetts, 1963-1967.

Archer's Relation, Gosnold's settlement at Cuttyhunk.

Massachusetts in the Army and Navy, 1861-1865, (2 Vols.), 1896.

Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War (Vol. I - VIII, Index), 1931.

Plus 32 other books of military history. West Tisbury Public Library.

PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS:

Russian *Papers* (water-soaked) found on beach of Gay Head. Radiograms sent and received by a fishing vessel off our shores to home port in Russia. Peter J. Adams, Worchester, Mass.

Collection of *Christmas cards, Valentines*, and other miscellaneous cards. Mrs. Lucy Dowd, Tuckerton, N. J.

Microfilm copy of the log of the *Narwhal*, also partial log of the *Bowhead*. Douglass C. Fonda, Jr., Whaling and Marine Archives, Nantucket.

Copy of a *deed* of Pasque Island from Daniel Wilcock to John Tucker. Mrs. Alice Forbes Howland, Chilmark and Milton, Mass.

Letter written August 7, 1899, from Addie B. Hobbs at Cottage City to Alice M. Hobbs, Natick, Mass. Edward M. Dangel, Vineyard Haven.

Booklet: *Tracing the Route of the Martha's Vineyard Railroad 1874-1896*. Walter Blackwell, Miami, Florida.

Two copies of the *New York Tribune*, dated June 1887 and December, 1885.

Three copies of *The Queen of Fashion*, March, May, June 1893.

Picturesque America, Parts sixteen and forty-three, D. Appleton & Co. Mrs. Henry B. Brainerd.

PICTURES:

22 *stereoscopic views* of Oak Bluffs; and one of Nancy Luce and her chickens. Mrs. Marion Smith, Warwick, Rhode Island.

Picture of a farm on Chappaquiddick, painted by T. B. Reid. Mrs. Jack M. Rosé, Summit, New Jersey.

Photograph of Penikese Island, 1964. Mrs. Alice Forbes Howland.

Electrotype picture of the tents of the Methodist Camp Meeting, Martha's Vineyard, 1851. Sinclair Hamilton, Edgartown.

Two *photographs* of the gingerbread cottages in Oak Bluffs, plus one slide. Mrs. Freeman Wallin, Edgartown and Green Valley, Arizona.

Ten assorted *views* of Edgartown and Chappaquiddick, around 1885-1890, black and white photographs. George A. Conners, Edgartown.

Photograph of Civil War monument, Edgartown Park. Mrs. D. Osborn Bettencourt, Edgartown.

ALSO:

Wicker basket made in Fayal, a *pin cushion*, one very large *kettle*, and brass-tipped *bellows*. Mrs. Jack M. Rose.

Two men's dress *vests*, brocade, possibly belonged to Capt. Thomas Mellen, Edgartown. Mrs. David Rappaport, Oak Bluffs.

Six *duck decoys*, *candle stand* ca. 1700, and Puritan *slatback chair*. Estate of Samuel Prescott Fay, Edgartown and Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Tiny *clay pipe* found at Tarpaulin Cove. Lee Markscheffel, Vineyard Haven and Old Greenwich, Conn.

Quarterboard of the *City of Columbus*, 20 feet long by 1½ feet wide. Douglas C. Fonda, Jr.

In late September an extensive gift of books, manuscripts, photographs, and miscellaneous items was received from Mr. Henry C. Ottiwell of Vineyard Haven and Florida. The greatest portion of the accessions, which numbers close to 200 items, is the collection of books including Bibles, hymnals, prayer books, school books, music books, and popular magazines of the 19th century. Of interest to Vineyard history are memorabilia of Dr. Winthrop Butler, and the Butler-Robinson family.

It has been called to our attention that the list of Vineyard masters whaling in the Arctic, 1848 - 1914, which was appended

to the article "Vineyard Whalemen" In The Arctic, *Dukes County Intelligencer*, August 1971, omitted the names of the following masters:

Captain David Blake Adams

Captain Benjamin D. Cleveland

Captain Nathan Jernegan

Captain Benjamin Tilton

Frank Butler should have been included in the list of other whalers in the Arctic.

Whaling records are fragmentary and scattered. Often first names, even initials, are omitted from lists of masters and there are no comprehensive lists of crew members. The destination given on the shipping records does not necessarily indicate the ultimate whaling ground. For instance, hundreds of entries read: "Sailed for the North Pacific;" some, but only a very small proportion of those, went into the Arctic. Thus, regrettably, errors and omissions occur. If the reader knows any other names which should be included in the above list, we would appreciate hearing of them so that they may be added. We are indebted to Captain Thomas Tilton, Mrs. Charles Turner and Mrs. Mary Willey for the above additions.

D. C. P.

Some Publications

OF THE DUKES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON SALE
AT ISLAND BOOK STORES AND IN THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY.

The Mammals of Martha's Vineyard by Allan R. Keith. Illustrated, paper. 50¢.

Whaling Wives by Emma Mayhew Whiting and Henry Beetle Hough. A new edition. Illustrated. Cloth \$4.50.

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

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

Our Enchanted Island by Marshall Shepard. An attempt to prove that Martha's Vineyard is the Island of Shakespeare's *Tempest*. Paper, 0¢.

The Heath Hen's Journey to Extinction by Henry Beetle Hough. Illustrations. Paper 50¢.

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

The History of Martha's Vineyard by Charles Edward Banks. A new edition. Indices, illustrations, three volumes. Cloth \$25.00.

Tales and Trails of Martha's Vineyard by Joseph C. Allen. Illustrated. \$3.95. When ordering by mail please add 25¢ to cover postage and handling.

"Cap'n George Fred" Himself. The autobiography of Captain George Fred Tilton of Chilmark. A new edition. Cloth. \$6.50.

Wild Flowers of Martha's Vineyard by Nelson Coon. Illustrated. Paper \$3.95.

An Introduction To Martha's Vineyard by Gale Huntington. Paper \$3.50.

Indian Legends Of Martha's Vineyard by Dorothy R. Scoville. Paper \$2.50.