Captain Gosnold And The New World
By
MARSHALL SHEPARD
With
ANNOTATIONS BY HAROLD C. WILSON

Some Edgartown Houses About 1890 - Photographs
By
RICHARD G. SHUTE

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In 1966, while searching through the Gookin Papers at the Dukes County Historical Society, I came across this unpublished paper by the late Marshall Shepard, former president of the Society. The manuscript deals with the explorations of Captain Bartholomew Gosnold in the Vineyard area during his Voyage of Discovery in 1602.

Both Marshall Shepard and Warner F. Gookin were intensely interested in Gosnold’s activities. The Gookin Papers located in the Society’s library reveal considerable correspondence between the two scholars on early Vineyard history.

The editor has noted that although both men may have been incorrect in some of their deductions concerning Gosnold’s course around Cape Cod and the Vineyard in 1602, they did, however, discover one very important aspect concerning the character of Bartholomew Gosnold.

Today, due to the studies of Shepard, Gookin and others, it is an accepted fact that the Elizabethan navigator has been elevated to his proper place in our history. Leader of the influential Gosnolds of Otley, Suffolk, and closely allied with the principal backers of trading voyages to the New World in the early 17th century, Gosnold was a dedicated advocate of English colonization of America and became the prime mover of the Jamestown Colony in 1607 - the first permanent English settlement in what is now the United States.

In the fall of 1969, E. Gale Huntington, vice-president of the Society, suggested that I edit the Shepard Manuscript for publication in the Intelligencer. I was very happy to comply with his request.
In this undertaking, I have been extremely careful not to alter any of the original work and have only indicated, where possible, statements that could be in error concerning Gosnold’s voyage around Cape Cod, etc.

It is indeed a privilege to present to the Dukes County Historical Society Marshall Shepard’s long lost manuscript: “Captain Gosnold and the New World.”

Harold C. Wilson
November 15, 1971

Members of the Dukes County Historical Society;

Wherever you or I chance to live, or wherever an Ancestor made his home, it is always the Discoverer or First Settler of that place who is held in special regard.

Such a person is a true Pioneer, one whom we may respect for his hardihood, his will be overcome danger, and his perseverance in carrying into effect those plans and purposes which give birth to every town and nation.

In the business of discovering the New World and settling Virginia, Captain Bartholomew Gosnold was an outstanding Pioneer, and as such, his Expedition to these shores in 1602 is ever of interest.1

On March 26, 1602, Captain Gosnold and thirty-two other persons set sail from Falmouth, England.2

Their small Bark Concord was directed to the Azores and thence to the American coast, where they arrived in the latitude of forty three degrees, the eleventh of May.3

From this point on the coast of Maine the Concord was headed southwesterly and southerly along the shore until landlocked by Cape Cod.4 Here they anchored, went ashore, and for half a day tramped the highest hills they saw, which may very well have brought them to the Scargo Hill of Dennis.5

Captain Gosnold on returning found the Bark so “pestered” with codfish the sailors had taken in his absence, that he called the land Cape Cod,—“the first English name given to any part of the New England Coast.”6

After sailing along the Truro and Provincetown bay-side the next day, they directed their Bark around the ocean side of this great peninsula.

Taking into consideration previously held theories it is most reasonable to believe that after arriving off Monomoy Point, the southeastern extremity of Cape Cod, on the afternoon of May 18th, the Concord sailed into Nantucket Sound, where in the night it came to anchor “in eight fathoms,” about two miles east of the Island of Chappaquiddic.7

May 17

From Gabriel Archer’s account of the voyage we learn that the following day the Explorers remained at anchor, “on account of many breaches round about us.” These breaches, or breakings of the sea indicated shoals, along the banks of which the currents swept, forming rips that were carefully observed from the Concord.

One such breach off Monomoy, Gosnold’s “Point Care,” had even been named “Tucker’s Terror,” upon that gentleman’s “expressed Fear,” so close had their bark come to stranding on the shoal of Pollock Rip.

May 18

The Concord therefore next day remained at anchor, her small boat being sent out “to sound over a breach that in our course lay off another Point by us called Gilbert’s Point who returned us four, five, six and seven fathoms over.” This Point was named for the second officer of the Expedition, Captain Bartholomew Gilbert, and “this day there came unto the ship’s side divers canoes,” the Indians having many articles to barter.

May 19

A sufficient depth having been found, the Explorers on May 19th sailed across the “breach off Gilbert’s Point in four or five fathoms” anchoring “a league or somewhat more beyond it.” Gosnold and his Company thus passed from Nantucket Sound by way of Muskeget Channel into the Ocean, anchoring about three miles southerly from Gilbert’s Point, which is believed identical with Washqua Point, the southern extremity of the Island of Chappaquiddic.

Archer states that “between the last two points are two leagues, the interim along shoal water,—a description closely conforming to the conditions existing in this locality at the present day. Archer’s second and unnamed point was doubtless the westernmost shore of the Island of Muskeget, which, being about six miles distant from Washqua Point is thus in agreement with his estimate of “two leagues.”8
The latitude here given as "-forty-one and two third parts-" should have been forty-one and one third part; an error that may have been due to the use of some observation taken off Cape Cod, which was thought sufficiently close to apply to this area.9

May 20

May 20th the Concord lay at anchor, the Explorers taking more particular notice of their surroundings. Archer here tells us that "-the coast from Gilbert's Point to the supposed Isles lieth east and by south-". These "-supposed Isles-" which lay east by south of Washqua Point were in fact islands, being well known to us as Muskeget, Tuckernuck, and Nantucket.10

Another discovery at this time was "-two inlets which might promise fresh water, inwardly whereof we perceived much smoke as though some population had been there-". While yet at anchor near Washqua Shoal, the Explorers were then looking through two inlets of the Vineyard's South Beach, into Katama Bay and Edgartown Harbor, where the rising smoke from Indian fires was readily seen.11

May 21

The next day the Company "-went coasting from Gilbert's Point to the supposed Isles in ten, nine, eight, seven and six fathoms close aboard the shore and that depth lieth a league off-", the Concord here cruising eastward in about ten fathoms, then inshore and to the westward, along the southern beaches of the Nantucket group of islands. How far east the Concord sailed is not stated, though probably a sufficient distance to more fully satisfy Gosnold of the insular character of Nantucket, which he previously had passed to the north of, in the night. On turning inshore and sailing westward Archer adds, "-A little from the supposed Isles appeared unto us an opening with which we stood, judging it to be the end of that which Captain Gosnold described from Cape Cod and as he thought to extend some thirty miles or more in length, and finding there but three fathoms a league off we omitted to make further discovery of the same calling it "Shoal Hope"."*

This opening toward which the Company now steered was no other than the same two league stretch of water, through which

*Gosnold's observation was probably made shortly before sunset from the mast-head when near Monomoy Point on May 16th.
the Concord had sailed from north to south two days before, but which now being approached from the south side of Nantucket prompted Archer, in writing of it later, to place his comment at this point in his narrative.

Continuing westerly across this opening, the end of Gosnold’s estimated thirty miles, which we today call Muskeget Channel, the explorers again found themselves off Washqua Point near the position they had that morning left. Finding then, that the crossing of Washqua Shoal gave them “but three fathoms a league off” from the shore, which is even the depth there today, all further investigation of this locality was abandoned and the place called “Shoal Hope”.

“From this opening the main lieth southwest, which coasting along we saw a disinhabitied Island, which so afterward appeared unto us, we bore with it and named it Martha’s Vineyard; from Shoal Hope it is eight leagues (.) in circuit, the island is five miles and hath forty-one degrees and one quarter of latitude. The place most pleasant.” Thus, on leaving Muskeget Channel and rounding Washqua Shoal, the Concord cruised westward along the south shore of the present Vineyard which the Explorers believed to be the mainland.12

Continuing southwesterly they fell in with the Island of Nomans Land, where Captain Gosnold and others went ashore, and, after exploring quite thoroughly, named it Martha’s Vineyard. So exact, indeed, was their latitude for this island, that had all other evidence been lost to us its position would have been readily found.13

May 22

May 22nd Martha’s Vineyard was again visited and its products carefully noted.

May 23

“The three and twentieth, we weighed, and toward night came to anchor at the northwest part of this island.” “This island is sound and hath no danger about it.”

May 24

“The four and twentieth we set sail and doubled the cape of another island next unto it, which we called Dover Cliff, and then came into a fair sound where we rode all night.”

When, after leaving Nomans Land, the Explorers “came to the northwest part of this island,” where next morning trade was had with the Indians, the fact should be recognized that Gosnold here discovered the Island of Squibnocket, and when the cape of “another island next unto it” was doubled, and “called Dover Cliff,” where clay was found, “in great store both red and white,” it is at once apparent that this discovery was the Island of Gay Head.14

At the time of Gosnold’s visit, Squibnocket and Gay Head were doubtless separated by openings into the sea, which have since been closed by barrier beaches, formed by the erosion of the Gay Head, Squibnocket, and Weaquabqua Cliffs.

John Brereton, another recorder of this voyage, in speaking of the Gay Head Indians wrote, “we found no towns or many of their houses.” From such an investigation it is reasonable to conclude that, before returning to the Concord, observations were made from one of the Gay Head hill-tops.

From such an elevation, many times higher than the mast-head of the Concord, forty miles and more of the American Continent came into view with many islands dotting the water like shadows from flying clouds. Who, indeed, cannot picture these gentlemen adventurers at close of day wending their way down to the beach, and out over the “fair sound” to their riding bark!

May 25

“The next morning we sent off one boat to discover another cape, that lay between us and the main, from which ran a ledge of rocks a mile into the sea, but all above water, and without danger; we went about them, and came to anchor in eight fathoms, a quarter of a mile from the shore, in one of the statelest sounds that ever I was in. This called us Gosnold’s Hope;15 the north bank whereof is the main, which stretcheth east and west. This Island Captain Gosnold called Elizabeth’s Isle, where we determined our abode.” It has long since been definitely established that Elizabeth’s Isle was none other than the Island of Cutthunk.16

From the Concord’s position that morning off the Lobsterville shore of Gay Head the Explorers had sailed out of Vineyard Sound and into Buzzard’s Bay, carefully avoiding in their course that dangerous ledge known as “Sow and Pigs Reef.” Even though the finest day of May, Gosnold was running no chance of getting his vessel stove so far from England. No indeed, not by a jug full!
and much less for any one aboard thinking to tell the folks at home of no danger here, where the rocks, according to Archer, were "all above water." But, however regarded, the Concord safely encircled both the sow and her pigs, and Archer well redeemed himself in referring to Buzzard's Bay as "one of the statelies sounds that ever I was in."

Beretan described Elizabeth's isle as "being sixteen English miles at the least in compass," impossible, unless the island of Nashawena was included, which if added, makes his estimate entirely reasonable. He further speaks of the Indians as "every night retiring themselves two or three miles from our fort." As the natives could not retire that distance on Cuttyhunk it is obvious that they retired to Nashawena, the land, at that time, not having been severed by Canapitset Channel.

We are told by Archer that "...the distance between every one of these Islands is vis., from Martha's Vineyard to Dover Cliff, half a league over the sound, (viz., Nomans Land Sound) thence to Elizabeth's isle one league distant. From Elizabeth's Island unto the main is four leagues." These distances were incorrect and somewhat reflect impressions gained from hill-top views. The distance given from Elizabeth's Island to the mainland was also out of place in the account, the Explorers not having visited the mainland until six days later. Within one paragraph of the close of his account, however, Archer gives the distance of fifteen miles from their fort on Cuttyhunk to their anchorage at Nomans Land, thus serving to correct his previous estimate of four and one half miles, or a league and one half.

"On the north side near adjoining the Island Elizabeth is an islet in compass half a mile, full of cedars, by me (Archer) called Hill's Hap, to the northward of which in the mouth of an opening on the main, appeareth another the like, that I called Haps Hill for that I hope much hap may be expected from it." Hill's Hap has been identified as Penikese Island and Haps Hill as the Round Hill of the Dartmouth shore.

"The Six and twentieth we trimmed and fitted up our shallop, etc." "The seven and twentieth there came unto us an Indian and two women, etc." May 28 "The eight and twentieth we entered counsel about our abode and plantation, which was concluded to be in the west part of Elizabeth's Island. The northeast thereof running from without our ken..."

The idea here expressed is that the land extending northeast of Elizabeth's Island continued beyond the Explorers' vision.

This observation, and the fact that distances given for the islands discovered were set down in relation to the Dartmouth, and not the Vineyard shore is evidence indicating that the character of the present Vineyard was a problem the Explorers left unsolved.

In laying his course northwest instead of northeast on leaving Gay Head, Gosnold thus failed to identify the greater part of the Vineyard. Such an accomplishment would have involved the exploration of Vineyard Sound, a matter concerning which he has left us no record. Any claim, therefore, that Gosnold discovered the present Vineyard to be an island must be based on Nature's later joining of its greater area to the islands of his discovery, 20 Squibnocket and Gay Head.

Of Elizabeth's Island Archer adds "There is eight fathoms very near shore...the breadth from sound to sound (viz. Vineyard Sound to Buzzard's Bay) in the western part is not passing a mile at most, altogether unpeopled and desolated." "In this island is a stage or pond of fresh water, in circuit two miles, on the one side not distant from the sea thirty yards, in the centre whereof is a rocky islet, containing near an acre of ground full of wood, on which we began our fort or place of abode, disposing itself so fit for the same."

In a letter to his father dated September 7, 1602, Gosnold wrote, "And first as touching that place where we were most resident, it is the latitude of forty-one degrees and one third part." Gosnold probably intended this to apply to Elizabeth's isle, though actually it was the latitude of Gay Head. As Archer's latitude for Elizabeth's Isle of forty-one degrees and eleven minutes will be found about four miles to the south of Nomansland, some idea may be had of the difficulty of fixing with exactness the positions recorded by early Explorers. Champlain, a most particular Navigator, on one occasion at least, made an error of a full degree in his latitude, so difficult it was to avoid mistakes in the days when the instrument employed was the crossstaff.
May 29

"The nine and twentieth, we labored in getting of sassafras, rubbishing our little fort or islet, new keeling our shallop, and making a punt or flat-bottom boat to pass to and from our fort over the fresh water..."

May 30

"The thirtieth, Captain Gosnold, with divers of his company went upon pleasure in the shallop (viz., a large, light open boat with two masts) towards Hill's Hap to view it and the sandy cove, and returning brought with him a canoe that four Indians had there left, being fled away for fear of our English, which we brought into England."

May 31

"The one - and - thirtieth, Captain Gosnold, desirous to see the main, because of the distance, he set sail over; where coming to anchor, went ashore with certain of his company."

The following estimates of this coast by Archer and Brereton may be said to climax the Gosnold accounts; Archer exclaimed, "This Main is the goodliest continent that ever we saw, promising more by far than we any way did expect; for it is replenished with fair fields, and in them fragrant flowers, also meadows, and hedged in with stately groves, being furnished also with pleasant brooks, and beautified, with two main rivers that (as we judge) may haply become good harbors, and conduct us to the hopes men so greedily thirst after."

And with what enthusiasm did his shipmate Brereton pursue these considerations when he wrote: "But not to cloy you with particular rehearsal of each things as God and Nature hath bestowed on these places, in comparison whereof the most fertile part of England is (of itself) but barren: we went in our light horseman from this (Elizabeth's) island to the main, right against this island some two leagues off, where coming ashore, we stood awhile like men ravished at the beauty and delicacy of this sweet soil; for besides divers clear lakes of fresh water (whereof we saw no end) meadows very large and full of green grass; even the most woody places (I speak only of such as I saw,) do grow so distinct and apart, one tree from another, upon green grassy ground, somewhat higher than the plains, as if nature would show herself above her power, artificial."

Could the lure of new lands be dressed in language more embroidered, or conducive to settlement than this? But more specifically, Archer continues: "In the mouth of one of these inlets or rivers lieth that little isle before mentioned, called Hap's Hill, from which unto the westernmost end of the main, appearing where the other inlet is, I account some five leagues, and the coast between bendeth like a bow, and lieth east and by north. Beyond these two inlets we might perceive the main to bear up southwest, and more southerly. Thus with this taste of discovery, we now contented ourselves, and the same day made return unto our fort, time not permitting more sparing delay."

Returning that afternoon Brereton adds: "They, (the Indians) followed us to a neck of land, which we imagined had been severed from the main; but finding it otherwise, we perceived a broad harbor or river's mouth, which ran up into the main; and because the day was fare spent, we were forced to return to the Island from whence we came, leaving the discovery of this harbor, for a time of better leisure."

It is probable that Gosnold and his Company approached the South Dartmouth shore of the mainland near Misshaum Point, whereon ascending an adjoining hill, the beautiful reaches of the Paskamanset River and shore-encircled ponds lay bathed in sunlight before them.

After examining the mouth of this stream, and its bay, and possibly viewing the scene from Barney's Joy, the Explorers doubtless shaped their course along the curving shore to Round Hill. Sailing about the "neck of land," some distance to the North, brought them to the "broad harbor," or mouth of the Aponaganset River; whence, on account of approaching night, the expedition returned to Cuttyhunk.

Although Archer's reference to "five leagues" indicates this as the distance between these rivers, his immediately following mention of this coast as bearing "up southwest and more southerly."..."Beyond these two inlets" shows his estimate to more properly apply to the coast from the point of their return north of Round Hill to Gooseberry Neck. Archer's references to the coast as trending "east and by north," and the shoreline which "bendeth like a bow," are substantially correct, and well serve to identify the locality of Gosnold's mainland visit.

June 1

Of June first Brereton wrote, "Now the next day, we deter-
mined to fortify ourselves in a little plot of ground in the midst of the lake above mentioned, where we built our house, and covered it with sedge, which grew about this lake in great abundance, in building whereof we spent three weeks and more.*

Archer adds, "The first of June we employed ourselves in getting sassafras, and the building of our fort. The second third and fourth we wrought hard to make ready our house for the provision to be had ashore to sustain us till our ship's return."

The Gosnold voyage had been undertaken with the idea of making a plantation in the north part of Virginia by leaving twenty men for population, the Concord returning to England manned by eight mariners and sailors, and four others, whom we may believe were to further the interests of the colony. It was therefore important that the Concord should leave as soon as possible in order to conserve the supplies for those who were to remain. Gosnold in his letter to his father dated September 7, 1602 wrote: "...and further, for that we had resolved upon our return, and taken view of our victual, we judged it then more needful to use expedition; which afterward we had more certain proof of: for when we came to anchor before Portsmouth, which was some four days after we made the land, we had not taked one cake of bread, nor any drink, but a little vinegar left..."

June 5

But resuming Archer's account, "The fifth we continued our labor, when there came unto us ashore from the main fifty savages... The ship was at their coming a league off, (probably engaged in fishing) and Captain Gosnold aboard, and so likewise Captain Gilbert who almost never went ashore, the company with me (Archer) only eight persons..." - but later "Captain Gosnold was come with twelve men more from aboard and to show the savage seignior that he was our Captain, we received him in a guard...", etc...

June 6

"The sixth being rainy we spent idly aboard."

June 7

"The seventh, the seignior came again with all his troop as before..."

June 8

"The eighth we divided our victuals, namely, the ship's store for England, and that of the planters, which by Captain Gilbert's allowance could be but six weeks for six months, whereby there fell out a controversy, the rather, for that some seemed secretly to understand of a purpose Captain Gilbert had not to return with supply of the issue those goods should make by him to be carried home. Besides, there wanted not ambitious conceits in the minds of some wrangling and ill-disposed persons who overthrew the stay there at that time, which upon consultation thereof had, about five days after was fully resolved all for England again."

The implication here is that Captain Gilbert instead of returning shortly with a new "supply of the issue" of provisions, would put to his own profit the cargo carried home by the Concord.

June 9

"The ninth we continued working on our storehouse, for as yet remained in us a desired resolution of making stay."

June 10

"The tenth Captain Gosnold fell down with the ship to the little islet of cedars, called Hill's Hap, to take in cedar wood, leaving me and nine more in the fort, only with three meals meat, upon promise to return the next day."

June 11

"The eleventh he came not, neither sent, whereupon I commanded four of my company to seek out for crabs, lobsters, turtles, etc., for sustaining us till the ship returned, which was gone clean out of sight, and had the wind chopped up at southwest, with much difficulty would she have been able in short time to have made return."

June 12

"The twelfth... the want of our Captain, that promised to return, as aforesaid, struck us in a dumpish terror, for that he performed not the same in the space of almost three days. We heard at last, our Captain to 'lure us unto, which made such music as sweeter never came unto poor men.'"

*Actually "nineteen days", May 28 to June 16.

**Gosnold may here have sailed to the head of Buzzard's Bay.
Archer's complaint that Captain Gosnold failed in his promise to return next day and "performed not the same in the space of almost three days" distorted the facts. Gosnold had gone to Hill's Hap June 10th, and returned on the twelfth, being therefore but one day late in returning. In view of the Explorers' friendly relations with the Indians such a panic of fear was hardly warranted, and if ten men believed it impossible to sustain themselves a few June days without succor, what indeed, could be expected from them in establishing a permanent settlement? It may well have been that the unknown fate of Raleigh's Roanoke Island colonists was haunting them.

June 13

"The thirteenth, began some of our company that before vowed to stay, to make revolt: whereupon the planters diminishing, all was given over. The fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth, we spent in getting sassafras and fire-wood of cedar, leaving house and little fort, by ten men in nineteen days sufficient made to harbor twenty persons at least with their necessary provisions.

June 17

"The seventeenth, we set sail, doubling the Rocks of Elizabeth's Island, and passing by Dover Cliff, came to anchor at Martha's Vineyard, being five leagues distant from our fort, where we went ashore, and had young cranes, herneshowes, (hernshaws) and geese, which now were grown to pretty bigness."

June 18

"The eighteenth, we set sail and bore for England, cutting off our shallop, that was well able to land five and twenty men and more, a boat very necessary for the like occasions. The winds do range most commonly upon this coast in the summer time, westerly. In our homeward course we observed the foresaid floating weeds to continue till we came within two hundred leagues of Europe. The three-and-twentieth of July we came to anchor before Exmouth."

Brereton, who addressed his account of the voyage to Sir Walter Raleigh "to whom indeed of duty it pertaineth" closes his journal as follows:

"But after our bark had taken in so much sassafras, cedar, furs, skins, and other commodities, as were thought convenient, some of our company that had promised Captain Gosnold to stay, having nothing but a saving voyage in their minds, made our company of inhabitants (which was small enough before) much smaller; so as Captain Gosnold seeing his whole strength to consist of but twelve men, and they but meanly provided, determined to return for England, leaving this island (which he called Elizabeth's Island) with as many true sorrowful eyes, as were before desirous to see it. So the 18th of June being Friday, we weighed, and with indifferent fair wind and weather, came to anchor the 23rd of July, also being Friday, (in all, bare five weeks) before Exmouth."

From a letter written by Sir Walter Raleigh to Queen Elizabeth's Secretary, Sir Robert Cecil, dated at Weymouth, August 21st, 1602, it appears that the Gosnold adventurers had made provision for selling their shares of the Concord's cargo. Twenty-six cedar trees had already been left with one Staplyne at Dartmouth, and twenty-two hundred weight of sassafras carried to Southampton; the adventurers' share of this sassafras having been sent to London for sale. Captain Gilbert's share, however, was withheld by a representative of Admiral Henry Howard "for the tenths", presumably the proportion due to the realm on such imports.

Captain Gilbert, in delivering a previous letter from Cecil to Raleigh had found Raleigh at Weymouth, where he had gone "to speak with a vessel" he owned that had lately arrived from Virginia. Like the Concord, this bark had returned with a cargo of sassafras.

The Gosnold adventurers had been told "before setting forth" that a ton of sassafras "would cloy England", and Raleigh refers to this commodity as having been worth "10, 12 and 20 shillings a pound before Gilbert's return."

Realizing that two such cargoes, if marketed at the same time, would result in great loss from the inevitable fall in price for the Concord's portion, Raleigh came to an understanding, whereby Gilbert, consenting to withdraw the London sassafras from sale, Raleigh agreed to recover for him his share at Southampton.

As there doubtless was slight chance of any part of the sassafras being released by the Admiralty, or the shares of the adventurers recovered without good cause, such promises could only be fulfilled by establishing some major defect, or illegality connected with the Concord's voyage. Raleigh therefore made clear his position by writing Cecil as follows:
Quite different was Raleigh’s attempt to preserve their friendship, as is shown by his postscript; Said he, “I hope you will excuse my cumbersome letters and sutes. It is your destey to be trobled with you frinds, and so must all men be. But what you think unnuffit to be done for mee shall never be a quarrell, either internall or externall. I thank you evermore for the good, and what cannot be affected, farewell hit!

“If we cannot have what we would, methinks it is a great bonde to finde a frinde that will strayne hymseal in his frinds cause in whatsoever, as this world farth-.”

Though such was his loyalty and obeisance to Cecil, Raleigh probably had no intention of dealing directly with Howard, his then almost open enemy.

He had, indeed, written Cecil desiring him to procure a letter of seizure for the Concord’s cargo, adding that he knew Howard would do him “-right herein-”, also that it was “-for haste-” that he had not written Howard. But, under the circumstances, it is difficult to attribute such a show of faith in Howard to anything more than bravado, that Cecil might so be encouraged to obtain the satisfaction that Raleigh in no other way could expect.

Briefly then, Raleigh’s letter was a request for cooperation by these three powerful Courtiers who, even then, were secretly acting against him; the wily and plotting Cecil; the despicable sycophant, Cobham; and the villainous Howard; of whom Raleigh wrote but eleven months later while a prisoner in the Tower, momentarily expecting death, “-God forgive my Lord Harry (Henry Howard) for he was my heavy enemy. And for my Lord Cecil, I thought he would never forsake me in extremity, I would not have done it him God knows”. Of Cobham, he wrote: “I am now made an enemy and traitor by the word of an unworthy man. He hath proclaimed me to be a partaker of his vain imaginations, notwithstanding the whole course of my life hath proved the contrary, as my death shall approve it.

“All my services, hazards, and expenses for my country—plantings, discoveries, fights, councils, and whatsoever else—malice hath now covered over-.”

For seventeen years it was Raleigh’s ambition to establish an American Colony. He sent to Virginia “five several times at his own charges” to succor the colonists who had been left at Roanoke Island in 1587. In exercising his Patent he granted many privileges
and spent great sums. His constant hope for success even found its way into his letter to Cecil in the phrase, "...for I shall yet live to see it (Virginia) an English nation." And, as England's new Monarch, King James, thought fit to delay his execution until Oct. 29th, 1618, Raleigh indeed lived to see his ambition assured.

Failing to start a settlement in New England, Gosnold was successful in establishing one farther south.

Thomas Studly, Virginia's first cape-merchant, wrote of him in 1608, as follows:

"Captaine Bartholomew Gosnold, the first mover of this plantation, having many yeares solicited many of his friends, but found small assistants; at last prevailed with some Gentlemen, as Maister Edward maria Wingfield, Captaine John Smith, and diverse others, who depended a yeare upon his projects, but nothing could be effected, till by their great charge and industrie it came to be apprehended by certaine of the Nobilitie, Gentry, and Merchants, so that his Majestie by his letters patent (April 10, 1606), gave commission for establishing Counsels, to direct here, and to governe and to execute there."

"In the little fleet which set sail for Virginia on December 20, 1606, under Captain Christopher Newport, Captain Gosnold as second in command and a member of 'His Majesties Counsel of the First Colony in Virginia'.

The settlement of Jamestown was effected on May 24, 1607, exactly five years after the *Concord* had rounded Gay Head, "Gosnold's Hope" thus being fulfilled in Virginia instead of Buzzard's Bay.

During the first year at Jamestown many died of fevers and ill-nourishment. Their President Edward maria Wingfield wrote their plight:

"About this time (July 3, 1607), divers of our men fell sick. We missed above forty before September did see us; amongst whom was the worthy and religious gentleman Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, upon whose lief stood a great part of the good success and fortune of our government and Colony. In his sickness time, the President (viz. Wingfield) did easily foretell his owne deposing from his Command; so much differed the President and the other Councillors in managing the government of the Colony."

The great measure of Gosnold's worth is further recorded by Captain George Percy, Jamestown's early historian, in the following words:

"On the 22nd of August died Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, one of our Council. He was honourably buried, having all the ordinance in the fort shot off, with many volleys of small shot. After his death the Council could hardly agree."

So ended the life of this Pioneer, this Counselor of peace, and Founder of our English Nation, who, in struggling to settle a "fair new world", left it, a martyr.

In death he was honored as justly his due, and as we value his labors, we honor him too.

**FOOTNOTES**

1. How outstanding we probably never will be certain. Gookin and Barbour portray Gosnold as a leading figure in early English expansion of America. He certainly was a driving force in forming the first Virginia Company which led to the founding of Jamestown in 1607. Gookin to his death, claimed that Gosnold was overlooked by historians. The tragic loss of the Virginia Company records and the fact that there has yet to be found anything written by Gosnold himself describing his activities, probably led to his relative obscurity in our early history.


2. Actually a total of 32 persons, Breton relates: "...upon the sise and twentieth of March 1602, being Friday, we went from Falmouth, being in all, two and thirtie persons." See J. Breton, *A Brief and true Relation of the Discoverie of the North Part of Virginia*... (2nd ed., London: G. Bishop, 1602).

3. Both John Breton and Gabriel Archer in their eyewitness accounts of the Voyage state that the *Concord* landfall was in the early morning of 14 May. See Breton, *Relation and the Relation of Captain Gosnold's Voyage to the North Part of Virginia*... (Glasgow: *Purchas his Pilgrims*, 1625), XVIII, 302-313.

4. The question here is where was *Concord* landlocked, Provincetown, Harbor, Barnstable Harbor, or elsewhere?

5. Atop the Scargo Hill tower it is impossible to see Nantucket Sound. If Gookin is correct in his Barnstable Harbor landing, then Shootflyfing Hill is the site where one can see a portion of the Vineyard on a clear day. The editor is inclined, at this writing, to favor two possible sites - Great Hill in Chatham and Pilgrim Monument Hill in Provincetown.

6. Shephard is incorrect here. For the 14th day of May Archer writes: 'THE 14th about six in the morning, we descried land that lay north and the northerly part we called the northland, which to another rock upon the same lying twelve leagues west, that we called Savage Rock.'

7. The editor doubts this claim. The Englishmen would not have the Concord traverse the treacherous shoals of Nantucket Sound, but more likely steer the ship closer to the mainland. A more logical site for the anchorage would be off Point Gammon.

8. The unnamed point could easily have been their anchorage some six nautical miles or two leagues southwest of Gammon. The Concord sailing easterly by the Point (Gammon) then anchored, again, about one nautical mile off Bass River.

9. It seems logical to suppose that the latitude reading given here was "correct" for those times. Verrazano the Florentine explorer mentions that he found a large opening to the Great Bay at 41° 13' 40" N. (See Letter written by Giovanni Da Verrazano to his most Serene Majesty the King of France, 8th of July, 1524, the New York Historical Society Collections). Since Gosnold mentions Verrazano in his letter to his father after the 1602 Voyage and since other explorers before him such as Hayes and Gilbert refer to the Verrazano discoveries, Gosnold knew of the existence of the bay. Whether or not this was their destination is not conclusive, however. For an understanding of the probable motives of the Gosnold Voyage see W. F. Gookin and P. L. Barbour, Gosnold pp 1 - 271.

10. The question is what was Archer referring to: the coast of the mainland or the shoreline of certain islands? From Point Gammon (Gilbert's Point) the shoreline trends east and then south to Monomoy, corresponding to Archer's description.

11. The identity of these inlets could be Bass River and Swan Pond River along the Dennis-Yarmouth shore.

12. This description in Archer is one of the most difficult to ascertain because of the seemingly incomplete information given. If one considers the theory that the Concord was drifting southwesterly off the south coast of Cape Cod, Shephard is amiss in his deductions. Gookin says that the Gosnold adventurers were seeking Verrazano's Bay. Gookin believed that when the explorers entered Buzzards Bay they were satisfied, temporarily at least, in their search. Therefore, it is very possible that the Concord was somewhere off the western end of Cape Cod near present day Falmouth. From a position at sea, roughly at the eastern opening of Vineyard Sound near Hommedieu Shoal the explorers could have seen Woods Hole Passage or better still, Waquoit Bay. Either one of these openings could have been Archers Shoal Hope. It seems unlikely that Gosnold, an experienced navigator, would mistake the Vineyard to be the mainland. For Gookin's version of Gosnold's Vineyard explorations read W. F. Gookin, P. L. Barbour Gosnold, pp 108-137; also W. F. Gookin, Capawack, Alias Martha's Vineyard, D. C. H. S., 1949.

13. The fact that Nomansland does lie in the exact latitude casts some doubt on this claim.

14. Another choice for Dover Cliff, which this editor prefers, is the western part of Cuttyhunk with its high bluffs prevailing along the shoreline.

15. Now inappropriately named Buzzards Bay.

16. Jeremy Belknap, historian, first brought forward the claim for Cuttyhunk in 1798. J. Belknap, of American Biography (Boston, 1798), 11, 114-117. The editor feels that Belknap used available sources too liberally in his deductions and offers a more logical site for Elizabeth's Isle, that being Naushon. See H. C. Wilson, W. Carr, "Gosnold's Elizabeth's Isle: Cuttyhunk or Naushon?" The American Neptune, to be published first half 1972.

17. There is no evidence supporting the fact that Cuttyhunk and Naushon were joined in 1602. Based on earlier maps and charts of the Elizabeth Islands, the sand bar now extending eastward from Cuttyhunk seems to be a more recent geological feature. In fact the maps point out that the two islands could have been farther apart in 1602. See: Notes on an Early Chart of Long Island Sound and Its Approaches by Charles Kerney Townsend, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, T. C. Mendenhall Superintendent, Geographical Explorations Appendix No. 20, report for 1890. A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of New England, Containing the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay, and New Hampshire, with the Colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, published by Tobias, later in Augsburg (about 1760); Map of Cape Cod, 1795, compiled from the Best Authorities by Samuel Levi, (photo of original, property of Aptacket Trading Post, Bourne Historical Society.)


19. Or more likely: hidden

20. Shepard falls into the same pitfall as Belknap did in his Cuttyhunk theory, in presupposing he is correct in his assumptions. After all, Shepard and Belknap were not with Gosnold in 1602.

21. Usually the error was between ten and thirty minutes. For P. L. Barbour's interpretations concerning Gosnold's latitude reading see W. F. Gookin, P. L. Barbour, Gosnold pp 241-42.

22. It is difficult for the modern reader to visualize all of this trouble over a common
plant that flourishes in many parts of the Cape and Islands today. It was, however, a very valuable commodity then.

The Elizabethans accepted the ground-up mixture of sassafras roots and bark in a hot tea to help in the cure-all of many afflictions, notably the French Pox (syphilis).

Some Edgartown Houses About 1890 - Photographs

By

RICHARD G. SHUTE

Edgartown has changed over the years just as all the Island has changed. But a glance at these photographs taken about 1890 by Richard G. Shute will show that some of the old houses have changed almost beyond recognition. Others have changed hardly at all but new buildings beside them or behind them make them seem to have changed.

Henry Beetle Hough, Edith Blake and Gladys P. Reid identified these houses for the Intelligencer and we are very grateful to them. They are the three people who know Edgartown’s houses as well or better than anyone else.

The present Patrick J. Tobin house which was once the Captain John Oliver Norton place. Next the Clement Henry house which once belonged to Howard W. Spurr. The house since has been moved to become the No. 2 cottage at the Harbor View hotel. Next the Robert Hustader house. Then the Robert S. Holding house and beyond it the James Todd house which has been moved back fifteen feet from its original location.
No one walking on Morse Street today would recognize this house which has been so thoroughly altered through the years. It stands next to the bungalow at the corner of North Summer Street and was once known as the Thomas E. Norton house.

From left to right these houses on Upper North Water Street are: the Samuel W. Fleming house; back of the Townsend Morey house; the house of Irving B. Kingsford, Jr.; Mrs. Seth Wakeman’s house; the John Wesley Pease place, later the Walter S. Beatty house now being remodeled. And at the extreme right is the Harbor View hotel.

Unique in Edgartown is the former Mudgett house, now owned by Mrs. Margaret Patch. Once it was the quarters of the Animal Rescue League, and later became and was for years the Horn of Plenty Restaurant. It stands opposite the Depot Corner Service Station at the intersection of the West Tisbury Road.

This is the house on South Water Street now owned by William C. Parks. For many years it was owned by Dr. Thomas C. Cosgrove who bought it in the 1920’s. It is still often called the Cosgrove house.
This was the David Pease house, and at one time Peter Marchant had a grocery store in it. It stands at the corner of Cooke and South Water Streets and belongs to the Shire-town Inn. At one time it was the Methodist parsonage. It was first mistakenly identified as the Captain Henry Pease II house because of the ornamental railing around the roof.

This is the rear view of the Hon. Joseph Thaxter Pease house on North Water Street. The present O'Brien house now stands in what was then a vacant lot.
A good-looking team of horses and carriage by the Dr. Daniel Fisher house on Main Street.

Front and back views of what was the Dr. George B. Cornell house. It is also remembered as the Oliver Pillsbury house and the Alice Dexter house. It is now the property of Dr. James A. Wolff and stands at the corner of Pease's Point Way and Pierce Lane.

The Captain Littlefield house at the corner of Davis Lane and Summer Street. The Charlotte Coffin house is beyond it.
The winter months find the Thomas Cooke House closed due to lack of a heating system, but the reference library in constant use for research.

Following the resignation of Mrs. Philip Drew, a new genealogist has come to us in the person of Mrs. Kenneth Stoddard of Vineyard Haven, one of our life members. She has had a great deal of experience in this field, and has already begun answering inquiries on family histories, and is a very valuable addition to our staff.

In addition to the regular work performed by the Reference Librarian, and Curator, we have Mary Lee Steimel cataloguing and reassembling our files, while our editor, E. Gale Huntington, is doing a special project typing the genealogical files of Roy Norton, whose work is a continuation of Dr. Charles E. Banks' Vol. III of the *History of Martha's Vineyard*.

Research has been carried on at the high school, college, and graduate levels. With the enlarged staff, and increasing numbers of researchers, we have become more aware of the crowded conditions in the Library. Several local students have looked up information on their ancestors of colonial or whaling connections. One college student has devoted more than fifteen hours of work to studying the history of the Gay Head Indians, while another has devoted his time to Thomas Mayhew. Considerable attention has been paid to Robert Morris Copland's plans for Oak Bluffs by students from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Department of Landscape Architecture.

The most unusual research has been the Hair Project undertaken by the Department of Chemistry at the University of Michigan. This project requested assistance from historical societies in a "research study which will permit determining the extent of increase of various chemical elements such as mercury, cadmium, chromium, arsenic, etc." A representative of that department visited us to take tiny samples with permission from the donor from our "hairbook" which contains configurations of human hair, with identifying names below each design. By looking up the names in our genealogical files, it was possible for our archivist to pinpoint the approximate period of five to ten years.
in which the book had been composed, thus aiding in the analysis.

We are pleased to report that Mr. and Mrs. William J. Block
of West Tisbury performed a valuable service this fall in the
repair of one of our flax wheels. By their ingenuity and generosity,
they both repaired and paid for the repair of the wheel, which
included work on the leather bearings, making a new footman to
replace an inadequate substitute, also work on the treadle, and
bobbins. The distaff was adjusted to the wheel, and dressed with
some of our authentic flax. The flax wheel now stands in the
Thomas Cooke House available for flax-spinning demonstrations
which Mrs. Block has volunteered to do for us.

We should like to comment further on some of the accessions
which were listed in our November Intelligencer. Whereas the
listings may appear cold and factual, the gifts almost always
carry a story of human interest. For example, behind the gift
from the estate of the late Samuel Prescott Fay, there is the
heart-warming story of the donor himself. About a fortnight prior
to his death, Mr. Fay dictated and signed letters to both the
Curator and to Mrs. Waller, the caretaker of his summer residence
outside of Edgartown, specifying that he was giving the Historical
Society some of his favorite duck decoys which he had retained
to the last, along with the candle stand and slat-back chair of the
Colonial period. It seems fitting to mention Mr. Fay in grateful
remembrance and to recognize that one of his last acts, performed
with characteristic attention to detail, was with the Historical
Society in mind.

We should also point out that the quarterboard of the City of
Columbus is actually twenty feet long, with the name of the
stricken vessel in clear lettering. It now rests in the boat shed, but
we hope to have it on prominent display in the spring. It was sent
by Mr. Fonda from Nantucket to Oak Bluffs, on the Nantucket,
during one of the last summer runs between the two islands. This
quarterboard is the gift of Mr. & Mrs. Douglass C. Fonda, Jr.

Samples of the water-soaked papers in Russian, found on the
beach at Gay Head, were taken to Magda Polivanov of Oak
Bluffs for translation. They were found to be almost entirely
personal radiograms sent from a Russian fishing vessel to its
home port from near our shores. Anything else was just weather
reports, position of the ship, etc. The radiograms, originally

handwritten and initialed by the commanding officer of the ship,
were sent to families, and incoming messages were typed. Whereas
the outgoing messages were brief and written with restraint, those
received were affectionate concerned messages from wives and
parents. Almost all of them were prefaced with the appropriate
salutation in reference to the festival of Easter.

The booklet Tracing the Route of the Martha's Vineyard Rail-
road by Walter Blackwell, has now appeared in print, published
by the Engelhard Printing Company, Miami, Florida.

Although lack of space prevents us from elaborating on all our
interesting accessions, we would like to comment on the sailing
model received from Henry C. Ottiwell, formerly of Vineyard
Haven and now of Boca Raton, Florida. The little sloop, twenty-
five inches long, was made by Capt. Matthew Smith whose house
was along the waterfront south of Owen Park, Vineyard Haven. He
had a large boathouse on the beach in front of his house, in which
he constructed rowboats. As a small boy, Henry Ottiwell sailed
the sloop in the pond near the Bandstand in Oak Bluffs, and also
in Vineyard Haven Harbor.

As this issue goes to press, we are sending out annual state-
ments for dues, accompanied by a letter from our treasurer
requesting additional assistance to meet an increased budget for
the larger staff and rising costs of administration and maintenance.
It is sincerely hoped that each member will give serious thought
to becoming a sustaining member or a life member at this time.

ACCESSIONS

BOOKS

Review copy from publisher.

Serve With Gladness, by The Reverend Harry R. Butman,

History of the Hartford Convention, by Theodore Dwight,

The Thomas Lamonts in America, edited by Corliss Lamont,

The Shuttle-Craft Book of American Handweaving, and The
Mrs. Philip D. Drew, West Tisbury.

PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS:

List of goods and merchandise captured from a Spanish ship by the captain of the Dyamond (Bartholomew Gosnold), 1599. Harold C. Wilson, North Falmouth.

Old Ledger listing donors and articles given to aid families who lost homes and possessions in the Vineyard Haven fire of August 19, 1883.

Two issues of Chick’s Vineyard Haven News: November 24, 1887, February 8, 1888.

Envelope addressed to “Captain John W. Luée, Bark Laconia, Mauritius, Isle of”, 1870.

Seventeen sheets of Civil War songs. Mrs. Janet Swift, Vineyard Haven.

Book of Accounts, 1780, with birch bark cover.


ARTIFACTS:

Child’s wooden cart, with seat and four wheels. Belonged to Henry C. Otiwell who received it from his uncle, Dr. Winthrop Butler, 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Delaney, L obsterville.

Pair of woman’s shoes, dated 1848, which belonged to Emma Brooke, great grandmother of donor. Mrs. Brooke Anderson, North Tisbury.

Two coats, winter and summer, for a young girl or child. Mrs. Philip D. Drew, West Tisbury.

Ivory cane, made on a whaling voyage. Mrs. Alexander M. Orr, Edgartown.

Pair of boy’s ice skates, perfume bottle inside wooden case, and small wooden container. Mrs. Janet W. Swift, Vineyard Haven.

Sailing model made along the lines of the sloop Columbia by Capt. Matthew Smith about 75 years ago and given to the donor then. Henry C. Otiwell, Vineyard Haven.

Large key to the front door of the first post office in Edgartown which was not a private home.

Small dish, Chelsea blue and white, which belonged to Capt. Nathan Smith of Lambert’s Cove “officer in the American Revolution.”


PICTURES:


Microfilm of Master’s Journal of the Bark Isabella , of Fairhaven, Mass., kept by Thomas G. Davis, Master, on voyage to Pacific Ocean, January 1838 to June 1841. Mrs. Philip D. Drew, West Tisbury.


Photograph of Tom’s Neck Farm, Chappaquiddick, which belonged to Benjamin Pease, father of donor.

Photograph of several Edgartown people on sloop to Block Island to see Capt. Charles W. Fisher and Tisdale Pease off on a whaling voyage. Mrs. Gladys P. Reid, Edgartown.

Margaret R. Chatterton
Curator
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¢.


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


Our Enchanted Island by Marshall Shepard. An attempt to prove that Martha’s Vineyard is the Island of Shakespeare’s Tempest. Paper, 50¢.


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.


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.