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by HAROLD C. WILSON

Vineyard Haven, 1875. Excerpts From A Diary
by ELLIS MANTER

Vessels In Vineyard Haven Harbor, November 5, 1877
from Customs House Records

DCHS News
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Edgartown, Massachusetts

Gosnold At Provincetown, 1602?
by HAROLD C. WILSON

It is an accepted fact that Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, a leading figure in early English colonization of America, named Cape Cod during his voyage to the New England coast in 1602. However, the exact place to which he applied the name Cape Cod has not been satisfactorily determined to the present day.

This report will attempt to establish that Provincetown was Gosnold’s Cape Cod; and that on 25 May (Old Style 15 May) 1602, Captain Bartholomew Gosnold and some of his men went ashore at Provincetown Harbor and from their vantage point, probably from Pilgrim Monument Hill, decided to sail a southerly course down the backside of the Cape which would eventually bring them to their destination at the entrance of Buzzards Bay.

The only eyewitness accounts of Gosnold’s landing at Cape Cod are found in Gabriel Archer’s The Relation of Captain Gosnold’s Voyage To The North Part Of Virginia... and John Breton’s A Brief And True Relation Of The Discoverie Of The North Part Of Virginia...2

Archer, an associate of Gosnold, managed to squeeze his account of the landing into a nineteen-line paragraph and Breton who usually accompanied Gosnold ashore had the habit of combining descriptions of many events into a single paragraph which makes it difficult to ascertain where the Adventurers were at any particular point in their course.

In many parts of the Archer narrative, as well as in Breton, one can detect considerable running together of sentences and broken paragraphs. The editors of these works, as is suspected by some authorities, purposely clipped out portions of the manuscripts to portray a distorted picture of the actual discoveries. This seems to have been common practice in the early days of English exploration of America, considering that there was a high degree of competition amongst many trading companies.
However, much of the cloud surrounding Archer’s description of Gosnold’s landing can be lifted with some careful analysis. A breakdown of his nineteen-line report, including comments by this writer, follows:

‘The 15th day we had again sight of land, which made ahead, being as we thought an island by reason of a large sound that appeared westward between it and the main.’

In heading out to sea from his Maine landfall, the day before, in a southeasterly direction, Gosnold would have sighted Race Point the next morning. The account of the Martin Pring Voyage to New England in 1603 indicates this. When the Pring explorers found themselves in Cape Cod Bay, the chronicler writes:

‘Departing hence we bare into that great Gulf which Captain Gosnold over-shot the year before.’

Robert Salterne, the pilot on Pring’s ship, was with Gosnold in 1602 and must have had prior knowledge of the coastline. To Salterne this area would be easily recognizable, with a sound or bay partly encircled by the mainland to the west and present-day Cape Cod extending out to sea east and then north.

Archer mentioned that this land appeared, at first, to be an island. This would satisfy modern-day observations taken from their approximate position at sea—some three or four miles north-northwest off Race Point.

Taking into account the heavy editorial work done on the Archer manuscript, made ahead could have originally been written made a head. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, 1961 edition, the nautical definition of ahead is given as: ‘In a position to the front; in a direct line of one’s motion,’ etc.

This would, of course, satisfy the position of the Concord on its course near Provincetown. However, Archer had a playful habit of inserting double meanings for various place names. For example, later, he named a small islet to the north of Elizabeth’s Island, Hill’s Hap, because a man named Hill had the good fortune to find a canoe there. A few days later, he named a similar islet, Hap’s Hill, because of the possible prosperity it could symbolize.

Therefore, Archer seeing the high features of Provincetown ahead of the Concord, more than likely, interpreted exactly what he saw: a cape. The Oxford English Dictionary gives this definition for the word head: ‘A projecting point of the coast, especially when of considerable height; a cape, headland or promontory.’

‘For coming to the west end thereof we did perceive a large opening, we called it Shoal Hope. Near this cape we came to anchor in 15 fathoms where we took great store of codfish, for which we altered the name and called it Cape Cod. Here we saw sculls of herring, mackerel and other small fish in great abundance. This is a low sandy shoal, but without danger.’

After rounding the Provincetown head, the Concord anchored three or four miles to the south of present-day Long Point. From this position, the explorers could see the opening to Provincetown Harbor and the budding sandbar, that forms the hook of Provincetown. The Townsend Map of 1715-1720,4 a very accurate chart for those times, indicates that the Long Point bar was more or less awash in the late 17th century. Mr. Charles Townsend, the finder of the map, implied that sections of the chart could have been done around 1690 by a British hydrographical team. This points to the fact that the Gosnold explorers did, indeed, see a low sandy shoal there in 1602.

‘Also we came to anchor again in 16 fathoms, fair by the land in the latitude of 42 degrees.’

Desirous for a better fix on his position and since the Archer narrative had indicated, earlier, that he was short of his proposed place, Gosnold decided to go ashore and perform a short reconnaissance of the area. The Concord then proceeded to cruise closer to the shore and dropped anchor within 1000 yards of Long Point in about 97 feet of water. U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart, No. 1208 gives this depth near the Point which compliments Archer’s ‘16 fathoms.’

The latitude reading here is 42 degrees 2 minutes comparing with Archer’s in the latitude of 42 degrees. ‘This cape is well near a mile broad, and lieth northeast by east.’

Any modern observation from the Concord’s position in 1602 would have to comply with Archer’s description here. From their prior course earlier that day and from scanning the shoreline, the compass directions would give the Explorers the information needed in describing the lay of Cape Cod.

Since Archer did not go ashore on this landing, his assumption that the width of Gosnold’s Cape Cod was near a mile is reason-
The Captain went here ashore and found the ground to be full of pease, strawberries, whortleberries and etc., as then unripe, the sand also by the shore somewhat deep, the firewood there by us taken in was cypress, birch, witch-hazel and beech.

Captain Gosnold, John Brereton and three others, after a six-hour sojourn, which included a trip to one of the highest points of land in the area, were convinced that Cape Cod was an extension of a much larger peninsula extending many miles eastward from the mainland.

Later, the Concord would round Cape Cod and trend southerly to a supposed destination somewhere near the latitude of 41 degrees 40 minutes.5

A young Indian came here to the Captain, armed with his bow and arrows, and had certain plates of copper hanging from his ears; he showed a willingness to help us in our occasions.6

The fact that they met only one Indian during this visit is interesting. Daniel Gookin’s work on the Indians mentions that there were 3,000 warriors on present-day Cape Cod before 1612. The Nauset Indians, were located in nearby Eastham. These people, as part of their life style, had the habit of leaving their principal location for fishing, hunting and visits to other tribes in the area. Apparently this was the case when Gosnold landed here.

The late Warner F. Gookin and others claimed that the explorers landed not at Provincetown but elsewhere. Gookin insisted that the Concord entered Cape Cod Bay, anchored within a league off Barnstable Harbor and then a party of explorers went ashore and made their way to Shootflying Hill in Barnstable.

If we are to believe the Pring Narrative which mentioned that Gosnold had ‘overshot’ Cape Cod Bay, then Gookin’s reasoning is incorrect. Furthermore there was a large Indian population in Barnstable and a long trek from the northern shore to Shootflying Hill. A round trip of at least four miles seems illogical. Gosnold was not expected by his backers to tear his way through marsh and brush, taking popshots at Indians along the way, just to get the opportunity to verify his approximate position from a distant hill!

It is appropriate, if not revealing, in ascertaining the true location of Gosnold’s Cape Cod to conclude with William Bradford’s account of the Mayflower landfall. Bradford relates:

After-longe beating at sea they fell with the land which is called Cape Cod;...they tacked about and resolved to stand for ye southward...to find some place about Hudson’s river for their habitation. But after they had sailed ye course about halfe ye day, they fell amongst dangerous sholls and roering breakers, and they were so far intangled there with as they concerned themselves in great danger; and ye wind shrinking upon them withal, they resolved to bear up againe for the Cape, and tooke them as for God’s providence they did. and ye next day they got into ye Cape harbor where they rid in safetie. A word or two about ye way of this Cape; it was thus first named by Captaine Gosnole and his company* ano 1602, and after by Captain Smith was called Cape James; but it retains ye former name amongst seamen. Also ye point which first showed those dangerous sholls unto them, they called Point Care and Tuckers Terror; but ye French and Dutch to this day call it Malabar, by reason of those perilous sholls and ye losses they have suffered there.7

*Because yezt took much of ye fish there.

Malabar, now Monomoy Point, is easily recognizable by the Bradford word and even more so, Provincetown, the place that Captain Gosnold first named Shoal Hope and then promptly altered to Cape Cod.

NOTES

1. One of the significant features of this voyage was the more direct route used in crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Gosnold’s ship, Concord, sailed from Falmouth, England on 26 March 1602, rounded Saint Marie, the eastern-most island of the Azores, on 14 April and made landfall off the Maine coast on 14 May. This short crossing of seven weeks (the return trip took only five weeks) eliminated almost 3,000 miles. (The older route was via the Canary Islands.) Since the principal reason for these voyages was to make money, Gosnold showed that it was possible for Trading Companies to send out more expeditions to America leading to a greater profit.

2. An excellent edition of Brereton’s narrative, with notes and annotations by its editor, can be found in A Brief And True Relation Of The Discoverie Of The North Part Of Virginia...by John Brereton, London, 1602, ed., L.S. Livingston, 1903.
Archer’s narrative is found in *Purchas His Pilgrims*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 302-313.

3. *A Voyage Set Out From The City Of Bristol At The Charge Of The Chiefest Merchants And Inhabitants Of The Said City With A Small Ship And A Barke For The Discoverie Of The North Part Of Virginia In The Year 1603 Under The Command Of Mr Martin Pring*. A good reprint of this account can be found in *Forerunners And Competitors Of The Pilgrims And Puritans*, ed. by Charles Herbert Levermore, 2 Vols., Brooklyn, N.Y., 1912.


5. It has been brought forward that Gosnold was searching for ‘Verrazano Bay’ discovered by the Florentine navigator, Giovane Da Verrazzano in 1524. The entrance to this bay (Narragansett Bay) was concluded to be at 41 degrees 40 minutes and supposedly a possible passage to the Indian (Pacific) Ocean. For an explanation of this read *Bartholomew Gosnold, Discoverer And Planter*, by Warner F. Gookin and Philip L. Barbour, Archon Books, Hamden, Conn. and London, England, 1963, 271 pages.


7. Bradford’s *History Of Plymouth Plantation* from the original manuscript, printed under the direction of the Secretary of the Commonwealth by order of the General Court, Boston, Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers, 1898.

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**Vineyard Haven, 1875. Excerpts From A Diary**

by ELLIS MANTER

In the Society’s archives there is a small diary. The card index lists it only as: *Diary - unidentified - 1875*. Now the card will have to be changed for we know its author. Lynn Putnam and Martha Sprague, juniors in the Regional High School and members of Mr. Sherman Hoar’s class in Island history, are responsible for that discovery, and it was not an easy job. We hope Mr. Hoar gave them a good mark.

The girls came into the Society’s library last fall and said that they wanted to do some research. They were not entirely sure just what they wanted to do except that the research must be original and if possible valuable. After discussing several projects they decided that the mystery diary might be exactly what they wanted.

What they did was indeed valuable. They transcribed the entire diary in longhand and then typed their transcription. So now we have a typed copy of the diary as well as the original. But even more important, their research led to the discovery of the identity of the author of the diary. To make that discovery the girls had very little information to work with.

One entry in the diary states that the author’s father marked the bounds of a woodlot with stakes bearing the initials H. M. Another entry states that the author lived on Manter Hill. Then in the entry for December 7th the author says that that was his mother’s birthday and that she was fifty-five years old. The entry also states that the father had turned fifty-nine on August first.

With that to work with, the girls went to the Vital Records and found that a Henry Manter had been born August 1, 1816. That checked. Then in the Registry of Probate in the Court House they found Henry Manter’s will. So between the Vital Records, the Registry of Probate, and asking a lot of questions the mystery was finally solved.

Henry Manter’s wife had been Mary C. Luce of Chilmark. She was born December 7, 1820. Henry and Mary Manter had only two children, Henry Luce Manter and Ellis Manter. In 1875 the
older brother, Henry L., was herding sheep in California so Ellis had to be the one who wrote the diary.

Henry Manter, the father, was a retired whaleman. He died in 1879 just four years after the diary was written. Ellis supported his mother from then until her death in 1905. Perhaps that is why he never married the Loretta S. Daggett of the diary, but according to Dorris S. Hough, who remembers both of them, they were close friends all their lives.

Ellis owned and operated a shoe store in Vineyard Haven. The small shop was located diagonally across Main Street from where the Martha's Vineyard National Bank now stands. All his life he was a valued and respected member of the community. He died in 1933. The diary that he left gives us a fine boy's eye view of the Vineyard Haven of almost a hundred years ago.

Friday, January 1, 1875

Another year has passed! I am still at home in the old house on Manter Hill...Weather today pleasant but cold. Went skating down to meadow.....

Saturday, January 2, 1875

Snowed between ½ past 12 and daylight. It has rained the most part of the day today making it very unpleasant for pedestrians generally. Helped mother about the house, peeling and cutting apples for her and helping make pies, washed dishes and Henry L. wants I should come out to California.

Wednesday, January 6, 1875

A little snow on the ground today, not very cold. Father called me before 7 o'clock. I got up and made a fire. Read all afternoon in a book called "Risen From The Ranks." Loretta S. Daggett is in J. C. Daggett’s store, has been there some time.....

Tuesday, January 12, 1875

Got up early, got breakfast. Went with father up on the wood lot. He is having lots of wood cut there to sell.....

Wednesday, January 13, 1875

Was the first one (up) this morning, got breakfast. Made and fried doughnuts this forenoon. Hired (a) book and read some in it in afternoon, name "Life of Franklin." Went to Flora Myer’s theatre in hall in evening.....

Friday, January 15, 1875

Cold weather. Finished reading "Life of Franklin" commenced "Daniel Boone." Did not attend theatre but went up street in evening..... went sleighing. A. E. Jenkins furnishing the horse, Owen and I hired the sleigh costs us 10¢ each, pretty good but it was cold. .....Mother put on new Calico dress today.

Saturday, January 16, 1875

Weather much the same as it has been for 2 days past. Sawed some wood. Went sliding over to "Long Route" & "Cat Hollow" worked some about the house, went down to steam boat landing, went down to D. W. Stephens "Free Reading Room & Library" down neck got two books to read..... Went to theatre in evening "On the Trail" was played, also a farce, good actors. Retired 11 o'clock.

Tuesday, January 19, 1875

Got up and got breakfast ready. Very cold morning. Sleighing very good today. Three U. S. R. Cutters in harbor, two steamers and one sailing vessel. Dance in hall tonight. I never attend. Went up street in afternoon and evening. Read considerable today..... Ice still in harbor. Meeting every night this week in the Baptist vestery.

Thursday, January 21, 1875

Went up with W. B. Owen to Mary West’s to recite. Study Arithmetic (Mental and written) Algebra, Shell (?) history & Latin (new study) Studied in afternoon, read and studied in evening. Snowed in afternoon. Ice still in harbor. We had a letter from Henry L. today, he is in Delano, now thinks it is time I struck out for myself. I suppose he will keep writing this till I come out there and herd sheep. Quite a number of vessels in harbor tonight.

Tuesday, January 26, 1875

Studied in forenoon. Recited, made bread and cake, sawed
wood in afternoon. Worked examples in evening. Father has been in woods. Dance tonight. Study and recitations take up a good part of my time. .... Thus ends this day.

Friday, January 29, 1875

Studied. Recited. Went up to Aunt Matilda's in afternoon, cut limbs for her... snowed during night....

Tuesday, February 2, 1875

Pleasant. Lots of snow on ground. Studied and recited.... F. P. Norton lent me his boxing gloves, C. A. Clough, Jardson Leach and myself had a little sport with them. Jud and I went sliding in the evening...... came to my house and made corn balls....

Saturday, February 6, 1875

Fine day, a little cool, Father and I were in the woods all day cutting green wood....

Wednesday, February 10, 1875

Harbor completely frozen over. No mail......

Friday, February 12, 1875

Pleasant and windy. Studied in forenoon. Made a cake and helped mother. Went to G. C. Wheeler's concert in the evening. Some very good singing.... Eliza Daggett presented me a nice mince pie.....

Monday, February 15, 1875

Ice still in harbor. The steamer has not made her regular trips since the first of last week on account of ice. Quite a number of vessels in the harbor...... frozen in.

Tuesday, February 23, 1875

Some rain today..... The steamer broke up the ice in the harbor and then proceeded to Edgartown. She was not away from her wharf for two weeks, the mail and passengers being carried to Woods Hole in a packet.....

Friday, February 26, 1875

..... Susie returned from Naushon in the U. S. R. C. Active. It was windy and she was seasick. She has been there since January 20.

Friday, April 23, 1875

Pleasant. Father plowed upper garden. Declamed at school. After school in afternoon went over to cat hollow and had a game of base-ball. Neither side beat. Even score. Up street in evening. No more now.

Monday, April 26, 1875

Attended school but got late in the morning on account of a marriage in the baptist church. I blew the organ. Annie C. Look was the bride, the groom was one of Uncle Sam's officers in the Revenue Cutter Service by name of Clark. Went with Loretta to have her tooth pulled.....

Thursday, April 29, 1875

..... Planted peas in the garden below the house today. Matthew Smith grafted some trees for father in the garden above the house.

Friday, May 7, 1875

T. W. Tilton did not return today nor yesterday so there was no school. It has been very windy... two vessels run aground side of the wharf, they broke adrift. The steamer did not go to N. B. therefor there was no mail. Played ball in the afternoon with village boys and fishermen from the harbor..... Made ginger bread today. Played croquet.

Tuesday, May 11, 1875

Fine day. Pamela Butler and little girl came up from Edgartown and took tea with us..... Father planted some potatoes...... in my garden. My peas are coming up.

Monday, May 31, 1875

Pleasant. Went to school as usual but it is getting too pleasant to be confined in a school room all day and I shall be glad when it is out. Father works up on the lot considerable, hoeing, etc. No more except that I attended the marriage of Sarah G. Luce to Abraham Daggett in the Methodist Church this morning. Rev. Warren A. Luce married them in good order.
Thursday, June 10, 1875
Went to school. The weather is getting warm. Studied part of the evening. Strangers begin to come on to the island......

Friday, June 11, 1875
Went to school, spoke a piece...... Went off sailing with S.D. Bradley & F. P. Norton down the harbor. Hannah Cleveland was here today.

Thursday, June 17, 1875
Hoeing about all the forenoon. Weather good. At liberty in the afternoon. Went down to the steamboat. Nothing particular going on. Henry L. has gone to the mountains with his sheep.....

Friday, June 18, 1875
Went fishing with Mr. Gill down to Cape Poge. We each caught 9 bluefish. Had a good wind. Rather rough. It rained and I got very wet, the boat threw water considerable. Lots of Edgartown boats there. When I got home I ate my supper and went to bed.....

Monday, June 21, 1875
Went to school. It will be out Thursday and I shall be glad. Gilbert Brush caught 80 bluefish at Cape Poge, I should have liked to have been there with him.....

Thursday, June 24, 1875
School is out and I am glad. Read a composition subj. "Right and Wrong." Only one adult visitor present.

Friday, June 25, 1875
Commenced painting the "Poverty" today. Went over to the Camp Ground with J. G. Leach, did not get home until 10 P. M. Quite a number of hotels are open. The cars are running three trips daily between Edgartown and Oak Bluffs.

Saturday, June 26, 1875
Painted boat some this forenoon. Went up street with Chas. A. Clough in the evening, we got some ice cream. No more.

Thursday, July 1, 1875
Fine weather. Went fishing with Laura S. Harding in the forenoon, caught a few flat fish...... In the evening sailed over to Norris Wharf in C. A. Clough's boat and walked to the Camp Ground to attend G. C. Wheeler's concert; it was very good. Miss Lillian Norton sung very beautifully.....

Madam Nordica at a tea party given in her honor about 1900. When Ellis Manter heard her sing in 1875 she was still just Lillian Norton, a descendant of the Vineyard Nortons.

Friday, July 2, 1875
J. C. Daggett, J. H. Robinson & myself while endeavoring to put a stake down for the boat got capsized..... There is a big fire on the plains near Edgartown that has been burning all day. So ends.

Sunday, July 4, 1875
Went to meeting as usual. Celebration comes tomorrow..... There are many summer visitors here now.
Monday, July 5, 1875

..... There was a horse race at the Camp Grounds and a picnic up to Middletown. Went up street in the evening. Picked 1½ pecks of peas and sold them at 50¢ a pk. .....  

Thursday, July 8, 1875

Played baseball over to "Cat Hollow" in the afternoon. There are many summer visitors in the village now. Two steamers tie up at our wharf every night now. Picked six or seven quarts of cherries for Aunt Matilda this forenoon. A cable was laid from east chop to Falmouth Heights today. The office is at the Bluffs now, but is here in the winter.

Friday, July 9, 1875

There was a grand picnic up to Tashmoo Pond today. I was invited but did not go. Went off sailing in the afternoon. We had string beans for dinner today. Father has picked considerable and sold them besides.

Wednesday, July 14, 1875

Hoed in garden in forenoon. Went up to Tashmoo in swimming once in forenoon and once in afternoon. Went off sailing and picked some cherries toward night. Went with Chas. A. Clough and had some ice cream in the evening.

Saturday, July 24, 1875

Pleasant. Went sailing in the "Poverty" with J. Leach down the harbor in the afternoon. Hoed some towards night.....

Tuesday, July 27, 1875

Went over to Camp Ground, rowed over with three other boys this A. M. A steamer called "Plymouth Rock" with 4,000 excursionists landed at Highland Wharf..... There are many people at the Camp Ground now.

Friday, August 6, 1875

Went berrying got about six quarts huckleberries. Went off sailing in afternoon. Foggy at night. Yachts are plenty now, they come and go in the harbor constantly. Sold 5 qts. h. berrys @10¢ a qt.

Saturday, August 7, 1875

Pleasant day. Went berrying, travelled around Tashmoo Pond, got black berrys mostly..... Large fleet of vessels in harbor tonight. Sold 3 qts. blk. berrys to E. N. Daggett @ 12¢ qt.

Friday, August 10, 1875

..... Hoed beans in garden..... Quite a large fleet of yachts went around to Bluffs today. The New York Yacht Club.

Saturday, August 21, 1875

About home till towards night when I went over to Oak Bluffs, started to walk but someone gave me a ride. In the evening there was a grand illumination, that is the cottages were lighted by Chinese lantern things outside. There were beautiful fire-works also a procession of "horribles" etc. Great many people. 2 bands of music.

Wednesday, September 1, 1875

Windy day. Recd. a letter from Henry L. Just got down from the mountains, lost some sheep but well himself. Hiram Salon is here from California. S. N. Brush treated me to some ice cream this A. M. Played checkers with W. B. Owen.

Thursday, September 3, 1875

Picked beans and went beach pluming..... Went over to Lagoon Pond on the flats and sailed the "Dart."..... Helped John Dias pick up the "Poverty." H. M. Smith's store shuts up on account his father's owing Frank Brown.

Tuesday, September 7, 1875

Went to Chatham with Father & mother to the Barnstable Baptist Association.....

Saturday, September 14, 1875

Returned from Chatham..... Got acquainted with five Dennis Port girls, had a jolly time. Walked to meeting & back with 2 of them one night, 3 of them stayed where I did, went out sailing one night. All seemed sorry to separate.....
Monday, September 13, 1875

Pleasant day, moonlight evening. Split some wood for Aunt Matilda this A. M. Helped father pick shell beans. The Laura Robinson has first discharged a load of coal at the wharf, she cleared for N. York to-night.

Saturday, September 18, 1875

Very windy day. About 170 vessels in the harbor, wind NE. Went up to Chas. A. Clough's and played croquet. Went home with Loretta from the store. Theatre tonight but did not attend.

Thursday, September 23, 1875

Went up the pond, got a peck & a half of oysters. Saw Laura Harding for the first time since she has been sick. She is quite smart now. Carried Nellie Peaks and Emma Beetle off rowing. So endith this day.

Saturday, October 9, 1875

Got up before ½ past 5 and went cranberrying on Capt. Clough's bog. Picked 58 quarts, did not get home till after dark. It is hard work and we only get 2 cents a quart.

Tuesday, October 12, 1875

..... Not much going on now but cranberrying.

Monday, October 18, 1875

Went berrying, picked 78 quarts the most I ever picked before. Father with some help housed Jud's boat in Wm Cleaveland's boathouse.

Thursday, November 11, 1875

No school today on acct. of a teacher's institute. Went over to L. G. Harding's and had a game of checkers and a game of "Russian" with her..... Went down to the steamer. Very pleasant moonlight.

Saturday, December 4, 1875

Pleasant day. Went up to the head of Lagoon Pond skating with Chas. A. Clough, very good skating..... Ate my dinner and

immediately made a friendly visit to Aunt Matilda's woodpile.... Went up street in evening.

---

Ellis Manter's Shop on Main Street, Vineyard Haven. It was diagonally across from the bank.

Tuesday, December 7, 1875

Pleasant day, went to school as usual. Mother's birthday, 55 years of age. Father was 59 the first day of last August. Henry L. was 28 the 17th day of Sept. 1875.

Friday, December 10, 1875

Spoke piece in school, subj. "The Blue & the Gray"..... Chas. Clough here in evening with violin.

Friday, December 31, 1875

Declaimed at school. Rehearsed dialogue after school. Went to "Watch meeting" in Methodist Church, watched the old year out and the new year in.
Vessels In Vineyard Haven Harbor, November 5, 1877 from Customs House Records

On that day ninety-five years ago there was a gale of wind blowing out of the northwest and fifty-eight vessels came into the harbor and anchored to wait for the wind to moderate before continuing their passage. Almost as many vessels had anchored the day before when the glass stopped going down, and so there was a total fleet in the harbor of almost a hundred vessels.

Those were the days when Vineyard Haven was one of the great ports of refuge on the Atlantic coast, with ship chandlers stores where all sorts of maritime goods could be secured, blacksmith shops to repair heavy gear, grocery stores which made a practise of sending boats loaded with provisions out to the anchored fleet. There was a press boat to wire the notice of arrivals and departures to Boston and New York, a bethel boat to bring sailors ashore to sing gospel songs and receive a spiritual lift. There were pilots to see any vessels unfamiliar with the waters hereabouts safely over the shoals to the eastward or past Gay Head to the west.

Most of the vessels were coasters, from little two-masted schooners of fifty tons burden or less to big three and four masters. But vessels from overseas anchored in the harbor, too, as did whalers bound in or out of New Bedford, Fairhaven and Edgartown. The life of Vineyard Haven, which so recently had been Holmes Hole, was then very much dependent on that maritime traffic.

Following is a list of those fifty-eight vessels that anchored on that particular day, with their names, the cargo carried, the captains’ names, ports of departure and destination. For many of the vessels the place and date of building are also included. The first information is from the Customs House records in the archives of our Society. The information as to place and date of building and tonnage is from Merchant Vessels of The United States, of which unfortunately we do not have the full set.

Any other day when there was a very strong wind blowing or no wind at all would have served as well as November 5, 1877, except that in the dead of winter fewer vessels would have been carrying ice. There does seem to have been an unusually large number of vessels in ballast on that particular day. Usually every effort was made to get a paying cargo in both directions.

The Bethel boat Helen May bringing in seamen from the fleet of vessels anchored out in the harbor.

Captain W. J. L. Parker, USCG (Ret.) of Camden, Maine, who is an authority on coasting schooners, furnished us with some very valuable information to fill in gaps in the list. And we do thank him.

The photographs of the Oregon ashore on Nantucket and of the Maggie Ellen in Portland Harbor are the only two of that entire anchored fleet that we found that are suitable for reproduction.

We had hoped to obtain many more.
The schooner *Oregon* ashore at Wauwinet on Nantucket, 1885. She died there. She was loaded with granite curbing for New Bedford.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel's name, rig and official number</th>
<th>Captain's name</th>
<th>Cargo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade Wind, schooner 24513</td>
<td>Corson</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisa Birdsal, schooner 15852</td>
<td>Steelman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles P. Sticketney, schooner 4975</td>
<td>Weland</td>
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<td>N. W. Magee, schooner 18532</td>
<td>Ketchum</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. R. Weeks, schooner 105218</td>
<td>Farr</td>
<td>in ballast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mattie A. Hand, schooner 90599</td>
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<td>May McFarland, schooner 90529</td>
<td>McFarland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alfred Keen, schooner 1277</td>
<td>Keating</td>
<td>ice</td>
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<tr>
<td>James A. Potter, schooner 75342</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annie Freeman, schooner 1071</td>
<td>Rudd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight Davidson, schooner 6281</td>
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<td>Elysia A., Br. schooner</td>
<td>Pea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon, schooner</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<td>Sakeah, schooner</td>
<td>Mitchell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viola</td>
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<td>coal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mars Hill, schooner 16353</td>
<td>Bowden</td>
<td>coal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gustie Wilson, schooner 10851</td>
<td>Bland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ada Ames, schooner 1153</td>
<td>Adams</td>
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<td>George W. Jewett, schooner 85274</td>
<td>Blair</td>
<td>ice</td>
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<td>Georgia B. McFarland, schooner</td>
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<td>ice</td>
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<td>Oliver Ames, schooner 18933</td>
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<td>Julia and Martha, schooner 13317</td>
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<td>J. R. Bodwell, schooner 75650</td>
<td>Bishop</td>
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<td>Lucy Ames, schooner 15161</td>
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<td>Oliver Avery, schooner 19135</td>
<td>Gilchrist</td>
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<td>James Ponder, schooner 13732</td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>hides and wool</td>
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<td>Tennessee, schooner 24073</td>
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<td>Bangor, schooner 2177</td>
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DCHS News

The Curator welcomes the opportunity to report our progress during the first three months of 1972. At a time when many assume that our work is suspended for the winter months, much has been going on in the white concrete block building known as the Museum Library, or Reference Library, on School Street.

At the time the last issue went to press, we were sending out an appeal letter for increased financial support to sustain an additional staff member and to meet the increase in costs of general maintenance. The response was indeed heartening. As a result of this appeal, we added nine new life members, while eighty-one raised their membership status from regular to sustaining, five added their husband or wife to make a couple membership, and at least sixteen new names were added to the rolls.

In addition, during this three month period, we have received the sum of $513.00 in contributions. This is all the more significant when we mention that last year during the corresponding period contributions amounted to only $12.00.

The nine people who contributed one hundred dollars each, and are now members for life, are the following:

Mr. Bradford Church, Oak Bluffs
Mr. and Mrs. Flavel Gifford, Amherst, and West Tisbury
Mrs. Howard S. Hart, Vineyard Haven
Mrs. Charles H. Mahler, Charlestown, S. C., and Vineyard Haven
Mr. George M. Moffett, Jr., New York City, and Edgartown
Mr. Theodore E. Norton, Arlington, Virginia
Mrs. John J. Radley, Greenwich, Conn.
Mrs. William C. Reed, Strafford-Wayne, Pa.

We have a membership of 590 members as of April first. For this generous and supportive response, the Council and Staff wish to express sincere thanks.

In addition to the above, there has been a donation of fifteen hundred dollars ($15000) by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Stoddard, given in memory of Mrs. Stoddard’s mother, Mrs. Walter L. Coursen. This large donation was contributed to cover the cost of a new repository for our logbooks, many of which are presently in a safe custody in the Edgartown National Bank.

We are sorry to report the resignation of Mrs. David Rappaport, Secretary of our Society, who has served us so well for almost three years, and has endeared herself to all who have had the privilege of working with her. She plans to help as usual in our educational work with school tours, and on some of our committees.

We announce with profound sadness the passing of Mrs. Lydia Howes Drew on February 26 of this year. She had served for four years as our genealogist and had been a valued member of the Council as well. It was suggested by members of her family that the Historical Society be one of the organizations to receive memorial gifts. The donations have poured in from friends on the Island and off Island in the amount of $760.00. The Council has voted to name this the “Lydia Howes Drew Memorial Fund, for Genealogical Purposes and Research”. As a permanent fund it is open for further contributions.

Coming off the press of Martha’s Vineyard Printing Company this spring are two books:

Come - Tour With Me by Deidamia W. Osborn Bettencourt, our Reference Librarian, an illustrated guidebook of the entire museum complex, with particular attention being paid to the description of the Thomas Cooke House. Copies of this book will be on sale for fifty cents this summer in our library and in the Thomas Cooke House. This is a book which has long been needed here, as visitors ask for something which can refresh their memory of this museum long after they have left the Island.

Shipwrecks on Martha’s Vineyard by Dorothy R. Scoville, a former curator, is also being sponsored by our Society and will be available on sale in our library. Much of the material comes from the author’s personal acquaintance with the Indian residents of Gay Head, and from her long-time interest in ships and the sea.

Work continues in the stacks of the library with photographs, maps, town reports, genealogical material, all being catalogued and made more accessible for qualified researchers. Gavin Whitsett of Vineyard Haven contributed his time and skill to paint the walls of the Library basement.

The old Coast Guard lighthouse clock which hangs in the library has been completely restored. The clock works were repaired by Lester F. Beers, an accomplished clock-maker, of Petersburg, N. Y. The lettering in gold leaf was refinished by Petronio Ortiz of
Vineyard Haven, while the clock case was sanded and refinished by Mrs. B. Jean Silva, one of our Council members. The expense for the restoration of the gold leaf, and the clock case, was donated by the Reverend and Mrs. S. Read Chatterton in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Lumsden.

Letters are going out to several members of the Society seeking their services as volunteers in guiding, helping in the library, or assisting on rainy days. We would welcome assistance from any members who would like to help in this way. We plan to have some orientation sessions in May and June when the volunteers would have an opportunity to become better acquainted with the museum and with the background history of the Island. The volunteers would be permitted to choose whatever aspect of the work interested them, and would not have to be expert on the entire museum complex. We need additional help, over and above our summer staff, on Saturdays and most urgently on rainy days when many people remember the museum as a good place to entertain their guests and bring their children!

In another few weeks, we also hope to form other committees involving members of the Society: to promote membership, to advise on matters pertaining to the Thomas Cooke House, to serve on a library committee, or to lend assistance in formulating long-range plans for financing the work of the Society. Our first step in this direction is the formation of the Volunteer Auxiliary.

By the time this issue reaches your homes, our grounds will be green again, the flowers will be appearing, school children will be touring the House (and climbing the yellow-wood tree) and our summer season will be upon us. We look forward to your visits.

ACCESSIONS

BOOKS:


Hydrologic chart of Buzzard's Bay and Martha's Vineyard, enlarged photocopy of 1860 chart.

Duplicate of the map prepared and presented to the Massachusetts Landscape Survey, Harvard Graduate School of Design. H. Burton Engley.

Five deeds to land on Martha's Vineyard, all dated in the early 1800's. Mrs. Janet Swift.

Ten issues of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, and a catalogue from the Genealogical Book Company. Nelson Coon.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRINTS:

Photograph of Nellie Pease (Parnell P. Fisher); Four photographs of New Zealand and the native tribes, and five Class pictures, with persons identified, of Cottage City Grammar School and the Edgartown High School, 1904-1908. Mrs. Gladys P. Reid.

Postcard of Menemsha. Arthur P. Bailey, Roscoe, N. Y.

ARTIFACTS:

Lacquer box brought back from Japan in 1890, by Capt. Charles W. Fisher.

Tiny straw box given by Capt. Fisher to the donor. Mrs. Gladys P. Reid.

Most recently, from Mrs. Janet Swift of Vineyard Haven, came a generous gift of:

6 books
21 artifacts
137 photographs, prints, and negatives
16 papers, deeds, and ephemera; and
179 maps and charts.

Margaret R. Chatterton
Curator

Notice

Copies of Dr. Banks' History of Martha's Vineyard are getting scarce. The price of the 3 volume set will go up to $30.00 on June 15, 1972. Sets will be available to members at the current price of $25.00 until that date.
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.