

# THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

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**Capt. Francis Cottle Smith**  
**and**  
**Mutiny In The Ship *John And Edward***

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED  
BY DORIS C. STODDARD

**Eskimo Hunt For Bowhead Whales**  
**At**

**Point Hope Alaska, May 3, 1976**

BY WILLIAM GRAVES  
ASSISTANT EDITOR OF THE *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC*

**Jeremiah Pease's Diary (continued)**

**DCHS News and Accessions**  
**The Revised Bylaws Of The Society**

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 Dukes County Historical Society, Inc.  
 Edgartown, Massachusetts

Capt. Francis Cottle Smith  
 and

*Mutiny In The Ship John And Edward*

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY DORIS C. STODDARD

An important whaling journal-logbook was received by the Society in June, 1976, the generous gift of Mrs. Henry R. Adelman, great-granddaughter of Capt. Francis Cottle Smith.

Capt. Smith was a well known Edgartown whaling master. The journal covers a whaling voyage to the Indian Ocean, leaving New Bedford January 8, 1855, and returning three years and eleven months later. Capt. Smith was part owner of the ship on this voyage, his share being 8/16.

The son of Mayhew and Sarah (Cottle) Smith, Capt. Smith was born in Chilmark on March 16, 1816. Material gathered from Henry Beetle Hough's *Martha's Vineyard, Summer Resort*, Starbuck's *History of the American Whale Fishery* and *Whaling Masters* gives an interesting picture of Capt. Smith's voyages.

He went to sea at the age of sixteen, sailing in the ship *Java*. His next voyage was in the *Triton*. He then sailed as fourth mate on the *Samuel Robertson*, next as second mate on the *Heroine*. At the age of twenty-three he became a master mariner, in command of the *Heroine*, destination New Zealand. This was a voyage of a year and a half, returning with nearly 2600 bbls. of whale oil. He again sailed in 1841 as master of the *Heroine* to the Pacific Ocean, and of the ship *Navy* in 1843, to the Indian Ocean and the Northwest, and in 1845 he sailed in the ship *Metacom*, again to the Indian Ocean and the Northwest.

In 1851 he was in command of the ship *Eliza Adams* and in 1855 of the *John and Edward* bound for the Indian Ocean. After returning from this last voyage he sailed in the merchant service until 1864. He returned to whaling in command of the ship *William Thompson*, which was captured and burned by the *Shenandoah*. His final voyage was in the ship *James*, sailing in 1865 for the North Pacific. During this voyage he left the ship, probably due to ill health, and Capt. James M. Green took over

the command. Capt. Green died at sea in 1870, and the ship returned to New Bedford on June 8, 1871, commanded by Capt. Eastwood.

Capt. Smith had married Abigail J. Ripley on April 23, 1841. They lived in Edgartown and were the parents of five sons and two daughters.



Courtesy, The Whaling Museum, New Bedford, Mass.

Photograph of a watercolor by Benjamin Russell of the whaleship *John and Edward*, done in his earlier style.

Log books were usually kept by the first or second mate, and turned over to the ships' owners at the end of a voyage. When the captain kept a journal he copied the day by day entries of the logbook, adding his own comments. Capt. Smith's journal begins as follows:

A journal of a voyage on board the ship *John and Edward* of New Bedford To the Indian Ocean, commencing Jan. 8, 1855, Francis Cottle Smith, master.

Jan. 8. At 10 A M weighed anchor above [Palmer's] Island and steered out of the river. Passed the steamer *Metacomb* off the light. Weather fine with a light breeze from NW. Thus commences our voyage Praying God to guide us and bless us with prosperity and safety and in good season Return us again to those dear and near Friends that by now (leave) behind us. I Pray God to Bless my Dear Family and keep them in health and guide them in that narrow way which leadeth to everlasting life.

Tues. Jan. 9 Begins with a fresh breeze from North attended with pleasant weather. At 1 PM hove aback off Cuttuhunk for Mr. Smith (first officer) who came off in a sailboat. At 2 PM discharged the pilot and kept off SW at Light (Bank) - At 7 PM chose watches and boat crews. Strong winds from ENE course S by E midpart strong breezes from ESE with rain. Latter part the same. Ship by the wind S by E to S by W. Some of the boys seasick.

Wed. Jack McClaren off-duty sick. All hands employed in fitting boats.

On January twelfth Capt. Smith complains that he has the most inexperienced crew that he has ever sailed with. The journal continues in this vein, but the following account of his mutinous crew is most interesting.

Oct 1857. Arrived in Port Louis [Mauretius] yesterday. I heard some of my crew had sent some letters to the American Consul making bitter complaints of their usage on board and asked to be discharged. I called on the Consul and told him my business was to make some inquiries in regard to the above named letters. He very gentlemanly informed me (where) the letters were from and read some parts of them to me. Also said there was a Man of War expected here soon and should advise me to put those men who wrote the letters on board of her as they were mutineers and seemed to be determined by their writing to leave the ship and make me all the trouble they could. When I came on board I put them in irons viz Wm. Kehoe, Peter Walker, Wm. Shepperdson and George Smith. The letters were mostly a pack of falsehoods and I felt it my duty to confine them to prevent them from getting my whole ship company in a state of mutiny. I had them put in the room which was spacious and airy having just been emptied by taking

43 boxes of tobacco and a huge quantity of boxes and many things from it. Kept the scuttle off and on slats all of the time. Sunday took the irons off of them and let them wash themselves and shift their clothes, also remain on deck nearly all day. Monday took the irons off of William Kehoe and set him to his duty. Tuesday morning took some casks out of the main holdway and transferred them, William Sheppharson, George Smith and Peter Walker from the same room to the main hold between the deck and had the deck dunnaged and that covered with a tarpaulin. The above named men have been feed with the same kind of food as the rest of the crew all the time of their confinement. **Sunday Nov, 1/57** this morning had the irons taken off of Wm. Shepherdson, Peter Walker and George Smith had them wash themselves and shift their clothes and remain without being ironed I felt it my duty as command of this ship to put the above named men in irons as I was confident they were determined to make a revolt in the ship if they could possibly do so also they were mutineers and the only reason I do not have them in irons is that I cannot ship men to replace them. I did not put these men in confinement to gratify any revenge or malice I felt towards them but as I have stated before to keep my ship from being in a state of mutiny. I have talk and advised both the American Consul of Port Louis about letters he rec'd from them, which he gave me on my (chancery?) and have acted acords to the best of my judgement **Mon Nov 2** at about 2 PM I told Mr. Smith [first officer] to call Peter Walker up on deck and send him to duty. He came up but refused to do any duty put him in irons then I said to him he might be released if he would go to his duty but he positively refused to go to his duty. Put on another pair of irons and put him in a room and ordered him to be feed on bread and water At 4 PM put irons on Wm Shephardson - and George Smith again. **Tues Nov 3** at 6 AM called Peter Walker out of the hold and asked him if he would return to his duty and his answer was NO SIR. I then ordered him back again **Wednesday Nov 4** ( ) another at midnight ( ) off W at sunrise took the irons off of Wm Sheppharson and put them to deck. At 8 AM asked Peter Walker if he was ready to go to duty he said he was not he (cursed?) then ordered back to his room. Several ships in sight.

**Thurs Nov 4** joined another (pointed?) a boat that - - - overheard. Lat 20-23 Long 57-00 course W. Peter Walker in irons **Friday Nov 6** At sunset hauled off shore off St "Dennis" several ships at anchor at St "Pauls" [these ports are in the Reunion Islands, Indian Ocean] Took in the light sails at 10 AM anchored at St "Dennis" Be anchored in 20 fathoms water. I went on shore after vegetables About 3 AM ships at anchor in the roads Peter Walker in hand. **Saturday Nov 7** at 3:30 PM took on board one ton of potatoes and 7 bbls onions. At 4 weighed anchor and steered to sea NW and lightened (quarts?) weather comes SW One sail in sight. Peter Walker in irons will not go on duty Lat 21-10S Long 54-12E **Sunday Nov 8** Light airs from NE, mild, lotts fine weather. Peter Walker has not asked to be let out at work yet therefore he still remains in irons **Mon Nov 9** Lat 22-4S, Long 54-2E. Begins with fine weather and light winds from SE, course SSW at 20 minutes 7AM asked Peter Walker if he would go to his duty his answer was NO SIR without much civility. I then had a rope fastened to his irons and passed under back which was over ( ? ? ) hauling it taught enough to truss his hands over his head telling him at the same time he would be liberated as soon as he should see fit to ask me but whether then if it would be in five minutes or a longer time He remained thus till 20 minutes past 9 AM when he asked to be let to his duty and promised to do his duty like a man without giving me further trouble I had him liberated immediately and bid him go to his duty I am now short handed having but 23 men all told and the cause of it is the earlier reports and absurd falsehoods that have been spread abroad by some of my crew the principal ones are Peter Walker, Wm Shepphardson and George Smith they are all three mutineers and wish to get clear of the ship therefore have made me a deal of trouble, seem to do everything in their power to damage the voyage and do me a personal injury. I stayed at Maurelius same the ( — ) days and tempted to get some men but could not do so for the reasons which I have before stated and was finally obliged to leave. What men I had left with the exception of 3 which I shipped at M but could not get any more. Later put out, fair weather, course SSW, all sail set, Lat 22-41S Long 53-49.



The last entry in the journal was made Dec. 6, 1858; Capt. Smith reported in this entry that he had not written for several days as he had been sick.

The *John and Edward* arrived in New Bedford on Dec. 10, 1858, with 50 bbls sperm oil, 1,900 bbls whale oil. They had previously sent home 143 bbls sperm, 80 whale and 10,872 pounds of whale bone.

The *John and Edward* ended her days in 1859, when she burned at the dock.

After retiring from the sea, Capt. Smith returned to Edgartown and became sheriff. Later he was active in real estate when Cottage City (now Oak Bluffs) became an active resort area.

He died in Edgartown on Nov. 9, 1911, at the age of 95 years. During his lifetime he had been around the world three times; around Cape Horn eleven times; and seven times around the Cape of Good Hope.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sincere appreciation is given to Mr. Philip F. Purrington, Curator of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society Whaling Museum, who has kindly supplied the following information on the ship's history as well as the crew list of the 1855 voyage.

"The *John and Edward* was a handsome ship, built in 1807 in Glastonbury, Conn. She was probably used as a merchant vessel until 1828, at which time she whaled from New London, Conn. Her first whaling voyage from New Bedford was in 1841."

Ship *John & Edward of New Bedford*. Crew list, 1855 voyage.

F. C. Smith		
R. G. Smith		
Asa Smith	Chilmark	31
John G. Allen	Dartmouth	
Jack Madeira		
John Ross		
George Antone		
John G. Green	New Bedford	32
George Schmidt	Pittston	21
Jacob Weiner	Ellenton	28
Roderick Ashback		
William Kehoe	Depunter	21
Carl Meder		
Peter Walker	Manchester	22
William Shepherdson	Orithkany	24
Joseph Cassidy	Cincinnati	21
George Smith	New York	22
Manuel Sylva		
John Antone		
Frank Swaser		
John F. Stouffer	Chambersburg	25
Frederick Rogers	New York	18
John Allen	Providence	22
Henry Harrison	New York	26
John Henry Wilson	Providence	21
W. H. Hesington	Windsor	28
Warren Epps	Greenville	28
Wm. H. Staples		

January 2./55

**Eskimo Hunt For Bowhead Whales**  
**At**  
**Point Hope Alaska, May 3, 1976**

BY WILLIAM GRAVES  
Assistant Editor, *National Geographic*

*Introduction.*

There are three distinct groups of people interested in the whaling industry today. One is composed of people whose ancestors were whalers, and of historians who wish to preserve the too-little-known story of that chapter of America's development. Their concern is mainly with the past.

A second very active group is composed of the modern whalers whose huge factory ships are fast depleting the whale population throughout the world. The third interested group is the antithesis of the second: they are the conservationists whose aim is to prevent the extinction of the whale. There are differences of opinion regarding the degree to which each whale species is endangered, but there is little doubt that control is critical.

Most articles about whaling which are written today stress the need for regulations, quotas and moratoriums. *The Imperiled Whale*, by William Graves, and its companion article, *The Natural History of the Whale*, by Victor B. Sheffer, which will appear in the December issue of the *National Geographic*, are no exceptions.

For the past year, Mr. Graves has traveled to Australia, Japan, Bermuda, Southern California and Alaska to observe present day methods of whaling. He attended the 28th annual session of the International Whaling Commission in London to learn, first hand, the proposals for saving whales from extinction, and he has interviewed whalers from several nations.

One of his most interesting experiences was going in a whaleboat with some Eskimos near Point Hope, Alaska. This came about through his meeting Dr. John Bockstoe, and hearing his lecture at the National Whale Symposium at Bloomington, Indiana, where our editor, Gale Huntington, sang some of his *Songs the Whalers Sang*.

Doctor Bockstoe, curator of Ethnology at the Old Dartmouth Whaling Museum in New Bedford, is in his own words, "working

on a history of the whaling industry in the Chukchi Sea and the Arctic north of there. Every spring for a number of years, he has gone to the Bering Strait to observe, photograph and record modern Eskimo whaling. The remainder of the year he works at the Old Dartmouth and lectures at universities here and abroad, most recently at Oxford.

Mr. Graves asked if he might be included in this year's whaling expedition and the two young men agreed to meet at Point Hope the first of May. Due to the United States ban on commercial whaling, Dr. Bockstoe and Mr. Graves could not actually participate in the whaling, but they could go in the boat and witness the entire procedure. (Eskimos are permitted to capture whales for food.)

Mr. Graves, who has been coming to the Vineyard for three decades has been a family friend for many years, and no friend of ours escapes hearing something about whaling. Mr. Graves became interested, reading selected items from our whaling library and storing up tales which Capt. Poole remembers hearing from retired whalers, when he was a small boy. In gratitude for the knowledge so obtained, Mr. Graves wrote, in a little notebook which he carried with him, the story of his whaling expedition at Point Hope and airtailed it to us. I asked and was granted permission to have it printed in the *Intelligencer* because I thought members of the Historical Society would enjoy an up-to-the-minute account of Eskimo whaling.

Dorothy Cottle Poole

I arrived here four days ago with John Bockstoce, who knows these Eskimos very well from his seven or eight years visiting during the whaling season. When we arrived we learned that the whaling camps were already set up at the edge of a large lead in the ice about two miles from the village of Point Hope.

We caught a ride out at once on a skidoo, or snowmobile, with the son of one of Bockstoce's friends, Luke Koonook, who is a captain of one of about fifteen whaling crews from the village.

We arrived at Luke's camp, which is almost identical to the fourteen others, consisting of a large heated canvas tent set well back from the ice, and a boat station right on the very edge, with a platform covered with caribou and polar bear skins, where the captain and crew keep watch for whales, right beside the boat.

The boat is quite an item, carefully constructed by Luke - who is forty-eight - out of driftwood largely, with some lumber, and the whole thing tightly covered with the skins of bearded seals (*oogrook*) not walrus, which is the skin used by the Diomedé islanders.

The *umiak* in this case was twenty-one and a half feet long and can hold a crew of eight, though we were never more than seven at a time in it.

The whaling irons were simple and - according to Bockstoce - little changed from the 1860's or 1870's: one combination harpoon and darting lance, and another darting lance by itself. Each had perhaps a hundred feet of line - no more - attached to bright red spherical buoys made of rubber coated nylon.

The paddles had been fashioned of driftwood, and there was very little else in the way of equipment in the boat.

I was lucky. Bockstoce had told me that when a whale was sighted, the boat went in the water *instantly*, and that if I stayed beside it and one of the members of the crew happened to be back at the tent, I would be allowed to take his place.

This did not happen the first day, and the boat was launched several times when a whale or whales were sighted on the far side of the lead. There is no real darkness at this time, only twilight between the hours of 11 P.M. and 2 A.M., so the chase can go on around the clock.

The first few launches were unsuccessful, with the whales sounding before any of the *umiaks* could get near. I had mixed feelings about being taken along, for the paddlers seemed to go at it steadily for hours, and seemed truly worn out when the boat would finally return, unsuccessful.

The morning of the second day, around noon or a little before, bowheads were sighted coming northward up the lead (their usual direction, of course) and the boat went in. One of the crew members had gone back to the village, and my chance had come. The mate motioned me into the boat and I hopped in as it was slid down the narrow ice ramp into the water.

We chased several whales and some we got close to, but never close enough - they always sounded when we came within about ten yards of them.

Our captain, Luke Koonook, was stationed in the bow with the irons laid out on the gunwale like a bowsprit, and the mate at the stern with the steering paddle, and I in the middle thwart, as an observer.

Curiously enough, although the Eskimos spoke fluent English, and did so almost exclusively ashore, once in the boat they reverted almost entirely to Eskimo, so that one had to look sharp to understand what was going on.

On that first trip we were out for two hours and returned with nothing at about two P.M..

We had been ashore only an hour when whales were sighted again and once more we launched the boat. We chased several whales unsuccessfully, then paused beside the ice just to see what might come along.

After a time the crew started paddling down the lead and the captain suddenly spied another Eskimo half a mile away, standing on a mound of ice and looking seaward.

He passed the word, "Paddle like hell!" and they did, though I could not imagine why. As we came within about 300 yards of the Eskimo on the ice, I suddenly saw the flukes of a whale ahead of us, seemingly lobtailing in the water, as if it were playing. But then it breached and began to thrash the water, and it came to me that it must have been lanced and injured, but not mortally.

That is what turned out later to have happened. But the crew that struck it with a darting lance had neither line nor buoys,

having lost them the day before. So, having struck the whale at the edge of the ice, they had gone ashore to try to keep an eye on it, lest it go under the ice and be lost.

We came up on it and I confess to some plain old-fashioned terror as well as excitement, for it seemed a large whale (it later proved to be thirty-four feet, and about twenty-five tons) and it was lashing the water to a froth with its tail and its whole body. Luke had told me that in this water a man can survive no more than five minutes, and I thought that if the whale smashed the boat, whether he smashed us or not, we were out of luck.

Nonetheless, we moved in for Luke to get a shot, then the crew paddled frantically back out of reach of the flukes, then in again, then back out, and in once more. And suddenly Luke was up with the harpoon-darting lance and driving down hard on the spot just behind the righthand flipper. There was a moment then when we seemed about to be lifted up out of the water by the whale's flukes, but then came the muffled explosion and the whale almost instantly became motionless. It would seem that Luke had hit a vital spot.

During the entire maneuver, other boats began paddling frantically toward us from a distance, not it developed, to come to our help but to touch the whale if we killed it, so as to have a correspondingly sizable share of the meat and blubber.

When our crew was certain the whale was dead, they set up a weird sort of ululating cry across the water, and all the other crews - and even the women and bystanders a mile away on the shore - joined in.

The whale's flippers were quickly lashed together, a second harpoon was imbedded in the head, and then all fifteen or so boats ranged themselves in tandem on the line and we towed it to shore.

To make a long story short, we hauled it ashore that evening with heavy block and tackle and it was cut in on the ice, after having been marked as to relative shares with a flensing blade.

The crew that had struck it first got by far the largest share, then Luke's crew was next, and so on down the line in order of crews that arrived after it had been killed. No one goes without, for at the very bottom, there is a "village share," a number of identically sized chunks of skin and blubber that are passed around to each of some seventy households in the village.

We worked all night at the cutting in, in the twilight, and by morning everything had been hauled away but the headbone, minus the jaws.

With some ceremony the head bone was then pushed into the sea - by tradition, I was told, to let the whale return to its home so that other whales would, like it, allow themselves to be caught.

Whether it worked or not, I cannot say, but in the two days since, five more whales have been harpooned and brought in.

## Jeremiah Pease's Diary (continued)

October 1830

- 2nd. Wind SW. Very pleasant. Court rises.
- 5th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Launched the Revenue Boat.
- 6th. Wind SW. Sloop *Thomas* arrives from Boston.
- 7th. Wind NE to E. Bought a boat of Capt. Edmund Bradley for the U. S. service.
- 8th. Wind NE. Pleasant. Mary, daughter of Samuel Pent dies after a long sickness of consumption. Aged about 19 years.
- 12th. Wind SW. Sloop *Thomas* sails for South Carolina.
- 13th. Wind NE. Gail with rain. Thunders and Lightens at night.
- 14th. Wind SW. Fresh breeze. Ship *Constitution* of Nantucket arrives. 1,900 bbls. sperm oil.
- 15th. Wind SW. Two years ago this night the Light was first lighted. Rev'd J. H. Martyn held a meeting on board the ship *Planter* Capt. Charles Fisher master, bound to the Brazil Banks from Nantucket.<sup>(1)</sup>
- 19th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Went to Cape Poge in the Revenue Cutter, Capt. Mathews.<sup>(2)</sup>
- 22nd. Wind SW. Pleasant. Went to New Town.
- 23rd. Wind NW. Cool. Killed my hog. United States and British ports declared open for trade the 20th of this month.
- 26th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Ship *Hero* sails.<sup>(3)</sup>
- 31st. Wind SW. Very pleasant. Ship *Planter*, Charles Fisher master sails.

November 1830

- 2nd. Wind N to NE. Ship *Lima* arrives from Cape Horn. 40 months out. 1,450 bbls. sperm oil.
- 3rd. Wind SE. Gail with rain. Ship *Lima* begins to unload.
- 7th. Wind NE. Henry Butler's child dies. An infant.
- 8th. Wind NE. Funeral of said child. Service by Rev'd E. Kilby. Mrs. Love Norton dies ages about 70. Killed a hog.

(1) From about this time on, religious meetings were often held on whaleships bound on a voyage. That was with the captain's permission. The crew was a captive congregation.

(2) It was part of Jeremiah's duty to check the lighthouses in the area.

(3) Not to be confused with the sloop *Hero* of Edgartown. The ship was from Nantucket.

- 9th. Wind N. E. Gail Funeral of Mrs. Norton. Service by Rev'ds J. H. Martyn and a Baptist minister.
- 11th. Wind NE. Gail. Rev'ds L. Sunderland, Livisely and T. Merritt arrive from New Bedford for Nantucket. But it being stormy they do not go.
- 14th. Wind E. Rains. Ministers sail for New Bedford.
- 16th. Wind SE. Very foggy. Bartlett Stewart and John Thaxter divided the undivided land and buildings on this place.
- 20th. Wind N. Pleasant. Went to Capoge to get 2 bbls of oil for Winslow Lewis. Got the oil and put it on board Sloop *Toleration*, Capt. Wheeler.
- 21st. Wind NE. Cool. A great many vessels in port.
- 22nd. Wind SE. Gail with rain. Mrs. Sally Cleveland dies.
- 23rd. Wind NW. Clears, Then NE. Appearance of a storm. Funeral of Mrs. Cleveland. Service by Rev'd Mr. Yours at the Baptist Meeting house. Mrs. Desire, wife of John Osborn dies at 9 oclock P.M. after a long illness. Aged 38.
- 25th. Wind E. Very severe gail with very high tide.
- 26th. Wind N. Cool. Funeral of Mrs. Osborn at the Congregational Meetinghouse. Service by Rev'd J. H. Martyn. Set out for Holmes Hole. Found brig *Albion* from Sheute master on shore with a cargo of molasses. Returned at night. 1 glass broke.
- 27th. Wind N. Went to Holmes Hole. Returned at night.

December 1830

- 3rd. Wind SSW. Appearance of storm. Went to Holmes Hole and returned. A schooner arrives from Holmes Hole with a load of molasses from the brig *Albion*. The brig gets off.
- 4th. Wind W. Went to Holmes Hole to gauge the remainder of the molasses. Ship *Loan*, G. R. Marchant master arrives from Cape Horn after an absence of about three years with about 1,400 bbls. of oil.
- 5th. Wind S. Very pleasant. About this time Capt. Jethro Daggett moves to the State of New York. A very valuable citizen of this place.
- 6th. Wind E to ENE to N. A very severe gail with driving rain. About 4 oclock about 40 feet of the pier leading from



- the Light House to the shore carried away. Did not light the Light that night.
- 7th. Wind NW. Freezes a little. A schooner is discovered on the North Beach on fire. It was the schooner The men got on shore after the tide went down and went to Mr. Martin Norton's. She was loaded with lime.
- 8th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Said schooner burns up. Riffin and &c. saved.
- 9th. Wind S. Ship *Loan* commences unloading.
- 13th. Wind WNW. Very pleasant. Set out for Boston. Went from Holmes Hole. From thence to Falmouth.<sup>(1)</sup>
- 14th. Wind SW. Very pleasant. Arrived in Boston.
- 15th. Wind SE to W. Gail with rain. Remained in Boston.
- 16th. Wind W. Set out for home. Came to Falmouth. From thence in the mail boat to Holmes Hole. Then walked down. Arrived at 11 o'clock at night.
- 22nd. Wind NW. Very cold. Freezes a little in the harbour at night.
- 27th. Wind SSE. Foggy and rainy. Made out my quarterly accounts.
- 28th. Wind NW. Ship *Swift* of Nantucket arrives from Cape Horn with over 3,000 bbls of sperm oil. Elisha Dunham dies after an illness of about 12 days. He hurt himself on board the Schooner *Koret* (?) Farewell to 1830. The number of persons young and old who died in this town this year is 28.

#### January 1831

- 1st. Wind WSW. Funeral of Mr. Dunham at the Orthodox Meetinghouse.<sup>(2)</sup> Service by Rev'd J. H. Martyn.
- 4th. Wind SE. Foggy. Went to Chilmark.
- 5th. Wind SE. Gail with rain. Mr. Zachariah Pease's wife dies. Aged 80 and upwards.
- 6th. Wind NE. Severe gail with driving snow.

(1) The stagecoach for Boston ran from Falmouth. A few years earlier people going to Boston went by packet, or walked.

(2) By Orthodox Meetinghouse Jeremiah evidently means the new Congregational church which was built in 1828. The old meetinghouse in which Joseph Thaxter had preached for so many years had become associated with Unitarianism. It is not clear whether regular services were still being held there in 1831.

- 16th. Wind NE. Very severe gail with driving snow. The highest tide since the 1815 and the most severe gail<sup>(1)</sup> The snow is about 2 foot deep. Wind changes at about 10 o'clock at night to the north. The boat after damaging herself considerably breaks away from the Light House and goes on shore. Then I came off after great labour and lit the light. Then went ashore. Some of the planks near the shore are washed off.
- 18th. Wind W. Pleasant. Walked to Holmes Hole. Returned at night. The Boston cutter arrives. Cutter sails.
- 20th. Wind NW. Cloudy. John H. Pease arrives from Lisbon. He sailed in the brig *Planter* on a whaling voyage and was taken by the Portuguese<sup>(2)</sup>. The news of the death of Thomas Arey arrives. He belonged to this place and died in New Haven. Very cold at night.
- 22nd. Wind E to NW. Snows considerably. More snow on the ground than any time since 1815.
- 23rd. Wind NW. Very cold. The harbour freezes all over at night. I go to the Light House on the ice.
- 24th. Wind W. More moderate. Hauled the Revenue Boat to the shore.
- 25th. Wind NW. Jason Luce arrives with his sloop from Rhode Island. He was cast away on Gull Island and damaged his vessel to the amount of \$200. He could not get in the harbour on account of the ice.
- 26th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Engaged in clearing the road from Edgartown to Holmes Hole.
- 30th. Wind NW. Cooler. Attended the wedding of Mr. Samuel G. Vinson to Miss Harriet D. Pease.

#### February 1831

- 1st. Wind SW. Pleasant. The ice breaks up.
- 11th. Wind SW to SE to SW. Snows a little and clears. Engaged clearing the road between Edgartown and Holmes Hole.

(1) The storm of 1815 that Jeremiah refers to was probably a hurricane. At any rate it was the storm that closed Squibnocket Pond to the sea. At the time attempts were made to reopen the pond but all failed.

(2) Starbuck, *History of the American Whale Fishery* says that the Brig *Planter* was captured by Don Miguel's squadron, carried into Lisbon and condemned.

- 12th. Wind SW. Pleasant. A Remarkable eclipse of the sun. The greatest since 1806 or will be till 1856.
- 13th. Wind NW. Cold. Eliza has the headache very hard.
- 20th. Wind NW. Pleasant. Ship *John*, Capt. Carthcart arrives from Cape Horn. 700 bbls. A leaky ship was the cause of their return.
- 22nd. Wind SW. Pleasant. Boarded an East India ship.
- 25th. Wind N. Cool Boarded a West Indian schooner.
- March 1831
- 7th. Wind NW. Cloudy. Mr. Joseph Norton dies. Aged 87 years.
- 8th. Wind NW. Funeral service by Rev'd J. H. Martyn.
- 14th. Wind NW. Cold. Town Meeting for the choice of town officers. I was chosen moderator.
- 15th. Wind S. Pleasant. Surveyed a piece of land for Timothy Coffin, Esq.
- 20th. Wind NW. Cold. Boarded a brig from the West Indies.
- 21st. Wind NW to SW. Fresh breeze. Went to Holmes Hole.
- 24th. Wind SW. Rains. Thomas Coffin commences work upon my house.
- April 1831
- 1st. Wind W. Fresh Breeze. Ship *Peru* arrives from the East Cape <sup>(1)</sup>
- 3rd. Wind SE. Very pleasant. Quarterly Meeting. Present, Elder Hyde, Rev'ds Brown and Kilby.
- 4th. Wind SE. Cloudy. Town Meeting adjournment.
- 7th. Wind SW. Fresh breeze. Fast day. I got a road through S. Stewarts land.
- 9th. Wind SSW. Sloop *Thomas* C. S. Danon master arrives from South Carolina. Lydia, widow of Reuben Vinson dies of old age.
- 11th. Wind SW to NE. Rainy. Funeral of Mrs. Vinson. Service by Rev'd Mr. Emer (?) a Baptist minister. Gail at night snows about an inch.
- 15th. Wind SW. Rainy and foggy. Went to the South Beach. Men had found 3 hogsheads of rum, a box of shoes an engine and other articles. Supposed to have come from a schooner which was a line schooner between New York

- and Boston. Supposed to have been lost on the 9th inst. There was 30 persons in her. Went to pieces on Block Island. Went to New Town, set a bone in the leg of Mr. Joanthan Lumberts daughter.
- 16th. Wind SE. Rainy. Thomas Mayhew finds an engine. W. Morse finds 85½ (?) yards of calico and one of the smacks tows in part of the deck and stern on which was marked Schooner *Warrior* of New York.
- 17th. Wind SE. Rainy. Went to New Town.
- 18th. Wind NNE. Pleasant. Ship *Columbus* of Nantucket arrives from the Brazil Banks with 1,700 bbls. of oil. Brought news that the ship *Meridian* of this place was full.
- 20th. Wind SW. Pleasant. A meeting held on Ship *Loan*. Sloop *Robert*, Adam Osborn master sailed on a whaling voyage on the 19th.
- 21st. Wind W. Cloudy. Ship *Loan* hauls off into the stream.
- 23rd. Wind S. Pleasant. Went to New Town. Ship *Loan* of this place, Jason Luce master sails for Cape Horn on a whaling voyage.
- 24th. Wind NW, NE to SW. P.M. clears. Cutter *Walcott*, Capt. Matthews arrives for the first time. New.
- 26th. Wind NE to E. The masons commence laying the foundations of my house.
- 27th. Wind NE. Gail. H. Crosby digs my cellar.
- 30th. Wind NNW. Cloudy. Sloop *Hero*, Samuel Coffin master arrives from South Carolina.
- May 1831
- 1st. Wind SW. Ship *Mary Mitchell* of Nantucket arrives from Cape Horn. 2,700 bbls.
- 2nd. Wind NW to SW. Ship *Meridian* of this place, Hiram Fisher master arrives from Cape Horn full.
- 3rd. Wind W. Squally A.M. P.M. clear. Ship commences discharging.
- 4th. Wind SW. Carpenters finish framing my house.
- 5th. Wind NW to SW. Very pleasant. Visited my house.
- 8th. Wind SW. Gail. Ships *Fame* and *Barkly* arrive from the Banks.
- 11th. Wind WSW. Fresh breeze. Engaged planting corn. Sloop *Enterprise*, H. Osborn, arrives from South Carolina.

(1) The *Peru* had been whaling on the Brazil Banks.

- 12th. Wind SW. Raised the roof of my house. Capt. John Osborn dies 5 months and 8 days after his wife, of the consumption. A.E 46.
- 14th. Wind E. Funeral of Capt. Osborn at the Congregational Meetinghouse. Service by Rev'd J. H. Martyn. Supposed to have been 500 people present. He was a very valuable citizen of this place.
- 15th. Wind ESE. Foggy. Court week.
- 25th. Wind SW. Attended with Charles Butler to settling the accounts of County Treasurer.
- 26th. Wind SW. Workmen commence repairing the bridge.
- 27th. Wind SW. A man arrives from Boston with a machine to fix the bridge.
- 28th. Wind N. Very warm. Commenced driving piles.

#### June 1831

- 3rd. Wind S. Engaged in painting my house.
- 5th. Wind SW. Fresh breeze. David Henshaw, Esq. arrives to visit the Light House.
- 10th. Wind SW. Foggy. Received oil &c. for the Light House.
- 14th. Wind S. Foggy. Went to Gayhead. Found Ship *Mary Ann* <sup>(1)</sup> on shore with a cargo of oil. From the Brazil Banks.
- 15th. Wind SSE. Rains. Returned from Gayhead.
- 16th. Wind ESE. Finished driving piles. Sloop *Robert*, William Osborn master arrives from a whaling cruise with 30 bbls.
- 21st. Wind SW. Pleasant. A Quaker gentleman preaches in the old Meetinghouse.
- 29th. Wind S. Rainy. Stephen Lewis's house is raised about this time.

#### July 1831

- 3rd. Wind SW. Foggy A.M. Went to Holmes Hole to quarterly Meeting. Elder Lambert was present.
- 4th. Wind SW. Very warm. At about 9 oclock in the evening set out for Gayhead. Went as far as Ephraim Allens.

(1) Starbuck says that the *Mary Ann* belonged to Rochester. He says that she was wrecked on Gay Head. But the oil seems to have been saved.

- 5th. Wind SW. Cloudy. Went on the the Head. The English ship *Ceres* from Liverpool having been on shore loaded with salt but had got off, bound for Boston. Set out for home. Arrived 10 P.M.
- 12th. Wind SW. Very pleasant. L. E. Vinson 21 years old this day.
- 14th. Wind NE to N.Gail with steady rain. Thomas Coffin commences laying the foundation of my chimney. A child of Rev'd Mr. Dill a Baptist minister dies.
- 15th. Wind NW to SW. A.M. Cloudy. P.M. clear. Funeral of said child. Service by Rev'ds Ewers, Kilby and J. H. Martyn. Holmes Coffin dies at Nantucket on the 14th. and is brought here this day. He was apparently well in the morning and died at about 1 oclock P.M.
- 16th. Wind NE at night. Rains thunders and lightens. P.M. SW. Very pleasant. Funeral of Mr. Coffin at his house. A prayer was made by Rev'd E. Kilby.
- 17th. Wind W. Pleasant. A meeting is held by the Rev'd J. H. Martyn on board the ship *Meridian* at 6 oclock.
- 18th. Wind W. Pleasant. J. W. Pease goes to Chilmark. The ship *Meridian* of this place hauls off.
- 20th. Wind SW. Cloudy. Ship *Meridian*, Hiram Fisher master sails for Cape Horn on a whaling voyage.
- 24th. Wind S. Cloudy. The Rev'd L. B. Griffin preaches here this day Mr. Kilby being absent.
- 28th. Wind S. Foggy. Watched with Daniel Butler at night.<sup>(1)</sup>
- 29th. Wind W to SW. Went to Tarpaulin Cove in the Revenue Boat.

#### August 1831

- 2nd. Wind S. Very warm. Paid William Cook's bill against me.
- 3rd. Wind SE to W. The most violent squall of wind ever known. It blew my chimney down and took the salt works covers off. The Revenue Boat drags to the shore &c. &c.
- 4th. Wind NE to E. Engaged in repairing the Yawl Boat.

(1) This probably means that Daniel Butler was sick and Jeremiah sat with him as a religious comforter.

- 5th. Wind N. Cloudy. Engaged in getting hay from S. D. Pease's meadow &c. &c.
- 9th. Wind SW. Clears. A meeting held in the district School House on business of Town school.
- 10th. Wind SW. Carting hay. Repairing Yawl Boat.
- 12th. Wind W to WSW. Very warm. Repairing canoe.
- 13th. Wind W to WSW. Went to Chappaquiddick for the purpose of buying a cow.
- 15th. Wind SE. Warm. Assisted in raising Mr. Joseph Mayhew's house.
- 16th. Wind SE. Warm. Engaged in boarding vessels.
- 17th. Wind SW. The sun is remarkably green. <sup>(1)</sup>
- 23rd. Wind SW. Fresh breeze. The sloop *Thomas*, C. S. Snow master sails for Sandwich. Carries a considerable number to the Camp Meeting.
- 24th. Wind SW to NE. A fine shower of rain it being very dry. Miss Sophronia Stewart, daughter of Mr. William Stewart deceased, dies of fever aged about 25 years.
- 25th. Wind S. Cloudy and foggy. Funeral of Miss Stewart. Service by Rev'd Henry Marchant.
- 26th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Rains a little. J. T. Pease goes to Camp Meeting. <sup>(2)</sup>
- 27th. Wind SW. A stranger man dies on board a sloop from Frederickburg with the Southern fever.
- 28th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Funeral of said man. Service by Rev'd J. H. Martyn.
- 29th. Wind N to SW. The Sloop *Thomas* arrives from Camp Meeting. Ministers present at the meeting. Rev'ds J. Lindsay, F. Upham, F. Dane, E. Kilby, T. G. Brown, S. B. Griffin, Harris, Jennison, Cole, Steel, D. R. Bartlett, Daniel Webb, Monroe Harlow Kieth Debster Hopkins and Eldridge a Baptist.

September 1831

- 1st. Wind S. Pleasant. Ship *Baltic* comes from Nantucket to fit.
- 2nd. Wind SSE. Ship *Spartan* arrives from Cape Horn, full.

(1) What does this mean? A forest fire somewhere?

(2) The great Vineyard camp meetings had not started yet. But several camp meetings were being held on the Cape and about New Bedford.

- 3rd. Wind SW. Cloudy. Dug potatoes. Very dry.
- 4th. Wind NE to E. Cloudy A.M. P.M. clears. Boarded a brig for New York.
- 5th. Wind NE to SW. Masons commences my chimneys. Mr. Thomas Hammet dies at Quouamoeche.
- 9th. Wind SW. Rev'd Chauncey Richardson arrives from Falmouth.
- 12th. Wind N to WSW. Fresh breeze. The Masons finish my chimneys.
- 15th. Wind S. Cloudy. Cutting corn. Ship *Weymouth* comes from Nantucket to fit.
- 16th. Wind NNE. Rains. Mr. Sylvester Whelding (?) dies of the consumption at about 2 oclock, aged about 28. Rev'd Lindsey comes from Nantucket to supply the place of Rev'd E. Kilby he being gone off the Isle.
- 17th. Wind NE to N. Gail with rain. Funeral of Mr. Whelding at the orthodox Meetinghouse, by Rev'd J. H. Martyn. Rode over the plain with Br. Lindsey.
- 18th. Wind N. to NE. Ship *Baltic* hauls off. Br. Lindsey preaches.
- 19th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Surveyed a piece of land for Samuel Huxford and other at Chappaquidic for the heirs of John Osborn and others. Sailed to the swimming place <sup>(1)</sup> &c. with Br. Lindsey and others.
- 21st. Wind NE. Fresh breeze and the appearance of a storm. Engaged in drawing draft of above land.
- 22nd. Wind SE. Surveyed land at Chappequiddick. Ship *Phoenix* comes from Nantucket.
- 23rd. Wind SE. Gail. Draw a draft.
- 25th. Wind SW. Quarterly Meeting in Chilmark.
- 26th. Wind NNE to SW. Gail with rain. Clears Received a line from Boston.
- 27th. Wind WSW. Gail. Court of Common Please sets today. Engaged in lathing. Mrs. <sup>(2)</sup> Cooke dies at the poor house. Elder Lambert preaches at night.
- 29th. Wind SW. Went to Chappequidick and surveyed land. <sup>(3)</sup>

(1) The Swimming Place was where cattle were swum across Katama Bay to pasture on Chappaquiddick.

(2) Mrs. Cooke's first name may have been omitted because it was a disgrace to be in the poor house.

(3) It was just about this time that the Indians on Chappaquiddick were beginning to lose their best lands to the encroaching whites.

30th. Wind SW. Very pleasant. Court rises.

October 1831

- 1st. Wind SW. Surveyed land at Chappaquidick. <sup>(1)</sup>  
3rd. Wind SW. Ship *Weymouth* hauls off.  
4th. Wind W to E. Ship *Weymouth* sails Ship *Congress* of Nantucket arrives from the Brazil. 2,000 bbls.  
6th. Wind NE to W and cool. Mrs. Sally, wife of Mr. Daniel Smith of Chappaquidick dies of the numb palsey.  
8th. Wind S. Pleasant. Funeral of Mrs. Smith at the Congregationalist Meeting House. Service by J. H. Martyn.  
10th. Wind NE. Gail with rain. Bought a cow of H. Jernegan. The Sloop *Thomas*, C. S. Darrow and A. D. Pease sails for South Carolina.  
18th. Wind W. Surveyed land for Capt. John Morse.  
19th. Wind W. to E. Pilot boats tow in the wreck of a brig from sea at night.  
20th. 20th. Wind W. Pleasant. Painted the Revenue Boat.  
22nd. Wind S. Pleasant. Ship *Peruvian* of Nantucket arrives from Cape Horn.  
29th. Wind NNE. Cool. Surveyed land for J. O. Morse.  
30th. Wind NNE. Gail. Mr. William Vinson and Mrs. Eunice F. Norton are married by Rev'd Epaphras Kilby.  
31st. Wind S. Pleasant. Went to New Bedford.

(1) Jeremiah Pease made careful drawings of some of the Indian lands on Chappaquidick. They will be found in some of his notebooks in the archives of the Society.

## DCHS News and Accessions

With the close of the summer season, we were able to tabulate a total of 3365 visitors who took tours of the Thomas Cooke House, and as our gatehouse keeper reports, practically everyone of them commented on how much they enjoyed the museum and our other attractions. Every visitor was delighted by the quality of our artifacts and by the informal nature of the exhibits in the house. By keeping the house in a condition that almost appears lived-in, we do take a chance with security, but most of the monetarily valuable items are under glass, and it has been years since anyone has walked off with anything. Our good fortune in being able to continue the informal display of our artifacts is one indication that Martha's Vineyard has at least not yet caught up with the rest of the country's "progress."

In the last issue of the *Intelligencer*, we noted with regret the retirement of Mrs. Bettencourt, who had given the society ten years of devoted service as our librarian. In this issue, we are pleased to welcome her replacement, Mrs. Muriel Crossman, who served for many years as the head librarian at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. She is rapidly adjusting to the peculiarities of our cataloging system, and the many researchers who visit our library will find her to be most helpful.

The eighty people who attended the annual meeting on August 14 were treated to a rare performance of folk songs by Gale and Mildred Huntington. After a brief lecture about traditional songs of the sea, Mr. Huntington started the program with such numbers as "Around Cape Horn," "Dreadnaught," and "Bold Jack Donahue." Then, he and Mrs. Huntington performed several other songs including "Brave Boys," "The Boston Burglar," "Granny's Old Armchair," and "Rolling Home." Throughout the program, the audience did not hesitate to participate whenever there was a chorus to be sung.

At the business part of the meeting, the members listened to reports of the officers and approved a revised set of by-laws. Then the society reelected Mrs. Samuel Halperin secretary along with council members Dorothy Cottle Poole, John H. Montgomery, and Henry Beetle Hough. Members of the council at the next meeting



reelected Mrs. Kenneth Stoddard president, Stanley Murphy vice president, and John Osborn treasurer.

On the last Sunday of August, the society's council sponsored an open house for the members in order to give them a chance to become more familiar with the attractions of our museum. In addition to the people who volunteered to help, more than forty guests attended and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. Everyone was particularly entertained by the weaving demonstration given by Mrs. Sophie Block.

In other developments at the society, we witnessed the almost miraculous recovery of the book containing the logs of the *Narwhal* and the *Bowhead*, which had been stolen nearly eight years ago. After being sold at auction, the book was loaned by the



photograph by Alison Shaw

The visitors from Western Samoa on the Society's grounds in Edgartown. From left to right Doris C. Stoddard, president of the Dukes County Historical Society, Edith Bliss, Council member, Lady Salamasina Malietoa, sister of the head of State of Western Samoa, Mrs. Lily Malietoa wife of the head of State and Mr. Arthur Davis, representing the United States State Department during the ladies' visit to this country.

buyer to an associate, and then it could not be located. Just a few weeks ago, the buyer, Mr. Douglas Fonda of Nantucket, located the log book and hastened to return it to us. We are most grateful for his help in returning this book to its proper place on Martha's Vineyard, which was the home of captains of the *Narwhal* and the *Bowhead*, James A. Tilton and George Fred Tilton respectively. It was also a pleasure to learn recently that Sue Schaller, who worked for us last winter as a museum intern, has found a job in the museum field. She spent several weeks cataloging our glass collection, and she used this experience to land a position at the Sandwich Glass Museum.

In the most interesting event of the fall season, we acted as hosts for a visit to Martha's Vineyard by dignitaries from the nation of Western Samoa. Our distinguished visitors were Lady Salamasina Malietoa, the sister of the head of state; Mrs. Lily Malietoa, the wife of the head of state; and Mr. Arthur Davis of the State Department. On the morning of October 13, Mrs. Crossman and Mrs. Stoddard gave them a tour of the island, and after a luncheon for sixteen sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, they visited the Thomas Cooke House. In our library they did some research in an effort to find out more information about missionaries who went from this area to Samoa.

During the winter months, the library will be open from 1 to 4 on Thursday and Friday afternoons and from 10 to 12, 1 to 4 on Saturdays. We hope that many of you will drop by either to do some research or just to say hello.

Thomas E. Norton, Curator

## ACCESSIONS

August 1975 - September 1976

ARTIFACTS: 17th century ladder-back chair, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith; pressed glass dish, gift of Mrs. William Block;

steering wheel from *S. S. Uncatena*, bequest of Dorothy Austin; viola da gamba and bow made on Martha's Vineyard about 100 years ago, gift of Mrs. Wilfrid Huntington; comb owned by Mrs. Charles Fisher, gift of Gladys Pease Reid; ballot box, gift of Edgartown Woman's Club; oil paintings, *Captain Zeb Tilton* and *Josie West* by Thomas Hart Benton, bequest of artist; gold thimble, gift of Rachel Williams; power box belonging to Elijah Vincent, gift of Mrs. Gordon Baird; Campground folding chair, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas W. Mabree; two 19th century men's coats, gift of Phyllis Colman; tempera paintings on sailcloth, *Steam Whaler Belvedere*, *Cutting in a Bowhead Whale in the Arctic* and *Steam Whaler Belvedere in Winter Quarters at Herschel Island, Arctic Ocean*, by John Bertonccini, 1895, gift of Albert A. West; 19th century linen and cotton nightgowns and baby clothing, gift of Dr. Regine Stix.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES: *Some Huguenot and Related Families* by Charles Harrison Dwight and Virginia Moore Burke Dwight, gift of authors; *Yankees Under Sail*, edited by Richard Heckman, gift of Mrs. Kenneth Stoddard, bound sheet music once belonging to Desire A. Osborn, piano forte music belonging to Eliza C. O. Fisher, *New and Complete System of Universal Geography* by John Payne, 1799, gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. Jared Bliss, Jr.; *Two-hundredth Anniversary of the First Continental Congress*, gift of Gerry E. Studds; newspaper clippings from *New Bedford Mercury* and song score "Sister Louisa" by Will Hardy, gift of Gladys Pease Reid; *Reflections in Crystal Lake* by Ruth S. Nerney, gift of author; *Woman's Club Program, Edgartown, 1934-35* gift of Margaret Vincent Kelley; *Hutchins Almanack*, 1796, gift of Sinclair Hamilton; *Roster of Company K, M.V.M., 1887* and *Fall In Company K*, gift of Olive Hillman; *Martha's Vineyard Souvenir Book*, 1884, gift of Mrs. Charles Mahler.

PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS: M. S. thesis, *Economic Transition of Martha's Vineyard* by Jan Van Tassel, gift of author; contract and bills for building Mudgett House, 1894, gift of Donald Rogers; Ph.D. thesis, *Always the Sea* by Dorothy Gifford Madden, gift of author; old account book from a Vineyard store, gift of Virginia F. Murray; Jernegan genealogy, gift of William S. Jernegin; log-journal of Ship *John and Edward*, whaling voyage 1855-58,

gift of Mrs. Henry R. Adelmann; notebook about Thomas Melville Vinson and photocopies of Vinson papers, gift of Mrs. Donald M. Guiler; five pieces of correspondence of Mrs. B. T. Hillman and discharge paper of Beriah T. Hillman, 1864, gift of Olive Hillman; Special Orders to a Massachusetts Regiment at New Bern, N.C., 1863, gift of Margaret Vincent Kelley; record book of marriages and funerals kept by the Rev. John Lewis, 1884-91, and John D. King's scrapbook and autograph book, gift of Beulah T. Callaghan; account book for a Martha's Vineyard general store, 1903, gift of Phyllis Mallory.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Mayhew house fireplace, gift of Mrs. S. M. Wilson; two photos of Mudgett House, gift of Donald Rogers; six snapshots of old Vineyard subjects, gift of Barbara Phillips; tintype of a drawing of the Gayhead Lighthouse, gift of Virginia F. Murray; photo of horse car and Martha's Vineyard Street Railroad car, gift of Walter Kaufman.

Marian R. Halperin,  
Registrar

# **The Revised Bylaws Of The Society** **DUKES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

August 1976

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Article 1 – Organization**

- No change      Section 1 – The name of this Society shall be the  
                          “Dukes County Historical Society, Inc.”
- No change      Section 2 – The seal of this corporation shall be  
                          circular in form with the words: “Dukes County  
                          Historical Society Incorporated 1923” between  
                          an inner and outer circle. Within the inner circle  
                          there shall be a shield bearing the representation  
                          of three bunches of grapes, superior, and  
                          full-rigged ship bearing sinister, inferior.
- No change      Section 3 – The principal office of the Society  
                          shall be its premises on Cooke Street,  
                          Edgartown, Massachusetts, 02539.
- No change      Section 4 – The fiscal year of the Society for  
                          accounting, reports and membership shall  
                          coincide with the calendar year.
- Change from    Section 5 – The Society shall consist of all persons  
“been or shall    who have applied in writing to the Society and  
hereafter be      have paid the fee, consistent with the category  
elected. . . .”    of membership selected, for the period covered.

### **Article II - Membership**

- No change      Section 1 – Any person interested in the purpose  
                          of the Society shall be eligible to membership.
- Change: re-      Section 2 – Application for membership shall be  
place Secretary    addressed to the Society accompanied by the fee  
with Society      for that category of membership sought.

- Change: no      Section 3 -- Membership categories and  
listing of      membership dues in such categories shall be  
categories and    established by vote of the Council. All changes  
fees, add      must be approved by a majority vote of  
change      members present at the Annual Meeting of the  
provision      Society.

- Formerly 3-4    Section 4 – Honorary members shall be those on  
Eliminate      whom honorary membership is conferred by the  
former      Council for outstanding contribution to the  
Section 4      objectives of the Society and who shall have all  
                          privileges of membership including the right to  
                          vote.

### **Article III – Member Meetings**

- No change      Section 1 – The Annual Meeting of the Society  
                          shall be held on such day, hour and at such place  
                          within the County of Dukes County as shall be  
                          determined by vote of the Council.
- No change      Section 2 – Special meetings of the Society may be  
                          called by vote of the Council or by the  
                          President.
- Change:      Section 3 – Notice of the place, day and hour of  
remove as duty    each meeting, and of the purposes of each  
of Secretary      special meeting shall be sent to each member in  
and newspaper    good standing not less than seven days prior to  
announcement    the time set for the meeting.
- Change: add      Section 4 – Twenty members, not counting  
“not      members of the Council, shall constitute a  
counting. . .”    quorum at the Annual Meeting of the Society  
                          and ten members, not counting members of the  
                          Council, shall constitute a quorum at each  
                          Special meeting of the Society.

- Changes:      Section 5 – The order of business of all meetings of  
election of      the Society, unless the meeting shall otherwise  
officers      decide, shall be as follows:  
recinding 1973    1 – Minutes of the preceding meeting shall be  
by-law,      read.

- elimination of specific titles – Historian, Curator, Genealogist, Archivist; substitute “Departments”
- 2 – Report of the Treasurer shall be heard.
  - 3 – Reports of Departments shall be heard.
  - 4 – Reports of Committees shall be heard.
  - 5 – The report of the President shall be heard.
  - 6 – Unfinished business shall be disposed of.
  - 7 – The report of the Nominating Committee – at the Annual Meeting only – shall be heard. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
  - 8 – Election of Officers and Councillors by ballot – at the Annual Meeting only – shall be held.
  - 9 – New officers - at the Annual Meeting only -- will assume office.
  - 10 -- New business will be taken up.
  - 11 -- Special programs will be presented.

No change      Section 6 -- At all meetings each member present and in good standing may cast one vote.

#### Article IV – Officers

Change: conform to 1973 revision in number of Council members plus past President

Section 1 – The affairs of this Society shall be conducted by a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and a Council consisting of the aforementioned officers and nine Councillors plus the immediate past President. No person shall be eligible for election to, or tenure in, any of the preceding offices who is not a member of the Society.

Change: rescind 1973 plan of later election of all but Secretary

Section 2 – The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the Annual Meeting of the Society beginning with the 1976 Annual Meeting and shall hold office for one year from the date of their election or until their successors shall have been elected.

Change: bring up to date, 1973 revision

Section 3 – Three Councillors, to hold office for three years, shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at each Annual Meeting of the Society.

Formerly IV 3 c      Section 4 – Vacancies of any office or in the Council occurring prior to the Annual Meeting may be filled by a majority vote of the Council present at any regular or special meeting called for this purpose with written notice as specified in Article V, Section 2.

#### Article V -- The Council

Change: time of meeting, “staff members” as distinguished from “officers;” substitute “administrator” for “curator”

Section 1 – At the next regular meeting of the Council following the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the Society, the Council shall appoint staff members, paid or volunteer, to fill such positions and perform such duties as the Council deems necessary for the following year and confer appropriate titles. The Council may engage a General Counsel and other agents as it shall determine, including an administrator who may, with the approval of the Council, engage staff members both paid and volunteer.

Change: monthly instead of bimonthly. Eliminate mailing as duty of Secretary.

Section 2 – Regular meetings of the Council shall be called monthly and special meetings may be called at the request of the President or any three members of the Council. Notice of meetings shall be mailed to each member of the Council at least seven days before the date thereof.

No change      Section 3 -- Six members of the Council shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

No change      Section 4 – The Council shall have power to transact the affairs of the Society, to fix salaries and to establish rules for the authorization from time to time of expenditures and contracts.

Change: President rather than Council appoints Nominating Committee and other committees.

Section 5 – A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President at a regular meeting not less than two months prior to the call for the Annual Meeting of the Society. From time to time the President may appoint such other committees as are determined by the Council, which said committees shall continue in existence no later than the close



of the next succeeding Annual Meeting of the Society.

#### Article VI – The Duties of the Officers

No change

Section 1 -- President. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Society and the Council; shall exercise general supervision of the Society's affairs, and in case of the absence or disability of the Treasurer, shall sign all checks.

No change

Section 2 – Vice President. The Vice President in the absence or disability of the President shall have all the powers and duties of the President.

Changes: “see that” substituted for “shall keep” collection of monies deleted

Section 3 – Secretary. The Secretary shall be secretary both of the Council and of the Society, shall see that a true and accurate record of the membership of the Society with the address and current status of each member is kept; shall be the custodian of the corporate seal of the Society along with deeds, agreements, and other business papers and shall see that current and accurate records of the personnel of all offices, boards, employee positions and committees are kept.

Change: delete “transmitted to him by the Secretary”

Section 4 -- Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive all funds acquired by the Society and income from invested funds, shall keep a true and accurate record of the same and disburse all monies as directed by the Council. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies in the name of, and to the credit of, the Society in such depositories as may be designated by the Council from time to time; shall draw all checks for the transaction of the business of the Society, though such checks may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, be executed by the President as hereinbefore mentioned. The Treasurer shall have custody of the stocks, bonds and other securities of the Society unless and until the same shall be

transferred to the Invested Funds as provided in the following Article. The Treasurer shall give bond conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his duties during and at the termination of his tenure and containing such other provisions as the Council shall require. The Treasurer shall report all receipts and expenditures to the Council at each meeting.

#### Article VII – Invested Funds

No change

Section 1 -- There shall be a Reserve Fund and other Special Funds as may from time to time be established by vote of the Council.

No change

Section 2 – The Reserve Fund shall consist of monies and property received for this fund by gift, devise, bequest or appropriated to this fund by vote of the Council.

Change: was VII 2a

Section 3 – All monies received from the sale of Life Memberships shall be placed in a separate and permanent account designated Life Membership Fund and only the income, not the principal, of such fund may be expended for the general expenses of the Society.

Change: was VII 3

Section 4 – The Reserve Fund shall be entrusted to such Trust Company, Trust Department of a National Bank, Banking Institution or Corporate Trustee as shall be selected by vote of the Council and under such terms and conditions as the Council shall approve; provided that the said Trust shall be revocable in whole or in part by vote of the Council and that the Funds of the Trust be subject to withdrawal in whole or in part upon a like vote of the Council.

Change: addition

Section 5 -- The Preservation Fund shall exist for the receipt of voluntary contributions to be used upon vote of the Council to aid in the upkeep of the Society's properties.

#### Article VIII – The Budget

Change:

Section 1 -- A Finance Committee of at least



appointed by  
President  
substituted for  
elected by the  
Council  
Add members of  
Society to  
committee  
Nov. for Jan.

substitute  
Finance  
Committee for  
Pres. and Sec.

substitute  
Council  
for Pres. and Sec.

three members of the Council shall be appointed by the President to consider all matters of finance referred to said committee and shall report its findings to the Council for final action. In addition, the President may appoint members of the Society who are not members of the Council to serve as advisors without vote to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall present to a meeting of the Council to be held in November of each year a comprehensive budget for the ensuing fiscal year; giving consideration to such budget requests as may have been submitted to the Finance Committee by an officer, board or committee of the Society. An affirmative vote of three fifths (3/5) of the members of the Council present shall be required to adopt such a budget. After such adoption the Treasurer may make any expenditure therein authorized. After such adoption the Treasurer shall make expenditure for items not budgeted only when so authorized by special affirmative vote to do so by three fifths (3/5) of those present at a Council meeting.

#### Article IX – Amendments

No change

Section 1 – These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Society, such proposed amendments first having been recommended by a three fifths (3/5) vote of the entire Council and the general nature of the proposed amendment being stated in the notice of said meeting of the Society. An affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of those members present and voting shall be required for the adoption of such a proposed amendment.

The marginal notes on the left side of the pages are only for the edification of the members of the Society and are not part of the actual By-Laws.

The revised By-Laws will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

## *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¢.

*People To Remember* by Dionis Coffin Riggs. Illustrated, paper. \$4.95.

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

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

*The History of Martha's Vineyard* by Charles Edward Banks. A new edition. Indices, illustrations, three volumes. Cloth, \$30.00.

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

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

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

*An Introduction To Martha's Vineyard* by Gale Huntington. Illustrated, paper. A new edition. \$3.95.