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**The Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag:
A Political and Demographic Overview
with Historical and Cultural Bibliography**

BY
RICHARD SCAGLION

**Some Photographs Of A Earlier Gay Head
From The Archives**

Jeremiah Pease's Diary (Continued)

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Editorial note:

This is the last issue of the *Intelligencer* that Gale Huntington will bring out. Since its inception in 1959, Mr. Huntington has been editor and acting editor of the society's bulletin, with the exception of some nine issues that were edited by Dorothy Scoville.

The purpose of the *Intelligencer* as stated in the first issue is "to present brief articles dealing with the history, geology, archaeology and folklore of Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands that will be of both general and scholarly interest." Over the years we have tried to follow that purpose.

George W. Adams of the staff of the *Vineyard Gazette* has said that he will be glad to take over the post of editor and we are sure that he will do a fine job. We hope that all members of the society will give Mr. Adams all the help and support that they can.

The Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag: A Political and Demographic Overview with Historical and Cultural Bibliography

Richard Scaglion
University of Pittsburgh

The Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag, linguistically and culturally similar to the mainland Wampanoag, were a politically autonomous subculture before European contact. Similar in broad cultural outline to other Algonkian groups, island Wampanoag owed primary political allegiance to a sachem or sagamore who was the head of a local community. In theory, each local sachem owed allegiance to a more inclusive sachemship, uniting the Wampanoag into a single federation. In practice, however, the small semi-sedentary bands had little contact with one another, and the federation was not a political unit. The Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag, in fact, did not join with other Wampanoag to fight in King Philip's War in 1674.

The purpose of this paper is to briefly indicate the major sachemships of the island and the political relationships between them, estimate the approximate size of the aboriginal population of the island, and to present an historical and cultural bibliography of the Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag.

Immediately prior to English occupation of the island in 1641, there appear to have been four major sachemships in the area: one on Chappaquiddick, one at Gay Head (Aquinnah) and two on the main part of the island, one to the west (Takemmy) and one to the east (Nunnepaug). The sachemships on the main part of the island were divided into subsachemships. At the time of Mayhew's first observations (about 1642) the sachemships and subsachemships were as follows (Banks 1911 vol. 1:39-41, Speck 1928b: 115-118).

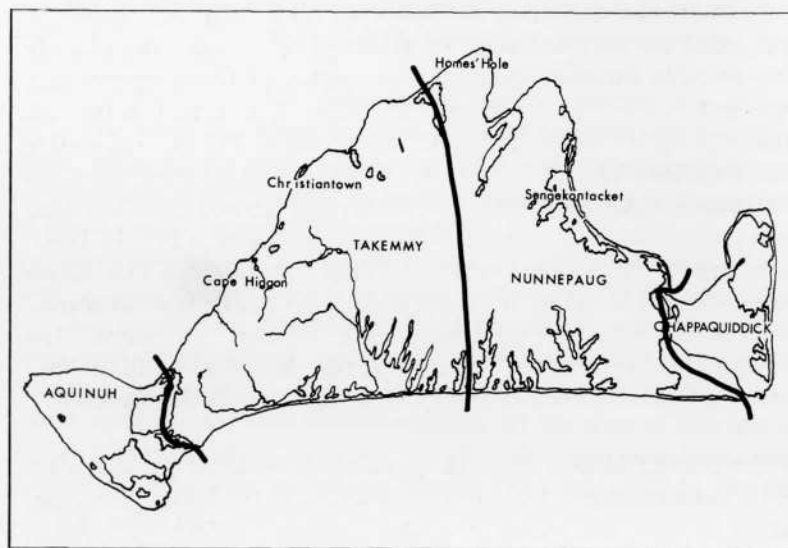
There does not appear to have been any single political authority on Martha's Vineyard to whom all four major sachems owed allegiance. The sachems Epanow and Miohqsoo are occasionally mentioned in this context, but information is lacking. It appears likely that each of the four major sachemships was relatively independent, owing at best verbal allegiance to a pan-island political figure.

Table 1

Major Sachemships and Subsachemships of the Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag, ca. 1642

SACHEMSHIP (Sachem)	SUBSACHEMSHIP (Subsachem)
I. CHAPPAQUIDDICK (Pahkepunnesso)	
II. AQUINAH (Nohtooksaet, sachem in 1675. Came from Massachusetts bay, succeeded by his son Mittark, who was supplanted by his elder brother Omphannut)	
III. TAKEMMY (Mankutquet)	
	III. A. CHRISTIANTOWN (Wannamanhut)
	III. B. CAPE HIGGON (Toohtoowee)
IV. NUNNEPAUG (Tewanticut)	
	IV. A. HOMES' HOLE (Cheesehahchamuk, succeeded by his son Ponit in 1685)
	IV. B. SENGEKONTACKET (Wampamag)

For the most part, each sachem or subsachem controlled a local settlement which was not permanent. Joselyn, in his *Account of Two Voyages into New England*, described these villages as being composed of loosely constructed wigwams which were moved about in accordance with the food supply and the seasons. This early observation is corroborated by archeological evidence. Ritchie (1968: 234) sums up the aboriginal residence pattern as being "small family or extended family groups" living a "semi-sedentary way of life." It appears likely that summer residences concentrated around coastal inlets while winter camps were located in more protected inland wooded areas. The movement of these communities was limited by the extent of the sachemships of which they were a part. These sachemships are geographically located on Figure 1.



Location of the Sachemships and Subsachemships of the Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag, ca. 1642.

Estimates of the size of the aboriginal island population are contradictory. By the time accurate censusing was accomplished, population depletion due to disease as well as significant admixture and migration to the Gay Head area had disrupted

precontact patterns. Rough estimates of the total aboriginal population of Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag are possible, however.

Permanent English settlement began on Martha's Vineyard in the 1640's, by which time the island Wampanoag population had already been somewhat reduced by disease. Gosnold (1602), Champlain (1606) and Smith (1614) had made extensive visits to aboriginal populations, and members of their crews almost undoubtedly transmitted a number of these diseases to Wampanoag populations. While Martha's Vineyard was probably not seriously affected by the plague of 1617, which decimated the Massachusetts and mainland Wampanoag populations, the appearance of smallpox in 1622 coupled with dysentery and a variety of respiratory ailments must have reduced the island population.

Thus the population in 1642 is at best a low estimate of precontact population size. Speck (1928b:110) estimates the population in 1642 as about 1500, based upon a number of early reports. S. F. Cook indicates that a number of these reports may represent only adult persons, and that the actual total was probably higher. Cook (1976: 42) cites Hare (1932:201) as stating that Mayhew had 1,800 converts in 1674, and that there were not less than 3,000 individuals when Mayhew arrived on the island (Hare 1932: 44). If we accept Hare's estimate of 3,000 in 1641, there must have been nearly 1,000 individuals in the larger sachemships, indicating a functioning community unit of several hundred, no doubt dispersed into a number of camps. The relatively high population density was permitted by the specialized coastal adaption of island Wampanoag (see Ritchie 1966a, 1966b, 1968).

There is no doubt that the population declined rapidly after 1642, disease being the primary causal agent. James Freeman, author of "A Description of Dukes County" (1807: 91), states, "In 1643, and at several other times they were visited by a general disease. This was probably the yellow fever, which was, with consumption, the disorder of which they commonly died." Since the island Wampanoag did not fight in King Philip's War, as previously noted, they did not suffer the drastic population loss of mainland Wampanoag between 1674-1676. There appears rather

to have been rapid, constant population depletion with a tendency for local group remnants to coalesce in the Gay Head area, which contained a fairly large population of Native American descent.

In 1698, Rawson and Danforth reported only 956 persons of Indian descent for the island. Again, as Cook (1976: 42) has pointed out, this may represent only adults. Speck (1928b: 110) reports their number at 313 in 1764 and 360 in 1807. Earle (1861: 15, 25, 115) indicates a population of 393 in 1859-1861.

There has been a relatively stable population of several hundred persons of Wampanoag descent (with significant racial intermixture) in the Gay Head area from the early nineteenth century to the present. At the time of incorporation of Gay Head in 1870, Richard L. Pease listed the "Indian" population in Gay Head as 227. The state census counted 125 persons in 1955, and the federal census counted 103 in 1960.

It is perhaps worth listing the family names of persons of island Wampanoag descent from various part of the island in 1859-61 (Earle 1861: 15, 25, 115):

CHAPPAQUIDDICK: Belain, Cook, Curdoody, Goodrich, Gould, Harris, Joab, Jonas, Joseph, Layton, Sams, Simpson, Summons, and Taylor.

CHRISTIAN TOWN: Anthony, Belain, deGrasse, Francis, Goodrich, Grant, James, Mingo, Peters, and Spencer.

DEEP BOTTOM: Easton, Freeman, Jackson, and Harris.

GAY HEAD: Ames, Anthony, Aucouch, Bassett, Belain, Bowyer, Brown, Cole, Cook, Cooper, Corsa, Cuff, David, Deming, Devine, Diamond, Dodge, Francis, Haskins, Henry, Holmes, Howard, Howwoswee, Jeffers, Jerard, Johnson, Jordan, Lewis, Madison, Manning, Nevers, Ockray, Peters, Powell, Randolph, Rodman, Rose, Sewell, Shepherd, Stevens, Sylvia, Thomas, Thompson, Vanderhoop, Walmsley, Weeks and Williams.

A political and demographic overview of the Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag, then, indicates a precontact population of some 3,000 individuals divided socially and politically into four major sachemships, living a semi-sedentary existence heavily dependent upon the exploitation of marine resources. The population declined rapidly after European contact, and, with the exception of Gay Head, the sachemships ceased to be political units, and even functioning communities in some cases, by the

mid-eighteenth century. Persons of mixed racial descent coalesced in the Gay Head area, which was spatially isolated from the European concentration to the east. Gay Head was incorporated as a separate town in 1870, one of the two Native American municipalities in Massachusetts, and continues as a thriving community today.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Part of the research for this paper was done during the summer of 1972 when the author was an N.D.E.A. title IV predoctoral fellow. The author would like to thank Dr. James B. Richardson III for aid in planning a broader study of Wampanoag culture, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bushnell Richardson, Jr. and Dr. and Mrs. Leslie T. Webster for their gracious hospitality; and the people of Gay Head for their help and suggestions.
2. This bibliography is certainly not exhaustive. The writer would appreciate being informed of additional sources known to readers of the *Intelligencer*.

Some Photographs Of A Earlier Gay Head From The Archives



Photograph by Chamberlain

This boat with a crew of Gay Head Indians saved eight people from the rigging of the wrecked *City of Columbus*, January 14th 1782. Three other Gay Head boats took part in the rescue efforts. The boat from Squibnocket Landing arrived too late to be of much help.



Photograph by Chamberlain

The U. S. Life Saving Station on the Gay Head Cliffs. It was built largely in response to the tragic wreck of the *City of Columbus*. In the days of sail the tower was manned twenty-four hours a day.



Photograph by Chamberlain

Cliffs and lighthouse before the life saving station was built shortly after the wreck of the *City of Columbus*.



Excursionists and oxcart at the Gay Head lighthouse in 1887. This photograph shows the old one-story keeper's house.



The lighthouse showing the later two-story keeper's house.



Photograph by Chamberlain

Excursionists at the base of the cliffs, 1888.



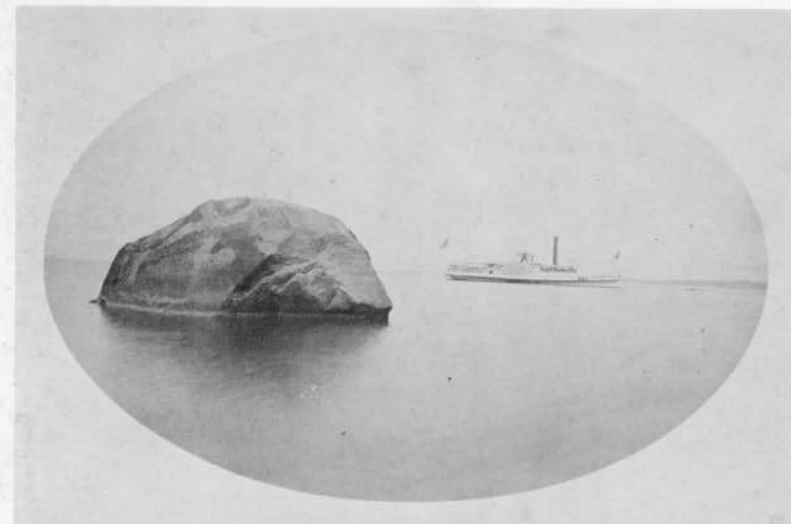
Gay Head Indians at the pavilion, 1888, with three excursionists in the ox cart.



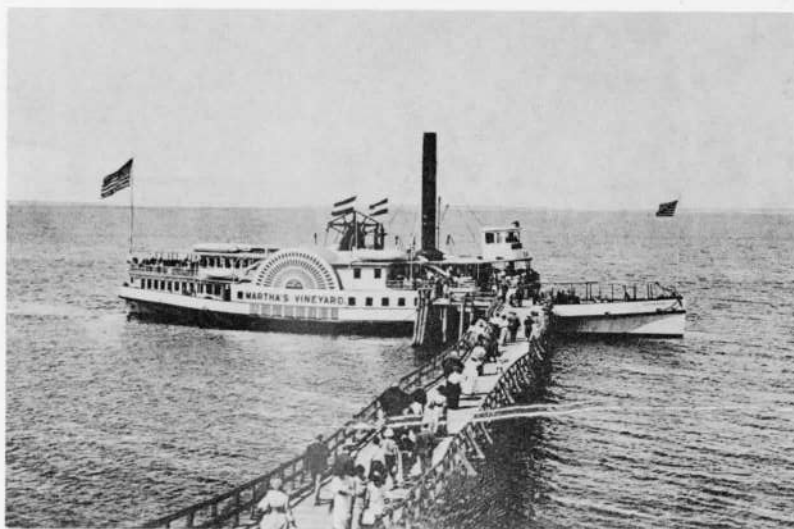
Excursionists and ox carts at the Gay Head restaurant and dance hall, often called the pavilion, 1890. Note the very unusual one-ox rig in the center of the picture. The Gay Head Indians were famous for their well trained oxen.



Photograph by Chamberlain
An excursionist party going ashore from the steamboat, 1888. The roof of the pavilion is in the background.



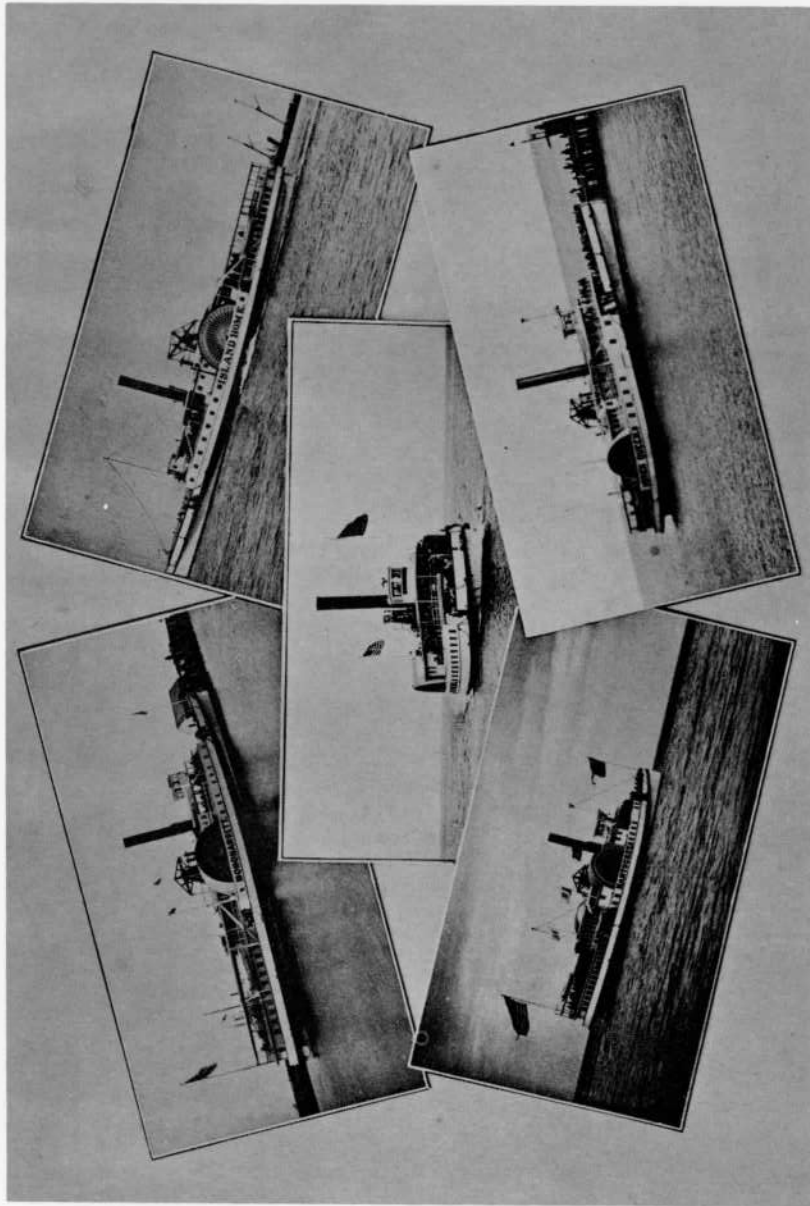
Photograph by Baldwin Coolidge
The paddle wheel steamboat *Monohansett* off the "great rock" which was near the site of the Gay Head wharf.



Photograph by Chamberlain
The paddle wheel steamboat *Martha's Vineyard* at the Gay Head wharf on an excursion.



Photograph by Chamberlain
Simon Johnson, chief of the Gay Head Indians, 1888.



Photographs by Chamberlain

Paddle wheel steamboats that all at various times made excursions to Gay Head.



The herring creek looking toward Squibnocket Pond. The creek was long a real source of income for Gay Head.

Jeremiah Pease's Diary (Continued)

August 1834.

1st. Wind SW. Warm. Went to Holmes Hole. Attended Prayer Meeting. At night 3 persons baptised by Br. Staple at East Holmes Hole who had lately professed religion.

4th. Wind SW. Revenue Cutter *Vigilant* arrives.

5th. Wind SW. Revenue Cutter *McLane* arrives. Br. Steele preaches at East Holmes Hole.

6th. Wind SW. Cutters sail.

7th. Wind SW. Ship *Loan* drops down to anchor.

9th. Wind East. Warm. Went to Christiantown after blackberries.

10th. Wind E. Ship *Loan*, Grafton Luce master and Ship *Clarkson* of Nantucket Plasket master sail for the Pacific Ocean. Went to East Holmes with Br. S. G. Vinson. Attended prayer meeting. Returned at night.

12th. Wind SW to W. Heavy thunder and sharp lightning at East Holmes Hole at night. Br. William Hinman preaches at William Butler Esq's. ⁽¹⁾

15th. Wind NE to N. Attended Meeting at East Side Holmes Hole. Br. Staples preached and baptised 4 who had lately professed religion. The season was solmn and interesting. Mr. George Fisher dies of a fever. He had lately arrived from the Pacific Ocean in the Ship *Almira*, and was published and expected to be married a few days after he died.

16th. Wind NNE. News of the death of Capt. Henry Osborn arrives, he having died last Monday on his vessel. Mr. Daniel Pease likewise dies aboard the same vessel with several others of the cholary.

17th. Wind NE. Light. Attended prayer meeting at East Side Holmes Hole with Br. J. Stewart, T. C. Baylies, Br. H. Chase and several others from the West Side of Holmes Hole.

18th. Wind NE. Schooner *Advance* arrives being the vessel aboard which several dies of the cholary as mentioned above.

21st. Wind NE to SW. Deacon Thomas Coffin's daughter dies of a fever.

(1) It was William Butler who a little later gave the land in what is now Oak Bluffs for the Camp Meeting.

23rd. Wind SW. Funderal of Miss Coffin in the Baptist Meeting House. Service by Revd's Jesse Pease, Cooms and Poor. Schooner *Advance* sails for Portland.

24th. Wind SW. Fresh breeze. Went to East Holmes Hole with Br. J. D. Pease and T. L. Baylies. Attend prayer meeting at Br. A. Davis's. Br. H. Chase was there. Had a blessed season at the 5 oclock meeting formed of a class of members.

28th. Wind NE to SW. Engaged in painting the Revenue Cutter beach (?) boat. Went to East Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting with Br. C. Worth and E. P. Norton. Returned at night.

September 1834.

1st. Wind ENE. Rains. Engaged in preparing the Revenue Boat.

2nd. Wind SW. Br. T. L. Baylies is very sick. His life is despaired of. I watched with him at night.

3rd. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended a class meeting at Br. Rufus Davis's. Had a very pleasant season. The first class meeting held there in many years. I do not know if there ever was one held there before.

4th. Wind SW. Br. Baylies remains very low. *Vigilant* sails.

6th. Wind SW. Brother Thomas L. Baylies dies this morning at about one oclock of a raging fever. This loss to me is inexpressible. From the 19th day of May to the 24 day of August we had been together attending prayer meeting at the East Side of Holmes Hole during which time a number of precious souls had been brought from the power of sin unto God. O what happy seasons we have experienced together. Oh my soul prepare to meet him in that bright happy world above. His character as a Christian is not surpassed by any one now living on this Island. He was years old and thought to be the most promising young man of his age in this town. His loss to the Church and Society is very great. God grant to sanctify (?) to the good of all who knew him. The funeral of Br. Baylies was attended this afternoon at 3 oclock by a numerous train of connections and friends, The services were performed by Br. Joel Steel and Br. Poor of the Congregational Church - the most affecting I think that I ever attended.

7th. Wind NE. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting with Br. T. Stewart and Br. H. Chase. It was a day never to be forgotten by me. The loss of Br. Baylies was most sensibly

felt. It was a day of weeping and mourning. Return at night. Rains at night. Ship *Alexander* of Nantucket arrives from the Pacific.

14th. Wind SW to W. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Br. William P. Chadwick went with me. Attended prayer meeting. Br. H. Chase was there also. Had a very pleasant season. Miss Sarah Davis experiences religion after having been a long time serious. She was happy in her mind during the evening meeting. She was home when the change took place in her mind. It was about 5 o'clock P.M. when she first believed in the blessed Saviour. Returned at night.

15th. Wind SW. Pleasant weather. Engaged in hauling up the Revenue Boat, cleaning her &c.

16th. Wind E, calm to SW. Engaged painting the Revenue boat.

18th. Wind SW to S. Raining. Foggy. Sister Gibbs from Nantucket visits us having come from Camp Meeting. ⁽¹⁾

20th. Wind S. Foggy. Went to Holmes Hole on business relating to the Custom House.

21th. Wind SE. Sister Gibbs goes home. Attended meeting at East Holmes Hole with Br. J. D. Pease and Br. Chase from Holmes Hole. Miss Mary Norton embraces religion. Returned at night.

26th. Wind S. Went to Chilmark with Br. R. L. Pease. ⁽²⁾

29th. Wind NNW. Cool. Fresh breeze. Court of Common Pleas sits. Engaged at the Custom House.

30th. Wind SSW. Went to Chilmark with Br. S. G. Vinson. Attended meeting at the Methodist Meetinghouse. Br. Crandon preached. Had a very pleasant and engaged meeting. Left Br. Vinson in Tisbury where he is building a house.

October 1834.

1st. Wind S. Rains a little. P. M. stormy at night. Could not attend meeting of class at East Side Holmes Hole on account of the weather - or did not. Engaged at the Custom House.

(1) This must have been a camp meeting on the continent - as Jeremiah would say - for the Vineyard Camp Meeting at Wesleyan Grove near Squash Meadow Pond did not begin until the following year. But all the religious activity among the Methodists was certainly building up to it.

(2) This was Richard L. Pease the Vineyard historian and genealogist on whom Dr. Banks leaned so strongly in writing his *History of Martha's Vineyard*.

2nd. Wind SW. Pleasant. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. W. P. Chadwick. Attended class meeting. Returned at night. Ariel Norton's wife dies of consumption.

3rd. Wind SW. Pleasant. Engaged at the Custom House.

8th. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended class meeting. Capt. J. O. Morse went with me. I returned. He stayed.

10th. Wind WNW. Clear. Gale. P. M. Pleasant. Attended a meeting with Brs. S. M. Coffin, Chase Pease, T. Stewart, J. D. Pease and Sister Velina Baylies at the new school house near Ichabod Norton Esq's dwelling house. The most of the brethren and sisters and young converts from East Side Holmes Hole attended. It was an interesting season. Returned after meeting.

12th. Wind SSW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting. Br. Freeman Sherman of Nantucket was there. The Light Vessel stationed near Tuckanuck Shoal parted her chain on the 10th Inst. and came into the harbour this day.

14th. Wind NNW. Attended prayer meeting at widow Norton's near the new school with Br. Sherman and Br. Chadwick. Returned at night.

15th. Wind SSW. Br. Sherman returned to Nantucket. Attended a class meeting at East Side Holmes Hole with Br. John Baylies. Returned at night. Revenue Cutter *Taney* arrives.

17th. Wind S. Revenue Cutter *Taney* sails. Engaged in surveying land at Tisbury for Ellis Skiff.

18th. Wind SSW. Engaged as above. Capt. Howland comes from New Bedford and repairs the lamps in the Light House.

19th. Wind S. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. Chadwick. Attended prayer meeting. Had a very pleasant season. 3 entail a hope today. Returned at night. Rains at night.

21st. Wind NW. Engaged surveying land for E Skiff at Tisbury

26th. Wind ESE. Rains. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Br. J. Steel preaches. I returned at night. Gail and rain at night.

27th. Wind NNW. Ship *Meridian*, H. Fisher master drops down to the outer harbour being ready for sea.

29th. Wind NNW. Attended Class Meeting at the East Side Holmes Hole, with Br. J. D. Pease. Returned at night.

30th. Wind NE. Ship *Planter* sails for the Pacific Ocean. Joseph Thaxter Pease is employed by J. A. Parker, Esq. to stay on board the ship *Swift* of Nantucket she being conveyed to him on account of a debt of her owners.

November 1834

4th. Wind SW. Ship *Meridian* sails from the Pacific Ocean, Hiram Fisher master. The Revenue Cutter *Vigilant*, Lieutenant Commander Tracy goes out with the Light Vessel to her moorings. The Collector goes with him. Cutter returns at 4 oclock P.M.

5th. Wind NE. Rainy. Engaged surveying land for Capt. Charles Smith and others. Rains at night.

7th. Wind NNW. Revenue Cutter *Vigilant* sails. Went to Widow Norton's with Brs. J. D. Pease, N. Jernegan, J. Steel and others. Attended prayer meeting. Returned at 10 P.M.

8th. Wind NNW. Pleasant. Boarded Schooner *Primrose* of Halifax - papers expired. Revenue Cutter *McLane* arrived, Lieutenant Commander Sturgis.

9th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Attended prayer meeting at East Side Holmes Hole with Br. W. P. Chadwick, Br. Chase of the West Side Holmes Hole, Br. Thomas West of Andover, and Br. T. Stewart. Returned at night.

10th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Town Meeting for the choice of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Senator, Representative to Congress and Representatives to the General Court. Simon Daggett and Leavitt Thaxter are elected Representatives. This is the first year that 2 Representatives were ever elected from this town.⁽¹⁾

12th. Wind SW. Revenue Cutter *McLane*, Lieutenant Commander Sturgis sails on a cruise to visit the beacon at Bass River, the buoys &c. with the Collector. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class meeting with Br. Nathan Jernegan. Returned at night.

14th. Wind SSW. Fresh breeze. Revenue Cutter *McLane* arrives a 3 oclock P.M. from Hyannis. Thick cloudy weather.

16th. Wind ENE. Ship *Richard Mitchell* arrives from the Pacific Ocean. In boarding her I carried away the Revenue Boat's mainmast. The ship's bows being on the ground and the tide running very hard she suddenly came off just as I was running alongside. The ship dropped astern which brought the boat under her bows. The mainmast struck the ship's jibboom and broke. This is the first spar of any kind ever carried away in her since she was built which was in the year 1827.

(1) So with a representative each from Chilmark and Tisbury that means that Dukes County then had four representatives in the General Court.

20th. Wind NNW. Went to New Bedford.

21st. Wind SSW. Light. Pleasant. Went from New Bedford to Newport. Arrived at 1 oclock. Attended to my business and set out for New Bedford. Stopped at Lauton's Tavern in Tiverton at night.

22nd. Wind SE. Set out early in the morning for New Bedford. Arrived at about 11 oclock A.M. Finished my business there.

26th. Wind WNW. Painted the Revenue Boat. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Returned at night.

27th. Wind NW. Cool. Thanksgiving day is called.

28th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Engaged in digging a well for sister Jedidah Pease.

30th. Wind WSW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting with Br. J. G. Vinson. Returned at night.

December 1834

1st. Wind SW. Light. Engaged in surveying land for James Beetle and others at East Side Holmes Hole preparitory to the division of land improved by Capt. William Beetle. Grafton Norton goes with me. Thomas Norton meets us there. Stayed all night. Rev'd Jesse Pease preaches at widow Polly Davis'. Attended the meeting. Returned next morning.

2nd. Wind SSW. Light. Rainy. Engaged in surveying land by request of L. Thaxter, Esq. being land improved by Peter Coffin. Gale at night. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting. Returned at night.

3rd. Wind SW. Light. Engaged in surveying land for James Beetle and others at East Side Holmes Hole. Stayed all night.

4th. Wind SSW. Light. Engaged as above. Returned at night.

10th. Wind W. Pleasant for the season. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended class meeting.

18th. Wind E to ESE. Light good weather. Mr. Bartemus Luce dies at Chilmark. Capt. Thomas Bradley's store takes fire and destroys about \$400 to 1,000 worth of property. But it is fortunately put out without other damage, 4 Days meeting. Attended meeting this afternoon. Preachers present, Brs. D. Webb, J. Steel, Mr. Staples, Grandon.

20th. Wind N to NE. Mr. Matthew Mayhew dies at about 6 oclock this morning aged about 69. His corps is brought up from Cape Poge this afternoon.

21st. Wind NNW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting with Brs. T. Stewart and W. P. C. Returned at night.

January 1835.

1st. Wind NNW. Very cold. Ship *Spartan* arrives from the Pacific.

4th. Wind N. Cold. Some ice makes in the harbour at night.

5th. Wind W. Light. 30 or 40 sail of vessels sail this day for Boston and other eastern ports. The wind changes at night to NE and blows a gale. Some of the fleet return.

6th. Wind NE Gale. Some snow. 20 vessels arrive here. The Schooner *Hudson*, Capt. Shearwood, castaway on Cape Poge this morning. Part of the crew got on shore much beat out. Some badly frozen one of which dies soon after reaching the Light House. The Capt. and 2 passengers remain on board all night. The vessel being full of water, the gale continuing and very cold the passengers freeze to death at night.

7th. Wind NE. Gale. The crew of the schooner succeed in getting the Capt. on shore. The deck load of the schooner washes off and is rolled up the beach today by the men that went from town to their assistance. The schooner was from New York bound for Boston, she had been part way over the shoals and was returning when cast away.

8th. Wind N. Cold.. Went to Holmes Hole. Mr. Timothy Pease, Jr. died on the 7th, wounded by the breaking of a brig's trysail boom. He was a very respected young man aged 33 years.

9th. Wind N. Moderate. Funeral of Peter Sefeen of Halifax, Edward Danly of Boston and Pearson Newell of Boston or New York. All the corpses were carried to the Congregational Meetinghouse. Service by Rev'ds. Joel Steel and Mr. Poor. 2 schooners arrive having sailed from here the day before the storm. The harbour is filled up with ice a half mile below the Light House.

12th. Wind N to E. Very light and calm. Thaws all day and for six nights past there has been a white frost but no southerly wind.

13th. Wind SW. Vessels bound eastward sail. They are enabled with the light wind to force their way through the ice which goes out at noon or most of it. Br. Lot Norton and part of his family

sail at 10 oclock for Cape Poge he having received the appointment of Light Keeper on the 9th, but could not get there conveniently on account of the ice until today. He commences this afternoon.

14th. Wind SE. Storm. Rains. The ice breaks up and goes out of the harbour during the day and night except some above the point and a little that stops in the narrows. Mr. Ira Warren delivers an excellent address before the Dukes County Temperance Society.

17th. Wind W. Fresh breeze. Ship *Catherine* of Nantucket, Capt. Chase arrives from the Pacific Ocean.

20th. Wind W. Light. Brig *Jacob*, Eddy master arrives from Trinidad and Cuba. Seized some molasses &c.

25th. Wind S to SE. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. William Jernegan, Jr. Attended prayer meetings. Returned at night. Rains during the night. Storm.

26th. Wind SW. Foggy. Schooner *Hudson* which was castaway on Cape Poge is got off.

28th. Wind SE to SW. Rainy and foggy. Br. Uriah Morse dies at about ½ past 11 oclock A.M. having been hurt by falling upon a pile of stones. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class meeting. Returned at night.

29th. Wind NNW. Clear. Pleasant. Funeral of Br. Morse was attended at the Methodist Meeting house. Service by Rev'd Joel Steel and Rev'd Br. Poor. It was a solemn scene.

February 1835.

2nd. Wind WNW. Attended prayer meeting at widow R. Norton's Br. M. Spatle preached.

13th. Wind SSW. Ice goes out. Prayer meeting at Br. N. Jernegan's this evening.

16th. Wind NNE. The Collector goes to New Bedford in the United States Revenue Cutter *McLane*, Lieutenant Commander Sturgis. She fired a salute when Esq. Norton came on board. Attended prayer meeting at Mr. Harrison Smith's. Br. T. Stewart and Br. N. Jernegan were there.

24th. Wind S to W. Thick fog. Went to Tisbury. Attended meeting with Br. Thomas Stewart and Sister Newcombs.

25th. Wind W. Thick weather. Attended meeting at East Side Holmes Hole.

26th. Wind N to SW. Ship *Weymouth* arrives from the Pacific Ocean.

28th. Wind NW. Clear A.M. Snow squalls P.M. More snow on the ground than at any time this winter.

March 1835.

1st. Wind WSW to NW. Clear. Cold. Ship *Fame* of Nantucket arrives from the South Atlantic Ocean. Owing to the great quantity of snow Br. W. P. C. and myself did not go to East Side Holmes Hole to attend meeting according to appointment.

10th. Wind NE. Cold. Snows at night.

11th. Wind W. Moderate. Thaws. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class meeting. Returned at night. Mr. Uriah Dunham dies.

13th. Wind SW, W and NW. Fresh breeze. Ship *John Adams* of Nantucket arrives from the South Atlantic Ocean.

18th. Wind N to NNE. Light. Ship *Reaper* of Nantucket arrives from the Pacific Ocean.

21st. Wind SW. Brig *Gold Hunter* of Edgartown arrives from New York. Coffin and Darrow and others having bought her for the whaling business.

22nd. Wind ENE. Gale A.M. P. M. SE to NE Light. Rainy and foggy. Did not go to East Side Holmes Hole. Very rainy. Thunders and lightens at night.

24th. Wind NW to W. Gale. Ship *Mary* of Nantucket arrives from the Pacific Ocean.

29th. Wind NE. Cold. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. W. P. C. Squally in the afternoon. Snows a little. Very cold at night. Comes on a severe snowstorm and heavy gale at night.

30th. Wind NE. Gale continues. Ground all covered with snow.

April 1835.

9th. Wind W to S. Went to Tisbury. Attended County Temperance Meeting held at the Congregational Meetinghouse. Returned at night.

11th. Wind N to S. Light. Pleasant weather. Contracted to sell my part of the old house which I bought of Seth Vincent and others to Theodore Wimpenny for \$450.

12th. Wind S to SW. Pleasant. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting with Br. H. Chase from Holmes Hole. Returned at night.

13th. Wind W to SW. Received \$350 towards the house above mentioned.

17th. Wind NW. Gale. Brig *Gold Hunter*, Capt. Benjamin Allen drops down to the outer harbour being bound to the Western Islands, Coast of Guinea &c. a whaling.

23rd. Wind SSW. *Vigilant* sails. Mr. Freeman Butler moves into my house. Ships *Navy* of Newburyport and *Constitution* of Nantucket arrive from the South Atlantic Ocean having been whaling.

27th. Wind E to SE. Light. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Isabella. Got a trunk for Mr. Stoddard. Stayed there an hour. Returned. Gale at night, wind ESE to SE.

28th. Wind ESE Gale. Rain. Schooner *Cohasset* goes ashore near the wharf of Capt. Barney & Co. and another schooner goes onshore at the East Chop. P.M. wind SSW to SW. Gale.

29th. Wind SW to WSW. Fresh breeze. Went to the Schooner *Morning Star* castaway yesterday on the East Chop. Found her to be from Portland bound to New York with a cargo of molasses. The Captain had cut the hoops of the casks which were on deck and lost them. The schooner is in bad condition having lost her rudder irons and is high up on the shoal ground. The Captain is named Chase. Returned at noon. Pleasant weather. Ship *George and Mary*, G. Lawrence master arrives from the Pacific with a full cargo of oil. Went to East Side Holmes Hole attended Class meeting. Returned at night. Attended discharging of Schooner *Cohasset* being on shore near the East Wharf. She gets off at night.

30th. Wind NE to SW. Very light. Ship *George and Mary* comes up to the wharf.

May 1835

1st. Wind NE to SE. Light rainy. P. M. clear. Went to Holmes Hole on business relating to the Custom House. Returned same day. Ship *Baltic* of Nantucket arrives from the Pacific Ocean.

4th. Wind ENE. Town Meeting for choice of County Commissioners.

6th. Wind SE to SW. Planted a few potatoes. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class meeting. Returned at night.

11th. Wind SW. Surveyed land for G. D. Cleveland at Chappaquiddick.

17th. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Br. Charles Rich preaches. Attended prayer meeting at 6 o'clock. Br. T. S. and wife, Br. James Pent and a number of others attend meeting there from this part of the town ⁽¹⁾ It was a blessed season. Returned at evening.

24th. Wind SW. Light. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting with Br. F. Sherman of Nantucket who had come to East Side Holmes Hole to spend a few days with that people. He arrived on Saturday and returned on Tuesday. I returned at evening.

25th. Wind SW. Went to Holmes Hole on business of Capt. Richard Luce. Returned at 6 o'clock P.M. P.M. wind changes to W. Rains thunders and lightens.

28th. Wind ESE. Foggy. News comes of claims against France being paid.

31st. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended meeting on the West Side with Brethren and Sisters from the East Side. Br. Mark Staple preached his farewell sermon. Attended prayer on the East Side at 6 o'clock. It was an interesting time. Br. John Linton and Sister Emily Bradley were baptised. They with Sister Lydia B. Norton were received into full connection with the Church. Returned at evening.

June 1835.

2nd. Wind SW. Revenue Boat goes to Gayhead and returns.

4th Wind SW. Foggy. Went to Gayhead on business of the Custom House.

10th. Wind SW. Calm. Very warm in the afternoon. P. M. ENE Cool, and a little rain. The ground is very dry. Engaged in painting my house.

11th. Wind SW. Engaged as above. Rains a little P.M. Did not go to Holmes Hole.

14th. Wind NE to SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meetings. Thunders, Lightens and rains a little from a squall in the afternoon. Returned at night.

16th. Wind SW. Painted Revenue Boat and my house outside.

17th. Wind SW. Painted my house. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class Meeting.

18th. Wind SW. Launched the Revenue Boat.

19th. Wind SW to S. Fresh breeze and a little rain P.M. Sold my old barn to Mr. J. Smith.

23rd. Wind NE to SSW. Light. J. T. Pease goes to Gayhead in the Revenue Boat on business of the Custom House. Returns at night. Brig *Lycoming*, Br. Charles Daggett, arrives from Boston. Brings Br. Bonticu who is stationed here as our Methodist preacher this year.

24th. Wind SW. Revenue Cutter *McLane* sails. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class meeting. Returned at night.

25th. Wind SW. J. T. P. commences building a barn.

29th. Wind SW. Fresh breeze. Engaged at the Custom House.

(1) East Side Holmes Hole, later called Eastville, at that time, of course was a part of the town of Edgartown.

DCHS News and Accessions

As we make preparations to close the Thomas Cooke House for winter, we take pleasure in looking back on another successful summer season with a total of 3517 visitors in the period from June 15 to September 15. All of our guests enjoyed themselves, and many of them had come from distant lands. In addition to the usual large number of visitors from Canada and England, we had people here from Chili, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Thailand. There was even someone who signed in as a resident of Disneyland.

One of our visitors was Margaret Chatterton, a former curator of the society now living in California, and we enjoyed taking a leisurely tour of the house with her. We also were pleased this fall to meet Richard Kugler, director of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society in New Bedford, who personally returned two of our paintings that had been on display in his museum.

At the annual meeting in August, we were delighted to have with us Gloria Levitas, who spoke on "Moshop's Unfinished Bridge: Gay Head's Myths and Realities." Focusing on the history of the Wampanoag tribe, her lecture aroused a great deal of interest and provided the audience with a better understanding of present-day events. At the business part of the meeting the members re-elected Mrs. Kenneth Stoddard, president; Stanley Murphy, vice-president; John Osborn, treasurer; Mrs. Samuel Halperin, secretary; and Mrs. E. Jared Bliss, Jr., Melville G. McKay, and Gale Huntington, members of the Council.

In addition to our regular activities this summer, we participated in the needlepoint show put on for the benefit of the hospital. Marian Halperin spent hours cleaning up several of our older examples of this type of handwork, and these artifacts provided an interesting contrast to the modern work on display at the show. In another project this summer, the society reprinted Dorothy Scoville's *Shipwrecks on Martha's Vineyard*, and we now have on hand a plentiful supply of this popular book.

A continuing event at the society for the last few months has been the construction of the addition to the library which will be named the Frances Foster Museum after the man who was one

of the founders of the historical society and who left the bequest that provided the funds for this additional space. The exterior work has been completed, and in the next DCHS News we hope to report on moving into the new addition.

With money from the Preservation Fund we resingled the back roof of the carriage shed and added skylights to provide better lighting. In the future, we hope to make this into a better display area by sealing it off from the elements with glass doors.

As usual in winter, the library will be open from 1 to 4 on Thursdays and Fridays and from 10-12, 1-4 on Saturdays. We hope that many of you will drop by to see us.

Thomas E. Norton
Curator

ACCESSIONS - OCTOBER 1976 TO NOVEMBER 1977

ARTIFACTS

Portrait of Hartson Bodfish by Arthur Friedlander, oil on canvas, gift of Mrs. D. Miles Tourison; *Edgartown Harbor* by unknown artist, oil on canvas, 1870, gift of Mrs. Alver Hurlburt; *Edgartown Harbor* by unknown artist, watercolor on parchment (?), 1832, gift of Henry Kane McVickar, Malcolm McVickar, Grenville Kane McVickar, and Henry Lansing McVickar in memory of their mother, Anzonella Kane McVickar; *Portrait of Amos Smalley* by David N. Brown, crayon on paper, gift of Marjorie Zipser and Jane Brown; *The Old Wharf, Edgartown* by F. Leo Hunter, etching, 1925, gift of Robert Nordenswan; *Davis Family Record*, lettered by Henry Young, ink on paper, 1791, gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. Jan Nadelman in memory of his father, Elie Nadelman; *Model of Northwest Indian canoe*, gift of Albert Leventhal; *Ironstone plate* belonging to William Homes, Chilmark Parson, 1740, gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. Wyman Mortimer; *Bull's-eye glass*, English, 19th century, gift of Mrs. Kenneth Stoddard; *Iron calipers*, gift of Mrs. Robert S. Holding; *Children's clothing*, gift of Mrs. Lucy Abbot;

Lady's evening gloves, gift of Nelson Coon; *Fayal shawl*, gift of Mrs. Thomas R. Goethals; *Blanket, soap and shoelaces salvaged from the Port Hunter*, gift of Mrs. Alexia Brown.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

East of Cape Cod by Asa C. P. Lombard, Jr., gift of the author; *William Litten's Fiddle Tunes 1800-1802* transcribed by Gale Huntington, 1977, gift of Mr. Huntington; *General Tom Thumb and His Lady* by Mertie E. Romaine, 1976, gift of Mrs. Robert Goodale; *Steam Whaling in the Western Arctic* by John R. Bockstoce, 1977, gift of Old Dartmouth Historical Society; *Songs of Martha's Vineyard* compiled by Ruth Parmenter Nerny, gift of Mrs. Nerny; *Addenda for the American Descendants of Henry Luce, 1640-1975* by Martha F. McCourt, gift of the author; *Pamphlets on Methodist Church of Edgartown*, gift of Ipswich Historical Society; *Levitt Thaxter's Oration Delivered at the Dedication of Thaxter's Academy*, gift of Edgartown Library; *Proposal to build a bridge to Chappaquiddick*, 1925 and *Plan for Chappaquiddick by the Sea*, 1913, gift of Mrs. Russell Hoxsie; *"Robert Morris Copeland's Plans for Oak Bluffs"* by Ellen Weiss from *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, March, 1975, gift of the author.

PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS

His Majesty's Ships Centurion, etc. Around the World, bound engravings, c. 1740, and *George F. Baxter's Ledger, North Tisbury, 1852-72*, gift of Daniel Manter; *Sermons of Rev. Joseph Thaxter, 1782-1824*, gift of Dr. Roger Larson through the Federated Church of Edgartown; Thesis, *Land Tenure and Subsistence on Martha's Vineyard* by Eric L. Peters, gift of the author; *Portion of Diary of Caroline Mayhew*, 1876, and three *Mayhew geneological charts*, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Wyman; *Account book, Ship Loan*, 1832, gift of E. Burnham Litchfield; manuscript, *Sea Life of Willis Howes of Vineyard Haven* written by himself, 1838-1872, gift of D. Miles Tourison; *Membership book, Oak Bluffs Club*, gift of Henry Beetle Hough; *Records of W.C.T.U., Dukes County*, various dates from 1886-1967, gift of Miss Jean Baird; *Blueprint, portion of Gay*

Head, 1931, gift of Mr. and Mrs. David Ritter; *"Negro Passport,"* 1865, gift of David B. Morey; *five leases for Camp Ground houses, 1865-77 and passes for Steamship Company, 1872-1887*, gift of Mrs. Anthony Silva; *Ownership papers, Ship Omega*, 1890, gift of Mrs. D. O. Bettencourt; *two poems about The City of Columbus* by R.A.G., gift of Miss Dorothy Scoville.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS

Two stereoptican pictures by R. G. Shute, gift of the Ipswich Historical Society; *Photographs of Steamer Nantucket collision at Gay Head*, gift of Mrs. Anthony Silva; *53 postcards of Vineyard subjects*, gift of Miss Margaret Love.



Some Publications

The Mammals of Martha's Vineyard by Allan R. Keith. Illustrated, paper. \$1.00.

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

The Heath Hen's Journey to Extinction by Henry Beetle Hough. Illustrated, paper. \$1.00.

The Fishes of Martha's Vineyard by Joseph B. Elvin. With 36 illustrations of fishes by Will Huntington. Paper. \$1.00.

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.

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

A New Vineyard by Dorothy Cottle Poole. Illustrated, cloth. \$12.95 plus 65¢ postage.

Shipwrecks on Martha's Vineyard by Dorothy Scoville. Paper. \$3.00.