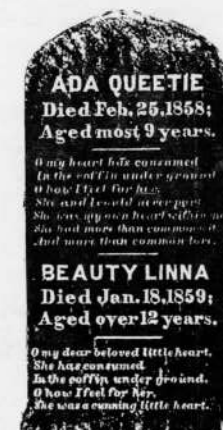


THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

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Edgartown, Massachusetts

Five Generations of Tilton Wills

by

Emily H. Rose

According to Banks, Samuel Tilton was the son of William Tilton and his second wife, Susannah, born in 1637-8, probably in Lynn. His father died when he was 16, and his mother re-married Roger Shaw of Hampton, N. H., where the young Tilttons moved to live with their step-father. Susannah died about 1660, and Samuel Tilton learned the trade of carpenter.

On December 17, 1662 he married Hannah Moulton of Hampton, whose family originally came from Ormsby, County Norfolk, England. About 1673 he came to Martha's Vineyard with his wife and three children and Isaac Chase, a Quaker, who was related to him by marriage. Parson Homes, in his diary, states that he was "against swearing", i.e. taking the legal oath in the name of the Deity, so it is a strong inference that he also was a Quaker.

On February 5, 1674, Samuel Tilton was granted a lot of land on the east side of Old Mill Brook in Tisbury. About two years later, in partnership with Isaac Chase and Jacob Perkins, another former Hampton neighbor, he bought 1/6th of Homes Hole Neck. He sold his residence in Tisbury before 1678 and moved to Chilmark, where, by various purchases, he acquired a large tract in the Kephigan district, bordering on the Sound and extending to the Middle Line.

There he lived an uneventful life, without known public service, for sixty years. His wife died April 11, 1720, and he survived her for 11 years, dying on November 29, 1731, in his 94th year.

Their children, according to Banks, were:

Hannah born Sept. 15, 1663, who married Nathaniel Wing

William born November 11, 1668

*John born October 23, 1670

Mary born in 1677

Josiah born in 1680

Rachel born in 1685

The will of Samuel Tilton, dated June 15, 1718 and probated

March 7, 1732 (D. C. Probates No. I/91) reads as follows:

"In the name of God Amen. I, Samuel Tilton of the Town of Chilmark in Dukes County in America, being of perfect mind and memory but considering age and the mortality of my body, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament:

Principally, and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in decent Christian manner and when funeral charges and all my just debts are truly well paid, I give and devise and dispose of my remaining estate, in manner and forme following.

I give and bequeath to my three sons, William Tilton, John Tilton and Josiah Tilton all of Chilmark aforesd and to their heirs and assigns all my lands with all buildings thereupon standing and all and singular ye appurtenances to the same anywise belonging to be by them after ye decease of my wife, Hannah, in case she should survive me, equally divided together with all my carpenter and other tools to be alike equally between them divided, and in case of ye decease of any of my said sons, then to their heirs and assigns in manner as abovsd.

I give and bequeath all my stock and moveables and household goods to my three daughters, viz: Hannah Wing, Mary Allen and Rachel Lumbert or to their heirs to be equally divided among them excepting one iron pott kittle which I give to my granddaughter, Ann Lumbert; and I do by these presents constitute and appoint my sons William and John Tilton to be executors of this my last Will and testament; and I do by these presents revoke and disallow all and every other former wills, testaments, and bequests and executors by me in any ways before made, willed or bequeathed, and do confirm this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness hereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal this fifth day of June of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighteen.

(s) Sam¹¹ Tilton

Signed, sealed Published, Pronounced and declared by sd

Samuel Tilton as his last Will and testament in the presence of ye subscribers, viz:

(s) Josiah Torrey
(s) Sarah Torrey
(s) Edward Molton"

John Tilton married Sarah Mayhew, the daughter of Thomas Mayhew and Sarah Skiffe born about 1677. He was a life-long resident of Chilmark, and a yeoman. According to Banks they had the following children:

Cyrano born December 10, 1700, married Remember Tobey Jan. 12, 1730-1, Feb. 23, 1791

Thomas born December 4, 1702, died April 4, 1801

John born March 24, 1705-6, married Sarah Gibs August 30, 1837

*Joseph born December 13, 1710

Sarah born August 25, 1717, married Benjamin Mayhew, Theophilus Mayhew, Nathan Skiffe

Samuel born January 17, 1723, died April 3, 1778

His wife predeceased him, and he died in 1759. His will dated March 6, 1759 was probated on June 5, 1759 (D. C. Probates I/243) reads as follows:

"In the name of God Amen. I, John Tilton of Chilmark in Dukes County in the Massachusetts Bay in New England being of advanced age do make this my last will and testament and first of all, I give my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my body ye recommend to the earth to be decently buried by my executor hereafter named, and as to such worldly goods as it hath pleased God to bless me with: I dispose of them in the following manner, viz:

1, that all my just debts be paid out of my estate and funeral charge.

2ly my reall I have given to my sons already by deeds,

3ly my wearing apparrall I give to my sons and my armor also,

4ly all the remainder of my personal estate of all sorts I give to my five sons and my daughter, Sarah Skiffe to be

equally divided among them; the reason I give my daughter Sarah no more is because I have given her considerable already.

5ly I appoint and constitute my son, Thomas Tilton to be my executor to this my last will and testament: allowing this and this only to be my last Will and testament. 6th of March 1759

(s) John Tilton

Signed, sealed and delivered by the testator to be his last Will and testament in presence of

(s) Timothy Mayhew

(s) Uriah Tilton

(s) Josiah Tilton

Joseph Tilton, a yeoman and resident of Chilmark, married Ruth Mayhew on November 4, 1736. She was born July 29, 1714, and died in October of 1740, just about four months after their only child, Matthew, was born (May 13, 1740). Joseph served in the Alarm List of 1757. By his second wife, Zilpah Mayhew (born March 30, 1718) whom he married on April 5, 1742, he had the following children:

Daniel born March 2, 1744 died single June 14, 1770

Rebecca born June 9, 1746 married Stephen Tilton Dec. 14, 1768

Ruth born October 14, 1748 married Joseph Look December 30, 1767

Obed born March 30, 1750, died unmarried, no year given

Martha born October 5, 1751 married Abner Mayhew

Susannah born March 5, 1753 married Peter Tilton, Paine Tilton

Lydia born October 5, 1754 married Jethro Dunham

Zilpah born October 28, 1756 died unmarried

Joseph born November 20, 1759 married Deidamia Davis Dec. 25, 1788

Benjamin born March 30, 1763 (removed to Ohio)

*Oliver born April 15, 1765 married Eunice Tilton

Joseph died September 3 1796, and his will dated November 15, 1796 was probated November 15, 1796 (D. C. Probates I/534)

and read as follows:

In the name of God Amen. I, Joseph Tilton of Chilmark in Dukes County in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, yeoman, being sensible that it is appointed for all men once to die, and thinking it my duty to get my house in order, and being of a sound and disposing mind do make this my last will and testament, and first I recommend my soul unto the hands of God who gave it, and my body to the Earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executor hereinafter named and as to my worldly estate I give, demise and dispose of the same in the manner following: Imprimis, my will is that all my just debts and funeral expenses be first paid out of my personal estate by my executor in some convenient time.

Item: I give to my beloved wife, Zilpah all my household goods forever.

Item: I give unto my said wife the use and improvement of the Eastern half of my dwelling house during her natural life.

Item: I give unto my said wife what the law would give her out of the remainder of my estate if I had not made a will.

Item: I give unto my son Matthew the sum of 5 shillings to be paid him by my executor, the reason I give him no more is because I have done him such favours as I esteem equal to what I shall give to either of my other sons in this will.

Item: I give unto my two sons, Joseph and Benjamin provided they comply with this my will, the eastern half of my land to be equally divided between them, which said eastern half extendeth from land which belongs to my brother, Samuel Tilton to the land of Ezra Hillman to them, belongs to my brother, Samuel Tilton to the land of Ezra Hillman to them, my said sons, their heirs and assigns forever, reserving that I have given to my said wife of the same land.

Item: I give unto my son, Oliver and to his heirs and assigns forever, provided he shall comply with this my Will, the western half of my land, together with my dwelling house and buildings of all sorts, reserving out of this gift what I have given my said wife of the same land and buildings, and my will is that said Oliver shall — me for anything that he

hath done in building or repairing said house nor for anything he shall do in my lifetime in making or repairing buildings or fences.

Item: My will is that if my son Benjamin should die leaving no living child, the land given him in this my will shall be equally divided between and enjoyed by my sons Joseph and Oliver on the same conditions that it is given to Benjamin.

Item: My will is that my son, Obed, and my daughters, Ruth and Zilpah, so long as they remain insane, and not capable of supporting themselves, shall be under the care of and supported by my three sons, Joseph, Benjamin and Oliver, the care and support I enjoin as much upon one of my said sons as upon either of them.

Item: I give unto my son, Obed and my daughters, Ruth and Zilpah each the sum of 5 shillings when they or either of them shall happen to have the full exercise of their reason, to be paid by my sons Joseph, Benjamin and Oliver.

Item: I give to my three daughters, Rebecca, Martha and Susanna each the sum of 5 shillings to be paid by my executor.

Item: I give to my daughter, Lydia, ten dollars to be paid by my executor.

Item: I give to my three sons, Joseph, Benjamin and Oliver the remainder of my personal estate, being what is not disposed of after the payment of debts, funeral charges and legacies.

Lastly, I do hereby nominate and appoint my son Joseph to be sole executor of this my last will and testament and I do hereby revoke, disannul and make void all other and former wills, legacies and bequests to me heretofore made and ratifying this and this only to be my last will and testament in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 15th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

(s) Joseph Tilton

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

(s) Reuben Tillton

(s) Ebenezer Skiff

(s) Thomas Tillton, Jr.

The inventory of his estate shows: ⁽¹⁾

Eighty acres of land at 12 ^d per	960
One half of a dwelling house	150
Barn 50, Corn house 12	62
Farming utensils 1 ^d two cows as 20 ^d	41
One year old 10 ^d one calf 5 ^d 50	15.50
35 sheep at 1 ^d 25	43.75

Nov. 26, 1796

Reuben Tillton)

Stephen Tillton) Appraisers

Ward Tillton)

Oliver Tilton, a resident of Chilmark, married Eunice Tilton, (the daughter of John Tilton, who was the son of Daniel Tilton of Middletown, N. J. who came to Chilmark about 1762, probably as a widower, remained there about 20 years before emigrating to Vassellboro, Maine where he died) on January 23, 1791. According to Banks and Vital Statistics, they had the following children:

Albert born December 5, 1791, died Jan. 21, 1814 at age 22

Pamela born January 3, 1795 living in 1850, unmarried

*John born August 19, 1796 married Mary West

Meribah born April 12, 1796 married Alvin Flanders Sept. 1, 1821

Freeman born October 14, 1805, died December 22, 1806

Eunice, born December 11, 1771, was living, a widow, in 1850. Oliver died July 29, 1845, and his will dated June 28, 1842 was probated October 24, 1845, as follows:

Be it remembered that I, Oliver Tilton of Chilmark in the County of Dukes County, considering the uncertainty of this mortal life and being of sound and perfect mind and memory do make and publish this my last will and testament in the manner following, that is to say, after my just debts are paid.

1st I give to my beloved wife, Eunice Tilton, and my daughter, Pamela Tilton all my household furniture at their disposal, likewise two cows. I give my wife Eunice Tilton, separate from my daughter, Pamela, the sum of \$6 to be paid annually out of my estate during her natural life. I give to my

(1) These valuations are in dollars, not pence.

wife, Eunice and daughter, Pamela, the improvement of my dwelling house, Barn and outbuildings and fruite trees, also two thirds of my meadow pasture and wood lands during their natural lifes, if either of them should die the other takes it.

2nd. I give to my daughter Meriba Flanders the sum of \$5 to be paid by my executor hereinafter named to be paid out of my estate within twelve months after my decease.

3rd. I give to my daughter Julina Tilton the sum of \$25 to be paid by my executor hereinafter named to be paid out of my estate within twelve months after my decease.

4th. I give to my son, John Tilton the one third part of my meadow pasture and wood lands at his disposal provided he will keep the fences in good repair on the whole place or their proportion of fence they have to make, cut the grass, make it, and put it in the barn for my wife Euncie and daughter Pamela Tilton.

Lastly I do appoint my son John Tilton my executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 28th day of June 1842.

(s) Oliver Tilton

Signed, sealed and published by the said Oliver Tilton declaring this to be his last will and testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses in the presence of the testator,

(s) Allen Tilton

(s) Benajmin Mantor

(s) Mary E. Tilton

The inventory of his estate, provided by Barnard Luce, Granville Manter and Moses Look, appraisers, January 5, 1846 included only:

1 dwelling house	\$200
1 barn	15
1 corn house	15
10 acres meadowland or thereabouts	350
37 acres pastureland or thereabouts	550
33 acres brush land or thereabouts	230
2 cows, 1 at \$13, 1 at \$15	28

The first account of John Tilton as executor stated "there is no personal estate save two cows mentioned in the inventory, the said executor craves allowance for the following account as per bills paid according to there numbers as follows:

1. Paid to Smith Mayhew	\$2.91
2. Paid to William A. Mayhew	.39
3. Paid to John D. Rotch	8.53
4. Paid to L. A. Spofford	4.75
5. Paid to Martha Adams	4.10
6. Paid to Truman Cottle	1.31
7. Paid to Jane Luce	14.41
8. Paid to William A. Mayhew	11.46
9. Paid to Meribah Flanders	5.00
10. Paid to N. H. Peckes	4.00
11. Paid to James Look	.33
12. Paid to Joseph Mayhew	5.37
13. Paid to Cornelius Tilton	3.65
14. Paid to W. H. Luce	25.57
15. Paid to Granville Manter	2.00
16. Paid to Ephraim Mayhew	4.16
17. Paid to Granville Manter	7.63
18. Paid to Nathan Mayhew	1.46
19. Paid to Tristram Allen	4.28
20. Paid to Lovina Tilton	39.67
21. Paid to Allen Tilton	2.45
22. Paid to Arvin L. Weeks	23.52
23. Paid to Smith Mayhew	.51
24. Paid to Thomas H. Lumbert	3.36
25. Paid to Prince D. Athearn	1.50
26. Paid to Barnard Luce	2.00
27. Paid to Gorham and Hillman	6.20
28. Paid to Moses Look	2.00
29. Paid to Allen Tilton	1.00
30. Paid to Benjamin Manter	1.00

"John Tilton bill as executor for settling the Estate of Oliver Tilton assented to by Eunice and Pamela Tilton."

It is interesting to note that in 1866 the Inhabitants of the Town of Chilmark filed a petition for partition stating "they are

interested in the real estate lying in this State of Oliver Tilton late of Chilmark, whose estate has been settled, claiming to hold under a lien of said deceased, to wit, Pamela Tilton, an undivided part or share which they wish to hold in severalty." The petition was dismissed for lack of jurisdiction and for the fact that the interest of some of the parties was disputed on January 15, 1866.

John Tilton of Chilmark, a farmer, married Mary West who was born May 13, 1800. He died testate on June 7, 1869 (I/1443) and his petition for probate showed the following heirs:

Mary Tilton, widow
George O. Tilton - son
John L. Tilton - son
Ainsworth L. Tilton - son
Corisandra Tilton - daughter
Nancy L. Hammett - daughter, Franklin B. Hammett her husband

Louisa P. Tilton - daughter
Hiram W. Hammett, Osander Hammett, Mary Ann Hammett, minor children of Mary A. Hammett, a deceased daughter, and her husband, Hiram Hammett

Vital records also show that a daughter, Eunice A. Tilton died in 1837 at the age of 7, and that an infant died in 1821⁽²⁾.

His will, dated December 3, 1867, was allowed July 20, 1868, as follows:

Be it remembered that I, John Tilton of Chilmark in the County of Dukes County, considering the uncertainty of this life, and being of sound and perfect mind and memory, do make and publish this my last will and testament in the manner following, that is to say after my just debts and funeral expenses are paid.

1st. I give to my three daughters, Corrisanda Tilton, Nancy L. Hammett and Luisa P. Tilton the sum of \$5 each to be paid out of my estate by my executor within twelve months of my decease.

2nd I give to my wife, Mary Tilton, all my household furniture at her disposal.

(2) There was also a son, Rodolphus, who predeceased him in June of 1866 (I/1673). His inventory listed only "Alabama Award" \$483.88.

3rd. I give to my wife, Mary, the improvement of all my personal property and also the improvement of all my real estate during her natural life with the privilege of digging or cause to be dug, all the clay and also fire sand that she sees fit to dig or cause to be dug.

4th. I give to my three sons, George O. Tilton, John L. Tilton and Ainsworth L. Tilton, after the decease of my said wife, all the property that I give to my wife, Mary, the improvement of, to be divided equally among them, according to quality and value, provided they comply with this my will.

5th If either of my two sons, John L. Tilton and Ainsworth L. Tilton or both of them die unmarried before they come in possession of the property that I give my wife the improvement of, the other two sons or son takes it and it is to be at their disposal.

6th My will is that my daughter Luisa P. Tilton shall have her support out of my property and through my sons as long as she remains unmarried. Lastly, I do appoint my son, Ainsworth L. Tilton my executor of this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the third day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

(s) John Tilton

The above witnessed by (s) Granville Manter of Chilmark
(s) Lindley M. King of Chilmark
(s) Joseph Austin of Chilmark

The inventory of his estate included the following:

Household furniture:

lot of 2nd hand chairs	2.00
2 tables	3.
1 desk	3.
1 stand	.50
3 beds & bedding	40.00
lot of crockery and tinware	8.
1 cook stove and ironware	5.

A note of one hundred ninety dollars dated June 18, 1866 with interest to date	238.
One yoke of oxen	150.
2 milk cows	100.
1 calf	10.
2 2nd hand ploughs	4.
1 derrek	10.
1 light waggon	12.
4 2nd hand wheels	4.
1 brick press	15.
7 tons of hay	70.
1 ox waggon	70.

Homestead	
Dwelling house	200.
Barn	75.
8 acres of mowing land	240.
22 acres of pasture and brush	176.
West part of Old Homestead	
8 acres meadow and tillage land	144.
20 acres sprout and brush land, his undivided interest in the estate of his father, Oliver Tilton	160. 450.

Real Estate of the estate of John Tilton was sold to pay debts in the amount of \$1117.13.

The Nancy Luce Guardianship Papers

William J. Block

One day in late April of 1965, I was idly turning over the pages of *Tisbury's Town and Proprietors' Records from 1669 to 1864* ⁽¹⁾ when I chanced to see on page 616 an obscure one line reference, in the minutes of the annual town meeting of March 20, 1848, which so far as I can ascertain had not previously come to light. It had been "Voted, that the Selectmen ar [sic] to petition to Judge of Probate to appoint a guardian for Nancy Luce".

There is no need to introduce the readers of the *Intelligencer* to Nancy Luce (1820-1890), the brilliant and talented eccentric resident of Tiah's Cove in West Tisbury, whose gravestones memorializing three of her hens--Tweedle Tedel Bebee Pinky, Ada Queetie, and Beauty Linna--are on the grounds of the Historical Society, and whose legend and that of her three-legged cow have grown steadily since her death.

Her extreme oddness had made her the butt of constant pranks and torments, but it seems not to have been previously known that that oddness had been the subject of any formal action or proceeding.

There was no subsequent or other reference in the volume of records to any steps that were ever taken pursuant to that direction to the Selectmen.

My brother-in-law Walter Teller was then engaged in historical researches into Miss Luce's life ⁽²⁾ and I wrote him, in Princeton where he had been wintering, telling him of my discovery and that, probably, there was a file among the records of the Probate Court of the County of Dukes County of a proceeding to declare her incompetent and to appoint a guardian for her. He asked me if I wouldn't go down to Edgartown for him and see what I could find.

On April 30, 1965, I asked Miss Mary Wimpenny, who from time immemorial had been the Register of Probate, for the file in

(1) Boston, Wright and Potter Printing Co., 1903.

(2) See Mr. Teller's article "The Time and Place," *The American Scholar*, Vol. 35, No. 3 Summer 1966, and his chapters in *Cape Cod and the Offshore Islands* (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1970, pp. 112-125), and in *Twelve Works of Naive Genius* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1972, pp. 152-167).

an 1848 proceeding to appoint a guardian for Nancy Luce, of West Tisbury, but she could find none. There was no index card of such a proceeding, and apparently no docket to be consulted. So far as appeared, the Selectmen had done nothing, which seemed to be borne out by the absence from the minutes of Town Meetings thereafter of any report or reference to the matter. I had reached a dead end.

There was a card in the Probate index file relating to the estate of another Nancy Luce, of Edgartown, who had died in 1845. The administration of her estate terminated with the discharge of her executor on April 17, 1848. My search having ended in failure, and having nothing better to do, I had just enough curiosity to requisition the file of that Nancy Luce's estate. Opening the folder, what fell out of it but the file of papers in the proceeding to appoint a guardian of "our" Nancy Luce as a person liable "through insanity and imbecility" to become "chargeable to the town"; misfiled and lost for 117 years! This proceeding was commenced virtually simultaneously with the closing of the estate of Nancy Luce of Edgartown. A natural mistake of the Clerk!

The petition, dated March 29, 1848, was addressed to the Honorable Theodore G. Mayhew, then judge of probate, and was signed by the three selectmen, Jonathan Luce, Jr., Edmund Cottle, and Prince D. Athearn. It said:

"Upon a complaint to us directed by William S. Vincent and Jeremiah Manter and others, inhabitants of the Town of Tisbury, representing that Nancy Luce of said Tisbury, single woman, being in possession of some estate, but through insanity and imbecility is liable to become chargeable to the town

"We therefore respectfully request your honor to appoint some suitable person as guardian to the said Nancy Luce that her estate may not be unnecessarily wasted."

The selectmen's petition was followed on June 28, 1848, by the service on Nancy of a precept to appear in the Court of Probate "on the third Monday of July next at ten o'clock in the forenoon then and there to show cause, if any you have, why a guardian should not be appointed for you agreeably to the above complaint".

But no time had been lost. Already, on March 18th, 1848, two days before the town meeting, twelve of Nancy's neighbors had signed a document addressed to the Judge Mayhew, representing

"that Nancy Luce a resident of Tisbury aforesaid is in our opinion fully suitable to manage or superintend her own affairs at this present time without the assistance of the Town or from any other source".

The signers were Robert Manter, Charles G. Athearn, J.T. E. Gage, Robert Athearn, Jonathan Athearn, Benjamin Athearn, William Athearn, James Athearn, W. N. Luce, Solomon Norton, Asa Johnson, and Eliakim Norton.

On April 12, Dr. W. N. Luce, of West Tisbury, Nancy's doctor, but no more than a very distant relative, if related to her at all, addressed a communication to the judge in which he said in part:

"She wishes for me to state to your Hon. that she does not desire to have a guardian placed over her: that she has never applied to the Town for assistance, nor does she intend doing so; and humbly requests that you will allow her the privilege of enjoying her property as she pleases.

"So far as I am acquainted with her, I think her competent to manage her own affairs and take care of her property."

In an undated decision probably rendered on the third Monday of July, 1848, the day of the trial, Judge Mayhew said:

"Having heard the evidence of the Petitioners & others in relation to the appointment of a Guardian to Nancy Luce of Tisbury, and seen the representations and declarations of those adverse to the Petition with reference to the situation of said Nancy Luce, I deem the appointment of Guardian at the present time unnecessary".

(Nor, it may here be said, was one appointed to the day of her death, in 1890).

On that day of its discovery, April 30 1965, I called this trove to the attention of the Register of Probate and requested that a separate file be opened for it. But back into hiding it went, in the same file, for nine more years.

After the accession of Emily Huntington Rose to the post of Register of Probate, I brought the papers to her attention on November 19, 1974, and, together, we got them out and she made a new, separate, file of them and placed a card in the index referring to them as "Nancy Luce Guardianship", so that they are now accessible, and preserved.

It is remarkable how much Luce-ana has survived, in private

hands and public collections. Walter Teller has told, in his American Scholar article referred to above, how her literary remains were sold to Charles E. Goodspeed after her death to reimburse the town for her burial charges and, after he referred to them in his *Yankee Bookseller* ⁽³⁾ were sold by him to a collector of whom Goodspeed's retained no record; and how, through a back issue of *The Intelligencer* (May, 1962), Mr. Teller was able to identify the purchaser as the late Professor Benjamin Crocker Clough, and learn of his gift of them to Brown University, where they now are.

Fifty years ago, Chester Frankel, a lawyer with whom I was associated in practice in New York City, had a secretary who was inordinately given to misfiling papers; the more important, the more likely. Perhaps it was the thrill of the chase; but each time, Chester set about cheerfully to locate the missing document, and invariably turned it up in surprisingly short order. Once, when I remarked about this, he told me of the set of principles that guided his searches. One only do I now recall, but it is relevant here: "When something is lost, never waste time seeking it where it should be. If it were there, it wouldn't be lost".

But Richard D. Altick, in *The Scholar Adventurers*, ⁽⁴⁾ tells of Columbia University's arduous search for a manuscript containing some unpublished Milton writings, for use in its great edition of Milton. The manuscript had disappeared after a London sale; Columbia was finally told by the bookseller with unholy glee that it had been bought years before by the Columbia University Library. Mr. Altick quotes Professor Thomas O. Mabbott as having ruefully pointed out the moral they had learned the hard way: "If you are searching for something, the first place to look is where it should be. If it isn't there, the next place to look is somewhere it shouldn't be."

I have considered this Walter Teller's tale to tell, but he has steadfastly refused to take credit for it. It is an integral part of the account of his research, so let us share it.

(3) Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1937.

(4) New York: Macmillan Co., 1950, pp. 86-104.

Quaker Ancestors of Sara Joy Mayhew on Nantucket

by

Robert J. Leach

Miss Sara Joy Mayhew is remembered on the Vineyard and particularly in Edgartown as demonstrating in the 20th century many of the best traditional qualities of Vineyarders. She was a personal friend of mine from 1920 till her death in 1956. It was she who first made me aware of Quakerism as an important religious movement in speaking of her Quaker ancestors on Nantucket. In fact her maternal grandfather, Charles Jenkins Barney, was one of them. He "married out" to a Vineyarder, who went to live on the "far away" island. Then her mother, Sarah Joy Barney, married Charles Mayhew and came to live in the Mayhew house on Edgartown harbor.

Scrutiny of Miss Sara Joy's ancestors on Nantucket reveals that her grandfather was one of twenty-four such Quaker ancestors, including the first Quakeress on the island: Sarah (Shattuck) Gardner, from whom Sara Joy was descended through three lines. Was this ancestor the origin of the name her ninth generation descendant bore? She was also descended from Mary (Coffin) Starbuck, the founder of the Nantucket Quaker Meeting. Ten generations brings Sara Joy's ancestry back to Tristram Coffin (through four lines) and to Edward Starbuck (three lines), and to Thomas Barnard (one line). Other founders of Nantucket are met in the ninth generation: George Bunker (one line); Thomas Macy (one line); and Richard Gardner (naturally three lines).

Early Quaker ancestors include Nathaniel Starbuck and his sister, Quaker minister Sarah (Starbuck) Austin. Sarah Austin's daughter, Mary (Austin) Gardner was a member, as was Sarah Gardner's son, Nathaniel Gardner (and a Quaker recorded minister as well). His son, Ebenezer Gardner, married Eunice Coffin, a granddaughter of Nathaniel and Mary Starbuck in meeting (in fact the first couple wed by Nantucket Monthly business Meeting). Their daughter, Abigail Gardner married Peter Jenkins and went to live in Edgartown to look after his property there. His parents Matthew and Mary (Gardner) Jenkins, both Quakers, lived on

Nantucket. Naturally this Mary was a granddaughter of the original Sarah Gardner. It was Peter and Abigail's daughter, Abigail Jenkins, who wed Jonathan Barney, fresh from Newport, Rhode Island. Their son, William Barney was Miss Sara Joy's great grandfather. He married Sarah Joy, daughter of Reuben and Anna (Way) Joy, Nantucket Quakers, whose daughter's full name was give to Sara Joy Mayhew (even if the (h) was dropped.)

Sarah Joy's great grandmother was put out of the original Conservative Quaker Meeting on Nantucket for attending the so-called Gurneyite branch of progressive Friends Meetings in 1847. This did not mean that Sarah (Joy) Barney changed her way of life. She continued to wear her bonnet and speak her plain "thee and thou" speech all her life. Did she ever meet her Edgartown Mayhew great granddaughter? If she didn't, at least William Barney had two sisters who continued to sit in the old conservative meeting house respectively till 1879 and 1894 - when Sara Joy Mayhew was aged 12 and 27. Very probably when on visits to "scrap island" one of them took her great-niece to Meeting.

Sarah (Joy) Barney's parents, Reuben and Anna Joy, had Quaker antecedents as well. Anna had one Quaker grandmother, Sarah (Skiffe) Long, whose great grandfather in turn was the Thomas Barnard (who brought that name onto the island). Reuben Joy's parents, David Joy and Sarah (Gardner) Joy, were members, he having moved to Nantucket from Dartmouth, Mass. - and she being in turn daughter of Quakeress Anna (Coffin) Gardner - whose father, Stephen Coffin, was not only a founding Quaker member, but brother of Mary (Coffin) Starbuck. Anna (Gardner) Joy's paternal grandmother, Mary (Austin) Gardner was in turn a daughter of minister Sarah (Starbuck) Austin and her paternal grandfather was a son of the original Quakeress, Sarah (Shattuck) Austin. So on both sides of her great grandparents' houses, Sarah Joy Mayhew went back to the Quakerism of 1660 - when Quakers were hanged on Boston Common by irate and bigoted Puritans - and to the founding of the Nantucket Friends Meeting in 1704, a generation later. Miss Sara Joy Mayhew came by her spirited independence honestly - as well as by her straightforward spirituality.

No attempt here has been made to evaluate the Mayhew inheritance in this article. The founding of the Edgartown Quaker Meeting in the John Coffin house on North Water Street in 1704 has not been noted much by Vineyard historians. This Meeting lasted till almost 1800. Matthew Mayhew didn't think much of it, but his son Paine Mayhew married a Nantucket girl, (albeit non-Quaker), while one of his daughters, Sarah, married a Nantucket Folger, who later joined meeting, as did their children. One of Charles Mayhew (Sara Joy's father's) cousins was William Mayhew Folger, Quaker whaling captain, who found the mutineers of the *Bounty* in the south Pacific. Not only did the Vineyard Mayhews inherit Nantucket Quaker spirituality, but the Nantucket Friends Meeting acquired from the Vineyard Mayhews the purposefulness which they gave to the larger island in founding the first American English colony to learn to live in peace with the original inhabitants.

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Note:

The author, Robert J. Leach, is the grandson of Dr. William Leach of Vineyard Haven and son of Dr. A. Judson Leach, Minister of the Edgartown Congregational Church. He spent many summers on the Vineyard chiefly from 1920 to 1950, and is the author of "Quaker Intruders on Martha's Vineyard" published by the *Dukes County Intelligencer* in 1963. He is Head of the History Department of the famous International School of Geneva, Switzerland. In 1942 he arranged for an appointed meeting for Quaker worship to be held in the vestry of the Federated Church under the care of Nantucket Monthly Meeting of Friends, to mark the tercentenary of the Mayhew Church.

Nantucket Ancestors for SARA JOY MAYHEW

Charles Mayhew + Sarah Joy Barney
1810-?

Charles Jenkins Barney + Content Landers
1810-?

William Barney + Sarah Joy
1772 1846 1773?

Jonathan Barney + Abigail Jenkins
1735 - 1801 1739 1776

David Joy
1739 - 1787

Abigail Gardner
1714 1769

Ebenezer
Gardner 1688

Eunice
Coffin 1693

Nathaniel
Gardner 1669

Bethian
Macy 1661

Joseph
Gardner 1661

Peter
Jenkins 1691

Matthew
Jenkins 1691

Mary
Jenkins 1691

James
Coffin 1691

Mary
Severance 1691

Thomas
Macy 1691

Abigail
Starbuck 1630

Nathaniel
Starbuck 1630

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Nathaniel
Starbuck 1630

Abigail
Starbuck 1630

Reuben Joy + Anna Way
1736 1781 1737 1812

John Way + Mary Long

John Way

Sarah Skiffe
1676 1751

James Skiffe + Sarah Barnard

Robert Long

Mary Bunker

Stephen Coffin + Mary Bunker

George Bunker + Jane Godfrey

Robert Barnard + Joanna Harvey

Thomas Barnard

Tristram Coffin

Sarah Gardner 1713 1777

Anna Coffin 1685 1740

Soloman Gardner

Elizabeth Starbuck

Richard Gardner + Sarah Starbuck

Joseph Austin + Sarah Starbuck

Mary Austin 1665 1721 1652 1734

Stephen Coffin + Mary Bunker

George Bunker + Jane Godfrey

Robert Barnard + Joanna Harvey

Thomas Barnard

Tristram Coffin

Sarah Gardner 1713 1777

Anna Coffin 1685 1740

Soloman Gardner

Elizabeth Starbuck

Richard Gardner + Sarah Starbuck

Joseph Austin + Sarah Starbuck

Mary Austin 1665 1721 1652 1734

Stephen Coffin + Mary Bunker

George Bunker + Jane Godfrey

Robert Barnard + Joanna Harvey

Thomas Barnard

Key - Quakers given birth and death dates and underlined

Jeremiah Pease's Diary, Continued July 1835 through April 1836

July 1835

1st. Wind SW. Revenue Cutter *Vigilant*, H. N. Tracy, arrives. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class Meeting. Returned at night.

2nd. Wind SW. Fresh breeze. Schooner *Caroline*, Capt. J. Howland arrives and supplies the Light House with oil &c.

3rd. Wind SW. Packet goes to New Bedford with passengers for the celebration.

4th. Wind SW. Very dry. Not much celebration here.

5th. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. Franklin Fisk. Attended meetings and returned at evening.

6th. Wind SW. Mowed my grass. ⁽¹⁾

9th. Wind SW. Very dry weather. Raised my barn.

13th. Wind SW. Mowed my meadow at the Ox Pond. Engaged in raking hay &c. Wrote a letter to Lieutenant Sturgis of the Revenue Cutter *McLane* and enclosed one received by Coffin and Darrow from the Secretary. ⁽²⁾

15th. Wind SW. Mr. Henry Norton dies very suddenly. Being in the field with Mr. G. Norton catching sheep he fell to the ground and expired in a few minutes. ⁽³⁾

19th. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Br. Franklin Fisk went with me. Br. Stewart came in P.M. Returned at evening.

20th. Wind SW. Revenue Cutter *Vigilant* sails to visit Light Houses &c. The Collector goes in her for that purpose.

21st. Wind SW. Sister Susan Athearn wife of Br. Joseph Athearn dies.

22nd. Wind SW. Funeral of Sister Susan Athearn is attended at the Methodist Meeting House. Service by Br. J. C. Bonticeau, Br. H. Vincent and the Congregational minister. The weather is very warm and a great drowth.

(1) Before it was cut hay was always called grass. Mowing a lawn in Jeremiah's day was unheard of. It would have been considered a sinful waste.

(2) Undoubtedly the Secretary of the Treasury for the Revenue Cutter Service was then an arm of the Treasury Department.

(3) If the flock of sheep was small they were often caught in the field or pasture and sheared on the spot rather than being driven into a pen.

25th. Wind SW. Fresh breeze, U. S. Cutter *Vigilant* arrives. Rains at night, the first for a long time.
 26th. Wind NNW. Cool. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting and returned at evening. Mrs. S. Norton experiences the quickening influence of Grace Devine having been in a backslidden state for many years past.
 27th. Wind SW. The Cutter *Vigilant* sails. Esq. Norton goes in her. The new Ship *Splendid* arrives from Rochester having been built for the whaling business.
 28th. Wind SW. Warm and dry. Br. Linton visits us.
 29th. Wind SSW to SE. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. Linton. Attended Class meeting. Returned at night. Rain during the night a very refreshing shower, having been the greatest drouth for a great number of years.
 31st. Wind SW. Fresh breeze. Esq. Norton returns by way of New Bedford.

August 1835

2nd. Wind SSW. Ship *George and Mary*, Ervin Coffin master sails for the Pacific Ocean. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting with Br. Fisk. A good season. Returned at night.
 3rd. Wind NW. Sloop *Hero* is hauled up upon the Railway being the first vessel ever hauled up in that manner here. Measured Ship *Splendid* and ascertained her tonnage. This day our son Joseph T. Pease is 21 years old.
 6th. Wind calm A.M. P.M. E. Rains. The ground being very dry it is very acceptable.
 7th. Wind NE to E. and N. Gale. Rains.
 9th. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting with Br. T. Stewart. This day was a solemn and interesting season. Benjamin Davis Jr.'s wife professed religion and speaks very affectionately to the Congregation in the afternoon meeting. At the 6 oclock meeting Sister Joann Luce professes to find Jesus in her Soul and the hope of immortal Glory. It was a time of joy and rejoicing with professions of awaking and conviction - sinners not withstanding and many circumstances which might be named but I forbear. ⁽⁴⁾ God of Mercy is still carrying on his work and blessed be his Holy name. Returned at night.

(4) There seems very often to have been heckling by the unsaved at the prayer meetings, who went there for just that purpose and often took their flasks and bottles with them.

10th. Wind SW. Esq. Norton visits the Beacon lately built on Colin's Ledge near Hyannis. He goes in the Cutter *McLane*, Lieutenant Commander Sturgis, and returns at 5 oclock P.M.
 11th. Wind SW. Engaged surveying land for E. P. Norton Esq. at Quampechy, ½ day with a boy.
 16th. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended meetings. Returned at night. It was a very interesting meeting. Br. Chase from West Side Holmes Hole was there. Capt. C. Smith attends in the evening.
 20th. Wind SW. Went to East Chop to clear ground and erect our tents for Camp Meeting. ⁽⁵⁾
 21st. Wind SW. Engaged in erecting tents &c. Returned at night.
 23rd. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Prayer Meeting. Very serious. Returned at evening.
 24th. Wind SW. Went to Camp Meeting and remained there during the meeting which continued until Friday morning the 28th. It was a time of God's power and great Mercy. Very many souls were awakened and a great number happily converted. A full account will be published in *Zion's Herald*. Bless the Lord oh my Soul.
 30th. Wind WNW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. F. Fisk. Attended prayer meeting. Capt. Charles Smith, Mr. Constant Norton and several others who had found the Lord to be precious to their Souls at the Camp Meeting spoke the feelings of their hearts. It was a solemn and interesting time. Br. Lumbert a Baptist preacher attended the meeting with us. We returned in time to witness the display of God's power. There were a number bowing around the altar for prayers when we came in.

September 1835

4th. Wind SW. Engaged surveying land at Quampechy for E. P. Norton.
 6th. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meetings with Br. John R. Norton who has lately professed

(5) Jeremiah doesn't tell us so but he was one of the most active founders of the Camp Meeting. And we could wish that he had told us a little more about it. But for all the details see Hebron Vincent's *History of the Wesleyan Grove, Martha's Vineyard, Camp Meeting*. Eventually it became the largest annual camp meeting in the United States, and led to the growth of Cottage City as a famous summer resort. See also Henry Beetle Hough's *Martha's Vineyard Summer Resort*. All the evangelical work that was going on was leading up to the Camp Meeting.

religion. It was a precious season. B. L. Butler's little daughter appears very differently in her mind at the 5 o'clock meeting. Returned at evening, and attended meeting in the vestry.

7th. Wind S to W. Reformation still goes on having commenced a few days before Camp Meeting.

8th. Wind SW. Engaged surveying land for E. P. Norton.

14th. Wind S to NW. Ship *Atlantic* arrives from the Pacific Ocean.

15th. Wind NW to N. Ship *Splendid* Jason Luce master sails for the Pacific Ocean. Revenue Cutter *Jackson*, Capt. Hunter arrives, visits the Light House. Attended a meeting at the new Schoolhouse at Farm Neck.⁽⁶⁾

20th. Wind SW. Revenue Cutter *McLane* sails. Mr. Freeman Butler and family moves from my house having lived with me more than 2 years.

27th. Wind N. I appointed a prayer meeting for Br. P. Luce on Monday night. Br. Bontaceau goes up and attends it. Mr. H. Smith professes religion this evening.

28th. Wind N. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting. It was a season that will be long remembered. Several arose for prayers. A little girl, Rebecca, daughter of Br. Samuel Butler spoke affectingly being the first time since she professed religion. Mr. Henry Smith was powerfully awakened. Returned at night, almost sick.

29th. Wind N. I was quite unwell all day and at night very sick.

30th. Wind NE. Being sick remain confined at home.

October 1835

1st. Wind NW. Br. F. Sherman and wife visit us from Nantucket.

2nd. Wind N to SW. Sister Betsy Linton returns home. Capt. Peter Coffin dies about 2 o'clock this morning. Ship *Kingston* arrives from the Pacific Ocean with 500 bbls. of oil. A bad voyage.

7th. Wind light. P.M. SW. Br. Sherman and wife goes to Nantucket. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class meeting. Returned at night.

9th. Wind NNW. Revenue Cutter *McLane*, Lieutenant Sturgis sails for New Bedford. J. P. N. Esq. goes in her.

(6) This building may have replaced the one on which William Butler taught school. See his diary excerpts from which are found in the *Dukes County Intelligencer*, Vol. 8, Nos. 2 and 4.

12th. Wind N. Ship *Reaper* clears and sails. Ships *Ganges* and *Constitution* arrive and enter.

13th. Wind SW. Sloop *Enterprise* arrives.

15th. Wind S. Light. Surveyed land for N. Jernegan which he sold to Grafton Norton.

20th. Wind ESE. Light. Ship *Zenas Coffin* arrives from the Pacific. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class Meeting. Returned at night.

31st. Wind N. Rains a little in the morning. P. M. NE. Clear. This has been a remarkably warm and pleasant month.

November 1835

1st. Wind N to S. Light. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended meetings. Returned at night. Our son J. T. Pease is married to Miss Sophronia Norton. Ship *Delphus* of Holmes Hole sails on a voyage whaling in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, commanded by Capt. Merry of that place.

2nd. Wind ESE to E. Br. Samuel Fellows' wife dies in the happy hope of immortality.

3rd. Wind NE. Light. Funeral of Sister Fellows. Service by Rev'd J. Bontaceau and Rev'd Mr. Tilton. Engaged in surveying part of the line between this town and Tisbury.

9th. Wind SW. to E. Foggy. Revenue Cutter *McLane* arrives. Mr. David Fisher dies.

10th. Wind NNW. Went to Tisbury. Carried Fred Coffin to Christiantown to keep school. Funeral of Mr. Fisher.

11th. Wind SE. Gale. Rain. Lumber for the Methodist Meetinghouse lost in the Sound.⁽⁷⁾

12th. Wind NNW. Fresh breeze. The British Schooner *Sarah Ann* arrives.

14th. Wind SSW. Schooner *Sarah Ann* is hauled up on the Railway today.

15th. Wind SSW. A schooner is upset off the East Coast this evening. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended meetings. Returned at night.

16th. Wind S. Had some conversation with Rev'd Mr. Dunbar with regard to some ridiculous reports which he had circulated about me.

(7) Undoubtedly the deckload of a schooner washed overboard in the gale. Somebody somewhere probably built a barn with it.

19th. Wind SW. Went to East Side Holmes Hole and surveyed land which Mr. Rufus Davis gave the Methodist Society for to erect a Meetinghouse upon.

23rd. Wind NNE. Went to the East Side Holmes Hole with Br. Henry Merchant. Attended meetings. Returned at night. Snow storm at night.

25th. Wind N to NW. Attended Class meeting at Br. Constant Norton's being the first ever held in that Neighborhood to my knowledge. It was a good season. Isabella and Mary N. Fisher went with me. Returned at night.

December 1835

1st. Wind WNW. Clear. Cold. P.M. very cold. Set out to go to West Side Holmes Hole with J.D.P. Did not get there. Returned.

3rd. Wind W. Thanksgiving Day.

5th. Wind WNW. Fresh breeze. Hauled up the Revenue Boat.

6th. Wind NW. Cold. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended meetings with Br. F. Fisk and Br. D. Nickerson from Chilmark.

11th. Wind WNW to W. Light. Moderate. Painted Revenue Boat.

14th. Wind SW to WNW. Gale at night. A large fleet of vessels sails for Boston &c.

16th. Wind NW. Remarkably cold. Made as much ice in the harbour as I ever saw there. Has been no snow for a number of days and very little for the season.

19th. Wind NE to E. Foggy. Went to East Side Holmes Hole on business for Grafton Norton. 2 brigs being cast away there I visited the brigs at evening.

20th. Wind NE. Light. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended meetings with Br. Shubael Davis. Returned at evening.

21st. Wind N. Light. One of the brigs above mentioned is got off and comes here. Launched the Revenue Boat. Went to Cape Poge with Dr. Lucas, J. T. Pease and others.

24th. Wind NW. Went to West Side Holmes Hole. Surveyed land for the heirs of A. Newcomb. Attended meeting at Frog Alley. ⁽⁸⁾

28th. Wind NW. Went to T. Smith's. Surveyed land for J. Jernegan.

29th. Wind N. Engaged at the Custom House.

31st. Wind NNW. Attended prayer meeting at Frog Alley. Returned and attended Watch Meeting in our Vestry.

January 1836

4th. Wind SE. Went to West Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meetings with Br. J. D. Pease. Br. Joselyn the preacher of that place was present with the Brethern of that place. It was a time of God's power and mercy. Five, I trust were brought from darkness to light and praised the Lord before the meeting closed. The last time prayer was offered up to the Lord all but one bowed on their knees. The last time of all every person in the room was prostrate before the Lord. The glory of the lord seemed to fill the place. The meeting was held at Br. Grinnell's in what is called Frog Alley. This is I trust the beginning of a good day with that people. Returned at night.

5th. Wind NE. Engaged at the Custom House.

6th. Wind NE to ENE. Surveyed land at the West Chop for Abijah Luce. Attended Prayer Meeting ⁽⁹⁾ with J. D. Pease, Br. Bicknall Beacher of Chilmark, Br. Josalyn of Holmes Hole and the brethern of that latter place at Br. Grinnell's. The house was very full. It was a good season. J. D. P. returned. I stayed to attend to surveying land as above.

7th. Wind ENE. Unpleasant. Engaged surveying. Returned at night. Engaged 1½ days. Received \$4.50 of A. Luce.

9th. Wind NE. Rain, high tide and gale. A heavy storm.

10th. Wind NE. Rain, high tide and gale. Did not go to East Side Holmes Hole on account of the storm. Some planks and boards come off the pier and breakwater.

11th. Wind N. Stormy. The wind does not blow so hard as yesterday.

13th. Wind SW. Pleasant. County Temperance Meeting held in the Methodist Meeting House. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. Snow, master of the Brig *Gem* that was wrecked on the East Chop. Attended Class meeting. Returned at night.

17th. Wind ESE. Attended Prayer Meeting at East Side Holmes Hole. Snow storm at evening. Did not attend evening meeting on account of the storm.

(8) Frog Alley seems to have been a community in what is now the village of Vineyard Haven.

(9) One supposes that prayer meeting and pray meeting were the same thing. Or were they?

21st. Wind S to SE. Went to West Side Holmes Hole. Attended meeting at Frog Alley. Returned at night. Rains at night. Brig *Gem* is hauled up upon the Railway.

24th. Wind E to ESE. Pleasant during the day. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. Snow master of the Brig *Gem*. Attended meetings. It was a very interesting time. 22 or more of the congregation spoke or prayed. Snow storm at night. Commenced while we were returning. Brig *Elsa* Wall master arrives from Mobile having one man very sick with the small pox.

25th. Wind SE to SSW. A very heavy gale with much rain. The air is remarkably warm. The saltworks on Chappaquiddic Point is damaged, about 1/3 blew off into the harbour. The wind changed to NW at evening. Freezes at night.

28th. Wind N. Very cold. Makes ice very fast. The man dies aboard the Brig *Elsa* of the small pox. The brig is on shore on the flats at the NE of the Light House.

29th. Wind W to SW. Very cold. The man above mentioned is buried on the SW part of Chappaquiddic Neck.

31st. Wind SE. Did not go to East Side Holmes Hole on account of rain. The ponds and valleys are very full of water.

February 1836

1st. Wind WNW. Cloudy. Cold. Made ice in the harbour. The harbour is frozen over except for a few holes. No water to be seen by the naked eye in the Sound.

3rd. Wind WNW. Cold. Ice makes in the harbour. At about 1/2 past 12 o'clock Fire was cried. The church bell rang. The people ran. It proved to be the Academy belonging to D. Davis situated in the center of the town. The fire could not be subdued when the people arrived. It burned to the ground. Capt. Jason Luce's house took fire on the end most exposed. By the blessing of heaven and the extraordinary exertions of the people it was extinguished to the great joy of all good citizens. Water was taken from wells and from a pond that was near the fire. The pond was caused by the late remarkably heavy rains. The alarm was great being the first fire ever to burn a building down in this village. Much credit is due the citizens and all present for their exertions and good deportment on the occasion. The loss of Mr. Davis was about \$1,000. Damage to Capt. Luce's house about \$300. Capt. Luce's house was insured.

5th. Wind NNW. Fresh breeze Very Cold. No water to be seen in the Sound.

6th. Wind NNW. Light. More moderate. Thaws a little in the sun. The Sound is all frozen over very hard.

7th. Wind WNW to ESE. Light. Cloudy. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended prayer meeting. Returned at evening being very slippery. A great deal of ice on the ground. J. Beetle Esq. returned with me.

8th. Wind SSE. Rainstorm. The ice in the Sound begins to break up. On the 6th. no water could be seen in the Sound from the high land except some small holes.

9th. Wind SW. Pleasant. The ice breaks up and goes out of the Sound. Harbour remains frozen up. 2 men break out with the small pox onboard the Brig *Elsa* which remains on shore yet. The Ship *Orbit* is reported at Tarpaulin Cove from the Pacific Ocean.

11th. Wind NW. Moderate. Snows a little. Ship *Orbit* comes into the ice.

12th. Wind E to ESE. Brig *Gem* is launched off the railway. Sloop *Van Buren* is hauled up on ditto.

14th. Wind NNW. Cold. Snows with gail of wind. Did not go to East Side Holmes Hole on account of the storm.

16th. Wind N. Ice makes fast. No water to be seen in the Sound for several days.

17th. Wind NNE. Cold. Ship *Orbit*, Capt. Gardner having been cut through the ice comes up to the wharf. Snows at night.

22nd. Wind N. Calm. Went eeling at Cape Poge. Ice begins to go out of the Sound. Harbour still closed up.

24th. Wind SE. Rains. Harbour still closed by ice. A great quantity of ice is floating in the Sound. Storm at night. The ice goes out of the harbour having closed it up for a long time.

26th. Wind ENE. Launched the Revenue Boat. P.M. snowstorm. Went to Holmes Hole to carry a woman.

28th. Wind NE. Moderated some. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended meetings. J. P. Snow went there with us. Returned at night. Harbour almost closed up again with ice.

29th. Wind E. Very cold. The outer part of the harbour nearly closed up with ice. No passing with vessels. Hauled up Revenue Boat on account of the ice. This winter has been very cold and the most ice for years.

March 1836

- 1st. Wind SW. Foggy. The ice goes out of the harbour last night. A very pleasant sight to see the harbour clear of ice.
- 2nd. Wind NW. Very Cold. Did not go to East Side of Holmes Hole. Makes ice in the harbour.
- 3rd. Wind W. Gale. Boarded Ship *Charles Carroll* of New London ⁽¹⁰⁾ and had a very bad time on account of the wind and sea. Boarded Ship *Orion*. Both from the Pacific.
- 5th. Wind S. The Brig *Elsa* that has been on shore so long with the small pox gets off.
- 6th. Wind SE. Went to East Side Holmes Hole with Br. J. P. Snow. Attended meetings. Returned at night.
- 9th. Wind light and calm. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended Class meeting. Returned and watched with Capt. James Bunting he being very sick.
- 11th. Wind WNW Gale. Miss Molly Coffin dies of old age. A. E. 83.
- 14th. Wind SW. Foggy A.M. P.M. Wind N. Capt. James Bunting dies at about 2 o'clock P.M. Service by Br. Bontacou for funeral of Mrs. C. Coffin.
- 18th. Wind NW. Gale. Cold. Freezes at night. Ice an inch thick.
- 22nd. Wind E. Snows. Covers the ground 1 or 2 inches thick. Snows at night.
- 23rd. Wind W. Clear. Snow 4 or 5 inches deep on the level. Thaws quite fast.
- 24th. Wind SSW. Cold. Ship *Vineyard*, Capt. Isiah Toby, arrives from the Pacific Ocean with 2,000 bbls. sperm oil.
- 28th. Wind E. Light. Surveyed land for Joseph Gorham, T. Mayhew and Henry Pease 2nd.
- 29th. Wind NE. Went to Squibnocket to see the daughter of Mr. Abner Mayhew. Set several bones in her foot. Returned at evening.

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- 1st. Wind SW. Pleasant. Engaged at the Custom House.
- 4th. Wind ESE. Rains a little. Town Meeting.
- 6th. Wind W. Light and calm. Set out to go to New Bedford but returned.

(10) At this period ships from ports other than Nantucket and Holmes Hole seem to have been unloading their oil in Edgartown.

7th. Wind W. Set out for New Bedford. Arrived there about 4 o'clock P.M. Attended prayer meeting at New Bedford.

8th. Wind SW. Returned from New Bedford. "And now my soul another year of my short life is past. This year completes another year of existence here. 'Oh time, how few thy value weigh.' "

11th. Wind NW to E. Light and calm. In the afternoon Ship *Montano* arrives from the Pacific Ocean with 3,000 bbls. sperm oil.

13th. Wind Calm A.M. P.M. E. Snowstorm. Went to Tisbury. Attended the County Temperance meeting. Returned. Cold. Snowed fast and thick. Gale with rain at night. Some boards and planks come off the breakwater and pier.

14th. Wind W. Went to Chilmark to see a woman who had hurt her foot. Returned at 4 P.M. Rained a little. Wind NNW at night. Revenue Cutter *Vigilant*, Capt. Fosher, arrives.

16th. Wind N to NE. Light. William goes to New Bedford for the purpose of learning a mason's trade. ⁽¹¹⁾

17th. Wind SE to NE. Went to East Side Holmes Hole. Attended meetings. Br. T. Stewart was there. Br. L. Davis went with me. Returned at evening. A Child of Capt Abraham Osborn dies.

18th. Wind SE. Funeral of the above mentioned child. Service by Rev'd Mr. Tilton at the Congregationalist meeting house.

22nd. Wind WNW. Ship *Cyrus* arrives and brings news of the death of Capt. Prince Coffin of Nantucket, master of the Ship *Awashonks* of Falmouth. He and his 1st and 2nd mates and men were murdered by natives of the Feegee Islands in the Pacific Ocean. ⁽¹²⁾

25th. Wind S. A large fleet of vessels sail for the eastern ports. Rains at night.

(11) William may have learned the Mason's trade but he did not work at it for long for he joined the United States Revenue Cutter Service while still a very young man. He rose high in the service.

(12) Starbuck says that four men in addition to the Captain and his first and second officers were killed.

D C H S News

This issue of the *Intelligencer* represents a changing of the guard. With the exception of a few issues, Gale Huntington has volunteered his services as editor of our society's journal since its inception in 1959. Through his diligence and hard work (he credits much of the latter to his wife Mildred who proofreads), Mr. Huntington has developed a journal that has become the hallmark of the Dukes County Historical Society. Everyone interested in the history of our area owes him a sincere debt of gratitude, and at its December meeting the Society's Council presented Mr. Huntington with a certificate thanking him for his eighteen years of service. Although we regret that Gale will not be working as closely with us as in the past, we wish him a pleasant retirement from his strenuous duties. The new editor is George W. Adams of the *Vineyard Gazette*, who has accepted the challenge with great enthusiasm. We wish him the best of luck.

In another administrative development, the Council has changed the title of curator to director. This change more accurately describes the position, and is in keeping with a provision of the new by-laws adopted at the annual meeting.

Work continues on the Francis Foster Museum, and we should be moving in before long. As the building nears completion, we can see that it is going to be a tremendous asset to the Society.

Among our several projects this winter, we are refurbishing the children's room in the Cooke House and adding shelves for the better display of toys and dolls. The prime mover behind this idea is Lorna Livingston, who has volunteered to devote the many hours that are necessary.

Without the volunteer work of such people as Mrs. Livingston, it would be impossible for the Society to make exhibit changes and to care for our great variety of artifacts. The amount of time that goes into the care and display of museum objects can scarcely be overestimated. When a donor presents us with an artifact, the accessioning process alone may take as much as an hour. Fortunately our Registrar of Accessions, Marian Halperin, volunteers her time to take care of the initial acceptance of an artifact, but in the years before she arrived with her expertise,

many items were not properly accessioned. Thus, it is often difficult to display an item effectively if we do not know its background. Mrs. Halperin has devoted a great deal of time to unravelling the mysteries connected with unidentified artifacts, but we have so many items in our collections that the task probably can never be completed by one individual working on a part-time basis. To cite an example of the problem, we once had a very efficient volunteer who spent approximately ninety hours cataloging a forty-two piece collection of glass egg cups. Caring for artifacts and preserving them is an entirely different problem than cataloging, and it is a never-ending task. All this means, of course, that we need volunteers. If you have a particular skill or interest, please let us know about it, and we can discuss the ways that you can help to preserve the island's history.

One of our most interesting recent accessions, given by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Waggaman, is a box beautifully inlaid with ivory and mother-of-pearl. The top is inscribed "P Hall, 1837." Does anyone know anything about this Hall family of the 1830's? Coincidentally, the Waggamans presented this gift to us through our former president, Mr. Alfred Hall, but his family did not come to the island as early as 1837.

It is that time of year again when we are processing dues payments and donations to the Preservation Fund. Without this fund, it would be impossible for us to keep the house and other attractions in good condition. Please be generous.

Thomas E. Norton
Director

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.