



# THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

VOL. 22, NO. 4

MAY 1981



BEACH AND LOVER'S ROCK, OAK BLUFFS.

## Reid's Sea-Side Souvenir of 1883

The Story of a House;  
Perhaps the Island's Oldest

by HENRY E. SCOTT, JR.

The British Raid Naushon in 1775

by ELISHA NYE

This Might Have Been  
"Morton's Merry Vineyard"

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Acquired by the Society in 1935, the Thomas Cooke House was built in about 1765. It has been established as a museum and its twelve rooms are devoted to historical displays that reflect past eras of Vineyard life. It is open to the public during the summer with a nominal fee being charged to non-members.

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The public is invited.



*A genuine old house,  
unspoiled by changes*

## The Story of a House; Perhaps the Island's Oldest

by HENRY E. SCOTT, JR.

IN THE TOWN of Chilmark there are some twenty-five surviving houses that date back before the American Revolution. Of these, the earliest is the so-called Hancock-Mitchell house at Quansoo.<sup>1</sup> Old-timers know that Quansoo is the easternmost area of Chilmark, on the western shore of Tisbury Great Pond. It is part of the Great Plain that extends from Edgartown to Chilmark with a series of Great Ponds. Named by the Indians who lived along the shores of these ponds 300 or more years ago, Quansoo referred to the long fish or eels that abounded in the waters.

The Hancock-Mitchell house nestles quite by itself in an open field not far from Black Point Pond to the south and west. Family legend associates the name of the Rev. Thomas Mayhew, Jr., as the builder and first occupant of this house. If the legend is true, it would date the house to 1657 or earlier, since that was the year in which the Indian missionary was lost at sea. That date would make it

<sup>1</sup> The next oldest Chilmark house is believed to be the Norton-Harris house on North Road. Its date is uncertain, but the author and others believe it was built on Nomansland in about 1710 and brought to Chilmark in 1813.

HENRY E. SCOTT retired in 1970 from the U. of Missouri at Kansas City after 17 years as Chairman of the Art Department. He has also taught at Harvard, U. of Pittsburgh and Amherst. With his wife, Peggy, he lives in their 130-year-old Chilmark house, bought when he was here in Naval Aviation in World War II. He still does portraits and watercolors, when not probing old houses or playing violin for the Sunday Afternoon Chamber Music Ensemble.

not only the oldest house in Chilmark, but the oldest house on Martha's Vineyard.

The writer tends to favor the legend that the Reverend Mayhew did build a house at Quansoo, either as a dwelling or as a meeting place for his missionary work, between 1652 and 1657, and that the Hancock-Mitchell house is very likely the one he built.

### Part One -- The House

As it appears today, the old house is typical of the earliest timber-framed houses on Martha's Vineyard, those built in the late 17th and early 18th Centuries. With a few exceptions, these correspond to the ones that were built in the English tradition in the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies during that era.

In those colonies and on the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, the standard house type was determined by the location of the chimney, the disposition of rooms on the first floor and the number of openings (windows and doors) in the front. The most typical type has a central chimney, a "five window" front and a simple pitched roof of two slopes (forward and aft) over a one-and-a-half-story structure. Commonly called a "Cape type," it actually does not belong to Cape Cod alone, but to all New England. It persisted throughout the 18th and well into the 19th Centuries.

Although the house at Quansoo has the outward character of this basic type, there is evidence that it was not so originally. As first built, possibly about 1655, it was no more than a small structure, probably of two rooms, a living room with a kitchen behind it, one-and-a-half stories high and having an end chimney on the east side.

Sometimes this end-chimney type is considered to be a "half house," in a sense an initial stage towards an eventual "five window" front house, achieved by lengthening the original half with the addition of a similar half on the other side of the chimney. The result is a central-chimney house, with a front door in the middle



*The nearest portion of house (southwest end) was the first built (see p.127)*

and two windows on each side of it, providing each front room with two windows on the front wall. Careful study seems to prove that this house went through just such a transformation, probably early in the 18th Century. Today, the main part of the house measures 35 feet 3 inches long and 27 feet 8 inches deep.

Our study shows that the west half of the house was the original part. There, under the front (southwest) room, we find a small cellar, the house's only cellar, where hand-hewn sills and first-floor joists can be seen. On the joists, only one face (the one on which the floor boards rest) was cleared of bark and cut flat. These joists have deteriorated badly, due to rot and termites.

The two front rooms are about 14 feet square, with splayed corner posts remaining exposed as are the rather low (about 7 feet high) ceiling beams, running from front to rear. Joists for the attic floor above rest on these central beams and on chimney and end girts. These joists are now hidden by plaster ceilings in both rooms.

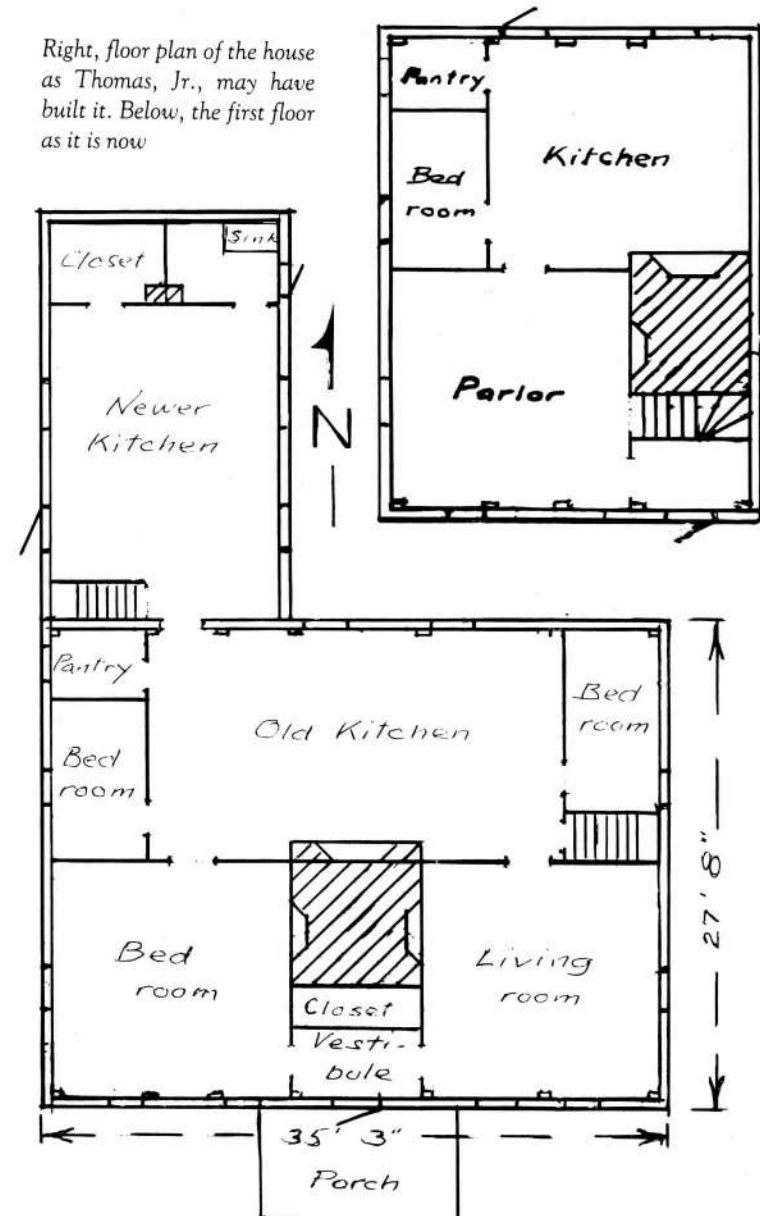
In the southwest front room, originally the living room and now a bedroom, the tattered remains of the 19th Century paper are visible on both walls and ceiling,

including the beams. The newer southeast front room became the living room when the house was enlarged. It has a central "summer" beam.<sup>2</sup> Typical early 18th Century paneling was installed on the chimney and fireplace wall and the center beam was encased, in the prevalent taste of that period. Each front room has two small windows on the front and one on the end walls. These are sash windows, about 25 inches wide and 50 inches high, with small six-over-six lights.

When the house was enlarged by the addition of the east half, the kitchen at the rear was lengthened to much the size it is today.<sup>3</sup> There are exposed hand-hewn ceiling beams that run from rear to inner wall and through one of them there is a loose peg on which scales could be hung for weighing grain to be sold by barter. Each end of this room is partitioned off, providing on the west a small bedroom (possibly the "borning" room) and pantry and, on the east, another small bedroom and a narrow stairway to the loft or attic. Originally, the stairs probably were in the vestibule in front of the chimney, but were moved here when the house was enlarged. That vestibule space is now a narrow closet, opening into each front room. In the rear wall of the kitchen there was a back door and at least two windows, at this time.

Perhaps it was also during the enlargement that the chimney was completely rebuilt of brick. Into it, flues fed from the two front fireplaces and from the large one in the kitchen. Doubtless, this kitchen fireplace had a built-in brick oven and a crane supporting a large iron kettle, but none of this remains today -- only a small mantel and an opening for a stovepipe (a 19th Century change) are visible now. The massive central chimney served its functions of heating, cooking and social-focus well until only three or

Right, floor plan of the house as Thomas, Jr., may have built it. Below, the first floor as it is now



<sup>2</sup> This "summer" has nothing to do with the season, but comes from the Norman French *summer* and is an architectural term for a heavy, horizontal timber that serves as a supporting beam.

<sup>3</sup> Similar to what was done to the Vincent-MacKenty house that has been restored in Edgartown. See *Intelligencer* August 1978.

four years ago when, because of age and deterioration, it had to be taken down and replaced by a much smaller one of concrete blocks. A pile of the old bricks can still be seen outside the house.

All first-floor rooms had broad pine floorboards, some of which have had to be replaced or covered over with new flooring. Settling of the old house has resulted in marked sloping and unevenness throughout.

Two more features that tend to show that the eastern part, beyond the east face of the chimney, has been added are: first, a splayed post in the center of the rear wall of the kitchen, opposite the east end of the chimney, which could have been a rear corner post in the earlier house; and, second, a fissure that has opened up in the corner of the southeast front room (living room) at the junction of the front and chimney walls.

Perhaps the most convincing evidence of the enlargement of the house is to be seen in the attic where the framing members of the roof, held together with wooden pegs, are exposed to view, allowing one to see the following: first, the purlins (horizontal struts between the rafters) east of the chimney are at different levels and different intervals from those to the west of the chimney and were fashioned with much less care; second, the collar beams (overhead tie beams mortised with wooden pegs into opposite rafters) east of the chimney are several inches higher than those to the west and also were hewn with less precision;<sup>4</sup> third, there is only one window in the west gable, but there are two in the east gable and the right-hand one (looking out) of the pair admits light into a southeast bedroom at the head of the stairway that has been partitioned off with plaster walls and ceiling.

Like so many houses of this time in Chilmark, this one has roof boards that run vertically, that is, up and down

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Eldridge of North Tisbury has noted that at least three of the collar beams are numbered from the west end with Roman numerals I, II and III crudely cut into them near the south ends. If numerals were cut on the IV, V and VI beams, this writer could not find them.



*Purlins and collar beams indicate that the house was enlarged at later date with the slope of the roof, which is fairly steep, about 45 or 50 degrees. Up under the top of the roof, in the center, is a patch of new and narrower boards filling in the space where the large central brick chimney was once located. The new chimney of concrete blocks is much smaller and passes through the roof somewhat below the peak on the south or front slope.*

Probably it was in the 19th Century, possibly while the Hancocks were living there, that the present ell was put on and what had been the rear outside door now opens into it. The ell extends north an estimated 23 feet to the rear. It is flush with the west gable end of the original main part of the house and is about 14 feet wide. This forms the present kitchen which has an up-to-date oil-burning stove with a pipe running into a rear chimney.<sup>5</sup> At the rear of the present kitchen is a storage closet and another sort of vestibule with soapstone sink, a pitcher-pump to the old

<sup>5</sup> In the early 19th Century with the arrival of the cast-iron cook stove, kitchen ells were added to many Island houses. They were known as "summer kitchens," which no doubt indicates that, in the beginning at least, they were used only during hot weather. In winter, the fireplace was probably still used for cooking.



well and an outside door to the east. On the west side is another outside door, the most used one, and beside it there is a door leading to an attic over the ell where some of the rear roof and old shingles of the main house are still to be seen.

Outside, there is a cluster of ailanthus trees at the southeast front corner and a small covered porch (probably later 19th or early 20th Century). At the rear of the house, near the ell, the old cylindrical, stone-lined well with its good water is still there, but now lacks the long balance pole or "well sweep" for raising the water bucket it once had. Farther beyond is a privy, still in use.

In the 19th Century there were many farm buildings on the property, including a big barn, a corn crib, root cellar, etc.<sup>6</sup> At one time there also was a Hancock house that stood near the entrance gate, but it was moved to Vineyard Haven by Willis Hancock years ago. The foundation hole and stones may still be there. This Quansoo property at that time comprised some 200 acres of good farmland and buildings.

During the depression years of the 1930s, the Mitchell family, which has occupied the old house for many, many years, conveyed a 50-percent interest in it to Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Bigelow. In 1969, Mrs. Mitchell carried out a few urgent repairs, including the new chimney and roofing but otherwise she has kept the house as it was. Several parcels of land have been sold to the Quansoo Beach Association and to a number of individuals so that the extent of the property now has been reduced to about 150 acres.

In 1970, Mrs. George B. (Florence Butcher) Harris of Gladwyne, Penn., and Vineyard Haven became the owner in a worthy effort to prevent developers from taking over. This was a very complex three-way transaction involving the Mitchells, Bigelows and herself. Under its terms, the Mitchells retain the right of occupancy until the year 2000. Lawrence Hepler, who lives in a recently built house

<sup>6</sup> At the death of Cyrus Hancock in 1859 a detailed inventory of his estate listed the buildings on the property.



*Photo was taken about 1920 when the house had original chimney and well sweep nearby, is the present caretaker and farms the land.*

Approach to the old house is by a dirt road and a locked gate for about one and a half miles in from Nab's Corner on South Road. It leads through woods of scrub oak where once there were open pastures.<sup>7</sup> Herds of sheep still grazed in Chilmark meadows and hills well into the 20th Century, but only a few remain today.

The writer first visited the old Quansoo homestead in July 1979, meeting Adelbert Mitchell's widow, Iva, then nearly 90 years of age, and several members of her family: Colson, one of two sons; Elaine, one of three daughters (now Mrs. Mahoney) and her husband; Elaine's son by her first marriage, James Cosgrove, Jr., and his two-year-old son (Iva's great grandson) -- four generations in all. They use the house mostly in the spring, summer and fall, tending a vegetable garden and enjoying the nearby pond and ocean beaches. Without modern improvements, such

<sup>7</sup> Dr. John Whiting of Cambridge and Chilmark believes that at one time (18th or early 19th Centuries), there were three other routes leading from the west end of Tisbury Great Pond to the mills at West Tisbury, known at one time as Takemmy, meaning "where one goes to grind corn." These routes were: Old Fields Path or Lane to South Road near Stan Murphy's studio; Hannah Look's Path by the west shore of Town Cove; the road from Quansoo house to Adams homestead on South Road near Nab's Corner; and the present road from Quansoo to Nab's Corner, a branch of which led via Quenames directly to South Road along the north edge of Robinson's property.

as electricity,<sup>8</sup> running water and bathrooms, the house retains its old character of another day and age.

Interesting accumulations of the various family generations abound in the house. Unlike so many old houses that have been restored, altered or modernized, this is a completely genuine old house, unspoiled by the changes that are usually considered necessary for contemporary living.

By a careful study of Banks' *History of Martha's Vineyard* and the available Town, Vital and Probate Records, plus private records and recollections made available by living descendants, such as Mayhews, Nortons, Hancocks and Mitchells, the author has learned much about these families who were born, lived or died in the Hancock-Mitchell house.

Thomas Mayhew, Jr., born in England about 1620, came to New England with his father as a boy in 1631. The elder Mayhew was, at that time, the colonial agent for Matthew Craddock, a London "merchante, miller and factor," and lived in Medford on the Craddock estate. Later, after leaving Craddock's employ (the employer was dissatisfied with his performance), he lived in Watertown. In those towns of the new Massachusetts Bay Colony, young Thomas Jr., received his education, probably from tutors.<sup>9</sup>

In 1641, the senior Mayhew carried on those extraordinary negotiations in Boston with an agent of the Earl of Stirling which resulted in the sale to Mayhew of the islands of Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeths for 40 pounds. The transaction was part of King Charles I's plan for the colonization and development of the New World territories known as New England. For an

<sup>8</sup> Just outside the summer kitchen is a Delco generator capable of supplying electricity to one outlet in the kitchen. This is the single concession to the modern age.

<sup>9</sup> The house shown in Banks, Vol. I, p. 126, is not the one in which Mayhew lived and it is of brick not stone as suggested in Banks' caption "Greate Stone House," Medford. For many years, the Matthew Craddock house was confused with the Peter Tufts house, which is the one shown in Banks. The Craddock house where Mayhew lived was said to have stood near the present Medford Theatre at Medford Square.



"Summer kitchen" ell was added in 1800s to accommodate the cast-iron stove additional small sum, Mayhew secured a grant from Sir Fernando Gorges, who had title to the Province of Maine, which at that time included these islands. In so doing, he cleared away any possible future claims from that quarter. Later, he had the perspicacity to satisfy the Indians on the islands by paying their sachems for "rights" to land purchases.<sup>10</sup>

It was in the following year, 1642, that Mayhew, Sr., sent his son, Thomas, Jr., then just 21 years old, to Martha's Vineyard to start a settlement in the Indian Nunne-pog area, the eastern end of the Island. The settlers who came with young Thomas called it Great Harbour, a name that was changed in 1671 to Edgartown, in honor of the son of the Duke of York. The Mayhews set up the English system of making land grants to a limited number of selected Proprietors. There were 18 at first, a number that was soon increased to 25. These Proprietors divided the land that Mayhew had purchased from the Indians into "home lots," varving in size from 10 to 40 acres, which they sold to settlers. The elder Mayhew retained a 40-acre lot each for himself and his son, Thomas, Jr., and another lot for his teen-age daughter, Hannah.

The first houses, none of which has survived, were

<sup>10</sup> Banks, *History of Martha's Vineyard*, I, pp. 80-88.



traditional timber-framed structures, varying from a one-room single-end-chimney type to a full house, a central-chimney type of one-and-a-half stories, consisting of two or more rooms around the chimney. The original Mayhew house was on Edgartown harbor, near the corner of the present Cooke Street and South Water Street.

According to Banks, "when in 1646 the elder Thomas came with his family, he (Thomas, Jr.) made his home with them."<sup>11</sup> After a major fire, about 1670, their house was replaced by another larger one of two-and-a-half stories, with pitched roof, central chimney and a front vestibule. This was the well-known Governor Mayhew House which survived until 1910 when it was torn down.<sup>12</sup>

The writer figures that by about 1650 the following family members were living in the first Mayhew house: Thomas, Sr., and his second wife, Jane (Paine); Thomas, Jr., son of the first wife (name unknown) and his wife, Jane Paine (the elder Mayhew's stepdaughter and daughter-in-law, being the daughter of his second wife by her first husband, Mr. Paine, and also his daughter-in-law by marriage to Thomas, Jr.); Thomas Paine, son of the second wife by Mr. Paine; three teen-age daughters of the older couple, Hannah, Bethiah and Martha; plus two infants of the younger couple, Matthew and Thomas III. That totals ten persons living in the original Mayhew house -- of which, three were Thomases and two were Janes!

Once the elder Mayhew arrived, young Thomas was happy to leave the business of land development to him. Acquiring "rights" from Indian sachems to various land tracts and other matters connected with land distribution, settlement and development did not appeal to the young man, who preferred to devote himself to religion.

Banks quotes Daniel Gookin (writing in 1674) as saying

<sup>11</sup> Banks, I, p. 128. Dr. Banks is of two minds about the date of the senior Mayhew's move to Great Harbour. A few pages earlier he wrote that "he must have gone to the Vineyard as a permanent removal in the spring or summer of 1645." I, p. 125. The earlier date seems more likely.

<sup>12</sup> H. F. Norton, *Martha's Vineyard*, p. 16; also Banks, II, "Annals of Edgartown," p. 198. For a view of the old Mayhew house turn to page 149 this issue.

of the young Thomas: "... being a scholar and pious man, after some time (he) was called to be minister unto the English upon that island." Banks also quotes the Rev. Thomas Prince (writing in 1723), who says of young Thomas, "soon after their settlement on the island, the new Plantation called him to the ministry among them." Dr. Banks "doubts if (Thomas) was ever ordained in the usual way by a council of ministers or regarded as more than a 'teacher.'" In the first year, religious services were held in private dwellings, probably in the Mayhew house. It was not until Feb. 6, 1653, that Town records show that at a meeting in the Pastor's house "it was ordered by the Town to begin to build a meeting house."<sup>13</sup>

Young Thomas, now known as "Reverend" Thomas, conducted religious services for his fellow settlers, but increasingly he became interested in bringing knowledge of the white man's God and religion to the dusky-skinned natives.<sup>14</sup> One of these natives, Hiacoomes, who lived near the Great Harbour settlement, had become acquainted with him and had visited the homes of the settlers, even attending some of their meetings. He became, in the first year, Thomas' first convert to Christianity. With Hiacoomes' help, Thomas was able to visit groups of Indians, discourse with them and learn their language. He developed a rapport with the natives, told them with missionary zeal about Christianity and the one God, translated the Bible into their language and taught at least some of them to read and write.

In 1645, there had been a "universal sickness," an epidemic of a "very strange disease," that spread through the Indian communities. The Pawwas (Pow-wows) or

<sup>13</sup> There is uncertainty about when the first meeting house was built. On February 6, 1653, the above order was published. However, on February 3, 1664, the town records show that a meeting house was to be built "upon the common land" and it was to be 33 by 19 feet. Then July 3, 1680, it was "voted by the Town that there shall be a meeting house built of twenty foot square . . . to be finished by the last day of March next ensuing." That would be three meeting houses in 27 years. It is possible that the first one was never built.

<sup>14</sup> For a fascinating description of his activities, written at the time, see Banks, I, pp. 213-232.

medicine men of the tribe tried to cure the sick by means of grimaces, shouts and dancing, but it was noted by the Indians that those who listened to the young Mayhew were scarcely afflicted. When Thomas succeeded in curing the son of a Sagamore, Towanquattick, respect for him and his teachings greatly increased. More and more, he gained "standing amongst them . . . These tactics employed by the young missionary were very clever in their conception and successful in their execution. He was pitting his skill in medicine against the crude methods of the Pawwas," Banks wrote.

During the next few years, Thomas was moving from one Indian community to another in his missionary work, "lodging in their smoky wigwams." He was, by this time, being assisted in his endeavors not only by Hiacoomes, but also by Towanquattick and Monanequem, son of an Indian leader. A schedule of lectures (sermons) was set up, at first, one every two weeks and later, two meetings every Lord's Day, with Hiacoomes and Monanequem teaching, along with Thomas himself. These meetings were successful, in spite of the obstructive tactics of the Powwows who held conventions in which the white man's power and their fear of it were openly discussed.

Monanequem, according to Banks, "became the first Indian preacher in Nashawakemmuck (now Chilmark) and in 1651 went to Boston with young Mayhew where he was interviewed by the Rev. John Wilson, pastor of the First Church of that town."

Word of Mayhew's missionary work gained attention beyond the shores of the Island. The Rev. Henry Whitfield of Guilford, Conn., visited the Island in 1650 and attended several Indian meetings at which Thomas preached.<sup>15</sup> Letters written to England by Mayhew and by John Eliot and others had awakened great interest there in Mayhew's work and had brought contributions. The Long

<sup>15</sup> Whitfield wrote in his report to the Corporation that his boat was forced to put into the Vineyard "by reason of contrary winds" enabling him to see at first hand the good works of young Mayhew. His report was apparently a major factor in Mayhew being put on the Corporation "payroll." *Present State of the Indians in New England*, 1650.

Parliament in 1649 had established a Corporation for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England and, under the direction of Oliver Cromwell, a general collection had produced nearly 12,000 pounds. Prior to 1654, young Mayhew had received only "irregular gratuities" for his labors, but in September of that year the Corporation voted him a salary of 40 pounds a year, which was increased to 50 pounds two years later, along with an additional 50 pounds to pay teachers. Recognition of his pioneering missionary effort was, at last, being bestowed upon him.

We can only guess as to the various places on the Island where Thomas and his assistants held their meetings and delivered their lectures. There is no record, but he did write in a letter to Reverend Whitfield that "There are now two meetings kept every Lord's Day, the one three miles, the other about eight miles off my house. Hiacoomes teacheth twice a day at the nearest, and Mumanequem (sic) accordingly at the farthest..."<sup>16</sup> If the location of "my house" was Great Harbour (Edgartown), three miles would take us to Katama, Felix Neck or the shore of Great Herring Pond (Edgartown Pond), where the meetings were probably open-air assemblies during propitious weather. The distance of "eight miles off my house" takes us to the present village of West Tisbury, then the Indian Takemmy (later Newtowne). This writer would also suggest as possible meeting sites such Indian communities as Mashacket on a cove of Edgartown Pond, Mattakeeset on Katama Bay, Quansoo and the nearer part of Nashawakemmuck, the last two being in present-day Chilmark.

In Vol. II, "Annals of Chilmark," Banks writes: "The first attempt of the Mayhews to acquire the Indian 'rights' in the present limits of the town of Chilmark was made by the younger Mayhew, before 1657, but as the date is not of record, it may only be surmised when it was accomplished." He then describes a vast tract of land with place names

<sup>16</sup> Banks, I, p. 223.

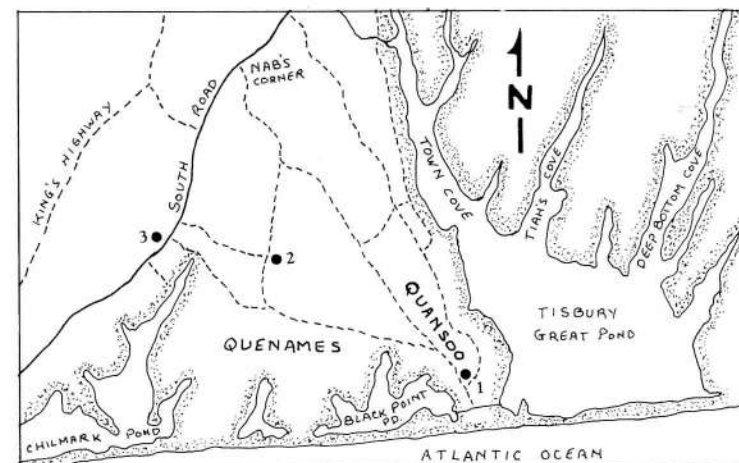
that are hard to identify today. This tract, Banks wrote, was called by the Indians "Nashawakemmuck," and apparently included Quansoo, the site of the Hancock-Mitchell house.

On the basis of those "rights" which Thomas purchased some time before his death in 1657, one might suppose that the Indians in the area, out of respect and regard for his work among them, may have granted him permission to build a house there.

There were many reasons why Thomas Mayhew, Jr., might have wished to move his home and the seat of his missionary operations out of Great Harbour to Quansoo. For one thing, he wanted, no doubt, to live among his Christian Indians, close enough so they could come to his house for meetings, especially in the winter. The distance from Great Harbour to Takemmy is eight miles and it was another 2½ miles from Takemmy to Quansoo.

Additionally, there was the situation in the Mayhew house in Great Harbour. As we have already noted, in 1650 there were 10 souls living in the Mayhew house. Six years later, 1656, the number would have increased to 13, as the Reverend's wife, Jane, had given birth to John (1652), Jerusha (1654) and Jedidah (1656). Another child, Abiah, died shortly after birth.

Although large families were quite usual in those days, such a household, consisting of several families, must have presented something of an endurance test, especially for a minister-missionary with sermons to prepare. Also, it would seem plausible that Thomas and Jane would have wanted a house of their own, away from the elder Mayhew. The need for land that could be farmed to provide food for this increasing family was, no doubt, another consideration. The Great Plain at Quansoo would provide excellent farmland and there was a bountiful supply of herring and shellfish in Great Pond. Furthermore, we have noted already that in 1654 the Reverend Thomas was voted an annual salary of 40 pounds (increased to 50 in 1656), a goodly sum in those



Houses of four Mayhews: 1. Thomas, Jr.; 2. Experience and John; 3. Zaccheus days. That, too, could have helped motivate a move.

For these reasons, the writer tends to favor the legend that the Rev. Thomas Mayhew, Jr., did build a house at Quansoo, some time between 1652 and 1657. (It has been suggested by Arthur Railton that such a house might not necessarily have been used as a family home, but for meetings with the Indians and for overnight shelter for the Reverend away from the "smoky wigwams.")

If this Hancock-Mitchell house that nestles in the open fields near the sea is the one that young Thomas built, it may be the oldest house on the Island because it would have to have been built before 1658. In November of 1657, after bidding farewell to his followers, both whites and Indians, at "a place by the wayside" (where now there is a bronze tablet on the Edgartown-West Tisbury road), he made his way to Boston, then embarked on a sailing ship for England in order to settle matters of his wife's family estate. With him was his wife's brother and an Indian convert, being taken along to convince the Corporation of the value of their contributions to his work. The ship was never heard from again and Thomas, with about fifty others, was presumed lost at sea.

*(The first of two parts.)*



## Mayhew's Home or Meeting House?

THERE IS no way to be certain that the Hancock-Mitchell house was built by Thomas Mayhew, Jr. Henry Scott does present a strong case. It would seem that an even stronger case can be made that it was built as a meeting house for Mayhew's work with the up-Island Indians.

In 1651, Thomas Jr., wrote to the Corporation, "This winter I intend, if the Lord will, to set up a School to teach Indians to read..."

In 1652, he wrote, "We are by the help of God about to begin a Town that they may cohabit and carry on things in a Civil and Religious way the better... About 30 Indian children are now at school which began the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1651."

In 1654, the Corporation wrote to him, "we therefore have agreed...for the Meeting house which you desire to be built for the Indians, though we conceive another form less chargeable and of less capascitie than you propound bee sufficient which we leave to your further consideration... we shall allow you upon that account the summe of forty pounds in iron work, nayles, glasse and such other pay as is in our agent's hands, expecting the Indians should improve their labors to finish the same as they did at Naticke..."

The corporation also agreed to pay Mayhew 40 pounds a year plus 30 pounds for a schoolmaster and two helpers. Why wouldn't Quansoo have been the logical place to build the meeting house? Many Indians lived in the area, at the head of the Great Pond, where it was warmer and

where there were many shellfish.

The fact that it was not in the form of a traditional meeting house would explain the Commissioners comment that they would "conceive another form." It certainly would have suited his needs more to have a "house" where he could spend the night comfortably, rather than a conventional meeting house.

The Indian that Mayhew was taking with him to England as his prize pupil came from Chilmark, as did the large group of Indians that walked with him to the "place by the wayside" -- both being evidence that he concentrated his work in the Chilmark area.

In 1664, the sachem Panhannett sold to Governor Mayhew "all my rights in Quainames" and in 1668 he sold the "land east of Quainames" (Quansoo) to the Governor, who in his will wrote "I give unto my daughter Hannah... all that land or neck called Qannemes or Quansoowansee..."

Clearly, that area was one that the Governor cherished, Hannah being his favorite. Perhaps it meant much because of a connection to the lost Thomas Jr.

Certainly, the Mayhew family chose that part of Chilmark as an early home. John Mayhew, son of Thomas Jr., lived and preached there. Experience, John's son, did likewise as did Zachariah, the last of the Mayhew missionaries.

So it would seem that there is good evidence to support Henry Scott's thesis.

A.R.R.

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## The British Raid Naushon in 1775

by ELISHA NYE

*On May 31, 1775, Elisha Nye, an innkeeper near Tarpaulin Cove, Naushon island, went before Thomas Smith, Justice of the Peace, Barnstable, claiming damages from the Royal Navy in the amount of fifteen pounds and six shillings. To support his claim he made the following deposition of events that occurred three weeks after the American Revolution began on Lexington Common.*

ELISHA NYE, innholder, living on one of the Elizabeth Islands, commonly called Naushan, and near to Tarpaulin Cove, testifieth and said that sometime about the 5th of May, the sloop of war called the *Falkland*, commanded by Capt. Linzey, came into the Cove, and as soon as the vessel had come to anchor, the Captain came on shore with his boat's crew, all armed, and came to the house, and said unto the deponent, "You need not be scared."

Upon which, he told him it was enough to scare anybody to see so many men come on shore armed; and the women were all fled and to where he knew not; upon which, Capt. Linzey told him to call them in, for he did not mean to hurt anybody -- upon which promise, I and my family were satisfied.

Soon after that, the Captain asked me to walk with him; which I complied with; and in the course of the walk, he

ELISHA NYE, as the deposition states, was an innholder on Naushon, obviously serving vessels that came into Tarpaulin Cove for refuge and provisioning. Beyond that, nothing is known of him. This deposition is filed in Barnstable County Court House, pages 753 to 755. A copy of it, carefully made by Richard L. Pease of Edgartown sometime around 1850, is in the possession of the Society.

demanded to know what stock I had; and added, to tell him right, for if I did not, he would take all that he met; upon which I gave him the account.

Then the Captain told me, the deponent, if I sold any of them, he would take the remainder by force; upon which, I told him, if he were here when they were fit for market he might have them, paying the price I used to have.

Soon after, he went to Rhode Island, and returned back in a few days; after which, he used to pass and repass the island almost every day, mostly in company with the doctor of the ship, leaving down the fence repeatedly, which let the cattle often mix together, which I told the doctor was a great damage. The doctor's answer was, "Then you may put it up yourselves, for I will not," and he often talked in an abusive, insulting manner, that he, the doctor, would soon take what he wanted without any pay.

On the 26th instant, a sloop came into the Cove, with about twenty passengers, men, women and children, in great distress for provisions and made application to me for supplies. Capt. Linzey knowing that, his boat having boarded her, sent his boat on shore and forbade my letting them have any. Then I advised them to apply to Capt. Linzey and see if they could not prevail upon him to let them have some; accordingly, they went; afterwards, the captain of the sloop told me that he absolutely refused them and said, "Damn the dog that would let them have any!" and if they were not gone immediately, he would sink them. Upon which, they set sail immediately without any supplies.

And further, the deponent declareth, that the doctor came on shore and said that the Captain's orders were that I should go with him, the doctor, and destroy all the boats belonging to the island.

I told him I could not go upon such business as that. He said he would send me on board the ship if I did not go; upon which, I found I must comply, and accordingly went with him and saw him, the doctor, stave three boats.

On the 29th, about eight o'clock in the evening, he, the said doctor, came on shore and told me he had come for my sheep, upon which I told him they were out in the pasture and I could not get them into the pen it being dark, but would fetch them in as early in the morning as he pleased. The answer from the doctor was "Damn you! What did you turn them out for?"

The reason, I told him, was that they had got out their own sheep and did not say anything about when they should want mine and I thought it best the sheep should be let out to feed; upon which, the said doctor said to me, "Damn you! Go on board the ship and I'll see what they were turned out for."

I told him I would not, but would go and try to get the sheep up. He said, "Well, damn you! Make haste!" and swung his sword over my head. But upon trial I found it so dark I could not get them in and, on my return, was informed that he, the doctor, had sent on board for more help to carry me and my brother on board the ship; upon which, with the abuses and threats I had received before, I thought it time to make my escape, which I did, to the mainland, and begged the assistance of the people, who readily came to my assistance.

When I returned, which was about three o'clock in the morning, some of my family told me they had been on shore, armed, and taken all my calves, being seven in number; two of the poorest and smallest, they sent on shore in the morning; the other, with four sheep they had some days before, they carried off without paying anything for them.

I do further declare, the abuses and threats I received from Capt. Linzey and the doctor were the occasion of my moving off the island, leaving my interest. And I declare that I never refused Capt. Linzey, or any other person belonging to any ship of war, entertainment in my house, or a supply of provisions that I had on my farm and could spare.

And I further declare that on the night of the 29th instant, the aforesaid doctor, as my wife informs me, came on shore and demanded my gun, with his sword in hand, which she delivered to him, and I have not seen it since, though it was the only weapon of defense that I had on the island.

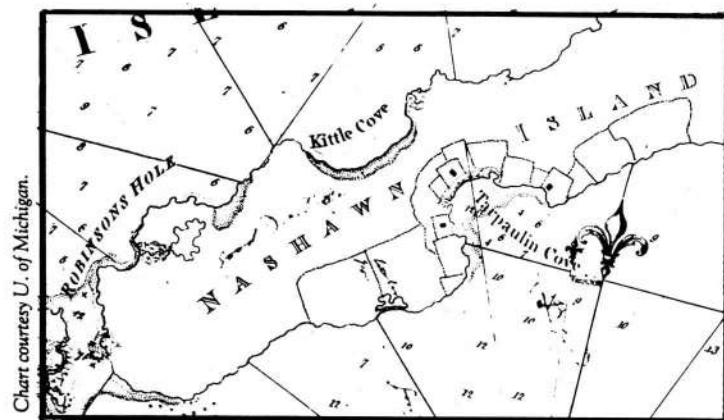
The value of the sheep, calves and gun, which they took from me, and the use of my horse and well, are as follows, viz:

Four sheep	2. 16. 0
Three calves, four months old	3. 6. 0
Four quarters of veal, sixty pounds, sold	2. 8. 0
One gun, taken out of my house by the doctor of the ship, of great value	3. 0. 0
Riding my horse and use of my well	3. 0. 0
	<hr/>
	15. 6. 0

Barnstable, May 31, 1775

Elisha Nye

Sworn to, before Thomas Smith  
Justice of the Peace



Portion of Des Barres chart used by Royal Navy in Revolution.

# REID'S Sea Side Souvenir

A Guide to New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket.

VOL. II. NO. 1.

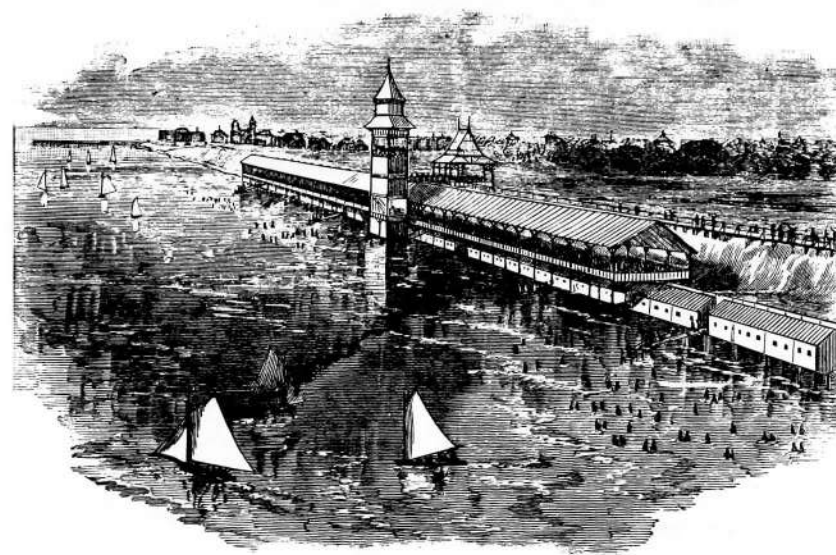
PRICE, 10 CENTS.

J. A. & R. A. REID, Publishers, N. Y.

Promotion of the Vineyard as a summer resort goes back 100 years, as Reid's Sea-Side Souvenir of 1883 proves with handsome drawings and high-blown prose. The following text is taken from the 32-page magazine.

From the Sea View House has been laid a plank walk, extending along the bluffs 2,800 feet. The bathing tower, some 75 feet high, is open and provided with seats in each story for visitors. Here a band frequently discourses sweet music and at mid-day

more particularly the shore presents a lively scene. . . complete bathing outfits may be procured, with rent of bathing-houses; but many prefer to don their suits at their own houses, throw on their waterproofs and visit old Ocean independently.

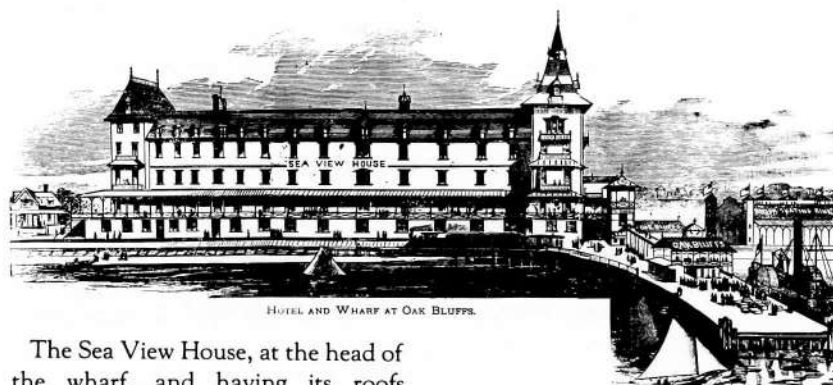


BATHING PAVILION, COTTAGE CITY.





THE PAGODA.



HOTEL AND WHARF AT OAK BLUFFS.

The Sea View House, at the head of the wharf, and having its roofs continuous with the wharf and railroad station, facing the sea and the east, 300 feet long, five stories high, broad piazzas, with superb views of the sea, the Vineyard itself, the Elizabeth Islands, and the main land to the north, is furnished with gas and elevator, and has plastered rooms; is kept on the European plan,

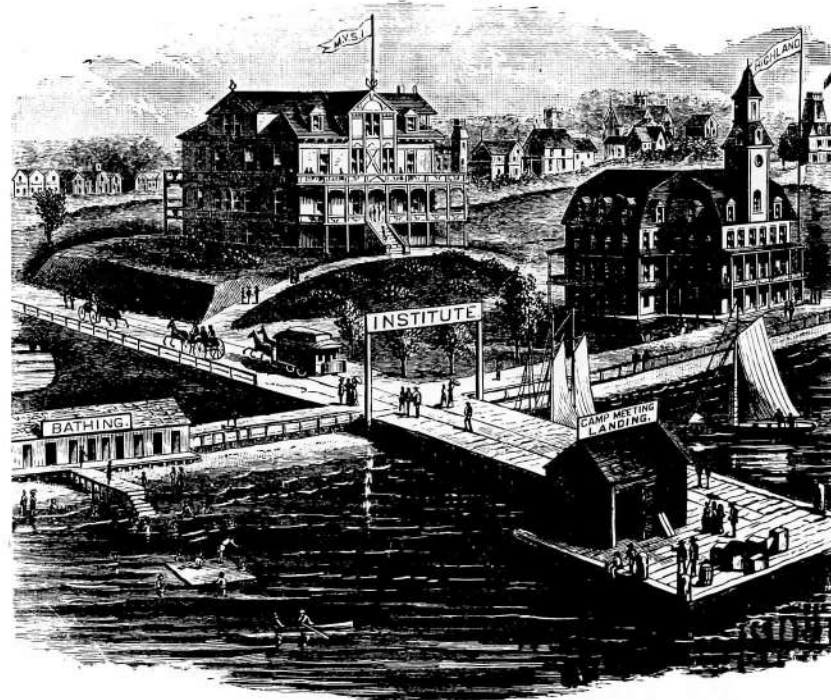
Midway between the tower and the Sea View House is a pretty circular pavilion, overlooking the water, with a refreshment room opening upon the plank walk.

The bathing here is very safe, the gradually sloping beach preventing danger from undertow. Only unpleasant feature is a line of shingle or small stones, a rod or more in width, near the edge of the water, which makes it necessary for the more timid bathers to clothe their feet.

Just opposite the Sea View House is the Roller Skating Rink, which cost \$5,000, and measures 184 by 87 feet, is 37 feet high in the centre, and has an arched roof, five cupolas and a tower at each corner.

and accommodates from three to four hundred guests.

From the Oak Bluffs wharf runs the Martha's Vineyard Railroad, passing along the beach and Sengekontacket Pond, thence through Edgartown, and as far as Katama on the south shore.

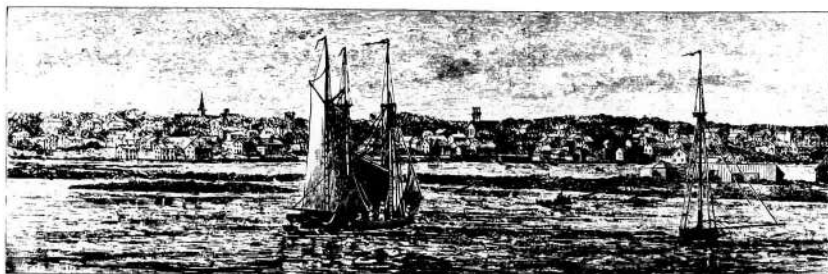


One of the most interesting features of Cottage City is the M.V.S.I. (Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute), which is a sort of universal school of science, and was first established in 1878. For the next three seasons the Institute had no permanent building in which to hold its sessions, and this want had, in 1881, brought about a condition of affairs which rendered some action looking to an establishment of their own necessary. On land donated by the Vineyard Grove Company, a building was erected, located a short distance behind the Highland House, and very convenient to the camp-meeting landing. This structure,

which is three stories in height, and is well-adapted for its purpose, was dedicated with appropriate exercises, July 20, 1882, and was named Agassiz Hall. The annual session of the school continued from July 1st to Sept. 1st. In 1882, the Faculty numbered 30, and the students 333, a total of 363.

A horse railroad, commencing at the Baptist landing, passes round between Lake Anthony and Meadow Pond, and makes a circuit of the Methodist Campground.

There are bowling alleys, billiard rooms, baseball ground, croquet lawns, and everything needed for innocent amusements, but no liquor shops or haunts of vice.



VINEYARD HAVEN.

Known to sea-going people the world over is this very pretty and interesting village in the township of Tisbury. It is embowered in trees and has a background of well-wooded and apparently fertile country.

The harbor and village are known on all the charts used at sea as Holmes' hole, but by petition of the inhabitants the name of the postoffice was changed to Vineyard Haven. More vessels anchor here than in any other port in the United States; 335 sail have been in sight from this village at once. The harbor opens to

the northeast and is on that account somewhat dangerous in gales blowing from that quarter.

The intelligence of the people, the remarkable salubrity of the climate, the general attractiveness and rural appearance of the village, the facilities for sea-bathing, bluefishing, and a dozen other ways of pleasantly and profitably spending the summer season, constitute attractions which are every year telling more and more in the increased number of visitors who make this their summer home.



GAY HEAD LIGHT.

Gay Head has the finest light on the coast and one of the most celebrated in the world. It is a Fresnel lens, composed of 1,003 prisms, or pieces of the purest glass, so arranged as to concentrate the rays and show a brighter light at 20 miles than at a less distance.

The lamp consumes nightly three gallons of purest oil.



THE OLDEST HOUSE IN EDGARTOWN.

Edgartown's oldest house was built by one of the Mayhews, not far from the year 1700. The site of Governor Mayhew's house was a little east of this and nearby are the graves of the governor and his wife.

Edgartown is the oldest settlement on the island.

It has one of the best harbors on the coast and it is well kept up. On account of the depth of the harbor and the excellence of the water of the island, whaleships from Nantucket used to fill their casks here before going to sea.

There are now but six or seven whalers from here that are in active service. The business of refining oil has been carried on more extensively

here than in any other place in the country.

Whale fishery made Edgartown wealthy and though that business has almost entirely failed them, their wealth largely remains. What occupations shall next give something of the old life to the place remains to be seen.

At present it is, at least, a delightful summer resort and has advantages which will give it, no doubt, a permanent and increasing interest.



A GLIMPSE OF EDGARTOWN.

## This Might Have Been "Morton's Merry Vineyard"

With thanks to PETER COLT JOSEPHS

IN THE mid-1920's the *Vineyard Magazine* was published in West Tisbury by Harleigh Bridges Schultz and Natalie Salandri Schultz. Its issue of February-March 1925 included an intriguing article by Dr. Charles E. Banks, the Island's famous historian. This brief article, brought to our attention by Peter Colt Josephs of West Tisbury, offers evidence that lifts one off into such a flight of fancy that it must be shared with those who love the history of our Island.

Thomas Mayhew, as Society members know, acquired title to Martha's Vineyard in 1641 from the Earl of Stirling and Sir Ferdinand Gorges. Actually, he bought the land from their agents here in New England and not directly from the two owners who were in England. It was not clear which of the two owned this Island, so the careful merchant Mayhew bought from both to be sure.

But, Dr. Banks informs us, there could have been another owner — one who, had he settled the Island, rather than Mayhew, would have made it a much different place.

Here is what Banks wrote (slightly excerpted):

"During recent visits to England while engaged in historical researches among various public and private archives there, I was greatly astonished to find in the course of these investigations that two heretofore unknown persons living at that period laid claim to ownership of the Vineyard, and one of them actually disposed of it by will."

"I found among the family papers of Lord de la Warr of Knole Park, Kent, a document dated about 1630, setting forth the claim of the Earl of Sheffield to certain lands at Sandy Hook, L.I., and 'Martin's Vineyard,' but it did not appear in what way he held title to the two latter islands (*sic*). His claim to Sandy Hook rested on the alleged discovery by an English mariner whose name and exploits were detailed. As far as my knowledge goes, Lord Sheffield made no attempt to assert his alleged right to our Island, and it is possible that later it became the property of the second person whom I found later laying claim to the Vineyard."

That "second person," as Dr. Banks calls him, is the one of interest to us. He was, Banks wrote, "none other than the famous Thomas Morton of Merry Mount notoriety. He first appeared in New England about 1625 with Capt. Wollaston's expedition and settled at what is now Quincy in this state.<sup>1</sup> He was a solicitor, having chambers at Clifford's Inn, London, but how he became interested in New England is not known. Succeeding to Wollaston in charge of the settlement, he proceeded to turn it into a miniature "Merrie England," setting up a maypole and enjoying themselves with wine and song to the dismay of the pious Pilgrims of Plymouth. He also sold firearms to the Indians, and thus not only scandalized but endangered the Godly settlement there. The officials arrested and deported him to England, but he returned the following spring and resumed his former attitude of indifference to Puritan sensibilities. By this time, the Puritans of the new settlement of Boston had just arrived and they took a hand in squelching his peculiar activities. They also arrested and deported him to England. He became an avowed enemy of both the Puritan and Pilgrim colonies at home and was employed by the Council of New England in prosecuting charges against them for persecution of those who did not subscribe to the narrow tenets of the dissenting churches. He employed his leisure time in

<sup>1</sup>Appleton's *Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 1888, states that Morton had made an earlier trip in 1622 with an emigrant group to Plymouth. He stayed only two years.



writing a book about his New England experiences and particularly about the civil and spiritual leaders of the two colonies and their repressive practices. It was called *New England's Canaan*, and is one of the bright spots in the lugubrious literature of that period.

"In 1643, he [Banks continued] determined on a return to New England, which he undoubtedly loved, and being, as is probable, well past the meridian of life, he made his will prior to departure. He arrived in Plymouth and forthwith announced that he was possessed of large tracts of land in Maine, on both sides of the Connecticut River at New Haven and the Vineyard as a whole. He endeavored to interest people in settling these places, although they had already been parcelled out by previous occupants.

"Once more he tempted fate and visited Boston, where he was promptly arrested and charged with having written and published 'a scurrilous book' in which various officials of both the Boston and Plymouth governments were held up to ridicule. He was 'clapt' into prison in Boston and kept in irons during the ensuing winter without being allowed bail or without trial. Such was the freedom of speech and liberty of conscience which the Puritans and Pilgrims professed to seek in leaving England to found a new nation. After being without trial for nearly a year, he was finally released on his personal recognizance and went to Maine; where religious and personal liberty was a part of the fundamental law of the Colony. There he died two years later, his end doubtless hastened by his inhumane treatment in the Boston dungeon.

"In his will, being without direct heirs, he left all his property, which consisted solely of his claims to lands in New England, to a 'cousin-german' and a niece. His bequest of our Island was made in the following words: 'And also all that my Estate Right title and interest of in and unto All that one island called Martin's Vyniard scituate and being on the Southern side of Cape Cod and neer unto the Narohiganset Bay.'

"In what manner Morton acquired the title to the Vineyard, or what he thought was a title, is a matter of conjecture. As he appeared on the scene after Mayhew had purchased Noepe from Gorges and Stirling, it is evident that no attention was paid to this new claimant whose reputation in the Massachusetts Colony as a political prisoner rendered his standing in court of doubtful value. The interesting part of this curious incident is his use of the name 'Martin's Vyniard,' which adds further evidence to the already overwhelming majority of contemporary writers who gave it sanction in preference to Martha's Vineyard."<sup>2</sup>

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

That is how Banks tells the story of Morton's connection to the Vineyard. Whether he did have title cannot be determined and it would make no difference now if it could be. The thought, however, that he could have been the owner and settler of this Island is a titillating one.

Thomas Morton was no fool. An aristocrat, well educated, probably a graduate of Oxford, he worked as a lawyer in London. He was widely read in Latin and the classics, a friend of Ben Jonson and a member, it is said, of the intellectuals of Mermaid Tavern,<sup>3</sup> among whom was William Shakespeare.

He first came to New England in 1622, at about 50 years of age, and fell in love with the new world, praising "the bewty of the place, with all her faire indowments." He was not poor, having married, in 1620, an older and well-to-do client, ending up, it seems, with most of her money shortly thereafter. In 1623, he returned to England, but in 1625, the attractions of the New World were too great and he signed up with Captain Wollaston, who with a group of indentured servants, was going to what is now Quincy to set up a fur-trading post. Morton was second in command.

The following year Wollaston sailed off for Virginia, taking many members of the company with him (in

<sup>2</sup>The Vineyard Magazine, West Tisbury, Mass., Vol. 1, No. 6, 1925, p. 7.

<sup>3</sup>Saints and Strangers, George F. Willison, Reynal and Hitchcock, New York, 1945, p. 274.

Virginia, he sold them to the tobacco planters for the period of their indenture).

Morton took charge, freeing the remaining indentured servants (probably to keep from being thrown out by them!) and made them all partners in the fur-trading company. He changed the name of the settlement from Mount Wollaston to Ma-re Mount, calling himself "Mine Host of Ma-re Mount." the Pilgrims heard Ma-re Mount (mount by the sea) as Merry Mount, and as such it came to be known under the jovial Morton.

He was everything the Pilgrims were not: an Anglican, with conventional ideas of religion, he had little sympathy for their mission. He was "the jovial Elizabethan" and "the first of American defenders of cakes and ale, song, music and the dance!"<sup>4</sup> He dealt with the Indians as a businessman dealing with his clients, entertaining them, buying furs from them, depriving the Plymouth Pilgrims of a portion of their principal source of income. By providing the Indians with guns, he enabled them to bring in more fur and the company prospered.

"There was a water, by mee discovered, (he wrote later) most excellent for the cure of melancholy." The somber Pilgrims in nearby Plymouth were not the least amused by his hedonism, nor pleased by his competition for furs. They called him the "lord of Misrule" and accused him of maintaining a "school of athisme" for a "drunken and debaste crew."

To celebrate the success of the new enterprise, Morton and his crew, on May Day, 1626, "brewed a barrel of excellent ale, provided a case of good bottles to be spent with other good cheer, and prepared a song fitting to the time and occasion. We also brought (he later wrote) the May-pole to the place appointed, with drums, guns, pistols and other fitting instruments, and there erected it with the help of the Savages that come hither for the purpose to see

<sup>4</sup>*The Book of Gallant Vagabonds*, Henry Beston, George H. Doran Co., New York, 1925, p. 138.

the manner of our revels."

In a congenial, ecumenical frolic, the English and the Savages, including several Indian maidens, spent the day "dancing and frisking together (like so many fairies, or furies rather), and worse practises," according to William Bradford.

The fur-trading company prospered and the leader, Morton, "wandered everywhere north and south, he visited Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket."<sup>5</sup> All this was too much for the Pilgrims. A year or so later, Morton was arrested by Capt. Miles Standish for selling arms to the Indians and for harboring runaway servants (apparently the indentured servants from England). He escaped, was recaptured, and then shipped off to England, ridding the colony of his "licentiousness of life."<sup>6</sup>

Being the sort he was, Morton was back in a year, this time as "secretary" to Isaac Allerton, an agent of Plymouth Colony. He resumed his fur trading, but in short order was arrested for stealing a "canoe from some Indians," probably a trumped-up charge. Again, he was shipped back to England.

This time, he went to work for Sir Ferdinando Gorges, the man from whose agent Mayhew later bought the Island. He served as legal counsel to Gorges in an attempt to void the charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. That was in 1631, ten years before Mayhew's purchase, and it could be when Morton "acquired" title to "Martin's Vyniard." It was, incidentally, during this period that he wrote *The New England Canaan*.

In 1643, now in his seventies, he returned to his beloved New England. After wandering around Maine and Rhode Island for a while he went to Boston where he was again arrested by Winthrop and Endecott for having "made a

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 153.

<sup>6</sup>Before being shipped to England, Morton was held on the Isles of Shoals in winter weather with only the "thinne suit" on his back. *Saints and Strangers*, p. 281.

complaint against us at the council board," although no charges were filed against him. Imprisoned for a year, he was then exiled to Maine where he lived at Agamenticus (York). This was Gorges' headquarters in New England and Morton apparently felt safe there.<sup>7</sup> He died two years later, "old and crazy," said his tormenters, whose efforts no doubt had contributed to the latter.

As unlike the Thomas Mayhews, senior and junior, as one could be, Thomas Morton would have created a far different Vineyard from the one we know. Had he settled our Island, located as it was far from any colony of Pilgrims and Puritans, he would have been free of their harassment. His Merry Mount would have been secure.

What manner of place would our Island have become had he been its Proprietor?

The question boggles the mind!

<sup>7</sup>In *Saints and Strangers*, p. 279, Willison describes Sir Ferdinando Gorges as "Morton's friend and patron," adding support to the conjecture that it was from him that Morton obtained his title to the Vineyard. It is obvious why the leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony wanted to keep Morton out of the way. If, indeed, he did have title to any of the lands he claimed, it would have totally confused the organization they were creating.

### CORRECTION

On page 84, *Intelligencer*, February 1981, it states that "Particular attention began to be focused on Martha's Vineyard when, in the early 1800s, Alexander Graham Bell . . . decided to try to explain how deafness was inherited." It should have read: "in the early 1880s." Bell was born in 1847 and patented the telephone in 1876.

## Documents

*IT IS now 1844 and these are good times for the Island with whaling at its peak. The major depression of 1837 is over; steamboats are starting to service the Vineyard, although they are more popular in winter than in the summer, being able to break through the ice. And the winter of 1843-44 is a very cold one.*

*On May 24, 1844, inventor and artist Samuel Morse will ask, "What hath God wrought?" on the first telegraph line. Democrat James K. Polk will be elected President, defeating the Whig Henry Clay. Florida and Texas will join the Union next year.*

*This diary of Jeremiah Pease of Edgartown (1792-1857) provides the best day-to-day record of Island history in the period before there was a newspaper. We began publishing it in November 1974.*

*It is edited by Gale Huntington.*

### January 1844

28th. Wind NW. Very cold. The Sound is very full of ice, Holmes Hole harbour all frozen over. But little water to be seen between Falmouth and Holmes Hole. Edgartown harbour all frozen over except a little place near the narrows.

29th. Wind NW. Very cold. Several vessels in the ice between the flats and Cape Poge and a number more between Cape Poge and Nantucket.

30th. Wind NW. People pass from here to Cape Poge on the ice.

31st. Wind NW. Very cold. The thermometer has been from Zero to about 10 above for the last 6 or 7 days.

### February 1844

1st. Wind NW to SW. Moderates, having been very cold for a number of days in succession. There is but very little water to be seen from the tower of the Methodist Meeting House.

2nd. Wind E to NE. Snows. The three-masted schooner that has been in the ice near Tuckanuck came up to Cape Poge. Two men from her came here on the ice. A cable and anchor is carried to her from the cliff in a straight line to Cape Poge Point. It was dragged on a sled by a number of men.

3rd. Wind N. Cold and snows. The wind blows the snow into banks. The ice softens in the middle of the day.

4th. Wind NE. Did not go to East Side Holmes Hole on account of snow in the roads. Thaws a little in the middle of the day.

7th. Wind E to S. Light. Pleasant. The ice is softened by the foggy weather yet very thick in the harbour. At about 1 o'clock P.M. the Steamboat *Telegraph* from Nantucket breaking her way through the ice to the surprise of all who saw her. She returned to Cape Poge and towed the



three-masted schooner into the wharf with the Sloop *Teaser* at her stern. The ice was so thick that 16 men stood near the sloop and close by the track made by the Steam Boat and schooner assisting the sloop by hauling her along through the broken ice by a rope. Those men trod as near together as they conveniently could yet the ice did not break or bend so much as to wet their feet.<sup>1</sup>

12th. Wind NW. Moderate. Calm and pleasant. Went to a schooner called the *Marg* from Trinidad over the ice. She being near Cape Poge Stone Point.

14th. Wind NW. Pleasant. Went to Holmes Hole to carry William, he being bound to Charleston, S.C., to join the U. S. cutter at that place, the ice having detained him here for a long time. This harbour and that of Holmes Hole is entirely closed by ice except a small passage around West Chop to Mr. Holmes wharf. The packet being there she sailed for New

<sup>1</sup>Jeremiah is telling us this to indicate the tremendous power of the tiny steamboat *Telegraph* as an icebreaker. (She was in regular service between Nantucket and New Bedford, making three trips weekly.) Although her engine was not powerful (only 160 horsepower), her hull was ideal for ice-breaking. When stopped by thick ice, "her passengers would be requested to move aft. Their weight in the stern would then raise the bow, which was moved on top of the ice. The passengers were then asked to run forward in a body. This added weight in the bow would bring it crunching down through the ice, enabling the *Telegraph* to move ahead." Morris and Morin, *The Island Steamers*, Nantucket Nautical Publishers, 1977, p. 4.

Bedford today.

15th. Wind SW to WNW. Pleasant. Capt. Charles S. Darrow goes from this place from the Cliff near the flats to Cape Poge with a horse and slay on the ice being the first horse and slay ever known to pass from Town to that place on the ice.

16th. Wind SE during part of the night. Thunders, lightens and rains. SW very pleasant during the day. A brig is brought into the wharf today, which has been long frozen up in the harbour, by cutting the ice.

17th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Ship *Phoenix* of Nantucket arrives from the Pacific Ocean. Boarded the ship, she being under sail beating into the harbour. My boat being alongside the ship in tacking went against the ice and stove her badly. Toed her ashore with one of the ship's whaleboats. Total loss.

22nd. Wind SW. Went to Holmes Hole and bought a boat of Capt. Charles West.

23rd. Wind NE. Light. Part of the day calm. Received my boat by Capt. Richard Luce.

24th. Wind NE to N. Cold. Town Meeting relating to the contemplated County Road.

27th. Wind SW. Ship *Henry Clay* of Nantucket arrives from the Pacific Ocean.

29th. Wind NE. Light calm and warm. Brig *Salem* of Portland from Matanzas being dismasted is toed into this harbour by the Steam Boat

*Telegraph* of Nantucket. Schooner from Bermuda goes out about ½ past 6 o'clock A.M., first having entered at the Custom House according to law.<sup>2</sup>

March 1844

3rd. Wind SSW. Foggy with a little rain. Went to Eastville<sup>3</sup> or East Side Holmes Hole. Br. Otherman and wife visit us.

14th. Wind N to NE. Fresh wind. Ship *Lexington* of Nantucket arrives from the Pacific Ocean.

19th. Wind NW. Gale a.m. P.m. moderate but cold. Received a barrel of oil from Daniel Fisher for the Light House.

29th. Wind W to NE. Attended the funeral of the widow Lucy Norris at Eastville. Service by the Rev'd Jesse Pease. Attended service at her late dwelling house with him. Returned at night.

31st. Wind NE. Gale, very cold. Finished sowing my oats. Last March was severe but this has been much more so. But 2 or 3 days that could be called pleasant for the season. Did not go to Eastville on account of the storm. Makes ice all day out of the shining of the sun.

<sup>2</sup>This month's entries make clear that Pease's job as Deputy Collector of Customs was not a cushy one. It meant sailing out in mid-winter to meet incoming vessels (on the 17th) and, as on this date, getting up early to accommodate outgoing captains.

<sup>3</sup>This is the first time that Jeremiah has called the east side of Holmes Hole harbor by the name Eastville.

April 1844

8th. Wind S. Light and variable. "And now my Soul another year of my short life is past."<sup>4</sup>

16th. Wind NE. Engaged in surveying land for Thomas Mayhew near the Tisbury line. Very cold. Makes ice at night.

29th. Wind NNE to S. Ship *York*, Capt. George Coffin, sails for the Pacific Ocean.

May 1844

1st. Wind SW. Gale. Warm. Temperance Meeting. Dr. Jewett lectured upon that subject in the Congregational Meeting House.

2nd. Wind SW. Went to Ichabod Norton, Esq's on business of the Wimpenny claim.

3rd. Wind SW. Went to Dukes County Records on business of the Wimpenny claim.

6th. Wind Calm & light. Very pleasant. Went to New Bedford in Steam Boat *Massachusetts*. Attended to business relating to the Wimpenny claim.

7th. Wind WSW. Gale. Went to Fall River and Bristol and returned to New Bedford.

8th. Wind SW. Returned in Packet *Escort*.

10th. Wind NW. Dry. Br. Woodbury who has been preaching here about 4 weeks returns to New Bedford in Steam Boat *Massachusetts*. His visit

<sup>4</sup>Jeremiah is now 52 years old.

here has been made a blessing to many.

17th. Wind NE. Boiled out the lamps in the Light House.

25th. Wind SW. John returns from Bristol. He attended the wedding of Jeremiah at that place on Thursday, the 23rd.<sup>5</sup>

28th. Wind SW. Court sets. Mrs. Wimpenny by her attorney requested the Judge to have her claim continued. The Judge having given his opinion on the case while he was a lawyer granted her continuance.

June 1844

4th. Wind S. Light. Pleasant. Went to Nantucket as a witness in a case relating to the Ship *Edward Cary* of that place.

5th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Returned by Steam boat *Massachusetts*. Love Feast for Br. Bartolomew Otherman, being the last Love Feast he will attend in the capacity of Presiding Elder, his term having now expired.

10th. Wind WSW. Fresh wind. Growing weather. Attended to the division of land at Chappaquiddick for Thomas Lathen, Jr., for his wife.

11th. Wind SW. Pleasant. Collector goes to Boston via New Bedford Steam Boat. Captain Luce arrives in town on business with the Collector. The Collector being absent Capt. Luce returns to Tisbury or Holmes Hole.

17th. Wind SW. Cutter *Jackson* arrived yesterday. Lieutenant Jones visits us. Littleton arrives from Pacific

<sup>5</sup>John and Jeremiah are two of the 10 Pease children.

Ocean via New Bedford.

24th. Wind SW. Ship *Vineyard*, Captain Crocker, arrives with 1000 bbl. oil.

25th. Wind SW. Jeremiah arrives from Fall River. Engaged at the Light House. New lantern floor.

28th. Wind SW to W. Jeremiah and Cyrus go to Providence in Sloop *Escort*.

July 1844

4th. Wind NW. Steam Boat *Massachusetts* comes from Nantucket. Brings a number of passengers for this place and takes about 90 to New Bedford.<sup>6</sup> She returns at 5 p.m. and goes to Nantucket. Br. F. Sherman and wife visit us and return today.

5th. Wind SW. Sloop *Passport* goes to New Port with passengers for a conference.

24th. Wind N to NE. Ship *Mary* arrives from the Pacific, 2200 bbl. of whale and sperm oil, Atkins master.<sup>7</sup> Capt. Winston Lewis arrives from Boston to build a new Light House at Cape Poge.

30th. Wind ESE. Governor Briggs stops in the Steam Boat *Massachusetts* from New Bedford for Nantucket for a few minutes.

<sup>6</sup>The Fourth of July meant lots of travelling even in 1844. It is unfortunate Jeremiah doesn't tell us anything about the public's attitude towards these new-fangled steam boats -- but that is not his style!

<sup>7</sup>In 1844, the average price of whale oil was 36 cents a gallon. That would make the 2200 barrels worth \$33,264. If 10 percent was sperm oil (at 90 cents a gallon), the value would be \$37,800. But remember that was for a 3 or 4-year voyage. (A minister's salary in 1840 was about \$400 a year.)

## Up-Island Tales: Dry and Wry

As collected by Cyril D. Norton

CAPTAIN Moses West was a very active and agile man. He and another Chilmark whaler, Capt. Hilliard Mayhew, are the only two whalers known to have mastered the art of running around the gunnel of a whaleboat at sea without falling overboard. That was the quickest way for the boatheader to change places with the boatsteerer after the whale had been struck and they were fast.

Captain Moses was extremely high-strung and it took all his motherly wife's ability to control him at times. She was known as Becky Williams.

On one occasion, Captain Moses very nearly wrecked their home and killed them both when he picked up a keg of black powder and threw it into the fire in the fireplace with the exclamation, "We'll both go to Hell together!"

Becky retrieved the burning keg and threw it out the window where it exploded far enough away from the

house to do not too much damage. However, in doing so her hands and arms were badly burned.

On another occasion, a neighbor came on the Captain quite suddenly while he was hoeing corn in a very stony patch of ground. The neighbor said, "Tough hoeing, Cap'n?"

Captain Moses, startled, jumped up into the air waving his hoe and yelled, "Stony, yes, and hummicky and rummicky as hell, too."

He was indeed a truly nervous man.

THE AFFAIR of the "critter" as Henry H. Allen told it (Henry was Deacon Jonathan Allen's nephew):

Ben Chase called on Deacon Allen and Henry Allen, his nephew, answered the knock on the kitchen door.

"I hear Deacon Allen has a critter for sale," Mr. Chase said.

The deacon appeared at the door and Henry appraised him of Mr.

CYRIL D. NORTON, a native of Chilmark, was a Harvard graduate with a master's degree in education from Boston University. He taught school in New Hampshire and western Massachusetts, but spent most of his life in Chilmark, where he served as Town Clerk. He was a recognized expert on old up-Island houses and folklore. These tales are included in a manuscript made available by his wife, Evie Norton. Mr. Norton died in 1977.

Chase's purpose in coming. The deacon asked Henry if he thought it would be advisable to sell the cow critter in question to Mr. Chase. Henry said he thought it would be all right, but it would be advisable to get the money for the cow then and there. That exchange was in a low voice.

The deacon then told Mr. Chase, "My nephew says that you are a dishonorable man and you can't have the cow at any price."

Henry said he could have fallen through the floor.

**E**PISODE IN Rex E. Weeks' Grocery Store. Willie Huntington was clerking for Rex when Mrs. Leona B. Vincent (Mrs. Robert Vincent) strolled into the store.

"Can I help you, Mrs. Vincent?" asked Willie, with his very blandest smile.

"No, thank you," said Mrs. Vincent, "I'm only looking around."

Then Willie, with an even blander smile said, "But we have some very lovely onions, Mrs. Vincent."

Leona was not impressed.

**Y**EARS AGO in the heyday of the Dukes County Academy in West Tisbury (which then and long after was a part of the Town of Tisbury), a Mrs. Nancy Adams lived in a small house on the road that has been variously called Music Street, High Street and Cow Turd Lane. Miss Ruth Brown, Mrs. Adams'

granddaughter, eventually came into possession of the house and at this writing (1968) still lives there.

Occasionally, Nancy Adams took in a transient or two. Mrs. Malvina M. R. Norton, my mother and then a girl attending the Academy, would sometimes stay at Nancy's place when the weather was too stormy for the long walk home up Middle Road. That was under an arrangement for her made by her father, Capt. Allen Tilton.

On one of those times, Malvina and Nancy were engaged in a conversation regarding the value of an education. During their talk, Nancy made the remark: "Malvina, I ain't got much education, but I got spearence. And when you got spearence, you know."

**H**ANNAH WAS a Gay Header and one day she arrived at the home of my grandmother, Mary Ellis Tilton, on the Middle Road in the company of Sheriff Lambert. There had been a theft of curtains from the Gay Head Baptist Church and the Sheriff had gone up to investigate and was now on his way back to Edgartown.

My grandmother said, "Why, Hannah, what are you doing with the high sheriff?"

Hannah replied, "Well, I was found with those who stole the curtains."

*(The fifth of a series.)*

## Books

**Thomas Hart Benton: A Portrait**  
By Polly Burroughs. Doubleday & Company, Garden City, N.Y. 202 pp., \$29.95

**A**T A glance this looks like one of those high-toned art books intended to raise the intellectual level of a coffee table, but don't let the title, the striking dust jacket or the price fool you. It is not such a book -- it is a fascinating, human story of an historic artist who brought fame to our Island and, as Polly Burroughs makes clear, who was helped by being part of the Island.

Tom Benton's initial visit here was in 1920 on the recommendation of a New York artist friend. That summer, he shared a Chilmark barn house with his lifelong friend and advisor, Tom Craven, at the time a struggling art critic. The barn was owned by Mrs. Ella Brug and rented for \$25 for the season. The two struggling New Yorkers shared a hayloft sleeping area and the usual privy.

Benton acknowledged to the author that "the Island occasioned one of the greatest changes in my life." It also brought his first success when the following spring he was invited to exhibit at an American Modern show in the Pennsylvania Academy of The Fine Arts and his three pictures, all Island subjects, sold. One of them "The Beach," was his first "big" sale

and was hung permanently in the museum, giving him a first taste of fame.

Each summer they returned and he painted Island material: "The People of Chilmark" (in which the people are all New Yorkers); "Josie West," "The Meal" (sometimes called "The Lord Is My Shepherd"), "Martha's Vineyard," "Frank Flanders", "Nashaquitsa Pond"; and "Beetlebung Corner."

Rita, Benton's striking and strong girl friend, model and later, wife, came with them each year and kept the two men in line and in food -- begging fish each day at the Menemsha Dock. "Our food cost us practically nothing those first years," Benton said.

Rita, along with his mother, seemed to dominate his life, accounting perhaps in part for his excessive machoism in public (another factor was his oft-stated animosity to homosexuals in the art field).

It was in these early years and with easel paintings like the above and many more made on the Island, that he seemed to settle into his well-known style -- the rounded figures, curved shapes, stern, lined faces and larger-than-life males that later dominated his more controversial murals.

In the 40s and 50s, by then well known and comfortably off, he spent longer periods here, painting and savoring the Chilmark life. The best work of this period is "The Music Lesson," which the *New York Herald Tribune* called "one of the most



finished canvases this artist has ever produced." Its subjects are our own Gale Huntington and his daughter Emily.

But it is not as an art book that the Burroughs work excels. It is in providing an understanding of that most controversial American painter, Tom Benton, for whom the Island was a favorite place. His life was rarely as calm as the Menemsha Pond that his house looked out on. He seemed to be happiest when he was insulting, shaming or shocking others with the crudeness of his behavior and speech. The author provides valuable insight into this side of his character.

The book is fast-moving, filled with fascinating anecdotes about such merry pranks as skinny dipping at Windy Gates, privy tipping, dances at the Chilmark Tavern, musicales by Benton's Harmonica Boys with fiddlers Hollis Smith, Gale Huntington and Mike Athearn. From it, the reader learns how New Yorkers were attracted by the rustic, bucolic naturalness of Chilmark before its dilution by tennis courts, yachts, dress-up cocktail parties and swimming pools. There are tales of the Barn House radicals and the intellectuals of the wind-swept moors, along with the story of Jackson Pollock's night in the Edgartown jail.

For Island history fans, it is as good an account of Chilmark's early summer-resort years as you will find. It makes clear why for many, to use Benton's words, it is "the only place I ever found peace."

A.R.R.

## Letters

Editor:

I was interested to read "When Even the Getting Here Was Fun" (February 1981) by John Gude. But I detected what I thought were several errors. In checking my Official Guides for the '30s and '40s and George W. Hilton's definitive *History of the Night Boats*, I found the following:

1. The *Commonwealth* and *Priscilla* operated in the Fall River Line (not the New Bedford Line) until all New England Steamship Co., operations ceased on July 27, 1937. They never ran in summer service to New Bedford. They called at Newport eastbound at 3 a.m., which was not conducive to a good night's sleep. Westbound, the Newport call was 7:50 p.m.

2. Summer service to New Bedford was maintained by the *Plymouth* and the *City of Lowell*. The New Bedford boats did not call at Newport.

3. The footnote on page 104 says "By 1933, only the New Bedford Line and the Fall River Line remained." The Colonial Line, whose motto was "The Public be Pleased," operated a summer service to New Bedford until 1941, using the *Meteor*, ex *Chester W. Chapin*.

CHARLES HULICK  
Washington, D.C.

Author John Gude regrets his error, blaming it on "the fallible memory of someone nearing 80, which apparently blended several trips into one." In any case, he adds, coming from New York to the Island all the

way by boat of whatever "name would smell as sweet."

The *City of Lowell*, some may recall, was called by regular users, the *City of Roll*, for obvious reasons.

## News

ANOTHER exciting development for all interested in Island history (in addition to our Maritime Exhibit to be unveiled in June) is the transformation of the Edgartown Methodist Church into a performing arts center for the Island.

The handsome old church on Main Street, known as The Old Whaling Church, has had nine months of restoration under the auspices of the Martha's Vineyard Historical Preservation Society, its new owners. The work has been painstakingly done and history lovers will be pleased that the old and hallowed building will have this new life without losing its quiet dignity and charm.

An open house is planned sometime in early June, followed later in the month by an exciting opening night in its new role with a performance by Victor Borge.

THIS IS the second of Edgartown's church buildings to have been given a new life this past winter, the other being the former Baptist Church on School Street, the interior of which was remodeled for use as a

dwelling without changing the exterior.

Together, these two worthwhile projects seem to assure that the three handsome structures designed by Frederick Baylies, Jr., of Edgartown between 1828 and 1843 will live in perpetuity - a most happy thought. The third of the trio and the oldest is the graceful, slender-spined Federated Church on South Summer Street, built originally as the Congregational Meetinghouse in 1828.

AS WE all have noticed, it now takes an 18-cent stamp to carry a letter. For years, there has been a handsome 18-cent stamp for which there was little demand (who needed an 18-cent stamp?). On it was one of Chilmark's first summer residents: Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the country's first female physician (*Intelligencer*, February 1980).

Now that 18-cent stamps are the denomination that will be sold in volume, the Postal Service in its wisdom has replaced the handsome Dr. Blackwell with a bureaucratically designed eagle.

It strikes us that this is doubly insulting: first, it insults women and second, it insults an historic Islander. Arise, all lovers of history!

Meanwhile, if you hurry, you can still get a ration of Blackwell stamps (while they last) from Society member, Postmaster Betty Carroll (she doesn't like "Postmistress"), Chilmark 02535 where, incidentally, the famed Dr. Blackwell once got her mail.

# Director's Report

THE MOST interesting and exciting event of this winter at the Society has been the development of a major exhibit on the maritime history of Martha's Vineyard that will be on display in the Francis Foster Museum when we begin our summer schedule.

Instead of the makeshift display facilities that were placed in this room temporarily upon the completion of the building two years ago, we will now have a coherent, comprehensive exhibit, which will be set off by handsome new cases and wall panels. Many of the ideas for the exhibit and all the construction work is being done by Bill Donnelly, a master craftsman, who has been devoted to the project for most of the winter.

At the moment, the museum looks like a cabinet-making shop, but we are already able to see that the results will add immeasurably to our Society and will provide us with a first-class exhibit open to the public throughout the year.

Linsey Lee, who has been planning the exhibit for us, has put together a fine history of the marine activities on the Vineyard since Islanders first took to the sea in the Seventeenth Century. Stan Murphy, the Society's vice-president, has taken responsibility for the over-all development of the exhibit and he and Linsey should have everything in place by the time we open in June.

Meanwhile, the library has been even busier than usual, sometimes with ten or more persons working there during a wintery afternoon. As usual, we have had many telephone and letter inquiries on historical and genealogical matters. Since the beginning of the year, Mrs. Stoddard has answered about twenty-five letters on genealogical questions and Mrs. Crossman and I have had an even larger number of general inquiries to answer. Dan Sullivan continues to be a regular

volunteer. He recently completed the important task of moving our photographic prints into a better storage facility.

Our major Preservation Fund project this past winter has been to add smoke detectors to our alarm system in the Thomas Cooke House as well as in the library and museum. This has been a fairly expensive undertaking, but we feel that members who contribute to the Preservation Fund will be pleased to know that their money is being spent in this way.

Opening day this year will be June 16th and it will be particularly exciting because on that day we will also be opening our new Maritime Exhibit in the Francis Foster Museum.

The Society's summer hours will be from 10 to 4:30, Tuesdays through Saturdays. We hope many of you will be able to visit.

THOMAS E. NORTON

## To all members:

In April we mailed to each of you a notice of the special meeting to be held at 10 a.m., May 23, 1981, in our Library. Its purpose is to amend our constitution to comply with certain Internal Revenue Department regulations.

For those of you who will not attend the meeting we enclosed with the notice a proxy so you can vote on the changes.

If you are able to attend the meeting I urge you to do so. If not, and if you haven't done so already, please return the signed proxy right away so we will be sure of the necessary two-thirds vote.

Melville G. MacKay  
President



## Bits & Pieces

THE THESIS that Henry Scott presents in this issue concerning the origin of the Hancock house has had me digging into the archives. Since the article was finished, I've discovered another bit of information that should be put into the computer (to mix our time zones drastically).

Thomas Mayhew, Jr., was told by the Commissioners, who gave him 40 pounds to build a meeting house, that the "Naticke" house was more what they had in mind for him. (see page 140).

That Natick house was described in detail by John Wilson, pastor of the Church of Christ, Boston, in 1651.

Here are some quotations:

"... a faire house which the Indians have built after the English Manner ...in which Mr. Eliot and those who accompany him use to lye ... there like chamber above, in a corner whereof Mr. Eliot hath a little room inclosed and a bed and bed-sted therein, and in the same Chamber the Indians doe as in a wardrobe hang up their skins and things of price, as counting them there to be safe, as well when the doors be open, as when they be locked ... They are building English houses for them selves, mean while living in Wigwams."

The original Hancock house at Quansoo was similar to the one Wilson describes. Thomas could have had a bed upstairs and used the downstairs for his teaching.

TEACHING the Indians to read and write must have been an enormous task, no matter what kind of building was used. In 1722, Experience Mayhew, grandson of Thomas, Jr., wrote a long letter to London describing the details of the Indian language. The language, the Reverend explains, is filled with compound words. For example:

"I love thee," in Indian, is one word: Koowamonish.

"I love thee constantly," is also one word: Koowowamonish.

But those are simple words when compared with the longest word that the Reverend cites. It has 58 letters and 22 syllables and means "Our well-skilled looking-glass maker." Here it is, divided into syllables:

Nup-pahk-nuh-to-pe-pe-nau-wut-chut-chuh-quo-ka-neh-cha-neh-cha-e-nin-nu-nun-no-nuk.

DO YOU know who was the first Harvard graduate from the Island? He was an Indian, Caleb Chesschanmuk, thought to be from Chilmark. Sadly, one year after his graduation in 1666 he died of tuberculosis.

In 1654, Harvard had built a brick two-story building for Indian students with money sent from England by the Society for Propagating the Gospel, the same outfit that paid Mayhew's salary and also paid for his meeting house. However, only four Indians attended Harvard before the little-used building was torn down in 1698 and just one of them graduated -- Caleb from the Vineyard. A.R.R.

# BY-LAWS.

The undersigned having been appointed to draft By-Laws for the town of Edgartown, to prevent Fires, would beg leave to Report that they have attended to the duty assigned them, and would suggest the following :

## ARTICLE I.

No person shall be allowed to set fire to any chimney unless it be during a storm and while the roof is wet.

## ARTICLE II.

Any person who shall set fire to his chimney at any other time than as above specified,—or in case that it shall take fire accidentally, at any other time than as above, shall be liable to a fine, not less than one dollar, nor more than five dollars, unless it shall appear it is not through the neglect of the occupant that the chimney took fire.

## ARTICLE III.

Any owner or occupant of a house or building who shall knowingly permit any defect in the chimney, which endangers the house or building in taking fire, and shall neglect to repair the same within one week after being notified, shall pay a fine of five dollars.

## ARTICLE IV.

Any person occupying a house who shall permit a fire-board to remain up in the fire place in a room where there is a stove with pipe leading into the same or chimney, unless said fire-board is plastered up or covered with tin, copper or zinc from the hearth to the height of one foot, shall pay a fine of five dollars.

## ARTICLE V.

No person shall permit any stove pipe to be set up in any house or store in such manner as to come nearer than one inch of any wood-work about said house or store, under a penalty of not less than one dollar, nor more than five dollars.

## ARTICLE VI.

Any person using a stove in any dwelling-house or building, shall put or cause to be put, a sufficient quantity of zinc or other metal under and about the same, when it shall be so ordered by the chairman or a majority of the Firewards; and in case of neglecting the same within seven days after being notified by the chairman or a majority of Firewards, shall pay a fine of five dollars.

## ARTICLE VII.

Any occupant of a house, store, shop or other

building who shall take or suffer to be taken, any ashes from any fire place or stove, in a wooden vessel, or suffer them to be put into any wooden vessel within forty-eight hours after being taken from said fire place or stove, shall pay a fine of five dollars.

## ARTICLE VIII.

Any person who shall carry fire from one house to another, in this village, or through any street or passway, otherwise than in a covered metal or earthen vessel, shall pay a fine of not less than one dollar, nor more than five dollars.

## ARTICLE IX.

Any person who shall make any unnecessary noise in such manner as to disturb the peace of the citizens during the night time, or shall cry fire, or by any means raise a false alarm of fire, knowing the alarm to be such, shall pay a fine not less than one dollar, nor more than five.

## ARTICLE X.

The several fines or forfeitures aforesaid shall be two-thirds to the use of the poor of the town, and the other third thereof to him or them who shall inform and sue for the same, and shall be recoverable with costs of suit, in any Court proper to try the same.

CHARLES S. DARROW,  
FREDERICK BAYLIES,  
DANIEL FISHER,  
TIMOTHY COFFIN.

APRIL 23d, 1836. The town of Edgartown then voted to accept the within Report, and then voted that the town clerk present this Report of the above By-Laws to the next Court for their approbation or approval.

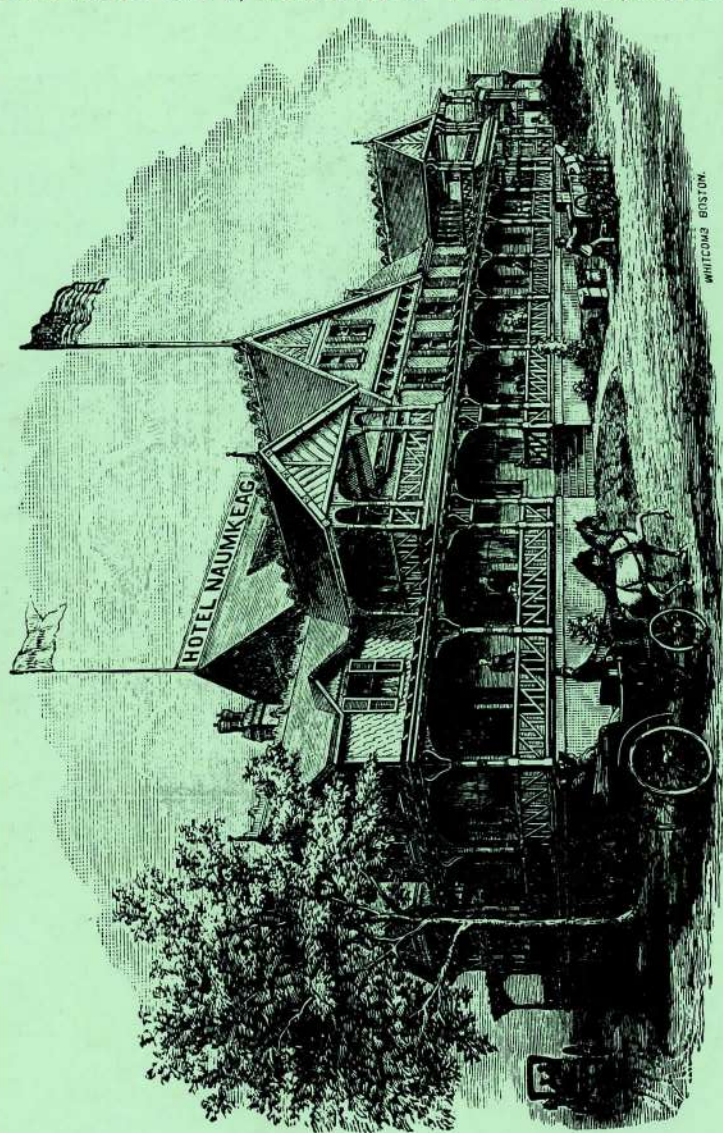
DUKES COUNTY ss. C. C. Pleas, May Term,  
1836. Approved, D. CUMMINS, J. C. P.

EDGARTOWN, Dec. 27th, A.D. 1840. A true copy of the original. Attest,  
ISAIAH D. PEASE, Clerk  
of the Town of Edgartown.



# HOTEL NAUMKEAG,

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