



THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

VOL. 24, NO. 2

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Revenue Service Ensign
and Pennant

Captain Pease's Cocked Hat And Gold Buttons

by FLORENCE KERN

Politics and Politicians in the 1850s from the ARCHIVES

The House that Gave Tea Lane Its Name (Part Two)

by JONATHAN SCOTT

America: 1845

by DIONIS COFFIN RIGGS

Plus: Jeremiah Pease Diary, Director's Report,
Bits & Pieces

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The Society maintains the Thomas Cooke House, the Francis Foster Museum and the Gale Huntington Library, all located on its grounds at the corner of School and Cooke Streets in Edgartown.

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.

The Francis Foster Museum and the Huntington Library are in an adjacent building and are open to the public all year round. In the Museum is an exhibition of the Vineyard's maritime heritage with displays of fishing, coastal trade, whaling, navigation, plus a wide variety of scrimshaw. The Library contains collections of ship's logs, journals, genealogies and other Island documents.

The public is invited.



Captain Pease's Cocked Hat And Gold Buttons

by FLORENCE KERN

MURIEL Crossman, the genial Librarian of the Dukes County Historical Society, came up from the archives of the Gale Huntington Library of History, carefully carrying a fragile document.

"Would this interest you?" she asked this researcher, whose interest, she knew, is the early years of the United States Coast Guard. I was studying some old journals of William Cooke Pease¹ of Edgartown, who had spent his adult life in the United States Revenue Service. It was summer and I was just one of the hundreds of visitors who expect Mrs. Crossman to know everything from the middle name of an ancestor born at Quansoo in 1789 to the location of the nearest inexpensive place to eat.

Unfolded carefully on the square mahogany table in the research library, "this" was a tissue-thin sheet of paper, about two feet square, labelled "Uniform of United States Revenue Service." On it, faintly printed with the finest of lines, were sketches and descriptions of the caps, cocked hats, swords, sword belts, belts and epaulets worn by 19th Century Revenue Cutter officers, the men who paved the way, or perhaps I should say, charted the course, that led to today's Coast Guard.

The document was undated, unfortunately, but being

¹ Son of Jeremiah Pease, familiar to readers as the diarist. William was a twin to Cyrus Pease, the artist.

FLORENCE KERN, a long-time summer resident and Society member, is a Wellesley graduate, and a grandmother who went back to school and got her Master's in American History five years ago. She will publish a biography of Capt. William C. Pease this winter. Her previous work includes a series on the first ten Revenue Cutters and a biography of Capt. Elisha Hinman, a Revenue Cutter officer. Her next work will be fiction ("No footnotes," she says). She lives in Washington, D.C., in the winter.

among the voluminous papers of Captain Pease, its date could be approximated. A distinguished 19th Century Vineyarder, now virtually forgotten, he joined the Revenue Marine in 1839 at the age of 19 and served until his death in 1865. Thus, the uniform can be identified within those years, but the precise date is uncertain. There were several changes in the uniform during that period.

Paul H. Johnson, Librarian and Curator at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., was consulted. He asked for a copy of the document, saying that the Academy archives had no sketches, only verbal descriptions of the early uniforms. Similar interest in the Edgartown document was expressed by Dr. Robert L. Scheina, historian at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C., and by Dr. Harold D. Langley, Curator-Supervisor of the Department of Naval History and a specialist in marine uniforms at the Smithsonian Institution.

Alison Shaw, the Vineyard's distinguished photographer and for several years on the staff of the Society, offered to make copies, which were forwarded to those interested.

Very little is known about early Revenue Cutter uniforms, thus the Edgartown document is considered important. When the Service was founded by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton in 1790, there was no money for uniforms. Since most of the officers had served in the Continental or State Navies during the American Revolution, they may have dressed in their 1776-1783 uniforms on state occasions. It was not until 1799 that Revenue Service uniforms were furnished.

The 1799 uniforms bore such a close resemblance to the dark blue uniforms of the United States Navy that both Navy and Revenue Marine men objected. To differentiate the services, the Revenue Cutter uniform was changed to gray in 1834.

According to Colonel Robert H. Rankin,² the

² *Uniforms of the Sea Services*, Col. Robert H. Rankin, U. S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, Md. 1962.



Captain Pease house on Main Street, second on right, the present site of Edgartown Market.

Captain's uniform in 1834 was a dark-gray double-breasted coat with a rolling collar, a buff vest, a black silk cravat and dark-gray or white pantaloons bearing a black braid stripe. "Gold epaulets, a plain cocked hat, a small sword, and a black leather sword belt completed the uniform," he wrote. Officers of lower rank wore similar outfits with fewer buttons and epaulets and less sleeve braid.

The gray uniform was detested by the Revenue Cutter officers who protested so vigorously that, two years later, in 1836, it was changed back to navy blue. At the same time, a more impressive cocked hat was designed with gold buttons, gold tassels and an elaborate rosette. If it is this 1836 uniform whose accouterments are illustrated in the Edgartown document (Dr. Langley believes that it is), the epaulets, the sword, the sword belt, sword knot and the buttons were also made more elaborate.

The Treasury Department shield, consisting of nine stars, a key and the scales of justice, was combined with a

fouled anchor to form the Revenue Marine device, which was used on buttons and epaulets. Eagles, stars and stripes, twined leaves and acorns decorate the sword and scabbard.

This was the uniform young Pease would have worn when he was commissioned a Third Lieutenant in 1839. His rank would have entitled him to wear only one epaulet, on his left shoulder, and no braid on his sleeve. When he was promoted to Second Lieutenant in 1843, he would have added a one-inch-wide black braid above the cuffs.

The feisty Vineyard Yankee seemed to have small regard for his fancy uniform. In 1843, while at the United States Hotel in New York City on his way to an assignment in Charleston, S.C., he wrote his brother, Joseph Thaxter Pease, in Edgartown:

"One would laugh to see me with cocked hat and sword on, aimed 'cap a pie' as the law directs."³

Later, while stationed at St. Mary's, Ga., in 1850, he took such a violent objection to the many Revenue Marine buttons on his coat that he cut them off. It may not have been the buttons that he objected to, however, as it was at this time that he was disgusted with some of the activities in the Revenue Marine Service. He was then a First Lieutenant on *Crawford* and was incensed at his Captain, who spent much of his time ashore visiting a lady friend. He also criticized the St. Mary's Customs Collector who wanted *Crawford* to seize a vessel involved in a dispute between the Charleston and Savannah Collectors. "Let him do his own dirty work," Pease wrote in his diary.⁴

It was shortly afterwards that he wrote in his diary:

"Sent my coat ashore and had the Revenue buttons taken off. I am sick and tired of wearing the things. No more revenue buttons on shore for me."⁵

Pease was not alone in criticism of Revenue Marine

³Letter, D.C.H.S. Archives.

⁴D.C.H.S. Archives.

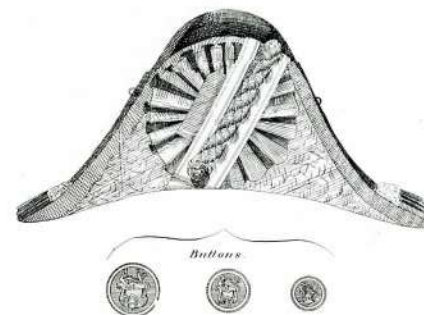
⁵*Ibid.*

being on board a Cutter with him, still I would not care much, how would you like the Inspectorship at the end, in case Reutzel did not fit the Port H. and in case it should be left, and in case he should appoint C/Kay at H.H. who by the by I think entitled to it, if he can get it, - Why don't Mr. Taylor endeavor to get the H. at H.B. - these are serious times for Whiffery till made head. - "Hon is the Port Master" Reutzel Bill, forthcoming in due season? - One would laugh to see me with cock's head sword on, aimed 'cap a pie' as the law directs in such cases made and provided - Miller prior to South America this 2 months, - Suppose the officers of St. J. York should overhaul her

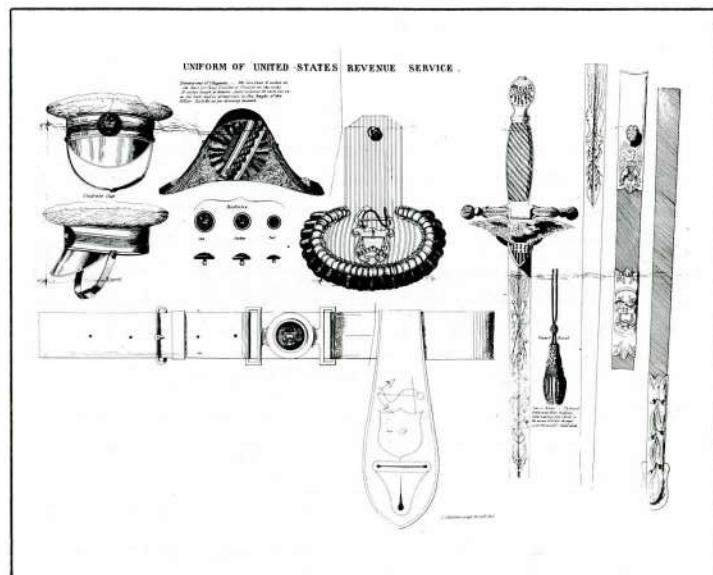
Portion of a letter William wrote to his brother, Joseph.

operations. There were continued rumors in 1850 that the Service might be discontinued or subordinated to the Navy. However, it survived despite the rumors, to maintain law and order on all the coasts of the United States. In 1915, the Revenue Marine along with the Life-Saving Service became the United States Coast Guard.

Three years after the above diary entries, Pease, 34 years old, was commissioned Captain and ordered to sail *Jefferson Davis* around the Horn to the Territory of Washington. It was his second voyage around the Horn, but his first in command. For 12 years he served on the West Coast, at a time when it was a rough frontier. He returned to the East in 1861.



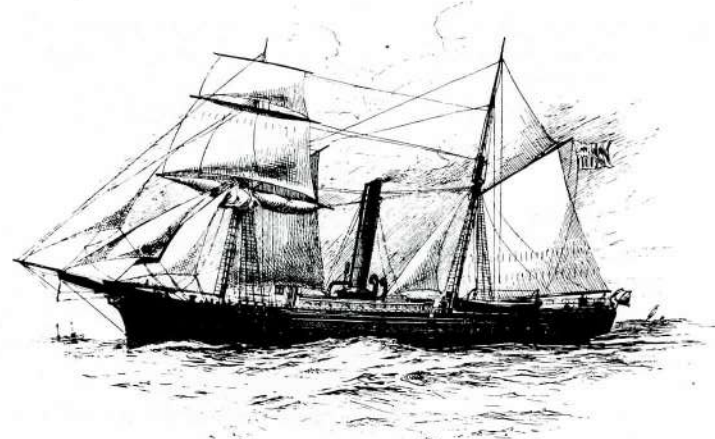
Cocked hat and gold buttons that William seemed amused by.



Document in our Archives displays Revenue Service uniform.

In 1862, the cocked hats were dropped from the outfit and a blue frock coat lined with black silk was prescribed for dress occasions. Cuffs were ornamented with two stripes of gold lace and gold lace was added to the Navy-style blue caps. Cravats were of black silk, vests were of blue, buff or white, and pantaloons of white and blue, or all white, depending on the season. The Treasury Department emblem still appeared on buttons and epaulets, but it was now surrounded by a circle bearing the words *Semper Paratus* and "U.S. Revenue Cutter Service. 1790." Crossed anchors with wooden stocks formed the background.

It was in this uniform that the body of Captain Pease lay in state on the Revenue Cutter *Kewanee* at Charleston, S.C., after his tragic death of typhoid fever December 30, 1865, at the age of 46. The colors of the vessel were lowered to half mast, honoring the Edgartown hero. On January 1st, under military escort, a procession of his



Revenue Cutter *Albert Gallatin* was often in Edgartown

officers, crew, Army and Navy men plus his Charleston friends marched to the Seamen's Chapel on Church Street for a ceremonial funeral. He had many friends in Charleston, despite the fact that he had fought for the Union during the Civil War, which had just ended. He had had two tours of duty in Charleston before the war and had participated in several major rescue operations, including one following the wreck of the Revenue Cutter *Hamilton* in 1854.

His body was brought back to Edgartown and he was buried in the West Side Cemetery where an impressive monument commemorates his 26 years of service in the Revenue Marine. It reads:

"He entered the U.S. Revenue Service at the age of nineteen, served in all the principal stations on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, becoming so thoroughly conversant with his official duties that the Department in 1853, knowing his energy and peculiar fitness for the post, appointed him a Captain and ordered him to California. He served with credit and acceptance on the western coast of America until 1861; gave essential aid in quieting the hostile Indians around Puget Sound, and under instructions from the Treasury Department, cooperated

with its officers in introducing the Revenue system into California, Oregon and Washington territories. He was closely identified with our Pacific possessions, and took an active part in the formation of their governments. Of the pioneers of the Western coast, few have died more widely known or more beloved and regretted."

It is splendid tribute to a Vineyard hero who served his country well.

He served his country well in another, less heroic fashion, by recording the events of his exciting life in great detail in letters, diaries and journals, many of which are in the possession of the Society. Together, they add much to our history of the beginnings of the United States Coast Guard. Of especial value is what may be the only remaining copy of the document describing the uniform which, he wrote, would make one laugh to see him wearing.



Monument in West Side Cemetery, Edgartown, honors Capt. Pease.

Politics and Politicians In the 1850s

From the Society's Archives

NOVEMBER being the most political of months, it seems the proper time to publish an exchange of letters between two Edgartown politicians of 130 years ago: Hebron Vincent and Richard L. Pease. The exchange took place between 1853 and 1855, years of political upheaval. The dominant Whig Party had begun to disintegrate, creating new alignments nationally. Martha's Vineyard was not exempt from the turmoil.

These documents and letters were preserved by Mr. Pease, so they may not tell both sides of the story.

In 1852, Hebron Vincent, who had broken away from the Whigs during the turmoil, was named Registrar of Probate by the Governor, replacing Barnard C. Marchant, when the Whigs lost control of the State House to a coalition of Democrats and Free Soilers. The following year, the unlikely coalition broke up and the Whigs regained control. They were quick to punish deserters.

Our story begins with an official document from the Office of the Governor, John H. Clifford, dated April 25, 1853, shortly after the Whigs had retaken power (remember that Richard L. Pease was the loyal Whig and Hebron Vincent was the defector):

"... for divers good and sufficient reasons, it appears to our Governor and Council inexpedient, that he, the said Hebron Vincent, should continue to hold said office any longer. Now therefore, be it known, that he, the said Hebron Vincent, is this day removed from the office of Register of Probate for the said County of Dukes County..."

On May 2, 1853, a week later, a neatly written letter on pale blue stationery was delivered to Hebron Vincent, the departing Registrar of Probate. It was from his friend and fellow Edgartownian, Richard L. Pease, the steadfast Whig:

"Dear Sir: I enclose an exeqinal document, which, by the fortunes and vicissitudes of political life, has come into my hands. [Pease must have enclosed a copy of a second document from the Governor, one naming him Registrar.] Believe me that in the hour of my success, the thought of *your* reverses tempers the feeling of gratification so natural to everyone upon whom prosperity shines. That the County owes you much, I take the occasion now, as at other times, to frankly state.

"Hoping always to be, as now, your friend, I am yours, etc.

RICH. L. PEASE

"P.S. If tomorrow A.M. will suit your convenience, I will remove the 'Iron safe', etc."

Whether or not Hebron wrote back to Richard we don't know. No such letter is in our possession. However, there must have been a friendly exchange, perhaps oral, because three days later the newly appointed Registrar wrote again:

"Your humble servant is ready to receive his *first lesson*, at such time as may be mutually convenient. If it would please you, this afternoon would suit him. For so dull a scholar 'line upon line and precept upon precept' may be very necessary. At all events, he wishes to 'sit at the feet of Gamaliel.'

Apparently, the transfer of the office was accomplished in a friendly manner. Pease served as Registrar for nearly two years until the American Know Nothing Party, a splinter group Hebron Vincent supported, had a stunning victory over all opposition in the election of 1854, getting nearly twice as many votes as the three other parties combined.

This time, the "exeqinal document" from Boston was addressed to Hebron:

"Now therefore be it Known that we reposing full

confidence in the learning and ability of Hebron Vincent . . . do appoint him, the said Hebron Vincent, to be Register of Probate for our County of Dukes County during our pleasure."

It was signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth on March 6, 1855. A few days later, a neatly penned letter, along with a copy of the document, was delivered to the Registrar of Probate, Richard L. Pease. It was from his friend, Hebron:

"Dear Brother--The wheel of time, as it rolls on, carries with it that of fortune, either good or bad. We live in a world of changes. The inclosed document will be an official messenger of one, of which you have doubtless been otherwise apprised, ere this.

"Having already been duly qualified and given bond as the law requires, will you have the goodness to inform me if it will be convenient today, and if so, at what time it will be your pleasure that I should call for the movables pertaining to the Probate Office.

"By doing so you will oblige,

Yours very truly, As Ever,
H. VINCENT"

That same afternoon, a response was delivered to Mr. Vincent, again a beautifully written note on elegant paper:

"Sir, I had heard before the reception of your note of this morning, that you had attained what you sought in connecting yourself with the secret organization now dominant in the Good Old Bay State.

"The records and documents of this office will be ready for delivery at any hour it may suit your convenience after twenty four hours notice.

Yours respectfully,
RICHARD L. PEASE"

The tone of the note clearly upset Hebron, especially the reference to "the secret organization." He hastily scribbled this response on a scrap piece of paper that same afternoon, March 13, 1855:

"Dear Sir -- Your reply to my note of this morning is received. If the insinuation in your first paragraph is what a sense of justice, to say no more, dictates as a suitable

return for the cordial manner in which I tended you about two years since under *somewhat* similar circumstances, you are welcome to all the benefit of it.

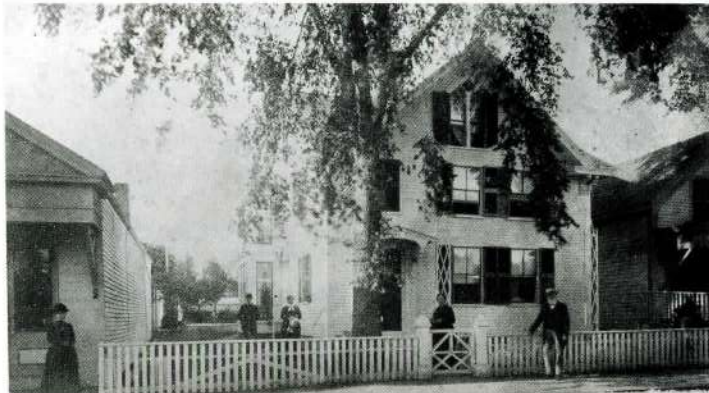
"I will just add, however, for your information, that till within some few weeks, when I had unmistakable proof that whoever might be your successor, your removal was determined upon by the powers that be, I had neither formed the design nor had I, in any way, sought the office which the excellent Governor of the 'Good Old Bay State' had the kindness to take from me and give to yourself.

"With regard to the time of taking charge of the Records and documents belonging to the Probate Office, I have no wish to hurry. Should the weather prove favorable, I will call for them tomorrow at about 3 o'clock, and if it should not, then the following morning, or the earliest suitable time thereafter.

Your friend, As Ever,

H. VINCENT HEBRON VINCENT

There were two signatures on our final letter. One, the more formal, was lined out and a second, friendlier one was added. It seems clear that Hebron was upset when he wrote the hastily scrawled letter. There are no other notes or letters on the subject in our collection of R. L. Pease Papers.



Richard L. Pease stands in front of his Main Street house, which is still standing next to Edgartown's little park.

Pease had backed the losing side; the Whig Party soon disappeared. Vincent joined the new Republican party and held the Registrar's post off and on until 1890, moving in and out as the party in power changed. Pease did well also, when he, too, became a Republican with the demise of the Whigs. He never again was named Registrar of Probate, however.

In 1868, he was a Presidential Elector for General Grant and served as Edgartown Postmaster from 1877 until 1885, a highly political position. He died in 1888, leaving volumes of journals, notes, letters and copy books, which are in the Archives of the Society.

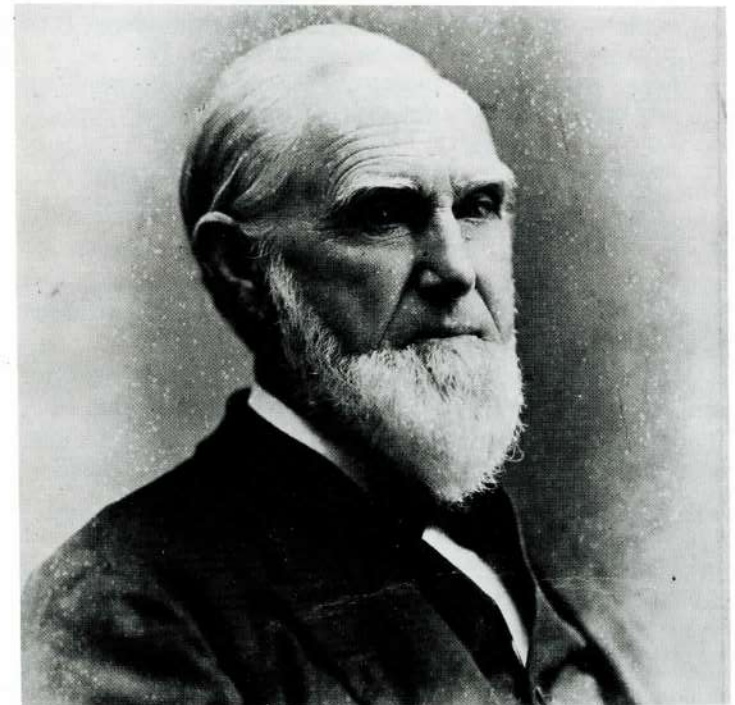


Photo of Richard L. Pease some years after events described here.



The House That Gave Tea Lane Its Name

by JONATHAN SCOTT

In the first half of this article, the author traced the history of the Colonial Gambrel on Tea Lane, demonstrating to his satisfaction that it was built for Dr. Thomas Little between 1709 and 1711. Sold in 1728 to Benjamin Hillman, the Chilmark house was inherited by Benjamin's son Silas, whose wife loved tea. Her nephew, Capt. Robert Hillman, on his voyages to England after the Stamp Act of 1767 would smuggle unstamped tea onto the Island for his aunt to enjoy. Thus, the house became known for its illegal tea brewing and the narrow road leading to it became known as Tea Lane. (At the time Tea Lane didn't go through as there was no North Road.) In this second half, Author Scott explains important construction elements of the house (now owned by the Clark Goffs) and how they enable him to date it.

(Part Two)

NOT surprisingly after 270 years of continuous habitation, the Goff house is very different today from what it was when Dr. Little built the little gambrel-roofed half house in the early years of the 18th Century. We have, however, enough evidence to put together a fairly good picture of what the original was like. A careful study of where the original partition walls ran indicates that Dr. Little's house, though small, was beautifully designed with pleasant and well-proportioned rooms.

JONATHAN SCOTT lives in Chilmark with his wife and five children as he completes his Doctoral dissertation on the Island's pre-Revolutionary War houses. There are, he has discovered, 75 of them, one of which is described here. An Amherst graduate with a Master's from the University of Kansas, Professor Scott has taught at the University of Hawaii, the University of New Mexico and Gustavus Adolphus College, prior to the current interruption to complete his PhD from the University of Minnesota. He knows much more about houses than one can get from books, earning his living these-days as an Island carpenter. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scott of Chilmark.

The living room, on the southwest corner, was especially interesting. It was square, with lateral dimensions exactly twice its height: 14 feet 4 inches wide and deep; 7 feet 2 inches high.

Within the present wall, a little piece of molding provides evidence that horizontal wainscoting once ran along the lower wall to a height of 32 inches. Above this, the walls and possibly the ceiling would have been plastered and painted either white or an off-white. On a sunny winter's day, the south and west-facing windows would have let in much light and warmth, while in summer, with the southwest breezes and the sun higher in the sky, the room would remain cool. The fireplace was in the east wall, which may have been panelled as were many somewhat later Vineyard houses.

Behind the living room was the original kitchen with a large fireplace for cooking and heating in its southeast corner. This room was also squarish, being 13 feet 4 inches wide and 13 feet 10 inches deep.

Opening off the west end of the kitchen would have been a small bedroom where young children or the sick could easily have been cared for by the women of the

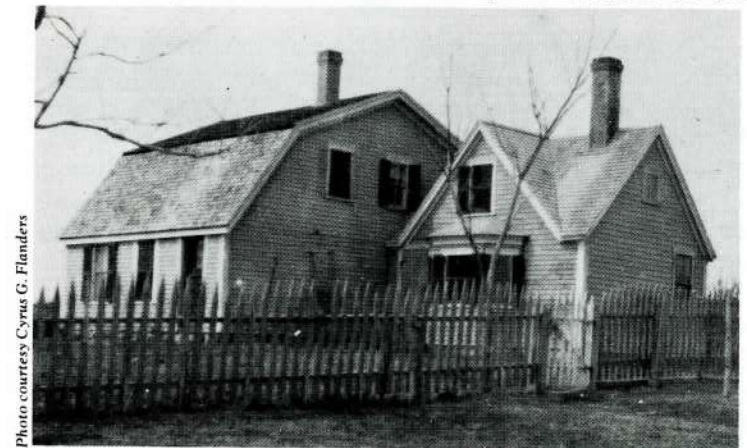


Photo courtesy Cyrus G. Flanders

Gambrel-roofed Goff house, about 1900, when it was the Franklyn Hammett house.

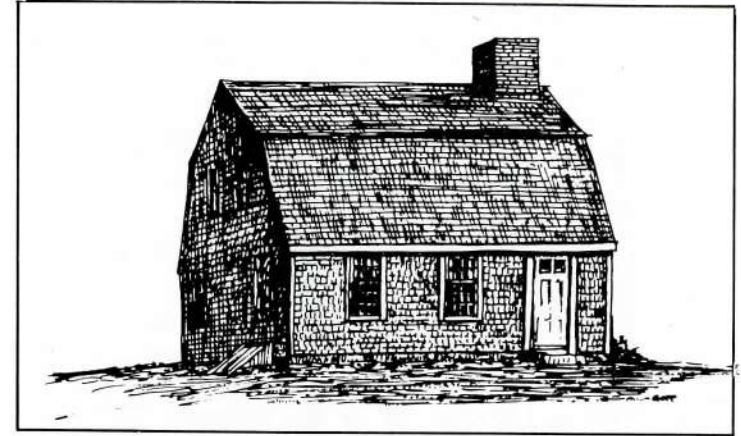
house working nearby. This little room, common at the time, is often called the "borning room" because it was used for childbirth, being convenient to the hot water and warmth of the kitchen hearth. Next to this room, toward the rear, also opening off the kitchen in the cooler northwest corner, was a small pantry or buttery. (The present kitchen and bath are where these little rooms once were.)

Upstairs, the gambrel roof gave plenty of headroom for one or more good-sized bedrooms. Some early accounts state that this was also the loom room where the large weaving apparatus was kept and worked. The wide west wall contains two large windows which look out over the farm and, on a sunny day, flood the room with light. Though the present windows are not original, the old ones may well have occupied a similar space. Probably, they were like those on the reconstructed Harlow house in Plymouth (*Intelligencer*, August 1982, p. 15). The present overhanging trim along the eaves is also not original, having been added in the 19th Century. The flat raking cornice boards of the Harlow house, set against rather than out from the side of the house, was undoubtedly the way the original trim was installed.

The most significant alterations to the house must have occurred in the 19th Century: the windows were enlarged and the small-paned sash replaced; the chimney was rebuilt; and the east wing was added. There were also major changes made in the original floorplan of the house. These changes stand out because they are obvious deviations from what we know now was common practice in the 18th Century.

Perhaps most significant is the change in the size of the southwest living room (now a bedroom). When you are in it, you can sense that this room is too small. It is approximately 13 feet square (13 feet 1½ inches wide by 13 feet 1 inch deep) when, properly, a typical Vineyard living room would be just over 14 feet in width and depth. This was an alteration and not part of the original plan, as I will explain.

Drawing by Clark Goff



When built in 1711, the house probably looked like this.

Next, we observe that the front entrance hall becomes a hallway passing right through the house to the back room (originally the kitchen). No 18th Century Island builder would have sacrificed valuable space in this way to avoid going through the living room to reach the back kitchen. However, in the 19th Century, it became stylish to put in long front hallways and many old Vineyard houses were



No doubt, the house originally had 6 over 9 windows, like the one at left on the Damon-Price house.

thus modified in the mid-1800s. No doubt, this was when the change was made on the Little-Hillman house.

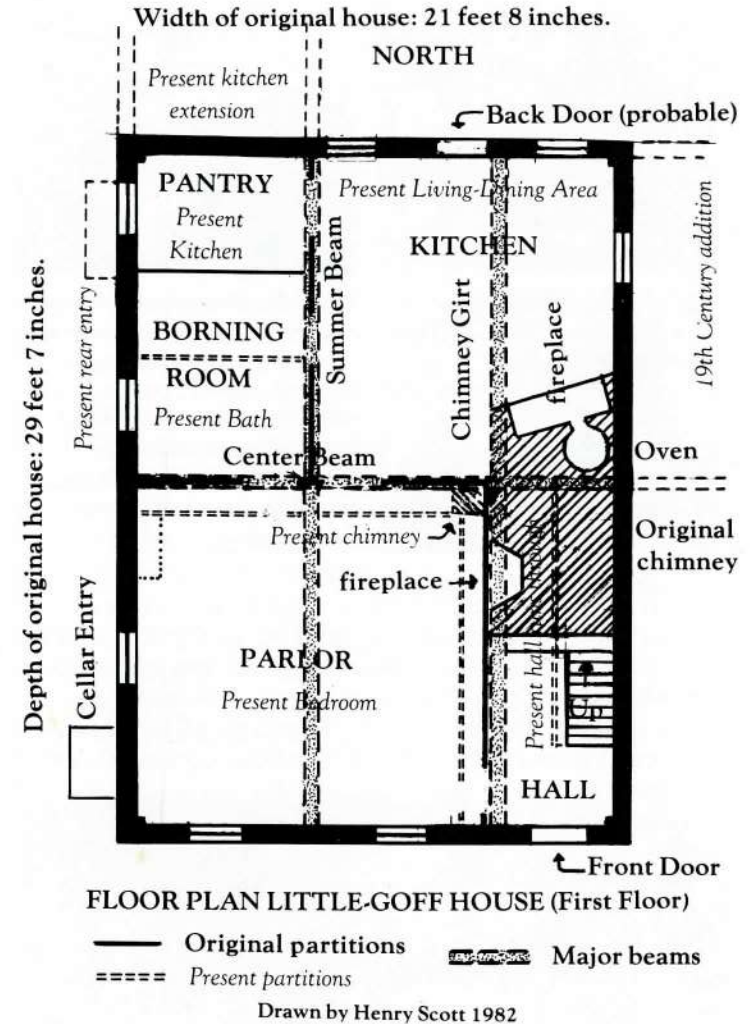
Finally, the house has no fireplaces today, either in the old kitchen area or in the main living room, and in a house of this vintage you would certainly expect fireplaces. If you step outside and look up at the roof, you will see that the chimney is not an 18th Century one; it is in the wrong place and it is too thin. It is designed for stoves not fireplaces.

Vineyard chimneys of the 17th and 18th Centuries were built with Island brick, handmade and often poorly fired. After a century of use, almost without exception, the soft brick had to be replaced or the chimney extensively repaired; if not, the house burned down. By the time the Hillman chimney needed extensive work, the early 19th Century, Ben Franklin's cast-iron stove had revolutionized home heating. Along with this came stoves for cooking which outmoded the old kitchen fireplace with its cumbersome trunnels, heavy pots and slow-to-heat bread oven.

The new chimney in the Little-Hillman house allows for no fireplaces, having only outlets for stovepipes. It was much smaller than the original stack and a new location was found for it in the wall between the living room and the hall. With the huge chimney gone, the living room wall was moved inward to make room for the transverse hallway. The living room lost over a foot in width as well as losing its fireplace and any panelling that traditionally might have graced the fireplace wall.

The old chimney was massive, filling much of the space where the hallway is today (see floor plan). It had two fireplaces, one facing into the living room, the other angled out into the kitchen. The steep, narrow staircase along the east wall was undoubtedly carefully designed to enable it to complete its flight in front of the old Chimney.

Evidence that the original chimney was in this location can be found in the roof structure. Here, we find four pairs of original rafters: the first three are just over 7 feet apart.



The fourth defined an eastern bay of only just over 5 feet. This would have been the chimney bay. Where the eastern end rafters were mortised at the peak, there is, curiously, no ridge purlin nor is there any slot to receive a purlin that might be missing. The lack of any ridge purlin here indicates that the chimney must have passed through the

Photos by the author



Top left, absence of ridge purlin indicates that chimney went through this bay. Siding is vertical. Above, purlin has been removed from trench lower down on same rafter. Left, this purlin has survived. Originally, roof boards were laid vertically on purlins.

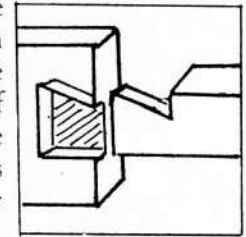
roof within this five-foot bay.

There is further evidence of the chimney's original location in the kitchen area. During a recent remodelling, the kitchen ceiling was taken down, revealing the old joists, girts and the second-floor boarding, all being smoke-blackened from kitchen fires. One of these joists, about 10 feet from the north wall, was set at a curious angle. We believe that this angled joist must have framed the kitchen fireplace in the corner of the room where it would have made a great deal of sense to set the fireplace at an angle, facing into the room. (See floor plan.) What seems to confirm this is that an exceptionally wide and obviously old, 19-inch floorboard terminates at this angled joist. Beyond this point there are newer, smaller floorboards which were added, we would say, after the chimney was removed. The new floorboards are not smoke-blackened.

Thus, we have evidence of the only angled corner fireplace that I know of in New England (such fireplaces were common in Spanish New Mexico, but not in the English colonies). This might have been how kitchen

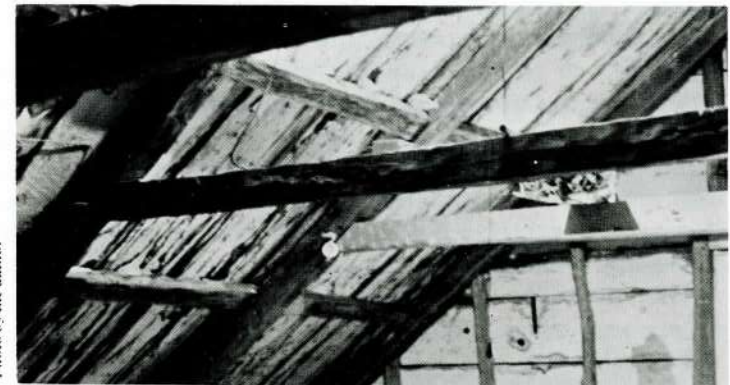
fireplaces were built in other Island half houses, all of which have been modified beyond recognition in this part of the house.

A careful study of these joists in the original kitchen revealed that in each bay one joist, at about midpoint in the room, was cut at both ends with half dovetails (see drawing). This, we believe, was to keep the large beams aligned and to hold the house together against lateral thrust.



All the exposed joists have the irregular saw marks and somewhat uneven thicknesses that indicate they were pit-sawn by hand rather than having been machine-sawn. On the mainland, by the end of the 17th Century, water-powered sawmills had replaced the cumbersome and slow pit-sawing method of cutting timber, providing evidence of the date of construction of a house with pit-sawn timbers. On the Vineyard, however, certain techniques and methods appear to have been used long after they were discontinued on the mainland and pit-sawing seems to be one such method. We have no clear evidence of the

Photo by the author



Fenner house, c. 1730, still has original rafters, purlins and vertical roofing. Siding is horizontal.

introduction of sawmills on the Island until around 1800¹, although we are still looking for an earlier date. The pit-sawn joists of the Little-Hillman-Goff house are further indication that the hand-powered pit-sawn method was still being used on the Vineyard in the early 18th Century.

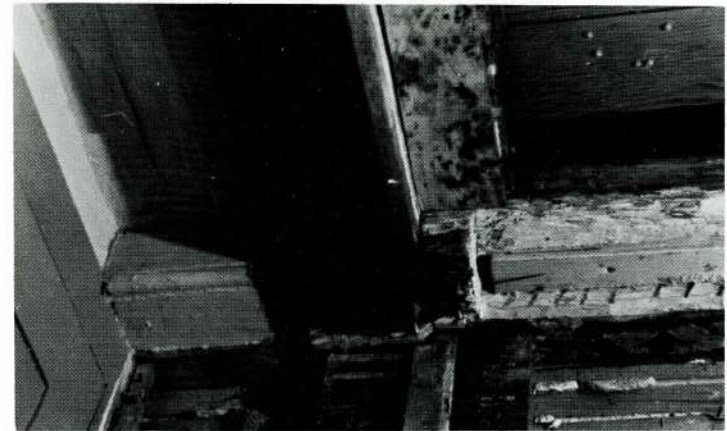
The summer beams and girts² in the back kitchen area were badly mutilated during a renovation that must have occurred many years ago. In order to raise the ceiling and create a uniform surface, the bottom 3 or 4 inches of these beams were hewed or chiselled away (photo on next page). The present owners, the Clark Goffs, took down the ceiling hoping to find the original structure intact and to return it to its original exposed state. Disappointed in what they found, they have now covered the mutilated beams with a new ceiling. We are grateful that they alerted us at the time so that we were able to study, measure and photograph the old structure before it was once again covered.

While the beams were exposed, we could see that the smoke-blackened ceiling stopped at the back summer beam; beyond or west of this beam the ceiling is clear. This clearly indicates that there must have been a partition there, consisting of, as in other Vineyard houses, single-thickness pine boards. The partition would have separated the small bedroom or "borning room" and the still smaller pantry from the kitchen (see floor plan).

Traditionally, partitions in Vineyard houses followed the basic lines of girts and summer beams. In this house, the present north or back wall of the living room has no correlation to these beams; we believe it has been moved from its original location. It should have followed the center beam, but now is in front (south) of it by more than twelve inches. Undoubtedly, the wall was brought forward to square off the living room after the massive chimney had been removed and the former fireplace wall moved in

¹ *Dukes County Intelligencer*, August 1978, "The Vincent House, Architecture and Restoration," Anne W. Baker, p. 15. Also see *Vineyard Gazette*, April 10, 1981, "Builders Used Island Timber," p. 6A.

² For an explanation of these and other technical terms see Fig. 2, p. 10, *The Intelligencer*, August 1978.



Summer beam comes in from left. At right, it was hacked away to raise the ceiling during a renovation.

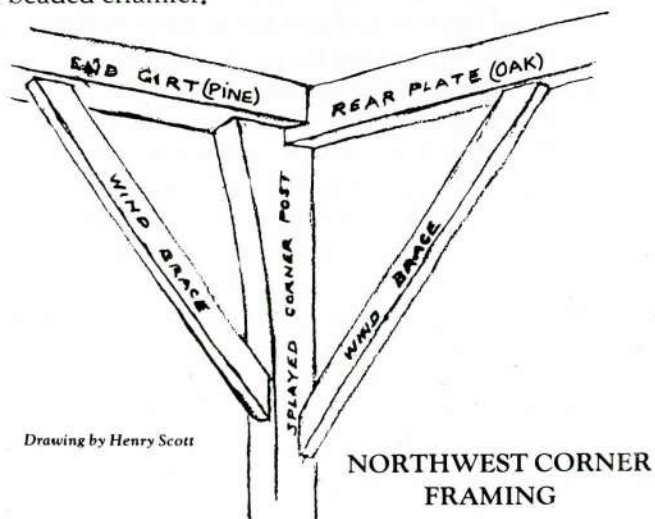
to provide room for the hallway. As a result, the room is smaller than the traditional Vineyard living room, as I have previously mentioned. If the room had extended, as I believe it originally did, back to the center beam, it would have had a depth of 14 feet 4 inches, which is just right in relation to other Island houses of the period. (It is now 13 feet 1 inch deep.) The original width of the room to the fireplace would have been about the same as its depth, just over 14 feet. We are certain this is so because the summer beam would then be exactly centered in the room. The newer wall appears awkward because it does not correspond to the basic structural pattern of the house.

The framing of the house utilizes a distinctive scheme for the large horizontal members. The east-west center beam and plates are of oak, detailed with a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch bevelled chamfer. Ordinarily, this scheme would continue through the house. However, the north-south summer beam and girts are of pine, detailed with a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch beaded chamfer. This distinction holds true throughout the house with only one exception, the result of a later alteration. That was when the living-room summer, like the beams in the back kitchen, was cut away to add height to the ceiling.



Splayed corner post is exposed at extreme left of Goff kitchen. This was exterior wall of original house.

Later, it was planed, sanded and given a bevelled chamfer rather than the original beaded one. On the kitchen side of the living-room wall a small portion of the original summer can still be seen undamaged, with full dimensions and beaded chamfer.



Drawing by Henry Scott

NORTHWEST CORNER
FRAMING

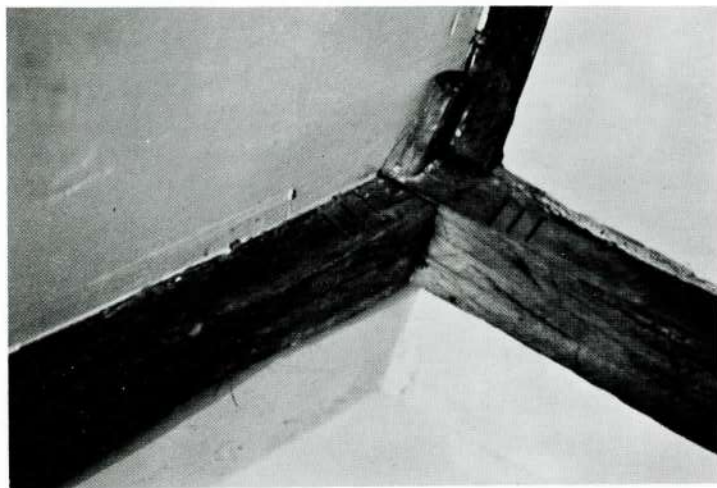
Photos by the author



Today, a hall occupies area of original chimney and fireplaces. Wall at right was farther left.

In the present kitchen, at the northwest corner, one of the original flared posts is visible (see photo). It originally had two diagonal arms or windbraces. Today, one of them, the left brace, is hidden in the wall. The right brace is missing, but the open pockets or mortises for it are plainly seen in the post and the plate above. All four corners of the house would have had such posts and windbraces.

The original framing of the roof can still be seen in the attic although rafters have been added and the roof boards changed through the years. As mentioned, there were originally only four pairs of rafters on extraordinarily wide



Roman numerals on No. 3 rafters of Bruno house, Chilmark. spacing: the first three were on 7½-foot centers, the fourth or chimney bay on 5½-foot center.

As was typical in Vineyard construction of the period, the rafters and collars were cut and numbered with Roman numerals before they were erected into position so that the custom-cut tenons and mortises fit properly. These builder's marks can be seen in many Island houses (photo above). Massachusetts Bay Colony rafters were usually marked and erected from east to west, but on the Island they almost always numbered and put them up from west to east (assuming the house to face south, which it almost always does). Why the difference, no one seems to know.

The rafters corresponded to the framing below them with the first and last rafter being placed above the end girts, the second rafter placed above the main summer beam and number three rafter above the chimney girt (see floor plan). They were of hewn oak, roughly squared, about 4 inches wide and 5 inches deep. Horizontal purlins were trenched into the rafters at 5-foot intervals. The purlins were roughly squared oak about 2½ by 3 inches. There were two rows of purlins, plus a ridge purlin, in the upper slope and probably a similar arrangement in the



Attic of Great House, Chilmark, shows Colonial construction.

lower slope of the gambrel roof. When originally laid, the roof boards ran vertically, being attached to the horizontal purlins and not to the rafters (see photos). At some point in its life, the roof of the Colonial gambrel was changed; new rafters (two to a bay) were added and horizontal boards replaced the vertical. Fortunately, many of the old purlins remain although they now serve no structural purpose.

Apparently, the exterior boarding also ran vertically, as the wide pine boards in the east gable end of the attic show (figure 5). During the recent renovation, some shingles were stripped from the west exterior wall, exposing horizontal pine boards, laid over the original vertical boarding. These horizontal boards were planed smooth, beaded at the top and shiplapped in the old style. Why would they put such fine boarding up only to cover it with shingles? In the Vincent-Makenty house, now in Edgartown, the restorer, Ann Baker, found horizontal lapped exterior boarding that was slightly weathered and she felt that it had been the exterior skin of the house for several years until it was covered by shingles.³

Might we have the same situation here in the Little-Hillman-Goff house? It is a puzzle. There is very little

³ "The Vincent House," Baker, p. 17.



Tongue-and-groove boards cover vertical siding on Goff house.

weathering of the boards, which, in some respects, appear to be of more recent vintage. Nonetheless, the possibility does exist that this might have been the original exterior siding.

As do most early Vineyard houses, the Goff house sits on a fieldstone foundation, which probably was originally chinked with clay to keep the draughts out. It has been mortared up. A small cellar, about 10 by 13 feet, was dug, as was customary, under the southwest corner, the warmest and driest spot. It was used for winter storage of root crops and vegetables. Access is by stone steps, now covered by a wooden bulkhead. The old sills and joists have all been replaced, some of the replacements being taken from the kitchen area during the remodelling. The joists consisted of oak logs, the bark still on them, which were flattened only on the upper side that received the flooring. It is remarkable that so many of these oak-log

joists have lasted to the present day in Island houses.

These construction features, then, are the most important of those that convinced me that this gambrel-roofed house on Tea Lane was built between 1709 and 1711 for Dr. Thomas Little. It is one of more than 75 pre-Revolutionary War houses on the Island and it is distinctive because of its involvement in the tale of tea smuggling after the Stamp Act of 1767, while it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Hillman.

It is the house that gave Tea Lane its name.



TEA LANE - CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Drawing by Clark Goff shows the gambrel-roofed Tea Lane house as it looks today.

America: 1845

*Adapted from logbook entries written
by James Cleaveland, mate on the
whaling ship Hopewell, by his
granddaughter Dionis Coffin Riggs*

322 days from port
Commences with foggy weather
At 6 p.m. the fog lit up
And we spoke the Envoy of Providence
With 1000 bbls. (boiling)
Latter part a gale from North
The Envoy still in sight. So ends.

341. Commenced with strong breezes
At 2 p.m. saw a Right Whale
Lowered and chased until 5 p.m.
But to no purpose
Came on board and took in sails
Tired and down-hearted. But
What can we do more than
try our Best?

This is the poetry of America, 1845

360. July 31
Commences with strong breezes and
A heavy sea with some fog
At 3 saw a whale. Lowered.
The Larboard Boat Struck
Had been fast but a short time
When he stove her.

Note: The master of the Ship Luminary who came on board was Henry Cleaveland, father of James, mate on the Hopewell and keeper of the log.

The bow boat struck him and he ran
Very quick to windward
Without stopping at all. Had to cut.
Saw 2 more whales but could not strike.
Latter part fine weather until eleven
Then it began to rain. Carpenter
Employed in mending the boat. So ends.

This is the poetry of America, 1845

365. August 5
Commences with fine weather. Employed
In chasing whales until sunset
But to no purpose.
At 3 a.m. lowered again
Starboard Boat Struck It. At 11
Got him alongside the ship.

384. Sunday.
Commences with strong breezes
From the North
Ship under double-reef topsails
At sunset Spoke the Ship Luminary
Of Warren, And Father Came on Board.
And Glad was I to see him.

This is the story of America, 1845.

Dionis Coffin Riggs

Documents

Jeremiah Pease (1792-1857), son of Noah Pease and Hannah Dunham, married Elizabeth Worth, daughter of Deacon Jonathan Worth and Sarah Mayhew.

His diaries, of which the Society has a nearly complete set, provide the best day-by-day account of life on Martha's Vineyard during the first half of the 19th Century that is available. We have been publishing these excerpts since 1974.

Jeremiah's involvement in many diverse activities on the Island means that his daily account is filled with facts available nowhere else. He and his wife have 10 children, all of whom are important persons in the community. One, William Cooke Pease, is building a national reputation as he rises to the rank of Captain in the United States Revenue Service, the forerunner of the Coast Guard. (See page 43 of this issue.)

A "born-again" convert to the anti-establishment religion of Methodism during the "awakening" of the 1820s; Jeremiah played a major role in the selection of the site for the Campground, in the building of two Methodist Churches in Edgartown (today one is the Town Hall, the other is known as the Old Whaling Church). He continues, in this the 55th year of what he calls "my very short life," to be a devout Methodist, attending meetings all over the Island.

He is also Town Surveyor, County

Commissioner, Lighthouse Keeper, bonesetter, shoemaker and a leading Democrat. He is obviously a man of enormous talent and energy.

• • •

June 1846.

3rd. SW foggy. William sailed in Cutter Morris, Capt. Waldron, from Portland for Mexico.

15th. SW pleasant. Went to Campground with Br. Chase Pease, I.D. Pease, Sirson Coffin, Chas. Weeks & Jos. Linton Jr., to make arrangements about camp meeting.

16th. NE fresh breeze. Cutter Gallatin on a surveying/cruise arrives.

24th. SSW. Went to camp ground on business of the C. Meeting. S.P. Coffin & Wm. Vinson went. Tide table set up at the B [Break] water.

25th. SW. Commenced taking the time of high and low water at the Breakwater agreeably to request of Lieut. Commd. Chas. H. Davis of Surveying Sch. Gallatin. Tide Table set up yesterday by Lieut. Conant.

27th. W to SSW. Planted potatoes.

July 1846

1st. E. light foggy. Bot a Cow of Thos. Smith Jr. for 30.50, paid for her.

4th. Ely light. Went to N. Bedford in Steamer Naushon with about 400 passengers. Serena, Eliza & John were with us. John went to Boston to work at his business. It was a great day in N.B. Many people were there.¹
5th. S to SSW. Returned from N. Bedford having been detained on

¹It is the Fourth of July and the nation is at war with Mexico.

acct. of the fogg. We did not return last night according to our expectation. I arrived home at a few minutes before 9 A.M., set out for E'Ville, arrived in time to attend meeting there. Attended meeting at MD School House with Br. Solomon Athearn at 5 P.M.

11th. SW very warm. Went to West Chop Holmes Hole to survey land for locating the Light House which is to be removed from its present situation to the new site, went in Steamer *Naushon*. The Collector went with me. Capt. Wm. Daggett, Mr. Claghorn and Mr. West, living near this place were present and gave their opinions relating to the new location. Mr. Worth, Deputy Collector, was there also. We all concurred in opinion as relates to the most proper place for the Light House to stand. Mr. James West, the Keeper of this Light, was present and agreed in opinion with the others.²

12th. SW very warm. Attended meetings at North Shore at the School House in the forenoon, it being very warm the Brethren concluded to have meeting in their new meetinghouse (which was raised on Monday the 6th. inst.) it being nearly finished on the outside was much cooler than their School House.

13th. S to SSW warm. About 10 P.M. a Fire broke out at Nantucket which

raged until a large part of the Town was destroyed.

14th. SW to NE to SSW light. A little shower of rain at about 11 A.M. The smoke is still rising from the flames at Nantucket and continues until 1 P.M.

August 1846

3rd. NE light, clear. Went to Camp Meeting. Remained there until Saturday the 8th. It was a very interesting meeting, about 30 tents, several souls we hope were converted to God and many much blessed. It was considered one of the best meetings ever held there.

17th. SW foggy. Ship *Splendid*, Capt. G. A. Baylies, sails for Pacific Ocean.

18th. NE fresh breeze clear. Cyrus goes to Washington.

19th. NE fresh AM, PM E, light clear. Schr. *Hiram* sails this morning for the Pacific Ocean.

20th. ESE light. Frederick leaves town to go to Provincetown.³ I am engaged surveying land for David Belain and others at Chappaquiddick.

21st. ENE rains a little. Attended the Dedication of the new Methodist Meeting House at North Shore, Br. Munger went with me. Br. Danl. Wise from Nantucket Preached the dedication sermon. There were present Rev. Dan Wise, Wheeler, Munger, Blake, Tainter, George Week. Rev. Wm. Walker of the Congl. Church and Rev. Mr. Boomer of the Baptist Church at Tisbury. It was a very interesting season. I returned to M.D. with Br. George

³Frederick, the seventh of Jeremiah's 10 children, was a tailor.

Weeks to attend Class Meeting.

27th. SW foggy. Set an elbow joint for Br. Thos. Smith's Daughter. She fell from a tree.

September 1846.

22nd. NE fresh breeze. Frederick returns from Provincetown.

23rd. SW pleasant. Light House vessel, Sch. *Gazelle*, Capt. Howland, arrives.

24th. SW pleasant. Received the supplies for Edgartown Light House from Sch. *Gazelle*, Capt. Jon. Howland.

25th. SW foggy. Engaged surveying Indian Land at Chappaquiddick for L. Thaxter, Esq., Guardian.

28th. NNW fresh breeze. Went to West Chop, Holmes Hole on business relating to the new Light House now building there. Saw Capt. Winslow Lewis and Lady, he being engaged in fitting the Lantern, etc., on the Lt. House at that place.⁴

29th. SW fresh breeze. Joseph goes to N. York, John to Nantucket and Frederick to Provincetown per Steamer *Naushon*.⁵

October 1846

12th. S. light. Finished taking the time of high and low water, etc., for Lieut. Chas. H. Davies of the Coast Survey for this season.

13th. SE gale at night. Blew off the

⁴Winslow Lewis was the national authority on lighthouses (see *Intelligencer*, Feb. and May 1982).

⁵Three sons, all going in different directions off-Island. A fourth son, Lt. William, was at this time in Key West, Florida, aboard the *Morris*. Jeremiah's family certainly could not be described an insular.

railing on the Breakwater. Some plank washed off.

15th. NW. Brig *Vesta*, E. Mayhew master, arrives from Atlantic Ocean with 300 bbls. sperm oil, 40 B. Fish oil (?), having lost 5 of his Crew with African fever.

November 1846

2nd. N.E. light. Went to Boston via steamer *Naushon*, N. Bedford.

3rd. N.E. light. Returned from Boston to N. Bedford.

4th. N.E. light. Returned home per *Naushon*.

6th. N.E. light. Attended a meeting of the heirs of the Chase's at Holmes Hole, held at Mr. Branskorn's store.

9th. ESE. rainy. Town Meeting for the choice of Govr., Lieut. Govr., Senator and Representative.

25th. ESE. gale with rain, heavy Gale at night from SE & SW. Brig *Lincoln* loaded with lumber was dismasted off Gay Head on Monday last. 2 men were then washed overboard about 10 PM. She came ashore on the South beach about daylight. On 26th the crew landed except one man who was lost. One died on the beach and the Capt. and one man reached Mr. B. Stewart's much exhausted. The man who was drowned was found near Washqua.

28th. W to NW. fresh breeze. Went to N. Bedford in Steamer *Naushon* to see Hon. Joseph Grinnel, Representative to Congress in relation to the Breakwater at this place.

30th. NW gale. This month has been remarkably stormy. Many vessels wrecked and a great number of lives

²Until the Light House Board was formed in 1852, this was the way lighthouses were located, by the local officials standing on the site. Once the Board took over, an engineering team would make the decision.

lost. The Old Congregational Meeting House is taken down during this month. It was built in 1768.

December 1846

3rd. SE to SW & W. Gale AM with rain. Clear PM. 2 brig tow'd down from H. Hole having been driven on shore there during the heavy gales of last month per steamer *Naushon*, Capt. H. W. Smith.

9th. NNE gale. Little rain. Mrs. Joann Luce, Wife of Capt. Obed Luce, dies in the triumph of Faith in Jesus, our Blessed Redeemer.

19th. WSW. fresh wind. About 40 sail of vessels sail for Boston and several Eastern Ports, having been waiting a long time for a suitable time.

31st. SW. pleasant. Miss Sally Worth, aunt of my wife, dies, Aged _____. A Christian woman and firm believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

January 1847

1st. SW. pleasant. Funeral Miss Worth. Service by Rev. ____ of the Congl. Society, Munger of Methodist Society and Mr. Richards of the Baptist Society, attended in the Congl. Meeting House.

12th. NW clear. Thermometer 39. Fresh breeze. William leaves here in the Cutter *Jackson*, being appointed to her.⁶

14th. SW. Cloudy, moderate. Cutter *Jackson* arrives.

15th. Calm SW. to SE. cloudy. Cutter *Jackson* sails.

⁶He had gone on the Cutter *Morris* to the Gulf of Mexico on war duty, but apparently he has now been reassigned back home.

21st. SW. light. Went to W. Chop Lt. House to ascertain the location of the buildings on the land lately bought by U.S. for that purpose.

February 1847

3rd. SE. storm with rain. News of the death of Capt. Clement Norton arrive.⁷

5th. NNW. cold. News of the death of Francis Norton & Uriah Coffin, Jr. arrive.

6th. W. Went to N. Shore to carry the melencholly tidings of the death of F. Norton to his father John P. Norton Esq. & Family.

12th. WSW. pleasant. Attended meeting at Chappaquiddick. Reformation there.

18th. WNW. light, pleasant. Capt. John Gray dies suddenly, aged 71. William visits us from Holmes Hole, the Cutter being there.⁸

19th. NE to E. some snow on the ground which fell last night. Went to Holmes Hole to carry William.

21st. NE. Snow Storm. Funeral of Capt. Gray. Services by Revs. Mr. Thayer and Cyrus C. Munger.

22nd. NE. Snows all day. Gale.

23rd. NW. Clear. Engaged with others in clearing Road of the Snow. Temperance Meeting this evening at Mth. Mtg. H.

⁷Capt. Norton died Aug. 24, 1846, age 52, at Oahu, Sandwich Islands (now Hawaiian Islands).

⁸Being assigned to the *Jackson*, William was frequently at home. His wife, Serena, had just lost their first child at birth and had great difficulty accepting the loss. We have, in our Archives, a most revealing note by Serena describing her feelings.

26th. SWW. light. Snow remains, not much diminished.

March 1847

1st. W. Gale. Ship *York*, Capt. George Coffin, arrives at H. Hole from Pacific. 500 S, 2100 W.

2nd. WNW. Ship *York* arrives in this harbour, 2600 Bbls. 500 Sperm.

4th. SSW. foggy. Joseph & Cyrus returns from Washington.⁹

5th. SW. pleasant. Read a short history of Methodism (which I had prepared by request of several preachers) this evening at the M. Meeting House.¹⁰

6th. SW. pleasant. Had some unpleasant conversation with Cap. Richard Luce.¹¹

8th. N to NE light. Cutter *Jackson*, Capt. Waldron, arrives. Capt. Waldron and William visit us today.

9th. NE. light. Cutter sails. Engaged in weighing whale bone from Ship *York*.¹²

11th. WNW. cold. Went to E'ville to lay out road per order of the Select Men.

⁹Joseph, a total politician, was Jeremiah's oldest son and Collector of Customs for the area, an important job at the time. Cyrus, twin brother of William, was a talented portrait artist whose subjects were Washington politicians and their wives.

¹⁰We have a copy of this history in our Archives.

¹¹Capt. Luce was a deputy Collector of Customs stationed at Tarpaulin Cove. It would have been unlike Jeremiah to describe the conversation.

¹²Several of Jeremiah's family owned shares in the *York*. Joseph, the Customs Officer, and William, an officer in the Revenue Service, were not supposed to own any such interest. It was apparently a rule that was widely violated.

15th. NW, SW & E. Light, very pleasant, snow melts fast. I watched with Mr. Polfrey Collins last night, he being very sick. He died about 9 o'clock AM, aged 69 years. He was considered a worthy member of the Methodist Church and died in the Lord as we trust, he was a particular friend of mine from early life to his death.

18th. SSE. cloudy & chilly. Funeral of Br. Collins, service by Rev. Sanfor Benton & Rev. W. Holmes of the Baptist Church, his loss will be very sensibly felt in Society. He was esteemed, an honest, respectable man and very good citizen.

30th. Wly. light cloudy. Set out for Bristol, R.I., arrived at Bristol about 7 PM, remained there until April 9th when I returned. Conference of the M.E. Church set in Bristol during this week. It was a very pleasant session. I enjoyed a very agreeable visit. Yesterday closed another year of my short life.

April 1847

6th. NW to W. went to Barnstable agreeably to request from Maj. S.B. Phinney, he having been appointed Collector of that Port or District and being unacquainted with the duties of that office was anxious to receive my assistance. I remained there until Saturday the 10th and then returned home.¹³

13th. NE to N. Brig *Vista*, Capt. Edwd. Mayhew sails for the Atlantic Ocean on a Whaling Voyage.

¹³Phinney was a leading Democrat and publisher of a newspaper at Barnstable.

Director's Report

ON THE evening of August 19th, nearly 80 persons gathered to mark the 60th annual meeting of the Dukes County Historical Society. At the business part of the meeting, the Society elected Daniel F. Sullivan, Jr., as Vice President, replacing the retiring Stan Murphy. Re-elected to positions on the Council were Nelson Coon, Lorna Livingston and Edith Morris.

After the elections and formal reports, members and their guests greatly enjoyed a talk on Chilmark's Pre-Revolutionary War houses by Jonathan Scott, who wrote "The House That Gave Tea Lane Its Name" for the *Intelligencer*. Through the use of slides, Mr. Scott described various unusual aspects of Vineyard Colonial architecture and explained the techniques for dating old houses.

At the conclusion of the Scott talk, the group walked to the Society's grounds to officially dedicate the Gale Huntington Library of History and to look over the exhibition in the Francis Foster Museum. All enjoyed refreshments, thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer, Kathryn M. Bettencourt, and watched the lighting of the Gay Head Light under the Supervision of Tony Bettencourt, who has been serving as "lighthouse keeper" on our grounds every Sunday night for the past two summers. I take this opportunity to thank him and Kathryn for their work on this project.

Again this year we had a successful summer season with approximately 3,000 visitors from around the country and the world, including Austria, Canada, China, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, West Germany and Zimbabwe. We are always delighted to hear how pleased these visitors are with our many exhibits. Although the Cooke house is now officially closed for the winter, we have been giving special tours throughout the fall to several school groups.

Muriel Crossman and Dan Sullivan have started reorganizing and more fully cataloging our archives. Mrs. Crossman deserves contratulations for having finished the lengthy task of cataloging all the books in the library. Mrs. Stoddard has been working several hours each week on genealogical questions and I continue to enjoy answering the many historical inquiries that we receive by telephone, in person and through the mail. In addition to his duties as President, Art Railton recently gave a lighthouse talk at the annual meeting of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society on that island, reminding us that the Dukes County Historical Society covers an area greater than Martha's Vineyard. In the Thomas Cooke House, Candace Hogan, a museum intern from Wheaton College, has been cataloging our major pieces of furniture.

As you read this we will be involved in closing the Cooke house for the winter. This involves moving many items into our vault and covering and storing various artifacts that might be vulnerable to moths or dust. One such item is the beautiful woven coverlet on the bed in the Dexter Room which will join a very similar one already being protected in the camphor wood chest that was brought back from China as a gift for his wife by Capt. William Luce in 1847.

Visually, the Society buildings and grounds have been improved tremendously by the work of Dan Fuller, whom we hired this summer to paint our very long fence. He finished the fence in record time and proceeded to paint nearly all the exterior trim of our several buildings. We are able to finance this work and various repairs through the generosity of members contributing to the Preservation Fund.

Our winter schedule is now in effect. The Gale Huntington Library of History and the Francis Foster Museum will be open Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1 to 4 and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We hope many of you will visit us.

THOMAS E. NORTON

Bits & Pieces

RICHARD L. Pease was a compulsive scribe. In our Archives are many of his writings, some well-organized, some rather random; some original, some copies of official documents. His handwriting is beautifully legible and because he spent hours at the task we have much information we might not otherwise have had.

It is thought he did much of the document copying while serving as the Edgartown Postmaster from 1877 to 1885. Apparently, in those days, unlike today, postmasters didn't have much to do.

One random note of Mr. Pease's, written in 1839, documents a milestone in Island church history:

"Went to Mr. Chase's meeting in the p.m. Heard the little organ, first ever in a church on M. Vineyard. Sounded well . . ."

Rev. Ebenezer Chase was pastor of the West Tisbury Congregational Church from 1835 to 1842 and Pease was teaching school in the village. Thus, the first organ in an Island church must have been the lovely poppet organ that still is played every Sunday.

Everything in our Archives isn't as useful as Pease's works. Undated and unsigned are these handy hints:

"To expel worms from children, give them the berries or apples growing on the red cedar -- green. If dry, pound them fine and mix with

molasses -- morning -- perfect harmless but sure.

"Wasp sting, an onion. Sure."

HAVE you ever heard of the Island of Sallybabe? Is it mythical or geographical? Mrs. Weston Howland, a faithful member, would like to know.

She has a "beautifully made, round, dark reed basket with cover, which came to me from my Howland mother-in-law. . . there was a small piece of paper [in it] with some lines a few of which went like this (she is quoting from memory; the paper has been lost):

"I come from the Island of Sallybabe

"In the South Pacific Ocean.

"But Sallybabe and her inhabitants too

"Are sunk from volcanic eruption."

WE, too, are trying to learn, not about a sunken island, but about the Sampson's Hill Meeting House on Chappaquiddick, sometimes called the Marine Church.

Clarence A. Barnes, Jr., tells us that "when I arrived at Chappy in 1945, the old building had fallen in. As I recall, Capt. Tony Bettencourt managed to rescue a few benches from the wreck.

"After he lost the ferry franchise to Foster Silva, Tony took fishing parties out on his barge, *The City of Chappaquiddick*. The kids who went bottom fishing on Tony's barge sat on the old meeting house benches."

Anybody know more? Any photos?

A.R.R.

(Continued from front inside cover)

Mrs. Lorna Livingston
Mr. and Mrs. Lane Lovell
Miss Doris Low

Mr. and Mrs. Douglass Mabec
Mr. and Mrs. Melville MacKay
Miss Irene MacLaurin
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart MacMackin
Mrs. Francis B. Macy
Mr. George Magnuson
Dr. and Mrs. Frank T. Mansure
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marshall
Miss Gladys Mason
Mrs. Shirley Mayhew
Miss Elizabeth McConnell
Mr. and Mrs. David F. McMorran
Mrs. B. H. Mickam
Miss Constance R. Milton
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mendenhall
Rev. and Mrs. Elden Mills
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin P. Monaghan
Mrs. Richard Morris
Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Morse
Mrs. Gordon Moyer
Ms. Elinor Muller

Mr. Robert Newell
Mrs. Ann Nolan
Miss Mora Norton
Mr. Oak D. Norton
Mr. Raymond Norton

Mr. John W. Osborn

Mrs. James V. Parker
Mrs. June Pierson
Capt. and Mrs. Donald L. Poole
Mr. and Mrs. John Purcell

Mr. Edward Quinby

Mrs. Francis F. Randolph
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Railton
Mrs. John E. Reilly
Mr. and Mrs. J. Bushnell Richardson
Mr. Norman Robinson
Mrs. Sanger Robinson
Mr. Robert E. Rohr

Mrs. Frances Sawyer
Dr. and Mrs. Edwin B. Self, Jr.
Mr. Richard D. Sherman
Mrs. Arthur T. Silva
Mr. and Mrs. George T. Silva
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Slocum
Mr. Hollis Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Ruel Smith
Mr. and Mrs. William Sorenson
Mrs. Dorothea Southworth
Mrs. Page Stephens
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stewart
Mrs. Kenneth Stoddard
Mr. Alan Symonds

Mr. H. L. Tabor
Mr. Thomas E. Thatcher
Mrs. Donald Thomas
Mrs. Benjamin W. Thoron
Mr. Lynn B. Tipson
Capt. Thomas T. Tilton
Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Tobin
Miss Ruth Todd
Mr. Milton Travers
Mrs. Helen Tyra

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Urmey

Mr. Peter Versekas
Mrs. Alexander O. Vietor
Mr. Edward W. Vincent
Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Vose

Mrs. Seth Wakeman
Dr. and Mrs. John Wallace
Mrs. Karl Weber
Mrs. A. Turner Wells
Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Wells, Jr.
Miss Sydna White
Mr. Theodore T. White, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. George H. Woodard
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wrigley

Mr. and Mrs. John Yntema
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Young, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Yowell

With thanks to each of you,
from the Officers and Council

ANNUAL DUES FOR MEMBERS

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Individual membership | \$15. |
| (Includes two guest admissions) | |
| Family membership | \$25. |
| (Includes four guest admissions) | |
| Sustaining membership | \$40. |
| (Includes four guest admissions) | |
| Life membership | \$200. |
| (Includes two guest admissions) | |

Members receive *The Intelligencer* four times a year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A thoughtful and satisfying way to say Merry Christmas is by giving that friend or relative who enjoys Island history a membership in the Society. With the membership comes a subscription to the *Intelligencer*, which four times a year reminds the recipient of your thoughtfulness.

SUMMER HOURS

(June 15 to Sept. 15)
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday

WINTER HOURS

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday and Friday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday

The Thomas Cooke House
is not open in the winter.
All other exhibits and
facilities remain open.

Alacrity is a virtue...

We will soon be mailing our membership renewal notices to each of you. A prompt return, with your generous check, will be most appreciated. The extra cost of mailing out a second (and sometimes, alas, a third) notice is very expensive. We would prefer that those dollars be used to improve our exhibits and our services. May we ask you to attend to the membership renewal with alacrity, please?