

*The Journal of Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands History*



# THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

VOL. 28, NO. 4

MAY 1987

## Historical Pageant

Near Site of Old Allen  
Crist Mill . . . . .

**On the Shore of Luce's Pond**

West Tisbury, Mass.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

August 8, 1911

AT HALF AFTER TWO O'CLOCK

Benefit of the First Congregational Church

Program of the first pageant.

## West Tisbury Pageant: An Insider's View

by LAURA S. LEE

## Historical Pageants

by ARTHUR R. RAILTON

## Customs Collectors at Edgartown: 1671-1789

by FLORENCE KERN

## Boarding School Sketch Book

by RICHARD L. PEASE

## FDR Slept Here -- Or Did He?

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#### MAY WE BE SO BOLD . . .

as to remind those members who have not yet sent in their 1987 dues that the Society (and this journal) depends upon you for support. It is the income from dues, gifts and bequests that makes everything possible. Please take a moment to make out a check and mail it to the Society at Box 827, Edgartown, MA 02539. If possible, please add a contribution to the 1987 Preservation Fund. Thanks.

# THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

Vol. 28, No. 4

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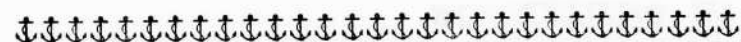
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The Dukes County Historical Society was founded in 1922 to preserve the history of Dukes County for the public benefit. It is a nonprofit institution supported entirely by membership dues, contributions and bequests, which are tax deductible. Its annual meeting is held in August of each year in Edgartown.

The Society maintains the Thomas Cooke House, the Francis Foster Museum and the Gale Huntington Library of History, 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, plus thousands of volumes of historical works.



## Customs Collectors at Edgartown 1671-1789

by FLORENCE KERN

WHEN 25-year-old Matthew Mayhew set sail from Edgartown in 1673 with six barrels of merchantable codfish for the King of England, he was due for a surprise. Matthew was the first Collector of Customs for the Vineyard and the fish were the quit rents to be delivered annually to the King's representative, Sir Francis Lovelace, at St. James Fort in New York. As he neared the port he learned from passing mariners that Dutch flags, not British, were flying over the fort and the settlement. The Dutch has recaptured New York from the British. It was once again Nieuw Amsterdam.

With the "marketable" fish still in barrels, Matthew hastened home to break the alarming news to his grandfather, Governor Thomas Mayhew. Two years before, the King had made the elder Mayhew, then 78 years old, Royal Governor of the Vineyard for life. At a meeting with Sir Francis in New York, he had received his title and lengthy instructions for governing his royal province. Among those instructions was:

You are to see the collection of his Majesties Customs and all fines bee duly observed and you are to Assist upon all Occasions the Collector of the Customs in the Execucon of his office and transmit them to mee heere.

Before the conference was over, young Matthew had been appointed Collector of Customs for the Vineyard. He was then 23 years old. Both he and the Governor received their commissions on July 8, 1671. This was the beginning of

FLORENCE KERN, who spends her summers on Chappaquiddick, became entangled in the history of customs collectors while researching the beginnings of the United States Revenue Service, a subject on which she is an authority. In the winter, she lives in Bethesda, Maryland, a short drive from the National Archives and the Library of Congress, two of her favorite places.

Edgartown being a port of entry, a status it held until 1913. It was not only a port of entry, it was also the center of a Customs District, first, under the British Crown, then under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and finally for the United States of America. Her Collectors held enviable positions, reaping a percentage of the money collected as duty on imported goods, on vessel fees, fines and forfeits and other assorted tariffs. Appointments were political plums, especially during the whaling days when there was considerable money involved.

In Colonial days each Collector answered to the Crown; from 1774 to 1789, he answered to the Commonwealth; and from 1789 to 1913, to the United States Customs Service. He was responsible for much of the maritime activity not only on the waters surrounding the Vineyard but those around the Elizabeth Islands, No Man's Land and, at certain periods, those around Falmouth and Nantucket. In 1913 when Edgartown ceased to be a port of entry, the position of Collector was abolished. New Bedford was the nearest port of entry and Vineyard Haven became a sub-port presided over by a Deputy Collector reporting to the mainland.

For almost 250 years, Edgartown's Collectors, like those in other ports, had many varied duties. Chief among them were entering and clearing all vessels, collecting duties on imported goods, registering and enrolling vessels, managing the fisheries, issuing passports and bills of health. At times through the years, the duties also included maintaining aids to navigation (buoys, lighthouses and lightships), inspection of wrecks and supervising inspection of wrecks and supervising the Revenue Cutters of the Revenue Marine Service (the predecessor to the Coast Guard).

Unlike many New England ports of entry, Edgartown never had a Custom House *per se*. Until 1849, each Collector was obliged to provide offices in his own home. From 1849 until 1913, an office was rented on the second floor of the building on the northeast corner of Main and Water Streets

(a drug store occupies the first floor of the building today).

### Collector Matthew Mayhew

When Matthew Mayhew was appointed the first Collector at Edgartown in 1671, he received lengthy instructions from Sir Francis Lovelace. First and foremost, he was to collect tariffs

on all such customable Goods as now are or shall bee brought into the harbours of Martins Vineyard,<sup>1</sup> or any other Creek or Place upon the Island.

He was also to keep a sharp eye on any trade between the Indians and foreigners. He was told

not to permit any Shells to bee exported to Forrainers unless they pay a Considerable Customs for them.

Shells, particularly clam shells, were a marketable item needed in the manufacture of wampum, the Indian money. Sir Francis instructed Governor Mayhew to encourage the making of wampum by his Indian subjects, who then outnumbered his white subjects by about 40 to 1.

At the same meeting in 1671, the largest settlement of English on the Island, called Great Harbour since the purchase of the Vineyard by the Mayhews in 1642, was renamed Edgar Towne, in honor of an infant prince who, unbeknownst to those honoring him, had died a month earlier.

Of particular concern to young Collector Matthew was the order which prohibited any settler

to directly or indirectly either by himself or factor or any from, by or under him, presume to trade or traffique with any Indian, or Indians anywhere, either in the harbour, creeks, coves or shore within the jurisdiction without leave and liberty first had and obtained from the general court upon the penalty of trading the value of 20 shillings, the full sum of 40 pounds, and it is hereby ordered that the water bailiffs shall have full power and authority to stop any vessel, Barque, ketch or otherwise, if trade on board is produced by those places.

So if the water bailiffs found a settler trading something

<sup>1</sup>In the New York records, our Island was often called Martin's Vineyard, for reasons as yet unknown.

worth 20 shillings with an Indian, he would be fined 40 pounds!

It is believed that the two Mayhews conducted all Vineyard business (and they did control everything) from the Mayhew Homestead overlooking what is now called Collins Beach, Edgartown. The water bailiffs probably pulled their boats up on the shore right in front of the house.

Fortunately for the Mayhews, that occupation of New York by the Dutch in 1673 was brief. After a negotiated settlement between the two countries, British flags once more flew over the settlement. The Mayhews continued to deliver quit rents each year. By 1685, they had been increased to include lamb skins and mink skins and were to be "paid annually on the first day of May forever."

#### Lord of the Manor of Martin's Vineyard

"Forever," it seems, did not last forever. In 1691, during conferences in London, jurisdiction of the Vineyard was shifted from New York to Massachusetts without knowledge of New York or the Vineyard. The Royal Governor Thomas Mayhew had died nearly 10 years before, in 1682, and his grandson, Collector Mayhew, now known as Major Mayhew, was running the Island. He had not been named Royal Governor, like his grandfather, but was appointed Sheriff of "all the islands east of Long Island to Nantucket Shoals."

He had also become, in 1685, "Lord of the Manor of Martin's Vineyard" which included the Elizabeth Islands and No Man's Land. Matthew had fared well under the New York patronage and he resisted the Massachusetts takeover until it was evident that it was a *fait accompli*. Acquiescing to the new order, he began sending tariffs and Customs collections to Boston. At the same time, and for some time after, New York continued to demand quit rents of fish, skins, wheat and corn and Matthew continued to pay them, possibly to protect his title of "Lord of the Manor."

Once Massachusetts took over, Matthew was notified that an officer should be appointed at Edgartown to enter and clear all vessels passing to and from hence. . . . [and that Edgartown was] not be accounted a port for the delivery or lading of any of the enumerated articles.

It was obvious that under Massachusetts control, the Collector at Edgartown was going to be under stricter orders than he had known under New York management. Under British laws of Navigation and Trade, there was a Collector and a Naval officer at each of the major ports in the American colonies. The Naval officer served as an independent auditor. He received manifests, estimated and recorded duties, he corrected errors before permits to unlade or deliver were granted, and he countersigned all permits and clearances issued by the Collector. The Collector was obliged to furnish an office for his Naval officer next to his own.

It is not known if Major Mayhew had a Naval officer, but if he had it was probably one of his own choosing. In spite of the takeover by Massachusetts there was little or no democracy in the Vineyard government and Major Mayhew governed the Island in his own fashion until his death, at 62, in 1710. His title and some of his offices went to his son, also Matthew, who died in 1720, and in turn his son, Micajah, took over the reins of power. Both of these two kept a low profile and were known chiefly as farmers.

The record is confusing after 1710 when Major Matthew died as there is no record of Collectors or Naval officers at Edgartown between then and 1787. It is possible that the Customs Office in Boston sent its own men to operate the Edgartown office from 1710 until the outbreak of hostilities in 1774, but it is more likely that Collectors and Naval officers were chosen from among members of the Mayhew family and their friends. During those years trade on the waterfront increased dramatically and there would be need, not only for Collectors and Naval officers, but for surveyors, gaugers, weighers and inspectors. Among the surveyors in



the late 1760s were two Edgartown friends, both important merchants, who were to play an important role in Customs once the American flag flew over the town. These two men were a team. When you saw one named on a deed, you usually saw the other. They served on town, church, health and school committees together. They both served as Selectmen and Town Moderators. They bought property jointly, houses, parts of houses, shared in common lands of Edgartown and Chappaquiddick. In the later years, both were called "Squire" and "Collector."

### Collector John Pease, Jr.

The older of the two friends was John Pease, Jr., son of John Pease, master mariner, and Hepsibah Ripley of Edgartown. Born in 1731, he was a great-great-grandson of the John Pease who is alleged to have arrived on the Vineyard some years before the Mayhews. In 1756, he married Jerusha Norton, a direct descendant of Nicholas Norton, another of the men who, some claim, were on the Island before the Mayhews. The following year, he joined Colonel John Norton's "alarm list" of militia, organized to defend the Vineyard during the French and Indian Wars. In 1758, he purchased "sachem and planting" rights to 20 acres of land on Chappaquiddick near Major's Meadow from Malachi Browning who had moved to Woodbury, Conn. In 1773, he bought a house and four acres of land near the Chappaquiddick acreage.

### Collector Thomas Cooke

The second of these two friends and partners was Thomas Cooke, who began his long association with John Pease in the 1760s. He was eight years younger than his friend.

The Cooke family record occupies but three scant pages in Banks' history of the Vineyard. Thomas Cooke was born in 1739, the son of Temple Philip Cooke and Jane Daggett. His father had arrived on the Island somewhat mysteriously in 1704 without giving a previous address. Although he is

listed as a "seafaring man" he was better known as a lawyer and a teacher. He was highly respected on the Vineyard and sorely missed when he disappeared, around 1742, as mysteriously as he had arrived. He left his wife and five children. Thomas Jr., the youngest, was three years old at the time.

Like his father, Thomas grew up to be a lawyer, and later a merchant and community leader. In 1763, he married Abigail Coffin, daughter of a trader, Enoch Coffin, who is said to have given the young couple three acres of land and, in 1765 or 1766, had built for them a house on the property. This is the present Thomas Cooke House, now owned by the Dukes County Historical Society and open to the public during the summer months.

Shortly thereafter, his name, and that of his friend, John Pease, Jr., began to appear in Town records as witnesses to deeds and purchases of property. In 1773, the pair made three significant purchases. First, they bought

a certain part of a dwelling house situated in Edgartown near the harbour, viz., the front chamber and bedroom chamber with a stairway to and from them.<sup>2</sup>

For this they paid Jonathan Bunker 27 pounds and two shillings. It was, Bunker claimed,

all the remainder part of said dwelling which was left to me after Sarah Cobb and Emma Coffin Levett [died].

The two friends made another joint purchase later that year, buying for 12 pounds 14 shillings

one-half share in common, undivided land throughout the island of Chappaquiddick and three-quarters share of common or undivided land in Edgartown.

The next year, on March 29, 1774, they bought from John Norton, Jr., and John Norton, 3rd.

a messuage or tenement being and lying in Edgartown wherein John Norton 3rd now dwells.

This property, for which they paid 100 pounds, was on the highway to the harbor and was bounded on the south

<sup>2</sup>It was common to purchase a part of a house in those days.

corner by the jail yard.<sup>3</sup> It was at about this time that John Norton, Jr., distinguished Edgartown citizen and Sheriff of Dukes County for many years, moved to Hebron, Conn., taking with him his two sons, John and Francis, their wives and eight grandchildren. It is believed that they never returned to the Island.

Why did John Pease and Thomas Cooke buy these two buildings, or in one case, part of a building? Were they for offices to be used for the collection of customs? The two rooms in the dwelling house "near the harbor" certainly could have been used for that purpose.

The "messuage or tenement" may have become the home for the Pease family, now numbering nine. It was conveniently located for Town meetings, which were frequently held in his house when Pease was a Selectman.

Both were active in town and county affairs, with Thomas Cooke, on May 22, 1770, being chosen as Edgartown's representative

at a great and general court to be held and kept for His Majesty's service at Harvard College in Cambridge upon Wednesday 30th day of May.

There he would have heard his contemporaries from various Massachusetts towns complaining about the British taxes and other practices that festered into the Revolution. Perhaps, he added a few that would have been especially irritating to the citizens of Edgartown. But it didn't seem to impress those citizens because the next year the town failed to send a representative to the General Court and as a result was heavily fined. That was another reason to complain about the English and on March 22, 1772, Cooke was sent by the town to

ye general court in order to get some relief as to our being fined ye last year for not sending a representative.

In 1770, he was the Town Treasurer. Both he and Pease had served on the waterfront as surveyors, possibly for Customs. Cooke surveyed lumber and Pease "cooper's stuff" (barrels).

<sup>3</sup>Can anyone tell us where the jail was in 1774?

In 1771, Cooke was on a committee of three appointed to discuss ways of keeping smallpox out of Edgartown, including prevention by inoculation and examination of incoming vessels for infected seamen or passengers. In 1774, he represented the town at two meetings that were to sound the knell of the English in much of North America: the last meeting of the Colonial General Court at Salem, presided over by the British General Gage, on October 15; and the first meeting of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress at Concord with John Hancock as chairman, one week later.

Returning to the Vineyard, he took part in a meeting of the representatives of "the very Small and Poor (tho' Antient) County of Dukes County" held at the Tisbury Court House in November. There it was voted, with a long list of resolves defying the British, as follows:

With regard to non Importation, non Consumption and non Exportation of goods, wares and Merchandizes, we Earnestly recommended to the People of this county a Strict Conformity of their Conduct & Practice to the Resolutions & Advice of the Late Grand American Congress.

Cooke took the resolves to a "legal" meeting of Edgartown voters at which he was the Moderator on December 6. The resolves were "unamoselly" adopted and it was voted that the report be kept in the Clerk's office and that a committee of seven be appointed in order to observe "strict conformity" to the "Resolutions & Advice of the Late Grand American Congress." Cooke was one of the seven men chosen for the committee.

This was probably the most exciting Town Meeting Edgartown ever had. No duty was to be paid on tea, wine, molasses, syrup, paneles (brown sugar), coffee, sugar, pimento, indigo, foreign papers, glass and painters' colours. Effective December 1, 1774, no tea and no slaves could be imported. No exports to the British Isles or the British West Indies could be made after September 10, 1775. All Custom House entries had to be inspected.

Where was the Edgartown Custom House (or office)? Who was the Collector? Town and County records seem to contain no reference either to the Customs system or the officials during this turbulent period. This is perhaps due to the fact that the system, presumably, was still under British control.

With the death of Micajah Mayhew in 1760, the title "Lord of the Manor" had become extinct as had whatever privileges and responsibilities went with it. Micajah had only two children, Matthew and Elijah. The first was a boat builder who had left the Island to live on Nantucket in 1746 where he married a local girl. After Micajah's death, his other son, Elijah, married a Gloucester girl and moved there and Matthew returned to the Vineyard.

Back home, he and his family carried on the Mayhew traditions and, perhaps, the British connections. He would have been the logical person to report to British Customs at Boston. It can almost certainly be said that he, or one of his family, served as Collector from 1760 to 1778. He played no part in the Vineyard's campaign for independence, but did send all collections to the Continental Congress when ordered to do so by the Provincial Congress in 1774.

Evidence that there was a Collector of some sort in Edgartown in 1778 is found in the report that General Charles Grey wrote after his raid on the Vineyard, September 10 to 14, 1778. He had sent a fleet of 40 vessels, including 12 ships of the line, to Holmes Hole to get supplies for his troops stationed at Newport, R.I. His men took over 10,000 sheep, 300 cattle, arms and ammunition from the defenseless Islanders. His report stated that

1000 pounds sterling, in paper, the amount of a tax collected by Authority of the Congress, was received at Martha's Vineyard from the Collector.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>It is not certain that this meant Collector of Customs.

### Pease and Cooke in the Revolution

Neither Pease nor Cooke served in the fighting forces during the Revolution, but both joined the defense unit for the Island. Both also served as Selectmen in Edgartown during the war. Cooke, also an assessor, was sent to Boston in 1776 to plead for adequate funds for the defense of the Island, arguing that many of the younger men were off-Island serving on vessels or in the army. Funds were provided for the organizing of the Seacoast Defense Establishment: 40 men from Edgartown; 20 from Holmes Hole east; 40 from Holmes Hole west; 20 from Lamberts Cove; and 40 from Menemsha. Unfortunately, the funding was only for one year and, by 1778, when Grey raided the Island, there was not even a token force to oppose him.<sup>5</sup>

In the raid, Pease lost 14 sheep and one cow, and Cooke lost 2000 cubic feet of lumber, 17 pounds 2 shillings worth of clothing, and 23 barrels of naval stores, a total value of 47 pounds.

Cooke was one of the three men who went immediately to Boston to protest the raid and seek redress. They asked for immediate relief, without which, said Cooke, Beriah Norton and James Athearn, the people would "suffer extremely or perish."

Matthew Mayhew's house was also raided and he lost goods valued at 41 pounds, 12 shillings, including grain, clothing, lumber, provisions and household goods. This must have ended any loyalty Mayhew felt to the British Crown, if indeed any remained.

### Customs Under the Commonwealth

The Colonial Customs system ended with the first meeting of the Provincial Congress in Concord, October 1774. But the system the British had set up provided the framework for future Customs systems, first under the State, from 1774 to 1789, and then under Federal control, from 1789 down to the present.

<sup>5</sup>Even had there been, there would probably have been no resistance.



The State system left much to be desired. Each state operated on its own, making 13 different systems instead of one as under the Crown. Laws and rates differed among the states with different duties being collected at the various ports. Duties were even collected on interstate shipments as one state taxed the goods of another. Foreign traders were courted by lower tariffs and out-of-state fishermen were taxed or outlawed. Such confusion, coupled with the loss of many vessels and shipyards during the War, had a crippling effect on maritime progress as the 13 states strove to create a unified nation.

In 1778, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts began its new system by electing Collectors and Naval officers at its many ports. None was elected for Edgartown that year or the next. It is possible that Mayhew continued as Collector under whatever system he was using before the Revolution, but in any case it is unlikely that there was much demand for a Customs Office as the Islanders were busy recovering from the British raid and a smallpox epidemic that had occurred at about the same time.

Just eleven days before Grey's raid, Pease and Cooke had been appointed at a Town Meeting to set up a hospital within the town limits for quarantining victims of the dreaded smallpox. They had a "hospital," probably just a primitive shack, built on remote Cape Poge and named a Dr. Gelston to take charge of it. There seems to have been some problem with the so-called hospital shortly after, because at a Town Meeting on December 21, with John Pease moderating, it was

voted that the town approve of the measures adopted by the Committee wherein they notified Dr. Gelston that the hospital and other buildings at Cape Poge were to be removed at a certain period.

Captain William Jernegan was then instructed to apply to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the County and

deside when to discontinue the hospital aforesaid as soon

as possible as it does not answer the good purposes for which it was intended.

Cooke and Jernegan visited the hospital and reported to the Town Meeting on January 5 that some of the patients were not well enough to leave the hospital. The doctor was ordered to visit them daily, move them into a smaller building as soon as possible and then demolish the hospital. At the same time there seems to have been some disagreement about the inoculation procedure. Cooke was appointed to

prosecute those innoculated and those officiating at innoculations within the limits of the town, contrary to a late law of the State.

Dr. Gelston was apparently a controversial character whose methods of inoculation did not correspond to those prescribed by the state.

### A Naval Officer for Edgartown

Finally, in 1780, the House of Representatives in Boston elected a Naval officer for Edgartown. He was Capt. Nathan Smith of Tisbury, who had served in the Seacoast Defense Establishment during the Revolution.<sup>6</sup> He was a master mariner whose forebears had come from Barnstable. No Collector was appointed and Smith did not continue in office the next year.

Beginning in 1780, Collectors and Naval officers for Customs were to be appointed by the Governor, but none was named for Edgartown until 1783 when John Pease became Naval officer to serve under Collectors Elisha Thatcher of Barnstable and David Hussey of Nantucket for a newly formed district that included Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, the Elizabeth Islands, No Man's Land and a part of Cape Cod. The Thatcher family in Barnstable had close ties to the Vineyard: two sons had married Vineyard girls.

Pease continued as Naval officer from 1783 to 1789. Cooke had passed his bar examinations and, in 1785, became a

<sup>6</sup>For more about Capt. Smith see pp. 174 and 176.

Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. He had been influential in getting the County Court House moved from North Water Street to a site near the meeting house on Pease's Point Way in 1781. He had given a 40 by 40 foot lot to the county for the move.

In 1784, the Governor of Massachusetts appointed Cooke to the position of Customs Collector at Edgartown to handle, along with Collector Hussey of Nantucket, the Customs District covering Nantucket, the Vineyard, the Elizabeth Islands, No Man's Land and Falmouth. The next year, Cooke was reappointed, but in 1786 he lost the position, it being taken over by Matthew Mayhew, who continued as Collector until the Federal system was set up in 1789. Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard had been made separate districts in 1787.

During the two years he served as Collector, Thomas Cooke probably operated out of an office in his home, which today is known as the Thomas Cooke House of the Society. Unfortunately, to date, no documents for this period have been located, nor are there any papers from the time Matthew Mayhew was Collector. Both men would have been obliged to furnish office space for themselves and for John Pease, their Naval officer, in their homes.

### **John Pease, First Federal Collector**

As mentioned earlier, the State system of Customs caused friction and confusion and did little to bolster American trade or ship-building. It also did not swell the coffers of the new nation, so there was little protest when, soon after the adoption of the Constitution, the United States Customs Service was established. It was the first Federal agency.

By an Act of Congress in 1789, Edgartown was designated a Port of Entry and headquarters of a Federal Customs District, with the Collector being required to live in the town. President George Washington appointed John Pease the first Federal Collector for Edgartown.

Each Collector in the Service was to be bonded for \$5000, each Deputy (a new title for the Naval officer) for \$1000 -- considerable sums in those days. Each ship or vessel 100 tons or over was charged a fee of \$2.50 for entering or clearing; those under 100 tons paid \$1.50. Permits to load goods for export were 20 cents; those entitled to a drawback, 30 cents. Bonds taken were 40 cents. A certificate or a bill of health cost the ship owner 20 cents.

The law required the Collector to provide an office convenient for the trade of his district, plus a separate room for his Deputy. Perhaps it was for this purpose that Collector Pease rented a newly built house in Edgartown from James Tupper of Pownalboro, Mass. Rent for the year was 8 pounds, 5 shillings; Pease was required to keep the fence and the windows in good repair and to pay the taxes. The house was owned by Tupper's brother, Timothy, a physician, also of Pownalboro. It is not known where the house was located.

Was this house the first Federal Customs office in Edgartown? Or did John Pease use the two upstairs rooms that he and Thomas Cooke had bought in 1773, or the messuage or tenement they had purchased in 1774? Or did he continue to use the rooms in the Cooke House where his friend and predecessor had conducted the State Customs business in 1784 and 1785?

It will take a great deal of in-depth research to answer these questions, but of this there is no doubt: John Pease was the first Edgartown Customs Collector for the United States of America.

There is, in the National Archives in Washington, a copy of the commission appointing John Pease, signed by both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Although Pease had been appointed in 1789, the two men, President Washington and Secretary of State Jefferson, did not find time to sign the commission until March 21, 1791. After all, those were busy days in the new Republic and there

were hundreds of commissions to be signed. But sign it they did, and in the Spring of 1791, John Pease of Edgartown received the document:

**George Washington**

President of the United States of America,  
to all who shall see these presents, greeting

Know ye that reposing special Trust and Confidence in the integrity Diligence and Discretion of John Peas of Massachusetts I have nominated and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate do appoint him Collector for the District of Edgartown and do authorize and empower him to execute and fulfil the Duties of that office according to Law; and to have the said office, with all the Rights and Emoluments thereunto legally appertaining unto him, the said John Pease, during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the Time being. In testimony whereof I have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at the City of Philadelphia, the twenty-first Day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the fifteenth.

**Geo. Washington**  
**By the President**  
**Th. Jefferson**

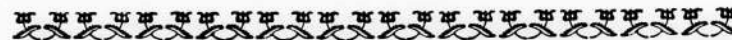
Who knows where John Pease's Commission is today? Surely, it would not have been thrown away.

(To be continued)

**Sources and acknowledgements**

All quotations are from the following:

Edgartown Record Book 1 (Town Hall)  
Land Record Books, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 (Dukes County Court House)  
*The History of Martha's Vineyard*, by Charles E. Banks  
Genealogical and historical references are also from Banks.  
The author thanks Peter Drummey at the Massachusetts Historical Society, Martha Clark at the Massachusetts State Archives, and Nancy K. Smith, Edgartown Town Clerk, and her assistant, Hope G. Waingrow.



## Historical Pageants

by ARTHUR R. RAILTON

IT certainly was an ambitious proposal, but the ladies of the Benevolent Society of the West Tisbury Congregational Church seemed not at all worried that Spring in 1911. Their plan, born of a suggestion by Mrs. Johnson Whiting, was to produce an outdoor pageant on the shore of Luce's Pond in August for the benefit of the Church treasury. The theme of the pageant was to be highlights in the history of Martha's Vineyard.

Mrs. Barbara Look wrote the first script, outlining the scenes to be included and leaving much to the actors themselves to flesh out. Fortunately, for everyone involved, Dr. Charles E. Banks had just published his famed history of Martha's Vineyard, providing ample source material for the scenario.

On the pageant committee, along with Mrs. Whiting and Mrs. Look, were Misses Edna W. Rotch and Laura S. Lee. Thanks to the last named, we have in our Archives a first-hand account of that summer's effort which, as she writes elsewhere in the issue, involved the entire West Tisbury community plus some individuals from Gay Head and Chilmark. Ulysses S. Mayhew made what in 1911 was most unusual: a one-day round trip to Boston to pick up the costumes (Miss Lee describes the consequences in fascinating detail in her article). Three young men from Gay Head, direct descendants from the ancient Algonquins in the Pageant, brought true Indian character to the theatrical.

The pageant was held under ideal weather conditions at 2:30 p.m., August 8, 1911, near the site of the old Allen

ARTHUR R. RAILTON is Editor of this journal.



Grist Mill. Admission was 50 cents per person plus 25 cents extra for reserved seating. Automobiles were \$1 each plus 50 cents per occupant. It was an artistic and a financial success with about 500 persons in attendance on a perfect afternoon in August. At the next meeting of the Benevolent Society, the ladies voted overwhelmingly to put on another pageant the following year. The West Tisbury correspondent for the *Gazette* stated that the next year's "program, while differing from the one that gained such wide approval in August last year, will be a rich, artistic and historic treat." As we will see later, it was.

There were eleven scenes in the first production:

Scene 1, Indian Home Life and the Hunt Dance (date 1600).

Scene 2, Landing of Gosnold (date 1602).

Scene 3, Pease Tradition (previous to 1642).

Scene 4, Arrival of Thomas Mayhew (1646).

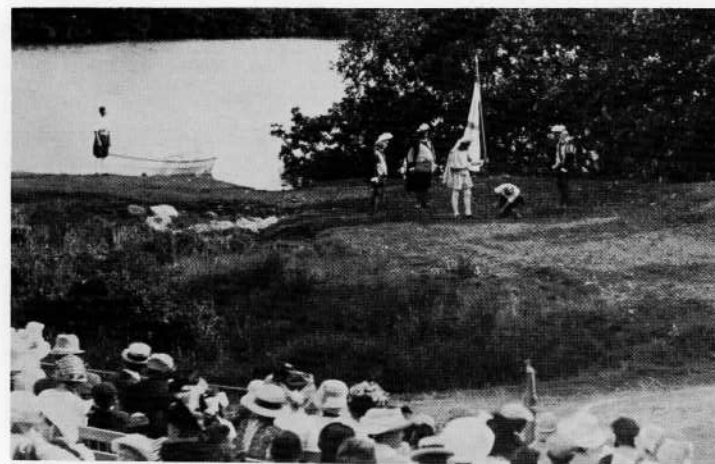
Scene 5, Marriage of Thomas Mayhew, Jr., and Jane Paine (1647).

Scene 6, Parting at the Place by the Wayside (1657), dramatizing the well-known story of Missionary Thomas Mayhew, Jr., as he said goodbye to the Indians before leaving for Boston where he embarked on the ill-fated voyage to England. The Place by the Wayside is now marked by a plaque, near the entrance to the County Airport. The program credited the plaque to the "Sea Coast Defense Chapter, D.A.R.," requiring the ladies of the Benevolent Society to state in the *Gazette* the following week that they regretted their error. It was the Martha's Vineyard Chapter, D.A.R., that had placed the marker there.

Scene 7, The First Purchase at Takemmy (Aug. 2, 1669).

Scene 8, The Opposing Factions, Mayhew and Athearn (1673). The scene tells the story of the "rebels" headed by Simon Athearn, who prepared a document, called the Vineyard's Declaration of Independence, against the arbitrary authority imposed by the Mayhew's. It came to naught.

Scene 9, Going to Meeting (1725). Rev. Nathaniel Hancock and the leading families wend their way to church, dressed in "costumes of various periods . . . to show the village heirlooms."



*Bartholomew Gosnold takes possession of the Island in the 1912 Pageant.*

Scene 10, Arrest of the Tory. (No date given). It tells the story of Prince Look, who had been arrested for aiding the British, but managed to escape.

Scene 11, Finale. "The rest of the cast will be preceded by the three Holmes Hole heroines who went by night and destroyed the Liberty Pole to prevent its capture by the British to be used as a ship's spar. Miss Gonyon, a lineal descendant of Gov. Thomas Mayhew, will sing The Star Spangled Banner. All are requested to rise and join in the chorus.

Lillian Nordica, opera star with family connections on the Island, had been invited to participate, but her agent responded, stating that her busy schedule made it impossible. No doubt, had she been there, the singing of the national anthem would have been her role in the Finale.

The *Gazette*, rather smug about its Edgartown summer excitement, paid little attention to the West Tisbury theatrical. The only news of it appeared under the headline of West Tisbury news, along with such items as who visited whom this week.

Things would be different the next year. Editor C. G. Marchant recognized the popularity of the event and gave it much more coverage. The ladies of the Benevolent Society



*John Pease, legendary first settler, gives his red coat to Indian chief.*

took over the lower floor of the Academy Building (now the Town Offices) early in the summer and began "meeting weekly preparing costumes for the Pageant." This time, 1912, they would try to double their income, putting the show on twice, on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons, promptly at three o'clock. The program called it the "second Annual Historical Pageant," implying that it would be put on every summer. It was not.

As the ladies had promised, it was different from the first pageant in some respects, although several had the same titles:

Scene 1, The Pow-wows "Laying" Disease (1600). This scene shows how the medicine men on the Island cured a young man's distemper by putting him into a new wigwam, which they then set on fire. "Presently, the youth leaps from the flames and falls down, apparently dead. After he is restored, he tells how he obtained from the 'great company high up in the air' the promise of 'laying' the distemper." Miss Laura Lee, author of the accompanying article, was one of the Indians in the scene.

Scene 2, Gosnold Taking Possession (1602). "When he arrives, Gosnold sees only the abandoned camp of the Indians, who have fled in fear. He takes possession of this 'fair Island, with its incredible store of vines' and names it Martha's Vineyard."



*Three other settlers in the Pease Tradition: Vincent, Norton and Trapp.*

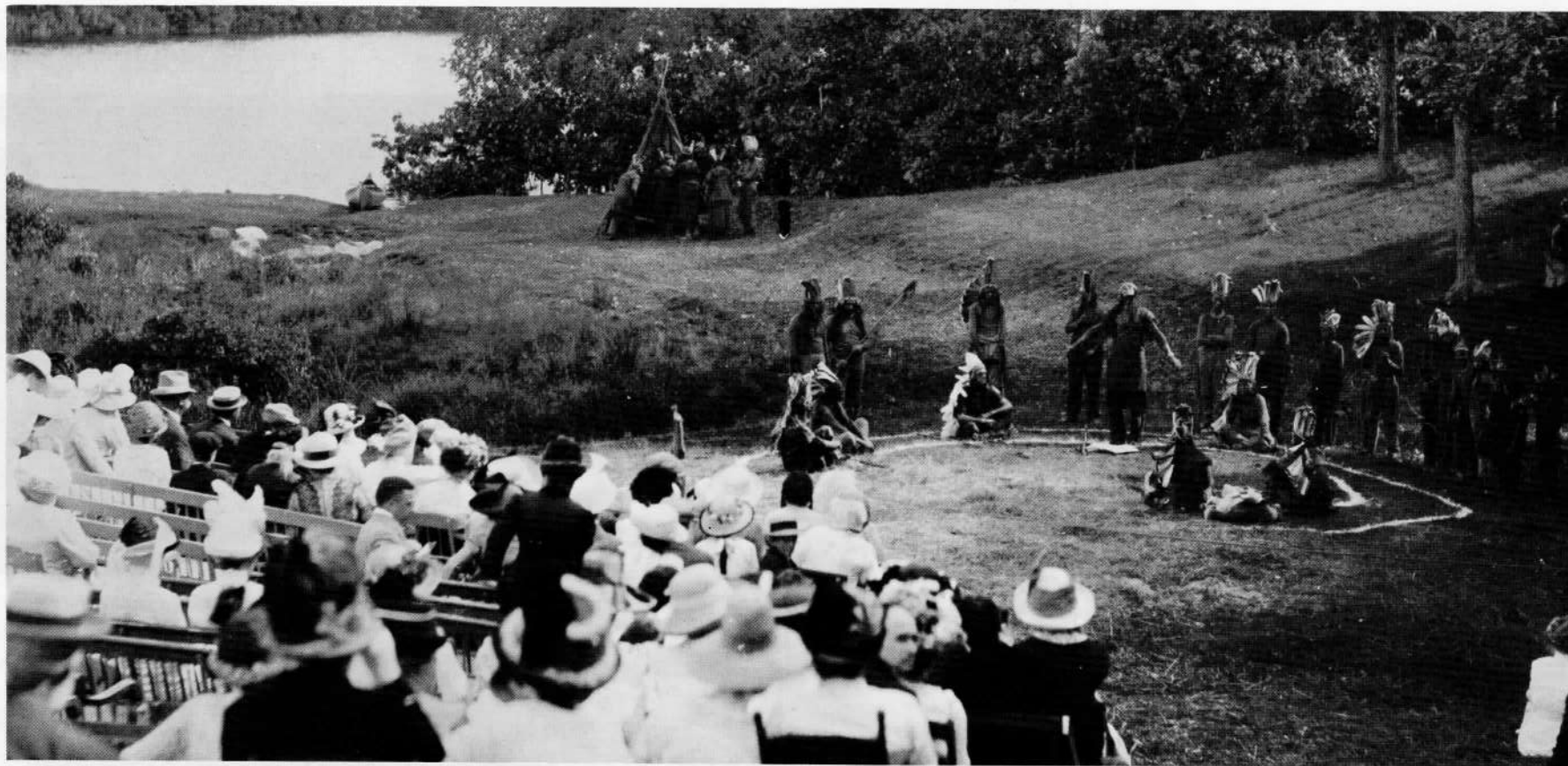
Scene 3, Pease Tradition (1632). The dramatization of Pease presenting "his wonderful red coat" to the Indian chief who, in turn, shows him where to fish and make camp.

Scene 4, Arrival of Thomas Mayhew (1646). His son, Thomas, Jr., had come four years earlier and is shown welcoming his father, introducing him to his first convert, the Indian Hiacoomes. An old English ballad is sung by Annie Gonyon, a Puritan maid.

Scene 5, Parting at the Place by the Wayside (1657).

Scene 6, The Vineyard's Declaration of Independence (1673). The story of Simon Athearn's attempt to overthrow the Mayhew oligarchy by "framing a petition begging Massachusetts to take the Vineyard under its control. To this document he obtains many signers then dispatches it by his Indian runner to Gov. Leverett, Boston." Massachusetts promptly refused this request.

Scene 7, Rev. Nathaniel and His People Going to Meeting (1753). Once again, "by pageant license, costumes of various periods will be worn in order to show the village heirlooms." Dana Hancock played the part of his ancestor, Rev. Nathaniel Hancock, carrying his silver-headed cane inscribed, "Nathaniel Hancock, 1753."



*Opening scene in 1912 was "Pow-wows Laying Disease," above. At rear, Indians prepare to burn wigwam and evil spirits. Below, final scene.*





Scene 8, Interview Between Sir Charles Gray and Col. Beriah Norton (1778). The scene portrays the meeting in which General Grey, "accompanied by the ill-fated Major Andre and other officers," demands the sheep and cattle from the Vineyarders.

Scene 9, Driving Stock to Holmes Hole (1778). Two British soldiers are sent out on horseback to speed up the uncooperative Islanders.

Scene 10, Josie and His Pig (1778). The poignant scene in which the unfeeling British try to capture Josie's pet pig, but his grandmother, Widow Patience Dunham, drives them off, shouting: "Take what ye have of mine and begone! But this is Josie's pig and not a hair of him shall ye touch."

Scene 11, Capt. Nathan Smith's Ruse (undated, but early in the Revolution). Alone, in his regimentals, he turns back some British sailors who were trying to take some of his and his neighbor's sheep by shouting into the empty air: "Infantry open right and left; cavalry charge!" The program states: "The effect was magical. The enemy scrambled for their boats and put to sea."

Scene 12, Return from War of 1812. This scene was added to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the War of 1812, introducing the Star Spangled Banner, which was written during that war.

Scene 13, Finale. All the cast joined in singing "America."

This time, both Island newspapers reviewed the Pageant. The *Gazette* described it as "one of the most important affairs ever held at West Tisbury." Over 500 were present for each of the two scheduled performances and the Committee announced it would hold a third show on Saturday, August 17. Another 400 attended that one, bringing the total who attended to nearly 1500 persons.

But it was the *Martha's Vineyard Herald* that gave the Pageant the most enthusiastic review. It was in the form of a long letter to the editor written by Avin E. Yarder, a Vineyarder who numbered "among my ancestors nearly every one of the principal characters of the Pageant. . . . [and] I doubt not, a good genealogist could for a consideration, hitch me on to Bartholomew Gosnold and Sir Charles Gray."

Mr. Yarder wrote, "I went to the shores of Luce's Pond to scoff. . . I remained at the Pageant to pray. Before the second scene, I felt tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat."

Mr. Yarder was not the only person moved: "I saw other tears. Even the thoughtless and giddy among the summer people were sobered. . . . What a scene! Never was a drama enacted on such a stage, with such scenery. No, not in the Tyrol, nor in Greece in her glories time. A green hillside terraced by the glaciers for a stage, set at the rear with noble oaks and maples, and behind them a screen of shrubbery suggesting artifice, but so true and natural as to banish again the thought. On the right, an open forest of tall oaks, the evening light a golden background for their somber trunks. To the left, the blue waters of the pond encompassed by a mill dam, so old and moss-grown that it too seemed the work of nature. At the extreme left, an old bridge and the mill path, losing itself in 'wings' of sumac and bitter oak, and for a background to all, a rounded hill of dark oak leaves. Someone at West Tisbury has used these hills and trees and waters as the setting for a drama with downright genius."

But he was not totally satisfied; he had a few suggestions for future pageants ("and I hope there will be many of them").

He was not happy about the portrayal of Missionary Thomas Mayhew, Jr.:

"The eye was pleased, but the ear? I heard a gentleman with a vandyke beard and a rich baritone voice deliver the somewhat limping address, which the historian Prince has preserved for us . . . [then] advance to the center with the stride of Salvini in Othello, front the audience and say, with faultless elocution, 'Let us pray.' I expected a prayer adopted from . . . the Rev. Jonathan or the Rev. Experience Mayhew, or at least a simple petition such as I heard a hundred times in prayer meetings from the lips of their devout descendants. Instead, there assailed my ear, chanted or intoned, I know

not which, something, I wot not of, from the Book of Common Prayer or the Hymnal, I care not whence, of the Established Church of England. . .

"Thomas Mayhew, Jr., was Puritan and a dissenter: he died two and a half centuries ago. . . I am sure he did not wear a vandyke beard and a rich baritone voice. . . I am convinced that he was shaven, short of stature, red of hair, somewhat halting of speech, clean of mind, and pure of heart; for he had seen God. . . I believe that when he knelt in prayer he uttered a simple petition in his own words, which touched the hearts alike of red and white men, and ascended straight to Heaven like the smoke from the burnt offering of the righteous. I believe that there is now on the Vineyard many a son of his who could frame and utter such a prayer as would make all the Liturgies of all the priests of all the churches from Aaron to Mrs. Eddy, seem like sounding brass. . . From such mouthings as the Gentiles use, God of our Fathers, shield us yet!"

He proposed that the pageant be an annual event, but that "instead of a local, parochial affair at West Tisbury" it should include the whole Island. "Let us stage the landings of Pease and Mayhew at Edgartown where they occurred. . . the landing of General Grey, the destruction of the Liberty Pole and the gathering of the tribute of cattle at Vineyard Haven on the very sands they trod, and so throughout the island. Our history is rich in incident and, thanks to Dr. Banks, is now accessible. . . Yours for a bigger, better, braver Pageant."

Indeed, it was Dr. Banks who deserved credit for virtually all the historical data in the Pageant. Without his book, which had just been published, the show would have been filled with much less history and many more of the myths and legends that so adulterate our conceptions of the past.

George H. Dean, publisher of Dr. Banks's work, saw an opportunity to get back some of his investment. The two-volume work (the genealogical third volume had not been



Henry Ayer of Newton Highlands, guest of Athearns, was Missionary Thomas Mayhew in 1911, left, and 1912, right. He did not impress critic Yarder.

published at the time) had not been an instant best-seller. Here was his chance and he and historian Banks came to attend the pageant. Perhaps only by coincidence, a letter to the editor appeared in the *Gazette* naming Banks as the unsung hero of the script and urging all who enjoyed history to buy his book. It is not recorded what effect it had on book sales.

Thus ended the history-making West Tisbury Pageant. It was never repeated, although the following year, 1913, there was another pageant presented by the Parent Teachers Association of Tisbury on the shores of Lake Tashmoo. It, like its predecessors, was acclaimed as a great success by the *Gazette* in a review under the headlines: "Peerless Pageant of the Past Periods." But nothing in the review approached the rhetoric of Avin E. Yarder, who had concluded his report on the 1912 Pageant with this paragraph:

"All this may seem fulsome praise and perhaps I am a critic



Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson Mayhew as Governor Mayhew and wife. Right, James Adams in the role of Capt. Nathan Smith, who tricked the British sailors.

great only in the vices of the craft, for I shall draw heavily on your fonts for upper-case I's. The exaggerated Ego is native to critics; the art to hide it must be acquired. But when at last my Ego is forever hidden, I shall have, I trust, a first-class epitaph. I have chosen it from the words of a good neighbor when she explained why her husband took her for his bride, 'He knowed a good thing when he seed it.' "

But, good thing or not, the Pageant Period in local history soon died both on the Island and, as they once said, on the continent as well. Fund-raising energies were put into other activities. Then, too, there was the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 which, no doubt, made such theatricals seem less relevant.

Whatever the reason, that was the end of the Island's infatuation with historical pageants, the two in West Tisbury having been seminal.



## The West Tisbury Pageant: An Insider's View

by LAURA SHELBY LEE

*At one of the annual meetings of the Society in the late 1930s, Miss Laura Lee read a paper she had entitled "The Trivial Reminiscences of a 19th Century Summer Visitor to the Vineyard." She recounts many interesting facts about her vacations here beginning in 1888.*

*This is the first of several excerpts of her talk that we will publish in this journal.*

**I**N 1911, West Tisbury staged its famous Pageant, the idea inspired by Mrs. Johnson Whiting. It was sponsored by the entire community and carried through, over superhuman obstacles, in two succeeding summers to a triumphant, esthetic and financial success.

Most of you doubtless remember them too well to need any description of the actual performances or of the really distinguished and noteworthy acting of most of the principal characters, many of whom took the parts in Vineyard history which had originally been played by their own ancestors.

But very few, except the participants, ever knew of the ludicrous trials and tribulations that we all shared behind the scenes. There were no movies then to make everyone familiar, as they are now, with the aspect of bygone times, or with the manners and customs, speech and costumes, of the periods we were setting out to portray. Very few of us had seen any pageants on a large scale, so our job was as much a voyage of discovery, as to practical details, as

LAURA SHELBY LEE first came to the Vineyard in the summer of 1888, staying, with her parents, at the home of Mrs. Caroline Luce of West Tisbury. In 1902 she gave up her home in New York City, moving into a house she built in West Tisbury. A writer on art and interior design, she was often published in such magazines as *The House Beautiful*. In 1937, she bought a house in Vineyard Haven for her winter home. It was there that she died in February 1948.



was Gosnold's when he came here in 1602.

Mrs. Barbara Look wrote the first scenario, using whatever historical data she could collect from books and individuals and she then put it up to the rest of us to make the scenes come true to life. That we accomplished it at all was a miracle, but that it was so well accomplished as to earn the high praise bestowed upon it, later, by sophisticated and able critics, was due to the really fine acting of the cast and the whole-hearted cooperation of everyone concerned.

Most of the Pageant was in pantomime, but there were a good many speaking parts, some of which were in a written script, but many others were improvised by the actors from the stories they knew so well about their forebears of generations past. Their improvisations were so characteristic and true to tradition, that nothing could have been better. But for the earliest scenes of Gosnold and his men, and of the peaceful Indians they encountered here, we had no definite traditions to guide us. So those parts we invented and it fell to my share to rehearse them.

Few of us knew anything about the original ancient Indian customs or costumes or dances outside of what we had read in books or seen in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Shows, except for Captain West who had come in contact with them on the West Coast. Still, with only that sketchy information we somehow managed to stage the Indian Harvest Festival, with its dances of squaws and braves, and its ceremonial bringing in of a huge turkey and sheaves of corn for the tribal feast. Most of our "Indians" had to be our own neighbors, disguised, costumed and painted to look their parts, but we were lucky enough to persuade a few dignified Gay Headers to lend us their services, which made all the difference in the reality of that group. But I shall never forget my dismay when I handed the Gay Headers a bunch of colored grease paints, telling them each to put on his own war paint, only to have them laughingly assure me that they had no idea how to do it. So, at the last moment they, being



*Left to right, Mary Coffin, Hariph Hancock, Capt. Park Vincent, Flavel Gifford and Priscilla Hancock, five "Indians" in Scene I, 1912 Pageant.*

all too tall for me to reach their faces, had to kneel, one by one, in front of me while I applied patterns of red and blue to their smiling countenances.

Then came Gosnold and his men, who had to be clothed in Elizabethan costumes and armor, which was a terrible problem. But after that point we were on more familiar ground and the Puritans, British redcoats and American colonials were comparatively easy to provide for. Obviously, some of those costumes had to be hired and the price of even the minimum number was such as to bring consternation to the Church treasury [which was underwriting the expenses]. At last, a small sum was collected to rent the essential items: armour, wigs, British and American Colonial uniforms, which we could not make ourselves.

The Indian costumes, covering two separate periods in history, we made of leather, oiled, fringed, embroidered and dyed. Headdresses were made with turkey feathers, collected from the numerous flocks of those regal birds which were then the proud possessions of so many up-Island Vineyarders. In order to obviate too much makeup on bare legs and arms, we asked every man taking an Indian part

to bring us a long Union suit, which was then dyed as nearly as possible to Indian skin color. You can imagine my consternation when one boy brought me a package containing one brand-new Union suit with alternating blue and yellow stripes running horizontally around it from neck to ankles.

Meanwhile, the ladies of the Sewing Circle, working hard for months in advance, made complete costumes for all the Puritans, with steeple-crown hats for the men and caps and kerchiefs for the women. As the fatal day approached, it was decided, by way of publicity, to put a sign over the schoolhouse door, with "Pageant Headquarters" in two-foot-high letters on it, since the schoolhouse was conspicuously situated and during those two summers the Sewing Circle met there to work.

My own share of the costuming I did at home, being mostly dying and other messy jobs of that sort. Lizzie Luce, then about twelve, often helped me, spreading a mixture of Gay Head red clay and Vaseline over an old sail which we thus converted into an Indian wigwam. We were outdoors, on our knees, scrubbing that horrid mess into the sail with floor brushes, when Lizzie suddenly sat back, with a giggle, and said, "Humph! If they're goin' to call the schoolhouse 'Pageant Headquarters', I guess this place is Pageant Hindquarters all right!"

And I quite agreed with her. Headquarters pulled its full share of the load, but Hindquarters did a powerful lot of pushing.

Let me add that Gay Head clay and Vaseline was used for all the Indian makeup and was a great success as to color, but so hard to get off that I sometimes met mothers a week after the Pageant who would say to me: "What on earth did you paint my son with? I can't get him clean."

Since I often took trips to Boston, it fell naturally to my lot to visit various costumers, make the best bargain I could with one of them and select the things we needed, not only as to period, but carefully measured sizes. Pageants were the



*Actors in Grey's Raid: from left, Arthur Look, Ellsworth West (Gen. Charles Grey), Ulysses Mayhew, Franklin Norton, N. H. Burt, Russell Hancock.*

rage everywhere just then and costumes were in greater demand than could be supplied. Two days before our first performance, when our trunkful of hired things arrived, alas and alack, instead of the nice, clean, large uniforms I had picked out, and which had been promised to me, we unpacked a lot of soiled and shabby things, many of them too small for the men who had to wear them.

Those intended for Gosnold and his soldiers were particularly awful as they had to be worn by T. Allen Look and his brothers, plus several other men as tall and broad as they. The armor they sent us was so small that they couldn't possibly wear it. The helmets sat up on top of their heads like inverted tea pots, instead of coming down to protect their skulls; and the breastplates, supposed to cover the wearer from shoulders to hips, looked about the size of roasting pans, tied on over their stomachs only.

We wired to Boston for large armor, to be answered casually that all the rest in stock had been sent elsewhere, for a North Shore pageant preceding ours. It had not been returned and there was nothing else to send us.

As usual, West Tisbury rose to the emergency. We got sheets of zinc and the blacksmith, Mr. Raymond, cut them up under my encouragement, riveted the pieces together



*Laura Lee's house on William St., Vineyard Haven, where she died in 1948.*

according to the pattern and shape of our ridiculously small models, but in the correct sizes, attached leather straps to fasten them and, when the time came, Gosnold's company was resplendent in shining and impressive armor of the amplitude their girth demanded.

It would take me a week to give a list of our other mishaps all along the line and of the incredible methods we had to be "facultized"\* enough to invent remedies. Luckily, we had one dress rehearsal, followed by a hectic twenty-four hours in which to overcome the final difficulties. During the dress rehearsal, Mrs. Julia Foote was acting as Wardrobe Mistress, handing out costumes, as best she could, to those who must wear them. In the midst of it, Mr. U. E. Mayhew came to me, where I was putting on grease and makeup paint. He was taking the part of a British General in some episode of the Revolution and he had on the uniform Mrs. Foote had given him. What was my horror to see him clothed in Scotch kilts, short braided jacket, bonnet, sporran, gaiters and all. With righteous indignation, he said to me: "I put

\*Miss Lee, elsewhere in her memoirs, defines "facultized" as having all one's faculties alert, ready for any emergency. It was, she wrote, commonly used on the Vineyard in the late 1800s and she cites it as an example of the originality of speech on the Island.



*Laura, at about the time she was helping with the West Tisbury Pageant.*

it to you, Miss Lee! Do I look like an officer of His Britannic Majesty's forces?"

I fairly dragged him back to the costume department, robbed some less important character in the play of a red coat, white breeches and sword and got Mr. Mayhew to shift into those more appropriate garments to the satisfaction of all concerned.

At that time, 1911, war . . . even the memory of war . . . had become, for Americans, only a subject for pageantry. Since then, we have lived through the World War; and now the threat of another hangs its black clouds over the rest of the civilized globe. The only thing I can say, in closing, is to repeat the remark of one of my cousins. He had been worried about something so his wife said, to cheer him up, "Never mind, the first hundred years are the hardest." To which he sadly replied: "Don't you believe it -- it's the last fifty!"



## MOMENTS IN HISTORY



Three warships waiting for Roosevelt in the fog off Menemsha in 1941.

## FDR Slept Here -- Or Did He?

TODAY, it couldn't happen. But in August 1941, it did. The press didn't know where the President of the United States was! Supposedly he was on a holiday cruise, avoiding the oppressive heat and humidity of August in Washington, aboard the presidential yacht *Potomac*. But nobody knew where he was -- nobody but Vineyarders, that is, and they weren't telling. At least, not until he had left. Here's how the *Gazette* told the story:

"While mainland newspapers and radio scouts hunted in vain, to use their own expression, for President Roosevelt on Tuesday and Tuesday night, the Chief Executive was lying snugly and quietly aboard the *Potomac* anchored in Tarpaulin Cove. The presence of the presidential yacht was known on the Vineyard in the early afternoon, but so far as is known no one attempted to approach the craft and certainly no one who knew of her

presence there, tipped off any institution or individual that might have invaded her privacy. . . . it may have been just coincidence, but the fleet of maneuvering men-of-war which excited so much interest on Monday, got underway and slipped over the skyline at an early hour on Tuesday, where they might have kept a rendezvous with the *Potomac*."

It its previous issue the *Gazette* had reported that "Menemsha residents rubbed their eyes in amazement yesterday afternoon when six warships loomed up on the horizon shortly after noon, approached to within a mile of the beach and anchored."

All this so the President could escape the heat of Washington? No, it was a much bigger story than that.

On the same day that the warships anchored off Menemsha, August 4, 1941, Prime Minister Winston Churchill had, in secret, sailed from

England aboard the warship *Prince of Wales*, heading for Argentia, Newfoundland, and his first meeting with the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Early the next morning, the American warships left Menemsha Bight heading for a rendezvous with the *Potomac* somewhere south of the Vineyard. The President and his staff were transferred to the cruiser *Augusta* and the fleet headed for Newfoundland.

The *Potomac* continued on her holiday cruise, pulling into Tarpaulin Cove for a restful afternoon and overnight anchorage. The next day, she headed back through Quick's Hole and up Buzzards Bay into the Cape Cod Canal, where sightseers on the shore thought they saw the President and three of his staff sitting in full view on the fantail, enjoying the cool breezes they had left Washington to find. Messages were sent back to Washington describing the fish they had been

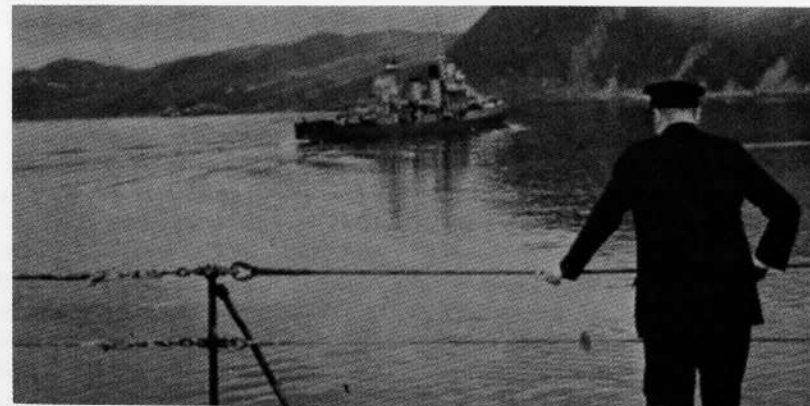
catching and the pleasures of being away from the overheated capital.

That was Wednesday and, while there were four men on the deck enjoying the cooling breezes, the President was not one of them -- he was at sea heading for Newfoundland where, on Saturday, August 9, he and Churchill began three days of meetings which ended with the signing of the Atlantic Charter, by which these two nations (one of which was at war) agreed to act together against all nations that use force to impose their will on others or to seize another's territory.

And that is why those six warships had anchored in Menemsha Bight and that is why FDR had not spent the night "snugly and quietly aboard the *Potomac* anchored in Tarpaulin Cove," as the *Gazette* had reported.

Too bad -- FDR would have loved Tarpaulin Cove.

FDR Library photo from Roosevelt and Churchill, Lash.



Churchill watches FDR leave Argentia Bay on the U.S.S. Augusta.

## Documents

Just as the Mayhews dominated the Vineyard during the 1600s and 1700s, the Pease family was dominant in the 1800s, especially in Edgartown politics and in the Dukes County Court House. They even played a leading role in both of the "radical" churches of the period, the Baptist and the Methodist.

They were intelligent, ambitious and had a good sense of history. They wrote much: letters, journals, scrapbooks, and many of their writings have survived. That may exaggerate their importance in our history, but it seems unlikely when one looks at the number of public offices they held and their influence both on and off-Island.

We have just concluded publication of the diary kept by Jeremiah Pease (1792-1857). It remains the best continuous account of the events on the Vineyard during the first half of the 1800s.

Now we turn to another Pease, a nephew of Jeremiah, Richard Luce Pease (1814-1888). It is not the first time we have done so (see "Richard L. Pease's Fall of 1839," February 1985).

Among the many writings in our Archives by Richard L. Pease is a collection of loose leaf pages which he has entitled "Sketch Book." It is a journal, describing three months in 1835 during which he attended the Wesleyan Academy in Wilbraham, Mass. The Academy, founded in 1824, had by 1835 about 300 pupils, male and female. It is not clear what connection it had with the Methodist Church, if any. Scholars were received from 10 years old and upwards. In 1835,

Richard was 20 years old, which would have made him one of the oldest. A document describing the school states: "The course of study is systematic and extensive, and includes all those branches which are requisite to prepare the pupil for the common business of life, or for a higher course of collegiate or professional duties. The year is divided into four terms, corresponding, as nearly as possible, with the four seasons."

Richard was attending the summer term, from June through August. It was the only off-Island school he ever attended, his earlier education having been in Edgartown's public school and Leavitt Thaxter's Academy, which seems to have closed down in 1834, the year before Richard went to Wilbraham.

When Richard completed his term at Wilbraham Academy, he returned to Edgartown and became principal of the public school.

We will continue publishing this journal, which provides a detailed record of travel in 1835, along with interesting information about the life of a boarding school student of that period, in subsequent issues.

### Boarding School Sketch Book By Richard Luce Pease

#### 1835

May 28th. Left "home" with the expectation of being absent for 3 months. But ah! who can tell that it shall not be forever? I perhaps may see my native isle no more. The loved voices of friends may have been heard for the last, last time. And shall we never meet again? If not on earth, God



Wesleyan Academy as it looked when R. L. Pease studied there in 1835.

grant that in eternity we may meet to enjoy him forever.

Very foggy when we left the harbour and continued so to be till we arrived within a mile of New Bedford, when it cleared up. The view of the town as you enter it from sea is delightful; situated on a side hill, it appears like a vast amphitheatre; houses rising above houses; the numerous ships, too, added to the interest of the scene; some just arrived from long and tedious voyages, others preparing to depart.

Accompanied Miss Vincent to her Brother's -- took tea there; saw B. H. Peirce -- called on Miss Adeline Lambert and Rev. T. C. Peirce. Wrote home, purchased vest (\$3.50, stock (\$1.75), lines [?] (12 cts.). Stopped at Cole's 1 night (25 cts.).

May 29th. Left New Bedford at ½ after 4 o'clock A.M. Arrived at Fall River at 7 o'clock A.M. -- fare (\$1.00) Breakfast 37½ cts. -- left Fall River at 8 h. 5 m. -- touched at Bristol 9 h. 5 m. -- arrived at Providence at 10 h. 35 m. -- fare 50 cts. Stopped at Franklin House -- lodging & 2 meals \$1.25 --

Saw Capt Lawrence and daughter, Moses Brown and W. J. Burgess. With the last, visited the College Buildings,<sup>1</sup> Arcade, Presbyterian Church, School rooms, etc. -- In the evening, walked out as far as the Museum, hearing music, followed the sound to the Baptist Church -- went in & spent the evening -- the choir were rehearsing -- an excellent organ, very large, gave an animating interest.

May 30th. Left Providence at 4 hr. 10 m. A.M. -- arrived at Chepachet 6 h. 50 m. -- Breakfast -- 37½ cts. Left at 7 h. 35 m. -- arrived at Thompson Hotel 9 h. 35 m. -- left at 9 h. 45 m. -- changed horses at Thompson -- arrived at Southbridge 11 h. 45 m. -- fare \$2.00 -- left at 11 h. 57 m. -- passed Sturbridge tavern at 12 h. 40 m. -- arrived at Brimfield Post Office 2 h. 15 m. -- left at 2 h. 22 m. -- arrived at Munson Hotel at 3 h. 30 m. -- left 3 h. 55 m. -- arrived at South Wilbraham Post Office at 5 hr. -- left at 5 h. 6 m. -- arrived at McCray's Tavern, South Wilbraham at 5 h. 19 m. -- fare \$1.50

<sup>1</sup>Brown College, no doubt.

cts. -- Here I left the stage and hired a waggon. Started at 5 h. 40 m. -- Arrived at Rev. John W. Hardy's at 6 h. 25 m. -- fare 75 cts. After tea took a walk with Mr. Hardy to view his place, returning, was introduced to Mr. Gurney as a "Room mate" or "Chum." In the evening attended Class.

31st. Sunday. At an early hour was aroused by the morning bell -- arose and dressed and in a few moments the bell rang for Prayers. -- Assembled in the Hall. After reading and singing, prayers by the Steward. At 7 o'clock was summoned to Breakfast -- bread and butter and coffee. -- At 10 h. 30 m. went to church -- Rev. Reuben Ransom preached during the day -- Dinner at 12 hr. 30 m. -- cold water, bread pudding & molasses -- sometimes meat or hashed meat and potatoes -- supper at 6 o'clock -- tea, Buttered pancake, and pies with double bottom -- At 8 h. the bell rings for evening prayers and thus the day closes.

June 1st, Monday. Continued at the "Boarding House." -- After tea, removed to Bro. David Clark's. -- Wrote home to I. D. P.<sup>2</sup>

2nd. Tuesday. In the morning wrote to M. . .<sup>3</sup> -- bought ink stand and quills (24 cts.) evening Mr. Pattern arrived. 3rd. Wednesday. Commencement -- At 20 m. of 9, the warning bell rings -- 5 m. of 9 bell tolls till 9. All the students assembled in the Academy Hall -- reading the scriptures and prayer by the Principal; -- the names of the students taken as they are arranged in classes -- the hours of recitation stated

<sup>2</sup>His father.

<sup>3</sup>Mary West Pease, a distant cousin, whom he married the following January.

-- dismissed -- P.M. Went to Springfield in a wagon with Bro. Clark -- Saw the U. S. Arsenal and the works connected, and with Mr. Gunn, went throughout the establishment -- in 1 room there were 29,148 muskets -- instruments of death -- Purchased a pair of shoes (\$1.12½) returned -- bought Nat. Philosophy (50 cts.), Day's Algebra \$1.25 cts. -- Hitchcock's Book-keeping \$1.00.

5th. Friday. Sent home a Newspaper.

7th. Sunday. In the afternoon Mr. Pattern preached -- (forenoon, Mr. Raymond). In the evening, Mr. Richards, a Welchman.

8th. Monday. Bought socks (37½ cts.) -- a hat (4/ ) trimmings (21½ cts.) -- Paper (14 cts.) -- evening attended a meeting of the Wesleyan Young Men's Debating Club and Lyceum.

10th. Wednesday. A fortnight since I was at "home," a fortnight tonight I was in the Singing School -- but the melody of such voices I shall not soon hear! -- Again I have been at the Post Office and no letters! -- I am almost impatient to hear from those "I've left behind me." Sent a paper to C. Pease.<sup>4</sup>

11th. Thursday. This day, surely thought I, shall I receive a letter. The Mail arrived -- I hastened to the Office -- and found -- a letter from Mary -- precious treasure! -- with what speed did I haste to my chamber to peruse it!

12th. Wrote to Mary -- carried it to the office -- but could not send it today. -- Evening -- attended an Exhibition at the Academy of the Union Philosophical Society. Very rainy during the evening; -- first time I have

<sup>4</sup>His uncle, Chase Pease, brother of Jeremiah.

used my umbrella since my arrival.

13th. Saturday. Morning pleasant -- thin jacket (\$3.75 cts.). -- Afternoon -- thunderstorms accompanied with rain -- evening heard a lecture at the Methodist Meetinghouse on Phrenology by Mr. Grimes of Springfield. Received a letter from my father.

14th. Sunday. Mr. Pattern preached -- afternoon, Mr. Richardson. At 6 o'clock went to a little schoolhouse to meeting, about a mile from Mr. Clark's. Mr. Frederick Merrick preached. Came home -- got my bread and milk -- and went to bed.

15th. Monday. Pleasant weather. -- (paper 7 cts.) -- very anxious to hear from Conference; -- while at tea Mr. Ransom & Mr. Withey returned, bring intelligence. Mr. Ransom is not to stay here -- it appears to be a disappointment to him and his wife -- likewise to some others. Ah! thought I, thus it is in many places and we know it, feel it not, being wholly engrossed with our own affairs, interests and expectations. -- Sent to I. D. Pease a copy of the *Western Methodist*.

June 16th. Tuesday. Pleasant; -- A writing master by the name of Albert White opened a school.

17th. Wednesday. Rained during the night. Morning very pleasant. Afternoon attended declamation by the first division. Mr. Pattern went to Springfield. Towards evening I took a solitary ramble up the mountain road with my flute, thinking of times gone by; of the seasons of sweet and holy communion with which I had been favoured; and as the echoes of "Home,

sweet home" died away in the distant hill tops, I thought of my home! of friends -- cherished and dear! But the hope -- (vain and delusive it may be) -- of soon meeting, of soon embracing them cheered my heart; to God I commit them and myself.

As I was going to my room, Sister Ransom asked if Brother Pease would like to go to a "Prayer Meeting." With pleasure. I accepted the invitation. There were about 40 persons present. And as we knelt in prayer we felt that God was with his children to cheer, enlighten and direct. It was a good time, and I felt to say how sweet are the courts of thy house, O Lord.

18th. Thursday. Pleasant. Sent a copy of the "Hamden Whig" to Mr. Frederick P. Fellows. Mail arrived and brought the "Herald" containing the stations of the Preachers. Edgartown -- J. C. Boutecou. Barnstable -- Joel Steel; no objections to the change.

19th. Friday. Very pleasant in the morning. Afternoon stormy with some thunder. Evening wrote to I. D. Pease. Mr. Goss came in and we played on our flutes..

20th. Morning clear but cold, so cold that Mr. P. had a fire in his room. Afternoon took a ramble on the mountain. So beautiful scenery I never saw before. From the summit you overlook Wilbraham; far in the distance are seen [Mt.] Tom and Holyoke; Springfield is very plainly seen. I was so much pleased with the scene that I intend to visit it frequently. -- Altering pants 25 cts. -- Mail arrived, but nothing for me! No letters this week! Feel lonesome.

(To be continued)



## Books

### A Place Fit Only for Refuse

By Norman S. Reed

*Privately published. 60 pp., paper.*

### A Place Where the Eelgrass Flows

By Norman S. Reed

*Privately published. 80 pp., paper.*

Both available through the author, Box 1362, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

One hundred years from now, the Editor of this journal, publishing in some exotic format as yet unimagined, would be ecstatic to come upon a copy of these two books. Not because they are filled with tales of Vineyard heroics, disasters or crises, but because they are not.

There will be plenty of information in print about the big events in our time, but where else but here will he learn of the serendipitous pleasure of dump-picking? By 2087, the "sanitary land fill" will have gone the way of the privy -- only a vague memory in the minds of the oldest of senior citizens. Dump-picking, that fast disappearing artform, will be extinct. Our Editor will jump with joy at being able to share with the members of this Society the details of those ancients who combed the castoffs. In their precisely controlled and dirt-free environment they will wonder how a people with such crude forms of pleasure ever survived (if, in fact, we did).

Where else would the Editor be able to research the joys of a yard sale? Or the thrill of sifting through the dusty sand under the porch of an old house on the Campground, looking for lost coins?

These two books (one of which is a reprint of essays that originally were published in the *Gazette*) document many of the routine day-to-day events that local historians cry out for as they attempt to reconstruct yesterday.

So, do your great-great-grandchildren a favor. Put a copy of these little books in an acidfree envelope marked "Do not open until 2087" and tell them to put it somewhere safe. Who knows, one of them may become Editor of the *Intelligencer* and, if so, I promise that he/she will be grateful for your thoughtfulness.

A.R.R.

## Letters

Editor:

I question whether the daguerreotype shown on page 145 of the February issue is of Jeremiah and Eliza Pease, who in the mid-1850s were over 60 years of age. They were 65 and 66, respectively, in 1857, the year of Jeremiah's death.

The couple look much younger than 60, probably not more than 40. Furthermore, they do not look at all like the subjects of the portraits painted by Jeremiah's son, Cyrus. In the portrait, Jeremiah has no beard and looks much older than the man in the daguerreotype.

I wonder if the couple in the

photograph could be Jeremiah Pease, Jr., and his wife? He was 35 years old when his father died.

Boston  
Julien V. Weston

*Mr. Weston, to whom we are in tremendous debt for the Jeremiah Pease diaries that we have been publishing, is as well qualified as any person to know what Jeremiah looked like, counting him, as he can, among his ancestors. The photograph was on loan from Mrs. Frank E. McKay, another descendant of Jeremiah's. While Mrs. McKay has no proof that it is Jeremiah and Eliza, the envelope in which it has been stored all these years does have that identification written on it. The writing, Mrs. McKay attests, was by (as they say in Washington stories) a usually reliable source.*

*Before publishing the picture we discussed the youthful appearance of the couple, but came to the conclusion that, considering the identification with the photograph, we could not dispute it simply on our opinion of the youthful appearance.*

*Of such imponderables comes the pleasure of researching history. Any opinions out there?*

Editor:

I feel that I have a definitive solution to the "Cryptic Valentine," but first I must say it is a rebus, not a cryptogram. In a cryptogram, each letter or character must stand for only one letter in the solution and must remain constant throughout. In a rebus, one character may mean many things and its ambiguity allows the reader to translate each symbol in a way that reads best.

This, I believe, is a lament, most

likely a letter from a sailor who, upon returning to port, finds that his love is engaged or married to another. Before leaving, he writes this letter which tells of his love, while acknowledging her wedding bond and bidding her a final farewell:

I see you to be too wise for me  
In love I see you be.  
You little see or call to mind  
The trouble that in love I find.  
One thousand griefs does sink into my heart:  
To see a tie, a tie without desert.  
I see a bond, a double bond I see.  
I see a cross, that crosses none but me.  
I see a cross, a double cross I fear.  
I see a love, oh empty heart forbare.  
I see you be the cause of all my smart.  
I see the eyes, but cannot gain the heart.  
I see ten thousand hexes with me to seize,  
I find no remedy for my heart's ease.  
My love is that, oh you.  
And so I bid this world adieu, adieu.

The "X" can be read as a cross or hex in the lines where it "Xes none but me" and can be read as a tie, bind, bond, or anything that means a marriage agreement wherever else it appears without changing the meaning.

Chilmark

Sam Carroll

# News of the Society

## From the Director:

GENEALOGICAL research has always been one of the Society's most used services. For the past fifteen years, in addition to serving on the Council and, for seven of them, being President, Doris Stoddard has been our Genealogist. She has answered countless queries, made endless special trips to the Society to assist researchers, and even in one extraordinary case made her own house and grounds available to an off-Island correspondent with Vineyard roots for a family reunion. Her interest and commitment have been recognized from her first involvement; surely, we will now be even more aware of her many contributions and of our great loss.

Our spring exhibition, "Tabernacle City," photographs made in Oak Bluffs before 1940 by Aaron Siskind, has attracted many visitors. It will be on view through May. In early June, we plan to open "Charting Martha's Vineyard," early maps and charts of the Island. Texel, Martin's Vineyard, Capawock, or Maertha's Vineyard, all these names were used at various times to identify this Island. Together, their plotting provides a fascinating glimpse at early exploration and the efforts to record a then newly discovered place.

On April 9, Francis Jennings spoke to the membership and guests on "Myths About Indians and How They have Grown." Professor Jennings, a resident of Chilmark, is a nationally recognized authority on the American

Indian prior to and immediately following exploration and settlement by Europeans. It is with considerable pride that we count him among our members and we are grateful for his generosity in providing a lecture of such timeliness for our spring meeting.

By now you should have received notice of our spring bus trip and also guest tickets for your summer use. This year visits to the Cooke House will begin with a special Sunday opening on June 14, and from then until September 12 will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10:00 to 4:30, with the exception of the 4th of July.

There are still some times open for volunteers to help with the Gate House and, for the first time this summer, to serve as guides in the Cooke House. Several preparation sessions will be held before the season begins. Please let me know if you are interested in helping half a day a week in either of the above places or in the library.

In addition to the usual school groups, exhibition preparation, research both for ourselves and for the many inquiries we receive each month, and planning for the summer season, the spring has been filled with committee meetings attended by very active Council members. A newly organized Publicity Committee is chaired by John Howland who has also been elected to the Council to replace Virginia Poole whose busy working schedule caused her to submit a resignation that was accepted with much appreciation for her many

contributions. The Membership Committee under Eleanor Olsen has been actively working to increase our rolls and to assist with special events. Frederick Williams and Donald Mayhew have investigated the Society's need for a computer. Soon our membership, financial, and book inventory records will be the first to be entered. A gift of a small computer from Thomas Chamberlain has given Editor Arthur Railton a head start in his department. Perhaps busiest of all has been the Building Committee under the chairmanship of Richard Burt. Possible ways of expanding our present space are being studied and much needed work on the Cooke House foundation in an effort to control dampness should, by now, have been completed.

MARIAN R. HALPERIN

## From the Librarian:

OUR library urgently needs copies of *Vital Records to 1850* for Edgartown, Chilmark and Tisbury. These books are out of print and rare. The Society's shelf copies are unique because on almost every page there are pencilled annotations in Doris Stoddard's neat hand: additions, corrections, deletions she made to the family lines.

Heavy usage has wrecked these books. The Tisbury volume is held together with tape, its binding in tatters. These copies should be removed from the open shelf and replaced with fresh copies for everyday reference use by patrons and staff. We would very much appreciate the donation of any of these books, especially the Tisbury volume.

Thanks to the generosity of Dorothea Looney, Registrar of Accessions, we now have a complete set of the Time-Life series, *The Seafarers*, a 22-volume series featuring excellent illustrations and authoritative text. We had several volumes which were the gift of the publisher as thanks for the credited use of material from our archives. Now, we have the complete set. Books like these are especially helpful to the increasing numbers of Vineyard elementary and high-school students who are using our library. Such volumes open another gateway to the primary materials in the archives and stacks -- documents and maps which would otherwise seem esoteric and remote.

As members know, the library is not intended to be a general collection and its reference materials are limited both by funding and space. The only multi-volume encyclopedia is *Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography* (c. 1886), invaluable for frequent consultation. A modern and comprehensive encyclopedia would be welcome.

For the past few years, we have been working to enlarge and broaden our collection of Portuguese materials. No whaler's Atlantic log is complete without its stop at Fayal, and no Vineyard annal is complete without mention of the many families of Portuguese descent that are prominent in our business and professional life. We are now receiving the publications of the American-Portuguese Genealogical and Historical Society. A recent book of related interest is *The People of the Cape Verde Islands* by Antonio Carreira.

ALVIN J. GOLDWYN



## Bits & Pieces

YOU can't keep a good story down. And it is the good stories that are the lifeblood of such theatricals as the West Tisbury Pageants (see p. 167).

The second pageant, the one in 1912, tells the story of Capt. Nathan Smith's ruse. The program describes it:

"One day he discovered that some British sailors had some of his and his neighbors' sheep ready to carry off to their vessels. . . he dons his regimentals and parades towards the marauders, when they look up at him he turns his head and shouts to the empty air: 'Infantry open right and left; cavalry charge!' The effect was magical. The enemy scrambled for their boats and put to sea."

Joseph C. Allen, in *Tales and Trails of Martha's Vineyard*, tells the story this way:

"Some thirty [British] marines had gathered a flock of sheep which they were about to put aboard their boats. In order to handle the sheep, they had stacked their arms and removed their coats. Smith, observing this activity from a distance, buckled on his sword and took his musket, hastening to the scene. From behind the beach dunes he shouted commands, running from one point to another and showing himself occasionally, thus giving the British marines the impression that a superior force was surrounding them. Forgetful of sheep, coats and muskets, they ran for their boats and fled,

leaving all behind: a grand prize for Nathan."

The town of Scituate, Mass., has a similar legend, involving its lighthouse during the War of 1812. Keeper Simeon Bates was away at the time:

"In the early morning hours, Becky [his daughter] climbed up to the lantern to extinguish the lamps. As the morning fog burned off she spotted an enemy warship anchored out in the harbor. Reuben [her brother] was sent on the run to fetch the militia. Legend has it that Becky suggested to her sister that they imitate a marching militia. They took up an old fife and drum and played martial music among the nearby trees. Hearing the sounds, the approaching British long boat turned around and rowed back to the warship which promptly departed the harbor."

Those skittish British! No wonder they lost both wars.

Another legend in both of the pageants was "The Arrest of the Tory." In one, a young British sympathizer named Prince Look is arrested for aiding the British during the Revolution. In the other, Look is "a loyal young man" in love with "a maiden of a Tory family." The maiden persuades him during Grey's Raid to pass along to the British a letter from her father, describing the hiding place of the arms and money.

The pageant producers expressed gratitude to Charles E. Banks for his just-published history, but clearly they didn't limit themselves to its facts.

But is that so bad? Perhaps such flights of fancy bring history to life. Or life to history. Which is it?

A.R.R.

## In Memoriam Doris Coursen Stoddard 1904—1987

Doris C. Stoddard was for 15 years as much a part of the Dukes County Historical Society as were the books and documents that she cherished. It became, in those years, a second home for her.

Early in the 1970s, after her husband, Kenneth, retired, they moved to the Island where they had built a home in Vineyard Haven some years before. She had been a Life member for many years and she volunteered her services at the library. Genealogy was her special interest, she said.

Immediately, she became enamoured of the wealth of material in the library and from then on, organizing our genealogical files became her life work, much to the benefit of thousands.

Her reputation as a genealogist spread, bringing her hundreds of correspondents -- "my pen pals," she called them -- requesting help in tracing Vineyard ancestry. Rarely were they disappointed. Long after she had answered their genealogical questions, they continued to write, as the many cards and letters she received testified.

But she did not limit herself to genealogy, although in her mind, people and families were more interesting than the events of history. From 1972 until her death, she served on the Society Council and never missed a meeting except during the final weeks of her life.

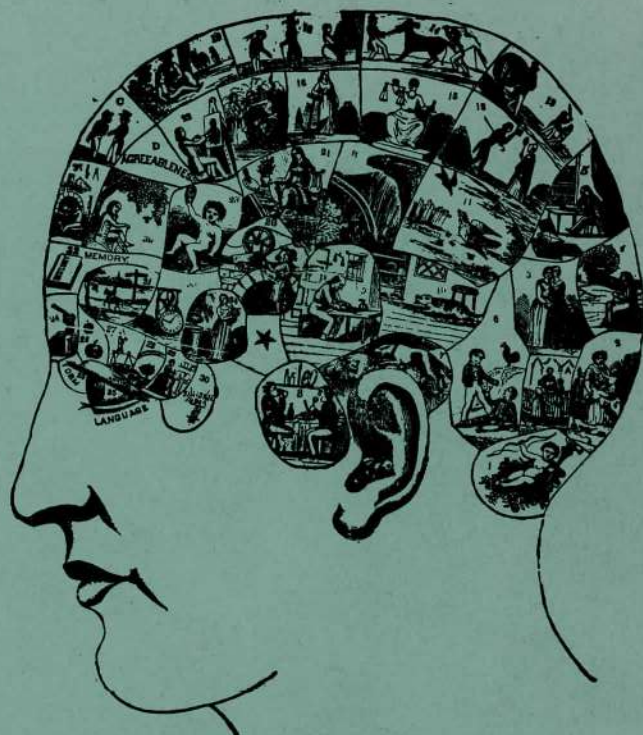
She was President of the Society from 1973 until 1980 and the accomplishments of those years are permanent reminders of her dedication to this organization. There is virtually no place one can look that one doesn't see evidence of her work and her generosity.

To her, the Society was a public service and she was one of the servants. Her humor, warmth and dedication made everyone, member or stranger, feel at home. Regardless of weather, she made the daily drive from her home to the library desk in front of the shelves of genealogical books, a desk that will long be thought of as hers.

On behalf of all our members, the Officers and Council of the Society thank her for sharing so much of her life with us. Our Society will be different without her.

A memorial service for Mrs. Stoddard was held at the Society, April 12, 1987.





—LECTURE.—

**MAY CHAPMAN,**

Principal of the Boston Phrenological Institute, WILL LECTURE ON

**PHRENOLOGY,**

—AT THE—

**TOWN HALL, THIS (MONDAY) EVENING,**

**AT 8 O'CLOCK.**

☞ PUBLIC PHRENOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS will be made after the Lecture—Subjects chosen by the audience. ☞ OPPONENTS TO PHRENOLOGY are especially invited.

**FREE ADMISSION**

**AND COLLECTION.**

☞ PRIVATE PHRENOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS will be made (for a few days only,) at the house of MRS. SUSAN S. PRASE, on Water street. TERMS—\$1, for full verbal description of health and character—Charts extra.