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Guide to
NANTUCKET



J. H. ROBINSON.

REVISED
MANUAL



GUIDE TO NANTUCKET



BY

J. H. ROBINSON

of Nantucket

Member of The Nantucket Historical Association

THIRD EDITION

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1918



CONTENTS

DESCRIPTIVE INDEX

to

ALL POINTS OF INTEREST

Roads, Drives, Lighthouses, Lightships, etc.,
are shown upon the

MAPS

of the Island and County of Nantucket,
Town of Nantucket, Village of Siasconset,
and the Steamboat Route.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF

Nantucket Island
Town of Nantucket
History of Nantucket
Nantucket Whale Fishery

and

All Points of Interest
for which

Consult Index on opposite page.

Note.—All distances are in statute, or land, miles.

DESCRIPTIVE INDEX to POINTS of INTEREST

	Page
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY , First exhibition held in 1856. Fair-ground south end of Orange Street, just beyond where State Road turns off for 'Sconset. See Cattle Show.....	11
ATHENEUM , Public Library.....	29
ATHLETIC CLUB . Organized in 1963. See Brant Point.....	32
BANKS , Pacific National at the head of Main Street Square; Nantucket Institution for Savings, Main Street Square.	
BATHING , Cliff Bathing Beach, page 39; 'Sconset, page 45; Wauwinet, page 52; Quidnet, page 51; Tom Never's Head, page 49; Warm Salt Water Baths, bathhouse near steamboat wharf, and 'Sconset.	
Beacon Hill. See North Vestry.....	34
BELL . See Tower.....	35
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SPRING . See Maddaket.....	55
BOAT HOUSES of the Massachusetts Humane Society, equipped with all the apparatus necessary to render assistance in case of shipwreck, are located at Tuckernuck, Head of Hummock Pond, Forked Pond, 'Sconset and Quidnet. See Road Map.	
BOATS , Sailboats, with or without skippers, are for hire at Steamboat or Old North wharves for FISHING and SAILING parties; CLAMBAKES can also be arranged for. Rowboats can be hired at Old North wharf for ROWING , fishing in the Harbor, or CRABBING in The Creeks near Monomoy.	
Books relating to Nantucket.....	57
BRANT POINT	31
" CAMELS ".....	23
Cable.....	18
Camping. See Quidnet.....	51
CAPTAINS' ROOM . See Rotch Warehouse.....	40
CASINO . See 'Sconset.....	48
Cattle Show. See Agricultural Society.	
CEMETERIES	55
CHURCHES : First CONGREGATIONAL , see North Vestry, page 34. UNITARIAN , page 35. METHODIST , Centre Street near Main, erected 1823, pillars in front added in 1840, first Methodist church built in 1799, S. W. corner Fair and Lyons Streets. EPISCOPAL , "St. Paul's," Fair Street, erected 1901, presented to the parish by Miss C. L. W. French, of Boston, as a memorial to her father; the first Episcopal church "Trinity" was erected in 1839, on north side of Broad Street, near the corner of Centre; it was burned in the great fire of 1846. FIRST BAPTIST , Summer Street, society formed 1839, building erected 1840, tower and vestry added in 1841. CATHOLIC , "St. Mary's," Federal Street, erected 1896, services first held in Town Hall in 1849 and later in Pantheon Hall. In 1858 Harmony Hall was secured and used until it was removed to make room for the present structure. Churches are indicated upon Map of the Town of Nantucket.	
CLIFF, NORTH SHORE	41
" Bathing Beach.....	39
Clock. See Tower.....	35
COASTGUARD STATIONS . See Lifesaving Stations.	
COATUE , The narrow strip of land, opposite Brant Point, which separates the Harbor from the Sound and from which the EASTERN JETTY is built out to deepen the entrance to the Harbor.	

DESCRIPTIVE INDEX TO POINTS OF INTEREST

	Page
Coffin House.....	28
Coffin, "Miriam." See "Miriam Coffin's County Seat."	
COFFIN SCHOOL	37
CONSUE SPRING , See Springs.	
COSKATA , that part of the island immediately north of the Head of the Harbor where THE COSKATA LIFESAVING STATION , erected 1883, is located. See Great Point, page 53. See Lifesaving Stations. See Cliff—North Shore.	
Crabbing. See Boats.	
Cranberry Bogs. See 'Sconset, page 45; Maddaket, page 54. The Gibbs Pond cranberry bog is the LARGEST SINGLE, CULTIVATED, CRANBERRY BOG IN THE WORLD .	
DRIVING	9
EAT FIRE SPRING , Fountain about three-fourths of a mile beyond Polpis, on the road to Wauwinet, is supplied with water from Eat Fire Spring, which is located several hundred feet north. See Road Map.	
Express Office, Main Street Square.	
FAIR, FAIRGROUND . See Agricultural Society.	
First, Church, House, Schoolhouse, Townhouse, Jail and Road, page 16; Water Works, page 43; Maddaket, page 54.	
" Lighthouse. See Brant Point.....	31
" Magistrate.....	16
" Purchasers.....	14
" Settlers.....	15
" Steamboat.....	19
" Town. See Water Works.....	44
FISHING . See Boats. Quidnet, page 51. Good perch fishing is found in most of the larger ponds.	
FRANKLIN SPRING . See Maddaket.....	54
Friends' Meetinghouse. See Historical Association.....	25
" Burying Ground. See Cemeteries.....	55
GEOLOGY . Morain of the glacier.....	10
GOLF . See Cliff—North Shore, page 42; and 'Sconset.....	45
Great Fire.....	18
Great Neck, that part of the island between Long Pond and Hither Creek. See Road Map.	
GREAT POINT Lighthouse, page 53. See Cliff—North Shore.....	41
Gulf Stream. See Cliff Bathing Beach, page 39, also 21.	
Gut Bridge. See Maddaket.....	54
" HAUL-OVER ." See Wauwinet.....	52
HIGHEST POINT on the island. See 'Sconset.....	48
" " on the coast line. See Sankaty Head.....	50
" " on the North Shore. See The Cliff.....	41
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION	25
HISTORY OF NANTUCKET	13
"Horseshoe House." See the Oldest House on the Island.....	28
HOTELS . See back part of guide.	
House of Correction.....	41
Humane Society. See Boathouses.	
INDIANS	14
"Inquirer and Mirror." See Newspaper.	
JAIL and House of Correction.....	41
Jethro Coffin House. See Oldest House on the Island.....	28
Jetties. See Cliff Bathing Beach, page 39; and Coatue.	
LIBRARY	29
LIFESAVING STATIONS . All stations are known as Coast Guard Stations and designated by number. See Surfside, No. 46; Maddaket, No. 47; Coskata, No. 45; and Muskeget, No. 48. During the months of June and July stations are in charge of the keeper only; they are fully manned all the other months of the year. The REGULAR DRILLS , given by the station crews, are most interesting. All are connected by telephone.	

DESCRIPTIVE INDEX TO POINTS OF INTEREST

	Page
LIGHTHOUSES. See Sankaty Head, page 50; Great Point, page 53; Brant Point, page 31; Cliff Bathing Beach.....	39
Lightships. See maps. See 'Sconset, page 48; Quidnet, page 51; Wauwinet, page 53; Great Point.....	53
" LISBON BELL. " See Tower.....	35
Low Beach. See 'Sconset.....	48
MADDAKET.	54
MAP of the Island of Nantucket. See folder.	
" " " Town of Nantucket. See folder.	
" " " Village of Siasconset.....	46
" " " Steamboat Route—lights and lightships. See folder.	
MARIA MITCHELL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION	30
Massachusetts Humane Society. See Boathouses.	
Massasoit Bridge. See Maddaket.....	54
MEETINGHOUSE, Friends'. See Historical Association.....	25
Milestones. See 'Sconset.	
MILL.	27
"Mill Hills." See Mill.	
"Miriam Coffin's County Seat," at Quaise, that part of the island reserved by Thomas Mayhew. See History, page 14, also books relating to Nantucket. "Miriam" Coffin, born 1723, died 1790, was a large shipowner and smuggler; her house at Quaise had many concealed closets and passageways where goods were stored; she was eventually arrested and stood trial. The present farmhouse is located on the same site, and has in it much of the timber of the old Coffin house. Marker by roadside. See Polpis.....	54
Mitchell, Maria. See Maria Mitchell Association.....	30
MONOMOY. Just across the Harbor from Nantucket, about 1 mile from Steamboat wharf, and 2 MILES by road. See Polpis, page 54, and Road Map.	
MONUMENT, Soldiers' and Sailors'	31
" Site of oldest burial ground. See Cemeteries.....	56
" Site of first house. See index, under First, etc.	
MUSEUM. See Historical Association.....	25
MUSKEGET, Island of. The Muskeget Lifesaving Station stands on the north beach, illustration, page 43. Boat house at the east end. The station was established in 1883, destroyed by fire in 1889, temporarily located on the North Head, Tucker-nuck. Present station was built in 1896. The eastern portion of the island is owned by private parties, the remainder being set apart as a public park. ELEVEN AND THREE-FOURTHS MILES from Brant Point. See Lifesaving Stations, also Cliff—North Shore.....	41
NANTUCKET, Island of. Location, description, etc.....	8
" Town of. Location, description, etc.....	11
" History of. Discovery, settlement, etc.....	13
" Whale Fishery.....	20
" Indians.....	14
" Maps of. Island and Town. See folder.	
" Historical Association.....	25
" Athletic Club. Organized, 1903. See Brant Point....	32
NANTUCKET, How reached. See Town of Nantucket, page 11; and Steamboat Route Map.	
" Town Meeting.....	11
" Books relating to.....	57
" Golf Club.....	42
" Cottage Hospital.....	12
Naval Battle.....	49
Newspaper, "Inquirer and Mirror." Office, Orange Street, near Main.	

	Page
"Newtown Gate." In the earlier days when thousands of sheep roamed the pastures, this gate stood across the south end of Orange Street, near the first milestone; just beyond the Asylum. The toll was one cent. Discontinued in 1821.	
"North Church" "North Tower".....	34
North Shore.....	41
NORTH VESTRY	34
Noted People: Lucretia Mott, noted philanthropist, born 1793, corner Fair and School Streets.	
Abiah Folger, mother of Benjamin Franklin. See Maddaket.....	55
William Mitchell, noted astronomer; father of Maria Mitchell.	
Maria Mitchell.....	30
Hon. Charles J. Folger, Secretary of the Treasury.	
OBSERVATORY	30
Ocean Steamship. See 'Sconset.....	48
Old Buildings. See MILL , Jail, House of Correction, NORTH VESTRY , OLDEST HOUSE , Meetinghouse, ROTCH WAREHOUSE , BIRTHPLACE MARIA MITCHELL , Athenum, Coffin School, PADDOCK HOUSE , page 28. Pacific Bank, page 18. GARDNER HOUSE , 'Sconset, page 47. See Churches and Lighthouses. JOSIAH COFFIN HOUSE stands southwest corner Cliff Road and North Liberty Street, erected 1724.	
OLDEST HOUSE ON THE ISLAND	28
" Burying Ground. See Cemeteries, page 55. Water Works	43
Opening. See Wauwinet.....	53
PACIFIC CLUB . See Rotch Warehouse.....	40
Paper. See Newspaper.	
POLPIS	54
Population. See Town of Nantucket.....	11
Post Office— Main Street Square, corner of Union Street.	
PUBLIC LIBRARY —Athenum.....	29
Pumping Station. Water Works.....	43
QUAISE . See "Mariam Coffin's County Seat."	
Quaker Meetinghouse. See Historical Association.....	25
QUIDNET	51
RANGE LIGHTS . See Brant Point.....	32
REFORESTATION	10
Road Map. See folder.	
ROTCH WAREHOUSE	40
Rowing. See Boats.	
SACACHA POND . See Quidnet.....	51
SACHEM SPRING . See Cliff, page 42; and Road Map.	
Sailing. See Boats.	
SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE	50
SAUL'S HILLS . See 'Sconset.....	48
Schools: Three in the Town of Nantucket. See Schools, page 18. Coffin School, page 37; Grammar School, Orange Street, upper part used as Town Hall. See 'Sconset, Polpis and Tuckernuck.	
'SCONSET	45
Settlers, page 15. Water Works, page 43. Maddaket.....	54
SHAWKEMO SPRING , on the road to Polpis (page 54), about a quarter of a mile south of the road. See Road Map.	
Sheep Raising, Sheep Common, Shearing.....	15
Sherburne. See History of Nantucket.....	16
SHORE DINNERS . See Wauwinet, Quidnet, Surfside, and Boats.	
SIASCONSET or 'Sconset.....	45
" Map of.....	46
SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT	31
South Shore. See Surfside.	
"South Tower".....	35

DESCRIPTIVE INDEX TO POINTS OF INTEREST

	Page
SPRINGS. See Franklin Spring, Sachem Spring, Shawkemo Spring, Eat Fire Spring, Consue Spring, south end of Union Street. See Map of the Town of Nantucket.	
SQUAM HEAD. See Wauwinet.....	52
STANDPIPE. See Water Works.	
State Road, begun in 1894. See 'Sconset, page 45, and Road Map.	
Steamboats. See Town of Nantucket, and Steamboat Route Map.	
Sunset Hill. See Oldest House.....	28
SURFSIDE; the Surfside Lifesaving Station, built 1874, located on the South Shore; it is a fine walk of THREE AND ONE-HALF MILES from the Post Office. From Main Street take Pleasant Street to Atlantic Avenue. See Map of Town of Nantucket and Road Map. Dinners can be arranged for nearby. See Lifesaving Stations.	
TELEGRAPH OFFICE, Orange Street, just south of Main Street Square. (Also at the Weather Bureau on Orange Street, and the Wireless at 'Sconset.)	
Telephone Exchange, Fair Street near Main.	
TEMPERATURE. See Nantucket Island.....	8
Ticket Office, on Steamboat wharf.	
TOM NEVER'S HEAD	49
TOWER	35
Town, Asylum. See map Town of Nantucket.	
“ Building, Washington Street, just south of Main St. Square.	
“ Clock. See Tower.....	35
“ Hall, Orange Street.	
“ Meeting.....	11
“ of Nantucket. Description, page 11; map, see folder.	
“ Trees. See Reforestation.	
TUCKERNUCK, Island of. NINE MILES BY BOAT FROM NANTUCKET, or 3 miles from Warren's Landing at Maddaket. This charming little island is a delightful destination for sailing parties. A number of families live here throughout the year and about 20 dwellings are dotted about the island; the main settlement is on the north side, overlooking the EAST POND, and just south of BROOKS'S LANDING. A path which passes the SCHOOLHOUSE (formerly an engine house on Milk Street, moved to Tuckernuck in 1867) leads to the NORTH POND, thence to the NORTH HEAD and back to the East pond. A BOATHOUSE of the Massachusetts Humane Society stands near the SOUTH POND. In 1659, the island was sold by Thomas Mayhew to Tristram Coffin and son, James and Peter Coffin, for the sum of 6 pounds. See illustration, page 44. See Cliff—North Shore.....	41
UNITARIAN CHURCH.	35
VESTRY	34
WALKS, See Surfside. 'Sconset, Wauwinet and Great Point.	
Wannacomet Water Works. See Water Works.	
Warm Baths. Bathhouse near Steamboat wharf, and 'Sconset.	
WATER WORKS	43
WAUWINET	52
Weather Bureau. Established 1886, formerly in Rotch Warehouse, moved to Orange Street in 1904. Signals are displayed to indicate the approach of storms or high winds.	
WHALE FISHERY.	20
Wireless Telegraph. See 'Sconset.....	48
WRECKS. In the fall of 1902 the writer tramped around the island, camping at various points along shore. At that time there were 6 huge pieces of wreckage to be seen; in 1909 there were 8, the largest, practically the entire hull of a large schooner, lying on the western side of Muskeget.	

N a n t u c k e t I s l a n d



NANTUCKET is the largest of a group of islands known as Nantucket County, Massachusetts, its greatest **LENGTH** being 15 miles, east and west, by about 4 miles in **WIDTH**, with an **AREA** of about 50 square miles. It lies about 100 miles from the eastern end of Long Island and 25 miles **SOUTH OF CAPE COD**, from which it is separated by Nantucket Sound, its eastern and southern shores being washed by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The **NEAREST LAND** on the east is Portugal, at a distance of 3,188 miles, and on the south the West Indies, 1,463 miles.

Nantucket is one of the most delightful summer resorts on the Atlantic Coast and its climate the most healthful, its location

precluding all possibility of a land breeze. The temperature of the atmosphere is **RARELY 85 DEGREES**, while that of the water is from 70 to 74. Excellent and safe surf **BATHING** is found upon the eastern and southern shores; at other points on the sound and harbor the finest of still water.

To those in search of health and recreation the conditions are ideal, the broad **SANDY BEACHES**, covered by an endless variety of seashells, pebbles and finely wrought seaweeds, with now and then an old hulk of a vessel tossed up by the waves, afford a most comfortable lounging place and attractive tramping ground. The pleasure seeker will find all that can be desired at the seaside: Motor **BOATING**, sailing, rowing, **FISHING**, tennis and bicycling, while fine **GOLF** courses, resembling closely the famous courses of Scotland, are maintained near the towns of Nantucket and 'Sconset. The Nantucket **ATHLETIC CLUB** and the 'Sconset **CASINO** contribute much in the way of amusement.

A sojourn upon the island has been likened to an ocean voyage with the disagreeable features eliminated. There is **ALWAYS A BREEZE** and the pure invigorating salt air and bright sunshine, with the peace and quiet which pervades, are most soothing alike to the tired brain-worker and the person of nervous temperament. Relief from hayfever is assured



and **MALARIA IS UNKNOWN**. That the climate is most beneficial for recuperative purposes is the unanimous indorsement of many prominent members of the medical profession.

The nature of the country is ideal for **HORSEBACK RIDING** and the sport is most popular. A **STATE ROAD** connects the town of Nantucket with the village of Siasconset and there are **PLEASANT DRIVES** to all parts of the island, with a never ending variety of exquisite marine views or stretches of moorlands covered with wild flowers and overgrown with bayberry and huckleberry bushes, wild roses and sweet fern with here and there a small pond around which and nestling among the many graceful grasses grow the beautiful pink marsh-mallows, buttercups and violets. Many of the beauty spots lie hidden among the **HILLS**, away from the main thoroughfares and to see which it will be necessary to turn off into the old deep rutted roads which form a network over the **MOORS** or wander along the bluffs where an occasional patch of **IRISH BROOM** or **SCOTCH HEATHER** blooming in all its native beauty may be found. **ARTISTS** and **BOTANISTS** will find a wealth of material in store.

Although **NEVER THICKLY WOODED** much of the timber used for building purposes in the earlier days was of island growth. Today no large trees are found outside of the town, but





Centre Street

groves of sturdy dwarf pine, scrub oaks and cedars are scattered here and there about the island. Several attempts at **REFORESTATION** have been made. In 1847 Josiah Sturgis planted the grove of pines to the east of the fair grounds. Between 1875 and 1877, 40,000 Scotch larch and Scotch pine or fir trees, imported from Scotland by G. B. Emerson of Winthrop, Mass., were set out near Miacomet Pond. In 1912 the setting out of 80,000 young white pine trees was begun under the supervision of the State Forester. The tract is south of the fair grounds and 75 acres in extent. Nantucket's fine **OLD ELMS**, one of the most attractive features of the town, were set out in 1851. The **BUTTON-WOOD** on Main Street, corner of Ray's Court, is the **OLDEST TREE** on the

island; it was planted in 1793. On the east side of Centre Street, opposite Quince Street, there stood until 1918 a willow tree, from the plot which contained Napoleon's grave on St. Helena. It was taken down to avoid accident, being badly decayed. Two of the three trees originally planted were blown down. The slips were brought to the island in 1842 by Capt. William Plaskett, of Nantucket, in the whaleship "Napoleon," whose name-board hangs in the "keeping room" at the "Oldest House."

Numerous large boulders on the face of the hills, which traverse the northern portion of the island proper and extend due east and west, record the **MORAIN OF THE GLACIER**, which, melting at its contact with the Gulf Stream, formed the island of Nantucket. Many of them have been broken up and used for road building material. Near, and to the west of, Gibbs Pond is one of these large boulders around which an iron fence has been placed with the hope of preserving it.



From the Tower Looking Toward the North Shore

T h e T o w n o f N a n t u c k e t

This interesting and picturesque old town, located on a beautiful harbor about midway of the island, is charming in its quaintness and in the simplicity of the design of its fine old buildings, many of them dating back beyond the days when Nantucket led the world in the whaling industry.

On the housetops the queer little "roof-walks," from which it was customary to view the surrounding waters and watch for the incoming whale ships, are still in evidence, while the ivy-grown houses, well kept yards and pretty flower gardens attract the eye. Stately shade trees line the walks, arching over the streets and winding thoroughfares, many of which are modern surfaced while on others the old cobble paving still remains, peculiarly adapted to the artistic surroundings and preserving the same air of refinement and substantiality for which the old town is famous. Nantucket is the **COUNTY SEAT** of Nantucket County and has a **POPULATION** of 3,000 augmented during the summer months by thousands of visitors.

The island affairs are administered by a **BOARD OF SELECTMEN** elected at the annual **TOWN MEETING** held in February, assisted by a Board of Health, Civic League and S. P. C. A. Society. The annual "**CATTLE SHOW**" and fair is held the latter part of August and the exhibits are varied and interesting. Farm products and fine specimens from the tested herds are displayed while horse racing and various other sports add to the pleasure of the occasion.





From the Tower Looking Toward the South Shore

During the summer, with the exception of one Sunday boat, **STEAMBOATS** arrive from and depart twice daily for Woods Hole and New Bedford on the mainland: Woods Hole, **BOSTON CONNECTION**, and New Bedford for Taunton, Fall River and Providence, also **NEW YORK CONNECTION** via Sound steamers, New Bedford line from New Bedford, Fall River line from Fall River. Communication with the mainland may be had by **TELEPHONE**, also by **TELEGRAPH**, both cable and wireless. All parts of the island can be reached by telephone.



Quince Street

and amusement of the summer visitors.

The **HOTELS** are first class and there are excellent boarding houses, many private houses having rooms for rent. There is a **POSTOFFICE**, National **BANK**, Institution for Savings, six churches, Town Hall, schools, **LIBRARY**, antique shops and moving picture theatres. Band concerts are frequently given on the "Square." The "Inquirer and Mirror," the only newspaper published on the island, is issued every Friday afternoon. Gas, electricity and ice are furnished by local enterprises. The **NANTUCKET COTTAGE HOSPITAL** is open to all, while the services of excellent physicians and dentists are to be had. **WATER OF THE PUREST QUALITY** is furnished the town, which has an efficient fire department and sewerage system and is well supplied with all necessities incident to the health, convenience



The South Beach and Monomy

H i s t o r y o f N a n t u c k e t

Nantucket, meaning "at the land far off at sea," was **DISCOVERED** in 1602 by Bartholomew Gosnold, an English mariner, who, in a small bark with 28 companions, sailed from Falmouth in April of that year with the intention of establishing a colony in America. In May they reached the shores of New England, near Nahant, in Massachusetts Bay, but not being favorably impressed with the surroundings they reembarked and sailed around Cape Cod, so named by them on account of the quantity of codfish caught in the neighboring waters, passing close to Nantucket, Marthas Vineyard and the Elizabeth islands, from which group they selected Cuttyhunk and established a settlement. They remained but a few months when they decided, owing to fear of the Indians and lack of food supplies for the winter, to return to England, their venture, except for the furs and sassafras root which they had accumulated, ending in failure.

That Nantucket was in reality discovered many years before there is little doubt, for it is reasonable to suppose that the shores were visited in 1002 by Eric the Red, a famous Norwegian sailor, but positive proof is lacking.

The **PILGRIMS**, upon reaching this side of the Atlantic, sailed close to the shores of Nantucket, and the "Mayflower" was nearly wrecked on Nantucket shoals, causing them to give up further venture and return to Massachusetts Bay, which they had just left, having determined, after hastily viewing the country along shore, to seek a landing place and establish a settlement near the Hudson River.

The **CLAIM OF THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT** to these islands, by right of discovery, was based upon the voyage of John Cabot and his son Sebastian, who, in 1498, cruised along the coast from Florida to Labrador.



Near Commercial Wharf

In 1635, William, **EARL OF STERLING**, obtained the grant, including the islands south of Cape Cod, from the "Council for the Affairs of New England," known as the Plymouth Company, created by King James I in 1621, for the purpose of encouraging and establishing colonial settlements in America.

In 1637 **JAMES FORRETT** came to New York, appointed by Lord Sterling as his agent to dispose of and settle the territory thus acquired. In October, 1641, some twenty years after the landing of the Pilgrims, Forrett **SOLD THE ISLAND** of Nantucket to **THOMAS MAYHEW** and his son Thomas, who sailed for England in 1657 and was never again heard from. In February, 1659, the elder Mayhew for "**30 POUNDS CURRENT PAY AND TWO BEAVER HATS**, one for myself and one for my wife," sold all but one-tenth interest, which included that part of the island called Quaise, to nine others, viz.: Tristram Coffin, Sr., Christopher Hussey, Richard Swaine, Thomas Barnard, Peter Coffin, Stephen Greenleaf, John Swaine, Thomas Macy and William Pile. Each purchaser chose an associate, viz.: John Smith, Nathaniel Starbuck, Robert Pike, Thomas Look, Robert Barnard, James Coffin, Tristram Coffin, Jr., Thomas Coleman and Edward Starbuck. The tenth part which belonged to William Pile was divided one-half to John Bishop and one-half to William Mary, Ann and Martha Bunker. These were the purchasers who bought the right of the Indian sachems to the island. When the settlers arrived the island was inhabited by 700 **INDIANS**; one hundred years later there remained but 358; in 1763-4, 222 were carried away by disease, the remainder gradually disappearing, the last full blooded Indian, Dorcas Honorable, dying in 1822.

The main settlement of the Indians was just north of Miacomet pond although the last settlement was at Squam, on the west bank of Sacacha Pond—near Quidnet, where three wigwams were standing in 1795. In 1917, at Quaise, the skeletons of two Indians and a dog were found buried on the edge of the bluff overlooking the beach; arrow heads and broken pottery were found nearby. The relics were placed in the Historical Association Museum for preservation.

A half-breed by the name of Abram Quarry, the last man with Indian blood in his veins, died in 1854, aged 82 years and 10 months. He lived on Abram's point on the south side of Nantucket harbor, not far from an old Indian burying ground.

Thomas Macy, Edward Starbuck and Thomas Coleman, representing the **SETTLERS**, spent the winter of 1658-9 on the island, building their hut at Maddaket. They came to confer with the Indians in regard to purchasing certain rights and privileges from them and to determine the best location for their dwellings. Satisfactory arrangements having been made for the lands to be used by them, an agreement was made with the Indian sachems, Wanackmamack and Nickanoose, to sell certain parts of the island. This agreement was concluded in 1665 by the payment of 12 pounds cash and 14 pounds within three months.

In June, 1661, the settlers then living in Amesbury and Salisbury, Massachusetts, embarked for their new home accompanied by Peter Folger of Marthas Vineyard, an interpreter of the Indian language and whose daughter was the mother of Benjamin Franklin. They landed at Cupaun harbor, now Cupaun pond (closed by a storm about the year 1700), and built their homes not far distant (site of **TRISTRAM COFFIN'S HOUSE** marked by granite post just southwest of the pond) and took up fishing, farming and **SHEEP RAISING** as a means of obtaining a livelihood. The territory obtained from the Indians outside of the dwelling sites was held in

common and was used by all for sheep grazing. The number of sheep any one person could own was determined by the proportion of his interests in the original island shares, to the land available for such purpose. It was agreed that an acre of common land was sufficient to maintain one sheep, hence the term "**SHEEP COMMONS**," an expression readily understood by the Indians. In 1775 the flocks numbered over 15,000 head and the annual **SHEARING**, which commenced on the Monday nearest the 20th of June, was the occasion for a general celebration and in later years many strangers from the mainland, called "coofs" by the islanders, came to attend the festivities. The western shear-pen



Site of
Tristram Coffin's
House



was located near Maxcys pond and the eastern near Gibbs pond; when the eastern shearing was finished the western commenced. The last shearing occurred in 1847, at which time the shear-pen was located near Miacomet pond. The **FIRST WHITE CHILD** born on the island was Mary Starbuck in 1663.

Tristram Coffin was the **FIRST CHIEF MAGISTRATE** of the island and was appointed in 1671 by Governor Lovelace of **NEW YORK**, to which colony the island belonged, and to whom was paid an "annual tax of **FOUR BARRELS OF MERCHANTABLE CODFISH.**" The name of the town at that

time was **SHERBURNE.**

The **FIRST ROAD** extended from the settlement to the harbor, being the same as West Chester and Chester Streets of today. The **FIRST CHURCH**, school house, town house and jail were on this road and stood near Maxcys pond (see Wannacomet Water Works, page 44) about one mile west from the junction of West Chester and North Liberty Streets. In 1666 a **GRIST MILL** was built near Chester Street, between Centre and North Water Streets, on the bank of the **LILY POND** brook, which emptied into the harbor, and in 1676 a fulling mill was built and operated nearby.

The Lily pond, at this time called "Wesquo" pond, was large and deep and covered the area inclosed by West Chester, Centre, Lily and North Liberty Streets. Gull Island, so called because of the gulls which used to frequent it, was surrounded by water and the **LILY POND DAM** was located near the corner of Centre and Chester Streets. In 1722 a little girl dug a gutter across the dam to see the water run and the next morning the dam was gone, the fulling mill carried away and several small boats, lying in the creek, stove to pieces. In 1673 the **TOWN WAS MOVED** to its present site, known to the Indians as "Wesquo," meaning "a bright stone," retaining the name of Sherburne until 1795 when it was **CHANGED TO NANTUCKET.** In 1692 the island was annexed to the province of Massachusetts.

In 1723 the **FIRST WIND MILL** was erected on Mill Hills and the **FIRST WHARF**, "Straight Wharf," was built at the foot of State Street, name changed to **MAIN STREET** in 1835 and paved with cobbles two years later.

In 1772 a fulling and coloring mill was built over a small stream at Polpis and operated for 25 years. The manufacture of duck started in 1792, the population at that time numbering close to 6,000, of which one-half were **QUAKERS.** In 1797 the **STREETS** were **NAMED** and the manufacture of cut nails, probably the first made in this country, commenced. **SHIPBUILDING** started on Brant point in 1810 and two years



The Lifesavers Landing in the Surf at South Shore

later a woolen factory, employing 200 people, was built on New North Wharf operating successfully for a number of years. The "Nantucket Gazette," the **FIRST NEWSPAPER** published on the island, made its appearance in 1816, and in 1821 the localities known as Middle Pasture, North Pasture, Smooth Hummocks, Trotts Hills, Maddaket and Head of Plains were laid out, some of the earlier divisions being Great Neck, Foot of Plains, The Woods, Monomoy, South Pasture, Southeast Quarter, Plainfield, Squam, Coskata, Polpis, Shimmo, Shawkemo and Quaise, the portion reserved by Thomas Mayhew for himself.

The **FIRST POWDER HOUSE**, where powder was stored with which to blow up buildings in case of fire, was built in 1823, and in 1831 fourteen humane houses were built about the shores of the island by the **MASSACHUSETTS HUMANE SOCIETY**, some of them equipped with lifeboats, etc., while others were houses of refuge offering shelter to the shipwrecked mariner.

In 1840 a system of communication, by means of **SIGNAL POLES** with movable arms at the top, was established between Nantucket and the mainland. The signal pole station on Nantucket stood at the highest point on the Cliff, similar poles being located on the islands of Tuckernuck and Muskeget Edgartown and West Chop on Marthas Vineyard, and Woods Hole on the mainland, messages being transmitted according to prearranged code and relayed from station to station. The system, while expensive, was maintained for about six years, gradually falling into disuse as the decline in the whaling industry set in and the necessity for communication between the islands became less important.



Pacific National Bank and Methodist Church

In 1845 Nantucket had 14 **SCHOOLS**. In 1800 a private academy was erected near the site of the present High School at the head of Gay Street, erected in 1856, replacing the original high school built in 1836. The locality has since been called Academy Hill.

The **GREAT FIRE** of July 13, 1846, destroyed a million dollars worth of property, wiping out the entire business section of the town, including many of the finest buildings. Starting Monday evening at 11 o'clock in a tailor shop which stood near the corner of Main and Union Streets, the fire burned all night and extended in a wide swath, which reached from the "North Church" to the "South Tower" and to the harbor, the boundaries being marked by white **MARBLE BLOCKS** at the street corners. As the fire spread to the wharves the oil from the bursting barrels caught fire and the harbor appeared to be ablaze as the burning oil flowed over the water. Before rebuilding, **MAIN STREET** below the **PACIFIC BANK** building, erected in 1818, was widened by 20 feet on the north side, thus forming the "**SQUARE**."

In 1854 **GAS** was lighted for the first time and the town asylum called "Our Island Home" erected. Two years later an attempt was made to connect Nantucket by **CABLE** with the mainland. The cable was laid from Great Point to Monomoy island but was out of commission in a few hours; it was pulled ashore and the following year was laid from Nantucket to the mainland via Tuckernuck, Muskeget and Marthas Vineyard. The section between the Vineyard and the mainland was soon out of commission but for several years fair



Summer Residence on Cliff Road

service was maintained between Nantucket and the Vineyard. In 1886 a cable was laid by the Government connecting Nantucket with the mainland and a weather bureau station established. The "**WIRELESS**" at 'Sconset was installed in 1901 and telephone connection with the mainland was established in 1916 when a submarine **TELEPHONE CABLE** was laid and placed in operation by the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co.

The **FIRST STEAMBOAT** to run between the island and the mainland was the "Eagle," which crossed the Sound in 1818, but many years elapsed before steamboats were running with any degree of regularity, sailing vessels being depended upon for communication with the ports of New Bedford, Boston, New York, Albany and Baltimore and a fair schedule was maintained by these "**PACKETS,**" the last of which was the sloop "Tawtemeo," which remained in service until 1881.

It was not until 1870 that Nantucket, on account of its **CLIMATE SO WONDERFULLY BENEFICIAL** for recuperative purposes, began to attract attention as a **SUMMER RESORT,** since which time it has steadily grown in popularity. The population since 1875 has averaged about 3,000, whose occupation, besides the entertainment of summer visitors, is fishing, farming and the cultivation of cranberries.



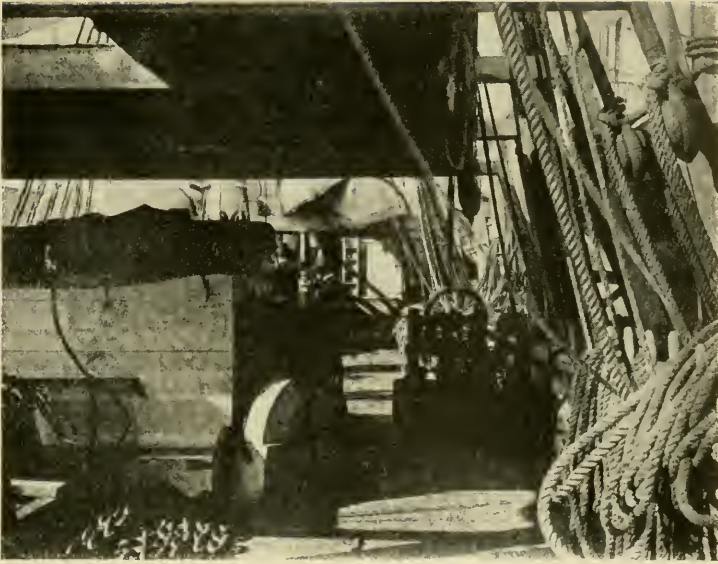
Old Whaler "Morning Star"

The illustrations of this old whaleship are from photographs taken by the writer the day before she sailed on a cruise which lasted four years, returning safely with a cargo of oil.

The Nantucket Whale Fishery

Thirty years after the settlers had taken up their abode on the island or about the year 1690, the catching of whales commenced. It was evident from the number of dead whales washed ashore (which it had been agreed that the Indians should have) that the waters about them held in store an additional means of obtaining a livelihood. Whales were frequently seen spouting and sporting in the sea not far from shore and to devise a method of capture was a problem which they undertook to solve. That they were successful was evidenced by the fact that whales were soon being taken by means of small boats which put out from shore. The south side of the island was divided into four beats and **MASTS WERE ERECTED** on the bluffs bordering the beach where lookouts with horns were stationed to call the boat crews, made up of 6 men each, and point out to them the whereabouts of the whale. After capture the whales were towed ashore to the **TRIWORKS** on the beach, where the oil was extracted, placed in barrels and carted across the island.

The growth of the industry was rapid and in the course of a few years, about 1712, sloops and even small schooners were fitted out for short voyages. **STRAIGHT WHARF** was built in 1720. In 1773 three Nantucket whale ships, the "Dartmouth," "Beaver" and "Bedford," belonging to the firm of William Rotch & Sons, sailed for London with cargoes of oil;



Deck of the Old Whaler "Morning Star"

after unloading they were chartered to bring cargoes of **TEA TO BOSTON**. Upon their arrival the tea was promptly thrown overboard, thus making a familiar bit of history. At the breaking out of **THE REVOLUTION**, in 1775, the fleet numbered 140 seagoing craft, including brigs of considerable size. The war proved a severe blow to the industry, the vessels being nearly all lost by capture.

After the **PEACE OF 1783** business was revived, larger vessels were built and longer voyages taken. Capt. Timothy Folger of Nantucket was first to chart the course of the **GULF STREAM**, voyages up and down the coast leading to its discovery. The **FIRST SHIP TO FLY THE AMERICAN FLAG** in a British port was the "Bedford," Capt. Mooers, from Nantucket. She arrived in The Downs, February 6, 1783, loaded with 487 butts of whale oil. The cruising grounds were no longer confined to the Atlantic and in 1791 the ships of Nantucket became the **PIONEERS OF THE PACIFIC** whale fishery and thirty islands were discovered by them. The first whaler to round Cape Horn was the ship "Beaver," Capt. Paul Worth.

During the **WAR WITH ENGLAND**, 1812-14, many vessels were lost and the inhabitants suffered the greatest distress. After the declaration of peace the industry was prosecuted with renewed energy; new and larger vessels were added to the fleet and the wharves, lined with whale ships and strewn with anchors, tripots, spars, whale boats, timber, oil casks, etc., were alive with busy workmen, stevedores, coopers and truckmen, while the riggers and ship carpenters were putting



Deck of the Old Whaler "Morning Star"

everything in readiness for the renewal of business. In 1822, **85 WHALE SHIPS** hailed from Nantucket and the voyages were becoming more and more successful. In 1830 the ship "Sarah" brought home the **LARGEST CARGO OF SPERM** oil ever taken, 3,497 barrels, value \$98,000. In 1838 the ship "Joseph Starbuck" was built on Brant Point.

In 1840 Nantucket had a population of 9,712 and was the **LARGEST WHALING PORT** in the world. **SHIPBUILDING** was carried on quite extensively on Brant Point and nearly everything to meet the local demand was manufactured and included whale boats, blocks, pumps, hoop rivets, nails, harpoons, lances, knives, candles, duck, boots, shoes, brushes, bellows, silk, straw and cordage of all kinds, such as standing and running rigging, bolt rope, worm line, marline, spun yarn, whale lines, twine, etc. Ten **ROPE WALKS**, 36 oil and **CANDLE HOUSES**, several tanneries and an iron and brass foundry were in operation besides numerous sail and rig lofts, spar yards, 11 blacksmiths, 22 **COOPER SHOPS** where casks and candle boxes were made.

Nantucket was the first place to manufacture **SPERM OIL AND CANDLES**, the spermaceti from which the candles were made was separated from the oil. Later whale and elephant oils were included. The **GREATEST NUMBER OF WHALE SHIPS** at any one time was 90. As the larger ships of greater draft were built the difficulty in passing to and fro over the **BAR** (about where the jetties end) increased, the water even at high tide being too shallow to permit them to pass freely and it became necessary for many of them to fit out at Old Town (now Edgartown) on Marthas Vineyard, or New Bedford, on the mainland. In 1842 Peter F. Ewer



Old Candle House

sought to overcome this difficulty by the invention of the "**CAMELS.**" These were twin floats resembling in appearance a large scow 135 feet long, secured one to the other by heavy chains. The inner sides were shaped to fit approximately the hull of a ship. They were floated, with chains let down, one on each side of the ship, having first been submerged to the proper depth by allowing the water to flow in. The chains were then hove taut and the water pumped out lifting the ship bodily between them as they arose higher and higher out of the water. Although the "Camels" had their own power it was customary for the steamer to tow them in; as the affair was clumsy and unmanageable, they were unsatisfactory, and after several years use were abandoned.

In 1859 the ship "Three Brothers," Capt. Charles E. Cleveland, returned with 6,000 barrels of oil, the **LARGEST CARGO** ever taken. The **LAST WHALE** tried out on Nantucket was on the bark "Amy" while lying at the Old North Wharf in 1870, although two whales captured in 1886 were tried out on Tuckernuck yielding oil and bone worth \$2,400.

Nantucket's **MOST SUCCESSFUL WHALING MASTER** was Capt. Charles Grant. He was born in 1814 and "rounded the Horn" on his first voyage at the age of eleven. He spent 56 years of his life aboard whale ships sailing seven voyages as master, his wife accompanying him from 1849 to 1881, and their children were born aboard ship. On one voyage of about four years he returned with a cargo of 3,000 barrels of sperm oil and 16 pounds of ambergris, valued at \$180,000. While



sailing as master he brought home 17,000 barrels of oil and more sperm oil than any other whaling master, one voyage netting him \$24,000. After 1859 he sailed from Fairhaven and New Bedford. He died in Nantucket March 18, 1906, aged 91 years and 9 months.

In 1913 Capt. Thaddeus C. Defriez, the **LAST WHALING MASTER**, died.

The decline of the whaling industry dated from the fall in the price of oil, in 1842, due to the growing popularity of lard oil and the discovery of mineral oil fields. Other ports were growing in importance and the business was being overdone. Whales were becoming scarce, voyages of four years very often ending in failure. A great fire in 1846 destroyed nearly \$1,000,000 worth of property and the gold fever of 1849 drew heavily upon the male population of the town. The **LAST WHALE SHIP** sailed in 1869 and the industry, so far as Nantucket was concerned, became extinct, although for many years it was the headquarters of the American whale fishery and the people of the island its pioneers.



Old Fish Cart and Oil Truck



The Nantucket Historical Association

Nantucket Historical Association—Museum

From Main Street, take Fair Street. **OPEN DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY, 9 TO 5. ADMISSION 15 CENTS.**

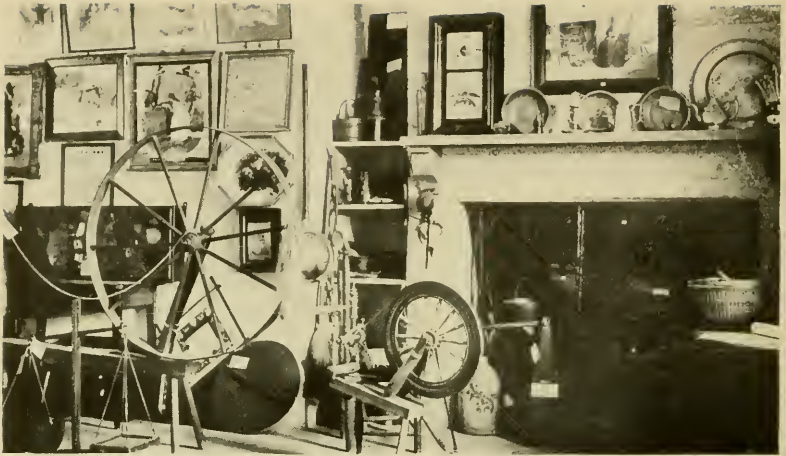
Adjoining the Friends' Meetinghouse on Fair Street is the new building of the Historical Association, in which is a **MUSEUM**, considered one of the best in the State.

The Association was organized in May, 1894, and incorporated two months later, with headquarters in the old meetinghouse, which they bought during the year. In 1904 the Association erected the present fireproof building to insure the preservation of the many old records and articles of historical interest which they have on exhibition.

The **DEED FROM THE INDIANS** to Edward Starbuck, dated 1665, is carefully preserved, and among the exhibits can be seen many fine specimens of "scrimshont" work. In the basement is an old time oil truck.

One of the most interesting exhibits is the **JAW OF A SPERM WHALE**, taken in the Pacific Ocean by the bark "Islander," Capt. Cash of Nantucket. It measures 17 feet in length, weighs 800 pounds, and has 46 teeth. The length of the whale was 87 feet, circumference 36 feet, weight about 200 tons and yield of oil 110 barrels.

In the vestibule of the new building is a **MEMORIAL TABLET** upon which is inscribed the names of the 21 Nantucket



A Corner in the Museum

sailors who served on the "Ranger" and "Bon Homme Richard," under Commodore John Paul Jones, in the Revolutionary War, and that of Lieut. Pinkham, U. S. N., of Nantucket, whose personal efforts were the means of preserving the birthplace of John Paul Jones at Arbigland, Scotland, in 1831.

At the entrance to the Association building, set in the ground and properly inscribed, is the **DOORSTONE** of Benjamin Tashma, who died in 1770. He was the grandson of sachem Autopscot and grandfather of Dorcas Honorable, the last full-blooded Indian. His "Wigwam" stood just beyond the fifth milestone on the 'Sconset road. He was buried near the head of Miacomet Pond.



Northern,
Meridian
Stone

The **MONUMENTS** set in the sidewalk in front of the Association building and on Main Street opposite the end of Fair Street mark the town's meridian (north and south line). They were placed in position by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The **OLD MEETINGHOUSE** was built by the Friends in 1838, being originally used by them as a school. It was transformed into a place of worship in 1864 and used as such until the last member of the society on the island passed away. The furnishings and arrangements are the same as in former years.

The old mill, in the south part of the town, and the Gardner House in 'Sconset belong to the Association.



Old Windmill

The Old Mill

From Main Street, take Pleasant to South Mill Street. **ADMISSION 15 CENTS.**

On Popsquatchet Hills, just southwest of the town and in that locality known as the "**MILL HILLS**," stands the Old Mill. It was **BUILT** in 1746, the date cut in the doorstep, and the timbers used in its construction are said to have grown just across Dead Horse Valley, to the south. Upon examination it would appear that the larger timbers are ship timbers and it is probable that they were taken from wreckage cast upon the shore or from some old hulk unfit for further use.

In 1776, **THREE MILLS** were in operation on the hills, the one now standing being known as the "East Mill" and the westernmost as the "Spider Mill," which stood on the site of Prospect Hill Cemetery. The **FIRST WINDMILL**, built in 1723, was blown up in 1836 to ascertain the effect of blowing up buildings with powder in case of fire.

During the **REVOLUTION** the vanes of the mills were set to warn incoming shipping of the approach of British vessels. The Mill is now the property of the Historical Association and was purchased in 1897 to insure its preservation.



Old Coffin House

The Oldest House on the Island

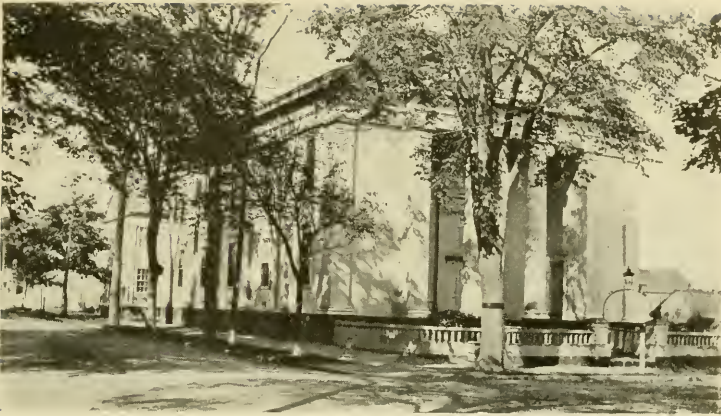
From Main Street Square, take Centre Street, West Chester and Sunset Hill Streets. **OPEN FROM 9 TO 12 AND 2 TO 5. ADMISSION 15 CENTS.** This route passes **OLD NORTH VESTRY**—First CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (page 34).

An interesting relic of the earlier days of Nantucket is the old **JETHRO COFFIN HOUSE, BUILT** in 1686. It stands on **SUNSET HILL**, faces south and has a huge **HORSESHOE** formed of brick on the front of the chimney, put there possibly to keep out the witches. It was a wedding gift to Mary Gardner and Jethro Coffin and was built for them by Peter Coffin on land given by John Gardner, fathers of the bride and groom.

Among the interesting features are the old **FIREPLACES** built of large **BRICKS** laid in mortar made from **LIME** obtained from seashells, and the winding **STAIRWAYS**, ship knee **BRACES** at the corners, the original **FLOOR BOARDS**, split cedar **LATH** and hand made **NAILS**. The **OLD HEADSTONE** which marked the site of the oldest burying ground is placed here for preservation. The little **OPENING NEAR THE DOOR**, through which to observe those seeking admittance, was also a most desirable feature when it is remembered that several hundred **INDIANS** roamed at will about the island.

The northeast corner of the house was destroyed by fire many years ago and repairs were made without regard to the original rectangular lines.

Within a stone's throw, and southeast of the Coffin House, stands the **OLD PADDOCK HOUSE**, built in 1720.

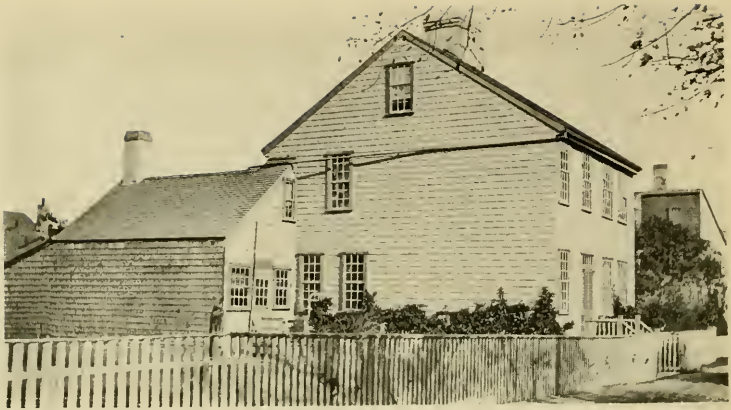


The Nantucket Atheneum

Public Library—Atheneum

The Atheneum is on Federal Street—a short distance from Main Street Square. The library occupies the lower floor of the building and numbers nearly **15,000 VOLUMES**. All the leading magazines and reviews are found in the reading room.

STARTING IN 1820 WITH 26 VOLUMES when “The Nantucket Mechanics Social Library Society” was formed, the Library has grown to its present proportions. In 1823 another society was started called “The Columbian Library Society,” which, after an existence of four years, combined with the first as the “United Library Association.” In 1836 a lot on Main Street was offered the association, provided the sum of \$3,500 was raised with which to erect a suitable building, \$4,200 was realized, but the lot being small it was exchanged with the proprietors of the Universalist Church and their building, which was purchased, was fitted up as a library and the association incorporated as “**THE NANTUCKET ATHENEUM.**” The Church building was destroyed in the great fire of 1846 and from the insurance thereon the **PRESENT STRUCTURE, OPENED IN 1847**, was erected. Above the library is a **HALL**. The museum, which for many years occupied a room in this building, has been placed in the fireproof structure of the Historical Association on Fair Street.



Birthplace of Maria Mitchell

Maria Mitchell Birthplace and Memorial

Main Street to **SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT** (page 31).
Milk Street to Vestal Street. **OPEN DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY, FROM
9.30 TO 12 AND 2.30 TO 5. ADMISSION 15 CENTS.**

This old house, now the property of the **MARIA MITCHELL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION** of Vassar graduates and others, founded in 1902, was **BUILT** in 1790 and stands on Vestal Street, just west of Milk Street, where in August, 1818, this noted astronomer was born.

In 1847 while studying with her father, whose observatory stood on the southwest corner of Gardner and North Liberty Streets, she **DISCOVERED THE COMET** which bears her name and received, from the King of Denmark, a gold medal offered for the discovery of a new comet. Upon being **PRESENTED WITH A TELESCOPE** in 1858 she built an observatory which stood just back of the Coffin School and in 1863 was made **PROFESSOR OF ASTRONOMY** and director of the observatory at Vassar College, which position she held until 1888, when on account of failing health she retired, being made professor emeritus, her death occurring in 1889. In the yard of the Vestal Street house stands the fireproof **MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY**, a square brick building with revolving dome, built by subscription in 1908 and equipped with the telescope presented to Prof. Mitchell in 1858. To women astronomers the Association offers an astronomical fellowship of \$1,000. The **LIBRARY** contains many interesting books relating to Nantucket.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument

Main Street to **MONUMENT SQUARE.**

IN 1874, with the money raised by local subscription, the monument was erected in memory of the 74 fellow-townsmen who gave up their lives in battle during the Civil War. Nantucket gained the distinction of "**BANNER TOWN**" of the commonwealth, by sending into the army and navy 339 men, 56 more than her quota.

For the base of the monument was used one of the millstones from the "**ROUND TOP MILL,**" which stood on the hill in what is now the North Cemetery. It was taken down in 1873.



Brant Point

From Main Street Square, take Federal, Broad, Beach and Easton Streets. **THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE.** Passes the **ATHENEUM—PUBLIC LIBRARY** (page 29), and the **NANTUCKET ATHLETIC CLUB.**

As a **CONTINUOUS LIGHTHOUSE SITE** this is the **OLDEST IN AMERICA**, and the second lighthouse on this side of the Atlantic was **ERECTED** here in 1746. The first



Old Lighthouse, Brant Point



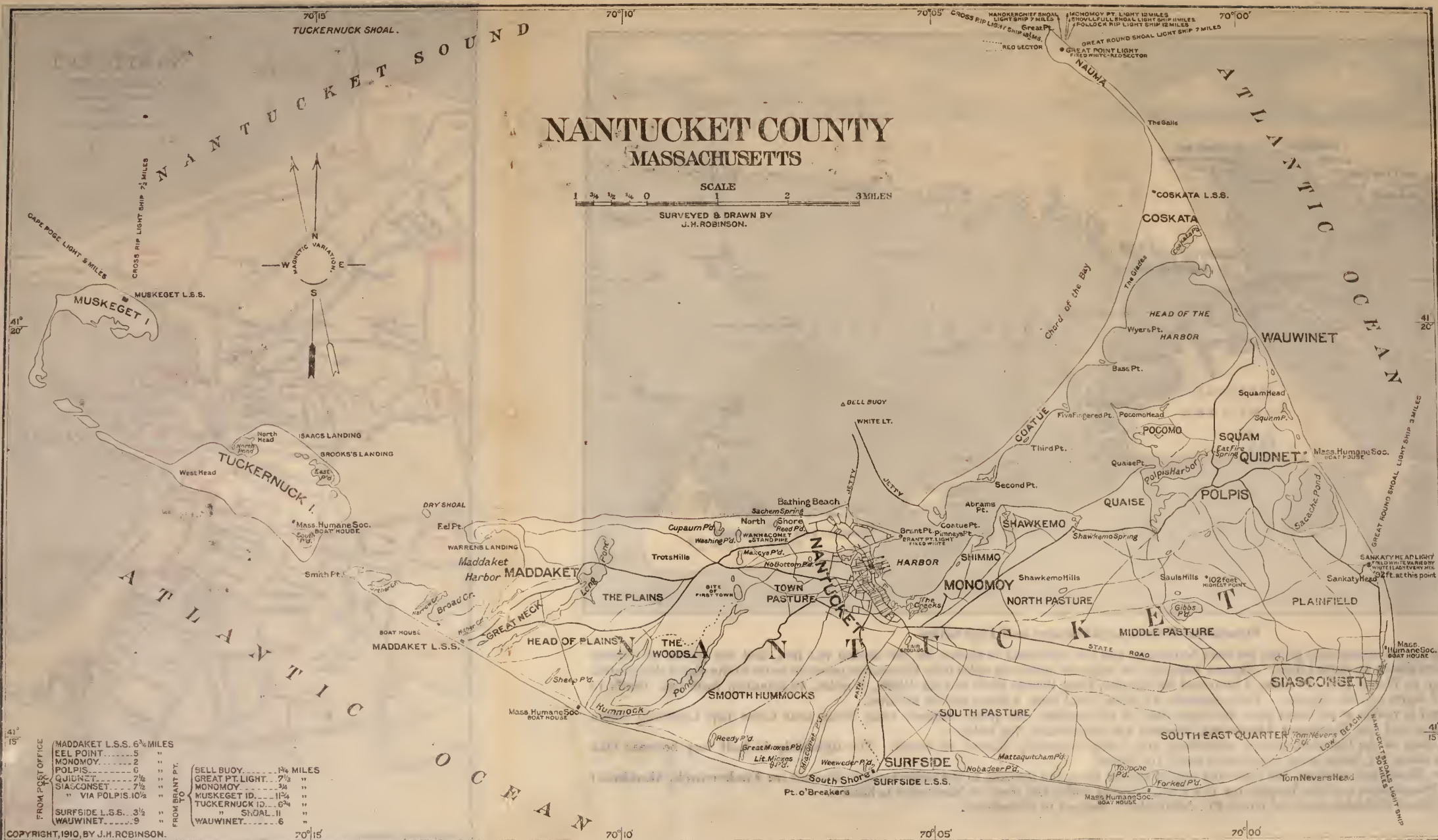
Nantucket Athletic Club

lighthouse was built on Great Brewster island, Boston Harbor, in 1716, but in 1754 this site was abandoned and the light has since been maintained on Little Brewster, now called Lighthouse island. The third lighthouse was erected at New London, Connecticut, about twenty years later.

Brant Point light was not controlled by the Government until 1795, being among the first eight taken over at that time. No less than **TEN LIGHTHOUSES** have been built on this point, and two are standing at the present time, the others having been blown down or destroyed by fire.

The small white **LIGHTHOUSE ON THE TIP OF THE POINT**, which guards the entrance to the harbor, was **BUILT** in 1901. The **LIGHT** is 26 feet above the water, of **490 CANDLE-POWER**, and is visible $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The lantern was taken from the **OLD TOWER** standing 600 feet west, which was built in 1856, the change in location being due to the making out of the point. The new **RANGE LIGHTS** of skeleton construction, erected in 1908, were made necessary by changing the course of the dredged channel, since which time the old cliff range beacons, erected in 1838 near the bathing beach, have been discontinued. All lights on the point are fixed white.

In former years a **ROPEWALK** stood near the point and **SALTWORKS** were in operation, considerable quantities of sea salt being obtained. **SHIPYARDS** were located on the harbor side and shipbuilding was carried on quite extensively, two marine railways being available for the removal of the larger vessels from the water.



Distance TO THE Horizon

BEGINNING with five feet, the height of the average eye above the water when standing at the water's edge, the table below will give the distance at which an entire object can be seen from the height given.

Feet	Stat. Miles	Feet	Stat. Miles
5	2.95	280	22.12
10	4.14	290	22.50
15	5.11	300	22.89
20	5.90	310	23.28
25	6.59	320	23.65
30	7.23	330	24.01
35	7.82	340	24.38
40	8.35	350	24.74
45	8.86	360	25.08
50	9.34	370	25.43
55	9.80	380	25.77
60	10.24	390	26.11
65	10.65	400	26.44
70	11.06	410	26.77
75	11.44	420	27.09
80	11.82	430	27.42
85	12.18	440	27.73
90	12.54	450	28.03
95	12.78	460	28.35
100	13.21	470	28.66
110	13.86	480	28.95
120	14.47	490	29.26
130	15.07	500	29.56
140	15.65	510	29.85
150	16.17	520	30.14
160	16.71	530	30.43
170	17.22	540	30.72
180	17.73	550	30.99
190	18.21	560	31.29
200	18.68	570	31.57
210	19.14	580	31.84
220	19.60	590	32.12
230	20.05	600	32.38
240	20.47	620	32.93
250	20.89	650	33.71
260	21.31	700	34.98
270	21.72	750	36.20



Steamboat Route, Lighthouses and Lightships

The route traveled by the steamboats plying between Nantucket and the mainland is shown by the dotted red line, and the points of interest visible on a clear day are shown by dotted lines. Figures indicate the distance in statute miles from the nearest point on route to the object designated.

From New Bedford to Woods Hole, 16 miles, 1 hour and 20 minutes; from Woods Hole to Oak Bluffs, 8 miles, 40 minutes; from Oak Bluffs to Nantucket, 30 miles, 2 hours and 30 minutes. Total distance, 54 miles; total time, 4 hours and 30 minutes.

On a clear day land is visible at all times from the upper deck of the steamer, the point farthest away being near Cross Rip Lightship where Cape Poge Lighthouse and the Muskeget Lifesaving Station are equidistant, 7½ miles.

The route passes close to the lightship, papers, magazines, etc., being frequently thrown on board. The lightship is half way between Oak Bluffs and Nantucket, about 1¼ hours being required to reach the wharf.

In addition to the Muskeget station, the following points appear along the horizon, in the order named: Houses on Tuckernuck, Maddaket Lifesaving Station, Standpipe, and the houses on the Cliff, back of which the town of Nantucket is hidden.

Note.—Shovelful Shoal (lightship north of Great Pt., Nantucket) changed to Stonehorse.





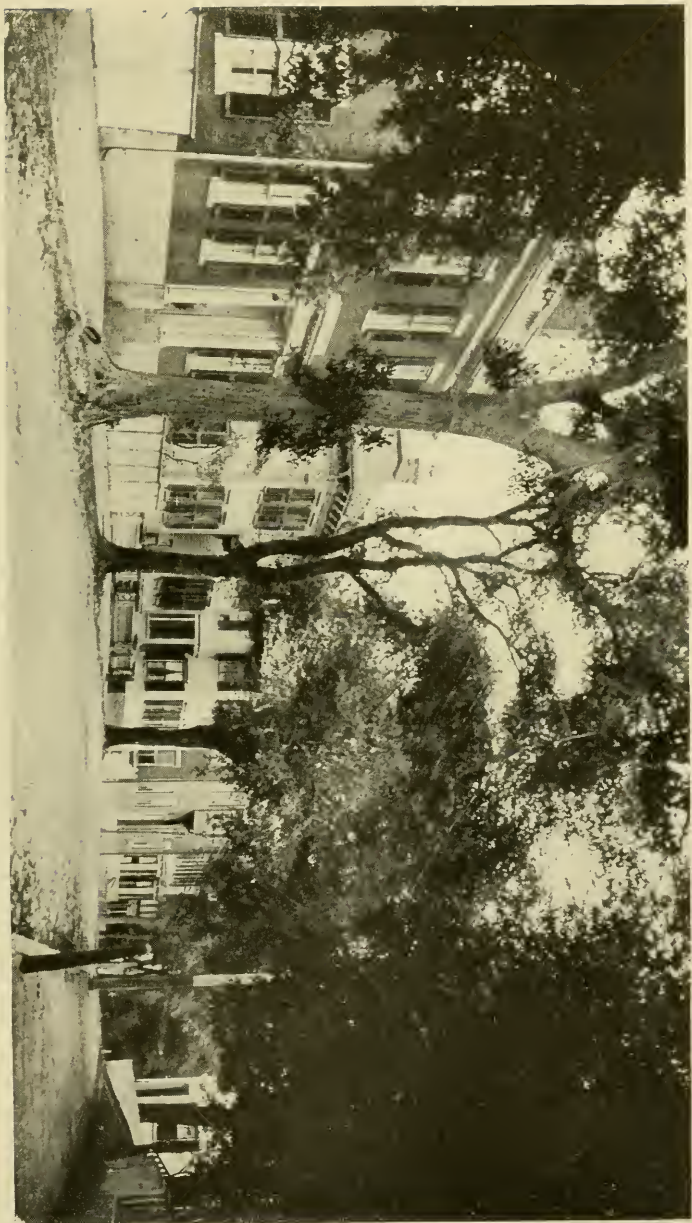
houses and Lightships

The mainland is shown by the dotted red line, and the points of interest once in statute miles from the nearest point on route to the object designated. From Woods Hole to Oak Bluffs, 8 miles, 40 minutes; from Oak Bluffs to Nantucket, 4 hours and 30 minutes.

For a steamer, the point farthest away being near Cross Rip Lightship where the lightship is distant, 7 1/2 miles.

The lightship is frequently thrown on board. The lightship is half way between Oak Bluffs and Nantucket.

Along the horizon, in the order named: Houses on Tuckernuck, Maddaket which the town of Nantucket is hidden. The lightship is named Stonehorse.



Main Street



Old North Vestry

***North Vestry—First Congregational Church
“North Church” or “North Tower”***

From Main Street Square, take Centre Street, to the Church. **VESTRY STANDS IN THE REAR.**

This old meetinghouse, now used as the North Church Vestry, is **BUILT OF ISLAND TIMBER** and was **ERECTED IN 1711** near Maxcys pond about one mile west from the junction of West Centre and North Liberty Streets. In 1765 it was moved to **BEACON HILL**, where the Congregational Church now stands, and in 1834 was again moved to make room for the present church in connection with which it is still used.

In the tower of this old building in 1787, the **FIRST NIGHT-WATCHMAN** was stationed to keep a look-out for fire, and in 1800 a **BELL** weighing 1,000 pounds, the **FIRST ON THE ISLAND**, was hung in the belfry, a new tower having been



“North Church”

erected, and the **CUSTOM OF RINGING THE BELL**, morning, noon and night, inaugurated. The tower was taken down when the meetinghouse was moved to its present position in 1834 and the **NEW CHURCH** building was erected in the same year. The present edifice originally had a steeple but it was considered unsafe and was taken down, being replaced by the four minarets which adorn the belfry.

In April, 1914, the old bell, being cracked, was replaced by a **NEW BELL** bearing the following inscription:

Ring out the old, ring in the new;
Ring out the false, ring in the true;
Ring out the darkness of the land;
Ring in the Church that is to be.

*Presented to the First Congregational Church of Nantucket, Mass.
by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lang
A. D. 1914.*

The bell was cast by the Meneely Bell Co., of Troy, N. Y., weighs over 1,200 pounds, and was rung for the first time on Easter Sunday.

The **OLD BELL**, after removing the tongue as a memento of its many years of service, was sent to the melting pot.

Unitarian Church "South Tower"

From Main Street Square, take Orange Street. **ADMISSION** to the tower (not open at all hours) can be obtained of the attendant who rings the bell at seven in the morning and at noon.

ERECTED in 1809 the old church and tower, with its gilded

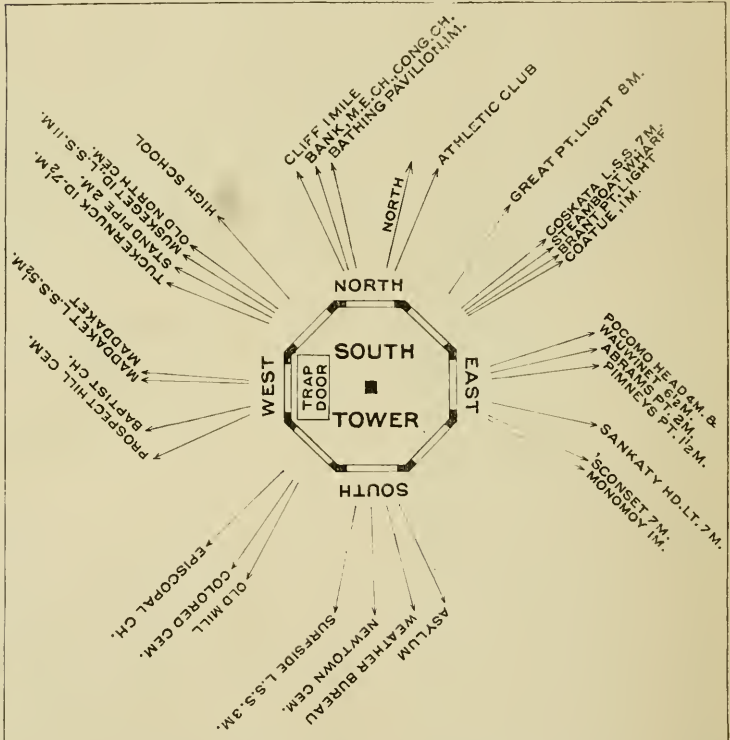
dome flashing in the sunlight, stands guard over the town, ever ready to give warning in case of danger. In its oaken tower is located the **TOWN CLOCK** and historic **OLD BELL** which sounds the alarm in case of fire and rings out the hours of the day, pealing forth for a little while at **SEVEN** in the morning, at **NOON**, and at **NINE** in the evening, a custom which has prevailed in the old town for many years.

In 1787, as a precaution against fire, a watchman was stationed in the tower of the Congregational meetinghouse, now



the old North Vestry. Upon completion of this, the Second Congregational Church (now Unitarian), with its fine tower, the "South Tower," the "**TOWER WATCH**" was transferred and for nearly 100 years the nightly vigil was here maintained, being discontinued in 1907, the "watch" being considered unnecessary owing to the installation of the **AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM**.

Diagram of the Points of Interest Visible from "South Tower"



From the **LOOKOUT**, the floor of which is 80 feet above the street and 120 feet above sea level, a **FINE VIEW** of over 14 miles in any direction can be had of the town, island, and surrounding waters. From the base of the tower to the tip of the vane spindle is 110 feet. The clock dials are 9 feet 4 inches in diameter.

The **FIRST TOWN CLOCK** was placed in the tower in 1823. It was built on the island and gave many years of service, being replaced by the **PRESENT CLOCK** in 1881, a gift to the town by William Hadwen Starbuck. In the belfry hangs the **OLD LISBON BELL**, noted for its remarkable sweetness of tone. It weighs 1,575 pounds and was one of a set of six bells cast



Coffin School

for a church of great veneration, at Mountain, in Lisbon, Portugal. Capt. Charles Clasby, of Nantucket, who in 1812 visited the **FOUNDRY IN LISBON** where the bell was cast, was charmed by its mellow tone and expressed a desire to have it. As the bell had not been consecrated he was able to purchase it and another was substituted to complete the chime of six to which it belonged. It was **BROUGHT TO THE ISLAND** in the whaleship, "William and Nancy," Capt. Thomas Carey, and in 1815 was **HUNG IN THE TOWER**.

The inscription on the bell is in Portuguese, and is as follows:

"AO BOM JEZUS DO MONTE COMPLETAAO SEUS VOTOS OS DEVOTOS DE LISBOA, OFFERECENDO LHE HUM COMPLETO JOGO DE SEIS SINOS PARA CHAMAR POS OVOS ADORALO NO SEU SANTUARIO.

"JOZE DOMINGUES DACOSTA OFEZ EM LISBOA NOANNO DE 1810."

Translation:

"To the Good Jesus of the Mountain the devotees of Lisbon direct their prayers, offering Him one complete set of six bells, to call the people and adore Him on His Sanctuary.

"Jose Domingos da Costa has done it in Lisbon on the year 1810."

Coffin School

Main Street to Winter Street.

The school was **FOUNDED IN 1827 BY SIR ISAAC COFFIN, BART.**, a British Admiral, for the sole benefit of the descendants of Tristram Coffin. In later years all students



Cliff Bathing Beach and North Shore Cliffs

were admitted upon the payment of a small fee. It was closed in 1898, the fund being inadequate for its successful operation.

Legislative permission having been obtained and the permanent funds added to by donation, it was reopened in 1903 to all students, without charge, as a **MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL**, in cooperation with the public school system.

It is managed by a **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**, while the raising of additional funds with which to broaden its sphere of usefulness is looked after by the Coffin School Association of Nantucket, organized to promote the interests of Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin's Lancasterian School.

CLASSES in mechanical drawing, wood working, cabinet work, sewing and basketry are taught, and an addition to the building has been made for a department of domestic science.

The school was **ORIGINALLY LOCATED** on the east side of Fair Street, a short distance north of Lyons Street. The **PRESENT BUILDING WAS ERECTED** in 1852.

ISAAC COFFIN was born in Boston in 1759 and died at Cheltenham, England, in 1839, aged 80 years. At the age of fourteen he entered the British Navy, became an Admiral, and after retiring from active life returned to America. Visiting Nantucket, where his great-grandfather, Tristram Coffin, was one of the first settlers, he found a thriving town of 8,000 population, many of whom were akin to him. Interested in their welfare he established the school which bears his name, and which, under careful management, has increased in value and become one of the prominent institutions, reflecting his sound judgment and thoughtfulness for the betterment of others.



Cliff Bathing Beach

The Cliff Bathing Beach

From Main Street Square, take Federal, Broad, Beach and North Beach Streets to the beach road. **ONE MILE.** Passes the **PUBLIC LIBRARY—ATHENEUM** (page 29), and the **NANTUCKET ATHLETIC CLUB.**

CONVEYANCES MAKE REGULAR TRIPS from Main Street Square.

BOAT leaves **OLD NORTH WHARF** daily at 10, 11 and 12; returning leaves beach at 10.30, 11.30 and 12.30.

Under the **NORTH SHORE CLIFFS**, where the **WESTERN JETTY** juts out into the sound, is the Cliff Bathing Beach, noted for its fine **STILL WATER** bathing.

The proximity of the **GULF STREAM** direct from the Straits of Florida, which flows nearer the island than at any other point on the coast, renders the water of a warmer **TEMPERATURE** than is usually found at this latitude, the average being from 70 to 74 degrees during the summer months.

The land upon which the **PAVILION** stands, and in the immediate vicinity, has been set apart as a **PUBLIC PARK** to insure for all the full enjoyment of this broad expanse of beautiful beach overlooking Nantucket sound.

Further in shore and just back of the pavilion is the site of the "**BUG LIGHTS**," or cliff range beacons, erected in 1838 by the Government as an aid to the mariner in passing in and out over the bar. (See page 22.)

The building of the **JETTIES**, commenced in 1881, together with the new range lights on Brant Point, made unnecessary the further continuance of this station.

LIGHT and **FOG SIGNALS** are located on the outer end of the eastern jetty; the light **FLASHES WHITE** and is of **290 CANDLE-POWER.**



Rotch Warehouse

Rotch (Roach) Warehouse

This old building is located at the foot of Main Street Square and was **ERECTED** in 1772 as an office and warehouse by William Rotch & Sons, **FAMOUS SHIPOWNERS** and the leading whaling merchants of that day.

In 1773, three whale ships belonging to the Rotch firm, the "**DARTMOUTH,**" "**BEAVER,**" and "**BEDFORD,**" after discharging cargoes of oil in London, were chartered by the East India Company to carry tea to Boston. Upon their arrival, landing was refused owing to an objectionable tax having been placed upon the tea by the King, the vessels were boarded and the "**BOSTON TEA PARTY**" was held upon the decks of the Nantucket whale ships, the tea being thrown overboard into the harbor.

The **FIRST SHIP TO FLY THE AMERICAN FLAG** in a British port was the "Bedford" and the **FIRST WHALESHIP TO ROUND CAPE HORN** in search of whales in the Pacific was the "Beaver," both belonging to the trio of famous tea ships and the Rotch firm.

In the old whaling days it was the custom for the shipmasters to meet in the "**CAPTAINS' ROOM,**" which is on the lower floor looking out upon the "Square," and discuss the news of



Old Jail and House of Correction



The North Shore, Westward Toward Tuckernuck

the day. The room has been preserved as a meeting place by the "**PACIFIC CLUB**," the present owners of the building.

Jail and House of Correction

Main Street to **SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT** (page 31). Milk Street to Vestal Street, passing **BIRTHPLACE OF MARIA MITCHELL** (page 30) to jail, which is located back of the jailor's house where application should be made for admission.

When these buildings were **ERECTED** in 1805, Nantucket was a thriving town of about 6,000 population, growing in the following 35 years to nearly 10,000, the largest whaling port in the world. As the population gradually decreased to 3,000 so has the institution outlived its usefulness, until today the old buildings stand, interesting relics of the past.

With its whitewashed interior, huge wooden doors and heavy iron fastenings, the **OLD JAIL** stands as a menace to the wrongdoer, with rarely an unfortunate to test its crude fastenings. The **HOUSE OF CORRECTION**, the larger of the two buildings, was built at Quaise and moved to its present site in 1854.

The Cliff—North Shore

From Main Street Square, take Centre Street to North Shore Hill to Cliff Road, thence to bluff by roads which turn off to right. Distance **ONE MILE**. See map of the town or Road Map. This route passes **OLD NORTH VESTRY** (page 34).

The **HIGHEST POINT** on the "**NORTH SHORE**" of the island is one mile northwest from the center of the town of Nantucket, at which point the bluff, extending away to the westward and southeasterly toward the town, rises to a **HEIGHT** of 62 feet. (See signal poles, page 17.)



This locality, known as the "**CLIFF**," with its many beautiful summer homes, is one of the most charming sections of the island. It is not far distant from the Cliff bathing beach and on the west adjoins the links of the Nantucket Golf Club.

From the bluff, overlooking the broad sandy beach, a **FINE VIEW** may be had, on a clear day, of the surrounding waters and the distant shipping going **DOWN THE SOUND**. On the right hand the eye follows the long, sandy stretches of **COATUE BEACH**, making out to the **COSKATA LIFESAVING STATION** (index), and on beyond to **GREAT POINT LIGHTHOUSE** (page 53), the white tower standing out plainly eight miles across the water. On the left can be seen the island of **TUCKERNUCK** (index), six miles away, and three miles beyond, the island of **MUSKEGET** and the **MUSKEGET LIFESAVING STATION** (index), the first object to be seen on approaching Nantucket from the mainland.

The **STEAMER IS VISIBLE**, from the bluff, for nearly an hour before it reaches the wharf.

The Clubhouse of the **NANTUCKET GOLF CLUB** is located on the Cliff road which leads to the waterworks (page 43) nearly opposite the end of Hinckley Lane, **THE COURSE**, which extends for some distance on both sides of the road and as far as the standpipe, traverses, the section known to the Indians as Wannacomet, meaning "a beautiful field."

Hinckley Lane runs from the Cliff Road to the beach. At the foot of the lane and below the bluff is **SACHEM SPRING**.



Standpipe—Wannacomet Water Works

Wannacomet Water Works

From Main Street Square, take Centre Street to North Shore Hill to Cliff Road, passing Clubhouse and Links of the **NANTUCKET GOLF CLUB** (page 42). **TWO AND ONE-QUARTER MILES**. Or Main Street, Maddaket Road and across the commons.

On the north side of the island, just beyond the course of the Nantucket Golf Club, is one of Nantucket's most familiar landmarks, the **STANDPIPE** of the Wannacomet Water Works. On approaching the island by steamer from the mainland it is the **FIRST OBJECT SEEN** on the north shore, and is of particular interest as it stands near and practically marks the landing place of the first settlers. The **ORIGINAL TANK**, elevated on iron columns, was **ERECTED** in 1879, being replaced by the **PRESENT STANDPIPE** in 1909. It is 30 feet in **DIAMETER**, 80 feet high, and the top is **141 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL**. The area of the Washing pond close by, from which the water is taken, is about eight acres with a capacity of about 33,000,000 gallons, in some places it is 15 feet deep, the bottom is sandy, and it is fed by **STRONG SPRINGS**.

There are **TWO PUMPING PLANTS AT THE POND AND AN AUXILIARY AT WYER'S VALLEY**, just south of the town at the beginning of the State road to 'Sconset and near the fair grounds, water from **DRIVEN WELLS** being forced into the mains when required, at this station.



Muskeget Lifesaving Station



The East Pond, Tuckernuck

The plan for supplying Nantucket with water was originated and worked out by Moses Joy, Jr., of Nantucket, in 1877, at which time the rain barrel and pump were the sources of supply. Two years later water was led into the town.

While it would be hard to find a like area so ideally situated and **FREE FROM CONTAMINATING SOURCES** as that from which the town of Nantucket and nearby sections derive their water supply, still further assurance of purity may be had from the fact that the **WATER IS REGULARLY ANALYZED** by the state Department of Health as required by the laws of Massachusetts.

The **MOST HISTORIC QUARTER OF THE ISLAND** is in the vicinity of the waterworks and the site of the standpipe affords a most interesting point of observation. Just below is the **WASHING POND**, so called because it was here that the settlers washed their sheep, and a half mile beyond is **CUPAUM POND**, formerly a harbor open to the sea, where the **SETTLERS LANDED**, the site of **TRISTRAM COFFIN'S HOUSE** being marked by a granite post just southwest of the pond. (See page 15.)

On a knoll across the road, and south of the standpipe, is the site of the **OLDEST BURYING GROUND** (see page 55), and a short distance beyond stood the **FIRST CHURCH** (now the old North Vestry), schoolhouse, townhouse, and jail. The site of the **FIRST TOWN**, called Sherburne, extended from this quarter still further on toward the head of Hummock Pond.

Looking back over the **LINKS OF THE NANTUCKET GOLF CLUB** is the section known to the Indians as Wannacomet, meaning "a beautiful field."



'Sconset Beach

Siasconset

Regular connection with steamboats at Nantucket by motor bus.

From Main Street Square, take Orange Street to the **STATE ROAD**, along which are the **MILESTONES** set out in 1824, thence direct **SEVEN AND ONE-HALF MILES**. Passes site of "**NEWTOWN GATE**" (index), Wycer's Valley **PUMPING STATION** (see Wannacomet Water Works, page 43), the Gibbs pond **CRANBERRY BOG** (Index), Road to **TOM NEVER'S HEAD** (page 49) and Siasconset **GOLF CLUB**.

OR VIA POLPIS (page 54), and follow guide boards or Road Map **TEN AND ONE-HALF MILES**. Beyond Polpis this route passes **SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (page 50).

OR BOAT TO WAUWINET (page 52), thence along shore, passing **SQUAM HEAD, QUIDNET** (page 51), and **SACACHA POND**, thence along the bluff, passing **SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (page 50), to 'Sconset. **FIVE AND ONE-HALF MILES**.

'**SCONSET VILLAGE**, formerly a quaint **FISHING HAM-LET**, dating back to the year 1680, is situated at the eastern end of Nantucket island, **FURTHER AT SEA** than any of our Atlantic coast resorts. It is separated from the shores of Spain and Portugal, the **NEAREST LAND ON THE EAST**, by over 3,000 miles of open water.

The ever-increasing popularity of 'Sconset bespeaks its charm to lovers of the genuine seashore.

The village, with its grass-grown streets and tiny fishermen's houses, fenced off in rectangular plots with narrow ways or lanes running between, is **BUILT ON THE EDGE OF A BLUFF**, or "'Sconset Bank," about 30 feet high. "Under the Bank" and stretching away to the ocean is a **SANDY BEACH** an eighth of a mile wide, where the people gather in the forenoon to



'Sconset Way



Centre Street, 'Sconset

enjoy the fine **SURF BATHING**, free from the dreaded undertow, or lounge about the sands, breathe the pure air, laden with the ocean's saltness, and watch the breakers as they dash upon the shore.

In the village is a **POSTOFFICE** and a number of good stores, where provisions of all kinds can be obtained. There are several **HOTELS**, a schoolhouse and a **CHAPEL**, where services are held by all denominations in turn, including Roman Catholic.

Of historic interest is the **OLD TOWN PUMP**, where for nearly a hundred years the villagers gathered to await their turn for the daily supply of water, a general meeting place and news distributing center. The well was dug in 1776. It has been superseded by a **MODERN WATER SYSTEM**, built in 1904 which furnishes the purest of water derived from driven wells. In 1914 a **MODERN SYSTEM OF SEWERAGE DISPOSAL** was installed.

While there are many old houses in the village, one of the oldest, and most interesting, is the **OLD GARDNER HOUSE** on Broadway. It is now the property of the Nantucket Historical Association, who purchased it to insure the preservation of a typical 'Sconset dwelling.



Old 'Sconset Pump and Shell Street

A well-equipped **CASINO**, **TENNIS COURTS**, and natural 18 hole **GOLF COURSE**, with the excellent and safe surf bathing, and a **PAVILION** where warm salt water baths can be had, suggest a few of the attractions.

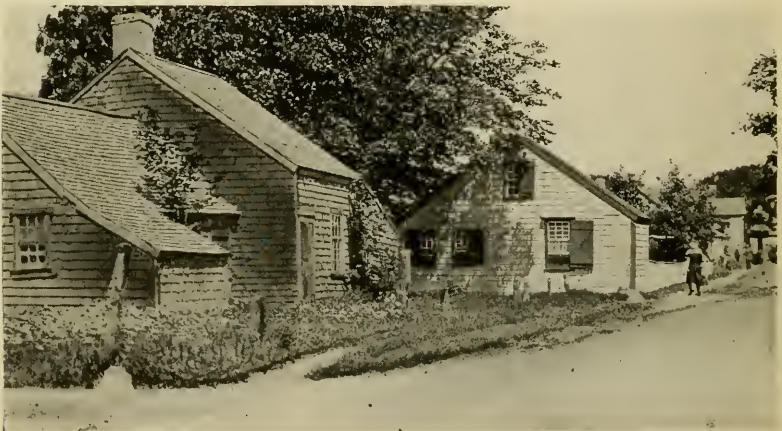
To **SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (page 50) is a most delightful



'Sconset Casino

walk. It is reached by a well worn **FOOT PATH ALONG THE EDGE OF THE BLUFF**, which, rising gradually from **LOW BEACH**, extends northward to Sankaty Head, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the village, at which point it reaches an elevation of 92 feet, the **HIGHEST POINT ON THE COAST** of the island. A tramp of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles over the moors, and among the hills west of Sankaty, brings one to the **HIGHEST POINT ON THE ISLAND**, where the summit of Saul's Hills reaches an elevation of 102 feet above the level of the sea.

In 1901, the **FIRST COMMERCIAL WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATION IN AMERICA** was located in 'Sconset, and stood directly south of the present station and on the opposite side of Main Street. It was moved to its present position in 1905, and more powerful apparatus installed. Communication can be had with the **NANTUCKET SHOALS LIGHTSHIP**, anchored about 50 miles southeast of the island, or with the **OCEAN LINERS** which pass at still greater dis-



Broadway 'Sconset



Surf, at 'Sconset

tance. On January 23, 1909, this station caught the distress signal "C-Q-D" sent out by the steamship "Republic," then in a sinking condition with several hundred passengers on board, who, but for the timely call for assistance sent out by this station, would have gone down with the vessel. The collision took place 26 miles southwest of the lightship, or about 70 miles south of the island.

Along the bluff and across Low Beach, on the southwest, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from 'Sconset, is

Tom Never's Head and Pond

From Nantucket take State Road, as for 'Sconset (page 45), to the "Tom Never's" Road, which turns off just beyond the fifth milestone. **SIX AND ONE-HALF MILES.**

Tom Never's Head is the **SOUTHERNMOST POINT** of Nantucket island, distant from the **NEAREST LAND ON THE SOUTH**, the West Indies, by about 1,500 miles.

From the beach the **HEADLAND**, where the Tom Never's Lodge is located, rises to an elevation of 60 feet, the **HIGHEST OF THE BLUFFS ALONG THE SOUTH SHORE**, and affords an unobstructed view of the ocean and the surf as it breaks upon Low Beach and on toward 'Sconset.

Fine and safe **SURF BATHING**, a broad, **SANDY BEACH**, and **PURE DRINKING WATER** insure amusement and the healthfulness of this section.

In October, 1814, a **NAVAL BATTLE** took place just off shore. The American privateer "Prince de Neufchatel," with a crew of 33 men, was returning to port, having captured the ship "Douglas," when she was attacked by 111 men, in small boats, from the British frigate "Endymion." The British loss was 33 killed, 37 wounded and 30 taken prisoners; but one boat escaped. The American loss was 7 killed, including



Sankaty Head Lighthouse

Charles J. Hilburn of Nantucket, pilot, and 15 wounded. The wounded British were landed at Sacacha, about half-way between Quidnet and Sankaty Head, and transported in carts to town, while the prize ship "Douglas" was beached and wrecked near Squam Head, about a mile north of Quidnet.

Sankaty Head Lighthouse

One and one-half miles north of 'SCONSET (page 45). Or, via POLPIS (page 54), and follow guideboards or Road Map. **NINE MILES** via either Polpis or 'Sconset.

This **LIGHTHOUSE**, which stands on the eastern shore of the island, is **FARTHER AT SEA** than any of our Atlantic coast stations. It was **BUILT** in 1849 and stands on Sankaty Head, 92 feet in height, the **HIGHEST POINT ON THE**



Sacacha Pond, Looking Toward Sankaty Head Lighthouse



Quidnet, Looking Toward Sankaty Head Lighthouse

COAST of the island. The **LIGHT**, one of the finest on the coast, is 166 feet above the water and can be seen at a distance of 17 miles. It is **FIXED WHITE** for 50 seconds, **VARIED BY A WHITE FLASH**, of 99,000 **CANDLE POWER**, for 10 seconds. The **TOWER** is white at the top and bottom, with a broad band of red around the middle.

Quidnet

Via **POLPIS** (page 54), and follow guideboards, or Road Map **SEVEN AND ONE-HALF MILES**. Quidnet is distant about one and three-quarter miles from **WAUWINET** (page 52), or **SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (opposite). Shore dinners can usually be arranged for.

On the eastern shore of the island, in that quarter known to the Indians as **SQUAM**, just north of Sacacha pond and about half way between Wauwinet and Sankaty Head, is the former **FISHING HAMLET** of Quidnet, now a delightful resort with a flourishing **SUMMER COLONY**. It is a favorite **CAMPING PLACE**, has a broad **SANDY BEACH**, and unsurpassed **SURF BATHING**. The **POND** is about a mile wide and affords excellent **BOATING** and **PERCH FISHING**. The last settlement of the Nantucket **INDIANS** was on the west bank of the pond, numerous arrow heads and stone implements having been found, while the hollowed boulders and traces of the foundations of their wigwams still remain.

As early as 1682 Quidnet and Sacacha, the latter settlement standing just south of the narrow strip of beach which separates the pond from the ocean, were great **CODFISHING STATIONS**. The last building at Sacacha was moved to 'Sconset in 1820.

Just north of Quidnet stands one of the **BOAT HOUSES** of the Massachusetts Humane Society and about a mile further along the beach is **SQUAM HEAD**. Great Round Shoal **LIGHTSHIP** is anchored about seven miles off shore. For naval battle east of the island see Tom Never's Head (page 49).



Wauwinet and the "Haul-over"

Wauwinet

Reached **BY BOATS** which leave North or Steamboat Wharf at 9.30 and 11.30 a. m., 2 and 4 p. m. Returning leave Wauwinet at the same hours. **SIX MILES UP THE HARBOR. FARE 25 CENTS.** Or via **POLPIS** (page 54), and follow guideboards or Road Map. **NINE MILES.** Beyond Polpis this route passes **EAT FIRE SPRING** (index).

From **'SCONSET** (page 45), follow path along the bluff, passing **SAN-KATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (page 50), to **SACACHA POND**, thence along shore, passing **QUIDNET** (page 51), and **SQUAM HEAD** to Wauwinet. **FIVE AND ONE-HALF MILES.**

Wauwinet, named after the Indian sachem whose lands included this part of the island, is located at the **HEAD OF THE HARBOR** about an hour's sail from Nantucket. It is a most interesting and popular resort, ideally situated for the full enjoyment and benefit of the unadulterated seashore.



Within a short distance of the landing, the **HOTEL** and cottages look out upon the **HARBOR** on one side and the **OCEAN** on the other, separated by a narrow strip of beach called the "**HAUL-OVER**," because the fishermen used to haul their boats across it.

Five miles northward along the beach (passing at $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Wauwinet, within half a mile of the **COSKATA LIFE SAVING STATION**) is **GREAT POINT LIGHTHOUSE** (page 53), while to the southward is **SQUAM HEAD**, distant one mile



Great Point Lighthouse

along the beach or by road. Great Round Shoal **LIGHTSHIP** bears northeast six and one-half miles.

Wauwinet offers both **SURF AND STILL WATER BATHING, BOATING, FISHING**, etc. **SHORE DINNERS** can be had at the Wauwinet House.

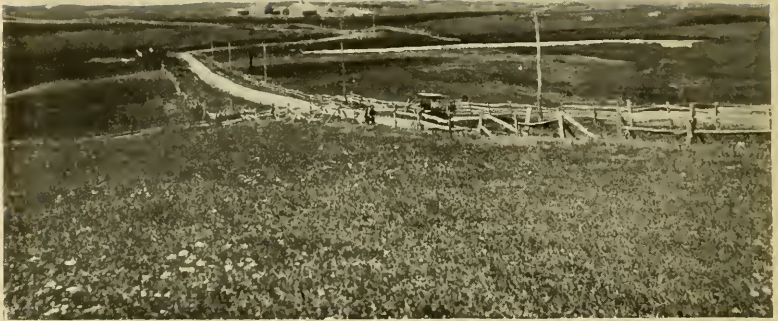
During the easterly storm of December 15, 1896, an **OPENING** was made by the surf cutting its way through the "Haul-over" into the harbor, of width and depth sufficient to allow the passage of vessels drawing from six to eight feet of water. the inlet remained open for twelve years gradually working its way northward, traversing the entire length of the "Haul-over," about one mile, until the rising ground of Coskata was reached. A photograph, taken by the writer, just before the opening was closed by the heavy surf, can be seen at the Historical Association in Nantucket.

Great Point Lighthouse

BOAT TO WAUWINET (page 52), cross the narrow beach called the "Haul-over" to the ocean side, thence north along the beach, passing **COSKATA POND** and at two and one-half miles from Wauwinet, within half a mile of the **COSKATA LIFESAVING STATION** to **GREAT POINT**. Distance **FIVE MILES**. Requires about **TWO HOURS** time each way.

The first lighthouse on Great Point, a frame structure, was built in 1784, and stood until November, 1816, when it was destroyed by fire. In 1818 the **PRESENT STONE TOWER** was erected, and stands about one-fourth mile from the end of the point.

The **LIGHT** is 70 feet above the water and is visible 11 miles. **LIGHTSHIPS** on Great Round Shoal, a little north of east, and Handkerchief Shoal, a little west of north, are distant about seven miles from the lighthouse. The light is **FIXED WHITE**,



The Polpis Road

of 12,000 **CANDLE POWER**, with a **RED SECTOR** covering Cross Rip and Tuckernuck shoals. The **TOWER** is white.

Polpis

From Main Street Square, take Orange Street to State Road, and follow guideboards, or Road Map, **SIX MILES**, passing site of "**NEWTOWN GATE**" (index), Wyer's Valley **PUMPING STATION** (see Wannacomet Water Works, page 43), **MONOMOY** (index), "**SHAWKEMO SPRING**," (index), "**MIRIAM COFFIN'S COUNTY SEAT**," at **QUAISE** (index). Marker by roadside.

At the head of Polpis Harbor, an arm of Nantucket Harbor, and on the road to Wauwinet, is the little **FARMING SETTLEMENT** of Polpis, consisting of a few dwellings and a **SCHOOLHOUSE**. Just across the road from the schoolhouse there stood for nearly 200 years one of the oldest houses on the island, built about 1700.

In 1772, a **FULLING AND COLORING MILL** was erected here and the little stream which operated the mill has since been known as the **FULLING MILL BROOK**.

Oysters are grown in the harbor.

Maddaket

Main Street, by **SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT** (page 31) to Maddaket Road, **SIX AND THREE-QUARTER MILES**. Passes **FRIENDS' BURYING GROUND** (page 57) **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SPRING** (opposite), and the Long Pond **CRANBERRY BOG**. Northern route crosses **LONG POND** at the "**GUT BRIDGE**," Southern route at "**MASSASOIT BRIDGE**." Consult Road Maps. See Lifesaving Stations.

This is the site of the **MADDAKET LIFESAVING STA-**



Franklin Fountain

TION, built in 1891, and a few dwellings at the western end of the island, overlooking Hither **CREEK** and Maddaket **HARBOR**. It was here that **EDWARD STARBUCK, THOMAS COLEMAN** and **THOMAS MACY** built their hut and spent the winter of 1658-59. They came as **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRST SETTLERS**, to negotiate with the Indians regarding the purchase of their lands; also to look over the ground, decide upon a suitable landing place and determine the best location to erect their dwellings.

SMITH POINT, the westernmost end of the island, extends about two miles west of the Lifesaving Station. A **BOAT-HOUSE** stands on the point a short distance west of the station, to which it belongs.

From "**WARREN'S LANDING**" at Maddaket to "**BROOKS'S LANDING**" at Tuckernuck (index) is about three miles.

The fountain, or **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SPRING**, on the Maddaket road was erected in 1900 and is inscribed as follows:

"This tablet is erected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in commemoration of Abiah Folger Franklin, daughter of Peter Folger, wife of Josiah Franklin, and mother of Benjamin Franklin. She was born August 15, 1667, in a house which stood 225 feet, north fifty-two degrees west, from this spot, and died in Boston in 1752.

"This fountain is given to the town of Nantucket by the Abiah Folger Franklin Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution."

Cemeteries

All cemeteries, with the exception of the oldest one, are **SHOWN UPON THE MAP** of the town.

The cemeteries are interesting, because of the **QUAINT EPITAPHS** and the bits of history inscribed upon the old moss-covered stones. The **OLDEST BURYING GROUND** is on a hill near Maxcys pond, near the site of the first town, a short distance south of the standpipe of the Wannacomet Water Works (page 43), and two miles west of the town. The cemetery site is marked by a **GRANITE MONUMENT** inscribed as follows:

"Erected A. D. 1881, by a descendant of the first settlers of Nantucket, in memory of those whose remains are buried on this hallowed spot, where stood the first church gathered here

in 1711, since removed to where it now stands as the vestry of the First Congregational Society.



1609—Tristram Coffin	—1681
1598—Thomas Macy	—1682
1604—Edward Starbuck	—1690
1617—Peter Folger	—1690
1624—John Gardner	—1706
1664—John Swain, Jr.	—1738
1644—John Coleman	—1715
1626—Richard Gardner	—1688
1598—Christopher Hussey	—1686
1640—William Bunker	—1712

“Many of the descendants of these worthy sires have been distinguished for their courage and energy, and left a record for others to emulate.”

Another stone standing about 30 feet to the eastward bears the following:

“Here lyes buried
ye body of
John Gardner
Esq. aged 82
who died May 1706”

This stone, erected in 1881, **REPLACES THE OLD ONE** removed to the “Oldest House” for preservation, which marked the spot for 175 years.

CAPT. JOHN GARDNER, was one of the great men of his time. Invited to settle on the island “to set up the trade of fishing for the taking of codfish,” he left his home in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1672, and moved to Nantucket. He was a man of much influence among the Indians, and in 1680 was appointed **CHIEF MAGISTRATE**, the highest office that a Nantucketer could hold.

The last burial in this old cemetery took place in 1773.

The **NEXT OLDEST CEMETERY** is the Old North or Gardner’s Burying Ground, on the northwest corner of New and Grove Lanes, dating back to 1709. Near the entrance is the stone in memory of

Robert Ratliff, Born at New Castle upon Tyne, England, Feb. 25, 1794, Died at Nantucket, Feb. 20, 1882, aged 88

“He was a seaman on board the ship Northumberland 84 guns under command of Sir George Cockburn that conveyed Napoleon Bonaparte to St. Helena in 1815. And received marked notice from the Great Emperor. He was also a seaman in the Albion 74 in the attack on the city of Washington 1814.

“In 1820 he was shipwrecked on the island of Nantucket where he resided the remainder of his life. He was well known as a successful master rigger for 50 years. Honored for his



Entrance Prospect Hill Cemetery

integrity, respected for his uniform courtesy and beloved for his kindness and generosity.”

Within a short distance are **TWO OTHER STONES** marking the graves of shipwrecked seamen, dated 1771.

The **FRIENDS’ BURYING GROUND**, on the corner of

Main and Saratoga Streets, contains more than 5,000 graves, where lie the remains of the **ANCESTORS** of nearly every Nantucketer.

The cemeteries, with the exception of the oldest one, are marked upon the map of the town, viz., Old North, North, Friends’, Prospect Hill, Catholic, Colored, and New Town or South.

At the Historical Association rooms will be found a **CARD CATALOGUE** of every legible inscription found upon the old gravestones.

Books Relating to Nantucket

Title.

Author.

Miriam Coffin.....	James C. Hart
Trustum and His Grandchildren	Harriet Worrone
There She Blows.....	William Hussey Macy
History of Nantucket.....	Obed Macy
History of the American Whale Fishery....	Alexander Starbuck
Nantucket Scraps.....	Jane C. Austin
'Sconset Cottage Life.....	A. Judd Northrup
Quaint Nantucket.....	William Root Bliss
An Island Plant.....	Mary Catharine Lee
Wrecks Around Nantucket.....	Arthur H. Gardner
Plants of Nantucket.....	Maria L. Owen
Views of Nantucket.....	J. H. Robinson
Publications of the Nantucket Historical Association.	

SEA CLIFF INN

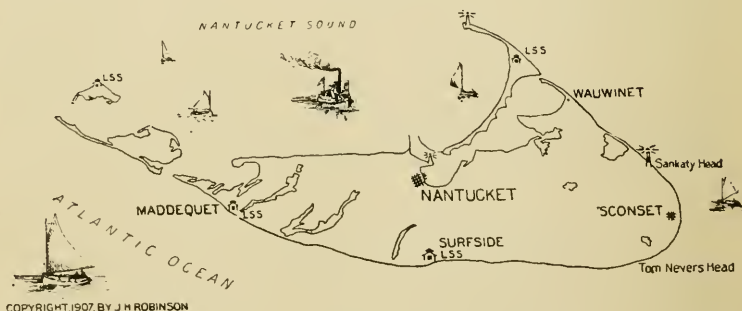
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