

MV – Notes on Historical Maps

Miscellaneous notes on land cover, land use, and other features from a variety of historical maps

Undated.

Chappy – separate, “Indian Town”. Good caricature.

1694. *Athearn. MV.*

Two maps – 1698 from MVHS (TNC display at Pohogonot Tract) and 1694 from Reed College – latter from Banks. Similar but different – 1694 included Squib-Men Pds as one (none 1698), included rectangle running from WT center to Cedar Tree Neck, has different shape for T and WT parcels. Reed does not include “a barren ragged plain of no town” that is on 1698.

1694 transcript – most uninteresting. Most of T – considered unsettled but is in property and fenced by same in their peculiar improvement. “Edgartown has about 35-36 houses”. “Chapaquiget Island”. Island looks like a whale as drawn by the Reed folks.

1698 – “Land paid to Colony ...”; “A pond” (Tashmoo); “The Town of Tisbury by patent from York”; Chilmark Land of y.. manner of Tisbury ...ed with Chilmark”; “holms xxx hole harbor”; “no man land”; GH “a neck of land xx to farm (?) by xx Tho: mayhew 20x per year”; a neck of land left to mr John mayhew younger sonne - Land of no town”; “Ye gay head where Indians dwell”; where Indians dwell – Lands of no town”; Chilmark xxx the manner of Tisbury by patent from york”; of ye manner of Tisbury and ye two (?) xxxxxxx of the Island of ye manner of Tisbury”; Holms xxx hole neck of land pay xxx with Tisbury”; Edgartown by patent form York 1641; “Chapaquidget Island of Edgartown by patent from York”; “capook Island xx a neck of chapaquidget; “martha’s vineyard harbor” (E Harbor). Wording on this si completely different than 1694.

So, the SW corner of GH and something in the middle – Squib up towards Menemsha – in Mayhew’s name and surrounded by Indian land of no town.

1725. *Chase Land Divisions – Holmes Hole.*

From Banks (?) horizontal lots cutting across W Chop.

Des Barres Atlantic Neptune Atlas - 1775

Chappy. Only veg = Pocha Pd marsh, which was more expansive.

“Wasque Beach” – breach shown at far E end.

Good detail on Pocha Pd, Cape Poge “Pond”. Marsh S of Shear Pen Pd.

Holmes Hole. No veg or houses/lots along Mink Meadow Pd; West Chop; all down town and along VH; Long Beach open at extreme W end – almost across Lagoon Pond. Small islands in mouth of Lagoon, W of Cedar Neck. Pd at NE end of W Chop. Few houses and lots at head of Lagoon

Detail from SNE. (Confused with Walling on below) Moderate detail. Houses around shores; none interior. Openings – Squibnocket on SW; Menemsha on NE; Wasque to far E. “Gray Head”.

1775 *Des Barres Map Detail of Holmes Hole*

1781. *Des Barres – MV.*

No Veg. 3 windmills. Versions with and without lots lines. Lot lines only on Buzzard’s Bay Map (W half of MV) and in a poorer quality map for Edgartown/Chappy.

Place names – Lombard’s Cove, Konickey Cliff, Paul’s Pt, Tiltions Pt; (Koteimy Bay, Weique Beach (but Wasque Point), Curnit Pd, Gurnit Beach, Matakies Bay, Manequoy Pd & Crukatuxet Pd (Crakatuxet) –E of EGP; Old Town Great Pond & Old Town Plains, Shanscomtacket Pond; Squiprokit Pd & Squipnockit Pt, Menemshaw Pd (but Menemsha Bite), Stonewall beach area=Werpkuapsku Bluff; New Town Pd, Seaquiquil Pd (Long Cove)

Gay Head – Squibnocket opening in SW with spit curling inward; houses throughout, not on Squib or Moshup’s SW or Lobsterville. Quitsa, Menemsha and Stonewall Pds connected. Rd stops E of it.

Chilmark – Chilmark Pd connected through – good width of pd and beach; Chilmark Meeting shown E of Fulling Mill Brook on Abel’s Hill area – near cemetery(?); v. few houses on N Shore; windmill at N Rd x Menemsha cross rd; Rd for Tisbury Meeting (WT) to Quansoo Pd; Black Pt Pd with broad beach and connected to TGP; TGP with breach in center. E of TGP – Nahaneous Pd = Homer Pd – shown as broad based and long;

Edgartown - Job’s Neck Pd thoroughly connected to EGP (“Old Town Great Pond”); “Old Town Plains” = Entire Katama peninsula, windmill in N; “Curnit Pd” = Eel Pd, open to E; Large sandy shoals depicted inside Weique Beach and into Matakies Bay.

Shanscomtacket Pd – open in center, directly across from Felix Neck.

Chappy – “Wasque Beach” breach open at extreme E; pond is open to Mattakesett Bay; Caleb Pd more open to Katama Bay;

Holmes Hole – Wind mill on bluff at NE corner of Lagoon Pd; opening to Lagoon at far W;

Lombard’s Cove; cluster of houses near and W of Paul’s Pt towards Indian Hill; another cluster around Gray Pd, N Seven Gates; none in interior

No evidence in any ponds of movement inland – so not so much sea level rise as erosion.

1781. *Des Barres Detailed with Lots.*

Gay Head-Chilmark. Gay Head refers to tip only, central “Chilmark” “An Indian Settlement”. Central area not in lots and no houses; periphery in lots with houses scattered. Good detail on “Squiprokit Pd” breach. Large pd along W shore of Moshups. Shows Lily Pd as almost open to Squib (wetland there now). Menemsha, Quitsa and Stonewall Pds connected.

Nice detail on beaches, houses, lots.

Chilmark – W Tisbury. “Tisbury or New Town”. Line of big lots on W shore from Menemsha Hills up through 7 Gates. Some like stonewalls. WT church or town hall symbol where now exists; cluster of buildings up Mill River; Big Lots down along S shore with no buildings backed by small lots with Buildings.

1781. *Des Barres* – E Half of MV, ACK.

Katama area filled with large lots – rectangular (N-S, E-W) and scattered buildings down center of peninsula. Fences in Pohogonot area towards points not main land mass.

Shows narrows of Katama Bay near town as 3-4 feet deep.

“Old Town Harbor” is mouth of Bay between Eel Pond and North Neck on Chappy (as also shown on modern maps). Lighthouse Beach doesn’t really exist

Bay between W and E Chop shown as 3-5 feet deep.

Note E of Oak Bluffs – “To keep clear of Squash Meadow Shoal, keep the two Outer Houses on xx West Chop open with the East Chop.”

Do the lot boundaries on the 1781 maps represent legal boundaries, fences, stonewalls? Some not closed so more fence-like. Do they delimit activity like forest clearing and agriculture?

1784. *Crevecoeur. “MV with its Dependencies”.*

GH - Squidnocket Pastures. Road going straight to there. No Squib Pd; “Gayhead Swamp full of Peat”. Tidsbury Pd. Mill River heading N about to Hills near Lambert’s Cove.

C – Shows Meeting House and one at WT. “The Great Beach against which the Sea Continually Beats”

“Tidsbury Wood Land” center of island out W into Chilmark Town, N all through W Chop, E up into the E Chop Peninsula; and S into center of Island; “Peat Swamp” E of Menemsha Bay.

E – Quampeche Low Lands– comes off Oyster Pond and Bottom; Woodland shown N of Great Pond (Pohogonot?); Katama = “Sheep Pasture”; “Great Flats” N of Sherriff’s Meadow with “Boat Channel working W of it along shore. 2 “Wind Mill” just N of E; “The Great Beach against which the sea continually rolls [Beats, Boils?]”

Chappy – Large “Wood Land” in center of island; “Salt Meadows” along W side Pocha Pond; Wasque Neck and beach reaching E with Wasque Pt.

Middle Ground Shoals “3 feet at Low Water”

1790. *Peleg Coffin. MV, ACK, Islands.*

MV – Squib Pd – open to W; Menemsha open to NE; Katama Bay and TGP not shown as open. Eel Pd open to N; Sengecontactet open across from Felix Neck. Chilmark center about modern location.

GH – Six triangles – wigwams? House on N shore Squibnocket Pd; opening to Pd shown as shallow with material moving across; anchorage shown outside Menemsha – Lobsterville.

Holmes Hole – Houses on E side of W Chop.

Chappy – “Chapquidock”; “Skiffs Island Shoal - dry at low water”; trees shown on East Beach (E side of Cape Poge Pd). Shows Chappy as complete island – not attached at base to Wasque Beach and East Beach. – Pocha Pd connecting through to S.

Map explanation centers on ACK and shoals. “on considering their dangerous situation and the dread they are to all Navigators who frequent the coast

1795. *Osgood Carleton. MV and the Islands.*

Redrafted by Old Maps (?). Shows TGP open, not Squib or Menemsha

1795. “*Chappaquidick Island*”.

Unknown but from Banks. “Washqua Outlet”; Washqua Neck,; “Catama”; “Mathakuett Bay” and “Flat Ground”; outlet is at E-most point; Shows North Neck as fenced off from Tom’s Neck and main island; Capoge Ponds; Little Neck vs Great Neck above; depicts “Channel” coming through E Harbor.

1796. *State of Massachusetts from the best information.*

Squib Pd connected. “Squibnockit Pt.” “Old Town”. “Tisbury or New Town”. “Gray Hd”

1801. *Osgood Carleton. Massachusetts.*

MV Detail.

GH – “An Indian Settlement”. “Squidnasket P. “ but Squibnocket Head”. No connection among or to sea – Sq, Men, Quitsa. “Menamsha”. “Gay-head Light”

C – TGP connected to sea; Tilton’s Pt

T – Paul’s Pt; “Lagoon P”; Long Beach extending to W.

E – “Old Town Plain” – Katama extending up into main landmass. “Old Town Harbor”

“Sanchoortaket P.” open at Center; “Poge Pond”; “Chappaquidick”. EGP connected to TGP, which is open on W; Matakies Bay – open on E; Wasque Pt. ; “Cape Poge Light”; “Skifts I. Shoal”

1830. *Crapo. Lithograph from 1830 map series. Chappaquiddich Island.*

Shear pen pd; shows fence (or road) bounding off North Neck with Indian’s Heand(?) Land, Indian Meeting House; square fence/road bounding central area; Big woodland in center W of island, with woodlands indicated going E towards wetlands into Pocha Pds. Big opening at far East side with marshes along W side.

1833. *Cape Poge and Adjacent Shoals – Blunt.*

Shows many shoals; Wasque break at E end. Shows Lagoon Pd open at East(?); light at Cape Poge;

1844. *Lithograph. MV. Simca Borda.*

Chappy – Breach to far east – called Norton’s Pt; Indian land “Indian ?Lands?” shown as fenced to North Neck – shows road but also a dotted line running E-W on Chappy Rd; apparent enclosure in center of island about where corner to Edo’s place is.

E – “Pahogonet” shown; Pahogonet area shown between Job’s Neck and Oyster Pd.; Oyster Pd shown as breeched; EGP – “Herring P”

OB – “Lagoon Pond”; “Holmes Hole East Chop”; Segekonrace?t Pd” with breach in center across form Felix Neck; OB – “Sengekonratchet (?) Pd”

T – “Chappaquonset Pd” with “Tashmoo Spring”; “Holmes Hole Windmill”

WT shown as town center; road layout; Indian Hill with symbols below “Christiantown”; “Chappaquonset Pd” for Tashmoo; “Holmes Hole Windmill” only one shown; Oak Bluffs called “Holmes Hole East Chop”; Lagoon Pd inlet form East side shown, but seems like a barrier island open on both sides.

C – Stone Wall Beach; Squipnocket; no breech there; Nashaquitsa region shown between Nashaquitsa Pd and Squipnocket Pd;

GH – “Indian Lands”

1858 *Chappaquiddick. From TTOR (Unclear).*

Very poor reproduction. But looks like good detail.

Breach in center between Wasque and Katama.

1858. *Walling. “Map of Martha’s Vineyard & The Islands”.*

See book. Lists owners so can see relationships between densities and continuous woodlands; rivers laid out nicely;

T – WT Village, Middletown; Chappaquonset Pond; Waqualnua (?) or Lagoon Pond; Ukquiesia or Great Tisbury Pond; shows connection between TGP-Black Point Pod-Chilmark Pd; no breaches except possible in W side TGP;

OB – Eastville; Wesleyan Grove;

C – No one shown on Squibnocket or around to base of Tashmoo;

E – “Sengekontacket Pond” breach seems further S below Felix Neck; No one on Plain; only 1-2 in Pohogonet area except at coast; Pohogonet Camp; canal clear from EGP to Katama Bay; lots of activity in Katama area – Wind Grist Mill

Chappy – Breach in center “West Opening”; Wasque Pt and Norton (?) Pt labeled; Pond forming at base; North Neck – Indian Lands;

Walling 1858

?? not sure if here or Des Barres. Gayhead – Indian lands seems focused on South half toward Red Gate Farm and Squibnocket Beach. No houses throughout that area. Big wide Squibnocket Beach – shows Lily Pond. Grist Mill at Priester’s Pond.

1860. *Chart of Vineyard Sound and Nantucket Shoal.*

Focus on water and lighthouses/buoys – on Cape Poge, Edg, W Chop, GH and 2 (buoys?) on Middle Shoal;

1860. *BPL From Muskeget Channel to Buzzard's Bay and entrance to Vineyard Sound, Mass. United States Coast Survey.*

Remarkable detail. Map has around coast; notes on bottom sediments

Chappy – Cotamy Bay; 2 Openings – West Opening in center and East opening through base of Wasque; forest shown, separates out marsh from forest near “Poucha Pond”; almost continuous woodland from Caleb’s Pond to Poucha Pond; none on North Neck N of road- whole central E-W part of island; fences; No other breaches in coastal ponds except Eel (to East) and Sengekontacket – in center below Felix Neck – with “sason Island” just W of mouth; forest on Felix Neck;

Doesn’t show Duarte Pond (perhaps – dark area?); area woodland except for few crop fields;

T – Chappaquonset Pond; Shows James Pond Seth’s and Ice House Pond – latter two not named;

Seems to separate out cultivated fields from open ? pastures; Big area – much of Woods property and W/SW shown as open; Big area Kings Highway – Forest as also down towards Quansoo; lots of small woodlands;

C – Shows pond at Paint Mill Brook; Not clear if Harlock on;

Biggest area without forest – Woods to back end of Waskosim’s along High Meadow Road to Tea Lane, S to Tiasquam R N side (S is CW to Kings Highway); Then Chilmark Pond to Abel’s Hill, and right across to Prospect Hill;

1871. *Dukes County. Walling & Gray. Atlas of Massachusetts.*

Very similar to 1858.

Chappy – single central opening.

GH – Squibnocket Beach, Pond, and area; Shows broad area separating the pond and the sea;

C – Interesting broad wetland to N of Chilmark Pd – extends fully to road;

Chappy – depicts hached line – fence(?) along road and heading N at corner to Cape Poge Pd – bounding “Indian Lds”; also square at corner bounded (?)

1879. *A. Williams & Co. Railroad and Township Map of Massachusetts.*

1886. *Edgartown Oblique.*

Shows scattered woodlots on outskirts of town and distant hills on skyline covered with trees. Also scattered trees in town.

1887. *Topographical Survey. Central 1/3 of MV shown.*

Trails up bottoms thru MCSF

T – Vineyard Haven and VH Harbor; “Chappaquonsett Pond and Sachus Spring”;

OB - Cottage City and Oak Bluffs, Eastville, Highlands; Lagoon Pd –Duarte's Pd shown just S and
outside of the Lagoon Pd Valley; RR going across Sengekontacket Pond; Little Pd also shown off
Dr Fisher's Rd;
E – Herring Pd
T – Great Tisbury Pond