

# Martha's Vineyard Gazette<sup>1</sup>

Excerpts and notes by David. R. Foster. Compiled by Jenny Hobson and DRF.

## 1846

*The Vineyard Gazette. A Family Newspaper...Neutral in Politics....Devoted to General News, Marine Intelligence, Literature, Morality, Agriculture, and Amusement. Price only One Dollar per annum.*

### May 21, 1846

[The Western United States. Discussion of attraction that West and other lands have on islanders. Pitches "goodly island", "soils yield abundantly", and waters "teem with myriads of the most delectable fish".

NoMans – 3 families residing & 4 men attached to them; had taken 130 quintals of cod \$487.50

War proclamation James Polk with Mexico

Lists of Schooner, Sloops, and ships arriving

Lists ships with oil & bone amounts to New Bedford, Tarpaulin Cove, Mattapoisett, Boston

Reports from letters of ship locations

New Steamer Naushon      Edgartown- New Bedford- Woods Hole-Holmes Hole]

### May 28, 1846

(For the Vineyard Gazette)

Edgartown – South Beach – Mill Hill

Mr. Editor. –

Having made occasional visits to the Vineyard during the last four or five years, I have thought it would not be amiss for me to express the opinion I have formed of the Island and its inhabitants. I am the more free to give form to my thoughts in this public manner, because of the little, the very little I have observed that would lead me to unhappy reflections.

I will first speak of Edgartown. Of the numerous villages in New England, which I have visited there are few that will compare in beauty of external appearance with this. Its situation is delightful. With its position upon one of the best and most picturesque harbors in the world, with its view of the sound with its busy fleets and the far reaching Cape on the East, the Highlands in the West, and the broad-spread, leaping, foaming, dashing and thundering Ocean on the South, it may bid defiance to all the New England coast to present a more inviting retreat to the lovers of pleasure and the admirers of the beautiful. I have ever liked to ride across your South plain, enlivened by its flocks of bleating sheep and skipping lambs, and stand alone upon the ocean's shore. The wild shriek of the swooping sea-gull alone divides attention with the hoarse murmurings of the storm-raging billows as they dash furiously at my feet. The world is behind me, and before me lies the infinite of finite objects – the Atlantic in all its grandeur, swelling and

---

<sup>1</sup> All spellings as in the original.

All writing is direct quotes except for notes in [ ] taken by DRF

widening and deepening and lengthening beyond the ken of human vision. Here is the spot for solitude or for the noblest conceptions of the grand, as the mind shall dictate.

If a stranger will ascend a small hill to the left, as he enters the village from his ride on the Plain, he will doubtless like myself be struck with the novelty of scenery. Facing towards the East, on the right heaves the ocean he has just admired, on his left lies your quiet little village, while before him winds the river-like harbor, separating him from a small island, which may be viewed at a glance, interspersed with ponds and forest trees and contented dwellings. Beyond all on his right, on his left and in front, is still seen the waste of waters.

### **May 28, 1846**

[Advice on planting trees; Arrivals & Memoranda on ships & whaling  
Moshup tale.

Description of Edgartown & grazing on Katama.

News from the army.

Consumption remedy – wild cherry.

Value of walking vs. horseback.

Woman should be like and not like a clock, echo & snail]

### **June 4, 1846**

[New Bedford Oil Market

Tales in Memoranda on mutineers, crooks, storms.]

### **June 11, 1846**

[Mattakesett Herring Creek ~ \$50 cents per hundred. 1597 barrels, 958,200 herring.

American Seaman's Friends Society Boston – met on moral improvement of sailors.

Comanche depredations.

Settlement of Oregon controversy and border w/ England.]

### **June 18, 1846**

[Sunset on Chilmark Hills .

Good crop news from across New England.

Attempting same day deliver in West Tisbury & Chilmark. Vineyard Gazette hopes to be a County paper.

Oregon treaty signed.]

### **June 25, 1846**

[Throughout all months – lots of foreign news “Ten Days Late from Europe”.

Indian news from the west.

News of Congress.]

### **July 2, 1846**

[Reprints manure article from New England Farmer  
Boston & Sandwich Glass Company described & production a trip to Sandwich  
St. Johns Northfield fire  
Barre – annually 1.2 m palm hats  
New Bedford Oil Market; Brighton Cattle Market [regular feature]  
Tribulation of Ireland – unemployment, poor clothes, housing, food]

**July 9, 1846**

[Telegraph is expanding in state extolling the virtues of Chilmark for farming  
letter from person who excursions there (real estate values)  
Bradley Woolen Mill in West Tisbury]

**July 16, 1846**

[Large hay crop & good belt  
New Indian treaties in United States  
Great fire in Nantucket  
Grove meeting at Pohogonot]

**July 23, 1846**

[Woodlots for sale and farm  
Fine young wood soon fit to cut  
Protest of Naushon steamer running on the Sabbath – letter  
Report on growth of plantation of pitch pine raised in Sandwich from seed.  
Loads of lumber from Bangor for sale]

**August 6, 1846**

[Cape Cod Branch Rail Road discussion in Wareham  
Camp Meeting at Millennium Grove Eastham  
Letter suggesting that idea of Edgartown hotel is good & Martha's Vineyard will become much  
resorted to.]

**August 13, 1846**

[Camp Meeting at Wesleyan Grove. 25 tents 20-25 people converted; grove beautiful; 5 year  
lease;]

**August 20, 1846**

[Yield of rye is light; especially on Plain;  
Come to the Vineyard for health or pleasure. Excursion in the woods, excellent hotels etc.]

**September 3, 1846**

[Agriculture being studied at Yale]

**September 10, 1846**

[Value of Marsh weeds & mud.

Long letter extolling virtues of Martha's Vineyard for visit; stay in Edgartown]

**September 24, 1846**

[Collapse of Irish potato crop

60 quintals Cod at NoMans]

**October 8, 1846**

[Dignity of Agriculture; benefits of exercise

Governor declares Thanksgiving – in imitation of the examples of the wise and good who have gone before us.

Use ashes on farm, don't sell them

Fire in Plymouth Woods near Halfway Pond]

**October 15, 1846**

[Age we live changing very fast. In contact with Rockies. Will be air-shot across country or transmitted by telegraph

Rail Roads are annihilating the obstacle of distance

Tapping resources]

**October 29, 1846**

[Honorable Leavitt Thaxter nominated Whig Candidate State Senator]

**November 5, 1846**

[Letter – are we to have coal this winter? Yes, Ship is coming.]

**November 19, 1846**

[... Neutral in Politics... The Vineyard Gazette. A Family Newspaper, Devoted to General News, Literature, Morality, Agriculture, and Amusement]

**May 14, 1846**

...We have been much gratified to learn that some of our citizens are about planting *pine-seed* upon our plains. The soil of this Island is naturally inclined to the growth of this tree, and the experiment will undoubtedly succeed well. The pine is a tree of great value as well as beauty and the property in that part of the Island will be greatly enhanced in price, should a vigorous growth of these trees shoot up and take the place of the barrenness which has so long prevailed in that neighbourhood...

**May 21, 1846**

The West

The following extract of a letter from the West has been furnished us by a friend. It was written in answer to an enquiry by him as to the prospects of those who might wish to remove thitherward. We hope it will have some tendency to check the wish for emigration, which at present so extensively prevails among our good citizens. This is indeed a goodly island – the soil yields abundantly – the waters which surround it teem with myriads of the most delectable fish, which can be procured almost “without money and without price;” the truly poor are unknown among us; every man sits comparatively at ease, reposing in the full enjoyment of the fruits of his own industry; the air is pure and full of health; our schools are unsurpassed; our churches are numerous and well filled with attentive worshippers;—in short, we know of no place, all things taken into account where true independence and happiness, are more easily around than in this...

**July 9, 1846**

Chilmark

A friend, who occasionally furnishes a paragraph for our columns; sends us the following brief observations upon this, the Goshen, upon a small scale, of our country. – Our friend is choke full of zeal on the subject of agriculture, and has as much prejudice in favor of farming as the English and Flemings have.

“Chilmark is a very superior farming town. – All the south shore below the central range of hills, from the splendid farm of Captain Hancock, to the entrance upon Gay-Head, is of a superior quality – excellent for both grass and grain – easily tilled, and exceedingly productive. The tract cannot contain less than 3000, perhaps 4000 acres. We will hazard the assertion that there is not in the State, with the exception of some portions of the banks of Connecticut river, a tract of as many acres lying together, with less poor land. The farms on the southern slope of those hills, and owning the natural “blue-grass” and black-grass meadows – next after “flowed” meadows the most valuable description of landed property, would be prizes worth great competition, but in the absence of a suitable market for the products of the soil. It is this want which paralyzes the energies of our agriculturists, and leads to those visions of wheat-fields in the Western prairies, which haunt them at this time with as much pertinacity as the ‘image’ haunted ‘Frankenstein,’ in Mrs. Shelley’s legend.

There are good farms in that part of the town which goes by the name of Cape Higgin, and interspersed amongst the high hills, and in the central valley leading westerly from West Tisbury, are other tracts of excellent land.

Were it not for the fear that I should be suspected of sinister objects, I would go a little into detail of the energetic husbandry of the Chilmark people. They work early and late, and we at this end of the Island have but the faintest idea of the amount of labor they do in a year. A gentleman who would remove – to the West of course, offered the writer of this his farm, at the

appraised value of the standing wood – the quantity not large, and the cost of the *stone wall* – which might have been *two or three miles in length.*”

**August 6, 1846**

[For the Vineyard Gazette]

Mr. Editor – Your paper intimate that the subject of building a hotel is under serious consideration by the people of Edgartown. Permit me to request your insertion of an extract from a reply of mine to an attack upon the Vineyard, made in a Boston paper in 1836. My reply appeared in the Boston Commercial Gazette, and was as follows: —

“One word more of the Vineyard, — as it is – *I have no doubt that at no very distant day it will be much resorted to.* Its climate, pure as any in the world, its great facilities for fowling, fishing, and sea-battling, together with the Sabbath-sobriety and stillness which invariably compel a relaxation of mind in the highest degree favorable to the attenuated nerves of business men, will make it what Ryde and Hastings are to the English and Dieppe and Harfleur to the French. A Boston friend told me it was surprising what alacrity the visit had imparted to his spirits. Unlike the Eastern monarch upon whose tomb-stone it was recorded that ‘he was well – would be better, took physic and died,’ my friend came in perfect health, yet went away improved. So much for the Vineyard.

Yours,

\*\*\*\*\*

**August 6, 1846**

The Emigration from Europe. – The tide of emigration from the Old World to the New continues to flow as strong as ever. During the last month the large number of thirteen thousand five hundred and nine human beings have left their native shores, and sought a new home and new associations in this favored land.

**August 27, 1846**

Come to the Vineyard – All ye who are in pursuit of health or pleasure – come to *our* “seagirt” Isle, and breathe the pure sea air, unmixed with dryness and dust, and free from cobwebs—and your worn-out frames will at once regain their needed strength and elasticity, and your fevered minds their needed to repose and composure...

...Here you will find excellent hotels, and gentlemanly landlords, as well as good private houses—here, too, you can fish, and be sure of having “most glorious nibbles” and catching most capital fish—then you can sail through the pleasant and picturesque harbor—and when tired of this you can use your gun advantageously,—and if fond of a stroll, you can enter the old woods, and hear the sweet and gushing melodies of the wild birds among the trees...

...Such woods there are on this “Isle of the Sea,” and happy are those who walk among them.

## 1847

### January 1, 1847

[Discussion of enlargement of the Gazette]

### January 8, 1847

[The following letter to the Gazette is written with regards to the windmill in Edgartown]

#### The Unruly Mill

Mr. Editor:—I have observed for a couple of Sunday's past that we have rather an unruly Mill among us, upon our Western hill. It has kept its long arms flying as though there were no God in Heaven, no Sunday on earth, no lovers of the Sabbath to feel afflicted at the desecration of that holy day, and no law of our excellent Commonwealth against it...

...Were this Mill in a heathen land it might be justified in running on the Sabbath. But in this gospel land, of bibles, ministers, Sabbaths and churches, it looks to us not a little *heathenish* for it to stand there on the hill, all this holy day, in full view of the house of God, where his ambassador is teaching the assembled worshipers, the ways and will of God, and where certainly it would learn better morals than to go on Sunday...

### February 19, 1847

#### The Starving Poor of Ireland

The accounts from Europe are of the deepest interest. The people of Ireland are in a dreadful condition—in the midst of famine, absolute and unalleviated.—Death from hunger is spreading to a frightful extent among her people. Her condition cannot be fully described, certainly not exaggerated...

...America is groaning under her plentiful harvests,—her grainaries are more than full,—her people are prosperous beyond all precedent, and have and to spare, an abundance of all the necessaries and the comforts and luxuries of life. It behooves her, then, to extend to suffering Ireland the hand of relief...

### March 12, 1847

[Letter – outrage over herring fishing at Mattakasett on Sunday]

### March 17, 1847

#### Destructive fire in the Woods

The usual quiet of our village was broken on Tuesday last, about noon, by the bells pealing forth the alarm of fire. It was soon discovered that the woods in Newtown were in a blaze, and many of our citizens hurried to that section of the Island, to assist in subduing the flames, which spread with frightful rapidity, and were not checked until Wednesday, 3 P. M.

We are greatly indebted to Harrison P. Mayhew, Esq., for the following accurate and interesting particulars regarding the origin, progress of, and probably loss occasioned by the fire:—

Great Effects from Small Causes.—A Mr. Nickerson, in West Tisbury, on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, set fire to a small plot of blackberry briars in his orchard, not designing to injure any person's property. The fire, when caught, soon became uncontrollable, and with astonishing rapidity, (although exertions were made to check its progress) soon reached the wood land in the neighborhood. The fire then raged with great fury through the afternoon and night, although many men were on the spot to check it. On the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup>, our bells again rung for renewed exertions, which was promptly responded to. By great exertions, the fire was brought under control about 2 o'clock, P.M., after having burnt over about 5000 acres of wood land and about \$2800 worth of wood. The principal sufferers are—

Daniel Vincent, \$500; Joseph Vincent, \$150; Joseph Dunham, \$300; Thomas Stewart, \$175; Samuel Kenniston, \$100; Chase Pease, \$100; R. and J. Beetle, \$100; Seth Vincent, \$100; Nathan Jernegan, \$100; Nicholas Norton, \$60; Bartlett Stewart, \$75; widow Hannah Look, of West Tisbury, \$300. Many others, who are not named lost from 60 to \$75 worth.

Length of distance burnt, about 7 miles.

Width of same, about 1 1-4 miles.

Much praise is due to the men from Holmes' Hole, as well as to our own townsmen, and those from West Tisbury; but especially would we notice (and with pleasure,) the activity of the clergy men from Holmes' Hole, who appeared willing to labor with their "hands" as the Apostle was. Is not this, as a poet once said, "*Worthy of the name of Tell?*"

#### **April 15, 1847**

[Report on Tisbury Schools]

#### **April 25, 1847**

[Hannah Divine RIP. Gashed. Uncommon, moral, Christian]

#### **May 6, 1847**

[Close of the first year's volume]

#### **May 27, 1847**

Home Manufactures.—We have had the pleasure of examining some very fine Tweeds and Satinets, manufactured at the "*Tyesquin Factory*" in West Tisbury, owned by Thomas Bradley, Esq. They are of a very good quality. The Satinets appear to us to contain better and more stock than is usual. We hope our merchants will supply themselves with these useful goods; and that our citizens generally will purchase them in preference to those brought here from abroad. We understand that about 1800 yards of these goods are turned out weekly as the above establishment.

**June 10, 1847**

Edgartown

Herring Fishery—There have been taken, at the Mattekessett Herring Creek, during the present season, 1,317,000 herrings, or, allowing 600 herring to the barrel, 2145 barrels. The greatest number taken in 24 hours, was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, when 129 barrels were secured.—The price of the herring per hundred, this year, has average 53 cents; which gives the sum of \$6980.10. Allowing one quarter of this for labor and salt, and there is left to the owners of the Creek, the handsome sum of \$5,235...

...The average number of barrels for the thirteen preceding years, is 1270—making 925 barrels more this, than the average for thirteen years past...

**June 17, 1847**

[Lawrence School founded at the Harvard with \$50k from Abbott Lawrence.

“a school for the instruction of men in practical and useful sciences connected with the mechanical arts”

Fire in Plymouth Woods ]

**June 17, 1847**

...Young man, leave your vain aspirings after wealth, and be a farmer. Court a vigorous frame, an active mind, and a contented spirit, more than money...

**June 24, 1847**

Mount Prospect Paint Mill—We are pleased to announce that Messrs. H. & F. Nye, of Holmes Hole, have lately erected and put in operation at the “Roaring Brook,” in Chilmark, a Paint Mill. They grind Paint, of all kinds, in oil and water colors, in the best possible manner, and dispose of them on as reasonable terms as they can be obtained any where. All orders left at their store in Holmes Hold, will be promptly attended to. They also have for sale, oils, glass, paper-hangings, and all other articles in the line. The Messrs. Nye are gentlemen of enterprize and public spirit, and we hope that all those on the island who deal in the articles they manufacture, will bestow their patronage on them. Let us help one another; and those among us who are unwilling to help and be helped, should at once emigrate to—Oregon.

**July 15, 1847**

Two Men Missing—Supposed Loss of Life.—On Monday, the fifth of July, two men, (Indians) natives of Gay Head, named Amos Jeffers, Jr. and Jeremiah Weeks, proceeded in a Vineyard sailboat on a sword-fishing expedition off Noman’s Land.—Nothing has since been heard of them, and as the boat’s mainsail was picked up on Tuesday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, on Gay Head, the supposition is, the boat was stoven by the sword of a fish, and sank from under them. It is barely

possible they were picked up by some vessel; but the impression is general that they have found a watery grave. They were both men of uncommon promise. Mr. Jeffers lately returned from sea, as first mate of the whaling bark Mary, of New Bedford, and was soon to have sailed from that port in the capacity of master.

### **July 22, 1847**

[People beginning to go to Oregon, United States about to take control]

### **August 5, 1847**

[United States Coast Survey 3 vessels in harbor Favorite, Liberty Gallatin and will be joined Bibb. Liet. Maffitt  
Announcements of Indians died at sea “gentleman”]

### **August 19, 1847**

[Correspondence of the Vineyard Gazette]

Gay Head

Well, friend Marchant, here I am, at last, standing upon a rock at the extreme west end of Martha’s Vineyard; and how do you think I got here. I must tell you. To-day, after eating a hearty dinner, two of us, in a good carriage, started from Edgartown, and drove up through West Tisbury, viewing, as we passed along, the fine farms which meet the eye on every hand. The Tyesquin Woollen Factory, owned, I believe, by the Hon. Thomas Bradley, is situated about in the centre of the town; although it is as yet small, it is doing a fair business. On the right, as you pass, just above this Factory, you will see the Dukes County Academy. Onward a short distance, and we find ourselves in the good township of Chilmark, celebrated for its good lands, fine cattle, excellent butter and cheese, and very generous inhabitants. In a few moments we arrive at the house of Ephraim Mayhew, Esqr., for many years Postmaster. Here it is necessary for us to alight and let our horse have time to breath and get a bite to help him on his way. After being refreshed, and our steed put in good trim, we set off for the Head. In a short time we reached Chilmark Cliffs, near the brow of which will be found the first of twenty or more sets of bars for us to take down and put up again, and some of them five rails, too. We trudge along some distance and reach Stone Wall Beach, which is nearly half a mile long, composed of gravel, from the size of a pea to as large as your fist, over which beach if a man has any mercy he will not ride. After passing this, you come to the most hilly and uneven country you perhaps ever saw; still the land is good and yields abundant crops. Some two or three miles beyond we come to what is called Gay Head, although yet at some distance from where we are now. – being at last on the Head, you must be a good pilot to reach the light by a direct course, as you will find roads and paths running across and intersecting each other in all directions of the compass; however, after a little delay and not a few questions asked, you will find yourself quietly seated either at the residence of Mr. Flanders, the gentlemanly and polite keeper of the light, or if you choose with our Indian friend, Mr. Thomas Cooper, who never turns one away from his house. It was pleasant for us strangers to be so well-provided for at the house of the last named gentleman. After a good dish of tea we were all ready to go out and take a view of this the greatest natural curiosity of the State of Massachusetts if not of our country.

A description of it is impossible; a true picture in colours would give but a faint idea to one who had never witnessed the original. To attempt to portray its grandeur and beauty in words would prove abortive, as in every case of Niagara. Suffice it to say, that I have never yet in all my travels visited any point of natural curiosity where I have been so completely carried away with its appearance. To obtain the best view one must get a position upon some large rock at the foot of the banks at sun set, and if the exhibition then presented to his view does not fill his mind with wonder and delight, I know not what will; he would wish the sun to linger in his sitting, that he might view for hours, Gay Head in all its majesty and glory. – There is no deformity, no dwarfish appearance here; every thing is grand and beautiful beyond description. In fact, if any one wishes to know any thing about it, he must see it for himself, for no one can do it for him. I will trouble you no longer at this time, but hope at a future day to give you some other items, that may interest your readers, in regard to this part of your goodly Island. N. W.

---

A person who did not happen to notice the earthquake give it as his opinion that it was “no great *shakes*”

### **August 26, 1847**

...The Nantucket papers give a very gloomy account of the state of business in that place, and in view of it urgently recommend the introduction of some branch of the business other than that of whaling. But one ship has sailed thence for the last seven months, and the three whale boats which she required, are all that the market called for. This is certainly a very discouraging state of things and furnishes excellent reason for the Nantucketers to better themselves in fixing on some other employment for the place.

### **September 2, 1847**

Whaling gun demonstrated

### **September 9, 1847**

*To the People of Nantucket—*

I beg you, ladies and gentlemen, to take no offence at the well-meant advice I am about to offer. It is this—*to leave Nantucket,—to remove your business to Edgartown.* For years you have fought bravely against the difficulties, and disheartening circumstances imposed by your situation in the prosecution of your peculiar business. Whilst that business was generally prosperous, you were enabled by the aid of your industry and economy to surmount partially those difficulties, and to acquire wealth,—large, yet nothing in comparison with that of other places neither so industrious nor so economical as yourselves. I believe that the same enterprise—for you have been very enterprising—and the same prudence in expenditure, for you have been generally very prudent, would have made you, in a favorable location, second to no town of your size in the country. But you have had to fight against serious impediments. Your harbor has a bad bar, is far to leeward, and is ice-bound for months—nearly everything consumed in your families must be brought from abroad. Even the beauties of *nature* are totally wanting, except that pretty women, and fine children abound—and that there is an exhibition of *natural* grandeur in a March south-easter at Siasconset...

...Come then, ladies and gentlemen, to the Vineyard—to Edgartown—remove your ships to that excellent harbor, never in the worst weather for forty-eight hours together, barred up. Improve the plan—in *actual agitation by your fathers more than fifty years ago*, of making Edgartown a large whaling and commercial port. I do not own an inch of land in the village of Edgartown and I do not know what I should achieve any pecuniary gain by your coming, but I would enjoy the pleasant spectacle of your carriages rolling along the highways of the islands, and see the improvements, both urban and suburban, which I believe, would result from your undeniable thrift and energy—now faltering, but soon, I hope, to be resuscitated, wherever you are.

I am an old

*Friend.*

### **September 23, 1847**

From the Nantucket Inquirer

To the “Friend” of the People of Nantucket at Edgartown:—

Dear Sir:—In behalf of “the ladies and gentlemen” of Nantucket, and on *our own responsibility*, we thank you for the well-meant advice which you gave us in the columns of last Thursday’s “Vineyard Gazette.” We thank you, moreover, for the very generous testimony which you bear to our bravery, industry, economy and enterprise, all which traits we unquestionably possess in a remarkable degree besides a great many more equally rare and valuable, among which we will mention a very strong attachment to old Nantucket. But grateful as we are for the excellent character which you give us, and for the very friendly interest which you take in our welfare, we must, in the name of our entire people, respectfully be to be excused from leaving Nantucket and removing our business to the Vineyard—for the, to us, sufficient reason, that we greatly prefer to stay where we are...

### **October 7, 1847**

The Vineyard as a Watering-Place in the Summer Season.

### **October 14, 1847**

[Various woodlots, farm, & pasture available – Holmes Hole & NoMans pasture]

### **December 2, 1847**

[Advertisement for Satinets mix & Kerseys and white flannel made from Vineyard wool. Thos Bradley & Sons]

### **December 17, 1847**

[Ireland is lawless and rioting]

### **December 24, 1847**

Agricultural Meetings.—Considerable information might be obtained that would be interesting to our farmers, by having an Agricultural Meeting occasionally, in the fall of the year, after harvest

time. It is then each one can give an account of the success he has met with during the past season in raising the various articles usually produced on the Island.—We might be able to ascertain the best season of the year for transplanting trees in our soil; the quality of land that best suits the peach, apple, quince, cherry, and other trees, as well as the most approved means of preserving them. Too many valuable trees have already been lost the past year, either by neglect, or the want of a proper knowledge of the means necessary to cultivate them.

Other matters, interesting to the farmer, would necessarily come up for discussion at these meetings, by which means an improvement may be made in agriculture on the Island.

Something is wrong relative to the transplanting of trees—this is evident from past occurrences, and in order to ascertain the reasons that lead to such disastrous results with our fruit trees, what better mode can be suggested, than holding these discussions together? Who would move in this matter?

Farm Neck

## 1848

### 1848

[Reports values at Brighton Market

Cattle, swine, sheep, working oxen

Oil Sperm – 106-168 cents

Whale – 32-36]

### January 14, 1848

Salt for the Curing and Preserving of Fish

Fearing from some remarks which we have heard of late, that some of our good people may be prevented from engaging in the fishing business, on account of the present high price of our country salt, we feel it our duty to say a few words on the subject. While we would always prefer our own article to a foreign one, the present scarcity of American salt, renders it necessary for us to use the imported article. The present high price of our own salt is occasioned by the failure of the crop last season, not much more than half the usual quantity being raised. On the other hand, there was an importation of foreign salt last year of one million bushels over 1846: and the quantity yet to arrive is very large. This heavy importation, and the amount now afloat, bound to the U. States, together with our next season's crop which may be as large, probably larger, than any crop during the past six years, will have a tendency to reduce considerably the price of the home article...

...We see no cause for discouragement in the fact that home-made salt is high, and we hope no one will be deterred from entering the fishing business on this account...

### January 28, 1848

## Coast Survey Charts

By the report of the general superintendent of the Coast Survey, A. D. Bache, recently submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury, we learn that a chart of our harbor, embracing a map of the island, will soon be published. Those who have seen the charts emanating from the office of the Coast Survey, know them to resemble maps more than charts. The hydrography has never been equalled, and were our people aware of the manner in which these charts are engraved and published, there is not a family in town but would procure one as soon as possible.

What surprizes us most is, that the roads running to and on the island, are laid down so correctly. A description of the country through which they pass is seen at a glance; and with one of these charts, a perfect stranger on the island, can find his way to any part of the country. This, in itself, is worth the amount usually charged for them, (the price of the *paper* upon which they are struck off.) A correct description of every pond, with its outlet, or path leading thereto, is laid down, besides a scale of miles, by which anyone can ascertain the exact distance (within a foot or less,) from one point to another. But this is not all. To the mariner, passing in and out of our harbor, as well as to the traveller, this chart contains information of incalculable importance. The outlines of the coast, the position of the light houses, buoys and rocks, with shoals and soundings, are laid down without any errors. It is perfect, or as near perfection, as science, at the present day will admit. It is, in fact, beyond improvement. The courses and ranges for entering and departing from this port, are a suitable guide for any one who never was in the harbor; and when we can be placed in possession of all this information, almost at a glance, for the small sum of twenty cents, it is to be hoped that every one of our citizens will procure a sheet as soon as published. Perhaps some will ridicule the idea of placing one of them in their parlor; but we are satisfied, upon inspection, they will agree with us, that they are an ornament to the room of any gentleman. Doubtless they may soon be had at the book store of W. C. Taber, New Bedford.

Nautilus.

## **February 11, 1848**

Edgartown:

### FISHING

Companies are now rapidly forming in this town for the purpose of purchasing fishing vessels, and we expect to be able to announce the obtaining of several in a week or two...

## **March 10, 1848**

Decline of the Whale Fishery.

During the past year the number of vessels employed in the whale fishery has been materially reduced, and a corresponding reduction in the number of officers and men engaged in the business has followed. How far, and to what extent this matter will effect us, must remain in obscurity until the reduction has reached its lowest point; still, we cannot close our eyes to the

fact that we shall feel the effects of the decline in the business that has been our principal source of prosperity, to a greater or less degree...

... Three years since there were many more vessels employed in this branch of trade than now. Nantucket has suffered severely in this respect: no less than 15 vessels have left that port within three or four years, probably never to return. – We, too, have allowed ship after ship to leave us. During the past year the tonnage of New Bedford has decreased 2536 tons, Fairhaven 243 tons, Dartmouth 387, Mattapoisett 338, Sippican 307, Wareham 219, Holmes' Hole 338, Edgartown 434, Nantucket 1567, Barnstable 90, Provincetown 418, Plymouth 99, Lynn 260, Fall River 196, Freetown 319, Bristol 1521, Warren 585, Providence 714, Newport 728, Stonington 681, Mystic 583, New London 4333, Bridgeport 263, Sagharbor 4856, and New Suffolk 274 tons, – making, in the aggregate, nearly 20,000 tons decrease in one year, – comprising 53 ships and barks, 6 brigs, 3 schooners, and 1 sloop. Twenty-six of this number were lost. Throughout the United States there was an addition of nine vessels only, during the year 1847...

...It is said, the scarcity of whales, the manufacture of lard oil and camphene, and the substituting of gas for oil, are the principal causes that have made business less profitable than heretofore...

**April 7, 1848**

Edgartown:

Town Meeting.

Selectman, Town Treasurer, Fire Wards, Board of Health, Sealer of Weights and Measures, School Committee, Constables, Field Drivers, Fence Viewers, Surveyors of Highways, Surveyor of Wood and Bark, Surveyors of Lumber, Pound Keepers, Hog Reeves.

**April 7, 1848**

[Advertisement for Mount Prospect Paint Company H&F Nye Holmes Hole]

**April 14, 1848**

Dukes County Census of 1840-1845

	1840.		1845.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Salt, bushels,	1,380		500	\$150
Capital invested,		\$2,700		2,000
Indian Corn, bushels,	7,604		12,615	8,585
Rye, “	985		1,116	890
Barley, “	399		131	117
Oats, “	1,746		2,738	890
Potatoes, “	10,041		21,185	5,204
Other esculent vegetables, bushels,			14,240	3,002
Hay, tons,	1,471		2,045	23,240

Fruit, bushels,		15	2,020	883
Butter, lbs,		972 <sup>2</sup>	19,923	3,863
Cheese, “		972	5,520	497
Vessels in whale fishery,			15	
Tonnage,			4,487	
Sperm oil, gallons,	149,380		109,435	96,625
Whale and other oil, gallons,	60,750		51,170	18,625
Whalebones, lbs,		7,298	16,000	7,360
Capital invested,		161,250		242,800
Home made or family goods,		2,575		
Stores, dry goods, grocery,	29			
Capital invested,		51,600		
Grist mills,	7	2,100		
Capital invested,		1,300		
Wollen factories,	2	900		
Capital invested,		1,800		
Hide, tanned,			700	2,400
Capital invested,				1,800
Hose, pairs,		2,500		625
Boots and shoes,			2,030	3,385
Bricks,			25,000	112
Casks,				6,800
Boats,			33	6,015
Mackerel, barrels,			217	1,300
Codfish, quintals,	150		247	651
Other fish and lobsters,				3,650
Merino sheep,	8,160		2,449	16,274
Other kinds of sheep,	8,160		9,228	16,274
Wool, merino, lbs,	17,192		5,650	8,577
“ other ”	17,192		21,045	8,577
Horses,	283		304	12,333
Neat cattle,	1468		1820	30,468
Swine,	867		719	7,445
Wooden houses built,	21	36,600		

## May 26, 1848

### Edgartown

#### A Visit to Gay Head. No. I

...The day was, on the whole, favorable, and the road good until we reached the Indian tract, through which, for the distance of about four miles, our horses could only walk. On expressing my surprise at the badness of this path, the driver said that few travelers ever visited the cliff by land, the Indians were too poor to make a road, and the whites did not want one. The country road which stops at the Indian tract is well made, and saves the visitor a deal of trouble to which the visitors of Gay Head had previously been subjected from the innumerable bars which were to be taken down and replaced, at every stones-throw, for several miles...

<sup>2</sup> Note: on the census from the actual newspaper article some of the items quantity and values had a } bracket with an amount in the middle of two census items indicated the number was the same for both. In this chart I just entered the number into each line.

**June 1, 1848**

Edgartown

A Visit to Gay Head. No. II

...To our regret, we learned that there would be no public religious exercises, there being no missionary in the district. We were thus prevented from seeing the whole remnant of the tribe, and from worshipping the Great Spirit in company with our colored brethren, – *colored* I call them, for so they called themselves, no one that I saw using the term *Indian*...

...Were these strata, then, originally horizontal, and uplifted to their present inclination by subterranean fires? This is a probably conjecture, and yet the appearances of volcanic action are not certain and distinct....

**June 1, 1848**

Chestnut post for sale                      600 by EG & JH Pease

**June 1, 1848**

Mr. Editor – I wish to call the attention of the owners of woodlands in Dukes County to the fact of the exceeding, and permanent injury done to this species of property by permitting sheep and cattle to pasture upon it and browse it down. The strongest evidence I have ever had has come up within the last month. The subject will bear line upon line, and precept upon precept. Permit me to say that I do not see how a portion of your paper can be better used than in a discussion which shall bring out the experience of our people upon this matter of vital importance. Wood is becoming comparatively scarce on the Atlantic border; -- a century more and a spectacle of dreary nakedness will be exhibited rivalling the middle counties of England.

I had the *luck, good* or bad, last month of having a fire visit unbidden a portion of my woodland. It was in a pasture where the wood bore the proportion to be cleared land of not more than one eighth part – causing the stock to browse it low to obtain the woody fibre they required. It became necessary, after the fire that I should cut all that part where the fire ran to give the young sprouts a better opportunity to start. In doing this the incalculable injury caused by permitting stock to pasture in young woods became apparent. *More than two thirds of all the tress contained a worm or were rotten or hollow inside.* In one place of fourteen small trees standing together one alone had a sound butt. I was before aware that browsing caused trees to grow crooked, misshapen and unsightly, but I learned then for the first time that it is the cause of there being hollow and rotten. Hereafter I shall arrange to keep cattle and sheep from all woodland I am desirous to preserve...

**June 15, 1848**

Lumber                      Shingles, Clapboards, Joists, Laths, Fencing stuff                      Ira Darrow

**June 22, 1848**

Lumber – Coffin

Coal – Darrow constantly on hand

### **October 6, 1848**

1778 – We are indebted to Hon. Theodore G. Mayhew, for the original copy of the interesting document which follows: –

An Account of Horned Cattle and their Weight, the number of Sheep and Tuns of Hay, Which Was Taken by the British Fleet and Armeey from the Inhabitants of the Town of Edgartown, on the Island of Marther's Vineyard, in Dukes County: Between the Tenth Day and fifteenth of September, annoque Domini, 1778 –

40 people listed with 1-7 cattle taken (most 1-2) and 3-807 sheep. Many with 30-100 sheep taken. Peter Norton had 7 cattle and 807 sheep. About 11 people with ¼ to 5 tons of hay. Totals – 112 cattle, 3898 sheep and 17 ¾ tons of hay. So average: 2.6 cattle, 47 sheep.

### **October 20, 1848**

An account of sundry items taken by Brits

Wood – We know of no article in the purchase of which our citizens are much more imposed upon than this. Much of that brought here is nearly worthless, and would hardly find a market elsewhere. – Then a great deal of it is short of the proper length, and when corded every shift is made to make as large a pile as possible from the smallest quantity of stock. There is an astonishing difference between the inner and outer end, too! We hope those who general buy wood to sell again, will in future refuse to purchase, at any price, the miserable stuff which is constantly arriving at our wharves. Let a lesson be thus given to those who have so grievously imposed upon this community, and the future all will be well.

### **October 27, 1848**

...Wood – The law of Massachusetts for the measuring and selling of wood, is certainly a wholesome one, and we can see no good reason for its inoperation among us. We are of the opinion that the town is morally bound to enforce the law...

...Sect. 200. All cord wood exposed to sale, shall be either four feet, three feet, or two feet long, including half the carf; and the wood, being well and close laid together shall measure in quantity equal to a cord of eight feet in length, four feet in width, and four feet in height...

...Sect. 202. The measures of wood and bark in any town shall be entitled to such fees for their services, as the selectmen of such town shall establish; and the said fees shall, in each case, be paid to the measurer, by the driver, and shall be repaid by the purchaser...

...Sect. 204. Each wharfinger, carter or driver, who shall convey any firewood or bark from any wharf or landing place in any town, shall be furnished by the owner or seller of such wood or bark, with a ticket certifying the quantity which the load contains, and the name of the driver; and if any firewood or bark shall be conveyed as aforesaid, without such ticket accompanying the same, or if any driver shall refuse to produce and show such ticket on demand, to any measurer duly sworn as aforesaid, or give his consent to have the same measured, or if such tickets shall certify a greater quantity of wood or bark than the load contains, in the opinion of the measurer aforesaid, after measuring the same, the driver and owner of such wood or bark shall, for each load thereof, forfeit the sum of five dollars, to the use of the town where the offence shall be committed...

### **November 26, 1848**

The California Gold Region.

It is reported, with trust and reason I believe, that Col. Mason, of the army, commanding our forces in California, has sent an official account of the extraordinary gold and quicksilver mines of California to the Secretary of War, and that similar accounts from officers in the navy have reached the Secretary of the Navy...

...The gold region of California is said to extend on both sides of the *Sierra Nevada*, and to embrace a surface larger than that of the State of New York...

...It is indeed a strange and mysterious fact, that while all other countries are involved in great national disasters, every thing seems to prosper in the United States, both in war and in peace, and in our foreign and domestic relations...

### **December 1, 1848**

The New England Air-Tight Cooking Stove, for 1848

Chart of Edgartown Harbor – We have received, at the hands of Lieut. Wm. C. Pease, a very beautiful and accurate chart of Edgartown harbor, founded upon a trigonometrical Survey, under the direction of A. D. Bache, Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey. This chart reflects great credit on all concerned. From it, a bird's eye view can be had of all the dwellings, roads, paths, ponds, & c., on this portion of our island. To the mariner, desirous of entering Edgartown harbor, this chart will prove invaluable; – the depth of water being given, and all the light houses, shoals, rocks, buoys, etc., pointed out. It can be had in New Bedford, for a mere trifle, (15 cents, we understand,) of Charles Tabor, 45 Union street. Of course, all will buy a copy.

## 1849

### 1849

[Regular reports of riches from California in 1849

Regular columns 1849 “From Europe” “From the Gold Region” “Letters from California”

Camp Meeting at Edgartown

Cholera

~6 ships to California                      Dukes County Mining Company]

### January 5, 1849

A new, safe, cheap and expeditious route to California by JTE Gage of Edgartown

Across Nicaragua

### January 26, 1849

Edgartown

For California

The California fever has seized upon a large portion of our citizens at last and we should not be disappointed. If a hundred or more of our islanders were finally *carried off* by it.

On Monday last, upwards of forty of our townsmen, formed themselves into a company, with the intention of procuring a ship and proceeding to the gold diggings with all dispatch. – The brig Vesta, of this port, now undergoing repairs, is up for California, and will sail without unnecessary delay. She is to be manned principally by a company from Tisbury and Chilmark. The fast sailing schr. Rialto, as previously announced, is fitting at Holmes Hold, for the same purpose.

The most, if not all of those about leaving the Island for the new-found El Dorado, are men of character and some little property; and many of them will leave families behind them.

### February 16, 1849

The following is a list of the necessaries for each person going to California by the way of Cape Horn: – 10 barrels of bread, or equivalent of crackers, in tin if possible, or in spirit casks; 10 lbs. table salt; 40 lbs butter, well worked or good cheese, well put in brandy; coffee, sugar, tea, spices &c., as if for a long voyage at sea; 3 pairs of coarse cotton pantaloons; 3 pairs of coarse woollen pantaloons; 2 coarse woollen coats; 2 coarse woollen overcoats; 2 coarse cotton hats; half a dozen pairs of common boots, packed in tin soldered, or otherwise packed so as to exclude sea air, which moulds them. Other clothing, (mostly thin,) for a year’s wearing. Take some simple house furniture, if possible.

### March 2, 1849

The Gold Region.

### March 16, 1849

Store and workshop of Isaiah Hillman near Roaring Brook consumed by fire.

### **March 31, 1849**

For California – The Ship Walter Scott, lately arrived at Nantucket, from a whaling voyage, has been purchased by the “Edgartown Mining Company,” for the sum of \$9,500. – She is expected to arrive here in about a week, when she will be fitted, with all dispatch, for California. The company consists of 50 picked men, under the command of Captain Henry Pease, 2d, and if there is any gold left at the diggings, they will go in for their share of it. The brig Vesta, of this port, is now already for California, and will probably sail in a day or two. She is mastered and manned by Vineyard men, and we expect they will return, in due time, with their packets filled with golden ore.

### **May 4, 1849**

New Road from Edgartown to Holmes Hole

Mr. Editor – Probably the public are not fully aware of the large amount of travel between Edgartown and Holmes Hole. The present road, being the mail route is daily used for that purpose alone. As the Edgartown and New Bedford packets cannot furnish near the requisite accommodations for all the passengers between the two places, large portion, if not a majority, are under the necessity of passing over the road. Many persons also take this route from choice, preferring a trip in the steamer from Holmes Hole to a passage in the packet. Add to this the travel arising from the business transactions between the two villages at the termini of the road, and also of people living along the line, and we have an aggregate amount not equalled by any road in the “County of Dukes County.” Notwithstanding the great and increasing use made of this road, it is the sandiest, the most inconvenient, the most crooked, in face the worst road of the same length on the Island. It is eight miles long, and a straight line from Edgartown to Holmes Hole is less than five miles.

The good people of Holmes Hole and Edgartown have patiently endured the affliction of being dragged over this road for many years, and it is but just that they should now have a better one. The public good requires that there should be an entire new road between the two places, and that it should be absolutely straight, with no bends or curve whatever, not less than four rods wide, with a good and substantial bridge over the pond or lagoon. Such a road would be about five miles or less in length, instead of eight miles, the present distance; and could be traveled in twenty-five or thirty minutes, instead of one hour and a half; as at present. The conveniences and advantages to be derived to the travelling community from a new road are to manifest to need any detail; and the cost would not probably exceed one thousand dollars per mile, or five thousand dollars for the whole road. This sum would hardly be felt as a County tax. Our intelligent County Commissioners could not fail of perceiving at once, the property of building such a road, and would no doubt grant a petition for that object, without any hesitation. Three or four years since, our Chilmark friends started a petition for a County road in that town, when received the good wishes, the influence and names of the people of Edgartown. The petition was granted by the

Commissioners, and the road built at an expense of about five thousand dollars. Another petition is now before the Commissioner, for a county road in the North Western part of Tisbury and North part of Chilmark. This petition also, has received the signatures of many of the citizens of Edgartown and Holmes Hole, some of whom are among the most influential men in those places. Now, Mr. Editor, a petition for a new County Road from Edgartown to Holmes Hole, such as has been described above, would no doubt receive the aid and assistance of a large majority of the people of Chilmark and Tisbury, as a matter of reciprocity, and could have but little or no opposition from any quarter.

At any rate, should the Commissioner, at their session on Monday next, grant the petition now before them for a County road in Tisbury and Chilmark, an application would be made to them for a new road from Edgartown to Holmes Hole, and which they could not in justice refuse. Much more might be said on the subject, but having already trespassed on your patience, the remainder will be deferred to another opportunity.

E. Pluribus Unum.

### **May 25, 1849**

Another California Company – Quite a number of our townsmen intend purchasing as soon as may be, a first class schooner, of about 150 tons, for the purpose of proceeding to the gold region. The company will consist of from 15 to 20, mostly experienced captains and mates.

### **May 25, 1849**

The County Commissioners, at their session in this town, on Wednesday, granted the petition of John Hammett and 216 others, for a County road “through the North part of Chilmark and North west part of Tisbury, so far as to open the communication with other roads, in the aforesaid section of the town of Tisbury.”

A petition, numerously signed, was presented to the Commissioners, praying for a new County road, in as straight of a line as possible, between Edgartown and Holmes’ Hole. The old road, in a most miserable state, is 8 miles in length, and as crooked as a “ram’s-horn;” while the distance from the Methodist church in this place, to the Congregational church in Holmes’ Hole, (as ascertained by late actual scientific measurement,) is a trifle less than four miles and a quarter. Under these circumstances, to say nothing of the great advantages that would accrue to the County generally, a new road seems a desideratum.

### **June 21, 1849**

Edgartown  
For California

The owners of the ship Splendid<sup>3</sup> have decided with great unanimity, to send her to

---

<sup>3</sup> We have an image of one of the register of oath's (from the MA Historical Society) for a ship named "Splendid" from 1849. Owned by Abraham Osborn.

California. She will go out under the command of Captain Jared Fisher, an old and experience whalemans.

There is hardly a man on the island, at the present time, of a suitable age, who does not wish to go to California. About *three hundred persons*, as we are told, have applied to Captain Morse, of the bark Sarah, for an opportunity to go in that vessel. She will take 60 or 65 out of the number. The Splendid will probably carry from 60-70 men; and the difficulty will be to make a selection from double that number who are anxious to go in her.

Our Tisbury friends are now building a vessel for California, and the Chilmarkers will have a brig of their own, if they cannot embark in the Splendid.

Another large ship could undoubtedly procure a good company from here in a day or two. — Our are determined to “go it,” — “neck or nothing.”

There are quite a number of poor men here, anxious to go to California, who are unable to leave their families without assistance. They are able-bodied, industrious men, and better gold-seekers cannot be found. We hope that such men may be thought of, and measures taken to assist them.

### **August 16, 1849**

Picnic – A grand picnic came off in this town on Friday evening last, which was graced by the presence of Hon. Daniel Webster...

### **September 21, 1849**

List of those who have left the Vineyard for California

In Schooner Rialto

Sailed from Holmes Hole, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1849

In Brig Vesta

Sailed April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1849

16 men

In Ship Walter Scott<sup>4</sup>

Sailed May 7, 1849

24 men

In Bark Sarah

Sailed September 3d 1849

60 men

From the Gold Region.

---

<sup>4</sup> Also have the register of oath's for the ship Walter Scott

...During the month of July, 3,000 American emigrants and 600 foreigners had arrived; and among them all there were only 49 females...

In Ship Splendid  
Sailed Sept. 20, 1849  
47 men

69 men

The following named persons, belonging to the Island, are either now in California or on their way their: –

19 men

### **September 28, 1849**

Edgartown

Our Wharves – Last season Osborn's wharf, at the foot of Main street, which had for some time been much out of repair, was re-built in the very substantial manner. This summer the wharf belonging to Messrs. Daniel Fisher & Co., and directly below their extensive Oil and Candle Factory, has been entirely re-built in a superior style. The piles upon which the wharf stands are pine, the bark perfectly whole and secured by copper nails, which will keep the worms from the wood for a great length of time\*. The timbers on which rest the top of the piles are beveled a little on each edge, so that the water may run off easily, and are covered with a thick coat of *pitch*, which will undoubtedly preserve the wood from decaying; the top is of yellow or southern pine planks, 3 inches thick. They are also covered with *tar*, which was put on boiling hot. The surface of the planks are now very hard, and we have no doubt in saying this is the best built wharf in our place...

... "Mayhew's wharf was re-built some two or three years ago, and is now in good order. After the repairs are all finished, there will be a 5 as good wharves in this place as can be produced by any town of its size in the Commonwealth...

\*it is said that as long as the bark can be kept on, the worms will not affect the wood; if that is the case we do not see why these piles may not last *for ever and a day*.

### **October 19, 1849**

Future Prosperity of Edgartown

...In common with neighboring places, Edgartown has for a few years appeared stationary, or almost losing ground, owing to the depression of the whaling interest, as well as other causes. But the new enterprise which has arisen within one year, calling a large number of our most active

citizens away to California, has put a new face upon affairs, and opened a new field for anticipation and result.

The *immediate* effect of sending abroad so much capital, and so many men, is necessarily increased dullness of enterprize, stagnation of business, and scarcity of money, at home...

...More of our money must go to support our own workmen, trades, and professions, and less to purchase manufactures and fineries from abroad.

We must become *less dependent* upon other places for things we need to consume, by producing them as far as possible among ourselves. In fact, our production must be made more nearly to equal our consumption, and even to exceed it, – or we shall keep growing poorer, however much money may now and then be obtained from sudden or extraordinary causes...

...Why, if capital should *not* come in through these adventurers, then there is still the greater need of some home business and pursuits, *immediately* planned, and *all ready* under way, by which to retrieve the loss, to restore the fallen fortunes, and to occupy those returning thus unsuccessful, impoverished, and discouraged...

## **December 7, 1849**

Edgartown

Encouraging Advantages

Never was a place better suited in most respects, for business and advancement, than is Edgartown...

...1. We have a most excellent harbor and port, – unrivalled indeed in this section of country. – Completely land-locked, yet capacious, – easy of access, and but little out of the way, – for wharfing, – it furnishes every inducement for maritime enterprize. By a wonderful provision of nature, there is a tide current entirely through from both directions, thus keeping the channel constantly clear and deep, – an excellence we think not possessed by any other good port along this coast.

This port is moreover immediately upon the highway from Boston and New York, – midway between the two cities, – in the very thoroughfare of all the important coast-wise commerce...

... (2) Our plain provides any fine room for streets and for building to any extent, with great regularity and beauty, – without the tediousness of steep travel and transportation. At the same time the regions of the Neck and of Tower Hill, furnish excellent opportunities for slightly mansions, elegant gardens and walks and variegated scenery of hill and vale.

Tower Hill might be rewarded for its name, – thus made highly appropriate, – by the erection of a tower, or observatory... ...it might be made a popular resort for strangers and invalids, – and even a splendid hotel there, surrounded with walks and shrubbery, and connected

with bathing and fishing fixtures, might be a most profitable, and at the same time a most charming affair.

3. Add to this, that we have one of the finest climates to be found hereabouts...

...We have, moreover, a commanding beach, open to the whole broad Atlantic, where the seas roll terrifically high, for the gaze of admiring visitors...

...We would not desire the whaling interest to be abandoned, *by no means*...

... No community should depend on one interest alone for its prosperity...

...Let public meetings, if necessary, be called to enquire into these matters; let committees be appointed to examine the best and most feasible plans of industry and enterprize; let reports be delivered and published, and the whole community stirred up to engage in the common advancement. Commence judicious undertakings, and push them through! And be this our motto:

“Onward – Right Onward!”

### **December 28, 1849**

Matakeset Herring Creek – It has long been a matter of doubt, with many, whether those who improved this property, had any legal proof of ownership; and some have asserted that the creek belonged to the town. The following, which is a true copy from an old record, throws some light upon the subject: –

At a legal meeting of the owners and proprietors of the neck of land and ware at Maticesset, in this town of Edgartown, legally warped and assembled this twenty-first day of March, anno Domine, 1728-9, – Voted that Capt. John Butler be the moderator for said meeting. The sd. owners and proprietors considering the great advantage it would be to us and the general benefit to the inhabitants of said town to have a creek dug and kept open through said neck and the other necks to the westward of said neck, so as to let out the fresh water of the great pond into said Mattakesett harbor, not only in prospect of the fish that pass up and down when there is a creek, but also in prospect of the bass and other fish that follow them and that com into said harbor for the sake of the fresh water that runs down said creek, and also in that thereby said pond will be kept fresh for the cattle that go on the common, and the many other advantages that will accrue thereby to said town, and impossibility of keeping open a creek where the old creek was, and the vast cost and charge of digging and keeping open a new creek across said neck and other necks as aforesaid...

**1850**

**1850**

[Increasing amount of advertising of off Island goods and stores. Many items. Many stores – New Bedford etc.

Much more news from California than Martha's Vineyard in the paper]

**1850**

**The Traveling Public**

Are hereby respectfully informed that my arrangements for their accommodation are now complete.

The Stage will leave Edgartown, daily, Sundays excepted, at 9-o'clock A. M., always arriving at Holmes Hole in season for the steamboat.

Upon arrival of the steamboat from New Bedford on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, carriages will be in readiness to convey all the passengers to Edgartown, without any unnecessary delay. Fare, fifty cents.

Those who book their names at the store of John A. Baylies, may be sure of being called for.

Horses and carriages to let  
feb8

John Pease.

**March 22, 1850**

Holmes Hole

**H. & F. NYE,**  
Manufactures of and  
Dealers in  
PAINTS, OIL, JAPAN,  
and  
VARNISHES, &c. &c.,

Respectfully inform their friends and the public generally, that they have on hand, and are receiving from their Mill, fresh ground PAINTS, of all kinds, viz:...

**March 29, 1850**

[Advertisement: Turks Island Salt T. Bradley]

**April 5, 1850**

...Voted, That the law respecting Grouse, or Heathhen, be suspended so as to allow the hunting of them, without dogs, on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of November...

**April 12, 1850**

[Advertisement: H. & F. Nye 1/8 column ad for different paints List >20 colors]

**April 26, 1850**

Edgartown  
Regulations of the Board of Health  
Of the Town of Edgartown.

Whereas, the undersigned, Board of Health, of Edgartown, being desirous to execute the duties of their important and responsible office, by taking all suitable and efficient means for the preservation of the health and lives of the inhabitants, adopt the following Regulations, both for the hindrance of any infectious or contagious disease being brought, or communicated on shore from vessels arriving in port, and for the removal of Nuisances, Sources of Filth, and causes of Sickness within the town.

Article I. All vessels arriving at this port, with any infectious or contagious disease on board, or in which any infected person has lately been sick, shall anchor without the Light House, and shall have displayed, at half-mast, or in the shrouds, a flag, as a signal of her situation; and no *person* nor *thing*, shall be allowed to leave, or be taken from, any vessel having any infectious disease on board, or which may be quarantine, or which ought to be in quarantine, for any of the causes aforesaid, without permission, in writing from the Board of Health: nor shall any person, except the Board of Health, or someone authorized by said Board, *visit* any such vessel; and all vessels, buildings, or other places, suspected of being liable to communicate any infectious disease, (as soon as known to the Board of Health,) will be indicated by the display of one or more *Red Flags*; from which vessels, buildings, &c., all ingress or egress is hereby prohibited; except to said Board or others by their written permission. In order to protect the Village or Eastville, in said Town, the above regulation so far as it relates to visiting, carrying to or from such vessel, (from or to the village of Eastville,) without permission as above, will apply with equal force, to all vessels arriving in the Harbor of Holmes Hole, having on board any infectious or contagious disease. – [*see Revised Statutes, chapter 21, section 5 and 6*]...

**May 3, 1850**

*Transactions of the Agricultural Societies, in the State of Massachusetts, for the year 1849.*

This is the title of a very interesting and quite voluminous work, (421 pages.) just issued from the press of Dutton & Wentworth. Boston, under the supervision of W. B. Calhoun, Secretary of the Commonwealth, to which latter gentleman we are indebted for the copy before us. It is printed in excellent style, as are all the works given the public through the same channel; and contains a mass of agricultural information which we should rejoice to see placed within the reach of every farmer in Massachusetts. – Among its contents, are the Returns of the Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture; as also the Returns of the various Agricultural Societies in the State...

...Throughout the whole work, we looked in vain for the slightest notice of the doings of the agricultural population of our Island.

**May 10, 1850**

Fire in Plymouth woods burned 3000 cords. [Indicates that Gazette pays attention to fire on island and in region.]

Notice of Edgartown Board of Health controlling disease entering with ships. Anchor out of port. No throwing of fish or animals on dock.

**June 21, 1850**

The County Commissioners, at their meeting on Friday last, determined that it was necessary to lay out a new road between this place and Holmes Hole, and gave notice that said road would be laid out on Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August next...

...We, therefore, citizens of Dukes County, respectfully request the Honorable Board of County Commissioners, to commence the contemplated road, by a continuation of the present Main Street, in a direct line; allowing a full and honorable satisfaction to the owners of any houses which would be thus disturbed...

**June 21, 1850**

Population of Edgartown – The Assessors have completed a census of the town, report the total population to be 1,894. Ten years ago it was 1,803. Increase 91....

...We learn from the Nantucket Inquirer that the present population of that town is 8,779; being a decrease of 233 in the last ten years.

**June 21, 1850**

JEREMIAH PEASE,  
STEPHEN SKIFF,  
HERMON VINCENT,  
County Commissioners for Dukes County

**June 21, 1850**

**Cash Paid for Plovers.**

Henry A Coffin wishes to purchase all the Plovers which may be killed by the good gunners in this vicinity, for which the highest cash price will be paid. june7

**June 28, 1850**

To the Honorable County Commissioners for the County of Dukes County.

The undersigned humbly represents, that he is the owner of a tract of Salt Meadow, which is situated in Edgartown in said County of Dukes County, and commonly called the Cheegses [??] Creek Meadow, on the Island of Chappaquidic; that said meadow, previous to the stopping of the outlet from Poucha Pond, usually produced from one to two tons of salt grass annually; that in the summer of 1848, the Poucha Pond Meadow and Fishing Company stopped the outlet to said

Pond, and thereby caused the water to flow on the said meadow the greater part of the time since, thereby drowning and killing the grass that otherwise would have grown on said meadow, to the hurt and damage of your petitioner.

He therefore requests that you would duly examine the premises, and take into consideration the damage that he has sustained, and award him so much as in your judgment shall be just and reasonable. And as in duty bound will every pray. Signed, Henry Pease

Edgartown, June 7, 1850

### **July 12, 1850**

[Zachary Taylor dead]

### **August 16, 1850**

Margaret Fuller, Marchesa D'Ossoli –

This lady, well known to the reading community as a gifted and accomplished writer, perished in terrific gale of July 19<sup>th</sup>. In the midst of the darkness and driving rain, the ship Elizabeth, in which with her husband, the Marquis D'Ossoli, and her little son, two years of age, she had embarked at Leghorn on her return to her native land, after an absence of nearly five years, was hurled upon the breakers of Fire Island, near Long Island, and in a few hours was broken in pieces.

“ in the same billow – in the same dark grave  
– Mother, and child, and husband had their  
rest. The dream is ended; and the solemn wave  
Gives back the gifted to her country's breast.”

Sarah Margaret Fuller was born in Cambridge, about the year 1807. Her grandfather, Rev. Timothy Fuller, was a minister of the church in Chilmark, from 1778 to 1781, where her father, Hon. Timothy Fuller, who represented the Middlesex district in Congress from 1817 to 1825, was born July 11, 1778.

At a very early age Margaret evinced remarkable mental abilities. When only eight years of age she daily composed a number of Latin verses, while her studies in history, philosophy, general science and literature, received close attention. In her riper years she was a model of thorough intellectual cultivation, and was particularly distinguished for her brilliant conversational powers. P.

### **September 20, 1850**

LUMBER.

The Lumber yard of the subscriber has been removed to the yard back of Mr. Josiah Gorham's Candle works, where may be found timber, boards, plan, pickets, laths and shingles, and various other articles too numerous to mention; all of which will be sold on the most accommodating terms. IRA DARROW. nov16

Lumber - - Lumber.

Just received two cargos consisting of Boards, Shingles of various kinds and prices; Pine, Spruce and Hemlock Timber –Clap boards and Laths, which will be sold low for cash.

DUNHAM & BAYLIES

June 14

LUMBER.

Just received from Bangor, a large and general assortment of Lumber; consisting of Pine and Hemlock Boards, Spruce Timber, Laths and Shingles, of all kinds and qualities; all of which will be sold as low as can be purchased upon the Island.

THOS. M. COFFIN.

Edgartown, July 4, 1850

### September 27, 1850

[For the Gazette.]

*A review of an editorial communication in the Ladies' Repository, for Sept., 1850.*

It appears that the Rev. V. F. Tefft, D. D., has made a visit this summer to Martha's Vineyard. He informs us on arriving at Holmes' Hole, that the very name offended him. We are sorry to learn that he *fell* so soon from that high state of refinement as it seems in his description of the vehicle in which he was conveyed to Edgartown, which he was pleased to call a "a sort of Wigwam,"\* the meaning of which is an Indian cabin or hut, "on two pairs of wheels." In other days we recollect of seeing a log cabin on wheels, but never an Indian Wigwam or hut; it must have reminded the Rev. gentleman as he moved on in the "*Wigwam over the wide sand barren fields,*" that there the Indian once lived, among what the Dr. is pleased to call "*miserable moss covered shrub oak bushes.*" The Dr. is a man of extraordinary judgment. After spending "nine days," long enough to make observations, and mature his reflections, he brings in his *Verdict*. "The whole Island," he says, "is a perfect *desert*, excepting the garden plots, and is not worth one acre of ordinary Indiana land." There is every year supported from the produce of this *perfect desert*, as the Dr. calls it, not less than 500 head of cattle, 1000 sheep, about 200 horses, saying nothing of the vast amount of vegetables and fruits which this Vineyard yields annually.

We have long since heard great stories about the richness of western soil, but Dr. Tefft surpasses the whole, boldly proclaiming, that *one acre of ordinary Indiana land is worth more than all Martha's Vineyard!*

No wonder the tide of emigration sets to the West. But to be serious. I am very sorry to see a work generally conducted with so much propriety as the Ladies' Repository, curtailed in its circulation, as I am confident it will be, if the Editor continues such imprudent communications. It is to be hoped the Dr. will never write a book of travels until he can describe those places through which he may pass with more accuracy, than he has the Vineyard.

A Lover of Truth.

\*As to the "Wigwam," as the gentleman is please to term it, it is a very large and comfortable carriage, well adapted to the route over which it has to pass. When the new road is completed, a carriage of more modern construction will doubtless take its place. – *Ed. Gazette*

**September 27, 1850**

Improvement. – We are glad to notice that a great improvement is being made on and about “Osborn’s wharf.” The wharf has been considerably widened next to shore, and the sides walled up with stone, which will render further repairs needless for a long time to come. – Several small buildings, which stood over the water, on the north side, have been removed so far as to give place to the improvements which have been made.

**September 27, 1850**

The excitement in New York relative to Jenny Lind seems to increase, rather than diminish. Castle Garden was filled to its utmost capacity at her last concert on Thursday evening.

**November 8, 1850**

DIED.

In Chilmark, on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> inst., Mr. Sam’l Tilton, aged 68 years. He went into his mill, and put a grist of corn in to grind, and while conversing with a friend, almost immediately fell back and expired.

**November 22, 1850**

Edgartown

NOTICE

[“with a detailed description of the road layout”]

The undersigned, hereby give notice that they will sell, in sections, on SATURDAY, the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, at one o’clock, P. M., at the TOWN HALL, the making of so much of a Highway or Road, recently laid out by the County Commissioners for Dukes County, from Edgartown to Holmes Hole, as was located within the limits of the town of Edgartown...

...The said road is to be thoroughly made in every part, and to be cleared of all *obstructions* – the whole four rods in width. Wherever the land is standing transversely of said road, the lower side to be raised with earth. Wherever the descent or ascent is great, the hills to be so far reduced as the safety of the public shall require. The surface smooth, with suitable drains on either side...

...the said road is to be constructed, made, and completed to the acceptance of the aforesaid Commissioners, through the Selectmen of the town of Edgartown, on or before the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, A. D., 1851.

P.S. after said road has been sold by selections, should a competent man present himself, and offer to take the whole for less money than the sectional parts have sold at, the whole within the bounds of Edgartown will then be sold at once....

**November 29, 1850**

Population of Dukes County. – We learn from the returns of the Assistant Marshal, R. L. Pease, Esq., that the total population of this County is found to be 4540; of whom 2329 are males; and 2211 females – divided as follows:

Edgartown has a population of 1990 – 1036 of whom are males, and 954 females.

Tisbury a population of 1803 – of whom 892 are males, and 911 females.

Chilmark a population of 747 – 401 males, 346 females.

There are 794 dwelling houses in the County. Edgartown has 303; Tisbury 350; Chilmark 141.

### **December 6, 1850**

#### **Wanted**<sup>5</sup>

All the hawks on Martha's Vineyard, for which the subscriber will pay twenty-five cents for each one delivered to him on or before the first of January, 1851

DANIEL FISHER

#### **Assignee's Notice.**

The third meeting of the Creditors of Samuel Osborn Jr., an insolvent debtor, will be held at the office of Leavitt Thaxter, Esqr., Commissioner of Insolvency, on Tuesday, the twenty fifth day of February next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at which meeting Creditors may present, and prove their claims.

DAVID DAVIS, Assignee

Edgartown, Nov. 29, 1850

#### **Lamp Oil**

Bleached Winter Sea Elephant Oil, for sale by

C. B. MARCHANT,

nov29

No. 4 Osborn's wharf.

### **December 6, 1850**

Church Dedication at Gay Head

...The new Meeting House at Gay Head, will be dedicated Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. Services to commence at 11 o'clock A. M. Sermon by Rev. Chas. G. Hatch...

### **December 6, 1850**

---

<sup>5</sup> Ad runs > 2 times.

The New Road: - On Saturday last, agreeably to previous notice, the Selectmen of the town, sold at public auction, “the making of so much of a highway or a road, recently laid out by the Country Commissioners for Dukes County, from Edgartown to Holmes’ Hole, as was located within the *limits* of Edgartown”...

...The following will show the length of the sections, to whom sold, and the amount for which each lot was bid off: –

- First lot – 32 rods – Daniel Fisher – \$1,99 per rod.
- Second lot – 92 rods – Amos Mellen – \$2,00 per rod.
- Third lot – 288 rods – Nicholas Norton – \$2,10 per rod.
- Fourth lot – 131 rods – Leander Mayhew – \$2,25 per rod.
- Fifth lot – 392 rods – Leander Mayhew – \$3,00 per rod.
- Sixth lot – 189 rods – Orlando David -- \$3,45 per rod.
- Seventh lot – 398 rods – Leander Mayhew – \$3,25 per rod.
- Eight lot – 99 rods – Leander Mayhew – \$3,40 per rod.
- Ninth lot – 151 rods – Daniel Fisher – \$3,50 per rod.

Thus, the whole was sold, in sections, for the sum of \$5,131. After the sectional sale, Doct. Daniel Fisher bid off and agreed to build the whole road, to the boundary line, for the sum of \$4,700; saving to the County the sum of \$431. While he did this, with a liberality worthy of all praise, he informed those who bid off the road in sections, that they might proceed to the making of their several lots, and that he would pay them the full amount of their several bids, if they would only do their work faithfully. The doctor is evidentially determined to have a good road, and from his great experience in such matters, we anticipate much.

### **December 13, 1850**

Mr. Editor: – We have just returned from a visit to Gay Head, where we attended the dedication of the New Meeting House at that place.

All connected with the event was to us a subject of peculiar interest.

This new and neatly finished Meeting House is situated on an eminence that quite overlooks the Peninsula. It is built in modern style with a tower; the outside of the house is painted white, and though not large, is quite sufficient to contain the congregation that will meet in it, and has an imposing appearance at a distance. It fronts South, from which is a pleasant view of the Island of Noman’s Land, and the Ocean as far as the eye can reach. On the North is seen the Vineyard Sound at the Elizabeth Islands, and at the West on the Headland, the Light House. At the East is spread out before the eye a charming landscape even in winter, containing the town of Chilmark, dotted with houses and interspersed with woodlands, hill rising above hill, and stretching far away in the distance, constituting a pleasing back ground to the picture...

... The day was uncommonly pleasant for the season and the audience large. There were many visitors from Chilmark, Christion Town and Tisbury. Ample provision had been made to entertain

all who should come from a distance and the hospitality of the people was truly generous – a People who are now a mere remnant of a once power tribe of Aborigines of America – that formerly were the sole proprietors of the Island, now reduced to the small number of two hundred and thirty. They are an intelligent and interesting people, only wanted the fostering hand of science and letters to make them quite equal to their white brethren.

I am happy to learn that they have a kind friend who is ever ready to give them proper advice, and whose hand is ever open to aid them in time of need.

Edgartown, Dec. 11, 1850

Hope.

### **December 13, 1850**

Oregon – Mr. Thurston, the Delegate from Oregon, has published a circular showing the extraordinary inducements for emigrants to go to Oregon. The Legislature, at its last session, took measures to secure the quiet of the Indians by purchasing their lands, and providing for the removal of the tribes. A bill was also passed giving to all men, over eighteen years of age, arriving and settling in Oregon previous to December, 1850, 320 acres of land, if single, and if married, 640 acres. The bill then provides that if those single men marry in one year from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 1850, they shall receive 640 acres. White males over twenty-one, emigrating to the country and settling there, between the first day of December 1850, and the first day of December, 1853, shall receive 160 acres of land, if a single man, and if married, then 320 acres. But there is also a provision here, that if single men marry in one year after arriving in the Territory, they then receive 320 acres. All male minors who go to the country, and settle, and become twenty-one before December 1853, will receive 160 acres of land, absolutely, and if they marry in one year after arriving at majority, they will receive 320. – All foreigners, by filling their intentions of becoming American citizens, are treated like native born American citizens, and they are only required to complete that naturalization before they get a final title. In the opinion of Mr. T., Oregon is the place above all others for emigrants.

### **December 13, 1850**

...The value of all the slave property in the United States is computed to be about a thousand millions of dollars. In all the Slave States, the blacks increase more rapidly than the whites, in proportion to their numbers. The number of free blacks in the Southern States is about fifty thousand greater than in the Northern.

## **1851**

### **1851**

The dry goods store on Main street, occupied by Mr. John N. Vinson, was entered on Thursday night last, and goods to the value of about two hundred dollars, and \$15, in change, taken therefrom. The goods in the store were generally disarranged, and costly silks scattered over the floor, and some even left in the yard at the back of the premises, among the potato vines. As yet,

no trace of the robber. It will be recollected that an ineffectual attempt was made to rob the same store some six weeks since.

Henry J. Raymond, recently one of the editors of the Courier and Enquirer, and before that time an associate with Mr. Greeley in the Tribune, is about to establish a penny paper in New York, called the Times. It is to be one of the largest class, and independent of party. Mr. R. is now in Europe, arranging for a correspondence, &c.

### **January 1851**

[Many people returning from California to Martha's Vineyard. But California is still booming.]

### **January 3, 1851**

DIED

In Delhi, Hamilton county, Ohio, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Seth Mayhew, formerly of Chilmark, aged about 70 years.

In Stors, Hamilton county, Ohio, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Martha S. wife of Samuel Williams and daughter of Jonathan Bassett, formerly of Chilmark, aged 30.

At Maui, on board ship Gen Scott, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Francis Fisher, of this town, aged 21 years 6 months.

At the hospital, in San Francisco, about 1<sup>st</sup> November, Mr. George Look, of Tisbury.

### **January 3, 1851**

Marine News

Port of Edgartown

Ar 27<sup>th</sup>, bark Peru, Fisher, of and for Nantucket, 95 days from Talcahuano, with 750 bbls sperm oil, 150 do whale. Reports nothing new...

### **January 3, 1851**

Drawing from Nature in one hour.

Geo. H. Swift would respectfully inform the ladies and gentlemen of this place, that he has learned a new method of Sketching, with facility and accuracy, from Nature – and is prepared to impart a thorough knowledge of the Art, in ONE LESSON. No previous knowledge of Drawing, whatever, is necessary to insure success. Portraits, Landscapes, Flowers, Animals, Machines, interior of Saloons, &c., may be drawn from the original with the greatest accuracy and quickness.

### **January 31, 1851**

The Laws of Health – In pursuance of a notice which appeared in our columns last week, Dr. Wm. A. Alcott, of West Newton, the distinguished author and physiologist, was present, and

gave an interesting and valuable lecture... ... Half our race, in the U. S., die of fevers, one-fourth of consumption and scrofula, and the rest of other diseases, including casualties...

...The question was raised – Whence comes this state of things? Four answers are given. 1. Disease comes arbitrary Devine infliction. 2. It comes of Satan, the destroyer. 3. It is the result of chance or hap-hazard. 4. It comes as the heaven-appointed penalty of transgression. The doctor declared himself to be of the number of those who gave the latter answer. He believed disease to be manufactured by ourselves – as least as a *race*. That we have *cursed ourselves*, instead of *being cursed*...

### **January 31, 1851**

[For the Vineyard Gazette]

Mr. Editor: – I have noticed in some of your former numbers, partly editorial and partly from other writers, several pieces in regard to the propriety of starting some permanent business in this County, to use up the surplus capital that will accumulate from the return of our adventurers from California, and from the return of our whalers and whaling interests. – From the best calculation that I have the means of making, I am of the opinion that the coming spring and summer will find in the hands of the inhabitants of this County, over One Hundred Thousand Dollars more capital than we ever possessed at any one time since its settlement; and this surplus, of course, should be employed in a way that will produce the most employment to laboring men and mechanics, and, at the same time insure the best returns to the capital.

After examining all the suggestions proposed by the several writers in your paper, I see nothing that looks so safe and certain as the whaling business; and there is no business that is so perfectly understood, in all its various parts, as this; and there is no business that employs so great a variety of mechanics...

### **January 31, 1851**

[James Audubon died]

### **February 7, 1851**

NOTICE.

Collector's office

Edgartown, Jan'y 31, 1851

Proposals will be received at this office until the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February next, at 12 M. for completing the building of the Break water from Edgartown Light House to the shore as follows, viz:

Two rows of piles of oak or chestnut, with the bark on, not less than 10 inches in diameter at the small end, to be driven into the sand not less than six feet, four feet apart from centre to centre one way, and 10 the other way, of sufficient length to make a bridge seven feet above common high water mark...

...Braces of pine, 6x6 inches to be halved on, and secured by trenails to the upper part of every other pile, and the lower part of the opposite pile; Spruce plank, 4 inches thick, to be trenailed on the outer side of said piles from the bottom to the common high water mark, horizontally, commencing at the Westerly end of the stone wall and extending thence to high Water Mark.

Posts of cedar, or chestnut, 5x5 inches, to support the railing, which is to be 3 feet 4 inches high, to be mortised into each principal cross sill, on each side of the bridge...

### **February 14, 1851**

[Continuing letters supporting an investment in whaling as paying off]

### **February 14, 1851**

[Alcott lectured on "Chabbaquiddick"]

### **February 24, 1851**

To the Hon. Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled.

The undersigned respectfully represent, that they are proprietors of a Fisher, called Mattakesett Herring Fishery, in Edgartown, in the county of Dukes and Commonwealth of Massachusetts; that said proprietors were incorporated into a body politic by an Act of the Legislature, passed on June 24, 1783; that said proprietors have been in the habit, from the beginning of said Fishery, of letting about one-sixth part of the herrings which come into their creeks, called Mattakesett Creeks, pass by the Weirs into a pond, called the Great Pond, for the purpose of casting their spawn; that said proprietors have not, as a general thing, been molested in their Fishery until within about fifteen years, since which, some persons have been in the habit, from time to time, of seining the seed herrings, so called, and doubtless in so doing have destroyed a great quantity of their spawn, and the consequence is, that the early Herrings, called Alewives, which are the most valuable are very much cut off, to the great damage of said proprietors;...

### **February 28, 1851**

Another Outrage. – On Saturday night last, some villain, being possessed of a spirit which would do honor to a demon, went on board the sloop Escort, lying at Dr. Fisher's wharf, and cut the mainsail in fourteen different places in gashes from half to a foot and a half in length...

### **March 1851**

Dissolution of Copartnership

The copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of H. & F. NYE, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All those indebted are requesting to make immediate payment, and those having demands will please present the same for settlement.

Holmes Hole,  
March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1851.

HIRAM NYE.  
FRANCIS NYE. JR.

N.B. HIRAM NYE will carry on the PAINTING AND GLAZING BUSINESS at the old stand; FRANCIS NYE JR., the MANUFACOTRY. Grateful for past favors, they hope, by strict attention to business, a continuance of the same.

### **March 25, 1851**

[Edgartown Town Meeting notice. To see what measures the town till take with reference to the wood and stumps on the land recently taken for a highway by the County Commissioner's [voted to relinquish rights to all such wood and stumps]]

### **April 4, 1851**

[Discussion of South Carolina move towards secession]

### **April 18, 1851**

One of the heaviest and long-continued gales which has ever passed over our island, commenced from the northeast on Tuesday last, and raged until Wednesday night, when it somewhat abated, though it still continued to blowhard during the day, on Thursday, from the eastward. The tides during the prevalence of the storm, rose higher than they have done for the last twelve years, though we have not heard of any damage therefrom...

### **April 25, 1851**

[From the Boston Courier of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst.]

Great Gale and Flood. – A Northeast storm of almost unexampled severity began here on Tuesday night, and was still raging with little abatement when our paper went to press last night. The wind has been very destructive, blowing in sudden and furious gusts, which overturned chimneys, unroofed houses, and abused and immensity of damage to the exposed parts of buildings. The high wind was accompanied for most of the time by torrents of rain. The tide in Boston harbor rose to an extraordinary height, flooding the wharves and streets contiguous to the water, and filling cellars, to the great damage of their contents. The flood has most probably been the most destructive ever known to this city. The disasters among the shipping in the harbor, and along the coast, must have been very numerous...

### **April 25, 1851**

The Storm at Plymouth. An Extra from the Plymouth Memorial, gives a sad picture of the destruction of property in that vicinity by the late dreadful storm. The wind began to blow fresh on Tuesday night and Wednesday noon higher than was ever before, the sea making a complete breach over Plymouth breach...

### **May 23, 1851**

The law recently passed by the Legislature to restrain goats from going at large on this Island, provides that all of these animals found running at large after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November next, shall be treated as wild animals, subject to the sportsman's rifle. The object of the law is to protect young trees from the depredation of these animals.

**May 23, 1851**

[Cape Cod Rail Road authorized to extend to Hyannis]

**June 1851**

[Bathing Advertisements. Also Summer Clothes]

**June 13, 1851**

In the U. S. Circuit Court in Boston, the last week, before Judge Woodbury, Thomas H. Norton, master of the ship Menkar of this port has tried for giving Michael Mahoney, one of the crew, fifty lashes with a cat dipped in pickle, soon suspicion that he set fire to the ship the night previous. The affair happened in the Harbor of Flores, in 1849. After Mahoney had received the fifty lashes, one Green confessed that himself and two other unsuspected individuals of the crew set the fire...

**June 27, 1851**

**BATHING**

The subscriber would inform the Public, that he has just fitted up his BATHING HOUSE and is now prepared to accommodate all those who wish to enjoy the pleasure of Sea Bathing, in a very convenient and safe manner.

Terms, as follows, during the season: – Whole Family, \$3,00; for one person, \$1,50. Or 12 1-2cts each time; Ladies, 6 1-4 cents.

All those wishing to pay by the season are requested to hand in their names as soon as convenient.

IRA DARROW

je27

**July 4, 1851**

[Organized picnic at Katama. Sloops to take people over there plus others over land.

Erie Canal tube widened]

**July 11, 1851**

[Sloops, Sail boats & Carriages to "Katama grove." "Many people from abroad – including 40 from Falmouth."

Marine News. Item runs weekly and includes updates on boats, captain and people from the Vineyard and coast reporting on locations from all over the world. In contrast very little agricultural news.]

**July 11, 1851**

Lumber. [Likely from THOS. M. COFFIN]

Just received from Bangor, a large and extensive assortment of Lumber, consisting of Pine, Spruce and Hemlock Boards, of all qualities. From 30 to 40 M. of Spruce Timber, of the first quality, free from sap, suitable for frames of largest sized dwelling houses.

175 M. of Pine and Cedar, Shaved and Sawed Shingles of all qualities. Clear Clapboards.

40 M. of Spruce and Pine Laths.

12 M. of Spruce Fencing Rails, 6 inches wide, 1 1-4, and 1 3-8 thick.

8 M. Stringers for Fences – 2x6, 2x4, 2x3.

30 M. seasoned Lumber on hand, of qualities No. 1, 2, 3, 4, from 5-8 to 3 inches in thickness.

Also, 40 M. Pine Sheathing Boards.

The above will be sold as low as can be purchased in the market.

**July 11, 1851**

Dukes County ss.

*Court of County Commissioners, June 25, 1851*

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, that the Commissioners have viewed and carefully examined the County Highway recently laid out by the C. Commissioners, from near the store of Messrs. Gorham & Hillman, in Tisbury, to Manamsha Creek in Chilmark, and find said Highway made and completed according to the directions of the County Commissioners, and that said Highway is now open for the use of the Public.

Per order of said Court of Commissioners.

Attest, DANIEL FELLOWS, Clerk.

**July 18, 1851**

[Advertisement; Public Bath Houses open \$3 whole family  
Essentially nothing other than a bit of advice on farming]

**July 24, 1851**

Edgartown

Ladders – A prime article – made from sawed Spruce Poles, with oak rounds – from 10 to 28 feet in length – for sale by C. B. MARCHANT, at 10 cts per foot. jy25 3w

**July 25, 1851**

Business – Our business prospects, as a community, were never, apparently, fairer than at present. There is more money, more real wealth, on the Vineyard, to-day, than there ever was at any previous stage of her history...

...The business of whaling has never yet been fairly entered upon by us. Without a seeming obstacle to the purchase of ships, they cannot be obtained; and money, tired of waiting for a master, seeks a savings' bank abroad.

Now, why is this so? Why should Edgartown, especially, remain longer in a torpid condition?...

...Our hopes for the future centre in the young men – those who have, and those who are, growing rich...

### **August 1851**

NOTICE.

Whereas my wife, Betsey Smith, has deserted my bed and board unlawfully, and without just cause, - I hereby forbid all persons from harboring her, or trusting her on my account, as I shall pay no debts contracted by her since the 4<sup>th</sup> of February last, and shall hold all persons who may harbor her legally responsible therefor.

NATHAN SMITH

Holmes Hole, July 25, 1851

3w

### **August 1851**

SMALL POX

SPECIAL NOTICE

The following standing rule of the School Committee, adopted last year, in accordance with a previous vote of the town, has been readopted by the undersigned: –

“No child shall be admitted into any of the Public Schools without having been previously vaccinated or otherwise secured against the small pox.”

As this dangerous disease is now in town, we call the special attention of all concerned to this subject, and we request all teachers in Public Schools in town to ascertain of each scholar on entering school, whether he or she has been vaccinated, or otherwise secured against the infection; and if any are not, and release to be thus secured, either by themselves or their parents or guardians, to prohibit their attendance till the above regulation be complied with.

### **August 1851**

CAUTION: – All persons are hereby cautioned against picking any Blackberries from my premises the present season. All trespassers will be dealt with according to law.

july25

3w

LORENZO D. SMITH

### **August 1851**

LATEST FOR HAVANA

We have a dispatch from New Orleans of the arrival of the steamer Cherokee with later advices from Havana. Private letters state that the attempted revolution has been completely crushed and that many of the deluded insurgents have been taken and shot.

### **August 1, 1851**

The Wool Trade of Ohio – It is estimated that eight millions of pounds of wool will this year be sent out of the State of Ohio to the Eastern markets. The average price of the year's clip is thirty-eight cents per lb. the quality of the Ohio wool is fast improving, and for manufacturing purposes it is preferred to any other wool in the market. This wool comes to New York, Boston and Providence. The great mass of it is used in the de laine factories of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

One man has purchased over three hundred thousand pounds this season in Franklin County and its vicinity, and has paid to the farmers about one hundred and thirty thousand dollars. The highest price he paid for nay one lot was fifty-seven cents per pound...

### **August 1, 1851**

Thunder Storm – Melancholy Loss of Life. – One of the severest thunder storms within our remembrance, passed over the Vineyard on Tuesday forenoon last, by which two valuable lives were lost, and three or four persons injured.

At Chabaquidic, Mr. Wm. Brown was struck by the lightning. He had been out gathering blackberries, and as the storm came on, sought shelter in a house occupied by the widow of the late Simeon Goodrich. He had just entered the dwelling, and was tracing the passage way, when the fluid entered the house by the outside of the chimney, and struck Mr. B. on the right side of the head and face, which parts were badly burned and the skin taken off. It passed down upon the shoulder and hip, and then off by the feet. Mr. Brown was rendered insensible, but is now doing well. The lightning descended the inside of the chimney to the adjoining room, knocking down the fire board, throwing the stove into the middle of the room, and laying Mrs. G. prostrate. She was not seriously hurt, however...

...At Holmes Hole, Mr. Francis Nye, Jr. and Mrs. Elwina Norris, widow of Capt. Howes Norris, were instantly killed. Mr. Nye was in the cellar of his paint shop, on the Main Street. The fluid entered the building from the roof, striking the chimney, which it shattered, passed below, breaking out the windows, and rendering the shop a complete wreck. A portion of the fluid descended to the cellar, instantly depriving Mr. Nye of life. It struck him on the head and shoulder, and passed off by the hip and feet. The skin was peeled off and the flesh badly burned. Mr. N's show [??] was cut directly in two, lengthwise. Mr. Nye was a business man of excellent character, and his loss is greatly to be deplored. He leaves a wife and one child...

...Mrs. Norris's dwelling house is on the same street, and not far from Mr. Nye's store. The lightning descended through the roof, and shattered the whole house considerably. The fluid came out over the mantle piece in the room which Mrs. Norris was sitting, with several friends, and is supposed to have entered her ear. It slightly scorched her neck, but there was no other trace of it on her person. She was instantly killed...

...The cloud from which the electric fluid was discharged, hung directly over Holmes Hole for twenty or thirty minutes, during which time there was an almost uninterrupted flash of lightning and roar of thunder. The scene was frightful and appalling, and made the stoutest of hearts to quail....

**August 8, 1851**

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**

Whereas, the Small Pox having broken out in Edgartown, at the house of Mrs. Nancy Michael, the undersigned, Board of Health, have adopted the following Regulations and Requirements, for the hindrance of its further infecting the town and community.

1. The house and its enclosure wherein the infected are, will be considered as the Hospital; and said house shall be designated by a Red Flag, flying from a corner of the enclosure.
2. All persons, except the attending physician, and such other persons as the Board of Health shall authorize, are hereby strictly forbidden entering the enclosure, or leaving the same, or communicating in any form whatever with any inmate of said house.

The above Regulations and Requirements, shall remain in full force, until the Board of Health shall otherwise direct.

**August 8, 1851**

[Jeremiah Pease elected moderator for Edgartown, town meeting]

**August 15, 1851**

A Tempest and Its Effects – Last Saturday evening, about 7 o'clock, this place and a region of several miles around were visited by a remarkably severe thunder shower, the wind, meantime, blowing a gale. The rain seemed literally to be poured from the clouds in large streams for about half an hour, the flashes of lightning were very frequent and for the latter part of the half hour, the thunder was very heavy.

We have heard of no damage by the storm in this immediate neighborhood...

**August 15, 1851**

[Man drowned swimming across Gut. He was off a boat in harbor, had been here before. Caught in eddy.]

**August 15, 1851**

[Sermon at Camp Meeting – 4000 people]

**August 22, 1851**

The Slave Trade on the coast of Africa is nearly extinguished. North of the Equator, for the distance of 2500 miles along the coast, the slave trade has been utterly extinguished, with the exception of that carried on at Lagos, Porto Novo, and another factory on the Slave Coast. In fact

the whole trade on the western coast of Africa is now confined to these three points, and eight or ten factories in the Congo country, occupying a line of coast of less than 300 miles in length. The old seats of the trade about the mouths of the Niger have been entirely broke up by the blockade, and the natives are now applying themselves exclusively to legitimate traffic in palm oil and other articles of commerce. Forty or fifty vessels now carry on a regular trade with that part of the country. On the Eastern coast, the traffic has been very greatly diminished on account of a new facilitates for operating against it lately afforded by the Imaum of Muscat. It is calculated, and probably with correctness, that throughout the continent of Africa, at least twenty millions of human beings who were formerly exposed to the horrid slave traffic are now entirely exempt from its cruelties. The African seas, the New York Courier says, are about to become a most active field of commerce with the entire world. The seas, which formerly abounded with all kinds of piratical vessels, are not perfectly safe, and the natives, whose attention was before engrossed by the tempting rewards of the slave traffic, are now anxious to promote lawful commerce. The legitimate trade of the African coast, which formerly did not amount to 20,000 pounds annually, has now increased to over 2,000,000 pounds. The number of vessels employed is not less than two hundred. The astonishing resources of Africa in articles of commercial value are fast becoming generally appreciated, and there soon will be a peaceful strife among the commercial nations for the golden harvests they so truly promise.

### **August 22, 1851**

The Depopulation of Ireland. – The great decrease in the population of Ireland for the last ten years, as shown by the last census, is one of the most remarkable and melancholy historical facts of modern times. Between 1811 and 1821 the population of Ireland increased 35 per cent; during the ten years ending 1831, it increased 14 per cent; and from 1831 to 1841 the increase was 5 per cent. In 1841 the population of Ireland was 8,175,124. In 1851, by the census just taken, it is shown to be only 6,515,794, showing the astounding diminution of 1,659,330, or more than 20 per cent during the last ten years, so that the population of Ireland is actually less at this moment than it was 30 years ago...

... It appears that one half of the counties have lost on an average, about 36 per cent of their population. The census further reveals the appalling fact that the number of human habitations in Ireland, in 1851 is about 270,000 less than in 1841 – the whole number in the latter year being only 1,115,07, while in the former year, it was 1,374,360. This fact furnishes an explanation of the decrease of population. It shows that the very houses by hundreds of thousands, have been pulled down by cruel and avaricious landlords over the heads of their perishing tenants. They ruthlessly consigned to exile or starvation, multitudes whom the failure of the crops had deprived of the means of paying their rent. Of the whole decrease of the Irish population, about a million have been exiled to foreign lands, and the remainder have miserably perished by pestilence or famine...

...Her premature decay and depopulation have but one satisfactory explanation, and that is to be found in the oppression of England...

### **September 5, 1851**

The New Country Road, between Edgartown and Holmes Hole, is in a good state of forwardness; that portion lying within the Tisbury boundary, we believe, is entirely completed. We passed over the road a day or two since, and are free to confess that we consider this the greatest improvement to locomotion ever made on the island. Through a considerable portion of the route, the road is already as hard and as handsomely finished as any turnpike we ever passed over. There are some portions, to be sure, where improvements are yet needed; but from the commendable spirit of rivalry which exists among the contractors, we doubt not these will be made before the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., when the whole route, according to the contract, is to be completed.

Great care has been taken on portions of the route where the snow is apt to drift badly, to make the road so much higher than the general level of the earth, as to prevent the track from being banked, even when the snow may fall into a depth of two or three feet.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to many of the contractors, for their manly and persevering determination to make a road every way acceptable to the Commissioners and the public, notwithstanding the stubborn fact, that a portion of those employed will not clear over 50 cents per day for their labor.

When this road is completed, we may look for an earlier arrival of the mail, and a more extended intercourse, both social and commercial, with our sistertown.

### **September 5, 1851**

Eastham Camp Meeting – The annual Camp Meeting of the Methodist societies of Boston and vicinity, was held at Millennial Grove, Eastham, last week. The weather, with the exception of two rainy evenings, was mild and agreeable, and the attendance unusually large. The whole circumference of the encampment was studded with tents, and so great was the gathering that it was very difficult for one to move about. Every town on the Cape had its tent and was well represented...

### **September 5, 1851**

The New York Evening Post states that Messrs. Stringer & Townsend have contracted with Charles Dickens for the proof sheets of his forthcoming novel. The price paid by the publishers is \$4000; and the novel will appear simultaneously in England and this country: – ...

### **September 26, 1851**

The Drought – We do not remember the time when vegetation at this season of the year appeared to suffer from drought as much as it does at the present time. The pastures are literally burnt up, and the most deep-rooted trees give indications of suffering for want of moisture. We

had a slight shower last evening, but not enough to wet the ground below the surface – [Worcester Spy.

### **September 26, 1851**

The Burning Forests in Maine: — The Portland Argus learns from a gentleman just from Washington county, that the fires in that section continue to rage with unmitigated severity. There has been no rain since the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and the drought and heat are almost, if not quite, unexampled in the memory of the people there. The universal prayer is, for rain! The wind has been lately in that direction to blow the smoke upon Eastport and other towns contiguous – and the atmosphere has become like a sirocco, and almost suffocating. Meantime, the fires, fostered by the drought, are extending up and down the coast for many miles – and the aspect of things is truly melancholy...

### **September 26, 1851**

Edgartown

Mr. E. Marchant: – Dear Sir – Please to advertise that THOMAS SMITH, of Edgartown, has six tons of Hay, more or less, on the island of Chabbaquiddic, at a place called Pocha Meadows, which is the best of Sage Hay and Black Grass, excepting about one ton, which is salt and fresh. It is now standing in the meadow. Any person who will pay twenty-three dollars for it before it is cut, shall be shown where it is – first come, first served. Or I will sell any part of it. Further, I have the Farm to sell, or to let, where this grass is, before mentioned. If any one should wish to buy, or to take it on a lay, further particulars may be obtained of THOMAS SMITH. Also, I have the herbage of about sixty acres to let for five dollars. 6mos.

### **October 17, 1851**

[Advertisement: Dukes County Temperance Convention  
Jeremiah Pease, Leavitt Thaxter

Very little news. No fires, crime (but see July 25, 1851), business reports, etc.  
Boiler plate. Marine News. California. News from Europe. Advertisements. Formal Notices.  
Notices on Probate.  
“Two Weeks Later from California” “Very Late from Cuba”  
Advertisements – houses for sale etc. Many estate notices.  
Lumber from Bangor, Gardiner, Augusta.  
“By the Last Mail.” “Further California News” “Latest from Havana.” Murders from various places.

Marine News and correspond was from a boat includes the name of the ship followed by the name of the owner. Often tells port of call and whaling success

California news includes prices, news of fires and crime, mining activity and successes, weather, ship arrivals and departures. Big finds, conditions of rivers for mining. ]

**October 24, 1851**

FOR SALE

A HOUSE AND LOT in West Tisbury, near the Factory; also 100 acres of land, known as the Clay Pit, near the above, well fenced and watered. Apply to HANNAH LOOK, West Tisbury, or LEAVITT THAXTER, Edgartown

oct24

3w

**1852**

**January 2, 1852**

The depopulation of Ireland for ten years past, largely caused by emigration to the United States, has already attracted the attention of the English government. The motives which press on the Irish at home to emigrate, are greatly strengthened by attractive influences which go from this country, besides our freedom, our cheap soil, and better paid labor. – Every steamship carries numerous letters from kindred here to kindred there, striking the tenderest chords in the human heart, giving encouraging information about this country, and of their own success and comfort, and containing funds to help them pay their passage...

**January 9, 1852**

White Fire Pipe Clay.

The subscriber is the owner of a large pit of White Fire Clay, warranted to be as good as can be found in the States, all of which he offers for sale, in large or small lots, to suit purchasers. All orders will be attended to promptly.

JOHN TILTON

Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard

Oct. 3, 1851

1y

**January 16, 1852**

State Reform School – We are indebted to Dr. Daniel Fisher, of the Senate, for the (4<sup>th</sup>?) Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Reform School, at Westborough. We learn from the Report, that the school has been (?) to overflowing, during the whole of the [?] year...

**February 20, 1852**

The town of Nantucket, with great unanimity, has voted to petition the General Court to pass a special act, to enable that town to subscribe for \$50,000 worth of stock in the extension of the Cape Cod Railroad to Hyannis Port.

**March 5, 1852**

NOTICE

All persons are hereby forbidden cutting any Wood of any kind, on my lands in West Tisbury. I likewise hereby forbid all persons taking any stock of any kind, from my late homestead in said Tisbury, or purchasing any of said stock of any person, without first consulting my attorney; as said stock is undivided property.

JOHN BAXTER,

By his Attorney, Bartlett Allen.

Holmes Hole, Jan 23, 1852

tf

**March 12, 1852**

Area of our Country – Since the census of 1840, there have been added to the territory of the Republic by annexation, conquest, and purchase, 824,969 square miles, and the title to 341,463 square miles more has been settled in our favor. Thus the area of the U. States has been extended during the last ten years from 2,050,136 to 3,221,568 square miles.

**March 19, 1852**

And prior. Whaleman’s Journal

**April 2, 1852**

FOR SALE.

A GOOD FARM,

SITUATED on the Island of Chappaquiddic, formerly belonging to Dea Elijah Pease, consisting of about 120 acres of cleared and meadow land, and about 40 or 50 acres of wood land, with a dwelling house, barn, corn house, and other out houses.

For further particulars, please call on

mch 12

6m

ISIAH D. PEASE.

**June 18, 1852**

Lumber.....Lumber

Just received from Bangor, a large and extensive assortment of Lumber, consisting of Pine, Spruce, and Hemlock Boards, of all qualities.

- 75 M Hemlock Timber and Joist.
- 30 M Spruce Timber and Joist, of first quality, free from sap.
- 30 M Pine Timber and Joist, first quality.
- 150 M Pine Boards and Plank – No. 1, 2, 3, 4, and Poor Fours – all *dry*.
- 10 M 1 1.2 in. and 1 1.4 in. Pine Demensions.
- 20 M Dry Hemlock Boards.
- 10 M Spruce and Hemlock Planks.
- 5 M Extra Clear and No. 1 Clapboards, seasoned.

10	M	Pickets, Spruce and Pine, 4 to 6 feet.
75	M	Cedar Shingles, shaved and sawed, Extra No. 1.
100	M	Sawed Pine do, Extra No. 1 and 2.
50	M	Laths, Pine, Spruce and Hemlock.
400		Cedar and Chestnut Posts.
10	M	2 1.2 and 3in. Pine Planks – No. 1, 2, & 3 – dry.
1000		bushels of Ashes
3		Pine Masts, 70 to 86 feet long. 16 to 19 inches.
2		Sticks suitable for bowsprits.
		Lot Spruce Poles
2	M	feet Oars, from 10 to 23 feet.
		Lime constantly on hand.

The above will be sold very low for cash or good paper.

JOHN W. HOWLAND.

P. S. – Wool, Beef, Pork, Corn, Oats and Hay, always taken in exchange for Lumber.

Holmes Hole, April 16, 1852

6m

### July 16, 1852

SUBSTITUTION OF ROSIN FOR SPERM OIL ON MACHINERY. – The running of Machinery is attended with immense expense for oil for purposes of lubrication. By a report of a committee appointed by the agents of the Lowell Mills, Mass., to test the relative merits of rosin and sperm oil, it appears that on looms & other machinery of heavy bearings, 1-2 less power is required with a mixture of rosin with its bulk of pure sperm oil, than with sperm alone, and that its substitution will effect an annual saving of 3-4 of the quantity of sperm oil required in the Lowell Mills. Spinning machinery, or those with light bearings, require more power when rosin and sperm oil is used than sperm alone.

### July 16, 1852

The mowing machines are making rapid work with the fields of grass on Long Island, and the farmers are exceedingly well satisfied with them. The mowers, in consequence of the demand for laborers, had begun to ask two dollars a day, but this machine makes their skill superfluous. It is moved by horses, the driver sitting on the machine – a farmer takes a morning drive in his meadow, and the work is done. The makers are unable to supply the demand for it.

### July 23, 1852

[Long article about a case involving alewives and rights to Chappaquonsett Creek]

### July 30, 1852

A friend has furnished the following: – The number of inhabitants in Dukes County is 4510; just one fourth of whom bear the following surnames, arranged according to their

proportionate numbers: – Luce, Norton, Smith, Mayhew, Pease. One eighth bear the surnames of Vincent, Fisher, Tilton, West, Daggett, Coffin.

The number of inhabitants in Edgartown is 1990; of whom 1413 were born in Edgartown, 86 in Tisbury – 15 in Chilmark – 55 in Nantucket – 50 in Maine – 13 in Ireland – and the rest elsewhere.

The number of inhabitants in Tisbury is 1803; of whom 1343 were born in Tisbury – 86 in Edgartown – 115 in Chilmark – 11 in Nantucket – 61 in Maine – 7 in Ireland – and the rest elsewhere.

The number of inhabitants in Chilmark is 747; of whom 486 were born in Chilmark – 10 in Edgartown – 96 in Tisbury – 5 in Nantucket – 4 in Maine – 5 in Ireland – and the rest elsewhere.

### **August 27, 1852**

PINE TREES – Some six years since, several persons in this town planted some portions of their worn-out lands, with seeds of the Norway Pine. As there are many acres of unproductive lands in this County, we would earnestly urge upon their owners the importance of planting them with pines, if experience determines the feasibility and profit of their culture...

...The seeds of the native pitch pine are easily procured, and may not cost more than the Norway pine, while experience shows that this species is more easily grown than most others, upon such light soils as our waste Vineyard lands...

...For many years after the settlement of this county, so cheap and abundant was fuel, that no thought of future lack deterred the woodman from an indiscriminate prostration of acres of forest trees. But, when the price has advanced to six dollars per cord and upwards, it certainly becomes those who own waste and unproductive lands, to inquire into the feasibility of rearing their own fuel.

By a small expenditure of time and money, our farmers may, in the course of a few years, become possessed of many acres of beautiful and productive woodlands. If we shall induce even one to make the attempt, we shall feel that some good has been accomplished.

### **August 27, 1852**

Sword-Fish – A good business has been done by our fishing boats this season. Four hundred and eighty-three sword-fish were taken up to Wednesday night of this week...

### **August 27, 1852**

The Whigs of Edgartown have chosen Dr. Daniel Fisher, and Captains Jared Fisher and Benj. Worth, to represent them in the Whig State Convention, to be held at Worcester on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

**November 5, 1852**

[Funeral of Daniel Webster. Endless articles about him and tributes]

## **1853**

**1853**

[Abruptly a listing of prices from Brighton Market: Beef Cattle, Working Oxen, Cows and Calves, Sheep and Lambs, Swine]

**January, 1853**

To the Hon. The Senate and the House of Representatives in General Court assembled.

The undersigned, incorporated under the name of the Trap's Pond Fishing Company, in Edgartown, by an Act passed April 3d, 1839, respectfully represent that, to promote the objects for which they were made a corporate body, they have, at great expense, dug creeks and erected a dam, and are subjected to an annual outlay to maintain the same; that the quantity of herring taken is insufficient to remunerate them for the expenses they have incurred; that in consequence of the erection of said dam, the perch fishery in Trap's Pond has become valuable, perch not having been taken there prior to the erection of said dam. The undersigned further represent that they are, individually, the owners of all the land bordering on said pond. They therefore pray that an Act may be framed, securing to them the exclusive right of taking perch in said pond, by seine or drag net; and prohibiting, under adequate penalties, all persons except, by permission of said corporation, from taking perch in said pond in any other manner than by hook and line. And as in duty bound will every pray.

ISAIAH D. PEASE and others.

Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, January, 1853.

**January 6, 1853**

The Late Storm – The heavy gale and snow storm of Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> was the most disastrous ever known to shipping on the New England coast, especially on the Cape Cod and vicinity, where *nearly a hundred vessels*, have met with more or less disaster, and a number of lives have been lost. We give below as full and accurate a list as we have been able to gather...

**January 7, 1853**

For Sale

All the Land now belonging to the estate of the late Ichabod Norton, on the Plains, not fenced. For further information apply to ELIJAH B. VINCENT Esq. of Edgartown, or ICHABOD NORTON, of Holmes Hole. dec31

**January 7, 1853**

Mr. Editor – it is well known all around in this “clearin” that for the last four or five years, the subscriber has wintered a large flock of sheep belonging to different individuals. But as he is to be from home for some time to come, he would most respectfully give notice, that he cannot take care of them as heretofore. A word to the wise, &c. SAMUEL KENISTON

Dec. 31, 1852

2w

**~February 1, 1853**

[For the Gazette]

Extract from a Whaleman’s Journal.

We had just commenced trying out the last whale captured on the “Off Shore Ground,” when the captain gave orders to preserve all the scraps, and to stow them away between decks, as he intended to sell them for the purpose of recruiting the ship. The idea that five or six casks of dirty, rank scraps, could be rendered available, to any extent, in purchasing provisions for our ship’s company, seemed perfectly absurd to many of us. When taken from the try-pots, a very hungry person might consider them palatable; but at a later period, when having lost their crispness, they become spongy and are covered with a coating of green mould, they would be revolting, even to a person in a starving condition...

...On turning out one morning, the dim outline of Easter Island was just visible on the weather bow. Before noon, we were sufficiently near to distinguish the smoke curling up from the rear of a low range of hills; and soon after several singular objects were seen on the surface of the water, approaching the ship. We hove to, and awaited, with anxious curiosity, the arrival of our visitors, who advanced rapidly and were soon along side. Beneath a roughly manufactured utensil, hardly worthy to be called a basket, containing bananas, plantains, yams, &c., a human head appeared, which, together with the nude body of the cannibal, we hoisted on board. Such an ugly specimen of humanity I have never seen. Break and meat were offered to him but he rejected them with disdain. No sooner, however, did he receive a scrap, than his eyes sparkled, and opening his capacious mouth, he crowded in the disgusting mess, while the filth and gurry oozing from the corners, trickled down his breast. In less than an hour, a dozen of these ill-looking savages were stalking about the deck, expressing their astonishment at what they saw in guttural sounds, resembling a mixture of the lowing of oxen and the grunting of swing...

**February 11, 1853** (and again on March 11, 1853)

Real Estate at Auction.

WILL BE SOLD, at Public auction, on the premises, by order of the Probate Court in and for the County of Dukes County, on TUESDAY, the 22<sup>d</sup> day of March next ensuing, at 10 o’clock, A. M., or as much thereof as will raise the sum of five hundred and nineteen dollars and eighty-one cents, a lot of Wood and Pasture land containing about ten acres with a small barn standing thereon: also, a lot containing about one acre, adjoining the preceding; also one other lot of Wood and Cleared Land, containing about sixteen acres, adjoining the Lambert’s Cove Road.

Also, the Easterly half of a Dwelling House, and the Land connected therewith with certain privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging to be made known at the time of sale.

The whole being parts of the estate of Osander Mayhew, late of Tisbury, in said County, deceased, and are situated in said Tisbury.

ELIKAIM NORTON, Administrator.

Feb. 11, 1853                      ts

### **March 4, 1853**

Edgartown

Business has been duller in this place the past winter than ever before for a great many years. For the last three months, till within about a week, there has hardly been a day's work for a common laborer. The extraordinary mildness of the past winter, however, has been very favorable to the poor, and has, perhaps, compensated in some good degree for the unusual lack of employment. The oil works of Messrs. Daniel Fisher & Co., which are generally in operation the year round, employing a number of hands, have been idle most of the past winter; during the past week, however, that firm has purchased a large lot of sperm oil, and the factory is again in operation. We are in hopes, however, that this stagnant state of business will not be much longer. Three of our whaleships are expected in soon, and many of our captains, who sail from other ports, are now on their way home with good voyages.

### **April 1, 1853**

A Large Cod. A codfish was taken at the South side, by one of our boats, last week, which weighed seventy-five pounds. When dressed, there were found snugly stowed away inside of his majesty, sixteen flatfish, one haddock, weighing about six pounds, and two old squaws...

### **April 1, 1853**

Herring Fishery. The catch of herring at the Mattakeesett Herring Creek, up to the present time, has been smaller by far than ever before known. The annual quantity taken at this creek has been gradually diminishing for some time past, but present indications seem to predict an entire failure of this once exceedingly lucrative fishery. We are very sorry to hear of this state of things, and are at a loss to assign proper cause for its existence; though the "opening" at the South side of the Island is thought by many to have a material bearing upon it.

### **April 8, 1853**

New Herring Fishery. Our friends on the Chappaquiddic have recently established a herring fishery on that island, which bids fair to become very valuable property. On Tuesday night last, *twenty* barrels (600 a bbl.) were taken at this creek, and during the next day three barrels more were caught. The proprietors had sold up to Wednesday night, herrings to the amount of \$280, and the quantity then on hand was valued at \$125.

The price of herrings has been reduced within a few days. They now bring one dollar per hundred, and the demand for them is good.

**April 15, 1853**

We give below the exact geographical position of such places in our vicinity, as we find noted in the Annual Report of the Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey, for the year ending Nov., 1851...

...These positions and distances may be regarded as being nearly as accurate as science can make them; the distances as given not being liable to an average error of more than one foot in six miles...

**April 22, 1853**

Destruction of Snakes – There seems to have been a wholesale destruction of black snakes carried on during the past week, a large family of them having been discovered on the road between this place and Holmes Hole, twenty-two of which were killed. It is said that the whole family is not destroyed yet.

**May 6, 1853**

...The Gazette is now seen and read as much in West Tisbury, Chilmark, and Holmes Hole, as it is in Edgartown...

**May 8, 1853**

The Poor – The Selectmen have contracted with William Vincent, Esq., to keep the Poor of Edgartown, for the sum of \$1 50 per week for each individual

**May 20, 1853**

View of Holmes Hole – We are indebted to Rev. G. F. Danforth, for a fine lithographic view of the handsome village of Holmes Hole. We know not when we have been more pleased with a picture of the sort. The village seems to be fairly imbedded in a fine growth of trees and shrubbery, both natural and cultivated; and every object is given that fine relief without which lithographic views are tame and spiritless. We look upon the getting up of this view as an evident indication of the go-a-head spirit which is abroad in the beautiful and thriving village of Holmes Hole.

**June 3, 1853**

Mattakeesett Herring Fishery – The fishing season at this creek closed on Monday last. There have been only about 160 bbls., or 96,000 herrings taken during the whole season – a less number than have been secured in one day (24 hours) in some previous years. The annual catch of herrings at this creek has generally been from 1200 to 1500 bbls., and the net profit arising from

their sale varying from \$4000 to \$5000, -- constituting an important and profitable branch of business...

### **June 3, 1853**

A Good Haul – We learn that ninety thousand herrings were taken at Chappaquansitt Creek, Holmes Hole, one night last week – a much larger number than ever before caught there in the same length of time. So great was the quantity taken that the owners could obtain salt enough to save only a portion of them, and larger heaps were left on the ground to spoil.

### **June 17, 1853**

Red Ants – How to be rid of the little rascals who run out upon the china, and climb the lumps of white sugar when company is in to tea, just as if they were invited – this is the question with many a householder. A correspondent of the cultivator says – “Several years ago, my father rented a house almost over-run with them, and they were destroyed in the following manner: a piece of hickory bark was laid upon the shelf in the pantry, where they seemed to be the thickest, and it attracted them – indeed it seemed more of a favorite with them than anything they could get. The piece we had, about four inches wide and two feet long, was red with them in an hour or two, when with a sudden jar they were shaken into the fire, and the park set as a trap for them again. In our case, this was an entire extirminator.”

### **July 9, 1853**

White Weed – Capt. Daniel Trefethen, of this town, assures us that he has discovered a method for killing effectually, this plague of a “farmer’s life.” He says that the present season, he had a field, which was literally covered with the blossoms of the white weed, so called, and having a small quantity of salt on hand, the thought suggested itself to him, that possibly some benefit might accrue to the field from the distribution of it upon the surface. He scattered the salt over the field, and in a short time the blossoms all withered, and upon examination the roots were found to be entirely lifeless. This is certainly a valuable remedy for the eradication for this detestable weed, providing the experiment proves as effectual in all cases as in this. At all events, we would recommend to those farmers who are troubled with this species of weed – to try it – [Dover Gazette.]

This noxious pest is very abundant in some of the pastures and meadows of our Island. It is generally considered extremely difficult to eradicate this weed. Some farmers are at the expense of employing laborers to dig up every root that can be found upon their premises. But this avails little if a full crop is growing on the premises of their neighbors. The seeds are scattered broadcast, and spring up and produce bountifully! Should the remedy named above prove effectual, it will be almost invaluable to our agricultural friends.

### **July 31, 1853**

Whale Fishery – The business in the United States appears now to be confined in its enterprises to four States, and of these Massachusetts far overbalances all the rest in her share. Of the whole number of ships employed in the whale fishery in 1853, not less than 469 were owned in Massachusetts – Connecticut owning 47, New York 33, and Rhode Island 28.

Formerly Wilmington, Del., was engaged in the business to a limited extent, but the tendency of commerce to concentration has carried the fishing enterprise mostly to Massachusetts, particularly to New Bedford, which city had, in January last, no less than 307 ships and barques engaged in the whale fishery. For some years past, the whole tendency seems to have been to centralize in New Bedford, that place having become the great oil market of the United States

### **August 5, 1853**

The next landing was Martha's Vineyard. At Holmes' Hole, I took stage for Edgartown, a popular retreat for those who love tranquil life by the sea shore. The ride along a faultless road through the dwarf forest is bracing to the system, and delightful to the eye. Of three excellent hotels, the Union House is newly repaired, and in all its arrangements attractive to the tourist. There is no *bar* in either, and *no public place of liquor selling on the island*, and had not been for years...

...the drive to the south beach is three miles over an extensive plain, blushing with flowers like a western prairie in the vernal season. On the solitary shore breaks unceasingly a heavy surf, thundering and foaming on the long curve of the shining sand, bringing to the silent air of the land echoes from distant realms.

Plover abound on the open pastures, affording fine gunning in their season. Twenty miles distant lies Gay Head, the wonder of the island. The bold clay cliffs rise a hundred and fifty feet, the variegated surface glowing in the sunlight like a vast slope of solid rainbows. It is a geological Mecca, and among the grandest scenes of our country. The fishing off the coast of Edgartown is always good; and on the whole we do not know of a more inviting place for summer resort. Board is *five* dollars per week, and all the facilities for recreation are furnished at a reasonable rate. [Correspondence New York Tribune.]

### **August 5, 1853**

David Y. Taylor was arrested on Monday last, and, after trial, sentenced to the Dukes County jail for forty days, for cruelly beating his horse.

### **August 13, 1853**

Sharks – Thirty of these ugly customers, some of them very large, were taken by one boat, off Cape Poge, Vineyard, on Wednesday last.

### **August 20, 1853**

Valuable Property for Sale at a BARGAIN.

The undersigned being about to retire from business, offers for sale, on the most reasonable terms, the following property, situated in the Edgartown, viz: –

His Oil and Candle Manufactory, with all the fixtures, in complete order. It contains four Lever Presses, one good Hydraulic Press, one set Slack Press, and one set Tight Press Bags, all nearly new, with three Strainers each twenty-five feet long of the very best kind; thirty-six stands Patent Candle Moulds. The house has a very good Bleachery apartment attached to it. Which will hold one hundred barrels; likewise, two Sheds, one nearly new, that will contain about one thousand barrels of oil, each, with the privilege of good yard room adjoining.

Also, 7-16 of the very commodious wharf, adjoining the above premises, with a store 40 by 45 feet, two stories, with a sail loft in the attic. The said store stands on a stone foundation, and vessels can discharge directly into the store without landing on the wharf. There is a Marine Railway near one side of the wharf, which, in one of the best harbors on the coast, and the great centre of the coasting business, is a great convenience...

...Also a Carpenter's shop, two stories, in good condition, now occupied, on the shore. The water lot is very valuable, as it adjoins the wharf, and Main street, and there is room for a large store upon the same. This property all rents well...

...JOSIAH GORHAM.

### **September 3, 1853**

Mr. Daniel Smith, Light-keeper at Cape Poge, informs us, that during the month of August, twenty-one hundred and sixty vessels passed that point.

### **September 3, 1853**

Plovers – Fine, fat plovers have made their appearance in this vicinity, and large numbers of sportsmen are in pursuit of them.

### **September 3, 1853**

A Mammoth Eel – An eel, weighing *seven* pounds, was caught in our harbor by one of our citizens, on Saturday last.

### **September 3, 1853**

Valuable Real Estate at Auction.

A part of the Swamp, known by the name of Great Swamp, situated on the West Tisbury road about one mile from the village of Edgartown, near the farm formerly owned by Joseph Vinson, containing about 15 acres of Wood and Meadow Land. For particulars of sale please apply to the subscriber. Auction to be holden at the Four Corners, in Edgartown, on Wednesday next, at 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

PETER PEASE

Edgartown, Sept. 3, 1853

**September 8, 1853**

PROPOSALS

For Oil for Light-houses

Treasury Department,  
Office Light-House Board,

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office until one o'clock, p. m., on Friday, the 23d inst., for supplying the Light-house establishment with twenty-one thousand five hundred (21,500) gallons of the best quality fall-strained or pressed sperm oil, to be delivered alongside of the government supply vessel at Boston, New York city, New Bedford, or Edgartown, Massachusetts, (at the option of the contractor, to be specified in the bids,) in tight, well-made casks, suitable for shipping, in prime order, on or before the 23d day of October next...

**September 23, 1853**

Valuable Wood Lot for Sale:

Situated on the Northwest side of the old road, between the Farm Neck school house and Head of the Pond – containing about 20 acres. About 75 cords of wood are not standing on it. For further particulars apply to.

sept16

JOHN CLEVELAND.

**October 7, 1853**

The Eastern Lands – The Legislature of Maine has voted to purchase all the interest of Massachusetts in lands lying in Maine, at the price agreed upon by the Commissioner, viz: \$362,500...

**October 7, 1853**

Daniel Fisher & Co., have contracted to supply the Government with 21,000 gallons of sperm oil, at prices which have not been made public.

**October 28, 1853**

Thanksgiving – The Governors of the three States of New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, have appointed the twenty-fourth of November as Thanksgiving Day in those States.

**October 28, 1853**

The new three-masted schr. James H. Clarebourne, of 400 tons, Wainwright, master, (built at a cost of \$22,000,) of and from Wilmington, N. C., with pitch pine lumber and naval stores, went ashore two miles S by E from Gay Head Light, on the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> inst. She is full of

water, has lost boat, sails, and part or all of her keel. Is in bad condition, but will probably be got off. The crew were rescued by the life boat, which was manned by the Indians of the Head, who exhibited much courage and bravery on the occasion. The J. H. C. was bound to Boston.

**November 4, 1853**

Public Lands in Maine – On Friday last, as we learned from the Portland State of Maine, the Maine Commissioners, Messrs. Hamlin, Williams and Fessenden, gave their approval to the deed of conveyance, by which the title of Massachusetts to any and all lands in Maine, was transferred to that State. This conveyance covers all the legal and equitable interests of which the Commonwealth was, or might be supposed to be possessed, so that on the delivery of this deed, Maine becomes the owner of 1,100,000 additional acres of land, making, with her previous title, about two millions of acres in all. – [Boston Advocate.

**November 11, 1853**

Dukes County SS Court of County Commissioners

...Holmes Hole, prayed for in the petition of Thomas Bradley and one hundred and twenty three others, if the same shall be adjudged to be of common convenience and necessity...

Dukes County SS Court of County Commissioners

November Term, 1853. Public Notice is hereby given that the County Commissioners will meet at the Court House in Edgartown, on Thursday, the twenty-ninth day of December next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of viewing the premises and hearing the parties: also locating and laying out the Highway from Edgartown Village to West Tisbury, as prayed for in the petition of Daniel Fisher and two hundred and thirty others, if the same shall be adjudged to be of common convenience and necessity.

All persons interested therein may then and there appear, if they see cause, and can be heard thereon.

Per order of the Court of County Commissioners

Attest. DANIEL FELLOWS, CLERK.

nov18 3w

**November 11, 1853**

Picked up, 8<sup>th</sup> inst, on the North side of the Vineyard, from six to ten thousand Spruce Plank and Joist. The owner can have the same by providing property and paying charges.

Apply to EDWARD R. DUNHAM,  
or WM. SIMPSON.

Edgartown, Nov. 10, 1853

**November 25, 1853**

Hours of Factory Labor – We have been informed that the mills of Lowell have adopted the system of eleven hours for a day’s work, and that many other mills in Massachusetts and New Hampshire have conformed to the same rule...

...Those who, before it passed, predicted that it would injure the manufactures and reduce the products of manufacture, have been happily disappointed, and the very manufacturers who opposed it, would not go back now to the old system upon any consideration...

...The operatives in the course of a year, produce as much by then hours regular labor daily, as they formerly did in twelve hours. The reason is, they are more active, intelligent, and careful...

**November 25, 1853**

Thanksgiving – Before this number of the Gazette reaches its readers, they will doubtless have passed the best part of “Thanksgiving,” a day ever welcome to the inhabitants of old Massachusetts, and fast becoming celebrated throughout the entire country...

**November 25, 1853**

To the Hon. County Commissioners of Dukes County. Gentlemen:

The undersigned, citizens of Dukes County, respectfully request your Honors to lay out and cause to be made a County Road, from Holmes Hole to West Tisbury...

THOMAS BRADLEY, and 123 others.  
May 17, 1853

**December 2, 1853**

To the Hon. Benjamin Davis, William A. Mayhew, and Allen Tilton, County Commissioners for Dukes County.

The undersigned citizens of Dukes County, respectfully represent, That the road now used as a public highway between the village of Edgartown and West Tisbury, is in a very bad condition, being the poorest on the Island; that failing to answer the requirements of the law in regard to width and other particulars, it is not now a lawful road. (See decision of Supreme Judicial Court on the subject.) We therefore, believing that the public convenience requires a new road on this route, do hereby respectfully ask your honorable body to cause no one to be laid out and construction as follows, viz: – Beginning at some convenient place in the village of Edgartown, and running in a westerly direction until it intersects or meets the first of the two County roads recently laid out and built from the village of West Tisbury to Gay Head. Said road to be not less than four rods in width, and constructed in a suitable and workmanlike manner.

Signed by—  
DANIEL FISHER and 230 others.  
Dukes County, June 22, 1853

**December 16, 1853**

In the Ochotsk sea, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August last, of consumption, Capt. Henry Jernegan of this town, master of the ship Enterprise, of New Bedford, aged 33 years. He was buried on a small Island in the above sea, called Smith's Island. At the time of his death a number of ships were anchored near the place; and on the day of his burial, 19 boats followed the remains from the ship to the shore, and more than 120 of his fellow mariners walked in the procession from the shore to the grave – located, writes an observer of the scene, “in a beautiful grove appropriate for the occasion.”

**December 23, 1853**

The Cape Cod Railroad is actively progressing. The cars commenced running to the West Barnstable on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., and in a few days they will run to Barnstable. The road is now being graded within one mile of the landing of the Nantucket steamers.

**1854**

**January 6, 1854**

NOTICE.

Whereas, my wife, Augusta M. Austin, has left my bed and board, I hereby forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on my account, as I shall pay no debts of her contracting.

ANDREW AUSTIN.

Chilmark, Jan. 5, 1854

3w

**January 6, 1854**

NOTICE.

PICKED UP, on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> ult, a quantity of Flour, in barrels and bags—near two hundred barrels – on the North Shore, between the Roaring Brook and Spring Point, so called, in Chilmark, and in the care of the subscriber.

THOMAS H. LAMBERT

Commissioner of Wrecks.

Chilmark, Jan 5, 1854

**January 20, 1854** (also in February 10, 1854)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Dukes County ss. Court of County Commissioners, Jan. 17, 1854 – by various adjournments from Nov. Term, 1853

Public notice is hereby given, that, upon the petition of Daniel Fisher and others, praying that a new County Highway may be laid out and made from the Village of Edgartown to West Tisbury, as particularly mentioned in said petition:— Also upon the petition of Thomas Bradley

and others, praying that a new County Highway may laid out and made from Holmes Hole to West Tisbury, as described in said petition...

**January 27, 1854**

[For the Gazette]

Mr. Editor: – I have for some years past been a close observer of the facilities of the western part of our Island, for manufacturing brick and pottery, in their various branches. I am fully satisfied that the manufacture of clays, in various ways, can be carried on in that place, at a far greater profit, than elsewhere. The truth is, that in this section of our island, are found nearly all the varieties of the clays, and are of as good a quality, most of it, much superior to any that can be found within the limits of our state. Such are the natural facilities of the place, that it can be manufactured, to say the least, as cheap, nay, I am fully confident very considerably cheaper, than elsewhere.

The beds of clay are inexhaustible...

**January 27, 1854**

...On Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> inst, a petition was presented from Charles Smith, of Tisbury, for authority to build a marine railway in Holmes Hole. Nothing would add more to the business prospects of Holmes Hole than a marine railway of sufficient capacity to take up large vessels. We are glad to notice a movement on foot to procure one. We have only to say, let it be a capacious one, and it will be sure to pay well.

**February 3, 1854**

**Dissolution**

The Copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of SMITH & BARROWS, is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

CHARLES SMITH,  
JAS. L. BARROWS.

Tisbury, Jan. 12, 1854

**Copartnership Notice.**

The undersigned have this day formed a Copartnership under the style of the *Vineyard Brick Manufacturing Co.*, and will continue the manufactory of Bricks, and shipping of *Alum Clay*, and *Fire Clay* and *Sand*, from their yard and wharf in Chilmark, formerly occupied by Smith & Barrows.

JAS. L. BARROWS,  
A. F. CHANDLER.

Tisbury, Jan. 12, 1854.

P. S. All orders for Brick, Clay, or Sand, addressed to Jas. L. Barrows, Agt, Tisbury, Mass., or to A. F. Chandler, Treas., Boston, will meet with prompt attention.

**February 17, 1854**

Sale of Oil – On Saturday last, about 3200 bbls. Of whale oil, the balance of cargos of ships Vineyard and Champion, were sold, the former at 50, the later at 58 cts. per gallon, mostly on time. Daniel Fisher & Co., were the purchasers. The Champion's oil was not considered so good as the Vineyard's, hence the difference in price. So far as our advices extend, this is the lowest sale of oil for the season.

500 bbls, of whale oil were sold by Abraham Osborn, Esq., some two or three weeks since, being a portion of the cargoes of the above named ships, at 62 cts. per gallon, also on time. Our market is now entirely clear of oil, and the stringency of the money market will doubtless soon give way.

**March 1854**

Sale of Oil – We learn that Daniel Fisher & Co., have contracted with the Light House Board to furnish about 20,000 gallons of sperm oil. It is understood that the price is \$1,55 cents per gallon.

**March 3, 1854**

A Bank – We did not suppose when we requested a friend a few weeks since to furnish us with an article or two on the subject of "Banking," that we should so soon see the results of his judicious treatment of the matter. The people of Edgartown, and the people of Holmes Hole, have however risen in their strength, and are not making efforts to obtain not *one* bank, but *two*. This is more than was anticipated...

**March 31, 1854****A FARM FOR SALE**

TO be sold at Public Auction, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, next, at 1 o'clock, P. M. on the premises, the farm now owned by Andrew Austin, in Chilmark, consisting of 29 acres, more or less, of good land, well watered, and pleasantly situated, with a new dwelling house. Said farm and buildings will be sold free of all incumberances. Also, 1 two year old heifer, 26 bundles of laths, and other articles.

ANDREW AUSTIN.

Chilmark, Mch. 30, 1854

**April 21, 1854**

Administrator's Sale of Real Estate.

...Also the Shop and Lot opposite the store of Thos. Bradley & Sons.

Also about three and a half acres of Wood Land, being the eastern part of three cornered lot adjoining Tisbury road and land of William Norton.

Also about fifteen acres of Wood Land, near the head of the Pond...

**April 21, 1854**

**FOR SALE**

The good two story Dwelling House, and the lot of land on which it stands, adjoining the premises of Capt. Valentine Pease, Jr., on Water Street. Said lot is about 45 feet in front, and about 135 feet in rear, – well fenced, and the whole premises are in good condition. Two families now occupy the House. It is very pleasantly and favorably situated, being at the west part of the town, and in the immediate vicinity of the residences of several of the wealthiest men in the place...

**April 21, 1854**

**RARE CHANCE FOR A BARGAIN.**

The subscriber offers for sale, all his Real Estate, consisting of a farm of about 90 acres, conveniently divided into meadow, pasture, tillage, swamp, and wood land, with cranberry meadow. Said farm is well watered, has a valuable shore privilege, for sea weed, abounds in mud as a source of manure, with valuable water power privileges.

Also, my Tannery, now in successful operation, capable of Tanning 1000 hides per year, with a valuable run of custom, which may be continued and increased.

Also, a small wood lot in the vicinity, and the store in Holmes Hole, now occupied by Z. N. Heald. Said property will be sold in whole, or parts, to suit purchasers. Please call and examine.

For particulars, inquire of

**CHARLES COTTLE**

Tisbury, April 4, 1854.

3m

**April 28, 1854**

**Arraignment of a Whaling Captain.**

In the U. S. Commissioner's Court, at Boston, on Saturday, Henry Pease, late Captain of whaleship Menkar, recently arrived at N. Bedford, appeared to answer to three charges, as follows: That he assaulted Domingo Lopez, one of his crew, in such a manner as to cause his death; that he assaulted Antonio Santos, another of his crew, with a dangerous weapon; and that he assaulted a Sandwich Islander, named John, who has since died. A. Mackie, of New Bedford, appeared as counsel for the accused, and waived an examination, as the cases will go before the Grand Jury on Monday next. Mr. Mackie became surety in \$2500 for the appearance of the captain for trial. II. L. Hallet, U. S. District Attorney, appeared for the Government.

**April 28, 1854**

**Administrator's Sale**

To be sold at Public Auction, by order of the Court of Probate, at the house of Gilbert W. Smith, on Monday, the twenty-second of May next, at one o'clock, P. M., a certain lot of Meadow

and Tillage Land, consisting of about fifteen acres, bounded southerly by the beach, northerly by the land of Hannah Smith, easterly by Job's Neck Pond, and westerly by land of Josiah H. Smith and Jophanus H. Smith.

Also, about seventy-eight acres of Wood and Brush Land, bounded southerly by land of Gilbert W. Smith, easterly by the road leading from said Gilbert Smith's to Josiah H. Smith's, northerly by land of Hannah Smith, and westerly by land of said Gilbert W. Smith.

Also, about five acres of Wood and Brush Land, near the dwelling of Josiah H. Smith, bounded northerly by the land of Bartlett Stewart, easterly by land of Josiah H. Smith, westerly by land of Gilbert W. Smith, and southerly by a road.

Also, about eighteen acres of Pasture Land, bounded westerly by land of Alexander Athearn and Susan Norton, southerly by land of Gilbert W. Smith, northerly by school house lot, and easterly by land of said Josiah Smith and others.

Likewise, a tract of Pasture Land, containing about forty acres, bounded easterly by Job's Neck Pond, southerly by land of C. Crane, northerly by land of Cyrus Butler, and westerly by land of C. Crane and others.

All the above named premises are situated at the place called Pohogonot, being the whole of the real estate of Wiltnot Smith, late deceased, and sold to pay his just debts and incidental expenses.

JOPHANUS H. SMITH

Administrator with the Will annexed.

### **May 12, 1854**

DOING THE HANDSOME THING – Hon. Daniel Fisher, of this town, who employs a large number of men in his oil and candle works, has, without solicitation, advanced their wages 25 cents per day, in consequence of the high price of all articles of domestic consumption. On receiving their last monthly pay, the men were agreeably surprised to find that their receipts were much larger than usual.

### **June 15, 1854**

Notice is hereby given

That the undersigned will sell, on Saturday, the first day of July next, at two o'clock, P. M., at the Town Hall, the making of so much of the highway or road recently laid out by the County Commissioners for Dukes County, from this village to West Tisbury, as is located within the limits of this town.

The said road to be thoroughly made and constructed in every part, and to be cleared of all obstructions the whole width from its Eastern terminus to the Guide Board leading to the Dukes County Land Records Office: - Thence the remainder of the road is to be cleared three rods in width.

Wherever the land is slanting transversely of said road, the lower side is to be raised with earth.

Wherever the ascent or descent is great, the hills are to be so far reduced as the safety or convenience of the public shall require.

The surface to be smooth, with suitable drains where necessary.

The travelling part of said road, or that part on which carriages pass, is to be not less than thirty feet in width, and raised eighteen inches higher in the centre than either side thereof. And hardened with clay or loam wherever it may be necessary.

The making of the road will be sold in sections, which, with the manner of hardening, will be particularly defined at the place of sale.

The road to be made and constructed in a manner acceptable to the county commissioners, before the first day of April next.

JOSEPH T. PEASE,  
JOHN VINSON, } Selectmen.  
BENJ. DAVIS,

Edgartown, June 15, 1854.

P.S. All persons through whose land said road passes, are allowed until the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August next to take off the fences, trees, &c., standing on said road.

#### June 16, 1854

Amber – The origin of amber has been an enigma which has long puzzled the philosopher. It is now claimed to be a vegetable resin. A mass of amber, the largest ever found, two feet long and one foot thick, has recently been discovered in Denmark.

Flies are often found embedded in this transparent mass, as beautiful and delicate as in life; yet, not unfrequently, visible tokens appear as if they had been caught in a viscous substance, and vainly struggled, even at the sacrifice of life and limb, to regain their liberty.

These flies comprise many varieties; yet, strange as it may seem, there is scarcely one of them identical with any living creature, now known to entomologists. They are relics, admirably preserved, of an age we have not the data to calculate with any certainty.

#### July 7, 1854

NEW ROAD TO WEST TISBURY – On Saturday last, the Selectmen of this village, sold at auction, to the lowest bidder, so much of the road recently laid out by the Commissioners, as is located in this town. The various sections were sold in lots and at prices, as defined below: –

Sec.	Rods.	To be made by,	Sold at pr rod,	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> ,	77	Nicolas Norton,	\$2,60	\$200 20
2d,	86	Amos Mellen ,	3,65	313 90
3d,	153	Chas. Vincent,	1,70	260 10
4 <sup>th</sup> ,	239	Amos Mellen,	2,90	693 10
5 <sup>th</sup> ,	295	Amos Mellen,	2,00	590 00
6 <sup>th</sup> ,	165	Amos Mellen,	1,50	247 50

7 <sup>th</sup> ,	72	Elijah B. Vincent,	2,00	144	00
8 <sup>th</sup> ,	139	Amos Mellen,	1,40	194	60
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	1,226			\$2,643	40

### July 7, 1854

We learn from Mr. Daniel Smith, keeper of Cape Poge Light, that 6324 vessels were seen to pass the Cape, during the quarter ending June 30, 1854

### July 14, 1854

Oil Market – [For the week ending July 10.] The market for oils, as usual as this season of the year, is very dull, and particularly at this time – the money market being tight, very little inclination is felt by purchasers to operate...

### July 21, 1854

[Marine News is light as is sales of oil]

### July 28, 1854

[Announcement of Annexation of Sandwich Islands]

### July 28, 1854

Alarming Facts – Statistics show that the foreign population of the United States is about as one to eight. Notwithstanding this disparity, which must astonish those who are familiar with the noise of their partisanship, four-fifths of all the beggary, more than two-thirds of all the pauperism, and more than three-fifths of all murders, rapes, burglaries, arsons, thefts, perjuries, forgeries, and other great crimes committed in this country, are committed by this small percentage of the whole population. More than half the public charities, more than half the prisons, more than half the police, more than half the cost of labor of the administration of our internal affairs, are for foreigners.

### August 4, 1854

TAXES ...

...The following list comprises the names of all individuals, companies and estates, in this town, who pay a tax of upwards of \$20, the present years:...

...Dr. Daniel Fisher	61	80
Danl Fisher & Co.,	786	30...

### August 25, 1854

We clip the following from the “Police Report” of the New Bedford Standard: –

TUESDAY, Aug. 17. – Simon Johnson – a Gay Head aboriginal – one of the real Native Americans that would do the eyes of a “Know Nothing” good to look upon – one whose father, grand-father, and ancestors back to the time that Noah launched his big ship on the occasion of the *great storm* recorded in history – have lived in this country – was up for drunkenness. A poor Indian, whose untutored mind seeds God in clouds and hears him in the wind, came here among Christians, and the great *civilizer*, rum, was furnishing him, which set his brain on fire, weakened his legs, and caused him to act like a white man. Fined one cent and costs.

Isaac Johnson – another Gay Header – was up for the same offence. Fined one cent and costs.

### **August 25, 1854**

MACKEREL continue to be quite plenty at the south of the Vineyard. Our boats have been very successful in obtaining them. Some boats have taken three and four barrels in a few hours. They generally rank as No. 2's, and are worth about \$14 per barrel. One vessel, last week, took over a hundred barrels in a short time. Whales, of the fin-back-species, are seen almost every day in the same locality. Sword-fish are also quite plenty off the Vineyard, and are easily taken by our experienced fishermen. A codfish was taken here a short time since, which weighed 84 pounds. The same boat which secured this “mammoth cod,” took forty-five others, averaging about 50 pounds each. The Vineyard is the place for fishing – and no mistake. Among other fish taken, are sharks of enormous growth, some of them 12 and 14 feet in length.

### **August 25, 1854**

The Price of Wood – The Boston papers state that good Nova Scotia wood is now selling in that city for \$10 per cord, and rock maple brings \$10 1-2. It seems impossible that these abominable prices can be sustained.

### **August 25, 1854**

DROWNED – A Gay Head Indian named Isaac Johnson was drowned by the upsetting of a boat off the west side of Sconticut Neck, Fairhaven, on Monday night. The Indian in company with his brother Samuel, had visited this city for the purchase of stores, among which was a liberal supply of new rum, which may possibly give some explanation of the accident. The body drifted ashore upon the Neck, Tuesday morning, and Coroner S. G. Edwards, Esq., held an Inquest. The verdict of the Jury was “accidental drowning.” Sam says he knows nothing about the accident, only that he got ashore in some way, he knows not how. They were undoubtedly both drunk. – [New Bedford Standard.

### **September 1, 1854**

On Tuesday of last week, a “school” of blackfish made their appearance near Truro, when a party of the inhabitants, about twenty-five in number, and including the pastor of the Methodist society, in North Truro, hastily assembled in boats, and drove the fish on shore, where they

became an easy prey. One hundred barrels of oil was the result of the enterprise. [Boston Advertiser.

### **December 22, 1854**

Pacific Mill at Lawrence – *The Largest in the World!* – The largest and most comprehensive mill in the world is the Pacific, at Lawrence. It makes none but the finest kinds of goods, and the success of its operations is looked to with the greatest of interest by manufacturers. The floor surface of this immense structure is *sixteen acres* – the largest mill in England is eleven and a half acres. There is now in operation 40,000 cotton spindles, and 10,000 worsted spindles; and these are to be increased to 80,000, and 20,000 respectively. There are 1200 looms in operation, to be increased to 2400. These, with 2000 hands, produce 300,000 pieces of cloth per annum, one-half De Laines. The weekly consumption of cotton is 20,000 lbs., say 1,500,000 lbs. per annum, and 500,000 lbs. wool. Once a month the two thousand hands assemble at the cashier's office, where Mr. Clapp pays out \$500,000 to them for wages, appropriating to each one the exact amount she has earned. – [Lowell Courier.

### **December 29, 1854**

Review of the Year – It has been frequently remarked, that “Misfortunes seldom come singly.” This has been verified in the history of the past year. The first part of the year, was remarkable for the great number of disasters on the sea; – and through the whole year, there has been an unusually large amount of property destroyed on the ocean. Then the fisheries have been quite unsuccessful, compared with previous years. The whaling fleet have had but little success in the northern seas; and the cod and mackerel fleet have returned with not more than half the quantity that is frequently secured. On the land, the great drouth cut off or reduced the crops of many thousand farmers: and prevented the millers in the west, from grinding their wheat, and forwarding their flour to market, until so late in the autumn, that a limited supply only has reached the Atlantic cities, before the winter has prevented farther transportation on the lakes and canals.

Thus the high prices for all kinds of food, have been sustained and advanced. Added to this, the prices of fuel have been higher during the year, than at any previous year in the history of the country. All these things combined, have made business diminish; and now at the end of the year there is a general stagnation in most every department of trade. This result, has in part been caused by overdoing in previous years. Business of every kind has extended beyond the actual wants of the country, and now the day of settlement is hastened by the causes previously mentioned.

The winter upon which we have now entered, will be a trying one to many. Employment begins to fail, and the wages of labor are being reduced; and those who have met with but little success on the sea, will be but poorly prepared to pay the high prices which prevail, for the support of their families. Under these circumstances, it become the duty of us all, to practice economy for ourselves, and benevolence to others who are needy...

**1854** (End)

[Marine News 1/8 col. But separate “News from the Whaling Fleet”]

## **1855**

**1855**

[Much less from California]

### **January 21, 1855**

THE WOOL TRADE of the country continues exceedingly depressed, and the trade has seldom or never been in a worse condition than at the present time. Several manufacturers have recently suspended, many mills are stopped, while but few are working full time; the stock on hand is pretty large, and money difficult to realize upon it; holders consequently expect no early improvement, and willingly accept on common domestic descriptions lower prices than have been current at any period since 1842. Mr. Slater of Rhode Island, who has been for some time the only manufacturer of broadcloth in this country, has quitted that portion of his business, and, as we learn, there are now no broadcloth mills running in the country.

### **February 2, 1855**

Manufacture of Rum – Probably the only manufacture in the northern States, which is carried on profitably at the present time, is that of Rum...

...Every packet ship from New York for France and Germany, now carries out all the Rum which can be had in the market as part of her cargo...

### **February 16, 1855**

Oil Contract – We learn that the contract for supplying the U. S. Government with One Hundred and Six Thousand gallons of Winter and Spring Oil, for the supply of Light Houses, has been awarded to Mr. Charles H. Leonard of New York, at an average price of \$1 99 per gallon for that deliverable on this Coast, and \$2 12 1-2 per gallon for the Lakes. [New Bedford Mercury

### **March 2, 1855**

The New Bedford Mercury pays the following deserved compliment to our distinguished fellow citizen, Dr. Daniel Fisher: –

“The extensive oil and candle works of Dr. Daniel Fisher, deserve more than a passing notice. They are the largest in this country, and with the exception of one in London, surpass anything of the kind in the world. Dr. Fisher is considered the boldest operator in the purchase of oils in the market; and buyers are probably as much or more influenced by his opinion in their operations, than by any other person. As an evidence of this, we would state, that at one time he was in possession of *Twenty-eight Thousand* barrels.”

**March 9, 1855**

Farmers, remember your manure is your gold, and your farm is your mint. The more gold you furnish your mint, the more coin (i.e. crops) you withdraw therefrom. T. K. – [The Cultivator.

**March 9, 1855**

...Another source of manure is the hog-pen. The pens and yards should be kept covered with turf or muck – the excrement should be often removed to a part of the yard under cover, and a few grains of corn thrown over it, when you will find the hogs to be “faithful servants,” as well as faithful to their stomachs.

*By the Privy* – A most powerful manure is night soil, and one near at hand. A most excellent manner of collecting the same, and preparing it so as to be inoffensive to the smell, is given in the June No. of the Cultivator of the year 1854, page 176. I would rather suggest renovating it as stated, and composting it with your fowl dung, (which by the by should be carefully saved,) adding – if your smell says so, a little more charcoal dust, with a little plaster. Here we have a manure nearly equal in effect to guano, and at a far cheaper rate.

Having already extended my communication to a greater length than I intended, I will conclude by calling attention to another source of manure – the waste of the house and kitchen. Every farmer should have, at a convenient distance from the house, a pit or yard surrounded with a stone wall, and roofed, – where should be an abundance of peat, turf, charcoal dust, or any other fertilizing absorbent...

**March 16, 1855**

Severe Gale and Snow Storm.

On Saturday last we were visited with one of the most severe snow storms that has ever occurred on this Island. A fierce gale from the North-East set in before day-break on Saturday, accompanied with a heavy fall of snow, and continued throughout the entire day and late into the night. It is computed that the snow fell to an average depth of twelve inches, which, being driven by the fury of the gale, formed huge embankments on the highways, &c., rendering traveling by carriage impossible, and it was even exceedingly difficult and dangerous for pedestrians to pass from one part of our village to another...

**March 16, 1855**

...Along the Cape the storm raged with fearful violence, and we learn of numerous disasters, with loss of life, in that quarter...

**March 16, 1855**

For the Gazette.

TREES AND SHRUBBERY. [Notes made in May.] To a person who is accustomed to the forest and vegetable growth of New York or Maine, the forests and shrubs of Martha’s Vineyard,

wear a peculiar appearance. The trees of all descriptions are diminutive, not many of them exceeding forty feet in height. The limbs are not long and thrifty, but are short and stunted. I have seen but few trees that are not more or less spotted with moss, some of them clothed with it, hanging in clumps of several inches in length. At this date, the twigs are swelling preparatory to putting forth into bloom. On my first day on this sea-girt island, I was perfectly delighted with the appearances of the land and the sea, and with hearing the noise of the every-surgings sea. But more about the scenery at the subsequent date.

When I first bent my eye upon these forests, I observed a peculiar appearance in some of the trees, but particularly those which were more lofty than the mass of the forest. These trees did not cast up their tops into a beautiful cone, as is often the case in a superior and thrifty oak, but spread them out into the form of a flat cap, without feather or tassel. This was an enigma to me at first. But after a little further observation, the solution presented itself to my mind. A part of the year, very strong winds prevail from the S. W. They are particularly violent at about the same time that the new growth of the vernal season puts forth. These winds are violent, thus cramping the growth of young shoots. It requires a very thrifty shoot to get up even a few inches above its fellows, but even then these winds will bend it over, and it, not being permitted to increase its altitude, spreads out into a matted form.

This effect of the sharp and bleak winds from the S. W. is particularly observable in those trees which stand in exposed situations, either in the forest or in the open field. I was so interested with several illustrations of this, that I made note of them. One was that of an oak standing on the south side of a large forest. The winds from the S. W. had fair play over the place where the tree stands. A line erected perpendicularly from its base to the top of its highest twig would leave almost all of the branches to the N. E. of it. Two or three only shoot out on the side toward the wind, and these are short, while a large number of branches stand out on the side opposite to the wind, and grow with the wind to a length of many feet. Any one, who is acquainted with the habits of the oak, knows, that, in favorable and protected situations, this tree grows with about an equal extension of limbs from a common centre. If, therefore, there is a deviation from this law, there must be a cause for such deviation. There are many other cases in illustrations of the effects of these S. W. winds, two of which I will record.

The first is that of a group of the tree called here by the name of hornbeam, a new tree to me. There are quite a number of them growing together in the same little vale. A high bank protects the trunks of these trees on which there are no branches. But the part of the trees above this natural protection was covered with hundreds of very small bushy branches bending from the direction of the wind toward the N. E. The second is a cluster of the same kind of tree consisting of seven. They are not large. The branches all appear to have striven to grow naturally. Some of them protrude to the S. W., but after having grown a few inches in that direction are bent to the N. E. A few of the curves made by these branches are quite abrupt – almost angular. Some of them by an acute angle and a curve grow toward the N. E. There is scarcely a limb on the whole seven trees, which does not bear evidence of violence done to it by the S. W. winds. The trees look as if

many years old, and are in a soil quite favorable to their growth, yet they have endured a violently opposing influence. Their tops in shape resemble the rim of a Swiss cap without a cone or tassel.

There are vast quantities of the shrub oak growing on this island. From this kind of wood the fires of the inhabitants are mostly supplied. There are peat localities here, from which a small quantity of peat is procured. Much larger supplies of this may be procured, if desired. Another shrub, which the stranger can scarcely help but notice, is the white wood, or white bush. This as well as the shrub oak is used for fuel. R.

### **March 30, 1855**

The Bank Meeting stands adjourned to meet at Dr. Fisher's office on Wednesday Evening next, at 7 o'clock.

...Whale – Though the transactions have not been so extensive this week as last, there has been a fair demand and full prices have been sustained. The sales are 1600 bbls, in lots at 66 cts.

Whalebone – Sales for the week 5,530 lb. Arctic at 40 cts. 1,193 do, and 11,484 do, Ochotsk at a price not transpired. – [Shipping List.

### **March 30, 1855**

Slave Sales – Slaves are looking up in the Southern markets. In New Orleans, on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., there were sold 175 negroes for the sum of \$113,750, being an average of \$650 each. A day or two previous 124 slaves were sold for \$76,855, an average of \$620 to each, and 51 were sold for \$36,895, which would give an average of \$723 each.

### **March 30, 1855**

High Price of Wheat – A sale of 7000 bushels of Genesee wheat was made in New York on Thursday at \$2 70 per bushel. This is the highest price which wheat has been sold at for many years.

### **March 30, 1855**

The first shad of the season was captured in New York bay last week. It weighed 5 lbs.

### **March 30, 1855**

...Voted, To raise the law in regard to the Grouse or Heathen for one week, commencing with the third Monday in October, in each and every year, until the town votes otherwise...

### **April 6, 1855**

*Fire Wardens* – Dr. Daniel Fisher, Jeremiah Pease, Ira Darrow, Benjamin Worth, John Vinson.

### **April 6, 1855**

FIRE IN THE WOODS – On Wednesday last, a fire was raging in the woods to the westward of “Willay’s Plain,” in Tisbury. Mr. David Davis, Jr., of this place, rode out to the fire, and from him we learn that it was occasioned by the carelessness of a man in smoking a pipe. The fire was first discovered about eleven o’clock in the forenoon, and burned fiercely all day. At about four o’clock, when Mr. Davis left the scene of desolation, quite a large tract of the woods had been burned; but, it was thought the woods would not be injured to any great extent. At nine o’clock P. M., the fire continued to burn, and was visible from this place; but it was supposed to have been extinguished shortly afterwards.

#### **April 6, 1855**

Dirty Streets – Since some of the highways were *repaired* last summer, our citizens have, after every rain storm, been afflicted with exceedingly dirty streets. Main street, especially, has been like a hog-pen in wet weather; and it was impossible to cross it at any point without sinking up to the ankles in mud. Many ladies have been prevented from stirring abroad for this very reason, and even the sterner sex took round-about paths to escape, if possible, the filthy contamination. This state of things has existed in face of the fact that the town has, during the past year, been taxed to an unusually large amount for repairing the highways...

#### **April 13, 1855**

...The herring fishery is also looking up. We learn that upwards of seventeen barrels of herring were taken in one night last week in Pocha Pond Creek; and at the Mattakeset Creek we heard of nine barrels being taken in one night – the largest number taken at that creek this season.

#### **April 13, 1855**

“Martha’s Vineyard Bank” – We have not heard of any definite action, recently, in furtherance of the establishment of this institution. Hon. Daniel Fisher, of this town, has, we learn, taken the matter in hand, and we are inclined to believe that he will not allow it to go by default. An adjourned meeting of the stockholders takes place this (Thursday) evening.

#### **April 21, 1855**

...Voted, To raise \$250, to be expended on the highways of Chappaquiddic, – the money to be expended on the road leading from the Point, under the direction of the Selectmen...

#### **April 21, 1855**

The Bank – The meeting held at Dr. Fisher’s office last week, was a satisfactory one. Every thing is going on well, and the institution will probably go into operation in about three months. The next meeting will be held on Saturday evening, April 28, at the Doctor’s office.

#### **April 21, 1855**

Appointments – John Vinson of Edgartown, Asa R. Nye of New Bedford, and Whelden Holmes of Tisbury, have been appointed by the Governor and Council, as Commissioners to establish the boundary line between the lands of the Gay Head Indians and the lands of the inhabitants of the town of Chilmark.

#### **May 4, 1855**

Laws of the State – Among the acts passed by the present legislature is one for the better preservation of useful birds. It is strict, but not too much so. The bill provides the as follows: –

1. If any person shall, between the first day of March and the first day of September, take, kill or destroy and of the birds called woodcock; or shall at any season of the year take, kill or destroy any of the birds called robins, thrushes, linnets, sparrows, bluebirds, bobolinks, yellow-birds, wood-peckers, or warblers; or shall within the respective times aforesaid sell, buy, or have in his possession any of the said birds, taken or killed, whether in this Commonwealth or elsewhere, he shall forfeit for every such partridge, quail or woodcock, the sum of five dollars; and for every such robin, thrush, linnet, sparrow, bluebird, bobolink, yellow-bird, woodpecker or warbler, the sum of two dollars, to be recovered by the complaint before any justice of the peace.
2. If any person shall, at any season of the year, take, kill, or destroy, by means of traps or snares, any of the birds mentioned in the preceding section – except partridges, which may be so taken or destroyed between the first day of September and the first day of March, – he shall forfeit for every such bird so taken, killed or destroyed; the sum of five dollars, to be recovered by complaint before any justice of the peace...

#### **May 4, 1855**

Mountain Oil – Says an exchange: “A statement has been made to us – for the truth of which we do not vouch – that a large number of springs have been discovered in Western Pennsylvania, which, by a process of evaporation and distillation, yielded an oil equal in purity to the best sperm oil. It is represented as furnishing a brilliant light, and as not being affected by the cold with the thermometer fourteen degrees below zero. It is said 1,000 gallons of this oil has already been produced. Is there any truth in the report?”

#### **May 11, 1855**

Slaves – We learn that two or three slaves, fresh from the South, were in town last week. They were conveyed to New Bedford by one of the colored residents of Chapaquidic.

#### **May 11, 1855**

E. W. Jennings vs. Town of Tisbury – We learn from passengers who arrived here in the packet on Thursday afternoon, that this case has been decided in favor of the plaintiff, at the Court held in Barnstable the past week, \$1,900 being awarded for damages, Mr. Jennings, it will be

recollected, had his leg broken by falling from his carriage in Tisbury, owing to imperfections in the road.

### **May 18, 1855**

...Others are engaged in painting and improving their residences. The general appearance of the town would be vastly improved, if the places of business, stores, &c., received a fair share of attention, or, more properly speaking, *paint*...

### **May 18, 1855**

Edmund W. Jennings vs. Inhabitants of Tisbury – This was an action of tort to recover damages for injuries alleged to have been received by a defect in the Davis Road, so called, or Steven's Path, in Tisbury. It was based on the statute of 1846, which provides that towns shall be liable for injuries sustained by defects in certain ways, dedicated to the public use, which have not become public ways...

...The defendants contended that the road was not of the character alleged by the plaintiff; that it was a mere wood-path, not contemplated by the statute of 1846, not a legal way, and one for which they were not responsible; that the road was not defective as alleged, and that the accident was the fault of the plaintiff, rather than the road. Considerable evidence was offered on this point.

DEWEY J. instructed the jury, that if this way was one of those called wood roads, made for convenience of transit over to wild lands, it was not a proper road to which the statute would apply. But if they were satisfied that this road had been dedicated by the owners to the public use, and the accident happened upon it as alleged, and it had been used by the public to travel over for more than twenty years, as connected with roads legally laid out, the town was liable, though they never made any repairs upon it, to close up its entrances, or give notice that the lane was dangerous...

### **May 25, 1855**

OCEAN HOUSE  
EDGARTOWN

FAMILIES who intend spending the Summer season at a WATERING PLACE, can find none more conducive to health than Edgartown. The subscriber having leased the largest and most commodious Hotel on the Island, assures families who may visit his hotel, that every effort will be made to render their sojourn pleasant and comfortable....

### **June 8, 1855**

Our Island Scenery

It is, we think, pretty generally conceded, that the sight of our island scenery amply rewards the tourist for the pains-taking and expense incurred in visiting it. Strangers having once been here are always pleased in returning. The aspect which Nature here presents is unique...

...We may here announce, that being fresh from a recent tour on foot over the North part of this island, the writer is so presumptuous as to attempt to give some account of what he has seen – even of the striking prospects which have been presented to his gaze...

...We leave Indian Hill, and take our course through Christiantown. This is Indian country—it is wild and hilly.

### CHRISTIANTOWN HILLS

A range of hills somewhat lower than Indian Hill rampart,—this part of the Island stretching from the East a little to the South of West, and not far from the Vineyard Sound. Their sides are somewhat abrupt. They are thickly strown with rocks or boulders, some of them of large size. On the northern flanks of the hills entire beds of these rocks are deposited, which show marks of attrition by the action of water. They were brought, it is conjectured, from their native beds on the Continent—some of them, probably, from a long distance, as far off even as the town of Dedham, Mass. Hitchcock, in his Geological Survey of this State, mentions that some of these rocks must have come from a ledge there...

...We pass frequent peat swamps, and small ponds among the hills. The country is still uneven, but the sides of the hills are not so steep, but have a broader base and longer flanks. We press on. Every instant the Sound and the Ocean view becomes grander. Soon after passing a large brook which takes its rise in the high land, we strike a wild and dreary place, and this is

### T. & J. BARROWS & CHANDLER'S BRICK-YARD.

This spot is extremely wild and dreary. The brick-yard is near the Sound. It avails itself of a rapid brook, which, coming from the high land of Chilmark, loses itself in the Vineyard Sound...

### **June 15, 1855**

Martha's Vineyard Bank – A meeting of subscribers to the stock of this proposed institution took place, on Monday evening last, at the office of Dr. Daniel Fisher. About twenty subscribers were present. The meeting on the whole was enthusiastic, a revival of interest being very apparent, and we are strongly inclined to hope for good results. One gentleman who had previously subscribed \$10,000, doubled his subscription; and others followed his example by liberal additions. A new and very efficient committee consisting of Messrs. Ira Darrow, Wm. H. Munroe, and John O. Norton...

### **June 15, 1855**

Electric Telegraph from Boston to Nobsque Head and Holmes' Hole – The Boston Board of Trade have recently adopted an elaborate report prepared by R. B. Forbes Esq, setting forth the advantages of this line...

...Mr. Smith says it is contemplate, also, to stretch a sub-marine telegraphic cable from Nobsque Head (Cape Cod) to West Chop (Vineyard), —a distance of four and a half miles, — and to extend the wire to this town...

### **June 15, 1855**

#### Merry's Hill

About three miles back of the village of Holmesville, making one's way westward through the oak woods, whose brilliant scarlet and deep yellow leaves just now give the woods the appearance of being on fire — yellow and scarlet flames licking the spray and branches — to-day we witnessed a glorious sight from rising ground commanding a wide range of forest. The woods appeared clothed in bursting flames in this complexion of its leaves, but soon they will change into a light and tender green. Three miles westward of Holmesville, we were saying, the traveller is brought to the top of Merry's Hill, so called. From this point an agreeable prospect is seen spreading around you. Taking your position there, and looking off in the direction of South and East, a level plain is seen spreading out its even surface before you to the distance of 8 or 10 miles, till it touches the line of the impinging ocean. Twelve miles distant, a continuous forest intervening, is Edgartown with its towers and spires. Beyond are the heights of Chappaquiddic; and the tongue of land, whose termination is named Cape Poge, is clearly visible. Holmesville, with its neat white houses, is seen; and far off the South is the old ocean — dim, mystic and vast. Of this plain, whose sea of billowy green rolls away so agreeably before you till it meets the ocean, we please ourselves with the conjecture that it once was a shoal sunk beneath the waters, and that by some force in nature, ages ago, before man appeared, was raised to its present site above the surrounding sea...

#### ...Indian Hill

Advancing a mile or more Westward into the interior from Merry's Hill, you come to Indian Hill, in Christiantown. This is considerably higher, and from its summit a still wider and grander view can be had. From this elevation you can trace the Vineyard Sound more distinctly; can see it gradually widening; and now you can see beyond the Elizabeth Islands into Buzzard's Bay; and, if the day is fine, across its expanse of waters, transfigured, rising from the shore of the bay, is the city of New Bedford...

...We noticed that the brick-yard has been considerably enlarged since a former visit; additional-machinery has been introduced, and a superior furnace for making the fire-proof brick has been built at considerable expense...

### **June 15, 1855**

Holmes' Hole — This village is rapidly gaining in wealth and intelligence, as well as in beautiful

residences, which improve the fine natural scenery of the place. Many and various improvements are not being made by the wealthy sea-captains and others residing there...

...Moses Brown, M. D., has purchased a tract of some 300 acres, which he is rapidly clearing and putting under cultivation...

### **June 22, 1855**

Travel to Edgartown – As the season advances the travel to Edgartown increases. Nothing can be more inviting than a sail this season of the year through the Vineyard Sound. The facilities for travelling are excellent, and the rate of fare unusually low. The time has been when passengers were landed at Holmes Hole, thence conveyed by carriages to Edgartown. Now we go on board the good streamer Metacomet...

### **June 29, 1855**

Indian Claim at “Deep Bottom,” Tisbury – His Excellency Governor Gardner, has appointed Messrs. Charles Marston, Ichabod N. Luce and Richard L. Pease, Commissioners to adjust and settle this claim. The Commissioners advertise in our columns today that they will hold a meeting in the month of August next, the day and place to be notified hereafter, for the purpose of attending to this matter.

### **June 29, 1855**

Wonderful Coal – Very remarkable stories are told of the Breckenridge coal from Kentucky, of which a cargo of 800 tons had just arrived at New York from New Orleans. As fuel nothing could be more satisfactory; it burns with a clear flame, great heat and no dust, only some eight per cent. remaining as ashes; but chemical analysis shows it to possess other qualities still more valuable. By distillation there is obtained from a ton of this coal 15 gallons of purified illuminating oil 3-4 pounds of solid paraffine, worth together, it is supposed, some \$40 or \$50. The cost of manufacturing these substances from a ton of coal is about \$6. The lubricating oil is of great value for machinery, being superior to all animal or vegetable oils for that purpose...

...From the paraffine excellent candles can be made, equal in all qualities to the best sperm...

### **July 13, 1855**

Sword-fish

Gentlemen Editors, take off your hats! Talk no more of your wonderful cod-fish, your large draughts of herring, pogies, and other “o’ that ilk!” Edgartown fishermen have thrown you all into the shade, and henceforth you must hide your diminished heads! On Monday last, eleven boats from this place, each boat manned by two men, captured no less than SEVENTY-TWO SWORD-FISH, varying in weight from one hundred to three hundred and fifty pounds, and aggregating

about 10,000 lbs. On Tuesday, an equal number of boats captured FORTY-FIVE, varying in weight as above...

### **July 13, 1855**

Martha's Vineyard Bank – At a meeting of the stockholders of this institution, held at the Town Hall, on Saturday afternoon last, Hon. Leavitt Thaxter in the Chair, the charter, as amended by the last Legislature, was accepted, and the following gentlemen elected directors:

DANIEL FISHER, ABRAHAM OSBORN, LEAVITT THAXTER, BENJAMIN WORTH, WILLIAM H. MUNROE, IRA DARROW, AND ALEXANDER P. WEEKS, of Edgartown; THOMAS BARROWS of Tisbury, and BARTLETT MAYHEW, of Chilmark.

After the adjournment of the meeting, the Directors assembled at the same place, and Hon. DANIEL FISHER was unanimously chosen President.

### **July 13, 1855**

...We understand that the Canonicus goes on another excursion, from New Bedford to Gay Head, on Friday afternoon, 13<sup>th</sup> inst, and will be accompanied by one of the most popular brass hands in the State;...

...“The steamer Canonicus has just arrived from New Bedford, with about 800 passengers, including two fire companies and two brass bands....

### **July 20, 1855**

TOWN, COUNTY AND STATE TAXES – The following list comprises the names of all individuals, companies and estates, in this town, who pay a tax of \$15 and upward, the present year:

...Dr. Daniel Fisher<sup>6</sup>,           81.75  
Dr. Daniel Fisher & Co.,   832.88...

### **July 20, 1855**

The Great Ocean Telegraph – The cable for the submarine telegraph to connect to the Island of Newfoundland with this continent, was shipped from London on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, and may be expected soon to arrive at its destination...

### **July 27, 1855**

Wood Land – Fifteen acres of wood and timber land will furnish a farmer his ordinary timber and wood for two fires. Ten cords of wood will suffice for any man to keep two fires the year round, provided he has tight rooms and good stoves. We have kept two fires since the first of November in two large rooms, and have not yet burnt three cords of wood, and we can assure you that we

---

<sup>6</sup> Most people paid less than \$50 and only 3 others paid more than \$200

like a good comfortable fire. The farmer should commence on one side of his lot, and cut the wood clean as he goes. In this manner the young shoots come up alike as they receive the sun alike. Now say there are thirty cords of wood to an acre, if cuts ten cords of wood a year, it will take him three years to cut off the wood of a single acre—and it will take him forty-five years to cut the wood off from his lot of fifteen acres. At the end of forty-five years, he may go back to the first acres he cut, and cut thirty cords of wood to the acre. On our ordinary up land, wood will grow to thirty cords to the acre in thirty years.

Thirty-four years since, we recollect of assisting in clearing fourteen acres of wood-land, and getting the same into winter rye. After the crop of winter rye was taken, it was pastured for a year or two, and then suffered to grow up. The growth was white oak, red oak, yellow oak, chestnut and maple. Seven years since that same rye field was cut over, and there was not a single acre of it but produced thirty cords to the acre! And this in twenty-seven years!

### **August 10, 1855**

The Telegraph is Coming! – Our citizens were treated to a direct, straightforward proposition on Monday evening, to forsake their ancient and isolated condition, and to take up direct and instant connection with the continent – to shake hands with our brethren across the “narrow firth” which now intersects us, by the lightning telegraph, and thus be “blended into one” –no longer to “abhor each other” or the *mail* contractor, for shutting us up, like poor debtors in a prison, during the season of snow and ice, as we now too often are for days together.

Mr. Elias Smith is the agent of the Cape Cod Telegraph Company, (regularly chartered, we understand, by an act of the last legislature,) for constructing a line of Telegraph to Cape Cod, and having a special grant for laying down a telegraphic cable to this Island and Nantucket...

### **August 10, 1855**

...Our harbor would become the resort of vessels which now pass us by, if for no other purpose than that the masters and crews might reach their friends by telegraph; and our Island, which is unsurpassed for beauty and fertility, would not be shunned because we are so far removed from communication with the rest of the world...

...For the sum of five thousand dollars, two thousand of which are already promised at Holmes’ Hole, the telegraph can now be brought to our very doors; the stock thus subscribed to be returned in shares of fifty dollars, entitling each holder to his quota of dividends in the company, and in the management of its affairs...

### **August 10, 1855**

The Vineyard Camp-Meeting will commence at Wesleyan Grove on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, where arrangements have been made to accommodate a large number than usually attend. The camp-meeting is a feature of Vineyard life which we should be very sorry to see dispensed with.

**August 31, 1855**

New Bedford, Vineyard and Nantucket Steam Boat Company.

**SUMMER ARRANGMENT.**

The new, fast and splendid steamer EAGLE'S WING, Capt. Benjamin C. Cromwell, will leave Nantucket on MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS, at a quarter before six o'clock A. M.; leave Holmes' Hole at 8 o'clock; Wood's Hole at 8:30, and arrive at New Bedford in time to take the 10:30 train for Boston and Providence, which reaches Boston at 12:45 P. M. – one and a half hours earlier than by any other route, giving passengers and opportunity to transact Bank business, attend on 'Change, and to take the train for the West...

**August 31, 1855**

Ocean House

**EDGARTOWN**

Families who intend spending the Summer season at a WATERING PLACE, can find none more conducive to health than Edgartown. The subscriber having leased the largest and most commodious Hotel on the Island, assures families who may visit his hotel, that every effort will be made to render their sojourn pleasant and comfortable. Gentlemen who delight in the exciting sports of Angling and Gunning, will find here an ample field for their favorite enjoyments. Blue Fish, Tautog, Bass and Sword Fish, which are found in abundance, tempt the sportsman to the wave, whilst Edgartown Plains, covered with various kinds of game, afford to the gunsman sport of an exhilarating and inviting character...

**August 31, 1855**

Intermarriage of Blood Relations – It was the Rev. Charles Brooks, of Boston, who said the late Scientific Association, in Providence, that there was hardly a living descendent of Martha's Vineyard who could write consecutively a page of good sound sense! Mr. Brooks, it would seem by the papers, just made himself quite merry over the supposed misfortunes of our people. He stated that but few strangers could be persuaded to settle here! And the following is given as one of his periods, when trying to prove us of the Vineyard of liliputian intellect: —

At Martha's Vineyard they have a particularly bad time. The island is sea-girt. The youths cannot go a-courting elsewhere, because of the rolling billows, and so they content themselves with Marthas in the Vineyard. The island in consequence is, according to our author, "full of illustrations." "Their minds," says Mr. Brooks, "are moderate. Their health is feeble."

"The man whom I employed in that Island." Says Mr. Brooks, "married his first cousin, and their parents were second cousins. Their first children were born without eyes and lived but a few hours. A very particularly unfortunate case..."

"It will doubtless be news to our people, and to the people of the civilized world generally, to know that the hardy sons of the Vineyard, who have for a century past visited every region and clime known to man, cannot leave the Island, "because of the rolling billows!"...

...We say we want the proof of our imbecility..."

### **September 7, 1855**

Martha's Vineyard Bank – This institution issued its first bills on Tuesday morning last. They were in great demand and in some instances sold at a premium by the fortunate possessors. The first bill issued was of the denomination of one dollar, and was secured by our highly respected fellow townsman, Daniel Fellows Esq., who paid \$2 for the same...

...A slight description of some of the bills may prove interesting to our readers: –

1's –Date, Sept. 1, 1855 – Signed by D. Fisher, President—Jos. T. Pease, Cashier.  
Vignette—right hand corner—a lady, resting her right arm upon a globe of North America, and her left upon the “stars and stripes.”...

### **September 13, 1855**

[Advertisement for Martha's Vineyard Bank

Definitely called Martha's Vineyard Bank not Edgartown National Bank. That must have come later.]

### **September 21, 1855**

Tuckernuck – This island belongs to the County of Nantucket, and contains about 1000 acres of productive land. It is situated one or two miles in a S. W. direction from the island of Nantucket. Many sheep and cattle find pasture there. Mr. Chas. F. Dunham, of this town, owns nearly one half of the island...

...He has had large fields of rye and corn under cultivation this year...

### **September 21, 1855**

Fire Among the Pines at Nantucket

Over a thousand acres of the pine lands on Nantucket were burned over on Saturday morning last. A portion of the land was covered with a thrifty growth of pines three years old, and valued at from 10 to 15 dollars an acre. The cause of the fire is unknown...

### **October 1855**

[VG, which is a strong supporter of the telegraph begins a column of news “Telegraphic” – to signal that it doesn't come by mail and boat. The gazette acts as a real booster to e.g., railroad, telegraph, development, agriculture, whaling.

Much less news from California. No column heading although occasional articles.]

### **October 5, 1855**

[excerpt]

...Census of Edgartown

Whole number of inhabitants            1855

Holmes Hole Sept 29, 1855

Total    1826

Number born in Ireland, 31; in Germany, 3; in Western Island, 5. Number of seamen, 229; Farmers, 120....

**October 19, 1855**

Indian Corn Meal – Capt. George Luce, of West Tisbury...

...has sent us a couple of bags of fine ground fresh Indian corn meal...

...Capt. Luce's mill is carried by water power, and he is thus enabled to grind at all times and very expeditiously...

**October 19, 1855**

A Good Yield – Mr. Daniel Smith, keeper of Cape Poge Light, gathered last week, from 7 rods of land, planted by him, 32 bushels of onions.

**November 16, 1855**

[Sperm oil still climbing. \$1.88 per barrel. Drops somewhat going into 1856 but gradually and with little comment. Starting to mention Eastville. Seems slightly more apparent.]

**November 23, 1855**

Will be sold at Public Auction...

...the following parcels of property belonging to the Estate of Silas Luce, late of Edgartown, deceased, viz: one-quarter of a Wood Lot, called the "Stony Hill Lot," situated in Tisbury...

...also wood and cleared land adjoining the Highway leading from Edgartown village to Eastville, and consisting of about fourteen acres of wood and four of cleared land; also part of a lot of wood land called the "Reuben Lot," situated about one-third of a mile to the South-West of the residence of Stephen Kidder in said Edgartown..

**December 14, 1855**

Telegraph on Martha's Vineyard...

...The line of the Cape Cod Telegraph Company, which has been in operation to Wood's Hole since September, is to be carried across the Vineyard Sound, from that place to West Chop of Holmes' Hole...

...the people of Holmes' Hole and Edgartown, have come forward and cheerfully contributed their subscriptions to the stock of the Company to defray a large portion of the expense of the enterprise, and the line from Edgartown to Holmes' Hole is already complete...

...The ladies, foremost in every good work, have taken a lively interest in this enterprise, subscribing to the stock, and influencing their male friends to follow suit...

...The Company are also much indebted to Dr. Fisher, President of the Vineyard Bank at Edgartown, for his assistance in forwarding their plans. A new era has now dawned upon our island and neighbors. Possessing one of the most inviting positions upon our sea board for the resort of summer visitors, they have now superadded the advantages of instant communication with all the rest of the world, and no one will now have to complain of the want of communication. [Boston Traveller.

#### **December 18, 1855**

[Describes telegraph as complete on Martha's Vineyard with line to Edgartown from Holmes Hole. Awaiting cable from Cape.]

#### **December 28, 1855**

An opening occurred in the South Beach, opposite the "Great Pond," about a week since, and the waters of the ocean now ebb and flow in and out of the pond. In the gale of Sunday last, the heavy sea broke through the South Beach, opposite Catama Point.

#### **December 28, 1855**

Ship Vineyard, Fisher, of Edgartown, is reported at Lahaina, Oct. 22, with 250 sp 2100 wh, 28,000 lbs bone;...

...Heard fm Sept 17, Navigator, Fisher, Edgartown, 550 bbls;...

Camphene for sale. Lots of imported flour, different kinds from west.

## **1856**

#### **January 11, 1856**

[Longfellows "Sons of Hiawaths" on front page]

**January 11, 1856**

Severe Storm – On Saturday evening last, a severe snow storm commenced in this region, accompanied by violent wind and high tides, and continued until the close of the Sabbath. Some fifteen inches of snow fell on the average, but the high wind drove immense quantities of it into the harbor...

...The store in which Mr. Heman Arey has for years kept his salt, was flooded, and about 70 bushels were destroyed. Mr. Arey also met with considerable loss in the drifting away of a portion of his salt works, situated at the eastern extremity of the town. We are sorry to learn that some ruthless Vandals, in the vicinity where the floating stuff landed, took their axes and broke up and carried off a considerable portion of the works.

The storm, on the whole, was perhaps the severest experienced here for twenty years, or more.

**January 25, 1856**

Agriculture – Agriculture is the great industrial pursuit of this country, employing more labor and capital than all others combined.

...It is daily becoming more and more of a *profession*, however; and we think the time is not far distant when this, by many thought ignoble, study, will have to a far greater extent than at present the best intellects in the country laboring for its elevation and advancement. To this end, the first steps are in the formation of societies – national, state, country and town—the avowed objects of which are improved agriculture, and the elevation of farmers as a class. So much good has resulted from the efforts of our continent, that we think it is high time that the farmers of Martha's Vineyard formed such a society. We believe that the agricultural interests of our Island have been sadly neglected—that instead of being as it is in many parts barren and unproductive, it might be made to “bud and blossom as the rose,” and be in reality, as it is in name, a very *Vineyard*, bearing fruit an hundred fold...

...So long as the farmers remain isolated, each one following only the light of what little experience comes under his own observation, the great body will pursue the track their fathers trod, making little improvements...

**February 1, 1856 –**

[Stock high on Martha's Vineyard Bank.]

**February 1, 1856**

New England Rum – The exports of rum from Boston since the 1<sup>st</sup> of September last have been 450,000 gallons...

**February 1, 1856**

HIDES! HIDES!

The subscribers having completed their arrangements are prepared to pay Cash for Hides and Skins of all kinds, delivered at their yard.

THADDEUS LUCE & CO.

Tisbury, Dec. 26, 1855

3m.

### **February 8, 1856**

An Agricultural Society

Mr. Editor: – I have been highly gratified at reading in your paper of 25<sup>th</sup> January, the remarks on Agriculture, and would most heartily “second your motion” in regard to some practical means of improvement in this most interesting, healthful and honorable calling. Some one has said that the three most beautiful things in nature, are “a beautiful woman, a ship under sail, and a *field of wheat*.” We certainly can claim our share of the two former, and why cannot we include the “field of wheat” in our list of *Island beauties*?

We certainly have the elements of a fine agricultural district, equal, perhaps, to almost any County in the State, and far superior to many. We have quite a variety of soil and situation, from the lighter and level lands of the Eastern part of the Island, to the clayey and hilly ground of Chilmark and the North Shore; with perhaps as fine a soil, in some of the central portions of the island, as can be found anywhere. Corn, that great staple—as shown by the statistics given in your paper—is a natural and sure crop with us, as well as many of the grains and roots. Our farmers only need to investigate and determine as to the best “ways and means” to produce the best results, and they are almost sure of success. Nothing can have a more direct tendency to produce this than by forming an Agricultural Society, or Societies. Many an hour wasted during our winter evenings, could be passed in profit and pleasure at a society meeting, where neighbors could discuss, or read and comment upon this subject, so interesting and useful to all. A trifling sum subscribed by each member would purchase newspapers and books, or go to create a fund, to be given in rewards and premiums for the best crops and products, or for any other purpose benefiting the members. Nothing has contributed so much toward improvement and success in other rural districts of our country, as the societies which have been formed in them. No one farmer can experiment and discover the best methods of culture for all the variety of crops, but, profiting by the experience of others, he can enlarge his own field of knowledge pretty greatly. If a fine crop is raised in the far West, in Ohio, or in our own State, we can have the full benefit of it by some society or newspaper publication,—how it was ploughed, manured, planted, harvested and sold,—with all the accompanying statements of time, labor and expense. Surely these statistics are worth comparing and considering in our own farming operations. It is by such means that other districts have improved their systems of culture, and met with signal success,—while we are still behind hand even in many of the rudiments of agriculture. Merchants and mechanics have their meetings “on change,” and their reading rooms and libraries, and the farmer would find it equally to his benefit to follow their example. One of the most successful farmers of New York, stated that he subscribed to six agricultural papers, and *read them all*, and considered it the best

investment he ever made.

It is a matter of fact, and has been demonstrated, that our climate and soil is suitable to successful growth of many of the most profitable products. Hay, corn, potatoes and onions, can be made to yield a bountiful return, if the proper means are taken to produce them. Our farmers need to pay more attention to the application of manure; to practice a more judicious system of ploughing and cultivation, and to carry out a proper rotation of crops. Let them attend to these things, and vastly more profit and satisfaction would result from their operations,—and no man who had an acre of land to cultivate, would need complain of the want of opportunity or means to make a comfortable living.

As the subject of an Agricultural Society has been mooted, I hope you will “stir up” your readers until they are persuaded to *act* in the matter, so that the time may soon come when reports from the “Vineyard Agricultural Society” may impart as much good to others as we may derive benefit from them ourselves

W. L. H.<sup>7</sup>

### **February 8, 1856**

Coasting – This rare sport was probably never enjoyed here in such full perfection as it has been during the last fortnight. Old men and women, young ladies and lasses, the grave and the gay, have all resorted to the fine hill in front of the residence of Mr. Joseph Kelly, on Water street, and engaged heartily in “coasting.” A number of new and beautiful sleds have been introduced, capable of carrying quite a number at once. The sport is kept up from “early dawn” till late in the evening. Hundreds are on the ground at a time, and the sleds pass to and fro in rapid succession, causing intense excitement, both to the coasters and spectators. We noticed one old man of 70 summers, engaged in the sport. This sport is also enjoyed, as usual, when there is snow upon the ground, on the hill at the homestead of Joseph Mayhew, Esq. the sleds at this locality no only pass down the hill, but far out on the harbor, upon the smooth and solid ice.

### **February 15, 1856**

Agriculture – The Vineyard Soils

Mr. Editor—A few remarks in favor of our Island as an agricultural district, and of farming as a profitable business for our islanders, may not be unworthy of consideration, and may lead to some useful reflections, of not to actions and improvement.

Without attempting any scientific discussion of the geology of the Island, it may be interesting to glance at its general formation and the character of its soil. Prof. Hitchcock, in his geological survey of the State, has pronounced it mostly alluvium and drift. This is undoubtedly true, as there exists no primitive rocks, whose decompositions and pulverization, in past ages, has formed an original soil. That the Island has been swept by some deluge or “drift,” is evident from the stones and boulders on our hill tops and sides, of various kinds of rock, worn and beaten by the rush of elements when they were hurled, perhaps hundreds of miles, to be deposited in their

---

<sup>7</sup> Likely Henry L. Whiting who became Secretary and ultimately President of the Agricultural Society.

present resting place. Geologists consider that there have been several periods of drift on the northern part of this continent. Some ascribe it to the action of ice and icebergs; others to volcanic eruptions in the north seas, sweeping a torrent of water, ice, mud, earth and stones, tearing away hills and forming valleys, and crumbling earth and rocks in its course, and depositing these materials in different and distant places.

In some cases drift has covered up good soils, by a deposit of sand and gravel. In others it has left a better class of substances than the original. In general it is considered by geologists and agriculturalists that it has done good, by mixing the ruins of various formations, and changing the soil over districts which would have contained but one kind, and where there might have been a want of various materials necessary to vegetation. It is considered, therefore, to be productive and desirable for cultivation. That the 'drift' of our Island is of a good class, is evident from the clay, organic remains and fossils, which are so abundant.

Our plains have been subjected for ages to the washings from the North Shore hills, and marine deposits from high tides, &c.; besides the accumulation and decay of leaves during the years that these parts of the Island have been covered with trees and bushes. This has given the soil a tenacious and loamy character, far superior to many sandy lands which have been cultivated, elsewhere, with success and profit.

A shrewd, practical and intelligent agriculturist has said that, "in fifty years sand lands will be preferred for cultivation to any other." At present there is a prejudice against "light lands," and the term is synonymous with *poor lands*...

### **February 15, 1856**

To the Hon. State and House of Representatives, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled.

The undersigned, members and proprietors of the Pocha Pond Meadow and Fishing Company, in the town of Edgartown, State aforesaid, would respectfully ask leave to represent,

That by the provisions of their Act of Incorporation, passed in the year 1848, the said Company were authorized and empowered to build or construct a Causeway from the "Twenty Acre Lot" so called, to Cape Poge Beach, extending across the Creek or Passage between the aforesaid Pocha Pond and Cape Poge Pond. They were also authorized by the said Act to dig a Creek or Outlet from the said Pocha Pond into the Harbor of Edgartown, for the purpose of draining the adjacent meadows, and creating a Herring Fishery for the sole and exclusive benefit of said Company. Subsequently to the passage of the said Act, the aforesaid Company proceeded to construct the Causeway above named, containing a Sluice or Gateway for letting off the water. Upon the completion of the said Causeway, it was ascertained that a Fishery had been thereby created. The objects of the Company have thus been attained, (viz: the creation of a Fishery and the drainage of the Meadows), the necessity of digging a Creek from Poucha Pond to Edgartown Harbor, is in a measure suspended. Your petitioners would therefore respectfully ask that the Fishery thus created, might be permanently secured to them; and that a law be passed, with suitable penalties annexed, prohibiting any person or persons from seining Herring in any of the

water leading from Poucha Pond to Edgartown Harbor, from the first day of March, to the first day of July, annually...

### **March 1856**

[Articles about the value of Agriculture in United States.]

### **March 28, 1856**

GOOD FISHING ON THE PONDS – The ice is still 12 inches thick on the Upper Pond, so called. On the 24<sup>th</sup> inst., one person took upwards of 60 pounds of eels from this pond, and on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 50 pounds. Holes were made in the ice, which proved to be 12 inches thick, and hard and firm at that.

### **April 1856**

[Herring running in Pocha Pond and Trapps Pond. Whaling news section is small. No California news for some time.]

### **April 18, 1856**

Fire in the Woods. *Mr. Editor:* – The most destructive fire that ever, probably, occurred in our town, broke out yesterday, and raged with its wonted fury. Everything with which it came in contact being very dry, and consequently, in a good state to burn, greatly facilitated the onward march of this devouring element. In spite of all efforts, it spread over a large tract of land, damaging a great quantity of valuable wood, and almost everything within its reach. Fortunately, no buildings or persons were injured by the fire, though some were expecting their dwellings to be destroyed, and removed some of the “valuables” therefrom.

The amount of loss, may be estimated, at from \$5000 to \$10,000; and would have been much greater, were it not for the timely aid of our citizens. Their untiring activity to stay the progress of the flame, is worthy of note. They worked “like brave men.” Men and oxen labored till they were entirely exhausted. Nor would we forget to offer a tribute of praise to the ladies, who were present to render assistance. After burning nearly all day the fire was conquered.

The fire originated in some bushes, which were being burned off, as is usual at this season of the year. Soon after it was kindled, it became unmanageable, and started on its course of devastation.

Such disasters are too frequent among us. Persons cannot be too careful, how, when, and where they use fire; for though it is “a good servant,” it is a very “hard master.” M.

Chilmark, April 12, 1856.

### **April 25, 1856**

[Daniel Fisher still Fire Warden.]

### **May 2, 1856**

## Cultivation of the Pine

### **May 2, 1856**

...Amos Otis, Esq., of Yarmouth, has planted about two hundred acres...

...Large tracts of worn out land in Barnstable County, that were worth comparatively nothing, have been planted within the past fifteen years with the pitch pine...

...We know of no way in which the many thousands of acres of poor, sandy lands, in this State, can be made so valuable, as by planting them with either white or pitch-pine seed...

### **May 16, 1856**

...In this place, the several parcels of sperm oil brought by the Vineyard, the Mary, and the Ellen, have all been taken by Dr. Daniel Fisher, on private terms. He has also purchased the whale oil brought in by the Ellen, at a price which the owners do not wish to appear in print.

### **May 23, 1856**

Long article about the County Commissioners Court case in which the proposal by deceased Franklin Luce was presented by Captain Charles Smith of Tisbury for a road from Holmes Hole on a floating bridge over Tashmoo along north shore (Lambert's Cove?) over towards Chilmark. In places would parallel existing County Road. Much opposition. Cost, need, public benefit.

### **May 23, 1856**

"To Prevent Crows from Pulling Corn." – I scatter corn in the field broadcast, which they feed upon and leave the seed. If I have too much company by my liberality, I soak the corn in strychnia and hot water. Last spring, after scattering half a bushel of corn soaked in this way, I picked up forty-two dead crows, and how many more went off feeling 'kind o' sick,' I am not able to state.

### **May 23, 1856**

50,000 herrings were taken at Chabbaquansett Creek, Holmes' Hole, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. 300,000 have been taken there this season.

### **May 23, 1856**

...The following is a statement of the aggregate value of articles produced in each country:

Barnstable,	\$3,092,442
Berkshire,	12,756,264
Bristol,	29,328,374
Dukes,	762,232
Essex,	39,848,019
Franklin,	5,038,250
Hampden,	12,120,444
Hampshire,	7,022,878



...We give below a list of Acts and Resolves passed...  
...To incorporate the Farm Pond Fishing Company in Edgartown...

### **June 20, 1856**

..."Statistical Information relating to Certain Branches of Industry in Massachusetts, for the year ending June 1, 1855..."

...CHILMARK<sup>9</sup>

Bricks m'd., 700,000; val. Of bricks, \$3,000; emp.14

Sheep, 6,088. Horses, 131. Oxen, 189. Milch Cows, 289. Heifers, 158.

Butter, 10,342 lbs. Cheese, 2,987 lbs. Indian Corn, 168 acres. Rye, 28 acres. Oats, 93 acres.

Potatoes, 30 acres.

English Mowing, 629 acres. Wet Meadow or Swale Hay, 293 tons. Salt Hay, 203 tons. Apple Trees, cultivated for their fruit, 15221. Pear Trees, cultivated for their fruit, 118. Swine, 146.

...EDGARTOWN

Establishments for m. of salt, 1. Establishments for m. of oil and sperm candles, 1. Whale oil m'd, 449,000 galls. Sperm, 1-,380 galls, val. Of oil m'd., \$448,215. Sperm Candles m'd, 68,800lbs, val. of sperm candles, \$20,640, cap, \$100,000; emp., 12.

Vessels employed in the whale fishery, 12.

Sheep, 800. Horses, 112. Oxen, 92. Steers, 55. Milch Cow, 253. Heifers, 55.

Butter, 6,950 lbs. Indian Corn, 427 acres. Rye, 145 acres. Oats, 36 acres. Potatoes, 50 acres.

Turnips, 18 acres.

English Mowing, 500 acres. Wet Meadow or Swale Hay, 189 tons. Salt Hay, 67 tons. Cranberries, 6 acres.

...TISBURY

Woolen Mills, [number not given]; Satinet m'd, 3,000 yds; val of satinet, \$1,500; Flannel or Blanketing, 5,000 yds; val. of flannel or blanketing, \$1,900; m. emp., 2; f. emp., 3.

Tanneries, 1; Hides of all kinds tanned, 600.

Firewood prepared for market, 470 cords.

Alewives, Shad and Salmon taken, 600,000; val. of same, \$3,000; emp. 65.

Sheep, 1,351. Horses, 124. Oxen, 90. Steers, 57. Milch Cows, 222. Heifers, 65. Butter, 11,000 lbs.

Indian Corn, 168 acres. Rye, 24 acres. Barley, 2 acres. Oats, 39 acres. Onions, 1-4 acres. Turnips, 4 1-2 acres. Carrots, 2 acres.

English Mowing, 410 acres. Wet Meadow or Swale Hay, 130 tons. Salt Hay, 129 tons, val. \$1,032. Apple Trees, 6,212. Cranberries, 8 acres.

### **June 20, 1856**

A letter from MR. Wm E. Borden, first officer of ship Mary, of NBedford, dated at Sea, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, confirms the report of the death of Capt. Cottle, and Daniel Burt, who were drowned on

---

<sup>9</sup> Only select pieces of text taken from entire article

the 19<sup>th</sup> of Feb, in lat 29 47 S. lon 179 30 W, in consequence of the boat being stove by a sperm whale to which they were fastened. Capt Cottle was drowned soon after the boat was stove, not knowing how to swim; Burt survived till the next day, when he expired. Mr. Compass the 3d mate, and 3 Portugues consisted the rest of the boat's crew, who were picked up (two of them just alive) by ship Maria Theresa, of NBedford, and returned on board the Mary, after having clung to the wreck 36 hours. The Mary was bound to Tahiti for men, and would then proceed on the voyage under command of Mr. Borden.

A letter from Capt. Gifford, of ship Hope, of NBedford, reports her off French Rock Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, with 1000 bbls sp oil on board. Had obtained provisions form the Polar Star, and would cruise until April, when she would touch at New Zealand and recruit for home...

**June 20, 1856**

[From California 3 inches of text.  
Sperm \$1.59]

**June 27, 1856**

[Sperm \$1.60]

**July 18, 1856**

[Valuation Daniel Fisher - \$89.45; Abraham Osborn - \$539.80; Daniel Fisher & Co. - \$866.19;  
Cable arrived at Holmes Hole from Cape Cod  
Sperm \$1.50]

**July 18, 1856**

[Big celebration – 1000 people for cable. 300 from New Bedford, 75 for Boston.]

**July 24, 1856**

[No Tisbury valuation for Daniel Fisher. Richard G. Luce wealthiest \$256.17  
Sperm \$1.56]

**August 15, 1856**

[150 Chestnut poles for sale]

**August 21, 1856**

[5-6000 people at Camp Meeting.  
Fly paper for sale.  
Richmond (VA) great demand for slaves \$1-1100 for woman \$1250-1500 for men.]

**September 1856**

[Telegraph cable broke by an anchor and will be fixed.]

**September 5, 1856**

The Pines – Some six or eight years since quite a quantity of pine seed was brought to this island, and many of our farmers, and others, planted it, and a fine growth of young and vigorous pines was the result. We regret, however, to learn that the severe cold of last winter had a very injurious effect upon them. In most cases they were much injured, and in very exposed localities nearly all were killed. Those which still live will be a long time in recovering their former vigor.

**September 5, 1856**

Plover – These delicious birds are now killed in great numbers on our plains. They are very fat and fine this season. Mr. Jonathan Munroe killed fifty on Monday morning last before breakfast. We are under obligations to Mr. M. for a dozen.

Since the above was written, a gentleman has informed us that not less than three hundred plovers were killed one morning of this week.

**September 12, 1856**

[Report of cows milked by machines.  
Sperm \$1.50]

**September 19, 1856**

[California news 2 inches of text.  
Martha's Vineyard Bank Shares -- \$108.]

**October 1856**

[Daniel Fisher re-elected bank president. Talks of improvements in flour mills in England.]

**October 24, 1856**

The Supply of Oil – We cannot rely on the ocean for a supply of oil at all adequate to the demand for actual use; for, notwithstanding the number of our whalers has been constantly increasing, the supply of the whale oil has gradually fallen from 207,348 barrels in 1841 to 184,015 in 1855, and prices have been enhanced in proportion to the growing scarcity. The falling off in sperm oil is from 159,304 in 1841 to 72,649 in 1855. Even had there been no falling off in the quantity of oil procured from the whale, the increased demand for the requirements of railways, factories, &c., would exceed the means of supply. It has been estimated that a yearly consumption of 100,000 gallons of oil takes place on every 500 miles of the 25,000 miles of railway in operation in the United States. Various expedients have been resorted to for the supply of the deficiency, and oil has been manufactured from rosin, cotton seed, and other substances, with success. Our pine forests may no doubt be made to produce oil in large quantities...  
...Until a recent period, the extraction of oils from coal has received but little attention, but now it is a well ascertained fact that all the rich bituminous coals are capable of yielding, by distillation

at a high temperature, large quantities of oil having many points of resemblance with naphtha, which is the usual product of distilling petroleum...

...The enormous and rapidly increasing consumption of oil by locomotives and other machinery, greatly enhancing its cost, exerts a powerful stimulus in the prosecution of chemical investigation in this direction.

At Cloverport, Ky., on the Ohio river, are extensive new works, running twelve retorts night and day, consuming from eight to ten tons of coal every twenty-four hours, and producing 750 gallons of crude oil...

...Preparations are making a Cloverport for the manufacture of a beautiful semi-transparent candle from the substance called "paraffine," resembling fine spermaceti...

### **October 24, 1856**

Political – We regret to state that Hon. Daniel Fisher, of this town, declines the nomination of the Fillmore Americans for Congress.

### **October 24, 1856**

Nantucket is to be connected with the Vineyard by telegraph. The cable and wires are already extended to Chappaquiddick, and communication will be opened in a day or two. The wire is not run on poles, as usual, but is buried about a foot deep in the earth.

### **November 14, 1856**

[Sperm \$1.42 ½.]

### **November 21, 1856**

[Sperm 1.40]

### **November 21, 1856**

Since the first developments which were made by experimental analysis showing that the Coal of the Breckinridge Company contains a large amount of oil suitable for illuminating and lubricating purposes, we have watched with great interest the progress of these experiments as of truly national importance, as giving a new impulse to the development of the mineral resources of the country, and as establishing the fact that we have within ourselves an inexhaustible supply of light, to be obtained with far less the expense, and labor, and danger, than the animal oil now in use. The whale, upon which we now depend for oil, is rapidly being driven by the energy of our fishermen into inaccessible seas, and will before many years, at the present rate of destruction, entirely disappear. By the discovery of the presence of a true illuminating and lubricating fluid residing in certain descriptions of coal, we have become independent of such a misfortune, and the whole whaling fleet might be laid up to rot, and we should still have light...

### **November 28, 1856**

[Sperm 1.20-1.32

Synthetic oil from coal in bid for United States Lighthouses]

**November 28, 1856**

...We are informed by a gentleman from Nantucket that a sale of 100 bbls, has been made there the past week at 135 cts. per gallon, which is the lowest price which any has been sold for in that market...

**November 28, 1856**

Telegraph – We learn that the line of Telegraph now being constructed by Messrs. Bishop & Noel, connecting Nantucket with the Vineyard, is very nearly completed, and we look forward to the successful termination of their enterprise as a new feature in the field of Telegraphic operations. Their line, unlike all others heretofore constructed, is almost all the distance an underground wire...

...This advancement towards the European style of building lines is due to the enterprise of Samuel C. Bishop, Esq., of New York, (manufacturer of the American marine cables,) and Mr. Noel, to whom the credit of the engineering part is due. This undertaking, if successful, will no doubt result in the future advancement of American cables and home manufacture. We are assured this mode of building Telegraphs is so trifling an advance in price on the old system, that it is amply covered by the saving effect in after repairs incurred on pole lines.

**November 28, 1856**

Cisterns – Our town is but poorly supplied with cisterns. We have some two or three very small ones, which could be used, at great inconvenience, in case of fire in their immediate vicinity...

...We are also but poorly supplied with engines...

...We should not wait until our town is laid in ashes before taking steps to secure the homes which have been provided at so much expense and toil...

**November 28, 1856**

Oil for Light Houses – The Washington correspondent of the New York Times, says that “among the bids for the supply of the Light House service for the coming year, was one from the Brekinridge Coal Company of Kentucky, proposing to supply oil made from their coal. This was something quite unexpected; and as the bid for this novel article was quite a low one, the Board found themselves in a quandary. The Government, however, has had laid before it such apparently indisputable evidence of the superior illuminating quality of this oil, of its inaptness to gum, and its power to resist a lower temperature than the Winter strained sperm oil, that it has ordered a scientific test to be made. If the result proves satisfactory, the Brekinridge Company will get the contract next year, at a price far below the lowest bid for the necessary quality of fish-oil.”

**November 28, 1856**

Paraffina – The editor of the St. Louis Republican has had exhibited to him a specimen of candle made from paraffina, a product of the Breckinridge coal. It has the appearance of white wax, is hard as the spermaceti candles, is said to burn more luminous and more clearly, and can be manufactured at a trifle above the price of the stearine candle...

**December 19, 1856**

[Sperm \$1.35]

**1857**

**January 9, 1857**

[Sperm \$1.30]

**January 23, 1857**

...On Sunday evening last, the severest snow storm set in which has been experienced on the Vineyard since 1815...

...The snow in the streets, on average, is not less than three feet in depth, perhaps four...

...The elements were stark mad...

**February 8, 1857**

...Our harbor is still closely ice-bound...

**February 8, 1857**

...Our grocers have about sold out...

**February 13, 1857**

[Sperm \$1.20]

**February 20, 1857**

[Ice is out of harbor]

**February 20, 1857**

[Sperm \$1.30]

**February 27, 1857**

[Sperm \$1.33]

**March 6, 1857**

[Walling's Map advertised]

**March 6, 1857**

To the Honorable State and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled:

WE, your petitioners, would respectfully represent that they are the sole owners of all the land adjoining that part of the Lagoon Pond above Long Point, so called, containing not more than seven acres of water: Your petitioners would respectfully request your honorable body to grant them the authority to erect a dam across from said Long Point, and stop the water-course, now open, for the purpose of forming a Herring and Perch fishery, with full power to them, their heirs and associates, to construct said herring and perch fishery, with all its benefits, leaving to the public all the right of taking fish from said waters as heretofore they possessed—consisting of eels, clams of all kinds—and that the petitioners, their heirs, assigns, and associates, shall not at any time so raise the water as to cause damage to the meadows adjoining said water. And as in duty bound will ever pray.

BAZE NORTON, and others.

**March 13, 1857**

[Sperm \$1.40]

**March 13, 1857**

Some four hundred sheep perished on the island of Naushon the past winter from exposure. Hundreds of them were buried in the snow until they perished. At Noman's Land quite a number have shared the same fate. Farmers take but little care of their sheep. They are anxious to get their wool without any fair equivalent.

**March 20, 1857**

Peat-Coal – But little attention, comparatively, has been paid to this important article of fuel in this country. We are glad to perceive therefore, that a very interesting and valuable pamphlet has recently been given to the world upon this subject...

...In Dukes County, as most of our readers know, the supply is almost beyond conception. Our author states that there has recently been discovered a "process for compressing peat into a solid peat coal, resembling the best cannel coal..."

...This peat-coal, the pamphlet informs us, will be made into blocks of four inches square, (or half the size of the face bricks,) will be perfectly clean to handle; will burn with but little smoke. In this shape it is well adapted for use in germinating steam, for household purposes, for coal burning locomotives, and for producing gas...

...Peat is superior to common coal for the purpose of working malleable iron, all descriptions of brass or copper, melting unmalleable or cast iron, general manufacture of iron from the ore, &c...

...Peat also produces a very pure and pleasant gas...

...After it has been employed for gas it may be used for fuel, and in this latter state it is said to be equal to any charcoal...

...in addition to all these useful qualities, it is a valuable manure...

**March 20, 1857**

The Land of Gold – The amount of treasure exported from California in 1856, was \$5,514,802 greater than in 1855, being \$50,697,434. Of this amount \$39,765,294 was sent to New York, \$8,666,289 to England, and \$1,308,852 to China. The exports for 1855 were \$45,182,631; in 1854, \$51,429,000; in 1853, \$54,965,000; in 1852, \$45,779,000; and from 1848-1850, estimated at about \$66,000,000. The total amount exported since the first discovery of the precious ore, is estimated at about \$366,000,000.

**March 20, 1857**

The Great Lakes – The value of the trade of the lakes has increased from \$65,000,000 in 1841 to \$608,310,320 in 1856. The tonnage of the lakes amounts to 45,426 tons, which is about one-twelfth of the total tonnage owned by the United States, and equal to about one-fifth of the total amount employed in the coasting trade.

**March 27, 1857**

[Sperm \$1.45]

**April 1857**

The Submarine Telegraph – The factories at which most of the wire is being manufactured for the submarine telegraph are at Brikenhead, opposite Liverpool, a contract for 1250 miles' length of the cable there been taken, and the work is progressing at a rate of fifteen miles per day...

**April 1857**

FARM FOR SALE<sup>10</sup>

THE subscriber offers for sale his homestead farm, consisting of an Orchard, 3 3-4 acres of Wood Land, one acre of Meadow, and about 26 acres of Tillage and Pasture, together with the Buildings situated on the same. Also other lots of Wood, Pasture, and Meadow Land.

Said farm is situated about a mile and a half South of the new Country road...

...

JOSIAH H. SMITH

Edgartown.

**April 3, 1857**

[Sperm \$1.50]

Daniel Fisher elected a director of the New Bedford, Vineyard and Nantucket Steam Boat Company.]

---

<sup>10</sup> Ads such as this usually list two or more times

**April 3, 1857**

To the Honorable the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts...

...Joseph Dunham, of Edgartown...

...Jane Ann Dunham, his said wife...

...committed the crime of adultery with one William Brown, so called, and went with the said Brown, as his wife, from Massachusetts, and lived with him as his wife for many months in the town of Wankesha, in the State of Wisconsin...

...Wherefore the libellant prays that the bonds of matrimony may be dissolved between him and the said Jane Ann Dunham.

JOSEPH DUNHAM

Eliot & Stetson, Counsel for the Libellant.

**April 3, 1857**

The undersigned, citizens of Edgartown, and proprietors of land adjoining a certain Pond, known by the name of Caleb's Pond, in Edgartown, would represent that said Pond is of very little pecuniary interest to any person in its present condition, and believing that a valuable fishery might be created by closing the present outlet, so as to control the waters, would respectfully ask that they may have the privilege to close the same, and construct such an outlet through the land of said proprietors as will better subserve the purpose of propagating various kinds of fishes. Also that they may have the right to take the fish thereby created with nets, reserving the citizens the privilege of catching them with hooks and lines, and for this purpose ask that they may be incorporated under the title of Caleb's Pond Fishing Company, with all the privileges of other fishing corporations.

VALENTINE PEASE, and others.

Edgartown, Mar. 6, 1857

**April 10, 1857**

[Advertisement: cash paid for muskrat skins]

**April 24, 1857**

FARM FOR SALE

Situated in West Tisbury, one mile west of the Middletown Meeting House, containing about 45 acres of good land, divided into Mowing, Tillage, Pasturing, Orcharding, and Wood land; well fenced and well watered; a one story House, a Barn, and out buildings; it being the homestead of the late William Ferguson, mile east of the above Meeting House...

**April 24, 1857**

FOR SALE

THE FARM, with the dwelling house, barn, and out buildings standing thereon, which

formerly belonged to Capt. David L. Adams; situate in the town of Chilmark. It will be sold low, if applied for soon...

**April 24, 1857**

ON HAND

And for Sale Low

PINE joists; 2 inch, 1 1-2 inch, 1 1-4 inch Plank and Boards; Spruce Joists, Timber, Plank and Boards; Hemlock Joists, Plank, and Boards. Clapboards, Laths, Pickets, and Shingles...

... HENRY RIPLE.

Edgartown, April 3, 1857

**April 24, 1957**

Co-Partnership Notice

THE subscriber has this day entered into a partnership with Capt. Lorenzo Fisher, and they will continue to carry on the Flour and Grain business, under the style of

HOLLEY & FISHER...

**April 24, 1857**

[History of Whaling – multi-issue piece.]

**April 24, 1857**

From this date, until the present time, no permanent obstruction, with the exception of the war of 1812-15, has occurred to impede the gradual and increasing interest given to this enterprise, and which now assumes commanding commercial importance...

...The number of vessels in this country employed in the whale fishery far exceeds that of all other engaged in the same pursuit.

The following tabular view will present to the reader, the number and class of vessels engaged in the whale fishery, belonging to their respective places in the United States, as reported in the "Whalemen's Shipping List and Merchant's Transcript," for October, 1856: –

<b>Places</b>	<b>Ships</b>	<b>Barks</b>	<b>Brigs</b>	<b>Schs.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Ton</b>
New Bedford	209	128			337	122,000
Dartmouth	4	6			10	2698
Sippican				3	3	319
Westport		17			17	3989
Wareham	1				1	347
Sandwich		1	1		2	292
Fairhaven	36	12		1	49	15,927
Mattapeisett	1	10		1	12	3281
Nantucket	32	4	1	2	39	12,860

Edgartown	10	4		3	17	4986
Holmes' Hole	2	1	1	1	5	1349
Falmouth	2	1			3	1111
Provincetown	1	4	1	16	22	2792
Orleans		1	2	1	4	638
Beverly		3			3	616
Salem		1			1	323
Lynn		1			1	216
Fall River		3			3	814
Warren, R. I.	5	10			15	5025
Newport		4			4	1206
Providence	1				1	298
New London	32	14	5	12	63	19,176
Stonington	3	3			6	1949
Greenport	3	7			10	2958
Mystic	4	2			6	1840
Sag Harbor	5	9	2	2	18	5252
Cold Spring	3	2			5	2129
San Francisco	4	1	4	4	13	2500

#### **April 24, 1857**

Martha's Vineyard – This island, 21 miles in length and about 8 in breadth, is divided into three towns, viz: – Edgartown, Tisbury (in which is included Holmes' Hole,) and Chilmark, and contains a population of about 5000, two fifths of the number residing in Edgartown.

During the past few years *Martha* has wonderfully smartened up, and, season after season, new and handsome edifices, private and public, have arisen, new ships have been added to her fleets of whalers, and various enterprises have been projected, which indicate increasing prosperity.

Edgartown now boasts of three hotels, a Bank with a capital of \$100,000, which is in a flourishing condition, and the largest Oil Manufactory in this country, which is owned by the Hon. Daniel Fisher...

#### **May 1857**

Large Cod Fish – Mr. James Osborn took a codfish on Wednesday at the "South side," which weighed about 60 pounds. On dressing it, two full grown ducks (old squaws) were found in its entrails...

#### **May 8, 1857**

[Talk of a ship canal across Cape Cod]

**June 5, 1857**

[Stopped – Manufacture of Oil]

**June 5, 1857**

[Sperm Oil 1.25 ¢ / gal]

**June 5, 1857**

...Spermaceti – What remains after the several pressings, and the removal of all the oil, is called *Steering* or *Spermaceti*.

Spermaceti is not confined to the head matter of the whale as some suppose, nor does the head matter have anything to do with the brains of the whale, as others have falsely conjectured, but spermaceti is found in the entire oil from the sperm whale...

...Spermaceti – Candles – That which remains in the bags after the hydraulic pressure, is both dry and brittle. The oil it is supposed is wholly extracted, and nothing now remains but the spermaceti. Its color, however, is not white, but interspersed with grayish streaks, bordering on the yellow.

The spermaceti is put into large boilers adapted for the purpose, and heated to the temperature of 210°. It is retined and cleared of all foreign ingredients by the application of Alkali. Afterwards, water is added, which with a temperature of 240°, throws off the alkali in the form of vapor. The liquid which remains, is as pure and clear as the crystal water, and ready to be made into the *finest spermaceti candles*.

**June 12, 1857**

[Transatlantic telegraph cable being run.]

**June 19, 1857**

Herrings. – During the spring months there were taken from the Matakeset Creek in this town, 1058 barrels, or 694,800 herrings, worth, averaging prices at which they sold, at \$4 per barrel -- \$4,232. For several years past, the fishing at this creek has been nearly abandoned. The present year's catch is about equal to half that of some former years when herring were plenty. At the other creeks in town, about \$600 worth of herring have been taken this spring. About 400 barrels of herring were brought here from Tisbury, and sold to parties from the South.

**June 19, 1857**

A New Market for Herring, &c. – A gentleman from the South has recently purchased large quantities of herrings, caught in our ponds and at West Tisbury, and our people are now engaged in large numbers in transporting them to the village, and in salting, dressing and packing them for market. This give business to salt dealers, who have nearly sold out, and three cargoes have this week been brought here from Falmouth. The ship *Gazelle*, of Nantucket, has been discharged of her cargo, and the oil has been purchased by Daniel Fisher & Co. of this place. Quite a quantity of

oil has been brought here from Holmes' Hole – the Oemulgee's cargo – and purchased by the same House. All this, with the improvements making on Commercial wharf, lumber being discharged from "Down East," the repairing of roads, buildings of several dwelling houses, painting and repairing of buildings, the importation of provisions and dry goods, and the large catch of Blue Fish, and the ready market for them, together with the sound of the carpenter's axe, caulker's mallet, and the rigger's "heave, O heave" on our wharves, constitutes one of the busiest weeks ever known in this town. Success to all our enterprises; and may the whole Island prosper and go on, as we believe it is at this time, accumulating wealth, throughout her whole borders.

X.

### **June 19, 1857**

...Ar at Mystic May 30<sup>th</sup>, ship Romulus, Baker, North Pacific Ocean, via Sandwich Islands, with 275 bbls sp, 2000 do wh oil, and 10,000 lbs bone. Took 300 bbls wh oil on New Zealand, and 90 do sp off River Plate.

St Helena, Apl 13<sup>th</sup>, 1857 – Ar Apl 4<sup>th</sup>, brigs Pavilion, Adams, Holmes Hole, from Coast of Africa, with 270 bbls sp oil; Excellent, Adams, Mattapoissett, from do, 80 sp; 5<sup>th</sup>, bark Nye, Howland, Dartmouth, from a cruise, 400 sp; 5<sup>th</sup>, Huntress, Allen, NB from Coast of Africa, 290 sp; 240 wh, 2000 bone; 8<sup>th</sup> bark Marion, Davis, NB from Annabon, 700 sp, 30 wh, 30 elephant oil; 10<sup>th</sup>, Marcella, West, do, from a cruise, 100 sp...

### **June 19, 1857**

Wind Mill for Sale

The subscriber having a change unexpectedly to make in his business, now offers his WIND MILL for sale. It is made of the best iron, bolted and screwed together in a substantial manner. Any person wanted power for pumping water, cutting feed, sawing, etc., will now have a chance to obtain it on very reasonable terms, by applying to the subscriber.

N. A. Vurgason.

Holmes' Hole, June 19, 1857.

### **June 19, 1857**

[Whaling by steam for first time]

### **June 26, 1957**

[No July 4 celebration. Go to New Bedford for celebration.

Sperm \$130

Consumption of Whale oils down in Great Britain. Many substitutes available, including camphene.

High prices moved people off of whale oil. Now prices are declining but no recovery.

Hoop skirts still in fashion – benefits whale industry.]

### **July 17, 1857**

[Taxes in Edgartown

Daniel Fisher	\$136
Daniel Fisher & Co.	\$575
Alfred Fisher	\$177.90
Jos. Mayhew	\$109
Grafton Norton	\$247
Abraham Osborn	\$427
Samuel Osborn	\$117
Henry Pease	\$107
Benjamin Worth	\$143]

**August 7, 1857**

[Tisbury Taxes

Thos Bradley	\$198.37
Hannah Look	\$100
Edwin Luce	\$145
Richard Luce	\$225
Thostram Luce heirs	\$115
Charles Smith	\$113
Lorenzo Smith	\$108
Holmes Hole Marine Rail Road Co.	\$105]

**August 21, 1857**

[California growing in pop'n and crops]

**August 31, 1857**

New Buildings – Improvements. – A spirit of enterprise is gradually but surely infusing itself among our people. Several new and costly dwellings have recently been erected, and several are now going up. John Pierce, M. D., is building a large double house on the Baylies lot; Capt. George A. Smith a fine house near the the residence of Mrs. J. O. Morse; and Capt. Josiah C. Pease a dwelling near the residence of Capt. Joseph Holley. Capt. L. Rawley, has purchased the old Worth house on Water street, which he is about to demolish, when he will erect in its place a first class dwelling.

The wharf owned by Grafton Norton, Esq., has been stoned up as far off as the sail loft, and the water has been materially deepened its whole length. When completed this will be one of the best wharves in the place. The water is also being deepened at the sides of Dr. Daniel Fisher's wharf. These improvements are in part carried forward by a "digging machine," imported for the purpose. The wharf owned by Abraham Osborn, Esq., will also undergo similar improvements in a few days...

**August 31, 1857**

[130 ¢ sperm

Plans for Suez Canal are being developed]

**September 1, 1857**

[Sperm 130 ¢]

**September 21, 1857**

N. P. Willis, who recently paid a flying visit to this place, on his way to Nantucket, has written long letters to the Home Journal about the Islands. He thus discourses of his half hour acquaintance with our town, &c:

“The main wharf of Edgartown, (the metropolis of the twenty miles-island called Martha’s Vineyard,) was crowded with a large representation of its two thousand inhabitants—the straw-hatted and parasoled curiosity which had brought down the male and female islanders to see the voyagers from the distant mainland, making a very brilliant show among the whaleships and oil-casks of the pier. We had half an hour for a walk; and immediately on landing, we fortunately fell in with the head Sachem of the island, with whom my companion, Mr. Grinnell, chanced to be acquainted, and under whose favorable convoy we made the circuit of the principal streets. This gentleman, Dr. Fisher, is the tallest, strongest built, healthiest and handsomest, as well as the wealthiest and most influential inhabitants of Martha’s Vineyard. He is certainly a monarch to look at, and he carried the sceptre of the island in his pocket – (the key of the “Martha’s Vineyard Bank,” of which he is President,) – giving us, by this means, an entrance into his palace after “banking hours” were over, and a view of the iron safes where were deposited the precious ledgers, which are the jewels of his crown. He did not (by the way) show us a specimen of what I was curious to see, the “strings of forty sun-dried clams,” which, in the primitive Indian currency of the island, were equivalent to a copper. This, with the weed called horse-feet or sea-spin, (two hundred of which, for manure, constituted the yearly tithe paid by each master of a family for the support of the clergyman,) were my hurried omissions in that half-hour of sight-seeing.”

“It is curious to look around in Edgartown, and see how all prevalent, in its streets, structures and scenery, is the spirit, type and essence of Quakerism. The buildings – the very simplest structures that could shut in families and shut out rain – stand at all manner of angles to the street, having quite the air of being dropped from the clouds like a cluster of blocks and left standing where they first fell. The island itself, indeed, a sand-bank without verdure or foliage,\* seems to have been created a Quaker (a Friend Sands) by Nature—with all its purity of air and invigorating healthfulness of temperature, rigidly unornamented by leaf or flower. To tell the truth, I looked with some astonishment at the personal beauty of our friend the KING-FISHER— (the monarch of the island, who was showing us the new-built Bank that formed his throne)—and it was a handsomeness in spite of evident intention to the contrary. Though not in the Quaker costume, his ample proportions were clad wholly with a view to comfort—large thick shoes,

ample and square-tailed blue coat, loose tied cravat, slouch hat, and prairie-proportioned trousers—all in keeping with his huge plain manners and right down words.”

**October 9, 1857**

[Daniel Fisher re-elected director of bank and its President]

**October 30, 1857**

[Financial crisis in Europe]

**November 6, 1857**

[Most prices are falling for all kinds of goods.]

**November 20, 1857**

[1856 \$577,114,858 worth of gold was mined – most to Europe for jewelry  
Sperm ~\$1     Whale ~65¢]

**December 25, 1857**

(From a New York Correspondent.)

The exact price of the recent Government contract for sperm oil was \$1.13 3-4, —the price last year was between \$1.40 and \$1.50 per gallon, and the price the year before was \$2.13. in addition to Dr. Fisher, of Edgartown, and MR. Robinson, of New Bedford, I learn that Mr. Samuel Leonard, of New Bedford, is also interested with Charles H. Leonard, of this city, in supplying the Government with the oil—the award however being to the latter...

**December 25, 1857**

LECTURE ON TEMPERANCE. —Mrs. F. B. Norris, of New York, delivered a fine and able address before the Ladies’ Temperance Association, on Monday evening last, in the Methodist Vestry. The house was crowded with a large, attentive, and intelligent audience of ladies and gentlemen. If ever there was a time when the sons and daughters of Temperance should be bold and unwavering in trying to sustain the cause they have enlisted in, —one that is second to no other, —it is the present, when intemperance is prevalent all over the land; eating, like a cancer, the intellectual powers of man, dethroning his reason, rendering him worse than useless as a beneficiary to society...

**December 25, 1857**

[105¢ Whale 54¢]

**December 25, 1857**

Washington, Dec. 18.

The bill introduced into the Senate to-day by Mr. Douglas, provides for a Board of five

persons, to be appointed by the President, and confirmed by the Senate, to make an enumeration of the inhabitants of Kansas, and a fair apportionment of members to the Convention...

### **December 25, 1857**

The General Land Office – By the annual report from the General Land Office, it appears that during the five quarters ending Sept. 30, 1857, there have been sold 5,300,550 acres of the public lands, yielding \$4,225,908, in cash; 7,831,010 acres have been located with bounty land warrants; reported under swamp land grant of 1850, 3,362,476 acres; estimated grants to Alabama and Minnesota by act of March last, for railroad purposes, 5,116,000 acres; making an aggregate of 21,160,036 acres. Of the land sold and located, it is estimated that three-fourths were taken for actual settlement. Compared with the report of last year, there has been a falling off of more than 6,000,000 acres in the amount sold and located, and the cash receipts have fallen off in still larger proportion. This is attributable to the withdrawal of the extensive bodies of public lands along the lines of the railroads in the States and Territories to which grants of lands were made during the last Congress, and also to the sale of large quantities at the reduced prices fixed by the graduation act of the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1854; and to the fact that the demand for new lands has been in part satisfied by the States having lands for the disposal under the Swamps Internal Improvement and other grants.

## **1858**

### **~January 1, 1858**

[First major mention of the Little Giant Stephen Douglas (see December 25, 1857)  
Brighton Market still listed]

### **January 1, 1858**

Coal Oil of Western Virginia – The Kanawha Star, commenting upon the value of the fields of cannel coal in Western Virginia, for the produce of oil, says: –

“Let us estimate this cannel coal-field of Western Virginia at 2 gallons per bushel, and the result is 1,672,704,000,000 gallons—oil enough, we should think, to grease and light the globe certainly much more than ever swam in all the whales since Jonah’s time. The value of 1,672,704,000,000 gallons of oil at the present market price of 60 cents per gallon, would amount to \$1,003,622,400,000.”

### **January 1, 1858**

From Kansas – St. Louis, Dec. 24 – A Kansas letter to the *Democrat* says that on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>, a battle occurred at Fort Scott, between the pro-slavery and free state men. Five of the former were killed, among them, Blake Little, a member of the Lecompton Convention. Several were wounded on both sides, and twenty free state men were taken prisoners and confined in the Fort...

...A dispatch from St. Louis, gives news from Kansas to the 23d inst. If the accounts are reliable, the Lecompton Constitution *with slavery* has been carried by a large majority.

**January 1, 1858**

Fifty-one deer have been killed in Sandwich woods, bordering upon Pocasset, during the present season – a larger number than for any previous year for a long time.

**January 15, 1858**

The Sandwich Islands – It is said that France designs taking these Islands under her protection, after securing the consent of England. This is a matter which should attract the attention of our government, as a French Protectorate, leading to permanent occupation of the Islands, would be most prejudicial to our commercial interests in the Pacific. If we do not seek exclusive privileges for ourselves in the Sandwich Islands, we should not permit any other nation to obtain them to our injury.

**January 15, 1858**

Clams – The fact that but few clams can be taken on the shores of our harbor, should awaken an interest in the inhabitants of this place to have a law enacted during the session of the present General Court, for their protection.

Eels – Not more than one eighth of the usual quantity of these Fish have been taken the present season. The reason we suppose may be found in the heavy anchor frost of last winter.

**January 15, 1858**

Prospect of a Bloody War with the Mormons – A Washington dispatch of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. says: —

From advices received to-day it appears that the Mormons will not retire from Utah, as was expected by the government, but will fight it out where they are. This insures us a bloody war in the spring.

**January 22, 1858**

[Effort of the Tisbury and Chilmark to move the county seat from Edgartown to Holmes Hole. Edgartown v. opposed. Charles Bradley was for the move, Leavitt Thaxter against. Sperm 100¢ Whale 54¢]

**February 9, 1858**

[Sperm - 110¢]

**February 19, 1858**

Farm for Sale

THE farm recently the homestead of Capt. THOMAS M. PEASE, situated in Edgartown, near the

Great Pond, and not more than twenty minutes drive from the village, will be sold if applied for soon. This farm is eligibly situated, and requires but little fencing in proportion to its size, bordering as it does for such an extent upon the Pond. There is a sufficient quantity of meadow land, and woodland, to supply the owner liberally with hay and wood; also, a due proportion of grazing and tillage land. The dwelling house and barn are commodious and in good repair

For terms apply to Richard L. Pease, Edgartown, or to

Mrs. Thomas M. Pease, New Bedford

February 18, 1858

tf

### **February 26, 1858**

[Sperm 125¢]

### **February 26, 1858**

Efforts are being made to induce the Government to enter into negotiations with Brigham Young for the removal of his followers to some place outside of our jurisdiction...

### **February 26, 1858**

Salt –

...It is estimated that the quantity of salt manufactured annually in the United States, amounts to 12,376,000 bushels. The estimated quantity of foreign salt consumed in the United States is about 13,500,000 bushels per annum. A good portion of the coarse hard salt imported into the United States from the most southerly islands of the West India group, is kiln dried, cleansed, ground very fine, and put in small packages for culinary or dairy use...

...Nearly all of the salt manufactured in the United States is made by boiling, excepting what is made in Massachusetts, Florida and the solar works at Onondaga, New York. In Massachusetts, the salt is collected mostly in vats, built along the sea shore.

Massachusetts makes only 46,000 bushels, while there are 6,000,000 bushels manufactured in Onondaga county alone.

The amount of salt consumed in the United States (for various uses), is about 60 pounds to each inhabitant...

### **March 26, 1858**

A County Agricultural Society

Dear Sir, – Will you allow us to call the attention of your readers to a proposition, emanating from many of our farmers, to join in an effort to form a County Agricultural Society...

...It seems to be a favorable and proper time to come forward and see what we can do towards improving and better developing our agricultural resources. It is a matter of *fact that agricultural societies* have raised the tone of this branch of domestic economy and industry, and wherever they have been formed and properly conducted, have tended to improved systems of culture, more produce with less labor and expense, better and more abundant markets, better roads and means of

communication, and increased value of land and farms, and more enterprise, industry and spirit in this most important branch of business and employment...

...No one man can find out *every thing* himself in these “fast times;”...

...The benefits of a *society* for the improvement of agriculture are manifold and self-evident, as all the action of communities and members are greater, more general and extended, than individual efforts...

...There are other very material benefits to be derived from a *society*. The State appropriates a certain fund in aid and encouragement of this very spirit and enterprise in all her County Societies—and by each member’s subscribing a small sum (such as will come within the means of all,) quite a little fund can be accumulated...

...Our peculiar situation and physical condition, being confined as we are to our own island and our own community, makes the question of intercourse and correspondence with our sister Counties and our general State operations, a matter of particular interest and importance to us. This is another decided feature of advantage and benefit to be derived from an Agricultural Society, through which our own operations and progress can be compared with others, and we derive the benefits of their reports and statistics—and while we are united among ourselves in efforts of improvement, we will be taken into cordial fellowship with other County Societies, and receive all the advantages of sharing with them in the distribution of information and material aid from the general State Society.

Through the length and breadth of our country, great interest is felt and taken in this subject of rural and agricultural improvement, and at no time would it seem more important than following our late misfortunes and breaking up of commercial and manufacturing interests—and we should no longer submit to be utter “*outsiders*” in this spirit and march of improvement. We need not fear and hesitate in undertaking this matter; we have good farmers among us and many large and productive farms; some of our crops can compare with those of any other section of country; our corn is of the *very best*—handsomer, heavier and more nutritious than almost any other raised; rye, grass, and many root crops, can be brought to a high degree of perfection; parts of our island are admirably adapted to grazing; and with proper knowledge, enterprise and attention, we might have breeds of sheep and cattle equal to the very best...

...By general consent, West Tisbury seems to be the place suggested as the most suitable and central for this meeting, and “the use of” the County Academy has been obtained for the purpose...

### **March 26, 1858**

Decrease of Business in Nantucket.

At the present there are 28 ships, 7 barques, 1 brig, and 2 schooners belonging to Nantucket, engaged in the whaling business, of which there are now in port 6 ships, 1 brig...

...In 1822 there were 85 ships... showing a decrease in the thirty-six years of 57 ships. The number of coasting vessels employed at the port has also decreased.

**April 9, 1858**

To the Editor of the Vineyard Gazette:

In accordance with the call published in a former number of the Gazette, a meeting of farmers and others interested in agriculture in Dukes County was held at the Academy in West Tisbury, on Saturday, April third.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Henry L. Whiting, who stated the object for which it was held.

Hon. Leavitt Thaxter was chosen chairman and Mr. H. L. Whiting, secretary.

Upon assuming the duties of the chair, Mr. Thaxter stated some of the advantages which would be derived by the formation of an agricultural association. He alluded to the great antiquity of the farmer's calling, coeval with the days of Eden, of its high respectability, of the health imparting and sustaining influences which accompany it, of its great pecuniary importance; and expressed the hope that there would be no needless reserve, but that all would freely and promptly participate in the exercises of the meeting.

The following resolution was submitted by the secretary, and, after being suitably discussed, was unanimously adopted: –

Resolved, That the attainment and diffusion of scientific and practical knowledge in the cultivation of the soil, is a subject of such importance as to demand the associated effort of the farmers of Dukes County.

Mr. Benjamin Luce was of the opinion that the work "scientific" might to some import something alarming. Whatever theoretical notions were held with regard to the dignity of the farmer's employment, practically most farmers seem to regard it otherwise. For the brightest boy in the family is selected for the bar, the second best for the pulpit, and the third rate for the farm, to exercise his muscles at the plough tail and the dung-fork. "What is the use," think they, "of educating a boy to work on a farm?" But knowledge does by no means unfit a man to do even common farm work. He can, in fact, do it all the better for his education. At any rate, we may go on for some time yet, without there being, from the great extent of our knowledge, any particular danger of a divorce between us and hard labor! Our country has been behind all creation in the acquisition of knowledge of agricultural improvements—even the Cherokee Indian has, in some respects, been in advance of us; and we can learn a good deal before we shall be unfitted, by our scientific knowledge, to enact our part as laborers. He expressed a wish that this might be a "revival meeting," a waking up of the thinking powers.

Mr. I. N. Luce stated that the farmer ought to be eminently a thinking man. The merchant amid the strifes of business life, and the lawyer in the keen encounters of the courts, have certain of their faculties acutely sharpened. The farmer, dealing as he does more directly with nature, and watching with attentive eye the multitudinous forms she wears, with more time for cool, dispassionate reflection, ought to show a more perfect symmetry of character, and stand forth, mentally and physically, in all the nobility of manhood. Agriculture is the only business among men deserving the name of occupation; and every man would be the healthier and the better for it, if by the sweat of his brow – not by the toil of hired muscles, -- he earned his daily bread. In none

of the avocations of human life are there such assurances as the farmer possesses. Relying upon the promise of Him who hath said, "seed time and harvest shall not fail, he knows that, if he carefully complies with all needful preliminaries, "in due time he shall reach if he faint not." While it is true that the more the mind is enlarged and expanded by knowledge, the better is the man fitted for the attainments of desirable practical results, is equally true that intelligent men are not always successful men. Some necessary element may be lacking. There men have succeeded the best, sometimes, at least in adding acre after acre to their farms, who have land but little, but who have observed closely, and diligently continue in the practice of those methods which observation has taught them are best.

The secretary read letter he had received from Charles B. Allen, Esq., our Representative in the General Court, and from Hon. Charles L. Flint, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture.

Some discussion was had as to the terms of membership, and a proposition was made that the terms be one dollar, to be paid annually, in advance, or for Life Membership, twenty dollars.

The whole subject of drafting a constitution, and of arranging, as far as they may deem it advisable, for the future operations of the proposed society for the ensuing season, was referred to a Committee, consisting of Henry L. Whiting, Leavitt Thaxter, and Moses Adams, Esquires, who will report at the adjournment of this meeting, on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at two o'clock, P. M., in the Academy at West Tisbury.

Before the close of the meeting, Mr. Whiting being called upon to do so, gave an account of his experiment in raising sweet potatoes the last season. He had met with encouraging success, and should repeat the experiment upon a larger scale. The potatoes he had raised, although not equal to those of Georgia, were fully equal to the New Jersey potatoes. They are more prolific than the common Irish potatoes, and would prove a source of profit when carefully cultivated.

During the progress of the meeting, Mr. Thaxter spoke at some length upon several practical topics, and was listened to with much interest. Agriculture had been a source of profit to him, as well as of pleasure. He had succeeded in combining both pleasure and profit. With his own hands he had held the plough that turned all his furrows. He had planted trees, and eaten the fruit they yielded. He spoke of the difference between intelligent and ignorant farmers. The one, like a workman that needeth not be ashamed, could proudly hold up his head and let his works speak for themselves. The other, poor fellow, was ashamed to show himself in the patch of poor, mean hog-corn, which no good farmer would have on his grounds, and would gladly escape observation by crawling into a hole. Mr. Thaxter spoke of the manner of curing hay, and of the extra profit derived by the exercise of proper care and attention.

We hope that this is but a prelude to many more meetings of interest; and we earnestly call the attention of all our farmers to the adjourned meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> instant.

## **April 16, 1858**

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society.

We are happy to announce the formation of such an association in Dukes County. That

there was need of it, has long been apparent to all who have felt an interest in improvements in agriculture. As we are just going to press, we have time only for a word or two, besides giving the list of officers. Next week, we hope to be able to lay before our readers the constitution adopted at the meeting in West Tisbury, on Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, together with a more detailed statement of proceedings. The terms of membership are one dollar, annually. Life members, ten dollars. The following officers were elected: –

President – Leavitt Thaxter, of Edgartown.

Vice Presidents – Herman Vincent, of Chilmark; Thomas A. Norton, of Edgartown.

Secretary – Henry L. Whiting, of Tisbury.

Treasurer – John D. Rotch, of Tisbury.

Trustees – Allen Tilton, and John Hammett, of Chilmark; Henry Cleaveland, and Samuel Look, of Tisbury; Tarleton C. Luce and Jophanus H. Smith, of Edgartown.

After the adjournment, the Board of Trustees met for consultation, and agreed to the holding of a meeting of the officers, at the house of the Secretary, in West Tisbury, on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at one o'clock, P. M., at which time arrangements will be made for the future operations of the Society.

### **April 23, 1858**

“PHILOMATHEAN CLUB”

Canton, Mass., 16<sup>th</sup> of April, 1858...

...Hist.—They are only a few documents I came across relative to the discovery and settlement of Dukes County.

These islands were discovered by Bartholomew Gosnold in the month of May, 1602. The following account of the discovery given by Gabriel Archer—a gentleman in the voyage...

### **April 23, 1858**

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society.

Mr. Marchant: – Dear Sir, – Agreeable to your request, I take pleasure in furnishing you with a copy of the constitution of our newly formed “Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society.” I will add a brief report of the proceedings of the adjourned meeting held in West Tisbury on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. Considering the forwardness of the season, and that many of our farmers had already actively engaged in their spring work, quite a number were present...

...VII. The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings at all meetings of the Society and Trustees, and enter them in the books of the society. He shall conduct the correspondence, prepare reports for publication, give notice of meetings, and perform such other duties appropriate to his office, as the interests of the society require, under the general supervision of the Board of Trustees; and shall submit a written report of what has transpired during the year at the annual meeting of the society...

...It was then proposed that those present who were willing to subscribe to the Constitution and funds of the society, should come forward, and quite a spirited contribution ensued. The President

headed the list, by making himself, his wife and daughter, life members of the society.

After the meeting adjourned, the Trustees held a consultation, and appointed a meeting of the officers on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 1 o'clock, p. m., at the house of H. L. Whiting, in West Tisbury...

...A beginning has been made in this enterprise of improvement, and if only increased spirit and publicity in our operations and productions result, it will do some good. But we hope for greater benefits than these—and if our citizens will only come forward and generously subscribe to the society and its fund; we can procure many valuable additions to what we now have, both of the stock, implements, &c, —besides the information we can obtain through the organization of our society, of what others are doing toward agricultural improvement, and what we ourselves most lack and most require.

Very truly yours,

HENRY L. WHITING.

### **April 23, 1858**

...The following year, in the month of June, Martin Pring entered the harbor of Edgartown, which he called Whitson Bay. But alarmed by signs of hostility from the Indians, he sailed away for England.

Dr. Belknap conjectures that, on account of this visit, the name of Martha's Vineyard was transferred from the small island, which first received it, to the one which now bears that title. Though when, and for what reasons, the transfer took place, are questions still remaining in obscurity.

In 1619, the island was again visited by Captain Thomas Dermer: But the Indians becoming suspicious that he came on a mission of *manstealing*, he was obliged to flee abruptly; bearing fourteen rounds as the result of his temerity—"which," sayeth the chronicle, "was the first and last blood shed on the island..."

### **April 23, 1858**

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE OF VALUABLE WATER LOTS.

On SATURDAY, May 22, at 4 o'clock—on the premises,  
WILL be sold, at Public Auction, a large and desirable lot of land on Water Street, in Edgartown, belonging to the Estate of the late ALEXANDER P. WEEKS.

Said lot is situated opposite the residence of John P. Norton, Esq., and adjoining the "Gorham Candle Works" —measuring about 130 feet on Water Street. This property comprises *unequalled* privileges for the building of the *Wharf* or *Marine Railway*. Persons contemplating such enterprises will find this a rare opportunity for investment. For further particulars, apply to

ALLEN S. WEEKS,

Edgartown, 22d April, 1858

Administrator.

**May 21, 1858**

Painful Accident – We regret to learn that Tisdale Smith, Esq., of this town, met with a severe, if not fatal accident, on Thursday. At about ten o'clock, A. M., he got into an open carriage, owned by Hon. Daniel Fisher, for the purpose of taking a short ride with the latter gentleman, when the horse suddenly started, throwing Mr. S. backwards to the ground, and so seriously injuring his spine, in the region of the shoulders, that his life despaired of. Mr. Smith was immediately taken to the residence of Dr. Fisher, where every thing that medical skill can suggest, will be done for his recovery. At one o'clock, when we last heard from Mr. S., he was sensible, and experienced but little pain.

**May 21, 1858**

[Tisdale Smith, 67, died during accident with Dr. Daniel Fisher's carriage.  
Oregon admitted as a state.]

**May 28, 1858**

Blue Fish – Over 3000 pounds of blue fish were taken by boats in Cape Poge Pond on Tuesday. Three vessels are waiting for these fish, and more are expected daily. The weather is very cold at present, (Wednesday.) When the sun comes out warm, there is a good prospect for a great catch. Nearly seventy boats, of all classes, are now ready and engaged in the business.

**May 28, 1858**

A correspondent informs us that the following Light Houses and Light Vessels, can be seen, in a clear night, from Sampson's Hill, on the Island of Chappaquiddick, viz: –

Edgartown Light House; Cape Poge, do; West Chop, do; Gay Head, do; Nobsque, do; Hyannis, do; Point Gammon, do; Bass River, do; Monomoy, do; Great Point, do; Brant Point, do; Sankaty Head, do; – Succonnesset Light Vessel; Cross Rip, do; Bishop and Clerk, do; Shovel Full, do.

**June 11, 1858**

Mr. Marchant, – Dear Sir: – I regret that I have been unable to send you an earlier account of the agricultural meeting held in West Tisbury on the 14<sup>th</sup> of last month, agreeable to previous appointment. I now offer a brief report of our proceedings, if it is not too late to be of interest...  
...We need to ascertain more fully what encouragement and support we can depend upon from our citizens generally, and how much money will be subscribed in aid of this enterprise. If we can raise a sufficient sum to meet the requirement of the State, the public treasury will add liberally to it, giving twenty per cent on our own fund. This is done to aid and encourage those Country societies that show interest and zeal in agricultural improvement and make some effort of themselves to promote it...

...“In a multitude of council, there is wisdom;” and we have much to learn and great improvements to make, before we should be satisfied with what we are doing, or the use we are

making of the opportunities and facilities we possess of increasing our knowledge, our usefulness, and our wealth.

As to the benefits to be derived from an agricultural society, they may be much, or they may be little, it rests with the members to make the society efficient or inefficient...

...I have made but a poor attempt to answer the questions some have asked, as to the benefit or use of this society. We can, at least, say this, they have done great good elsewhere—and why should we not try to do what others have done, when we certainly need some of the improvements they have effected.

Very truly yours,

HENRY L. WHITING.

### **June 18, 1858**

Good Roads – There is no county which enjoys greater advantages than our own for making good roads. For one hundred and fifty or two hundred dollars per mile, they could all be graveled and made as hard as a board. This would really be a delightful improvement. The horses would almost speak their thanks for such a consummation. The difference between a good road and a bad one, in the way of economy, is immense. In respect to time, it is over fifty per cent. Men hauling by the load can make at least one-third more upon a good road. Upon carriages, wagons, &c., the saving is an important item, but particularly upon horse flesh. We will venture to say that horses are in such a superior condition, where good roads are to be found, as to bring twice as much as where it is otherwise. We have no doubt, after mature reflection, that the expense of a bad road, to a man who has a team, is at least forty dollars a year, and perhaps more. People for the want of intelligence upon this subject, frequently suffer five times the cost that it would take to repair the evil. Where we find people enlightened, we find good roads; where we find them sunk in ignorance, we find them opposed to road taxes. The simply arises from their not having sense enough to know their own interests.

But where good roads pay more than in any of the previous calculations, is in the improvement upon the value of land. We ill venture to say that where an improved farm, upon a bad road, would sell for one hundred dollars an acre, upon a good road it would sell for one hundred and fifty. Any man would rather pay this difference than be cursed with the necessity of living in a place which he could not get around or away from with any satisfaction to himself. We are convinced that good roads would also be of great importance in a moral point of view. We have heard oaths enough over a bad road to sink a ship. As our people are engaged in laying out new roads, we would advise them, for the sake of themselves, their horses, their wagons and their pockets, to make good roads.

### **June 25, 1858**

Herrings – Fourteen hundred barrels of these fish were taken at the Mattakeset Creek, in this town, during the spring months.

**June 25, 1858**

The Kerosene Lamp – We have never seen any light from lamps that would at all compare with the brilliant flame emitted from the Kerosene. They consume coal oil, and are much less expensive than common oil lamps. No family should be without one...

...Mr. Charles H. Shute, at his store on Main street, has a large assortment, which he will sell at very low prices. He will furnish the oil also.

Mr. Shute has an assortment of the Kerosene tubes, which he will be happy to adjust to old lamps, at a trifling expense.

**June 25, 1858**

Blue Fish – The largest catch of the season was on Friday, June 11, when 20,000 pounds were taken in a few hours. They were sold for \$250 cash.

On Monday last, the waters surrounding our island were literally filled with these fish, and good fares were taken, the wind was too light, however, to enable our fishermen to take the best advantages of their presence. With a good breeze, thousands upon thousands must have been taken, as they were to be found at all points, and in all directions.

**June 25, 1858**

[Reports on weather and crops in Illinois

Regular news on slavery issues in the south, Missouri, Kansas

Wesleyan Grove Notice – All tents must be registered, approved and pay a tax

Lumber from Bangor Thos. Coffin]

**July 2, 1858**

The Whaling Business at Nantucket.

The business of Nantucket, says a correspondent, still continues dull. There are six whaling vessels lying dismantled at the wharves. There is one, however, being refitted and will ere long be equipped for her distant voyage. There are now only thirty whale ships belonging to the port engaged in the far distant fishery.

**July 9, 1858**

[Edgartown taxes. Daniel Fisher \$132; Daniel Fisher & Co. \$467.10; Joseph Mayhew \$102; Grafton Norton \$261; Abraham Osborn \$381; Est. Samuel Osborn \$116; Benj. Worth \$146.]

**July 16, 1858**

Blue Fish – The catch of Blue Fish has been large this season. From May 28<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 35 days, there were taken and sold fresh, to vessels from Connecticut, one hundred and thirty seven thousand seven hundred and fifty three pounds, amounting to the sum of \$1721,91; besides quite an amount salted not yet disposed of, and the consumption by our inhabitants, making in all the snug sum of nearly \$1800,00.

These fish have been looked upon by our fishermen until quite recently with a strong aversion, their arrival on our coast being the signal of departure for nearly all kinds of fish, especially herrings, striped bass, scups, &c. &c. But things and circumstances change, and now these fish are greeted with a hearty welcome by all, as the kind of fish the most ready cash can be realized upon.

The season is very short, lasting generally about six weeks, and the old saying “make hay while the sun shines” is fully carried out by the boatmen, some of them frequently making three trips per day, and taking from two to fourteen hundred pounds. \*\*\*

**July 23, 1858**

[Sperm Oil 120¢      Whale 48¢

Atlantic cable expedition returned after cabled parted 1000 miles from Ireland]

**July 30, 1858**

[Editorial that telegraph may exceed man’s attempt to improve on the creator.]

**August 6, 1858**

Sword Fish are now taken every day in the Vineyard waters; and it is no uncommon thing for four or five to be captured by one boat’s crew. Many of them are taken to New Bedford and sold at a fair price. Sea Bass are also abundant, and find a ready market.

**August 6, 1858**

[News of Hoosuc tunnel being advanced.  
Frazer River gold creates great excitement  
Anticipate new emigration]

**August 13, 1858**

*The Atlantic Cable Laid* – No event for a long time has occasioned such a sensation, as the successful completion of the enterprise of laying the Atlantic Cable...

**August 13, 1858**

The valuable wharf property of Oil Manufactory, recently belonging to Josiah Gorham, Esq., has been purchased by Abraham Osborn and William H. Munroe, Esqrs., of this town. Now that this valuable property has passed into the hands of these wealthy and enterprising men, we may hope to soon see an active business in the manufacture of oil on the premises.

**August 13, 1858**

[Completion of Atlantic telegraph  
Coal mining now equally profitable to gold. Will soon exceed it.  
1825, 34,833 tons; 1830, 174,764; 1835, 500,758; 1840, 805,414;

1815 2.023m; 1850 3.332m; 1857 7.869m.

Rev. Hebron Vincent is writing a history of Vineyard Camp Meetings      Note: copies for sale]

**August 20, 1858**

[News of telegram exchange Queen Victoria and Benjamin Harrison

Note promoting completion of the Pacific Rail]

**August 27, 1858**

Camp Meeting – The largest camp-meeting ever assembled at Wesleyan Grove, closed its session on Tuesday morning last. The number in attendance during the whole week was unusually large, and during the Sabbath not less than ten thousand persons were upon the Ground...

**September 3, 1858**

[Bark Laurens of New London returned with 4400 bbls of sea elephant oil. 20,000 miles. August 14, 1857 to August 16, 1858. 4 ½ months actually whaling. The Star thinks it's a record.]

**September 10, 1858**

NEW YORK YATCH SQUADRON.

-----

Edgartown, Sept. 6, 1858

*Mr. Marchant:* Dear Sir, – Since I saw in your paper some comments on an article published in the New York Evening Post, giving an account of the late visit of part of the Yacht Squadron to this place, I have received several letters from members of the club, disavowing and condemning the article in the Post.

I am also informed that the writer of the communication does not belong to the club, nor was he ever in Edgartown.

You are at liberty to publish any of the letters.

Respectfully yours,

DANIEL FISHER

-----

We give below two of the letters thus placed at our disposal by Dr. Fisher. They will be read with interest, and, we think, prove entirely satisfactory to our people. – (Ed. Gaz.)<sup>11</sup>

**September 17, 1858**

[750 US paper mills use 400m lbs rags each year

1 ¼ lb rag / 1lb paper.

Back Bay lands to be filled.]

---

<sup>11</sup> Not reproduced here.

**September 24, 1858**

... Our readers will perceive by a notice in another column of this paper, that the first cattle Show and Fair of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, will be held at West Tisbury on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October next. We hope to see a large gathering of the farmers of the country on that occasion...

**September 24, 1858**

DIED.

In this town, on Thursday, 23d inst, of lockjaw, Mr. Thomas Marchant, aged 49 years, 2 months and 26 days.

Mr. M. injured his foot some three weeks since, by striking it against a nail or some hard substance, and having afterwards taken cold in the wound, the fearful disease developed itself. He was a great sufferer for seventy days, during which time everything was done, that medical skill could suggest, to palliate his sufferings, which he bore with great fortitude and in an uncomplaining spirit...

**September 24, 1858**

... We, therefore, pray your honorable body to lay out, and cause to be made, agreeable to the laws of this Commonwealth, in such cases made and provided, a town way as follow: –

Beginning at the corner, near the house of Leonard Luce, at Lambert's Cove, and running easterly, in the most direct and practicable route, to some point on the County road leading from Holmes Hole to West Tisbury, near the house of Samuel Look: this being the exact route petitioned for on several occasions, and which the Selectmen refuse to grant, for reasons set forth in their return of the last petition, which is herewith presented for your consideration

THADDEUS LUCE  
and forty seven others.

Tisbury, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1858.

**October 1, 1858**

Amount of gold 1851-1857 #339 m from California and \$270m from Australia

**October 8, 1858**

[Daniel Fisher re-elected Director and President of Martha's Vineyard Bank. Other Directors – Abraham Osborn, Benjamin Worth, Ira Darrow, Jos. Holley, Henry Pease, William Monroe, Bartlett Mayhew, Thos Barrows \$10,200 Bank Reserve fund.

Coal for Sale by Ira Darrow]

**October 15, 1858**

The *first* Cattle Show and Fair of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst.

**October 15, 1858**

The remains of an Indian were exhumed in front of the residence of Dea. Allen Coffin, in this town, on Tuesday last, while some workmen were engaged in breaking ground preparatory to the construction of a sidewalk. The remains were only some 3 or 4 inches from the surface of the ground, and they were in a good state of preservation. The teeth, although much worn, were perfectly sound. The bones belonged to a man of a large frame.

On Thursday, three skeletons were found, in close proximity to that discovered on Tuesday.

**October 22, 1858**

THE AGRICULTURAL FAIR AND CATTLE SHOW to be held at West Tisbury on Wednesday next, promise to be of great interest to to the farmers and citizens generally of the whole island...

**October 22, 1858**

THE ILLINOIS CAMPAIGN – The contest in Illinois, between Douglas and Lincoln, is carried on with unabated vigor...

...The Douglas men, judging by the tone of their journals, are very confident of success...

**October 22, 1858**

DIED

...In this town, 16<sup>th</sup> inst, Carrie G., daughter of Dr. Daniel and Grace C. Fisher, aged 4 months...

**October 29, 1858**

[Correspondence of the Gazette.]

Rockford, Illinois. August, 1858

THE STUMP

All your readers have, it is to be presumed, heard of the Stump. The stump stands conspicuous in the oratorical efforts in the West. Hearing that the rival candidates for the seat of U. S. Senator from this State would meet in joint debate at Freeport, Aug. 27, 1858, we resolve to be present, and to witness the contest from the stump. S. A. Douglass, the distinguished Senator, and Abram Lincoln are the contestants. Fifteen thousand people were present...

...It is a satisfaction to see great men, and to listen to them debate. Hon. Abram Lincoln is an eminent layer in this state. He was poor in his boyhood—emigrated from Kentucky to Illinois. His appearance is very prepossessing. He is a very amiable man—is of unsullied character, and seems to carry conviction by the sincerity in which he utters his sentiments. S. A. Douglass emigrated, at an early age, from Vermont; was first a schoolmaster, and has risen to his present eminence by his great talents. It was curious to notice the personal difference between the two, as they were introduced to the crowd. Lincoln is very tall—rather slender; his face is spare—intrenched with

hollows—his complexion is dark—his eyes are sunken—his head is large—hair black. He is of a nervous, sinewy make. You must note his kindly and expressive large gray eyes, which show the man. Douglass, on the contrary, is short in stature; his heavy, thick body seems to be let down to his knees. His legs are short and bandy, like the staves of a barrel. Lincoln's legs are very long; his arms long. When Lincoln sits down, his body is so short that he seems a small man. When Douglass sits, his height is not much lessened; both standing up, the crown of Douglass' head would reach Lincoln's extended arm...

...A small stage was erected, on which the speaker stood, with the reporters, and 50 dignitaries. The large trees near the sides of the stage were filled with men who had climbed into them; fifty persons were in some of them—a curious and novel sight it was. The great crowd were in front. Lincoln was to speak one and a half hours. Douglass was to reply in one hour; then Lincoln in a half hour...

...Lincoln's speech was a general exposure of Douglass' peculiar political course, which it is plain enough has been adverse to freedom in Kansas. Lincoln is an admirable stump speaker. His articulation is very distinct; his voice, though not large in volume, through its clearness can be heard a long distance. It is remarkable that such clear and well-formed sentences should flow from his lips. His manner is deliberate. His forte lies in the clearness of his ideas. Having spoke one hour and a half, Douglass rose to reply. Douglass is an impressive speaker. He is a very able man. His mind is of great breadth and compass. He answered a few of Lincoln's interrogatories, but evaded the most important of them. he was peculiarly shy of the question put to him by Lincoln, whether, if the people of Kansas should vote not to have slavery exist in their territory, he, Douglass, would endorse it, and lend to them the sanction of his influence...

...Douglass made several good hits upon his antagonist. He is a more popular speaker with a crowd. He has, however, a proclivity to a low style of oratory. The word "*nigger*" he will pronounce with peculiar gusto, and with a very contemptuous sneer; —with a certain kind of a crowd, he would be the most effective of speakers. He is a very artful dodger. Lincoln, Douglass having used up his hour, replied with much force and ability...

...But in one respect he brought his antagonist to the ground with great skill and ability. Douglass is for enforcing the recent Dred Scott decision. What the Supreme Tribunal of the nation has decided, it is convenient for Douglass now to say is to be obeyed. He will lend the sanction of his influence to have the doctrine of the Dred Scott decision everywhere enforced. Douglass, just now, is very dutiful and obedient to the decisions of the Supreme Court of the U. States. Lincoln, in his reply, showed Douglass' very great inconsistency...

...Thus, said Lincoln, Judge Douglass' whole life is bespattered with attacks upon Judicial decisions; but it is convenient now for him to show great reverence for the Dred Scott decision. Of course, the crowd considered it as a capital hit, and cheered enthusiastically for some minutes. Then, in the few minutes of time left, Mr. Lincoln proceeded to put Douglass a series of questions, which he wished him fairly and distinctly to answer at their next meeting on the stump. They meet four times more, —Douglass, it is said, being unwilling to canvass the whole State. Douglass is popular in the South part of this State, which is called Egypt, but not in the North

part. It is thought that he will fail in being elected at the next meeting of the Legislature.

S.

**October 29, 1858**

EXHIBITION AND FAIR,  
of the  
The Martha's Vineyard  
**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,**  
AT WEST TISBURY  
Wednesday, October 27, 1858  
THE WEATHER FINE.  
1800 persons on the ground  
The whole affair a splendid success  
Grand Display of Cattle!  
Everybody Astonished and delighted.

**November 1858**

[James Hammond South Carolina Senator arguing that South stays in Union  
Vineyard Gazette provides regular notice of publication of the Atlantic Monthly]

**November 5, 1858**

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society

AGRICULTURAL FAIR AND CATTLE SHOW –

Wednesday of last week was a great day for the Vineyard...

...Too much praise cannot well be awarded to the President of this Infant Society, Hon. Leavitt Thaxter...

...He has received valuable assistance from Henry L. Whiting, the Secretary, who has done much to secure a good success, but whose unavoidable absence from the Island during the greater part of the last three months, is greatly to be regretted...

...If anything were wanting to show that a large agricultural population can exist on our Island, it may be found in the display of products at this Fair. The main want of the Vineyard, has been employment of young men. This want has been seriously felt. Many farmers and shipmasters, men of wealth and influence, have, from time to time, left the Island, because their sons could not settle around them here, with any good hope of earning a comfortable living; and hundreds of young men, after learning trades, have been compelled to seek employment abroad. But for this, the Vineyard to-day would have been one of the wealthiest communities in the country, and her population would have counted thousands where it now reaches hundreds. As a general thing, the loss of a young man is equal to the loss of a family of sons and daughters, who, in their turn, would also add to the common stock. But there is no real necessity for this seeking of employment abroad. Work can be performed on the Vineyard just as well as in other towns of Massachusetts, just as well as at the far West, and with as good pecuniary results as anywhere.

The fact is, we have never tried our hand at the vast majority of employments on which men in other communities labor and grow rich. We have stultified ourselves, by confining our ambition and aims within a certain circle. We must do better in future. The young must be encouraged to remain on the Island. Work must be provided for them. Up then with your work shops, and in with your machinery and steam, and soon the whole aspect of things will change. But we are talking about agricultural matters now, and will not further digress. There is a large field for cultivation here, and hundreds of active laborers are wanted to till it. Let them plant it with corn and potatoes, onions and oats, turnips and carrions, apple and quince, cherry and peach, pear and other tress, pumpkins and squashes, beets and tomatoes, and the thousand other things which contribute to the sustenance and comfort of man. Then let proper care and labor be bestowed on this great field, and the cry of a want of work will no longer be heard. The people have but to take possession of the land, and it will prove their humble servant. It will fill their barns and store houses, and the whole population will be enriched. But we can say no more on this subject now...

### **November 5, 1858**

Sale of Valuable Property – The store on the corner of Main and Water streets, the property of the heirs of the late Timothy Coffin<sup>ii</sup>, Esq., was sold at public Auction on Friday last, for the sum of \$1505. Samuel Osborn, Jr., was the purchaser. We understand that Mr. O. will make valuable improvements on the same in a short time.

### **November 5, 1858**

#### **FOR SALE**

The subscribers offer for sale the mill privilege, situated near the north County road, not far from the store of Gorham & Hillman. Anyone wishing to purchase, can have the same by applying to the subscribers

JABEZ ATHEARN,  
ELIZA ATHEARN.

Tisbury, Oct. 28, 1858

3w

### **November 19, 1858**

A VOICE FROM SOUTH CAROLINA – The Hon. James H. Hammond, United States Senator, from South Carolina, recently made a speech on the national politics which is attracting an unusual degree of attention...

...Mr. Hammond confesses that there was a time when he believed that the only safety of the South was in a dissolution of the Union, and he would believe so still, were he not convinced by longer experience and better observation, that the South can, by a wise and prudent course, maintain all her essential rights within the Union...

...But when Mr. Hammond speaks of the rights of the South, he disclaims the idea that these rights include dishonorable and aggressive efforts to maintain an equality of Slave and Free States. The South has already lost this equality. She cannot regain it...

...Mr. Hammond has no longing desire for the acquisition of Cuba merely to restore the balance of Slave States. It would not make more than two or three States, and that would not maintain the balance with the rapidly increasing free States...

...Nor has he any hopes of maintaining a balance of power by absorbing Mexico and Central America. Slavery has not flourished there, and never will; and the South has not the population to spare to colonize and control those territories—if annexed...

### **December 3, 1858**

*To the Editor of the Vineyard Gazette:*

Dear Sir, – At the last meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, held at West Tisbury on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst., some action was had on matters of Society interest, which did not appear in the short notice you were only able to give in your paper immediately following the meeting...

...A vote was passed, requesting the Chair to nominate a Committee of three for each town, to solicit contributions to a permanent fund of \$1000, to be invested for the benefit of the Society, and which will entitle us to a *charter*, and to receive the annual State bounty of \$200—in conformity with the laws of the Commonwealth...

...The law provides that every Country Society, which shall raise by contribution of individuals, and put out at interest, on public or private security, the sum of one thousand dollars, as a capital stock for the use of such Society, shall receive a charter and an annual bounty of \$200 from the Treasury of the Commonwealth, and in the same proportion for a larger sum, up to \$3000, receiving a bounty of \$600, which is as much as is annually appropriated to any one Society...

... These notes are to be held as the *investment* of our *capital stock*—which is considered a satisfactory security by the State—and is the way many other Societies have raised their fund...

Henry L. Whiting, Secretary.

### **December 3, 1858**

[Long letter by Henry L. Whiting arguing for citizens to invest in Agricultural Society so that state will chip in.]

### **December 10, 1858**

It is stated that upwards of a million barrels of lime are now annually prepared for market at Rockland, Me...

### **December 10, 1858**

OIL CONTRACT – The government contract for 60,000 gallons of winter sperm oil has been awarded to Dr. Daniel Fisher, of this place, at 121 3-4 cents per gallon.

### **December 10, 1858**

GAME – Coots and sea-ducks abound in the water of Muskeget Channel. In good weather, our gunners are doing a “big” business. No less than 43 were brought in bout our boats last week.

### **December 10, 1858**

We are informed that the inhabitants of North Tisbury have now reasonable expectations that they shall no longer be isolated from the “rest of mankind.” The County Commissioners have laid out a town way, as petitioned for by Thaddeus Luce and forty seven others, citizens of Tisbury...

...The proprietors of the lands over which said way is laid out, are allowed until the twenty second day of January, 1859, for the purpose of taking off the wood, timber and trees from within the limits of said way; and, if they shall not remove the same within the time thus allowed for that purpose, they shall be deemed to have relinquished their right thereto, for the benefit of the town...

### **December 24, 1858**

[Reprint of Boston article of the many substitutes for whale oil. Tallow was supplanted by whale and now it by others. Predicts that competition will lead to better oil – from coal at \$.65-75 per gallon.

Whale is a luxury

Kerosene advertisement      Pierce B. Brackett]

### **December 24, 1858**

More Light – Our ancestors of a century ago hardly deemed artificial light one of the necessities of life; content, in the main, with what was furnished them by the sun—“early to bed and early to rise”—the little more they required was easily obtained from beef tallow and mutton suet, and the midnight student found his wants satisfied by a tallow candle. But the rapid progress of civilization and development soon demanded more light, and this demand was amply supplied by the fat of the whale, for a time. The people of that day deemed this supply inexhaustible; but, great as it was, the ever-increasing demand for more light set the inventive genius of man in motion again to find new sources of supply. Corn was made into alcohol, turpentine into spirits—both products into burning fluid; coal was turned into gas, and cheap light for our streets and houses thus obtained without the aid of tallow or whale oil...

...but the more recent discovery of coal oil, which can be made available for light without any difficulty, is destined to throw all previous inventions into the shade and to give us a material cheap and inexhaustible, as well as perfect, for illumination. Corn crops may fail and alcohol become very dear; the turpentine trees – annually becoming scarce—must come to an end in time; whales cannot long withstand the increased yearly slaughter, and must disappear or become so scarce as not to pay for hunting them, but our coal fields are literally inexhaustible.

That oil, in endless quantities, can be extracted from this material, is one of the greatest and most important discoveries of the age...

...we predict that within two years, oil of the finest and purest quality will be abundant at about half the present prices—say from sixty to seventy-five cents per gallon. In a very short time we shall be indebted to coal for nearly all the light as well as heat we want...

...Thus it is ever. Whatever is requisite for our necessities, comfort, conveniences—for development, progression—is contained in the great storehouse of Nature, and in supply equal to all possible demand. We have but to seek, and we shall find it. – [Boston Journal.

**December 31, 1858**

[\$1500 raised for Agricultural. Society. \$1000 goal. Will want to raise a commodious hall in West Tisbury]

**1859**

**January 7, 1859**

[Severe storm on 1-4  
Sperm \$1.35 Whale .55]

**January 14, 1859**

[Erie Canal description]

**January 21, 1859**

[Fleet of whale ships at New Bedford expected to lose \$1m this year due to ill success, fall in oil price, refitting of ships in the Sandwich Islands.

Advertisement for Oleine oil – cheaper and operates at lower temp than sperm]

**February 4, 1859**

[Notice for “The Plain Meeting House” to promote public worship on that part of Edgartown. Called the Plain.]

**February 11, 1859**

[Bright new layout with The Vineyard Gazette & Dukes County Advertiser on front left column. Letter from Henry Whiting about visits and correspondence with other Agricultural Societies and relates this to progress with Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Society

Sperm 146-160¢ Whale ~60¢]

**February 25, 1859**

[Notice for meeting of Caleb’s Pond Company]

**February 25, 1859**

Martha’s Vineyard Wesleyan Grove Camp Ground...

...The erection of a two and one half story house has just been completed, under the general supervision of the Agent...

...On the first floor is the Agent's room, an oil room, hall, and a large store room for baggage. Second floor, two committee rooms, and a large room for business meetings. Third story, a room 32 by 38, for storage during the year...

...The whole encampment will embrace from 15 to 20 acres...

### **February 25, 1859**

McCormick's Reaper – The commissioner of Patents has just written out, at length, his reasons for overruling the application of Mr. McCormick for an extension of his patent of 1845, for "improvement in reaping machines." He says that they patentee realized from his patents of 1845 and 1847 the sum of \$1,297,915...

### **March 4, 1859 \**

[Transatlantic cable ~dead

Fire West Tisbury Woods]

### **March 4, 1859**

FIRE IN THE WOODS AT WEST TISBURY –

On Wednesday a fire accidentally caught in the woods north west of Mr. Job Gorham's store, but it was subdued before it had done much damage.

### **March 11, 1859**

[Notice refers to Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society as M.V.A.S.

North Western states have grown 10% a year since 1800 – from 5,250 to 7.2 m in 1857]

### **March 18, 1859**

The Boot and Shoe Business.—The people of Nantucket are waking up to the importance of establishing the shoe business at that place...

...We are glad to know that there is considerable interest manifested at the present time in Edgartown with reference to the establishment of a shoe manufactory...

...This business is at the present time in a very flourishing condition in Lynn and other towns in Massachusetts where it is extensively introduced...

### **April 1, 1859**

[Thos West, West Tisbury caught a trough 2lbs 3oz

Day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer April 7. By Governor]

### **April 1, 1859**

VINEYARD BAKERY...

...W. H. Ford.

**April 1, 1859**

Pure Bleached Kerosne.

PIERCE & BRACKETT'S.

**April 1, 1859**

NOTICE – My wife, Maria Magdalena Jacinto, having left my bed and board, all persons are hereby forbid to harbor or trust her on my account, as I shall pay no debts of her contracting after this date.

ANTONIO JACINTO

Edgartown, March 30, 1859

3t

**April 1, 1859**

NOTICE TO FARMERS,

IRON BEAM PLOWS.

We would call your attention to our *Patent Convex Mouldboard and Iron Beam Plow*. This Plow which has been recently patented both in the United States and Canadas, is manufactured either with wood or iron beam.

**April 15, 1859**

[Fire in Falmouth woods >1000ac]

**April 15, 1859**

The Indians of Massachusetts – The wise and beneficent policy of the State, continued for a long series of years, if it has not raised our Indians to an equal position with their white neighbors in business pursuits, and in the arts, has still so far improved their condition, that the justice of their claim to a full participation in the privileges and duties of citizenship has been formally acknowledged by the legislature, and under a bill, introduced and supported by Hon. Caleb Cushing, steps are to be taken for this purpose by a commissioner, appointed to investigate the present condition of the Massachusetts Indians, and to report upon it at the adjourned session of the legislature in September, when it is anticipated that final measures will be taken for raising our Indians to the position of citizens of the Commonwealth – [Boston Daily Advertiser

**April 22, 1859**

[Note about Mr. Ford the Baker.

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society has purchased 3 acres of land in West Tisbury from Mrs. Hannah Look to erect a building.

New State dog law.

New State law on sale of milk.]

**April 29, 1859**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AN ACT.

To abolish the School District System- Be it enacted by the State and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled...

**April 29, 1859**

A NEW ENTERPRISE – On the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst, there was held at the office of Hon. David Davis, a meeting of the subscribers to the proposed boot and shoe business, to be conducted in this town. Hon. D. Davis was chosen Chairman, and Samuel Osborn Jr. Esq., Secretary...

...Nathaniel M. Jernegan, Joseph Holley and S. Osborn, Jr., were chosen as that committee...

...PREAMBLE.

Whereas, observation and experience teach us that quite a large part of our population, during nearly half the year, are destitute of the means of a comfortable livelihood; partly from disinclination, partly from inability to embark in the hardy enterprise of whaling or other energetic callings, and partly because there exists among us no means of employment in the lighter arts and manufactures, which, in many communities, are sources of lucrative employment for both the male and female portions of such places;...

...Resolved, That this company shall be called the Dukes County Boot and Shoe Company...

**May 6, 1859**

[Agricultural Fair prizes include best plantation of trees. Long list of crops, activities, grains etc.]

**May 6, 1859**

Valuable Real Estate and Factory at Auction.

Will be sold at Public Auction, on the premises, (unless sooner disposed of at Private sale) on SATURDAY, the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, at 2 o'clock, P. M., the Tyesquin Factory, with all its machinery in complete running order, with all its privileges and appurtenance, together with a large quantity of Satinets, Kerseys, Yarn and Wool.

Also, a lot of the most Valuable Meadow and Building Lots in the town, joining the factory at West Tisbury. Terms accommodating, and but a small part of the purchase money will be required to be paid down; the balance on a term of years. For further particulars, enquire of the proprietor,

THOS BRADLEY.

Tisbury, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1859

3t.

**May 27, 1859**

[Long letter from Henry L. Whiting on meeting to discuss the new building]

### **June 3, 1859**

[New Bedford Mercury. Six whaleships returned after 4-5 years with average losses of 75-80,000. Small catch, heavy expenses in refitting and recruiting during the voyage and reduction in the price of oil.

[For 10 years advertisements for flour from mid-western states]]

### **June 17, 1859**

The Whaling Business – The following sensible and timely article is taken from the New Bedford *Times*. It shows some of the peculiar embarrassments under which the business is now laboring. New Bedford has long been the grand centre of whaling operations and the business has been carried on with an energy and an efficiency reflecting great credit upon the princely merchants engaged in it. But the people of New Bedford even, begin to see that the business is in a fair way to cripple the energies of the place, and that, unless some steps can be devised to lessen the “exorbitant expenses” attending the same, it must soon be abandoned.

In Edgartown considerable attention has been paid to this business, and it has been prosecuted with apparent success—we say apparent, because it has afforded but little employment to the mass of the population, and while those largely interested in it have made great gains and grown rich, the laboring classes have been compelled to stand idle and wait for something “to turn up,” whereby they might earn a dollar. Labor has not met with encouragement here, and nearly all the young men of the place have been compelled to leave the Island in search of employment abroad. Our population, under this state of things, has remained stationary for years, while other communities have been rapidly increasing. The show business now promises to give profitable employment to our young men and women, and hundreds of them have already applied for work. This is most gratifying, as it shows a willingness on the part of our people to enter heartily upon the new undertaking, which, if successfully prosecuted, will afford more labor and add more to the population and wealth of the place than would an additional half million of dollars invested in the whaling business.

It is labor alone that enriches communities and nations. The whaling business of this place has afforded some labor, but it has been given to parties abroad, to the almost total exclusion of our own people. A majority of the casks for our ships have been brought here from other places, and the whale boats have generally been built abroad. The labor of fitting and discharging has been, of late, mainly performed by foreigners—Portuguese—who have no interest or caprice may dictate. The capital of the place, therefore, furnishes but little employment for our own citizens. It has been truly said, that “God has made labor a part of his plan for human happiness. Every nation, State or community, which shall disregard His will in this respect, will soon exhibit marks of material, intellectual and religious dilapidation, and approaching dissolution.”

This is now precisely the case of this community. The people of the town are rapidly growing poor; a general apathy pervades the whole mass, and the only hope of citizen must be found in the new branches of labor, and such as will afford constant and lucrative employment to

all, both male and female. The sooner the whaling business is abandoned, therefore, and the capital invested in manufacturing establishments, that shall afford “constant, dignified and remunerative labor,” the better.

There are other reasons, however, which should operate to this result. It will not *pay* to Cleveland

send ships after whale oil longer; other and better and cheaper articles are being introduced for the purposes of light, which must very soon so reduce the price of oil as to render the farther prosecution of the business disastrous to those engaged in it. But we have not time to follow the subject, and will leave the reader to peruse the article from the *Times*.

THE WHALING BUSINESS – If the whaling ships arriving this season, were the first that had been sent out from this port, they would also be the last. An investment, which after three or four years, turned out so badly, resulting in a loss of nearly a million of dollars, would be at once withdrawn...

...But the whaling business is an old business. It is the business of New Bedford. In its prosecution, our city has grown in population, in wealth, and in commercial importance. Upon its success today depends on the prosperity of the place. Its failure, or the continuance of its present depression, would be disastrous to almost every branch of industry among us...

... It is not easy to give it up. It cannot be given up, without involving the most tremendous sacrifice of property, and the distress of thousands who are dependent upon it for bread. And yet, if the statements of the most sagacious of those engaged in it, and of those most largely interested, can be relied on, as pursued at present, under the most favorable circumstances, there is no profit in it. So that, continuing the business, is but postponing the evil day. It is bad; selling a ship worth ten thousand dollars for three thousand. But it is perhaps no better, to fit that ship for a three years cruise at an expense of twenty five thousand dollars, with the probability of drafts from the Sandwich Islands for extortionate bills for repairs, with the certainty of getting nothing beyond six per cent on the outfit and disbursements, and the dreadful possibility of a heavy loss. It requires a good deal of nerve, to send a ship and cargo costing from forty to sixty thousand dollars, entrusted to the entire control of a Captain, upon a three years' cruise after whales, at any time. But to do it now, requires a courage and hopefulness perfectly wonderful. It is true, that it will take some years' losses to diminish very materially some New Bedford fortunes. Depression however, such as exists at present, continuing for the period of an ordinary voyage, will tell fearfully in the estimate of our aggregate of wealth, and in all the signs which indicate our prosperity.

We shall not be accused of overstating the case. Those having the largest experience, and the greatest pecuniary interest in the whaling business, do not hesitate to affirm that it cannot be carried on much longer, unless the expenses are in some way reduced, or oil command as much higher price...

...No harm can arise from our suggestions. And we have small faith, that any benefit will grow out of them. They spring however from a settled conviction, strengthened by the daily conversation and complaint of our merchants, that something must be done or the whaling

business must decline. Its decline will be the decline of our beautiful city in population and material wealth. To prevent that, is a matter of interest to every citizen. – [New Bedford Times.

**June 17, 1859**

A SMART OLD LADY – Mrs. Prudence Mayhew, of Pohogonot, now in her 81<sup>st</sup> year, came into the village Saturday last, driving a horse with a buggy attached, for the purpose of disposing a quantity of most excellent butter, which she had made with her own hands. She arrived in town at half past eight in the morning, after driving some five miles, and appeared as smart and active as a young girl of sixteen. After selling her butter, and a basket of eggs, to Mr. John Dillingham, she walked through the principal streets of town, took a hearty breakfast, and returned home, to resume her domestic duties.

**June 17, 1859**

Our readers will be glad to learn that Mr. E. T. Kelley is about to return to town. He will take rooms over the store occupied by Mr. William Vinson. His pictures are among the best ever executed in Edgartown, and need no praise at our hands.

**June 17, 1859**

Herrings – Seven hundred and fifty barrels of herrings were taken from the Mattakeset Creek, in town, during the season just closed; being only a little over one half as many as last year, when 1400 bbls were secured.

**June 17, 1859**

... We have to acknowledge the receipt of a can of Kerosene from Mr. Downer, of 76 Water street, Boston, which is the same as that on sale by the gentlemen referred to above, and we can assure our readers that it give the best and prettiest light we have ever seen in this village. Housekeepers, who wish a good article, should supply themselves at once.

**June 24, 1859**

The Whale Fishery – There seems to be no longer any room to hope, that the whale fishery will ever again be extensively prosecuted from Nantucket. Year after year it has declined, and now valuable ships belonging wholly, or in part to wealthy owners, lie idle at our wharves, because the result of new voyages seems doubtful. Such sale of ships or parts of ships as have been made, have been made at prices surprisingly low. – [Nantucket Mirror.

**July 1, 1859**

[Edgartown. Tax payers Daniel Fisher \$141; Daniel Fisher & Company \$530; William Monroe \$102; Thos Norton \$115; Grafton Norton \$254; Abr. Osborn \$418; Est. Samuel Osborn \$110; Benjamin Worth \$136  
Sperm 127 Whale 48]

**July 8, 1859**

[Tisbury Taxpayers]

**July 22, 1859**

NOTICE!!

THOSE persons desirous of having work done at the Tyesquin Factory, are requested to bring in their wool previous to the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September next.

Cash must in all cases be paid for work, on delivery of the goods.

HENRY CLEAVELAND.

West Tisbury, July 22, 1859

**July 22, 1859**

*To the Judge of Probate and Insolvency for Dukes County.*

RESPECTFULLY represents, Mary B. Athearn, of Tisbury, in said County, Guardian of Mary M. Athearn, Kezia D. Athearn, and Prince D. Athearn, all minor children and heirs of Prince D. Athearn, late of Tisbury, deceased, that said wards are interested in and seized of a certain Grist Mill with the land on which it stands, with the privileges to the same belonging, which property is situated in the town of Tisbury in said County, a part of the Estate of their said late deceased father; that said mill is in a somewhat dilapidated state, and that it would be for the interest of said minors that said property be sold, and the proceeds thereof be put out at interest, or otherwise profitability invested for the benefit of said wards. Wherefore your petitioner prays that she may be licensed to make sale of said real estate.

MARY B. ATHEARN, Guardian.

Tisbury, July 18, 1859.

**July 29, 1859**

[Price of coal at historic low – Boston]

**August 5, 1859**

BRICKS.

THE subscribers have on hand, and will keep constantly for sale, a good assortment of Bricks, which they will dispose of on favorable terms.

MUDGETT & ANDREWS.

Roaring Brook, August 5, 1859.

**August 5, 1859**

Coal for Parlor Stoves.

THE subscriber offers for sale an excellent Coal for McGregor Stoves, which he will warrant to burn free and not to cinder or clinker.

IRA DARROW.

**August 5, 1859**

## NOTICE.

By virtue of a law concerning the Indians of this Commonwealth, chap. 266 of the Acts of 1859, the subscriber has been duly appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, a Commissioner, whose province it is, "to examine into the condition of all Indians and descendants of Indians, domiciled in this Commonwealth, and make report to the Governor, for the information of the General Court, on the following matters, namely:

1. The number of all such persons...
2. The social and political condition of all such persons...
3. The economical state of all such persons...
4. All such facts the personal or social condition of the Indians of the Commonwealth...

JOHN MILTON EARLE, Commissioner.

**August 12, 1859**

NANTUCKET – A friend informs us that in 1830, there were in Nantucket, 30 oil and candle factories, 7 ropewalks, 1 twine factory, and 20 packets running to New York, Boston, &c. Now there is one oil and candle factory, and 4 packets. The other branches of business have been given up.

The whaling fleet is constantly on the decline, and if new channels of business are not found soon, the place must go down with a rush. There is an abundance of capital there, but those who have it are disposed to invest abroad, rather than at home.

**August 12, 1859**

*Average Condition of the Martha's Vineyard Bank for four weeks ending August 1, 1859. –* Capital Stock, \$100,000; Loans and Discounts, \$187, 144; Specie in Bank, \$3,829; balances in other banks, payable in demand, \$6,053; total amount due from other banks, \$6,053; total amount due to other banks, \$1,651; deposits, \$19,697; circulations, \$69,948.

**August 19, 1859**

[Advertisement Front page. Dukes County Book and Shoe Company. Nathaniel Jernagan, President]

**August 27, 1859**

[Agricultural Hall will be completed in 2 weeks  
Big fire in New Bedford 10,000 barrels oil; \$300k total loss]

**September 2, 1859**

The loss by the fire in New Bedford is estimated at around \$300,000, on which there was insurance to the amount of \$10,000. The Standard says: – "We have seldom seen a more

magnificent sight than that presented by the fire. Looking westward from Water street at one time, the view presented a vast and almost infinite sheet of flames, rushing madly before the winds. The flowing oil spread over the water, making it look as though the stream was on fire. As the oil in the casks was consumed it threw up vast masses of dense, black smoke, from which broad sheets of flame flashed out, presenting a magnificent and awful spectacle. We trust we shall never again be called upon to behold a sight so grand to look upon, but bringing ruin upon many an industrious, hard working man, who beholds the earnings of a life time almost instantly consumed, reducing him, perhaps, from independence to property, and turning numerous families penniless into the streets...”

...We have seen many kinds of water and hues of ocean, but an ocean of oil is something out of the ordinary course of things. The burning of the oil which run into the dock and spread upon the surface of the water, presented a beautiful sight...

### **September 2, 1859**

The time is fast approaching when many of the people of our Country will assemble at West Tisbury to participate in the enjoyment and happiness to be gathered from an attendance upon the Agricultural Fair, which promises to exceed the interest that of last year...

...The President, Hon. LEAVITT THAXTER, and the Secretary, HENRY L. WHITING, Esq., are at work, and no two individuals in the County can accomplish more than they...

...May we not confidently reckon that it will be so? May we not hope that the Society will increase in importance from year to year, conferring benefits upon all, especially the farmer, by promoting the agricultural interests of the Country?...

### **September 2, 1859**

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, for September, contains a paper entitled “A Trip to Martha’s Vineyard,” by Mrs. Austin. It is very pleasantly written but owing to the author’s short stay on the Island, contains some errors, which are ever apt to follow in the wake of those who write upon subjects with which they are not perfectly familiar, and hence are, for the most part excusable...

... In conclusion, we must give it as our humble opinion, that but little glory can be earned, either to author or publisher, by spoiling clean white paper with such miserable trash as we find in the Atlantic Monthly, under the attractive title of “A Visit to Martha’s Vineyard”      ALPHA.

### **September 2, 1859**

(Correspondence of the Gazette.)

Boston, Aug. 29, 1859

Something too much of this. – [*Shakespeare*.

Two years ago, Nathaniel Parker Willis, not content with the notoriety of a public chastisement, and desirous of adding to his fame, descended to the level of falsehood for the purpose of giving éclat to a letter descriptive of his visit to Martha’s Vineyard; and to-day we find in the Atlantic

Monthly that another *idle* individual tells the world how *wild* he (or she) can shoot of the mark when historical truths or geographical facts are aimed at...

**September 15, 1859**

[Sperm 125 Whale 46]

**September 16, 1859**

(Correspondence of the Gazette.)

Mr. Editor – We read your sheet weekly, and thereby gain much local news which interests us; but there is a rumor passing quite current in this section of Dukes County, with regard to the first use which the new County agricultural building is to be subjected to, which is not hinted at your last week’s address to the people concerning the importance of the enterprise. It is said that it is first to be used as a dance hall. Now, whether this manner of dedicating the fine building, erected for the exposition of the various products of the soil of this lovely island, is endorsed by a people who, with a population little varying from 4,000, support preaching in eight churches, or whether it is not thus endorsed—that is the first question. Then we would like to know whether said entertainment is to be a County Dance, Town Dance, private Social Hop, “contra or cotillion?” Afterwards, please inform us whether it is authorized by the President, winked at by the Secretary, and unknown officially by the “Society,” or not...

J. A. H.

**October 7, 1859**

[Kerosene oil factory started at New Bedford

No end of news about Agricultural Society, advertising its fair and reporting on it etc. Report every event and winner]

**October 7, 1859**

(Correspondence of the Gazette.)

Mr. Editor: Please allow me the hospitality of a brief space in your columns, to reply to your correspondent “J. A. H.” in last week’s Gazette, who has such a holy horror of the innocent amusement of dancing, and seems to have inherited his hostility from our ancestors of a darker age, who, no doubt thought they were performing a Christian duty in the indiscriminate massacre of defenceless Indians and are hanging innocent people for difference of opinion: – had they cultivated, more, the social relations and refined amusements, the ghosts of their murdered victims, would not have haunted Cotton Mather, to his grave...

**October 7, 1859**

A High Bridge from England to France – This magnificent project is being seriously entertained among engineers and men of science. There have been equally as wonderful things effected in our day. The English papers have published some of the details of the plan for uniting

England and France by a gigantic tubular bridge across the channel between Dover and Cape Grinez...

**October 7, 1859**

All our readers are doubtless aware that the second annual Cattle Show and fair of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, will take place at West Tisbury, in the new agricultural hall erected for the purpose, on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of the present month...

**October 7, 1859**

NOTICE – It is our intention to postpone the issue of the next number of the Gazette one day, in order to obtain as full a report of the Cattle Show and Fair as possible.

**October 14, 1859**

In looking over the New Bedford Whalemens' Shipping List, we find the following ships commanded by Martha's Vineyard men, who, we are proud to say, are as intelligent and as reliable a set of ship masters as any community can boast of...

...At the least calculation there are now 60 active captains on the Island...

**October 14, 1859**

Letter from Martha's Vineyard

Hail to the land whereon we tread,

Our fondest boast.

Many thanks to the explorations and graphic descriptions of Caleb, Mysie and the Baron, our ocean-grit isle is no longer a new and almost unknown region.

The readers of the Atlantic at least, know its configuration, its history, its geography, the characteristics of the people, and many other matters of interest...

...Peat, instead of supplying, in the absence of all other indigenous fuel, nearly every chimney on the island," is found and used only in certain localities. We venture to affirm that very many whose lives have been spent upon the island, never saw a lump of peat. We have an abundant supply of native oak of the best quality. Entire vessels, of considerable size, are sometimes constructed here from our "island oak..."

**October 21, 1859**

[Pacific Wagon Road is completed. 1500 wagons, 12,000 cattle, 4,000 people across so far. Grass, wood and water are available along the entire route.]

**October 28, 1859**

[Eagle shot near Squibnocket Pond by A. T. Poole measured 6'5" 8lbs 2 oz]

**December 2, 1859**

The season just closed, has been, in many respects, one of the dullest ever known on the Vineyard, and the cry of “hard times” is heard on every hand. The principal business of the place, that of catching whales, has been much depressed, and the prospects of the fleet now at seas are not such as to inspire our merchants with confidence in any new enterprises in the same direction; and it will require considerable hope in the future to keep the fleet intact. The sperm whalefishery, however, looks quite promising, and if our vessels, as they arrive, are re-fitted for this branch of the business, they may yet prove profitable to their owners. We must all hope for the best, and make every consistent effort to sustain the business of the place. We want more labor for the poorer classes of our citizens, and we hope to see the day when every man disposed to work, may find employment; for no place can grow rich, as a whole, without constant and remunerative labor for the poor. If our young men would abandon the “shore fishery” which so generally prevails here, and turn their attention to other employments, we think a great step would be taken in the right direction...

...If a majority of all the fishing boats belonging to the place could be disposed of at once, we are confident the result would be beneficial. There would then be no longer any temptation for our seamen to abandon their legitimate business, for one so precarious, so sure to render them poor and destitute, as the one we are considering...

...What we want then, is a business here at home, which shall gradually draw these men from their present unprofitable mode of life, and place them in circumstances which shall encourage, enrich, and elevate them far above their present circumstances in life...

### **December 2, 1859**

...John Brown’s demonstration at Harper’s Ferry is still the absorbing theme of editorials, sermons, public speeches and private conversation...

### **December 16, 1859**

Nantucket Whaling Fleet – There are at present 21 ships, 1 brig and 1 schooner employed in the whale fishery, belonging to Nantucket. 3 of these ships sailed in 1855, 5 in 1856, 1 in 1857, 3 in 1858, 3 in 1859, and 6 ships and one brig are in port. The aggregate tonnage now is 8,022 tons. The total tonnage in 1835 was 21,268 tons, showing a decrease at this time compared with that of 1835, of 13,246 tons.

## **1860**

### **January 13, 1860**

Pemberton Mills fell with a sudden crash at 5 P.M., while 600 or 700 operatives were at work. The Mills are a complete wreck. Some 200 or 300 are still supposed to be buried in the ruins. Calamity succeeds calamity. Within the last ten minutes, (midnight) the whole mass of ruins has become a sheet of flame...

**January 13, 1860****BRICKS.**

The subscribers have on hand, and will keep constantly for sale, a good assortment of Bricks, which they will dispose of on favorable terms.

MUDGETT & ANDREWS

Roaring Brook, August 5, 1859

**January 27, 1860**

[Oil Market remains quiet

Gazette includes favorable descriptions of content to support the Atlantic Monthly]

**February 10, 1860**

A Prosperous Season – the season about to open promises to be a very busy one on the Vineyard. The shoe business, which was commenced here last spring, has been successfully carried on, under the management of Capt. Nathaniel M. Jernegan, the President of the Company, who has been untiring in his efforts to advance the interest of the stockholders and the public generally. Many young men, belonging here, have been engaged in learning the business, and they will soon be out of their time, and some of them will, of course, set up for themselves, and other factories will then be established among us; and this will have a tendency to keep our young men at home...

..In Tisbury, (Middletown) Dr. Daniel Fisher is building a costly dam on one of the ponds in that neighborhood, where he intends to erect a first class flour mill. The pond is already stocked with pickerel and trout, and it is the doctor's intention to have such a stream of flowing water as will contribute greatly to their development and increase. The dam and mill will be completed during the coming summer.

**February 17, 1860**

The gale in New York on Friday is described as more terrific than any in many years; and occasion great destruction both on land and sea. Roofs of houses were entirely blown away, chimneys shattered, awnings, fences, &c. scattered in every direction...

...Schr. Golden Rod sunk during the gale. She is owned by Thomas Bradley Esq., of Holmes Hole and is insured.

In Boston, Providence, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington and further south the effects of the gale were unusually severe...

**February 24, 1860**

The Oil Excitement in Pennsylvania

The discovery of oil flowing out of the ground in Venago county, Pennsylvania, is producing immense excitement in that region, and is attracting the attention of oil merchants throughout the country. The oil flows out of a hill-side in a spring, and there it was first discovered, and it is of a quality equal to the best kerosene oil now manufactured. Men have sunk wells and put in pumps near the springs and one man has a pump which takes out a gallon a minute! This very oil which is thus taken out has but little smell, burns clear, gives a good light, and is of a quality superior to the Kerosene which has been until now sold for sixty cents per gallon. As a result speculation is raging there intensely...

...The oil proceeds from the coal imbedded in the mountains, and if the representations are true the whole oil trade of the country will be revolutionized.

### **March 1860**

[\$1.44 for sperm after a long period with low prices]

### **March 9, 1860**

Real Estate at Auction.

Will be sold at Public Auction, by authority from the Court of Probate, on TUESDAY, the second day of May next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, the following described property belonging to the Estate of Roland Luce, 'late' of Tisbury, in Duke's County, deceased, viz: A tract of Wood, Tillage, and Meadow Land, situated in said Tisbury, called the Shore Place, bounded on the North by the Vineyard Sound, Easterly by land of Franklin Luce and others, Southerly by the homestead of said deceased, and West by the Indian lands, the whole being about forty-five acres. Also, a tract of Wood and Brush Land at a place called Pine Hill, in said Tisbury, comprising about twenty acres. The former described tract being a very valuable piece of property; and the whole of said described parcels to be sold to pay the debts of the Estate.

TAMZON B. LUCE, Administratrix.

Tisbury, March 5, 1860.

### **March 9, 1860**

Sale of Real Estate at Auction...

...all the Real Estate belonging to Ruben Adams, late of Tisbury, deceased, situated in the town of Chilmark—Commencing with the Homestead, consisting of Meadow, Pasture and Wood Land, with a Dwelling House and Barn thereon, and bounded as follows...

...Also, a lot of Wood Land, being bounded on the South by the County road;...

...Also, three undivided tracts of Beach Meadow Land known by the name of Beach Meadow Little Island, and Black Point, at a place called Quansoo...

**April 13, 1860**

Cranberries – The Boston Post says the cranberry fever still rages at Cape Cod, and the people there have entered into their Spring work of cranberry planting. Nearly every piece of marsh, swamp or upland which can be made available for culture, have been secured by capitalists, and are now being speedily transformed into rich and valuable cranberry meadows.

**April 20, 1860**

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society  
ANNUAL  
**Cattle Show and Fair,**  
at  
WEST TISBURY  
**Tuesday and Wednesday**  
**October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 1860**

**April 20, 1860**

Orchards and Forest Trees.

**FOREST TREES**

For the best plantation of forest trees, of any variety, not less than half an acre, with statements of the character and condition of the land, and the time and mode of planting.

**May 4, 1860**

...For the best plantation of Oak or other Forest Trees, suitable for ship timber, and no less than five hundred trees per acre, to be raised from the seed, which shall be in the most flourishing condition, and more than 3 years old in September, 1863, \$20 00...

**May 11, 1860**

For Sale at Auction,

A FARM, situated in Chilmark, and known as the Packard farm. Said farm contains about 50 acres, more or less, divided into two parts, meadow, wood lot and pasture. Said farm is bounded on the South by the Roaring Brook, with one of the best wood lots on the island. Terms of sale made known at time of sale, vis: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1860, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

F. H. MATHEWS

**May 18, 1860**

The cattle disease has appeared on Cape Cod, and fears are entertained that it will spread through the State.

**May 25, 1860**  
[Sperm Oil \$1.30]

**May 25, 1860**

...The brick manufactory of Chilmark, under the care of Capt. Mudgett, is doing quite and extensive business. From seven to eight hundred thousand brick were manufactured there last season, and doubtless as many, if not more, will be made this season, if the weather is not too unfavorable...

**May 25, 1860**

The County Tax this year, pursuant to a resolve of the legislature, is \$4,000; which amount has been apportioned among the towns as follow: –

Edgartown,	\$1602 60
Tisbury,	1368 08
Chilmark,	1029 32

**May 25, 1860**

AN EXTRA SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

In view of the alarming extension of the cattle Disease, and the need of increased appropriations, Gov. Banks has decided that it is expedient to call an extra session of the Legislature.

**May 25, 1860**

LUMBER.

Just landed from Bangor, A Large Assortment of lumber, consisting of Pine, Spruce and Hemlock Boards and Plank, Spruce Timber and Scantlings, Fencing Boards, Pine and Spruce Plained Boards, square edged and matched.

Shingles of all kinds and qualities. All of the above will be sold low for cash.

THOMAS M. COFFIN.

Edgartown, May 10, 1860

**May 25, 1860**

...We saw in New Bedford, on board schooner L. Snow, Jr., the castings and stones for Dr. Fisher's flour mill. We learn that said mill was erected on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, in North Tisbury, and is not almost if not entirely finished.

**May 25, 1860**

THE MACKEREL FLEET – Early in the morning, on Monday last, seventy sail of schooners, belonging to this fleet, lay anchored in Menemsha Bight, rocking to and fro like the boughs of some lofty pine trees. About 7 o'clock the sailors spread the white canvas to the breeze, and then

was heard the click of the windlass, mingled with the merry voices of the men; and soon vessel after vessel filled their sails with the North East wind, and swept proudly out of the harbor upon the bosom of the mighty Ocean, presenting a scene truly magnificent.

### **June 1, 1860**

...Measures are promptly taken, the country will be delivered from this terrible scourge. An extra session of the Legislature has been called and public opinion will be sanctioned the most liberal expenditure and the most vigorous measures...

### **June 8, 1860**

[Advertisement – Pine seed for sale. William P Chadwick. Front page article from Barnstable on how to culture the cranberry

1860 Edgartown taxes – people with taxes >\$100

Daniel Fisher \$142.16; Daniel Fisher and Company \$502.84; Joseph Mayhew \$101; William Munroe \$106; Grafton Norton \$244, Abraham Osborn \$354; Benjamin Worth \$128

There is a short notice in each issue about new advertisements]

### **June 8, 1860**

Cattle Disease – So thoroughly aroused are the fears of the people that this disease may spread all over the land, that section is being taken by farmers at their agricultural meetings, by medical associations, by legislature in session, and by governors of states...

### **June 8, 1860**

The Cattle Disease – At the Town Meeting on Friday last, the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted: –

Whereas a disease called Pleuro Pneumonia, of a highly contagious character, is unhealthily prevalent among the cattle in different portions of the Commonwealth, and threatens to extend itself widely, to the imminent peril of the farmer in the loss of valuable stock, justly exciting fears that, unless prompt, energetic, and united efforts are used, it may reach our own shores, therefore.

Resolved, that it is the bounden duty which every good citizen owes to himself and to this community, so far as in him lies, to use all means in his power to prevent the importation of neat cattle from abroad, during the time such disease shall continue to prevail around us...

### **June 15, 1860**

*Premium offered for Lamps to burn Whale Oil.* The movement in New Bedford to bring Whale Oil into more general use, by taking advantage of the science and inventive powers characteristic of the times, which have brought other oils and fluids into notice, is most wise and promising. The liberal premiums offered will accure the best minds to put forth their powers in this direction, and bring into the market, we trust, lamps of superior beauty, convenience, economy and safety. It is a little singular, that little or no improvement in the mode of burning

Whale Oil, for the purposes of illumination has been made during the last half century. Now is the time for those interested in the Whale fishery to restore to more general use the burning of the oil, the procuring of which employs so many vessels and men and builds up so many places...

**June 15, 1860**

BLUEFISH – The catching of these fish, enjoyed with such zest by strangers visiting the island, is now realizing a handsome profit to our fishermen. They are brought into the docks in large quantities. Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, they were caught some nine or ten thousands lbs, which, selling at 1 1-4 cents per lb, show the round sum of \$125.

**June 15, 1860**

DUKES COUNTY BOOT AND SHOE COMPANY – This annual meeting of this Company was on Monday evening last. The President submitted his Report, from which we learn that sixteen thousand and two hundred pairs of shoes have been manufactured by the Company since its inauguration...

...Previous to the adjournment of the meeting, the old Board of Directors were re-elected, viz: Nathaniel M. Jernegan, S. Osborn, Jr., Henry Pease, 2d, Shipley W. Crosby, Kilborn Smith, and Edgar Marchant...

**June 15, 1860**

...In journeying over your Island, I saw many places which bore the marks of enterprise and improvement. This speaks well for the inhabitants of the Island. I also perceive that your enterprising citizen Dr. Daniel Fisher, has nearly completed a splendid flour mill on the upper part of the Island to be run by water-power, which promises to be of great convenience to the Island people. We wish the Doctor success.

The establishment of the Boot and Shoe business among you is a good thing, and I think it looks like a move in the right direction...

**June 15, 1860**

BRIGHTON MARKET – Thursday, June 7 – Prices—Beef Cattle—The cattle disease has affected the market very sensibly; the butchers buy sparingly at reduced prices...

**June 15, 1860**

At a Town Meeting, held on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1860, it was Voted, That all importation of meat cattle to the Town of Chilmark be and is prohibited, until the disease called Pleuro-Pneumonia becomes extinct in the United States, or the prohibition be removed by a vote of said Town...

**June 20, 1860**

THE SEASON

June has come with its beautiful weather, which makes this month the Queen of the year, and all out doors, save in the dusty and crowded city, an earthly paradise...

...Let the Cattle disease go, and the low price of oil vanish, and the dullness of the times depart, and all Rheumatism and Gout of the aged, pass away, while we all take a walk and converse pleasantly together, under the umbrageous trees sheltering us from the fervid beams of the sun...

### **June 29, 1860**

Wool – We understand that the Vineyard wool (about 12,000 pounds) has been purchased by Miakim Norton, Esq., for 37 1-2 cents a pound. This *good round price*, we are informed, is the result of a spirited completion between the two principal buyers.

### **July 7, 1860**

STRAWBERRIES – Capt. George Luce, at his pleasant home in West Tisbury, dispenses to his friends an abundance of this most delicious fruit. From a specimen of the berries sent to us, we do not hesitate to say that they far surpass any of the Vineyard growth we ever saw or hear of – indeed, in size they were about equal to the gull's eggs received a short time since from our friend, Capt. Kendrick, but which we at the time forgot to notice...

### **July 7, 1860**

The following will show the dates of the first catch of Sword-fish by our boats, for the last 7 years: –

July 3, 1854—June 30, 1855—June 28, 1856—July 13, 1857—July 6, 1858—July 7, 1859—July 2, 1860. 72 is the highest number caught in one day.

### **July 13, 1860**

...As all the world *has* come or *is* coming to the Vineyard this summer, for recreation and fishing, we wish to give some advice; but first let us thank the Editor of the Boston Courier for helping this matter along, by giving a first rate notice of Sword-fishing, and saying, “that the best place to enjoy this sport is probably at Edgartown on the Vineyard.”

### **July 20, 1860**

[Massachusetts Legislative committee engaged in evaluating canal across Cape Cod.]

### **July 20, 1860**

Prosperity of the West – With reference to the future prosperity of the West, there is a feeling of unmixed confidence in financial circles, and commercial men are looking forward to a season of unexampled prosperity...

...Wheat is considered out of danger, and a good crop in all the wheat-growing States north of the Mississippi, may be counted upon...

...The approaching harvest will yield about twice as much as that of 1859...

...Oats, barley, rye and potatoes promise a full crop in the West, and there will also be a fair yield of hay. Should the corn turn out as well as it promises at present, there will be nothing wanting to render satisfactory the harvest of 1860. – [Cincinnati Gazette.

**July 27, 1860**

[Poem “Faith in the Union” Longfellow]

**July 27, 1860**

The Nautical School – EDGARTOWN THE BEST PLACE – The Boston Courier has a very able article in favor of Edgartown as a place for permanent location of the Nautical School...

**July 27, 1860**

WESLEYAN GROVE CAMP MEETING, MARTHA’S VINEYARD – This great annual gathering of the Methodist denomination will take place this year on the 22d of August, and continue one week. As many of our readers are aware, says the Boston Journal, this is one of the largest and best conducted meetings of the kind in the country...

...The number of tents that will be erected on the grounds this year will not be far from five hundred, and to accommodate the parties who visit the place prior to the opening of the meetings in order to pitch their tents and make other arrangements, Mr. Coffin has arranged for the opening of a temporary house, where they may be provided during their stay...

**July 27, 1860**

The Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Society. *Mr. Editor:* – Permit me to occupy your columns by a few lines of suggestion and persuasion to our Island farmer and others interested in the success and popularity of our Agricultural Society, urging them to sustain it by carrying out with spirit and energy tis practical purposes...

...we must not make a mere jubilee and idle holiday of our Agricultural Fair. We have a reputation to maintain of serious importance. We have entered the ranks of the incorporated County Societies to encourage improvements in Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, to collect and disseminate reliable information, to ascertain the standard of our crops and the best staples to be cultivated; and by the encouragements and rewards of an organized Society, to improve and benefit our own homes and our own condition, as well as contributing to the knowledge and progress of the age...

...In view of the few entries of grain crops which have been made within the time first advertised by the Society, the first of July, the Trustees proposed to extend the time to the 15<sup>th</sup> of *August*, and at the same time, urge all those who have *fair average crops* of the various products common to our Island, such as corn, potatoes, oats, rye, barley, wheat, roots, cranberries, fruit, trees &c. &c., to report them to the Society...

...We have been severely criticized in the discussions which have arisen abroad in relation to our application for the full bounty and benefits conferred upon other Societies, and have been compared to a society of “*straw*”! But we had substance, and brought force enough to bear to gain our cause against quite a strong opposition; and we should see to it that when we come to be weighed in the balance we are *not found wanting*, but show more substance and less “chaff” than some of those who have attempted to ridicule us...

...HENRY L. WHITING,  
Sec’y M. V. Ag’l Society.

**August 3, 1860**

[Sperm Oil \$1.35 – 1.45]

**August 10, 1860**

Chilmark, Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, 1860

Mr. Editor – We noticed in your Gazette of last week a letter clipped from Hallowell Gazette, in which the writer says: :The upper part of the Vineyard contains an almost incredible number of deaf and dumb persons, and many blind from birth...

**August 10, 1860**

...Two years ago a large schooner, loaded with grain and flour, left Chicago by the lakes of Michigan, Huron, St. Clair, Erie, Ontario and the St. Lawrence River to Europe, and made the first, and successful voyage by this route...

...This Canal is about 9 miles west of Niagara Falls and promises to be the source of important commercial traffic for the West...

**August 10, 1860**

CENSUS RETURNS for DUKES COUNTY

		Edgartown.	Tisbury.	Chilmark.	Total
Inhabitants --	1860	2118	1631	654	4403
	1850	1990	1803	747	4540
		-----	-----	-----	-----

**August 10, 1860**

...A bank has been chartered within a few years, and a safe as well as profitable business is conducted in a neat brick building erected for that purpose...

...Hon. Daniel Fisher, president of the bank, has done far more for our town. His oil manufactory and candle works, located here, are the largest in the country; and now he is building mills, a few miles from the village, which will be of great advantage to the people of the Island. A new brick Court House has been recently erected; an extensive factory for making shoes; another for manufacture of soaps, &c. &c...

**August 17, 1860**

Our Agricultural Exhibition...

...We have here a beautiful island to dwell upon and to cultivate, and notwithstanding our main dependence has heretofore been drawn from the sea, we ought to permit no opportunities to pass unimproved to cultivate home resources, to learn and practice the art of preparing the soil, sowing and planting seeds, dressing the plants and removing the crops. The raising of cattle, in connection with tillage, seems to come in naturally and works to advantage. There is no employment so sure to be remunerative and at the same time agreeable, as agriculture. The aged, the young, and even the feeble, can do a great deal of the labor required in the garden and on the farm, and the work can be distributed all over the island, and our whole people can labor and enjoy the scenery and comforts of home, while in sight of the beautiful ocean which dashes almost to their very hearth stones...

...We are pledged to do something in agriculture, by commencing a society, erecting a hall, offering premiums, inviting attendance, etc., and we cannot honorably go back...

...As has been suggested, let not our Fair be a mere holiday, in which people can enjoy themselves and go home, saying to one another, "We have had a good time," but let it prove a real working affair, got up by the willing coo-operation of the people, and manifesting a determination to really improve our soil, increasing its capabilities of production, adding to wealth from home labor and skill and enterprise...

**August 17, 1860**

In Lowell, there are twelve corporations with an aggregate capital of \$15,000,000, owning 52 factory buildings, containing over four hundred thousand spindles and twelve thousand looms, with other machinery in proportion; employing eighty-seven hundred women and forty-two hundred men; manufacturing yearling more than one Hundred million yards of cotton cloth,

twenty-five million yards of calico, twenty million yards of bleached and dyed goods, one and a half million yards of woolen cloths, and over a million yards of carpetings. Think of a strip of cotton cloth a yard wide and two hundred miles long, made daily! Enough in a year to go twice around the globe with ends five thousand miles long to tie with.

**August 24, 1860**

[Sperm Oil \$1.55]

**August 31, 1860**

THE CAMP MEETING – Sirson P. Coffin, Esq., in his last Annual Report, thus contrasts the past with the present: –

“In 1846, there were thirteen societies and one family tent...

...Here beneath the shade of the stately oak, surrounded on one side by the broad Atlantic, on the other by the Vineyard Sound, while stretched across and looming up with neat little cottages and spire, stands Holmes Hole Village, Falmouth and Edgartown, here on this secluded spot, where Nature and Nature’s God inspires the higher thoughts of man and lifts him above the things of earth, are thousands reposing...

...Here, where one hundred and fifty with their fifteen little tents used to toil day by day, many times wet and illy provided for, now stand the cottages and the little palaces which we can enumerate by hundreds, as cozily and securely provided with conveniences as any city home can boast of...

**August 31, 1860**

Kerosene Oils – The fact that oils can be obtained from stones was known as long ago, at least, as 1694, when a Patent was granted in England for that purpose. The extract was first made from Bituminous shale, and from the black, pitchy rock found overlaying the English coal beds. The use of this oil has been limited to medicinal purposes, and in rare instances for light and the lubrication of fine machinery, until within fifteen years. It now promises to supersede both tallow and sperm...

...The Kerosene Oil Co., at Newton, Long Island, produces from 1,800 to 3,000 gallons per day. The *paraffine*, which is the residuum of the coal after the extraction of the oil is a remarkable substance resembling white wax, or rather asbestos, having a soapy feeling and is used for candles...

...The greatest well yet opened in the oil district has just gone into operation...

...On Wednesday the plug was removed, and the well threw out thirty barrels in forty minutes...

**August 31, 1860**

A VISIT TO GAY HEAD...

...They hold their land as a grant from the State, and each man walls in and cultivates as much as he needs...

...The cattle run in a great pasture in common, each claiming a right to drive one or more cows or horses. Many cattle are pastured here from other parts of the island, for which six dollars per season is paid to the township...

**September 7, 1860**

...It is a lamentable fact that some parents in this village have been so negligent of duty as to permit their children to idle away their time without entering school at all...

...Now we would give this, as seasonable notice, that all cases of this kind coming to the knowledge of the Committee, will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the above law...

...Scholars whose practice has been habitual truancy, are hereby informed that nothing but punctual and regular attendance will save them from the penalties of this law...

...School Committee of Edgartown...

**September 7, 1860**

EXTRAORDINARY SLAUGHTER OF PORPOISES – A fortnight ago a small sail-boat coming up the creek, between Plymouth and Marshfield, at Duxbury, Mass., came upon a drove of porpoises, sometimes called sea hogs. Other boats joined the first, and they drove the sea monsters up the creek into water so shallow, that they would not easily make their escape. Some of the party, joined by others from the shore, began to shoal the porpoises, and soon there was a general slaughter with guns and knives, until the entire drove of 75 porpoises were killed. The largest weighed 800 pounds, and their value is considerable for fat and oil...

...The porpoises eat blue fish, and blue fish consume cod, and now that both the former have disappeared, the codfish, that were before scarce, begin to be abundant...

**September 7, 1860**

The most extraordinary of the oil wells discovered in Pennsylvania lately, was opened at Tideout, Erie county...

...“At a depth of 175 feet oil was struck, and it has since been coming to the surface in a voluntary flow of one barrel per minute!...

...At \$14 per barrel, a low estimate, this well yields its owner \$20,160 per day...”

### **September 14, 1860**

The Daily Wisconsin believes that no State in America ever raised a crop of wheat that would average as much as the present crop of Wisconsin. It estimates the entire wheat crop of 1860, at 30,000,000 bushels, or over 37 bushels for every inhabitant; a greater proportionate yield than any other State or nation of the globe!...

...In New York the yield is 5 1-2 bushels; in Illinois about 15 bushels to the inhabitant; in Ohio 10 bushels; in the United States the present crop, at 180,000,000 bushels, would be about 6 bushels to each inhabitant...

### **September 14, 1860**

Sale of Nashawina Island – The New Bedford Standard says that twelve hundred acres of land, with farm house, barn, &c., comprising the Vernon estate, upon the island of Nashawina were sold at auction on Friday by Samuel A. Walker, auctioneer, of Boston.

A company of gentlemen of New Bedford—James Rider, E. C. Jones, E. W. Howland, Edward Merrill, Wm Weeks, and Gideon Allen—are the purchasers for the sum of \$8700. The whole island contains about 1700 acres.

### **September 14, 1860**

Valuation of the Town of Edgartown, 1860.<sup>12</sup>

No. of Polls,	512	
Number of dwelling houses,	349	
Shops in dwelling houses,	3	
Other shops,	63	
Warehouses,	8	
Barns,	181	
Boot and Shoe factories,	2	
Oil factories,	1	
Manufactories of iron,	5	
Superficial feet of wharf,	52,250	
Acres of land annually tilled,	562	1-2
Acres of orcharding,	21	1-4
Acres of upland mowing,	570	
Acres of fresh meadow,	187	1-2

---

<sup>12</sup> Partial list of the entire valuation.

Acres of salt marsh,	218	1-2
Acres of Pasture land,	6742	1-4
Acres of Wood land,	4557	
Cords of wood,	18,350	1-2
Acres unimproved land,	2399	
Acres unimprovable,	577	1-2
Acres covered with water,	2910	
Acres used for roads,	160	
Whole no. of acres in town,	18,896	3-4
Horses,	143	
Mules,	1	
Oxen,	96	
Cows,	276	
Steers 1 year old, and young cattle,	175	
Sheep,	1320	
Swine,	194	

### **September 14, 1860**

...Henry Cleaveland, at his Factory in West Tisbury, manufactures Satinets, Kerseys, and Flannels, from the best of Vineyard wool...

### **September 28, 1860**

...We have heard yet but little said about the approaching Cattle Show and Fair...

...the ill health of the President of the Society, Hon. Leavitt Thaxter, prevents him from entering upon the arduous duties which he has so well and nobly performed heretofore;...

...Mr. Whiting, the efficient Secretary of the Society, has been absent during a large portion of the year...

...but if he is at home, at present, there is time for him to do much. Possessing an active mind, a quick and ready adaptation to business, it is not to much to say that he has been one of the main pillars upon which the success of the enterprise thus far has rested. We believe that much of the success of failure of the exhibition this year will be due to him...

...we feel that Mr. W. will not be "found wanting" at the desired hour. But we must not leave everything to him...

### **September 28, 1860**

Large Yield of Onions – Dr. Daniel Fisher, of this village, sowed an acre of ground with onion seed this season, and he has already harvested from 2-5ths of the same, 305 bushels. Should the balance of the crop turn out as well, the total yield will be 762 1-2 bushels to the acre. We doubt if a larger crop was ever grown anywhere in the States.

**September 28, 1860**

The Lieut. Governor of our State, and some seven or eight members of the Governor's Council, visited this place on Tuesday last, with the intention of examining our harbor in reference to its suitability as a location for the Nautical School Ship...

**September 28, 1860**

For Sale,

THE farm, called Katama, situated about 2 1-2 miles from the village of Edgartown, containing about 500 acres or more, consisting of Wood meadow and Pasture Land, well fenced, &c., with a good and convenient Dwelling House, two large Barns, two Corn Houses, Carriage House, Work Shop and all other necessary out-buildings; together with the entire Stock, consisting of 25 head of cattle, large and small, with farming utensils of all kinds necessary; together with a one horse, Thrashing Machine, Winpower, Corn Sheller, Hay Cutter, &c. For further particulars apply to

Edgartown, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1860

R. M. COON.

**October 5, 1860**

LETTER FROM GAY HEAD

Correspondence of the Boston Courier.

TETE JOLI, Sept. 1, 1860...

...We were provided with nice carriages, having elliptic springs, as the principal driver repeatedly assured those who ventured "to doubt it"...

...Our road was along the southerly side of the island, from one extreme end to the other, about twenty miles close beside the ocean, which was as calm, and slept as peacefully, all the long afternoon, as an unweaned child. Amongst the thick oaken shrubbery, that skirts the leading road, and extends many miles back into the island, are still to be found specimens of the wild goat, whose origin is a profound mystery, as well as the pinnated grouse, or prairie hen of the West, which is occasionally killed here by a skillful sportsman. This bird is found nowhere else in New England...

...That irregular and badly defined line, which you just perceive a little to the right, is the shady side of the fashionably city of Newport—in the foreground are unnumbered vessels, their sails banging uselessly against the masts, crew and officers vainly invoking and imploring, no doubt, a favoring breeze. Turning to the north and cast your eye is relieved by the last lingering light

reflected from the whole group of the Elizabeth Islands, and from the beautiful city of New Bedford...

### **October 5, 1860**

#### **OUR FELLOW CITIZENS UP FOR CONGRESS.**

It will be recollected that we have in former times advocated the election of Dr. Daniel Fisher, of our place, irrespective of party, to represent the First Congressional District in Congress, and we confess to a feeling of pleasure in seeing that the Union or Bell and Everett Convention, which met last week at Webster Hall in Wareham, nominated him by acclamation.

We think that the Vineyard people are entitled to have a representative in Congress sometime or another in the course of our national history, and that we have been neglected heretofore, and therefore, that, irrespective of party ties, we can, of all shades of sentiment, unite, at this time, on a man of great practical knowledge and general information, sound sense, patriotism and integrity, and one of our own citizen; and therefore we say, let us all try and give the Doctor a lift, especially at a time like this, when, in reality, nearly all sensible men are agreed in politics, aside from party names, and it will cost no sacrifice of principle or feelings. Let us do all in our power to show them at Washington a live man from Martha's Vineyard, who will do honor to the district and the whole country.

### **October 5, 1860**

Martha's Vineyard Bank...

...The following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year: Dr. Daniel Fisher...

...The Directors, at a subsequent meeting, reelected Daniel Fisher, President.

### **October 5, 1860**

A severe frost on Sunday night last, resulted in the destruction of a large portion of the Cranberry Crop on the Vineyard. It also damaged many pumpkins and squashes, and killed the tomato vines.

### **October 5, 1860**

The oil wells of Pennsylvania, which have served as the foundation of so many fortunes and of so many castles in the air, are beginning, in flash language, to "dry up," so that what at first bid fair to be never failing fountains have turned out the merest bubbles...

...The misery and destitution which prevails among the poorer classes, who risked and lost their all in the sinking of shafts that never yielded oil enough to grease their windlasses with, is only equally among the deluded emigrants to Pike's Peak.

### **October 26, 1860**

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society.

THIRD ANNUAL FAIR.

The cattle exhibited on the first day of the Fair, attracted a large share of attention. The number of entries may not have been equal to former fairs; several farmers, for some cause, not having any present, although possessed of fine specimens, heretofore exhibited, within convenient driving distance...

...There were but few milch cows...

...The show of sheep was less than at the previous fairs...

...Increasing attention appears to be given to what is regarded by many farmers as one of the readiest and surest means of replenishing an empty pocket—the raising of sheep. Kept, however, as too many upon our island are,—not yarded and housed by their owners, but turned loose to ravage their neighbors,—sheep have been regarded as little better than nuisances.

The swine of Martha's Vineyard are, in great part, brought from our main land; a fact hardly credible to our farmers...

...Judging from the appearance of the droves arriving here, it is not too much to say that generally they are the refuse ones, the best having been sold before shipment...

**October 26, 1860**

The oil contract for supplying 25,000 gallons of pure winter-strained Sperm Oil for the Light House Department, has been awarded to Alanson Swain & Co., New York, representing Messrs. Hadwin & Barney, Nantucket, at \$1.61 3-4 per gallon to be delivered April 1, 1861.

**October 26, 1860**

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society

*Mr. Editor*, – I herewith transmit to you a very brief report of our third annual Cattle Show and Fair.

Owing to the absence of our worthy Secretary Mr. Whiting, this report must necessarily be somewhat imperfect...

...nothing but the sternest necessity would have prevented Mr. Whiting from being present to share in the labors, as well as the pleasures of this truly interesting occasion...

...It is true that there were not so many articles on exhibition this year as on former years, but it was remarked on all sides, that the exhibition was in better taste and that the articles showed to a better advantage than at any previous Fair...

**October 26, 1860**

A letter from Capt Potter of ship Mary Ann of Fairhaven, reports her off Gallipagos Islands Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, with 450 bbls sp oil, all well. Had cruised the entire season off coast of California without seeing the spout of a sp wh<sup>13</sup>; out of the fleet of 5 whs cruising there whs were seen but once, and not a drop of oil taken...

**November 9, 1860**

[Lincoln over Douglas in Massachusetts 52,713 vs. 14,587]

**November 16, 1860**

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS – (In a Nutshell.)

**November 16, 1860**

A serious and painful accident occurred at the new flouring mill of Dr. Daniel Fisher, in North Tisbury, on Wednesday afternoon last. It seems that while Mrs. Mary Tilton, daughter of William Chase, and widow of Capt. Otis Tilton, was in the mill, looking at the machinery, her clothes got caught in the gearing attached to the bolting chest, and her left leg was drawn between the machinery and crushed in a dreadful manner, the flesh being much lacerated and the knee bone broken to pieces. The leg was amputated above the knee, and when last heard from Mrs. Tilton was as comfortable as could be expected. Ether was administered during the operation.

Mr. Job Gorham, Jr., in his efforts to rescue Mrs. Tilton, had the fingers of one of his hands injured, but to what extent we have not learned—reports being very conflicting. Some are to the effect that his fingers were badly damaged, and had to be amputated; while others state that but one was injured, and that was slightly.

**November 16, 1860**

RECOVERY OF FUGITIVE SLAVES – The New York Times suggests a plan for avoiding the difficulties incident to the recovery and return of fugitive slaves as follow: –

*There is one plan which at least deserves consideration. It is simply to provide by law for paying to the slaveholders the value of their fugitive slaves, instead of restoring them...*

...If any such law should be enacted, it should be so farmed as not to encourage the running away of slaves by relaxing the vigilance of the slave owners. The census of 1850 shows that for one year immediately preceding the enumeration, 1011 slaves escaped from their masters...

**November 16, 1860**

...Henry L. Whiting, of West Tisbury, will sell a pure blooded imported Bull—a rare chance to secure a fine animal on accommodating terms...

---

<sup>13</sup> Sperm whale

**December 7, 1860**

LARGE FIELD OF ONIONS – Dr. Daniel Fisher, of this village, sowed an acre of ground with onion seed this season, and he has already harvested from 2-5<sup>th</sup> of the same, 305 bushels. Should the balance of the crop turn out as well, the total yield will be 762 1-2 bushels to the acre. We doubt if a larger crop was ever grown anywhere in the States – [Vineyard Gazette.

—He has been beaten, friend Marchant. A gentleman in Illinois, as we have been credibly informed by a friend who was “there” raised this year, on an acre of ground, 1250 bushels. Our authority is Wm. H. Holmes, of Indianapolis (Indiana,) who requested us to state the crop at 600 bushels per acre, lest the store should be deemed quite incredible by our Yankee farmers. We did so state it, with the proviso that if our story were outdone, we would then tell the whole truth. Will the Gazette “knock under?” – *Atlantic (Cape Cod) Messenger*.

By no means. We never “knock under” to any person who is so afraid of the truth as to tell a falsehood, when he had no occasion to deceive any one, and then afterwards, when he finds it convenient, make his story more than twice as large as before.

**December 7, 1860**

POPULAR VOTE OF THE NATION.

Total vote in the Union,	4,527,561
Total Union Vote: –	
For Breckinridge,	684,025
For Douglas,	910,236
For Bell and Fusion,	1,148,502
	<hr/> 2,742,763
Total vote for Lincoln,	1,784,798
	<hr/>
Population Majority against Lincoln,	957,965

**1861**

**January 1861**

[Abrupt shift to war news including concern locally, domestically and internationally  
Heading “The National Troubles”]

**January 4, 1861**

The shoe business is said to be more depressed than any other branch of trade in New England. It is estimated that one third of all the working people are out of employment...

**January 4, 1861**

M. V. A. S. – At the annual meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Society, at West Tisbury, on Wednesday last, the following gentlemen were elected officers of the Society: –

President – Henry L. Whiting.

**January 4, 1861**

**THE COST OF THE PLEURO-PNEUMONIA**

The amount of money paid the owners of cattle slaughtered by the Commissioners on the Pleuro-Pneumonia, is about \$33,000...

**January 11, 1861**

The attention of the public is now so drawn to the alarming political condition of the country, that it is difficult to fix it upon anything beside. Shall the union of these States be continued? If so, upon what terms of settlement? Or, if not agreement can be made, on account of the angry state of parties or sections, how shall we peaceably divide?

**January 18, 1861**

...New Bedford, Jan 2. – The Petroleum Oil Works, situated on Fish Island, and owned by William Penn Howland, Weston Howland, and others, exploded about 5 o'clock this afternoon, with a tremendous crash...

...Two men named Downey and Welch were taken from the ruins dead, their bodies horribly mutilated...

**January 18, 1861**

Mr. Editor – I send you a piece for you to put into your paper if you please, without charging it to me.

My pullets commenced laying 4 months of age. My bantie sort lay as well in winter as they do in summer. They must have good fine meal scalded with milk, and warm bread made of milk, and good southern corn, and warm milk to drink in winter and a warm clean house. Take good care of your hens, or you can't have eggs. In summer they must have good southern corn, a good find meal scalded with milk, and eat it cold. Be good to your hens, and not cruel. Consider how you would feel, if you could not help yourselves, and folks was cruel to you and let you suffer. I have kept about 8 hen, which layed rising 1500 eggs a year

NANCY LUCE.

**February 1, 1861**

**HAY FOR SALE**

The subscriber has several tons of first quality Hay, which he will be glad to sell at his barn, in West Tisbury, or deliver, in quantities to suit purchasers.

feb1

HENRY L. WHITING.

**February, 22, 1861**

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS – (*In a Nutshell*)**

David S. Beetle has 5000 Evergreen Trees, suitable for Hedges, which he offered very low.

**February 22, 1861**

Trees --- Trees.

The subscriber has on the Farm of Mr. DAVID S. BEETLE, in Edgartown, 5000 Arbor-Vitae Trees for sale, suitable for Hedges round Gardens or Burying Lots. The subscriber will sell and plant and insure to live in any parts of the island for 15 dollars per 100, or at the nursery for 10 or 12, according to the size. Any order left with Mr. D. S. BEETLE will be promptly attended to.

JOHN DE GARIS,

feb22 – 4m\*

South Dartmouth, Mass.

**March 3, 1861**

President Lincoln Inaugurated.

Abraham Lincoln has been inaugurated President, and Hannibal Hamlin Vice-President of the United States of America for the ensuing four years...

**March 29, 1861**

[Advertisement for Musquash skins W. F. Durginn]

**March 29, 1861**

...We do not observe much in the Warrant to call forth discussion, if we except the proposition to “purchase a suitable place as a home for the Poor.” We have long been of the opinion that if a good Farm could be procured by the town, on which the poor (or such of them as are able.) could be made to work – under the superintendence of an overseer – that a great saving might be made to the town...

**April 5, 1861**

TOWN MEETING – The annual spring meeting was held at the Town Hall on Monday last. Joseph T. Pease was appointed Moderator, and Barnard C. Marchant re-elected Town Clerk; both by unanimous votes.

Selectmen – Jeremiah Pease, Nathaniel M. Jernegan, John H. Pease.

Town Treasurer – Daniel Fisher.

Surveyor of Highways – Daniel Fisher.

Collector of Taxes – Daniel Fisher...

...Fish Wardens – Henry Pease, Daniel Fisher, George G. Cleveland.

Fire Wardens – Daniel Fisher, Benjamin Worth, Frederick Baylies, Jeremiah Pease, Thomas A. Norton, Jared Fisher Ira Darrow...

**April 12, 1861**

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society  
FOURTH ANNUAL  
**CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR,**  
West Tisbury,  
**Tuesday and Wednesday,**  
**October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 1861.**

**Board of Trustees.**

**President**

Henry L. Whiting, Tisbury.

**April 12, 1861**

Forest Trees.

For the best plantation of forest trees, of any variety, not less than half an acre, nor less than three years old, with statement of the character...

...For experiments in the planting of pine trees in the shrub plains of the Island, not less than 1-8 acre, with statement of mode of planting, the kind of pine sown, and amount of seed used. Any further statements throwing light upon the propagation of pine trees on the extensive plains of the Vineyard will be very desirable. To be awarded at the Fair of 1863

1 <sup>st</sup> premium,	6 00
2 <sup>d</sup> “	4 00
3 <sup>d</sup> “	2 00

Notice of intent to compete for the above premiums for forest tress, &c., must be given on or before the first day of July 1861.

**April 19, 1861**

BE ON HAND – On Thursday evening of last week the people of this village were somewhat startled by the cry of fire. During the day some one had been burning blackberry vines—on the plain—in order to get rid of them, and left them thinking they would do no harm; but some “scrub oaks” or brush near by caught fire, and, for a while, burned briskly. We hear also that some of Hon. LEAVITT THAXTER’S pines were destroyed and a number of fences injured, making the damage about forty dollars. The fire was finally stopped from spreading, by plowing and by throwing on sand. So seldom do we have a fire, it is not strange that all, at first notice of one, are ready to do what they can to extinguish it. And, notwithstanding we may have had some false alarms, and our fires may not have been very large heretofore, it is wise *to be ever on hand*.

**April 19, 1861**

The Battle at Fort Sumter.

Charleston, April 12 – The bail has opened, War is inaugurated...

**April 26, 1861**

[1<sup>st</sup> Sub head "Latest War News"

Pine Seed for Sale William Chadwick

Inside Vineyard Gazette header has American Flag]

**April 26, 1861**

"Old Ironsides" and her Builder.

We take from the Cincinnati Commercial, the following notice of the Master Builder of this ship, in 1797-98, who now, at a "green old age," is living at "Rising Sun," in the State of Indiana: —...

...The worthy patriot whom I would mention is Mr. Prince Athearn, now in the ninety-second year of his age. He was born on the island of Martha's Vineyard: and was apprenticed to the trade ship building at the early age of seventeen, in Nova Scotia...

...When the Constitution was ordered to be built, he was a resident of New Bedford, and being noted as ta most excellent master workman, he was called to Boston to assist in her construction, and appointed second in command. His first duty was to take a vessel to the Kennebec river, in Maine, with a force sufficient to get out her keel and side timbers in the extensive forests in that vicinity...

**April 26, 1861**

We are not fairly in for a civil war, and all true patriots in all parts of our country, should rally to the support of government and the defence of Liberty...

**May 3, 1861**

FOR SALE

On the road to Edgartown, 3 4 of a mile from Holmes' Hole, a six acre lot of land, of good quality, with a house and barn, etc., thereon, formerly owned by Lemuel Luce. The barn new, and the house newly and conveniently fitted up, at much cost, with a new and excellent cistern of a capacity of 75 barrels. Said lot contains a good orchard, and one or more acres of wood, and will be sold cheap for cash, if application be made immediately to H. W. RICHARDSON, the occupant and owner.

For inquiry, see the subscriber, at Edgartown

May 3, 1851 – 3t

WILLIAM W. HALL.

**May 3, 1861**

Pasturage. – Cattle and horses will be taken to pasture, by CHA'S B. ALLEN

West Tisbury, May 3, 1861 – 2t

**May 17, 1861**

[Sperm oil \$1.30 after long period at 1.90]

**May 24, 1861**

EDGARTOWN MOVING

\$2,200 VOTED FOR WAR PURPOSES.

At a large and spirited meeting of the citizens of Edgartown, held at the Town Hall on Friday last, Jeremiah Pease acting as Moderator, the following resolutions, offered...

...passed by unanimous vote...

**May 24, 1861**

Tisbury Votes \$2,000.

At the adjourned Town Meeting in Tisbury, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., the Selectmen were authorized to hire the sum of \$2,000, for the purpose of co-operating with the citizens of New Bedford, in placing an armed vessel in the Vineyard Sound and Buzzard's Bay...

**May 24, 1861**

[Sperm Oil \$1.16 ½]

**May 31, 1861**

[Sperm Oil 1.30]

**May 31, 1861**

Valuable Tract of Land for Sale.

A CERTAIN Track of Land, known as Manter's Neck, 50 acres, more or less—which a mill stream running each side of it.

HENRY CLEVELAND

West Tisbury, May 31, 1861.

**May 31, 1861**

For Half its Value.

THE subscriber offers for sale a Dwelling House, in good repair, together with a new Barn and Corn House, and 12 acres of Land, situated in West Tisbury.

MAYHEW NORTON

Tisbury, May 24, 1861

3t

**June 7, 1861**

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS is dead.

**June 7, 1861**

[Sperm \$1.27 ½ ]

**June 14, 1861**

England’s Friendship in Our Trials.

Boston, June 10, 1861

It is an old adage, that in times of trouble a man finds out his true friends. The ink is hardly dry with which was written England’s thanks for the attention bestowed upon the heir apparent while on a visit to America...

**June 14, 1861**

[Sperm \$1.20

Edgartown Taxes 1861 – Individuals paying more than \$100.

Daniel Fisher \$230	Daniel Fisher & Company \$278
William Munro \$109	Grafton Norton \$276
Abraham Osborn \$382	Estate Samuel Osborn \$119
Benjamin Worth \$146]	

**June 14, 1861**

BREAKING AWAY OF A DAM – We regret to learn that a portion of the dam at Dr. Daniel Fisher’s flour mill in North Tisbury, gave way on Monday last, owing to the heavy pressure of water. The dam was constructed at a great expense, and the loss will be quite heavy. A portion of the underpinning of the mill was also carried away. The operations of the mill will of course be suspended until the damn can be reconstructed.

The flour made at this mill has been in demand on the Vineyard, for the very good reason that it is a far better article than any ever brought here from abroad.

**June 14, 1861**

LUMBER! LUMBER!

Just landed from Bangor an assorted cargo of Lumber, consisting of Spruce Timber, joists, Fencing Rails, Scantlings, 2 by 4 by 3; Hemlock Boards; No. 3 Pine Plained Boards; Dry Spruce Boards, Plained, Grooved and Tounded and square edged; Laths; Pine and Spruce Pickets; Cedar and Spruce Shingles, shaved and sawed, or all qualities.

The above will be sold as low as can be purchased in the place of the same qualities.

THOS. M. COFFIN

Edgartown, June 14, 1861

9t

**July 5, 1861**

DUKES COUNTY BOOT AND SHOE COMPANY – We regret to learn that the financial affairs of this company are in such a sate as to cause the Stockholders to vote in favor of a suspension of

the business, so soon as the stock now on hand can be made into shoes. The losses the past year have been very large and unexpected, while the sale for shoes has been almost entirely cut off. The Directors have elected Samuel Osborn, Jr. Esq., as President of the Company, in place of Capt. Nathaniel M. Jernegan, resigned; and the business will be closed up, as soon as possible, under the direction of Mr. Osborn and Capt. Shipley w. Crosby, who have been appointed for that purpose...

...All the liabilities of the institution will be paid, though time may be asked for as a forced sale of the large stock on hand might result very disastrously to the Company at the present time.

### **July 26, 1861**

DUKES COUNTY BOOT AND SHOE COMPANY – The Directors of this Company have elected William H. Munroe, Esq., their Financial Agent, with full powers, under their advice and instruction, to settle all the affairs of the concern. Sales of shoes will be made, and the debts of the Company, liquidated, so soon and as far as circumstances will permit.

### **August 2, 1861**

The Dead on a Battle Field – The correspondent of the Missouri *Republican* thus describes the appearance of the dead and wounded on the ground where the battle of Rich Mountain was fought, on July 13<sup>th</sup>, which gave Western Virginia to the Unionists: The dead presented a ghastly spectacle. It was a complete concentration of horror's self. It is said that the features of those who died by other causes, are usually relieved by a faint smile—that suffering is rarely left imprinted on the countenance of a corpse—but that the countenance of those who are shot have impressed upon them the traces of pain. Those which I saw—about fifty—exhibited nothing but the revolting characteristics of exquisite agony. There was not the faintest glimmer of a lingering smile, not a lineament of beauty remaining. The bright sun, glancing through the parting leaves, let no kindly ray to soften the ugly outlines; melancholy had no sad, quiet shadow, to mingle with the hard, forbidding aspect of the dead faces on which I gazed with *perfect* horror. Had there been even traces of angry passion, vindictiveness, revenge, death could have not stared so horribly as it did, out of those ghastly lineaments; we could have felt that there was something human left in those human faces but mere outlines.

The faces of our own dead were as fearfully forbidding as those of their dead enemies. It was impossible to drive from my mind reflections upon the terrible intensity of grief which those who see the forbidden countenance of dead loved ones on the field of battle must experience. I imagine it must exceed all other grief for the dead—because every feature is so distorted and unnatural, so entirely devoid of the tone of expression which friends have loved in the living features. Some were lying prone on the field as they had fallen with limbs sprawling, great thick blotches of coagulated blood, near their bodies, their garments saturated with the ensanguined flow, and their gaping faces and stony eyes, staring full at the broad, brazen sky. One who had been shot down in the woods above the breast works, lay stark upon his face, one arm thrown

with a convulsive struggle around the limb of a fallen tree. Clotted blood which had flowed out of his side, was near him in thick lumps. But the most hideous scene was that of twenty-nine dead rebels packed together in a trench—most of them with fearful orifices perforating their heads, through which the brain oozed in sickening clots; others with mini holes full in their breasts, with some shattered limbs, and others with lacerated and mangled flesh, with here and there a splintered bone exhibiting itself. Oh, horrible! Most horrible! Our own precious dead, but few in number, had been more tenderly gathered, and kind comrades had decently composed their stiffening forms. I lifted the covering which concealed their inanimate features, but saw nothing to remove from my mind that indelible impression of unmitigated ugliness of dead faces of men *shot* in battle...

**August 2, 1861**

Collector's Sale

The proprietors of the following described parcels of Real Estate, in the Town of Edgartown, are hereby notified that the same are assessed in the tax lists committed to the subscriber, the Collector of Taxes for said Town of Edgartown, for the years as specified below, and that the amount of the assessments now due upon the several parcels is as follows, to wit: —...

**August 7, 1861**

[Flour from Milwaukee \$6 bbl.]

**August 9, 1861**

THE ARMY WORM has made sad havoc in some portions of Tisbury and Chilmark, whole fields having been invaded, and the grass and other crops cut almost entirely off.

**August 9, 1861**

Collector's Sale

The proprietors of the following described parcels of Real Estate, in the Town of Edgartown, are hereby notified that the same are assessed in the tax lists committed to the subscriber, the collector of taxes for said Town of Edgartown, for the years as specified below, and that the amount of the assessments now due upon the several parcels is as follows...

**August 9, 1861**

[Sperm Oil \$1.25]

**September 20, 1861**

...Dr. Daniel Fisher is now manufacturing, from new Kentucky winter wheat, 200 barrels of Flour, which he will sell, at present, at \$6 per barrel....

**September 20 1861**

[As Dr. Fisher offers flour at \$6 so does T. L. Luce from Milwaukee.]

**September 20, 1861**

200 bbls. Flour

The subscriber is now having manufactured from New Kentucky Winter Wheat, of good quality, two hundred bbls. of Flour, which he will at present sell at \$6 per bbl.

DANIEL FISHER.

Edgartown, Sept. 19, 1861

**September 20, 1861**

Taxes for 1861

The subscriber is ready to receive Taxes for 1861. Delinquents will receive special attention soon, if they do not come forward and pay.

DANIEL FISHER, Collector.

Edgartown, Sept. 19, 1861.

2w

**September 20, 1861**

Martha's Vineyard Bank.

The Stockholders of this Institution are requested to meet at their Banking Rooms, on MONDAY, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October next, at two o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of choosing Directors, and transacting such other business as shall legally come before them.

J. T. PEASE, Cashier.

Edgartown, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

**September 27, 1861**

[Turks Island Salt advertised – 300 bushels]

**October 11, 1861**

[Daniel Fisher re-elected bank president]

**October 18, 1861**

200 bbls. flour.

Just received, a fair quality of Flour, which will be sold at \$5.87 per barrel. Also, an extra article, at \$8.25 per barrel.

On hand, a large quantity of Corn, to be sold at the lowest retail price.

HENRY MANTER.

Holmes' Hole, Oct. 18, 1861.

**October 18, 1861**

[Sperm \$1.20]

**October 18, 1861**

Petroleum Oil,

THE best illuminating Oil now in use, at 75 cents per gallon. Burns in all kinds of Kerosene Lamps, is not explosive, and give no offensive odor. For sale by

oct18

J. L. BARROWS.

**October 25, 1861**

[Henry Manter Flour \$5.50/barrel; Just below Daniel Fisher has his for \$6]

**October 25, 1861**

...JOHNS & CROWSLEY'S

Improved gutta percha<sup>14</sup>

CEMENT ROOFING

The Cheapest and most durable Roofing in use.

IT IS FIRE AND WATER PROOF.

It can be applied to new and old Roofs of all kinds, steep or flat, and to Shingle Roofs without removing the Shingles.

The Cost is only about One-Third that of Tin, and it is twice as durable...

...LIQUID

GUTTA PERCHA CEMENT...

**October 25, 1861**

Stock for Sale.

One yoke working Oxen; one yoke four year old Steers; one Horse, 2 years old; and two farrow Cows.

ELIJAH P. SMITH.

**October 25, 1861**

Petroleum Oil,

THE best illuminating Oil now in use, at 75 cents per gallon. Burns in all kinds of Kerosene Lamps, is not explosive, and gives no offensive odor. For sale by

oct18

J. L. BARROWS

**December 6, 1861**

---

<sup>14</sup> A latex produced by Malaysian trees, gutta percha was molded into rigid products (furniture, handles, etc.) as a precursor to plastic in the 19<sup>th</sup> C. Its overuse led to a great decline in the native trees.

The Use of Birds – Four petitions have been presented to the French Senate asking the influence of that body in preserving birds which destroy insects hurtful to agriculture, and a committee of the Senate have drawn up a report on these petitions...

...it is proposed, for the preservation of birds, to prohibit bird-nesting and the destruction of the eggs and young of birds, and also to prohibit the destruction of all birds, except by firearms, with such exceptions as are named in the report.

**December 6, 1861**

...RESPECTFULLY represent the undersigned, Selectmen of the towns of Edgartown and Tisbury, in the County of Dukes County, that the dividing line between said towns was determined...

...one of the bounds described in the statute as “bearing south fifty-one rods from Tashmoo Spring,” was found to have been removed from its original position...

...that they then employed Henry L. Whiting, Esq., of the United States Coast Survey service, to run and mark the position of the boundary line as defined in the said statute, a copy of whose report is herewith presented. Mr. Whiting found that the line had been run by compass, with no allowance for variation, and he accordingly marked the line due south from Tashmoo Spring...

**December 6, 1861**

Downer’s Kerosene,

FOR sale at 60 cents per gallon by  
nov15 JOHN PIERCE

**December 6, 1861**

Good Porto Rico Molasses

At 45 cents per gallon, in quantities of 10 gallons or over at  
Holmes’ Hole, Nov. 29, 1861 J. M. TABER’S

**December 6, 1861**

HAMS

A lot of new Hams, just received from Boston by  
RALPH CLEVELAND

**December 20, 1861**

Muskrat Skins

The subscriber will pay the highest cash price for good Skins. They must be taken off whole and stretched,--with the hair side in,--on boards about eighteen inches long and four inches wide.

West Tisbury, Dec. 20, 1861

W. F. DURGIN

**December 20, 1861**

Last Call for Taxes

All persons disposed to pay their Taxes are solicited to call and pay soon.

Oct. 18, 1861

DANIEL FISHER, Collector

**December 20, 1861**

Real Estate at Auction...

...a certain lot of Woodland, situated in the town of Tisbury, at or near a place called Tashmoo...

...containing about eight acres...the same being a part of the real estate of Edward Luce...

...Or so much thereof as will pay the sum of one hundred and six dollars and sixty five cents...

**December 20, 1861**

[Henry L. Whiting re-elected president Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society.]

**1862**

**January 10, 1862**

The New Bedford whaling fleet diminished in the last year 1861, as compared with the previous year. 90 vessels and 31,138 tons. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 1862, the number of vessels will be but 422, with a tonnage of 127,608; decrease in four years, 232 vessels and 75,540 tons...

**January 10, 1862**

Barnard C. Marchant, Guardian of the Chappaquiddic and Christiantown Indians, reports that he has disbursed \$444 54. Of this sum, \$225 was paid to school teachers.

**January 10, 1862**

Purchases of Fire Arms – the total amount expended by the government in the purchase of fire arms since the beginning of the rebellion is twenty-two million dollars.

**January 10, 1862**

[Oil contract for sperm whale to feds went to New Bedford firm. Sylvanus Thomas & Company.]

**January 24, 1862**

[Sperm oil \$1.41]

**February 7, 1862**

A Chance for Whale Oil – A gentlemen of this city has been experimenting in the mixture of whale and petroleum oils. He has ascertained to his entire satisfaction, that an oil, composed of four parts whale oil and one part petroleum oil, is cheaper as a means of illumination, than either separate. The mixture will burn well in both the solar or coal oil lamp, and in the common hand lamp...

**February 14, 1862**

Roanoke Island Taken.

**February 14, 1862**

\$1000---\$1000 REWARD.

As my husband, Benjamin, is lost, strayed or stolen, being of unstable mind, I hereby warn all persons against trusting or harboring him after this date.

Any person finding said Benjamin, who will safely lodge him in the State Lunatic Asylum, at Taunton, will be entitled to the above reward and my everlasting gratitude.

feb14—3t

DENCY LUCE.

**February 14, 1862**

Shoes—Shoes

The subscriber offers to the inhabitants of West Tisbury and Chilmark, a complete assortment of Men's, Women's and Children's Shoes, which will be sold cheap for Cash, at JOHNSON'S BASEMENT, West Tisbury

feb14-1t

LEAVITT T. NORTON.

**February 28, 1862**

...The resolve appropriating the sum of half a million dollars for the defence of the coast of Massachusetts, has passed both branches of the Legislature and received the approval of the Governor...

...The President's son William, aged 10 years, died in Washington, on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of pneumonia...

**February 28, 1862**

NANTUCKET, we are glad to see by the *Inquirer*, is beginning to give evidence of returning prosperity, in the starting of 2 Parafine Candle Factories; the opening of the Straw Works for the season; the payment of a dividend to the owners of the Straw Factory; the purchase of the bark R. L. Barstow for the whaling business; the dividend of 10 per cent, for the stockholders of the Steamboat Company, and a surplus of more than two thousand dollars in the treasury; and a

dividend on the shares of the Old South Wharf, which has paid but one dividend before for 14 years.

**March 7, 1862**

THE RESTORATION OF THE UNION – To all appearance we are certain to overcome the armies of the South and plant our flag over the whole land – our numbers and wise generalship promise to secure this desirable result, and that, too, at no distant day. This accomplished, what next? Why, *the restoration of the Union.*

**March 7, 1862**

Report on the Cattle Disease...

...the disease known as pleuro-pneumonia, (so fatal in its ravages among the neat stock of North Brookfield and vicinity in the years 1859 and 1860) has again made its appearance in the several towns in the county of Norfolk...

**March 7, 1862**

The following table taken from the New Bedford Shipping List of Jan. 7, 1862, throws a great deal of encouragement upon prosecuting the whaling business at the present time...

		...Sp[erm].	Wh[ale].	Bone.
Average for	'61	113 1-2	44 1-4	66c.
" "	'60	141 1-2	49 1-4	80 1-5
" "	'59	136 1-4	48 1-2	
" "	'58	121	54	92 1-4
" "	'57	128 1-3	73 1-4	96 3-4
" "	'56	162	79 1-2	58
" "	'55	177 2-10	71 3-10	45 1-4
" "	'54	148 3-4	58 5-8	39 1-5
" "	'53	124 3-4	58 1-8	34 1-2
" "	'52	123 3-4	68 1-6	50 3-4
" "	'51	127 1-4	45 5-16	34 1-2
" "	'50	120 7-10	49 1-10	34 4-10
" "	'49	108 9-10	39 9-10	31 8-10
" "	'48	100 1-2	36	36 7-8
" "	'47	87 7-8	33 3-4	34
" "	'46	88	32 7-8	32 5-8
" "	'45	90 1-2	36 1-2	40
" "	'44	63	34 1-2	35 3-4
" "	'43	73	33 3-4	23

“	“	'42	94	31 3-4	19
“	“	'41	100	30 1-2	19

By it the very important conclusion is shown, that there never has been a better opportunity for whaling than the present, with the exception of a very few years...

...If whale oil and bone command such present prices, under the existing disadvantageous circumstances of war, &c. &c., what will hinder its greatly increased value when there shall be peace and all the machinery of civilization in full operation.

Provisions are now very low, masters and officers are abundant, and good selections can now be made for successful voyages. And the smaller the number of whaleships there may be fitted from other places, only increases the chances for a large catch for those who may fit.

**March 7, 1862**

[Petroleum oil selling at .44/gal R. W. Coffin.  
Total focus on war in paper. Very little additional news.  
Crocker selling Oak-tanned leather in store.]

**March 28, 1862**

700 bushels SALT,  
Just received and for sale by  
RALPH CLEAVLAND

**March 28, 1862**

HAY SEED.....HAY SEED...  
GARDEN SEEDS...  
FLOWER SEEDS...

**PINE SEEDS**

For Sale by  
WM. P. CHADWICK<sup>15</sup>

**March 28, 1862**

Grass Seed! Grass Seed!!  
75 bushels Red Top  
20 “ Herb Grass  
20 “ Burdens Grass  
750 lbs. Western Clover

---

<sup>15</sup>Four separate advertisements all for sale by WM. P. Chadwick. Some have additional descriptions.

750 “ Northern “  
750 bushels Seed Barley  
750 “ Seed Oats.

These Seeds have been selected with care, and are warranted fresh and free from foul stuff, and will be sold as low as can be bought in New Bedford. W. F. DURGIN  
West Tisbury, March 28, 1862

#### **April 4, 1862**

Valuable Farm for Sale

PLEASANTLY situated in the south-westerly part of Chilmark, containing about 75 acres; well fenced with stone wall or bounded by water; produces about 25 tons of first-rate hay yearly; has an abundance of peat and much on it easy of access and near the Barn Cellar. Buildings good and commodious. Farm in good condition and free from all encumbrances, and in a good neighborhood. For further particulars apply to SIMON M. VINCENT.  
Chilmark, April 4, 1862 tf

#### **April 4, 1862**

FARM STOCK FOR SALE

Three two-year old Heifers in milk soon; one pair Steers three years old, well trained; one pair two year old Steers, large. SIMON M. VINCENT  
Chilmark, April 4, 1862 3t

#### **April 11, 1862**

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society  
Fourth Annual  
CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR  
West Tisbury  
Tuesday and Wednesday,  
October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1862...

...MISCELLANEOUS...

...Miscellaneous Manures, Composted and collected...

...Reclaiming old pasture and plain land....

...Planting pine and other trees in plain brush and pasture land...

...FAT CATTLE.

No animals will be received in this class but those expressly intended for beef...

...FOREST TREES.

For the best plantation of forest trees, of any variety, not less than half an acre, nor less than three years old, with statement of the character and condition of the land, and the time and mode of planting: –

		1 <sup>st</sup> premium,	10 00
do	do	2 <sup>d</sup> “	8 00

For the cultivation of ornamental trees, of any variety, either sown or transplanted, as road side or street trees, or for house shelter and shade, the statement of the variety set out, their treatment in sowing or transplanting, and the subsequent culture, and their adaptedness to the soil and climate of the Island:

	1 <sup>st</sup> premium	6 00
	2 <sup>d</sup> “	4 00

For the experiments in the planting of pine trees in the shrub plains and the pasture lands of the Island, not less than 1-8 acre, with statement of mode of planting, the kind of pine sown, and amount of seed used. Any further statements throwing light upon the propagation of pine trees on the extensive plains of the Vineyard will be very desirable. To be awarded at the Fair of 1864.

	1 <sup>st</sup> premium	6 00
	2 <sup>d</sup> “	4 00
	3 <sup>d</sup> “	2 00

Notice of intention to compete for the above premiums for forest trees, &c., must be given on or before the first day of July, 1862...

...ORCHARDS.

For an orchard of apple or pear trees, not less than ten in number, of trees newly set out, or old trees revived, being in present bearing condition...

...Manures.

For the best and most economical collection of manure, without kelp or other sea weeds...  
 ...for the best and most economical collection of manure, with kelp or other sea weeds...

**April 18, 1862**

[Gazette will go up to \$1.50 annually.]

**May 16, 1862**

[Sperm \$1.30]

**May 20, 1862**

...An Act to establish the Boundary Line between the towns of Edgartown and Tisbury...

**May 30, 1862**

Martha's Vineyard Camp Ground.

The shooting of any birds, or the robbing of their nests, on any part of the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting premises, or any woodlands belonging to Capt. Peter West, is hereby positively forbidden.

An immediate prosecution will be the result of any violation of the above

S. P. COFFIN, Agent &c.,

PETER WEST, Proprietor.

Edgartown, May 23, 1862

2t

**June 13, 1862**

By Edgar Marchant

Summer Resort – Now that the war is mainly over and treason has hung its ugly head in shame, the nation is feeling the beneficial effects of victory in the increased business every where discernable. Mechanics in many parts of our State are doing a good business, especially in Lynn, where the shoe business is prosecuted with all its old vigor and the opening of Southern Ports invites shipments, moderate at first, but soon to be increased.

Under these circumstances, nothing remains but to find a cool place somewhere during the present summer. Our friends who have visited the Vineyard in former years need no word of ours to inform them that a more charming watering place does not exist than our locality...

...People dare to be happy now. The old United States is almost herself again, and we hope our Southern friends, instead of being cooped up in Richmond and Charleston and other places in lands once Rebellom, will take their defeat very quietly and solace themselves *this summer* with a residence at the Queen of all islands, the Vineyard. We assure them that we will make no mention of the past, and only consider it a nightmare, which has passed away with the first bright beams of the morning.

We have Edgartown, where we keep an editorial office, a most enchanting spot; Holmes' Hole, whose amphitheatre of nestling houses fronts upon the sea; West Tisbury, an inland village of great beauty and attractions; Chilmark and Gay Head, famous spots for the geologist and lovers of romance...

**June 13, 1862**

The Selectman of this town have granted a license to Mr. Peter West, to plant, grow, and dig oysters, in a certain part of Squash Meadow Pond, for 20 years...

...The old oyster pond was a famous place of resort, and hundreds upon hundreds of bushesl of the fines of bivalves were taken from its waters. We learn that it is again becoming stocked, and

we shall hail with delight the day which once more brings our village; as of old, cart load after cart load of these fine shell-fish.

**June 13, 1862**

We are sorry to learn that the onion crop of this town has been attacked by a maggot...

**June 20, 1862**

Wool – We take the following from the Boston Commercial Bulletin...

...The wool market has taken quite a singular, and, to most parties, an unexpected turn. The most entire falling off in the demand for army blues, and the quiet state of the market for staple goods, have rather check operations among manufacturers, and, consequently, the market for the raw material has come to a stand still, and the expectations of holders of domestic wools will hardly be realized...

...operators in wool will not expect the heavy demand for coarse and medium grades for army goods which ruled last year, for the simple reason that the army in the field is clothed, and the stock of cloths now held by the Government and private parties is nearly sufficient for a year's supply of the present Union forces.

**June 20, 1862**

THE DANISH PROPOSITION – The proposition of the Danish Government through Count Rasloff, to remove our black freedmen to the Danish West India colonies, free of charge is a favorable one. The Danish government proposes to grant them not only free passage, but also homes and employment.

The West India colonies belonging to Denmark, consist of St. Tomas, and St. John, in the Virgin group, and St. Croix, to which latter place the blacks are proposed to be removed. It is a small island, twenty-four miles long by nine miles wide, and contains 4,000 white inhabitants. The island is highly cultivated, but suffers greatly for want of laborers...

...The sugar productions of the island are better known and appreciated abroad under the name of "Old Santa Cruz," for which the demand seems to be increasing, or the governemtn would not seek to introduce new laborers...

...The other British West India Islands need laborers just much as Jamaica, and are paying enormous sums for the importation of unskilled Coolies and Chinese, who are far less effective than our American negros – (New York Sun.)

**June 20, 1862**

Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association

At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, holden in New Bedford, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1862...

...Whereas, within the last two years the Camp Meeting held on Martha's Vineyard has been annoyed by the disorderly conduct of persons in violation of this Commonwealth, made for the protection of Camp Meetings, therefore...

...*Resolved*. That if at any time, either on the said Camp Meeting premises, or within one mile, in any direction, so surveyed or measured, there shall be any person or persons whatever any violation...

...the General Statutes of this Commonwealth, the Agent of the said Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association is hereby instructed to cause the person or persons so offending to be arrested...

...S. P. COFFIN, Agent, &c.

Edgartown, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1862—2t

### **June 27, 1862**

...In Edgartown...is often the disorderly conduct and confusion, especially of late, in some of our streets, attended often with yelling and screaming, during a considerable part of the night...

...it appears this general disturbance and disgraceful conduct has been reinforced of late from Holmes' Hole, by carriages with boys and young lads... who... annoy the quietness of our streets at late hours of the night, with our smaller and young class of girls...

### **July 11, 1862**

[Much of wool crop sold at \$.49/lb]

### **July 25, 1862**

[Edgartown taxes for 1862

Daniel Fisher \$309	Daniel Fisher & Company \$512
Joseph Holley \$111	William Munroe \$141
Grafton Norton \$360	Abraham Osborn \$485
Est. Samuel Osborn \$107	Benjamin Worth \$170]

### **August 3, 1862**

Several petty thefts have been committed in this village recently. Cellars have been entered during the night, pork barrels relieved of their contents, butter pots emptied, etc. Some woodpiles have also suffered severely.

**August 8, 1862**

Landing Places – There are two places for landing at Camp Ground, one at Eastville, opposite Holme’s Hole, and the other at the “Chop,” on the east side of the grove. The former is the one selected as the most suitable, as it boats a pier, and is less rough. Nothing is more amusing than the scene which is presented on the arrival of a steamer at this place, which contains a small cluster of houses. The shore is alive with ox carts, and innumerable vehicles of every description, attached to which are jaded skeletons of horses, who seem actually bewildered at the amazing transmigration of the bodies...

**August 8, 1862**

DIED.

In West Tisbury, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst., at the residence of H. L. Whiting, Mr. Sylvanus Rand, of Rye, New Hampshire, aged between 19 and 20 years.

**August 22, 1862**

[Sperm \$1.40

Dr. Fisher Flour ran advertisement ~3months]

**August 1862**

[New font and look of Newspaper]

**September 5, 1862**

TISBURY has voted \$500 to each volunteer for three years, and \$250 for those who enlist for nine months...

**September 26, 1862**

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY – The question has been asked us frequently of late, “Are we to have our usual Cattle Show and Fair this Fall?” Our answer to all such questions has been an emphatic “Yes.”...

**September 26, 1862**

Our Quotas – Both quotas for Edgartown may now be considered full. Twenty men have enlisted under the three years’ call, and twenty-seven for nine months...

**September 26, 1862**

*Exempts and non-exempts in Dukes County*

	Edg’tn	Tisbury	Chilmark	County
Whole No. Enrolled	349	305	117	771...

**October 29, 1862**

There is nothing in agriculture which is more difficult of explanation than the decline of sheep husbandry in New England...

...Look at sheep as producers of food; look at them as the producers of clothing; look at them as the improvers of the soil; and yet they are a neglected animal...

**November 7, 1862**

[165 ¢ sperm]

**November 14, 1862**

[180¢ sperm]

**November 14, 1862**

Severe Gale – Rarely has our coast been visited with a more sever gale than the one which prevailed on Friday last. In this town, the wind blew down several trees, which had stood the peltings of hundreds of storms...

...The gale was considered, by many, as the heaviest ever known here. The schooner S. B. Small, Donovan, of Portsmouth, with a cargo of lumber, dragged at her anchors, and went ashore on Chappaquiddick Point...

...At Holmes' Hole, twelve vessels were driven ashore, out of a fleet of about sixty.

**November 14, 1862**

West Tisbury, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Mr. Editor – In accordance to the late call for renewed exertions in supplying the wants of the sick and wounded in our army, the citizens of Chilmark and West Tisbury, (especially the ladies,) have shown themselves both loyal and patriotic, by the enthusiasm they have exhibited...

**November 14, 1862**

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society  
Fifth Annual Fair

PREMIUMS...Grain

...Dr. Daniel Fisher, sample of wheat in the sheaf,  
...Henry L. Whiting and John Davis, samples of wheat each...  
...William Chase and Bartlett Mayhew, samples of wheat, each...

...James Mayhew and Henry L. Whiting, samples of rye...

**November 21, 1862**

The Selectmen of Tisbury and Edgartown met at the Head of the Pond on Saturday last, for the purpose of perambulating the town lines, &c. Stone bounds, according to law, will be erected.

**November 21, 1862**

The Indian Massacres in Minnesota have produced great distress among the settlers all along the frontier counties. The governor states that at least thirty thousand people are wandering homeless, naked, and starving.

**November 28, 1862** – 170 ¢ sperm

**December 12, 1862**

Prospects of the Shoe Trade – Never, in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, has such an entire revolution been witnessed in the shoe and leather trade as within the past six months...

...Any kind of shoe machinery which will save labor and facilitate the manufacture of shoes, is sought for with avidity...

**December 12, 1862**

The Great Pond was let out into the ocean, on Tuesday night, the 2d instant, by incendiaries, to the great damage of the proprietors of Mattakesett Creeks, and also to the owners of the low lands and meadows adjoining said Pond; and the town has been thus deprived of much taxable property. It is hoped that the perpetrators of the outrage will be brought to justice.

**December 12, 1862**

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

In the approaches to Newport harbor, Rhode Island, two rocks have been discovered by Henry Mitchell, Assistant U. S. Coast Survey...

...A. D. Bache,  
Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey  
Coast Survey Office, Nov. 4, 1862.

**December 12, 1862**

Administrator's Sale of Real Estate

Will be sold at Public Auction, by authority from the Probate Court for Dukes County, on the premises, on Wednesday the Seventh day of January next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. beginning with

the first named lot, the following lots or tracts of land, parts of the Estate of the late Daniel S. Vincent of Edgartown, deceased, viz:

Two Thirds of the lot of the Pasture and Tillage land known by the name of "Little Neck," containing about thirteen acres; one sixth of an undivided wood lot at Willis' Plain, it being lot No. 35, in the Third Division of the new purchase; one half of an undivided wood lot, it being lot No. 4, in the Second Division;

Part of an undivided lot near Stephen Kidders, it being lot No. 35, in the First Division of the New Purchase, the whole lot being about thirty acres;

Two Bush lots at "Swan Neck," containing about eight acres each;

Also a lot of Pasture and heavy Wood Land at Swan Neck.

This Property is all valuable, affords a good opportunity to purchasers, and is to be sold for the payment of the debts of the Estate and expenses of Administration.

Full Deeds will be given of all these tracts, as the Widow will sign them, thereby relinquishing her right of Dower in the said premises.

JOHN MAYHEW, Administrator

Edgartown, Dec. 11, 1862.

### **December 19, 1862**

Dukes County, SS...

...inhabitants of the Town of Edgartown, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall, in said Edgartown...

...2d. To see what measures the Town will adopt to ascertain by whom the beach, which separates the Great Pond from the Ocean, was recently opened, and to determine what measures said town will take to bring the perpetrators of that outrage to justice...

## **1863**

### **January 2, 1863**

THIRTY-EIGHT INDIAN MURDERERS HUNG.

St. Paul, Minn, Dec. 27 – Thirty-eight condemned Indians were hung at Monkoata, at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The gallowses were so constructed that all fell at once. Several thousand spectators were present. All passed off quietly.

These Indians were the principal ringleaders in the recent awful massacre of men, woman and children, in Minnesota, and their punishment has been fully merited.

### **January 9, 1863**

The Whale Fishery for 1862. The New Bedford Standard has published its annual review of the Whale Fishery for the past year, from which we learn that the diminution of the whaling

fleet has continued through the year. The decrease has been 65 vessels, with a total tonnage of 23,297, against a decrease for 1861 of ninety-four vessels, and a tonnage of 32,441. The decrease for the past five years amounts to 100,140 tons, or 49 per cent. The total number of vessels now engaged in the whaling business is 353, with a tonnage 103,162. During the year 11 of the fleet have been captured and destroyed by the rebel privateers Alabama and Sumter, 8 have been condemned in foreign ports, and 5 have been lost.

### **January 9, 1863**

The list of marine losses for December show an aggregate of forty-three vessels. Of this number two were steamers, eleven were ships, four were barks, thirteen were brigs, fifteen were schooners, and one a sloop. The total value of the property lost and missing is estimated at \$4,461,000.

### **January 23, 1863**

Our Agricultural Society – We are sorry that any difference of opinion should have grown up between those whom we know have the best interests of this valuable institution at heart. But so it is. We have already published some complains from a member of one of the Awarding Committees, and to-day we have the unpleasant duty of giving to our readers another article from one of the officers, who thinks the “institution will dwindle down to insignificance,” if a change is not made in the government. We do not know what the merits of the case are, but should hope that a spirit of charitableness might prevail, and if errors have been committed, that they might be avoided in the future. The institution is too valuable to our Island to be coldly and harshly dealt with, and we trust a more catholic spirit may obtain, and that the Society may continue to gather strength and proportions, and that its influence may be altogether for good, as we trust it has been in the past.

### **January 23, 1863**

[For the Vineyard Gazette]

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

I have something to say about the management of the Agricultural Fair. That its tendency is downward, need not be told to any who visited there last October, for that was conspicuous enough to strike the most careless observer; and so long as the present system of management is continued, it will continue to dwindle down to insignificance. Such has ever been, and always will be the case with any public institution, when the managers allow their judgment to be warped by prejudice. Of what avail is it for the examining committees to use their judgment in making awards and submitting them to the trustees, so long as they presume themselves to be better judges without examining the articles at all, and know to whom awards should be given, and from whom they should be taken...

... ONE OF THE WARDING COMMITTEE.

Chilmark, Jan. 21, 1863.

**February 9, 1863**

**GUARDIAN’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE.**

Will be sold at Public Auction, by authority from the Probate Court on the premises on Saturday, the twenty-eighth day of February, instant, at one o’clock in the afternoon, one undivided half part of a Farm, situated in Chilmark, in said County, the property of William B. Crowell, late of Tisbury, deceased, including all the interest in and to the said one half part now belonging to Grace Williams Crowell, only minor child of said deceased, and the Widow’s right of Dower therein. The other one undivided half part of said Farm belongs to Hebron M. Crowell, of Tisbury, who, it is understood will at the same time and in the same manner, sell his said half part; so that full deeds of the whole Farm will be given to the purchaser. The said Farm consists of about seventy-five acres of valuable meadow, tillage, pasture, and wood land, well watered, walled, and fenced, with a dwelling house, barn, and other buildings thereon. It is well shaped for cross fencing at small expense, being an oblong, and is a productive and most desirable place...

**February 20, 1863**

[175 ¢ sperm]

**March 13, 1863**

[190 ¢ sperm]

**March 20, 1863**

ICE – On Saturday last our dealers in ice, secured as much as they wanted. It was very hard and clear, and seven inches thick. This is the first time in many years when the ice crop has been grown and harvested in March.

**March 20, 1863**

A new Wharf and several fine houses are to be built this season at Holmes Hole. We are glad to know it. The people of that village are very industrious and enterprising as well as courteous. The merchants there advertise liberally in the Gazette, and we are glad to know find their profits in it. We also have a noble list of subscribers there.

**April 17, 1863**

...FOREST TREES.<sup>16</sup>

For the best plantation of forest trees, of any variety, not less than half an acre, nor less than three years old, with statement of the character and condition of the land, and the time and mode of planting: –

		1 <sup>st</sup> premium,	10 00
do	do	2 <sup>d</sup> “	8 00

<sup>16</sup> This entry for the Agricultural Fair is identical to that from April 11, 1862

For the cultivation of ornamental trees, of any variety, either sown or transplanted, as road side or street trees, or for house shelter and shade, the statement of the variety set out, their treatment in sowing or transplanting, and the subsequent culture, and their adaptedness to the soil and climate of the Island:

1 <sup>st</sup> premium	6 00
2 <sup>d</sup> “	4 00

For the experiments in the planting of pine trees in the shrub plains and the pasture lands of the Island, not less than 1-8 acre, with statement of mode of planting, the kind of pine sown, and amount of seed used. Any further statements throwing light upon the propagation of pine trees on the extensive plains of the Vineyard will be very desirable. To be awarded at the Fair of 1865.

1 <sup>st</sup> premium	6 00
2 <sup>d</sup> “	4 00
3 <sup>d</sup> “	2 00

Notice of intention to compete for the above premiums for forest trees, &c., must be given on or before the first day of July, 1863...

#### **April 17, 1863**

Manures.

For the best and most economical collection of manure, without kelp or other sea weeds....

...The State Board of Agriculture has again voted to require a new and fourth series of experiments in the application of manures...

#### **April 24, 1863**

AN ACT

To protect the South Beach in the Town of Edgartown.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: –*

SECT. 1. If any person shall unlawfully, wilfully, and maliciously, break down, open, or cut through, or attempt so to do, the beach known by the name of South Beach, adjoining the Great Pond in the town of Edgartown, for the purpose of letting off the water of said Great Pond into the ocean, every such offender shall, on conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, and no more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the house of correction not less than one month, nor more than one year, or both.

SECT. 2. Every breach, made or attempted to be made in said beach, unless done under authority of the commissioners provided for in the act for the incorporation of the proprietors of Mattakesset Creeks, passed the twenty-fourth day of June in the year seventeen hundred and sixty-three, shall be deemed to be maliciously and unlawfully made.

SECT. 3. All fines that shall be recovered under this act shall inuse, one half to the complainant and one half to the Commonwealth.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect upon this passage.

Approved April 13, 1863

**April 24, 1863**

The seventeenth volume of the Gazette closed with its last issue, and to-day it enters upon a new year with a new editor and proprietor...

...Mr. James M. Cooms, Jr., a graduate of the office, assumes the entire control of the establishment...

...In retiring from a position which I have held so long, I desire to return my warmest thanks to many kind friends, at home and abroad, who have rendered me valuable aid, both editorially and as correspondents. I shall never forget them, nor a thousand other friends, whose hearts have so often beat responsive to my own, and whose words of comfort and good cheer have ever sustained me in the joys and sorrows incident to this earthly pilgrimage. And now, I have only to say, FAREWELL.

EDGAR MARCHANT.

**April 24, 1863**

NOTICE

At a recent meeting of the Proprietors of Mattakessett Creeks, and the owners of the low grounds and meadows adjoining said creeks and ponds adjacent. It was voted unanimously that a reward of five hundred dollars be offered for information that shall lead to the conviction of the persons who recently opened the South Beach and let out the water of the Great Pond. The said information must be satisfactory to the prosecuting committee.

Attest.

JOSEPH MAYHEW

Proprietors' Clerk

**April 24, 1863**

Petroleum Oil:

The first quality, for sale by the single gallon, at 56 cts.,

By

THOS. BRADLEY & SONS.

ap3

**May 15, 1863**

[165 ¢ sperm]

**May 29, 1863**

[Bluefish have come. Ten caught.]

**June 5, 1863**

*Resolves relating to the establishment of Boundary Lines of Indian Lands at Gay Head.*

RESOLVED, That the treasurer of the district of Marshpee (Charles Marston) be, and he is hereby appointed and commissioned to examine, and fully and finally to determine, all boundary lines between the individual owners of land located in the Indian district of Gay Head, in the county of Dukes County, and also to determine the boundary line between the common lands of said district and the individual owners adjoining said common lands; and he, the said commissioner, is hereby authorized to adjust, and fully and finally to settle, equitably, and as the interest of the petitioners and all other parties may require, all the matters, claims and controversies, now existing and growing out of or in connection with the boundaries of the aforesaid lands; and he may use such means as may be necessary to collect all desired information in relation to the matter, and cause a record to be made of the same, and good and sufficient bounds to be established between the said owners and recorded in a book for that purpose...

**June 12, 1863**

[152 ¢ sperm]

**June 12, 1863**

Island at Auction,

Executor's Sale of Real Estate

Will be sold at public Auction, on the premises, on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> month (June) next, at one o'clock, P. M., (if stormy the sale will be postponed to the 29<sup>th</sup>) Four Hundred and Thirty Acres of Land, situated on the island of Pekaese, one of the Elizabeth Islands, comprising the easterly half of said island, adjoining "Robinson's Hole" which separates it by almost half a mile from the island of Naushon owned by John M. Forbes, of Boston. The soil of the island is light; the surface hilly, and it is best adapted to sheep husbandry, which carried on with care and attention combined with the present high price of wool would make a profitable business. The tillage is easy and the shores furnish an abundant supply of sea muck.

There are on the premises a dwelling house and barn, and near the house a safe and convenient harbor for boats. There is a fine and extensive water prospect consisting of Buzzard's Bay on the North, and the Vineyard Sound and Gay Head on the South. The situation for fishing is excellent and it would be a pleasant and healthful summer resort.

Distance from New Bedford about ten miles. Also about 100 sheep now on the premises will be sold immediately after the above. Terms of payment made easy—for particulars enquire of Jesse Tucker, Dartmouth, or the subscriber at New Bedford

CHARLES TUCKER, Executor.

New Bedford, May 22, 1863

**July 3, 1863**

[Martha's Vineyard Bank Shareholders – Daniel Fisher – 100 shares; Grafton Norton Estate – 60 shares; Charles Williams of Stonington – 100 shares; Warren Fisher, Boston – 50 shares. Most people 5-20 shares.]

### **July 3, 1863**

Travellers tarrying here for a few days do not learn of all that is attractive within this “little world” of our own...

...There are few pleasanter trips than that which I have lately taken in the interior of the island. I passed by green meadows with grazing and ruminating cattle, well fenced, well cultivated fields with growing crops, neat, clean, scattered cottages, humble antique churches, ponds of size, margined by green foliage. There is much beauty, as every one will acknowledge, in such a scene. Beauty in it, because it presents a picture of human happiness; beauty in it, because it presents a visible and unequivocal sign of comfort, and cheerful and peaceful enjoyment and of that secure and successful industry that insure its continuance.

But there is one Eden of Martha's Vineyard to which I wish particularly to allude, namely, that owned by Capt. George Luce. As one passes along his ride by the west side of the Agricultural Hall in the distance his eyes rests upon a charming cottage which looks out from the foliage of the trees which surround it. To the stranger it would seem like a fairy spot; and as one approaches it loses none of its attractions, the quiet lake, the flowing stream which turns the wheel of industry, the birds singing in the branches, the rustling of the leaves, the music of the breeze, the lowing of the cattle, and the noise of domestic poultry, all seems to add charms which were not unfolded in the distance although it lent enchantment to the view...

...I was attracted to this spot by the fame of the strawberries and cream which he serves...

### **July 3, 1863**

Chappaquiddic Point

All persons are hereafter forbidden to remove seaweed from Chappaquiddic point. Also persons having boat-houses upon said point are requested to come forward immediately and settle their rents.

VALENTINE PEASE

### **July 10, 1863**

[List of Tisbury Taxpayers  
First Swordfish of the season – 75lbs ]

### **July 17, 1863**

[Edgartown Taxpayers	Total - \$12,714 receipts
Dr. Fisher \$400	Daniel Fisher & Company \$188
William Munroe \$336	Abraham Osborn \$769]

**July 24, 1863**

By James M. Cooms, Jr.

Hie! to the Vineyard.

In these hot mid-summer days, from all the large cities and towns the annual exodus is taking place. The notables and fashionables are shutting up their green lids, for their summer siesta. The occupants are dispersed as effectually as mobs are, or ought to be, by the reading of the riot act. Some will flee to the mountain tops; some will hide away in secluded farm houses, where there is neither mountains nor sea, but only country; the sea will fold many in its cool embrace. To the latter class we would say that there are few places wherein is combined so many sea-side attractions as the Vineyard. Nowhere are the facilities for fishing and gunning better; nowhere is the sea more seductive; nowhere does it wave a whiter arm or sing with a sweeter voice. At this time quite a number of strangers are sojourning among us and they and our own people lose not the pleasure of riding, bathing, yachting, fishing and other amusements of the hour. Our quiet corner has been enlivened by delegations from Philadelphia, New York, Boston and other "intermediate places."

**July 24, 1863**

Vineyard Farming.

"With small to sell and less to buy.

Aboon distress, below envy.

Oh wha wad leave this humble state

For a' the pride of a' the great?"

From what statistical information I can gather, and from careful estimation. I find the aggregate value of articles produced in this country (excepting manufactured oil and sperm candles.) to be \$300,000. Of this amount \$200,000 are the productions of agricultural industry alone. The present war, in depressing all other interests, has given an impetus to that of agriculture; while the well directed efforts of the Agricultural Society, and an increased interested among the farmers, are rapidly developing our resources and increasing our productions.

The property of the island depends so much upon its agriculture, and that branch of industry has so great preponderance over all others, it may ell claim more public attention than has heretofore been accorded it; and to this end I have thought fit – the Editor permitting – to introduce the subject into the columns of the Gazette. In this article I propose to take brief notice of Wool and Sheep.

In 1845 there were twelve thousand sheep in this country. In 1855 there were but nine thousand, and I judge that to be about the present number. These sheep from a long course of

neglect—from poor feeding and worse breeding, have been greatly reduced in size and wool bearing qualities.

Some forty years ago the native were crossed with the merino sheep, a course that had been attended with the best results throughout New England, but which proved disastrous here as the grade sheep were less able to endure, unsheltered, the severities of our winter. Recently, the Cotswold has been introduced, a hardy animal, thriving with less care than other breeds. Native flocks crossed with it, already average one pound more of wool to the sheep. The Cotswolds, so called from the ancient practice of coting sheep upon the wolds of Gloucester, England, are of large size with a broad, straight back, fine neck and shoulders, great length of quarter, and *large foretop on the forehead*.

Flint in his visit to the Royal Agricultural Society in London, last Autumn, speaks of the Cotswolds, as being the most magnificent lot of sheep ever shown.

According to the last census the value of sheep and wool in this county was \$28,966. This year I estimate them at \$38,250. If the care of sheep with us, had been such as it is throughout New England, the value of the wool crop alone, for the present year, would be \$15,750 more than it now is.

To make wool raising profitable, the sheep require more attention in the winter...

### **July 31, 1863**

Many yachts, with pleasure parties, have come into our harbor this season. Among those we have noticed the present week are the Hazwell, a Providence boat, the prettiest that floats upon our waters, the Henrietta, a New York boat, belonging to Bennett, of the *Herald*, the Myster, Pilot, Una and the Edith. Indeed, all of them are pretty boats, and the parties appear to be having fine times fishing about our coast.

### **July 31, 1863**

The Camp-meeting in Yarmouth commences Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> of August.

### **July 31, 1863**

#### **FOUND**

On Long Beach, near Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard thirteen casks of Lard, doubtless part of the Cargo of some burned vessel. For further information apply to

I. N. LUCE, Com'r of Wrecks.

Chilmark, July 24, 1863

### **July 31, 1863**

#### **AUCTION**

Will be sold at Public Auction on Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of August next, at ten o'clock A. M., all the real estate of which Matthew Vincent, late of Edgartown, died, siezed, viz: Two wood-lots,

near Little Pond; one do<sup>17</sup>, at Willis Plain; one near where Simmons Vincent's family lived; one do, at Meachams Field; one do, near Mill Hill; a piece of Salt Meadow at Meander; Nathan's Island; also the old House place, including swamp, meadow and pasture lands; twenty acres of pasture land near Charles Vincents. Also all the Homestead with the buildings thereon, at which latter place the sale will be made, if the weather should prove unfair, the sale will be postponed until the following Monday at ten o'clock A. M.

S. L. PEASE, Auctioneer.

July 31, 1863

**August 7, 1863**

Vineyard Farming...

...It is a mistaken idea that our young men must plow the ocean, seek homes in the city, or go to distant states, to win the golden smiles of fortune. Intelligent labor, developing the resources of the Island, would make every foot of its surface a garden...

**August 7, 1863**

PROTECTION OF THE FISHERMEN – The Government authorities held a conference with Vice President Hamblin, senators Fessenden and Morrill, of Maine, together with senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, the results of which was the ordering of five vessels to protect the entire coast from Nantucket to Calais, one of them to cruise especially for the safety of fishing vessels.

**August 14, 1863**

THE HEATED TERM – The last week has been most remarkable for its heat. The visitors to the island are getting more numerous each day. Cooling acid drinks, such as lemonades, are very efficient in helping to preserve the *sano corpore*, but alcoholic beverages should be abstained from or used sparingly now if ever...

**August 14, 1863**

It is intimated that President Lincoln intends rustivating for a short time among the hills of New Hampshire, if his official duties will permit.

**August 14, 1863**

CITIZENS OF THE VINEYARD

When you visit New Bedford, buy your CLOTHING

AT THE People's Cash Clothing Store,

No. 119 Union, – Head of Third Street.

**August 14, 1863**

BURBON WHISKEY,

---

<sup>17</sup> do = ditto

Bottled by  
UDOLPHO WOLFE.

Warranted pure, and the best quality, with the proprietor's name on the cork, and a fac-simile of his signature on the label.

For sale by JOHN PIERCE, M. D.,  
EDGARTOWN, Mass.

### **August 21, 1863**

By James M. Cooms, Jr...

...One year ago, in answer to the call of their country, a noble band of young men responded, offering themselves to go forth to face the rebel hosts, and fight the battles of freedom. Of that patriotic band was the friend and companion of our childhood – BENJAMIN SMITH, of Edgartown – upon whose living form we shall alas, never look again! He has fallen; not on the ensanguined field of battle, but within the sheltering walls of a crowded hospital, a victim of wasting disease...

...Our readers will call to mind the crowded gatherings of the Town Hall, one year since when manly young men, in the presence of fathers and mothers, brothers, sisters, and friends, were nobly responding to the urgent call for volunteers. Many of them well remember the twenty-ninth of August last, when the schooner L. Snow left our wharf, crowded with anxious friends, bearing a precious freight, – young soldiers, going forth to war; leaving home, friends, everything, for their country...

### **August 21, 1863**

Elisha M. Smith, corporal Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment Mass. Volunteers, died from wounds received of the third day of battles of Gettysburg...

...Coporal S. was one of the first volunteers from the Vineyard...

### **September 4, 1863**

CAPE COD CANAL – It will be recollected that the Legislature of 1860 and '61, appointed Committees to investigate the subject of a Canal across Cape Cod at Sandwich, to unite the waters of Barnstable Bay with those of Buzzard's Bay...

...The following is the concluding paragraph of the report:

“And while the choice of the mode of construction is submitted to the judgment of those who may finally be called upon to act upon the question, the committee are of opinion, that, in view of the dangers incident to the coast of Cape Cod, and of the great loss of life and property annually occurring to the commerce of that coast, a ship channel or canal should be constructed to unite the waters of Barnstable Bay with those of Buzzard's Bay...

### **September 4, 1863**

[147 ¢ sperm]

### **September 4, 1863**

*Petroleum* Oil is going up fast – wonder if it will fall as sudden as it did when it went up before.

### **September 11, 1863**

EXCITING – The hunters are becoming excited over the game which has, a few days since, arrived and numbers of the golden and green-head plovers have been shot during the past week. There are some sportsmen visiting here who are enjoying this brief season highly. Mr. William Pent has been the most fortunate, having brought in 79 birds at one trip. Two other gentlemen, together, brought in 94; an other two gentlemen brought in one. This must have been rather up *hill* or perhaps it was because they were poor *fishers*.

### **September 18, 1863**

The Homestead of the late Matthew Vincent, sold at auction last Wednesday, was purchased by Alexander Jernegan, for \$525. Said Homestead contains 12 acres of land and has an orchard which bore 70 bushels of apples last year, and meadow land which cuts two tons of hay, which alone will pay the interest of the purchase money. Who failed to be there?

### **October 2, 1863**

Some cynical croakers say “the Agricultural Society is a humbug!” we don’t think so, when we hear our farmers, especially those who take an interest in the Society; talking of their modes of management, choice of seed, and other kindred topics. Thought is excited; and when thought is roused, improvement follows. If the Society had done nothing more than to attract visitors to the island, and to furnish to them and to our own people a pleasant holiday, it has not existed in vain. It does more; its establishment has led to the improvement of stock, to the introduction of better modes of culture, and has ennobled, worthy to associate on equal terms, with any other class of citizens. The farmer now fears not to be called a book farmer. He takes his weekly agricultural paper, reads Flint’s Reports, and meditates on what he reads. Friends of the farmer – friends of agriculture – friends of mechanic arts – ye who would spend two days in healthful recreation – come to our Exhibition! Come one, come all! – *Nantucket Mirror*.

### **October 16, 1863**

A trotting course is about being laid out by the managers of the Agricultural Fair. It will be in readiness for the good time coming. Bring out your horses.

### **October 16, 1863**

National Thanksgiving  
*By the President of the United States*  
A PROCLAMATION.

The year that is drawing to a close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the everwatchful Providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to invite and provoke the aggression of foreign States, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theatre of military conflict, while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union the needful diversion of wealth and strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence has not arrested the plow, the shuttle or the ship...

...I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and prayer to our beatificent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens and I recommend too that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife, in which we are unavoidably engaged and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to hand the wounds of the nation and restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and union...

### **October 30, 1863**

[164 ¢ sperm]

### **December 4, 1863**

[Dr. John Pierce replaced H. L. Whiting as Ag Society President]

## **1864**

### **January 1, 1864**

[Mill ponds good for skating. 4 ¾ inches thick. Sperm \$1.60/gallon]

### **January 1, 1864**

...One objection to the President's policy is thus stated:... is, that he sets aside the confiscation act. He says the slaveholders, except about 700 of them, may return to their estates, and the States may come back, by a vote of one-tenth to the Union. What does that mean? Why land dictates government. If the people own the land, it is a democracy; if a few men own it, it is an oligarchy...

...Confiscate the land of the South and put it into the hands of the negroes and white men who fought for it, and you may go to sleep with you parchments...

...Plant a hundred thousand negro farmers and a hundred thousand white soldiers by their side, and the South will be secured. When William, the Norman, conquered England, what did he do to guarantee his conquest? He divided the lands among his nobles, and they hold it to-day. The North may say, "I have conquered the South; I will divide its territory among my nobles—the blacks and whites that have won it" – and then we are safe.

### **January 15, 1864**

The snow which fell in the past week has given us better sleighing than has been enjoyed here for several years...Ice has been stored quite fast for a day or two back in such quantity and good conditions as to insure us a cooling draught in the coming warm season.

### **January 29, 1864**

[Atlantic Monthly continues series by Agassiz on glaciation.]

### **January 29, 1864**

There is a good deal of truth in the charge that we are a nation of apes. We seem to have grown tired of our republican simplicity. We no longer possess the strong virtues of our fathers. The rich copy the fashions and habits of the higher classes of Europe, and the poor, with a sickening exactness, copy the rich...

...Indeed it is beginning to be thought among the higher classes in this country, that their children cannot be thoroughly educated until they have spent a year or more in some of the European schools...

...We shall, we hope, sometime learn to place a higher value upon the advantages we really enjoy, and at the same time be less sensitive as to the light in which we are regarded by foreigners.

### **January 29, 1864**

The petition of Edward Merrill, and others, for the incorporation of the Elizabeth Isles as a separate town, to be named Monohansett, has been presented to the Senate and referred, and remonstrance from the Selectmen of Chilmark has been forwarded.

### **January 29, 1864**

...Agassiz still continues his popular articles on the "Great Period," in which the great naturalist shows how easy it is for one who thoroughly understands a subject to communicate it to others...

### **January 29, 1864**

The *Nantucket Mirror* proposes to cut the narrow beach at the head of the harbor, known as the Haulover, and thus to open a communication with the ocean, and to establish a station for fishing vessels in the upper harbor, as well as to furnish them with a more direct passage to the fishing grounds, than the present one over the bar and round Great Point.

### **January 29, 1864**

Three new states are expected during this year, Colorado, Nebraska and Nevada.

### **February 19, 1864**

Real Estate at Auction,  
Executors Sale.

WILL BE sold at Public Auction by authority from the Probate Court for Dukes County on Thursday, the Third day of March next, at one o'clock P. M. on the premises, so much of the Real Estate of the late Hon. Benjamin Allen, of Tisbury, deceased, and will be the sum of Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Dollars, (\$2,870)—said Real Estate comprising of the Homestead of said deceased in said Tisbury, also a very valuable Pasture at the Eastward of said Homestead, sufficient for the pasturing of upwards of 100 Sheep; also two other excellent Pastures in Chilmark, in said County, both together containing about 40 acres of land, also a very valuable piece of Black and Blue Grass Meadow, containing about 70 acres, situated on the South Side of said Chilmark, known by the name of "Black Point Meadow." Such parts therefor to be sold, as may be necessary therefor, to pay debts and Legacies of the Estate of said deceased, and incidental expenses.

Should the weather prove to be very unfavorable and the day above named, the sale will be postponed to the first fair day thereafter, at the same place and hour.

CHARLES B. ALLEN,  
BENJAMIN ALLEN.           } Executors.

Feb12—3t

### **March 11, 1864 [A Parody]**

[For the Gazette]

The Elizabethan Rebellion.

By Alpha.

In the nineteenth century of the Christian Era, the township of Chilmark comprehended the fairest part of Martha's Vineyard, and the Elizabeth Islands. The gentle, but powerful influence of laws and manners had gradually cemented the union of the Islands. Their peaceful inhabitants enjoyed a vigorous prosperity, as well as remarkable facilities for growing wool, which, with singular unanimity they abused.

It was not until the eventful winter of 1863-4 that any dissensions were developed among these quiet people. The Great Southern Rebellion, then in the third year of its terrible existence,

was by its formidable proportions, no less than by the enormity of its crimes, exciting the attention and wonder of the civilized world.

Communities and states became demoralized and even in the loyal portion of the American Republic the demon spirit of rebellion was frequently aroused. So prevalent indeed had this disloyal element become that in numerous instances churches rebelled against their priests, and children, even those of the *brevier* type, took up arms against their parents.

Early in the month of December, Anno Domini, 1863, the isolated people inhabiting the integral part of the township of Chilmark, then known as the Elizabeth Islands, imbued with the popular spirit of their time, resolved to renounce their allegiance to the Government of Chilmark, and to establish their inalienable right to absolute freedom and self-government, even to the extent of having a town-meeting of their own. With this intent the whole population of these islands, men, women and children, numbering in all sixteen souls, met in solemn convention on Cuttyhunk in a cave famous as the cellar of Bartholemew [sic.] Gosnold, where it was superstitiously believed by the early settlers, Saint Bartholemew once lived and dug.

Never, since the morning stars first sang together, have the passions of men reached an intenser heat than at this convention. Being citizens of Massachusetts they knew nothing worthy of immortality could be accomplished without a series of Resolves, and therefore divers Resolves of fearful import were fiercely written, clamorously proclaimed, and then unanimously adopted with bursts of enthusiasm all over the cave.

It was Resolved, that they were free to govern themselves, and to pay taxes to themselves without circumlocution; – that as a people living together, though on separate islands, which were surrounded by water, they could feel no sympathy with the people of Chilmark, who were on another island similarly surrounded; – that as they lived quite out of the way of the world, it was natural that the desire to be let alone should be burning in their bosoms; that the tyrant Chilmark to the contrary notwithstanding, they were individually determined to worship God in their own way, and might the devil take the hindmost; – that although in most essential particulars they were dissimilar, they were pre-eminently a homogeneous people, and neighborly, though seldom seeing each other; that it was as inevitable as the laws of gravitation that they should become a town by themselves; – that as there were but give legal voters among them, all of whom would be needed for town officers, they might, with a little forbearance, preserve perfect harmony between the officers of the town and their constituency.

Subsequently, and finally, it was “*Resolved*, That as it should have been in the beginning, but surely is now, and shall be forevermore, we are a TOWN, and we hereby christen, denominate and dub out municipality by the name of *Gosnold*, and that we caution the General Court of Massachusetts to take due note hereof, and also to take heed.”

This Resolution was read by Job Trotter, a famous pilot of Tarpaulin Cove, who was selected for this purpose on account of the thundering qualities of his voice, and when the words, in accents terrible, rolled out against the sides of that time-honored cave, the audience became so electrified that they could have easily charged a battery.

The Convention dissolved reluctantly, and the earnest men, women and children, who had composed it, when home to their respective islands with steps elastic, and with freedom blazing in their eyes.

History relates that the General Court did take note of the high-sounding resolve of the rebels; –that the town of Gosnold, with its five homogeneous votes, became a government *de facto*; – that a first town meeting was held in the historical excavation on Cuttyhunk, at which Job Trotter was chosen, on account of his voice, perpetual Moderator, as well as Chairman of the Select-men, with two colleagues, Mr. Trotter Southdown, of Hadley’s Harbor, and Mr. Merino Trotter, of Nashawena. The latter, being the most indigent man in town, was also, made Overseer of the Poor. Mr. C. Gull, of Cuttyhunk, was made Town Clerk, and Mr. Swain Forbes, of Naushon, Fence Viewer. In this simple Government, no Town Treasurer, or Collector was needed, as every citizen was to pay his taxes, always self-imposed, directly to himself; neither was a School Committee required, for reasons too obvious to need explanation. All officers were elected for life, or until the coming generation has fully come.

And so, as a minor incident of the Great Rebellion of History, the little insular township was born, and grew apace, but, it is recorded, that after a decade of years, rebellion again showed its hideous front, and the once happy Gosnold became the victim of intensive political trouble, the doom of Gosnold was sealed.

The eldest son of Job Trotter had grown to manhood, aye, he had become a voter, and as the early dawn of that day appeared, which gave Job Trotter, Junior, his franchise, young Trotter, unfilial, rebellious, and ambitious, announced his intention of running against his father for the office of Selectman!

The crash was imminent, but at the critical moment, it was saved by the intervention of Falmouth, a neighboring sovereignty, who seized upon Gosnold, as upon a refractory child, and then cast it down, where it now remains as a suburb of Wood’s Hole.

And all the Trotters, and their kin, have long since trotted the way to dusty death.  
March 8, 1864

### **March 11, 1864**

Exodus from Cape Cod – We understand that several fishermen residing in Cape Cod are removing to Boothbay and vicinity, as the Cape is being rapidly washed into the sea. This accords with the prophecy of Professor Agassiz—that the cape would soon be among the things that were—*Bath (Me) Times*

### **March 11, 1864**

In the House of Representatives on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> inst., the petitions of the Guardian of the, Chappaquiddic and Christiantown Indians, asking an allowance for expenses incurred in making provisions for one of the Christiantown tribe; of E. Mayberry. M. D., for an allowance for services rendered the Chappaquiddic Indians, were presented and referred...

**March 25, 1864**

New Town – A new town has been added to Dukes County; the act establishing the town of Gosnold, embracing the Elizabeth Islands, heretofore a part of Chilmark, having been signed by the Governor and become a law – *Mercury*.

**March 25, 1864**

TOWN MEETING

Dukes County, SS.

To either of the Constables of the town of Edgartown...  
...7<sup>th</sup>. To see if the Town will pay Joseph Huxford the sum of fifty-two dollars, for superintending the building of the road on Chappaquiddic, for the years 1855 and 1856 and other services...

**April 8, 1864**

[Daniel Fisher Fire Warden]

**April 29, 1864**

Miscellaneous

...*Reclaiming old Pasture and Plain Land*—Constant C. Downs, Tisbury; Walter Hillman, Edgartown; Oliver Mayhew, Chilmark.

*Planting Pine and Other Trees in Plain Brush and Pasture Land*—R. W. Crocker, Tisbury; Hebron Vincent, Edgartown; Herman Vincent, Chilmark.

**April 29, 1864**

...Forest Trees.

For the best plantation of forest trees of any variety, not less than half an acre, nor less than three years old, with statement of the character and condition of the land, and the time and mode of planting: –

		1 <sup>st</sup> premium,	\$10 00
do	do	2d	8 00

For the cultivation of ornamental trees, of any variety, either sown or transplanted, as road side or street trees, or for house shelter and shade, the statement of the variety set ont [sic], their treatment in sowing or transplanting, and subsequent culture and their adaptedness to the soil and climate of the island: –

	1 <sup>st</sup> premium,	\$ 6 00
	2d	4 00

For experiments in the planting of pine trees in the shrub plains and pasture lands of the island, not less than 1-8 acre, with statement of mode of planting, the kind of pine sown, and amount of seed used upon the propagation of pine trees on the extensive plains of the Vineyard will be very desirable...

**May 13, 1864**

The Cultivation of Native Pines.

*Mr. Editor: –*

Among the Awarding Committee of the M. V. Agricultural Society recently appointed, there is one “For experiments in the planting of pine trees in the shrub plains and pasture lands of the island.” I would respectfully call attention to the subject, and especially to the terms on which awards are to be made, as published in the Gazette of April 29, 1864. I would also remind landholders, especially those owning unproductive brush lands and barren fields of sandy soil, of the propriety of entering at once upon the cultivation of the *native* pine. Some have already made a fine success, on a small scale. It is evident that no other kind of pine does so well here. No other kind of forest tree can be cultivated in our soil is just suitable [sic.] to this kind of tree. If you but start these pines in different parts of your lands, keeping off sheep, they will soon propagate themselves. In twenty years we might have pine wood enough on the island for home consumption without importing a stick from the main land, and subsequently it would be exported. Besides, the beautiful pines would be an ornament to our island, refreshing to the sight. There is no mistake about the practicability of this, nor the profit of it. See what Cape Cod does, where the soil is similar to our own. How many hundreds of acres here which for any other purpose is scarcely worth fencing, might soon be spread over with a thick and valuable forest of pines. Why not, gentlemen, being at once, obtain and plant your seed, and report your intention to compete, as required, previously to July 1. Then, too, at a moderate expense, our county roads might be bordered with these beautiful evergreens which would not only give pleasure to the eye, but add very much, in rough weather, to the comfort of travelers. *One of the Committee.*

May 11.

**May 13, 1864**

The Draft – The New England States lack six thousand of completing their quotas. The deficit of Massachusetts is four thousand and seventy.

**May 13, 1864**

Colored men will be accepted as substitutes in the coming draft in this State.

**May 27, 1864**

TARPAULIN COVE, GOSNOLD May 23, 1864.

*Editor Vineyard Gazette:*

*Sir, –* At a meeting of the legal voters, in this town, the following persons were chosen as officers of said town for the year ensuing: –

*Clerk and Treasurer –* Samuel E. Skiff

*Selectmen –* Abraham C. White, Benjamin B. Church, John W. Gifford.

*Collector of Taxes –* Frederick S. Allen

*School Committee –* Abraham C. White, Benjamin B. Church, John W. Gifford.

*Constables* – William Barker, George N. Slocum, Peter C. Wainwright, John W. Flanders.  
*Voted.* – That the Selectmen appoint all other necessary Town officers...

### **June 17, 1864**

Edgartown as a Summer Residence –

Where, in New England, can a more desirable spot be found for a summer residence than Edgartown? For piscatorial excursions, pure sea breezes, and ocean scenery it will favorably compare with many of those fashionable watering-places, which exist more in name than in reality. Our town is remarkably exempt, and ever has been, from every disease [sic] of a contagious or alarming nature. We are glad to see travelers are rapidly augmenting as each season for relaxation and pleasure appears. We are glad to see them no matter from what part of the country they come. Come, ye men and women, ye youths and maidens. You may vary the scenes, and the means of enjoyment every hour, from break of day until midnight. We have a bathing pond stretching out three thousand miles—pleasant drives and excellent [sic] fishing grounds; the sea will fold you in its cool embrace all the day where you can woo the amenities of the landscape, and when the hum of departing day has ceased you can go to your pillow and be lulled to sleep by the *tum tum* of the light guitar, and the rippling of the water.

### **June 24, 1864**

GREAT POND – We are told that the Great Pond opening is gradually closing, being much smaller this season than ever before. There have been many efforts made to close it thoroughly, but have all failed, owing to the pressure of the tide, but by the shifting of the bottom, forming a natural barrier, it seems in a fair way to close itself.

### **June 24, 1864**

WESLEYAN GROVE...

...Wesleyan Grove is certainly a beautiful place. A more magnificent temple could hardly be desired than the one beneath those grand old oaks. It is a fitting spot in which to worship, and many beautiful teachings may be there gathered from the volume which the Almighty has opened.

### **July 1, 1864**

For the last four days the heat has been so unmitigated, and the sultriness so great, that existence has seemed a burden. Yesterday appeared to be the most desperate day of all. The thermometer at 95 degrees in the shade. All hands sweltering with heat and grasping almost for breath, at twelve *ante meridian*. Surely the days of June are lasting with a sickening fervor—vegetation begins to have a dry and rank smell, although early in the season – elasticity is departing, and the animal man feels bad. June, this year, has been noted for its arduous temperature. O, lee from Hawes' sweet pond, how agreeable to my sight. Bring a fresh slice in and let me throw this lukewarm fluid away. I think I must shut the windows to keep out the flies, mosquitoes and hot air, cultivate the grave of patience, lounge all day and take an ablution in the

evening. I hope—soon—as the barometer indicates, there will come up a refreshing breeze from the North and a coalition of clouds will discharge rain, the invincible heat be overcome, and the earth breathe again with fresh lungs...

### **July 18, 1864**

**GREAT POND** – This pond, in its length, from east to west, is three miles, and its width is from two to three miles. It is estimated to cover over sixteen hundred acres. It has formed the largest herring fishery of the island through Mattakesett Creek, until, by some persons, in the night, it was spoiled by digging the beach away, forming an opening from the pond into the ocean. This opening was of the average width of 14 rods. No effort was made, for some time, to stop the water, or shut it up, as it was thought to be a thing impossible for man to do. On the tenth of last month, Joseph Dunham, Esq., who is one of the largest owners of the Mattakesett Creek and Great Pond, moved up from his dwelling house to the opening, a distance of five miles, his materials having the idea that, with an invention which he had contrived, he would be able to stop it. Four weeks ago the average tide of 4 1-2 rods was five feet deep, of 8 rods, from 2 to 2 1-2 feet. Mr. Dunham, unaided by a single hand, set himself to work. His invention worked admirably. On Tuesday last, at slack water, we are informed, he stopped it entirely. He alone is deserving of the credit having done all the work, with the exception of getting the material upon the spot.

### **July 22, 1864**

[President calls for 500,000 volunteers]

### **July 29, 1864**

A Proclamation by the President.

A CALL FOR 500,000 MEN

Deficiencies to be Filled by a Draft on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September...

...Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do issue this my call for five hundred thousand volunteers for the military service...

### **August 5, 1864**

[Taxes Edgartown

D. Fisher \$501            D Fisher & Co \$32

G Collin \$302            Wm Monroe \$314

Abraham Osborn \$1131      Benj. Worth \$313]

### **August 5, 1864**

**FAILURE OF THE CRANBERRY CROP** – As the majority of people will not be able to afford sugar to use with cranberries, the following information given by the Barnstable Patriot will be less discouraging than it otherwise might be: That paper says that the worm has made its

appearance in some of the largest cranberry meadows upon the Cape, and is doing great damage. From present appearances there will not be more than half the usual crop in this section of the State. This worm has done so much damage, that in the town of Harwich the cranberry crop will be two thousand barrels less than that of last year.

#### **August 12, 1864**

PERSONAL – Lot Luce, son of Capt. Lot Luce, of Tisbury, while whortleberrying one day last week, in the woods in the vicinity of the above named village was attacked by a large black snake. He had filled one of his pails and set it down to fill another, and on returning to the pail saw the snake coiled up around it with several small ones near...

#### **August 26, 1864**

MOSQUITOES – When one is harrassed [sic] and tormented, and cannot help himself, there is a satisfaction in wreaking his vengeance on paper. It is a pity that such a beautiful place as Wesleyan Grove should be so infested by such detestable creatures as these insects. Their nightly excursions into the tents were of the most ferocious nature. We never saw anything to compare with them in size. Mosquitoes are enough to disturb the temper of the most christian man. No doubt, however, they have their mission in the great economy of nature, and perhaps their petty stings are indispensable to prepare us for more sublime sorrows.

#### **September 9, 1864**

STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE – The Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, have elected Amherst as its location, having transmitted to the Governor and Council a communication stating the reason for this decision, and requesting its approval...

#### **September 30, 1864**

...We have received from the Ticknor and Fields the October number of the Atlantic Monthly. Its contents are as follows:

A Night on the Water, by Col. T. W. Higginson; On a Late Vendue; The Ride to Camp, by G. H. Boker; The True Story of Luigi, by Harriet E. Prescott; Communications by D. A. Wasson; House and Home Papers, by H. B. Stowe; Service, by J. T. Trowbridge; Madame Recamier, Her Lovers and Friends; the Wellfleet Oysterman, by Henry D. Thosean [sic]...

#### **September 30, 1864**

Why Gold is so High – There is but one cause of the high prices of gold, and that is the excessive quantity of our paper currency...

...We hear of powerful combinations of the Wall street brokers to keep the price of gold from rising or to keep it from falling...

#### **September 30, 1864**

RICHMOND MENACED – Washington dispatches speak most hopefully of the good that is to follow from the victories of Gen. Sheridan. The victory of Sheridan appears to have placed the Lynchburg railroad at federal disposal, which ought to cause Lee to leave Richmond.

**October 7, 1864**

THE FARMER'S CREED – A local contemporary gives the following: “We believe in small farms and thorough cultivation. The soil loves to eat as well as its owners, and ought therefore be nurtured. We believe in large crops, which leave the land better than they found it – making both farm and the farmer rich at once. We believe in going to the bottom of things, and therefore in deep ploughing and enough of it – all the better if with a subsoil plow. We believe that the best fertilizer of any soil is the spirit of industry, enterprise and intelligence; without this, lime and gypsum, bones, green manure, marl or plaster, will be of little use. We believe in good fences, good barns, good farm house, good stock and a good orchard. We believe in a clean kitchen, a neat wife in it, and a clean cupboard, dairy and conscience. We firmly disbelieve in farmers that will not improve, in farms that grow poorer every year, in starved cattle, in farmers' boys turning into clerks and merchants, in farmers' daughters unwilling to work, and in all farmers who are ashamed of their honorable vocation.” *Scientific American*.

**October 7, 1864**

FENCE POSTS – Taking the vast extent of our country into consideration, an incalculable expense is incurred every spring in putting-up of new fences and the repairing of old ones. It has been found that one cause of this great trouble and expense is the rapid decay of those parts of timber fence posts that are inserted into the ground. Fences would last three times longer than they usually do, could those parts that are covered in the earth be so treated as to render them as durable as those parts that are exposed above ground. A great saving would therefore be effected by any simple method of treatment to prevent rot in fence posts. They may be effected in two ways. One by boiling the feet of fence posts in coal tar; the other by charring them...

*Scientific American*.

**October 28, 1864**

Rowdyism in Edgartown.

We wish to call the attention of our citizens to the indecencies which are committed in our streets evenings. We have neglected to say anything, hoping that those whom it more properly belongs, those who have children growing up in our midst, might, for their safety and welfare, be induced to take the subject into serious consideration and devise some measurement what would put a stop to it...

...Must the village of Edgartown, which has been noted for its quiet peacefulness, its correct morals, and its empty jail, be turned into a perfect Pandemonium by the boisterous conduct of a few lewd girls, rowdyish smackmen and half grown boys, whose parents, if they have any, ought to be ashamed of their conduct?...

...These vile, filthy beings who are every night disturbing the peace and quietness of the village, and rendering midnight hideous by their conduct, too lazy to work, must, and will be before midwinter, supported by the town, if they are not already...

...let those little half-fledged beardless, saucy imps, in the shape of boys, whose parents are unable to take care of them, be taken and deposited into the county jail for safe keeping. Let those "woman of town." As Butler would call them, "plying their vocation," be sent to the House of Correction, where they properly belong; and then let those noisy smackmen know and feel that there is a potent, moral power yet left in the town, which will try the full force of law in restoring order and decorum to our now noisy and boisterous streets.

### **October 28, 1864**

President Lincoln has issued a proclamation, setting apart Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, as a day of National Thanksgiving and Praise for the various blessings we enjoy, and particularly for the victories lately gained by the federal armies. The day is the same as that on which most of the States will have Thanksgiving.

### **October 28, 1864**

...Thus it was with your correspondent as he roamed and wandered amid the quiet scenes of this little village at the hour of night. In my perambulations I scaled the summit of the majestic highlands which rise in sublime beauty south and west of the settlement. I could but admire the scenery presented to my view. Here was the sleeping little town nestling fondly at the feet of these grand old hills, with its shore washed by the sylvan waters of grand old ocean, whose placid surface was here and there dotted by the sparkling lights as they shone from the mariner's home. There was the West Chop, Nobsque, and Cape Poge lights, all within sight from my position – keeping their nightly vigils of mercy, and warning, the tempest-tossed mariner of some unseen danger nigh. While there musing I could but contrast the lot of the dear inhabitants of this lovely isle, with that of our unfortunate brethren in Southern clime. Here we can enjoy the rich bounties of the land with no one to molest or to make us afraid. We apprehend no danger from the relentless hand of war—we are not fearful of the approach of an armed force, and the expecting every moment, night and day, to hear the loud booming of cannon, and the crack and crash of small arms. Not so with them. They are subject to all the horrors of war, liable at any moment to suffer the penalty inflicted by offended justice. A just penalty—death—the doom of traitors. Traitors to the land which gave them birth, and traitors to the flag which has waved over them and protected them at home and in foreign lands...

### **November 11, 1864**

THE FREEDOM OF MARYLAND – Maryland has declared by a popular majority of her citizens, that slavery, of involuntary servitude, except in case of crime, shall no longer exist within her borders. She is the first Southern State to take this action...

**November 11, 1864**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October the public debt was \$2,017,099,515 75...

**November 11, 1864**

ELECTION OF 1864

-----

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

and

ANDREW JOHNSON

elected

-----

New England has thrown an overwhelming vote for Abraham Lincoln, and the returns from the other States show a large majority against an armistice with the rebellion and for a strong support of the administration.

MASSACHUSETTS

Has given an undoubted vote for Abraham...

**November 18, 1864**

[\$2.15 / sperm oil]

**November 18, 1864**

DECLINE OF NANTUCKET – According to the returns of the Assessors of Nantucket to the State Valuation Committee, that place still continues to decline in wealth. The same may be said in regard to population.

**November 18, 1864**

Chilmark...

...The correct vote was:

Lincoln 42

McClellan 35

Lincoln majority, 7

**November 18, 1864**

Gosnold – This town is reported as strongly in favor of the administration—6 votes for Lincoln, 1 for McClellan.

**1865**

**January 13, 1865**

REVIEW OF THE WHALE FISHERY, 1864

During the year a large number of very successful voyages have been completed: and several have paid enormous profits. The success of the Arctic fishery in 1863 caused the dispatch of a much larger fleet to that ocean the past season, several sperm whalers having been ordered to leave their cruising grounds for the north... The North Pacific fleet the last season numbered 88 vessels, including 11 from the Sandwich Islands, 2 from San Francisco, 2 from Havre, and 1 Oldenburg vessel...

...The Hudson's Bay fleet, which did so well in 1863, has been extremely unfortunate the past year, only a few vessels having made good catches...

...The sperm whaling fleet has not been as large as in 1863, but the result has been fair in all quarters, except on the Western ground.

The diminution of the whaling fleet has continued the past year, but the decrease is small compared with the previous few years, and we hope it has now reached its minimum...

### **January 20, 1865**

Ayrshire Cows.

The Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, with the view to the breeds of the neat stock in the county, have recently, at a considerable expense, and trouble, purchased and imported to the Island, the entire herd of thorough bred Ayrshire cows and heifers of Hon. A. B. Conger, of Waldberg, Rockland County, New York.

The herd, eleven in number, comprises four distinct families, all of which are celebrated for their free growth, hardiness, and milking qualities...

1. Emily... To James T. Cleveland, of Tisbury
2. Elsie 1<sup>st</sup>... To Nicholas Norton, of Edgartown
3. Elsie 2d... To Ephraim Mayhew, of Chilmark
4. Emily 4<sup>th</sup>... To Henry Cromer, of Tisbury
5. Jessie 7<sup>th</sup>... To Edward Mayhew, of Chilmark
6. Jessie 8<sup>th</sup>... To Henry L. Whiting, of Tisbury
7. Norna... To William F. Durgin, of Chilmark
8. Norah... To Henry L. Whiting, of Tisbury
9. Norna 2d... To James F. Cleveland, of Tisbury
10. Nora 3d... To Alfred Norton, Jr., of Tisbury
11. Red Lady 2d... Dam... To Francis O. Rotch, of Chilmark

...The stock sold well, considering the fact that this is an experiment which, although well tried with the most satisfactory results elsewhere, is new to the farmers in our county... The amount obtained from the sale of the stock did no cover the expense of purchase and transportation by about \$300, but the Society is willing to make this sacrifice in view of the great permanent benefit which must result to our farmers by the introduction of this stock into the county...

### **January 25, 1865**

[Sperm \$2.50]

**February 24, 1865**

Mr. Editor: –

Will you allow me the privilege of your columns to discuss a few points in reference to the importance of frequent and uninterrupted communication between our Island and the main land...

...We of Martha's Vineyard, have a valuable portion of our country, which is peculiarly in our keeping, to develop and adorn, and we are unfaithful stewards if by willful neglect and indifference we fail to do our duty toward it. Christianity and civilization go hand in hand with industrial and commercial enterprise, and we do little for our day and generation if we cannot, and do not affect some progress in these first principals of human life...

...In considering the material advantages and resources of the Island, the "situation" is not discouraging. First, we have, what has built up many a community and territory vastly larger than our own, *two fine harbors*, accessible and capacious, and favorably located as points of export and import for all domestic, and even foreign, commerce...As a community possessing the great privilege of these two beautiful harbors—what have we done to make them of use to us?—with the exception of Dr. Fisher's oil works, not a smoking chimney, not a turning lathe, not a busy dock, disturbs the air or waters of our shores.

Apart from our neglected commercial interests, we have a large territory, (one hundred and ten square miles) fertile, picturesque, and varied in its character, with an unusually healthy and genial climate for our latitude, yet scarcely a stranger or an off island neighbor shares our fresh sea breezes, or is invited by any local appliance of accommodation, to visit or tarry amongst us...

...The question for us to decide is a practical one, of no little importance to us at this time...Shall we, of the Vineyard, make no provision for our own peculiar necessities of transportation? ...Already between 30 and 40 individual subscribers have taken stock in the boat proposed, mostly in West Tisbury, and Chilmark bids fair to have as many. The books are still open, and we look with interest and confidence to our towns-people in Edgartown and Holmes Hole to give the enterprise their cordial and practical support.

Let us not stop here. Let us look to our resources and develop them to the utmost. One of the most feasible and popular improvements which would be made is to establish commodious, first-class, sea-side hotels at Edgartown and Holmes Hole. *Thousands* are seeking to sea-board for summer residence, where the attractions *cannot compare* to those of the Vineyard. Let our capitalists and business men turn their attention to the development of our ample home resources, and instead of our deserted streets and idle wharves our beautiful island may be full of life and enterprise and prosperity.

HENRY L. WHITING.

**March 10, 1865**

WOOD LOTS.

Wood Lots.

TWO wood lots, on the Holmes Hole road, nearly opposite the residence of Mr. Jeremiah S. Weeks,—a part of the estate of Isaiah D. Pease, Esq., —will be sold at public auction, during the present month of March... Each lot contains about thirteen acres...

**March 10, 1865**

GRIST GROUND

As the flour mill every day in the week except Sunday, until further notice. N. MARTYN.

Tisbury, March 10, 1865

**March 17, 1865**

AUCTION!

Will be sold, at Public Auction, on Wednesday, the twelfth of April next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, the following named lots of land, situated on the Island of Chappaquiddic, to wit: a lot of land on the "neck," containing about two acres; an undivided lot of salt marsh, adjoining "Caleb's Pond," containing about one acre; a lot of beach, adjoining the "neck," fence and Edgartown harbor, containing about ten acres; a lot called the "Peter's field," containing about four acres; a lot of meadow land, called the "square meadows," containing about four acres; a lot of beach and meadow near, "Washqua Hill," containing about ten acres, undivided; a lot of beach and meadow and upland, at Pocha, containing, twenty acres; a dwelling house and a barn on the homestead of the late Samuel Huxford. Also all the interest which said Samuel Huxford died seized of in the "Grab lot," situated at Farm Neck; also a lot of land on the Edgartown plain, near the creek house, undivided.

The sale will take place at the dwelling house of the late Samuel Huxford. Terms cash.

THOMAS HUXFORD, Administrator.

March 9, 1865

**April 7, 1865**

TOWN MEETING – At the annual town meeting, in this town, on Monday last, John Pierce, M. D., was chosen Moderator, and the following officers were elected:...

...Firewards [sic]—Dr. Daniel Fisher...

...Voted—That the poor of the town be supported by contract, and that a Committee consisting of the Boards of Selectmen of 1864 and 1865 draw up a plan of the way and manner in which they shall be supported the ensuing year...

**April 7, 1865**

VICTORY!

RICHMOND EVACUATED.

Petersburg OURS!

Twenty-Five Thousand Prisoners TAKEN!

FIFTY PIECES OF ARTILLERY Wrested from the Enemy!

## HARD FIGHTING.

Gallantry of our Troops.

### **April 19, 1865**

Holmes Hole

This has been a solemn day—a sorrowful day to the great American people, who are mourning the decease of our beloved chief magistrate—Abraham Lincoln—late President of the United States of America—whose extended mercy to the oppressed and sympathy with the afflicted, had won for him the tender regard and love of his loyal countrymen. Through the greater portion of the day flags at half-mast have been floating from many points in this village, also from the fleet, now lying in our harbor, while the Custom House and the *most* of our stores have been draped in mourning.

### **April 21, 1865**

Since our last issue was published the country has sustained an irreparable loss in the assassination of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the patriotic, the humane, the just President of the United States, after four years skillful management of the affairs of government, and when he had all but succeeded in overthrowing the power that rebelled against the laws of the land, he had brought the nation to the very threshold of peace; when he had succeeded at stripping Jeff Davis of the laurels hastily bestowed upon him, three years ago, by undiscerning men, crediting him with the possession, in his own person, of all the military talent, all the executive ability, and all the genius in the country...Mr. Lincoln was peculiarly adapted to perform the duties devolving on the President at the time he was elected to that office. No other man could have succeeded as he has done...

...The sensible man that has lately passed from among us was a true representative of American democracy—a man...

...But he was permitted to live until he had fulfilled his mission...

### **April 28, 1865**

The owners of the Mattakesett Creek are realizing a handsome thing from the herring fishery, this season. Over fifty barrels were taken out Sunday night last.

### **April 28, 1865**

Forest Trees.

For the best plantation of forest trees, of any variety, not less than half an acre, nor less than three years old, with statement of the character and condition of the land at the time and mode of planting...

...For the cultivation of ornamental trees, of any variety, either sown or transplanted, as road side or street trees, or for house shelter and shade, the statement of the variety set out, their

treatment in sowing or transplanting, and subsequent culture and their adaptness [sic] to the soil and climate of the island:—

...For experiments in the planting of pine trees in the shrub plains and pasture lands of the island, not less than 1-8 acre, with statement of mode of planting, the kind of pine sown, and amount of seed used. Any further statements throwing light upon the propagation of pine trees on the extensive plains of the Vineyard will be very desirable ...

**May 5, 1865**

The rebel ram Albermarle, which was sunk at Plymouth, N. C., has been raised, and is now at the Gosport Navy Yard. The cost of raising her was about \$20,000. It is intended to put her in sea-going order, and probably she will be sent to New York to be fitted out as a first class iron-clad.

**May 12, 1865**

Imported Ayrshire Cow for Sale.

The subscriber offers for sale the imported Ayrshire cow Nerna, with a thorough-bred Ayrshire calf at her side...

...W. F. Durgin.

Chilmark, May 12, 1865

**May 12, 1865**

Auction.

WILL be sold at Public Auction, by leave of Court, on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May next, at two o'clock, P. M., one undivided fifth part of one half a lot of land, situated in Chilmark, called the "fattening pasture"; also one undivided fifth part of a lot of meadow and pasture land, situate at said Chilmark; also one undivided fifth part of Wood Lot, situate in said Chilmark. Sale to take place on the premises, commencing at the "fattening pasture."

Also, will be sold as aforesaid, on Thursday, the first day of June, next, at two o'clock, P. M., one undivided fifth part of a dwelling-house and land attached thereto, situate nearly opposite Martha's Vineyard Bank in Edgartown. Sale on premises.

AUSTIN SMITH, Guardian.

Chilmark, Apl 27, 1866

**May 12, 1865**

Real Estate at Auction

Guardian's Sale

WILL be sold at Public Auction, by authority from the Probate Court in and for Dukes County, on Saturday the thirteenth day of May next, at 3 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, a certain valuable Wood Lot, situated at a place called Swan Neck, containing about five acres, and belonging to Daniel S. Vincent, Jr. To be sold for the maintainance [sic] of the said Daniel S. Vincent.

**June 2, 1865**

For Sale!

VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

THE homestead of the undersigned, consisting of 23 acres of mowing and tillage land, with a young orchard, in good condition, good house and barn, newly painted, and in fine order; will make a fine summer residence. Will sell house and barn with two or more acres of land, as may suit the purchaser; will sell the furniture with house, if wanted. Also a good wood lot and two pews in the Methodist Church. Terms easy. For particulars enquire of

NATHANIEL M. JERNEGAN

Edgartown, June 2d, 1865

**June 9, 1865**

A Lot of Standing Grass for Sale.

ABOUT two acres of meadow, situated at Pohogonot, near the dwelling house of Jophanus H. Smith, adjoining Paqua Pond; also about 40 acres of pasturage land, to the westward and adjoining Job's Neck Pond. Apply to

JOSEPH DUNHAM.

Edgartown, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1865

**June 16, 1865**

...The slave trade is still active on some parts of the coast of Africa. There are several steamers engaged in carrying slaves from the coast, and they are too swift for the slow English cruisers...

**June 16, 1865**

Purchase of the Camp Ground.

The camp ground upon Martha's Vineyard, heretofore leased by the Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, has been purchased by that body for the sum of \$1200. If there have been any doubts heretofore about the continuance of the Vineyard Camp Meeting, this will settle them...

**June 23, 1865**

THE BEST AND THE CHEAPEST FARMING LANDS IN THE WHOLE WEST, ARE THOSE OF NORTHERN MISSOURI. Rebels are moving away, and are selling for whatever they can get...

**June 30, 1865**

FATAL ACCIDENT—On the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst., Francis Elliot Fisher fell from the masthead of a schooner lying at one of our wharves, and struck upon the deck, mangling him in so dreadful a manner as to cause his death in a very short time...

**June 30, 1865**

Huckleberries are in the market at Holmesville. That village has about ten days the start of us generally. Well, we are glad for them, and hope they may appreciate the berries.

**June 30, 1865**

If we give the negro a bayonet, why can we not give him a ballot? If he give his life to save the country, should we not give him a voice in its management? If four millions of negroes are to remain in serfdom, what guarantee have we that the haughty whites will not give us another Rebellion before we are permitted to elevate the race?...

**July 21, 1865**

Pasture Lands of New England.

What shall we do for the pasture lands of New England—they are running out?...

**August 5, 1865**

[1865 Edgartown Taxes

Daniel Fisher & Co.	\$535
Daniel Fisher	\$434
William Munroe	\$296
Abraham Osborn	\$782
Samuel Osborn	\$239
Benj. Worth Estate	\$277

Hoosac Tunnel work progressing well]

**August 11, 1865**

[Boston Population – 192,264

Indians in US Territory – 314,622

VG Editor supports 8 hour day legislation]

**August 11, 1865**

The movement that is being made to reduce the hours of labor to eight per day is not inferior in importance to any measure that has been agitated within the limits of the Commonwealth...

**August 18, 1865**

[Sperm oil \$2.10]

**August 18, 1865**

New York Yacht Fleet—Among the many parties that almost daily arrive in our harbor none have created so much interest as a portion of the New York Yacht Fleet, now on their summer cruise, which came in on Monday last...

**August 18, 1865**

HOLMES HOLE AND VICINITY.—This usually quiet village has been the scene of great activity. Never before have the multitude so thronged in upon her. Her hotel and boarding houses have been besieged for a fortnight past, and the end is not yet. And the harbor has been a beautiful moving panorama to look upon...

**September 1, 1865**

...But our most interesting drive has been one of some twenty miles through the interior of this miniature continent, devoting to the expedition a couple of days. Portions of this journey, it is true lay through level plains of dwarfed and meagre shrubbery and herbage, but was soon succeeded by gently rolling lands, here and there irrigated by running streams...

**September 8, 1865**

Death of A Prominent Citizen—Captain Abraham Osborn died at his residence Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup>, inst., aged 67 years, 10 months and 27 days. Capt. Osborn was one of the most prominent men of this town, and was greatly esteemed by his fellow-citizens, not only for his worth and usefulness, but, for his strict integrity in all business relations, and open heart and bountiful hand where charity and kindness were required. He has been, for many years, agent for many of the ships from this port engaged in the whale fishery, and as underwriters' agent for a noted Insurance Company, also one of the directors of the Martha's Vineyard National Bank, thus being intimately connected with the business prosperity of our town, and island generally...

**September 8, 1865**

...Plovers are making their annual visit upon the island, and the sportsmen are busy bagging them...

**September 8, 1865**

A NEW START—It is now quite two years since a dwelling-house has been erected in our village...

**September 15, 1865**

DUKES COUNTY, SS Probate Court  
To the Heirs-at-Law, Next of Lin and all other Persons interested in the estate of ABRAHAM OSBORN Esq., late of Edgartown, in said County, merchant, deceased,

GREETING:

WHEREAS, a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament and a codicil of said deceased has been presented to said Court, for Probate, by DR. DANIEL FISHER, of said Edgartown, who having been named in said will as Executor thereof...

### **September 22, 1865**

The past week inaugurated the usual routine of Agricultural Fairs for the exhibit of the husbandman's enterprise...A great portion of the Northern States have been consumers, entirely exhausting the markets of particular products, and beside this, what has caused the prices to rule high for produce, there has been a scarcity of laborers. The old bayonets which were beat into pruning hooks have been remodelled, [sic] and the sword has cut its way through more stubborn soil—sterile fields of slavery—than did ever plowshare...

### **September 22, 1865**

OYSTERS – We have, in this issue, by request, given to our readers a lengthy article on the culture of the oyster on the river Thames, England. It is now about fifteen years, we understand, since oysters were fished out of our own ponds; previous to that time they were grown very plenty and of great size. That oysters have been grown in our own ponds is a sufficient guarantee of the possibility of the success of such undertaking, provided there is a thorough knowledge of their mode of culture.

These bivalves were grown quite plenty in Oyster and Newtown Ponds, but were, it is supposed, choked out by grass settling upon the bottom. Since that time two barrels of oysters have been deposited in favorable localities for breeding, but by some mischance, or impudent fisherman, the encouragement of their accumulation has thus far proved a futile effort...

### **September 22, 1865**

...From the Industrial Statistics we gather some interesting items. There is, in the town of Tisbury, 15,157 acres of farming land, valued at \$214,040, from which is raised corn to the value of \$6,653; potatoes, \$4,775; hay, \$16,975, and fruit to the value of \$3,293. There are \$7,740 worth of sheep, yielding \$6,500 worth of wool; also horned cattle to the value of \$12,780. There was sold, in 1864, \$2,850 worth of butter, also \$1,154 worth of eggs, and \$12,230 worth of dressed poultry and meat. These farms have 4,550 acres of wood land valued at \$68,250, which produced for the market, in 1864, 960 cords of wood, valued at \$7,680...

### **October 13, 1865**

Lieut. Cushing, who destroyed the Albermarle will get \$30,000 as his share of the prize money out of that transaction...

### **October 27, 1865**

FIRE IN SANDWICH WOODS – The immense bank of smoke observed in the north on Saturday afternoon, lit up by the flames in the evening, proceeded from a fire raging in Sandwich

Woods. It broke out about noon on Saturday, at a point but a few miles distant, and due south, from the village of Sandwich, and probably originated from the carelessness of some sportsman in disposing of a lighted cigar or a match...

**October 27, 1865**

NOTICE is hereby given that the subscriber has been duly appointed Administratrix of the estate with the will annexed of  
ABRAHAM OSBORN, Esq.,  
late of Edgartown, in the County of Dukes County, Merchant, deceased, and has taken upon herself that trust by giving bonds, as the law directs. All persons having demands upon the estate of said deceased are required to exhibit the same; and all persons indebted to said estate are called upon to make payment to  
ANN ELIZA OSBORN,  
Edgartown, Oct. 27, 1865  
Administratrix

**November 17, 1865**

THANKSGIVING POSTPONED—Gov. Andrew, with the advice of the Council, has cancelled the designation of Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, as a day for Thanksgiving and appointed Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, as the day for such observance.

**November 24, 1865**

EAST SIDE OF THE EAST CHOP – This was formerly the landing place to Wesleyan Grove, but it was found possible, at high tides, to touch at a small pier at the West side of the Chop, and from that time improvements and greater facilities has made that spot the landing place to the grove...

**December 1, 1865**

A Lot of Wood and Cleared Land, taxed to the Estate of Daniel S. Vincent, for the year 1864, four 80-100 Dollars, situated at Swan Neck, and bounded by the road leading from Wintucket to Pohogonot, and land of John. W. Norton, and others...

**December 29, 1865**

A SAD CATASTROPHE – On the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. William C. West, of Chilmark, was found in a field, near his dwelling house, crushed to death. From the statements we gather, we learn he went into the field to sink a large rock, weighing many tons, and when found he was in the pit—which he had apparently finished, for his tools were thrown out upon the ground previous to getting out himself, when the rock, which he must have excavated too much, rolled over upon him crushing his breast against the bank, which from its great weight must have instantly killed him. Mr. West was aged 42 years, and leaves a wife and seven children. He was an esteemed citizen of Chilmark, and was very generally known throughout the island. His sad, and seemingly premature death, causes deep and melancholy thoughts among his neighbors, and by those whom he was known.

**December 29, 1865**

THE WIND blew more violently on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. than was every experienced, by our islanders, from that quarter of the compass. Fences were somewhat demolished, and the chimney on the dwelling-house of Mr. John Vincent, on the plain, was blown over. Some slight damage was done on the island of Chappaquiddic. The oil shed of Dr. Daniel Fisher, in the outskirts of the town, familiarly known as the fort, was blown around rather carelessly to the great fear of one or two passers. One large willow tree, of ancient days, was completely uprooted, and in its decent destroyed board fence, well curb, and startled the indwellers.

**1865**

[Start to see farms advertised for sale in New Jersey, Virginia, Ohio]

**1866****January 19, 1866**

Ayrshires on Martha's Vineyard.

We have already called attention to the excellent plan of introducing a series of stock improvements on the island of Martha's Vineyard. It was first undertaken by the Agricultural Society there, through the efforts of a few enterprising men, by the purchase of bulls by the society for the use of the farmers and stock breeders on the island.

**January 19, 1866**

FOR SALE.

A first quality new milch cow, with a fine heifer calf, 3 weeks old (half Ayrshire). The cow is a regular breeder and excellent milker, perfectly orderly, perfectly gentle, and easy to milk. Refer to Richard E. Norton, Edgartown, and to David Tilton, Holmes Hole. HENRY L. WHITING

West Tisbury, Dec. 22, 1865

**January 19, 1866**

GEORGIA YELLOW PINE LAND FOR SALE – Four Million acres, on the principal rivers. Will yield ten thousand feet to the acre. Deeds recorded, taxes paid, title absolutely perfect...

**January 19, 1866**

GOOD FARMS IN OHIO –

Those wishing to buy good improved farms cheap in Northern Ohio, of any size, adapted for sheep, young cattle, or dairying, can receive a Catalogue describing each farm and price by inclosing stamp and addressing H. N. BANCROFT...

**February 9, 1866**

A DREADFUL CATASTROPHE. – Mr. Warren Waldron, of West Tisbury, went to the village of Holmes Hole last Saturday evening for the purpose of carrying a few barrels of eels, but not returning to his family in due season search was instituted as to his whereabouts, when it was found that he had made a deposit of his freight upon the wharf at the aboved-named village, but himself and team could not be found. Closer inspection showed marks at the edge of the wharf, made by the horse's feet, showing the appalling fact that Mr. Waldron and his team had been precipitated into the dock. The marks showed where the horse had clung with great tenacity to the wharf as he was dragged backwards overboard by the weight of the cart attached to him. The harbor was immediately dragged. The body of the unfortunate man was found to have floated to the shore at Eastville where it was taken in charge by the coroner of Holmes Hole, and restored to its friends. The horse, with the fore part of the vehicle attached, was found floating in the harbor... Mr. Waldron was upwards of 50 years of age, and was a respected citizen of West Tisbury...

**February 9, 1866**

FIRE AT Holmes Hole – The dwelling-house of Mr. Edward T. T. Smith, in the above town was burned to the ground on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., at 8 o'clock...

...This is the second dwelling-house that has been burned in Holmes Hole in the period of one hundred years. The first one was burned sixty-three years ago

**February 9, 1866**

STATISTICS OF THE WHALE FISHERY OF THE UNITED STATES FOR 1865 – We present to our readers the Twenty-second Annual Statement of the Whalefishery as given by the New Bedford Shipping List:

The past year will prove an eventful one in the history of Whalefishery. The wanton destruction of so many valuable ships by the pirate steamer Shenandoah, in the Arctic regions was a sad blow to the whaling interest—particularly that of New Bedford, on whose merchants a large portion of the loss has fallen...

The Impending Trial of Jeff Davis – We feel warranted in stating to the public that the revelations of the past ten days will justify us in announcing now that the Government has decided that Jefferson Davis shall be tried for treason and other high crimes before a military commission...

**February 9, 1866**

April 1 – Sheridan's victory at Five Forks  
April 2 – The grand assault at Petersburg  
April 3 – Occupation of Richmond  
April 6 – Sheridan routs Gen. Lee's forces

April 9 – Gen. Lee surrenders to Grant  
April 12 – Our forces occupy Mobile  
April 14 – Assassination of President Lincoln  
April 19 – Funeral of the President at Washington  
April 26 – Death of the Assassination Booth  
April 26 – Surrender of General Johnston’s army

**March 16, 1866**

Whaling by Steam – The feasibility of whaling by steam having been thoroughly tested by the Messrs. Roys Brothers of New York, three steamers are to leave different ports of England...

**March 16, 1866**

NEW SKIRT FOR 1866  
The Great Invention of the Age in.  
HOOP SKIRTS

**March 16, 1866**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
DUKES COUNTY, SS., Probate Court.

To the Heirs at Law, and all others interested in the Estate of Abraham Osborn, Esq., late of Edgartown, deceased. GREETING:

WHEREAS, the committee appointed to set off to the widow of said deceased her Dower in the real estate of which the said Abraham Osborn died seized and possessed, have this day made their report of their doings to this Court...

**March 3, 1866**

TO THE MEMORY  
OF THE BELOVED  
And Highly Honored  
ABRAHAM OSBORN, ESQ...

...In the spring of 1816 Timothy and Jethro Daggett took the lead in purchasing the first whale ship that ever belonged to this place...  
...Having given his personal superintendence upon the wharf and in the county room to fitting ships for upwards of 32 years of his life. During that period he has fitted the above named ships for 60 whaling voyages. In all that time he never employed a clerk, but did all the business alone, except such assistance as was rendered by each ship’s committee of advisers, agreeably to the prevailing custom here.

Who can readily estimate the amount of wealth extracted from the great deep, and really added to the wealth of the world, under the guiding genius of this great man, in that long period of time...For several years he was agent of six whaling ships...

...In 1837 he was appointed underwriter agent by the president of all the marine insurance offices in Boston, to take care of and protect their interest in all course in which they might be parities, to losses by ship wrecks and disasters in the locality of Martha's Vineyard. In 1840 he received the same trust from the New York marine insurance office. Under these commissions he has transacted a large amount of business. This brought him in frequent communication and contact with the first men in the commercial circles of these leading cities in the country. To say that he discharged these duties well would be enough, perhaps, but it would not be all, for his superior fact knowledge of human nature, and business education, together with his high toned integrity and fidelity in the discharge of them, elected from their officers their constant approval, commendation, and most cordial friendship, so that in visiting these cities, it was his privilege and pleasure to enjoy the acquaintance of the first commercial minds in the country...

...On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, 1836, he was elected one of the Selectmen of the town. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, 1837, he was elected to the House of Representatives of the State Legislature. At the November election in 1840, he was re-elected to the House.

In 1863 he was appointed by Governor Andrew one of a board of Pilot Commissioners, consisting of five, whose approval is necessary in the appointment of all branch pilots for the harbors of Buzzard's Bay and the Vineyard Sound. He was a director in the Martha's Vineyard Bank from the date of its organization...

...At about this time, in company with this physician, he visited Boston and consulted with the most eminent medical men in the city. Shortly after his return, however, his disease culminated with such rapidity that he was, as it were, unexpectedly to nearly all, hurried out of life. Therefore it was, that he made his will only a fortnight prior to his death...He talked freely in regard to his business affairs, and expressed his wishes freely as to the direction his business should take at his disease. He was very anxious that no change should be made in his shipping interest, but that it should be continued as though he were living, and remain as nearly intact as possible....

...Thus has departed a man whose commercial and material power, usefulness and influences not only never have been equalled [sic] by any citizen of this town or county, but he has risen above and excelled all who were every born therein, and continued to do business in the places of their nativity.

For several years he has paid the highest individual tax, leaving the largest estate, comparatively free from debt, ever administered upon in the history of the county. His note was always counted as so much gold by its possessor, and was never fainter by delay or non-payment from his youth up. Never possessed of a very robust constitution, he was always remarkably erect and firm in his walk. His very tread and regular firm gait seemed almost to carry and bespeak his true, earnest and hopeful nature...No applicant to him for aid in distress was ever turned away but with kind words and material blessings...

...It was not in his heart or head to turn a cold indifferent reply to the application of any for encouragement or advice. But with a mild, sympathizing earnestness he was the willing and cheerful friend of every man under such circumstances.

In the most fitting words of an editorial in the Gazette of Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1865. "As our most active business man, he enjoyed the full confidence of the people, and his death cannot but be regarded as a public calamity, and being bereft of him when the culmination of all his unifying business efforts were being brought to a successful issue, we cannot well estimate the loss of such an influence upon the public wealth" Edgartown, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1865 S. O. Jr.

**March 30, 1866**

CASH PAID

-for-

MUSKRAT, SKUNKS, AND CAT SKINS,

By

JAMES L. BARROWS.

Jan. 19, 1866

**March 30, 1866**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Dukes County S.S.

To Henry L. Whiting, of Tisbury, in said County,

GREETINGS:

Whereas Henry L. Whiting, William H. Sturtevant, and Richard Flender, stockholders in, and members of the corporation called and known by the name of the Martha's Vineyard Steamboat Company, have applied to me, John. D. Rotch, a Justice of the Peace within and for the County of Dukes County, by written application asking me, the said Justice, to issue a warrant, in accordance with the provisions of the statues regulating the calling of meetings of corporations, to one of their number directing him to call a meeting of said corporation...

...And you, the said Henry, L. Whiting, are hereby authorized and directed to preside in said meeting, until a clerk shall be duly chosen and qualified...

...Given under my hand, at Tisbury, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, A. D. 1866

Signed,

John D. Rotch,

Justice of the Peace

Tisbury, March 30, 1866,

By virtue of the foregoing warrant to me directed, I hereby notice all persons, stockholders in the Martha's Vineyard Steamboat Company, to meet at the time and place for the purposes, therein named.

HENRY L. WHITING.

**April 27, 1866**

The annual exodus from town to country is impending; advance applicants have secured every hotel, cottage and boarding-place within a radius of two hundred miles of the large cities.

The mass of people that are thronging to the seaboard is overwhelming, and there is but one reason that our island cannot give hospitality to a few of the many thousands who are seeking just such privileges as our situation affords. We have here every possible summer seaside recreation that can be obtained along the Atlantic seaboard, and every accommodation—except a hotel.

A dearth of accommodations will be the only objection to the pleasure and health-seeking crowd flooding our island during the oncoming warm season. To overcome this objection we want a large, capacious hotel... The false ideas that have prevailed of seeking for pleasure and comfort in the crowded hotels of the fashionable resorts are being done away with, and those wishing relief from labor, and want rest, will come to our island where the shadows and growth are all our own. We have summer attractions that have never been conceived of by those who discomfort themselves at Saratoga and Newport, leading a life full of the fever of excitement.

The brethren of the angle will find her old piscators [sic] who will show them how, and where, to “drop a line,” for every kind of fish. For attractive sites no place can equal our own headland, Gay Head, the Mecca of every naturalist and student of geology, who come from miles away to explore this region and examine its mineral and organic remains, and the changes which it has undergone, and for fowling and sea-bathing our facilities are unsurpassed.

But all these advantages will be of little avail if they are not improved upon; either will a daily steamboat nor Vineyard Sound Railroad build up our waste places if we have no accommodations for those who may be drawn hitherward... Our wharves, now barren of freight and wharfage, we hope to see laden with the riches of those “who go down upon the sea in ships”...

#### **May 4, 1866**

TOWN WAY – At a special town meeting held in Chilmark, April 27, William F. Durgin, Esq., having been chosen Moderator, it was voted, by a large majority, to accept the town way from the south county road to the middle county road, as laid out by the Selectmen. This road commences on the south county road about fifty rods to the westward of the store of Matthew Vincent, and extending in a north westerly direction, terminates on the middle county road, opposite the Methodist meeting house, a few rods from the post office. When completed it will be a great convenience to the travelling public, and will particularly accommodate the people in the south-eastern section of the town.

#### **May 4, 1866**

Supreme Judicial Court  
BARNSTABLE S.S.

May 1, 1866

The following Vineyard cases were called:  
Jennie W. Norton, Vs. Thomas H. Norton. This was a libel for divorce for the alleged adultery of the defendant. The court granted the divorce and made a decree allowing alimony to the plaintiff at her costs. T. M. Stetson, for Libellant, G. Marston, for defendant

**May 4, 1866**

The isolated situation of Martha's Vineyard is disadvantageous to her manufacturing interest, a fact which has been well proved. Having uncertain connection with the main land, which impedes our partnership with the busy traffic [sic] of the world, we are, in a measure, shut up within ourselves...

...But our isolation needs not shut us off from all prosperity... Even the very detached situation of our island opens a channel for a remunerative business. Follow the myriad of people that annually, ere the summer solstice, pour out from the hot, dusty cities, seeking for comfort and pleasure, and see if they find a more pleasant and inviting spot than our own island. Excepting Long Island, Martha's Vineyard is the largest island along our whole coast...Such attractions, such a climate, as can be enjoyed here, are far beyond the average New England summer resorts...

...There are some, however, in our midst—old fogies, we call them—who denounce any innovation upon the quietness and dull routine that we are now blessed (?) with, fearing the ingress of strangers will corrupt the moral atmosphere of our society, and who look upon a public hotel as a basis for the secret workings of all public demoralization...

**May 4, 1866**

A Desirable Summer Hotel  
FOR SALE OR TO LET.

The subscriber offers for sale or to let the well known Hotel, known as the NORTON HOUSE, situated in Edgartown. This house is favorably located, within two minutes' walk of the steamboat landing, is in good repair, with all modern conveniences. The travel to the island is well accommodated, and the house is large and commodious, and every prospect favorable for a profitable investment. For particulars apply to JOSEPH V. KELLEY.

**May 4, 1866**

MARTHA'S VINEYARD – The fact that Martha's Vineyard is not an insignificant town upon the Cape, but a “green isle” of the sea, possessing many interesting features, is now becoming generally known. Read below what the *Middlesex Journal* says of our island:

This island is attracting much attention of late and is fast becoming a noted watering place. During the summer months the towns are crowded with strangers, seeking pleasure or health... The conveyance to the island, from New Bedford is by the elegant and commodious steamer “Monohansett,” Capt. Benj. C. Cromwell. The trip is made in three hours...

On our arrival he can indulge in the sports of gunning and fishing, which are here enjoyed in their utmost perfection and when he tires of these, he can visit the far-famed and wonderful cliffs [sic] at Gay Head...

A visit to Gay Head Light House, where can be seen the best and most costly lighthouse apparatus in the country... can be followed by another to the dwellings of the Indians of the Head, who are mostly now men of intelligence, enterprise, and some of them of wealth...

**May 4, 1866**

SUMMER VISITORS – It is now quite time that the inhabitants of the island fitted up their habitations for the summer visitors... Our neighbors at Tisbury, and particularly those at West Tisbury, will find it advantageous to fit rooms to accommodate two, three, or more, and advertise them in our columns so that they may become known. Some prefer homes with private families, others wish to rent cottage houses, already furnished, and will pay two fold to be thus accommodated...

**June 1, 1866**

SUPERIOR COURT – May Term...

...Edward Mayhew versus James Vincent. This was an action of Tort, brought to recover penalty for alleged violation of statute, by obstructing the passage of herring from Squibnocket Pond, through a creek, into the sea, between Oct. 28 and Nov 24, 1864...

...Edward Mayhew, sworn. Reside in Chilmark. Am plaintiff in this action. Have been in the habit of fishing in Squibnocket Pond for twenty years. Mr. Vincent, the defendant, put obstructions in the creek which connects the pond with the sea, in October, 1864...

...The distance from the ocean to the pond is from ten to fifteen rods. The creek is closed up by every heavy gale of wind, when it becomes necessary to clear it out. The creek is planked up on both sides, some eight or ten feet high...

...Cross examined. The size of Squibnocket Pond is about seven hundred acres. The island in the creek is marsh...creek was dug about sixty years ago...

..We get from fifteen to twenty thousand herrings there annually. The creek was dug out and planked up some fifty or sixty years ago...

...James Vincent, sworn. Am the defendant in this case. Have been in the habit of fishing in Squibnocket Creek about four years. In October, 1864, when I placed my eelpots and weirs in the creek, it was closed. No fish could possibly get in or out...

**June 1, 1866**

BLUEFISH – The first bluefish of the season was brought in on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> ult. Look for rare sport, now.

**June 1, 1866**

...As a gain from the introduction of an intelligent system in the treatment of stock, they can show sleek and growing cattle. There is one fact which is strenuously urged by every intelligent

agriculturalist, and which should be received the attention of Dukes County farmers, that is, the peculiar adaptedness [sic] of sheep to the soil and climate of New England...

**July 27, 1866**

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH – The Great Eastern is paying out the cable. Reports from here are, that 150 miles have been laid and that the singles are perfect.

**July 27, 1866**

NASHAWINA – About 270 acres of land on the eastern end of this island have been purchased by the New York Yacht Club.

**August 3, 1866**

Boundary Lines of Gay Head Lands

NOTICE is hereby given that, under Resolve chapter 67, herewith published, the undersigned has been appointed and commissioned by His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, to complete the examination and determination of questions of title, not passed upon by Hon. Charles Marston, late Commissioner, as authorized by Resolve, chapter 42, of the year 1863. A meeting of the inhabitants of Gay Head, and all persons interested in said Gay Head lands, will be held at the School House on Gay Head, on Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1866, at two o'clock, P. M., at which time and place said parties may have a fair and impartial hearing.

RICHARD L. PEASE

Edgartown, Aug. 2, 1866

Chap. 67

RESOLVES in relation to the establishment of boundary lines of Indian Lands at Gay Head...  
[Approved April 30, 1866.

**August 3, 1866**

Grand Concert

-BY THE-

YALE GLEE CLUB,

AT TOWN HALL

Friday Evening, Aug. 17

THIS Club, composing the finest singers in Yale College, are on a yachting trip through the Sound and around the Cape to Boston, whence the boys propose to go to the White Mountains and other popular Summer resorts. They will sing their yachting uniform in the TOWN HALL, Friday Evening.

ADMISSION, 25 cents.

August 17, 1866

**August 17, 1866**

[Edgartown Taxes

Grafton Collins	\$452
Dr. Daniel Fisher	\$1097
William Munroe	\$395
James Norton	\$232
Abraham Osborn Estate	\$804
Ann Eliza Osborn (widow)	\$91
Samuel Osborn Jr.	\$411
“ “ Estate	\$141
Benjamin Worth Estate	\$225]

**September 28, 1866**

...The cranbery [sic] crop in Harwich will full be an average. Picking commenced Monday, and not less than 1,000 persons will be engaged, in that town alone, until it is finished.

**October 5, 1866**

ARREST OF GAMBLERS – William A. Carpenter, Joseph W. Black, John Sweet and Professor Nevero came from Barnstable to the Agricultural Fair at West Tisbury on Tuesday, pursued by State Constable Matthews, who proposed to arrest them on a charge of gambling...

**October 5, 1866**

THE CRANBERRY CROP – We learn that the whole cranberry crop of the island, amounting to six hundred barrels, has been purchased by Messrs. Thomas Bradley & Sons, of Tisbury, for a Boston house, at \$12 per barrel. This crop was raised principally in Tisbury, paying the producers over seven thousand dollars.

**October 5, 1866**

MARINE LOSSES – Since the first of October, there have been at least nineteen vessels totally lost and 12 partially wrecked on our coast, involving the destruction of an immense amount of property and the loss of 300 lives. This is the sad story up to Thursday of last week...

**October 5, 1866**

...One county in California makes this year 400,000 gallons of wine.

**1866**

[Ads for Georgia Yellow Pine Land]

## 1867

### January 1867

[Sperm \$2.50]

### January 11, 1867

Dentistry.

TEETH cleaned and filled with  
GOLD or SILVER;

Also EXTRACTED with or without  
THE ADMINISTRATION OF ETHER

All Operations Warranted

WILLIAM LEACH, M. D.

Holmes Hole

### January 11, 1867

DIED.

At his residence in Delhi Township, Hamilton county, Ohio, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1866, William Cottle, in the 84<sup>th</sup> year of his age. He was born on the island of Marha's [sic] Vineyard, Mass., in February, 1783. In 1814, he removed to Ohio and there settled on the farm where he died... He saw all the wonderful changes of the past fifty years in the valley of the Ohio, and the little village of straggling houses, on the sand banks of the river grew, under his eye, to a city of nearly three hundred thousand inhabitants...

### January 18, 1867

[Whaling Vessels

New Bedford 181

Nantucket 5

Edgartown 6

Holmes Hole 1

PT 48

### February 1, 1867

ICE – The season for ice cutters has been excellent. They completed their labors on Saturday last, their houses being about full. The ice cut varies from seven to eleven inches in thickness, all free from the crusts of snow.

### February 1, 1867

The editor of the Ilion (N. Y.) Citizen says, “We know of our own personal knowledge that a great many swine at the West are raised and fed more or less with rats, snakes, blood and carrion, so that the meat is not fit to go into the mouth of anyone but a cannibal.”

**February 8, 1867**

BRICK WORKS – Preparations for the manufacture [sic] of brick at the yard, in Chilmark, are now nearly completed. It is the intention to commence operations early in the spring. A machine carried by steam will be used, capable of turning out 100 bricks per minute...

**April 19, 1867**

Chapter 125

AN ACT for the Protection of Sea-Fowl in the Waters of Edgartown.

*Be it enacted by the State and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: –*

Sect. 1. No person shall drive, chase or pursue with boats in the waters in and bordering the town of Edgartown any of the birds commonly called sea-fowl.

Sect. 2 Any person offending against the provisions of the preceding section, shall forfeit and pay for each offence a fine of not more than five dollars, to be recovered by prosecution before any court of competent jurisdiction...

**April 19, 1867**

Just before going to press a dense mass of smoke was discovered rolling up from the westward, and from the church tower the woods was discovered on fire. It appeared to have commenced in the vicinity of the village of Holmes’ Hole and extended along toward West Tisbury, travelling rapidly, Men on foot, and on horseback, with shovels, were going out of town, it is still raging, and must burn over a large area of land, destroying much valuable woodland, before it will be suppressed.

**April 26, 1867**

The Fire – the actual damage sustained from the fire, on Thursday last, it is impossible to arrive at. No doubt many persons will tell of valuable wood-lots being destroyed that have been urgently depreciated in value when about to be recorded on the ancestor’s books...

May 3, 17, 31, 1867 – missing

**June 7, 1867**

[Voting on impeachment. Andrew Johnson]

**June 7, 1867**

CASUALTY – Capt. Shubael L. Norton of Edgartown, accidentally cut his foot, while at work in the woods on Wednesday last. He put the corner of his axe quite through his foot.

**July 5, 1867**

HOME BY THE SEASIDE

“Oak Bluffs,”

A New Summer Resort

One Thousand Lots For Sale

The MARTHA’S VINEYARD LAND AND WHARF COMPANY having purchased the beautiful grove together with a large tract of land, adjoining the Wesleyan Camp Ground, offer for sale, at a price within the reach of all, lots in their beautiful ground, called “Oak Bluffs,” surveyed and laid out by Robert Morris Copeland, Esq., of Boston, the well known landscape gardener, with the view of meeting the wants and tastes of the people, and making it in the most desirable and beautiful retreat in New England for families who desire a cheap and quite home by the sea shore during the summer months.

The natural beauties and advantages of this spot are well known to all who have sojourned for a season at the yearly gatherings of the Camp Meeting Association, retired and quite yet easy of access from all points, with an extensive sea view, with facilities for bathing, fishing, sailing and all kindred recreations, unsurpassed, if equalled [sic], by any on our New England coast. “Oak Bluffs” offers unequalled attractions to those who desire the benefits of a sea air and out of door exercise without the discomforts of a fashionable and crowded watering-place. The Company are now building a wharf located at a point within three minutes walk from any lot in the grove, for the accommodation of steamers and sailing crafts which will afford frequent and easy communication with all parts of the country.

A plan of the Grounds exhibiting the lots, avenues, parks, etc., is now ready, together with plans and estimates of beautiful cottages, costing from \$300 to \$1,000.

For further information and particulars address

IRA DARROW	}	
SHUABEL L NORTON	}	of
GRAFTON N. COLLINS	}	Edgartown
WILLIAM BRADLEY	}	
ERASTRUS P. CARPENTER,		of Foxboro
WILLIAM S. HILLS,		of Boston

**July 12, 1867**

The Land and Wharf Company have given their grounds the unique and taking name of “Oak Bluff’s,” upon which they offer a thousand lots for sale. They have now completed the most substantial and convenient wharf that could have been erected in this vicinity, within forty rods of the Camp ground proper.

## **July 12, 1867**

Letters from Chilmark. – No. 2

For more than one hundred years after the settlement of Chilmark by the white inhabitants, the only public road existing here was the one now called the South Road. It was probably, the track of the native Indians, when travelling from Gay Head to regions now known as Tisbury and Edgartown, and, with a little improvement, adopted by the whites as a road... In those days, when this was the only open road, equestrian travellers [sic] in other parts of the town, were under the necessity of opening and closing gates and bars, at the rate of about five in every three minutes, during the entire process of their journey... Of late year however, the people have turned their attention more to the state of their roads. The result of this has been the construction, first, of the Middle Road, then of the North Road, both running East to West, nearly parallel to the South Road, and more recently, a cross road connecting the others together. I will mention one or two peculiarities of the Middle road, the first one built within the memory of the present generation. The eastern end, which is in West Tisbury, is about as crooked as it was possible to make it, and would puzzle even the great Path Finder himself to get into it...

...One great defect of the Vineyard roads is that they are too narrow, but two of them being of decent width. The consequence is that they are more frequently rendered impassible by snow, and sometimes cause great inconvenience to carriages when passing each other. If roads were four rods wide such annoyances would seldom occur, and towns would not often be called upon to pay for damage sustained by people travelling upon them.

Another striking feature about Chilmark is the extent of its stone walls, of which there are, probably, not less than forty miles. A large part of these walls was built more than half a century ago. The construction of these walls has served the double purpose of clearing the land of stones and obtaining a most durable fence.

The partitions and divisions of land are also rendered more permanent by these ponderous boundaries than would be the case, were the fences of lighter and less durable materials... These numerous and extensive lines of stone walls give evidence of untiring industry and perseverance, and a determination in overcoming obstacles and improving the condition of those who reared them...

...in taking a view of part of the Vineyard, the boulders must not be overlooked. They seem to be scattered broadcast upon the hills and valleys, as if thrown there by some mighty shower. They lie generally in the most delightful disorder; yet in some localities rows of rocks are to be seen, weighing hundreds of tons, conveying the impression that they were placed there by design...

## **July 19, 1867**

We learn of a painful accident to a son of Dr. Mayberry, by a stone thrown by a colored boy, breaking his scalp back of the ear. The boys were stoning the colored boy, we understand, and he threw the stone in defence [sic]. There is too much stone throwing practiced in our streets.

**July 19, 1867**

Letters from Chilmark – No. 3

Many people, among them may be found some Vineyarders, travel to the mountains, either to the green, white or blue, in search of health or pleasure or to gratify curiosity... Yet the journeys thither, the scenery, the amusements and occupations of visitors, may be all classed as monotonous... But the prospect from Chilmark hills is not, by any means, so immutable... We have here a moving panorama, constantly changing, constantly exhibiting new phases of beauty and interest, as new objects are coming into view, both from the east and from the west, while others disappear in the distance, or pass out of sight around the headlands...

...The District of Gay Head is incorporated, but for certain purposes is considered as a part of the town of Chilmark. The inhabitants are colored...Two other settlements of colored people in Dukes County, one at Chappaquiddic, the other at Christiantown, have a guardian, appointed by the governor of the Commonwealth; as office as useless as can well be imagined...

...The lands of the inhabitants of Gay Head, as of all other communities of colored people in this State, are inalienable... The land abounds in peat, which is the principal fuel used here...

**July 19, 1867**

DIED.

In this town, July 12<sup>th</sup>, very suddenly, Mr. Daniel Fisher, Jr., aged 37 years...

**July 19, 1867**

...We find that there are actually some people to whom our record of still life in Edgartown is not attractive. Strange indeed that there should be such people...

...And if one would have excitement upon the land let him take down a good saddle-horse, and upon the broad grassy plain that lies between the town and the southern shore he will find room for a gallop where the air is always cool from whatever point it blows...

**July 19, 1867**

...The truth is Northern Illinois will eventually be turned into a vast stock and graining country; for this it surpasses any other land in the world. Iowa and Minnesota, where the climate is cooler are the States for the growth of wheat, oats, barely, etc., but here, on the black prairie of Illinois, we can beat the universe in corn-growing, in grass, and in stock raising.

**July 25, 1867**

[\$2 sperm oil]

**August 2, 1867**

[Edgartown Taxes

Daniel Fisher       \$730

William Munroe     \$610]

**August 2, 1867**

Cheering reports reach us from the country's granary—the Great West—to the effect that never before in the history of our nation, have the growing crops given more bounteous promise of a rich harvest than at the present time. Wheat, rye, Indian corn, and other cereals are all looking unusually well...

**August 2, 1867**

WESLEYAN GROVE. – This beautiful spot is fast filling up with visitors who seek here a respite from the cares and close air of the city. Probably one thousand people are now on the Ground...It is a charming retreat and is becoming more popular each year. Large numbers of cottages have been erected this seasons, and with the neat arrangement of the lands adjoining the grounds of the Camp Meeting Association, belonging to the Land and Wharf Company, we may expect in years to come, still further additions to the numbers who shall visit this lovely grove, and enjoy the unsurpassed facilities for fishing, bathing, and breathing pure air which are here afforded.

**August 9, 1867**

Letters from Chilmark – No. 5

The surface of Chilmark is, for the most part, very hilly and uneven... It is noticeable that the valleys are subject to frost later in the spring and earlier in the Autumn than the more elevated portions of land...

...As was stated in a former communication, the excellent pasture land and fertile meadows here afford abundant facilities for raising stock, of which, formerly, large numbers were annually exported. The falling off in exportations of this kind, is owing mainly to the fact that the attention of the people was then more exclusively devoted to agricultural pursuits than at the present time. New avenues of industry have presented themselves, which yield a larger, speedier return for the toil bestowed upon them...

...As might be expected in a hilly country, here are several streams, affording water power for grist mills, and for running other machinery, which it turns to good account in favorable situations. The grist mills, in connection with the large flour mill of Dr. Fisher, in the adjoining town of Tisbury, supply the inhabitants with all they need in this line. A considerable stream called the Roaring Brook, is used to run machinery at a brick yard, and another supplies a paint establishment, of which, notice will be taken hereafter...

...This clay is of various colors and qualities, and suited to different uses. Many tons of this material have been taken from one bed and exported to Salem for the purpose of making alum. It has to be carted some two or three miles to the shore in order to be shipped. Upwards of thirty per cent of alum is extracted from this clay...

**August 9, 1867**

DOG DAYS have come—no one doubts it—and true to their unenviable reputation have afflicted

us with unusually large doses of close, sultry, muggy, foggy, uncomfortable, misery breeding, soul-and-body enervating weather.

**August 16, 1867**

FALL OF A WHARF – The Holmes Hole Beach Company’s wharf fell in Sunday about 11 o’clock under the weight of 35,000 feet of lumber, discharged from schooner Seguin.

**August 30, 1867**

Letters from Chilmark – No. 6

...What its original dimension were, it is difficult to say; for we are told that the island has been washed away, at least one mile on its southern side, within the present century. At the same rate, it must have lost more than one hundred miles during the last six thousand years...

...The north side of the island was, doubtless, once connected with the main land, for we find a sunken forest in the Sound, where tops and branches of trees have been repeatedly taken up...

**August 30, 1867**

Taxation in Chilmark

...NON-RESIDENTS.

...Harris, Nathaniel                      191 77

**September 6, 1867**

Letters from Chilmark – No. 7

The Doctors of Geology tell us that, a long time ago, so long, indeed, that our minds get bewildered with the calculation, this western continent, or what there was of it at the time, it then being what may be termed, mostly under water, was covered with ice a mile in thickness...

...On the north side of the town, adjoining the Sound, is an establishment for the manufacture of bricks, owned by Nathaniel Harris, Esq., of Brookline, Mass. Some idea of the value of this establishment may be formed from the fact that Mr. Harris pays the highest tax in the town of Chilmark... It is located near the shore, with a commodious wharf attached...

**September 6, 1867**

GREEN PLOVER – Large numbers of these favorite birds have passed on their migratory journey for warmer climes; but very few *remained* with us, much to the regret of the sporting fraternity.

**September 27, 1867**

...On the north side of the town is an establishment for manufacturing clay of diverse colors into paint. About a year and a half ago, this establishment was destroyed by fire; but has since been rebuilt on a more extended seale, it is operated by steam power, and makes from six to eight tons

of paint per day. When taken from the ground, the clay is placed in large vats, each color by itself, where it remains until thoroughly desiccated. These vats are provided with movable roofs, nearly resembling those used to cover the evaporating compartments of salt works. The clay, when sufficiently dried, is taken to the mill where it is ground to an almost impalpable powder. It is then sifted or bolted, barreled up and stored away, ready for exportation. The paint mill is situated about two miles eastward of the brick yard, and has a wharf for the accommodation of its business...

**September 27, 1867**

Messrs. Charles H. Shute & Son, have been, for a year past, engaged in taking stereoscopic views of the town and Camp Grounds. They have lately taken some fine views of Holmes' Hole.

**October 18, 1867**

...The business of sheep raising has fallen off on the island very much within the last thirty years; probably not more than one fourth as many can now be found here as were raised formerly...

**1868**

**January 24, 1868**

OAK BLUFFS – The proprietors of the Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Company will extend their wharf eighty feet further into the Vineyard Sound...

**January 24, 1868**

...Capt. Benj. B. Church, of Gosnold, was arrested on Friday last, by U. S. Deputy Marshal Cobb on a complaint for smuggling hides...

**January 31, 1868**

...During the severe rain, a short time ago, the Roaring Brook became swollen to the dignity of a Roaring River, and swept away into the sound this house belonging to the Brick Yard Company, and it drifted ashore, as above stated with cargo uninjured...

**February 7, 1868**

Massachusetts Legislature...  
...from John M. Forbes and others that the Vineyard Sound Railroad Company may be authorized to construct a railroad from Woods Hole to Plymouth, and for increase of capital stock; and from Daniel Fisher and 60 others of Edgartown in aid of the same...

**February 21, 1868**

HERRING – The first of the season, were taken at the Oyster Pond, last week, to the number of about 300. They were shipped to New Bedford, where they brought a high price. The company which seines in this pond have been quite successful lately in catching smelts...

**February 28, 1868**

...On Monday, the House of Representatives passed the following resolution, by a vote of 126 to 47:–

*Resolved*, That Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, be impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors...

**February 28, 1868**

BOY SHOT – A distressing accident, caused by the careless use of a gun, resulting in the instantaneous death of a boy aged about six years, son of Mr. Dow, who lives on the farm belonging to Dr. Daniel Fisher, of this town, occurred in West Tisbury, on Tuesday. A man named Luce, has been gunning at a pond near the farm, and desiring to go another way on some business, left his gun, loaded and capped, in the shed or barn on the farm. Three boys, all very young, playing there, discovered the gun, and commenced to play with it, “shooting ducks” they called it. They snapped it two or three times, when it was finally discharged and blew the Dow child’s head to pieces.

**February 28, 1868**

Auction Sale of Wood Land...

...a tract of wood land situated near a fresh pond on the premises of I. N. Luce of Edgartown, containing about ten acres...Road, south by Hancock lot, and west by Crowell lot. Also one other lot in the same vicinity, near Roger’s Hill, containing about seven acres... These lots now have on them a thrifty growth of wood...

**March 13, 1868**

...We are pleased to know that the prospects of a railroad to Woods Hole are daily growing brighter...

**March 13, 1868**

Of the five hundred and sixty-one deaf and dumb persons in this Commonwealth, twenty-four are in the smallest county—Dukes—a locality in which the affliction has, for a considerable period, appeared to be hereditary. – *Boston Transcript*

**April 3, 1868**

CORN.

2100 Bushels CORN of extra good quality, just received by sloop Meteor, and for sale low.

DANIEL FISHER

Edgartown, April 2, 1868—4w\*

**April 10, 1868**

FOR SALE

A TRACT of SWAMP LAND, suitable for a Cranberry bog; the same being a portion of “Manter’s Neck,” lately purchased by the subscriber of James F. Cleaveland [sic].

Terms and conditions can be learned on application to John Look, or the subscriber

HANNAH LOOK

West Tisbury, Apr. 10, 1868

tf

**April 10, 1868**

...Boys were skating on the Slough Pond last Monday.

**April 10, 1868**

Auction Sale...

...a lot of Wood and Cleared Land, the property of Joseph Vincent of Nantucket, and bounded as follows: Commencing on the Willis’s Plain Road... Said piece or allotment of land and woodland includes the “LITTLE POND,” being a part of the tract of land and woodland called the Quampeachy lot, containing eighty acres more or less...

SAMUEL KENISTON

**April 10, 1868**

Indian Relics Wanted.

Stone Adzes, Axes, Arrow Heads, and other Indian Implements and Curiosities wanted by

C. G. BREWSTER

No. 16 Tremont Street, Boston

\*\*\* A Liberal Price will be paid for them.

**April 17, 1868**

Prospects of Edgartown

Having left the editorial chair of the GAZETTE some seven months since, and being, at the present time, on a short visit to this place, we have consented to take charge of this one issue...

...On arriving in this pleasant village we looked anxiously around to discover some signs of improvement, some business going forward, or projected. But no such parenetical [sic] signs were visible. It would seem as if all the enterprise and energy of the place had gone to Oak Bluffs and Wesleyan Grove. In a business point of view, nothing is stirring, nothing doing....

[Marchant]

**April 17, 1868**

FIRE – The large volume of smoke seen arising off to the south part of the town, beyond the residence of Joseph Dunham, Esq., was the result of the burning of the moss and dry grass, set on fire by some small boys. No particular damage done.

**April 17, 1868**

MATTAKESETT CREEK – We are all interested in the productions of this creek, one of our staple products, and will be sorry to learn that the prospects of the usual catch are very small. The exceeding cold weather delayed the run, and the last severe storm has almost entirely destroyed the creek, filling it in from the beating of the sea over the beach.

**May 1, 1868**

OAK BLUFFS—The members of the “Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Company” met at the Parker House, New Bedford, on Wednesday of last week, at 7 o’clock P. M., and accepted the charter of incorporation granted by the State Legislature of 1868...

...Directors—Shuhael Lyman Norton, Ira Darrow, Graton N. Collins, and William Bradley, of Edgartown: Erastus P. Carpenter, of Foxboro, and William S. Hills, of Boston.

The object of this Corporation is now well understood to be to make a delightful summer resort of their grounds – one which will be a real benefit to all concerned. The misapprehension of the intentions of this Company which at first existed in the minds of the gentlemen of the Camp Meeting Association, appears to be removed—the last named parties being satisfied that the Oak Bluffs Corporation did not intend to do anything that will conflict in any way with the religious interests of the Camp Meeting Association...

...We opine that the fame of Oak Bluffs will rapidly spread, and that the pleasure-seekers will here find a most desirable summer retreat in the most moral and physically healthy locality along the whole range of sea-coast of the United States...

**May 1, 1868**

FIRE – About twenty-five acres of woodland at Tashmoo were burnt over a few days ago. The flames came very near destroying the homestead of the late Sylvanus Luce, which was only saved by the utmost exertion on the part of a few men who were present.

**May 8, 1868**

*Mr. Editor:*—Please allow me a space in your next issue of the GAZETTE for some remarks relating to a school house to be built at Eastville...

...Within the circumference of what may be termed Eastville (with possibly one family exception) we number 20 dwelling houses occupied by 24 families number 78 persons, including 16 at this time legally entitled to public school privileges, and 6 under age...

**May 29, 1868**

[County Tax Apportioned

Edgartown	\$1875
Tisbury	\$1311
Chilmark	\$631
Gosnold	<u>\$183</u>
	\$4000]

**June 12, 1868**

CAMP GROUND – Ten carpenters from Newport, R. I., came to the Camp Ground last Tuesday, per steamer Helen Augusta...

**June 12, 1868**

The waters in the Great Pond are so high that the beach will be opened on Monday, 22d inst, by order of the Commisioners [sic] of Sewers of Mattakesset Creeks. See notice.

**June 12, 1868**

About four hundred and fifty barrels, (270,000) herring were taken at Mattakessett Creek the past spring.

**June 12, 1868**

Bluefish continue to be very abundant...

**June 12, 1868**

The Milwaukee *Sentinel* says; “Young men of small means, seeking for farms, will be glad to learn that there are in St. Croix valley, in this State, some 950,000 acres of land subject to entry under the Homestead Act...”

**June 26, 1868**

GREAT POND OPENING – The Great Pond was opened to the sea, on Tuesday, by order of the Commissioners of Sewers, for the purtose [sic] of draining the waters from the low land adjacent. Quite a number of persons were present to witness the *break* and were disappointed at the sluggish manner in which the waters ran.

Since the above was in type, we learn that the surf has filled in the opening so that it has ceased to run.

**July 3, 1868**

Mattakessett Creeks...

...WHEREAS, The proprietors of the town of Edgartown, in the County of Duke’s County, did formerly grant the privilege of the fishery in Mattakessett Creeks...

...In the Same book we find an act passed in 1794, which is as follows:...

...Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, General Court Assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing this Act, it shall not be lawful for any persons whatever to turn out, feed or let run at large any neat cattle, sheep or horse kind upon said beach or meadow, eastward of a fourth direction from the point of land called *Job's Neck*, to a place called *Wagua Point*, from the fifteenth day of April to the first day of October annually, upon the penalty, for each offence, of *three shillings* a head for all neat cattle and horse kind, and five pence a head for all sheep so turned out, fed or let run at large on the beach or meadow aforesaid... That the Proprietors and owners of the said beach, meadows and creeks, and the lands adjoining said beach, shall be holden [sic] to maintain and keep in usual repair the fence from *Short Neck*, so called, to a place called *Mattakessett Bay*...

...ye who now appear and undertake to dig and keep open said Creeks, or weir, they, and such others as they shall take unto them, the whole sale benefit of the fish, that pass up and down the said Creeks, to them, their heirs and assigns forever...

...began at the westernmost part of the granted premises near to where Short-Neck pond lately was, thence extending south seventy-five degrees east...until it comes to the east side of *Mattakessett Way* so called, or the west side of the twenty-second Plain lot...

### **July 3, 1868**

#### **NOTICE:**

The proprietors of *Mattakessett Creeks*, and proprietors of meadows and low-grounds adjoining *Edgartown Great Pond*, so called, and the adjacent ponds, are hereby notified to meet at the Creek house on Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, 1868, at 9 o'clock A. M. prepared to dig out the Creek down to its original bed or deep enough to drain the ponds fifteen inches or more if need be...

### **July 17, 1868**

We have received a very neat lithograph of the plan for laying out the village of *Oak Bluffs*. The plan was drawn by R. Morris Copeland, Esq., of Boston. The drawing is embellished with several neat and ornamental designs for cottages drawn by Mr. Stevens, of Boston, and Caleb Hammond of New Bedford. The advantages possessed by this place are truthfully set forth in the advertisement of the *Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Co.*, which may be found on first page.

### **July 24, 1868**

Whortleberries are very plenty in this vicinity this year. The Grounds above "Aunt Sukey's"; burned over by the fire a year or two ago, are literally covered with these nice berries.

### **July 24, 1868**

...We notice that "Oak Bluffs" is gradually growing into popularity, and the energetic measures adopted by the gentlemen who control this pleasant spot will soon create a world-wide interest in their undertaking...

**July 31, 1868**

[Edgartown Taxes

Dr. Fisher	\$545
William Munroe	\$654
Samuel Osborn	\$545]

**July 31, 1868**

BLACK SNAKE –While Capt. Shubael C. Norton of this town was returning home from mowing a few days ago, he saw a large black snake, lying near a rail fence, and while endeavoring to hit it with stones, his snakeship started for Capt. N., with great rapidity, and when within a few feet of him, coiled himself preparatory to a jump. Capt. N., faced him, and gradually backed up to the fence, and getting a rail quickly killed him. The snake measured five feet and a half in length, and was really a dangerous customer.

**August 7, 1868**

...We have to record new arrivals every day, and the number of our inhabitants increases quite fast. In fact, the Grove presents the appearance and bustle of a city...

**August 7, 1868**

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT [sic] – Mr. Timothy Luce, Jr., of Holmes' Hole, was fatally injured on board the schooner Argo, of Chilmark, a few days ago. While at the Brick Yard wharf, Roaring Brook, Mr. Luce was adjusting the fender between the wharf and the vessel, when a sea hove the vessel against the wharf, and jammed his head so severely that he has since died from the effects of the injury received.

**August 7, 1868**

NOTICE:

Whereas, my wife Olivia, has left my bed and board, all persons are hereby forbidden to harbor or trust her on my account, as I shall pay no debts of her contracting after this date. I will pay ONE CENT reward to any person who will bring her home to me. JAMES BOYER.

**August 15, 1868**

[Sperm \$1.80

Increasing numbers of obituary notices from Midwest – states like Iowa]

**September 4, 1868**

Wood for Public Schools.

Proposals will be received by the School Committee until Oct. 1, 1868, for supplying all the Public Schools, in Edgartown, during their Fall and Winter terms, with good seasoned oak and

pine wood, of suitable size for stoves; to be delivered at the several school houses at such times and in such quantities as the School Committee shall designate...

...The aggregate quantity required for all the schools exclusive of that on hand, as estimated, will be from fourteen to eighteen cords of oak, and from four to six cords of pine wood...

**September 4, 1868**

Mortgagee's Sale of Real Estate...

...to wit, a certain tract of land, (or island) lying in Squibnocket Pond, in the Town of Chilmark, and known as the Great Island, excepting about one acre owned by James Mayhew, or the south eastern part of said island...

**September 25, 1868**

EAST CHOP – We learn that lots are being staked out on the East Chip lands, beyond Jordan, recently purchased by the Martha's Vineyard Camp-Meeting Association, and there is some talk of making that the head question of the meeting...

**September 25, 1868**

FLOUR, CORN & MEAL

10 Bbls.	Valley of the Genesee,	\$9 00
20 do	Garden State,	11 25
20 do	Exchange,	12 50
10 do	Cream,	15 00

Corn and Meal in constant supply, and at very fair prices.

DANIEL FISHER.

**October 9, 1868**

GOSNOLD... The number of houses in the town is 28; horses, 28; cows, 63; sheep, 2948... There is an increase of 4 houses, and a decrease of 2 cows and 879 sheep. Gosnold is the least populous town in the State, but last year there were only three towns that kept a larger number of sheep.

**October 9, 1868**

...We were visited last Saturday with a very severe gale of wind from the north west, accompanied with some snow... Two or three boats laid at anchor all day, near Washqua Opening, waiting for the wind to abate...

**November 13, 1868**

LANDS! LOANS! – Send for list of Houses, Lots and Farms in Eastern Indiana...

**November 20, 1868**

Edgartown Aroused!

The Grandest Torchlight Procession ever witnessed in Dukes County!  
The Grandest Illumination of Edgartown ever beheld here, or elsewhere, by and Town of its size!...

...Almost every House, Small or Large, from the Centre to the Circumference of this Town, Well Lighted in Honor of the election of Grant & Colfax!

**November 27, 1868**

*An Address delivered at the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Fair. October 22d, 1868, by REV. HEBRON VINCENT, one of the Vice Presidents of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society...*

...How much of our Vineyard land, instead of being fed and thus improved, has been cropped to death...

...THE PLANTING OF PINES

Another of the topics on which I wish to say a few words is that of the planting of pine seed in the poor lands of the Island. For several years in succession a standing offer has been made by this Society of premiums for the planting and raising of pines, allowing competition on so small a patch, even, as an eighth of an acre. And yet I am not aware that, till this year, a single lot of any size has been entered with the committee yearly appointed on that subject. Several years since quite a number of persons sowed sections of their premises with the foreign pine seed, which rooted well, and for a time seemed to promise profitable returns; but in nearly it not quite every instance the experiment proved a failure. The late Hon. Leavitt Thaxter, the first President of this Society, lived to see his error in this matter, and speedily retrieved it. He caused the foreign shrubs to be cut down and removed, and prepared and planted the same ground with the native pine seed. The lot, which is at the head of Edgartown Plain, gives man that evidence both of the wisdom of the change, and of what scores of farmers on this Island might accomplish... Mr. Wilbur has a lot of about two acres doing finely, and which will soon be a forest... Indeed there are many standing proofs on different parts of our Island, of the adaptedness [sic] of our soil to the successful growth of this useful tree... Our farmers have hundreds of acres now lying waste, which might be converted into valuable pine forests. In twenty years from now we might supply the inhabitants with the pine wood needed, and not have to import it in great part, as now; and after that might export it... Were our County roads, as suggested some time since by our present worthy President, ordered with pines, how much more pleasant could be the drive to our County Fair...

**1869**

**January 22, 1869**

EXODUS.

Capt. John R. Sands, with his wife, daughter and son, left here on Monday last for California, where they intend to live... Capt. Sands has always been an active citizen, with a manifest desire to see his adopted town flourishing and prosperous. But the lack of business has caused him to remove as it will many others, unless something is done to keep them at home...

**January 22, 1869**

EXODUS, CONTINUED – The steamer Helen Augusta carried as passengers, on Wednesday morning, Capt. Charles Marchant with his family, and Mrs. Joanna Crocker with her three children. Capt. Marchant has established himself at Middleboro, and in company with a Mr. Jenney has established a boot and shoe manufactory...

...Mrs. Crocker goes out to South America, to meet her husband, Capt. Frederick Crocker, and will probably hereafter reside at Montevideo. Capt. Crocker is a man of business tact and energy, and has, we are pleased to learn, met with success in his enterprise in Montevideo.

Mr. Charles F. Pierce and his bride will accompany Mrs. Crocker on the voyage, and make their home on the same foreign shore...

**February 12, 1869**

...The “Vineyard Cornet Band” serenaded Dr. Daniel Fisher and Hon. Samuel Osborn, Jr., on Monday evening, and were hospitably entertained by both gentlemen...

**February 12, 1869**

Nantucket—The fire seen at Nantucket for several days, proves to have been simply that of burning “whortleberry brush and beach grass.” As the telegraph operator at Holmes’ Hole has very kindly informed us...

**February 12, 1869**

MORE LIGHT – Dr. Daniel Fisher, has purchased a large street-lantern, which will be placed on the corner of the Martha’s Vineyard Bank building. Its rays will guide the pedestrian during the dark evenings.

**February 19, 1869**

...About 600 acres of beach grass and pines belonging to Mr. Joseph Vincent, were burnt over at the great fire in Nantucket last week.

**February 19, 1869**

Capt. Nathaniel M. Jernegan and others have purchased the swamp on the Lily Pond Farm, and are rapidly converting it into a cranberry bog. It is one of the best tracts of land on the Island for the purpose of raising these splendid berries.

**February 19, 1869**

Within a few years several enterprises have been started on the Vineyard which promised to be of great benefit. The most promising of these appear to be, making brick, grinding paint, and mining clay, all carried on in Chilmark where several companies are poorly accommodated with roads. It is a noticeable fact that these enterprises were started by men who are not native of our island, and it seems, since they are willing to come among us, that the least we can do is accommodate them by building a few much needed roads. If capitalists of the island are not willing to promote home interests by the use of their capital, let us give all the encouragement possible to those who will. If we treat those who have come among us well, others may be induced to follow their example, and it would be difficult to measure the good that would be derived to ourselves by this liberal policy...

...Our Flour mill and all the other island manufactories should receive our support...

### **February 19, 1869**

GOSNOLD – Mr. Oliver C. Grinnell of Naushon, shot five eagles a few days since. They are not in the hands of a taxidermist. The united spread of their wings was 36 feet, 10 inches, two of them measuring 7 feet, 8 inches each.

### **February 19, 1869**

One Thousand Dollar Reward

JOSEPH MAYHEW, by the authority of the proprietors of Mattakessett Creeks, now offers a reward of five hundred dollars to any person who will give information that will lead to the conviction of the persons who have dug through the Beach and let out the water of the Great Pond, since the 20<sup>th</sup> of Dec. last. Edgartown, Jan. 12, 1869

### **February 22, 1869**

RUMORS FROM TISBURY – That Eastville wants to secede from Edgartown, and join its fortunes with Tisbury.

That Tisbury is both willing and anxious to secure the prize.

That a bridge is to be built across the Lagoon Pond Opening...

### **February 25, 1869**

Over two tons of fine sea perch were seined in Trapp's Pond, on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

### **February 25, 1869**

VELOCIPEDES – The velocipede fever still rages, although in a very mild form. On Tuesday evening a large number gathered in the Hall to witness the feats of the velocipetists [sic]...

### **April 15, 1869**

About Dogs.

“Every owner or keeper of a dog shall annually, on or before the thirteenth day of April, cause it to be registered for one year from the first day of the ensuing May, in the office of the clerk of the City or Town where in said dog is kept, and shall cause it to wear around its neck a collar distinctly marked with its owner’s name and its registered number, and shall pay for such license for a male dog two dollars, and for a female dog five dollars.”

Any person keeping a dog contrary to the provisions of this act shall forfeit fifteen dollars.

### **April 23, 1869**

[New Banner for Vineyard Gazette, - New type; no slogan  
Daniel Fisher still a director of MV National Bank]

### **May 21, 1869**

THE HIGH BOARD FENCE between the grounds of the Camp Meetings[sic] and Oak Bluffers now in process of construction. We can but think that the Camp Meeting Association will never regret this proceeding but once – and that regret will be for all time. It is carrying matters of little too far, and smacks somewhat strongly of Phariseism [sic].

### **May 28, 1869**

New Bedford, May 24, 1869

Friend Gazette: – I noticed in your paper that the Camp Meeting Association are building a high fence to separate the Camp Ground from the Oak Bluff Territory. This indicated an extremely narrow-minded and churlish disposition. The Association to seems actuated by a petty and most contemptible jealousy in trying to bar out the proprietors of Oak Bluff, who number among themselves, as refined, well educated and wealthy people as there are in the State, and whose presence would be a most decided acquisition to the Camp Meeting; while on the other hand the Association opens the ground to every blackguard from this and neighboring cities, who feels disposed to come down on a Sunday excursion for a drunken spree...

### **June 4, 1869**

THE GAY HEAD INDIANS were visited last Friday by the Hon. Rodney French, chairman on the part of the House of Representatives of the Indian Committee. The chieftains of the tribe assembled in council at 10 o’clock of the day above named, and expressed their opinions on the proposed questions of enfranchisement, &c.

Mr. Zaccheus Howwaswee, expressed his opinion in favor of remaining in their present condition.

Deacon Simon Johnson, expressed his thanks for the kindness and interested of the State in their welfare, and wished still to remain recipients of the State charities...

...We are pleased to see that “woman’s rights” are recognized by this ancient tribe. Mrs. Jane Wamsley coincided with the Deacon in desiring to remain in her present condition.

Mr. John Anthony, considered himself a man among men, and as good as “any other man,” and wished for a chance to prove it. Hence, was in favor of enfranchisement.

Mr. Alvin Manning agreed with Mrs. Randolph, and was in favor of taxation with representation...

### **July 1869**

[Edgartown Taxes

Dr. Fisher	\$596
William Munroe	\$750
Samuel Osborn	\$539]

### **July 30, 1869**

A Trip to Gay Head...

...While on the road we noticed a large forest, the trees of which are covered with moss. At first sight it seemed as if “grass grew upon trees,” but a nearer approach reveals the fact that it is moss. It is a sight seldom seen. As far as we could discern, the trees, small and great, and even the smallest bushes appeared like an immense cotton grove...

### **1869**

[H. L. Whiting – Chairman of Agricultural Society  
Hoosac tunnel still under construction; Cape Cod canal discussed]

### **September 10, 1869**

The Post Office at Wesleyan Grove was discontinued on Saturday last. Up to Thursday night 16,270 letters had been received and sent through this office. But very few offices in South Eastern Massachusetts can exhibit a better fun of business in the space of three months. It clearly indicates the importance of a permanent Post Office arrangement within the Grove.

### **September 17, 1869**

The Great Gale.

Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, will ever be memorable from the fact of the furious gale of wind which raged in this section of the country. In fact, the newspapers all agree that it was the most fearful “blow-out” old Boreas has had since the historic September gale of 1815...

...On the Vineyard, fortunately, we learn of but very little damage to property, and no loss of life. We were just a little to the eastward of the main strength of the storm, and the damage done, is, therefore, confined to the uprooting of a few trees, the demolition of fewer chimneys, the loss of a few shingles from very few roofs, the capsizing of the wharfinger’s office at Oak Bluffs, an old shed at Homes Hole, and a few field of corn laid low...

**September 24, 1869**

Vineyard Sound Railroad.

Never before, in the history of our seagirt isle, have the public interests more ungently demanded, and the public convenience more earnestly required, some means of transportation on the mainland at a point nearer to us than New Bedford.

Martha's Vineyard sorely needs a railroad to Woods' Hole.

It ought to be built immediately...

...Edgartown would become alive once more, awakened from the Rip Van Winkle slumber begun at the decline of the whale fishery.

Holmes' Hole, that pleasant little village, would hum with industry, and soon develop the energy and talent that now lies dormant.

West Tisbury and Chilmark would revel in the increased facilities for marketing the wonderful products of the earth found within their borders...

**October 15, 1869**

GREAT EXPENSE in the purchase of new type and other materials for the office, very recently. The general appearance of the paper is materially improved, that every one admits...

**October 15, 1869**

VINEYARD GROVE COMPANY.

The committee of this association met at the Grove on Tuesday and transacted some important business...

**November 26, 1869**

Sometime last week the island of Chabbaquiddick ceased to be, the action of the wind and sea having closed Washqua Opening. We were just congratulating ourselves upon this addition to our territory, when the storm of Saturday made another opening in the beach and left "Chabby" an independent continent, once more. This is one of the most singular cases of *sea*-cession on record.

**December 8, 1869**

The Holmes' Hole and Eastville Road Question...

...It is now conceded that the Camp Meeting, which was started in such a modest, unpretending way, has got to be a very big thing, and that it, and its off-shoots,—"Oak Bluffs," and the other enterprises that are about being developed – will soon make the whole of that part of the Vineyard—the East Chop country—by far the most important part of the Island, and, in fact, as important as any locality in the southern section of the State, except, perhaps, New Bedford.

Edgartown and Holmes' Hole, and our whole Island must realize much financial benefit from it...

...Recently a new idea has entered the brain of the Holmes' Hole people, (and the wonder is that they did not think of it before,) to open up a new way by way of the beach, nearly on an air-line, easily made, coasting but little, and in every way agreeable, if not to the Edgartown people, at least to the Holmes' Hole people, and the inhabitants of this new settlement which now has no name, and for this time we will call it "Vineyardville," and suggest it as its name...

...In opposing it, Edgartown assumes that it is better to hem folks in, and cripple and restrain them; whereas, the spirit of the age for to open up new ways, and give every community a fair chance to grow and develop...

### **December 17, 1869**

2,700,000 bricks have been manufactured at the Vineyard Brick and Tile Works during the past season...

### **1869**

ARE YOU GOING WEST – The new Map and Descriptive Pamphlet of the "Great West" for 1870, is now ready. It contains a complete Railroad and Township Map of *Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, and Nebraska...*

...All who are going West, who own land or intend to buy land in the West, and who desire the fullest information yet published of the "Great West" should send for this Map and Pamphlet...

## **1870**

### **January 7, 1870**

TOWN MEETING held at Holmes' Hole on Monday...

...The committee chosen at a former meeting were delegated with full power to carry out the measure to extend the said road to the Camp Ground. It is evident that our Holmes' Hole brethren mean ROAD. They would save a great deal of trouble, however, if the sound and sea would close the Opening to Lagoon Pond, as effectually as the elements aforesaid, have closed.

### **January 7, 1870**

WASHQUA OPENIN firmly, the beach being now some four feet high. Capt. Theodore Wimpenny drove his horse and wagon across the beach, a few days ago, to what was once the island of Chabbaquiddick, now and island no longer, but a part of the mainland of the County. A few weeks ago, the opening was closed for a day or two, and then broke open again. Now the reunion seems to be permanent, and bids fair to continue so. It is nearly or quite 100 years since the passage was made by land to "Chabby." It is cheering in these days, when rumors of secession are rife, and we seem to be in danger of losing a portion of our town, to find the elements conspiring to annex a large tract of valuable territory to our island...

**January 7, 1870**

GREAT SALE

-of-

Valuable REAL ESTATE

Wharf Property [Long list of S Orborne Property below]

Town Wharf, 32,600 square feet: Carpenters' Shop, and two stores thereon.

North Wharf, known as Morse's Wharf 10-16 thereof, 11,756 square feet.

Woodland

Lot of Woodland near the school house at Farm Neck

Lot of Woodland near the late residence of P. M. Vincent

Lot of Woodland near the residence of Owen W. Norton, (called the Jonathan Worth lot.)

Land in Edgartown

Lot of land near the Slough

Lot of land near the High School House

Lot of land near Dr. Fisher's Oil Shed

Pine Lot, adjoining land near Oil Shed

Lot of land near the residence of B. B. Norton

Lot of land adjoining Shubael C. Norton's on the Holmes' Hole road

One-half of lot of land on North Water Street, in front of the residence of the late Samuel

Osborn

Lot of land near the residence of Thomas A. Norton

Lot of land opposite the mill's House, facing Summer Street—site of the old Davis

Academy

Lot of land near Freeman Butler's Estate

One-fifth of lot of land near the Martha's Vineyard National Bank

Lot of land on Chabbaquiddick, purchased from the heirs of Capt. Henry Pease, 2d,  
adjoining land of Matthew P. Norton's

Land on Chabbaquiddick purchased of the estate of Samuel Huxford

**January 7, 1870**

DWELLING HOUSE

Near the foot of Main Street

CHURCH PROPERTY

Pew No. 45 in the Cong. Church

Pew No. 35 in the Cong. Church

TERMS

Will be LOW and positively CASH.

For further particulars apply to HENRY L. OSBORN or S. W. CROSBY.

**January 7, 1870**

...The proposed canal across Cape Cod will cost about \$10,000,000

**January 7, 1870**

Mr. William W. Huxford, of Chabbaquiddick, brought a load of produce to this village last Monday, by the overland route, a thing that has not been done before since the earliest memories of the veritable "oldest inhabitant"

**January 28, 1870**

Nearly, or quite a hundred barrels of smelts have been caught in the Great Pond during the mild weather of the present month...

**January 28, 1870**

Several hundreds of herring have been seined in the Great Pond, recently...

**January 28, 1870****THE ROAD**

"The joint committee of the Legislature on Roads and Bridges will have a hearing at the State House, on Tuesday the first day of February next, on the petition of Henry Bradley and others, to authorize the commissioners of Dukes County to construct a bridge over the creek leading from [sic] Holmes' Hole Harbor to Lagoon Pond."

**February 4, 1870****MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE...**

...In the Road matter, the petitions of Daniel Fisher and 259 others of Edgartown, of Holmes W. Smith and 24 others, of Edgartown; of Josiah H. Vincent and 14 others of Tisbury; of Warren M. Tilton and 38 others of Chilmark severally against the petition of Henry Bradley and others of Tisbury, have been presented...

**February 4, 1870**

**THE CAPE COD CANAL...** Col. H. N. [sic] Whiting an engineer of the coast survey and Gen. J. G. Stone, of the U. S. A., testified to the feasibility of the project...

...Mr. Marston stated that he had found that there was no opposition among the people of the Cape to the project, though they were not anxious to be made to live on an island. But as sufficient railroad and highway communication was guaranteed [sic] none of their interests would be injured...

**February 4, 1870**

[Henry Whiting testified in State legislative hearing about Cape Cod Canal proposal.]

**February 4, 1870**

CHILMARK... By report, it appears that the goodly citizens have “Road on the Brain,” having recently laid out three roads, principally cross cuts to connect the North and South Roads...

**February 4, 1870**

We learn that Tarleton C. Luce, Esq., has sold his wharf at Eastville and a portion of the land adjoining said wharf, to a Mr. Washburn, who intends to keep a lumber yard and erect a sawing and planing [sic] mill.

**February 11, 1870**

THE BRIDGE – A bill has been reported to the Legislature, by the Committee on Roads and Bridges, to authorize the County Commissioners of this County to build a bridge across Lagoon Opening, between Homes’ Hole and Eastville. The cost of construction is to be apportioned as follows: Tisbury is to pay three-fourths, and Edgartown and Chilmark the balance, a division which appears to be very fair and equitable.

**March 4, 1870**

*Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:–*

SEC. 1. The county commissioners of Dukes County are hereby authorized to constant and lay out a free bridge with a suitable draw, over the canal or creek connecting Holmes’ Hole harbor with Lagoon Pond, as a part of a road leading to a county road, so called, running to Eastville...

SEC. 2... two-thirds at least, of said cost shall be assessed upon and paid by the town of Tisbury; the balance shall be assessed upon and paid by the towns of Edgartown and Chilmark...

**March 4, 1870****ROAD MEETING IN EDGARTOWN**

...The meeting was called to order by S. Osborn, Jr... presenting the possible advantages and disadvantages of constructing a sand road along the beach from this place to the Camp Ground...

...W. H. Munroe, offered a motion, that there be a committee of three appointed to report a list of twenty names to the meeting as a committee upon the subject...

**March 11, 1870****DECISION OF THE COMMISSIONERS INLAND FISHERIES...**

...That said pond lies wholly in Tisbury...It is a large sheet of water fed by certain brooks, and separated from the sea only by a narrow beach. The natural fishery (except perhaps for eels) is of small value; but if a passage be cut through the beach, certain fishes will come into the pond, especially herring, (or alewives) smelts, striped bass, and white perch. Hence it is plain that this fishery is an artificial one and depends on cutting a passage through the beach. Therefore the first

question is: who has authority to cut said passage? The persons having such authority are the Commissioners of Sewers appointed by the Court, who, whenever the pond gets so full as to injure border lands, may, at the request of the owners of said lands, cause the beach to be opened and may assess the cost on the said owners...

..The border proprietors of Black Point Pond had been accustomed to drain their water through Quansue Creek into Tisbury Great Pond... It appears, however, that Quansue Creek was not, at all times, a natural communication between Black Point and Tisbury Great Ponds; thus in 1815 it was entirely stopped up and so remained for many years, until about 1830, when the border owners of Chilmark Pond, lying west of Black Point Pond, caused said Quansue Creek to be dug out, so that they might drain said Chilmark Pond, through Black Point and Tisbury Great Ponds, into the sea. They so drained for eight or ten years, when they abandoned it and cut through their beach so as to drain directly into the sea...

...We therefore finally come to consider the interests and rights of the inhabitants at large, and of the Border Owners, in this fishery. Unless these last gave their consent, the pond could not be opened to the sea, and there would be no sea-fish in it; consequently the almost entire value of the fishery depends on the voluntary act of said owners; and the inhabitants at large have no right in the matter. As a matter of fact, the beach would always be opened, during the winter and early spring, from time to time, in order to prevent the swashing of the banks of the pond by excessively high water: and it may therefore be admitted that some sea-fishes would come into the pond, even though there were no fishermen to purposely open the beach for them... It already has been shown that the border owners are the only persons who clearly have the right to cause the beach to be opened by their Commissioners of Sewers...

### **March 18, 1870**

#### **CHILMARK**

...The all-absorbing and fashionable topic that agitates other parts of the Island has proved infections, and the legal voters, in town meeting assembled, have already accepted two roads. One of these roads connects the North County Road with the Middle Road, crossing at Menamsha; the other connects the North Road with an old town way known by the name of Tea-lane.

At the time of the acceptance of these two roads, a third was acted upon and lost, viz: a cross-road connecting the North with the Middle near the Town Hall...

...It is not at all unlikely that the County Commisioners [sic] will be called upon to lay out a County Road or two, as the town of Chilmark is hardly large enough to contain all the roads needed by its traveling inhabitants who seem to believe in the "March of progress."

### **March 18, 1870**

#### **THE CAPE COD SHIP CANAL COMPANY**

--The first meeting of the Cape Cod Ship Canal Company was held Friday forenoon in Boston...

### **April 1, 1870**

...road fever has raged, and is raging, with the violence of an epidemic, threatening to remove every old landmark of sand and stones in the beaten highways of years... To repair our highways thoroughly, or in cases of actual necessity, lay out and build new ones, is the cheapest investment that can be made... The road to the Camp Ground is one of the best on the island...

**April 1, 1870**

...The scene of the present fish-drama, is laid in the pleasant villiage [sic] of West Tisbury. The ponderous document we published a few weeks ago, emanating from the Commissioners of Inland [sic] Fisheries granting the right to fish in Newtown Pond, to certain parties—excluding all others—has raised a sea of commotion and antagonism in the breasts of those persons thus deprived of what they consider to be their rights...

**April 1, 1870**

Some of the members of the committee appointed to view the proposed road to Eastville, via the beach along the Sound shore, attended to that duty on Saturday last... Starting from Manada Creek the party proceeded on foot up the sandy beach, taking observations as they went along... on the right, the Vineyard Sound...To the left, Sengenketacket Pond.. the whole distance from Edgartown village about five and three-fourths miles. By the old road the distance is about seven and a half miles...

**April 1, 1870**

VINEYARD HIGHLANDS

The bridge across the northwest side of Squash Meadow Pond, is fast approaching completion, over one-half of the distance being already planked. The bridge is fifteen feet wide, and when completed will be one of the most delightful evening walks in the vicinity, when lighted with lanterns the entire distance.

The new wharf of this Company will be built immediately and the cottages to be erected this summer, as far as known already, will exceed probably fifty...

**April 1, 1870**

...*forty-four* per cent of the whole amount of money expended for schools, went to maintain the High School. It is *high*, and no mistake...

**April 1, 1870**

[Long article arguing for oyster culture and seeding in South shore ponds]

**April 15, 1870**

The attempt to dig an opening through the beach near Washqua has failed. It may be easier for the boatmen to beat around Cape Poge, one way or another all summer, than it is to dig sand about two days now...

**May 6, 1870**

One Million Acres of CHOICE IOWA LANDS

FOR SALE at \$3 per acre and upwards, for cash or on credit, by the Iowa Railroad Land Co...

**May 6, 1870**

SALT! SALT!

ARRIVED this day, one hundred and thirty bushels Salt.

Have also just arrived a load of nice OAK WOOD.

April 29, 1870            H. W. SMITH

**May 20, 1870**

Attention is called to the Reward offered by John Mayhew, Esq., and others, for information to detect the persons who have several times, lately, sought to amuse themselves by the dangerous business of setting brush and woods on fire. Last Saturday a great fire raged on the Great Plain, and but for the persistent efforts of several men, a portion of our town would be in ashes. Now, a word of warning to those incendiary spirits: –Cease this sort of work, immediately, unless you desire to be placed where you can be found every day and night, without trouble...  
...there are several bad boys in this town, who will do well to heed these remarks, before they terminate there [sic] criminal career in a stone house.

**May 20, 1870**

We have had a genuine sensation. The colored Senator from Mississippi has been among us. He gave us an address in Music Hall, was the guest of Gov. Clafin, and everywhere, and by all classes honored...

...This colored man, be it remembered, is now filling out the unexpired term of Jeff Davis in the Senate...

**May 27, 1870**

[Plan to lay out road through Gay Head from town line

“Years of road building” – noted in paper – as occurring in Chilmark, Edgartown, Gay Head]

**June 18, 1870**

PROTECT THE BIRDS – The sweet little songsters of the grove have made their appearance, and if those fond of a gun will let them alone, we shall enjoy a season of their delightful music. Why the Legislature does not do something to protect these little warblers, we cannot tell...

**June 18, 1870**

NORTON HOUSE Eastville, Mass.

...Situated on the east side of Holmes' Hole harbor, and within ten minutes' walk of the Camp Ground, the location is one of the pleasanter and most desirable for a summer resident among the Atlantic coast.  
SHUBAEL H. NORTON, Proprietor...

**June 25, 1870**

The bluefish have got about tired looking for an opening at Washqua. Oh! For a few shovellers.

**June 25, 1870**

...Yesterday, there were three lumber vessels at this wharf laden with lumber for our townsmen, Messrs. Fisher & Huxford, who are doing a thriving business in the lumber line...

**June 25, 1870**

An Act to distribute the School Fund for Indians... to the town of Marshpee, one thousand dollars, to the town of Gay Head, six hundred dollars; to the town of Edgartown, three hundred dollars; to the town of Tisbury, three hundred dollars; to the town of Sandwich, one hundred and fifty dollars; and to the town of Plymouth, one hundred and fifty dollars...

...The school-houses heretofore erected by the Commonwealth upon Indian lands shall hereafter belong to and be held by the towns within the limits of which they are severally situated.

**July 8, 1870**

...Miss Nancy Luce received many callers on the 4<sup>th</sup> and everything went on smoothly. Last "Independent" day she was uch annoyed by parties who were meddlesome and noisy...

**July 15, 1870**

Three years ago forty millions of young shad were placed in the Connecticut river at Holyoke. The result was seen during the season just passed, when the catch of shad in the river was unusually large... fifty-four million young shad have this year been placed in the Connecticut at Holyoke...

**July 15, 1870**

[Edgartown Taxes

Daniel Fisher	\$535
William Munroe	\$402
Samuel Osborn	\$436]

**July 22, 1870**

Chabbaquiddick still remains a part of the continent. The new opening at Washqua closed up almost as soon as it was completed. Too bad.

**July 22, 1870**

The occupants of the club-house at Squibnocket, have arrived, and will spend the summer there. The club consists of a number of gentlemen from New York, who are actively engaged in business when at home, but seek their quiet retreat at “Hotel de Squib” during the warm summer months. Their house is as large as an ordinary dwelling and is furnished in an exceedingly neat manner. Piers have been built off the south side for hook and line fishing, and fish are usually very abundant in that vicinity. Large numbers of striped bass are caught every season, which are packed in ice and sent home to friends or to a market. A yacht is kept in waiting, principally for this purpose...

**July 22, 1870**

[Daniel Fisher noted as taxed in Tisbury as a non-resident \$207]

**July 29, 1870**

[Nathaniel Harris – non-resident in Tisbury from Brookline \$480]

**August 12, 1870**

Edgartown as a Watering-Place.

It seems to us something should be said regarding the adaptability of Edgartown as a “Watering Place”...

...Person from the immortal Camp Ground prefer it to the condensed, oppressive heat and clinging dust of that popular resort. Here is the pure, healthful breeze, unobstructed by dense trees, which there render only a stagnant atmosphere, uncomfortably endurable.

The bathing, boating, fishing, fowling, and driving facilities, we consider, are far superior. Edgartown’s land-locked harbor extends perfect safety to bathing, and boating, which at the “Bluffs” are attended with some danger, when the wind blows landward...

...Cannot something be done to render Edgartown still more attractive, some business energy exerted?... as she lies beside her beautiful, peaceful harbor, almost lifeless, we catch the reflection of her inscription from her mirrored waters, “*Died For The Want Of Nourishing Enterprise.*”...

...Whale-ships no longer gladden with “oily expression” their owners. The harvest of the ocean cannot now fill our barn with plenty, scattering the seeds through the barren town, and making green her thorough-flares of business. The ocean must be looked away from, and terra firma gazed upon.

Would that the enterprise spirit of the Oak Bluff company could stimulate the people of Edgartown. A company that took the uninviting barren Bluffs, when public sentiment seemed opposed and made that desert blossom like a rose...

...we would urge the formation of a company; make the necessary assessments; buy up an eligible site around the shores of the town; have it laid out, with pans of the same for distribution. Then confer with the Camp Ground and Oak Bluff companies, getting also outside capital

invested, and push through the “Beach Road,” not only for carriages, but a horse railroad also, terminating or commencing near the purchased property...

**August 12, 1870**

[Clubs arriving

Piscatorius Club Hartford, Neptune Club (music), Hartford Fishing Club, Yacht Club.

More summer visitors than ever. But need to fix roads, improve town.

Roofing Tabernacle]

**August 25, 1870**

[note 14 ½ % decline in ACK population since 1865]

**August 26, 1870**

[Planing mill to be set up at Camp Ground. Already have lumber yard]

**September 5, 1870**

For several days of last week there was an unusually high tide and heavy surf along the south side of the island. Opposite Tisbury Great Pond; the sea washed over the beach for a long way and filled the pond so that the beach will have to be cut through in order to drain the meadows. The creek connecting Black Point and Tisbury Great Ponds was filled with sand...

**September 5, 1870**

A flock of several hundred wild pigeons are around on the western part of the island, besides several smaller flocks. These birds are unusually numerous this fall...

**September 5, 1870**

...The bridge has many attractions for the young folks, and is nightly thronged with cooing doves and sentimental swains.

**September 16, 1870**

WEST TISBURY, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1870

Hens must not have cayenne pepper, it is poison for them, it drives a redness into their heads, and when the redness is gone they fail till they die... I am a doctor for hens... Lie going on three years. Some folks keep telling all about the band seared me with music, that is false, they did not scare me not one mite, they abused me dreadfully with that music, in my sickness. They ought to seek for the holy spirit, to be prepared to both live and die. NANCY LUCE.

**October 14, 1870**

[Joseph Manning Mayhew, 53 died of lockjaw from stepping on nail in board]

**November 18, 1870**

The Board of County Commissioners had a hearing, Wednesday, in the court room of the County House, upon the matter of a road from Lagoon Bridge to the Camp Ground, Oak Bluffs... There were two roads asked for... that coming to the south side of the Camp Ground as the “Coffin road;” and the other the “Jordan” road—everybody knows where camp-meeting Jordan is...

**November 25, 1870**

A beautiful white swan was killed recently, at Swan Neck, Great Pond. It measured seven feet, one inch across the wings from tip to tip; four feet, ten inches long, and weighted fourteen pounds. It is very seldom that anything of the kind is seen around the Vineyard.

**November 25, 1870**

The Future of Edgartown...

DEAR SIR – I have dreamed a dream... On arriving at New Bedford I inquired about the means of conveyance across the raging ocean, to the city, (as I imagined it must be by this time) of Edgartown, and was told that the boat has ceased to run to that place for many months past; but that I could go to the Camp Meeting Grounds and from thence by rail to the former site of the pleasant little town...

...In a short time I met the noble team belonging to Dr. F. Now thought I, I will see something that has not deserted the “sinking ship.” Alas! for my hopes. I looked into the large wagon, and saw a curious assortment of—something I could not tell what. “What have you go in there, friend?” I cried to the driver. “Cellars! dug’em up in the Old Town, goin’ to put ‘em under houses at the Camp Grounds,” was the answer... not a wharf to be seen...

**November 25, 1870**

Mr. Editor – I have been abused, last Saturday, in the afternoon, Oct. 22d, 1870, by folks come from Holmes’ Hole, five of them... one young man, two young women; they talked hard to me in my sickness, and they threw [sic] about my chairs about the room to damage my carpet, &c, and they kept banding my doors in the house, to put my head in misery... more I told them what misery they put my head in, the more noise they made... and I shook, and quivered all over after they went, because I am weakened by long sickness... I told them they must have true repentance or they would go to everlasting punishment...

...I want folks to call me on that has tender feelings for me in sickness, and not make noise to put my head in misery.

A good many very nice folks calls on me.

NANCY LUCE

West Tisbury, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1870

**November 25, 1870**

Railroad excitement is on the increase and the Tisbury Selectmen have issued their warrant calling a town meeting to see if the town will subscribe to the capital stock of the road, and if so, to what amount.

**November 25, 1870**

Vineyard Sound Railroad

Agreeably to the petition of H. L. Whiting and eleven others, citizens of the town of Tisbury, the Selectmen called a meeting of the legal voters of said Tisbury...for the purpose of taking into consideration the prayer of said petitioners (which was for the town of Tisbury, in its corporate capacity, to take \$30,000 or \$40,000 in the Vineyard Sound Railroad stock)...

...Mr. H. L. Whiting of Cambridge, Mass., introduced the following gentlemen – Messrs. Winslow and Phinney of Barnstable, and Mr. Nye of Falmouth, saying that these gentlemen had come for the purpose of advocating the claims of said railroad, and the advantage it would be to the citizens of Tisbury to make such investment...

**1871**

**January 1, 1871**

[Term Holmes Haven used & discussed. First in Dec. 7 letter. Hole is not adequate for such a pleasant town.]

**January 13, 1871**

[Holmes Haven – to be or not to be

Letter: “I have long wondered why the good people of your delightful village could be content to dwell so long in a “Hole” and am most happy to learn that an effort is being made to... come out of the “Hole” into a beautiful “Haven”]

**January 20, 1871**

[Options: Holmes Port, Tisbury, Holmesville, Vineyard Haven, Vineyard Port, East Tisbury, Holmes Harbor, Tisbury Port]

**February 10, 1871**

[Sperm oil \$1.35]

**February 17, 1871**

OSBORN’S WHARF, or Town Wharf, so called, by one or the other name from almost immemorial usage, on account of having been owned so long by the Obsborns of Coffins, has just been sold by the heirs of Abraham Osborn to Samuel Osborn, Jr...

**February 17, 1871**

MR. EDITOR – Allow me to say that Dr. Fisher is selling an excellent quality of Maryland yellow corn at 94 cents a bushel at retail. This corn is very clean and I think equal in weight to Vineyard corn. Also flour for \$8.50 per barrel as good as can be brought in New Bedford for \$11.00 per barrel. If he could introduce to our market, beef and pork from the West at corresponding low prices, I should be to think that we could live quite reasonably, even here.

CONSUMER.

**March 3, 1871**

[Using Vineyard Haven]

**March 10, 1871**

[Bridge across Lagoon Pd complete. Herring arriving at Pocha Creek]

**March 17, 1871**

[Cost of bridge \$5,700. T – 3800, E – 1400, C – 500]

**April 7, 1871**

[10,000 herring taken from Job's Neck Pond. Riot in Paris]

**April 28, 1871**

[Planing mill in Camp Ground works on Maine lumber]

**May 26, 1871**

...Twenty-five years ago, in May 1846, there were 732 vessels engaged in the whale fishery from the United States. Two hundred and fifty-three were owned in New Bedford, and 77 in New London. The whole fleet is reduced to 278... New Bedford now has only 171, and New London, 22... It is much to be regretted that this once very important branch of our national industry should show such evident signs of decay...

**May 26, 1871**

[Paris back in the hands of the French. Article on demise of whaling.]

**June 9, 1871**

Vineyard Highlands

*Mr. Editor...* The magnificent building lots on these grounds are unsurpassed by any to be found in the vicinity, and in some localities are not equalled [sic]...

...THE BEAUTIFUL GROVE is laid out into avenues, parks and building lots with exquisite taste... The location for the preachers' stand and the circle of large tents which will inevitably be here is in the midst of the thrifty trees of the grove, at one of the highest points of land therein.

IN THE CLEAR LAND, between the grove and the edge of the bluffs which line the Sound shore, are, to my mind, some of the grandest building sites on the island. Rising almost perpendicularly from the shore are the cliffs reaching the altitude, at their highest point, of sixty feet above the level of the sea, and at Telegraph Hill, a few rods back from the edge of the cliffs, the altitude of eighty feet is attained... The Vineyard Sound stretches out on either hand, from far beyond Cape Poge to the narrow and dangerous channel known as Woods Hole, with nothing to obstruct the sight. The spacious harbor of Vineyard Haven so often filled with wind-bound vessels, with the pretty village in the background nestling amid the hills and foliage of its beautiful trees and shrubbery, forms one of the most delightful land and water-scape views on the entire coast. Across the Sound, Falmouth reposes in quiet, only agitated at present by the early prospect of hearing the impatient short and shrill whistle of the “iron-horse,” as he draws the living freight of dusty and perspiring humanity towards the dear old Vineyard...

**June 9, 1871**

[H. L. Whiting who put in RR petition, a Cambridge citizen, not West Tisbury so couldn't address West Tisbury Town Meeting. Was invited to speak. Would involve steamboat wharf and depot at Vineyard Haven.]

**June 16, 1871**

**OPENING THROUGH THE BEACH.**

In this matter, which so deeply concerns our whole community, it is hoped that something definite will be decided. It is a fact that since the opening at Washqua closed over a year ago, the amount of fish caught—especially bluefish—is less, considerably, than it has been for several years; and it is not too much to assume the absence of an opening as the cause, for the reason that around the opening the best fishing was had, and from the fact that it was a sort of rendezvous for the smaller fish upon which the bluefish worked for a living. If the bluefish leave our waters, our fishermen will be deprived of their most lucrative branch of fishing and one of the greatest attractions for pleasure-seekers who throng our hotels every summer will be gone and the throngs will diminish. If then, there is a chance for a successful opening, it seems to be important that the work should be done.

**June 16, 1871**

The new bridge across the Lagoon opening is a decided blessing to the whole island, if we may judge from the number of teams and pedestrians that are constantly passing and repassing over it...

**June 16, 1871**

...It is high time we aroused to a sense of our perishing condition... New life must be breathed into our people and as a resuscitating agent we recommend the immediate building of the “BEACH ROAD”... Many of the visitors to this city in the woods, would like to bring their teams if roads existed suitable to be travelled upon...

...Once here, charmed with the beauties and natural attractions of our village, and the fine building sites all along the banks of our capacious and excellent harbor, we hazard the prediction that cottages would spring up as if by magic... real estate would become valuable, and every citizen be made happier and richer by the investment.

These are no visionary schemes. What if the town is already deeply in debt...

...What if the road does cost thirty thousand dollars, or even more? It can be paid without our being any poorer, by the taxes received from this new settlement...

...Build the "Beach Road," and we firmly believe that business will experience such a revival, that our young men who are now thrust out into the world, away from home and all its hallowed association, will be able to stay with us, and thus add to our resources the vigor and strength of young manhood, ambitious for success in life.

### **June 16, 1871**

The survey of the harbor is progressing favorably...

### **July 7, 1871**

[200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Edgartown and Vineyard Haven.

Taxes \$582 in Chilmark – Nathaniel Harris]

### **July 14, 1871**

[Edgartown Taxes

Daniel Fisher           \$563

William Munroe       \$400

Samuel Osborn       \$388]

### **July 21, 1871**

[Tisbury Taxes

Daniel Fisher \$233]

### **August 4, 1871**

...Belle View Heights is the name of a new settlement on the already seething Chop...

...Gentlemen from abroad, who have visited very many of the favorite resorts and know where of they speak, are continually declaring that with proper encouragement on the part of towns and individuals, Martha's Vineyard is destined to become the watering place in the country...

### **August 4, 1871**

A gentleman from New York is so fully impressed with the superior advantages of our island as a place of summer resort that he has assured the leading citizens of this town with whom he has conversed, that he and other gentlemen of New York, will build a macadamized road from

the New York Steamboat Landing, at Belle View Heights, to the South Beach in Edgartown under certain conditions, as follows:

A tract of land 300 feet wide is to be given them free, and they will build the road seventy-five feet wide, with sidewalks each twelve feet wide, making in all a magnificence boulevard one hundred feet wide. The estimated cost of the road is \$20,000 per mile... At each end of the route a large and elegant hotel will be erected...

#### **August 4, 1871**

Letter from West Tisbury...

...Fourth of July Sinners, 1871. A number of folks called on me. Some of them behaved well. Some of the sinners carried on awful wicked against me, because I am sick... One stompt [sic] some of my vines to bits in my board yard, they did me a dreadful site of damages in the house and out...

...In 1867, October, Some hard hearts come with band of music, and sot it going to my door, to murder me alive, they was forced to go off soon, they put my head in a dreadful condition, I did not get over it for a number of weeks...

...Now I have just heard that it is in the papers that I am on the campground to stay the summer, that it false, I am not able to ride, nor walk out to home. NANCY LUCE.

#### **1860s – 1870s**

[Shift in emphasis on tourism descriptions to Oaks Bluff and Hotels. Less on Gay Head, land, views]

#### **August 11, 1871**

[150-200 carriages over bridge daily

News much on Wesleyan Grove, Oaks Bluff]

#### **September 1, 1871**

WESLEYAN GROVE, Aug. 30, 1871

...Sunday, the great day of the meeting, was pleasant in the afternoon... Careful judges estimate the presence of about 14,000 people on that day.

#### **September 1, 1871**

[Meeting to consider beach road – letters in subsequent dates

Ad for road builders for Gay Head road to Chilmark line]

#### **October 13, 1871**

At a meeting of the directors of the Camp Meeting Association, holden [sic] Tuesday evening at the Camp Ground, Jeremiah Pease, Esq., of this town was chosen Agent for the ensuing year...

...Cottages are being put up in considerable numbers on the Highlands... The speculating fever has reached a fever heat, and land changes hands daily... the whole of Bellevue—Eastville—Highland—Camp-Ground—Bluffville appears to be on the top wave of prosperity...

**October 13, 1871**

THOMAS MAYHEW, JR., the pioneer missionary among the natives of Martha's Vineyard... was therefore, the first martyr in the cause of Christianity on the Vineyard, and it seems strange that so many years have elapsed without suitable recognition of this fact by our island people. The spot where he bade farewell to the people is marked by a heap of stones on the old road to Newtown, a few rods this side of the boundary between Edgartown and Tisbury. It is now designed to meet at the place indicated above for the purpose of forming a society to build a monument, or by some other measures to mark the appreciation of the people for this good man...

**October 13, 1871**

GREAT FIRE IN CHICAGO...

**October 13, 1871**

...The territory burned over comprises about 2,500 acres, and upon this only three buildings are standing...

**October 13, 1871**

Martha's Vineyard

*To the Editor of the Gazette:*

During the winter season when the vineyard people are so situated as to have less intercourse with the world at large, matters of local importance are more likely to receive the individual attention of the people, and to be sharply discussed, if not fully determined upon.

There appears to be no longer any reasonable room to question the probability that the next season will see such a rush for the Vineyard, and such a demand for house lots and houses as has never before been witnessed.

The experience of the last season, and the unmistakable foreshadowing of the near future, has impressed many with the idea that there should be some well devised and preconcerted [sic] unity of action on the part of the inhabitants of the Vineyard, taking into consideration the probably effect of this state of things the moral as well as the material welfare of the Island as a whole. To this end, that all these matters may receive due and thoughtful attention, and finally have such shape given to them as shall result in the greatest good to the greatest number, the writer takes the liberty to propose that during the coming winter meetings or conventions will be holden [sic] in each town on the Island to consider all the various matters appertaining to its interest.

In order to insure the people that their time will be well spent in attending these meetings, and that the subject or subjects that will claim attention at each meeting shall be carefully

considered, it will be well, very soon, to call a meeting, perhaps at the Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury, and there appoint a good committee from each town, who shall be empowered [sic] to appoint gentlemen to well consider and present in writing a formal report or lecture upon such theme as shall be assigned them, presuming that each gentleman who has a subject assigned him will spare no pains to fully examine into it in all its bearings and details, which paper would then become a matter of discussion by the meeting,—notice of the meeting and the theme to be discussed having been given a reasonable time in advance.

The matters that will be selected must be of general interest to the Island as a whole, and care be taken to avoid local strife and conflict.

With no desire at this time, to name the identical questions to be considered in these reports and discussions, still as indicating what is in the writer's mind and what he deems of much importance to the Island he hesitatingly names as proper matters for consideration the following subjects:—

1<sup>st</sup>. What course of action will it be best for the Vineyard people to pursue in the future in regard to its moral and religious status, or in other words, Is additional effort necessary, and called for, in order to retain the high moral standard that has been characteristic of our people as law abiding and temperate, heretofore?

2d. What is the best policy for our various towns and the county where it has jurisdiction, to pursue in relation to the repairing of old and the building of new roads?

3d. Is it probably that the agricultural interest of the Vineyard will be stimulated, and the tilling of the soil be rendered remunerative [sic] by reason of the Summer Residents coming to the Island?

4<sup>th</sup>. Can the mineral deposits found on the Island, such as clay, ochre, marl, etc., be made sources of greater income and wealth than they are now?

5<sup>th</sup>. Can the various pounds [sic] on the Island be made sources of more lucrative income by a more judicious use of them by planting of oyster, or producing in them fish of every kind?

6<sup>th</sup>. How is the general interest of the Island affected by the mode of taking fish known as *pounding* and all other modes except the old and original one, the *hook and line*?

7<sup>th</sup>. Has the culture of the cranberry on the Island been a profitable investment, and if so to what extent with profit may it be gone into?

8<sup>th</sup>. Is it probably that the long strip of territory for the most part embraced in the town of Tisbury, and Edgartown and known as the Plains, could be made productive, and if so would not the reclaiming of them be the means of adding wealth to these towns as well as rendering the Island more healthful and attractive? With hints as to the best mode of reclaiming.

Whilst these are homely questions and not calculated to arrest the attention of giddy, thoughtless people, they certainly will be recognized as possessing some importance by the more thoughtful, intelligent ones on the Island.

The attention of the Vineyard people is called to them in no morose or selfish spirit and the writers only wish writing is to promote the best interest of the whole Island.

**November 3, 1871**

...The real estate fever at and near the Camp Ground, has not fully abated yet... The sales within the past six weeks are estimated by good judges at about \$75,000. There are now good opportunities to invest in stock on Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Highlands, Bellevue Heights, Oak Grove, Grovedale, Wingdale, and a “dale” of other places...

**November 10, 1871**

[Sperm oil \$1.25

Artic disaster, 33 whale ships lost

2 owned by Samuel Osborn – insured]

**November 17, 1871**

The Storm on Wednesday will long be remembered by our people as one of the most severe ever known along the coast... We also hear that the dyke at Manda Creek is washed away; and that the sluiceway built last spring between Great Pond and Job’s Neck Pond is also destroyed...

**November 17, 1871**

[Hoosac Tunnel 16,000 feet of 25,000 complete]

**December 15, 1871**

Bellevue Heights – Mr. Tarleton C. Luce has lately made large purchases of land to the north west of the Highlands, and the whole plot is to be surveyed and handsomely laid out into attractive building sites...

**December 15, 1871**

The Plain Lands

*Mr. Editor*—The matter of the improvement of the plains is entitled to some attention. If these lands are susceptible of improvement and cultivation for the purposes of agriculture the reclaiming of them would add not a little to the taxable property of the towns wherein located.

If there be good reasons why this flat, level piece of territory, more free from rocks and stones than any other portion of the Island, should be forever given over to the production of scrub oaks and huckleberry bushes will not someone tell why.

If it is answered that the *frost* makes its home there nearly every month in the year, if not quite, then is it asked why should it? and *an* answer is not *the* answer to this is, that the kind of shrubbery that grows there, grows so rank and thick, and clings so closely to the bosom of its mother earth as to completely exclude the sun.

Give the earth a little better chance by an opportunity to spend its vitality upon vegetable matter and that will court, rather than repel the sun, and soon it will be more than a match for the frost, depend upon it.

It is true that the soil appears to be thin and poor, and still there is in some way an unaccountable strength to it to enable it so quickly to grow the material which appears to be indigenous to it—the valueless bushes before spoken of.

Shall we hear from some of our local agricultural chemists upon the ability of this soil to produce something of more value.

Will not some member of our Agricultural Society who may be tired of fine spun theories give the matter a real practical dig.

Respectively,

DEEP BOTTOM.

### **December 15, 1871**

AUCTION SALE OF REAL ESTATE – The homestead of Joseph Dunham, Esq., was sold at auction, today, by his guardian, authority having been given her for this purpose by the proper court. Lieut. Henry L. Whiting, of Tisbury, was the purchaser at the sum of \$3250. It is the intention of Mr. Whiting to make this place his home. We are pleased to welcome to our village such a valuable citizen and worthy gentleman.

## **1872**

### **January 5, 1872**

NEW STABLE – Mr. William H. Handy, of this town, has just contracted with parties to build for him upon the Camp Ground, near the upper lake, a fine stable; and it will be completed early in the spring. The building will be 30 by 60 feet, two stories high, giving ample room for two rows of stalls and carriage room on the lower floor....

### **January 5, 1872**

General Butler delivered speech in Provincetown last week, in the presence of a large and very enthusiastic audience, upon the Fishery question as affected by the Washington treaty... New Bedford and our own island is threatened with serious loss by the attempt to repeal the duties on imports of seal and fish oils, and the merchants of the “oil city” are taking action to defeat the proposed repeal....

### **January 5, 1872**

This is an age of improvement. One by one the old landmarks are removed, and classical, refined, and sometimes, modernized nomenclature, is superseding the terse Anglo-Saxon of our forefathers. Vineyard Haven takes the place of Holmes’ Hole... We hail these improvements as the harbinger of a higher degree of aesthetical culture, and an enlightened civilization...

### **January 5, 1872**

The all important question of having a “Beach Road” is to be considered in Town Meeting, on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant. Of course there will be a full attendance, and, we trust a full, free, and harmonious discussion.

**January 5, 1872**

The planning mill on the Highlands has been closed for the present.

**January 5, 1872**

School-boys hear with pleasure the decline in whaling business.

**January 5, 1872**

Town Meeting.

To either the Constables of the town of Edgartown...

2d. To see if the town will accept a town way, laid out by your Selectmen, (upon the petition of Nathaniel M. Jernegan and sixty-five others,) commencing near the Eastville School House and terminating at Oak Bluff avenues.

3d. To see if the town will accept a new town way, laid out by your Selectman, (upon the petition of Nathaniel M. Jernegan and sixty-five others,) commencing near Oak Bluff Wharf and terminating at Water street, so called, in the village of Edgartown, near the residence of Mrs. Mary T. Osborn...

**January 5, 1872**

Lumber Yard

---At The ---

Wesleyan Grove Camp Ground.

Rough Spruce Joist...

Spruce Boards...

Spruce Shingles...

Sawed Cedar Shingles...

**January 19, 1872 – Edgartown**

The Beach Road Accepted – A Lively Town Meeting.

...A petition, already numerously signed, will soon be forwarded to the legislature asking authority to bridge across the openings of Farm and Sengekentacket Ponds...

**January 19, 1872**

OAK BLUFFS – The new hotel which the Oak Bluff Land and Wharf Company decided, some weeks ago, to build, will be a magnificent building...

**January 19, 1872**

All persons interested in the bridge petition for by C. C. Hine, may appear before the legislative Roads & Bridges committee, next Wednesday.

### **February 9, 1872**

The Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Co. has decided to build the new hotel, so long contemplated. The contract was made on Monday, at a cost of about \$75,000. The building is to be completed July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **February 9, 1872**

South Beach Opening.

We clip the following extract from the Washington Daily Globe of February 1<sup>st</sup>, it being the first article in the list of reports of congressional proceedings for the previous day: --

EDGARTOWN HARBOR – Mr. Buffinton, by unanimous consent, presented the memorial of the harbor commissioners of the State of Massachusetts, concerning Edgartown harbor, in said State; the opinion of the United States advisory council; the report to Professor Benjamin Peirce, Superintendent United States Coast Survey, by Henry Mitchell, chief of physical hydrography, United States Coast Survey; the letter of Josiah Quincy, chairman of harbor commissioners, State of Massachusetts; the report to Prof. Benjamin Peirce by Henry L. Whiting, chief of topography, U.S. Coast Survey, and the memorial of citizens of Edgartown, in relation to the same subject; all of which were referred to the Committee of Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

These papers were accompanied by a letter from our Representative to the General Court – Capt. Nathaniel M. Jernegan – in his characteristic prompt and energetic manner. Capt. Jernegan has taken an active and leading part in our harbor improvement matters from the first, and deserves the thanks of his constituents for what he has thus far accomplished.

We are glad to see our harbor interests so well represented and so well cared for. We understand that in the report of Prof. Whiting concerning our harbor, he has discussed the expediency and desirability of making a channel through the shoal ground inside of the outer breach, in connection with a new opening through the breach itself, and that he recommends the western section of the Bay and beach as the most favorable for the successful accomplishment of the proposed improvement. Prof. Whiting states that to make a channel-way three hundred feet wide and four feet deep, following the general line of deepest water from Katama Point to near the head of Mattakessett Bay, together with a corresponding cut through the beach at this last point, will require the removal of some 63,000 cubic yards of the material of the shoal and breach. To accomplish this, at rates below the average cost of dredging and to insure against storms and other contingencies affecting the successful opening of the inlet, he estimates a sum of note less than \$20,000...

### **February 9, 1872**

[Correspondence of the Gazette]

NEW BEDFORD, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1872

*To the Editor of the Gazette:*

...How different is to-day from what it was twenty years ago!... A great many changes have taken place here and on the Vineyard during the period mentioned...

...Twenty years ago the whaling business here was at its height, and ever since has been on the decline...

### **February 9, 1872**

...The bill to authorize C. C. Hine to build a bridge across a branch of Lagoon Pond, has passed to be engrossed in the Senate.

### **February 15, 1872**

AN ACT TO PROTECT THE FISHERIES IN THE TOWN OF EDGARTOWN.

*Be it enacted, &c: --*

Sect 1. No person shall set, draw or stretch any seine or net or any kind in any of the ponds, creeks, bays, harbors or inlets of the sea, of the town of Edgartown, within one mile from the shore, between the first day of March and the first day October, inclusive, in each year: *excepting, however,* from the foregoing provisions, the pond known by the name of Oyster Pond: nor shall any person not an inhabitant of said town at any time set, drag or stretch any seine or net in any of the ponds or creeks of said town or outlets thereof. The seining of menhaden and mackerel is exempted from this act...

Sect 3. The provision of this act shall not apply to any waters within the town of Tisbury, or any waters within a mile from the shore of said Tisbury...

### **February 23, 1872**

Beach Road – Another town meeting is called to take further action upon the beach road matter...

...We can not afford to let another year pass without improving the opportunities of presenting the view of the land purchasers the beautiful sites upon the banks of our harbor for summer residences.

Look at the result to Tisbury of the investment in the Lagoon bridge and road. Their lands were bought into market and large lots have already been sold at good prices. Cedar Tree Neck in Lagoon Pond, formerly owned by Mr. Thomas N. Hillman, and which cost him but about \$800 has been sold for \$10,000...

...No one will deny that Edgartown can offer as tempting sites for the purposes of land-buyers on the Vineyard, as are found in any other portion of the Island...

### **February 23, 1872**

VINEYARD GROVE – The Highland House is to be considerably enlarged by the addition of the new wing...

**February 23, 1872**

OAK BLUFFS – Hon E. P. Carpenter, the President of the Oak Bluffs company, came over in the Monohansett, Saturday, and on Monday the site of the new hotel was decided upon...

**February 23, 1872**

OAK GROVE – Sometime in August or September of last year, Mr. Zebulon Pratt, of Middleborough, and a Mr. Rothwell, we believe, of Providence, purchased fifteen acres of woodland to the south-west of the camp ground. It was soon surveyed and laid out into parks, avenues, building lots, &c., by R. L. Pease, Esq., and parties have been at work clearing up the underbrush and trimming the trees. We learn that every lot has been sold already, at a large advance upon the original cost.

**February 23, 1872**

...We learn that Mr. Joseph Silva has sold his farm on the Plain, for \$5500...

**February 23, 1872**

In the Senate, Tuesday, Mr. Carpenter of Norfolk, introduced a bill to incorporate the Vineyard Telegraph Company, with a capital of \$10,000, for the purpose of laying a submarine cable from Wood's Hole to the island of Naushon and from thence to Oak Bluffs, Edgartown, or other points connecting therewith...

...The bill to protect the fisheries in Edgartown, printed in the GAZETTE last week, having passed the Senate, was rejected in the House...

**February 23, 1872**

BELLEVUE HEIGHTS – The work of improvement is going steadily forward...

**February 23, 1872**

KATAMA – The negotiations so long in progress, look towards the establishment of a new place of summer resort at Katama, seem at last to have assumed a definite shape, and it is reported that a company has been formed to purchase and develop the enterprise which promises to greatly benefit our village...

...No lovelier place for summer visitors can be found on the island, than at Katama...

**February 23, 1872**

More Improvements – Capt. Shubael Lyman Norton has decided to have his farm, situated but a short distance from Oak Bluffs, laid out in handsome form, into building lots, parks, avenues, drive-ways, &c., and put it into the market for sale. The services of Mr. Jared Norton of this town, have been secured to do the surveying and planning.

It is also rumored that the farm immediately adjoining Capt. Norton's land, belonging to the estate of the late Hon. Benjamin Davis, will be surveyed and laid out in similar manner. Who can tell where the rejuvenating process will end?

### **March 1, 1872**

Beach Road – The town meeting held last Saturday afternoon was well attended, and harmoniously carried on...

...It was voted unanimously to accept the new branch of the road, and discontinue the old one...

... "That the Commissioners be instructed to go on at once and build the proposed roads and the necessary bridges... that they be instructed to have the bridges completed by June first, and that the bridge to be built over Sengekentacket opening be similar to that over Lagoon outlet...

### **March 1, 1872**

"Where are you going, next summer? Is already heard in the horse-cars." So says an exchange.

We wish to say these inquirers, come to the Vineyard, and see if its attractions have been over-rated. We can offer you inducements second to those of no watering-place on the coast. Come and look at Katama, and from these grounds gaze upon the bosom of the broad Atlantic as its surf-capped pulsations beat upon the shores of our dear old Vineyard. Come and view our harbor—a haven of rest. Come and roam over the island to the Camp Ground, Oak Bluffs, Highlands, Bellevue, Vineyard Haven, Gay Head, and elsewhere if you please. Come prepared to drink your fill of invigorating air, beautiful and romantic scenery, quiet and home-like comfort, away from the cares of business. Try a few weeks of recreation here next summer, and you will return to your homes happier men and women, with your physical strength renewed.

### **March 8, 1872**

Marine Disasters – The sudden cold and terrific blow of Monday night drove ashore on the reef which makes off from the northeast point of Cape Poge, the sch'r White Swan, of and from Calais for New York, which was anchored in the Sound...

...A whaleboat... was launched, and manned by the following name crew: -- Daniel Fisher, 2d, Seth Marchant, 2d, Hervey Wilbur, George Fisher, Richard J. Marchant and William F. Fisher. They went alongside the vessel and rescued the entire crew of six men, they have been exposed to the bitter cold wind and sea for about 28 hours, without fire, food or shelter...

### **March 8, 1872**

A number of seals were seen in the Vineyard Sound, near Duke's Island the other day, by a Boston bound merchantman.

### **March 8, 1872**

The Preservation of the Walrus – A bill was reported in the Senate Friday, which will carry into effect the request of the recent petitions from Boston and New Bedford for the preservation of walrus in the northwestern and Alaska waters. It amends the act of July, 27, 1868, by forbidding the killing of any female walrus or any walrus less than one year old during the months of July, August and September, except by the natives for food only, and under regulations by the Secretary of the Treasury...

### **March 15, 1872**

The annual town meeting of Gay Head was holden March 4<sup>th</sup>, in the town school house... the following is a list of the town officers elected...

...Field Driver – Alvin Manning

Overseer of Cranberry Bog – Charles Mingo...

...Voted to instructed the selectmen to petition the County Commissioners to allow the selectmen to put up necessary gates across the county highway, so that the town may be able to pasture cattle as heretofore...

### **March 15, 1872**

...Taking this (Vineyard Haven Harbor) as a point midway between Halifax on the northeast and Galveston on the southwest, it is safe to say that more vessels pass it each way within observing distance of a signal station, *judiciously placed*, than any point on the entire Atlantic coast.

### **March 15, 1872**

...*Boston Daily Advertiser* of March 9<sup>th</sup>...

...We notice in the VINEYARD GAZETTE several interesting notices of improvements and sales of real estate tending toward the development of this beautiful island as a sea-side and summer resort. The town of Edgartown has lately voted to construct a beach road, leading from the already established watering place of “Oak Bluffs” to the village and harbor of Edgartown. This road is to cost seventy-five thousand dollars... It is a public-spirited and generous act on the part of the citizens of Edgartown to provide for her summer visitors one of the most attractive and beautifully made upon any section of our coast. The route of this road is along the margin of the shore, and for several miles it follows the crest of a narrow, natural beach which separates the waters of the sound from those of a large lagoon or pond...

...At “Oak Bluffs,” Hon. E. P. Carpenter, as president of the Oak Bluffs Company, has already commenced the construction of his great hotel, which will be one of the largest and best-appointed sea-shore houses in New England...

...But it is not at Oak Bluffs alone that this attractive feature of summer life exists, or only there that improvements have been made. All the surrounding shores are alive with corresponding projects. The “Vineyard Highlands,” occupying the charming site of the summit hills of the “East

Chop"; the Bellevue Heights, and lands north, south and west, from the original grounds of the old camp-meeting association are all vying with each other in varied developments...

...Perhaps one of the most desirable movements of any yet made on Martha's Vineyard is the proposed improvement and establishment of a wharf, hotels and cottages on the south shore of the island...

...The Plains bordering this ground are beautifully level, and the land is loamy and generally well adapted for cultivation, and particularly favorable for roads and driving parks...

...The locality, size, shape, height and extent of Martha's Vineyard are wonderfully little known. It is mistaken for Cape Cod; confounded with Nantucket; and generally supposed to a sort of "jumping-off place" into the ocean,—just out of the water at high tide! It is, in fact, the largest island on our Atlantic coast, except Long Island, and one of the most varied and picturesque; its hills range to nearly three hundred feet in height; it has large and beautiful ponds, some of them thousands of acres in extent; the finest and largest trout now found in Massachusetts live in the streams and brooks; the soil in large districts of the island is above the average, in quality, of the farming land of the State...

...it should not be forgotten that the Cape Cod Railroad is extending a branch to Falmouth at a point only four miles from the Vineyard shore... and by it business men can leave their families on the island and make a daily trip themselves, if they desire,—reaching Boston from the island by 10 1-2 a. m., and leaving the city again at 4pm.

### **March 15, 1872**

...The bill to authorize Howes Norris to extend his wharf has passed to be engrossed in both houses...

### **March 22, 1872**

CEDAR BLUFF – The advertisement with the heading of "Cedar Bluff," which appears in today's paper, will at once arrest the attention of every reader... The whole island is destined to become the great watering-place of the country...

### **March 22, 1872**

*To the Editor of the Vineyard Gazette:*

The event of the opening of a new Railroad which has its terminus within four miles of our Island, and which will, when finished, bring us within three or four hours' communication with quite a large portion of the State of Massachusetts, and considerable portions of New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut, cannot be viewed by us with indifference, for it must have the effect to bring our lovely Island into notice and be the means of bringing thither a great number of people during the Summer season...

### **March 22, 1872**

Mr. T. W. Tilton, of Vineyard Haven is associated with the firm of Smith & Lewis, land-brokers at Oak Bluffs, as per advertisement. This firm has disposed of five cottages and about 250 cottage lots, since its formation about three months ago.

**March 22, 1872**

...Ice in the Great Pond is now *fourteen* inches thick, all formed since this month came in.

**March 22, 1872**

Sengekentacket Bridge is to be built by Mr. Edward R. Dunham.

**March 22, 1872**

CEDAR BLUFF.

COTTAGE LAND FOR SALE.

The undersigned offers for sale between fifty and sixty acres of the Most Beautiful Cottage Lands in Dukes County situated on the WEST CHOP of Vineyard Haven Harbor, at a point westward of West Chop Light House...

...These lands are mostly covered with FOREST TREES, except the land near the edge of the Bluff, where stands a large number of Red Cedar Trees, of peculiar shape, being flat on top, so that a person can walk or sit on top of them.

These trees make a delightful shade so that PICNIC PARTIES resort there in the summer time, being a MOST ROMANTIC SPOT...

...For further particulars inquire of or address  
THOMAS BRADLEY,  
Vineyard Haven, Mass

**March 22, 1872**

...The contemplated beach-road will extend from Vineyard Haven to West Chop which is almost two miles by water and about four miles by land nearer to the main land than East Chop...

**March 29, 1872**

Among the items of news from the Vineyard contained in the New Bedford *Standard* of last Friday, and credited to the GAZETTE we observe the following: –

“The general opinion is that the closing of Washqua will be of benefit in keeping the harbor of Edgartown clear of ice. The current through the harbor is stronger, now that it is the only entrance to Katama Bay.”

In the first place, no such opinion was expressed in the GAZETTE; nor was any reference whatever made to that subject.

In the next place, the “general opinion” of our townsmen is exactly the reverse of the opinion expressed by the *Standard*...

**March 29, 1872**

The “Summer House” at Squibnocket in Chilmark, owned by parties residing in New York, was broken into last week and bedding and other articles were taken there-from.

**March 29, 1872**

...The land fever runs high all over the Vineyard; so high that the dismal weather so long with us fails to subdue the flames. Such an overhauling of land records was never known before, and that which has been real estate so long bids fair to become *realized* money soon...

**April 5, 1872**

...We need roads. Well, we are going to have them. When the beach road is finished we can furnish one of the fines drives in the State along the sea-shore...

...At our annual town meeting last Monday, the town generously voted two thousand dollars to be expended in laying concrete sidewalks in the village...

**April 5, 1872**

...The selectmen were authorized to purchase, for the enlargement of the Eastville Burial Ground, such additional lands as they may deem desirable...

...Voted, – That William Belain be a committee to expend the sum of \$80 for teachers and \$20 for fuel and fixtures, said money to be paid out of the school fund from this State, now in our treasury, for the benefit of the colored children on Chabbaquiddick...

...Voted, – To widen the road to twenty feet leading from Lagoon Bridge to near Howes Noris’s Store...

**April 5, 1872**

LAND SALES – The fever has spread to the Great Plain and we now record the sale of the farm and buildings thereon belonging to Mr. Charles Stewart. The farm contains about 100 acres and is located near the South Beach. Mr. Stewart offered to sell it last year for \$2500 and now has received \$6000 for it...

**April 5, 1872**

HERRING have come. The first of the season were caught Monday by Mr. Daniel Fisher, 2d, to whom we are indebted for a mess of nice red rows...

**April 5, 1872**

...The bill is amended substitute for the one published in the Gazette some weeks ago...

...The bills to incorporate the Dukes County Savings Bank, at Edgartown, and the Katama Land Company, have been signed by the Governor.

**April 5, 1872**

The first meeting of the "Farming Institute" will be held in West Tisbury next Tuesday.

**April 5, 1872**

The Vineyard land fever still rages and we rejoice in it. Our wish is that the fever may prove contagious so that the whole island, from Chabbaquiddick to Gay Head, may become infected. We see no reason why it should not, for the hills of North Tisbury, Chilmark and Gay Head afford as beautiful prospects and as good buildings sites as can be found on any where on the island...

**April 5, 1872**

Notice.

THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD "FARMERS INSTITUTE" will meet at AGRICULTURAL HALL, West Tisbury, TUESDAY, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 2 o'clock P. M.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

1st. How can we profitably improve our pasture lands? Disputants – Constant Norton, Capt. William Cottle.

2d. The best manner of applying manures? Capt. Moses Adams, D. Elliot Cottle.

3d. The best method of conducting a farmer's club? Thaddeus Luce, Hebron Vincent, R. W. Crocker.

WILLIAM J. ROTCH,

Secretary M. V. A. Society.

**April 12, 1872**

THE HARBOR COMMISSIONER'S REPORT (received some weeks ago) contains an interesting account of the observations made in and around the harbors of Edgartown, Vineyard Haven and Nantucket, by the Coast Survey last summer...

... The attention of the Board was called early in the season to the closing of the outlet of Katama Bay through Katama Beach in Edgartown about two years ago, to the local interest injuriously affected thereby, and particularly the State and national interests imperiled by the injury with which this closure threatened Edgartown Harbor itself.

Edgartown Harbor, being at the upper end of Katama Bay, and the other outlet through the beach at the other, the effect of the destruction of the tides through the harbor, diminish the scour and induce a tendency to shoaling...

...The comparison which Prof. Whiting makes of previous surveys of this beach and the opening through it develops a singular history and exhibits in a vivid manner a phase of the changes that are continually taking place on this interesting shore.

The topographical survey was placed in the hands of Prof. H. L. Whiting who in the years 1846 and 1855 had made similar surveys in the same neighborhood.

The physical hydrography [sic.] was assigned to Prof. Henry Mitchell, who had in his possession the details of the tidal investigations made by him throughout the sounds and their approaches in the years 1854 and 1855. These gentlemen are at the head of their respective departments in the Coast Survey, and would have been the persons selected had the propositions originated on any part of the coast, but their familiarity with our own shores has been such a long standing and so intimate, recently in an especial manner through their connection with this Board, Prof. Whiting as its engineer and Prof. Mitchell as a member of its advisory council, that they brought to the work a particular interest and preparation.

In 1846 this opening was at the eastern corner of the bay and formed a broad inlet 2,000 feet wide of substantially the same character and location as shown by the survey of Des Barres in 1776. In 1856 this opening, called the East opening, had moved about a mile to the eastward so that the point of the beach overlapped the end of Chabbaquiddick Island more than half a mile and formed an inlet between the island and the beach from the ocean to the bay, about 3,000 feet long and 500 feet wide. A new inlet, however, called the West opening and some 1,400 feet wide has broken through the beach at about the middle of the bay, having a capacity nearly as great as the old one. Soon after this last opening was formed the East opening closed and the new West opening gradually moved eastward until it reached that part of the beach which was the site of the opening found by the survey of 1846 and shown on the maps of Des Barres, then moved eastward to the site of the easterly opening found by the survey of 1856, and on until the point of the beach formed a line with general trend of the east shore of the Island. Here it met the rapid currents of Muskeget Channel and its progress was arrested. Finally, in a great storm, the sea and wind whelmed this channel between the island and the beach with masses of sand blown from the shore and scooped up from the ocean bed and made a solid barrier against the further egress of the waters of Katama Bay. There is a tradition in Edgartown that once before, since the beginning of the century, this beach was welded to the island by a storm and that soon after another storm drove another inlet through. The powerful action of the sea on this exposed and sandy shore is shown by the statement of Professor Whiting during the last twenty-five years this beach, representing a mold of sand 18,500 feet in length, 450 feet in width, 14 feet high and containing one hundred and sixteen millions and a half cubic feet, has been driven before it by the ocean, 450 feet.

With reference to reopening the outlet of the bay through the beach, Prof. Whiting argues in favor of making it at the westerly corner of the bay in order that, if it again goes through the same phases of movement towards the east until it again closes, this movement may be made to cover as long a period as possible. He finds the bay here contracting to a narrow width that favors

the formation of a channel and that here too the beach has the smallest cross section to cut through. He finds the project practicable and the exigency an imperative one...

...For both Edgartown and Nantucket, tables and directions are given by Prof. Mitchell for making a proper choice of time for making the opening so as to secure the great rush of water and thus induce nature to execute the larger part of the work...

...The reports of Professors Whiting and Mitchell, their surveys and observations in regard to Edgartown and Nantucket, were submitted by the Board to its advisory council...

...Their opinions were emphatically favorable to the practicability of restoring to Edgartown Harbor its former tidal circulation and to the national importance of the work...

...We have not hesitated, therefore, under the authority given us by the statue creating the Board to apply to Congress for an appropriation for opening the outlet through Katama Beach for the preservation of Edgartown Harbor.

### **April 12, 1872**

...The resolve in favor of paying \$200 to Priscilla Freeman, the last day of the Deep Bottom Indians, was rejected in the House Monday...

### **April 19, 1872**

Organization of the "Katama Land Company."

The enterprise big with promise of a "new departure" in the material property of Edgartown...

The act of incorporation gives the company leave to hold 1200 acres of land in Edgartown, to build wharves and hotels, run steamboats &c....

The company now owns 600 acres of land for which they paid about \$14,000, and will at once lay out their property into lots for building sites. A new wharf will be built immediately.

The plan of the hotel was designed by Mr. S. F. Pratt of Boston, which is an abundant guarantee of its utility and beauty. It will be 160 feet long, 40 feet wide, two stories high with French roof, and a verandah running all around the lower story. The site for it was selected by Mr. Pratt and Capt. Jernegan last Monday morning.

Twenty-five cottages are already pledged to be built the present season.

All hail Katama! May your success be golden.

### **April 19, 1872**

...At a special town meeting held in Chilmark, April 11...

...*Voted*, not to discontinue the Town Way known as "Tea Lane."

### **April 19, 1872**

Squibnocket Pond has been the feeding ground of an almost countless host of ducks during the past few weeks. It is estimated that the number in the pond would cover two acres closely packed. A young man by the name of Mayhew, who has but *one hand*, recently killed twenty-five ducks in three hours. We call that good gunning.

**April 19, 1872**

ACCIDENT – While returning from church last Sunday, Mr. George D. Cottle and wife were thrown from their carriage and badly injured.

**April 19, 1872**

SOUTH BEACH OPENING – Gen. George Thom, of the United State corps of Engineers has been in town the present week, and in company with several of our leading citizens visited the South Beach for the purpose of a personal observation relative in the necessity for the proposed new opening. Gen. Thom full coincides with the recommendations made by the Coast Survey and Board of Harbor Commissioners as to the importance of an early appropriation by Congress for this object, and is of the opinion that it will be readily granted. A new survey of the beach will be made immediately, under the supervision of Gen. Thom.

**April 19, 1872**

The First Yacht of the Season.

The yacht Washington with a party of students from Yale Scientific School arrived here last Saturday from Vineyard Haven... The main object of this excursion is to make collections of the marine fauna of these waters, and with this object in view they have thus far been dredging off Narragansett Bay, Gay Head, and on through Vineyard Sound with very satisfactory results...

**April 19, 1872**

THE BEACH ROAD is being rapidly built. 125 rods have been made on the beach below Sengekentacket Opening... About 30 teams and 60 men are at work thereon... The steam pile-driver now at work on the wharf extension at Falmouth Heights will soon be ready to drive the piles for the bridge across the opening.

**April 19, 1872**

The Norton House at Eastville has been leased by Mr. and Mrs. Ariel Luce, and is now open to receive permanent or transient boarders...

**April 19, 1872**

WEST CHOP – The land on West Chop, adjoining Cedar Bluff, which was bought a few weeks ago by Capts. James L. Smith and Shubael H. Norton, for \$4000, has changed hands again the present week, the price received by them for the same being \$10,000—an advance of 150 per cent...

**April 19, 1872**

WHOLESALE BURGLARY – Within the past fournight thirty-six cottages on the old Vineyard Camp Ground and seven on Oak Bluffs have been broken and generally ransacked, doors and furniture broken, &c...

**April 19, 1872**

REAL ESTATE SALE...

...The valuable, extensive and delightfully located tract of land known as THE "WEEKS FARM"

situated about two miles from Edgartown village and within a mile of the New Beach Road,

is herewith offered for sale. The tract contains about

Two Hundred Acres

of excellent cleared, pasture, meadow, woodland, and three thrifty

*CRANBERRY BOGS*

Much of the land is rolling and high from almost every portion of which a delightful view of the

Vineyard Sound,

SENGEKENTACKET POND, OAK BLUFFS and the surrounding country can be had...

**April 19, 1872**

Howes Norris has bought a tract of about 100 acres of land on the West side of the Lagoon, and Messrs. Pease and Mullin are to survey and plot it in acre and half acre lots.

**April 26, 1872**

Plant Shade Trees – Yes, plant shade trees along the streets in front of your dwelling. Do it right away, and thus add a very pleasant feature to our already pleasant town...

**April 26, 1872**

The Boston *Advertiser* of Saturday says...

...Messrs. Randall & Cook of this city are negotiating through Smith, Lewis & Carpenter, for the lease of the stable on Oak Bluffs, owned by E. P. Carpenter. If successful, they intend to carry to the Island about fifty horses, with several omnibuses, and will establish lines to different parts of the Island.

**April 26, 1872**

Governor Washburn has signed the bill authorizing the Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Company to lay a telegraph cable from Falmouth to Martha's Vineyard.

**April 30, 1872** – Vineyard Haven

...At about this date, 1828 or 1880, there were then no dwelling-houses on the West of left hand side of the main road as you passed through the village from south to north, except those that had a frontage on it.

The back ground of these houses were old fields, and woodlands...

### **May 3, 1872**

Katama Land Company.

The stockholders of the Katama Land Company met at the Parker House, New Bedford last Monday evening...

...No enterprise ever started under more favorable auspicious or with brighten prospect of success...

### **May 10, 1872**

Destructive Fire in Edgartown...

...In about an hour after the fire was discovered, the fine stores belonging to C. H. Shute & con, Jonathan H. Munroe and Dr. John Pierce, were totally destroyed...

...Charles H. Shute & Son, store and stock fully \$5000; no insurance. The Messrs. Shute lose all their photographic goods, several thousand very valuable negatives such as stereoscopic views of Nantucket, Gay Head, Edgartown, Camp Ground and their celebrated Whaling views, together with about 12,000 views already printed and mounted for their summer trade...

### **May 10, 1872**

SALES OF LAND – Messers. Hayman of Taunton, Pratt of Middleboro, and Sturgis of Oak Bluffs, have purchased of Nicholas Norton six acres of land near Traps Pond...

### **May 17, 1872**

KATAMA – The land surveyors will commence to lay out these premises next week...

...SECT 1. – The Katama Land Company is hereby authorized to run a theatre, a club house, a lodging house, a railroad from anywhere to anywhere, a house of correction, a pigeon stand, a herring fishery, a meeting-house, a line of express, the legislature of any state north of Mason and Dixon's line, a telegraph, a camp meeting, the state printing office, the board of State charities, factories for textile fabrics, factories for fabrics and textile, Harvard college and the people's club of Worcester...

### **May 17, 1872**

VINEYARD GROVE – At a recent meeting of the directors of the Vineyard Grove Co., it was voted to concrete a number of the principal walks...

...The Vineyard Brick and Tile works, in Chilmark, have been leased to parties in Boston to commence the manufacture of brick as soon as the yard can be fitted.

### **May 24, 1872**

KATAMA - The Surveyors are at work laying out the premises of the Katama Land Company. Mr. Robert Morris Copeland of Boston will superintend and plan this branch of the work...

...The Company has decided to build a "gate-house" at the head of the wharf, somewhat after the manner of the building at the head of Oak Bluffs wharf, but in every way larger and better...

**May 24, 1872**

...Their other purchase, near Trap's Pond, was surveyed by Charles Talbot last week, and is now ready for the market. It is very appropriately named "Ocean View," and commands an unobstructed view of the Vineyard Sound and the villages bordering on its shores, from the Highlands to Cape Poge.

**May 24, 1872**

THE WEST POINT GROVE COMPANY is now fully organized. The land owned by this company comprises about forty acres of pleasantest portion of the West Chop of Vineyard Haven harbor, which was purchased of Capts. James L. Smith and S. H. Norton, and several tracts immediately adjoining...

**May 31, 1872**

REAL ESTATE – Mr. Edward Norton has sold his farm near Traps Pond, containing about thirty acres, to Peck & White of Taunton for \$4150, cash...

**May 31, 1872**

Attention is called to the advertisement of Capt. Nathan M. Jernegan, who offers for sale his farm on the West Tisbury road about one mile from this village...

**May 31, 1872**

*Mr. Editor:* – As the people of our island are just now becoming intensely interested in the question, how can Martha's Vineyard be rendered yet more attractive as a place of summer resort, an era of improvement seems to be dawning when many shall find employment for mind and hands in causing our isle to smile more charmingly from its nestling place, encircled by an arm of old ocean...

...May I offer a few thoughts in regard to the profitable improvement of pasturelands: ...Having a small quantity of slacked lime at my disposal I applied it to a little patch of somewhat elevated pasture, with loamy soil and looked in vain for favorable results during the ensuing season.

**May 31, 1872**

A Grand Chance for a Bargain!

---

THE CAPTIAN HAS ARRIVED!

---

FARM FOR SALE

ONE hundred acres of land, including fifteen acres of woodland, about three acres of swamp-land—the latter suitable for raising cranberries. A nice barn on the premises and a small dwelling-house. It has one of the greatest water privileges on the Island, having four substantial ponds on the place, of an acres or more on an average, each. The land is situated each side of the county road leading to West Tisbury, about one mile from Edgartown village. For further particulars apply to

NATHAN M. JERNEGAN.

Edgartown, May 30, 1872

**June 7, 1872**

The pile-driver is at Katama and will commence work on the wharf the first fair day.

**June 7, 1872**

Bluefish have come. A few days of sunlight will make good fishing. One boat brought in ninety on Tuesday.

**June 7, 1872**

Our horse railroad so long talked of is fast under way, and will soon be completed from the north depot to the foot of School street. No fact stands alone: each has relation to another...

**June 7, 1872**

THE VINEYARD

AS IT WAS, IS, AND IS TO BE.

----

*From Authentic Pencillings [sic] by an Observer*

A work of this description will soon be issued, containing racy sketches of the Vineyard as a great seaside resort, showing from perfectly reliable sources whence this summering interest sprung up, the vast proportions it has already attained, and will want a copy...

**June 7, 1872**

A New Era for Martha's Vineyard.

----

THE SEASIDE GAZETTE.

----

*A FIRST CLASS NEWSPAPER*

Published at Vineyard Grove, Mass., first number to appear July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1872, with a guaranteed circulation larger than any paper in the State outside of Boston (with one or two exceptions)...

**June 7, 1872**

ANOTHER VETERAN GONE – The good ship Vineyard, after about fifty years’ service in the whaling business, has been sold to New Bedford parties, who will probably break her up. This sale reduces the whaling fleet of Edgartown to three vessels, viz: – barque Clarice, and ships Europa and Splendid...

**June 21, 1872**

At last the long-looked-for legislation has come to pass, and we find ourselves the subject of a Congressional appropriation for the tune of \$20,000, for the purpose of opening the South Beach at Edgartown. It is difficult to overrate the importance of this measure, and its effect on the interests of our town. This project accomplished, our fishermen will no longer be under the necessity of rushing out to seat the minute they swallowed their suppers, in order to be on the ground at the proper time the next morning, but will be enabled to go to bed and rise more nearly after the manner of Christians. There will now be more direct ingress and egress for the smaller fish to and from the harbor, and everyone knows its effect on the beach-fishing. And this movement, always of no little moment, is particularly important at this juncture, when the initiatory steps are being taken for the settlement of Katama. Given this opening through the beach, and the list of attractions is complete. One can sail out of Katama Bay in the fresh of the morning, and in a few moments pass from the quite of a lake to the magnificent roll and swell of the “Broad Atlantic”...

**June 21, 1872**

...Two or three persons have died among the colored people at Christiantown of some disease very similar to small-pox and one at Vineyard Haven...

**June 21, 1872**

REPORT of the condition of the “MARTHA’S VINEYARD NATIONAL BANK OF EDGARTOWN,” at Edgartown, in the State of Massachusetts, at close of business June 10, 1872...

...Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1872.

JEREMIAH PEASE,

Justice of the Peace

Correct—Attest:

DANIEL FISHER

GRAFTON N. COLLINS } Directors.

W.M. H. MUNROE

**June 28, 1872**

That portion of the new Beach Road which passes over the beach proper, is nearly complete...

...The bridge is nearly ready for planking – but the plank are not yet visible, having been two weeks, more or less, coming from Bangor.

Every day's delay in completing this road is a positive loss to the town... The visiting season is short, at the longest, and hence the importance of being prepared for the summer travel immediately...

**June 28, 1872**

200 barrels of sperm oil (part of the Splendid's cargo) were sold here this (Thursday) morning to I. H. Bartlett & Sons, at \$1.40 per gallon.

**June 28, 1872**

The completion of the new wharf at Katama is delayed on account of the non-arrival of the expected lumber. This waiting-for-lumber-business will probably “play out” in the course of fifty or sixty years, and parties who contemplate building anything will see to it that the lumber from Maine is ordered, at least, ten or twelve years before it is required, and shipped as soon as possible...

**June 28, 1872**

Following on in quick succession, are the various land enterprise of Bellevue Heights, Prospect Heights, Oak Grove, Groveland, Grovedale, Ocean Heights, Crystal Place, and others in embryo.

Extending to Vineyard Haven, we find Oklahoma, Cedar Neck, West Point Grove, Cedar Bluff, and now others the names of which do not now occur to us...

**June 28, 1872**

...Professor Agassiz says that the scenery at Cliff End, Patagonia, reminded him somewhat of Gay Head and its tertiary formations...

**July 12, 1872**

John Maral, better known as “John,” fell from a load of hay last Saturday, breaking his neck, and expiring almost instantly...

**July 12, 1872**

The bridge over Sengekentacket opening is essentially completed and travel over it has already practically commenced...

**July 12, 1872**

On Saturday last, the morning train from Tremont, on the Fairhaven railroad, ran into a heard of cows about three-quarters of a mile north of Mattapoisett, killing four of them, and throwing the engine tender, and twenty-seven flat cars off the track into a confused heap. When the passengers got to the engine, they found the engineer and fireman dead under it...

**July 12, 1872**

Probably not less than 3000 persons are now residing in the camp-ground and vicinity.

**July 19, 1872**

Taxation in Edgartown – 1872... [only a few people shown below]

Fisher, Dr. Daniel	619	76
Luce, Tarleton C.	522	02
Munroe, William H.	344	36
Norton, Shubael L.	367	58
Osborn, Samuel Jr.,	571	16
Oak Bluffs Land & Wharf Co.,	1242	54
Vineyard Grove Co.,	1351	08

**July 26, 2872**

**ENCOUNTER WITH A SNAKE.**

Quite recently on a hot and sultry day, Mr. Frederick Lambert, a highly respectable and veracious citizen of the island, was walking leisurely along one of the by-roads from Chilmark to an adjoining town...

...After stopping a short time, he arose and continued his journey.

He had proceeded but a few steps, when his attention was attracted to a spot in the bushes from whence proceeded a sound as of some large bird or animal rustling the leaves.

He looked in that direction, saw nothing, and passed on.

The next instant he felt something strike him from behind, which brought him abruptly to a halt. Casting a quick glance behind him to learn the cause of this unlooked-for assault, he discovered a jet black snake of immense size suspended to the end of his linen coat. The snake was some four or five feet in length, with a milk-white ring around his neck, very large in circumference, and gave sufficient evidence of possessing a fair share of muscular power, as well as a determination to exhibit his full fighting abilities.

Part of the tail of the reptile rested upon the ground, while his sharp teeth were firmly locked in the skirt of Mr. L.'s coat.

Mr. L. comprehended the situation at a glance, and by a quick movement of his right hand—the only one he had the use of—he placed his hand behind him, and by another movement

equally as quick, he threw the lappet of his coat in front of him and grabbed the sneak near the head, inserting his thumb into the slimy creature's neck.

But the snake was fully as quick as his antagonist; and as he felt himself grabbed by the head he threw the remaining portion of his body and tail against the head of Mr. L. with a "whack" of sufficient force to make the latter's eyes and cheeks of a color resembling his own black skin, he had hit him fairly; and brought himself about the wrist of Mr. L. in two tight coils, and then commenced the "hugging process" in a manner which bade fair to stop the circulation of blood through his veins, and at the same time emitting a sickening and nauseous odor, and making determined efforts to bite Mr. L.'s head and body.

But thanks to a strong arm and a tight grip, his snakeship gradually found his strength deserting him and in a few minutes the tight coils gradually relaxed their hold and he fell to the earth in a more peaceful and quite manner than he had sprang from it, and laid at full length upon the ground waiting for his strength to return and enabled him to renew the attack. But the iron heel brought upon his head with little less force than a pile-driver falling from a giddy height, falls upon a post, sent to him that "bourne [sic] from whence, even snakes are not supposed to return."

### **July 26, 1872**

The Wood's Hole Branch Railroad was formally opened last Thursday, the first passenger train passing over it for the first time on that day...

...Passengers now have a choice of routs to Boston, by way of New Bedford or Wood's Hole.

We think there is no occasion for alarm to either party, as we believe there will be travel enough both ways, and that increased prosperity will accrue to the Vineyard without loss to either the new railroad enterprise or the popular and pleasant route by the excellent steamers plying to and from New Bedford.

And now for the railroad upon the Vineyard, from Bellevue to Katama, which is certain to be built at no distant day...

### **July 26, 1872**

If some of our farmers would bring a few tons of good hay into town, they would find cash customers for it, at a fair price. There is a very large amount of hay on some farms on the Island, and there is little or no profit in keeping it from year to year. Butter sells it, and turn the proceeds over once and a while. Next season there will be an immense crop, in all probability.

### **July 26, 1872**

Bluefish are still taken in these waters. Mr. Thomas J. Dunham brought in one day last week, one hundred and fifty-seven noble fellows, as "fat as grease..."

### **July 26, 1872**

We notice that our gunners return home daily with lots of small birds, and sometime with a number of black and other ducks.

### **July 26, 1872**

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Katama Land Company will be held at the Vineyard House, Edgartown, on Friday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8 o'clock, P. M...

### **July 26, 1872**

KATAMA... The surveying and plotting of this "sea-side town" is completed, and a large number of cottage lots are ready to be placed in the market. Mr. Penniman, under whose supervision the "Sea View House," at Oak Bluffs, was erected, has contracted to build a "gate-house" at the head of Katama Wharf, which is to be immediately constructed... A cottage is also in process of construction and more are being contracted for...

...Among its many attractive features, we may mention its proximity to the notable surf of our south shore, the low temperature of the climate during the summer months, a safe and commodious harbor where vessels may anchor in the most terrific storms, with perfect safety. It is safe to predict an uninterrupted steam communication with New Bedford the coming summer, and doubtless the so called Beach Road will be extended to this portion of the Island, thus affording ample facilities for visiting this novel locality.

### **August 2, 1872**

Present and Prospective Prosperity.

The citizens of Martha's Vineyard have but to meet the visitors who annually flock to the natural charms of our lovely island, with a liberal, accommodating and enterprising spirit, and add to the natural advantages the improvements easily made, by building good roads, to make for the island a future unexampled in prosperity...

...These road enterprises should extend throughout the whole island...  
...there is no reason why the Vineyard may not derive as large a revenue from summer visitors as Newport has had for years...

### **August 2, 1872**

...The concrete walks in our village are being laid rapidly and satisfactorily by the White Brothers. They will prove a great blessing to walking humanity, and add very much to the attractions of our pleasant village...

### **August 2, 1872**

...The gate-house at the head of the wharf will be built this Fall, and the new hotel and about forty cottages are already promised to be ready early next season.

The hotel will be large and commodious in style similar to the Sea View House...

**August 2, 1872**

A sad accident happened in the Sea View last Friday evening. A son of Mr. E. F. Whiting of Holliston, Mass., while playing on the banisters in the third story, lost his balance and fell to the lower floor...

**August 2, 1872**

A new railroad arrangement went into effect last week, by which the passengers for Oak Bluffs can go through to Woods Hole from Fitchburg and Worcester via Mansfield & Framingham and Middleborough & Taunton railroads, without change of cars...

**August 2, 1872**

7000 persons is the estimated population of "Cottage city" at the present time.

**August 7, 1872 – Katama**

*To the Editor of the Vineyard Gazette: –*

If memory serves me aright, you have never received a letter from Katama for publication. This epistle will relieve *that* monotony...

...The new wharf is ready to receive visitors, and if you could but see the plans of the gate-house and the splendid hotel which will be put up next spring, and be ready for visitors early enough to enjoy all the sport of the fishing season, nothing further would be needed to convince you of the business intentions and determination to succeed which animated the leaders of the Katama enterprise.

Lots are in demand daily, and it is safe to say that fully one hundred *bona fide* applications are now on file in the agent's books...

...About one hundred acres of the most arable land belonging to the company will, undoubtedly, be placed in the care of a practical farmer, who will raise garden sauce and vegetables, keep cows and hens, and thus supply the residents of the new settlement with the popular condiments of life, at reasonable rates at their very doors...

**August 16, 1872**

Taxation in Tisbury for 1872...[only a few people shown below]

Bradley, Thomas	277 18
Cromwell, Benjamin	219 96
Look, Hannah	219 71
Luce, Tristram	239 03
Smith, Charles	227 67

**August 16, 1872**

...You have heard, probably, of the secession movement in this vicinity. Well, Mr. Editor, more fuss than feathers is in the result thus far, and the advocates of the movement are as scarce as Greeley Republicans. I have yet to find the first cottage owner here on the Bluffs who now thinks that Edgartown illy uses him or that her citizens are disposed to do aught contrary to a liberal and fair-minded treatment of her temporary residents...

### **August 23, 1872**

...The air is rife with rumors of contemplated secession on the part of the [sic] Eastvillians and Bellevue Heighers—which face may account for the terrible foggy weather since the movement was inaugurated...

...It has been charged in a general way that the inhabitants of that part of the town have been heavily taxed without receiving a proper return in appropriations for their benefit...

...Our villagers have invariably treated the requests of the Eastervillians respectfully and generously, and upon what reasonable claims they base their demand for separation we await information.

### **August 23, 1872**

In a plea before the House of Commons lately, to prevent the shooting and sharing of small birds it was shown that the thrush works from 2:30 A. M. to 9:30 P. M., and gives his young 206 meals a day. Young blackbirds get along on 99 meals a day; while the affectionate titmouse provides its young with 417 meals a day.

### **August 30, 1872**

The number of people on the Camp Ground last Sunday is variously estimated from 20,000 to 40,000. The former figure is probably pretty near the thing.

### **September 6, 1872**

The week after Camp-meeting is the sadest [sic], gloomiest and most melancholy seven days of the whole year. As soon as the last services are held at the stand, people begin to pack up, and even those who stoutly affirm their determination to stay later catch the contagion and join the throngs of those who have gone before...

### **September 6, 1872**

One-half of "Oklahoma," located on the west side of the Lagoon Pond, sold to Edward Ingraham of Bristol, Conn., for \$10,000. This territory, which is handsomely located, will be improved in the Spring, if Greeley is elected

### **September 6, 1872**

Fourteen lots at West Point Grove sold to T. W. Stanley & Brother, of New Britain, Conn.

**September 6, 1872**

KATAMA – We learn that the contract for the gate-house at the head of the new wharf at Katama was signed on Monday last, and work will be commenced on the building immediately.

The gate-house will be a very pretty building, and will contain about fifty lodging rooms—making it in fact more of a hotel than its name signifies. The Katama Company are bound to be successful.

**September 6, 1872**

A big nest of snakes was found in Stark, N. H., recently by a party of men, who killed 102 of them, some of which were over three feet in length.

**October 4, 1872**

...ENGINEER OFFICE, U. S. ARMY, }  
NEWPORT, R. I., Sept. 25, '72. }

To Mr. C. B. Marchant,

Collector, Edgartown, Mass.

Sir:—Your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> is received. We made our arrangements to attempt opening the Katama Beach this autumn, but the dredges may be unexpectedly delayed, and then it will be done early in the next spring. We wish to take every measure to insure success.

Yours respectfully,

G. K. WARREN,

Major Engineers.

**October 4, 1872**

We learn from good authority that the horse rail road from the Wharf at Eastville to the Camp Ground is soon to be commenced and rapidly pushed forward to completion. This we hope is but a beginning, and ere long we expect to see a rail road from Eastville to Katama...

**October 18, 1872**

The project of dividing the town still occupies the minds of some of our inhabitants. A correspondent informs us that a meeting was held in the school house at Eastville on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., when the matter was fully discussed by the friend of the measure. T. C. Luce was chosen Chairman; Howes Norris, Secretary...

**November 1, 1872**

The friends of a division of the town were in session on Monday evening last, at the Vineyard Grove House. The selection of a name for the proposed new town was considered, and “Bonaire” was decided upon. Four gentlemen were added to the committee already chosen to carry out the project of separation, viz: Joseph Dias, Job H. Gorham, Otis Flanders, C. S. Landers.

**November 1, 1872**

The following give the date of the several appropriations by Congress for the erection of Light Houses in this District: –

Gay Head – 1798 – July 16  
Cape Poge – 1801 – Jan. 30  
Tarpaulin Cove – 1807 – May 10  
West Chop – 1817 – March 3  
Nobsque – 1828 – May 19  
Edgartown – 1828 – May 19

**November 1, 1872**

The delay in finishing the beach road, from Oak Bluffs to Eastville, is caused by a want of suitable material. There are plenty of funds to complete the road, but making the commissioners are desirous [sic] of making this particular portion as good as any other, hence the delay—which will doubtless be short.

**November 1, 1872**

A most singular and alarming disease has appeared among the horses, threatening serious consequences in New England and many other parts of the country... The disease is of a catarrhal character, its first noticeable symptoms being the flow of tears from the eyes, a watery discharge from the nose, a general languor, followed by a cough...

**November 1, 1872**

It is impossible, as present, to fully comprehend the advantages which it is now evident must arise from the reports of the weather daily received at the Weather Bureau in Washington, and transmitted to the country in a form calculated to impart information respecting the true condition of the weather, at different points throughout the country, several hours in advance...

**November 1, 1872**

KATAMA LAND COMPANY – The steamer Martha's Vineyard arrived at this place on Friday last at an early hour, with a party of gentlemen who were desirous of attending the opening sale of lots on the grounds of the Katama Land Company. The sale was intended especially to give stockholders an opportunity of selecting their lots, after which others were to enjoy the privilege of making their selections, at the regular rates. On arriving at Katama, it was found that nothing could be done about the location of lots, the plan set down by Mr. Copeland having by some blunder been erroneously numbered, so that lots could not be located with certainty. The sale was therefore necessarily postponed.

The steamer remained at Katama an hour or more, and parties looked about and selected their lots, which they will bid for when the correct plans are obtained... general satisfaction was expressed with the appearance of the land. The most slightly locations are next the shore, the

elevation all round being about 20 feet from the water... There will be no difficulty in maintain flourishing garden and flower plots at Katama... The entire tract comprises 530 acres.

There were about fifty bidders on the ground, and the disappointment to the stockholders and others by the plans having been spoiled was severe.

The Katama wharf is nearly completed. Mr. E. P. Carpenter, the president, is building a large cottage, and the excavations at the gate-house are in progress...

...On returning to Edgartown the party repaired to the Vineyard House, kept by Mr. Kelley...

...The directors were all unanimously re-elected by a stock vote of 520, as follows; Erastus P. Carpenter, Foxborough. Grafton N. Wollins and Nathaniel M. Jernegan, of Edgartown. Andrew G. Pierce of New Bedford. Joel H. Hills, and Laben Pratt, of Boston, and George W Lobdell, of Mattapoisett...

...It was voted to present to Mr. Carpenter the lot on which he is building.

### **November 1, 1872**

...Mr. Elihu M. Mosher has commence the erection of a \$3000 cottage at Cedar Neck for C. C. Hine, proprietor of the New York *Insurance Monitor*. Mr. Hine has quite a tract of a land there, which he does not put into the market, put is reserving it for his friends. He is to build a foot-bridge 700 feet in length over Lagoon Pond, to connect the neck with the Vineyard Haven road. This will cost about \$2000.

### **November 1, 1872**

Richard L. Pease, Esq., is still engaged, assisted by Mr. John H. Miller, in surveying and plotting of Lagoon Heights, where there are to be over 1,200 lots laid out. Mr. Pease has laid out this season over 3,000 lots.

### **November 1, 1872**

AMERICAN COAL - The foreign demand for American coal, just commenced, is likely to be permanent and to increase...

### **November 8, 1872**

SHALL THE TOWN BE DIVIDED? – If in union there is strength, then it follows that weakness comes from division. Ignoring this fact, so patent to all the world, some of the citizens of this town are in favor of seceding and becoming a new town by themselves. To this end they are working vigorously, and striving to become so small as to be of no account whatever... Those in favor of division appeal to nonresidents, and strive to make them believe that if a new town is incorporated, there taxes will be less. It is supposed by them that the non-residents will control the votes of many members of the legislature...

...It would seem to be wisdom on the part of the town and to make an effort to prevent division, and we are glad therefor to learn that a Town Meeting has been called to take the whole matter into consideration...

...Since the above was in type, we learn that the "secessionists" have changed their programme, and now propose to join Tisbury.

### **November 8, 1872**

A LARGE FLEET – On Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> instant, 192 sail of vessels were anchored in the harbor of Vineyard Haven.

### **November 8, 1872**

TEMPERANCE – Richard Phillips, Esq., agent of the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society, has been in town for a week past, visiting the schools and attending religious gatherings. He has awakened a deep interest among the children, and most of them have signed the Total Abstinence Pledge...

### **November 15, 1872**

Town Meeting.

At the town meeting Tuesday last, Jeramiah Pease, Esq., was chosen Moderator...

...A copy of a petition filed with the town clerk, addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives, asking for division of the town, was then read.

On motion of Samuel Osborn, Jr., it was voted that the chair appoint a committee of five who should nominate a committee of fifteen, to whom should be referred the matter of opposing said petition... the following names for the committee of fifteen: Daniel Fisher, S. P. Coffin, Nathaniel M. Jernegan, S. L. Norton, Joseph T. Pease, S. Osborn, Jr., R. L. Pease, E. R. Dunham, Wm. Crowell, Constant Norton, Wm. H. Monroe, G. N. Collias, E. Marchant, James B. Huxford, Jeramiah Pease...

...*Resolved*, That the inhabitants of that portion of the town of Edgartown, which is now proposed by some of our citizens dwelling therein to set off and incorporate as a new town, have never been denied their full proportion of school money, public officers and common municipal rights; and that therefore the proposed division of the town, involving as it will much additional expenditure, is wholly unnecessary and uncalled for...

### **November 15, 1872**

The assessed valuation of Gay Head is only \$17,750, a large portion of that land being owned in common and rented for pasturage. The rent of this is applied to the support of the poor. No person pays a tax of over \$23.

### **November 15, 1872**

A vessel at the Paint Factory wharf, Chilmark, took in a cargo of 1000 barrels of paint last

week. She grounded and remained in that condition through one full tide, but finally succeeded in getting afloat without sustaining much damage.

### **November 15, 1872**

THANKSGIVING – Governor Washburn has appointed Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, as a day of public thanksgiving and praise. The same day is appointed by the President.

### **November 15, 1872**

CAPACITIES OF HARBORS – Professor Henry Mitchell, of the United States Coast Survey, has presented a report to the Superintendent, Prof. Peirce, concerning Vineyard Haven, its present condition, and its character as a port of refuge. After describing the condition of Vineyard Haven as compared with Provincetown, which is Mr. Mitchell's type of perfection as a harbor of refuge, a comparison of the principal harbors and roadsteads on our coast is made, and their relative capacity is set forth...

...The report of the Associated Press shows that the number of vessels which in a year betake themselves to this roadstead in time of peril, is as follows:—

Steamers, 52; ships and barks, 83; brigs, 627; schooners, 6,350; whalers, 14; yachts, 25; sloops, 8; total, 7,159; of which 410 were foreign, mostly British...

### **November 22, 1872**

Nantucket and the Vineyard.

MR. EDITOR – I am wholly averse to anything like invidious comparisons... But it is not handsome, to say the least, to be so filled with self-complacency as to look down upon others—our neighbors—and pride ourselves upon our superior intelligence and position as compared with them...

### **November 22, 1872**

THE CENTENARY – Great expectations are raised concerning the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of the declaration of American Independence...

### **November 22, 1872**

HOW IS THIS? –Eastville, or that portion of the town which seeks a division, has nineteen persons who pay only a poll tax... The fact is, that the portion of the town has a much larger percentage of citizens who pay a poll tax only, than any other...

### **November 22, 1872**

SERIOUS ACCIDENT – A colored man, named Henry Jones, belonging on Chappaquiddick, fell from between decks into the lower hold of the ship Splendid, which lies at Osborn's Wharf, and was seriously injured about the head and face...

**November 22, 1872**

KATAMA – Mr. Carpenter’s cottage is up, and makes a fine show...

**November 22, 1872**

LOOK OUT – We shall be tempted to state soon, if they do not make reparation for the injury done in killing sheep at Cape Poge, that the persons who were guilty of the offence belong to Falmouth, and are well known! The sheep were worth not less than \$7 each – \$21.

**November 22, 1872**

Harvard College has lost so heavily by the Boston fire that it asks for \$50,000 for immediate use and \$200,000 for rebuilding.

**November 22, 1872**

About twenty dead bodies have been taken from the ruins of the Boston fire.

**November 22, 1872**

The horse disease has finally reached the Island, and twelve or fifteen cases have already been reported to us. We believe that no case thus far has occurred in this village.

**November 22, 1872**

To the County Commissioners of Dukes County.

The undersigned citizens and legal voters of said County, respectfully request that you will lay out a County Road, commencing near the residence of Alexander Jernegan, on the highway leading to Vineyard Haven, and ending near the residence of John Chase at Middletown, in said County, said road to be thirty-three feet wide in all its parts

DANIEL FISHER  
WM. H. MUNROE and  
32 others.

**December 27, 1872**

Lock Your Barn Door – Many persons who keep horses and cattle, have lost hay and grain to a considerable amount...

**December 27, 1872**

The horse distemper has reach Edgartown, and several horses in the stable of Mr. John Pease have been afflicted with it...

**December 27, 1872**

...Seriously, is our county so large, with its *less than four thousand inhabitants*, that *four*

*townships*, with their organization of public functionaries, cannot administer its affairs? Is it *necessary* to establish another township, which must be smaller still than any?...

...The "East side" may be the centre of our summer sea-side establishment to-day, but the tide may soon set to another side of Vineyard Haven, along the attractive shores of the West Chop and so around to Vineyard Sound...

...let us append an amendment, or rather an alternative, to the bill, which shall be, that the County of *Island of Martha's Vineyard* CONSOLIDATE INTO ONE TOWN, instead of splitting up into more...

**December 27, 1872**

...The president and agent of the Vineyard Grove Company have been authorized to build the horse railroad from the Highland Wharf Camp Ground...

**1873**

**January 10, 1873**

The Post Route terminating in Chilmark will soon be extended to Gay Head, and then a Post Office will be established there, as it should be. Thanks to Hon. James Buffinton.

**January 10, 1873**

ICE – Mr. Z. Pratt, of Middleboro', has secured 700 tons of good quality of ice at Trapp's Pond in this town, under supervision of James Pent, Esq.

The Camp Meeting Association have filled their ice-house, say 250 tons.

**January 10, 1873**

...There were sixty deaths in Boston last week from small-pox...

**January 10, 1873**

REPORT of the condition of the "MARTHA'S VINEYARD NATIONAL BANK OF EDGARTOWN..."

...DANIEL FISHER  
WM. H. MUNROE                    } DIRECTORS  
WILLIAM BRADLEY

**January 24, 1873**

An enterprising Chicago statistician has figured up that if the 17,497,000 cattle, hogs, and sheep received at the Union Stock Yards of that city during the past seven years were enabled to march in a tunnel through the center of the earth, two abreast, just as the last pair of the genial members of the procession were entering the hole on this side, the first pair would have got 804 miles away from the other end of the bore!...

**January 24, 1873**

Don't fail to attend town-meeting Saturday. The question relating to the Mattakesset Creek incorporation is an object of interest, and should be thoroughly investigated. The Great Pond, which heretofore has proved such a source of wealth has, for the last few years, been under illegitimate management, and its resources have not been properly developed, in consequence of which much controversy has arisen. Although the Mattakesset Creek has been totally destroyed, the pond is nevertheless capable of being utilized, and should be. We are now to decide the question, whether the incorporation, after the abolition of the creek, possesses any legal interest in the pond. We hope our citizens will adopt some method by which it (the pond) may send forth its hidden treasures and distribute them harmoniously. It is also necessary that the waters of the pond should be under some regular communication with the ocean, which object permanently established would greatly increase the value of tillage land in that vicinity.

**January 24, 1873**

THE WHALE FISHERY – The story of the results of the whale fishery for the past year is almost precisely that of a number of previous years, one of ill-success as to pecuniary returns... It stated that of the sixty-five completed voyages arrived at home ports during 1872, but one or two made handsome profits, several have only saved themselves from loss, and most of them have lost money...

**January 31, 1873**

SLEIGHING – The sleighing was probably never better on the Vineyard than it was last Wednesday and Thursday. The beach road was enjoyed to perfection by those who were fortunate enough to go that way. Every available horse, sleigh, and pung, in town, were brought into requisition

**January 31, 1873**

...The town seems, to have accomplished its purpose, in the manner intended, to defeat the efforts of the long suffering, much enduring "Bluffers," "Groovers," and "Eastvillians," by its raising of the ponderous committee of fifteen with the grab at the money bags in conjunction with all the skill, and with all their money, of the much needed division of the two sections into separate townships...

**February 7, 1873**

BOSTON'S WELFARE ...

...The late destructive fire was a terrible blow; and it has been followed by the small pox...

**February 7, 1873**

The thermometer at West Tisbury, Monday morning, Jan 30, stood at 8 below, the coldest known for 17 years. In Edgartown at the same time the mercury stood at zero.

**February 14, 1873**

A petition is in circulation, asking the Selectmen to lay out a public way to Katama. Of course they will do it...

**February 14, 1873**

Vegetation on Cape Cod is so scarce when a mullen stock and a whortleberry bush are seen together, they are pronounced a grove!

**February 16, 1873**

A Lay for a Dead Hen – Harper’s Bazar, in speaking of “an interesting maiden in Martha’s Vineyard, named Nancy Luce, whose religious faith consists mainly in a belief that her chickens will be to her a joy forever,” says Nancy has celebrated the “virtues” of one of her hens “in a book of poetry, and placed on her tombstone and epitaph which would puzzle gods and men to pronounce to be either poetry or prose.” It runs thus:

“Poor Tweedie Dedel Bebbie Pinky. Died June 17, 1871, at a quarter past seven o’clock in the evening, aged four years.

“poor dear little heart,  
I am left broken-hearted.  
She was my own heart within me.  
She had more than common wit.  
She is taken from the evil to come.

**February 28, 1873**

The town of Tisbury offers a reward of \$400 for the detection and conviction of the person or persons who set fire to the barn of Mr. Stephen Luce, in November last.

**February 28, 1873**

...In the House, on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., a petition was presented from W. F. Durgin, in behalf of members of the Deep Bottom tribe of Indians, for an appropriation to enable them to improve a burial ground and other land. Also, a petition from William A. Vanderhoof and others of Gay Head, for an act to preserve the fisheries of Menamsha Creek...

**February 28, 1873**

Fifty shares of Katama Land Company are offered for sale by John N. Vinson.

**February 28, 1873**

[Correspondence of the Gazette]  
VINEYARD HAVEN, Feb 22.

*Mr. Editor:* – Noticing an article in the last issue of the Gazette signed by “S. N. N.,” showing a bitter feeling toward the noble people of Nantucket, or to say the least, evincing a disposition to ridicule their modes of communication with the main land, and to boast over the calamity of the disabling of their boat. I take the liberty to disclaim any share in its spirit and feel authorized to state that your correspondence stands unsupported by the sympathies of Martha’s Vineyard people in relation to Nantucket. We know how to sympathise [sic] with our sister island in such calamities and are made sorry indeed that the “Island Home” cannot touch at our dock to aid us in our means of communication with the rest of mankind. We have little to say, but feel a good deal on the subject of official treatment by the boats, especially in Camp meeting times, but as we are expecting speedy relief, let all pass. The article referred to may also pass unanswered and unsupported

N. S. S.

**February 28, 1873**

COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

There will be a further hearing on the petition of DANIEL FISHER and others, now pending before the County Commissioners of Dukes County, at the Arcade House, Oak Bluffs, on TUESDAY, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1873, at ten o’clock A. M.

Per order of the Commissioners  
SAMUEL KENISTON, Clerk.

**March 7, 1873**

VINEYARD HAVEN, MCH. 3, 1873

*Mr. Editor:* – Those who have visited the Sailors’ Free Reading Room, located on the pleasant Union Bluff, and commanding a fine view of many points of interest and beauty....

...Here, the sailor is cordially [sic] invited, and made welcome too...

...The rooms are beautifully and comfortably fitted up for every use to which they are put....

**March 7, 1873**

The new hotel at Katama is to be called the “Mattakesett Lodge”

**March 7, 1873**

The Beach road will hereafter be known as the “Sea View Boulevard.”

**March 7, 1873**

New steamboats are said to be in preparation to accommodate the travel between Wood’s Hole and the Vineyard.

**March 7, 1873**

Work has commenced on the bulkhead to be erected near the wharf at Oak Bluffs. It will be 1000 feet long, and its object is to prevent the bank from being washed away by the sea.

**March 7, 1873**

A Valuable Farm for Sale in CHILMARK.

The undersigned offers his farm for sale, situated on the South Road about three miles from West Tisbury, containing 50 acres of land in good state of cultivation, well fenced and supplied with good water. Cuts from 20-30 tons of hay. Buildings consist of a two-story house, barn 30x pair. There is an orchard of about 50 trees – apple, pear and quince—mostly young. There are now 20 head of cattle—six thorough-bred Ayrshires—a horse and two colts, on the farm; a part of which are for sale; also a wood lot on the road to West Tisbury.

Prices low and terms easy. Further information may be had of  
CAPT. F. C. SMITH, Edgartown

CAPT. JOSEPH DIAS, Vineyard Grove

Or the subscriber on the premises, F. O. ROTCH

Chilmark, Feb. 20, 1873 – 4t

**March 7, 1873**

MR. EDITOR: – The following extracts from our records, may interest some of our friends abroad.

There were in Edgartown during the year 1872, 27 births, 27 marriages, 36 deaths...

**March 7, 1873**

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mar. 4, 1873...

...To quote the words of N. S. S. "I take the liberty to disclaim any share in" such a "spirit" as he attributes to it, and I take the liberty to state further, that there is in the article itself no manifestation of any such spirit...

**March 7, 1873**

COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

There will be a further hearing on the petition of DANIEL FISHER and others, now pending before the County Commissioners of Dukes County, at the Arcade House, Oak Bluffs, on TUESDAY, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1873, at ten o'clock A. M.

Per order of the Commissioners.

SAMUEL KENISTON, Clerk.

**March 14, 1873**

IMPORTANT, IF TRUE – The following respecting the negro race, is travelling round the country in newspapers. We think it is important, if true. In other words, we doubt if Prof. Agassiz is the author of it. We insert at the request of a friend.

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ ON THE NEGRO – In a recent lecture Agassiz remarked: “I have pointed out over a hundred specific differences between the bonal and nervous systems of the white man and the negro. Indeed their frames are alike in no particular. There is no bone in the negro’s body which is relatively the same shape, size, articulation, or chemically of the same composition as that of the white man. The negro’s bones contain a far greater proportion of calcereous [sic] salts than those of the white man. Even the negro’s blood is chemically a very different fluid from that which courses the veins of the white man.

“The whole physical organization of the negro differs quite as much from the white man’s as it does from that of the chimpanzee—that is in his bones, muscles, nerves and fibres [sic], the Chimpanzee has not much farther to progress to become a white man. This fact science inexorably demonstrates...The negro is no more the white man’s brother than the owl is the sister of the eagle, or the ass the brother of the horse...

### **March 14, 1873**

CRUEL – There is a new woe in store for the unhappy codfish. A machine has been invented for catching him by steam, and steamers are to be used to pursue him instead of the old-fashioned fishing smack. This is too bad... [Boston Globe]

### **March 14, 1873**

GAY HEAD – The annual town meeting was held March 4. The following officers were elected: –

Moderator—Charles Mingo

Town Clerk—Samuel Haskins

Treasurer—Thomas Jeffers

Selectmen—Zaccheus Cooper, Aaron Cooper, Charles Mingo

Road Surveyor—Zaccheus Cooper.

Constable and Collector of Taxes—William James

Fence Viewers—Tristram Weeks, Thomas Jeffers

Voted, To raise 825 for highways, and 8675 for town expenses. Voted, To extend a vote of thanks to those persons who were instrumental in causing a post office to be established at Gay Head.

### **March 14, 1873**

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mar. 12, 1873.

*Dear Gazette:* – Quietness and mud prevail. In the latter, however, you of Edgartown, are no doubt our superiors, as your streets almost equal the country roads of Virginia... Why not have a submarine boat, propelled by electricity, to run between Nobsky Head and West Chop, and carry mails and express matters? Such a craft would be independent of weather, and would not be affected by ice...

**March 14, 1873**

REPORT of the condition of the “MARTHA’S VINEYARD NATIONAL BANK OF EDGARTOWN” at Edgartown, in the State of Massachusetts, at the close of business, February 28, 1873...

...DANIEL FISHER,  
WM. H. MUNROE, } DIRECTORS  
WILLIAM BRADLEY

**March 14, 1873**

TO BE LET.

The property known as the Tannery, situated at Lambert’s Cove in Tisbury, Mass. For particulars apply to RICHARD G. LUCE, Vineyard Haven, JAMES MAYHEW, West Tisbury, or THADDEUS LUCE, New Bedford, Mass.

Tisbury, Mar 7, 1873 –3m

**March 14, 1873**

COURT OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

There will be a further hearing on the petition of DANIEL FISHER and others, now pending before the County Commissioners of Dukes County, at the Arcade House, Oak Bluffs, on TUESDAY, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1873, at ten o’clock A. M.

Per order of the Commissioners,  
SAMUEL KENISTON, Clerk.

**March 14, 1873**

\$400

REWARD

THE town of TISBURY will pay Four Hundred Dollars Reward for the detection and conviction of the person or persons who set fire to the Barn of Mr. STEPHEN LUCE, on the night of Nov. 19, 1872.

A. W. SMITH, } Selectmen  
ALEX NEWCOMB } of Tisbury.

Vineyard Haven, Feb. 26, 1873—3t

**March 14, 1873**

The production of petroleum in the United States and Canadas in 1872 reached 7,394,000 barrels, or 20,271 barrels daily. The discoveries of the year and the extension of the producing districts have shown more clearly that petroleum is inexhaustible.

**March 14, 1873**

WANTED

Houses and Land,  
For Sale, from all parts of the  
ISLAND...

...John Vinson,  
Real Estate Agent.

**March 21, 1873**

VINEYARD HAVEN HARBOR

The annual report of the Harbor Commissioners contains much valuable information respecting the harbors of our coast. Prof. Mitchell and Prof. Henry L. Whiting, have made elaborate reports respecting the harbor of Vineyard Haven. We quote the following extracts from Prof. Whiting's report...

...I agree with him fully in regard to the impracticability of building jetties [sic] from the Chops. His remarks concerning the opening of the Lagoon as an inner harbor are suggestions of much value in utilizing this deep and naturally sheltered water, but besides the objections in regard to ice, which he alludes to, the Lagoon is surrounded by quite high hills, which shut out the winds or make them baffling, so that, with its long and narrow configuration, it would be difficult for vessels to get in and out under sail...

...The improvement most needed and most to be desired is the very one, it seems to me, about which Prof. Mitchell expresses the most doubt – an isolated outside breakwater...

...Although the Squash Meadow Shoal may be the remains of a former island, or every part of the original chop, it is now undoubtedly shaped by the current action...

**March 21, 1873**

The poet Bryant has sung the praises of March, but the chief topic of praise is, not for what the month is in itself, but as being the herald of good weather coming...

...We look especially for the prosperity of the Vineyard this spring and the coming summer. The world is beginning to find out that we have a most delicious climate, where the heat is tempered with cooling breezes from the sea, and where the eye is regaled with water scenery pleasing in the sunbeams, and enchanting as the moon silvers over the water and land. Our streets will be more filled than ever with vehicles, and our side walks with people; and vessels and steamers will be constantly coming to and going from the island...

**March 21, 1873**

The lot of land known as the "Fort," has been purchased of Dr. Daniel Fisher by the County Commissioners, and the new jail will be erected thereon. \$12000 is the amount allowed by the Legislature for the purpose.

**March 21, 1873**

...In the Senate, the bill authorizing the County Commissioners of Dukes County to erect a new jail, was passed to be engrossed.

The Governor has signed the bill giving the town of Edgartown permission to buy the franchise of the proprietors of Mattakeeset Creeks.

**March 21, 1873**

THE LAST WHALER – Through a letter received in town by A. M. Myrick, from Callao, we learn that the bark R. L. Barstow of this port has been sold, and that Capt. Jernegan and Mr. Luce, his mate, may soon be expected home. This winds up the list of Nantucket whalers, the R. L. Barstow being the last vessel in the business to bear the name “Nantucket” on her stern. We who can look back to the time when we sent nearly a hundred large ships into the Pacific Ocean—only thirty years ago—can hardly believe it possible that we have lived to see the last of the business –

*Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror*

**March 21, 1873****VALUABLE FARM**

for sale at Auction in  
Chilmark

The undersigned offers his farm for sale, situated on the South Road, about three miles from West Tisbury, containing 50 acres of land in good state of cultivation, well fenced and supplied with good water. Cuts from 20 to 30 tons of hay. Buildings consist of a two-story house, barn 30x40 with collar, and other out buildings—all in good repair. There is an orchard of about 50 trees—apple, pear and quince—mostly young. There are now 20 head of cattle—six thorough-bred Ayrshires—a horse and two colts, on the farm; a part of which are for sale; also a wood lot on the road to West Tisbury.

The above farm will be offered for sale at public auction, WEDNESDAY, Apl. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1873, at one o'clock, P. M. It will be offered in separate lots if desirable. The stock will be sold with the farm or not as purchases may desire. This will be a good opportunity to buy one of the best farms in town at a low price.

F. O. ROTCH...

**March 21, 1873**

Meeting of the Proprietors of Mattakesett Creeks...

...3<sup>rd</sup>. To see if the Proprietors will sell their Franchise in said Creeks to the Town of Edgartown, and on what terms...

...5<sup>th</sup>. To see what measures they will take to repair said creeks in case they do not effect a sale.

6<sup>th</sup>. To see if, in case they do not vote to sell, they will vote to lease the said creeks and all rights connected therewith for the ensuing year or for a term of years...

**March 21, 1873**

SALT.

JUST RECEIVED

400 bushels best Cape SALT.

H. W. SMITH.

**March 21, 1873**

Proposals.

Proposals will be received until April 1<sup>st</sup>, by the undersigned for building a Hotel on West Chop, Martha's Vineyard, to be of same dimensions as the "Pawnee House" at Oak Bluffs. Right reserved to reject any or all proposals.

SMITH, LEWIS & CARPENTER,

Oak Bluffs, M. V.

**March 28, 1873**

On Monday, Asa R. Luce of Chilmark, brought a suit against the town of Chilmark, before Archibald Mellen, Esq., Justice of the Peace, for damage occasioned to his property and person by the upsetting of his carriage on the highway through Chilmark some time last May, between the residence of James Mosher and Rodney Reed; said highway being in an unfit condition for public travel...

**March 28, 1873**

At the town meeting last Saturday, Dr. JOHN PIERCE was chosen moderator. The object of this meeting, as is pretty generally known, was to see if the town would instruct the Selectmen to hire a sum of money sufficient to purchase the franchise of the Mattakeeset Creek Corporation...this purchase being a necessary antecedent to the opening of the South Beach and the consequence of influx of herring into the Great Pond... The fact that many of the creek-owners are deeply interested in seining was a stumbling-block in the way of some of the speakers, their intense desire to have the beach opened on one hand, and their eagerness to get a good price for their property on the other...

...Mr. Luce likened the coalition between the Creek Company and the seiners to the joining hands of Pilate and Herod...

**March 28, 1873**

...A resolve has been reported, allowing \$300 to the selectmen of Tisbury for the purpose of fencing and improving a burial lot and other cultivated lands owned by Priscilla Freeman and surviving members of the Deep Bottom tribe of Indians...

...The Governor has signed the bill "requiring" Dukes County to build a new jail, at an expense of not over \$12,000.

**March 28, 1873**

MR. EDITOR: – While in many cities thousands have fallen victims to small pox, we have felt in comparative security, being surrounded by so healthy an atmosphere...

**March 28, 1873**

The County Commissioners held an adjourned meeting at Oak Bluffs, Tuesday last. The morning session was given to the continued hearing on the petition of Dr. Daniel Fisher and others for a highway. Messrs. Pease, Cottle and Cleavland advocated the laying out of the highway, and Messrs. Holmes and Crocker opposed it... after an animated discussion, having failed to convince the Commissioners of the necessity of the way, the petitioners were granted leave to withdraw...

**March 28, 1873**

TOWN MEETING...

...12<sup>th</sup>. To see if the town will accept a town way as laid out by the Selectman, commencing on Water street, at the southeast corner of land belonging to Joseph Mayhew, Esq., near the dwelling of the late Freeman Coffin, Esq., to Katama, as per petition of G. N. Collins, Esq., and four others...

...17<sup>th</sup>. To see if the town will appropriate a sum of money to fence the Cemetery at Eastville [By request of T. C. Luce and thirty-three others.]...

**March 28, 1873**

Corn,

Flour,

Oats, and

Meal.

		PRICE.
3000	BUSH. CORN,	75
50	BBLs. Claremont Mills, BEST FAMILY FLOUR	\$11.25
50	BBLs. Barber's St. Louis, BEST FAMILY FLOUR XXX	11.05
500	BUSH. Western White OATS, for seeding or feeding	66
MEAL, -	- - - - -	78

DANIEL FISHER

Edgartown, March 26, 1873

**April 4, 1873**

MAGNIFICENT GIFT – Mr. John Anderson, the well known tobacco manufacturer of New York, has given to Prof. Agassiz the Island of Pekinese (and fifty thousand dollars) which for several years has been his summer resort, a permanent location for a School for the study of nature, such as the world has never seen before... It contains about 100 acres... Its situation in the ocean, within easy access of the main land, secures privacy and freedom from intrusion, while its wonderful fertility will enable the Institution to maintain itself almost within its own domain...

...We shall look hereafter to see this island famous all over the country and in foreign lands, and drawing pupils from all quarters. The wonders of the sea will be explored and the love of [sic] nature and its teachings awakened, and most salutary results will be the consequence... “ANDERSON SCHOOL,” a name selected for it by Prof. Agassiz...

**April 4, 1873**

The Great Pond was let into Job Neck Pond on Tuesday night. Job Neck Pond is open into the sea, and the channel through Job Neck Pond is 20 feet wide and from 4 to 5 feet deep. Who did the work? is now the question of the day.

It is reported that 20 barrels of herring were taken out of one of these ponds Tuesday night.

**April 4, 1873**

Abraham C. White, Esq., of Gosnold, has been appointed Temporary Inspector of Customs at Tarpaulin Cove, in place of John W. Gifford, Esq., resigned.

**April 4, 1873**

By letters received in town this week, we learn that work on Katama Bay and the South Beach opening will begin very soon.

**April 4, 1873**

*Mr. Editor:* –Will you allow space in your columns to call attention to the subject of Drainage at Oak Bluffs and Camp Ground... No evil has as yet resulted from the lack of Sewerage, but as these places become more densely populated, as doubtless they will—a thorough system of drainage will become an absolute necessity, and there is no better time than the present to commence such a work... The outlet of course, should be at some point where the ebb and flow of the tide would carry all matter away...

...The importance of these sanitary regulations to the prosperity, not only of the localities named, but of the whole Vineyard, will readily occur to you...

...Respectfully,  
AN OLD VISITOR TO THE VINEYARD

**April 4, 1873**

MASS. LEGISLATURE. – In the House, Mch. 26, a petition was received from the selectman of Gay Head in aid of the petition to prevent seining within fifty rods from Gay Head to Herring Creek. A report in favor of the petitioners has been made...

**April 4, 1873**

12,000,000 acres!

Cheap Farms

The cheapest land in the market for sale by the

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

In the Great Platte Valley.

3,000,000 Acres in Central Nebraska...

...SOLDIERS ENTITLED TO A HOMESTEAD OF 160 ACRES...

...FREE HOMES FOR ALL! Millions of acres of choice Government Lands open for entry under the HOMESTEAD LAW, near this GREAT RAILROAD, with good markets and all the conveniences of an old settled country...

O. F. DAVIS,

*Land Commissioner U. P. R. R.*

Omaha, Neb.

**April 4, 1873**

WANTED

10,000 FARMERS

To improve 1,700,000 acres R. R. Lands free from mortgage and located in the middle region of Western Iowa—the best corn, wheat and cattle-producing belt in the West, 15 hours distant from Chicago...

**April 4, 1873**

MARYLAND

FRUIT FARMS.

\$10 to \$25 per acre. Fine Fruit and Garden Soil. Mild, healthy climate. Oysters and Fish abundant. Catalogues free. H. P. CHAMBERS, Federalsburg, Md.

**April 4, 1873**

FOR SALE

50 SHARES KATAMA LAND CO. Apply to

feb 23

JOHN N. VINSON.

**April 11, 1873**

...Mr. Jeremiah Pease moved that \$800 be raised to support a police force, to be divided equally between the Camp Ground and Oak Bluffs.

Mr. Dunham thought that part of it should go to Katama... Capt. S. H. Norton said some of it should be expended in the vicinity of the N. Y. landing at Eastville, as so many thieves landed there. (A voice, "Come to see their friends!")...

**April 11, 1873**

...Voted, that the Katama road be built by contract, and that the sum of \$2000 be raised, from which to meet the expense incurred by reason of such contract...

**April 11, 1873**

The Vineyard Brick and Tile Works in Chilmark will be carried on the present season by Mr. Hines, the proprietor.

**April 11, 1873**

...FOR SALE ON CHAPPAQUIDDICK ISLAND:

WASHQUA NECK, containing about 400 acres of land, situated on the south end of the island.

For particulars, apply to

F. C. SMITH, Land Agent.

WASHUA FARM, containing about 200 acres of land, house, barn and out houses. For further particulars, apply to

F. C. SMITH, Land Agent.

THE SNOW FARM, containing 25 acres of land, house, barn, and several out houses. This, with the lands named above, adjoins the harbor. The fishing and bathing facilities are unrivaled...

200 acres of land for sale near the village of Edgartown by

F. C. SMITH, Land Agent

ALL the above named property can be bought at a bargain, if applied for soon...

**April 18, 1873**

ASSASSINATION AT SAN FRANCISCO – San Francisco, April 10 – This afternoon John Samuel shot and instantly killed Elihu A. Marchant at the office of the latter in Montgomery street. Samuel fired four shots, three of which took effect through the head. After firing the shots the murder gave himself up. It is reported that Marchant attempted to seduce one of Samuel's daughters over a year ago. The deceased was married and the father of seventeen children...[cannot read as page was creased] native of Edgartown, and the son of Rev. Henry Marchant, now of New York.

**April 18, 1873**

THE ADVENT OF SPRING – Certain unmistakable influences in earth and air announce

the Spring, and the severe and prolonged winter just closed, makes the spring doubly welcome. "I am glad to see the snow going," is a common remark; and we put up with the inconveniences of mud and water, and chilly nights and mornings, and rainy days, as so much better than the winter weather.

The fishing vessels are refitted, the crews engaged, the voyages entered upon. Building commences and the sound of the hummer is heard and new structures arise. The farmer gets ready for work upon the soil, and ploughs and sows his seed...

**April 25, 1873**

**VALUABLE FARM FOR SALE**

The subscriber offers for sale his farm, pleasantly situated in the town of Chilmark, on the Middle County road (the nearest route from Chilmark to Vineyard Haven) a few rods from the Post Office and the Methodist Meeting House. Said farm contains about 70 acres consisting of meadow, pasture, tillage, wood and swamp land – 10 acres of which are suitable for a cranberry bog. It is well watered and in good condition. For particulars apply to

GRAFTON NORTON

**May 2, 1873**

John N. Vinson, Esq., who bought the privilege of taking the fish in Lagoon Pond for the present year, has already secured 1500 lbs. of perch and about 8000 herring

**May 2, 1873**

...Edward Mayhew killed three very large black snakes in his woods in Chilmark the other day.

Ten geese were killed in Squibnocket Pond last week.

**May 2, 1873**

GOOD GUNNING – Monday morning, a party of nine gentlemen shot 125 wild fowl at Gay Head. Orin Keeney was "high hook" securing forty...

**May 2, 1873**

Assignee's Sale.

WILL be sold by public auction, at the Tannery near Lambert's Cove, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1878, at one o'clock in the afternoon, by David Smith, Auctioneer, the following property belonging to the estate of Thaddeus Luce, Bankrupt: –

Two Wagons,  
Seven barrels of Soap Grease,  
One barrel of Hemlock extract  
One tent,  
About one and a half tons of coal.

FRANCIS B. GREENE, Assignee

**May 2, 1873**

To Real Estate Operators.

The undersigned offers for sale the estate known as the CHASE PEASE Farm, situated about half a mile from Edgartown, near the New Beach Road, which will probably be extended directly through it, and about twenty minutes ride from Oak Bluffs and the Camp Ground, over the Boulevard. It contains about 68 Acres of Beach and upland, admirably adapted for laying out into COTTAGE LOTS, and affords a rare opportunity for profitable investment. For terms and particulars address or apply to

CHARLES DARROW.

**May 9, 1873**

MASS. LEGISLATURE – William H. Munroe and 52 other citizens of Edgartown, petition for the protection of wild fowl within the limits of the town.

Ought not to pass was reported on the resolve relating to the Deep Bottom tribe of Indians.

**May 9, 1873**

Owners of dogs will find an important notice in another column. After reading it they will do well to call at the Town Clerk's office, and pay the usual license fee for their favorites.

**May 9, 1873**

THE WILL OF NAPOLEON.

**May 9, 1873**

KATAMA – ...

...Katama is by far the most attractive spot on the Vineyard for a person or family seeking recreation, repose or health. The land is good and capable of raising large crops, the water prospect unrivalled, the broad Atlantic stretching out as far as the eye can penetrate, and sending its sparkling billows, now in peace, and now lashed into fury almost to one's very feet....

...Katama Land Company.

EDGARTOWN, MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MASS...

...The stockholders of this Company are invited to visit Katama this day, Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, to attend the auction sale for the choice of lots, in accordance with the conditions of the subscription agreement...

**May 9, 1873**

Katama.

The auction sale at Katama, for stockholders' choice of lots, came off Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup> inst., as per announcement. The splendid steamer River Queen, having on board a number of stockholder and "operators" from abroad, arrived here at about half past three, stopped long

enough to take on board the crowd in waiting (“Free passage to all!) and proceeded on her way to Katama. Three quarters of an hour was allowed for inspection and selection, and then the sale began, continuing until after six o’clock. The bidding was quite enthusiastic, the price of some of the first choices running up as high as \$325, and dwindling down to \$5. About \$3600 was realized from this sale, –a sale not of lots, but of the order of selection from a number of lots to which the bidders were already entitled...

**May 9, 1873**

FOR SALE  
100 BLS. Clarmont selected white  
Wheat Best Family FLOUR \$11.25  
500 Bush. OATS, .66  
3200 Bush. YELLOW CORN, .80  
By DANIEL FISHER.

**May 16, 1873**

THE VINEYARD –The increasing number of visitors to the Vineyard, the building of cottages, the laying out of new roads, the numerous sales of land and the rise in prices in many locations, are favorable omens for future prosperity. It is evident that there is a demand for just such territory as ours, and that the world is beginning to find out that Martha’s Vineyard is a most desirable spot for a watering place.

The annual camp meeting so long held here has had an important influence in bringing the Island into notice, and securing purchasers of land.

There is one thought which we shall do well to entertain, namely, that there need not be, any rivalry, except a generous emulation, between different parts of the island...

...Of course there is room for improvement on the Vineyard. We need more trees, that there may be more variety in the landscape...Trees of rapid growth, and those which will flourish in our soil, should be selected. The Scotch Lark, it is said, grows rapidly, and will flourish on light sandy soils, and makes a beautiful tree. Poplar, willow, maple, elm and indeed almost any kind of tree, or shrub, properly planted and cultivated, could be made to thrive. Those who live here are not aware how naked a landscape seems without trees to those who are accustomed to them, and do not estimate, it is feared, the additional value and attractions they might secure by plans and labors to increase the number and variety. Much can be done at Katama in this way... Another important step will be to bring Oak Bluffs, and the region of country thereabouts, in close connection with Katama. This will be accomplished this season, to a considerable extent, by daily communication by steamer. But something more is needed. There should be a rail-road from the Bluffs to Katama. Such a road, furnished with dummy engines, would be a paying affair, and bring the whole island, as it were, into immediate connection...

... in closing, we have only to say, that our comparative nearness to Boston, and the great facilities we now enjoy of rail-road and steamboat communications, with the increasing demand

for summer residences by the sea, call upon us to do all we can to meet and satisfy the demands made upon us. The time for action, united and vigorous, has arrived. Let us improve it, as wise men, ere it be too late.

**May 16, 1873**

A black snake, measuring 4 feet and 4 inches in length, and 4 inches round the body, was killed on Monday last on the Vineyard Haven road, near the residence of Mr. Jeremiah S. Weeks, at a place called "Snakes Hollow." He was discovered crossing the road by Mr. Frank Flint of Woburn, Mass. And when attacked made a stand, and showed fight. Dr. Mayberry who is authority in such matters, says it is the finest specimen of black snake species that he has ever seen on the island. He was an ugly fellow, and had the weather been warmer, Mr. Flint would have found his snakeship a powerful adversary.

**May 16, 1873**

Mr. Jethro Worth has been reinstated assistant keeper of Cape Poge Light. We are glad of it. Mr. Worth is a worthy man, and an active man, and knows just how to keep a light.

**May 16, 1873**

The Vineyard Grove Horse Railroad is to extend from the Highlands wharf along by the west side of Lake Anthony and through Siloam avenue, Wesleyan Grove, to a terminus for the present near the office of the Camp-Meeting Association. The road is to be done by June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**May 16, 1873**

Regular steamboat connection between Wood's Hole and the Vineyard is now established. The New Bedford, Nantucket and Vineyard Steamboat Company will keep a boat there this season, and the connections will be made close and sure.

Brigham & Black are employing a large number of men in building the concrete road at Oak Bluffs, and intend to have it finished by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

**May 16, 1873**

We learn that the Sea View House will be opened on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> of June next...  
...Work has already commenced on the Race Course near Oak Bluffs...

**May 23, 1873**

Smith & Lewis, of Oak Bluffs, are negotiating with parties in Chicago for the purchase of 200 acres of land with two miles of the Bluffs. It is the intention of the parties, if they buy, to lay

the land out in lots of from 1 to 5 acres, for the purpose of erecting good and substantial summer residences of a style superior to anything on the Island.

**May 23, 1873**

A Lay for a Dead Hen – Harper’s Bazar, in speaking of “an interesting maiden in Martha’s Vineyard, named Nancy Luce, whose religious faith consists mainly in a belief that her chickens will be to her a joy forever,” says Nancy has celebrated the “virtues” of one of her hens “in a book of poetry, and placed on her tombstone an epitaph which it would puzzle gods and men to pronounce to be either poetry or prose.” It runs thus:

“Poor Tweedie Dedel Bebbie Pinky. Died June 17, 1871, at a quarter past seven o’clock in the evening, aged four years.

“Poor dear little heart,  
Sore broke in her.  
I am left broken-hearted.  
She was my own heart within me.  
She had more than common wit.  
She is taken from the evil to come.”

**May 23, 1873**

The first trot of the season on the “Sea View Boulevard,” between two gentlemen’s horses, the grey mare “Grocery,” owned by Wm. Bradley, of this town, and the chestnut mare “Concrete,” owned by Aaron Brigham, of Taunton, came off on Monday...

**May 23, 1873**

John N. Vinson has taken the contract to grade the Race Course, near Oak Bluffs, and is rapidly pushing it forward to completion.

Mr. Wing, of New Bedford sold 10 or 12 lots on Lagoon Heights, last week.

Sales of several lots have been made at Katama, and about twenty cottages will be erected there this season...

**May 23, 1873**

Notice is hereby given that the grading of the Katama Road, lately accepted by the town, will be sold in sections at public auction, on the road, on FRIDAY, The thirtieth instant, commencing at the Slough, near Edward R. Dunham’s, at two o’clock, P. M....

**May 23, 1873**

LAND FOR SALE  
AT KATAMA.

The Katama Land Company now offer for \$200, choice water Lots, that cannot be surpassed for beauty by any on this Island. Twenty-five per cent of the purchase money to be laid out for improvements on the grounds...

NATH'L M. JERNEGAN  
Agent Katama Land Co...

**May 23, 1873**

FOR SALE.

A good Pew in the Baptist Church—Cheap of Cash...

**May 30, 1873**

The County Commissioners gave a hearing Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst., on the petitions praying for the locating anew of Water and Summer streets in this village, and the laying out of a new way from the High School house to Water street...

...Capt. Holley was in favor of altering where it was needed, but thought the portion already located by the Selectmen wide enough... as any further widening there would involve the destruction of valuable trees...

**May 30, 1873**

THE VINEYARD – *Mr. Editor...*

...A straight line drawn from Gay Head to Newport would show how near the Vineyard is to that fashionable Rhode Island watering place. We think it would pay to have a line of stammers running from Newport to the Vineyard. A wharf for landing might be constructed at Gay Head and a line of stages to carry passengers to Tisbury, Edgartown, Katama and Oak Bluffs. For fishing Edgartown is far superior to Newport in the variety and abundance of the fish taken. The Indian settlements, their ancient burial-grounds and homes, and the living representatives of the race at the Vineyard, are well worth a visit...

**May 30, 1873**

Superior Court, May Term, 1873.

Brigham, C. J...

...Ann Eliza Osborn, Admx. vs. Mary T. Osborn. This was an action brought to recover on a note given by Mary T. Osborn, executrix of the will of Samuel Osborn, to Abraham Osborn. The jury returned a verdict of \$5000 for the plaintiff...

**May 30, 1873**

The advance of warm weather makes a rigid adherence to sanitary laws binding on every one. All sinks, drains and vaults should be carefully looked to, and cleaned and deodorized. Few are away of the extreme importance of such precautions—at least it seems so judging by the amount of filth some people allow to remain on their premises.

**May 30, 1873**

Bluefish made their appearance in our waters on Monday, and some were taken by our boatman.

**May 30, 1873**

At Katama there are active doings. The Gate-house is being pushed forward to completion, a race course is being laid out, and preparations are in progress for the erection of several cottages.

**May 30, 1873**

It has been said of Capt. Clement Norton, formerly a well known citizen of Edgartown, that he assisted in taking 38,040 barrels of oil—made 14 South Sea voyages in 26 yeas [sic], 12 of them in the capacity of master—sailed over a million of miles, and never cost the insurance offices a farthing or lost a spar larger than a topsail yard. Capt. N., it is said, caught the first whale, the oil of which was brought to this port.

**June 6, 1873**

Guardian's Sale of Wharf Property.

WILL be sold at Public Auction, by authority from the Probate Court, on MONDAY, the 23d inst, at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, or immediately after the arrival of the Steamer from New Bedford, on the premises, Five Eights of North Wharf in this town.

ANNE E. GANNET,

Guardian of

CAROLINE M. OSBORN

THEODORE A. OSBORN

CHESTER OSBORN

**June 6, 1873**

FOR SALE

400 acres of land situated at CHARLES'S NECK,  
WEST TISBURY.

belonging to the estate of the late William Athearn. A portion of it is naturally adapted to the raising of

CRANBERRIES,

and with little expense can be made very valuable. The whole will be sold low for CASH. Apply to

John N. Vinson.

**June 13, 1873**

MARTHA'S VINEYARD.

Could one look at the island as it appeared to Europeans and long before in its first settlement by the Indians and in their history upon it, it would acquire a romantic and general interest. It was densely populated and there was no lack of food, for the clam banks and oyster beds discounted liberally at all seasons of the year, the birds in great numbers flocked thitherward, and the fish, including the whale, were abundant. Milder in winter and cooler in summer than the main-land, the Indians enjoyed the climate, raised their corn, entrapped their game, worshipped according to their creed, and were obedient to their government. In their canoes they sailed round the island and passed over to the Elizabeth, Nantucket and other Islands and to the main-land.

Year after year and century after century they pursued the even tenor of their way, were married and given in marriage, born and died. Their dead were honorably buried in their neat and chosen burial places. The elder handed down their traditions to the younger. The sun, moon and stars, taught [sic] them knowledge; and in love and harmony, and occasionally wars with other tribes, the seasons came and went, and generation after generation came forth and passed away: –

The sea still rolls as it rolled that day,  
But the Indian Fathers where are they?

A remnant of them remains; and we wish some one would gather up the traditions that are not wholly lost; and give us their history from the time when Mayhew came among them to the present day. Let some poet give expression in song of the almost extinct tribes among us, and do honor the spots they inhabited, the aspects of nature by which they were surrounded.

The history of the whites, also, for over two hundred years residents on the island, should be revised, enlarged and made public. The island has produced many sons and daughters of which she may well be proud, and her connection with the whaling interest—the many noble sea-captains she has furnished—is one that reflects up on her highest honor.

Now that the Vineyard is attracting wide attention, and visitors are pouring in upon us, and a new era has arrived, let us gather up our fragmentary history and put it into popular shape, and point out all places of historic interest, and recal [sic] as it were to life, and love, and fame, the honored, but now almost forgotten dead, both of the red race and the white. Photographic pictures should be taken of the scenery and persons for the historical book and also for separate use.

### **June 13, 1873**

J. & W. R. Wing have sold the past week about 100 lots on their purchase at Lagoon Heights, Martha's Vineyard, to parties from Worcester, Sterling and other places.

### **June 13, 1873**

Mr. Albert C. Green caught the first bass at Squbnocket, [sic] this season. It weighed 12 pounds.

### **June 13, 1873**

We were led into an error stating that a race course was being built at Katama. We should have said that a fine drive way was being constructed around the whole of the Company's land there. When completed it will make one of the fines "drives" on the Island.

**June 13, 1873**

The remains of an Indian were dug up on Tuesday last, by men at work on the street, in front of the house of the late Mr. Timothy Coffin.

**June 13, 1873**

In our issue of last week we chronicled the breaking, entering and larceny from the store of Capt. T. D. Pease in this town. The following Wednesday night a blacksmith's shop and the stores of R. W. Coffin and Thomas Bradley & Sons, in Vineyard Haven, were entered and goods to the value of \$250 to \$300 taken therefrom; the greater part consisting of shawls and a general dry goods assortment, from Mr. Coffin's store, and some ready made clothing, &c., from Bradley & Sons... The same night the residence of the late Shubael C. Norton, occupied during the day only, was broken into, and a number of knives, forks, spoons, & c., taken. It seems that the thieves arrived here on the boat Tuesday, visited Capt. Pease's the same night, lay low during the following day, and at night proceeded to Vineyard Haven, stopping at Mrs. Norton's on the way. An interesting incident of their progress was the capture of a rooster from Mr. Jared Coffin's hennery, and the roasting of the same in Mr. Chase Pease's barn cellar. They set their table with the silver on this festive occasion, as was evidenced by one of Mrs. Norton's forks which they left behind.

Sheriff Norton and his *posse* were out all day Thursday and the night of the same, and the following morning at three o'clock, the erring trio were discovered cooking their breakfast, *en famille*, in a dense pine grove near Tashmoo... About all the goods above mentioned, including Capt. Pease's tobacco, hard tack and cheese, were found in their possession... Amasa Alexander of Montpelier, Vt., William Eastman, of Bradford, Vt., and Clara, the wife of Amasa...

**June 13, 1873**

The number of travellers [sic] to and from the Vineyard is becoming larger every day, and in a week or two, should fine weather prevail, we shall see our boats crowded with passengers and freight.

**June 13, 1873**

There will be great times at the Martha's Vineyard Trotting Park on the Fourth of July, when a purse of \$160 will change hands. See advertisement.

**June 13, 1873**

FOURTH OF JULY

---

GRAND OPENING

At the Martha's Vineyard Trotting Park,  
Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1873

---

PURSE \$160

**June 13, 1873**

Special Meeting.

THERE will be a special meeting of the members of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society at Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury, TUESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> inst., at 2 o'clock, P. M., to see if the Society will vote to raise a sum of money for the purpose of repairing the race course. (By request of twenty members of the Society.)

WM. J. ROTCH

Sec. M. V. A. Society.

**June 27, 1873**

Daniel Webster at the Vineyard.

This truly great man; noble in feeling, sentiment and patriotism, had a strong passion for the works of nature and loved the mountains and the sea and was a born fisherman. He came to the Vineyard in August, 1849... he thought he knew nobody here; and the hotel was soon full of friends... The friends proposed the next day bluefish; the day after shooting on the plains; next day sword fish; the next a party to Gay Head and so on...

...The next day there was a bright morning after a cool night, and Mr. W. had a good deal of pleasant driving over the plains, but he made a poor day of shooting, while his companion, Dr. Fisher, whom everybody knows is an excellent shot, bagged a dozen birds...

**June 27, 1873**

What shall we do about our roads? This is a question in which all our people should feel a lively interest.

**June 27, 1873**

The farmers in the Connecticut valley are making more extensive preparations than ever for raising tobacco this season. From East Hartford to East Windor Hill there is scarcely a farmer who is not building new tobacco-sheds, some of them very large...

**June 27, 1873**

A LARGE BASS. – Mr. Albert C. Green, of Providence, R. I., caught, early on Monday morning last, in Squibnocket Pond, a bass weighing 58 pounds and measuring 53 inches in length.

**June 27, 1873**

SALE OF A WHARF. – S. L. Pease sold 5-8ths of North Wharf and appendages at auction on Monday last, to Rev. Allen Gannett, for \$675.

**July 4, 1873**

NANTUCKET – Rev. J. D. King, agent of the “Vineyard Highlands Land Company,” as we learn from the Nantucket Inquirer, of Saturday last, has given a free lecture in that place on “The Undeveloped Resources of Nantucket”...

**July 4, 1873**

Cambridge, last week, had a fine commencement for Harvard College; and the Phi Beta Kappa Society was this year favored by an oration from Charles Francis Adams, whose father, John Quincy Adams, eighty-five years ago, in 1788, performed the same service for the P. B. K...

**July 4, 1873**

The whaling business having died out at Nantucket, the citizens have turned their attention to digging [sic] up old coins, and several ancient specimens have recently been exhumed.

**July 4, 1873**

The great fire in Plymouth woods has been subdued. The territory burned over is very large and the loss is great.

**July 4, 1873**

...Howes Norris and Edward Ingraham have sold at Oklahoma, eight lots to Wallace Barnes, and twelve lots to Sam'l S. Woodruff...

**July 4, 1873**

The concrete drive over the Bluffs is finished and accepted by the Selectmen and Surveyor. Cost of construction, \$6964.80.

**July 4, 1873**

DIED.

At Gay Head, 26<sup>th</sup> ult, very suddenly, Mr. ZACHEUS HOWWASWEE, aged 81 years, 5 months, 15 days.

**July 4, 1873**

VINEYARD HIGHLANDS

HORSE RAILROAD.

*On and after July 5<sup>th</sup>,*

Passenger and Baggage Cars will run DAILY on the Arrival and Departure of the New Bedford, Wood's Hole and Nantucket Steamers, from Camp Meeting Landing, Highlands Wharf, to the Camp Ground.

Cars will run half-hourly and oftener if necessity requires, from Camp Ground to Hotel and Bathing Houses at the Highlands Wharf...

**July 4, 1873**

Beach Road Express.

On an after this date, the undersigned will run an Express over the Beach Road to Oak Bluffs and the Camp Ground...

**July 11, 1873**

School Street is being widened and improved. Several trees near the residence of the late Wheldon Jernegan have been cut down to make room for the widening.

**July 11, 1873**

The very large and noble propeller steamer A. D. Bache, Commander Howell, left our harbor on Sunday morning last. She is conveying parties to George's Shoals for a survey...

**July 11, 1873**

KATAMA – The prospect for the future of this new settlement is in the highest degree flattering... what part of Merrie England can show greener or more velvety fields and more picturesque shrubbery than here around? Where will you find a lake more tranquil and placid than the beautiful Bay of Katama? Where a broader and more varied prospect than an eye embraces, looking from one of the bluffs on the water side, and sweeping village and harbor of Edgartown, Vineyard Sound with its perpetual fleet, the Island of Chappaquiddick, dotted with cosy farm houses and diversified with hill and dale, field and forest, and so round to the South Shore?...

...The grand hotel—"Mattakeset Lodge"—will positively be finished by the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., when the illustrious Stumcke, of Oak Bluffs and Stumcke House notoriety, will take possession...

...Two cottages are in process of construction by Mr. E. R. Dunham, and others will follow...

**July 18, 1873**

Those who are too blind to see the notice for a town meeting on Saturday next, at 2 o'clock P. M., are requested to place their spectacles on their nose, and look for it. Then they will be sure to see it.

**July 18, 1873**

FOR SALE—A PART OF THE EAST END OF Nashawena Island, State of Massachusetts, (one of the Elizabeth Islands,) containing about 470 acres of valuable farming land, well wooded (including 50 acres of cranberry ground), with two good dwellings, barns, &c., &c.; pure fresh water ponds and springs, stocked with fish; well adapted for Summer residences and fishing clubs; a good location for striped bass and other salt water fishing; this island is near Professor Agassiz's School of Natural History; price only \$30 per acre. Apply to J. G. JENNINGS, 144 Nassau street, New York.

**July 18, 1873**

KATAMA

Riding out from this quiet of Edgartown village to this beautiful and one-time secluded spot, one is at once struck with the activity everywhere prevailing. Carpenters, painters, stevedores, pioneers cutting their way through the shrubbery and leaving broad avenues behind them, graders, gardeners and teamsters swarm everywhere... As for the scenery, no ecstasy [sic] of descriptions can convey an adequate idea of its beauty and variety...

...The plans for a “Clam-bake House” and a large stable have been drawn and will soon be in the hands of the contractors...

...The stable will be 200 feet by 136, built in the form of a hollow square... There will probably be a bowling alley on one side...

**July 18, 1873**

ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS,

For the week ending July 16...

**July 25, 1873**

KATAMA – A correspondent of the Boston *Traveller* says, Katama promises fair to outgrow even Oak Bluffs soon... Every passenger from Oak Bluffs to Katama is to receive a coupon ticket, numbered. At the end of the season the tickets are to be mixed, and the first three drawn entitle the respective holders to a cottage, ready furnished.

**July 25, 1873**

WOOD’S HOLE – The Coast Survey has a party at Wood’s Hole making surveys for a new channel, with a view of recommending an appropriation for clearing it if found practicable...

**July 25, 1873**

Bayes Norton, Darius Norton and Elijah Norton have sold for \$18,000 to J. & W. R. Wing, of New Bedford, Charles F. Allen, of Worcester, and New York and Boston parties, 314 acres of land south of Lagoon Heights, Eastville, extending from the Lagoon to the county road...

**July 25, 1873**

KATAMA

*Its situation and character—The Beach—The new Hotel—Opening of a passage to the Sea.*

(From an occasional Correspondent)

*Katama House, July 23...*

...Katama is a tract of land containing about six hundred acres, situated at the south-eastern extremity of Martha’s Vineyard; that it is bounded on the east by the harbor of Edgartown, on the south by Katama bay, on the west by the Great Plain, and on the north by a broad sweep of

meadow and pasture land. From the harbor of the land rises in a steep bluff and stretches away for a mile, level or slightly undulating, with an occasional patch of shrubbery or romantic dell to vary the monotony. The ascent from the bay is more gradual, and soon brings you to a fine grove of oaks, famous for the multitude and magnitude of the picnics of which it has been the scene...

**July 25, 1873**

Hiram Daggett, of Eastville, had a lot of rigging stolen from Norris's wharf on the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst...

**July 25, 1873**

REPAIRING A ROAD – Dr. Daniel Fisher, with his customary liberality, is now repairing, at his own expense, the lower part of Main street in this village. For six months or more it has been in a deplorable condition. When completed it will be a great public improvement.

**July 25, 1873**

The Highland Company, it is said, has voted to build the plank walk to extend south from the Highland House, and connect with the one already built extending north from the Sea View House. This will make a grand promenade walk for those desirous of “bluffing” it on moonlight evenings.

**July 25, 1873**

The lumber to be used in erecting the Dukes County jail has arrived in town. The stone is now being got out and prepared in Chilmark, and will soon be brought to town.

**July 25, 1873**

BLUEFISH—Capt. Josiah C. Pease took over two hundred bluefish on Wednesday. Several boats took from 100 to 130, each.

**July 25, 1873**

Standing Grass for Sale.

The subscriber offers for sale at his farm on Chappaquiddick, a lot of good grass. Being unable to cut or attend to the making of the same, it will be sold at a very low price. Also, for sale, a good Beach Wagon and Ox and a Horse Cart. Apply to

ELIJAH P. SMITH, Edgartown.

**July 25, 1873**

HORSES AND CARRIAGES TO LET.

JOHN PEASE is still to be found at his old stand in Edgartown, where he is prepared to furnish all who may be in want, with elegant turnouts for a drive to Katama, Oak Bluffs, Gay Head, or elsewhere on the Vineyard. His horses are among the best and safest and fastest on the

island, and his carriages are of the best description. Single or double teams furnished, with or without drivers, and larger or small parties taken to any part of the Island. Also, good stabling for horses. His charges are reasonable, and he has but one price for all.

**July 25, 1873**

KATAMA  
the  
LOVELY.

The Katama Land Company

**August 1, 1873**

We have not much to chronicle from Katama this week; and indeed, being upon the eve of the festivities which are to signalize the opening of the “grand hotel” at that place, we would fain husband our energies to meet the magnitude of the occasion...

...We cannot but be filled with joyful anticipation for the future of this lovely spot. Let the good work go on. To indulge in a figure, “let the eagle scream!”

**August 1, 1873**

TOWN OF TISBURY – 1873

Rate of taxation, \$18 on \$1000...

...NON-RESIDENTS.

Fisher, Daniel Edgartown,	221.13...
Hine, C. C. New York	43.92...
Whiting, Henry L. Cambridge	53.28...

**August 1, 1873**

PENEKESSE ISLAND – This little dot of an island in our archipelago promises to become as famous as Robinson Crusoe’s. The opening of the Anderson School of Natural History there under the charge of Prof. Agassiz, has been an event which has been chronicled everywhere. The students are told to explore the island and report—their chief study to be marine animals. They appear to have a good company of ladies and gentlemen, and no doubt are spending the time agreeably. When they have found out everything there, let them come over to Martha’s Vineyard, which will seem a mighty big place to them in comparison with Penekese: and the objects of interest with us are innumerable...

**August 1, 1873**

Edgartown proper, and Katama, should secure as frequent communications by steam boat and carriages and telegraph, as any other part of our island. Many persons who come here to spend a few days or weeks, have business which requires their constant attention or general oversight. They are reluctant to go to any place where there are not frequent mails and telegraphic dispatches. They must also come to a place without any detention on the way, and come by easy

and commodious transportation. Nothing is more self-evident than this. Edgartown ought to be made accessible in the most speedy and comfortable manner.

### **August 1, 1873**

Bluefish are plenty in Vineyard waters just now. Two gentlemen took 1200 pounds on Wednesday at the South beach, near Katama, while standing on the shore.

### **August 1, 1873**

TALES OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD, CAPE COD, AND ALL ALONG SHORE – We have before us, under the title of “Eighty years Ashore and Afloat, or the Thrilling Adventures of Uncle Jethro,” a neat and interesting volume of 253 pages, “embracing the remarkable episodes in a life of toil and danger, on land and sea,” by E. C. Cornell, of Edgartown... Many incidents in the life of Uncle Jethro Ripley, a life reaching to almost eighty years, are portrayed in a pleasing and instructive manner... It is amusing to read an account of his cruise to Labrador, and his voyage to the Straits, while his description of the first voyage of the ship Apollo, the first whale ship ever owned in Edgartown, is deeply interesting, and will be read with great satisfaction by many who will still remember the ship, and those who sailed in her. How the poor, rotten old ship ever performed her voyage is a mystery... The Apollo sailed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, 1816, at an early hour. At 8 o'clock, A. M., of the same day, the pumps were tried, and plenty of water found in the ship. Uncle Jethro says they “pumped a long time without freeing her, and after a while the pumps became choked with chips and gravel. We hoisted them out, drew the boxes, and with long poles drove out the snags. Replaced them, but it was not long before they were again choked, when they were taken out after served as before. Slung a man under the arms, and lowered him into the pump-well, with a basket to gather up the kindling stuff. He reported any quantity of it, while bucket-full after bucket-full of all kinds of dirt was sent up. Directly he sang out for the end of a rope, to be sent down, as he had found something as large as a man's body. He bent on to it, and up we hauled a good sized piece of rotted timber. Sent down the rope again as he ordered, and away came up another of the same kind! In great surprise it was asked, ‘Where can they have come from? Is he going to bend on the ship's bottom?’ we thought we were in a new ship, as it has been so represented, and now timber thirty years old was making its mysterious appearance. But the secrete was soon out when we learned that she had been an old Horse Jockey, formerly known as the “Henry,” and made forty voyages to the West Indies, and was afterwards fitted up for the purpose of selling; and those who brought her did get most egregiously sold.”

It was in such a ship that the first whaling voyage from Edgartown was prosecuted. It will interest our readers to know that the Apollo took 1011 barrels of oil which sold at 38 cents per gallon...

### **August 1, 1873**

KATAMA

the

LOVELY.

The Katama Land Company offers for sale at low rates a large number of beautiful building lots by the sea, near Edgartown. The Company has secured a level tract of six hundred acres, elevated twenty feet above tide, and including more land than all the really eligible lots in Vineyard Grove and vicinity. A substantial wharf in a perfectly land-locked harbor has been completed, with a large hotel, called

MATTAKEESET LODGE,

kept by

MR. STUMCKE,

Recently of the house at Oak Bluffs which bore his name, many cottages are going up, a splendid drive four miles long is being prepared, and the company, with Hon. E. P. Carpenter at its head, will with no stinted hand provide improvements that shall constitute this a most attractive resort. Additional drives will be opened as fast as they can be properly constructed.

Katama borders on the east on the charming Katama bay, where the facilities for smooth water boating, fishing and bathing are superb. Fish of nearly all kinds are plenty near at hand, or within one mile. On the south, the ocean beats its ever reverberating surges on the

FAMED ATLANTIC BEACH

Of Martha's vineyard, beyond which there is no land for thousands of miles. The constant rolling surf fascinates all beholders, and after a storm is inexpressibly grand. Daniel Webster declared it superior to Niagara. The mountainous wavecrests, many miles in width, topple and fall with a noise like thunder, riveting the awe-struck gaze of all within site.

The location of Katama is open to the south western breezes of Summer, directly from the ocean, insuring

COOL NIGHTS.

And days of less than superlative heat. In short, Katama is one of the most desirable Summer Resorts in the world. The Soil is good, and grass grows luxuriantly, so that the place is CLEAN AND CLEAR OF DUST.

The lots are of ample size, and sold at prices that will enforce attention.

The stockholders include many of the leading men of southern Massachusetts, and the state of society is assured to be always pleasant and agreeable.

For particulars, address

NATH'L M. JERNEGAN,

Agent Katama Land Company,

Edgartown, Mass.

**August 1, 1873**

The mud-digger is going through the South beach in double-quick time, leaving a channel of seven or eight feet deep behind her.

**August 1, 1873**

The fine steamer Minnehaha now runs daily between Katama and the Bluffs. We can't give her hours of running as we have not received a time table.

**August 1, 1873**

The Minnehaha carried down a number of families, a crowd of waiters and a load of stores to Mattakeeset Lodge, Katama, Wednesday evening.

**August 1, 1873**

**OAK BLUFFS.**

This charming and attractive Summer Resort, if equalled, [sic] cannot be excelled by any other on the New England coast, combining as it does, almost every advantage to be desired for a Summer Residence

**BY THE SEA.**

Situated upon elevated ground, it commands one of the finest views of Vineyard Sound, with its "white winged fleet" of commerce, presenting a natural and beautiful panorama in canvas that no hand of art can paint.

The soft and balmy atmosphere, the moderate and pleasant temperature of the water, attributable to the proximity of the Gulf Stream, an abundant supply of the purest fresh water are inducements of marked character, which, with the excellent facilities for

**BATHING,**

**FISHING,**

**BOATING,**

**RIDING,**

And other pleasant and healthful recreations to be found, together with the charms of cottage life in shady groves by the sea, have procured for Oak Bluffs the enviable position of being

"The healthiest and pleasantest watering-place of the country."

There is daily communication with the main land by steamers from New Bedford and Woods Hole, where connections may be made with railroad to all the principal cities of New England.

The grounds are

**TASTEFULLY LAID OUT**

in lots, avenues, parks and drives, and desirable locations for building are still for sale by the company.

For further information address

**SHUBAEL L. NORTON,**

Agent for the Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Co.

**August 1, 1873**

**BELLEVUE**

## HEIGHTS

Situated in Edgartown,

On the east side of Vineyard Haven harbor, and within a few minutes' walk of the camp grounds of Martha's Vineyard National Camp Meeting Association, have special attractions for those who are seeking a

Pleasant and Healthy Seaside Resort.

The lands are gently undulating, with a gradual slope northward towards the water, and command a fine view of the harbor, in which large numbers of vessels daily anchor, of the Vineyard Sound, that great thoroughfare of commerce, and of the main land beyond. The New York and Portland steamers stop at the wharf during the whole season on their regular trips, twice a week each way, thus affording rare facilities for distant visitors. The air, tempered by the sea-breeze, is exceedingly healthy, and is

Always Cool and Refreshing,

Even during the Summer months; and the comforts so desirable to those who take but a brief respite from the cares and anxieties of business, such as salt water bathing and the usual seaside recreations of boating and fishing, with entire freedom from conventionalities of the more pretentious watering places, can be here enjoyed to the fullest extent. Such a spot as this the poet must have seen or imagined when he said,

“There is a pleasure in the pathless woods;  
There is a rapture on the lonely shore;  
There is society where none intrude,  
By the deep sea, and music in its roar.”

These advantages, which BELLEVUE so eminently possesses, together with the high moral character of the residents, and the fact that, in point of economy,

No Seaside Resort can compare with Martha's Vineyard,

Combine to render it worthy of the attention of all who desire a pleasant retreat during the “heated term,” for themselves or their families.

The land has been tastefully laid out in building lots measuring generally 50 by 100 feet, which are being disposed of at prices that insure a ready sale.

Lithographic plans for BELLEVUE HEIGHTS, and any desired information in regard to lots, their situation and price, may be had on application to

TARLETON C. LUCE,

Vineyard Haven, P. O., Mass.

## August 8, 1873

KATAMA

*Description of the new hotel—Opening of the same—Scenes in and around—The Dredger etc.*

MATTAKEESET LODGE, AUG. 6...

...The building is situated on the bluff at the head of the land, and is about 125 feet front in the whole. It may be divided, for the purpose of description, into three sections, the north and south

sections, which are an octagon and a quadrilateral respectively, running up into towers of elaborate design, and exquisite finish; these two sections are distinct at the base, but meet by the prolongation of their second stories over an arch-way which affords a drive way from the landing thirty feet wide... The north end contains on its first floor the dining room, office and extensive kitchen. On the second floor are the parlor, several private dining rooms and some lodging rooms. On the next floor is the billiard room, and more lodging rooms above... The billiard room is provided with two elegant tables, and is furnished as tastefully as a lady's boudoir...

...The "Lodge" was opened to the public last Saturday, and the occasion celebrated with proper observances. All day long carriages from Oak Bluffs and vicinity discharged their living loads at the entrance, and in the afternoon the steamer brought down Carter's band and a crowd of guests from abroad. In the evening there was a grand ball in honor of the event...

...The dredger is burrowing its way like a huge mole into the beach, and seems to be making considerable progress. The time that will be required to complete the work is variously estimated at from two months to a year...

### **August 8, 1873**

TAXATION in EDGARTOWN. 1873...

...Dr. Daniel Fisher,	494.48...
...Katama Land Co.	446.88...
...Tarleton C. Luce,	583.40...
...Wm. H. Munroe,	499.42...
...Shubael L. Norton,	312.84...
...Sam'l Osborn Jr.,	446.60...
...Oak Bluff Land & Wharf Co.	2,241.62...

### **August 22, 1873**

Trot and Clambake at M. V. Park.

The additional attractions of a first class clambake and Thomas & Gustin's band drew an unusually good attendance at the Park last Saturday. The weather was fine, the track in tolerably good condition, and nothing occurred to mar the enjoyment of the occasion...

### **August 22, 1873**

THE ILLUMINATION.

In the evening a grand illumination of Clinton avenue was gotten up in honor of the visitors. The display was magnificent...

### **August 22, 1873**

RECEPTION AT DR. FISHER'S

On arriving at Edgartown, the excursionists marched straight to the residence of Dr. Daniel Fisher, where that gentleman repeated the hospitality of twenty years ago. The troops were drawn up in two companies, with the Governor and staff and Gen. Burnside in the center. Mr.

Munroe of the Committee of Arrangements, presented Col. Green, who in turn presented Gov. Howard and staff, Gen, Burnside and others. All were then generously refreshed, after which the band played, the line was formed, “three times three” given for the doctor and the MARCH RESUMED...

### **August 22, 1873**

It is the intention of the Oak Bluffs Corporation to commence building this fall, a block of buildings on Circuit Avenue, extending from the Bluffs, opposite the Sea View, towards the lake. The lower stories are to be used as stores. In the rear of this block there are to be a number of fine cottages built by the Bluff Company...

### **August 22, 1873**

The arrivals at the Mattakeset [sic] Lodge, Katama, during the week were very large, among them many distinguished personages. To present their names in the usual form would require much more room than we have at our disposal this week.

### **August 29, 1873**

#### **ILLUMINATION OF OAK BLUFFS.**

One of the grandest exhibitions ever seen on the Vineyard was given at Oak Bluffs last Saturday night... Ocean Avenue was the principal scene of the illumination, and Ocean Park the theatre of the pyrotechnic display. The spectacle was grand in the extreme. The whole avenue was hung with a profusion of Chinese lanterns, to the number of thousands, and in the blackness of the night looked like a firmament of fiery planets, while the continual shower of rockets and roman candles furnished meteors in abundance...

### **August 29, 1873**

“Oakes Ames’ will reveals \$5,745,254. And yet he died of disappointment and chagrin. Happier is honesty in a hickory shirt and an oilcloth cap than dissimulation in a plug hat and a shirt that buttons behind.”

### **August 29, 1873**

One day last week M. Morris H. Richardson of Fitchburg swam a distance of seven miles, from the stone wharf at Falmouth Heights to Martha’s Vineyard, in two hours and thirty-five minutes.

### **August 29, 1873**

A correspondent of the Boston Post concludes an elaborate description of our island and by saying, “judging from the past, the future of Martha’s Vineyard can be easily and briefly foretold. The day is not far distant when the whole island will have become one great and

fashionable resort, unrivalled by any of the other summer resorts along the coast, Newport, Rye Beach or Long Branch not excepted...”

...The demand for places of summer resort is increasing from year to year...

### **September 12, 1873**

#### **OAK BLUFFS TODAY**

A wonderful change has come over this locality since a fortnight ago. Then, every avenue was thronged with stylishly dressed pedestrians and showy equipages, every hotel was filled with overflowing, music came wafted from window and balcony, and the waters were alive with hundreds of merry bathers. Now, the avenues and walks are deserted, the hotels are grim with closed shutters and bolted doors, and the jolly laugh of the bathers no longer comes from the shore. Then, steamers were plying to and from the main at all hours of the day, boats of the “line” and boats not of the line, and the numbers of our population changed every hour. Now, the morning boat goes and the evening boat comes in, and leaves no sign of its coming and departure... Everything looks ghostly... This air of desertion and abandonment, though true of the “cottage city” generally, does not obtain to so great a degree in its business portion—for Oak Bluffs has its “business quarter.” Here stores are open, brilliantly lighted at night, a few teams hover about, and the usual stock of loafers is scattered around...

...The bulk of it was accomplished in three days from the close of the great Camp Meeting. No matter how inviting the weather, the moment this meeting expires, a panic seems to seize the people, Jew and Gentile, and a general stampede for their homes, east, south and west, ensues...

### **September 12, 1873**

#### **LETTER FROM A VINEYARDER**

EDGARTOWN, Sept. 10, 1873

MR. EDITOR...

...The Summer is ended and the survivors are looking back on a most unlovely season, when a drought of fourteen weeks seared the face of Nature, destroyed vegetation, made every man bite the dust, and rendered life anything but the sweet boon it is cracked up to be. It is something for the idle philosopher to speculate upon that this remarkable drought was confined to the counties of Dukes and Nantucket. Elsewhere through the state they had long “dry spells,” but nowhere were the clouds so tearless as those which for 98 days hung over these two islands...

...The real estate brokers have found it as dull as the carpenters have, as but little land and few cottages have changed hands...

... It is amazing that this city of Oak Bluffs (a city of three wards, Oak Bluffs, Wesleyan Grove, and Vineyard Highlands) should be so utterly reckless of life and property as it is shown to be by its want of sanitary regulations, and absence of any pretension to drainage or sewerage and the strange indifference to the risks of fire, risks which are only too apparent to the most careless observer. The fact that this community has out-grown its government...

...The new road to Edgartown cost enough to be very good; but it is sadly out of repair... That part of the road from the town pump at Oak Bluffs to the Vineyard Grove Post office, would disgrace the mining district of Poker Flat. Not only is the road bed deep with sand, but the embankment, as you drive along Jordan, reeks with all the manner of filth. Those who consume the ice taken from Lake Anthony show a degree of faith which is truly touching. The road from Eastville to Vineyard Haven, especially that portion west of the bridge is very much out of repair, and once in Vineyard Haven, there is neither streets nor roads... The road from Vineyard Haven to West Tisbury requires at least three thousand dollars spent upon it before it will be good enough to *invite* people to ride over it.

At Eastville but little progress has been made this seasons beyond putting their principal avenue in good condition... Eastville is the coolest location within six miles of the Oak Bluffs wharf. The dwellers there get the southerly winds directed from the water, a fact which is rarely discovered by those who are roasting under the lee of Wesleyan Grove.

Eastville is fortunate in its location, being equi-distant from Oak Bluffs and Vineyard Haven. It has two good wharves and one of the best billiard and bowling saloons outside of Boston...

... My observation teaches me that Martha's Vineyard from its geographical position, its climate, and varied resources of pleasure and health, will be a favorite summer resort for all time to come, and that the colony at Oak Bluffs are only the pioneers of that vast procession of health and pleasure seekers which will set their faces Vineyardwards as the years roll on...

...I am glad to know, from actual experience, that West Tisbury has a hotel that any town anywhere might be proud of. The Cleaveland House is not a large, nor a fashionable hotel, but it is remarkably well kept, and, it is, above everything else, a place where a sensible man or woman can take *solid comfort*...

...At Edgartown, I find a great, a wonderful improvement in the streets, and I doubt if there is another village on the coast that boasts side walks as good as these....

### **September 12, 1873**

#### THE BLUFFS

...Work is to be commenced on the following avenues immediately: Samoset, Narragansett, Penacook, Tuckernuck and Pequot...

### **September 12, 1873**

#### LAGOON HEIGHTS.

Considerable is going on over here in the way of building, and it is expected a great deal more will be done in the spring. Several cottages are in process of construction, and parties on the lookout for a good location are viewing the place with a decided inclination to build. Plans for a nice hotel have been executed, and it is proposed to have it completely by the spring. A horse railroad to Oak Bluffs is one of the things that is talked of...

## 1875

### July 9, 1875 - Friday

Fire In The Woods – A fire broke out in the woods on this island on Thursday forenoon of last week. It commenced at Quompacha Bottom, and spread in various directions until late Saturday night, when through the active exertions of parties from Vineyard Haven, the Camp-ground and Oak Bluffs, assisted by a few from Edgartown village, it was extinguished after burning over a tract of ground variously estimated at from 7 to 10,000 acres. The most of the territory burned over was a scrub-oak country, comparatively worthless. Some good wood was burned, and the total damage is probably about \$25,000. Before the fire was extinguished it reached the premises of Mr. Jeremiah Weeks and the road known as Dr. Fisher's.

## 1876

### December 22, 1876

#### *Death of Dr. Daniel Fisher*

We are called upon to record the death of one of Edgartown's oldest and most respected citizens – Hon. DANIEL FISHER. He departed this life on Monday morning last, at the advanced age of 77 years. In public and private life, Dr. Fisher possessed the confidence of all with whom he came in contact, ever honoring his own word and never forgetting a promise. It is not too much to say, that he was an upright, honest man; an affectionate husband and father; a good citizen; an eminent physician and merchant and business man, who adorned all the relations of life with manifold virtues. Indeed, he had few peers in a long career of active usefulness. He was faithful to right and to duty, and possessed a clear and independent mind. He leaves behind him a respectable fortune, not one mill of which was dishonestly obtained.

Dr. Fisher was President of the Vineyard Bank from which its first organization to the day of his death, and much of the success of that flourishing institution has been owing to the skill and forethought of his gifted mind. He was never much in public life, but served one term in the State Senate a number of years ago. He was at one time and unsuccessful candidate for Congress from this district. His continuous efforts for the good of his fellow-men, will ever be remembered by his townsmen, who have saved thousands upon thousands of dollars by purchasing flour, corn, meal, coal, wood &c., of him, at a very small advance from first cost. This community in his death has met with a loss, which will be more and more apparent, as time passes on.

The doctor's remains were consigned to the grave on Tuesday afternoon. As a mark of respect for his memory, the flag of the United States was displayed at half mast over the Custom House and at the Atlantic House, and black crape was displayed at the entrance of the bank.

### December 29, 1876

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DUKES COUNTY, ss.

PROBATE COURT.

To the Heirs-at-Law, Next of Kin, and all other persons interested in the estate of  
DR. DANIEL FISHER

late of Edgartown, in the said County, Gentlemen deceased. GREETING:

Whereas, a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased has been presented to said Court, for Probate, by DAVID FISHER, who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to him the executer therein named, and that he may be exempt from giving sureties on his bon, as the said will provides.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Edgartown in said County of Dukes County, on the fifteenth day of January next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have against the same;

And said David Fisher is hereby directed to give public notice thereof by publishing this citation once a week for three successive weeks in the newspaper called the Vineyard Gazette, printed at Edgartown, the last publication to be two days at least, before said Court

Witness JOSEPH T. PEASE, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this twenty-second day of December in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

HEBRON VINCENT, Register.

A Copy Attest

HEBRON VINCENT, Register.

### **December 29, 1876**

GOOD SLEIGHING – From Saturday last up to Thursday, the sleighing was never better on the Vineyard, and it was made the most of by our citizens. Sleights of every description were out, some of which were doubtless half a century old.

## **1877**

### **January 5, 1877**

BOYHOOD MEMORIES OF EDGARTOWN – Chapter 5...

...Wind is an excellent thing to cool your gruel with, but, then, you must have your meal before you make your gruel, and hence, in part, wind-mills at Edgartown. One old mill, which stood, while it moved, near Mr. Cumming's, which was near the Gray neighborhood or Cleavelandville... It did its work long, if not well, and the old boys and girls, too, who dwelt on the "great plains" and the hill country near thereunto, ought to hold in faithful remembrance the old mill on Mill Hill, because of the hominy, brown bread and corn dodgers for which they were indebted to the old mill and Mr. Gray the miller.

One thing that bought about the destruction of the aforesaid mill, was the erection of another new-fangled and unsubstantial wind mill, out on the plain, many years ago... Perry Davis build that new-fangled mill—the same Perry Davis who afterward made Pain Killer. I think he succeeded better as the pain-killer than the wind-miller.

The ancient wind mill, near the Grammar School, survived many generations, wore out its grinders, had its arms torn out of their sockets, lost its circumlocution, so that it could not longer turn its eye to the wind, shrieked and groaned with the burden of more than a century...

Was not there a windmill on Chappaquiddick? In my mind's eye I seem to see one. Whether there was or not, no matter now; but there was on the high hill, called Samson's Hill, a telegraph apparatus, that sometimes reminded one of a wind mill. This telegraphic apparatus consisted of an upright pole and several arms that could be moved to different angles. By the arrangement of these arms, information was communicated from Chappaquiddick to Tuckernuck, and thence, by similar telegraph, to Nantucket. It was designed to communicate between Nantucket and its seaport, Edgartown, in those days when Nantucket whale ships filled Edgartown docks...

...There was one important branch of industry, which was for some time very remunerative—I mean the herring fishery. Mattakeset Creek was, what we Yankees call, an “institution.” “Driving” herring, scooping herring into the skids, barreling herring, pickling herring, sticking herring, drying herring, smoking herring, and selling herring, was always a great business in springtime...

...the time was when we used to get nice oysters from Pohogonot. Speaking of Pohogonot reminds me that the Registry of Deeds used to be kept there, and I think, thought I do not distinctly remember, had been kept there for more than a century previous to its removal to the Court House. The regular succession of Registers of Deeds for a century, perhaps, were of the Smith persuasion, and, I believe, a Smith is still persuaded to hold that office, and a *John Smith*, at that. Smith, and John Smith too, like some corporations, never dies...

The Poorhouse was also at Pohogonot for some time...

...Doctor Daniel Fisher opened his pill dispensary at an early day, nearly opposite Dr. Pierce's drug store. He was considered a skillful physician of the old school, but I can't forget that first tooth he pulled out of my head. I thought it would be a grand thing to go to the doctor's and have my tooth pulled, so I teased [sic] my father for a quarter and ran over to enjoy the fun. Dr. Fisher sat me in a chair and proceeded to investigate the inside of my head. Discovering the decayed tooth, he drew out of his pocket a formidable iron instrument, big enough for the turnkey of a states prison to bar and bolt a thousand convicts, wound his bandanna handkerchief around the handle, and proceeded to fit his tooth-puller to my molar, much as a log-roller would fit his log-turner (I forget the name of the machine) to a sixty-foot-long oak timber. I suspected no danger all this time, but when he got a good hold, he gave such a twist as took me off my chair and almost off my feet, and I thought, took my head out by the roots. Well, he earned his quarter and I got my money's worth. It has never been any fun since to have a tooth pulled. After Dr. Fisher came Dr. I. H. Lucas...

...Among the other first things I remember, was the last thing of its kind that ever was, and probably ever will be, in Edgartown, a real Indian wigwam, which has been occupied as a place of residence. This was at “Deep Bottom.” Now, perhaps Deep Bottom is not in Edgartown, but no matter the bare poles of the wigwam were where I have said it was. How often have I

thought of that Indian wigwam in ruins—the last of its kind and race, who built and dwelt in them, gone!

Most of the houses in Edgartown have been built or remodelled [sic] within the period covered by my memories... I find I am fast becoming a stranger in my native place...

...much I have said, and much I have left unsaid; and, “once more,” “finally” and “in conclusion,” let me exhort the playmates of my boyhood, girls as well as boys, to try their hand and their memories, and which they can easily do—do better than.

A VINEYARD BOY.

### **January 5, 1877**

PROBATE COURT, Jan. 15.

Pease, Judge.

The will of the late Dr. Daniel Fisher was proved, and David Fisher appointed Executor. Also, under this will David Fisher was appointed Trustee for two minor grand children of the deceased, William H. and Anna F. Mayhew. William Bradley, Joseph W. Donaldson and C. B. Marchant, were appointed appraisers of the estate; and also the estates of the minor grand children...

### **January 5, 1877**

TOWN MEETING – At the town meeting held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> ult., Edgar Marchant was chosen Moderator.

The second article in the warrant—to see what action the town will take in regard to giving a second mortgage on its stock in the Martha’s Vineyard Railroad—was indefinitely postponed...

### **January 19, 1877**

BOYHOOD MEMORIES OF EDGARTOWN – Chapter 6...

... The first steamboat that ever entered Edgartown harbor was the steamer Benjamin Franklin. She was a side-wheeler, built in ship form and full-rigged as a ship, with spars and sails. She came in on Sunday, some 47 years ago, and lay for several hours at the end of Mayhew’s or Fisher’s wharf. I shall say Fisher’s, but I can not clearly locate that wharf so long ago; if it was in existence then it has been greatly altered since.

### **January 19, 1877**

It seems probable that the elephant will soon become extinct. According to a statement made at a recent meeting of the Paris Geographical Society, England imports annually twelve hundred thousand pounds of ivory, to obtain which it is necessary to kill thirty thousand elephants a year. The total annual destruction of these animals is estimated at one hundred thousand.

### **January 26, 1877**

[Correspondence of the Gazette.]

BOSTON, Jan. 18, 1877

FRIEND MARCHANT...

...I was sorry to learn of the death of Dr. Fisher. His life was an honorable one in every respect, and young men can find in his *self-reliance*, which was his essential characteristic, an example well worth studying. "I act on my own judgement, and then I know how my mistakes are made," said the wise doctor forty years ago. In his prime he was a business man of great breadth of view, of great boldness, and of remarkable sagacity. His character, like his frame, was of the strongest fibre [sic]. He believed in himself, and was devoted to his own. Neither sentimental, nor philanthropic, he was thoroughly kind and bravely honest. Austere in manner, reserved and silent, there were few, even among Dr. Fisher's neighbors, who knew that his bereavements had wounded that stoutest of hearts beyond recovery.

As of old, Yours truly,

A. S. W.

### **January 26, 1877**

#### *Martha's Vineyard Railroad.*

The town's interest in this road—\$15,000 of stock—is offered at public auction to the highest bidder. Ten months ago this interest could have been sold for \$8000; but those who controlled the road were very active in their opposition to its sale, and some of them felt bold enough to say that under their management the road would pay 10 per cent a year upon the capital invested. Enough of the people believed this to prevent the sale at that time. The road was then reported by some of those who should have known its standing, to be in a sound financial condition. This delusion was kept up all through last summer when we were told by the officials, that the road was carrying more passengers and earning more money than ever before, and that its future success was assured "beyond the possibility of a doubt." But these plausible stories were soon found to be without any foundation in truth. Facts came gradually to the knowledge of the people, which let a flood of light into the dark recesses of the mysterious abyss into which the resources of the road had been plunged, and into which it was supposed the most far-reaching eye could not penetrate, and it became patent to all, that the road was hopelessly involved in debt; to an extent indeed of at least nine-tenths of its whole capital stock. And while this was known to the public, and of course to the officials, a farther debt was contracted by the purchase of another passenger car, and the extension of the road to the South Beach. The people protested against the extension, which they considered a blow at the interests of Katama, which it proved to be, and an unauthorized expenditure of money at a time when every dollar of the earnings of the road was needed to pay the running expenses and interest upon the debt of the corporation. But these protests were unheeded, or met with supercilious derision.

The road has been an unfortunate one from the start. The elements even have conspired against it, and heavy sums have from the time to time been expended upon repairs, – repairs which never would have been required had it been properly built at first. Two or three thousand dollars will have to be used in making necessary repairs, before the road can be put in running

order next spring. This expenditure would not have been required if the road had been properly repaired last spring. Those who have thus plunged the road irretrievably into debt, have to-day not one word to say, or speak “only to conceal their minds.” Wrapped up in an impenetrable mantle of mystery, they are no longer known of men. They, doubtless, look upon the road, and their connection with it, as a sort of Will-o’-the-Wisp, whose mysterious and “giddy light” led them into morass and quagmire, until they could not extricate themselves, where they floundered about, amid chill night winds and deadly gasses, until finally overpowered, their senses benumbed and they put beyond the pale of reason and common sense.

But the people of the town have not been bereft of their sense. They feel that an instrument sharper than a two-edged sword has cut them to the quick; that their honor has been tarnished; their good name defamed. They now desire to wash their hands of the entire affair. The disgrace which attaches to the fact that the employes [sp] of the road the past seven season, have not received their pay for services rendered, is of too deep a character for our citizens to contemplate with any degree of complacency. The man, of all others, who should have been paid in full for his valuable services—the engineer of the road—who worked day and night, and devoted his whole time and talents to the success of the undertaking, has not only not been paid, but those whose duty it was to pay him, and who often promised to do so, when they had the means paid themselves instead. It is strange, under such circumstances, that the people of this town are desirous to be relieved of all responsibility in a corporation which has not only no soul—but whose aims, instead of being for the public good, and the good of the men who “run the machine,” have proved to be selfish, arrogant, and unreliable? We pause, for a reply.

### **January 26, 1877**

TOWN MEETING – At the town meeting on Saturday last, Edgar Marchant was chosen Moderator...

...On the third article –

To see if the town will sell or dispose of its interest in said road—

Voted, That the Selectmen place the town’s stock in the Martha’s Vineyard Railroad, in the hands of a broker in New Bedford or Boston, who shall, after properly advertising the same, sell it at public auction, to the highest bidder.

There was no debate—the motions were made and carried without any pronounced opposition, and the meeting adjourned in about ten minutes from the time of opening.

### **January 26, 1877**

The sum total of the losses to the Gloucester fishing fleet for the year 1876, with the addition of the ten vessels lost in the December gales, give the terrible aggregate of 212 men and 27 vessels. Of the lost fisherman of 1876 it is known that 54 left widows, and that 112 children were made fatherless. Of the total number of men lost, 167 went down with their vessels, 21 were lost overboard, and 24 were lost in dories while attending to their trawls...

**February 1, 1877**

SEAL – Buzzard’s Bay is well filled with seal, who disport themselves on the ice, and are easily approached within gun shot. We think that sportsmen could make it profitable to capture them.

**February 9, 1877**

The town’s interest in the Martha’s Vineyard Railroad was sold at auction on Saturday last, for the sum of \$315, to Antone L. Sylvia, of New Bedford. The stock cost the town \$15,000. The loss is a severe one, but if our people learn to be cautious in their expenditure in future in consequence of this and other bitter lessons, the money will not have been sunk in vain...

...No doubt there are other departments in which money can be saved. The \$500 raised last year for the support of a police force, would seem to be required, when we take into account the character of the people occasionally turned in upon us from Providence, New York and elsewhere. The general quiet which prevailed last year, when hundreds of partially intoxicated men were landed at Oak Bluffs and the Highlands, was doubtless owing to the vigilant watchfulness of Constable Dexter and his subordinates. If the general quiet of last year should be continued, a portion of the \$500 could be saved; and it would perhaps be well to place money in the hands of the Selectmen, to be paid out only when required by the exigencies of the public service.

The most important thing at the present time—the only thing indeed, which will bring us out of our financial troubles—is the practice of economy,—not for a day, not for a month, not for a year only, but for a series of years. We need to start on the course of retrenchment at once, and continue on that tack; so that we may once more sail in still waters and anchor our bark in a safe harbor—a harbor of security, peace and repose.

**February 9, 1877**

We are glad to see the genial face of Capt. Thomas Morrison about town once more. He has returned from Kansas, with his family, and we believe intends to make Edgartown his future home.

**February 16, 1877**

Chestnut Posts.  
2000 Chestnut Posts,  
For sale by  
CHARLES J. BARNEY

**February 16, 1877**

Noman’s Land is, as is well known, a resort for codfishermen from the Vineyard in the Spring and Fall, many of whom have dwellings and boat-houses on a low bluff near the landing in

the bay on the north side of the island. On or near the 1<sup>st</sup> of January the island was visited by the highest tide ever known there, which did much damage, washing away six or eight dwellings and boat-houses, and destroying lobster pots, fishing gear and pickled fish. The heaviest loser is Mr. George H. Butler, one of two or three permanent residents. Owing to the severe weather it was some six weeks before word could be sent to the Vineyard of the damage.

**April 6, 1877**

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the New Bedford, Vineyard & Nantucket Steamboat Company took place last week, the old board of officers being elected, with the exception of Daniel Fisher, of Edgartown, and Matthew Crosby, of Nantucket, deceased; in whose places David Fisher, of Edgartown and Jonathan Bourne, of New Bedford, were elected.

**April 6, 1877**

HERRINGS – These fish are being taken in great numbers at the Great Pond. On Monday Mr. Warren Vincent, with a few others, drew out 13,000 at one cast of his seine.

**April 6, 1877**

Morse's wharf is about to receive repairs. New planks will be laid down, the storehouse shingled anew, and things generally fixed up.

**April 6, 1877**

We learn that there has been a very deep interest in the subject of religion on Chappaquiddick, and are informed by parties from there that every colored person on the island, with one exception, has become a follower of Christ. The religious interest at Vineyard Grove still continues. The work there has been extensive, and we trust will prove of lasting benefit.

**April 13, 1877**

[Correspondence of the Gazette.]

MUKWANGO, WIS., April 1, 1877

Mr. Editor: – I see in the Vineyard Gazette a piece written by one styling himself "Vineyard Boy," giving a history of some of the older inhabitants of Edgartown and of the good old times in the days when whaling was in its glory, and the principal business carried on by its enterprising citizens. The history he gives of old Mr. Uriah Morse and Aleck and his peevy, [sic] are in the main correct. I have seen the ferry boat going across to the point often, but do not know as always by the same person, and have often met Alexander with a heavy load of wood, or other freight, at the four corners, stuck in the sand, and calling for a push to help him out of his difficulty...

...The first man, I think, that started the whaling business, was Capt. Jethro Daggett. He lived on Tower hill. I think his first voyage was in the old Apollo...

**April 13, 1877**

Mr. I. N. Luce was in favor of publishing the names of those who received assistance from the town as well as of those who furnished the goods. He believed the town was entitled to the protection this afforded against imposition by underserving applicants...

**April 20, 1877**

MARTHA'S VINEYARD RAILROAD – The following gentlemen have been elected Directors of the road: – E. P. Carpenter, President; Joel Hills, Laban Pratt, J. K. Baker, Nathaniel M. Jernegan.

Joseph T. Pease was re-elected Treasurer.

**April 20, 1877**

Some girls and boys about town are so careless as to throw orange peel and banana skins upon the sidewalk...

**April 27, 1877**

PEAT AS FUEL – There are thousands of cords of peat on the Vineyard. If some of our citizens were to turn their attention to condensing the same, by the use of the "Dodge process." They might manufacture thousands of tons of valuable fuel, suitable for grates, stoves, furnaces, ranges, and all the ordinary variety of heating apparatus used in dwelling-houses. The editors of the London Mining Journal have received from this country a sample of the condensed peat made by James M. Hart, of Oswego, N. Y. The Journal gives favorable notice of the same...

**April 27, 1877**

The Japanese are becoming social guests wherever they go; but the Chinese are received with favor nowhere.

**April 27, 1877**

The novel enterprise of sending steamers across the continent by rail has just been carried into effect successfully. Two side wheel steamboats, the entire weight of which—vessels and machinery—was 800 tons, were shipped from New York, and after being on the way twenty days have reached San Francisco. The steamers are intended to run on San Francisco Bay.

**April 27, 1877**

WASHINGTON, D. C. April 19, 1877.

Monday was Emancipation day, but was very quietly observed. Several companies of the colored militia, the Washington Pioneers, and the Pioneer Club from Alexandria, assisted in the celebration by a street parade, and although the display was not a large one the participants were enthusiastic. During their march the procession called to pay their respects to Marshal Fred Douglass at the City Hall, and congratulated him upon his appointment...

**April 27, 1877**

THE POOR – Mr. Charles Vincent has contracted with the Selectmen, to support the poor of the town the ensuing year, insane excepted, [sic] for the sum of \$3250.

**May 4, 1877**

The steamer Martha's Vineyard made her landing on Thursday at Osborn's wharf. Quite a commotion was caused thereby, and Main street has not looked so lively for a long time before. As this wharf is the center of business operations for our village, we have often thought it a pity that our steamers did not make it their headquarters.

**May 4, 1877**

Mr. Dyer S. Norton, while digging in the ground one day last week on land of the heirs of the late Dr. Daniel Fisher, known as the site of the old fort, turned up a silver Spanish ninepence, coined in the year 1746. The coin is in an excellent state of preservation, though 131 years old. Mr. Norton presented the same to Capt. Francis C. Smith, High Sheriff of Dukes County, who will be glad to show it to his friends.

**May 4, 1877**

MR. EDITOR – A few days ago I was invited by a friend to visit the beautiful orchard of Capt. P. L. Smith, to see a Magnolia tree on his premises, now in full bloom, bearing about five hundred blossoms, pure white, very large and fragrant. It would richly repay anyone to go quite a distance to see it. Probably it is the only one of its kind in the county.

Vineyard Haven, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1877

## **Early 1880's – Early 1920's**

**August 17, 1883**

**VINEYARD HAVEN.**

The entire business portion of the town, as already stated, was totally destroyed on Saturday night, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-six stores, thirty-two dwellings, two stables, and twelve barns and smaller buildings were burned. Desolation is abroad in the streets. Some of the sufferers have lost all; others have an inconsiderable insurance. The majority had not their property insure for more than half the nominal value. The heaviest losses perhaps fall upon the Quincy Mutual Fire Insurance Co...

**Losses and Insurance.**

The following items of loss and insurance were not published in Monday's issue...

**April 3, 1885**

...On Tuesday afternoon last week a fire was started on the premises of A. Diamond of Gay Head, for the purpose of burning brush. It was thought to be extinguished when it was found spreading in the grass, and came through the boundary line wall into town. Nearly [sic] all of the premises of Mr. B. F. Mayhew at Quitsa was burned over and the fire nearly reached the barn of Mr. David Mayhew...

### **April 3, 1885**

...A party of boys entered the pines on the estate of the late J. W. Coffin last week, and built a fire in the very heart of the grove. The boys were discovered and the fire extinguished before it had got beyond control, but a repetition of the offence will bring upon the offenders the punishment it deserves...

### **May 7, 1886**

About noon Sunday a fire, probably incendiary, started in the woods near the Vineyard Haven almshouse, about a mile and a half southwest of the village, and under the influence of a brisk northeast wind spreading rapidly in a general southwesterly direction, although it spread in other directions. The fire was to the south of the main road extending from Vineyard Haven to West Tisbury, and although the people turned out [sic] promptly and worked hard, its progress was not checked till after 5 o'clock in the afternoon, until a space estimated covering five square miles was burned, and involving some of the heaviest and best timber on the island, principally oak wood. The nearest point that the fire reached the main road was at the residence of William Norton, which was endangered, as well as the house belonging to Vinal Hammett and one occupied by a Portuguese family...

### **May 7, 1886**

Fire in the Woods.

On Sunday a fire in the woods called out a company of men from the village, who armed themselves with shovels, picks and hoes, and went forth to conquer the flames. The usual quiet of the Sabbath was thus somewhat broken in upon. On Monday and Tuesday more fires were discovered burning in the woods, and more fighting had to be done. On Tuesday night the selectmen detailed as a precautionary measure men to "watch fires," as the wind was blowing quite strongly, and fears were entertained that the smouldering [sic] embers might be blown into flames again during the night, and further damage to be done.

A large amount of woodland has been burned over, and many of our village people have had their entire woodlots burned...

...Several thousand acres have been doubtless destroyed. Much of this was growing wood. In some places wood which had already been cut and piled up ready for carting was consumed. The fire is said by some to have burned over one of the largest tracts of land ever known to have suffered in this manner on the Island. As will be seen by the report of Tisbury town meeting the

selectmen are authorized to offer a reward for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who set the fire; as it is thought by many persons that the fire originated in this manner.

### **April 6, 1889**

It is reported that E. P. Carpenter and Alexander S. Porter, of Boston, are the projectors of a railroad from the present terminus of the Martha's Vineyard Railroad at Oak Bluffs, through Vineyard Haven to West Chop...

### **May 3, 1890**

#### **EXTENSIVE FOREST FIRE**

The forest fire which raced across the large section of the island known as "The Plains" lasted two days and burned through to West Tisbury. More than 200 men had a hard fight before the flames were subdued.

Two and a half hours from the start of the fire reached Pine farm, owned by Ariel B. Scott, where the flames claimed a barn, destroyed a corn crib, hen houses and a building in which two incubators, wagon and tools and a flock of hens.

A barn on the estate of Thomas Waldron was burned, as well as the barn on the barn [sic] on the farm of William H. Vincent, with the hay tools and a mowing machine.

From some of the dwellings bordering on the course of the fire the furniture and other movables were conveyed to a place of safety.

Much valuable standing wood was burned, variously estimated at from 100 to 150 acres, and some 5,000 acres of brush land. The fire came within about 500 feet of the fine residence of Allen Look, and that of his son, F. Allen Look, also very near the summer home of Herman Streater of Boston.

The fire had its origin on the farm of Capt. Benjamin C. Cromwell, where, on Thursday [April 26] he and his men were burning brush. As the last pile was fired the wind came with hurricane force and changed from west to northeast, lifting the burning mass high into the air, where it seemed to burst, throwing the embers in all directions...

### **April 8, 1892**

#### **FIRES ON BOTH SIDES**

A fire starting Wednesday, late in the forenoon, on Chappaquiddic, in the dead grass near Clark's landing on the southern end of the Island, burned all the afternoon and a part of the night, burning fences, oak and pine groves, &c., and large tracts of clear land not so valuable. At one time in the course of the fire the new residence being erected for Mr. Weston, of New York, and which is now well along towards completion, was in imminent risk of destruction, but by vigorous efforts on the part of those engaged in fighting the flames, a series of furrows were ploughed around it and the house saved. Later the fire spread out, nearly enveloping the Washqua farm house, and Mr. Walter Blankenship, who was in charge there, had his hands full in saving the buildings.

The principal losers by the Chappaquiddic blaze, so far as can be learned, are Mrs. Parnell Pease, loss principally on pine grove, estimated at several hundreds of dollars, and R. E. Norton & Co., loss by burning of standing oak wood.

The fire is said to have started from the unnoticed dropping of a match on the ground, after the lighting of a cigar, the dry grass easily igniting.

At about the same time Wednesday that the Chappaquiddic fire started, 11 a.m., another woods fire started somewhere to the west of the Little Pond country, near Middletown, which under the strong south-west wind blowing soon assumed vast proportions. This fire has burned with more or less fierceness up to this writing (1 p.m. Thursday), and has covered an area estimated at several thousand acres, extending from the Farm Neck district west towards Middletown...Edgartown is full of smoke today, brought into town by the southwest breeze...

## **February 1897**

### **A NATIONAL LOSS**

#### **Hon. Henry L. Whiting, of West Tisbury, Passes Suddenly Away**

Professor Henry L. Whiting died very suddenly of heart failure at his residence in West Tisbury at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4. Up to the very moment of his death he was in the enjoyment of very noticeably vigorous health despite his advancing years, and the end came to him in the fullness of mature mental and physical strength.

He was born Feb. 5, 1821, at Albany, N. Y., was the son of Judge Daniel and Elizabeth (Powers) Whiting, and was a lineal descendant in the seventh generation of William Bradford, the second governor of Plymouth Colony in 1621, who was, next to Carver, the most distinguished of the Mayflower's passengers. Professor Whiting was the youngest of a family of eight children, of whom but one, as sister, (Mrs. Harriet L. Young, of Philadelphia) now survives. His grandfather was William Bradford Whiting, a colonel in the American army during the War of the Revolution. His father was a judge of the court of Common Pleas at Troy, N. Y. His eldest brother, Daniel P. Whiting, was a graduate of West Point in the class with Gen. U. S. Grant, and was a lieutenant colonel in the regular army at the time of his decease. His second brother, William Bradford Whiting, was a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, and held the rank of commodore in the U. S. Navy, and accompanied Admiral Perry upon his memorable expedition to Japan in 1852.

His eldest sister, Mary, was the wife of Rev. Thomas Brainerd, a very distinguished divine, who for more than thirty years was the pastor of the Pine Street Presbyterian church in Philadelphia. She was a woman of rare piety and remarkable ability, and was possessed of a most sweet and beautiful character. Like her lamented brother, she died in the full possession of her mental strength at the advanced age of eighty-two. Her son, Dr. Thomas C. Brainerd, of Montreal, Canada, is well known to many citizens of Edgartown, where he has a summer home. The surviving sister, Mrs. Young, of Philadelphia, has many of the distinguishing traits of this eminent family and is still vigorous at the age of seventy-eight.

Professor Whiting's early educational advantages were of the best, and his academic studies were completed at the University of Pennsylvania mainly under the direction of the noted educator, Dr. Roswell Park. In July, 1838, he entered the service of the U. S. Coast Survey and in June, 1842, when he had but just attained his majority, he was placed in full charge as chief of a topographical party, a distinction never before or since achieved by any other member of that department of the government. In 1849 he was given charge of the main triangulation of the coast of Florida, and was the first officer appointed by Superintendent Benjamin Pierce to the general charge of the topographical department of the U. S. Survey. He was appointed instructor in field surveys in the U. S. Navel Academy at Annapolis, which was then under the charge of Admiral David Porter, and inaugurated the system of making a detailed and accurate survey of the harbor of Annapolis by the graduating class, which has been followed annually ever since. He was for two years professor of topographical engineering in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, having been detailed to that position by the U. S. Government. During the winter of 1859-60 he devised the system of conventional signs and letterings in connection with nomenclature for field work, and publications which have since governed these operations. During the incumbency of Supt. Pierce he made an extended examination of the Mississippi river from Dubuque to St. Paul with a view to its topographical survey, and in 1869 made a topographical and hydrographical survey of the harbor of Provincetown, Mass, based upon which an appropriation of \$150,000 was made by the Commonwealth. From 1869 to 1881 he devised the present systems of draw-way openings in the railroad and city bridges in and around Boston. In 1876 he made an examination of the Pacific coast from San Diego, Cal., to the Puget Sound with a view extending the range of coast topography.

In July, 1881, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, he was appointed by Governor Long a member of the Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission and held that position until 1884, when he was appointed by Governor Robinson a member of the Massachusetts Topographical Survey Commission, the other members being the late Gen. Francis A. Walker, then president of the Mass, Institute of Technology, and Prof. N. S. Shaler, dean of the scientific department of Harvard University, and upon the resignation of Gen. Walker in 1892 was made chairman of the Commission, and continued as such until his decrease. In 1890 he was appointed by President Harrison a member of the Mississippi River Commission, the most important engineering department of the U. S. Government, and was a member of that body at the time of his death. When the late Civil War broke out he was the first officer of the Coast Survey to report at Washington for Duty, having reached there *via* Annapolis after Baltimore was cut off, at the same time as the New York seventh regiment. He made the first co-operative survey by order of Gen. Scott immediately after the crossing of Long Bridge by Gen. Mansfield, and made a survey of the ground of occupation by the Confederate army at Manassas immediately after it was evacuated by Gen. Beauregard, and while the rebel campfires were still smoking. At the time when Gen. Lee invaded Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia was panic-stricken, he was made a military reconnoissance with a radius of twenty miles of the approaches to that city from the banks of the Deleware [sic] and Schuylkill rivers, including Washington's battleground of the

Brandywine. His plans and accompanying report were approved and accepted by Gen. Totten, chief of the U. S. engineers. He was chosen by Gen. Totten to examine and report upon the best location for establishing a guarded station for prisoners of state, and after inspecting the islands along the coast from Virginia to Massachusetts his selection of Dutch Island in Narragansett Bay was approved and accepted by the United States Government. He was instructed by the superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey to examine the New England coast and report upon the most favorable location for the landing of the first Atlantic Ocean cable, and his subsequent selection of "Rouse's Hammock," on Duxbury beach, with accompanying report was approved and adopted without modification by the French and English commissioners having the matter in charge, and the landing of the cable under the direction of Sir Charles Hartley at the precise point chosen by Professor Whiting was subsequently stated by him to have been the most successful ocean cable landing in his experience.

In 1872 he was chairman of the Topographical Conference held at Washington, D. C., from Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> to March 7<sup>th</sup>, and in January, 1891, he had general supervision of the surveys of Boston harbor. At different times he had charge of the survey of the large and important harbors of Portland, Me., Providence, R.I., Boston, Mass., and New Haven, Conn., beside of very many smaller harbors, notably Provincetown, Edgartown, Vineyard Haven, Green Harbor and others. During the visit to Europe of Superintendent Mendenhall, Prof. Whiting was appointed to act as Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey in his absence. During his long connection with the United States Coast Survey he made eighty-eight (88) different topographical sheets, by far the largest number ever made by any government official, and in the department of topography he accomplished more individually and had greater influence upon the attainment of higher standard in results than that effected by any other officer in any department of the Coast Survey. At the time of his death he had been in the government service for fifty-nine consecutive years, a record we believe to be unsurpassed by that of any other government official. He was a member of the Association for the Advancement of Science, of the Boston Society of Engineers, and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A member of the first Board of Trustees of the Mass. Agricultural College, and selected the present site of that institution.

Professor Whiting first came to Martha's Vineyard in the autumn of 1844, and in 1852 purchased the old Congregational parsonage (now more than 200 years old) in which he resided until his death. The Island was always an object of his interest and solicitude, and he was every zealous in the endeavor to promote her progress and improvement. He was married November 3d, 1851, to Anna Frances, daughter of Asa and Prudence Johnson, of West Tisbury, Mass., who with three daughters, Mrs. Everett Allen Davis, Mrs. Edwin W. Newhall, Miss Elizabeth Gilbert Whiting, and one son, Johnson Whiting, survive him.

Professor Whiting was a gentleman of the old school, dignified, courteous, of a sweet and genial disposition, always willing and generous in relieving the distress of others, with naught but kindness and affection in his nature. He was a man of deep religious convictions, and often expressed his unbounded confidence in the love of a merciful God. He died after having fully rounded out a long, useful and honorable life, with his honors yet thick upon him. His loss is

irreparable. His face will long be missed by his friends and neighbors, and he will be held in loving remembrance by his sorrowing family so long as life shall last.

“He was a man, take him or all in all; I shall not look upon him like again.”

---

Below are printed a few of the many letters which have been received by the family:

*Worcester Polytechnic Institute,*

*Office of the President*

WORCESTER, MASS., Feb. 6, 1897

I was greatly shocked to learn of the sudden death of my old friend, Mr. Whiting. Only two weeks ago he spent some hours with me, which I enjoyed greatly, and I noted at the time that he appeared unusually well and active in mind. I cannot tell you how much he was loved by all who came in contact with him, and what a splendid career his long and honorable service in the Coast Survey was. I am sure I express the feeling of every man in the Corps with which he was connected in saying that no man in it was more generally respected and esteemed by his fellows than he. Personally, I long ago became much attached to him, and deeply regret the sudden end of a life which I hoped and believed was yet to run many years.

I am yours faithfully,

T. C. MENDENHALL

(Formerly Superintendent U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey).

---

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*Topographical Survey Commission*

*Commonwealth Building.*

BOSTON, Feb. 6, 1897

I am very much pained to hear this morning that an old friend, Prof. Henry L. Whiting, has passed away. I have been associated with him for a number of years in the work of the Commission, and have admired his energy and ability. He has practically run the whole machinery connected with the Survey, and his loss will be keenly felt. We have sent by express five dozen white roses, which I hope will reach you safely. It is but a slight token of our interest.

Very truly yours,

DESMOND FITZGERALD

(Member of the Commission)

---

*The Mississippi River Commission*

*President's Office*

*Army Building*

NEW YORK CITY, Feb. 6, 1897

I am deeply moved by the sad announcement which your note contains. Prof. Whiting was dearly beloved by all the Commission for his noble character, and most highly esteemed for great attainment. His courtesy of manner, his gentleness of speech and his unswerving honesty of purpose, reflected the highest credit upon the work of the Commission to whose deliberations he always earnestly and devotedly gave his best abilities. The people in the Mississippi River valley, whose interest has his fullest sympathy, gave him at each inspection trip a most cordial and respectful welcome, and will learn of his death with the profoundest regret. I bet that you will convey to his afflicted family most respectful assurances of my great personal loss, and the sympathy of the united Commission who loved him so dearly.

Very faithfully,

G. L. GILLISIE

(President of the Miss. River Commission)

Whiting's death is a great and soon it will be an abiding sorrow to me. Yet it was a beautiful end of a beautiful life. I have never known a finer.

With renewals of deepest sympathy for all, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

N. S. Shaler

(Former member of the Mass. Survey Commission)

---

The funeral of the late Prof. Henry L. Whiting was largely attended last Sabbath at his late residence. Rev. H. Parker officiated in a tender and eloquent manner. After the sermon and prayer, "Nearer My God to Thee" was sung. The floral tributes were beautiful. A widow, three daughters and one son are left to share in the bereavement, and the whole community sympathize with them in the memory of the husband and father who did so many good acts, and also took such an interest in everything that was beneficial to town and island...

### **May 10, 1900**

#### **FOREST FIREWARD'S CARD.**

For the heroic efforts of Mr. B. F. Norton, of Vineyard Haven, and Mr. Dumbar Norton, of Cottage City, in saving from being burned more than one thousand cords of wood in Edgartown, by the late fire, I for the people of Edgartown, desire to thank them...Edgartown's forest fire ward, saved these woods from being burned...

### **July 22, 1909**

#### **10,000 ACRES BURNED.**

Said to be the Area Covered by the Woods Fires This Week.

The woods fire which raged across the Vineyard Plains two days this week burned over it is estimated an area of from nine to ten thousand acres, or a tract three by five miles in extent. Some sixty men from Edgartown under the direction of Forest Warden George N. Cleveland, a large force from West Tisbury, and others from the country round about, faught [sic] the flames for hours before they were got under control. The spectacle presented by the fire on Monday night as viewed from Edgartown village, some two miles from the flames, was magnificent, and the reflection of the fire could be plainly seen in New Bedford thirty miles distant.

At no time, despite published reports to the contrary, was the village of Edgartown seriously menaced—in fact no extensive growth of woods is near the town, and with the protection afforded by the water hydrants which fringe the village, no grass or running fire is ever likely to endanger the town...

...The fire was confined almost wholly within the limits of the town of Edgartown, though a small portion of the township of Oak Bluffs was touched by the flames. Valuable wooded tracts were destroyed within the town of Edgartown.

There has been a good deal of mystery as to the origin of the fire, but in the absence of anything authentic it is believed that it was started as a result of a burning match carelessly thrown into the dry bushes that cover the Vineyard plain...

...Only a small portion of the tract that is owned by the State as a reservation for the preservation of the heath hen was destroyed, but it is believed that the fire destroyed a god many of the young heath hens that were unable to get out of the path of the destroying flames. Hundreds of rabbits and other small animals and birds were seen, some dead and others endeavoring to escape the flames...

#### **December 24, 1914 – Thursday**

##### **Grass Fire on Great Plain.**

A fire which apparently started about midnight Tuesday in the western part of the Great Plain, swept the greater part of the Plain and the Katama lands, and burned over it is estimated about 1200 acres. Its origin is undetermined at the present time. In its course one or more pieces of woodland was threatened, but apparently the rains of Monday had so soaked the leaves and matted them that the flames only lapped the edge of the woods.

Quite a force of men from town went out from 2 a.m. on, and worked hard to subdue the fire, which was finally controlled about 9 a.m. Wednesday.

No loss, fortunately, is reckoned from the burning, but rather it is thought the pasturage over the area may be improved another season. But this does not excuse the gross carelessness of someone, it would seem, who is presumed by a heedless throw of a half-burned match or the knocking out of a pipe started a conflagration which might have destroyed much valuable property...

...The gunning camp of Mr. Archie Mellen, in the vicinity of Katama Point was threatened with destruction...

## **December 24, 1914**

...Just before the close of the rebellion the late Henry L. Whiting of West Tisbury purchased the steamer Helen Augusta and put her on the Vineyard route...

## **May 18, 1916 – Thursday**

### **FRIDAY'S FIERCE FIRE**

----

Burned Over Some 12,000 Acres of Territory, with a Loss Variously Estimated at from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

----

High Wind Sent Flames Speeding Over Tisbury Plains Causing Hard Work for Army of Fire Fighters. No Farm Houses Burned.

----

Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, was a day of excitement over the eastern half of Martha's Vineyard when men from the towns of Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury and West Tisbury, and the country roundabout, in in [sic] all to the number of several hundred persons, labored from 7 a. m. until nightfall, handicapped by a heavy wind, at times approaching a gale, in their efforts to control one of the most extensive woods and brush fires which has occurred on the island in years, if ever before. The property loss runs into the thousands.

The area burned over has been conservatively estimated at some eighteen to twenty square miles, or from 11000 to 13,000 acres, which included grass land, brush and woodland, burning in its course many cords of cut wood, at least two barns, one gunning lodge, various outbuildings, and at times approached threateningly near the several villages on eastern end of the island. The buildings on the State heath hen reservation were saved by the desperate work of the fire-fighters. Some of the heath hen were burned, perhaps a tenth of the number of the old birds, and all the eggs for this year's crop of young were destroyed, and all the rabbits on the reservation are practically all gone.

The fire, the cause of which yet remains a mystery, apparently started about 7 a. m. in the township of West Tisbury on the old road, between that place and Vineyard Haven, at a point about a mile from West Tisbury Postoffice [sic].

The blaze soon reached tremendous proportions. The woods and the scrub oaks and pines on the Vineyard plains were dry, and the flames were fanned by a brisk northwest wind that occasionally attained the severity of a gale. Before this wind, the blaze was driven with rapidity and even when it burned through a section of wood it continued to race across the dry fields and would eat its way into the next adjoining clump of trees. Early in the forenoon the fire which then had burned over several square miles seemed suddenly to mushroom out and to threaten the whole east end of the island...

...The extent of the fire and the rapidity with which it travelled may perhaps be more fully realized by noting that, starting near the village of West Tisbury about seven o'clock in the

morning, soon after 11 o'clock it was threatening the house and premises of Shubael H. Adlington, just outside of Edgartown, having come some eight miles...

...The big fire approached very near to the villages on the eastern end of the island...The flames did much damage to growing wood in the Amoz Smith, Dr. Kidder and Farm Neck sections, while on the old Vineyard Haven road the fire was raging in the locality of the former Dr. Leach hospital and the county thereabouts.

No very serious damage we heard reported from Ocean Heights...

...If the Gazette is correctly informed Geo. D. Flynn of Fall River, owner of Pohogonot Farm and much country and woodland thereabouts and at Swan Neck, is to be congratulated that he escaped damage by fire this time, although property owned by him was several times threatened alarmingly during that day...

### **May 14, 1926**

#### **FIRE SWEEPS EDGARTOWN WOODLANDS IN GREATEST CONFLAGRATION OF YEARS**

For the entire afternoon yesterday the fire departments of Edgartown, Oak Bluffs and Vineyard Haven, together with every available man of the first named town battled with a forest fire which at one time threatened the western sections of Edgartown and the outlying summer colony at Ocean Heights.

The fire, which was the largest the Island has seen in many years started at Mashacket. Various reports have been circulated as to the origin, but the choice seems to be between a bonfire and a mattress set on fire near the Gazelle place...

#### **JUMPS WEST TISBURY ROAD**

Burning a path which ranged from several hundred yards to over a mile in width, one edge of the blaze swept through to Clement Norton's swamp, and due to the fact that there was considerable vacant land near Mr. Norton's farm the fire languished at this point...

...Up to the time of crossing the road the fire had burned through territory never before burned down, as far back as can be remembered. After jumping the West Tisbury road it ravaged what had been ignited several times before, in years gone by...

Striking almost northeast the fire now directed itself towards Pennywise Hill and Ocean Heights...During its progress from its starting point the fire had destroyed practically all of the heavy timber in the town...

...It is estimated that ten square miles of territory were burned over before the fire burned itself out at about sunset. Swamps and the dropping of the wind at sunset caused the flames to die down to such a degree that they could be handled.

### **April 29, 1927**

#### **FOREST FIRE SWEEPS EDGARTOWN PLAINS OVER BIG AREA**

---

Blaze Started from Brush Fire on State Forest Reservation – Travels At Record Speed

---

Edgartown Men Narrowly Escape Serious Injury When Car is Enveloped in Flames

---

An area estimated at ten square miles of the great plain and timber land in the southwestern end of Edgartown township, was burned over by a raging forest fire on Thursday afternoon...

...Many of the newly planted trees on the state forest preserve were destroyed, but it is not though that any of the heath hens were caught in the flames, though it is known that many rabbits were killed.

The fire started a quarter of a mile this side of Willis Plain on the state forest reservation on the Doctor Fisher road, where a gang of men under Supt. Hollis A. Smith had been burning brush...

...The fire jumped the West Tisbury highway in the vicinity of last year's blaze, and burned over land almost directly adjacent to the area burned a year ago, working down as far as Wintucket...

#### **May 4, 1928**

PROMPT WORK STOPS LIVELY FOREST FIRE

---

Cause of Blaze Undetermined—Believed Some Trees Fire-Killed

Prompt and efficient work by fire-fighters from Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven and West Tisbury prevented a disastrous forest fire on Friday when a blaze started in the open field near the old Rogers house, so called, in North Tisbury and burned northerly before the strong breeze to the junction of the Indian Hill and State roads crossing the western fork of Indian Hill Road and also crossing the State Road, but without spreading in the latter instance...

...so efficient was the work that the fire was confined to an area of less than a square mile, although it was a very hot and smoky blaze...

#### **April 5, 1929**

Destructive Blaze Sweeps Plain, Burns over 2500 Acres

Barns at Watcha Destroyed –Many West Tisbury Residences are Threatened

Spectacular and Menacing in Appearance, Flames Roar Like Storm Swept Sea

...a furious fire on the great plain of Edgartown and West Tisbury that burned over an area estimated at around 2,500 acres destroyed two barns at Watcha, was beaten off the houses of Tyer's Cove summer colony only after a terrific battle, and seriously menaced the fringe of West Tisbury village...

...The fire burned from about 10:30 in the morning until 4 o'clock Thursday morning when a shower helped finally to quench it.

Starting on the property of T. H. Tawell, in Waldron's Bottom, so-called, when a brush fire got out of control, the fire swept away toward the Oyster Pond, carrying a flaming front of nearly a mile in width...

... but before the fire reached the cleared land near the pond the wind suddenly shifted, driving it back in a direction that caused the burned area to become V-shaped...

...The firefighters turned their attention then to Deep Bottom, attempting to backfire and prevent the fire from rounding the head of Deep Bottom cove, but the backfire proved to be unmanageable in the fast rising wind and the flames leaped the road, almost trapping a number of cars parked at the edge of the woods...

...The lower tongue of the fire burned over virtually all of Middle, Long and Thumb Points, and where the main fire did not reach, backfires burned the ground over as the property owners fought to save their camps. In some places ditches were dug and on Long Point a strip was plowed to prevent the fire from reaching the buildings...

...At almost the same time a battle was raging around Tyer's Cove, where the half dozen houses of summer residents lay directly in the path of the fire, which was coming down the wind at the speed of a running horse, the flames leaping and roaring through small trees and heavy brush that has never before been burned and shooting yards high whenever a clump of pines was encountered...

...The Tyer's Cove road was then backfired for some distance and the fire thus prevented from extending to the Strater estate, but the wind shifted still more to the south, and instead of burning down to the road, the fire began to parallel it, burning back toward the Edgartown-West Tisbury highway, with what might be termed its left flank working ever nearer to the outlying houses of West Tisbury village...

...Although the fire from the start was the most spectacular and menacing in appearance of any in recent years the spectacle was terrific as it entered the grove of tall pitch pine trees, the flames leaping to the skies and the trees cracking beneath the heat even before the fire reached them.

## **May 12, 1929**

### **Forest Fires Should Be Prevented**

April has brought what seems to be the inevitable spring fire on the Vineyard's great plains...The ravages of the fire might easily have been much worse. Yet, as it was, we have a broad section of plain wasted by fire, a great deal of wild life killed, and renewed evidence that no effective remedy has yet been applied to avoid these recurring conflagrations.

In early days of its settlement, the plains of Martha's Vineyard were heavily wooded. Tall and valuable spruce, pine and cedar stood in abundance where for generations there has been an expanse of worthless scrub oak. For this change of circumstance we have fires to blame. The scrub oak has survived because of its peculiar resistance to fire; it is burned, but up it comes again. Most trees will not stand such treatment.

The plains are capable of becoming a beautiful and economically important land of big trees, but they can never be advanced from their present state unless these yearly fires are prevented. The state forest is little more than started, and whether the growth which is now being fostered there can actually be brought to maturity without the blight of spring burnings can not yet be known. We hope that it can...

**April 18, 1930**

Incendiary Fires Ravage Woodland

Four Blazes Set at Once—Two Towns Aid Oak Bluffs as 5000 Acres Are Burned Over

Five thousand acres of land burned over, with an estimated loss of two thousand dollars worth of marketable wood, is the extent of the damage done by the series of fires set Tuesday in Oak Bluffs and Edgartown. That the fires were the work of malicious persons has been established beyond doubt, and the town authorities are hopeful of discovering the identity of the culprits.

There was little doubt in the minds of the fire fighters when four fires broke out at once about one o'clock in the afternoon, and when the fifth fire was found in Edgartown some time later, they believed their suspicions of incendiarism verified. Later in the afternoon a fire was discovered between C. E. Dutton's farm and Menada Creek, and a rolled-up newspaper, evidently used as a torch, was found at the point of its starting...

...Sometime after midnight when the fires in the woods had burned very low and were considered to be under complete control, three more fires, set at intervals of more than a mile, were discovered in the unburned section between the burned area and the village of Oak Bluffs...

...As all the fire fighters were concentrating their efforts along the two mile front of fire, broken by the intervals between the different masses of flame, someone, perhaps the same one who set those, started another in Edgartown, about a mile and a half away, and on the south side of the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven road...

...Police...learned that the blazes had been kindled by someone who sped through the dirt wood road in a car, stopping to drop matches into the dry underbrush.

**June 6, 1930 – Friday**

FIRES NEAR NORTH ROAD WORK ALARM NEARBY RESIDENTS

Blazes Blamed on Embers Of Brush Fires Set by The Workmen

...The fire, which was started from the embers of brush fires, set by road constructors during the day, burned over about three acres of woodland on the south side of the road. Much of this property, possibly all of it, is owned by Mrs. Edith M. Harris...

...At first believed to have originated from a carelessly tossed cigarette or match, some evidence of incendiary origin of the blaze was discovered last night, when a tightly twisted roll of newspaper, charred black, was discovered close to where the fire started...

...None of the small pines planted on the state forest reservation were harmed although the fire came dangerously close to the superintendent's house, which is protected by a fire stop... for the most part the flames found little to impede their progress, the scrub oak, dead from a similar fire two years ago, yielding readily to the spread of the fire, the flames rising high into the sky as the wind freshened and dropping low as it lulled...

**June 6, 1930 – Friday**

1000 Acres Burned On the Great Plain

Incendiary Origin Suspected—Fighter from All Down-Island Towns Battle Flames

One thousand acres of woodland were burned over yesterday in the most spectacular blaze seen here for a number of years. Much of the land had been burned over two years ago and was

covered with a stand of dead scrub oak. Most of the devastated acres were on the forest reservation, but a less extensive area on the game reservation was burned by the flames, which were discovered almost across the road from the Mayhew Memorial boulder at 1.45 yesterday afternoon...

---

<sup>i</sup> Fishing Companies: Chappquonsett; Pocha Pond; Trapp's Pond; Mattakesett; Lagoon Pond; Fresh Pond; Caleb's Pond; Need Senate legislation to incorporate.

<sup>ii</sup> Grace Coffin Fisher's daughter?