

Woods Hole Historical Collection
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
Elizabeth Islands
1602 - 1999

2 boxes

ELIZABETH ISLANDS

HISTORY

The Elizabeth Islands stretch 14 miles southwest from Woods Hole and are situated in a northeast to southwest direction between Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound.

The first major island of five is Naushon, then Pasque, Nashawena and Cuttyhunk. Beyond Cuttyhunk is Penikese. Small islands include Nonamessett, Uncatena, Veckatimest, Bull, Cedar, Weepectets and Gull Islands.

Cuttyhunk Island was the landing place of the English explorer Bartholomew Gosnold in 1602. He named Cuttyhunk "Elizabeths Isle", either to honor his sister or Queen Elizabeth. This name has come to be the name of the entire chain of islands. There is a stone tower monument to Gosnold on Cuttyhunk. The island is reached by a small ferry from New Bedford. It is occupied mostly in the summer months but there are a few year-round residents.

The islands make up the Town of Gosnold and town meetings are held on Cuttyhunk. They are also part of Dukes County which includes Martha's Vineyard.

Naushon was owned by Thomas Mayhew of Martha's Vineyard from 1641-1682. From 1682 to 1730 it was owned by the Winthrop family. The Bowdoin family owned it from 1730 to 1843. From 1843 to 1856 it was owned jointly by William Swain and John Murray Forbes of Milton, Massachusetts. He became sole owner in 1856.

John Murray Forbes of Milton, Massachusetts was a very successful merchant in the China trade. He left Naushon in trust in 1898 to be administered by his five children for the benefit of his descendents. From 1932 to the present the island has been held in the name "The Naushon Trust" and administered by five trustees. The family acquired two other islands as they became available – Nashawena in 1905 and Pasque in 1939. Naushon is reached by a private ferry-fright vessel from Woods Hole. There are many houses on the north end of the island whose dates of construction range from the 18th century to the present day. The remainder of the island is composed of open moors and fields and an vast virgin beech forest. Members of the family lease the houses each summer from the Trust. Many family members bring horses to the island each summer as well. Flocks of sheep are kept and allowed to roam free. There is no motorized transportation on Naushon.

Penikese Island is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the 1870s it was the site of the Anderson School of Natural established by Harvard professor Louis Agassiz and run briefly by his son Alexander to 1874. Later it was the site of a leprosarium, in use from 1905 to 1921, most of the time under the direction of Dr. Frank H. Parker who was devoted to his patients. The buildings were demolished with dynamite and the island became a bird sanctuary under the State Division of Fisheries and Game.

In 1973 George Cadwalader, an ex-Marine, and others began a school for

delinquent boys from the Department of Youth Services on Penikese Island. The boys, with no skill at carpentry or construction, built the first house. They were taught survival skills, boat building and seamanship. George was joined by Davis Masch and other staff. Over the years there were many crises, many boys went back to their old illegal habits and about 16% were able to become productive citizens. There are now more buildings, gardens and other activities. The school has an "On-Shore House" in Woods Hole. It exists currently (2009) and runs its own boat to the island, which is otherwise not accessible to the public.

SCOPE NOTE

The Elizabeth Island Collection consists of two boxes, the first containing material on Naushon, Pasque, Nashawena and Cuttyhunk. The second box contains material only on Penikese, most of which concerns the Anderson School, the leprosarium and the Penikese Island School. Material in both boxes is primarily booklets, brochures, newsclippings and many xerox copies. There are copies of annual reports on the leprosarium to the Massachusetts State Board of Charity. There are also original annual reports for the Penikese Island School.

BOX 1

Nonamessett, Uncatena, Naushon, Pasque, Nashawena, Cuttyhunk

1-1. Elizabeth Islands: Miscellaneous

- a. Newsclipping. Editorial, "Island Ideals" by Sam Allis, Boston Globe, August 15, 2004.
- b. Poem. "Promised Land". N.D.

1-2. Naushon, miscellaneous material.

- a. Booklet. "With Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for 1955", signed Ethel Copley. Excerpt from *Travels in America* by Lady Emmeline Wortley, published in 1850.
- b. Papers on Naushon Trust, established under Declaration of Trust, May 2, 1932. Xerox copies.
- c. Typed manuscript. Poem, "Naushon".
- d. Handwritten notes from John Valois, 2006. Information on various landmarks and places on Naushon. Xerox copy.
- e. Typed and handwritten notes. Naushon-Nashawena Army Installation, World War II. N.d.
- f. Typed notes: Origin of Hadley Harbor name. n.d.
- g. Typed manuscript. "A Brief History of Naushon" by Alice Forbes Howland. n.d.
- h. Handwritten note about the North Pasture House.

1-3. Hollow Farm, Naushon.

- a. Notes and photographs of Hollow Farm site, West end of Naushon,

- from Peter Bumpus via Erik Gura, 2006.
 - b. Typed manuscript. History of Peterson house, Millfield Street, and its possible connection to the original Hollow Farm house. Xerox copy.
 - c. Pages from *Naushon Data* on Farms on Naushon, xerox copies.
- 1-4. Pasque.
 - a. Typewritten manuscript from Cuttyhunk Historical Society newsletter, January 1987.
 - b. Newsclipping. "Chilmark Men Raided Pasque in 1724 When Owner Refused to Pay Taxes", Falmouth *Enterprise*, n.d. Xerox copy.
- 1-5. Cuttyhunk, miscellaneous material.
 - a. Newsclipping. "A New Account of Cuttyhunk's Striper Fishing in Last Century", Falmouth *Enterprise*, June 13, 1980. Original and xerox copy.
 - b. Newsclipping. "Island Economics", *Cape Cod Times*, June 30, 1998.
 - c. Pamphlet. Cuttyhunk Island, A Brief Historical Outline & Description. Published by Cuttyhunk Historical Society and Elizabeth Island Association, 1986. Three copies.
 - d. Pamphlet. Cuttyhunk Island, A Brief Historical Outline, 1998. Published by Cuttyhunk Historical Society.
 - e. Pamphlet. The Allen House. Brochure for hotel. N.d.
 - f. Booklet. People of Cuttyhunk Island II. Recollections.
- 1-6. Newsletters and Historical Monographs on various subjects, Cuttyhunk Historical Society.
 - a. 1989 – 1997.
 - b. 1998 – to date
- 1-7. Cuttyhunk. Booklets.
 - a. Booklet. The Story of Cuttyhunk by Louise T. Haskell, 1953. Third printing 1960.
 - b. Booklet. The Story of Cuttyhunk by Louise T. Haskell, 1953. Eighth printing 1970.
 - c, d. Booklets. Cuttyhunk As I Remember It (In 1904) by Margaret Brewer (1876-1972). Cuttyhunk Historical Society, 1979. Two copies.
 - e. Booklet. The View From Lookout Hill, Cuttyhunk and Elizabeth Island Adventures by Elwood O. Mills, Jr., 1992.

BOX 2

Penikese

- 2-1. Handwritten manuscript. Bibliography of material on Penikese 1870s-1890s.
2 pages.
- 2-2. Booklet. Penikese A Reminiscence by One of Its Own Pupils, 1895. Xerox copy.
- 2-3. Material from The Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Board of Charity.
 - a. Letter from Albert H. Whittaker, Jr., Archivist of the Commonwealth, February 28, 1992, to David Masch, Director, Penikese Island School,

about the following copies of material.

- b. State Board of Charity, 27th Annual Report, 1905, excerpts. Penikese Hospital. Xerox copy.
 - c. State Board of Charity, 29th Annual Report, 1907, excerpts. Penikese Hospital, Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - d. State Board of Charity, 31st Annual Report, 1909, excerpts. Penikese Hospital. Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - e. State Board of Charity, 33rd Annual Report, 1911, excerpts. Penikese Hospital, Penikese Island. Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - f. State Board of Charity, 34th Annual Report, 1912, excerpts. Penikese Hospital, Penikese Island. Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - g. State Board of Charity, 35th Annual Report, 1913, excerpts. Penikese Hospital, Penikese Island. Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - h. State Board of Charity, 36th Annual Report, 1914, excerpts. Penikese Hospital, Penikese Island. Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - i. State Board of Charity, 37th Annual Report, 1915, excerpts. Penikese Hospital, Penikese Island. Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - j. State Board of Charity, 38th Annual Report, 1916, excerpts. Penikese Hospital, Penikese Island. Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - k. State Board of Charity, 39th Annual Report, 1917, excerpts. Penikese Hospital, Penikese Island. Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - l. State Board of Charity, 41st Annual Report, 1919, excerpts. Penikese Hospital, Penikese Island. Frank H. Parker, M.D., Superintendent. Xerox copy.
 - m. History of Leprosy in the New England States by Herman E. Hasseltine, 1944. Xerox copy.
- 2-4. Booklet. Treated As Lepers: The Patient-Led Reform Movement at the National Leprosarium, 1931-1946 by Michael Mizell-Nelson. Reprint from the *Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, Vol. XLIV, No. 3, Summer, 2003.
- 2-5. Booklets and Articles, 1947 – 1988.
- a. Newsclipping. “Lepers of Penikese Island, How Harry Cheetham Brought the World to Penikese Island.” 1922 Boston Radio Exposition. Xerox copy.
 - b. Newsclipping. “Prison Would Fit Well With Penikese Lore”. New Bedford newspaper (unknown), possibly 1935. Three xerox copies.
 - c. Newsclipping. “Penikese Leper Graveyard (photo with letter to editor)”. *Life Magazine*, November 29, 1937.
 - d. Pamphlet. With Agassiz at Penikese by David Starr Jordan, LL.D. Reprint. Memento of the Biological Survey on 3 August 1947 to commemorate the founding of the Anderson School of Natural History on Penikese Island by Louis Agassiz in July, 1873.
 - e. Reprint. Visit To “The Other Side”, How State Isolated Its Lepers On Penikese Island. Reprint from the New York *Sun*, May 2, 1915 by George A.

- Hough, Jr. Falmouth *Enterprise*, May 19, 1972. Xerox copy.
- f. Reprint. Agassiz's Island Became Leper Colony, State Rabbit Farm and Bird Sanctuary. Reprint from Falmouth *Enterprise*, May 19, 1972.
- g. Magazine article. "Penikese Island Past & Present" by Patricia A. Case. Cape Cod Life, February/March 1988. Three xerox copies.
- h. Typed manuscript (copy). Penikese Island. A history from the Cuttyhunk Historical Society's newsletter, 1988.
- 2-6. Magazine article. "Penikese Island and the Dread Disease" by Judith Anderson Masslo. *MD Magazine*, December 1990.
- 2-7. Newsclippings. Penikese School.
- a. Newsclipping. "Referral center for boys, Penikese Island School in its infancy" by Kitty Baker. Cape Cod *Times*, Summer 1974.
- b. Newsclipping. "A Year With Penikese Island And Its School" by David Masch. Falmouth *Enterprise*, June 6, 1975. Xerox copy.
- c. Newsclipping. "A Visit To Penikese Island School, Rough, Isolated Setting For Tough Youths", by John T. Hough, Jr. Falmouth *Enterprise*, September 21, 1979. Xerox copy.
- d. Newsclipping. "A Portrait of the Penikese Island School" (includes photos) by Russ Kendall. Woods Hole *Weekly*, October 7, 1982.
- 2-8. Material on Penikese Island School, 1970s-1990s.
- a. Booklet. Penikese Island School. Typewritten text with photos. N.d. (1970s?)
- b. Booklet. Penikese Island School, 1976 Annual Report.
- c. Booklet. Penikese Island School, 1979 Annual Report.
- d. Memorandum of Agreement Between the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Penikese Island School, Inc. Relating to Penikese Island as a site for the Penikese Island School Program, March 4, 1981. Xerox copy.
- e. Manuscript. "An Introduction to The Penikese Island School, Its Goals, Mission, and Philosophy, Guidelines for Making Referrals, Description of Program Components & Outline of A Typical Course of Stay" by Toby T. Lineaweaver, Executive Director, 1997. 18 pages. Xerox copy.
- e. Newsclipping. "Keeping Youths Afloat, Island school enters 25th year with changes, old obstacles. Boston Globe, August 10, 1997.
- f. Brochure. The Penikese Island School, n.d.
- g. Brochure. A small school built on a big idea, n.d.
- 2-9. Material for Conversation at WHHM by I. Thomas Buckley
- a. Conversation poster: Tom Buckley, The Leper Colony on Penikese Island, October 25, 1999. Xerox copy.
- b. Poster for I. Thomas Buckley book, PENIKESE, Island of Hope.
- c. Xerox copies of news headlines about lepers on Penikese (material given by Tom Buckley).
- 2-10. Charts and notes. Penikese Island Vegetation, October/November 1999.

2-11. Penikese: Miscellaneous information, newsclippings and brochures

- a. Newsclipping. "Agassiz's Academy" with map of Penikese Island and Its Vicinity. Unknown newspaper, New-York, Wednesday, July 9, 1873. Xerox copy from copy in Hibbard-Romer Collection, Miscellaneous Reprints, WHHC.
- b. Newsclipping. *The Yale News*, November 23, 1883. "Penikeese" is mentioned as a song title. Xerox copy.
- c. Newsclipping. "Raving Leper as Passenger", from unknown newspaper, October 24, 1909. 4 xerox copies.
- d. Cover and brochure. Anderson School Centennial 1873-1973, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 1973.
- e. Manuscript. Penikese Island by Janet Bosworth, Cuttyhunk Historical Society Newsletter, 1988. copy.
- f. Newsclipping. "Bad kids: Penikese offers fresh start" by Renee Twombly. Unknown newspaper, n.d. (after 1980). Original and copy.

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