



September 14, 2018

The following documents and clippings were donated to the Town of Brewster Mill Sites Committee by the Locke family: Ginny, Brian, Brenda, Sandra and Stephen. Ginny Locke's uncle was Winslow (Win) Dunnells, who was very involved with the mill site and served as Town Miller for many years. Many of the clippings date from 1940 – 41, when the town first acquired the mill site and established the Mill Sites Committee.

The Mill Sites Committee is grateful for this wonderful gift from the Locke family.

#### COMMITTEE

WINTHROP N. CROCKER, CHAIRMAN  
WARREN E. BURGESS, SECRETARY  
SETH SEARS, TREASURER  
G. CARLTON CKARK, SELECTMAN  
F. T. CLEVERLY, SELECTMAN  
H. W. DOANE, SELECTMAN  
A. PERCIE NEWCOMB, TOWN CLERK



#### THE OLD MILL

AN HISTORIC SITE ORIGINALLY OWNED AND DEVELOPED BY GOVERNOR PRENCE IN LATE 1690'S, ALSO THE SITES OF A WOOLEN MILL, A FULLING MILL AND A TANNERY.

PURCHASED BY THE TOWN OF BREWSTER, WITH THE AID OF MANY GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS BY A VOTE OF ITS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON MARCH 4, 1940.

## STONEY BROOK MILL SITES BREWSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

May 31, 1941.

DEAR FRIEND:—

The Town Committee in charge of the Mill property feel that sufficient progress has been made for it to present a general report to the Citizens of Brewster and to all those, who, by their generous contributions, made possible the restoration of the Stoney Brook Mill Property.

At its annual meeting, March, 1940, the Town voted \$1000 toward the purchase of the Mill Site to match the \$1200 which was raised by private subscription for that same purpose. The title was passed to the Town of Brewster April 15, 1940.

Since that time additional donations and appropriations, financial, material and of labor, have made possible the rebuilding of the water-wheel and runway, the construction of four rustic bridges over the mill stream and the uncovering of the old tannery spring. Most of the debris, which had accumulated during the seventy years since the mill fire in 1871, has been removed, and many attractive paths graded. A new catching pool, built under the supervision of the State Department of Conservation, has made a great improvement in the spring run of herring.

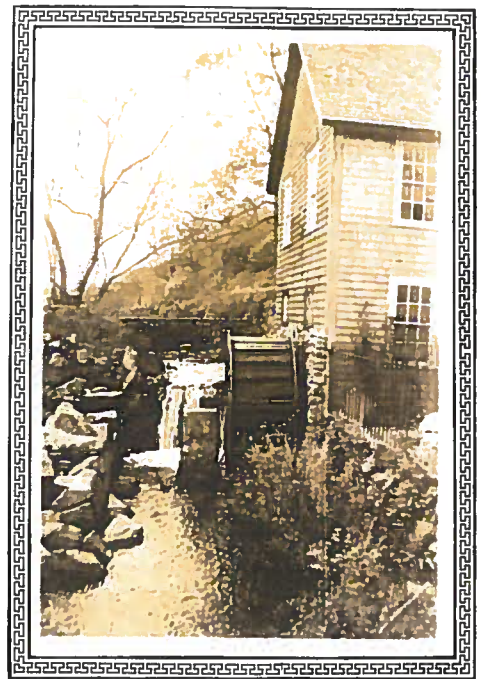
The Committee wishes to express its appreciation for the gift, by Mr. Arthur W. Hart, of the site and remains of the Abraham Winslow house adjoining the mill property. Because the house was beyond repair it was razed, and it is planned to beautify its location with an old-fashioned garden. A hydraulic ram is to be placed at the spring to supply drinking water for the public, and water for the Winslow site.

This, then, is the report of your Committee's progress its first year. Your Committee feels that much has been done, and it hopes that you will approve.

It also hopes that you will wish to cooperate in a major project: that of providing the Mill with stones to grind grain as of yore, since the many visitors highly commend the improvement which have already been made.

Cordially yours,

*The Stoney Brook Mill Sites Committee.*



On back!  
The old Winslow Mill  
at Brewster, Mass.  
Aug. 16. 1929



174 PACKET ROAD, BREWSTER, MASS.

Post marked  
Jul. 7. 1919



Street Scene, Brewster, Mass.



**Gala Community Affair  
of Interest to Everyone!**

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**Improvement  
of the  
Stoney Brook  
Mill Sites**

*By adding Walks, Bridges, Plants,  
Mill Stones, etc.*

**BY HOLDING  
A LINCOLN DAY  
GET-TOGETHER**

**BREWSTER TOWN HALL  
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1941**

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*Something for Each one - Adults and Youth*

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**SUPPER at 6 p. m. 50c**

Number of tickets  
Limited

**Games** - Cards, Chinese Checkers, Dominoes, etc

**Old-fashioned Dances at 8**

**Cliff Martel's Orchestra**

**35c**

*Let's all help generously -*

*Enjoy the evening together*

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Sponsored by the Town of Brewster Mill Sites Committee

# WAR HEROES' DAY

Friday, July 17, 1942

.....

TO HELP OUR SAILOR AND SOLDIER BOYS  
LET US ALL UNITE IN CELEBRATING THIS  
"AMERICAN HEROES' DAY"  
BY LENDING (NOT GIVING) OUR GOVERNMENT  
AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

Cape Cod's Quota is \$155,990.

**Our Boys' Are Offering Their All.**

LET EVERY FAMILY DO ITS BEST BY BUYING  
EITHER BONDS OR STAMPS, OR BOTH.

WITHOUT THE RINGING OF BELLS, OR BEATING OF  
DRUMS, WON'T YOU ASSIST BY FILLING OUT AND  
RETURNING THE END COUPON.

*Brewster Committee and Selectmen.*

## AMERICAN HEROES' DAY FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1942

Our Family will celebrate this Day by a SPECIAL purchase of either  
Bonds for \$..... or Stamps for \$..... or  
both. Please sign this coupon and return in one or two days to  
..... of Brewster Committee, either  
personally, or by mail, or phone for me to call.

If you have any U.S. Flag, please display it on July 17.

(Signed) .....

## ***Brewster's Past***

Visitors to Cape Cod will want to see historic places, of which there are many. But to get to know the Cape well, they must learn something of the towns and their backgrounds, material not found in most histories.

Take Brewster, for example. Brewster is a town of large, old homes, many erected by sea captains. Each house of that kind has a history of its own and often a fascinating one. Now the town has taken over the old mill on Stoney Brook and filled it with antiques and relics of clipper ship days. The exhibit will be open to the public every Friday and Saturday from 1 to 6 p. m. For those who like to delve into the past, a visit will be well worthwhile.

Much of the display is of articles used long ago—guns, oars, arrowheads, corn shellers and many others. But—as in the case of every Cape town—such a representative display must inevitably touch upon an event that is known to everyone. Here it is the War of 1812, and the memento is the document, the original letter, sent to the selectmen of Brewster demanding they pay tribute to the commander of English warships blockading Boston Harbor. The threat was to destroy the town's salt works, which were an important source of income.

These links with the distant past make browsing through exhibits and libraries, and poring over old documents, fascinating experiences. Fortunately, Brewster's citizens have sensed this interest and importance and have revived the old mill and made it attractive for modern visitors. Citizens of other towns which have not "done right" by their rich histories could profitably visit Brewster and learn what can be done when public initiative and co-operation go to work.

## Stony Brook Restoration

WE have not always seen eye-to-eye with the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce on what was good for Cape Cod. But we wish to doff our editorial hat to the Chamber for coming up with a splendid plan. We refer to the idea of restoring the Factory Village at Stony Brook, West Brewster as an historic shrine. We believe this to be a constructive proposal.

Factory Village was located on an historic site. For there was erected the first water-powered grist mill in America in 1660. This was followed by the first woolen mill in the new land. In the century from 1775 to 1875, Factory Village was the most active manufacturing center on Cape Cod, and one of the most concentrated centers of industry it has ever known.

The wheels first began to turn at Stony Brook because Thomas Prince, governor of the Plymouth Colony, was then living at Eastham and he knew the hardship of the long trip to Plymouth for the grinding of corn. He recognized Stony Brook as an ideal site for water-powered grist milling, the only site, in fact, of natural water power on the Outer Cape. Grain grown throughout the area was milled there and the miller became one of the most prosperous citizens of the colony. His charge was three quarts of corn to the bushel.

Twenty years later Kenelm Winslow, together with Paul Sears, Ananias Wing and John Dillingham, Jr., started to manufacture homespun and erected a woolen mill on the site. In 1728 a fulling mill was added to the location, followed by a tannery and knitting mill. Altogether five mills operated in Factory Village and a busy place it was, employing many millers, weavers and knitters.

To industrial America Stony Brook should be a shrine. From this peaceful, quiet valley in West Brewster came the starting of many things which have grown into the might of America. It richly deserves to be restored and preserved.

Such a restoration would mean much to Cape Cod, adding a very important attraction for our tourist trade. What such a restoration could mean is well illustrated in the case of Colonial Williamsburg. While Factory Village would not be as ambitious a project as Williamsburg it would nevertheless mean much to The Cape.

The Chamber recently invited two experts on restoration to visit Stony Brook. They reported that the site offered excellent possibilities for restoration. Foundations of the buildings were discovered above ground. The need for much excavation does not exist. The whole project offers less of a problem than many restorations which have been tackled.



It is perfectly obvious that the restoration of Factory Village would take a considerable amount of money, far more than could be obtained by a community effort for public subscription. The architects who visited the scene cautioned that restorations to be valid must be absolutely authentic and that they can never, in themselves, repay the necessary investment. They can, however, be self-sustaining through the admission fees collected and through subsidiary sale of products such as native crafts and the like. The economic benefits would come, of course, to the community as a whole in the form of increased numbers of tourists living in our hotels, cottages and guest houses and purchasing goods in our stores.

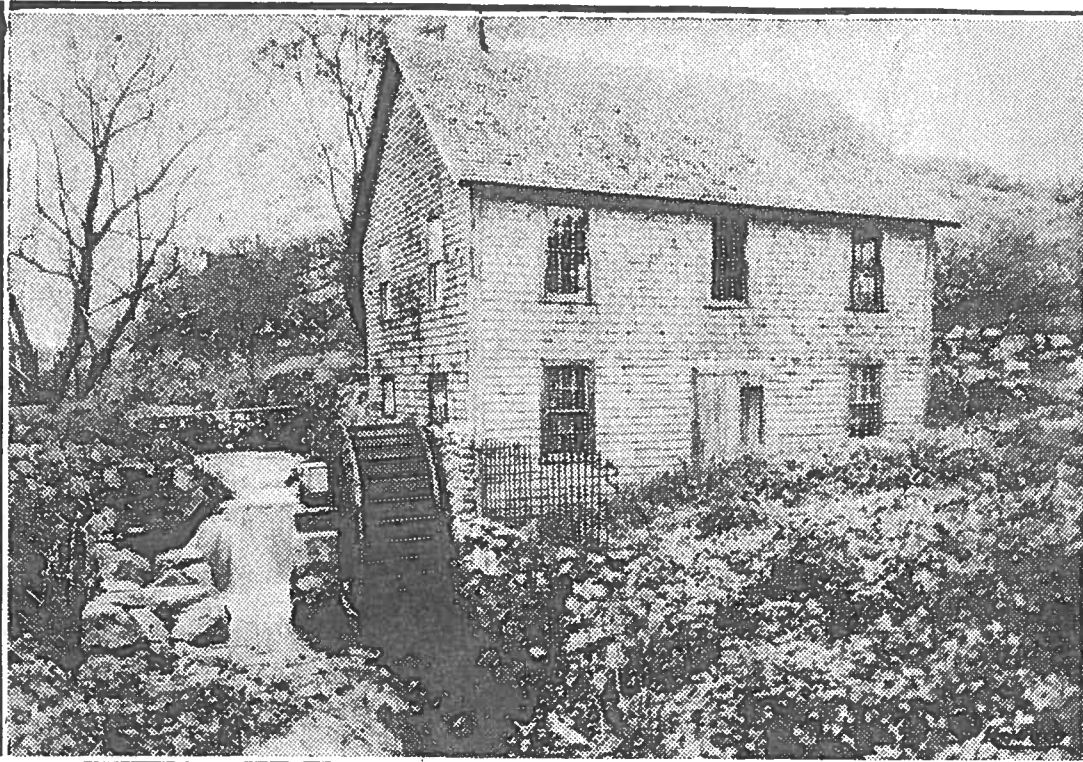
Because of the large amount of money needed, there is little hope of an immediate restoration. But this should not discourage the idea at all. A start can be made if enough people become interested. We have been told that the most important part of the job is the research, the collection of historical data upon which any restoration would be based. This is a task which can very well be started immediately and carried to a conclusion without the expenditure of money at all.

The secret to this part of the project lies in the minds of some of our older people who can remember vital points about the location of the buildings and their interiors, or who can remember being told about them. It lies in the attics and closets of our old houses, among the long-kept papers and books and journals of the past. These are rich in the material needed to obtain a true picture of just what existed at Factory Village in every detail. Perhaps a long-dead ancestor had a gift for putting things down on paper and described in some detail the workings at Stony Brook.

Here is a community project which could be well worthwhile. By collecting all the historical data possible, the groundwork will be laid for the actual work of building up again the structures of yesteryear. These things have a way of getting themselves done once the enthusiasm of a group or community is directed at them. The other famous restorations were made possible by the interest of a few of the large corporations who saw in them a worthwhile way to preserve the essence of the old and at the same time stimulate the awareness of the people of the modern day. It is possible that this pattern might develop on behalf of Factory Village. It cannot be counted on, of course, but the enthusiasm of the local populace in doing the spade work on the project would go a long way toward attracting support from outside.

A committee of historically-aware persons should be formed to coordinate the work of digging out all the information which exists on Factory Village. In the meantime, this newspaper will gladly serve as a repository for any and all information which any person wishes to communicate. We are wholeheartedly for the idea and will lend it any support we can.

## Brewster Asked to Buy Old Mill



The first woolen cloth in America was reputedly manufactured at the site shown above. At their annual town meeting, Brewster voters will be asked

to purchase the old mill which is supposedly the first power water wheel in the country. The mill has been re-built a number of times.

Cape Cod  
Standard Times  
Feb. 2, 1940

### ***Civic Leaders Back Proposal To Create Town Memorial***

**Article Meets Board of Trade Favor;  
Landmark Once Center of Activity**

BREWSTER, Feb. 2—At their annual town meeting March 4, Brewster voters will be asked to purchase the ancient Winslow Mill at High Brewster, reputedly the site of the first power water wheel and woolen factory in the nation.

Situated on an off road, the shaded mill is as rich in history and tradition as any point on Cape Cod. A group of Brewster business and civic leaders hope to construct a lasting memorial out of the waterwheel, the scene of a number of different factories during its long life



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**Proposal**  
**Memorial**  
**Favor;**  
**Activity**

on meeting March  
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scene of a number  
ories during its long

Historians say the first mill was constructed by a group of settlers who migrated from Plymouth to this area back in 1660. The mill was originally erected as a grist mill, the miller claiming three quarts of grain out of every bushel of grist to pass through the mill.

#### Once Center of Activity

Once the attractive old Winslow Mill was the center of business activity on the lower Cape. Many houses were clustered about the establishment, which was then the center of Brewster. Later the village activity moved to its present site.

Historians say Kenelm Winslow was in charge of erecting the first mill to harness the fast running water of Stony Brook. Later Freeman Winslow, a direct descendant of Kenelm, abandoned the old grist mill and erected a cobbler shop utilizing water power for the manufacture and repair of shoes. After Freeman's cobbler shop prospered for a time another generation arose to build a knitting factory which later became a fulling mill. Packet boats brought materials to the old mill from outside sections.

Records show that in 1760 the old mill was completely destroyed by fire and 1,000 pounds of cloth was lost at the same time. The venerable mill has the reputation of producing the first factory-made woolen cloth in America. The mill also was used for a time as a tannery.

#### Tried to Revive Mill

Some years ago Arthur C. Hastings of West Harwich took a lease on the mill and attempted to set it in motion again. Mr. Hastings had no thought of commercial gain in putting the waterwheel back to work. His thoughts were of a sentimental rather than mercenary nature. When cranberry growers complained that the water which should be making their cranberries grow, was dammed up at the mill, Mr. Hastings abandoned his project.

At a meeting of the Brewster Board of Trade last night the proposed article asking the purchase of the mill met with general favor. Leaders of the move today reported that the article will not be completed for several days.

C.C.St.Times  
Feb. 3, 1940.

## Brewster's Landmark

The movement in Brewster to purchase the ancient Winslow Mill for the town and turn it into a memorial brings into focus one of Cape Cod's most important assets—its historical treasures.

Every town has one or more outstanding landmarks, some of which have been preserved as present day attractions. Others have been permitted to disintegrate or disappear. Their importance to the towns and the Cape cannot be measured exactly in the dollars and cents they might cost, but rather in their rich historical value for the present and future, and their possibilities as attractions for Summer visitors.

Fortunately, these two objects can be attained at the same time. To put these landmarks in condition so they will be attractions for visitors does not mean in any sense commercializing them. Instead, it prevents commercializing by preserving the historical values for all.

The Brewster mill dates back to 1660. At that time a mill was constructed by settlers who came from Plymouth. It became the center of business activity in its area. After passing through stages of being a grist mill, cobbler shop, knitting factory, fulling mill and tannery, it has reached a point where its usefulness lies in its memories of the past rather than its present utility. But these memories are as tangible, as far as assets to the town are concerned, as some of the real property. The mill, under town auspices, could become the nucleus of a great exhibit of yesteryears.

What arrangements can be made financially are yet to be determined and placed before voters, who can then pass upon them. But it is to be hoped that the project can be carried through without undue expense, because it is one on which all Brewster citizens could unite for the good of the town.

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OLD MILL PROPERTY  
at Stony Brook, Brewster, Mass.

It is proposed to acquire the above property for  
the benefit of the Town, by asking the Town to  
appropriate \$1000. and by raising \$1200. by  
public subscription.

Will you co-operate?

In consideration of the gifts of others,

I hereby pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

500
400
200
100
50
25
15
10

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

*Some over \$1200. pledged before Town Meeting  
on Monday, March 4, 1940*



Front page of Tercentenary, Pamphlet, - July 26, 27. 1930



NEW WATER POWER GRIST MILL - *Upper West Brewster Road*

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## Same Pamphlet

**Factory Village or Brewster Mills** with its own post-office, store, assembly hall, livery-stable, and mills, was the most active village in this part of the Cape for several decades.

- 28b. **Site of the Old Water-power Grist Mill.** "The first mill was built about 1660 for the special benefit of Eastham settlers who brought their grist here." It also received the grain grown within a radius of several miles. In payment, the miller took his toll of three quarts from each bushel.
- 29b. **New Water-power Grist Mill** shows its "over-shot" water-wheel so commonly used in olden times. (See front cover.)
- 30b. **A Fulling Mill** did an active business during this early period fulling the cloth brought here from different parts of the county. One mill was burned in 1760 and with it nearly a thousand pounds worth of cloth.
- 31b. **The Tannery**, adjoining the old grist mill, received vessel loads of bark from Maine with which to tan the local sheep, calf, and cattle skins.
- 32b. **The Woolen Mill** extended from the present grist mill eastward over the mill stream. This mill is reputed to have produced the first factory-made woolen cloth in America. Later, cotton goods were manufactured instead.
- 33b. **The Herring Sluiceway** continues to catch the "spring-run" of fish. It was the custom for each citizen to demand his share which was eaten fresh, salted or smoked.
- 34b. **The Miller's Stone Stairway.** It was of great interest to the boys to see the miller ascend and descend these steps.
- 35b. **Site of the small Cobbler Shop** of Freeman Winslow whose son, Sidney Winslow, was the organizer and former president of the United Shoe Company.

# Brewster Saves Mill

**Warrant** Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to purchase the Brewster Mill Property (so called) including both the building and land, and act fully thereon.

(By petition).

Article 14. The Finance Committee recommends the appropriation of \$1,000.00

C.C. St. Times  
Mar. 4, 1940

## \$2,200 Raised To Buy Property

Town Votes \$1,000,  
Public Gives \$1,200;  
Meeting Is Quiet

BREWSTER, March 4 — The future of Brewster Mill Property was assured with the appropriation of \$1,000 by voters of the town today and the announcement by a mill committee that \$1,200 had been raised by private subscription.

After the article was approved, asking for \$1,000 for the purchase of the mill property, the moderator, Louis W. Crocker, appointed a committee of seven to act as trustees for the old structure. Those appointed were Selectman G. Carlton Clark, Franklin T. Cleverly and Herbert W. Doane, Seth Sears, Winthrop N. Crocker, Warren Burgess and Howard Latham.

Town Meeting

Cont. →

A group and civic backing t of the ol announce a town structure the site and wool The \$1,200 was \$200

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A group of Brewster businessmen and civic leaders, who have been backing the move for the purchase of the old mill at Brewster, have announced that they plan to create a town memorial out of the old structure which is reputed to be on the site of the first water wheel and woolen factory in this country. The \$1,200 subscribed by the public was \$200 above the goal set.

The old mill was destroyed by fire in 1760 but was soon re-built and at one time was center of business activity for the entire lower Cape.

#### **\$63,482 Raised**

At noon today a total of \$63,482 had been raised to cover departmental expenses and appropriations sought for special articles at the annual town meeting in Town Hall. Funds voted followed closely the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The largest sum voted up to the noon recess was \$5,000 for roadwork in conjunction with funds to be supplied by the State.

To defray town charges and expenses for 1940 as listed under the provisions of Article 5 the sum of \$54,082 was voted.

The meeting was comparatively quiet in comparison with former years, the most extensive debate being on a single article, a request to pay the cost of a post graduate course for students at Orleans High School. The article was defeated 67 to 41, on a vote by ballot.

Although sums asked for were voted much in accordance with the suggestion of the Finance Committee, a few appropriations sought by town departments were pared slightly.

#### **Children's Aid Cut**

Aid for dependent children was cut from \$1,500 to \$1,200; public welfare was cut from \$3,800 to \$3,400 and the sum for wire inspection was sliced from \$150 to \$125.

One sum which was increased was that for snow removal, \$1,500 being voted against the \$1,200 asked in the

warrant.

Article 20, "To see if the town will vote to raise the yearly salary of the chairman of the Board of Health from \$60 to \$80 and to raise and appropriate money therefor," was tabled at the request of the chairman of the Board of Health.

The only other article which failed to be carried was that asking the town to appropriate \$210 for a semi-monthly inspection from Oct. 12 to May 15 of all closed buildings in Brewster.

#### **Offices Filled**

Willard S. Hamlin was chosen fence viewer and field driver and Fred Young, Eugene B. Ellis and Warren Burgess were named clam wardens. The alewife committee appointed included Irving Eldridge Sr., Albert Robbins and Charles S. Briggs.

It was voted that 1½ percent be paid to the collector of taxes for the coming year.

Articles carried included one to authorize the town treasurer to borrow money with the approval of the selectmen, one asking for \$1,400 for the suppression of moths and others seeking \$400 for the maintenance of town roads, \$500 for a free bed at the Cape Cod Hospital and \$300 for expenses connected with the Department of Emergency Relief Administration and Works Progress Administration.

It also was voted that the town treasurer be authorized to pay the dog tax returns from assessments of 1939 to the Brewster Ladies' Library Association for the purchase of books, and that the selectmen control, regulate and prohibit the taking of shellfish within town limits.

The sum of \$500 was voted for the propagation of shellfish in certain flats in the town and \$300 was raised for the maintenance and improvement of town landings and bathing beaches.

meeting

C.C. St. Times  
Mar. 5, 1940.

## Cooperation in Brewster

Brewster voters yesterday appropriated \$1,000 at town meeting to aid in the purchase of the mill property which, it is proposed, will become a town memorial. This was a wise step and was taken only after due consideration and discussion among the townspeople. However, more striking than this action was the fact that before the money was appropriated, friends of the movement already had contributed \$1,200 (which was ~~\$200~~ <sup>what</sup> more than had been sought by public subscription.)\*

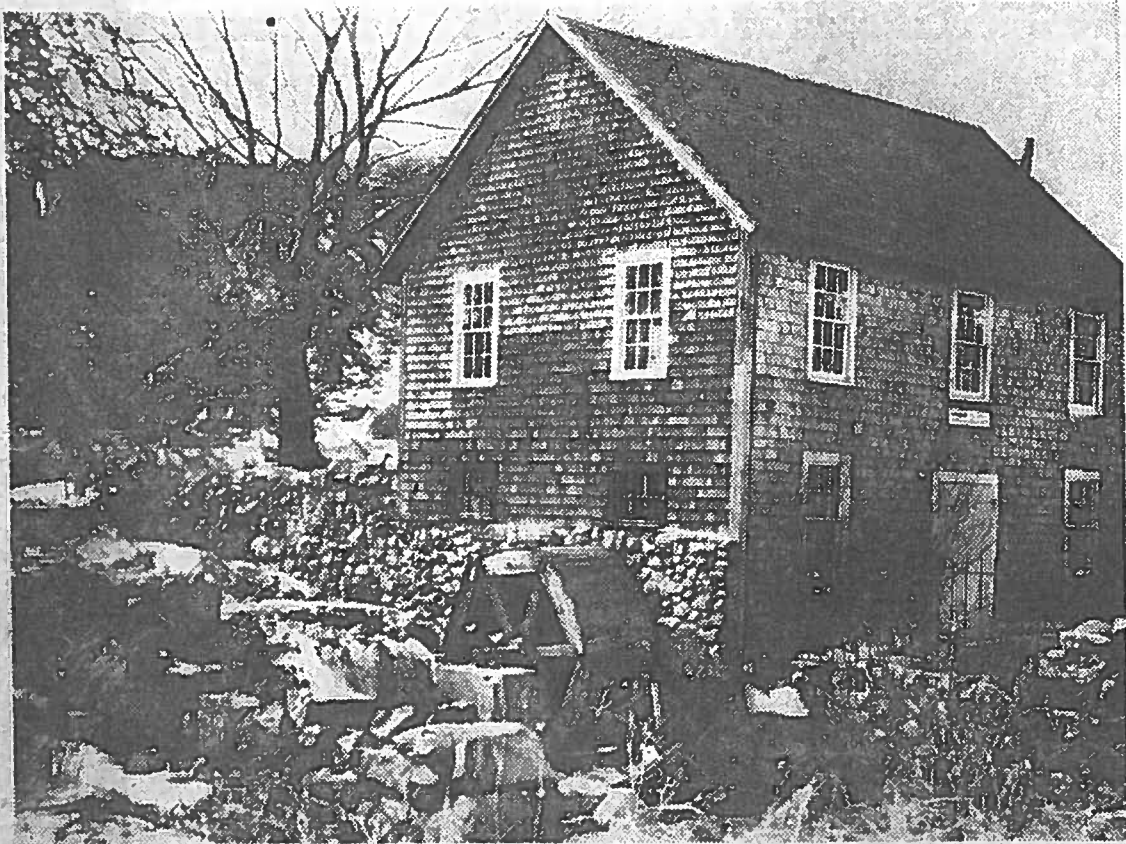
The \$2,200 now available will make the dream of a town memorial come true. The site, said to be that of the first water wheel and woolen factory in this country, should form a major attraction after the proposed improvements have been made.

This will be an asset to Brewster, but it seems to us that the effort to obtain this worthy goal was just as important to the town. It brought into cooperation many organizations and individuals and gave some of them a community sense which is important to the success of any town. Everyone, it appeared, put his shoulder to this wheel to bring back to common ownership an historic place of importance to the whole Cape.



*Boston Traveler, March 7, 1940 →*

BOSTON TRAVELER, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1940



**ANCIENT MILL**, which the citizens of Brewster, on Cape Cod, have voted to buy and preserve. The site is that of the first waterwheel and grist mill in America and the mill is known as the Old Winslow Mill, where Sidney Winslow, founder of the United Shoe Machinery Corp., started in business.

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Accompanying article.

MARCH 7, 1940



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the mill is known  
Shoe Machinery

## Brewster to Restore Site Of Historic Grist Mill

**BREWSTER, March 7**—The town of Brewster has voted the sum of \$1000 and private individuals have contributed \$1200 with which to buy and preserve the Old Winslow Mill, site of the first waterwheel and grist mill in America. The property is now owned by Arthur Hastings of Middleboro and West Harwich.

Now visited by thousands of summer tourists, the old mill was once the center of the town's business activity and the site of the tannery and cobbler shop where Sidney Winslow, founder of the United Shoe Machinery Corporation, started in business.

Intending to set the old waterwheel in motion again, Hastings acquired the property years ago and made extensive repairs. He abandoned the project, however, when cranberry growers complained that the water which should be helping their berries grow was dammed up at the mill.

### TO RESTORE OLD MILL

A plan to purchase and restore the mill for a permanent landmark was recently proposed by the Brewster Board of Trade, and subsequently an article that would provide for the exercise of the plan was inserted in the annual town warrant.

The old mill is in a picturesque setting. Shaded by ancient willows near a turbulent brook that races toward the sea, it is a constant reminder of earliest days of American industry.

The first mill at Stony Brook, according to historians, was built in

1660 after the farmers in this section of the Plymouth colony had petitioned Gov. Prince for a place to grind their corn. Originally a grist mill, it attracted husbandrymen from all sections of the colony. For every bushel of grain they brought to be ground, they gave the miller three quarts for his services. In those days, the mill and the stores that mushroomed around it formed one of the leading business centers of the Plymouth colony. Brewster's first homes were founded in the vicinity.

In charge of the construction of the first mill was Kenelm Winslow, who harnessed the rushing brook waters to give the new world its first water power plant. Freeman Winslow, a direct descendant of Kenelm, later abandoned the old grist mill and established there a cobbler shop, utilizing the water power for the manufacture as well as the repair of shoes.

The shoe factory prospered for many years, and then a younger generation of "industrialists" took over the property and built a knitting factory. It was the first factory in America to manufacture woolen cloth. Materials were brought from distant points by packet boats which plied the water of Cape Cod bay.

Historians record that the old mill finally was destroyed in 1760 by fire. During the latter part of the 18th century the mill was rebuilt and the waterwheel put into action again. Improvements and additions were made from time to time until the rapid growth of industry everywhere with its labor-saving machinery rendered Brewster's old mill impractical. Its water-logged wooden wheel stopped many years ago.

## **Committee Organizes For Brewster Mill**

BREWSTER, March 9—Winthrop N. Crocker was appointed chairman of the permanent committee for the Old Mill at a meeting held yesterday afternoon. Other officers chosen were Seth Sears, treasurer, and Howard Latham, secretary.

The other members of the committee are G. Carlton Clark, Franklin T. Cleverley, Herbert W. Doane and Warren E. Burgess. A. Percie Newcomb was appointed honorary member.

It was decided to adopt the name of Stony Brook Mill Site.

#### COMMITTEE

WINTHROP N. CROCKER, Chairman  
HOWARD C. LATHAM, Secretary  
SETH SEARS, Treasurer  
WARREN E. BURGESS, Realtor  
G. CARLTON CLARK, Selectman  
F. T. CLEVERLEY, Selectman  
H. W. DOANE, Selectman  
A. PERCIE NEWCOMB, Town Clerk



#### THE OLD MILL

An historic site originally owned and developed by Governor Prentice in the late 1600's.

Purchased by the Town of Brewster, with the aid of many generous individuals, by a vote of its annual town meeting held on March 4, 1940.

## STONEY BROOK MILL SITES

BREWSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear

At its annual town meeting held on March 4, 1940, the Town of Brewster voted to appropriate \$1,000 for the purchase of the old grist mill and property adjacent to the brook (sites of many other mills) both north and south of the highway. The purchase was made possible through the generous support of private subscribers who contributed an additional \$1,200.

The above committee was appointed to carry on the work of cleaning up the property and restoring the Mill and the surrounding landscape to its original beauty and charm. In time, it is hoped that the Mill will again be grinding corn; the old spring will be reclaimed; paths and bridges will be made available for all who wish to browse about the stream. Every feature that nature has provided will be preserved in its natural state.

We are proud of our accomplishments to date, but additional funds are necessary to carry out our program. If we can raise a minimum of \$1,000 this spring, much can be done before our Cape season begins.

We should be pleased to add your name to the present list of enthusiastic subscribers. No donation is too small and none is too large. This is a community enterprise that will some day be more than self-supporting. Your support will help us to build for the future.

Anticipating your favorable response, we remain

Gratefully yours,

Howard C. Latham, Secretary

fair estimate to say that the num-  
ber was approximate 2,000.

CA

## **Residents of 29 States Visited Brewster Mill, Report Shows**

**Winthrop Crocker Discloses That 2,000  
Passed Through Stoney Brook Site**

BREWSTER, Nov. 14—Expressing satisfaction in the operation of an exhibit and sale at the Old Mill at Stoney Brook, purchased by the Town of Brewster in town meeting a year ago, Winthrop N. Crocker, committee chairman, today disclosed that residents of 29 States and subjects from the Dominion of Canada registered at the Old Mill during the season.

Many others visited the site, Mr. Crocker declared, placing the approximate estimate of visitors at 2,000. Attendance was highest in July; more persons came on Saturdays in July, but in August and September there were more on Fridays.

Mr. Crocker's complete statement regarding the function of the project in 1940 follows:

"The exhibit was opened to the public Saturday, June 22. That day

there were 78 who signed the register.

"After careful consideration it was decided by the committee that Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 6 p. m. would be the best hours to keep the mill open.

"There was ready response made for articles to be exhibited by the following contributors: Seth Sears, Warren Burgess, Bradford Clark, Ernest Winterhoff, Franklin Cleverley, Percy Newcomb, Jeremiah Clark, Mrs. Edmund Hall, Louis





Miss Mildred Long  
Lester H. Bassett and daughter

Cape Cod  
Waverly  
Cape Cod  
Waverly

Crocker, Mrs. Beulah Doane and Winthrop Crocker.

"The committee chose to confine the sale of articles to those produced in Brewster. The total sales price of all the articles submitted was \$313.

#### Contributors Listed

"Those who contributed were Cape Cod Canning Company, Mrs. Susan Baker, Mrs. Franklin Cleverley, Mrs. Maud Thatcher, Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott, Mrs. Lloyd Ellis, Mrs. Carl Emerson and Arthur Hooper.

"Sixty-seven percent of the total sale of articles was received for food. About 2 percent more sales were made in August than in July. Less than 2 percent of the total sales were made in September.

"The attendance as recorded in the register was highest in August. For July the average was 28 a day; for August, 35, and for September, 10.7.

"In July there were more on Saturdays and in August and September there were more on Fridays. In July there were 20 different states represented and in August, 17. During the season there were 29 different states represented, also Canada and Nova Scotia.

#### 496 From State

"Fifty-eight signed the book from Brewster, 54 from other towns on the Cape and 384 from Massachusetts. Not including these a total of 496 from Massachusetts. There were 72 from other New England states, 234 others east of the Mississippi River, nine west of the Mississippi and five from Canada.

"In addition to those who registered there were many who visited the mill and mill property. It is a fair estimate to say that the number would approximate 2,000.

"Many expressed the pleasure that their visit had afforded them and spoke of the possibilities bound up in the location; its scenic beauty, its water power, and above all its acquisition by the town because of its historic background.

#### Thanks Given

"The appreciation of the committee is extended to Miss Dorothy Newcomb, who not only gave her time caring for the exhibition and sales during the hours of opening, but also for her contribution of art work that was her own creation.

"Thanks are due to Mr. Burgess for the bridges that made the 'Pleasant Walk' possible, and for the loan of the tables for the sales material; to Mr. Sears for so efficiently aiding in the organization for opening, and to all who cooperated so fully in making the first year at the Stoney Brook Mill Sites a pleasing and successful undertaking."

BER 13, 1952

hours when such work can be done at low water. "Detonation will be by the 'propagation method,' he explained. "That is, an explosive cap will be used on only the first charge of dynamite. The others will be set off by the explosion of the first." The holes will be about 1 foot apart and will be 3½ feet deep. They will be made with pipe, the charge of dynamite will be inserted, and then the pipe will be withdrawn.

## ---"Factory Village"

Continued from page 1

the east side of the river prior to 1871," and the shoemaker of West Brewster as Freeman Winslow. Kenelm Winslow is described as a "clothier" and farmer who owned a fulling mill on Sauquatuckett river, with some of his neighbors.

The Indian name of the whole region around Factory Village was Sauquatuckett, shortened to Satucket. Deyo states, "Sauquatuckett river rises in Mill pond, and flows northerly into the bay. This stream has been known by several names besides Sauquatuckett river. It has been called "Stoney Brook," "Satucket River," "Mill Brook" and Winslow's Brook."

## ---Susan A. Baker

Continued from page 1

There were many more homes in the area then, too, and also a post office, school, a mill and two stores. None of these remain today. She could tell of the fast horses owned by Captain Darius which were capable of getting to Dennisport in 45 minutes.

Mrs. Baker had a clear remembrance of the tannery which was a part of the Factory Village at Stony Brook in those days. As a school girl she would run over during lunch hours and watch the tanners at their work. Most of the West Brewster folk had smokehouses for the alewife herring which then, as now, came up the brook in spring. The herring were smoked and cured by using sweet fern which gave the fish a pleasant taste.

Mrs. Baker had a hobby of collecting pitchers and had many hundreds when she died, many of them of great value. During the war, Brewster boys sent her pitchers from all over the world. She was a firm believer in keeping the mind occupied with useful pursuits as a guarantee of fruitful old age, and she was herself a splendid example.

Mrs. Baker raised seven children in West Brewster.

## ---Scuttlebutt

individualist and only adm...  
ocrat in the club

# Abandoned Home Well-Preserved



One of the few abandoned old Cape Cod houses is shown above. It is known as the old Winslow House and is situated in Stage Coach Road, West

Brewster. Although all movable woodwork has been taken away, the main timbers of the building are still in a fine state of preservation.

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## BREWSTER

### The Old Mill on Stony Brook Road

Stony Brook road in the town of Brewster can honestly boast of one of the most attractive bits of natural and historic beauty on the Cape. This is Winslow's mill, long ago fallen into disuse and decay but recently rebuilt and put into operation as a private show place and the pride of Arthur Hastings of New York and West Harwich.

Some years ago Mr Hastings, delving into the byways of the Cape, discovered the old mill nestled down in the valley abutting Stony brook, which flows through some of the prettiest hills in Brewster. He was struck with the natural charm of the runs and the possibilities of the setting. He purchased the property of J. H. Winslow, then the owner and the builder of the mill. For the last two or three years Mr Hastings has spent much of his spare time putting the place in shape.

Two or three small ponds back of the mill site furnish the brook with its flow of water. The stream has been dammed up and sluice ways constructed which lead the water to an overshot water wheel twelve feet in diameter at the north end of the building. Where the water has backed up a beautiful little lake has formed, bordered with elms and on the waters of which sail swans and various waterfowl.

Inside the building are the original mill stones and countershafting erected so the power from the wheel can be coupled direct to any suitable machinery for operating under small power. It is claimed the wheel will deliver about five horsepower.

Across the road and down stream can be found the foundations of other enterprises that formerly existed in that locality. In fact, the oldest inhabitants can recollect five separate mills that once operated from Stony Brook's waters, including a tannery, grist mill, and wood turning shop. Winslow's mill, the last one standing, was used in the cotton spinning industry and as an overall factory.

It is such things as these that make Cape Cod worth visiting. Not all the beauty spots can be seen from the main highways. Many such hidden treasures lie behind the wooded hills and it is by men such as Mr Hastings that these are gradually being brought to light and their beauties and loveliness preserved.

## Brewster's Cooperative Exhibition and Sale

•

Because last year's exhibition at the Stoney Brook Mill was so successful the Committee would like to repeat it this summer.

The thousands of visitors showed an eager interest in the reminders of Brewster's past, on land and sea, which were so generously given or loaned. Many made more than one visit.

So, your Committee, working on the theory, "It's not what we have, but what we share", is asking for your continued support.

If you have any antiques or curios you are willing to loan for the summer or give for a permanent collection, — or something to place on sale, please notify WINTHROP N. CROCKER.

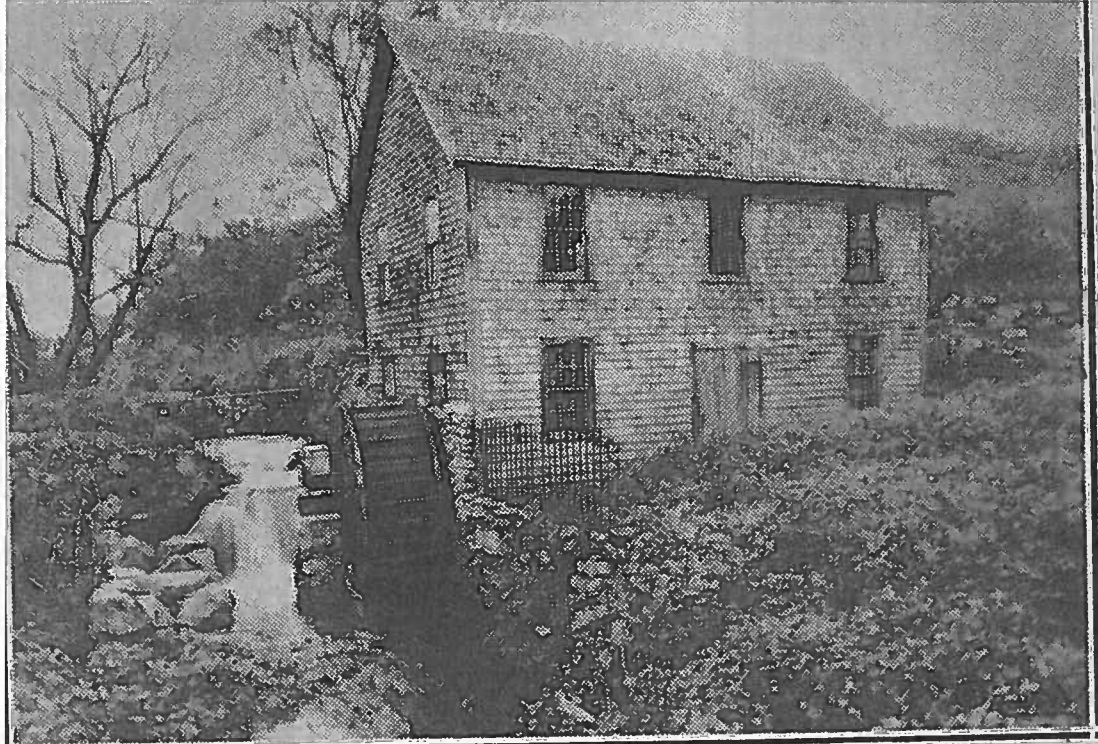
It was found last year that articles priced at fifty cents, or less, sold most readily. Preserves, handiwork, and souvenirs of Cape Cod sold best.

Miss Dorothy Newcomb will be at the Mill again this year to supervise the exhibits and the shop.

Cooperatively yours,

Stoney Brook Mill Sites Committee.





**STONY BROOK MILL, BREWSTER, TO BE TURNED OVER TO TOWN**

\* \* \*

*Standard-Times Cape Cod Bureau*

**BREWSTER, Jan. 28**—Work on the Stony Brook Mill site today neared completion, and plans were being made to pay all bills before the mill is turned over to the town.

Underbrush on either side has been cleared for a distance of several hundred feet to permit easy access to all parts of the grounds. Rustic benches have been erected and seats placed so that many places around the mill stream, formerly inaccessible, now are open. A bubbling spring also has been uncovered by the committee.

The mill committee began improvements last year.

The property will be turned over to the town at the forthcoming town meeting.

The Board of Trade, active in promoting the purchase of the mill, voted recently to co-operate with the mill committee in conjunction with all other organizations of the town in sponsoring a Lincoln's Birthday frolic and supper Feb. 12 at the Town Hall to assist in paying bills for repairs and labor before the town meeting.

The event will be in the nature of a community get-together. The women's organizations will assist in the soliciting of food, the Boy Scout troop will serve as waiters and men's organizations will be in charge of the program.

Tickets for the supper at 6 p. m. are limited to 100. Brewster residents will have preference.

Committees are: Supper, F. T. Cleverley, L. W. Crocker and Osborne Bearse Jr.; decorations, Mr. Bearse and Seth Sears; cards and general games, Frederick Nash; old fashioned dance, Warren E. Burgess; tickets, W. N. Crocker, Mr. Sears, Edward R. Jackson, James MacGregor, Warren Burgess, Nelson Perry, Arthur Taber, L. W. Crocker and Ivan Dugan.

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June 6

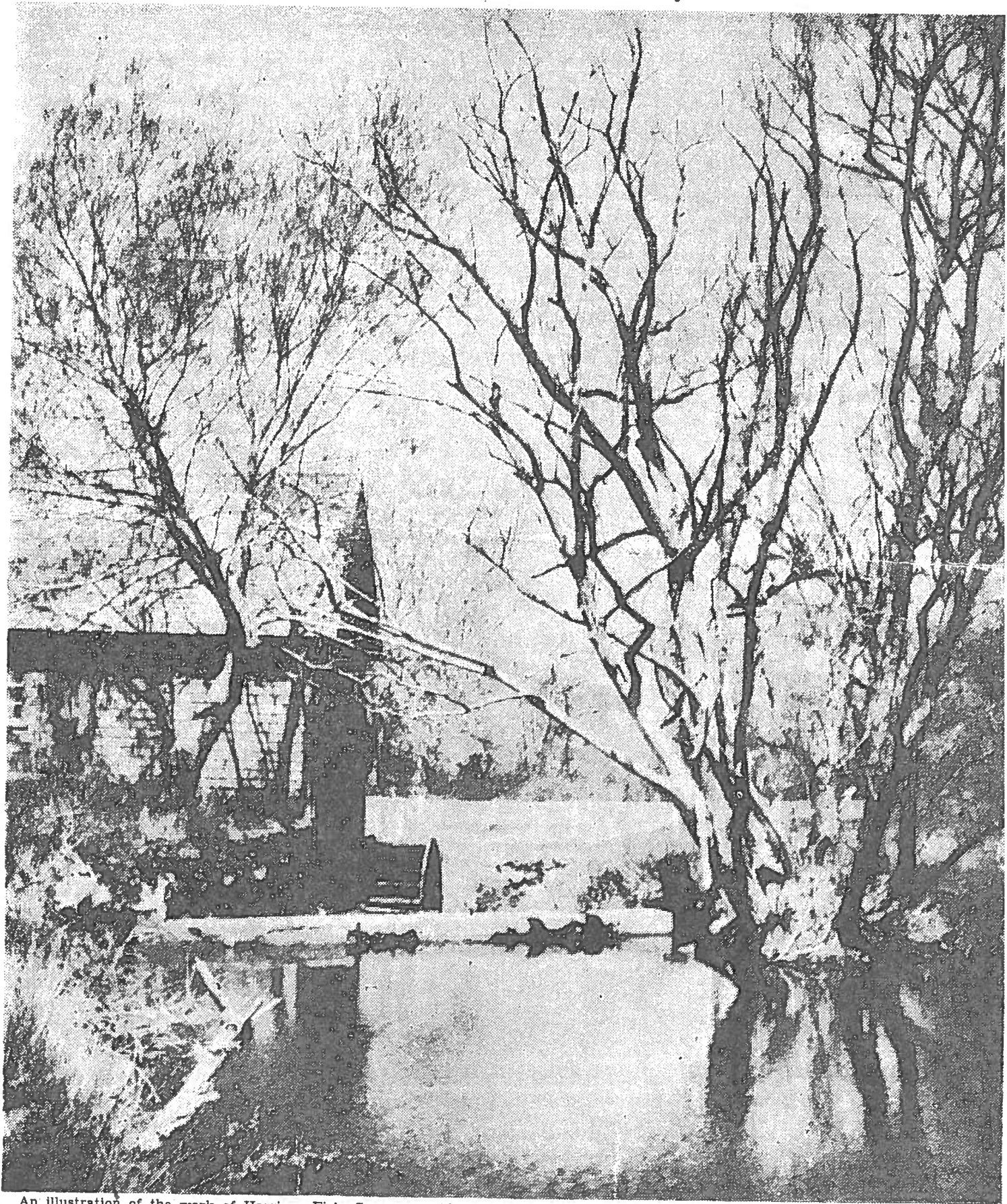
1871

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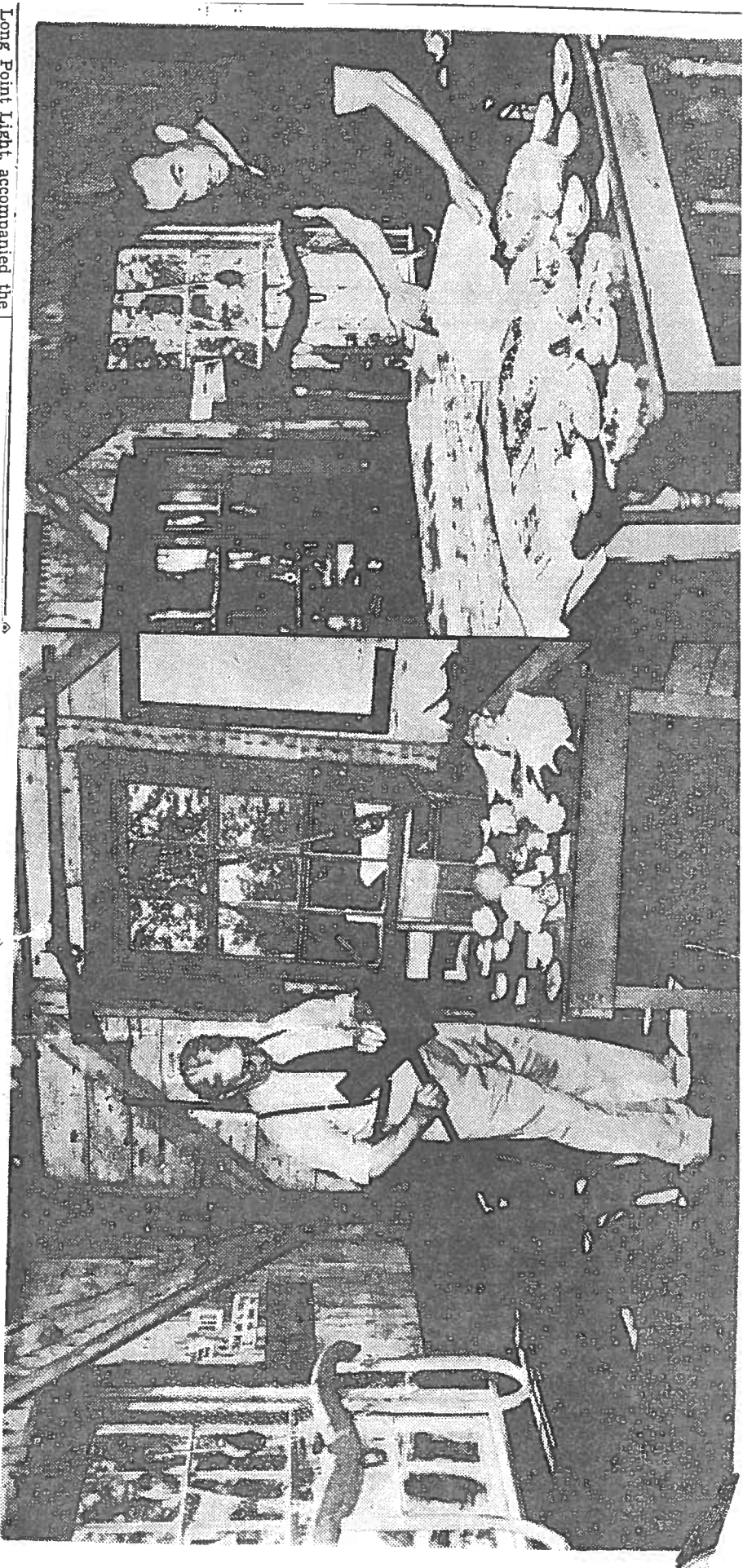
6 MacArthur about  
1/2 mi. in the Old mill

## Work of Miniature Camera, As Done By Harrison Fisk



An illustration of the work of Harrison Fisk, Summer resident of West Dennis, minicam enthusiast and artist, is shown above. It represents the old fuller's mill at Brewster, taken from an unusual angle.





Long Point Light, accompanied the men, whom he identified as Commander Farley and Lieutenant Baromey. He could give no further explanation of the purpose of the visit.

## Tomorrow's Tides

Sandwich  
Canal Entrance  
High, 10.00  
Low, 1.00

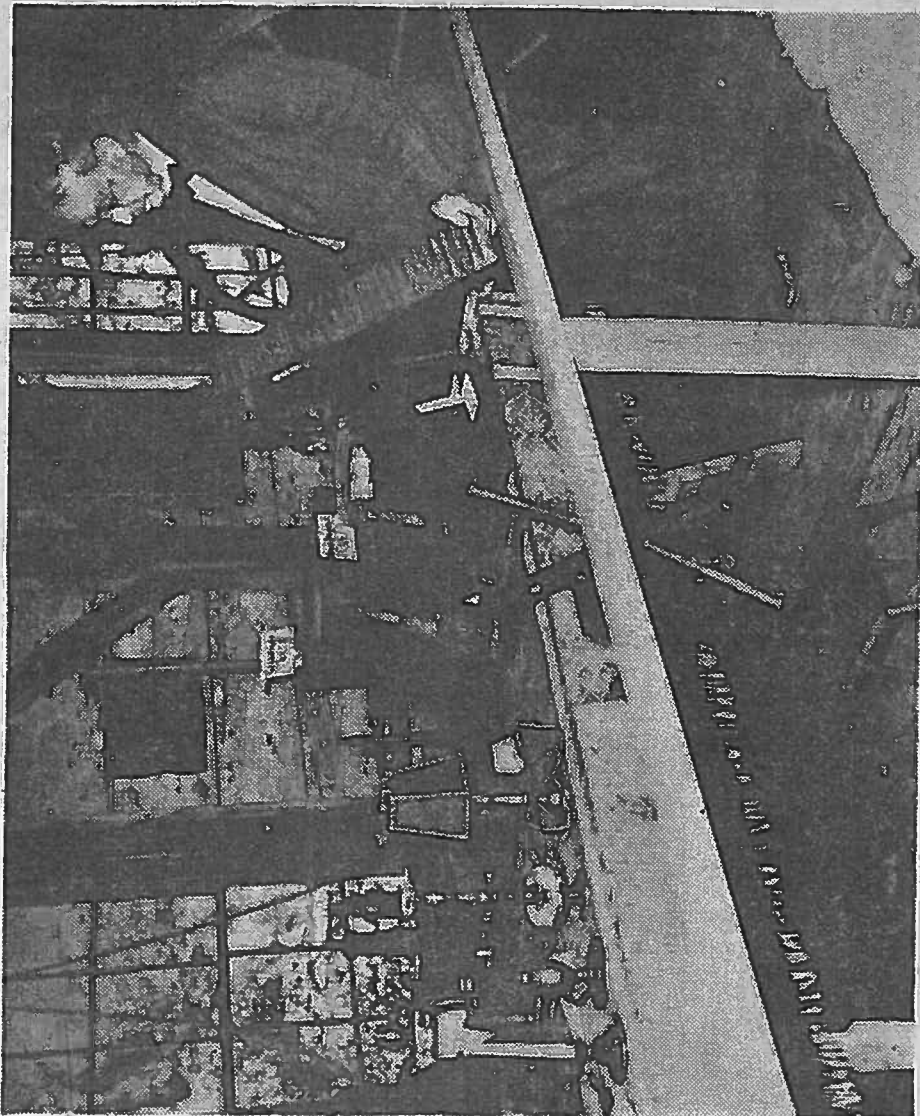
## Matthews Funeral

SOUTH DENNIS, June 21.—Funeral services for Mrs. Bessie W. Matthews were held yesterday in the Congregational Church, the Rev. Malcolm Matheson officiating. Pall bearers were B. F. Sears, Edward E. Crowell, W. C. Kelley and Leon T. Hall. Those at the funeral were Miss Bella Matthews of Haverhill; Mrs.

## Brewster's Committee Views Work At Old Mill

of the Old Mill at Brewster is shown above at left. Winthrop N. Crocker, chairman of the Old Mill Committee, is pictured looking over an old-fashioned corn popper. The handiwork of Cape

Winterhoff of Brewster is shown, at right, examining a few of the articles which include crocheted bedspreads, quilts and novelty shells.



Clothes scrubbers of early Colonial days apparently were not made for the cleaning of delicate fabrics as the one held above by Seth Sears of Brewster would indicate. Mr. Sears is a member

of the Old Mill Committee and is pictured as he examined a few of the antiques placed on exhibition at the Stoney Brook Mill.

## Display Tomorrow at Brewster To Show Cape's Historic Past

BREWSTER, June 21—A page from Cape Cod's historic past is displayed in the form of exhibits being arranged in the old mill on Stoney Brook in this town in preparation for the opening at 1 p. m. tomorrow. Emphasis in the exhibits is being placed on the clipper ship days and antiques in general.

Activities of the first day will conclude at 6 p. m. Thereafter the mill will be open from 1 to 6 p. m. every Friday and Saturday.

Miss Dorothy Newcomb will be in attendance to explain the significance of articles on display and also to sell the handiwork of local craftsmen.

### Cape Lighting Traced

Permanent exhibits in many instances date back to the earliest Colonial days and attract the interest of visitors by the strange contrast they make with modern conveniences.

One display traces the progress of lighting on the Cape. Starting with the simple sea shell filled with fat and a crude wick, the display includes a tallow candle and holder, a whale oil lamp, a kerosene lamp and a modern electric bedroom lamp.

For the connoisseur of dishes there is a glass case of old chinaware brought back to the Cape from the Far East by early captains of the peninsula.

Sea-going exhibits include a sailor's sewing kit and "scrimshaw work" or carving and printing on whalebone.

### Arrowheads Shown

Many Indian arrowheads, dug from the Cape soil, form one complete exhibit. Other Indian domestic and hunting implements are included. A flint knife in the display is estimated to be 6,000 years old.

Windows of the mill are decorated with fish nets and floats, while along the walls are hung whaleboat oars and old muskets, English prints and Colonial lanterns.

A table exhibit of old household articles includes different types of spinning wheels, foot warmers, both coal and oil heated, "pound" and "stir" churns, corn shellers, oil mortars and pestles, boot jack skates and a unique nutmeg grinder. One of the most attention getting articles is an old-fashioned pair of glasses and the accompanying hand-carved wooden case.

Cape-made articles on sale include quilts, bedspreads, dollie handbags, painted shells, bird houses, cabinets and necklaces.

### Letter Is Valuable

One of the most historic and valuable exhibits is the original letter sent to the Selectmen of Brewster demanding that they pay tribute to the commander of the English warships blockading Boston Harbor during the War of 1812. The commander stated that unless the sum was paid the saltworks were to be destroyed. The demand was made "because of the damage done by the American forces on defenseless towns in Canada."

The site of the Old Mill was originally owned and developed by Governor Prentice in the late 1660s. It was purchased by the Town of Brewster, both through a town appropriation and public subscription preceding the annual town meeting March 4 of this year.

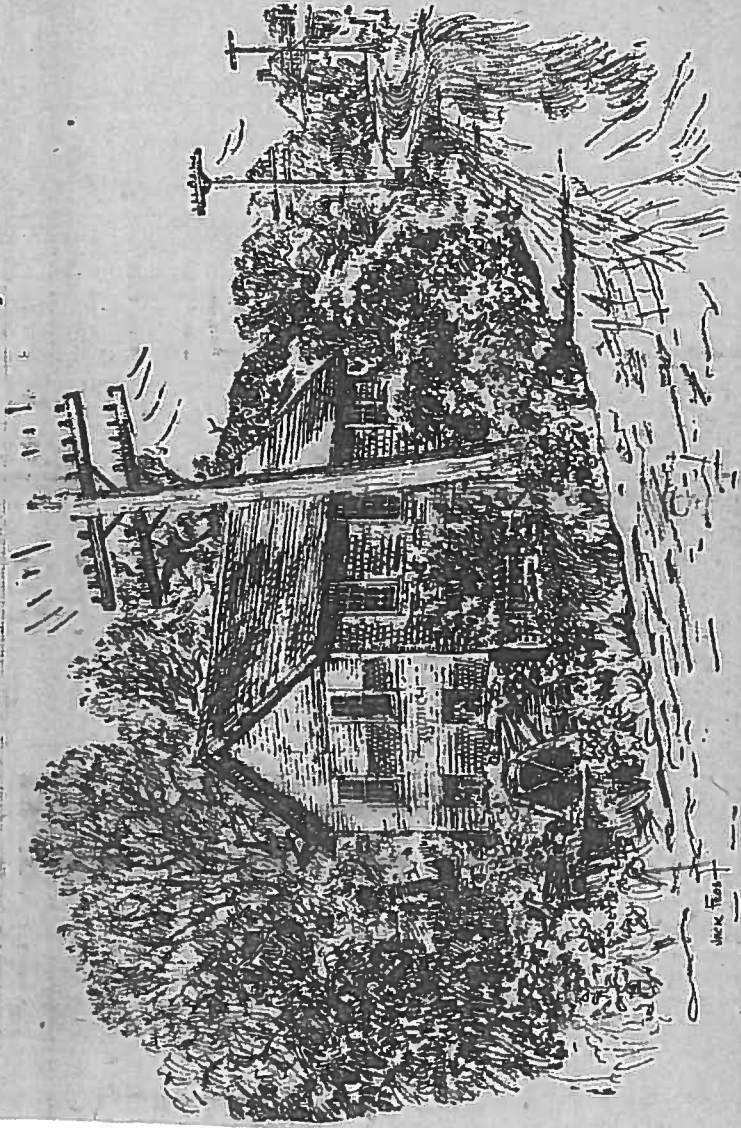
The Old Mill Committee is composed of Winthrop N. Crocker, chairman; Howard C. Latham, secretary; Seth Sears, treasurer; Warren E. Burgess, realtor; G. Carlton Clark, selectman; F. T. Cleverley, selectman; H. W. Doane, selectman and A. Percie Newcomb, town clerk.



DAY, AUGUST 16, 1939

## CAPE COD SKETCHES

by Jack Frost



**AMERICA'S FIRST WOOLEN MILL**—In 1680 homespun was made in a mill on the site of the structure shown above in West Brewster. Today the wheel is motionless, the building just part of a sleepy Cape scene. But once a year when the herring run up Stony brook, the crowds gather and the hum of voices replaces the hum of the ancient spinning wheels.

—ART WORK OBTAINED TODAY WITH THE BOSTON HERALD

Copied from  
Rene's Journal

First Report of Mill Property -  
Stony Brook Mill Sites Committee

Treasurer's Report of  
Receipts and Expenditures.

March 1, 1941.

Received from

Personal Contributions	\$1517.00
Old Store	1.50
Exhibit of Antiques & Sales	42.71
Lincoln Day Get together	161.08
<u>Total Receipts.</u>	<u>\$1722.29</u>

Paid out for

Mill Property	1200.00
Post Cards	10.50
Mill Wheel + Runway	439.34
Insurance on Antiques & Goods	12.75
Clearing Property + Building <sup>for Sale</sup>	42.95
Mill Stone	5.00
Balance on hand in C. C. Frost Co.	\$11.75
	<u>1710.54</u>
	over

Special Unrecorded Gifts

Contribution of Personal Labor.

" " Logs & Lumber

" " Money

Gift of House & Land  
by Mr. Hart.

Seth Seave. Treas.

# The Yarmou

"A MAP OF BUSY LIFE, ITS FLUCTUATIONS"

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH YEAR. NO. 35

YARMOUTH PORT, MASS.

## Tea to Be Held in Cinema Gardens

A Neighborhood tea will be held this (Friday) afternoon for the American Theatre Wing War Service, Gertrude Lawrence Branch. The tea is being given by Miss Lawrence's many friends and neighbors in Dennis at the Cinema gardens from 4 to 6 o'clock.

Everyone attending the tea is asked to bring a book or game for the boys on the outposts where no form of entertainment is provided.

The chairman of the tea is Mrs Ina Bentley Robinson of Boston, assisted by Dr Harriett Hyde of East Dennis, Mrs Minot Hayden of Dennis, Mrs J. Earle Bradey of Waban, Mrs Edward J. Dunn and her daughter Sheila of Dennis and Boston, Mrs Richard Hale and her daughter Joan of Dennis and Brookline, Mrs Edgar Franklin Romig of Dennis and New York city, Mrs Joshua Crowell, Mrs Arthur C. Hill and Mrs Hayden Richardson of Dennis, and Mrs Edmund P. Cassell of Dennis and Providence, R. I.

Order fuel now

## DENNIS POLICE BALL LARGELY ATTENDED

Several hundred persons were present at the second annual ball of the Dennis Police association at Carleton hall Friday night. Among them was Lili Damita of the stage and screen, who came incognito and was not recognized by most of those attending.

Success of the ball was assured by the large attendance and by the fact that about \$600 was realized from the sale of advertising space in the program, according to Chief Lester O'Neil.

Decorations featured blue and yellow balloons hung in clusters from the ceiling lights.

Order fuel now

## SCOUT PRESIDENT RESIGNS

E. Donald Dodge of Harwich Port has offered his resignation as president of the Cape Cod Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Mr Dodge has enlisted in the Naval Reserve with a rating of lieutenant (J. G.), and is stationed at Gallup Island.

Order fuel now

## LYCEUM HALL DANCE TONIGHT

## Club Seeks to Perpetuate Wild Life Preserve

After the summer recess, the Bass River Rod and Gun club has called its first meeting of the fall season for Friday night, Sept. 4, in the Town hall, South Yarmouth.

Action on proposed revisions to the club by-laws will be taken, including a measure which would insure the perpetuation of the new game preserve in Yarmouth as a wild life sanctuary.

The amended law reads in part as follows:

"Be it hereby ordered—that in case the Bass River Rod and Gun Club, Inc, shall at any time cease to function, this area now known as the Wild Life Reservation, and any and all land in this section which has been or may be acquired by the club for purposes heretofore stated, shall be surrendered to the State of Massachusetts, the Federal Government, the Audubon society, the Trustees of Public Reservations or any other organization able to guarantee the preservation of our ideals."

Completion of a dam last spring on the site will provide protection, with the exception of specified areas, to fish, ducks and other birds, deer and other wild life.

Other articles in the revised by-laws provide for the appointment of such standing committees as a fishing committee, game committee, water fowl committee, vermin committee, membership committee and others.

Entertainment at the meeting will be the presentation of a talking picture, "Know the Hawks of America and the Bears of Alaska," by Orrin Steele of the United States Fish and Wildlife department. Refreshments will be served.

Members of the club have been advised that shotgun shells are not yet rationed.

Order fuel now

## NURSING ASSOCIATION

### DRIVE CONTINUES

Miss Mary Mortimer, president of the District Nursing Association of Barnstable, Yarmouth and Dennis, reports that the annual appeal for funds has been "reasonably successful." Miss Mortimer reminded that persons who have not contributed and would like to may do so at the association's office, 347 Main

## Life On Cape Cod

By Marise Fawcett

If you love the old-fashioned way of life, if things early and primitive rouse the poetry in you, if the careful and exquisite pattern of America's past is dear to you—then be sure to visit the Old Mill in Brewster. Take the side road from Route 6 that is marked Old Mill. Follow the narrow winding road for a mile or two until from the crest of a hill you look down into a green hollow. The low, grey shingled building in the heart of it is the mill, restored and put to work again at its time-honored task of grinding corn by the imaginative citizens of Brewster. As you draw near you will hear the sound of rushing water, and glimpse the glint and sheen of it through the leaves—and if it is Friday or Saturday afternoon, you will also hear the monotonous, rhythmic music of water-driven machinery, for on those days the Old Mill is in action.

The thing that most fascinated me was the mill wheel itself. We stood on the narrow footbridge up behind the mill where the placid water of the pond breaks over the lip of the dam and rushes down into the hollow. Part of the water, as it slides over the brink, is not allowed to spend itself in jets of swirling, iridescent foam and froth among the rocks, but passes onto a narrow elevated runway or trough, which carries it over to the mill wheel turning just below it at the other end, on which it descends in smooth, concentrated force sending the big paddles ceaselessly flying. Picking our way along the opposite bank of the stream, we climbed out onto some rocks. Just below the rocky stream gurgled and flowed, and just across, against the side of the mill, the beautiful wheel tirelessly revolved in obedience to the stream descending upon it from the runway above.

It was a wonderful vantage point from which we could almost reach out and touch the spray that the wheel sent flying. I watched transfixed. Motion is an arresting thing, whether it be expressed in the flight of a bird, in the nervous grace of a horse, in the rise and fall of violin bows, in the slow, leisurely descent of snowflakes, or, as I discovered, in the relentless rhythmic

committee of the Town of Yarmouth and the WPA Recreation Project will be held at Lyceum hall, Yarmouth Port, tonight (Friday), from 8:30 to 11:30.

This is a community affair to which all men in uniform as well as civilians are invited. No admission is charged.

#### CORRECTION

Theodore Frothingham of Ship Shops, and not his father, Theodore L. Frothingham, was elected a director of the South Yarmouth Library association at the annual meeting.

# NOW MORE THAN EVER, KEEP YOUR HOME IN GOOD REPAIR

Regardless of cost and without a permit from the Federal Housing Administration, the following building is still permitted:

Completion of any building begun by April 9

Ordinary maintenance or repairs

Reconstruction or restoration of residential property damaged or destroyed in 1942

No permit is required for the following but there is a top limit on cost:

Residential construction, either new, modernizing or remodeling, up to \$500

Farm building (except houses) up to \$1,000

Other restricted construction, including commercial, industrial, recreational, institutional, utility, etc., to cost less than \$5,000 over any 12-month period.

*We will gladly give you further information*

## JOHN HINCKLEY & SON CO.

Yards

Hyannis  
Tel. Hyannis 700

Yarmouth Port  
Tel. Barn. 16-2

under a sheet of water.

But that was not all. There is much more to see. There is the mill itself which anyone but myself would call the piece de resistance. And it is interesting. In a cool, low-ceilinged room with a stone floor the miller grinds his corn. Through a window that looks out over the rushing stream you can see the big turning wheel just outside, and the least mechanically inclined, examining the simple machinery indoors, can readily follow the steps by which the motion of the turning wheel is transmitted to the steadily-moving mill stones that pulverize the corn. You see the miller, the same who worked there as a boy fifty years back before the mill was abandoned, pour in the whole, dried corn, stuff that reminds you of autumn fields when the pheasants are flying, and you see the resulting meal, pure and golden, and scrupulously sifted of all its chaff, pour out into a wooden trough which the miller empties into bags when it is full. And if you visit upstairs you will see an exhibit of things old-fashioned and new—wooden butter churns and lemon squeezers; hand-made milking stools; pewter spoons; old guns; a Civil War cartridge kit; powder horns; bed warmers, and many other arresting things that our grandparents and great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents used—side by side with a display of current products made and sold by the present residents of Brewster.

And when the sunny out-of-doors draws you again you can wander for a delightful hour through beautifully landscaped grounds through which the stream, having done its good work on the wheel, flows briskly away to "other fields and pastures new."

A great deal of credit belongs to the people of Brewster who thought of restoring the Old Mill to a practical, running proposition, and who persevered thereafter in putting the idea through. Antiquity is in itself beautiful, and doubtless, with the best intentions, something authentic was lost when the old was renewed. But when we recollect that our venerable forefathers did not really live and work in a mellowed, mossy environment—that what is delightfully mouldering now was in their day new—even this reservation can be safely dismissed, and we can thank Brewster wholeheartedly for giving the Cape a unique and heartwarming glimpse of the world of yesterday.

Install storm windows, weather-strip-ping, insulation.

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BARNSTAB  
HOUSES FOR

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CLARE

Tel. 65

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# ith Register.

TIONS AND ITS VAST CONCERNS."

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1942

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## Vest Dennis Garden Club Holds Meeting and Show

The West Dennis Garden club held their annual meeting and Flower show at the Public Library Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 18.

The secretary reported the Program committee had been successful in procuring interesting speakers for many of the sessions, which with local talent and the afternoon teas had made an enjoyable year of well attended meetings.

A card party held in the Library, an afternoon silver tea at Mrs. J. E. Fairbank's, and food sales helped finance the expenses of the club. A gift of \$5 was made to the Public Library, and a U. S. War bond was purchased.

Very interesting exhibits were on display at the Flower show, of which Mrs. Howard Vogel and Miss Pauline Hall were joint chairmen. Judges were Dr. Harriett Hyde of East Dennis, Mrs. Frank Moughton of West Harwich and Mrs. Raymond Person of Hyannis.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Miss Marguerite Sheridan  
Vice-president, Mrs. Richard Hall  
Recording secretary, Mrs. W. H. Hepinstall

Corresponding secretary, Miss Bessie Howes

Treasurer, Mrs. J. L. Spiers  
Program committee: Mrs. Bernard M. Sheridan, chairman, Mrs. C. Alton Croell, Miss Cornelia Rodman

Days and Means committee: Mrs. Edward Vogel, chairman, Miss Pauline Hall, Mrs. H. Laurence Baker

Flower committee, Mrs. Rex Horsfield, chairman, Mrs. Wilfred Fuller, Mrs. Thomas Giles, Mrs. George L. Knowles  
Trustees for the Community House: Mrs. Bernard M. Sheridan, 2 years; Mrs. William Christie, 1 year; Mrs. George Wheelock, 3 years.

Order fuel now

## Service Honor Roll Unveiled in Eastham

A roll of honor containing the names of 34 Eastham men in the armed forces in merchant marine was unveiled Sunday on the Eastham Town hall grounds. Mrs. Edwin W. Horton, mother of Edward W. Horton, Jr., staff sergeant who participated in the bombing raid on Tokyo.

## Giffords to Receive on Golden Wedding Day

Mrs. Howard P. Claussen, daughter of Congressman and Mrs. Charles L. Gifford of Cotuit, wishes to announce that they will be at home to their friends on Sunday, September the sixth, from 4 to 6, in recognition of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Order fuel now

## Old Water Mill

### Grinds Corn

The old Stoney Brook mill in Brewster will be in operation on Friday and Saturday of this week, from 1 until 6 p.m., so that visitors may see the actual operation of grinding corn. The meal is then sold in one and five-pound bags. Last week-end some 80 people came to witness the process.

The bags containing the meal bear a brief history of the mill, which once was the center of commercial activity in a thriving settlement.

The burr stones were donated by the Leon W. Hall Lumber company. Operation of the mill is directed by Alonzo Cahoon of North Harwich. Assisting are members of the committee which worked for the restoration of the mill, Seth Sears, H. Bradford Clarke, Winthrop N. Crocker and Warren Burgess.

Order fuel now

## Bridge to Benefit Library

Mrs. Irving K. Taylor of Bass River will open her home on Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 2, at 1:30 o'clock for a dessert-bridge party to benefit the South Yarmouth Library.

Tickets are now on sale. It is announced that there will be a door prize.

Order fuel now

## Dance to Benefit Scout Troop

A dance for benefit of Dennis Boy Scout troop will be sponsored by Quivert Tribe of Red Men at Worden hall, East Dennis, Thursday night, Sept. 3. Ernie Baker's orchestra will play.

Order fuel now

## CAPE HAS FAMOUS VISITORS

Noted visitors from various walks in life have chosen the Cape for their vacation resort this summer. Most recent are the famous operatic star, Lily

## Civilian Defense on Cape Cod

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR WEST YARMOUTH POST

Need for Hyannis residents to serve as "the eyes and ears of the United States Army Air Corps" by volunteering to serve at the aircraft observation post maintained in West Yarmouth by the Barnstable Post of the American Legion was pointed out in a statement issued by Roger W. Allen, chief observer.

Mr. Allen said:

"I want to ask the people here in Hyannis to contribute a couple of hours a week at the observation post that is operated by Barnstable Post, American Legion, in West Yarmouth. To those who so conscientiously and faithfully have answered the call since Dec. 8, 1941, goes my sincere appreciation. This is a very important duty and it has to be carried on 24 hours a day. It has been done every day since the above date."

There will be no first aid practice session this month in the West Yarmouth Community building. The next practice will be held in September.

### THROW YOUR SCRAP INTO THE FIGHT!

There is an urgent and continued need for every pound of scrap material that can be salvaged throughout the country.

Here on the Cape we are appealing especially to our summer residents to search their attics and cellars, store rooms and barns thoroughly for every particle of salvageable scrap, now, before they close their Cape homes and return to the city.

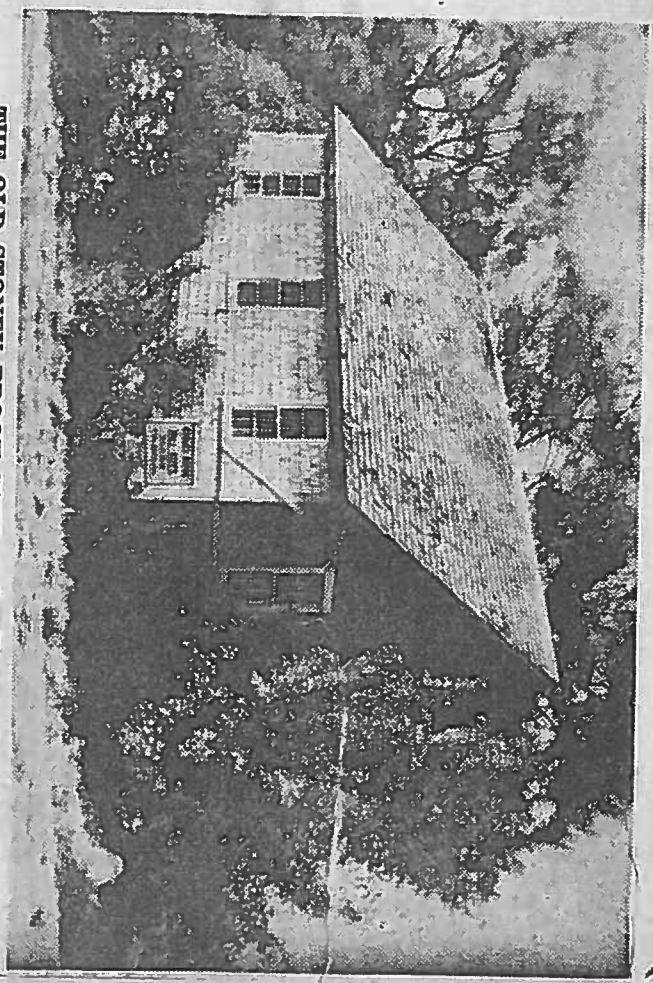
Scrap materials vitally needed in the war effort are scrap iron and steel, rubber, copper, brass, aluminum, zinc, lead, rags, manila rope and burlap bags.

Old lawn mowers, broken golf clubs, pieces of pipe, discarded plows, worn-out washing machines and vacuum cleaners and old electric cords and broken bulbs are cited among salvageable materials.

A phone call to your junk dealer or to the chairman of the Salvage committee in your town will assure the collection of your scrap.



IT WAS ONCE A "SPITE HOUSE," but now the Sandwich Historical Society uses the above building to display its collection of old Sandwich glass.



THE OLD STONEY BROOK MILL and Mill Sites have been turned over to the Brewster Historical Society for use as a museum and also as a valuable relic of days when Brewster was noted for its grain and wool mill.

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## Sears Letter Provides Useful Background On Factory Village

Miss  
M

The following account of the early history of Cape Cod, and of Factory Village at Stoney Brook in West Brewster, is taken from a letter written by Seth Sears of Brewster, on January 28, 1941. Mr. Sears was then Treasurer of the Stoney Brook Mill Sites Committee, formed when the Town of Brewster, on March 4, 1940 at an annual Town Meeting, voted to appropriate \$1,000 for the purchase of the old grist mill and adjacent property. The purchase of the property and its preservation and restoration as an invaluable historic site was made possible through the support of private subscribers who contributed an additional \$1,200.

Other members of the committee were Winthrop N. Crocker, Chairman, Howard C. Latham, Secretary, Selectmen G. Carlton Clark, F. T. Cleverley, H. W. Doane, Town Clerk A. Percie Newcomb and the late Warren E. Burgess, realtor. The proposal has recently been made to the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce that a large-scale and detailed restoration be made of the site. The information and the personal recollections of Mr. Sears, who is now in his ninety-second year should prove of value to those interested in such a project.

"... By the end of 1600, most of the Cape was set off into large townships. Then as the residents increased, during 1700 and early 1800, several of the townships were divided—as Harwich was set off from Yarmouth; later, Dennis was set off from Yarmouth, and in 1803, Brewster (before known as the North Parish) was set off from Harwich.

### Other Than Wind

"While the 'pilgrims' lived in Holland, if not before, they learned the use of the Dutch windmills. To meet their need of grinding corn, sawing timber, etc., these windmills were gradually built as needed throughout the Cape. In their construction, no doubt but that logs were used at first, as they were in building houses, but after a few years, hewn and sawed lumber was used. All log structures disappeared years ago; but a few old houses remain, whose timbers consist of roughly hewn logs, taken from our local forests.

"Shortly after 1650, Governor Prentice of Plymouth, while still governor, moved to Eastham. He, with others, moved there because the exceptionally level land (for the Cape) was particularly good for farming. He saw the need for a grist-mill which was not dependent on the wind. He found the most available stream with sufficient current in part of its course to turn water wheels. He must have seen such mills in England.

"This stream was in Brewster, then a part of Harwich.

"The governor induced Kenelm Winslow, who lived near, to purchase the 'water rights' and bordering land and erect the first water-power grist mill in this part of the country—probably in 1660.

### Many Names

"Imagine, if you can, this mill—the only building in the valley, with only two or three houses on the higher land nearby. There you have the beginning of Winslow Mills, or Sackett Mills, or Stoney Brook Mills, or Brewster Mills or Factory Village. Each of these names was commonly used during the next 200 years and more. As far as is known, the original mill was kept in repair for over 200 years and was in the Winslow family all this time, during which other mills were added.

# Sears Letter, Cont.

"The grist-mill probably ground some corn for the Indians; but the food prepared by them did not require finely ground meal. 'Succotash,' an Indian dish of corn and beans, cooked together, is still a tempting food for many Cape Codders.

"The next Kenelm (this name was passed down from father to son for several generations) was a cloth-dresser, or fuller of cloth, which was then woven by every housewife in her home. This Kenelm, on the death of his father in 1714, seems to have carried on the double business of miller and fuller, no doubt with the help of others. The next Kenelm continued his father's business and enlarged it by erecting a 'Fulling Mill.' The foundation stones of that mill, which burned some years later, still show. William, one of the sons of the third Kenelm, became a tanner and built the 'Tannery' about 1830.

## Woolen Mill

"In the meantime, (date unknown) the first power woolen mill was built at the left of the fulling mill. This woolen mill is considered to be the first in the country, although Rhode Island has also claimed this distinction. With a post-office, a livery stable, etc., and additional dwelling houses (some of which have been removed) 'Winslow Mills' became, generation by generation a very busy locality—the most so on Cape Cod.

"As a boy of eight to ten years old (1870) I well remember that my father (in the adjoining village of East Dennis, two miles to the west) would send me with a load of corn, partly grown on the Cape but mostly shipped from the west, to be ground at the Brewster grist-mill. I would guide the horse over the road, then sandy, now fine asphalt, and on reaching the mill, the old miller would lead the team down to the mill and unload the grain. Meanwhile, I watched the meal pour out from between the mill-stones. On, I would go to the adjacent tannery and stand up on my toes to look into the large vats in which the hides and skins were soaking in the hemlock mixture. It was all most fascinating to me as a youngster. If I arrived at the mill before the miller, who lived in the large house on top of the hill at the right, I would soon see him plodding down the stone steps.

## Competition Looms

"As larger textile mills were built in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, the smaller mills could not compete with them; so when the fulling-mill and woolen mill were burned (date unknown) they were not rebuilt; but the grist-mill and tannery continued in business until they were also burned on June 6, 1871.

"Freeman Winslow, born in 1791 and died in 1863, was a Brewster cobbler in a small shop ½ mile from the mills. His sons and grandsons, engaged in the shoe business and became the organizers and developers of the great United Shoe Machinery Company.

"There was enough need for a grist-mill, after it burned in 1871, to induce a younger Winslow to purchase the 'water rights' from his Uncle William, the tanner, and to erect the mill now on the old fulling-mill foundations. Owing to lack of business this mill has been idle since 1900."

It is this last mentioned mill which is now visited each summer by thousands of tourists. Of all the rest of the past glories of Factory Village,

May 21, 1873, Book 112, Page 258-

William Winslow conveyed by warranty deed for \$400. to Thomas D. Sears and J. Howard Winslow in joint and equal parts, "all my right, title and interest, the same being 13/16th of Factory & Grist Mill privilege in Stoney Brook or Mill Creek, so called, in said Town of Brewster, together with all the privileges heretofore belonging to said Factory & Grist Mill, excepting a small store lot which I have heretofore conveyed to Adolphus McLoud; and also the use & privilege for Alewife Fishery."

Jan. 18, 1882, Thomas D. Sears conveyed to J. Howard Winslow for \$800. "one moiety or half part of 13-16th of Factory & Mill privilege in Stoney Brook or Mill Creek, so called, in said Town of Brewster (now owned in common with said Winslow), together with all the privileges heretofore belonging to said Factory & Grist Mill, excepting a small store lot which was heretofore conveyed to Rodolphus McLoud by William Winslow, and also the privilege for alewife fishery. Also one moiety or half part of a grist mill now standing on the above described premises, which is owned in common with the said J. Howard Winslow, with all fixtures thereto belonging." Book 152, Page 65.

## EARLY INDUSTRIES OF BREWSTER

A paper written by Miss Alice Sears, (now Mrs George Douglas of Bourne) on the early industries of Brewster has come to our attention and because of its historical value we print below the article in full. Mrs Douglas' paper was read at a meeting of Brewster grange just 25 years ago.

In writing of the industries of Brewster I have taken just those which are entirely of the past and mostly given up a number of years ago. Some of these flourished for some time, bringing large sums of money into the town; others were mere experiments. Most of those dependent on machinery were killed out by outside competition,—the introduction of more modern machinery in contrast to their slow moving arrangements. The wars also had their effects on these early industries.

The manufacture of salt was one of the important industries. At one time there were between sixty and seventy thousand feet of works in the town. The salt water was pumped into vats and left until evaporation had taken place and the salt remained. Those who carried on this work owned or had shares in sloops which took the salt to Wellfleet or Provincetown, where it was sold. I have been told that in the early days of this trade the price was so high that when unloading the salt they kept tally by passing up a bushel of salt and receiving a silver dollar in return. There were salt works along the shore from Quivet creek for some distance, also in the eastern part of the town.

At one time the whale fishery was important. The merchants of the town fitted out these vessels with good profit and the owners made large sums in the business. The Revolutionary war damaged this trade and it was finally given up.

and the owners made large sums in the business. The Revolutionary war damaged this trade and it was finally given up.

Some vessels were employed in the cod and mackerel fishery, and after awhile that too was discontinued.

There was a line of packets which ran between Boston and Brewster. These carried both passengers and freight. They landed at the breakwater.

West Brewster, at one time known as Brewster Mills or Factory Village, seems to have been the center of industry, containing mills on account of the available waterpower. (The first grist mill on the river there was built before 1662 for the benefit of some of the Eastham settlers who brought their grists here. It is not positively known who the first miller was, but John Wing, one of the earliest settlers of the town, is believed to have been one of the first. It very early passed into the hands of the Winslows, who owned and operated it until it was sold to Stony Brook Cranberry company, a period of over two hundred years.) A tide mill built near the mouth of the stream was not used long. There were also grist mills at South and East Brewster—the old mills still standing.

Near the first grist mill on Stony brook a fulling mill was built at an early date. In 1760 a fulling mill was burned with a loss of one thousand pounds worth of cloth which had been left there by persons in different parts of the country.

In 1814 a company started a woolen factory in connection with the fulling mill on Stony brook. This was operated several years but as it did not prove successful a cotton factory was started in its place. After several years this was given up and wool carding was carried on there.

Paper making was tried there for a time. This they made from beach grass, making a coarse brown wrapping paper. But the experiment was not a success.

There were cabinet makers in various parts of the town—some doing fine work on house furnishings or making a coffin if an occasion required.

There were shoemakers taking the leather from the tannery and making the shoes to order.

There was a marble worker at the

place where the present Woodworth residence stands.

Not far from the grist mill on Stony brook a tannery was operated for a number of years. There was also a tannery in the vicinity of the present Keith residence and one near the spring across the road from the house owned by Dr Rowe. This was owned by Mr Freeman Foster. It was here that Mr Weatherbee came to work for him and lived in the old Goss house nearby. He at one time had charge of the toll, being near the bridge over which the traffic passed going and coming on the packet.

Raising silk worms was tried, Mr Pratt sending for the mulberry trees, many of which now remain. This business, however, did not prove a success.

Jolly, the Indian, made baskets, also wooden churns and buckets. His home was in the woods in the southern part of the town.

Women went from house to house spinning and weaving. They wove the homespun material for clothing. They also wove shoulder blankets and blankets for bed covering and the heavy coverlets now considered so valuable.

A comparatively recent industry was that of the knitting factory started by Albert Robbins in that part of the town now called North Brewster. As business increased a building was erected for the purpose and forty girls were employed at one time. They knit mittens and for a time overalls were made in the same building.

I have not exhausted this subject of former industries, but have touched on some of the principal ones with which the people of Brewster busied themselves and by means of which they earned for themselves comfortable homes and the support of their families.



# "Factory Village" Then and Now - West Brewster Was Busy C

According to Simeon L. Deyo's, "History of Barnstable County," published in 1890, Factory Village, as the area in and around Stony Brook was designated, was once a thriving place of considerable importance. Deyo's account states, "The first grist mill built on the river, stood near the spot where the present one stands. It was built through the efforts of Governor Thomas Prentice before 1662, for the benefit of the Eastham settlers who brought their grists there.

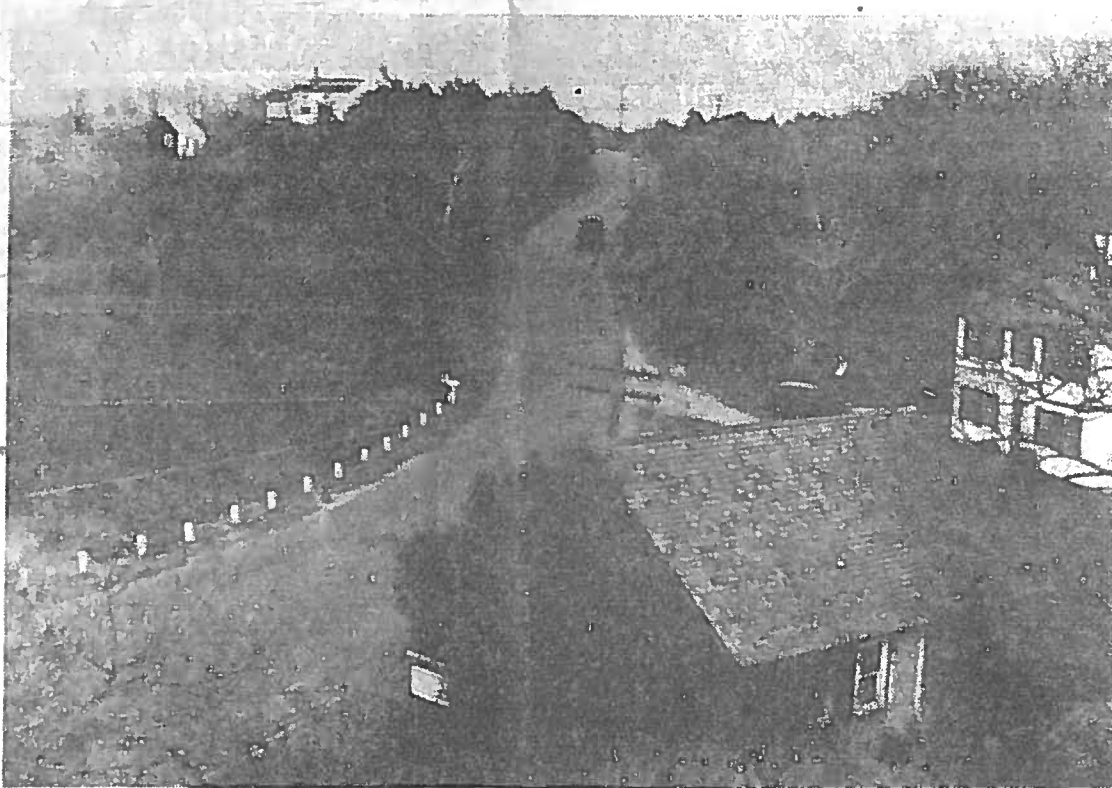
"Who the first miller was, is not positively known, but there is some evidence that John Wing was among the first. The records of Eastham show that Mr. Freeman was asked to agree with John Wing for the building of a chimney adjoining the mill. The mill finally passed into the possession of the Clarkes, Grays and Winslows.

"Very near the grist mill, a fulling mill was erected at an early date. It passed into the hands of Kenelm Winslow, was burnt here on the night of February 24, 1760, consuming, it was estimated, one thousand pounds worth of cloth which had been left there by persons living in various parts of the county.

"In 1814, a company, consisting of Kenelm, Isaac, Nathaniel, Abraham, Nathan, Josiah, Joseph and John Winslow, started a woolen factory in connection with the fulling mill upon Stony Brook, which was in operation several years; but not proving successful, a cotton factory was started in its stead, and after several years of trial, the manufacture of cotton goods was given up and wool carding and paper making were engaged in. The site of these factories is now marked by the grist mill, erected a few years since by Bartlett Winslow and T. D. Sears, and now owned by J. Howard Winslow. The fulling mill, in connection with the woolen factory, was for awhile in charge of Josiah Wilder, afterwards of Truro, whilst the grist mill was in charge of Heman Winslow.

"The Clarkes and Wings had a tide mill on the river near the house of T. D. Sears, which was not long in operation. The erection of this mill was about the middle of the last century (Ed. note 1750.) Many of these mills were erected about that period, in various parts of the county."

Further pages of the history identify William Winslow, who "carried on the tanning and currying business on  
Turn to back page



The two photographs above, one taken this week and one taken more than 75 years ago, show the Stony Brook Mill site in West Brewster, the subject of recent discussions regarding its possibility as a historical site. To the left of the road can be seen, in the old photograph, the woolen mill tannery. On the hill above are the home and outbuildings of J. Howard Winslow. To the right (in the upper right hand corner, can be seen the home of the miller, Jesse (or Jeremiah) Eldridge, now of the Gage family. In the center, right, is the home of Mrs. Clarissa Perry, mother of Captain F. This house, whose foundations may still be seen, was destroyed by fire during a gale in 1898, despite the efforts of townsmen who formed a bucket brigade from the brook. The larger house beside it, once the residence of Joseph MacCloud and now the Dana Condit home, was saved by draping wet quilts on its east side of the roof.

★ 99c. Special Luncheon  
and

★ 25c. Hamburger at

**Eliot's Snack Bar**  
ORLEANS



# "Village" Then and Now West Brewster Was Busy Center

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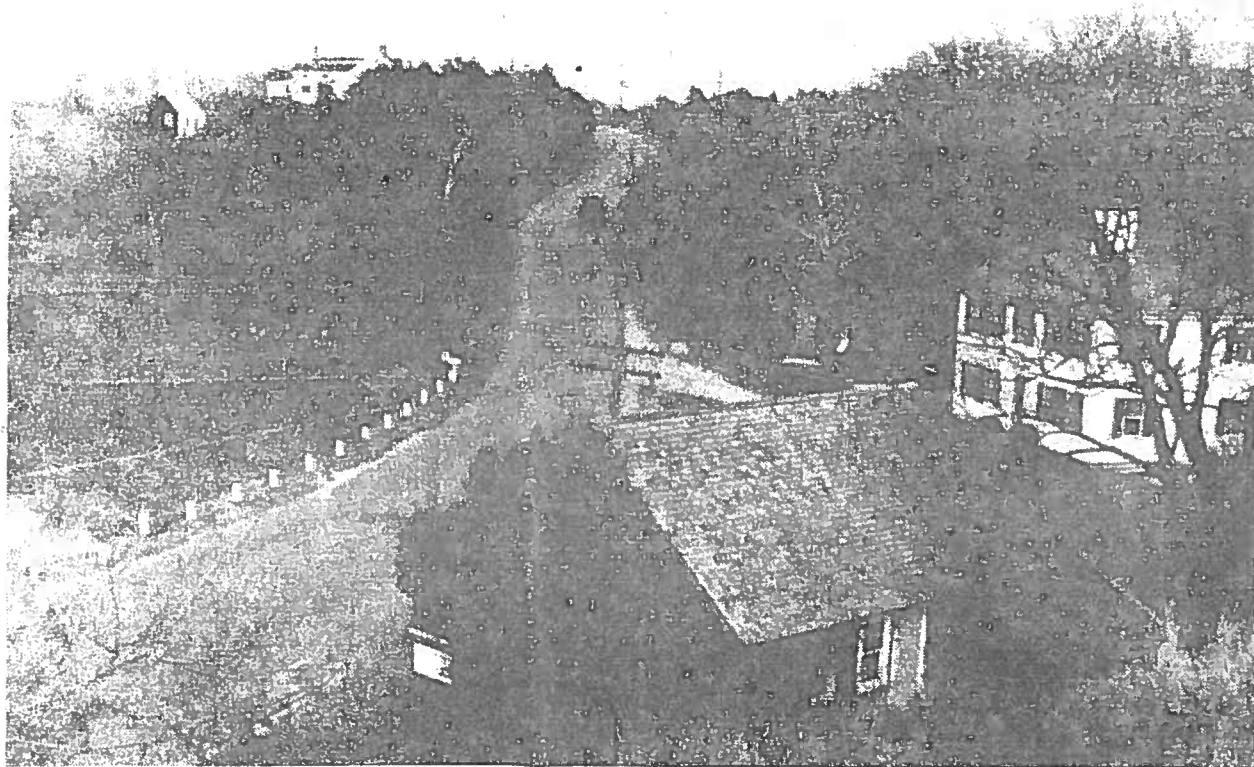
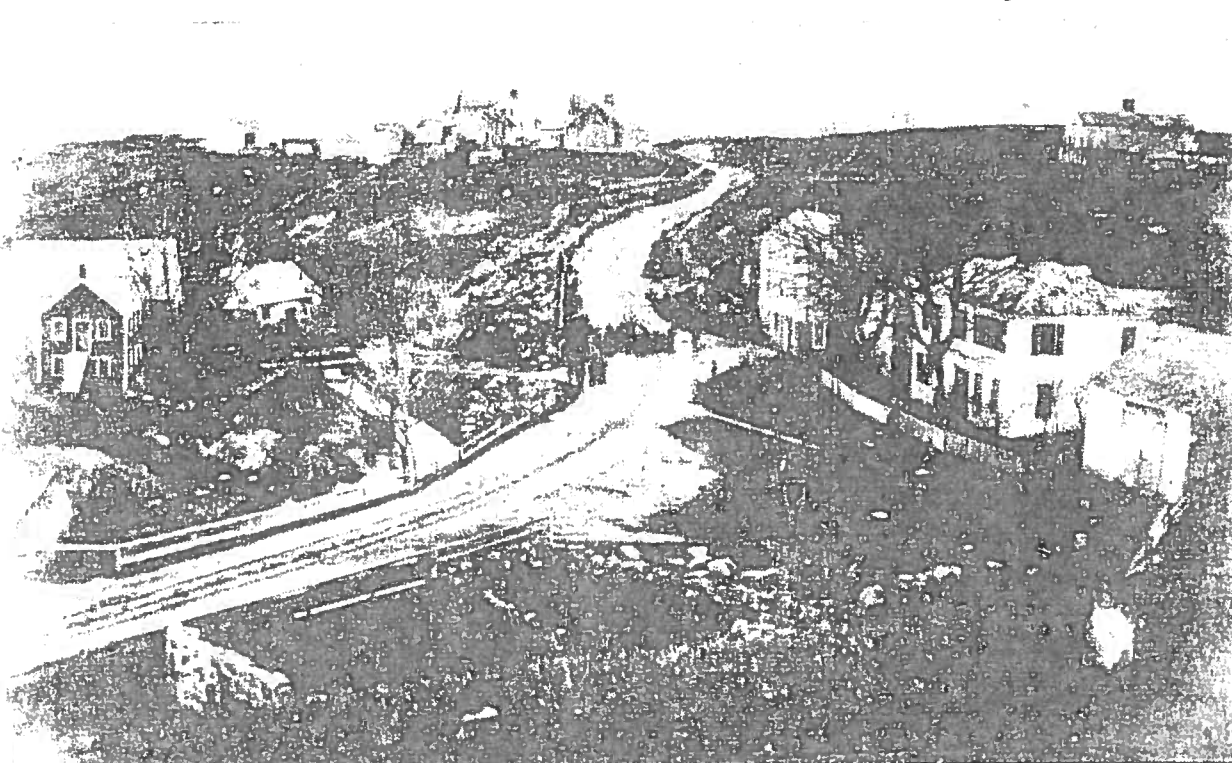
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The two photographs above, one taken this week and one taken more than 75 years ago, show a view of the Stony Brook Mill site in West Brewster, the subject of recent discussions regarding its possible restoration as a historical site. To the left of the road can be seen, in the old photograph, the woolen mill and the tannery. On the hill above are the home and outbuildings of J. Howard Winslow. To the right of the road, in the upper right hand corner, can be seen the home of the miller, Jesse (or Jeremiah) Eldridge, now the home of the Gage family. In the center, right, is the home of Mrs. Clarissa Perry, mother of Captain F. H. Perry. This house, who foundations may still be seen, was destroyed by fire during a gale in 1898, despite the efforts of townsmen who formed a bucket brigade from the brook. The larger house beside it, once the residence of Joseph MacCloud and now the Dana Condit home, was saved by draping wet quilts on its east side and on the roof.

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Brewster, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, January 28, 1941

As I promised you in my previous note, I am pleased to give you more detailed information concerning the Cape in general and the Brewster Mill property in particular.

As you probably know, the first permanent settlers in this section of our country,--the pilgrims, so called,--first landed at the end of Cape Cod in December, 1620; but after exploring the coast line and the adjacent land for 60 to 75 miles, they selected a small bay and better farm land for their permanent settlement,--naming it Plymouth.

As others came over, they continued to land at Plymouth for many years; but it is surprising how soon they began to spread out singly or in small groups in all directions, so that it was not many years before there were scattered settlements even to the end of Cape Cod, and mostly within one, two, or three miles of the coast. By the end of 1600, most of the Cape was set off into large townships. Then as the residents increased, during 1700 and early 1800, several of the townships were divided,--as Harwich was set off from Yarmouth; later, Dennis was set off from Yarmouth, and in 1803, Brewster (before known as the North Parish) was set off from Harwich.

While the "pilgrims" lived in Holland, if not before, they learned the use of the Dutch windmills. To meet their need of grinding corn, sawing timber, etc., these windmills were gradually built as needed throughout the Cape.

In their construction, no doubt but that logs were used at first, as they were in building houses, but after a few years, hewn and sawed lumber were used. All log structures disappeared years ago; but a few old houses remain, whose timbers consist of roughly hewn logs, taken from our local forests.

Shortly after 1650, Governor Prince of Plymouth, while still governor, moved to Eastham. (All the Cape was a part of the Plymouth Colony; while the settlements around Boston (settled in 1630) formed the Massachusetts Bay Colony. These two united about 1700).

Governor Prince with others moved to Eastham because the exceptionally level land (for the Cape) here was particularly good for farming. He saw the need of a grist-mill, which was not dependent upon the wind. He found the most available stream with sufficient current in part of its course to turn water wheels. He must have seen such mills in England.

This stream was in Brewster (then a part of Harwich).

The governor induced Kenelm Winslow, who lived near, to purchase the "water rights" and bordering land and erect the first water-power grist mill in this part of the country,-- probably in 1660.

Imagine, if you can, this mill! as the only building in the valley with only two or three houses on the higher land near, and you have the beginning of Winslow Mills, or Satucket (Indian Name) Mills, or Stoney Brook Mills, or Brewster Mills,

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or Factory Village. Each of these names was commonly used during the next 200 years and more.

As far as is known, the picture represents the original mill which was kept in repair for over 200 years, and which was in the Winslow family from generation to generation all this time,--during which the other mills were added.

The grist-mill, no doubt, did grind some corn for the Indians; but the food prepared by them did not require finely ground meal. "Succotash", an Indian "dish" of corn and beans cooked together, is still a tempting food for many Cape Codders.

You ask if there were any fights with the Indians in the Vicinity. No. The Indians on the Cape were generally well treated, their land and corn were paid for, and outside of some minor misunderstandings, the two peoples got along well.

You may have read that when the Pilgrims first landed at the end of the Cape and began to explore, they found some corn which they took back to the Mayflower before it sailed to "Plymouth" bay. This action naturally displeased the Indians and made them suspicious of the new-comers. Some months, later, however, this corn was paid for, and friendly relations followed. Massassoit, the chief of the Cape Indians, never, I believe, broke his peaceful relations.

Most of the serious trouble in South-eastern Massachusetts, (not on the Cape) was caused by a company of lawless men who settled, while they lived, between Plymouth and Boston. Even the Plymouth settlers were mistreated by them.

Now to return to the development of Winslow Mills.

The next Kenelm (This name was passed down from father to son for several generations) was a cloth-dresser, or fuller of cloth, which was then woven by every housewife in her house.

4

This Kenelm, on the death of his father in 1714, seems to have carried on the double business of miller and fuller, no doubt, with the help of others.

The next Kenelm continued his father's business and enlarged it by erecting a "Fulling Mill" (at 2 on post card). The stones are the foundation of this mill when it burned some years later.

William, one of the sons of the above, became a tanner, and built the "Tannery" at 3, about 1830.

In the meantime, (date unknown) the first power woolen mill was built at the left of two (2),--the foundations cannot be seen. This woolen mill is considered to be the first in the country, although Rhode Island also claimed this distinction.

With a post-office, a livery-stable, etc., and additional dwelling houses, (some of which have been removed) "Winslow Mills" became, generation by generation a very busy locality,--the most so on Cape Cod.

As a boy of eight to ten years (1870) I well remember that my father (in the adjoining village of East Dennis, two miles to the west) would send me with a load of corn (partly grown on the Cape, but mostly by that time, from the west) to be ~~grown~~ <sup>ground</sup> at the Brewster grist-mill.

For even then, there was considerable demand for meal, as every family had a horse, a pig, or more, and a flock of hens.

I would guide the horse over the road,--then sandy, now fine concrete,--and on reaching the mill, the old miller would lead the team down to the mill and unload the grain, while I watched the meal pour out from between the mill-stones, or I would go into the adjacent tannery, and stand up on my toes to look into the large vats in which the hides and skins were

3

soaking in the hemlock mixture. It was all most fascinating to me as a youngster.

If I arrived at the mill before the miller who lived in the large house on card B, at the top of the hill, on the right, I would soon see him plodding down the stone steps at 4 (card B).

As larger textile mills (woolen, and later cotton) were built with the passing years in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, the smaller mills could not compete with them; so when the fulling-mill and woolen mill were burned (date unknown) they were not rebuilt; but the grist-mill and tannery continued in business until they were also burned--June 6, 1871.

Before and even after 1860-1870, every village had its cobbler or two for repairing boots and shoes; and during the years previous, they made the village foot-wear. This made a demand for leather which the tannery supplied, and this made a local (Cape) market for hides and skins,--for all meats came from local butcher shops.

Then the western competition in beef and the growth of shoe factories in the east and west put the local slaughter houses and nearly all cobblers out of business, so the tannery was not rebuilt.

May I make two digressions here?

The founder of the great Swift Company of Chicago, and elsewhere, learned the rudiments of his successful career in a small meat shop in Yarmouth.

Freeman Winslow, (born in 1791 and died in 1863) was a Brewster cobbler in a small shop 1/8 mile from the mills. His sons and grandsons engaged in the shoe business and became the organizers and developers of the great United Shoe Machinery company.

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There was, however, still enough need of a grist-mill, after it burned in 1871, to induce a younger Winslow to purchase the "water-rights" from his Uncle William, the tanner, and to erect the mill now on the old fulling mill foundations at 2 (see front cover of pamphlet and colored post-card sent to you previously) in 1873.

Owing to lack of business, this mill has been idle for several years since 1900.

Last year, a group of citizens decided that the mill really was too rich in colonial history and too interesting to visitors to the Cape, to allow the seventy-year old mill to decay.

A finance committee was appointed and sufficient funds were secured from private contributions and an appropriation by the town to purchase the entire mill property, including the mill, the land above, and the land across the road, beyond where the tannery was formerly located, for an historical reservation and park for the enjoyment of the public.

Every spring, quantities of herring swim up the stream and rapids from the ocean to leave their spawn in the fresh water of the ponds to hatch. Hundreds of barrels are caught and many more are allowed to reach their destination. This fishing was carried on by the Indians for unknown ages, and by the settlers ever since their first arrival. The Indians taught the early colonists to fertilize their corn by placing a herring in each hill.

Card A shows the stream scarcely at all, except a little at the right of figure 2, after it has passed under the road.

On card B, the stream divides at this place,--5&6. Stream 5 is hidden by rocks and bushes as it flows to and by the tannery, 5. Stream 6 flows down under the grist-mill! turning the



7

water wheel, and unites with stream 5 below the picture at the right, unseen.

The mill pond is shown on the maps.

The numerous ponds and small lakes on the Cape and in New England were produced by glacial action, ages ago, as you may already know.

There are many factories, and electric power plants on the larger streams of New England, but the use of the small streams, like ours in Brewster, has passed. Even the fishing vessels now sail from larger centers, as Boston, Gloucester, Portland, etc., Young men of the Cape rarely select "going to sea" as an occupation now. Some join the U. S. navy. Farming, except the small family vegetable garden, rarely provides a livelihood. Cranberries produce the most remunerative crop,--except the great increase, year by year, of summer residents and vacationists, and the return to their childhood homes of many, like myself, when they retire from their various vocations engaged in elsewhere.

During the past fifty years, the attraction of Cape Cod as a summer resort has become widely known and the modifying effect of the surrounding waters is increasing our winter residents also.

Thus have "times" changed the occupations and manner of living on old Cape Cod, ever since the first settlements were made during the sixteen hundreds.

I am sending you a rambling story of considerable length. Even so, I may have written of many items about which you knew before, and omitted other desired information. If the latter is true, please do not hesitate to let me know and I will make a supplementary report.