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# NANTUCKET ISLAND

Home of the Ocean Breezes  
Thirty Miles at Sea



A Delightful Health and  
Vacation Resort

"Where Summer is Five  
Septembers Long"

## NANTUCKET

Old Nantucket town is, of course, always described as "quaint" by the condescending summer visitors to whom "quaint" is merely synonymous with "different". Its streets and lanes were, and are, narrow and crooked, and many of its houses small, or seemingly small. But "quaint" was never the adjective anyone truly sensitive to beauty would apply to the town. Individually, and in the mass, the architecture of old Nantucket was, and is, extraordinarily dignified in its quiet simplicity and nice proportions beautifully adapted to the lay of the land—the swelling hills above the harbor, the crooked streets, the rolling moors beyond—and often really exquisite in its restrained use of ornamental detail. . . . . Nantucket is as near a perfect record of what our Yankee fore-fathers considered a seemly town, what they regarded as desirable in their dwellings, as can be found anywhere. . . . . Until we can build a modern town as gracious and as beautiful as old Nantucket, we are scarcely in a position either to crow over our aesthetic superiority to the Puritans, or to blame them for all the shortcomings of our art. They left us a heritage of taste which could have been expanded to all branches of artistic creation, and we threw it away.

—Walter Prichard Eaton.



The "Square"

## Nantucket Island

New England's Best Known Health  
and Vacation Resort.

NANTUCKET ISLAND is one of the best known and most popular summer and vacation resorts on the Atlantic coast. It is often referred to as "the garden spot in the ocean," and the term is well applied, for nowhere else are wild flowers found in such great variety and in such abundance. The island is located thirty miles at sea off the Massachusetts coast, in latitude 41° 15' 22" north, and longitude 70° 7' 56" west. It is about 14 miles long, east and west; and 3½ miles average width, north and south; containing about 30,000 acres.

It is probable that the Norsemen were the first people to discover the island, in the tenth or eleventh century; and in 1602 Bartholomew Gosnold, while on his voyage of discovery, sighted Nantucket in May of that year. He is given credit for its discovery, although the recorded accounts are very meagre.

When the first white settlers came to Nan-



The "Gilded Dome" From Union Street.



The Rolling Surf.

tucket it was inhabited by Indians, supposed to have been of the Natick tribe. In 1641 the island was deeded to Thomas Mayhew and his son by James Forreth, agent of William, Earl of Sterling. In 1659 Mayhew purchased from the Indians the "sachem rights" to a large portion of the island, and soon after he conveyed to the "nine original purchasers" all right and interest by patent in the island, the consideration being "thirty pounds of current money and two beaver hats, one for myself and one for my wife."

The "nine original purchasers" were Tristram Coffin Sr., Thomas Macy, Richard Swain, Thomas Barnard, Peter Coffin, Christopher Hussey, Stephen Greenleaf, John Swain, William Pile. Mayhew reserved a portion for himself, making ten owners of the island. A few months later ten others joined them and in 1660 the island of Nantucket was owned by twenty men.

Ten families moved to the island from Salisbury and became the "first settlers". In 1663 Peter Folger and family joined them and his daughter Abiah was born here. She became the mother of Benjamin Franklin.

The settlement was soon increased by further



Northeast From the South Tower.



A Glimpse of "Gull Island".

arrivals and the first "town" was located at Capaum, about two miles west of the present town. Originally it was called "Sherburne", the island at that time being under the province of New York. Under an act of Parliament in 1692 the island became a part of Massachusetts, and the town remained "Sherburne" until 1795, when it was changed to "Nantucket". Now it holds the unique position of being the only place in America that is by itself, one town, one county and one island.

From the first settlement of the island sheep-raising was an important industry, and in 1775 from 12,000 to 16,000 sheep were owned on the island, roaming at will. As a result of the war, the number was reduced to about 3,000, again increasing to 10,000 in 1835. After that date the industry steadily declined until now only one large flock of sheep may be seen on the island.

#### *Nantucket Began Whaling in 1673.*

In 1673 the settlers began to fish for whales, using boats from the shore, and they met with such success that, a few years later, small villages were built at Sconset and Sesachacha, from which whaling was carried on quite extensively for that period,



Pleasant Street.



Looking Down Orange Street Hill.

whaling as an industry then being in its infancy.

About 1712 small vessels were built for whaling, and that year six sloops were engaged in the business. By 1730 twenty-five vessels were owned at Nantucket, the number steadily increasing until in 1774 there were 150 sail of vessels in the whaling business of the island. The first sperm candle factory was started in 1772, and was the beginning of what developed into a large industry.

The island was teeming with activity and soon there were ware-houses, candle-houses, rope-walks, cooper shops—Nantucket had become the leading whaling port in the world. As an example of a successful whaling voyage, it is recorded that in 1830 the ship "Sarah", Capt. Frederick Arthur, arrived in port after a voyage of two years and eleven months, bringing 3,497 barrels of sperm, valued at \$98,000, the largest amount ever brought in on a whale-ship.

Nantucket lost fifteen of her vessels at sea during the Revolutionary War and 134 were captured, with a total loss of 12,467 in tonnage. It was estimated that about 1,600 islanders lost their lives in various ways during the war. Nantucket paid dearly for the independence of the colonies.



Two Historic Buildings in the Upper Square.



Nantucket Still Raises Sheep.

Again in 1812, when the islanders had just entered on a new period of prosperity, they were doomed to meet with the loss of about half their whaling fleet. Still, undaunted, however, they resumed their industry, and in 1815 twenty-five ships and twenty-four other vessels sailed. In 1842 the whaling business reached its highest point, but soon after that year the business began to decline, due to the discovery of petroleum.

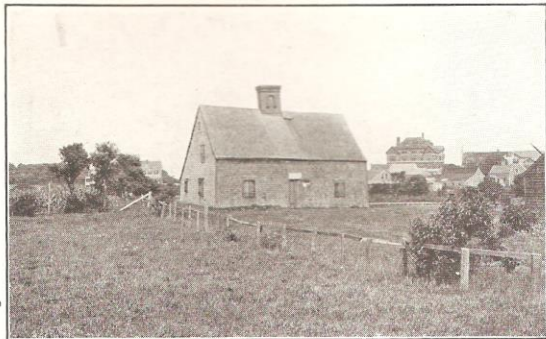
The process continued steadily, the ships being sold or condemned, one by one, with no new vessels built, until in 1870 the last whaler arrived in port.

In 1846 the town was swept by a disastrous conflagration, involving a loss of more than \$1,000,000. This calamity, together with the decline of the whaling industry, caused a large exodus of people from the island to various points on the mainland (especially to California during the gold fever of 1849).

The business of the island was at its lowest point in 1870, and the future looked dark. A substantial town had been built out of the whaling industry, but its business had departed. However, the darkness only preceded the dawn of a new era of prosperity and a new note was sounded: The



Sunset Pass Was Once "Break-neck Alley".



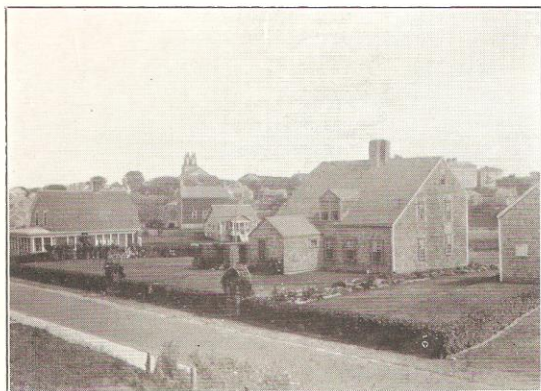
The Oldest House.

island was to become popular as a summer resort, with its wonderful climate unequalled for health-giving powers. From this beginning, in the early 70's of the last century, has followed a steady though not rapid development until at the present time the island is visited by throngs of pleasure-seekers from all parts of the country.

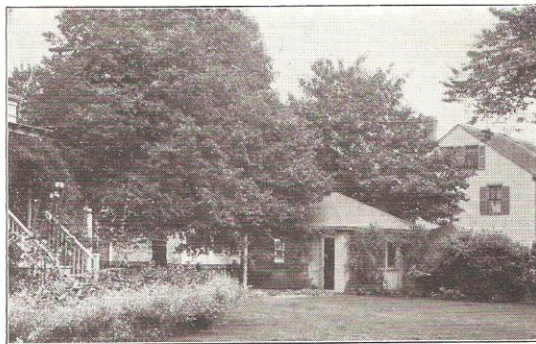
*Nantucket Architecture Called 95% Perfect.*

While the resident population has diminished since the palmy days when whaling was in its prime, the old town which that industry made possible, still stands "95 per cent perfect architecturally", and listed as one of the few towns of the country that have not been "spoiled". Many who visit the island for the first time express surprise on seeing so many stately dwellings and such a large, prosperous town, when they anticipated finding a decayed fishing village.

In the leading thoroughfares, elm and maple trees which were planted three-quarters of a century ago, have attained great size, their branches interlacing over the street, affording both beauty and shade to the historic thoroughfares.



Old Nantucket Houses Face The South.



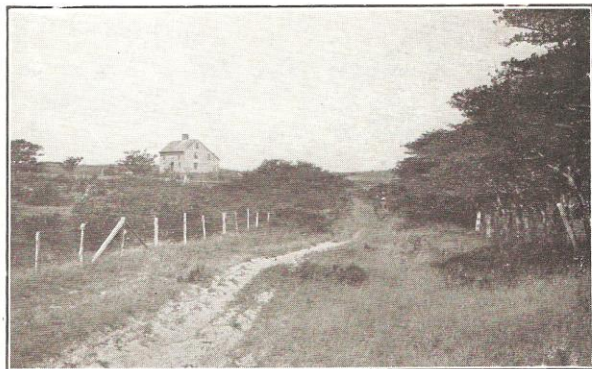
One of Nantucket's Back Yards.

Everywhere is an air of genuine hospitality, with a desire on the part of the islanders to have their friends and visitors see and enjoy the old Nantucket that has been preserved so well and at the same time partake of the pleasures of Nantucket's summer life, with its lack of conventionalities and the feeling of good fellowship that is always apparent here.

*Although "An Old-Fashioned Town" Nantucket Has All Modern Improvements.*

Although Nantucket, rich in history, may well be called "an old-fashioned town", it possesses all modern improvements, such as a pure water supply, electric house and street lighting, gas, telegraph service to all parts of the world, local and long distance telephone service, an excellent system of sewerage, an up-to-date fire department, churches of all denominations, a large public library, thriving banks, a weekly newspaper—even a stock brokerage office,—all the necessities, comforts and conveniences which modern life requires.

The local post office is second-class and affords delivery by carrier and collections from street letter



Hawthorne Lane.



The Harbor Entrance.

boxes, as well as other service usually rendered by an up-to-date post office. Well-fitted stores and markets supply, in season, practically everything that is found in city markets and local farmers distribute milk, eggs and fresh vegetables daily. Art and antique shops and novelty stores offer an attraction to those who like to shop for the old or the unusual.

Nantucket has a well equipped and modern hospital which has proved a blessing to the inhabitants, isolated as they are from the mainland, and which assures the visitor of the best of scientific treatment in an emergency. Excellent physicians and dentists are available in the community and specialists from the near-by cities are often working in the hospital. Frequently the visitors and islanders unite in a mid-summer festival for the benefit of the hospital and by the renewal of old-time customs and the use of costumes of long ago, present a beautiful and entertaining pageant of Nantucket's past history which has attracted country-wide attention.

There are a number of large hotels, besides many smaller hostleries and numerous private boarding houses and "tea rooms", some located on the Cliff, others within the town itself, and others on



A Nantucket Vista.



A Quiet Street in 'Seonset.

Brant Point—a most attractive section of the island, projecting directly out in the harbor.

There are many dwellings available for rent and of a type much superior to the usual run of seaside summer resorts. Scattered over town are many desirable houses which may be rented.

For those whose tastes are more moderate, there are rooms to be had in various parts of the town and meals may be obtained at the regular boarding houses or at the numerous tea rooms and restaurants that are scattered throughout the island. The larger hotels have the usual attractions of summer life, with tennis courts, dance halls and their own orchestra.

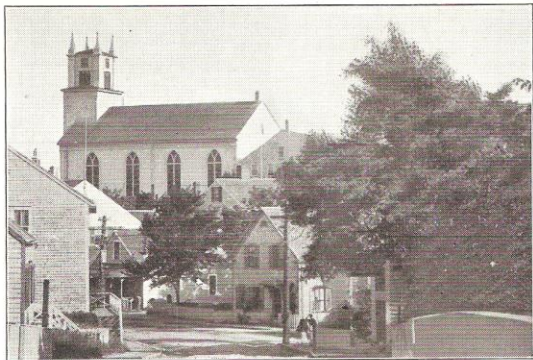
*Nearness of Gulf Stream Gives Nantucket  
a Wonderful Climate.*

Due to the fact that the Gulf Stream flows nearer to Nantucket than any other spot on the Atlantic coast, the surrounding waters have a temperature of from seventy to seventy-four degrees during the height of the summer, with the air at approximately the same temperature, which makes the bathing and out-door life on Nantucket doubly enjoyable.

From the situation of Nantucket the inference is obvious that it lies in the track of every breeze



Hair-pin Turn Leads Below 'Seonset Bank.



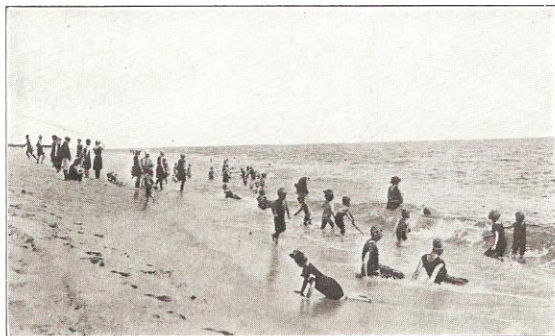
Looking South From North Shore Hill.

that blows over the adjacent waters from whatever point. A "land breeze" is impossible here and "heat waves" do not reach the island. While the mainland swelters with the temperature up in the 90s, Nantucket is able to keep quite cool and comfortable. Malaria is unknown, the constant sea breezes making stagnant conditions impossible. No community in the world can boast of purer air than is found at Nantucket.

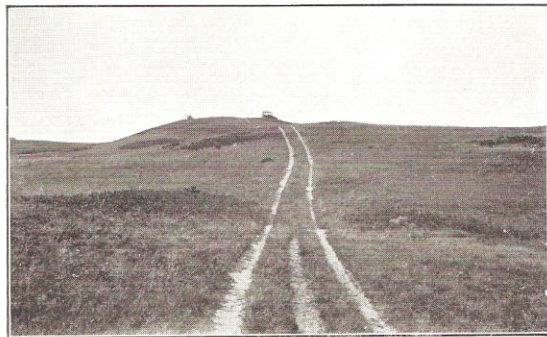
One of the principal charms of the island is its wonderful bathing, which cannot be equalled anywhere on the coast. The main bathing beaches are on the North shore, west of the government jetty, where a broad white sandy stretch offers a delightful playground. A smooth velvety bottom, devoid of rocks or ledges, makes safe bathing, while the water is the most invigorating of any resort in the world. Throngs of people are attracted to the beaches during the bathing hour, where they find well appointed and modern bathing establishments.

Surf bathing is available at numerous places on the south and east coast of the island, including 'Sconset, Wauwinet, Tom Nevers, Surfside and Madaket.

On the inner shore of Nantucket harbor is "the children's beach", a section set apart by the



Surf Bathing Safe For Children.



Winding Roads Lead to "Altar Rock".

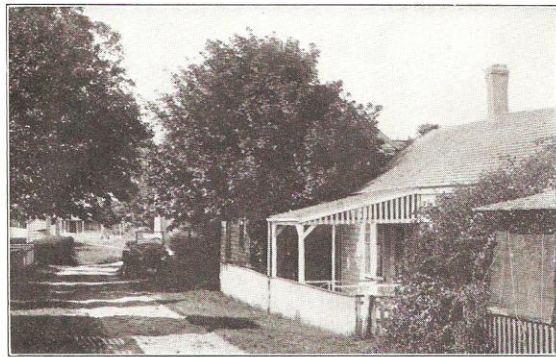
state legislature to be preserved for all time. Here hundreds of the little ones, accompanied by their mothers or nurse-maids, gather during the season to play on the clean, white sand, or splash around in the warm waters of the harbor, under conditions which no other summer resort possesses.

*Delightful Walks and Drives Over  
Flower-decked Moors.*

To leave the beaten track and take the rutted roads out through the rolling moors, to visit "Altar Rock" on Saul's Hills, and from the highest point on the island to gaze on flower-decked moorlands circled by the broad Atlantic, makes the visitor realize that, though limited in area, this island offers constant change and quiet adventure in exploring its many unexpected beauties. Whether enjoying Nantucket by automobile, carriage, on horse-back or on foot, the island affords opportunity for many delightful outings.

*Island a Rare Field For Botanists.*

There are few, if any, localities in America where as great a variety of wild flowers are found



Picturesque 'Sconset.



Along Sankaty Bluff.

as on Nantucket. Ranging from the arbutus, or Mayflower, the earliest to bloom, to the aster and goldenrod, which are the last, a constant succession of blossoms extends through the summer. Violets, purple, blue, and white, carpet the moors. Countless wild roses bloom along the roadside, and masses of wild azalea scent the air. As may readily be imagined, the island offers a rare field for the botanist.

*Golf One of Principal Attractions.*

Golf is one of the principal attractions of Nantucket. The island affords exceptional opportunities for the enthusiast, with three eighteen-hole links, any of which is considered ideal from a golfer's view-point. The course at Nantucket proper is within easy reach of the town, located only a short distance from the "cliff" and bordering on the bluff overlooking the ocean. This was the original course on Nantucket and it is said to closely resemble the St. Andrews links.

At the east end of the island there are two courses—one situated a short distance west of the village of 'Sconset, bordering on the state highway, and the other at Sankaty Head. The latter is a new course operated by the Sankaty Head Golf Club.



Sankaty Head Golf Club-house.



From the South Tower.

Commodious club-houses, equipped with everything that adds to the pleasure of the player, are located on each of these three links, and to the person who enjoys his vacation most when he is playing golf, Nantucket island affords opportunities far above any other resort in this section of the country.

*Nantucket Yacht Club Has Become Centre of Summer Life.*

Water sports center around the activities of a very successful Yacht Club with its well appointed wharf and club-house. This latter is well furnished, with a very attractive tea-room, a soda fountain, and lounges and porches, where the less strenuous can watch the activities on the many excellent clay tennis courts, or the races of the "Rainbow Fleet" and other water scenes. With a spacious hall, a fine dance floor and stage, entertainments are constant and varied. Regular weekly dances and also movie nights vie with the attractions of bridge teas, while masquerade balls, clambakes, musicals and vaudeville follow in rapid succession and appeal to all tastes.



The Yacht Club Pier.



Birthplace of Maria Mitchell.

*Large Colony of Artists at Nantucket.*

Artists find a rare field in Nantucket, with its winding narrow streets and old-time residences, interesting water fronts, and delightful moorland. Accommodations suited to their special use have been developed and the island now has a colony of serious workers. Exhibitions of paintings and sketches are held throughout the season in galleries well fitted for this purpose.

*"Well-kept, Dignified Nantucket" Has Much of Interest to Visitors.*

The architecture and the customs of the town reflect the influence of a long period of Quakerism, and the Nantucket Historical Association has preserved one of the original Friends' Meeting Houses as a wing of its fire-proof building. The Museum collection offers an unusual opportunity for a study of the many relics of by-gone days which the society has so well preserved to posterity.

The Historical Association also owns the Oldest House, which was "restored" in 1928, and is a beautiful example of the early island architecture. It was built in 1686, stands on the brow of Sunset Hill and is known as the Jethro Coffin House. This, together



Corner of Main and Federal Streets.



The Maria Mitchell Observatory.

with the Old Mill, built in 1746 for grinding corn and still in a good state of preservation, offer points of interest for the summer visitor who wishes to know how life was carried on in the days of the early settlers.

Another feature in Nantucket's past history which brings fame to the island is the fact that Maria Mitchell, the first woman astronomer in America, was born on the island. To commemorate her the Mitchell homestead has been preserved and a small observatory built next door, where considerable work is done by special students from astronomical schools.

Among other points of interest may be mentioned the Old North Vestry, built in 1711, and now at the rear of the Congregational Church on Centre street. It was the first church building on the island.

On the Madaket road stands a drinking fountain with a tablet erected by the State of Massachusetts in commemoration of Abiah Folger Franklin, mother of Benjamin Franklin, who was born in a house which stood nearby.

The Coffin School on Winter street, an institution founded by Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, of the



The Abiah Folger Franklin Drinking Fountain.



Upper Main Street.

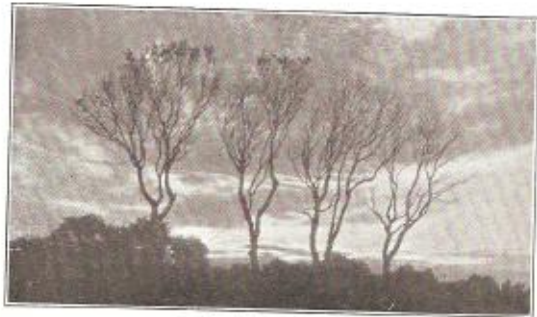
British Navy, in 1826, and endowed by him, was for years a private school, but since 1904 it has been used to teach manual training and domestic science to the public school children.

The free public library is housed in a stately structure on Federal street—the Athenaeum. The library now contains 25,000 volumes and some rare pictures of interest.

Facing the lower end of "the square", as the business section of Main street is called, is the Pacific Club building, or "Cap'n's Room", which was originally the ware-house of William Rotch, the famous whaling merchant. Facing "the square" on the opposite end, is the Pacific Bank building, an edifice that offers a very interesting type of architecture.

#### *The Unique Village of 'Sconset.*

Situated around the shore-line of the island are small summer places or settlements of cottages, with a hotel or two. The largest of these is Siasconset (usually shortened to 'Sconset). It is a thriving little village and reached by a good oil highway either by driving seven and one-half miles along the straight State Road or by taking the more picturesque route of ten miles by the Polpis Road. In



A Nantucket Sunset.



The Old Jail Has No Inmates.

summer, numerous bus lines make the round trip at regular intervals.

Originally a fishing village, the primitive cottages appealed at that time to a group of theatrical people who enjoyed its informal, care-free life and other natural attractions. Of recent years more elaborate houses have been erected and it now has all the conveniences of life, with an excellent water supply, modern sewerage system, electric lights, good hotels and two golf courses.

The "Casino", a building especially for the use of the summer colony, offers the attractions of a good floor for dancing and a stage for the accommodation of entertainments of various kinds, as well as movies. It also maintains excellent tennis courts and is, in fact, the centre of the social activity of the village.

#### *Wauwinet Has Both Surf and Still Water Bathing.*

Wauwinet is at the head of the land-locked harbor and can be reached by a delightful sail of six and one-half miles or by a picturesque drive of nine miles. It has an excellent hotel (famous for its shore dinners) and a small colony of cottages. Its most unique appeal is that it enjoys ready access



At the Entrance to Wauwinet.



A Glimpse of Main Street.

to either still water or surf bathing, as its broad, sandy beach extends from the waters of the wide Atlantic to Nantucket's quiet harbor.

Between Wauwinet and 'Sconset lie a number of small cottage settlements—there being at Squam a few summer cottages and a larger colony at Quidnet. This latter settlement lies on the ocean and also borders a large fresh water pond called Sesachacha.

*Surfside a Popular Resort  
on the South Shore.*

Surfside, a short drive from town to the south, is the site of the United States Navy Radio Compass Station, a small group of cottages, and a shore dinner resort. Between this point and 'Sconset runs an undeveloped shore line except for a few cottages and a hotel at Tom Nevers Head.

This outside shore is also reached by drives to the head of the Hummock pond and to Madaket. The latter point is the site of an active Coast Guard Station, which is open to visitors at stated times.

All of these points offer attractive destinations for interesting drives.



The Sperm Whale's Jaw is Preserved.



Island's Fishing Fleet in Port.

*Frequent and Convenient Transportation  
to Nantucket.*

A fleet of four new steamboats afford a comfortable service during the summer months, with frequent arrivals and departures daily.

Connections are easy and convenient between the island steamers and trains at Woods Hole and New Bedford. Parties coming by way of Boston or New York, from western or southern points, will find Nantucket an easy place to reach, as the island steamers make good connections, especially with the steamers plying from New York over the Fall River or New Bedford lines. Automobiles are transported on the steamers at reasonable rates.

Either the N. Y., N. H. & H. Railroad, the New England Steamship Company, or the N. B., M. V. & N. Steamboat Company will render all information and assistance necessary in order to help the traveller reach Nantucket from any point.



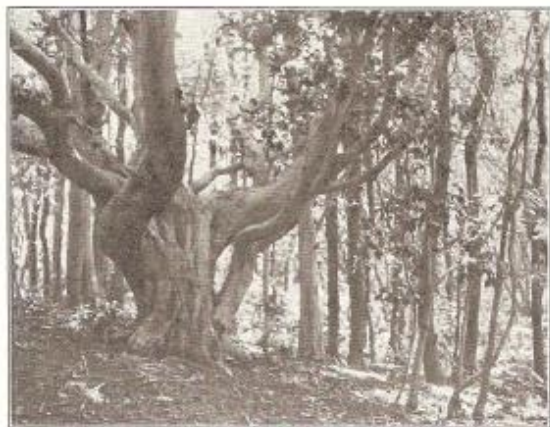
Copies of this booklet will be mailed to any address upon request, and additional information upon any matter connected with Nantucket may be secured upon application to the Publicity Committee, Nantucket Island, Mass.



Outward Bound.



Along the South Shore.



A Guardian of "The Hidden Forest".



A Safe Landing.

## HOTELS and BOARDING HOUSES

### *Furnishing Rooms and Board.*

Sea Cliff Inn, Cliff road.  
 Ocean House, Broad street.  
 Point Breeze Hotel, Brant Point road.  
 The White Elephant, Brant point  
 The Breakers, Brant point.  
 Crest Hall, North Water street.  
 Roberts House, Centre and Pearl streets.  
 Nesbitt Inn, Broad street.  
 The Ships Inn, Fair street.  
 Veranda House, Step lane.  
 The Nantucket House, North Water street.  
 Quanato Terrace, Orange street bluff.  
 Parker House, North Water street.  
 The Misses Ide, Pearl street.  
 The Grey Gull, Liberty street.  
 Anchor Inn, Centre street.  
 Mrs. Annie Smith, Union street.  
 Miss Emily Kent, Main street.  
 Parliament House, Pine street.  
 The Wood Box, Fair street.  
 Miss Theresa Burns, Broad street.

Beach House, Siasconset.  
 Tavern-on-the-Moors, Siasconset.  
 Clisby House, Siasconset.  
 Wander Inn, Siasconset.  
 Seamoore Inn, Siasconset.  
 Wauwinet House, Wauwinet.  
 Tom Nevers Lodge, Tom Nevers Head.  
 Weweeder Inn, Surfside.

## REAL ESTATE AGENTS

A. W. Ayers Agency, Nantucket.  
 Miss Gladys Wood, Nantucket.  
 Arthur W. Jones, Nantucket.  
 The Nantucket Company, Nantucket.  
 Walter I. Brock, Nantucket.  
 R. Howard Chisholm, Nantucket.  
 Brainerd T. Judkins, Nantucket.  
 Helen Loughran, Nantucket.  
 Mrs. Annie Wait, Siasconset.  
 Miss Anna E. C. Barrett, Siasconset.  
 E. P. Clisby, Siasconset.  
 James A. Backus, Wauwinet.

# NANTUCKET ISLAND

THE  
IDEAL  
HEALTH  
AND  
VACATION  
RESORT

## *My Isle of Dreams*

Afar from the strife  
Of the worldly life  
Lies the Isle that my boyhood knew;  
By each sandy cape  
Her hammock shape  
Is swung o'er the ocean's blue.

Secure from harms  
She stretcheth her arms  
To the weary ones of earth,  
And to all who reach  
Her tranquil beach  
She giveth a newer birth.

In her balmy air  
Is a perfume rare  
As from heavenly gardens blown,  
When in summer hours  
Troop hosts of flowers  
To her moorlands weird and lone.

Like a mirage bright  
To my longing sight  
Illumed by the sun's last beams,  
Under glowing skies  
The gray town lies  
Enwrapped in its old-time dreams.

The wild surf roars  
On the outer shores  
Where it beats on the yielding sands,  
And there sounds a moan  
In its undertone  
As it rolls from distant lands.

God speed my bark  
Through the midnight dark  
Till the homeward beacon gleams;  
Safe port I'll make  
And refuge take  
In my beautiful Isle of Dreams!

—Henry S. Wyer.