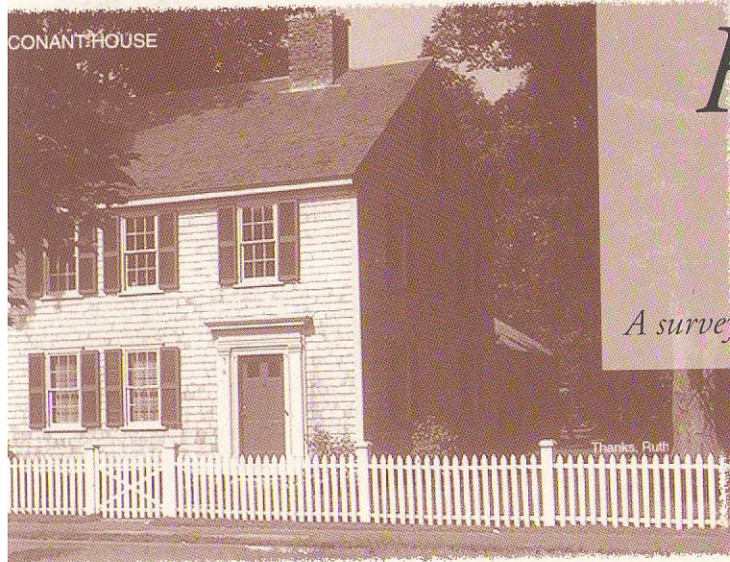
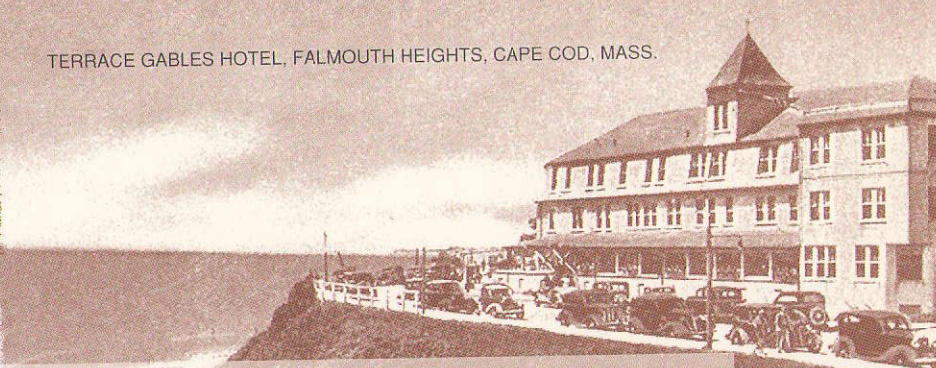




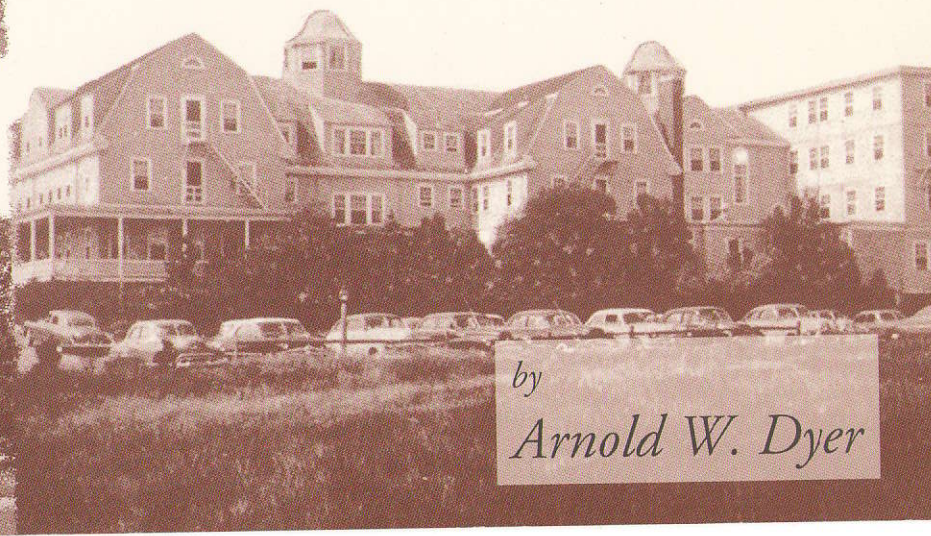
TERRACE GABLES HOTEL, FALMOUTH HEIGHTS, CAPE COD, MASS.



# *Hotels & Inns of Falmouth*

*A survey of 17th, 18th and 19th Century Accommodations*

CAPE CODDER HOTEL, FALMOUTH, CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS.



*by*

*Arnold W. Dyer*



*Hotels & Inns of Falmouth*



# *Hotels & Inns of Falmouth*

*A survey of 17th, 18th and 19th Century Accommodations*

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Published by The Falmouth Historical Society, 1993





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*Unlimited access to the files of the Falmouth Enterprise. The Falmouth Historical Society, the Woods Hole Collection and the Falmouth Public Library has been the source of my facts.*



## *Author's Notes*

**P**ROSPERITY in the Aroostook County, Maine potato market prompted the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad to build a station in Westfield, Maine in 1905. My parents were the first tenants in the Station Agent's designated tenement, as it was then called. It was there that I was born on August 4, 1906. In all these 86 years my interest and enthusiasms for railroads has persisted. In 1912, our family moved to Falmouth where my father became agent in the new railroad station, opened in January, 1913, built by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

One of the greatest events of my life came in 1918 when my brother, age ten, and I accompanied our mother on a transcontinental rail trip from Boston, Massachusetts to Long Beach, California. This took seven days and seven nights, as did the return to Boston several weeks later. Living in Pullman sleeping and dining car comfort for that 8,000-mile round trip sparked my lifelong interest in travel. My collection of Boston hotel postcards, a 1906 dinner menu from the United States Hotel in Boston, menus from Pullman dining cars and world renowned hotels were the basis of my desire to research our Falmouth Inns and Hotels.

Arnold W. Dyer  
April 30, 1993





*Charles R. Nichols, the lamp lighter for Falmouth Village, tending the lamp in front of Elm Arch Inn on Main Street, Falmouth. Mr. Nichols was paid \$343.30 in 1910 for his services.*

## OLD COLONY RESORTS



IN 1989, when the railway express office at the Falmouth Railroad Station was destroyed by wreckers in order to restore the station to its original 1913 image, a considerable amount of railroad ephemera was discovered. *A Manual of Hotels and Boarding Houses on the Old Colony Systems* published by the passenger department in 1892 for the Old Colony Railroad was found among them. Hotels listed in Falmouth at this time were the Tower Hotel, Hotel Falmouth and Pickwick House; in Waquoit, the Tobey House; in Quissett, the Quissett Harbor House; in East Falmouth, the Menauhant Hotel; in Woods Hole, the Dexter House and Hotel Nobska.

Under the listing of rates, most were quoted at \$2 per day and \$8 to \$15 per week. The most expensive was the Tower Hotel at Falmouth Heights at \$3 per day and \$10 to \$20 per week.

Three boarding houses were located in West Falmouth, one of "R. P. Gifford—Summer only," and the others were E. F. Bemis and S. F. Swift, "Continually Open, all at \$1 per day."



By 1892, a number of inns, hotels and taverns in Falmouth had already disappeared or assumed new identities. They are recorded in this account along with information on the more recent establishments.

The earliest recorded mention of a Falmouth inn was on February 7, 1664, when one Isaac Robinson was approved by the Court to keep an ordinary (also known as an inn) at Suckanesset for the “accommodation of strangers”. Isaac Robinson along with Jonathan Hatch founded Falmouth. Tradition places the location of this ordinary near the present day Herring Brook Lane and Mill Road area. It served travelers to and from Martha’s Vineyard.



*Falmouth Rail Road Station,  
built 1913*

## SHUBAEL HATCH'S TAVERN

THE office of the Falmouth Coal Co. on North Main Street at Depot Avenue was originally located on the so-called Watson's Corner and may have been an outbuilding of Shubael Hatch's Tavern.

Shubael Hatch, known as "Little Shubs," in 1795-1812 ran an inn where the Town Proprietors met. It is recorded that in 1812 the inn was given a tavern designation.

Stories are told about the extended church services at the First Congregational Church when some men sought to break the monotony with a visit to the home of Deacon Braddock Dimmock on the southwest corner of our Village Green for a drink (present day Village Green Inn). On the other hand, perhaps the Town Proprietors walked a few more steps to the Hatch Tavern where approval had been given for serving drinks.

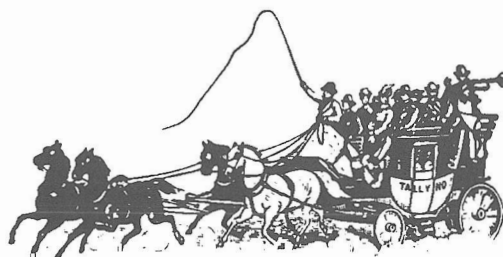


*Swift's Hay and Grain Store, circa 1900, was once part of Shubael Hatch's Tavern built in 1795*

The Hatch Tavern was torn down in the 1860's and was replaced in the 1890's by the Kate Watson house. Hatch had sold the outbuilding, which had been used as paint shop, in 1836. Sometime after 1858 the outbuilding was moved to its present location opposite Depot Avenue, expanded and used as a grain store until its conversion to its present use in this century.

A note of interest—in 1857 when the Marine Lodge A. F. and A. M. reorganized in Falmouth, it had its meeting quarters on the top floor of the Falmouth Coal and Oil building. Today the arched, plastered ceiling with Masonic emblems is still evident.

## GIFFORD TAVERN

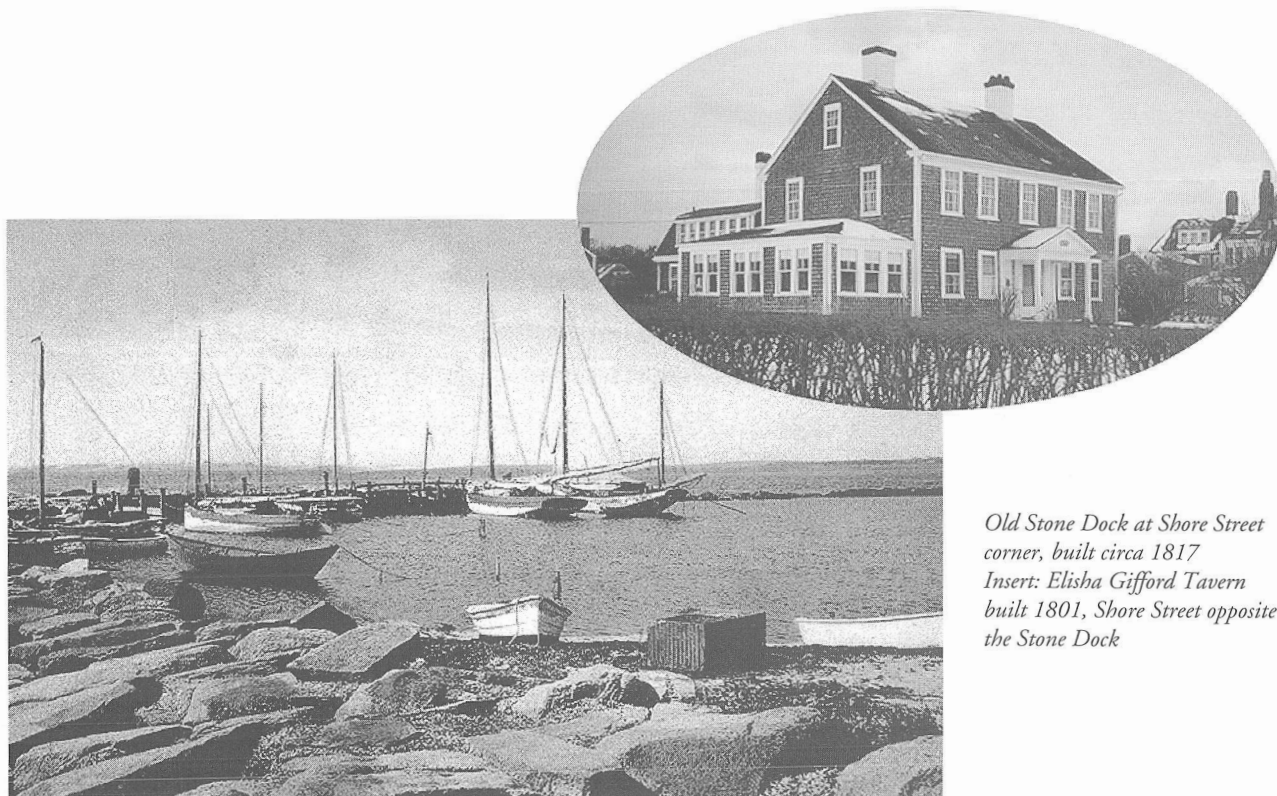


IN 1801, a home was built for Lewis Parker on the corner of Shore Street and Surf Drive overlooking the Stone Dock.

Elisha Gifford bought it in 1817 and operated it as a tavern. The packet boats, which at that time were the only means of transporting freight, landed across the street at the Stone Dock. Passengers were also transported by stagecoach, which stopped at the tavern. The sign which hung at the tavern had a ship on one side and a stagecoach on the other. When rail service came to Falmouth in the 1870's, the transportation of people and materials changed, and use of the packet and stage facilities diminished.

The Gifford Tavern property was sold in 1883 to Col. Charles F. Morse of Kansas City, and the tavern was moved back on the property to its present location at 65 Thomas Lane to make way for the construction of a summer house. That summer house is now the Shore Haven Motor Lodge on Shore Street.

Since 1950 the former tavern has been the home of Miss Mary Farnham.



*Old Stone Dock at Shore Street  
corner, built circa 1817  
Insert: Elisha Gifford Tavern  
built 1801, Shore Street opposite  
the Stone Dock*





*Suckanesset House and Swifts Livery Stable , house built 1755*

## SUCCANESSET HOUSE

ON the Main Street site now occupied by St. Barnabas Church, Capt. Timothy Crocker built his home in 1755. In 1817, his son Capt. Joseph Crocker sold the property to Elijah Swift for \$300. After the death of Swift's widow in the 1860's, their grandson Eugene E. C. Swift began operating it as a boarding house hotel under the name of Succanesset House.

James M. Beebe and his family stayed there when they first came to Falmouth, prior to the purchase of their Shore Street home and the construction of the Beebe mansions in Beebe Woods. Mrs. Eugene E. C. Swift sold the Succanesset House in 1888, to the Beebe family for the site of St. Barnabas Church. The house was then moved to Cahoon Court where it is presently located.



## LOCUST LODGE



*Eugene E. C. Swift house, Depot Avenue & North Main Street in 1888*

THIS hotel was located on the corner of Depot Avenue and North Main Street, formerly the Butler/Swift house. When in 1888 Eugene E. C. Swift sold the Succanesset House on Main Street to the Beebe family, he purchased the Butler house for his residence.

The Knowles Butler house became

known as Locust Lodge, and was presumably operated by the Swift family as a hotel. They built and moved into the house at 1 Main Street in 1892, and in 1903, Louis Hodgkins took over management of Locust Lodge. He was a hotel-trained man from Worcester who had experience in operating the Pickwick House at Falmouth Heights, owned by C. L. Hopson, also of Worcester. Until about 1922, the hotel was run as Locust Lodge and as Harmer's Inn.

During this period tea rooms came into fashion. Mr. and Mrs. (Elvira) White, who had been operating one in the house owned by Mrs. John Crocker on Main Street across from Mostly Hall, bought and made major additions and renovations to this original Butler house. They enlarged the dining room, and added space to accommodate the then popular tea dancing and a gift shop. They changed the name to Cottage Inn.

In 1938, John Pandey purchased the property and renamed it the Crescent Arms. A bankruptcy sale to Joseph Cronin of Milton in 1948 for \$5,000 over the \$27,000 mortgage led to another change in name, Queen's Buyway Inn. In 1951, Evelyn Grant bought it, naming it the Driftwood Club.

In 1968, a Boston party with experience in the food and liquor business bought it and named it Sonny's. By 1977, it had deteriorated greatly, was unoccupied and severely neglected. At this time, the Plymouth Savings Bank foreclosed on its mortgage of \$137,000.



*Locust Lodge 1915*



*The Cottage Inn circa 1920's*

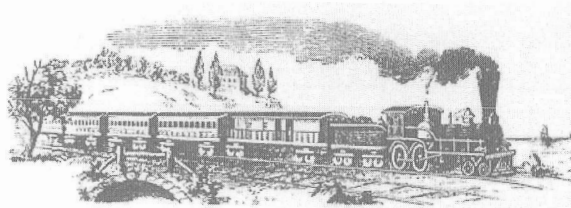


*The Falmouth Square Inn built 1987*



David Wald, a young entrepreneur, negotiated for the property with plans to construct a shopping center. When these plans did not mature, in 1986 the old building was demolished and Mr. Wald built a new hotel that he named the Falmouth Square Inn.

## *HOTEL FALMOUTH*

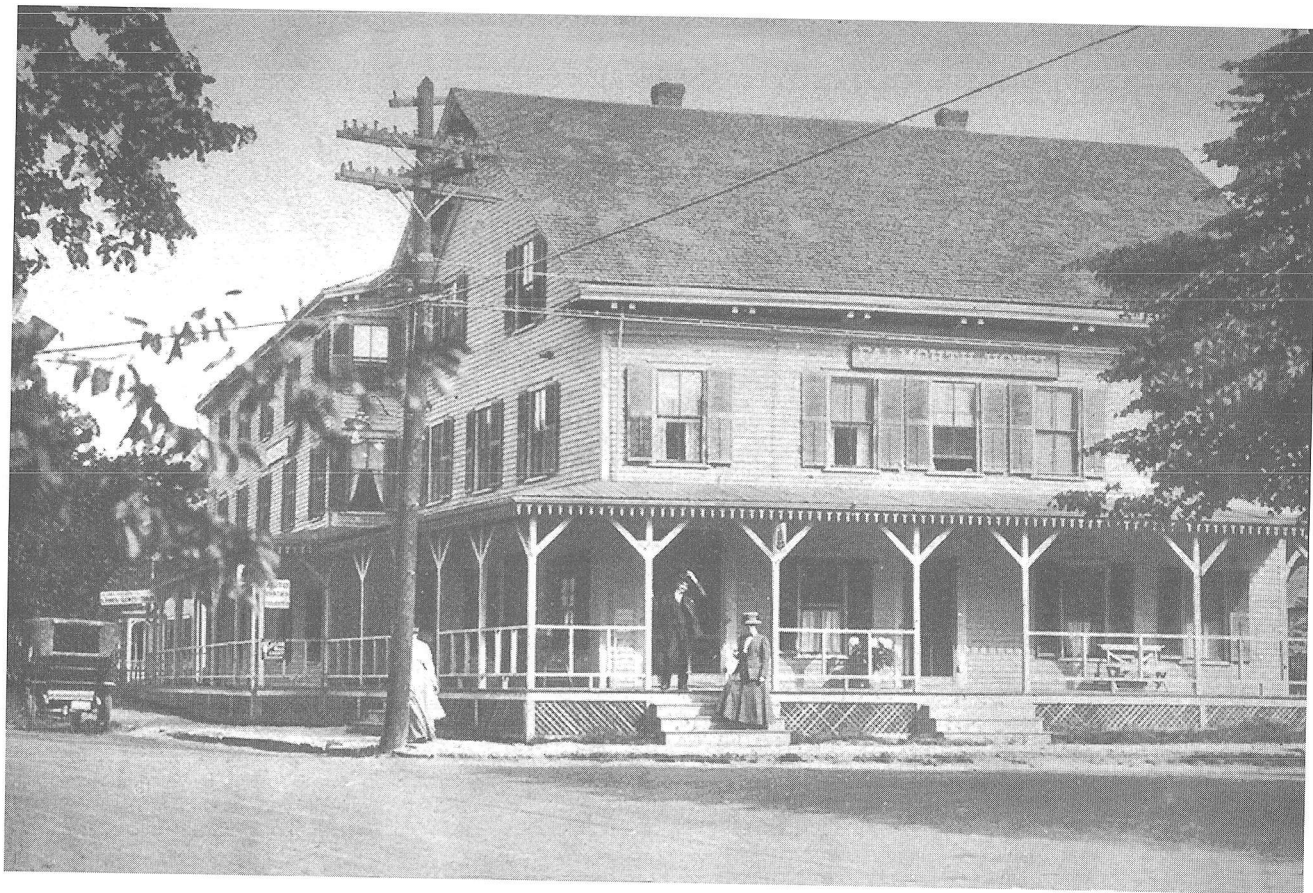


FOR 120 years, since 1872, Hotel Falmouth has operated in its same location on the corner of Main and Shore Streets. The location was originally the site of a general store which was operated by several different families.

In 1872, the store was bought by James W. Baker, who started the Baker Hotel. When the first train from Boston came to Falmouth in 1872, Mr. Baker used a white stage coach to meet it and take guests to his hotel.

In 1880 Henry C. Lewis became the owner and changed the name to Falmouth Hotel. In 1886 George W. Fish, manager of the Quissett Harbor House, bought the Falmouth Hotel. Over the many years of Hotel Falmouth, there have been many other owners and managers.

The W. C. Davis Furniture Co. had its origin in this hotel subsequently graduating to its own building across the street, which is now known as Barbo's Wayside Furniture.

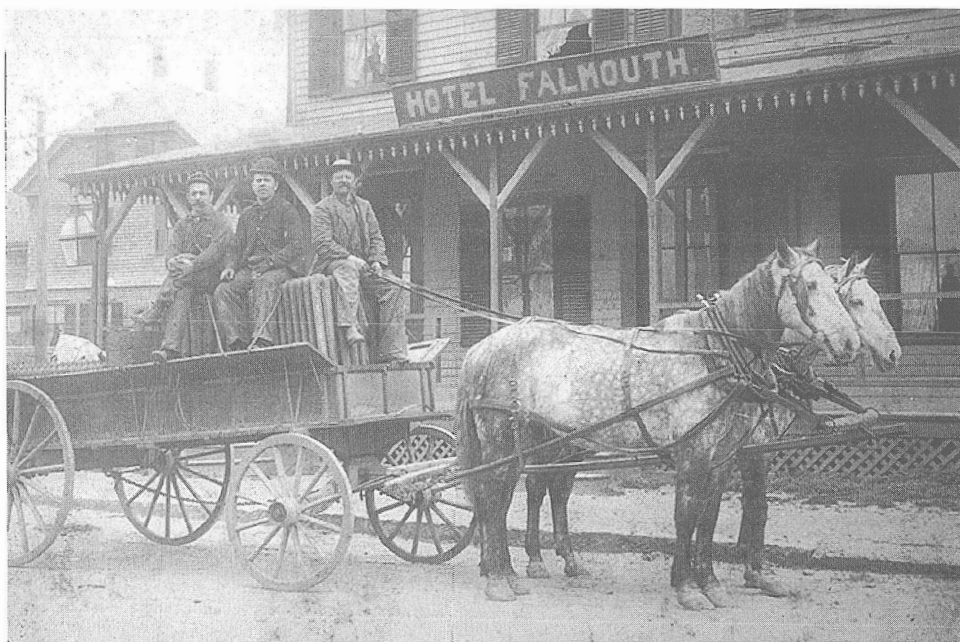


*The Falmouth Hotel, corner Shore and Main Streets; built in 1872*

A room in the hotel lobby was the original location of the E. J. Donnelly Tonsorial Parlor. Donnelly later moved to the Crocker Block and included a billiard and pool room at the back of his shop. The Crocker Block was replaced by the Issokson store.

It is recorded that once when weather conditions prohibited the sailing of the boat from Woods Hole to Vineyard Haven, Emily Post, the celebrated authority on social etiquette, was given accommodations at Hotel Falmouth.

For many years, fashionable piazzas extended across the front and along the Main Street side, furnished with long rows of rocking chairs. Other than the removal of these appendages, the Hotel Falmouth looks the same today as it did 80 years ago.



*The Falmouth Hotel Baggage  
Delivery*

## EAGLE HOTEL

*Henry Clay Lewis House  
built 1800, East Main  
Street opposite the  
Falmouth Hotel*



ON the Main Street location today of the Wallace Convenience Store, across from the Falmouth Hotel, was the home built in 1800 for David Lewis, father of Henry Clay Lewis. In 1812, Lewis was given approval to operate a tavern there known as the Eagle Hotel which he ran until about 1850 when the present Falmouth Hotel was in its infancy.



# ELM ARCH INN

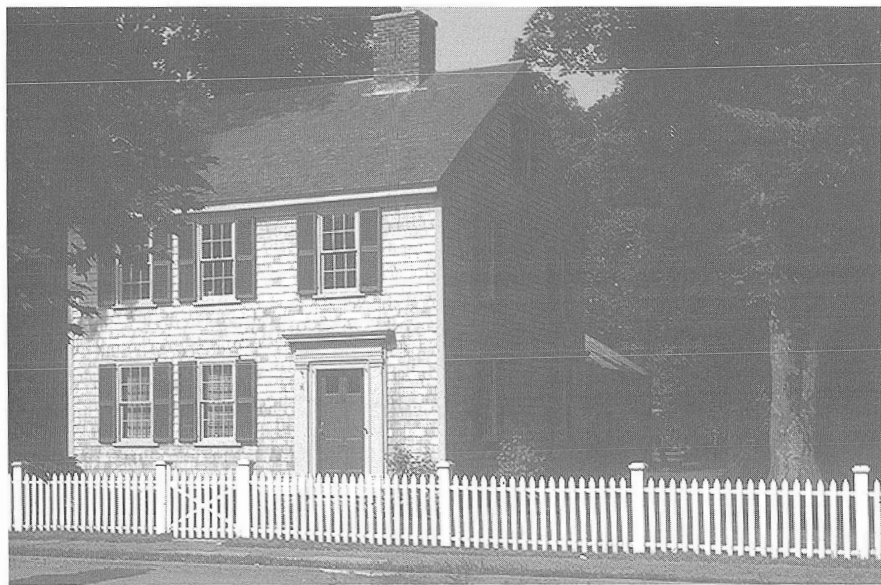
*Elm Arch Inn  
Circa 1900, East  
of the First  
Congregational  
Church was built  
by Erasmus Gould  
in 1852*



IN 1898, Annie Fraser Davis of New Bedford opened the Elm Arch Inn on Palmer Avenue in the Conant house which is today owned by the Falmouth Historical Society.

Not long afterwards, she moved the Inn to the Dr. Alexander T. Walker house, located east of the First Congregational Church, remaining there until 1911, when she returned to New Bedford.

On Sept. 30, 1911, Gideon L. Hodgkins bought the Harriet Jones Burrill home on Main Street to serve as the new Elm Arch Inn. This house was built by Mrs. Burrill's father Capt. Silas Jones in 1811. It carries the cannonball scars of the War of 1812. When on Jan. 28, 1814 the British Brig *Nimrod* opened fire on Falmouth at noon, Miss Ann Freeman refused to leave the house with her mistress, Mrs. Harriet Jones Burrill. She was boiling meat and she remarked that there would be a good many men in town to feed when the day was over. But Miss Freeman left the meat *aboiling* when one of the cannonballs entered the house. Three cannonballs entered the house altogether.



*The present day Conant House,  
owned by the Falmouth Historical  
Society, was Falmouth's first  
Elm Arch Inn*



*Harriet J. Burrill House built by Capt. Silas Jones in 1811. The Methodist Church can be seen on the left.*

The house was then located on Main Street where a block of four stores now stand, west of Elm Arch Way. Hodgkins remodeled the home, putting on an addition to operate the Elm Arch Inn.



*Capt. Silas Jones' Harriet Jones Burrill Home, circa 1912 after addition and remodeling by Gideon L. Hodgkins to operate the Elm Arch Inn.*



*Elm Arch Inn, Elm Arch Way, circa 1975*

In 1926, the Elm Arch Inn was moved from Main Street to land immediately south. By then it was owned and operated by Ann B. Richardson, and continued so until her son, Harry, and his wife Flossie became active in the business in 1947. Over the past 44 years, they have devoted their energies to the upkeep of the 180-year-old structure and preservation of its country inn charm. The decor, the collections of artifacts, greet you as you enter and the warmth of hospitality, is evidence of the success of this great country inn.



## ELM TREE INN

IN 1926, when the Elm Arch Inn property on Main Street was sold to build a block of stores, the Inn was under the ownership of Gideon and Mary G. L. Hodgkins. The loss of this operation prompted them to seek another location as she loved to cook and they were not ready to completely retire.

The Hodgkins bought the George A. Black family home at 157 Palmer Avenue at the north corner of Katharine Lee Bates Road. They added more seating capacity to the dining room as well as more bedrooms and opened the Elm Tree Inn. Some of the regular boarders and “traveling men” who had stayed with them over the years were again served by the Hodgkins’ hospitality.

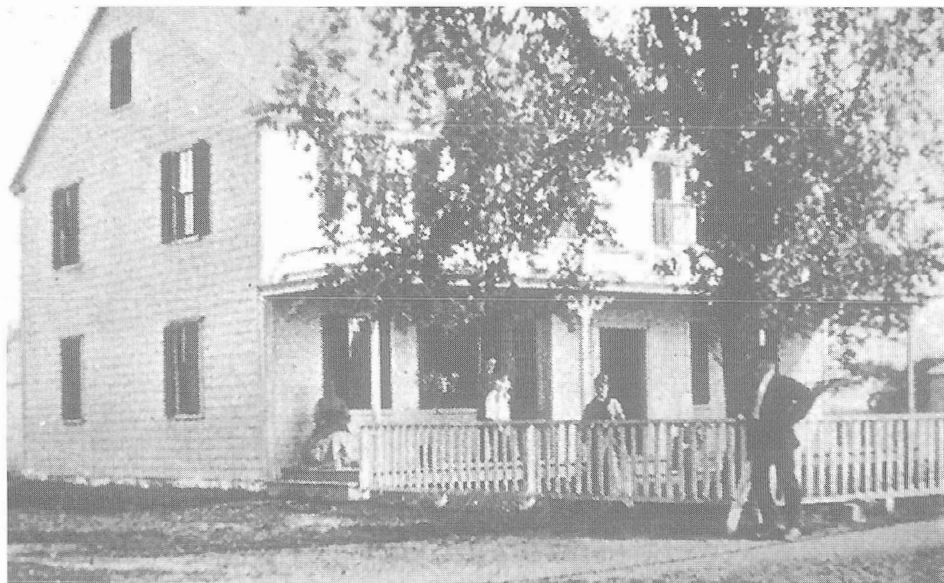
Mary Hodgkins survived her husband “Gid” and died July 14, 1959, after which the Elm Tree Inn ceased operation. It is now a private residence.



*Elm Tree Inn, 1992*

## HANDY'S TAVERN

PRIOR to the railroad's coming to Falmouth in 1872, the mail and passengers were carried by stage-coach. In 1832, William Hewins acquired the stage route from Bourne to Falmouth. According to Deyo in his *History of Barnstable County Massachusetts, 1620-1890*, the stage business flourished until the arrival of trains to Falmouth. Hewins' home on Main Street was across from the present Fire Department Headquarters. His wife was Love Handy, a girl from Cataumet, who was the mother of six sons and two daughters.



*William H. Hewins Stage Coach Stop, East Main Street*

Their home for a large family of ten was also a convenient location for travelers arriving by the coach. Thus it became a boarding house, or hotel operated by Mrs. Hewins under the name of Handy's, her maiden name.



*Handy's Tavern, circa 1930, East Main Street, now the Town and Beach Motel*

Around 1900 a young lady from Newfoundland, Caroline Humber, came to Falmouth to work at the Vineyard Sound House under the ownership of George Giddings. She married a Falmouth native, Merton L. Handy. Caroline and her husband acquired the Handy's boarding house early in the 1900's, and their daughter, Myrtle, was born there in 1912.

Mrs. Handy was an excellent cook, and her reputation was well known. When the Rotary was founded in 1927 in Falmouth, Handy's became its home; the Kiwanis Club also chose Handy's at the time of its founding.

Mrs. Handy was strongly opposed to alcoholic beverages. She would never have a license although the Falmouth selectmen offered her one of the very few the law allowed. It was not until about 1940, when her daughter Myrtle and her husband, Dr. Roland Parris, were assisting in the hotel management, that a liquor license was obtained. This helped in the sale of the business in 1944 to Frank Spencer.

The operation continued until 1957, when the building was razed and the Spencer Motel was built. The same building is presently (1992) the Town and Beach Motel.

## *COLUMN TERRACE*

THE Column Terrace was built in 1920 on the location of the present Falmouth Nursing Home, next to St. Patrick's Church.

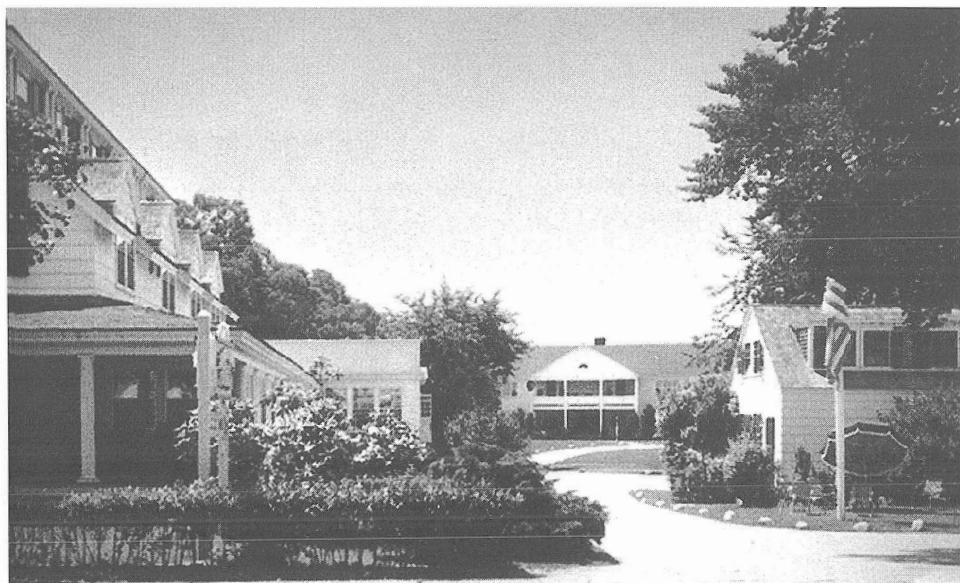
John E. Dwight, who built the Column Terrace as a "first class hostelry", brought Annie Fraser Davis back to Falmouth to open and operate this hotel. She had operated the Elm Arch

Inn until 1911 when she returned to her former home in New Bedford to operate an Elm Arch Inn there. In February 1922, she died and Matilda L. Hague succeeded her as manager.

The property was acquired by the Mayflower Restaurant owners of Hyannis. George Garoufas was an active man in the group and under his guidance, Ross Demetras leased the hotel. The Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, both met there.

In 1957, the property was sold to John R. Hellman. He built an annex to the rear of the inn to increase the number of hotel rooms. He ran the hotel for ten years.

The property was cleared of all buildings in 1967, to allow for the construction of the Falmouth Nursing Home. This facility operates today as it has since it opened in 1969.



*Column Terrace, East Main  
Street circa 1960*



# THE NIMROD CLUB

AROUND 1920, the 60 acre area of land from Jones Road south for the length of Gifford Street to Main Street was spreading fields of natural growth. It included two ponds as well as a wooded area. On the Main Street boundary were three homes, one the Isaac Bourne home which bore evidence of a cannon ball hit during the War of 1812 and next to it was the Captain Nathaniel Lewis house which was large and it was usually identified by a lush and overgrown hedge of English Boxwood. About 1917, George P. Welch of Cleveland, Ohio became the owner of the properties, probably through relationship to a granddaughter of Nathaniel Lewis who had married a Cleveland man by the name of Henry Welch. George P. Welch and his son Henry J. Welch were owners of the prestigious Sterling and Welch Furniture Co. in Cleveland.

After occupying the Lewis house as a summer residence until 1922, Henry J. Welch contracted to have it and the Bourne house moved back and joined together as the master residence of Boxwood estate known to us as the Nimrod Club. For about thirty years this show place estate in the center of the rolling fields and ponds stood in pride to all. Not until 1958, when Dillingham Avenue was cut through the property was there any change.

In establishing the master residence, Hank, as Mr. Welch requested all to address him, built barns, stables, caretaker's cottage, extensive gardens and orchards. He and his wife Alice Andrews



*The Nimrod originally the Capt. Nathaniel Lewis & Isaac Bourne homes built c. 1799 & 1750 respectively*

Welch both loved life and entertained lavishly. Great rhododendron plantings, sunken gardens with fountains, croquet lawns, riding horses and pony carts were all part of the luxuries afforded guests of Boxwood. Hank Welch died in 1930, leaving his wife Alice and a son Henry J. Welch, Jr.

There is little information available for the depression and World War II years. Young Hank served in the army and his mother was active in war relief work. She married Milton Lisk, a Cleveland man with infinite wit and charm and they resided at Boxwood Estate, later remodeling the caretaker's cottage to provide a simpler way of life for themselves while allowing Henry, Jr. to occupy the main house. He had returned from the war and was married in 1944. He and wife Arlene entertained at an open-house, in 1947, to present their home as a guest house and displayed plans for superior country inn accommodations. Hank and his mother started a small development of houses on a short street near the south end of Gifford Street, which they named Boxwood Circle.

In 1951, a lease to operate the residence as an inn was granted to Edna C. Wells, who had operated a summer hotel at Falmouth Heights. Hank moved to Maine and then to Iowa where he died at age 70 leaving a son George Pierce Welch and a daughter Wendy.



*The Boxwood Club circa 1930's*

The Nimrod Club which succeeded the Boxwood Club had some very popular, successful years under the ownership and management of George F. Allen, who came to Falmouth through Otis Air Force Base where he was an officer. He was a gracious host and had a loyal following of friends. He suffered some financial difficulties and since his demise in 1988 there has been a change in ownership. The restaurant in 1993, is under the management of William W. Peters, Jr..

## COONAMESSETT INN

THIS hotel had its origin in the farmhouse of William Chadwick, built in 1826 on the north side of Coonamessett Pond in Hatchville.

Prior to World War I the property, eventually some 15,000 acres, was bought by the Crane family of Woods Hole to establish the Coonamessett Ranch Co. This house was the home of the ranch manager until 1926, when it was leased to Mrs. Jane Jordan as an inn. In 1930, Edna L. Harris leased it and until 1953 ran it most successfully as the Coonamessett Inn.

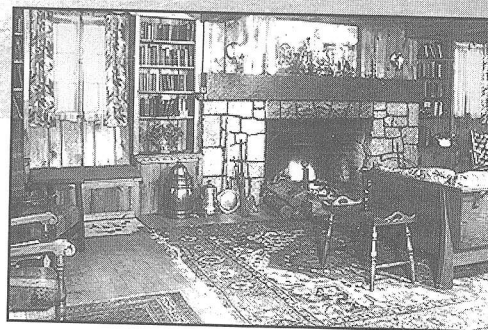
Mrs. Harris was born in 1878, the daughter of Chester Sprague of Watertown, MA, who was one of the developers of Megansett. Edna, at the age of 34 with four small children, opened the Megansett Tea Room in 1912. Success there prompted the Crane family, owners of the Coonamessett Ranch Co. in Hatchville, to ask Edna to take over the lease of the Coonamessett Inn.

Outstanding success from 1930 to 1953 brought fame and fortune to her. The proximity of Falmouth Playhouse under the ownership of Richard Aldrich brought her reputation to several internationally known members of the theater world. People in the banking and business world and James Michael Curley, a governor of Massachusetts, were frequent guests. World War II brought Camp Edwards within a couple miles and with it many officials of the military world. Edna Harris became a familiar name, noted world wide for excellent food and fun.

In 1953, the Crane family refused to renew her lease on the property in favor of giving it to the Treadway Inns, which successfully operated the Publick House in Sturbridge, the



*Coonamessett Inn, Hatchville 1930–1953*





*Coonamessett Inn, Jones Road circa 1953*



Williamstown Inn in Williamstown, and others. However, the operation by Treadway's was unsuccessful, and in early 1957, the Crane interests sold the property to Harvey G. Clauson of Brookline.

It was operated as Clauson's Inn for several years and in the 1970's, following the death of the senior Harvey Clauson, it was sold to Stephen Hopkins and Shepard Sumberg. They had problems and filed for bankruptcy whereupon the ownership reverted to the Clauson family.

In 1986, the Town of Falmouth agreed to buy 200 acres of the property including the Inn. Under the purchase agreement, the Inn and all its appendages were razed and the location is open space today.

Meanwhile, when the Crane interests advised Mrs. Harris on Oct. 5, 1953 of her loss of the lease on the Coonamessett Pond property, she started at once to find a new location for her famous and outstanding Coonamessett Inn. At age 75 she secured all the needed financial backing and bought the property on the corner of Gifford Street and Jones Road on which the original house had been built in 1790. She employed all the needed personnel to work in three shifts, 24 hours per day, seven days a week to open the present Coonamessett Inn on Nov. 15, 1953. In five weeks all the labors of 23 years were moved to a new house. For 14 more years, until Jan. 6, 1967 when Edna died, her success and fame followed her. In later years purchase of the Inn had been sought by several people, and her demise prompted more to seek ownership.

Her daughter Hilda Harris Coppage, a lifelong restaurateur and the eldest of the Harris family, arranged for the Inn to be acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Josiah K. Lilly, III and to be continued in the quality and tradition of Edna.



*Coonamessett Inn bar in Hatchville, mid 1930's*

# TEATICKET INN

THE Teaticket Inn stood for many years on Route 28 where the Admiralty Motel stands across from the present Stop and Shop complex.

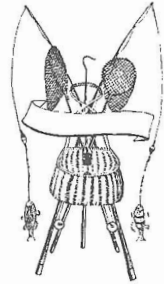
It was called "Drummers Retreat" by reason of the large number of traveling men who patronized their favorite inn. In later years it was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Fish and their son Albert C. Fish. Maggie, as Mrs. Fish was known was an excellent

cook, and the traveling salesmen found comfortable accommodations there. Upon her death, the property was rented for several years until it was destroyed by fire in 1961.



*Teaticket Inn*

It is reported that this was one of two or three places where Daniel Webster stayed when he came to the area for trout fishing. Since he was born in 1782 and died in 1852, this would probably date his fishing trips in the 1830's.



## DAVIS TAVERN



*Davis Tavern , Woods Hole*

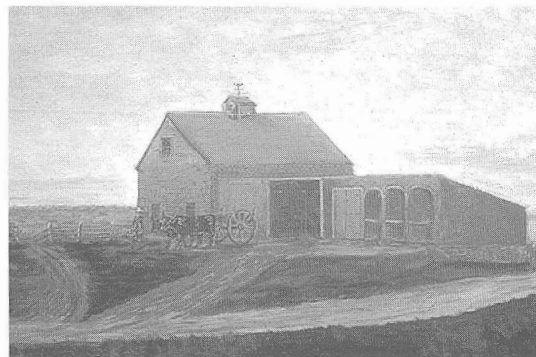
TODAY, in 1993, on the east side of Little Harbor in Woods Hole between the Bacon and Harrison-Levy estates, stands the William S. Rowe home. It is hidden from public view and it is one of the oldest houses in Falmouth. It was built as a tavern in 1685. Samuel Barker, the original owner was from Nantucket and was one of the first to operate a tavern and a ferry from the location.

In 1802, Abner Davis was licensed as an innkeeper, and the tavern became known as Davis Tavern.

Church Street was laid out in the 1840's. The railroad was extended to Woods Hole in the 1870's, and summer homes were built. The tavern was sold to the Sargent family and then to the Rowe family, the present owners.

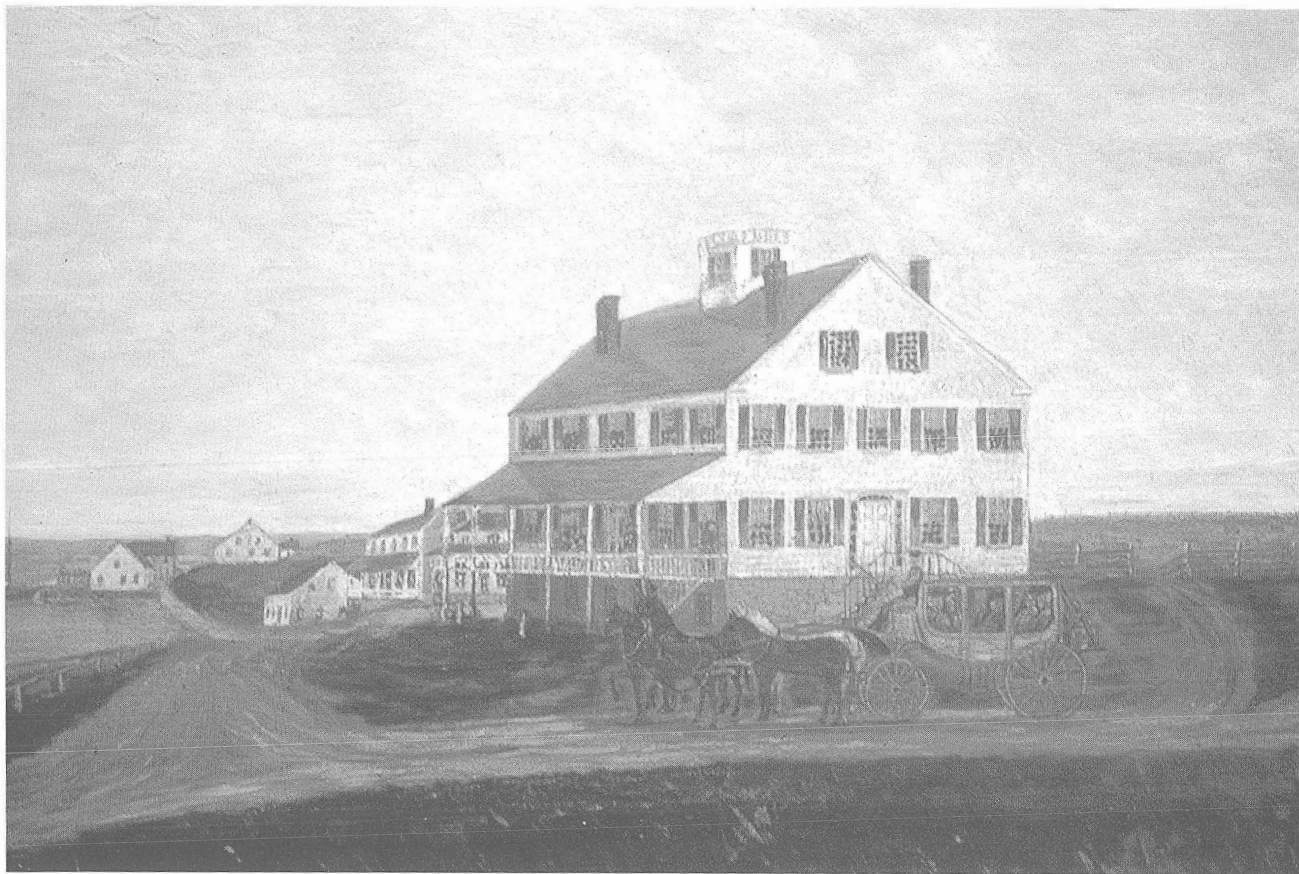
*PARKER'S TAVERN*  
*WEBSTER HOUSE*  
*NOBSKA INN*  
*NAUSHON HOUSE*

ON the west side of Little Harbor in Woods Hole, the U.S. Coast Guard is located, bounded by the water on the east and Little Harbor Road on the west. Joseph Parker's Tavern was built in 1700 on the hill which rises from the road. It was said to be a favorite rendezvous for British soldiers during the Revolution.



At a later date the ownership changed to John Webster, and it was known as Webster House. During his ownership it is recorded that Daniel Webster resided there around 1833 while on fishing outings.

Ownership again changed to a Hopkins, who used the name of "The Nobska Inn," then to a Mr. Blossom, who gave it the name of Naushon House. It operated under this name until it was destroyed by fire in 1858. Naushon House was a regular stop of the stagecoach which ran from Woods Hole to Boston by way of Sandwich and Plymouth.



*Webster House originally Parker's Tavern, on Little Harbor , Woods Hole built 1700*



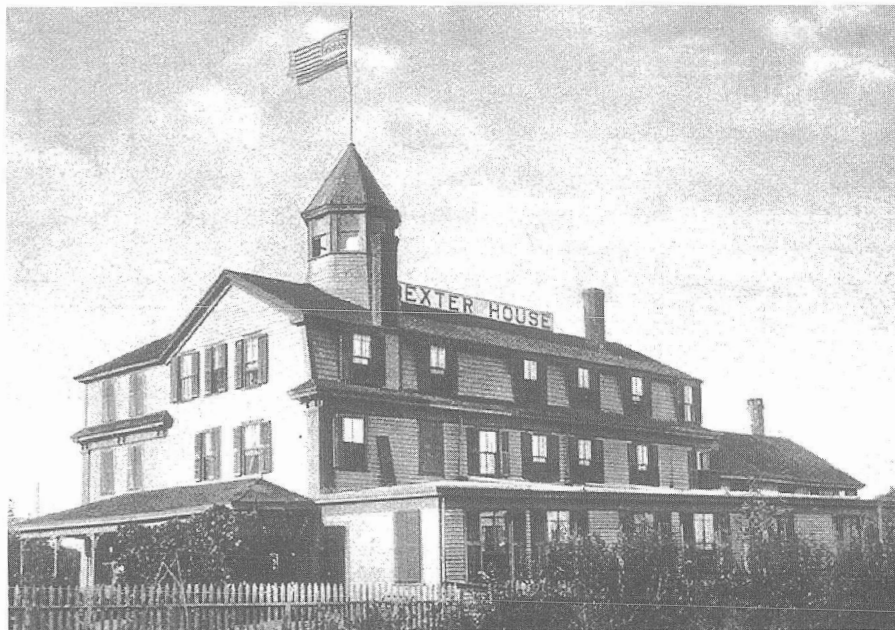
# DEXTER HOTEL

THE home of Capt. Leonard Dexter, built in 1850, was located to the south of Naushon House on the same hill. This area was known as Parker's Point and later as Butler's Point. Today it is our familiar Juniper Point.

Henry M. Dexter, the son of Capt. Leonard, opened his father's home in 1853 as the Dexter Hotel. He added more rooms and dining areas until in the later 1800's it became a recognized summer hotel.

The South Shore Blue Book of 1906 carried a listing of the summer residents of Dexter House.

In 1922, the buildings were razed so the property could become the site of a private residence.



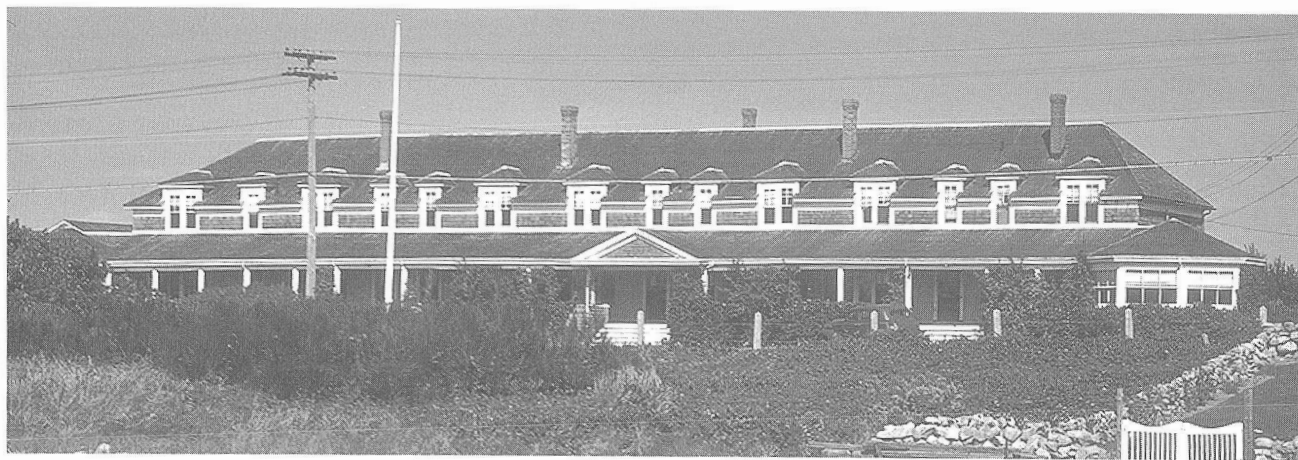
*Dexter House built 1850 on Butler's Point, Woods Hole*

## *BREAKWATER HOTEL*

IN the 1860's the Pacific Guano Works—a fertilizer plant—was located on Long Neck, now Penzance Point. It operated a dormitory boarding house for its employees near the present Woods Hole Yacht Club. The peak period of its operation was about 1865. Later, financial problems caused it to close.

The boarding house was then remodeled and became a summer hotel of quality and prestige. It was for many years managed by Heloise Redfield, sister of Dr. Alfred Redfield, an eminent scientist in Woods Hole.

In 1960 the property was sold to the Marine Biological Laboratory, and it was demolished in 1961.



*Breakwater Hotel*

# THE WOODS HOLE INN



*Hotel Avery circa 1900, Water Street & Luscombe Ave., Woods Hole*

THIS hotel, located on the corner of Railroad Avenue and Main Street in Woods Hole, was referred to in *Falmouth By-The-Sea*, published in 1896, as "Hotel Nobska," W. H. Henley, proprietor.

In 1901, a map of Woods Hole referred to it as "The Corner Inn". A 1906 Sanborn map of Woods Hole referred to it as the "Avery House". In 1907, the program for the Woods Hole Celebration of Gosnold's Landing spoke of the "Hotel Avery".

Elmer Avery, the proprietor, was a conductor of the New York, New Haven and Hartford train from Woods Hole to Buzzards Bay, and Mrs. Avery was the operator of the hotel.

A nephew, Lloyd Avery, recalls that in 1917, at age 13, he spent the summer as an errand boy with his relatives. His strongest memory of the stay was of their parrot which was kept on the porch that fronted on the street corner. At this time there were many more horse drawn



*Water Street looking west, Woods Hole—Hotel Avery on left*

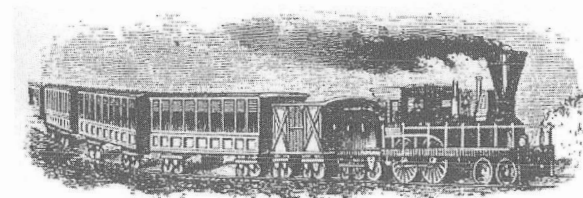
vehicles than motor cars, and the parrot had been trained to speak out loudly "WHOA" and then "GIDDAP/BACK UP". Lloyd states that this, at times, was quite a joke in Woods Hole.

Around 1945, Capt. Frank and his wife Gloria MacLean bought the property and ran it as the Woods Hole Inn. Following the death of Capt. Frank, his widow leased the property to the Marine Biological Laboratory from 1968 to 1970 during construction of its new buildings.

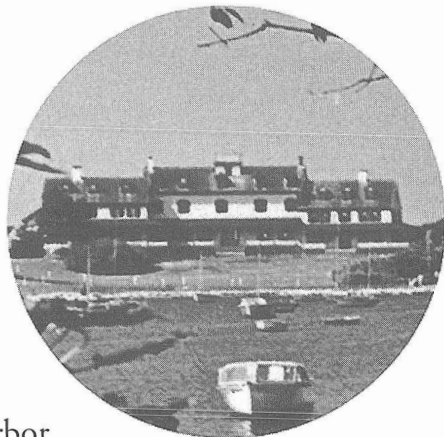
The property was sold to Robert Schneider, the present owner, in 1992. It is no longer operated as an inn.

## QUISSETT HARBOR HOUSE

WITH the extension of the railroad to Woods Hole in 1872, the accessibility and attractiveness of Quissett Harbor and Buzzards Bay opened this area to visitors.



In 1871, the Jenkins house, which is the only one still standing on its original site, was sold by the widow Jenkins to the wife of Col. James M. Lewis for \$2,100. The purchase included 47 acres. Col. Lewis had the neighboring Hammond farmhouse moved and joined to the Jenkins house.

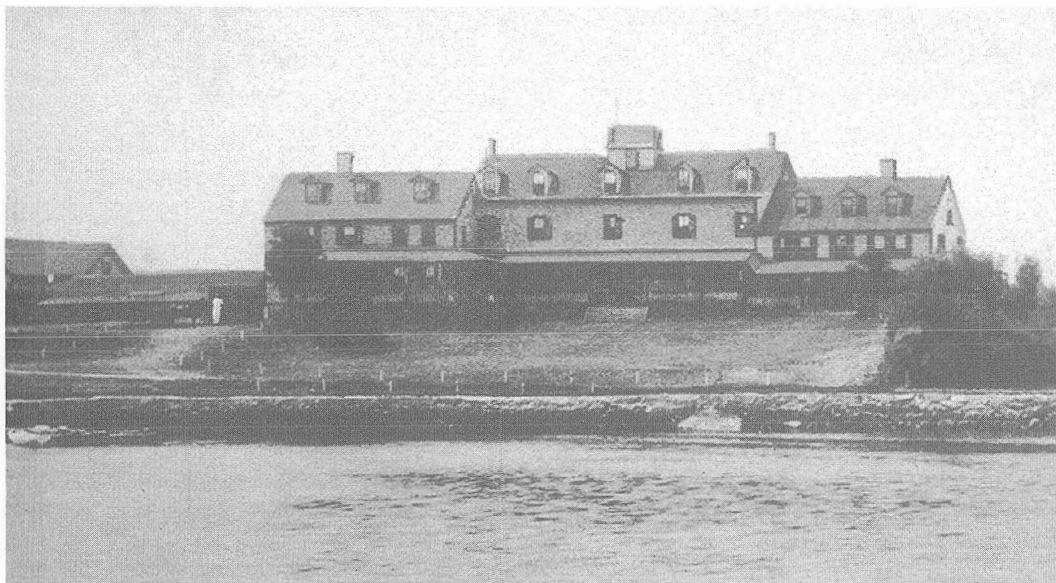




Records show that in 1874, guests were living at the Harbor House. Reports also record that the character of some guests who came across Buzzards Bay was questionable.

Stephen W. Carey of New York City, a Martha's Vineyard native, began in 1877, to acquire property in this area. In 1881, he bought the Quissett Harbor House, as the Col. Lewis property had come to be called, for \$9,675. George W. Fish, a Quissett resident and manager of the Falmouth Hotel on Main Street became manager of the Harbor House and continued in that position for 35 years.

In 1917, during World War I, when it appeared that Mr. Fish was not to re-open it, L. W. Francis, a resident of the hotel for several years, and a friend joined to open it again. After a few seasons with S.W. Carey, Jr. managing it, the hotel was opened each year with Miss Cornelia Carey, his daughter, supervising the operation.



*Quissett Harbor House*



*Quisset Harbor House*

One who reviewed its operation wrote that there was nothing “ramshackle or of cheapness—only an air of fatigue and ageless solidarity.” There was no running water in the rooms; a pitcher of hot water and one of cold water were left at the door each morning. There was an iron bed, a chest, a chair and a closet in each room and a coiled rope at the window served as a fire escape. Illumination was by kerosene

lamp until electricity was available, and then one bulb hung on a cord from the ceiling. There were three toilets and no bathtubs to accommodate the 100-capacity hotel as advertised in the 1892 railroad booklet. The rates were \$15 to \$20 per week.

In 1975, after 101 years of operation, the Quisset Harbor House closed. After the deaths of Stephen Carey, III and then Cornelia Carey, the extensive area was inherited by Stephen Carey’s widow and children. Cornelia had no family. All heirs shared the Carey sentiment for preserving the area from development.

The Hammond house wing of the hotel was sold and flaked to be restored in Oregon. The connecting structure was razed. Today the Jenkins house stands on its original site flanked by the “salt works” rooms and the cottage to the south and the dining room annex, Willett Hall, to the east. The Jenkins house is rented to a family in the summer as is the cottage.

# THE CAPE CODDER SIPPEWISSETT HOTEL

HEIRS of the 180-acre sheep farm of Richard L. Swift in Sippewissett sold it for \$10,000 in 1892 to John C. Haynes, a Boston music publisher and owner of the Oliver Ditson Music Co. After dividing the property into house lots, he reserved the highest promontory overlooking Buzzards Bay for a hotel site. Construction began in 1899, and the Sippewissett Hotel opened in 1900.

In 1902, an addition with a flat roof was added on the right side. It included a large dining room and many more baths and bedrooms. The hotel was lit by electricity generated by its own plant, and hot and cold running water was produced by its own system. A tank located in one of the two cupolas on the roof stored the water for the gravity plumbing system.

Even though it was reported that trains made a stop at one of the bridges in Sippewissett to discharge hotel guests, business at the hotel was erratic. After a reported hotel construction cost of \$66,729, Mr. Haynes was forced into bankruptcy and died in 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Percival F. Brine took over the property in 1909 and operated it at a profit. They sold it in 1912.

After World War I, it was reported that the Sippewissett Club, Inc. bought the hotel in 1917 for \$17,000. For a period after this it was run as the Cleveland Hotel, then by Charles Dooley, who changed the name to the Mayflower to match a hotel in Plymouth by that name. A bank foreclosure brought it up again for auction, and it sold for \$11,955.

The Brines bought the hotel back in 1930 and ran it until 1934, when they went bankrupt.

In 1936, Capt. John R. (Pete) and Shirley Peterson leased and ran the Cape Codder until 1939, when they bought the property. Pete was 30 years old when he came to Falmouth and had some good business experience in the recreation field.

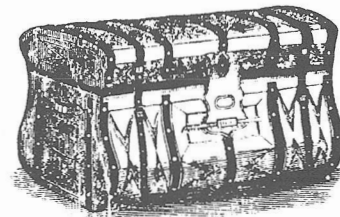
For 40 years the Petersons operated a very successful summer hotel. They had buses meet all the trains; they built the largest swimming pool on Cape Cod, 40' by 110'. They had a fishing lodge on Cuttyhunk and their own boats for sport fishing. They operated a large farm to supply fresh vegetables to the hotel and were always able to meet the demands of the summer hotel public.

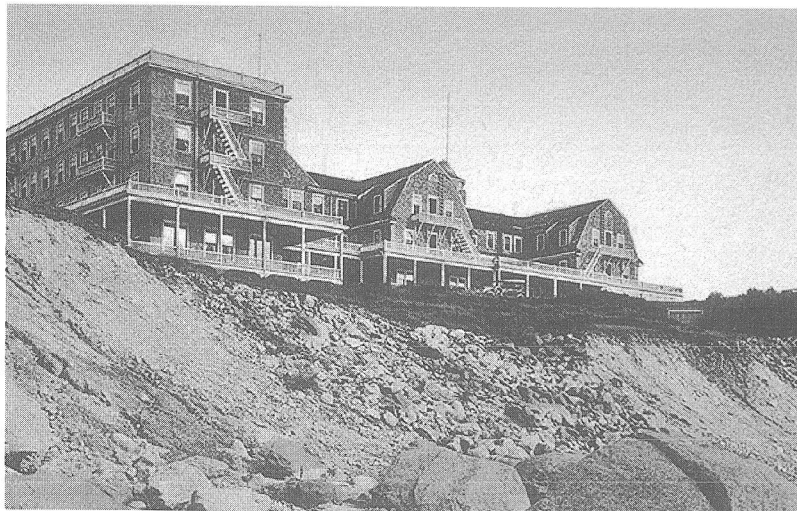
In 1980, the Petersons sold the complex to Hotels of Distinction, a Boston hotel chain, for a reported \$1.5 million. Alan Tremain, manager of the Copley Plaza in Boston became the manager.

## Cape Codder Residences

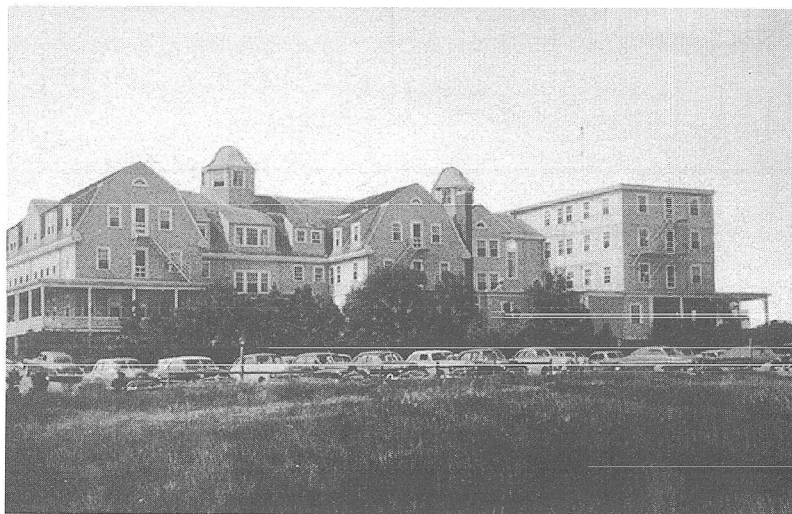
In 1985, it was sold for about \$4 million to Intercontinental Developers, Inc., Petros A. Palandjian, director, and continued to operate.

The complex was razed in 1988, to make room for a condominium complex called Cape Codder Residences.





*Hotel Sippewissett  
circa 1910*



*Cape Codder  
circa 1945*

## THE INN

### West Falmouth

**N**EAR the Chapoquoit bridge, just before crossing it, is the home of the College Light Opera Company, a group which has been presenting musical theater at Highfield in Falmouth since 1968.

The structure was built as the summer residence for Sara M. Scull of Philadelphia in 1895.

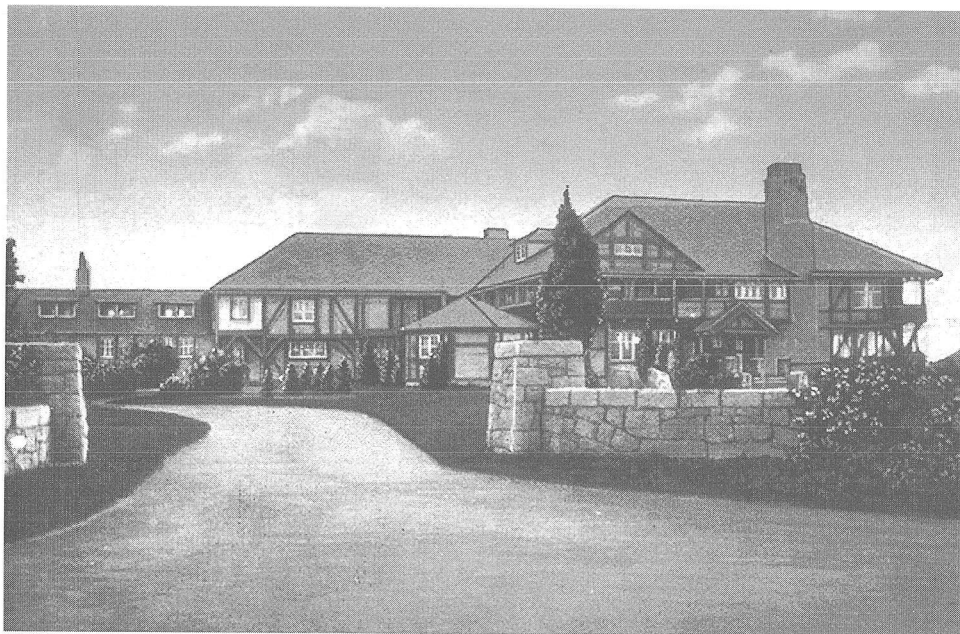
Around 1915, it was occupied during the summer season as The Inn, under the ownership of Mrs. William. P. Montgomery, who operated the Gingerbread Tea Room in Boston during the winter months. After many years of operation and her demise, it was managed by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Phillips.

Around 1966, the property was bought by Mrs. J. K. Lilly, III. Josephine Lilly made several improvements in the building, and its most successful manager was Hilda Coppage, who had ceased her many successful years of operating the Popponesset Inn.

The College Light Opera Company leased it in 1974 and in 1978, bought it for the home of its summer actors and crew.







*The Inn  
West Falmouth, circa 1920*

*The Inn, West Falmouth  
viewed from the old bridge going to  
Chapoquoit. This wooden bridge was  
built in 1890, at the head of the inlet  
where it joined the upper harbor, to  
give access to Hog Island for  
development. It stood until the 1938  
hurricane.*



## OLD NYE TAVERN

THE Old Nye Tavern at 229 Old Main Road in North Falmouth was built around 1775. It served as a tavern for travelers by coach as early as 1825 and into the era of automobiles. Known as the Nye Tavern, it also served as the post office from the middle 1800's, when owner Ebenezer Nye became the first postmaster of North Falmouth.



Daniel Webster was a frequent guest; he enjoyed hunting on the Cape. The north ell was a tap room before it became the post office. There was a heavy iron ring in the center of the floor where the sheriff could chain his prisoners while he refreshed himself.

The house in 1993 is owned by Fern Eldridge.

*Old Nye Tavern*



## RAND HILL INN

THE Fraser Nursing Home on Pine Street, North Falmouth, was originally the Rand Hill Inn.

It is believed to have been the successor to Rand's Tavern, a tea room in the 1920's era of tea rooms, which was in operation in the Nye Tavern on Old Main Road.

James Henry Rand, whose name became familiar from the Remington Rand typewriter, was a summer resident as early as 1908. His wealth enabled him to acquire many properties and not only restore them but to build and develop as much as 1,500 acres in North Falmouth.

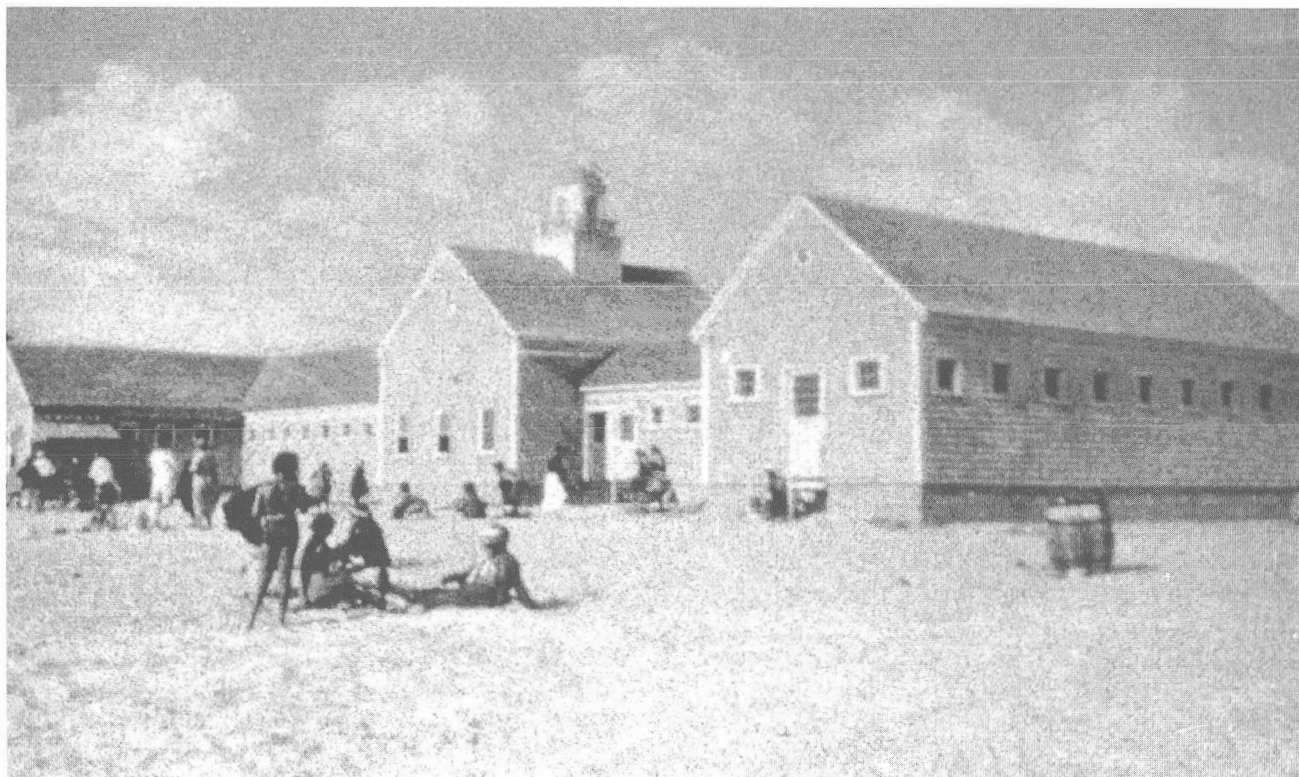
In the late 1920's his daughter Mabel Rand Hildreth and her family were living in the Capt. Peter E. Child's home, subsequently known as the Monica Dickens Stratton home on Old Main Road. A walk from their back door to Pine Street was the house which Mr. Rand rebuilt, expanded and opened as the Rand Hill Inn. Mabel Hildreth, an accomplished cook and hostess, operated the Inn for the period of about ten years of its existence.



During this time the University Players offered summer theater at the nearby Old Silver Beach Playhouse. Among the cast members were Henry Fonda and his wife to be, Margaret Sullivan, who were residents of the Inn. Their theater connections brought such guests as Cole Porter, Tyrone Power, Jimmy Stewart, the artist James Montgomery Flagg and others of the entertainment world.



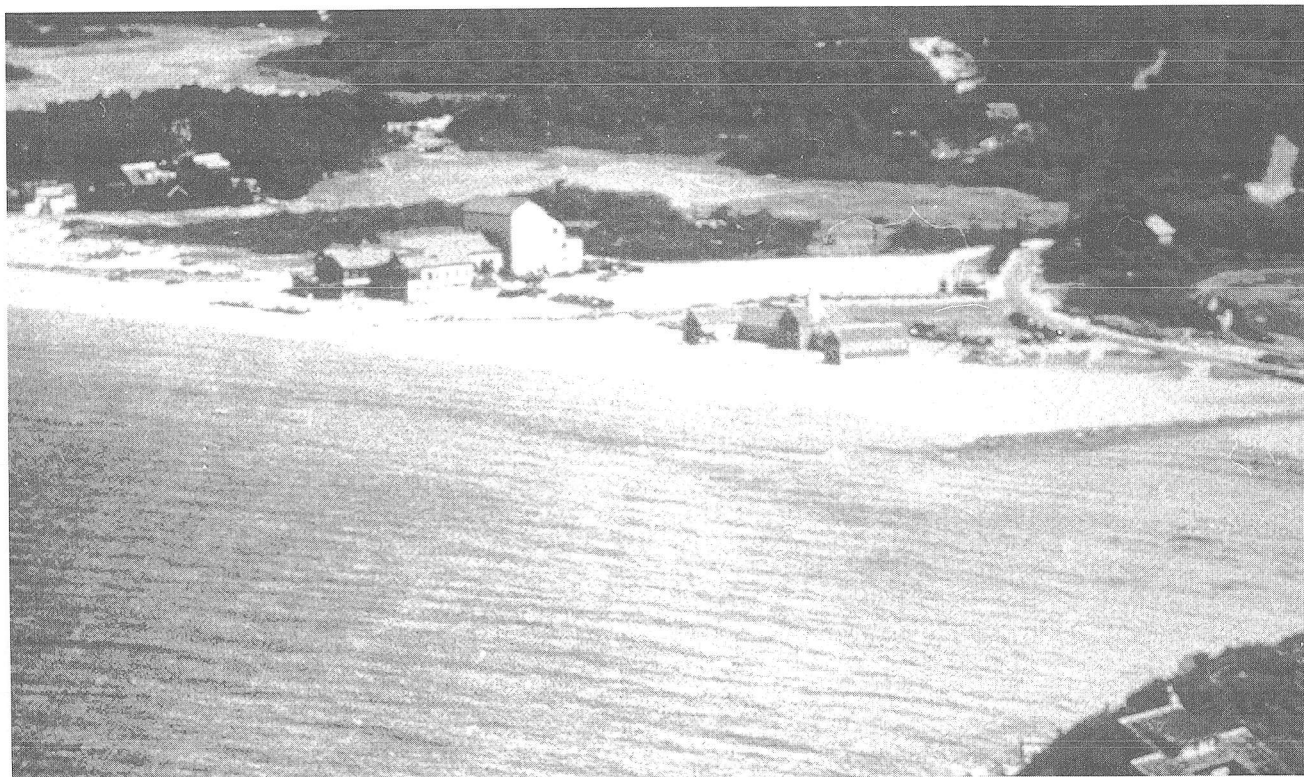
*Rand's Tavern, North Falmouth*



*Bathing Pavilion, Old Silver Beach, North Falmouth*

A fire in 1936 brought an end to the Old Silver Beach Playhouse, and with the great economic depression of this period, it appears that the Inn ceased to operate at about this time.

The Rand Hill Inn was vacant until 1947 when Dean and Virgie Fraser bought it to open a nursing home operated by the same family today.



*Old Silver Beach Theatre and the Bathing Pavilion*



## SEA CREST HOTEL

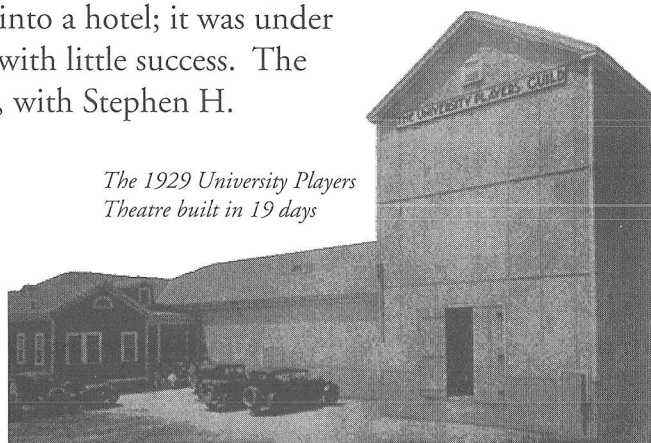
THE Old Silver Beach Club was built in 1928-29 on Old Silver Beach. This area was rather “off the beaten path” in those prohibition days, and it was known that gambling as well as the availability of illegal drinks were quite prevalent.

The University Players had sought a theater location, and in 1929 Falmouth Town Meeting voted to permit a theater to be located behind the club. In 19 days the building was erected. It operated for six consecutive seasons until it was destroyed by fire.

The Club was operated by Lou Walters, father of TV personality Barbara Walters, under his Latin Quarter of Boston management. The 1938 hurricane caused considerable damage to it. Finally, during the World War II years, the Navy leased it for housing.

In 1941, Charles P. Abbott incorporated it into a hotel; it was under various owners and managers, most of the time with little success. The property was sold to Kenneth P. Battles in 1962, with Stephen H. Hill and Arnold J. Auerbach as partners. It operated quite successfully.

In 1986, it was sold to the Laurel Group, a Connecticut development corporation. It has the facilities and the beach location to attract convention business with which it has had considerable success.



*The 1929 University Players  
Theatre built in 19 days*

## SILVER BEACH HOTEL

IN 1897, a group of Brockton men bought an area in North Falmouth, adjacent to the Wild Harbor area, known as Long Point and named Silver Beach. In 1900, a Boston hotel owner, George E. Ricker, was given 12 lots on the east side of Arlington Street, between Wild Harbor Road and Crystal Spring Avenue. On this site he built the Silver Beach Hotel.

The Ricker family ran the hotel until 1939, when it was sold to a group of Silver Beach residents.

It continued to be operated by them and one other management until it was demolished in 1957.





*New Silver Beach Hotel, North Falmouth—built in 1900*

# TOWER HOUSE HOTEL

THE Tower House Hotel was built on Falmouth Heights in 1871 by George Tower. It was the first hotel in that part of Falmouth and was erected on the site of the old salt works, which were located where the Falmouth Heights Road turns East at the corner of the Falmouth Yacht Club. The hotel was established by a group of Worcester businessmen who bought 100 acres in 1870.

The hotel was operated for about 30 years by Tower until his death. *The Enterprise* reported in May 1907 that the new owner was Charles W. Hadley. He installed a gas lighting system and built bathhouses on the beach in front of the hotel which stood until the hurricane of 1938.

In 1924, C. W. Hadley retired and sold to George B. Moran, who was a dining hall manager at Holy Cross College in Worcester. Many of his summer employees were Holy Cross students.

The army took over the property in June 1942, for the use of the Engineers Amphibian Command which was training in Falmouth. Housing was provided in the hotel, and the large field in front was used as a parade ground. The Army returned the property to George B. Moran in 1943, but too late for him to restore it for vacation hotel use, and it did not re-open until the summer of 1944.

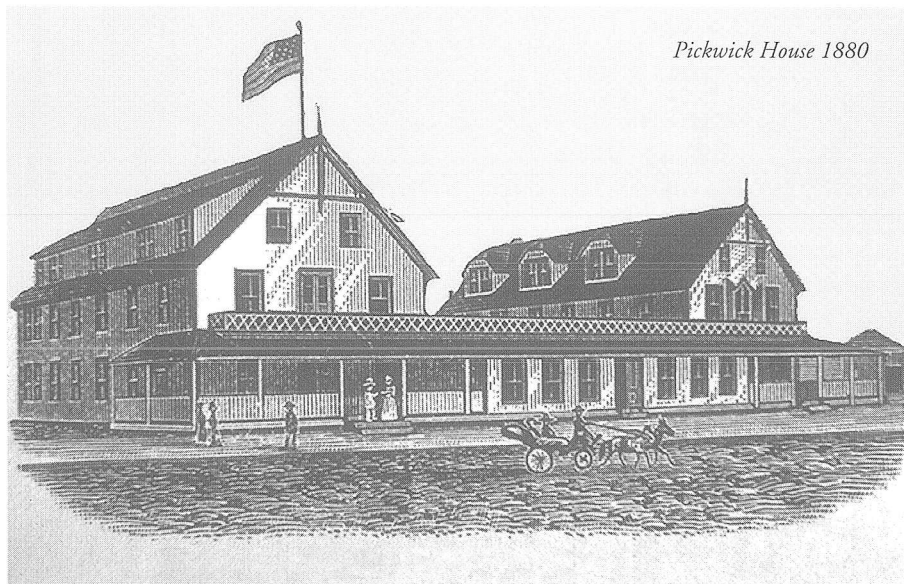
Following World War II, summer hotels in this area became less popular, and with business diminishing, the property was sold. In August 1960, it was razed, bringing to an end to its 89-year history. The land remains vacant.



*Tower House Hotel 1871–1960, Falmouth Heights*

PICKWICK HOUSE  
VINEYARD SOUND HOUSE  
PARK BEACH HOTEL

THE Pickwick House was built on Grand Avenue in 1880 by C. L. Hopson, who was one of a group of Worcester businessmen interested in the development of Falmouth Heights.



Around 1900 George L. Giddings began operating the hotel as the Vineyard Sound House and did so for several years. Subsequently the property was acquired by and operated by the Boston wholesale food and fruit firm of Bolton and Doe.

In 1943, Capt. John R. Peterson bought the hotel from Littleton Bolton and William A. Doe and renamed it the



Park Beach Hotel. By this time many parts of the hotel were 60 years old. They modernized it into a motel in keeping with current hotel trends. According to Shirley Peterson, they built around the old structure and tore it down, practically all at the same time. Today with the addition of a swimming pool and an all new building, the original hotel is unrecognizable.

In 1983, the Peterson family sold their interest to owners of a Hyannis hotel. The property is operating now under the name of the Park Beach Motel.



*Vineyard Sound House  
circa 1920*

## *OAK CREST INN*

THE Oak Crest Inn was located at the top of the hill in Falmouth Heights on one side of the Circle that was the location of Union Chapel. The original hotel was built in 1880 by the Goodwin family and was run by them until 1891 as the Goodwin House.

In 1891, it was sold to Rev. Henry K. Craig, a pastor of the First Congregational Church in Falmouth for 17 years. For 65 years it remained a Craig family operation. First, when there were relatively few rooms, it was run by the Rev. Craig, and then by his son, who was responsible for additions built in 1901 and again in 1914, as well as the addition of seven cottages.

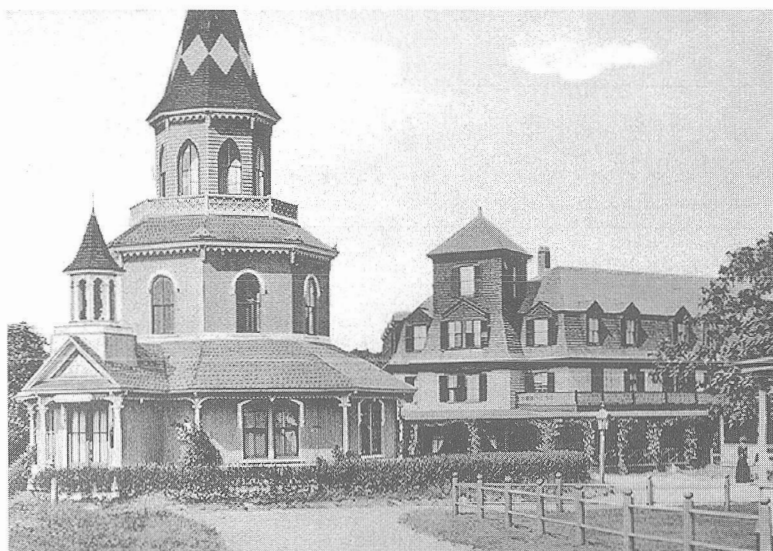
Alan D. Craig, a grandson, was owner and manager for many years until his retirement in 1957 when the property was sold to Ugo J. Tassinari and Paul M. Wasseth, who along with Alan were on the faculty of Lawrence High School.

During the many years of the Craig operation, there was great emphasis on family-oriented accommodations. Many families came for the entire summer season. In 1910, a frequent weekend guest was Joseph P. Kennedy. At that time Boston Mayor John F. Fitzgerald and his family were renting a home overlooking the ball park. In 1914, his daughter Rose became the bride of Mr. Kennedy and matriarch of the present Kennedy family.

After the sale of the property by the Craig family, the management changed and when the popularity of this type of operation declined, the hotel was demolished in 1978.

The land was purchased by the Town of Falmouth, and Oak Crest Park was created to perpetuate the highly esteemed location.

*The Chapel and the  
Craig House,  
Falmouth Heights*





*Craig House, Falmouth Heights, 1880–1978*

# MENAUHANT HOTEL

IN 1870, a group of Universalist churchmen from Attleboro sought a “remote, isolated spot” for camp meetings. The Menauhant area was chosen for this purpose. Four years later six Attleboro jewelers and John Tobey of East Falmouth formed the Menauhant Land and Wharf Co. and bought the property.

Between 1875 and 1880 the Menauhant Hotel and six cottages were built on the south side of Central Avenue and Menauhant Road. Under the management of varied owners its success



*Menauhant Hotel, 1875–1918, Central Avenue & Menauhant Road*

was mediocre, and when real financial troubles arose in 1914, the property was bought by Webster L. Draper. He was then the owner of the Terrace Gables Hotel at Falmouth Heights and used the Menaubant Hotel for overflow guests who, according to the thoughts of Menaubant people, “were the less desirable vacationer.” On June 17, 1918, a fire fanned by a northwest wind, completely destroyed the building. A residence now exists there.



*Menaubant Hotel overlooking Vineyard Sound*

## *TERRACE GABLES HOTEL*

THIS Falmouth Heights hotel was the Grande Dame of Falmouth hotels during the era when vacations at summer hotels were fashionable. The family of Webster L. Draper owned the Draper Cottage on this location high on the bluff overlooking Vineyard Sound and where they provided room and board for a few guests around the year 1880. The success of the operation led to enlargement of the house with additional gables. In 1892, it emerged as the Terrace Gables Hotel, losing its identity as the Draper cottage, and becoming a large fashionable

resort hotel. Its clientele was of the wealthier class with liveried chauffeurs and expectations of formal dining, with live dinner music and meticulous service. These amenities were all provided by a well trained staff. One review of the Terrace Gables referred to it as providing “elegant opulence.”

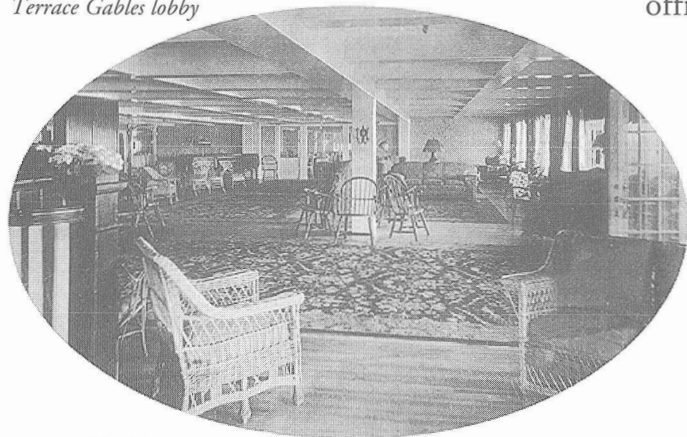
Webster L. Draper died on August 7, 1932, and the management passed to his widow Carrie. With grandiose ideas, she leased the Cottage Club building across the street and made a major investment in a nightclub that opened there in 1935 under the name of the Gables Casino. It was a failure.

In 1936, the Wareham Savings Bank foreclosed its mortgage on the entire property. A long standing friend of the late Mr. Draper, William B. James of Scituate, then took over the property and managed it for 11 seasons until his death in 1947. Carrie Draper had died on Sept. 13, 1940.

Arthur Warren Smith, a business associate of William B. James, continued the operation until 1952, when it was sold to Michael A. Ames, an officer of the Cape Cod Resort Hotels, Inc., which assumed ownership. The estimated sale price was \$120,000, although the real estate tax valuation was \$146,000.

The Ames family operated the once famous hotel for about 10 years and then sold it. It later became the Brothers 4 and then Yesterday's, with its reputation declining rapidly. It became very popular with the young

*Terrace Gables lobby*







*Terrace Gables circa 1913, Falmouth Heights*

beer-drinking set and the source of a police problem. In 1988, the buildings were completely demolished, and today a condominium complex replaces them.

## LAWRENCE'S SANDWICH DEPOT

THE old postcards of Lawrence's Restaurant seem to qualify it for inclusion in this account. The restaurant has been located in its present building on Nantucket Avenue, Falmouth Heights, since 1930, but the business had its origins much earlier.

Lyman Lawrence was a Falmouth native, who had a bakery located on Main Street in the building now occupied by the Riley family's Town House Restaurant. In 1901, Lyman sold this business to James T. Bowman who ran the bakery and a lunchroom for several years.

Early postcards show that Lyman had a bakery on Nantucket Avenue in 1896. In 1906, he enlarged the shop, and the sign over the door was changed from Bakery to Sandwich Shop. In 1912, Clifford A. Wood went to work for "Lyme," and after World War I, he became a partner in the business, buying it in 1926.

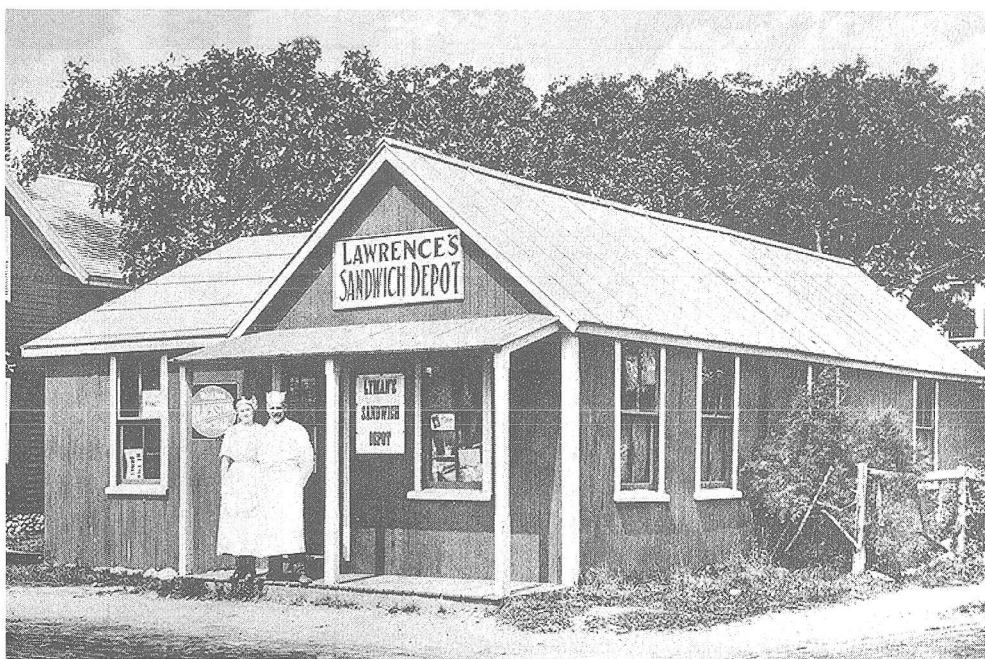
The building inside was an immaculate white painted room with only the essentials for making sandwiches. A man worked at each of the three counters. Never was any sandwich touched, except with utensils. The bread, in this era before slicing machines, was held with a



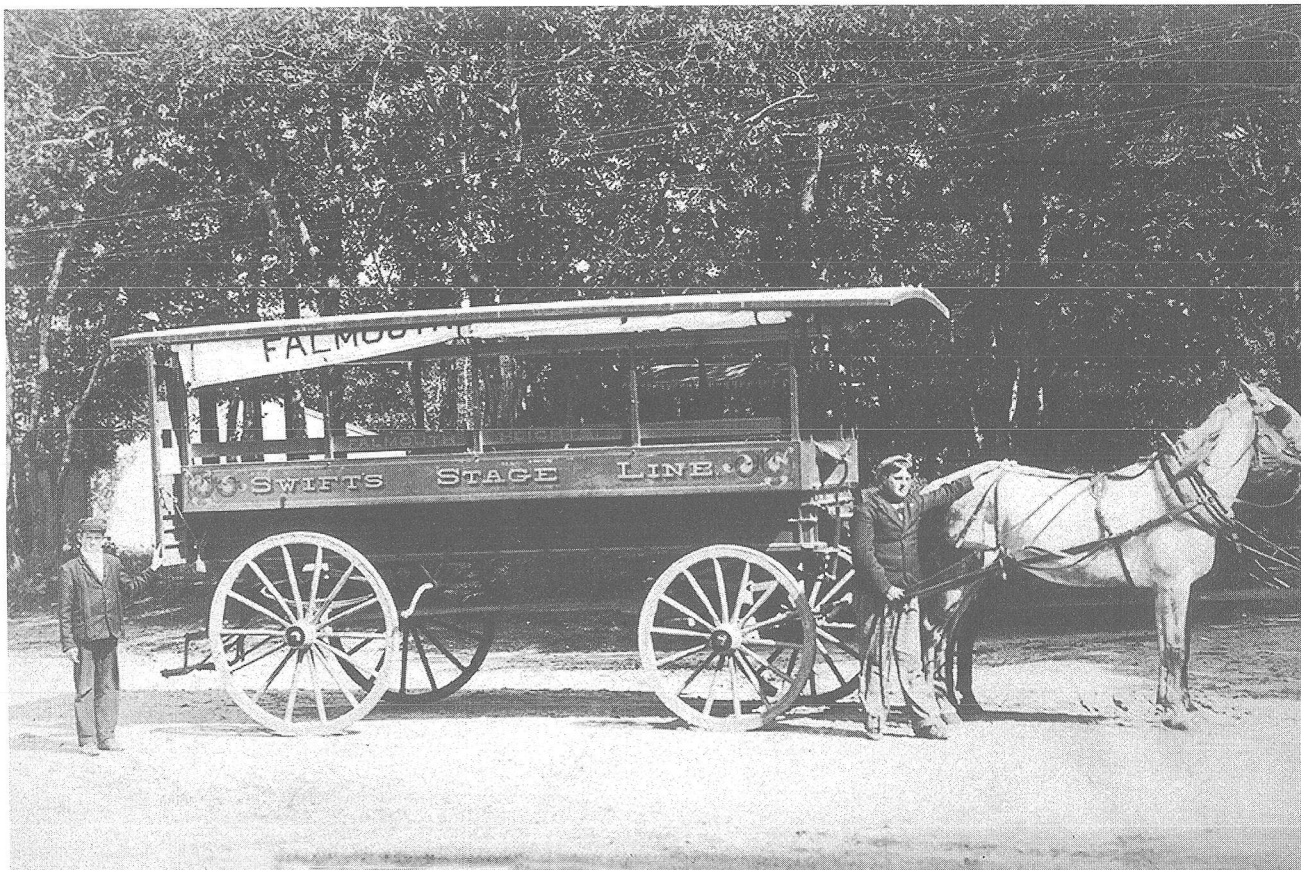
*Lawrence's Sandwich Depot built 1930*

utensil. The top crust was sliced off, then the bread sliced. A spatula was used to spread the dressing and the desired filling; then a knife speared the paper plate; the sandwich was cut in half and placed on the plate. There were many selections; and, home-made beverages of root beer, lemon or orangeade were sold. Seating was at a board bench along the whole side of the room.

In 1930, Cliff Wood engaged Gilbert T. Boone, a well known local architect, to design the present building with more modern conveniences and greater capacity. In 1955, Cliff died, and his widow and son, Donald, succeeded him. In 1986, the business was sold to James Carroll, the present owner.



*Lawrence's Sandwich Depot  
circa 1906*



*Swifts Stage Line—Guests for the Falmouth Heights Hotels were transported from the Falmouth Railroad Station on one of Swift's Stages.*

## *The End*

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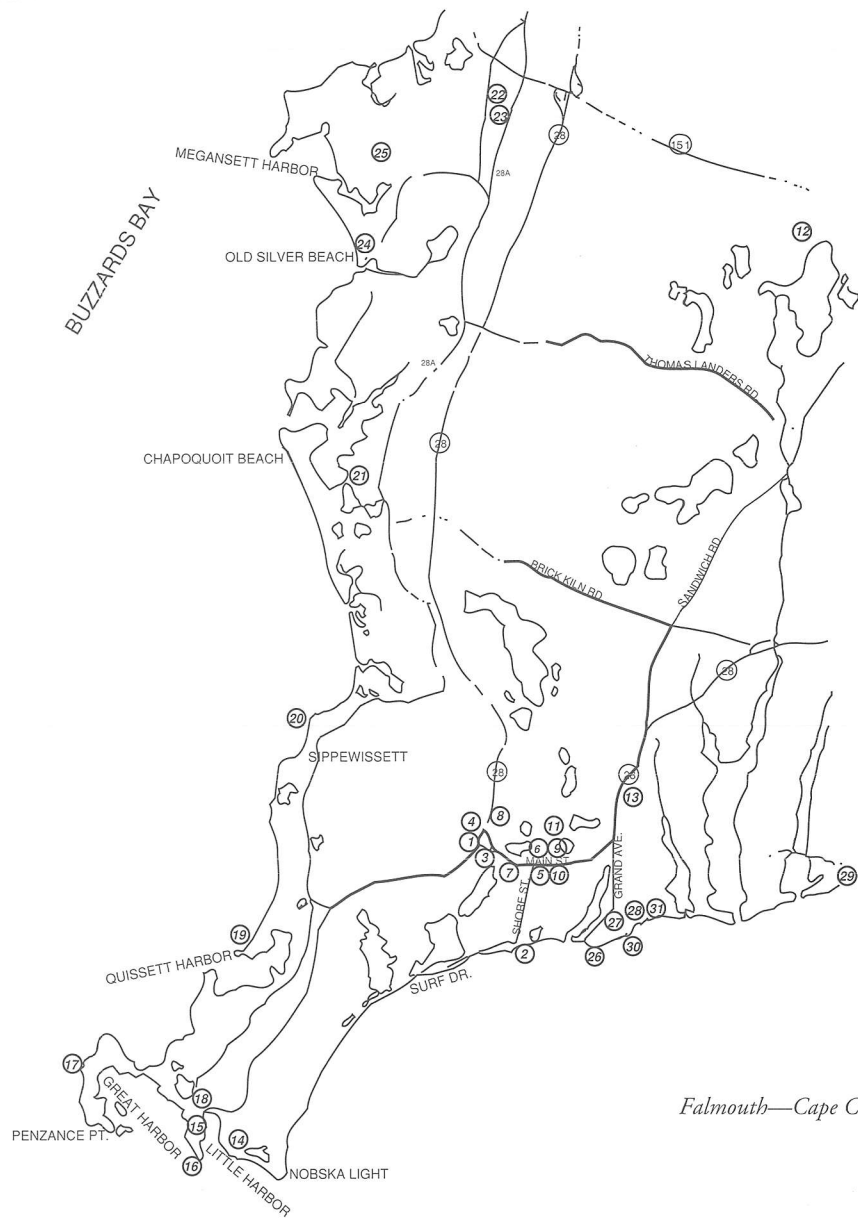
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*Falmouth—Cape Cod, Massachusetts*

## Map Key

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| 1. Shubael Hatch's Tavern | 17. Breakwater Hotel          |
| 2. Gifford Tavern         | 18. The Woods Hole Inn        |
| 3. Succanesset House      | 19. Quissett Harbor House     |
| 4. Locust Lodge           | 20. The Cape Codder           |
| 5. Hotel Falmouth         | 21. The Inn—West Falmouth     |
| 6. Eagle Hotel            | 22. Old Nye Tavern            |
| 7. Elm Arch Inn           | 23. Rand Hill Inn             |
| 8. Elm Tree Inn           | 24. Sea Crest Hotel           |
| 9. Handy's Tavern         | 25. Silver Beach Hotel        |
| 10. Column Terrace        | 26. Tower House Hotel         |
| 11. Nimrod Club           | 27. Pickwick House            |
| 12. Coonamessett Inn      | 28. Oak Crest Inn             |
| 13. Teaticket Inn         | 29. Menauhant Hotel           |
| 14. Davis Tavern          | 30. Terrace Gabels Hotel      |
| 15. Parker's Tavern       | 31. Lawrence's Sandwich Depot |
| 16. Dexter Hotel          |                               |

Having brought to fruition a seventeen year long project of updating the book, *Residential Falmouth: An 1897 Souvenir for the Sojourner*, Arnold W. Dyer has completed his second book. It is based on his extensive post card collection including many Falmouth buildings and streetscapes, which led Mr. Dyer to begin researching the history of Falmouth's various turn of the century hotels and inns. Hours were spent going through material in the library, newspaper files and talking with long-time residents. During his research, having found a great many people interested in his project Mr. Dyer had his post cards photographed to 35mm film, allowing him to present "The Inns & Hotels of Falmouth" as a slide show to several organizations and groups. Some of the slides are not from the postcard collection.

To publish the book these slides were electronically scanned to a Kodak PhotoCD™. From the CD, the images were brought into Adobe PhotoShop® running on an Apple® Macintosh® computer and retouched. Retouching was limited to removing blemishes, scratches, cracks, postmarks and extraneous information such as handwriting and text on the postcards. In addition, a large telephone cable was removed from the photograph of the Conant House on page 15 and a telephone pole was removed from the picture of Tower House on page 55. The pole was on the left side of the porch and obscured the detail of the porch post and railing.



Arnold W. Dyer

## *Hotels & Inns of Falmouth*

*A survey of 17th, 18th and 19th Century Accommodations*