

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD: ITS
HISTORY AND
ADVANTAGES AS A HEALTH
AND SUMMER RESORT**

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Martha's Vineyard: Its History and Advantages as a Health and Summer Resort by G. W. Eldridge

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G. W. ELDRIDGE

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Martha's Vineyard:

ITS

HISTORY AND ADVANTAGES

AS A

HEALTH AND SUMMER RESORT.

BY G. W. ELDRIDGE,

A RESIDENT OF THE ISLAND.

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PREFACE.

The author of this work came to Martha's Vineyard fourteen years ago, an invalid. To-day, he is a practical demonstration of what the singularly salubrious climate of this Island has done to restore him to health, and his experience has been verified in the cases of many others, and the principal object he has in publishing this book is to make its advantages as a health resort more extensively known. He has endeavored to conscientiously represent these advantages in the following pages, and he believes that when they are more fully known and understood that the people of the United States will make of this Island a grand sanitarium.

May this work be one of the means of its becoming such is the earnest wish of

THE AUTHOR.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

OF

MARTHA'S VINEYARD.

Martha's Vineyard is the largest island on the New England coast. It is in the form of an irregular triangle, about 23 miles long and 10½ miles wide at its widest part.

It is bounded on the north by Vineyard Sound, east, south and west by the Atlantic Ocean, and is situated 2½ miles from the main land at its nearest point.

The surface of this beautiful island is gently undulating and gradually rising to an elevation of 300 feet above the level of the sea at the highest part, which is a little north of the central part of the island, and is known by the name of Indian Hill.

It is largely covered with wood-land, farms and miniature lakes. Several villages are pleasantly located on different parts of the island. The climate, especially in summer, is delightful, and for healthfulness is unsurpassed.

A SKETCH
OF
THE ISLAND'S HISTORY.

The curious student, in his translations of Icelandic lore, will find a vague and hazy outline of reference to the discoveries and explorations in America by the intrepid and adventurous Norseman. According to Scandinavian sages, one Leif Erikson, a mariner in the eleventh century, was the first to sail to this hemisphere, but we fail to find any explanation of the configuration of the coast made by this fearless adventurer. One of his successors, however, Thorpine Karlesphine, who sailed around a cape, which he called Kjarules—generally supposed to be Cape Cod—discovered an island which he called Stranmay, the description of which will fit Martha's Vineyard closely. Professor Hosford, of Harvard College, has gone so far as to suggest that the names of some of the Vineyard localities are of Norse origin. For instance, Noman's-land is a corruption of Norse-

man's land, and that East Chop and West Chop, at the entrance of Vineyard Haven harbor, is the Norseman's name for Ost Kop (East Cape) and Vest Kop (West Cape).

The first discoverer of this island who comes within the realm of authentic history was Varrazzani, an Italian explorer, who saw the western extremity of it from the sea in 1564, and called it *Claudia* in honor of the mother of the Emperor Francis II. of France. The next explorer, and the first one who left any account of the New England coast, was Bartholamew Gosnold, an English mariner, who, having the love of adventure in his breast, set sail from Falmouth, England, in 1602, to explore the shores of the new world. He sailed around Cape Cod and up the southern shores of Nantucket and the Vineyard, mistaking them, at first, for the main land. He landed on Noman's-land and named it *Marthae's Vineyard*, which name was afterwards transferred to this *Martha's Vineyard* of the present day. It appears that on May 28th, 1602, that Gosnold decided to locate on Cuttyhunk island (which is to the northward of the Vineyard about five miles), the westernmost of a group which he named the *Elizabeth Isles*, in honor of Queen Elizabeth, who died that year.

This beautiful and picturesque group of islands lies longitudinally east by north and west by south—