

Original Salt Pond (aka Wychmere Harbor)
Dredging History from News Clippings 1881-1887
Compiled by Gloria Green 2011 (as edited by Tom Leach)

Sea View House, Harwich Port,
(June 7th , 1881)

The Sea View House, Harwich Port, is one of the most popular, as well as most delightfully situated Hotels upon the Cape. It is located in the very heart of one of the pleasantest villages in Southeastern Massachusetts. Harwich Port contains as many live men to the acre as any country village in the State, and they, believe in keeping their village up to a high standard, and that is the secret of its fresh, thriving appearance. The Sea View is located on Main Street, and directly in the rear of it is its most beautiful pond of fresh water. Around this pond the enterprising citizens have constructed a splendid half or three-fourths of a mile Trotting Park. The south side of the Park is bordered by the waters of the Bay as well as Pond, and is thus continually fanned by not only the cool and invigorating breezes of the Pond, but of the Bay also. This must make it delightfully cool even on the hottest days, and from its peculiar location it is almost entirely free from dust.. The trotting upon this Park can be witnessed from the windows and grounds of the Sea View. The popular landlord of the Sea View, Rinaldo Eldridge, Esq., is too well known to need any words of commendation. Suffice it to say that he is as wide-awake as ever, and makes the Sea View first class in every particular. With its pure air, beautiful surroundings, unequalled facilities for boating and bathing, the Sea View offers attractions to Summer visitors which but few Hotels afford.—[Patriot\

Drain Pipes for Salt Pond Area
(June 7th , 1881)

We are glad to learn that the Trotting Park is among recent considerations, and wish the boys who hold the ribbons many a pleasant drive. Drain pipes are being laid and other improvements designed.

Public Meeting held to Advance Salt Pond Channel
(December 28, 1886)

A project: to open to the sea the salt water pond in the rear of the Sea View House is well advanced. It is proposed to build a canal about ten feet wide from low water mark to the pond which will admit very sizable crafts to the pond to make a landing at the Sea View pier. To get the plans in tangible form a meeting was held at the Sea View House Thursday evening, attended by nearly Fifty persons.. Albert Long was chosen chairman, and N. F. Smalley, secretary. A committee of three consisting of Rinaldo Eldredge, Capts. Abisha Doane and Joseph Robbins, were chosen to confer with land holders and settle claims. The next meeting will be held at the place tomorrow (Wednesday) evening, at 7 o'clock, and all interested in this matter are earnestly invited to be present.. The venture seems to meet the approval of many of our leading citizens, and is in a fair way to

a successful termination.

Salt Pond Channel Solicitors Chosen

(Januray 04, 1887)

The second meeting in regard to opening te salt water pond to the sea was held at the Sea View House. The question as to the best method of making a harbor was discussed. Rinaldo Eldredge, Nathan Smalley and Allen Crabe were chosen to solicit subscriptions to forward the enterprise. Next meeting at same place Monday evening.

Canal Open into Salt Pond

(February 15, 1887)

The proposed canal, to connect the Salt Water Pond with the ocean has been built, but is not properly completed yet. The water in the canal at present is six feet deep at high water, and now small boats can sail into the pond and secure safe anchorage.

I am for improvement of Salt Water Pond

(March 15, 1887)

Mr. EDITOR:

In my last article I alluded in genneral terms to the natural attractions extending along our èntire sea coast. In this article shall call attention, more particularly, to some of the more local facts.

In Harwich Port, located about zoo yards from the sea, lies a beautiful sheet of water containing an area of territory from 12 to 20 acres, beautifully. adapted by being deep water, for a splendid best harbor. Also a fish pond its natural condition cannot be excelled. Shell fish of all kinds grow spontaneously and abundantly all about its entire territory, consequently all kinds of fish from the ocean seek its waters that they may feast upon its abundant treasures. But the great natural obstacle that has been from all time the constant source of annoyance and destruction to every effort put forth to utilize and improve these beautiful conditions, has been the ever and constant shifting of the loose sand at the mouth of the river as it empties into the ocean. The question of trying overcoming this difficulty has always met with little sympathy from the public, from lack of faith in its success. About 50 years since a certain gentleman, (name well known to all in town) saw the practicability of the undertaking and sought for and obtained a grant to this effect, but he unfortunately went to sea as Captain and never returned, and it was the time abandoned. This winter a meeting of the citizens of Harwich Port was called to consider this matter and the entire sentiment of the meeting was, "sink, or swim, live or die, survive or, perish," I am for improvement of Salt Water Pond. Always when men start with a determination of this kind, they succeed. Of .course as is always 'natural, a very few threw a little cold water at first, but that soon burned up, and the entire sympathy of the Port, and the whole town, was in that direction, and the results of our labors has been crowned with

entire success, and with an occasional small outlay and a little attention, our beautiful lake, (commonly known as Salt Water Pond) instead of being at times a stench in our nostrils, will become one of the chief attractions of our town.

I intended in this article to have called the attention of the public to further improvement of this matter by digging through and letting the water from the Andrews river into the pond, but shall attend to that next week.

Geo. D. Smalley

Freeman is a “Jack of all Trades”

(June 14th, 1887)

Mr. EDITOR : -

I have read with much interest the letters recently printed in your columns from the pen of the Hon. George D. Smalley, in regard to the salt-water pond opening, and as I think there has been nothing said in relation to the new enterprise that has been started on the shore of the pond, near the Sea View House, by one of our enterprising citizens, Mr. Thomas Freeman - I refer to the Marine Railway, built for the purpose of hauling up boats of almost any size for repairing, painting, or anything in that line. I am pleased to announce that on Thursday, June 2d, 1887, the new boat, Moondyne, built and owned by Mr. Nathan F. Smalley, of Harwich Port, was successfully taken up out of the water on the new railway, it being the first attempt. The performance was witnessed by some thirty persons. It is understood that the compensation for hauling up a boat is very trifling, and it is expected that many boatmen will avail themselves of the opportunity for repairs, and in addition, to show the model, as the Moondyne looks beautifully out of the water as well as in it.

It is hoped that Mr. Freeman will drive a successful business in this line, as well as in others, in which he has already proved himself competent, he being a good specimen of Yankee ability, to do almost anything that he may take a fancy to do. For instance, after he has hauled the boat up on the railway, if the owner of the boat has a nice watch that he wishes to have cleaned or repaired, Mr. Freeman can take it to his blacksmith's shop, and put it at once in running order. If, while he is at work on the watch, anyone comes to the shop that wishes to have his horse shod, or a wagon tire set, he can lay the watch aside for a while and attend to that duty.

If a manufacturer should come, and want an engineer to run his engine, Mr. Freeman can do that, and if he finds that there is not water enough to run the engine, he can at once drive a well, and put in a pump, and get a full supply of water; and while he is at work on the well, should the Harwich Brass band come along, he could at once drop his tools, fall into line, and make as much music any one of them. And in conclusion, we will use the saying of the Turks “May his shadow never be less.”

ELIAS NICKERSON

Harwich Port, June 2, 1887

POND HARBOR IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the Pond Harbor Improvement Association, held at the Sea View House, Oct. 27, (1887) the following officers were chosen:

President—B. G. Phillips, Esq.

Vice President—G. D. Smalley.

Directors--Willie Burgess, Thomas Freeman, Lorenzo Doane, Abha Doane, Isaac Smith, Gideon Freeman, T. B. Baker.

Secretary and Treasurer—Rinaldo Eldridge.

The following Constitution and By-Laws were unanimously adopted:

CONSTITUTION

We, the citizens of Harwich Port and vicinity, feeling that the Improvement already made at the Salt Water Pond, and also that additional improvements would add very largely to the public good, associate ourselves together for the better, furtherance of this object, and agree to be governed by the following ByLaws, vix:

BY-LAWS

ART. 1. This Association shall be called The Pond Harbor improvement Association.

ART. 2 The officer, of this Association shall consist of President, Vice President, seven Directors, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be chosen annually.

ART. 8 The officers of this Association shall have entire control of its interests during their term of office.

ART. 4 Any person who contributes either money or work, or in any way in this enterprise, shall ,be considered a member of the Association.

ART. 5. This Constitution and By-Laws may be altered, amended, or added to, at any regular meeting of the Association.

ART. 6. All meetings shall be called by the Secretary by order of the President.