

I. Background of NAGPRA (Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990:  
Artifact Summaries:

- Memorandum on Repatriation, letter to NHA, 4/4/93.
- Summary Catalogue of Prehistoric Artifacts of Nantucket at the Nantucket Historical Association, 8/27/93.
- Summary of Collections that may contain Unassociated Funerary Objects, Sacred Objects, or Objects of Cultural Patrimony at the Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, Massachusetts, 9/21/93.
- The 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA):  
Memorandum to Nantucket Friends of Archaeology and Colleagues, 9/28/93.







TO: The Nantucket Historical Association  
FROM: Elizabeth A. Little, curator of prehistoric artifacts, NHA.  
DATE: 4 April 1993

#### MEMORANDUM ON REPATRIATION:

##### **Background:**

In 1976, Cynthia Young and I took over direction of the NHA archaeology project, then at Quidnet. One of the first things we did was call on Bob Maxim of Mashpee, a Native American member of the conservation commission and planning board, selectman and assistant tribal head. We sent copies of our first Nantucket Indian studies to him and to Winona Silva of Gay Head. I called on John Peters, executive director of the Mass. Indian Commission in Boston (an ex-Nantucketer), and presented him with Nantucket Algonquian Studies 1-8.

In 1979, with a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to inventory sites and collections of Nantucket prehistoric artifacts, we chose for Nantucket the goals of conservation archaeology, which is archaeology that is scientific and responsible, in contrast to much of the previous record of site destruction with no records or identifiable artifacts. To requests to dig, I have responded with pleas to help study what we already have dug up, until there are adequate funds to pay for studies such as radio-carbon ages, pollen and seed analysis and bone identification. I have taken courses in bone identification, and arranged or paid for identification of the fish bones from Quidnet and seeds from Quaise. We don't yet know what we've got in the museum!

In 1983 a new state unmarked burial bill went into effect, and has proved beneficial in situations formerly marked by destruction of Indian burials. Involved are: contractors, the state police, the medical examiner, the state archaeologist (Brona Simon), John Peters, myself for the NHA, and Augie Ramos. At least five unmarked burial grounds (with 1-30 burials each) have been either salvaged professionally or preserved since that date, and the treatment of unmarked burials at Nantucket, if not perfect, has improved from everyone's viewpoint. If not preserved in situ, the remains have been studied by a professional anthropologist. The Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association and the Nantucket Historical Association, with donated money, have been obtaining radiocarbon ages on these burials, with the permission of John Peters and the support of Tim Lepore, Wes Tiffney, Peter Dunwiddie and Clint Andrews. I have been sending relevant reports to John Peters or Augusto Ramos.

In 1992, I participated in the Peabody Museum (Salem) Columbus symposium along with Russell Peters (tribal leader of Mashpee) and other Indians from Vermont and Connecticut (see NAS #14). In 1992, I also attended a conference at Edgartown on the history of GayHead-Aquinnah (Martha's Vineyard) with Russell Gardner (see below). Many prominent historians as well as Indians took part. In the spring 1993 Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, I edited and published a paper on an Indian family history (Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket roots) by



Russell Gardner (the Wampanoag tribal historian). We are both pleased with the results, a first for the Bulletin.

Most recently, I attended a Peabody Museum symposium April 30, 1990, for museums, curators and Indians to discuss the repatriation legislation (see attached program for participants). It was emphasized that a Nov. 17, 1993 deadline for a preliminary summary of Indian objects, etc, in museums was very important. Consulting with Prof. Dincauze and the NHA executive director over the past three years, we have had "wait and see" advice. As we have no Federal funding, the act doesn't apply to us. But, if and when we do, we will need time and money to meet deadlines.

### **The Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) 1990:**

This protects graves on tribal or Federal lands, provides a mechanism to inform Native Americans of museum holdings of remains and objects, and creates a process for the return, upon request, of certain materials.

- NAGPRA applies to any institution that receives federal funds, either directly or through a parent organization (such as a university museum).
- Penalties (civil fines) depend upon the value of the material, the damages suffered, and number of violations. [Size and importance affect the size of fine, and NHA is relatively small.] The AAM newsletter says: "museums should consult their own legal counsel when dealing with questions of compliance."
- Grants are allowed by the law, and \$2.7 million for this is nearly signed into appropriations (McManamon, April 30, 1993).
- By November 16, 1993, a short written summary of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and cultural patrimony, must include scope, kinds of objects, geographical location, and identification of and consultation with potential lineal descendants or those with cultural affiliation.
- By November 16, 1995, an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects must be completed, in consultation with tribal government officials and traditional religious leaders, and submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for publication in the Federal Register. An Indian tribe that "can demonstrate a reasonable biological or cultural affiliation" may request return of items.

### **Discussion:**

The inventory due Nov. 16, 1993, should be only a brief summary. Cynthia Young and I made a complete (noncomputer) inventory in 1978-80, and I could prepare a one page summary by Nov. 16, if you think we should. I don't think we have any associated funerary objects. Arguably we have no unassociated funerary objects (surface finds may have been but cannot be proven to have been associated with a burial). Perhaps a 6 inch stone with an historic Indian's name and date of



death on it comes to mind here, a beach find, I think. Ives Goddard (Smithsonian) said it was not a grave marker, but more a memorial to the man's death. I don't think we have sacred objects or cultural patrimony, as the definitions specify. Most of our collection is broken knives, spear points, mullers, gouges, hammerstones, and other tools of a hunting and gathering culture by the sea. We do have 7 or 8 skeletons, which will require professional pathological study for the inventory.

The statute requires that a museum receiving Federal funds establish procedures to identify the lineal descendants or culturally affiliated, eligible Native American tribe. What is "the culturally affiliated eligible American Indian tribe" for Nantucket, which never had tribes? The answer given at the April 30 conference was: consult, search, that will have to be negotiated. I did not feel we got any answers.

There never were "tribes" on the Cape and Islands, there were 4 or 5 groups (sachemships) of "Nantucket Indians", the Nauset Indians (and others on Cape Cod) and four Indian groups on Martha's Vineyard. Massasoit of the Pokanokets, the sachem at Warren (Mt. Hope), Bristol, and Swansea, R.I., was sometimes chief of a confederacy of Indian groups called Wampanoag or People of the East, extending from Boston to Narragansett Bay to the Cape and Islands. Wampanoag was not, I think, a tribal designation. Of course, today the Federal Government recognizes the "Gay Head (Aquinnah) Wampanoag tribe". John Peters is the "supreme medicine man of the Wampanoag nation", as well as the executive director of the Massachusetts Indian Commission.

**Possible NHA Action:**

- I think we're being asked to become open to Indian descendants and allow their input into the handling of their cultural and biological material remains. We could work on the following.
- Identify any descendants of Nantucket Indians who might serve on a policy committee on repatriation. I think there are some.
- We might find descendants of Nantucket Indians at Mashpee or GayHead. In any case, we should talk to people of those places.
- Someone like Augie Ramos, who has demonstrated his concern for the burials, might be appropriate for a repatriation policy committee.
- If something like the above could be worked out by us, and acceptable to everyone involved, the result could be that the NHA retain the Nantucket Indian heritage on the island.

**Enclosed:**

A Preliminary Guide to NAGPRA. AAM Newsletter 1992.

Definition of NAGPRA terms. To Laura Roberts from Barbara Hall. (Harvard 4/30/1993)

NAGPRA Public Law 101-601 (as passed in 1990)

The Dynamics of Museum Ethics: Native Peoples and Ethnographic Collections, program from 4/30/93 Harvard Symposium.



Not enclosed, but available from EALittle:

General Memorandum 90-105 on NAGPRA, 1990 Law Offices Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Wilder, Washington, D.C. (from the Mass. State Archaeologist).

Gay Head Tribal Council. Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

Resources for Native American Graves Repatriation & Protection Act, New England Museum Association (Handout at 4/30 Harvard symposium). (it says consultants on osteology may be findable).

Dealing with the Past and Looking to the Future, Museum News 1991.

Repatriation: the new law and the Peabody Museum, B. Isaac, in Symbols, Peabody Museum, Harvard.

Recommended, and could obtain:

Native American Collections and Repatriation, American Association of Museums (\$12 for members).

Memo on what should be included in summaries and inventories, and list of Federally-recognized tribal entities. free: I'll order it.



SUMMARY CATALOGUE OF PREHISTORIC ARTIFACTS OF NANTUCKET

AT THE NANTUCKET HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

27 August 1993

by Elizabeth A. Little, curator of prehistoric artifacts

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson O. Dunham collection, started 1934:

- About 410 items, mostly stone tools, many numbered by year of collection and site (see 1940 list of sites and numbers); Late Woodland to Middle Archaic styles.  
Plummets, gorgets, rods, axes, scrapers, awls, projectile points, canoe anchors, grooved cobbles,

Mr. Alfred F. Shurrocks' Collection, donated 1940 with catalogue, in part keyed to exhibit case location.

- "Over 1000 stone tools", bone and wood items of the Late Woodland to Middle Archaic; mostly surface finds.
- Indian Rope (1945): Twisted cattail over grass rope roughly 3 meters long (unknown provenience).
- "PJohm Nu Poo 1731", engraved stone (according to Ives Goddard, not a grave marker).

Irving Sandsbury Collection 1960 and miscellaneous others, especially N.O. Dunham, to 1977:

- About 869 projectile points, knives, scrapers, axes, from English gun flints to Early Archaic.

Herracater Swamp Site, Mass. Arch. Soc., M52/2 and 3, 1938-41. Report by Bullen & Brooks 1949 in MAS Bulletin. Collection of over 500 artifacts is still unlocated.

- One carton of documentary materials donated by Maurice Robbins, MAS.

John Gilbert donation 1978: 4 books of field notes +:

- 1 box, Stanley Roy's material (about 100 items): animal bone, broken pottery, broken points, claw, antlers, bifaces.
- Mrs. Alice A. Shurrocks' surface collection and field notes 1934-1941; 43 sites and estimated 238 artifact finds.

Ram Pasture I, 1962,3, Shawkemo Chapter,

- substantial pottery and animal bones (many identified by Waters and published);
- 2 blue glass beads.
- total of 5 cartons materials (1993) (4 newly added?)

Cliff Road Site, Stockley, 1960's, salvaged, near Reedy Pond.

- Indian & historic pottery, animal bones, bone tools, glass, pipe stems, iron nails.

Fletcher Site, Shimmo, 1963, Pat Elliot Gift of pottery & steatite from Mosquito Control Ditch.

Pocomo Beach, <1965, Tomson, Gilbert and Stockley (fauna published by Waters 1965)

- animal bones, pottery from 2 test pits.

Ronald Spores, Professor at U.Mass. Amherst, material given to NHA by Bernard Stockley 1981.

Excavated by UMass field School 1965, no report:

- Norcross Site, Quidnet (M52-9), Box 126, 127: Bags of clay pottery sherds, shell, bone (fish, deer, small carnivores, steatite, flaked and ground stone tools (bifaces, knives, projectile points, scrapers, axes), of styles: Orient, Rossville/Stark, Lagoon, side notched, triangular, small stemmed. Bone antler and bone tools.
- Fulling Mill Creek Site (largely a small historic mill site): includes white clay pipe stems, a stone biface, side notched, triangular and Orient? points, stone cylinders
- Quaise bank small refuse pit: flakes, pottery, broken triangular point.
- Marshall Hill Site: small flaking station, includes Rossville points.

Norcross Site 1965, Shawkemo Chapter M52/9 1960's, no report.

- Colonial artifacts, animal bone, charcoal, shell, substantial Indian pottery, antlers (one pair large), bone artifacts, pipe fragments

Marshall Site material excavated by Professor William Harrison, UMass. 1966. Studied in Professor Dena F. Dincauze's Archaeology class at UMass Amherst, and given, with reports, to NHA in 1990 by Dincauze, UMass Amherst, with permission of Mrs. Leona Marshall, the property owner.

- Eleven cartons of materials with 1 box of reports. Shell, animal bone, pottery, stone tools.

Dean Site material, 1973, excavated by Professor Daniel Crozier, Temple University, for the NHA. No report.

- Seven cartons of which only one was examined by us, containing stone, bone, shell finds & some historical nails and ceramics.

Oldest House site material, 1975,76, excavated by Dr. Selina Johnson (Little 1986, Inventory of Artifact Finds from the 1975-6 Archaeological Excavation at the Jethro Coffin House. In Nantucket Archaeological Study #7).

- 1 carton: china, glass, animal bones, shell, nails

Quidnet, Locus 4,5 & 6, 1974,75 & 76, NHA. Radiocarbon ages and report (Little 1984).

- Six cartons of shell, animal bone, stone tools, and soil samples.



Galanter Site, Shawkemo, 1978, 10 test pits at proposed site of house, supervised by Rev. Ted Anderson and Cynthia Young.

- Shell, flakes, bone, fireburned stone, stone tools.

Robert Minshall's Nantucket Indian Artifact Collection. Collected over a lifetime at Nantucket, donated to NHA 1979. 98 photos, each about 25 artifacts (estimated) for approx. 2500 artifacts.

- gorgets, perforators, bone tools, large blades, atlatl weight frags., steatite pipe frags, shark tooth, grooved axes, plummets, hammerstones, pestles, hoes, celts, grooved cobbles, stone bowl, soapstone pendant, adzes, bone tools. Late Woodland to eastern Clovis.

Marcus Ramsdell collection (1979):

- 88 Projectile points and knives, Woodland period (see catalogue with sites).

Bernard Stockley material given to E. A. Little, who gave it to NHA 1981.

- Index cards and history of Shawkemo Chapter (MAS) (lost) artifacts of sites: (Squam Pond M52/1, Squam Swamp M52/3, M52/4, M52/16, Hughes Site M52/23;
- About 220 stone tools, many broken, and pottery sherds, from B. Stockley collection.

Old Mill renovation 1984, sifted from back dirt of excavation by "sand sucker" under mill.

- 2 cartons of colonial artifacts, including artifacts (such as wet leather) found in harbor fill material of previous use of "sand sucker".

Nelson O. Dunham's seconds, possibly artifacts from pile outside his kitchen door. Given to NHA in 1985 by his grandson (Scott Weylie).

- 5 cartons broken or incomplete artifacts (uncatalogued).

Miscellaneous :

- Material from Quaise found by erosion 1916: flakes, bifaces, deer bone (no dog), pottery, smooth rounded "pillow" stone.
- Large middle Woodland Jasper biface found at Dionis (see card).
- Loose stone tools number #870-923.
- Loose large stone pestles (10)
- Tashama's doorstone (documented in Inquirer & Mirror clipping in GBG Scrapbook #20).
- large stone mortar
- steatite netsinker with owl carving
- numerous axes, adzes, gouges.
- 1 carton (misc.) from Shawkemo Chapter
- 1 carton, misc. surface finds, E.A. Little and C. Young, 1977-78, collected for MHC funded site inventory documentation.
- 1 carton, misc. surface finds, E. A. Little, 1980-86.



Ethnographic items (data from Acquisition Book and cards associated):

- Wooden Mortar and pestle from Miacomet
- 3 baskets of Abram Quarry (one made on Nantucket, one (1920) is from Sierra Leone, Africa; one 1948 gift of Maurice Gibbs, see label).
- Abram Quarry's small wooden churn
  
- Aztec Papoose cradle (1934)
- Indian bows (8), spear (1), arrows (8), knobbed stick, walking stick (1938, 1947), western U.S.?
- Indian canoe (1938)
- Hafted Indian tomahawk (1934), once owned by Capt. Jack, chief of Modoc Indians.
- Toy wicker fish trap
- quill and birchbark basket
- 18" birchbark canoe
- belt of cowrie shells and red and blue beads
- toy snow shoes
- 2 pairs of Indian dolls
- Peruvian stone axe, copper axe, chisel, and knife (collected by whalers?).
- 1 frag. pottery New Mexico "Santos.... Pueblo".
- 1 Penobscot chisel and 1 round cobble "used for killing moose".
- 2 pieces pottery, Indian campground, N. Carolina
- 1 pipestone paper knife from Minnesota

Notebooks and Reports Consulted:

- Extracts from Old Accessions Books at Peter Foulger Museum. Interesting, but not always traceable in the collections.

Little, Elizabeth A.

- 1978 Collected Papers on Nantucket Archaeology. On file at Nantucket Historical Association.
- 1980 A Brief Historical Sketch of Archaeology on Nantucket. In Widening Horizons, edited by Curtiss Hoffman, pp. 75-79. Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Middleboro.
- 1984 Locus Q-6, Site M52/65, Quidnet, Nantucket, Massachusetts. Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society 45:9-23.
- 1989 Shawkemo Chapter. Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society 50:54-55.

Young, Cynthia, and Elizabeth A. Little

- 1980 Nantucket Indian Artifacts and Archaeological Materials at the Nantucket Historical Association,

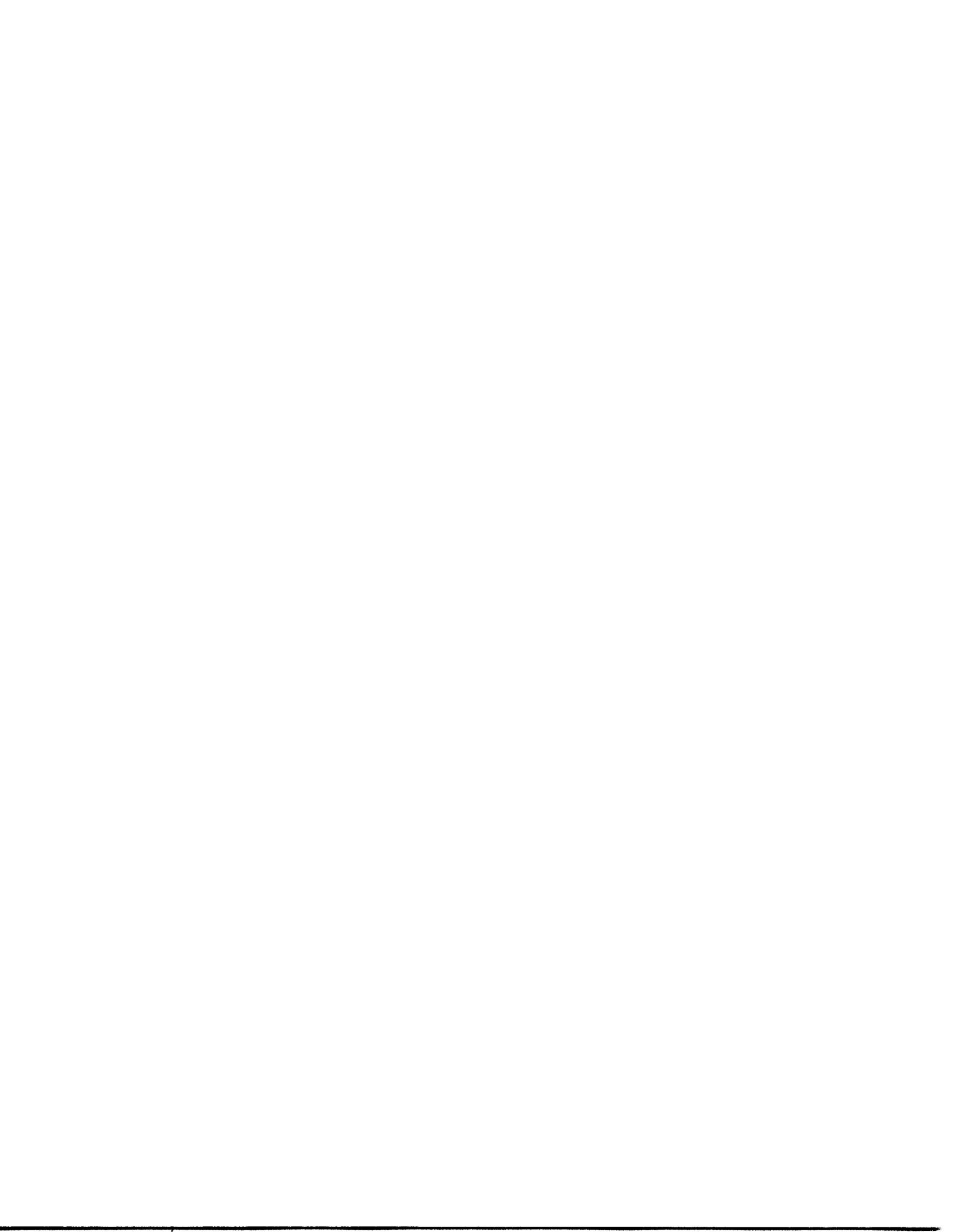


Burials (fragments of 13):

- 1894 Miss Nevin's yard burial, salvaged from house building activity (2 skulls and some bone).
- 1916 Quaise burial, salvaged from eroding cliff, by Arthur R. Thompson, given by Harry Turner. See collections (Shurrocks) for miscellaneous artifacts found nearby. The "dog at the foot of his master" turned out to be deer bone.
- 1965 Shawkemo Chapter, fragments from 8 burials salvaged from eroding sites by Bernard Stockley and others. Some reports, photos and radiocarbon dates.
- 1963 Abram's Point burial, salvaged from eroding bluff, by Shawkemo Chapter, John Gilbert and Bernard Stockley. Unpublished reports and photos.
- 1977 Tristram Coffin Monument burial, salvaged from roadway, by Rev. Ted Anderson, for the NHA. Unpublished reports.
- 1962-3 One unprovenienced human femur in Ram Pasture I box.







**SUMMARY OF COLLECTIONS THAT MAY CONTAIN UNASSOCIATED FUNERARY OBJECTS, SACRED OBJECTS, OR OBJECTS OF CULTURAL PATRIMONY AT THE NANTUCKET HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS.**

21 September 1993

by Elizabeth A. Little, curator of prehistoric artifacts

In connection with the 1990 draft regulations for Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (Federal Register May 28, 1993), the Nantucket Historical Association here provides a summary of its collections that might include unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony. To our knowledge, none of the items listed, which are primarily domestic refuse, fall into the above categories. However, we invite comment.

[Stone tools include: Late Woodland to Middle Archaic styles, plummets, gorgets, rods, axes, scrapers, pestles, projectile points, knives, bifaces, awls, canoe anchors, grooved cobbles, gouges, adzes, stone bowl fragments, flakes, colonial gun flints.

Faunal remains include: shell, animal bones, antlers, claws.

Pottery: prehistoric clay sherds, and colonial ceramics and pipes.]

**COLLECTIONS (9) (mostly surface finds at Nantucket over many years):**

Nelson O. Dunham Collection, 1934 to 1945: - About 410 stone tools, many listed by site.

Irving Sandsbury Collection 1960 and N. O. Dunham to 1977; about 870 stone tools.

Alfred F. Shurrocks' Collection, 1940, "over 1000 stone tools", many listed by site.

Mrs. Alice A. Shurrocks' Collection 1934-1941; estimated 240 stone tools, listed by site.

Robert Minshall's Collection, 1930's to 1979. Approx. 2500 stone tools; also includes: perforators, bone tools, atlatl weight frags., shark tooth, grooved axes, hammerstones, hoes, celts, soapstone pendant, many listed by site.

Marcus Ramsdell collection 1979; 88 stone tools, many listed by site.

Bernard Stockley material 1981; about 220 stone tools, many broken, and clay pottery sherds.

Stanley Roy's collection, about 1935-40, about 100 items (includes animal bone).

Nelson O. Dunham's broken and questionable stone tools, from pile outside his kitchen door. 5 cartons.

**EXCAVATED SITES AT NANTUCKET (14):**

Shimmo, 1963, Pat Elliot Gift of pottery & steatite from Mosquito Control Ditch.

Ram Pasture I, 1962,3, Shawkemo Chapter excavation: 5 cartons with mostly faunal remains and pottery.

Cliff Road Site, Reedy Pond, 1960's, historic site salvaged by B. Stockley; prehistoric & historic pottery, animal bones, bone tools, glass, pipe stems, iron nails.

Pocomo Beach site early 1960's, tested by Tomson, Gilbert and Stockley, pottery, faunal remains from



2 test pits.

(Ronald Spores, Professor at U.Mass. Amherst, led these excavations by 1965 Field School):

Norcross Site, Quidnet (M52-9): bone and stone tools, pottery, faunal remains.

Fulling Mill Site (largely a small historic mill site): includes nails, white clay pipe stems, stone tools.

Quaise bank small refuse pit: flakes, pottery, broken point.

Marshall Hill Site: small flaking station, includes Rossville points.

Norcross Site 1965, excavated by Shawkemo Chapter M52/9 1960's: Colonial artifacts, charcoal, Indian pottery, antlers, faunal remains, bone artifacts.

Marshall Site material excavated by Professor William Harrison, UMass. 1966. 11 cartons of stone tools and faunal remains plus student reports from Professor D.F. Dincauze.

Dean Site material, excavated by Professor Daniel Crozier, Temple University, 1973, NHA.

7 cartons containing stone tools and faunal remains & some historic nails and ceramics.

Oldest House site material, excavated by Dr. Selina Johnson 1975,76,; 1 carton, china, glass, animal bones, shell, nails, single biface fragment find.

Quidnet Site 1974, 75, 76, NHA; 6 cartons of stone tools, faunal remains, soil samples.

Galanter Site, Shawkemo, Anderson and Young 1978, 10 salvage test pits, faunal remains, flakes, fireburned stone, stone tools.

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

- Indian Rope (1945), twisted strands of cattail over grass.
- "PJohm Nu Poo 1731", engraved stone.
- Middle Woodland Jasper biface found at beach.
- large stone pestles (10)
- Tashama's doorstone (documented in Inquirer & Mirror clipping in GBG Scrapbook #20).
- large stone mortar
- steatite netsinker with owl carving
- 1 carton, misc. surface finds, shell, stone, E.A. Little and C. Young, 1977-78, collected for MHC funded site inventory documentation.
- 1 carton, misc. surface finds, shell and stone, E. A. Little, 1980-86.

#### Ethnographic items, as labelled:

- Wooden Mortar and pestle from Miacomet
- 3 baskets of Abram Quarry's (one made on Nantucket, one (1920) is from Sierra Leone, Africa; one 1948 gift of Maurice Gibbs, see label).
- Abram Quarry's small wooden churn

#### Items of Modern Trade or Souvenirs (some unprovenanced):

- Toy wicker fish trap
- 1 Penobscot chisel and 1 round cobble (before 1850, Atheneum Museum) "used for killing moose".



- quill and birchbark basket
- 18" birchbark canoe
- toy snow shoes
- Aztec Papoose cradle (1934)
- Hafted Indian tomahawk (1934), once owned by Capt. Jack, chief of Modoc Indians.
- 1 frag. pottery New Mexico "Santos.... Pueblo".
- 2 pairs of Indian dolls (one from Arizona)
- Indian bows (8), spear (1), arrows (8), knobbed stick, walking stick (1938, 1947), western U.S.?
- 2 pieces pottery, Indian campground, N. Carolina
- 1 pipestone paper knife from Minnesota
- Peruvian stone axe, copper axe, chisel, and knife (collected by whalers?).
- belt of cowrie shells and red and blue beads

**Notebooks and Reports Consulted:**

**Old Accessions Books at Peter Foulger Museum.**

**Little, Elizabeth A.**

1978 Collected Papers on Nantucket Archaeology. On file at Nantucket Historical Association.

1980 A Brief Historical Sketch of Archaeology on Nantucket. In Widening Horizons, edited by Curtiss Hoffman, pp. 75-79. Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Middleboro.

1984 Locus Q-6, Site M52/65, Quidnet, Nantucket, Massachusetts. Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society 45:9-23.

1986 Inventory of Artifact Finds from the 1975-6 Archaeological Excavation at the Jethro Coffin House. In Nantucket Archaeological Study #7, Nantucket Historical Association

1989 Shawkemo Chapter. Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society 50:54-55.

**Young, Cynthia, and Elizabeth A. Little**

1980 Nantucket Indian Artifacts and Archaeological Materials at the Nantucket Historical Association, on file at Peter Foulger Museum, NHA.







Elizabeth A. Little, 37 Conant Road, Lincoln, MA 01773  
*Curator for Archaeology*  
*Nantucket Historical Association*

617-259-9397  
September 28, 1993

Fax: 617-259-0709

To: Nantucket friends of archaeology and colleagues  
(Lepore, Andrews, Anderson, Tiffney)

Re: the 1990 native american graves protection and repatriation act (NAGPRA)

**THE ACT:** This act has as its purpose the identification and appropriate disposition of human remains and cultural items held by federally funded institutions. Although the NHA is not so funded now, federal money has been and may be applied for. Other museums in the region, Harvard, Peabody/Essex, Peabody/Andover, Haffenrafer, etc., are well along in leadership roles.

**SUMMARY:** By Nov. 16, 1993, a museum must prepare a summary of collections that may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony (see regs. for definitions). I have spent my free time in August and September preparing such a summary, which I have pared down to the enclosed. I don't think we have any of the objects listed above, in part because grave goods are not known in Nantucket Indian burials, the PJohn stone would not have been associated with a grave (I. Goddard, Smithsonian, personal communication), and the local ethnological items (Abram Quarry's baskets, for example) are not any of these objects as defined. I'm not sure about Arizona and New Mexican souvenirs.

**CONSULTATION:** The next step is consultation, i.e., sending the summary to lineal descendants, officials and traditional religious leaders. The regulations, in typical federalese, apply chiefly to western tribes and are difficult to apply in New England. I am consulting with you first. The act requires for repatriation a federally recognized tribe and the only such in Massachusetts is the Gay Head/Aquinnah Wompanoag tribe. Consultation can, and I think should, go through John Peters of the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs. Lineal descendants can probably be searched for through GayHead, Mashpee and John Peters.

**PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER:** I need advice and support; please send me your comments as soon as possible. My recommendation is that we send the enclosed letter and summary to John Peters before Nov. 16 1993, and plan to follow up on reaching the Gay Head and Mashpee groups. We should look into applying for a federal grant to carry out the next stage, the inventory study, by 1995.

**ENCLOSURES:**

NAGPRA Draft Regulations from Federal Register May 28, 1993.

Summary of Collections that may contain Unassociated Funerary Objects, Sacred Objects, or Objects of Cultural Patrimony at the Nantucket Historical Association.

Anthropology Newsletter update on potential funding for the inventories required.





