II. First Stage by 11/17/93: Summaries to Native Americans with possible Nantucket connections.
- Summary Catalogue of Indian Artifacts of Nantucket at the Nantucket Historical Association, 9/21/93 (3 pgs, sent by 11/17/93 with each of the four letters below).
- Letter to John Peters, Massachusetts Commission for Indian Affairs.
- Letter to Beverly Wright, Chairperson, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).
- Letter to Vernon Pocknett, Chief, Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Tribal Council, Inc.
- Copy to Francis P. Mcmanamon, Chief Archaeological Assistance Division, National Park Service.
[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 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 100 items (includes animal bone) about 1935-40.
Nelson O. Dunham's broken and questionable stone tools, possibly from pile outside his kitchen door. Given to NHA in 1985 by his grandson; 5 cartons.

Sites (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.
Quaisebank 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.
Dean Site material, excavated by Professor Daniel Crozier, Temple University, 1973, for the 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 (Little 1984); 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:
- Material found in Quaise bluff, 1916: flakes, bifaces, deer bone, pottery, large stone.
- Indian Rope (1945), twisted cattail over grass.
- "PJohn Nu Poo 1731", engraved stone.
- Large middle Woodland Jasper biface found at beach at Dionis (see card).
- 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 Quary’s (one made on Nantucket, one (1920) is from Sierra Leone, Africa; one 1948 gift of Maurice Gibbs, see label).
- Abram Quary’s small wooden churn

Items of Modern Trade or Souvenirs:
- Aztec Papoose cradle (1934)
- Indian bows (8), spear (1), arrows (8), knobbed stick, walking stick (1938, 1947), western U.S.?
- 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 (one Arizona pair)
- 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:

Old Accessions Books at Peter Foulger Museum.
Little, Elizabeth A.
1986 Inventory of Artifact Finds from the 1975-6 Archaeological Excavation at the Jethro Coffin House. In Nantucket Archaeological Study #7, Nantucket Historical Association
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.
Mr. John Peters  
Massachusetts Commission for Indian Affairs  
1 Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108  

Dear John:  

I write to inform you of collections held by our museum which may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony that are, or are likely to be culturally affiliated with the Nantucket Indians. This notification is required by Section 6 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Although, to the best of our knowledge, we do not hold such objects, we would welcome additional information.

A summary of these collections is attached. Other than souvenirs and a few possible stone tools brought back by whalers from their voyages, the collections have all come from Nantucket or Tuckernuck. Most of the 9 collections were made during walks on the island and tend to focus on fairly perfect stone tools found on the surface at eroding or disturbed areas. Most of the findings from the 14 excavated sites tend to be shell, chipping waste, broken stone tools, animal bone and pottery sherds. Many of the local historic items were the domestic material possessions of Abram Quary, ‘the last Nantucket Indian’.

With the exception of Abram Quary, who left no known descendants, there is nothing known of the makers or owners of the artifacts in the collections other than that they lived at numerous locations on Nantucket at various times at least as far back as 10,000 years. My understanding is that assumptions of cultural, linguistic and biological relationships do not extend much before A.D. 1600 in New England.

The Nantucket sachems of the 17th century were called sachems of Nantucket on the deeds and wills, many of which they wrote themselves. Histories of the island report traditions of conflicts between the Nantucket Indians and those of Martha’s Vineyard. There are also some deeds of sale of Nantucket lands that demonstrate emigration of a few Nantucket Indians to the Cape and Martha’s Vineyard in the 17th and 18th centuries.
The Nantucket Historical Association requests the name and address of an official of a "Federally recognized" Indian tribe who will act as representative in consultations. Also, we would appreciate names and appropriate methods to contact lineal descendants, if known, of any individual likely to be culturally affiliated with the objects in the summary; and recommendations on how the consultation process should be conducted. Especially valuable would be an indication of the kinds of cultural items that you consider to be unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony.

Please feel free to contact me at 617-259-9397 regarding the identification and potential repatriation of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony in these collections. You are invited to review our records for the purpose of determining the basic facts surrounding acquisition and accession of these items. In the near future, we expect to move the collections into storage at the new Bartholomew Gosnold Museum Support Center, where opportunity for curation and study will be substantially improved, and we shall welcome you to see the collections.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth A. Little, 37 Conant Road, Lincoln, MA 01773
Curator for Prehistoric Archaeology
Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, MA 02554

617-259-9397
Fax: 617-259-0709

Beverly Wright, chairperson
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
RR 1, Box 137, State Road
Gay Head, MA 02535-9701

Dear Ms Wright:

I write to inform you of collections held by our museum which may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony that are, or are likely to be culturally affiliated with the Nantucket Indians. This notification is required by Section 6 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Although, to the best of our knowledge, we do not hold such objects, we would welcome additional information.

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The Nantucket Historical Association requests the name and address of an official of your tribe who will act as representative in consultations. Also, we would appreciate names and appropriate methods to contact lineal descendants, if known, of any individual likely to be culturally affiliated with the objects in the summary; and recommendations on how the consultation process should be conducted. Especially valuable would be an indication of the kinds of cultural items that you consider to be unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony.

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I have already contacted John Peters, Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs.

Sincerely,

P.S. Last year, I attended and enjoyed your very fine symposium on Indian History at Edgartown.
Dear Mr. Pocknett:

I write to inform you of collections held by our museum which may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony that are, or are likely to be culturally affiliated with the Nantucket Indians. This notification is required by Section 6 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Although, to the best of our knowledge, we do not hold such objects, we would welcome additional information.

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I have already contacted John Peters, Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs, and Beverly Wright, Wampanoag tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

Sincerely,

cc: to Frank McManamon, at his request in FED. ARCH. REPORTS.