FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS
EAST FAIRHAVEN
*** NASKATUCKET ***
HISTORY
BY
NATALIE S. HEMINGWAY

BOOK 1

MADISON SQUARE * WATER TOWER * ALMSHOUSE
ALDEN ROAD FAMILIES * WHALERS * GARRISON
AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST
ALSO BY:

NATALIE S. HEMINGWAY

North Fairhaven, Massachusetts Historical Tour
100 years of East Fairhaven, MA – Schooling History 1845 – 1945
The Early Portuguese Settlers of Mattapoisett, MA – Book 1 & Book 2

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PREFACE

Now that the completion of the East Fairhaven History Book 1 is coming to fruition, the thought of what has and will be accomplished through this study of East Fairhaven, is coming to mind in the way of life and living of those long ago people. Their world of love, peace, happiness, physical work and accomplishment, their enjoyment of “growing-up,” mentally, physically and environmentally, in those many years past, has left its mark for us.

Each day as one passes through the area of the ground that was lived on in the 1700s and 1800s long ago era, might make one wish to “turn back the clock” and live among them for a while.

Some of the descendants of those early East Fairhaven families, who reside in Fairhaven, have been very willing and interested in adding to the history of their families. My thanks to them all!

This journey of long ago is divided into three books:

Book 1 – covers all of the area from the junction of Huttleston Avenue and Washington Street to Arsene Street.

Book 2 – will continue from Arsene Street eastward to Hamlet Street.

Book 3 – Leaves from Hamlet Street and finishes at the Mattapoisett Town Line.

Book 1 to be published in 2010
Book 2 will be published in 2011
Book 3 will end our journey in 2012

My thanks and love especially to my family for standing with, and supporting me through this project. My desire is to keep “History Alive” in the beautiful Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts.

Natalie S. Hemingway
2010
# HISTORY OF EAST FAIRHAVEN
(NASKATUCKET)
MASSACHUSETTS
**BOOK 1**

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East Fairhaven History
Collaborators

There have been many people who have contributed to the researching of information for the history of East Fairhaven. The pictures, photos, articles and stories relating to the subject, and services that have kept the author putting together the information in the form of Book 1 – 3 are considered the collaborators. It is with thanks that their names are listed here. With the creating of Books 2 & 3, there certainly will be more people added to this list.

Martha Bisailleon
Mildred Blossom
Suzanne Fredette Butler
Debbie Charpentier
James Corcoran
Dr. Michael Crowe, Jr.
Ann Darling
Robert Demanche
William E. Devine
Milton & Gail Elliott
Keith Francis
Carlton Fredette
Bradford & Priscilla Hathaway
Kent W. Hemingway Jr.
James Howland
Jane Howland
Mark A. Howland

Ron Laverdure
Charles Martin
Frank Mathieu
Joanne Evans Mee
John Murphy
Chris & Lori Richard
Yvette Roy
Diane Saunders
Doreen Skidmore
Donald S. Smith
Mary Staffon
Suzanne Fortin Thompson

Town of Fairhaven
Population
1812 - 1859
(Acushnet Village included with Fairhaven)
1820 - 2,733
1852 - 4,000
1855 - 4,692

1860 - 1910
1865 - 2,548
1895 - 3,338
1905 - 4,235
1960 - 14,339
Sources:

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Old-Time Fairhaven, Volumes I – III: Charles Harris
Fairhaven Town Clerk: Eileen M. Lowney
History of Bristol County, Massachusetts: Fall River News-Taunton Gazette-
The History of New Bedford: Daniel Ricketson
Cooke’s Garrison: Donald S. Smith
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The Story of Fairhaven by Thomas A. Tripp
A Brief History of the Town of Fairhaven Massachusetts – Old Home Week 1903
By James L. Gillingham, Cyrus D. Hunt, Lewis S. Judd Jr., George H. Tripp
Whaling Masters and Whaling Voyages Sailing from American Ports
by Judith Navas Lund
“Thee Will Fill It Up!” by Mabel Hoyle Knipe
The Girl In The Window by Mabel Hoyle Knipe
WHERE IN THE WORLD IS

EAST FAIRHAVEN,
(NASKATUCKET)

MASSACHUSETTS

?

Well, let us tell you – If something is “in the back,” it means that the “back” is the end of the “front.”

Now, if you were living in Fairhaven Village and you desired to go to East Fairhaven, you could be directed to go to the “back of Back Road” or on the “other side of Back Road.”

Our history tells us that before Back Road was named Back Road, this area was a path that led Native Americans from the inland, down the “Head-of-the-River” trail to the Sconticut and Naskatucket tribes’ late Spring and early Fall camping grounds. Today, we know this by-way as Alden Road.

The East Fairhaven History- Book 1 will be the first of a series of three books that will bring to you, historical information about the Eastern area of Fairhaven, Massachusetts.
MADISON SQUARE

WHAT IS IT?

MADISON SQUARE
MADISON'S CORNER
OR
MATTERSON SQUARE

[1]
While researching historical material one sometimes becomes very confused when different names or titles are found for the same object or place. In the case of Madison Square, you will note that it is known or could be known as the above names. Starting with “Matterson Square” we will define each name, as was found by the researcher.

***

**MATTERSON SQUARE**

(A newspaper article from *The Fairhaven Star* in 1928 reads as follows)

**SAY MATTERSON SQUARE, NOT MADISON SQUARE**

The square at the junction of Washington and Spring street should be called Matterson Square and not Madison Square, as is the common practice, according to a resident of Fairhaven who is well posted on local history. He informs the *Star* that the father of Fred Matterson, Washington street, was the original settler there, his residence was located on the site of Mr. Edgar Darling. This was not the first house there, however. The first was located on Spring street, a short distance north of the junction. It was a story and a half building and was moved there from Acushnet.

William F. Church says he remembers when the building was moved. He entered the High School in 1876 and left four years later. He does not remember the exact year but it was while he attended school. It was quite a sight. There was a deep snow. The building was placed on two pine trees of good size, one end of the trees being hooked up to a gear drawn by several oxen and several spans of horses. The other end of the trees dragged over the snow.

When the load reached the corner of Bridge and Main streets, it was left there for the night and the animals driven back to Acushnet. The next morning they returned and the journey was resumed through Bridge, Adams and Spring street. In going through Spring street, there was one place at a curve that was narrower than the rest of the street. In passing this point the building razed a stonewall on one side.

(The writer of the above article wandered away from the title of the article, but he or she “said their piece” and had a very interesting tale to tell.)

***
MADISON'S CORNER

The only information found about this name was the printing of Madison's Corner on the Fairhaven Map of 1895.

Where is Madison's Corner?

The Fairhaven Branch Railroad Bed, now the Bike Path, is indicated on the right of the 1895 map of Fairhaven. To the left is Spring Street as it was before U.S. Route 6 was created. Washington Street is in the middle of the map showing a house on the right side of the street as the home of T. S. Corson, the original Jabez Delano Stone House that is still there in 2010.

MADISON SQUARE

The Madison Square junction was where Spring Street and Washington Street met, until 1929 when U.S. Route 6 was altered and reconstructed to meld with Spring Street and the Darling's property, to join with Washington Street, now known as Huttleston Avenue. The Darling home is the furthest house on the right side of the photo. If you look to the very left of the photo you can see the chimneys of the Jabez Delano Stone House located on Washington Street. As you might notice, in the lower right corner of the above photo, Billboards along the streets were the strongest of advertisements.
It was found that Madison Square is found in all of the Town Directories, Street Lists and other Town documents that refer to this street junction.


Another Note: Washington St. – Adams St. – Jefferson St. were early street names in this area of Fairhaven, so why not have a Madison to complete the Square? So – Madison Square it is!

In 1924, on the southeast corner of Washington and Spring streets, Theodore J. and Alice L. Patnaude were the proprietors of the Madison Square Filling Station.

The terminology “Filling Station” was in use for many years before the identification of this business was referred to as a “Gas Station.”

Also at that time in history, some “Filling Stations” supplied more than one brand of gasoline for their customers, as noted here.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *
Edgar Winfred Darling born in New Bedford, in 1875, made his home in New Bedford and was the proprietor of a grocery store in New Bedford for many years.

On January 1, 1895, Edgar became the husband of Gertrude Annie Dugdale of East Fairhaven. The couple remained in New Bedford for a few years and then moved to Madison’s Corner, as indicated by the Fairhaven Map of 1895, or Matterson’s Square, as per the previous article where Mr. Darling’s name was mentioned. Note the fact that, that article was written in 1928, giving credence that the Darlings were already established in Fairhaven.

The Darling family moved to 212 Washington Street in Fairhaven in 1922 and continued to operate their grocery store in New Bedford.

The Fairhaven Star printed on November 11, 1927: “The selectmen have granted a permit to Edgar W. Darling of 204 Spring street to build a greenhouse, 100x40 feet, at an estimated cost of $6,000.”

On October 17, 1930 The Fairhaven Star reported the following: “Edgar W. Darling of Spring street has been granted a permit to build a flower shop on the corner of Washington street, at an estimated cost of $800.”

The Fairhaven Star also published information about the many prizes and medals that Mr. Darling had won at the yearly Flower Shows of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the New Bedford Horticultural Society. Because his specialty seems to have been the raising of Dahlias, he also won prizes at the many Dahlia Societies around New England.

The Edgar W. Darling’s Flower Shop was sold in 1967, but still, the name lingers on.
Mr. Darling was a member of the George H. Taber Masonic Lodge and many other Masonic organizations. He was a Fairhaven Town Meeting Member, and a member of the Fairhaven Improvement Association.

The Darling's fields of many varieties of flowers and their greenhouses are now only memories, as the rural East Fairhaven has changed to the commercial East Fairhaven.

(The Fairhaven Star – June 18, 1936)
Fairhaven's home-born and home-grown philanthropist, Henry Huttleston Rogers, seemed to enjoy being able to give to the Town of Fairhaven, buildings and items that were not available as he was growing up here in this beautiful town. When he was young, the water that he drank came from the well in the backyard that was brought into the house via a hand pump in the kitchen. Some folks did not even have a pump in the kitchen and had to "go to the well" and bring the water into the houses or schools in buckets full.

The Protecting Society that organized in the early 1800's preceded today's Fire Department. When the alarm rang announcing a fire, it took a great deal of time to get the horse out of the barn and attached to a steam pumper and then to get to the fire. This situation was written about in the "Sesquicentennial Program" of 1962.

"The horses frequently were more interested in following the car (Trolley) rails in the street, just as they did every day of their lives, than in going to a fire." In most cases, the men and equipment got there too late to save or protect much at the fire scene.

Mr. Joseph K. Nye of Nye Oil Company, had the desire to supply the town of Fairhaven with water. Mr. H. H. Rogers became interested in the scheme that Mr. Nye had planned. An article from the \textit{Fairhaven Star} tells of the history of organizing the \textit{Fairhaven Water Company}.

\textit{(Fairhaven Star – June 1, 1937)}

\textbf{EARLY HISTORY OF WATER COMPANY IS VERY INTERESTING}

The Fairhaven Water Co. had its inception through the very laudable inception of Mr. Joseph K. Nye to supply the town with water. The company was incorporated April 25, 1888. The first meeting of the stockholders was held on the following day. While the holding of meetings was easy, the finding of an adequate water supply was different.

The local politicians were antagonistic, but Mr. Nye continued, determined and persistent. A hint came to him from a visitor of the town, who had geological knowledge, that wells driven into the bed of the Naskatucket River would furnish an ample water supply.

The wells having been driven, and the predictions of Mr. Nye's informant having been borne out, H. H. Rogers became interested in the scheme, and supplied the money for the enterprise. Through the medium of a corporation, Mr. Rogers gave the \textit{Water Company} to the \textit{Millicent Library of Fairhaven}. The entire profits of the Water Company went, therefore, and still go (as of 1937), to the support of the library.

\textit{(Note: After many years, the Water Company was turned over to the Town of Fairhaven.)}
The 1888 Board of Directors of the Water Company were: Morris R. Brownell, clerk; W. J. Fitzsimmons, Wm. B. Gardner, Henry T. Gidley, treasurer; John H. Seaman, superintendent; and Thomas A. Tripp, President.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

The buildings of the Fairhaven Water Company were erected in 1893 on Mill Road in East Fairhaven and a Water Tank (Tower) was erected a few yards east of Madison Square, the junction of Washington and Spring streets. This tank was constructed of wood on steel supports of 75 feet in height that were embedded in a cement base. The approximate height of supports and tank was 200 feet. The tower was erected in 1893 at a cost of $19,000.

(Fairhaven Star - September 14, 1895)

The Fairhaven Water Tower

Lieutenant Hanes of the Coast Guard Survey, recently stated that the water tower in Fairhaven was one of the best landmarks in the whole Atlantic coast and he had written to Washington of its value in getting ranges of vessels entering or leaving the port of New Bedford.
Eight years after 1893, on Nov. 9, 1901, the Tower and Tank collapsed, spilling 325,000 gallons of water into the roadway.

(Excerpts from New Bedford Standard-Times article of 1951 relating what had happened 50 years before)

**Water Tower Falls**

“If anyone asked you where you were on Nov. 9, 1901, you probably would not remember. But, if you were around when the Fairhaven water tower collapsed, that may help you to recall where you were. One man remembered where he was that day, recalled he was a passenger on the car (Trolley) returning from Onset that passed the tower a few minutes before it crashed. Another remembered he was playing golf, on the Fairhaven Links.

If the two boys on a tandem that were caught in the flood of water as they were riding by, are still living (in 1951), they certainly remember the event. The crash occurred about 4:10 p.m., spilling into the roadway an estimated 325,000 gallons of water that flooded the area, filling the street with debris, so that it was not until three hours later that it was reopened for travel.”

“Those who were near enough to hear, said the crash was like that of a clap of thunder. There were three theories as to the cause of the collapse – that the bottom of the tank gave way, that it was caused by a row of rivets giving way, and third, that one or more of the steel supports had been weakened at the base, through water leaking from the tank. Joseph K. Nye of the Fairhaven Water Company said the most probable cause was a defect in the bottom of the tank.”
"The two boys riding by on the tandem when the tower fell, were William Nunes, 15, and Stephen Paul, 16, both of New Bedford. The boy riding on the rear seat, jumped off as he saw the tower falling, while the other rider kept on. They were both caught in the flood and carried over the stonewall, to the other side of the road. Antone Rose of East Fairhaven was driving by in a town dray loaded with stone and he too, was caught in the flood."

**********

On May 15, 1949, in the New Bedford Standard-Times news column written by Earle D. Wilson titled Remember? Mr. Wilson wrote of the remembering of the Water Tank that burst on November 9, 1901. Here is what he wrote:

**Bicycle Riders Were Injured When Water Tower Collapsed**

By Earle D. Wilson

It is interesting to observe how one memory brings up another and how many additional facts each event recalled, come to the minds of those who remember. Take the casual mention of the collapse of the old Fairhaven water tower a few Sundays back, for an example. Somebody wrote a single line asking if anyone remembered that event.

Harry L. Pope stepped up first and told how it performed a “now-you-see-it-now-you-don’t” stunt on him and his golfing friends.

Then Temple A. Corson remembered he saw it fall and thought that Fairhaven was to be flooded.

Both of them mentioned two boys on a tandem bicycle, who were washed off their vehicle over a stone wall and Mr. Pope and Mr. Corson were of the opinion “nobody was hurt.”

Next came a telephone call from a woman who had a “clear photo-graph” of the collapsed tower and she offered its use for publication. Next comes a letter from the sister of one of the two bicyclists giving both their names and emphatically adding that her brother had both arms broken and his companion was bruised severely when the water washed them, not over, but against the stone wall.

The lady’s brother was William Nunes and his companion was Stephen K. Paul, both of New Bedford, who had been riding with a group of boys on their way to Sconticutt Neck for an outing.

Both boys were taken to St. Luke’s Hospital for treatment. Stephen was released from the hospital the next day, as his injuries were not as serious as William’s.

William was hospitalized for seven weeks before being released. Mr. Henry H. Rogers paid the hospital bills for the two and William was given a considerable sum of money.

The next pictures are of the two boys who were involved in this notable Fairhaven event.

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