

Acknowledgments

I am indebted to a great many people: first to my great-great-grandmother and my grandmother, uneasy partners in transmitting our Nantucket heritage.

Because Ellen Ramsdell and Esther Gibbs bequeathed to me the house I live in, I have written this history upstairs in what was the old Sylvaro homestead. The planning and research for *The Other Islanders* began, however, many years ago during the time when I worked off-island and could come home only now and then.

In early days, John Mendonça and I had long, memorable conversations in Pocomo. A while later Eunice Sjölund took up the story of Nantucket's fishing families with me in her sunny parlor on Pine Street. Lifelong friend Eileen McGrath has been a generous helper in my efforts to reconstruct recent Nantucket history from school records, newspaper articles, and photos, as have Ruth Grieder; Arline Bartlett; Richard and Catherine Mack; Francis Pease; and most especially Constance Indio, who gave me access to the whole history of the *Town Crier* and its publisher, Joseph Indio.

Among Nantucket's Cape Verdeans I owe a special debt to Viola Cabral Howard and Pauline Cabral Singleton, Norma Cabral Teixeira Nunes, Theran Singleton, Falynn Correia, and Augusto Ramos for sharing with me their life experiences in this community where we all reside without, sometimes, knowing much about one another.

Carl Cruz of New Bedford has supplied books, references, genealogical information, and good cheer. Thanks are also due to the New Bedford Whaling Museum for permission to reproduce its painting of the island of Pico in the Azores.

Lonn Taylor and Dedie Uunila Taylor provided a much appreciated pied-à-terre when research took me to Washington, D. C.

I have been blessed with what can only be described as *aloha* from John Charlot, Noelani Arista, Ikaika Hussey, and Laura Lehuanani Yim. Our sharing of the Hawai'i–Nantucket connection has been moving beyond words. Frederick G. S. Clow was the sensitive photographer on the solemn occasion of the singing of Hawaiian chants for the dead on Nantucket.

I appreciate Patricia Loring's donation of Jared Coffin's account book to the Nantucket Historical Association's manuscript collection, and thank Bette Spriggs for acquainting me with the autobiography of Mrs. Nancy Prince in the rare-book collection of the Nantucket Atheneum. Without those records I would have remained ignorant of Nantucket's connections with Jamaica in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

It was through William Higginbotham's commitment to Nantucket history that the African Meeting House, at the corner of York Street and Pleasant Street, began the journey back toward its original form and function. He and Angeleen Campra have responded to my queries with a flow of family history that has deepened and enriched my understanding.

All my fellow Friends of the African Meeting House on Nantucket have encouraged me, particularly Helen Seager, Elizabeth Oldham, Jean Duarte, and Joan Wilson-Godeau. I have also enjoyed material support in the form of a grant from the Nantucket Arts Council and a year-long James Bradford Ames Fellowship. I am deeply indebted to Adele Ames for her personal interest in this work and to my companion Ames Fellows Isabel Kaldenbach and Aminah Pilgrim for sharing the results of their research.

Likewise, I have benefited from the collegiality of scholars Elizabeth Little, Franklin Dorman, Barbara Linebaugh White, James Traue, and Susheel Bibbs, all of whom shared their work with me with-

out reservation and even undertook new research to advance mine. Lincoln Thurber kindly produced ten useful maps.

For help with Parts III and IV of *The Other Islanders*, I am already deeply indebted to the kindness and interest of Ethel Anastos, Olga (Anderson) Hansen, Genevieve Booth, Mildred Collatz, Eugene Collatz Jr., Justine (Collatz) Connors, Ada (Der) Andrews and Leland Der, Lisa Dias, Robert Erlor, Leonora Gaspie, Joan (Genesky) Rubin, Ellen (Gibbs) Holdgate, John and Elizabeth Gilbert, William Haddon, Jean Hughes, Roland Huyser, Morton and Robert Kaufman, Lillian Khouri, Ethel (Larsen) Hamilton, Melvin Lash, Morgan Levine, Betsy Lowenstein, Betty MacDonald, Grace Marshall, Albert Ottison, R. Andrew Pierce, Clarissa Porter, Karsten Reinemo Jr., Francina (Reyes) Gibbs, Koren Reyes, Sol and Lucy Salomon, Mort and Reva Schlesinger, Raymond Senecal, Carl and James Sjölund, Georgia Ann Snell, Frank Spriggs, Robert and Molly Sziklas, Barbara (Petumenos) Thomas, Frieda Thurston, Beverly Topham, Jeanette Topham, Joan Wilson-Godeau, and Vivian Wilson Richardson.

Work in primary sources would have been impossible without the cooperation of the staffs of the Nantucket Town and County offices. Town Clerk Catherine Flanagan Stover, Clerk of Courts Patricia Church, Clerk of Deeds Catherine Ancero, and Register of Probate Sylvia Howard together with all the staff in those offices have made room for me, put up with me, and expressed positive interest in what I have been up to.

The staffs of the Nantucket Atheneum and the Nantucket Historical Association's Research Library have helped me along month in, month out with unfailing interest and care. No matter how esoteric my interlibrary loan requests have been, the Atheneum staff has cheerfully looked to my needs. When I have had microfilm to scan, a reader has always been available. At a crucial moment, Ben Simons of the NHA identified an obscure piece of writing by Herman Melville, thereby saving me from embarrassment. Georgen Gilliam Charnes deserves praise for getting illustrations into Part I of *The Other Islanders*. Mounting Parts II and III on the NHA website and producing hard copy for the libraries and reading rooms have been the work of Amy Jenness, who has been patient and accommodating through it all.

The NHA collections databases have led me to unanticipated treasures of information. My thanks must extend beyond the NHA staff to the volunteers who have read through the manuscripts and summarized their content for the databases and to everyone who has deposited family papers, scrapbooks, ships' logs, business records, research papers, theses, and dissertations in the NHA Research Library. First among researchers deserving of praise are Nantucket historians Edouard A. Stackpole and Grace Brown Gardner. Stackpole's immense Collection 335 and Gardner's scrapbooks constituting Collection 57 have been mainstays of my research.

Finally, I return to my family with thanks to the two historians on Nantucket with whom I have daily contact: my husband Alfred W. Crosby and my cousin Maurice Gibbs. Without their wisdom and support, this project would have gone nowhere.