



In 1895, Capt. Henry Bryant completed purchase of the peninsula called Old Menauhant. He commissioned Ignatius Sargent, who had designed and built the buildings that now house WBNERR, to build a summer residence there. Bryant died in 1904. In 1912, his widow Alida sold the land to a group that included A. H. Washburn. He took over the mansion and the land became known as Washburn Island. A chimney fire destroyed the place on October 26, 1926.



Mansion built by Capt. Bryant and later owned by A. H. Washburn.

Waquoit Bay in the Old Days



In September of 1938 a powerful hurricane struck New England. It caused widespread destruction and took many lives. In this photo of the Waquoit Bay Yacht Club (c. 1940), many damaged trees can be seen near the club and on Washburn Island in the background. A construction barge is being used to repair docks.

There was once a thriving oyster business in Waquoit Bay, more specifically at Mass. Shellfish Grant #1 in the Sea Pit River and north of Washburn Island. Orrin Kelly's shellfish business uses these grounds today. In this photograph, the sloop *Ida Lee* is in its final resting place, opposite what is now Edward's Boatyard, next to the old bridge over the Childs River (where Rt. 28 crosses today). Oysters from Onset were spread on the Sea Pit grounds where they grew much faster due to the abundance of food. Salinity was too low for the oysters to reproduce so they had to be brought in from elsewhere. This relaying was done in the spring and summer. In the fall and winter, tongs were used to lift the oysters to the surface for sorting, separating and cultivating. They were sold to the Cape Cod trade and shipped north to Boston, as "Sea Pete" oysters.



Peter's Wharf was a ship's chandlery operated in Waquoit Bay during the mid-1800s. It was the logistical support site for daily trade in sundries, mail, and fire wood for Nantucket Island.



Remains of Peter's Wharf, 2003

