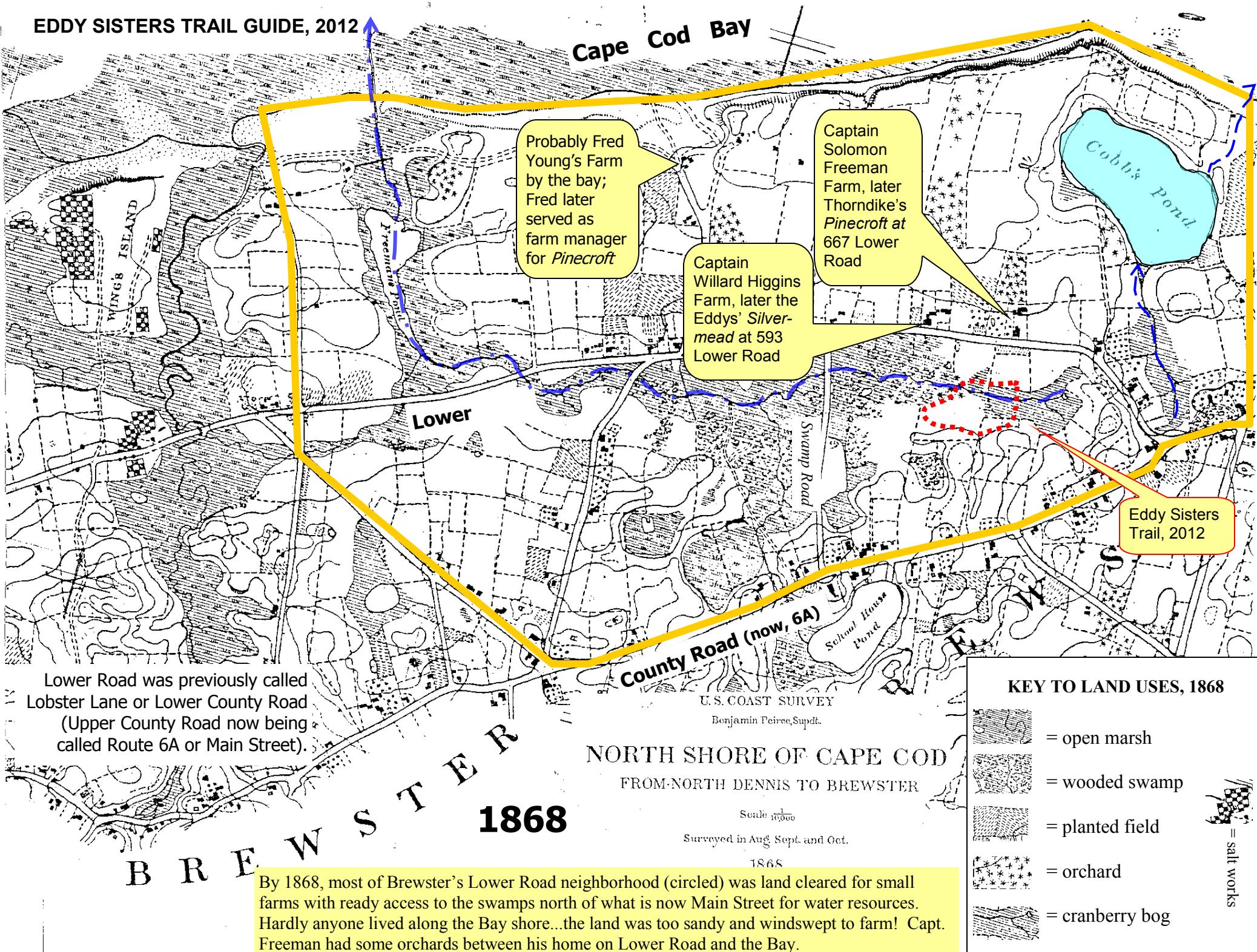
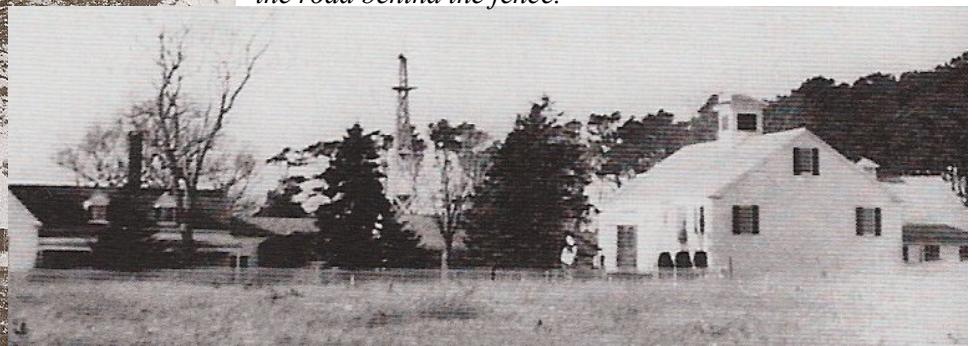


EDDY SISTERS TRAIL GUIDE, 2012



667 Lower Road, 2012

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Pinecroft Farm, c. 1890, a year after Augustus Thorndike purchased the Lower Road operation from Captain Solomon Freeman's family. This composite view, looking west along Lower Road, shows the sandy lane for horse and buggies, a stroller on the sandy sidewalk, the farmhouse, windmill and barn. Note the open fields across the road behind the fence.

Pinecroft, the Thorndikes take over one of Brewster's oldest farms

After Capt. Freeman died in 1887, the farm was acquired by Augustus L. Thorndike (1861-1922), once the state banking commissioner, who resided in Boston but summered here in Brewster. Mr. Thorndike had married a Brewster woman, Cora Nickerson, of one of the Cape's leading families. They named the farm **Pinecroft** ("croft" being a Scottish word for farm.) Perhaps the name was tongue-in-cheek for the penchant of the Cape's sandy soil being best suited to grow pitch pines.

Thorndike pioneered many innovations in commercial cranberrying with Brewster native Fred Young, his long-time farm manager. In 1913 they engineered a lift-pump system to irrigate the Lower Road bogs using water from Cobbs Pond. The entire wetland drainage of Lower Road flows west emptying into Freemans Pond and then out to Paines Creek and into Cape Cod Bay. Augustus and Cora Thorndike were the Eddy sisters' grandparents.



Augustus Thorndike at the 667 Lower Road dining room, c. 1900. Before coming to Brewster as a gentleman farmer, Mr. Thorndike was the Massachusetts State Banking Commissioner and ran unsuccessfully for State Treasurer as a Democrat in 1912. (Photos donated to Brewster Historical Society by Ruth Eddy.)