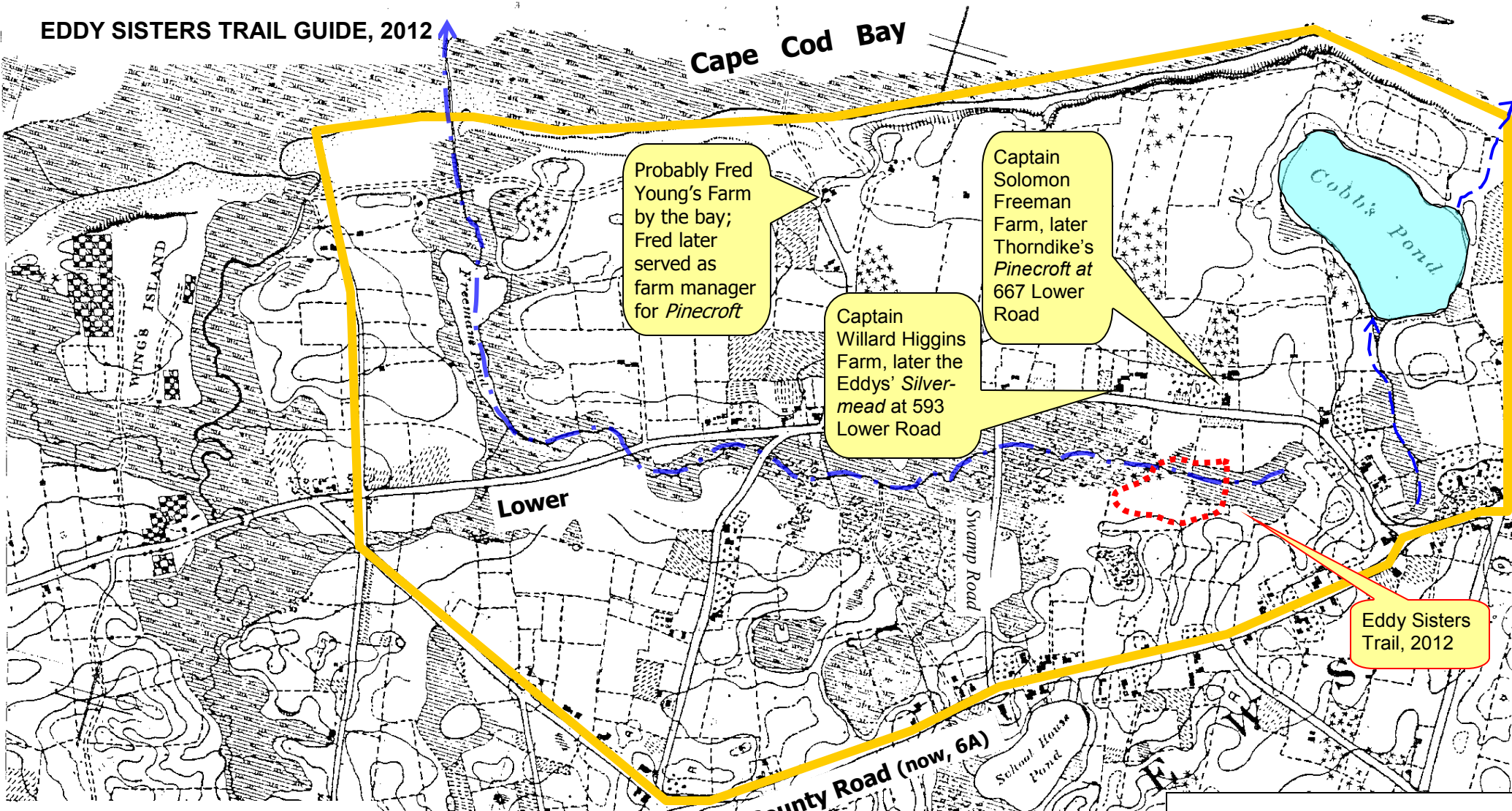


Cape Cod Bay



Lower Road was previously called Lobster Lane or Lower County Road (Upper County Road now being called Route 6A or Main Street).







Probably Fred Young's Farm by the bay; Fred later served as farm manager for *Pinecroft*

Captain Willard Higgins Farm, later the Eddys' *Silvermead* at 593 Lower Road

Captain Solomon Freeman Farm, later Thorndike's *Pinecroft* at 667 Lower Road

Eddy Sisters Trail, 2012

KEY TO LAND USES, 1868

-  = open marsh
-  = wooded swamp
-  = planted field
-  = orchard
-  = cranberry bog
-  = salt works

U.S. COAST SURVEY
Benjamin Peirce, Supdt.

NORTH SHORE OF CAPE COD
FROM NORTH DENNIS TO BREWSTER

Scale $\frac{1}{10000}$

Surveyed in Aug. Sept. and Oct.

1868

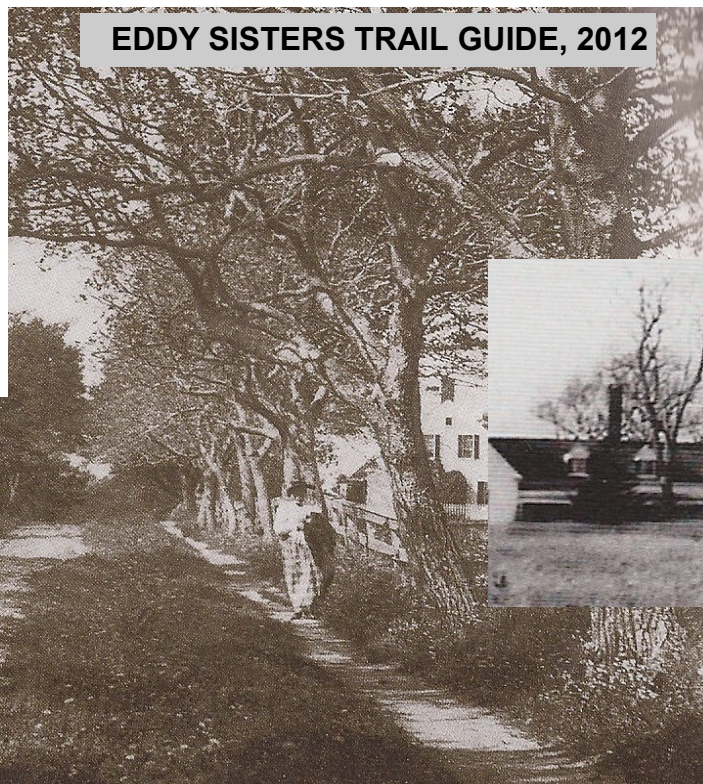
BREWSTER
1868

By 1868, most of Brewster's Lower Road neighborhood (circled) was land cleared for small farms with ready access to the swamps north of what is now Main Street for water resources. Hardly anyone lived along the Bay shore...the land was too sandy and windswept to farm! Capt. Freeman had some orchards between his home on Lower Road and the Bay.

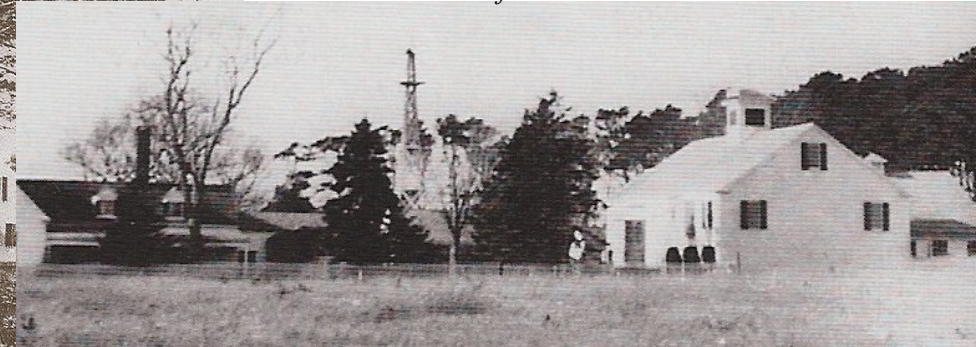
667 Lower Road, 2012



EDDY SISTERS TRAIL GUIDE, 2012



Pineroft 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.



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.)

Pineroft, 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 ***Pineroft*** ("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.

