

# Eddy Bay Trail



*Trail: 1 mile round trip*

• **NO BEACH ACCESS** •

## *Please:*

- Stay on marked trails
- Leash and pick up after dogs
- Bicycles and horses prohibited on trails
- Take precautions against ticks and poison ivy
- Take only memories and leave only footprints



## Brewster Conservation Trust

[www.brewsterconservationtrust.org](http://www.brewsterconservationtrust.org)

The Eddy Bay Trail starts at the barn foundation once owned by John and Sarah Hassard. The half mile trail ends with a view of Cape Cod Bay from the highest point and last wild bluff on the Brewster coast. Please enjoy the view from behind the fence.

## Ecology and Geology

- **Erosion on the bay:** The coastal bluff is retreating inland as storm waves batter the shore and sea level rises.
- **Forest succession:** Pitch pines grow in abandoned fields and are being replaced by white and black oaks.
- **Glacial erratic:** This boulder was left by a retreating glacier more than 10,000 years ago.
- **Wolf Oak:** Influenced by salt spray and wind, the lateral limbs of the large black oak indicate it grew in an open meadow.

## Pieces of the Past

- **Fieldstone foundation:** Remains of an 1870 barn, used to store cranberries into the 1930s, was restored in 2019.
- **Holly grove:** A grove of holly trees thrives from an early planting.
- **White Pine grove:** The row of pines indicates an intentional planting.
- **Stonewall:** The north-south wall marks a former property line.



The trail ends with a view of Cape Cod Bay.





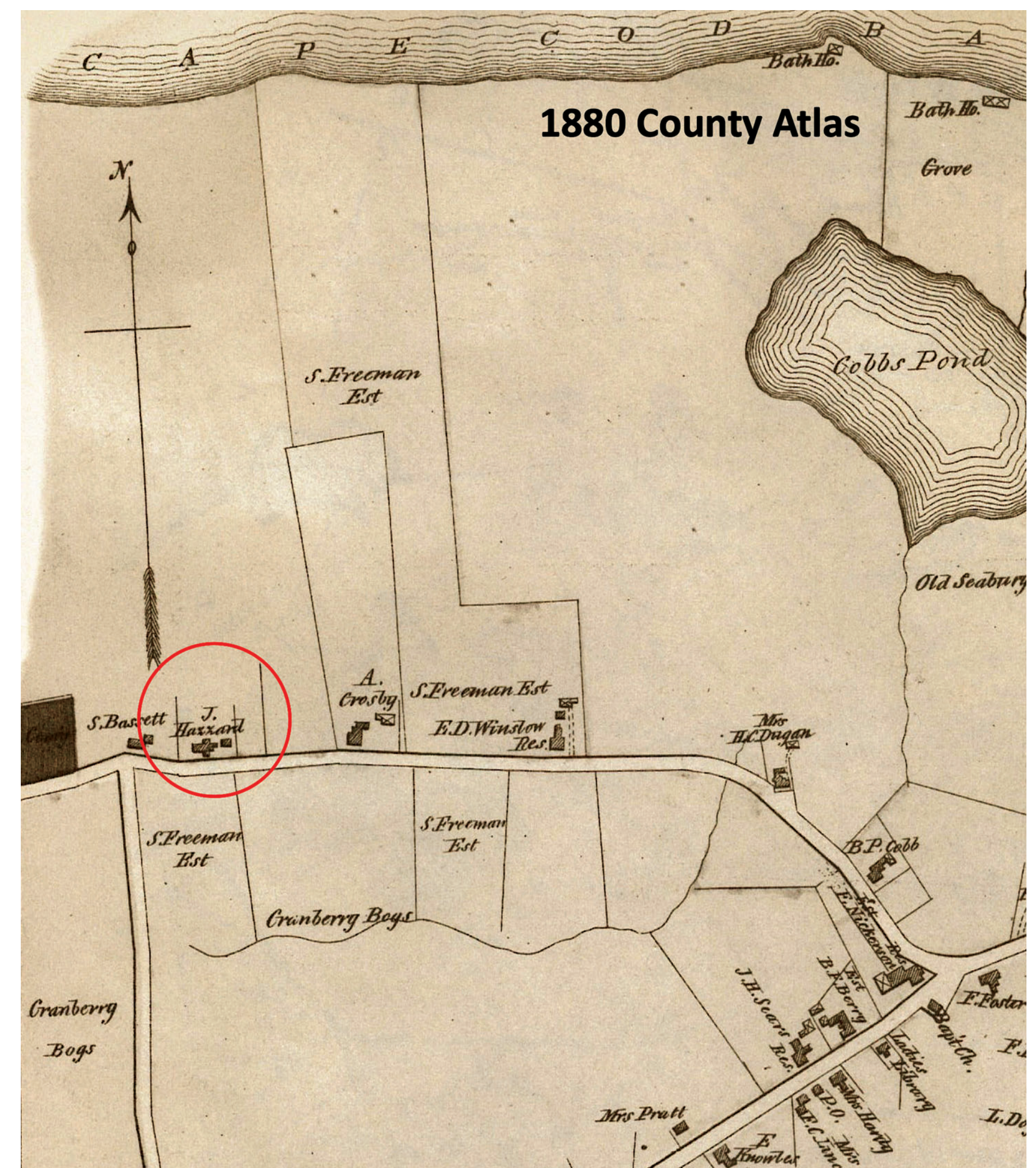
# The People and the Land

Originally the planting fields of the Native American Saquatucket people, and later a division of farms for the colonists in the 1600s, this site became pasture and tillage for some of Brewster's leading farming families through the 1800s. Captain Solomon Freeman (1800-1887) one of the famed blue-water skippers who put Brewster on the map as the "Sea Captains' Town" was also an early owner of this land.

John and Sarah Hassard were Irish immigrants and worked as farmhands on the Freeman or nearby Crosby property. The Hassards were allowed to build a small house (and larger barn) around 1870. They bought an acre including the house in 1872 and twelve more acres of open land down to the bay shore in 1875. The house was small and located behind the apple tree to the right of the trailhead.

The Hassard family was beset by tragedy. They had five children and their one son John was killed in 1890 in a duck hunting accident on the bay. In 1896 their daughter Sadie was shot and killed by a rejected suitor who fled and then drowned himself. Family members are buried in the Brewster Cemetery on Lower Road.

The Augustus Thorndike family owned this property starting in 1899. They used the Hassard barn as a cranberry shed. The Thorndike granddaughters, Mary-Louise and Ruth Eddy, who were founding members of the Brewster Conservation Trust, donated this property to the Trust in 2000.



The Hassard place in 1880 on the north side of Lower Road

*"Never more to suffer  
Earthly Cares are o'er  
God has called the wanderer  
To his heavenly shore"*



Sarah J. (Sadie) Hassard's grave in nearby Brewster Cemetery

## GIRL MURDERED IN BREWSTER.

### The Murderer Drowned Himself in a Pond.

The quiet town of Brewster was startled Sunday morning by one of the greatest tragedies Cape Cod has ever known, rivalled only by that in Osterville last summer, when Lizzie Coleman was shot and her murderer suicided.

Sadie Hassard, the 25-year-old daughter of John Hassard, was shot and killed by Frederick S. Alexander.

The first warning of the crime was just as the venerable Mr. Dawes, pastor of the Unitarian church, was finishing his opening prayer, when pistol shots and shrieks were heard, and when the people rushed from the church, the body of the victim was found lying on the sidewalk within a hundred yards of the Baptist church, with blood trickling from a bullet hole under her right ear.

Excerpt from Barnstable Patriot, May 18, 1896



Workers harvest cranberries in the Lower Road bog with the Hassard barn in the background (c. 1920)



Cranberry harvest hand scoop