

Excerpt from The Mayhew Manor of Tisbury: Address Prepared for the New York Branch of the Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America It is a fact unknown in history, except perhaps to a few local antiquarians, that the island of Marthas Vineyard, located just south of Cape Cod and now a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was at one time under the jurisdiction of the Province of New York, and constituted one of its first three county governments. Marthas Vineyard, together with the Elizabeth Islands, Nantucket, and No Mans Land, was incorporated November 1, 1683, by the Provincial Assembly of New York, as Dukes County, coincident with the creation of Kings County (now Brooklyn), and Queens County (Long Island), but for twenty years before that date it had been an integral part of the Province of New York. In order to understand the political relationship of these far-flung isles of the southeastern New England coast to the New York government, it is necessary to hark back to the early settlement of this country when King James established the Council for New England, which gave this territory to certain of the nobility, and other prominent Englishmen interested in the colonization of the New World. This Council for New England had regulated the affairs of this territory as best it could by long distance orders in Council granting Patent rights to enterprising Englishmen who were ready to exploit its unknown riches for the glorification of the Crown of England, and incidentally, for their own profit. For thirty years this corporate body had been in active operation until, in 1635, it found that the maximum of its powers and usefulness had been reached and in their wisdom the remaining active members deemed it wise to divide the territory among themselves as best they could, with their limited knowledge of the geography and nomenclature of it, and surrender their Charter to the Crown. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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