
Acknowledgments

When my husband and I visited Cape Cod in 2002, little did we know that our vacation would take me to my next research project. A fateful trip to the Sandwich Glass Museum and Historical Society on a rainy day introduced me to Rebecca Burgess through the collection she so carefully crafted before her death. The woman's story of adventure and tragedy intrigued me, and when I discovered that she had left her journals to the museum, I knew I had to learn more about her. My interest led to this book and many subsequent summers on the Cape.

I must credit many people for making this book possible. First, Melissa Walker, Judy Ryan, Jennifer Fish Kashay, and Sarah Deutsch helped me see the "big picture" of change in the little story of Rebecca and her town. They pushed me to find the larger context of Rebecca's story, and the book is much richer as a result. I am also extremely indebted to Cynthia Kierner, whose thoughtful comments on my first draft of the manuscript helped me rethink chronology and narrative. Joan Druett, Lisa Norling, Elizabeth Varon and an anonymous reader urged me to look beyond the simple story presented by Rebecca, and their insights and critiques greatly strengthened this project.

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I could not have done this work without the assistance of the talented archivists, librarians, and curators both at Clemson University and on Cape Cod. Priscilla Munson helped me track down population data and citation

information, and she showed me how to navigate and mine the census database at Clemson University. Barbara Gill located numerous genealogical sources and town records for me at the Sandwich Town Archives and Historical Center, and Lauren Robinson of the Sandwich Public Library went to great lengths to assist me with microfilm issues. In addition, Mary Sicchio helped me find information on the Yarmouth Camp Meeting at the Nickerson Room.

The people at the Sandwich Glass Museum and Historical Society and the Bourne Historic Center unearthed unmined sources, providing me with valuable information I would not have been able to find on my own, and welcoming me, day after day, into their lives and their archives. Eliane Thomas and Dorothy Schofield of the Sandwich Glass Museum and Historical Society worked tirelessly to help me with my research. They are unfailing in their quest to help researchers, despite constraints of time and money. Not only did they make my work easier, but they made me look forward to driving down the Cape every day to see them. And Jerry and Beth Ellis, descendants of Rebecca's relatives, invited me into their home, shared stories, and helped me see the connections between kin and family in the area. As the head of the Bourne Historical Commission, Jerry helped me go through Rebecca's collection at the Jonathan Bourne Historical Center, providing me with insights and a glimpse of Rebecca's world through the eyes of her family and her artifacts. This project would not have been successful without the help of these wonderful people.

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to the family, our son Scott Andrew. I thank Scott's wonderful caregivers for enabling me to finish this project, and I hope that Scott reads this book one day and appreciates the Cape even more than his parents do. His headfirst forays into the waves at Nauset Beach these past two summers suggest that he just might. We can certainly say that Scott's first years make a great beginning for any "Cape Cod tale"; he was attracted to the sea before he could walk.

Writing this story entailed spending many summers on Cape Cod. Through this process I have rediscovered my love of the Cape, with its beautiful vistas and fascinating history. I hope that this story will encourage readers to visit the land that Rebecca so loved.



Map 1. Modern map of Cape Cod. Bourne separated from Sandwich during Rebecca's lifetime, and the canal was built in the early 20th century.