

QUIOGUE HAMLET HERITAGE AREA GUIDEBOOK FOR A WALKING TOUR



The Reed Cottage, circa 1870 at 25 Woodbridge Avenue

**Sponsored by
The Westhampton Beach Historical Society**



September 2008

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This walking tour guidebook was created from a portion of the “Historical Profile of the Hamlet of Quiogue” authored by Ronald A. Michne, Jr. (February 2007). This Profile provides the historic background information for the Quiogue Hamlet Heritage Area, an honorary designation adopted for much of the hamlet of Quiogue by the Town of Southampton in early 2008. Readers interested in learning more about the history of Quiogue may download a complete copy of the Profile from the Town of Southampton website (www.town.southampton.ny.us). Select the Land Management/Landmarks & Historic Districts Info heading under the Departmental Directory and download the Profile as an Adobe pdf.

The Westhampton Beach Historical Society wishes to acknowledge the significant contributions of Mr. Michne and others with professional research and/or personal historic information to our understanding of the history of Quiogue. We are hopeful that publication of this information will lead to a greater appreciation and increased preservation of our historic resources. We are also grateful to the Town of Southampton for designating the Quiogue Hamlet Heritage Area as one of the unique and valuable historic resources in the Town of Southampton.

INTRODUCTION

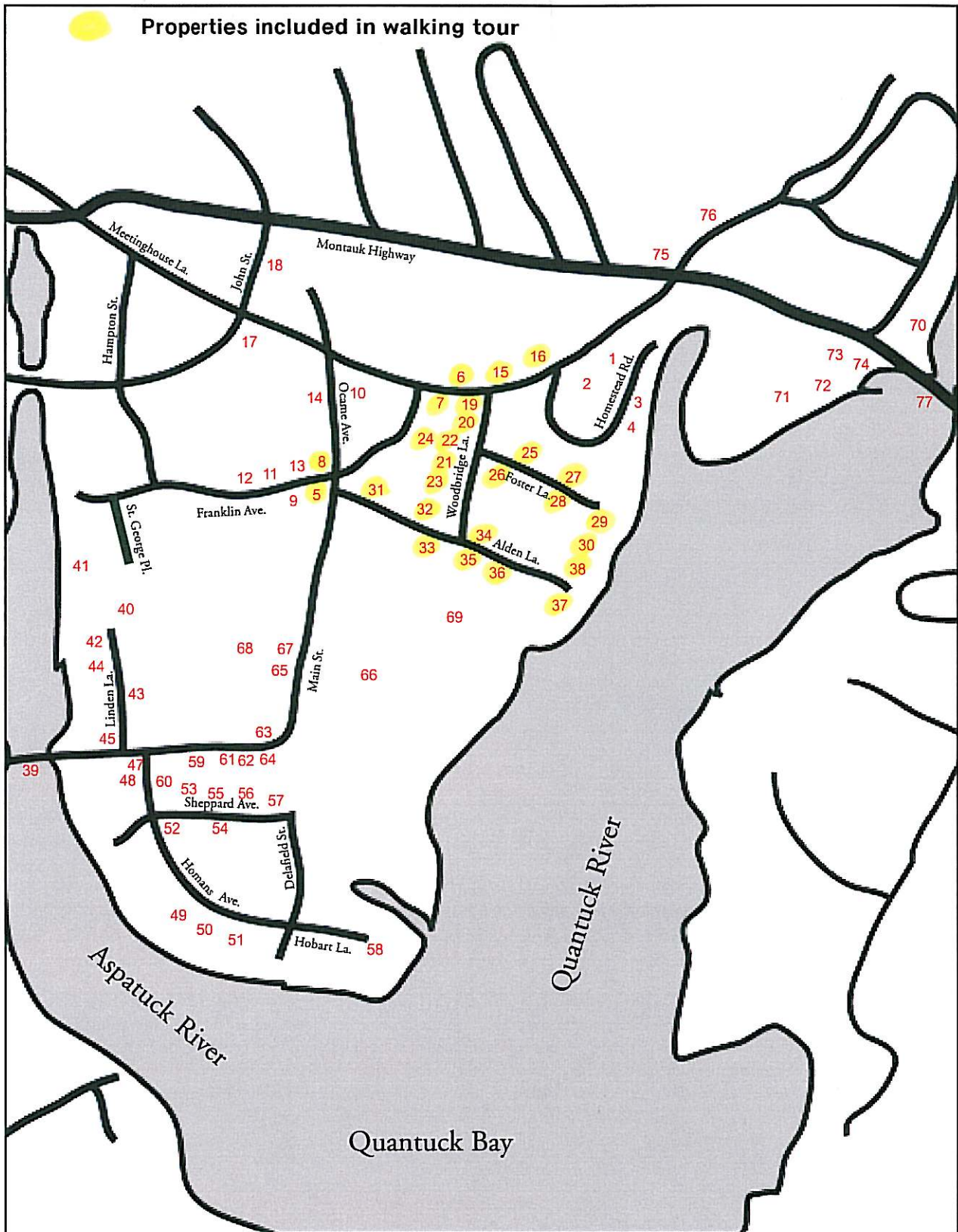
The following historical information pertains to the hamlet of Quiogue, an unincorporated area located in the Town of Southampton. The hamlet lies between the incorporated villages of Quogue and Westhampton Beach and is bounded in the south by Quantuck Bay. Three hundred and fifty years ago, Native Americans inhabited the area now called Quiogue. They named this area Quiogue, meaning “Little Quogue.” The name Quogue itself meant “a shaking marsh, cove or estuary” and was derived from the Native American word Quaquanantuck. The first written use of the name Quiogue in Southampton Town records occurred in 1707. This entry relates to the passing of land from Joseph Foster to his son, Daniel Foster.

In the years following the Civil War, economic life in the Westhampton/Quogue area was mainly based on farming or fishing. Families had small farmsteads that took care of their own needs and those of their neighbors. Life within these communities was simple. Residents of the South Shore of Long Island began to rent out rooms in their houses to supplement their incomes during the summer months. Summer visitors enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere the bays, beaches and quiet lanes these seaside communities provided – a stark contrast to the hustle, bustle and heat late nineteenth century city life provided.

Warm summers and the close proximity to the ocean beaches and bays contributed to the growth of Quiogue into a charming summer community. The most significant reason for growth, however, was the coming of the railroad. In 1870 the Long Island Railroad completed its extension into Manorville. Eastern Long Island became the destination for New Yorkers seeking refuge from the City. Boarding houses and hotels sprang up and summer “cottages” soon dotted the once pastoral landscape. The area quickly caught on as a summer destination for the affluent of New York City.

The seeds of Quiogue as a tranquil place were planted early in its settlement. The Reverend Sylvester Woodbridge, Jr. had visited Quiogue as a summer visitor, taking refuge at the Foster Homestead before being installed as the Presbyterian Minister in the 1840s. It was Woodbridge’s first cousin, Reverend John Patton, who is given credit for building Quiogue’s first “summer cottage” in 1870. Summer houses sprang up along the quiet lanes that led to Quantuck Bay, most being built by friends, family and colleagues of Patton and Woodbridge. It was only natural that most of the first settlers of the summer colony in Quiogue were from the professions of faith and academe. Laurence Casey best sums up this fact in *A Place Called Quiogue*, “...the colony which developed was made up largely of clergymen and professors. As a result, some of the local wits, in a spirit of fun, often referred to Quiogue as ‘Priestville’ and to Quantuck Bay as ‘Ministers Bay’...” Eighty years before Casey wrote about Quiogue, the August 6, 1899 issue of *The Brooklyn Eagle* read, “*Quiogue is a quiet, sylvan corner, lying midway between Westhampton and Quogue, on the shores of the Quantuck Bay. Though tucked away out of sight and hidden by great trees, it shelters a colony of professional men of position, including some of Brooklyn’s foremost educators.*”

Despite the years, many of the homes built by the first summer residents have remained with the original families. Descendants of many of these first families can still be found walking down Quiogue’s quiet lanes on summer days. Newcomers have come to Quiogue and built houses of their own and have been assimilated quietly into the population. Despite the changes and the increased population, Quiogue retains the “small town” flavor that attracted the original settlers of this summer colony.





Catholic Church building when it was located on Main Street about 1922

5. **The Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception**

580 Main Street 900 - 377 - 1 - 14

The first Catholic Mass was said on Quiogue by Reverend Patrick Creighton prior to 1880 in a front room of Francis and Margaret Foley's farmhouse, then located on the eastern side of Aspatuck Creek. In 1883, Margaret Foley gave to the Diocese of Brooklyn a site on which the first church was built. The first dedicated Catholic Church building was erected in the early 1890s. The site of this first building faced Meeting House Road, just to the south of where the present church building is located. Originally, Catholic priests came out from New York City for services. It was not until 1911 that the first resident priest, Father John Paterson was installed.

Attendance of the new members of the Quiogue Summer Colony and the growing number of Catholics moving into the area soon made the church obsolete. A second church was constructed to the north of the first church very near the site of the present church building. The first church building became a store for a short while, then a private residence until it was moved further up Meeting House Road to the Foster Homestead property. The first building church building was moved again to the north side of Foster Road where it still stands today as a private residence. A small rectory was built on the vacant spot where the first church building sat.

The second church building soon proved too small as well. It was used until 1922 when it was moved about 200 feet back on Franklin Avenue where it was remodeled and served as a Parish Hall.

The present church was built and consecrated in 1922. Around the same time, the rectory next door was renovated and enlarged.

6. **The Presbyterian Church** 90 Meeting House Road 900 - 370 - 3 - 20.1

The Presbyterian Church of the Parish of Westhampton and Quogue traces its roots to the formation of the Western Meeting House at Beaver Dam. The Parish was founded in 1742 and the church/meetinghouse was built on a piece of property given by Southampton Town for “a church and burying ground” for use by inhabitants of the western end of the town.

In 1832, the congregation agreed that a more centrally located church should be built for the members who came from Westhampton to Quogue. A parcel of land in Quogue was purchased from the Foster family and a new chapel was built in 1832. A parsonage was built sometime in the 1840s but was later moved near the intersection of Alden and Woodbridge Lanes in 1875.

The growing congregation outgrew their ‘new’ building by the late 1880s and a new church building was constructed in 1888. Riverhead architect George Skidmore was contracted to design the church building. The first Presbyterian church building built in Quogue was moved to nearby Westhampton Beach and became part of the building known as The Morgan House on Potunk Lane. In 1948 the Parish Hall was added, and a new church wing was added in 1957. A new parsonage was constructed in the same year as the new church building.



Parsonage with Presbyterian Church in background

7. **Presbyterian Parsonage** 83 Meeting House Road 900 - 370 - 3 - 35

Site of first parsonage building in Quogue. The present parsonage was built in 1888.

8. **Site of John Eager House and Barns** 2 Franklin Avenue 900-370-2-23.2

This present day parking lot for the Immaculate Conception was the original site of the John Eager Farm. John Eager and his sister, Margaret came to this country from Ireland in the mid 1800s. They purchased a huge tract of land which compromised most of what we know today as Quogue. They cleared the land and set up a homestead, outbuildings and a small general store. Margaret married Francis Foley and settled on property to the west of John’s Farm. Eventually John married and had a son named Alexander Winfield Eager who would go on to become one of Quogue’s most colorful characters.



Alexander Winfield Eager, "Buffalo Bill of the East" 1931

Alexander Winfield Eager

Winfield Eager, known locally as "Buffalo Bill of the East," was born in Quiogue in 1878. Winn, as he was known locally, lived in a home built by his father and aunt after they arrived from Ireland. He farmed and sold fish in nearby Westhampton Beach and became the town's first mounted policeman. He had long flowing hair, long mustache and beard, and wore a cowboy-style hat. He carried a sidearm, but was eventually replaced by a regular police force. Sometime around 1908, Winn transferred some of his property on Ocame to the Quiogue and Westhampton Fire Department. A firehouse was constructed in 1911 and a handcart and hose were purchased. The firehouse building was moved in 1960 to Joe Haggerty's property in Remsenburg. The hosecart is still kept in the Westhampton Beach Firehouse. In 1960 the Quiogue Fire District was dissolved and the property was sold to the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception. Winn Eager continued to ride around and give riding lessons and trail rides to the summer visitors around Quiogue. Winfield Eager died in 1956.

Quogue & Westhampton Fire Department

Fire fighting had been a primitive, ineffective business in the years before the Quantuck Water Company installed a public water system including fire hydrants.

On August 5, 1904, a meeting was held in Quiogue for the purpose of organizing Hose Company #3 of the Quogue and Westhampton Beach Fire Department. At the first meeting the following men were present and volunteered to become members of the company: Everett Ocame, Richard Sweezy, Harry Seaman, Joe Ocame, J.W. Macnamara and Benjamin Owen. About the same time the hose company was organized, Winfield Eager transferred part of his land to the Quogue & Westhampton Fire Department. A firehouse was constructed and a handcart with hose was purchased to be stored in the new building. Subsequent meetings produced more volunteers from the ranks of the full-time residents as well as the summer residents. A 1908 roster contained the last names: Burrell, Brower, Martin, Spink, Beers, Niebrugge, Terry, Kimball, Conklin, Chalmers, Hale, Eager, Patton, Murphy, Halsey, Way, Stevens, Carter, Coyle, Maynard and White, in addition to the names already mentioned as being present at the first meeting.

The Quiogue Fire District was created by the Town of Southampton about 1911. Money raised by taxation of the Quiogue residents was used to contract the Village of Westhampton Beach Fire Department for fire protection and for the rental of South Bay Water Company's (formerly the Quantuck Water Company) hydrants.

In January 1960, the business of running the Quiogue Fire District was transferred to Southampton Town. All the fire equipment was either sold or moved to the Westhampton Beach Fire Department. The firehouse structure was moved to Remsenburg and the property was sold to the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception.

16. **Gould "Cottage"** 108 Meeting House Road 900 - 371 - 1 - 1.2
This residence is located just east of Reverend John Patton's Home. The home was built by spinster sisters, Sarah and Rachel Gould, sisters of Mrs. John W. Patton. The Gould sisters took summer borders when the Foster Homestead was full. The two sisters never married and were active in the Presbyterian Church, especially with the organization of the Sunday night signing. This house is sometimes referred to as "The Third Cottage," as it followed the Patton and Woodbridge summer Cottages on Quiogue.

 15. **Patton "Cottage"** 100 Meeting House Road 900 - 370 - 3 - 29
This residence, which is directly north of and next to the Presbyterian Church, was constructed about 1870 by the Reverend John Woodbridge Patton (Reverend Sylvester Woodbridge's cousin). Although a number of farmhouses on Quiogue predate the Patton Cottage, it is oftentimes referred to as "The First Cottage," because it was probably the first private residence built on Quiogue for use solely during the summer months.
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WOODBIDGE LANE

This lane was opened in 1870 when Jabez Foster provided a right away across his property. Named for Reverend Samuel Woodbridge, one of the founding members of the Quiogue summer colony.

19. **Halsey House** 33 Woodbridge Lane 900 - 370 - 3 - 30
This home was built about 1900 by the Halsey Family. For many years it was owned and lived in by Annie Halsey.
20. **Reed "Cottage"** 25 Woodbridge Lane 900 - 370 - 3 - 31
This home was built in the early 1870s by a Professor Alonzo Reed of Brooklyn who later moved to Speonk. The home was then used for many summers by the Creevey family. Although the home was built by Reed, the house is often referred to as the Patton Cottage because it was the longtime summer residence of Professor John Woodbridge Patton, son of the Reverend Sylvester Woodbridge Patton. For many years the Pattons spent summers in this beautiful Victorian home.
21. **First Presbyterian Parsonage** 21 Woodbridge Lane 900 - 370 - 3 - 32
This structure was originally built in the 1840s on the south side of Meeting House Road as the parsonage of the Presbyterian Church. It was moved just to the south of the Patton Cottage in 1875.
22. **Woodbridge "Cottage"** 17 Woodbridge Lane 900 - 370 - 3 - 44
This home is said to be the first house built on Woodbridge Lane. The home was built by Reverend Samuel Woodbridge, a native of New Brunswick, New Jersey and cousin of the Presbyterian pastor John Woodbridge Patton. This home is sometimes called "The Second Cottage" as it was probably the second "Cottage" built on Quiogue for summer use only.
23. **W. C. Peckham "Cottage"** 9 Woodbridge Lane 900 - 370 - 3 - 42
This home was built in 1888 by W. C. Peckham, a professor from Adelphi College.
24. **Julia Reeve Complex** 8 Woodbridge Lane 900 - 371 - 1 - 11
Two of the three houses are still located on this subdivided piece of a group of houses owned by Julia Reeve. One dates from around the turn of the century and the other dates from the 1930s. Part of the older house is thought to date from the 1860s or 1870's.

FOSTER LANE

This lane was opened about 1874. Named for the Foster Family who owned nearly all the meadows of Quiogue after the Southampton Town Land Allotments of 1665.

25. **First Roman Catholic Church Building** 8 Foster Lane 900 - 371 - 1 - 23
This building located at the corner of Quantuck Lane and Foster Road was the first free-standing Catholic Sanctuary built on Quiogue. The building was originally built about 1884 on the site where the present Immaculate Conception is located today. The church had Sunday School rooms on each side of the central part, which was the sanctuary. After the new church building was built in 1891, for a short while this building became a store, then became the private residence of Stephen Foley. It was then moved to the north side of Meeting House Road on the property of the Foster Homestead. Here it became an annex to the Homestead called "The Oaks." It handled the overflow of guests when the Homestead became full. Later, it was moved once more to its present location on the north side of Foster Lane by the Foster Family who also remodeled it. It was, for many years, the summer home of members of the Dudley family when they moved from the house they had rented in the Dunes (present day Dune Road).
26. **Julia Reeve Complex** 11 Foster Lane 900 - 371 - 1 - 13
This house was originally part of the group of houses owned by Julia Reeve, but was moved to a subdivision and is on its own lot. This house is thought to have been built about 1900.
27. **Charles P. Halsey "Cottage"** 14 Foster Lane 900 - 371 - 1 - 22
This house was originally built about 1890 by C. P. Halsey.
28. **Corwin "Cottage"** 23 Foster Lane 900 - 371 - 1 - 14.1
Built about 1915 by Dwight H. Corwin.
29. **Lindsay Cottage** 27A Foster Lane 900 - 371 - 1 - 19
A pair of cottages was originally built here by W. B. Lindsay around 1915. The cottage closest to the creek was two story and the one in the rear was one story. The creekside cottage has been enlarged and renovated.
30. **Frederick B. Carter "Cottage"** 27B Foster Lane 900 - 371 - 1 - 18.3
Before coming to Quiogue, the Reverend Frederick B. Carter had been preaching at services in Riverhead during the summer months. After hearing about a summer paradise from his friends, Dr. Rodney Kimball and Dr. Alden, Reverend Kimball and family came to spend some time at the Alden home. The Kimballs were sure that this was where they wanted to spend their summers. In 1878, Reverend Carter purchased a small piece of swampy property located between the ends of Foster and Aden Lanes from Dr. Reeve and had a cottage built for his family overlooking Quantuck Creek. Reverend Carter was the first minister at the Church of the Atonement. The property passed through the family to Carter's maternal grandson, Walter Kidde. Many summer days were enjoyed by many members of the Kidde family. The property remains in the Kidde family today. Also located on the property is a small 1920s era bungalow.

ALDEN LANE

This lane was opened about 1873. Named for Dr. Joseph Alden, principal of the Albany Normal School. In her 1914 work, "Chronicle of Quogue," Fannie Carter gives credit to Dr. Alden for shaping the Summer Colony along the shore. At the time of construction, most of the early summer homes in the Quogue Colony were situated further off the water.

We who followed his example and built right on the water feel ourselves heavily indebted to Dr. Alden's pioneering spirit; for we might have lacked his independence and courage, and we well know what we should have lost, for it is hard to exaggerate the beauty and variety and sociability, and the sense of possessing the whole bay that we enjoy from those shore piazzas.

31. **Jessup House** 14 Alden Lane 900 - 370 - 3 - 40
This house is thought to have been built or moved here around 1920 by the Jessup Family.
32. **Frederick Burrell "Cottage"** 18 Alden Lane 900 - 370 - 3 - 41
Sometime around 1900, Frederick Burrell built his summer cottage at the corner of Alden and Woodbridge Lanes. It was once the Miscordia Sisters Villa but is now in private hands. The large guesthouse in the rear was built around 1920.
33. **Niebrudge "Cottage"** 25 Alden Lane 900 - 378 - 1 - 1
There are two houses located on this property. The larger of the two was built around 1908 by Frank B. Niebrudge, a New York broker who purchased this property from Franklin C. Jessup. The smaller structure is a 1930s era bungalow. The Neibrudge Family, was one of the first summer residents of Quogue. The family spent summers in this house until 1947.
34. **Walter H. Martin "Cottage"** 30 Alden Lane 900 - 371 - 1 - 12
This home was designed and built by Brooklyn Architect, W.C. Martin in 1890. It was later sold to the Kidde family who used it as part of their family compound for many years.
35. **E. P. Maynard "Cottage"** 35 Alden Lane 900 - 378 - 1 - 2
Around 1910, Brooklyn banker, E. Maynard built this house on Alden Lane on property he purchased from Erwin Spink. The Maynard family eventually bought and moved to 39 Alden Lane where they lived for many years.
36. **Erwin J. Spink "Cottage"** 39 Alden Lane 900 - 378 - 1 - 3
The house was originally built by Brooklyn professor, Erwin J. Spink about 1890. The home was lived in later by his son, Erwin A. Spink.
37. **Alden/Spink House** 57 Alden Lane 900 - 371 - 1 - 6
On this property in the 1870s, Dr. Joseph Alden built the first of the summer houses—a tiny unplastered cottage on the Quantuck Creek. Although it was crude and unfinished, Dr. Alden was an avid sailor and loved being so close to the water. He later sold this home to Erwin J. Spink, who knocked down Alden's small cottage and erected a much larger home.

38. **Kimball “Cottage”** 52 Alden Lane 900-371-1-17

Professor Rodney G. Kimball built a cottage at the end of Alden Lane, north side in 1879. This house and porch long served as the only clubhouse the Quantuck Yacht Club ever had. The club erected its flagpole to the north of this house. During racing season, the club tent was put up at the end of Alden Lane.



Kimball Cottage about 1910

The Quantuck Yacht Club

The earliest sailing activities on Quogue seem to have been centered at the foot of Alden Lane. Through the late 1890s, the Kimball, Woodbridge, Carter, Martin and Spink families all owned boats and were avid sailors. They kept their boats tied up just to the south of Rodney Kimball’s cottage. During the summer months, informal races were held between members of the community. It was through the determination of Walter Martin that the formal organization of the Quantuck Yacht Club came to be in 1891. He naturally became the Club’s first Commodore.

According to the Club’s official history, “Quantuck Yacht Club rapidly became the nucleus of life in the community.” Races, formal receptions and other events became the places to be during the summer months. This house and porch of the Kimball Cottage long served as the Club’s only permanent clubhouse. A tent was set up to the south of the property during race season to hold judging and award presentations. Races were held against neighboring sailing clubs as popularity of the sport spread. By 1906, the Club counted in its attendance twenty-five catboats, three sloops and a launch. For nearly thirty years races were held on a triangular course mapped out to start and finish near the end of Alden Lane. In 1917, due to an overpopulation of eelgrass, the Club was forced to move all racing activities to Moriches Bay with the Westhampton Country Club Yacht Squadron. The Club was reestablished on Quantuck Bay under the leadership of Gordon Dudley.



SS's line Quantuck Bay July 4, 1941

The Quantuck Beach Club

Although technically the land where the Quantuck Beach Club is located is not within the hamlet of Quiogue, no historical account of the hamlet would be complete without a brief mention of summer life on the beaches and the formation of the Beach Club.

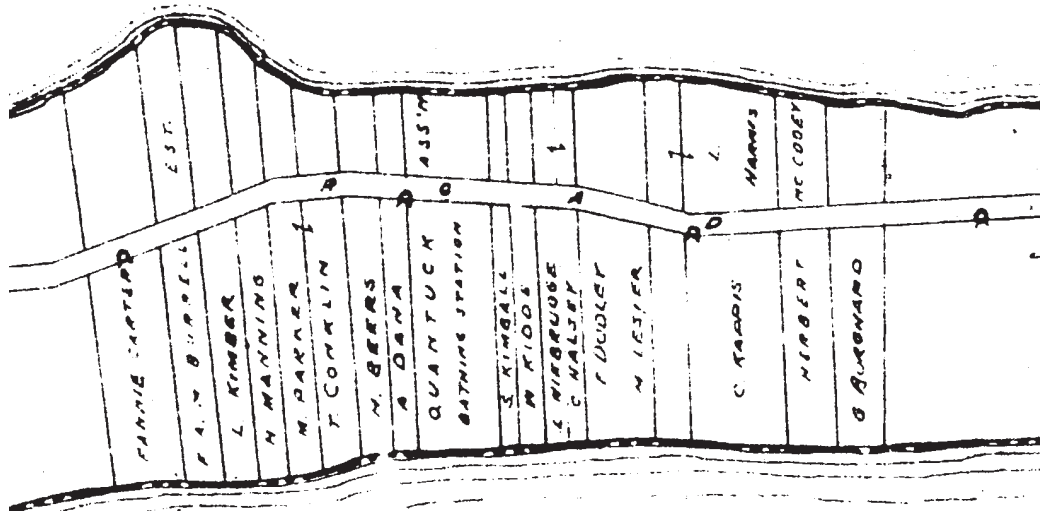
The principal reason for the swift rise in popularity of the Westhampton Beach area is the seashore itself. The warm days and close proximity to the seashore made it an ideal place to spend the summer months. Beginning sometime in the 1870's residents of the summer colony of Quiogue began to make picnic excursions over to the barrier beach located directly south of the hamlet. These beach lands had been the property of John D. Hallock of Quogue, who purchased nearly three thousand feet of beachfront in 1872 after the unsuccessful business venture Quogue Iron & Steel Works went bankrupt. In the beginning individuals sailed their small boats across the bay carrying mostly family and friends. Eventually, a number of enterprising individuals ferried people over to the beach for a fee.

Sometime in 1884, Hallock decided to sell off his beach lands. Quiogue residents who had used the beach for many years jumped at the chance. They purchased the land in 25 to 100 foot wide sections that ran from the bay to the ocean. Depending on their means, families could purchase sections as wide or narrow as they wanted. In his book, *On Quiogue*, Theodore Conklin, Jr. refers to the beach lands,

The Quantuck Beach Club continued

“As best as can be remembered, these properties varied from 12 1/2 feet to 100 feet wide . The Corwin’s Beach Plumb Camp was furthest west; next in order came Conklin, Beers, Kimball, Carter, Quiogue Homestead Inc., Halsey, Spink, Niebrugge, Kidde, Martin, Fancher and Brower. When the need for a bathing pavilion and clubhouse became necessary, it was from some of these people that the land was acquired. Originally, each of these strips had its own bathhouse, and this colony had quite a look to it. That is how I remembered it when I was a wee one.”

On Quiogue, Theodore Conklin, Jr.



Part of 1932 map showing the landowners of the beach south of Quiogue

In the years before the formal organization of the Quantuck Beach Club, the Quantuck Association was formed by the owners in order to preserve the family atmosphere. They wanted to control the beach so that no alcohol or ‘riff raff’ intruded. The Quantuck Beach Club was incorporated in 1927. The Club agreed to lease the land onto which a pavilion and clubhouse was to be built. The building of the structures was entrusted to E. Raynor & Company of Westhampton Beach. All the structures of the original club were destroyed by the 1938 hurricane when an inlet was formed from bay to ocean. The clubhouse floated intact across the bay to Quogue where it was burned by WPA workers. The inlet was filled in and the clubhouse was rebuilt the following year. The Club continued to lease the land from the original families and bought pieces one at a time over the years. By 1964, they Club owned all the property outright. Life at the Club today remains much the same as its original founders intended—with a focus on traditional values, a love for the seashore, and the importance of family.