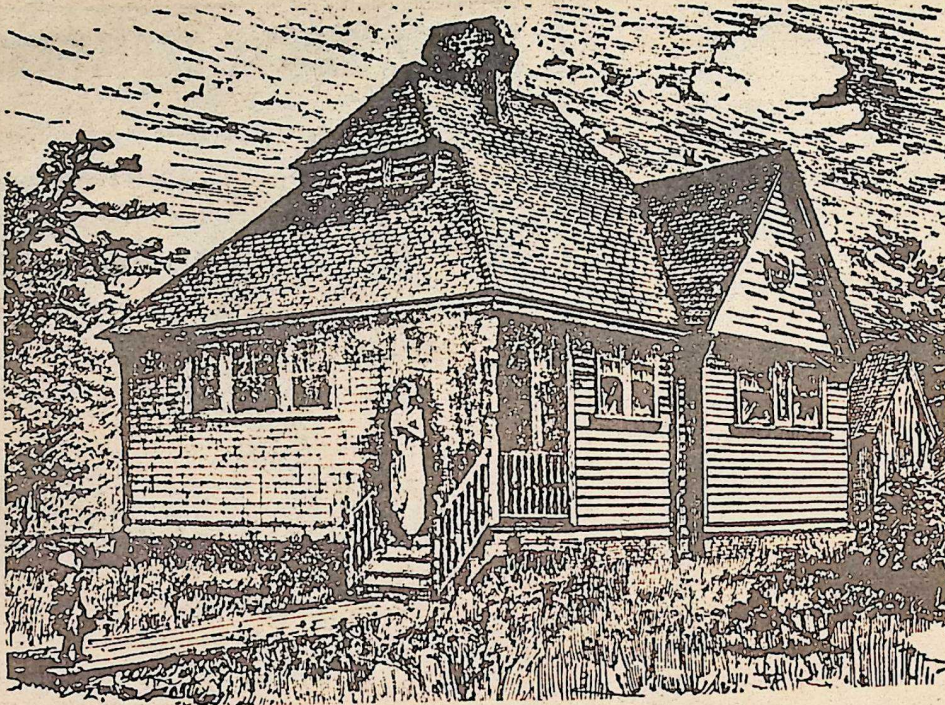


Osterville Free Library celebrates 100th year

by J.P. Neath



The Library at Osterville from Century Magazine, September, 1883.

On December 30, one hundred years ago, a dedication service was held in the Methodist Church for the new Osterville Library.

This year, on December 30, the Osterville Free Library will begin its Centennial year celebration with a birthday party, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the library. Patrons and friends are cordially invited to attend.

The first library building is still a part of the House and Garden Shop, that portion next to Petticoat Lane. Through the years "the library" has been moved from the dining room of Mrs. Thankful Ames, when she occupied the James Lovell house, to the old school house, to the first library structure, built in 1881, and then to its present location at Wianno Avenue and West Bay Road.

Interest for, and support of, the village library has been consistent through the years.

The first reference to a library dates back to 1873 when the Chaplin family, Halletts and others, including the summer population of Wianno and the village, took an interest in providing a reading room, and collected books which were then placed in a room in the James Lovell house, occupied by

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Foul play called in Sandy Neck pheasant hunt by J. Stephen Gregory

The hunting of small birds and animals for food and sport dates back to the earliest days of mankind, as do time-honored notions of 'fair play' and sportsmanship.

Allegations that these traditions were violated by the Town's Director of Natural Resources through a special stocking of pheasant in the Sandy Neck Conservation area to expressly benefit fellow members of a private club have risen before the Sandy Neck Governing Board, resulting in their move to limit future stockings strictly to SNGB personnel.

The Town official involved, Mr. Taisto Ranta, and officials from the State Division of Fish and Wildlife deny that the special stocking took place and claim that questions to the contrary come from disgruntled hunters who did not have the same level of skill and familiarity with the area as Ranta and

members of the club.

'Stocking' game, a practice that allows hunting in an area of 'wild' prey, occurs throughout various hunting seasons in the Commonwealth, with trout being stocked in ponds, and in this case, pheasant being placed on Sandy Neck. The animals are grown under the auspices of the State's Division of Fish and Wildlife, with the pheasant beginning their days at the Pheasant Farm in Sandwich.

Over the course of this year's season at Sandy Neck, which began in late October and ended in late November, nearly 250 pheasant, valued by the State at 'about ten bucks a bird' were placed at the Neck; and of these, about 75% were taken by hunters from across the State who paid \$11.25 for their licenses. The birds now face the prospect of sur-

viving the winter on their own, and most fall victim to winter weather and natural predators, such as fox and owls.

The contention that Taisto Ranta and fellow sportsmen from the West Barnstable Deer Club had more than a 'sporting chance' at the birds, by virtue of a special, unauthorized stocking on Thanksgiving morning was raised in a widely circulated letter by Mr. Donald Manchester, Jr., from Sandwich, who calls himself an 'avid hunter' with ten years' experience.

The charges are supported by Sandy Neck Ranger Norman Hayes, who blasted the special stocking in his report to the SNGB. He also criticized other special privileges enjoyed by the WRDC, such as not having to get trail passes for their

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