

CHICAMA VINEYARDS Island of Martha's Vineyard
Stoney Hill Road, West Tisbury, Massachusetts 02575
Catherine and George Mathiesen 617-693-0309

Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Washington DC 20226

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 27CFR 4.25a(e)(2) enclosed is
a petition for the establishment of a viticultural
area to be known as "Martha's Vineyard"

Sincerely,

George Mathiesen
co-owner

1. EVIDENCE THAT THE AREA IS KNOWN BY THE PROPOSED NAME.

PRIOR TO IT'S FIRST CONTACT WITH EUROPEANS, TODAY'S WELL KNOWN RESORT ISLAND OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD WAS CALLED CAPPAWOCK OR NOE-PE BY IT'S INDAIN INHABITANTS.

IN 1602, BARTHOLEMW GOSNOLD, AN ENGLISH AGENT FOR SIR WALTER RALEIGH, LANDED ON THE ISLAND AND NAMED IT 'MARTHA'S VINEYARD.' TO THIS DAY THERE IS A BONE OF CONTENTION AMONG ISLAND HISTORIANS AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE 'MARTHA' WHOM GOSNOLD HONORED, BUT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY QUESTION ABOUT THE 'VINEYARD' GOSNOLD ALLUDED TO IN THE NAME 'MARTHA'S VINEYARD'. JOURNALS OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE LANDING PARTY REFER TO THE PROLIFERATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN GRAPE VINES FOR WHICH THE ISLAND IS NAMED.

'AN INCREDIBLE STORE OF VINES, AS WELL IN THE WOODIE PART OF THE ISLAND, WHERE THEY RUN UPON EVERY TREE, AS UPON THE OUTWARD PARTS, THAT WE COULD NOT GOE FOR TREADING UPON THEM.' (1)

IN THE SUCCEEDING YEARS THE ISLAND WAS KNOWN IN VARIOUS HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS AS MARTHA'S OR MARTIN'S VINEYARD. IN 1620 THE PILGRIMS SETTLED IN PLYMOUTH, AND TEN YEARS LATER LARGER SETTLEMENTS WERE MADE AROUND BOSTON BAY. FROM THAT TIME ON, THE VINEYARD WAS A WELL KNOWN PLACE, THOUGH NOT PERMANENTLY SETTLED FOR STILL ANOTHER TEN YEARS. BY 1640 THE NAME 'MARTHA'S VINEYARD' WAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. (2)

(1) JOHN BRERTON; 'HISTORY OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD', VOL 1. - CHARLES BANKS. DUKES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1966.

(2) 'MARTHA'S VINEYARD - A SHORT HISTORY. ELEANOR R MAYHEW, EDITOR. DUKES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1956

2. ATTACHED ARE THE FOLLOWING MAPS FOR THE PROPOSED VITICULTURAL AREA OF 'MARTHA'S VINEYARD':

1. VINEYARD HAVEN - QUADRANGLE
2. EDGARTOWN - QUADRANGLE
3. SQUIBNOCKET - QUADRANGLE
4. TISBURY GREAT POND - QUADRANGLE
5. NAUSHON - QUADRANGLE
6. OVERALL MAP OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD - NOAA MAP

3. EVIDENCE THAT THE GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF THE AREA PRODUCE GROWING CONDITIONS WHICH DISTINGUISH THE PROPOSED AREA FROM SURROUNDING AREA

THE ISLAND'S WEATHER, TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AND GEOLOGIC CONFIGURATIONS COMBINE TO CREATE AN IDEAL SELF CONTAINED LAND MASS FOR THE GROWING OF GRAPES. THE ISLAND'S CLIMATE IS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY THE SURROUNDING WATER. THE WINDS TRAVEL OVER THE COOL OCEAN WATERS, CAUSING A LATE ISLAND SPRING. THE MILD FALL WEATHER IS PROLONGED DUE TO THE SURROUNDING WARM WATERS, THUS PROVIDING A LONG GROWING SEASON WITH LITTLE OR NO CHANCE OF FALL FROST. THE SUMMER WINDS ALSO HELP TO KEEP THE VINES DRY, PREVENTING ROT AND MILDEW. IN WINTER, SNOWFALL IS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS AND RAINFALL CONSEQUENTLY MORE THAN THAT OF COASTAL NEW ENGLAND TO THE NORTH. THE GULF STREAM, JUST TO THE SOUTH, EXERTS IT'S HISTORICAL INFLUENCE ON THE ISLANDS WEATHER. THE PREVAILING WINDS BLOW ACROSS WATER BEFORE REACHING THE ISLANDS LAND, REGARDLESS OF DIRECTION. THE SAME EFFECT IS IN EVIDENCE ONLY WHEN WIND IS FROM THE SOUTH IN COASTAL NEW ENGLAND.

ACCORDING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS, OUR WEATHER (REGION 1, 2500 DEGREE DAYS OR LESS) IS IDEALLY SUITED TO THE GROWING OF CHARDONNAY, GEWURZTRAMINER, AND PINOT NOIR GRAPES. GRAPES GROWN ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD HAVE A LOWER SUGAR AND HIGHER ACID CONTENT THAN GRAPES GROWN ON THE MAINLAND WHERE WINTERS ARE COLDER AND THE SUMMERS WARMER.

GEOLOGICALLY, THE ISLAND WAS FORMED BY A GLACIAL MORAINE. THIS RESULTS IN SOILS WHICH ARE DEEP, WELL DRAINED SAND AND SANDY LOAM, SOME OF WHICH IS IN THE ROCKY PHASE.

4. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES BASED UPON FEATURES WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON A U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAP OF THE LARGEST APPLICABLE SCALE.

THE ISLAND OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD, LOCATED FIVE MILES FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS COAST, SOUTH OF THE HEEL OF CAPE COD, LIES BETWEEN 70 27 24 (CAPE FOGUE LIGHT) AND 70 50 (GAY HEAD LIGHT) WEST LONGITUDE, AND BETWEEN 41 18 04 AND 41 28 50 (WEST CHOP LIGHT) NORTH LATITUDE. IT'S GREATEST LENGTH EAST TO WEST IS ABOUT NINETEEN AND ONE-FOURTH MILES, IT'S GREATEST WIDTH FROM NORTH TO SOUTH IS NINE AND THREE-EIGHTS MILES. THE LAND AREA BREAKS DOWN INTO ONE HUNDRED SQUARE MILES OR ABOUT SIXTY FOUR THOUSAND ACRES." (3)

THE ISLAND (AND THE VITICULTURAL AREA) IS BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY VINEYARD SOUND, ON THE EAST BY NANTUCKET SOUND, ON THE SOUTH AND WEST BY THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.