A complete copy of the 1858 county map showing the names and locations of 1000s of houses, businesses, churches and schools.
Map of Barnstable, Dukes, & Nantucket Counties, 1858

The original map is a large wall map measuring about 5’x 5’, which has been “taken apart” for this edition by scanning it as separate images. In addition to the many detailed village maps, we have included the historical data and pictures that can be found in the margins of the 1858 map. This edition is made possible through the generosity of the Harvard College Map Library, which granted permission to use a copy of their original map.
An Historical Sketch of The Map

The 1858 Map of Barnstable, Dukes, & Nantucket Counties is an important historical document. It was the result of the most comprehensive survey made to that date of the 20 towns in the three counties. The map pinpoints the names and locations of every residence, workplace, church and school.

This map is one of several Massachusetts county maps created in the 1850s - a period of extraordinary map-making in America. The author of this map, Henry F. Walling, was one of the leaders of the county map-making business. Walling produced ten other Massachusetts county wall maps, as well as a number in neighboring states.

Few details of this map’s origins are known, but we do know the general methods used for these projects. Roads were measured with a wheel odometer, similar to the wheelbarrow-like device pictured here, or one drawn by horse and buggy. The original road surveys for this privately-produced map were made to the best standards of the time. This map served as the basis for later mapping for decades afterwards.

The surveyor would ask the names of farmstead owners as he passed by, and would surely add a brief sales pitch for the new map... after all, the map would carry the name of the resident engraved upon it.

Publication was announced in local newspapers, and local offices were set up where advance orders for the new map could be taken. A typical mid-1850s price was five dollars per copy. Prominent citizens allowed their names to be used in the map’s advertisements, testifying to the merits of the map, and no doubt assuring it of financial success. Pictures of the homes of prominent citizens were added for a fee. The map was printed on four separate sheets which were assembled and glued together onto a cloth backing. Each copy was then hand-colored in several different hues, varnished, and mounted on wooden rollers.

Note on Map Size
This publication was prepared for use as a computer-based PDF file, formatted as an 13” x 17” booklet. This size allows the reader to print out the maps at home. The formatting and sizes of maps have been adjusted to make the town and village maps easily readable, and on one page if possible. For this reason some maps are presented at different scales. In these cases a % number indicates the change (e.g. 125% means the printed map will be 25% larger than the original). All town maps are at 125% unless specified. All village inset maps are at 150% unless specified.
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200%

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Hyannis Port
East & West Brewster and Brewster Village
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Map of Barnstable, Dukes, & Nantucket Counties, MA    1858       ©2007 Old Maps         West Chesterfield, NH 03466         www.old-maps.com
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West Dennis
EASTHAM
West Falmouth

Woods Hole
HARWICH
Harwich Center & Horse Shoe Shoal

South Harwich
West Harwich
ORLEANS
Orleans Village

Rock Harbor
PROVINCETOWN
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Some village maps are enlarged to improve legibility. Here we issue it as a single image for on-screen viewing and detailed printing. On the following four pages it is presented at a larger size.

Provincetown Village & Business Directory
Provincetown Village (north half)
See the previous page for the entire map as one image
Provincetown Village (south half)
Sandwich Village & Business Directory
New Bedford & Mattapoisett Harbor
Monument

North Sandwich
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TRURO
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DATA

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PICTORIAL ENGRAVINGS

Pacific Bank, Nantucket

Barnstable Bank, Yarmouth Port

100%

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Harbor of Provincetown, 1620

Court House, Barnstable

View in Main Street, Barnstable
Map of Barnstable, Dukes, & Nantucket Counties, 1858