

**Sturgis Library Archives**  
**Genealogy and Personal Manuscripts collection**  
**W. Sears Nickerson's manuscript on Lower Cape Indians**  
**MS. 52**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Biographical Note:** Warren Sears Nickerson was born around 1880 or 1881 in Harwich, MA. As a youth he spent many summer days on the shore watching ships go by. He and his friends would sometimes count as many as 100 ships a day. Sometimes they would signal them with a flag, and to their delight, the ships would sometimes signal back. Nickerson left high school early and spent 20 years at sea. When he returned he tried out a variety of land based trades including steeplejack, embalmer, selectman and treasurer of Cape Cod Bank and Trust before a heart attack in 1930 forced him into early retirement.

Although the heart attack sidelined him from most types of work, Nickerson turned to the study of Cape Cod history, an interest that had been passed to him by his grandfather during his youth. From that starting point he began his research on the Native American tribes that dwelt between Bass River and Provincetown. To aid his studies he researched deeds, old documents, court records, military lists and early town records. He also relied on the expertise and collection of genealogist Stanley W. Smith for help. Many letters from Nickerson to Smith remain in the Stanley W. Smith Collection (MS. 27), which is also part of the Sturgis Library Archives. Nickerson's research culminated in the unpublished manuscript, *Some Lower Cape Indians*, where he documented such tribes as the Nawset-Potanicuts, Monomoyicks, Satuckets, Mattakeesit-Nobscussets and Pawmets.

For more information about W. Sears Nickerson please see, *Early Encounters* by Delores Bird Carpenter as well as Nickerson's published title, *Land Ho*. These titles as well as many others about Cape Cod Native Americans are available in various Cape Cod libraries.

**Scope and Contents Note:** This collection consists solely of W. Sears Nickerson's manuscript, *Some Lower Cape Indians*.

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**Processed by:** Stephen Robert Lovell Farrar, 2006.