



The site of Tristram Coffin's homestead on the North Shore, with Capaum Pond in the background PC-MONUMENTS-4



Commemorative medal honoring Tristram Coffin, first issued in 1827 P204

Tristram Coffin Homestead Site Marker

The 1881 Coffin Reunion that engendered interest in the homestead of Jethro and Mary Coffin led to a search for the house site of Tristram Coffin (1609–81), one of the original proprietors and the progenitor of the Coffin family in America.

The site marker placed by Coffin descendants in 1881 locates Coffin's first dwelling built "under the hill" near Capaum Harbor about 1661. One hundred square feet of land around the marker was donated to the NHA in 1981 by R. Draper Richards, a direct descendant of Tristram Coffin.

Tristram Coffin came to America from Devonshire, England, in 1642. In 1659, he joined eight other men from Merrimack Valley towns to purchase the island of Nantucket from Thomas Mayhew, who had secured the island from the English throne in 1641. Coffin was appointed the first chief magistrate of Nantucket. He and his wife, Dionis, had five sons who perpetuated the Coffin family name. Their daughter, Mary, married Nathaniel Starbuck and became known as "Great Mary" for her leadership in the early community and her conversion to Quakerism.

ADDRESS

Capaum Pond Road

ACQUIRED

1981

DISTANCE FROM WHALING MUSEUM

2.8 miles

