

SUMMER 2018

*Cape Air* BIRD'S EYE

# VIEW

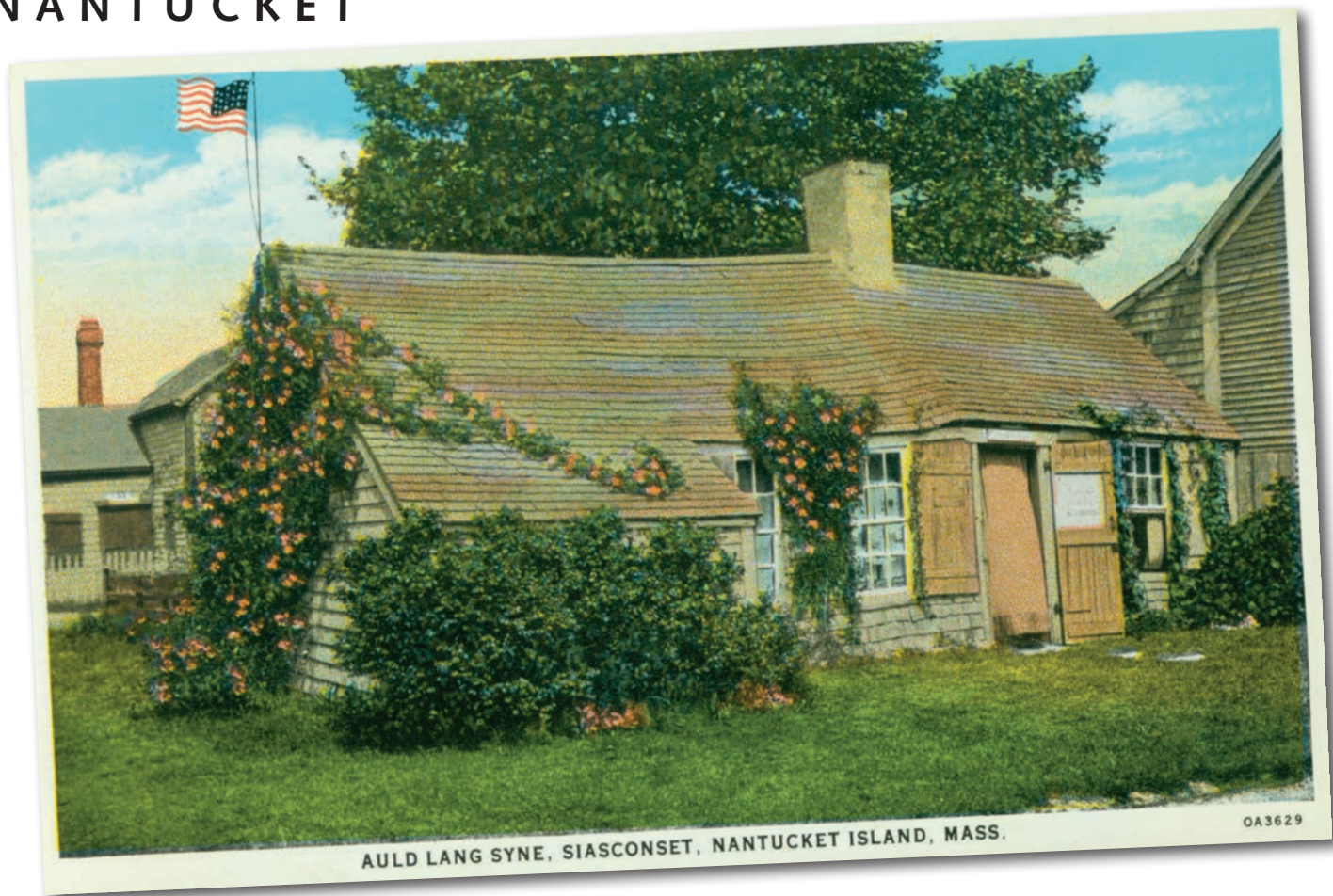


ENTERING  
INC. 1907  
OAK BLUFFS



Martha's  
Vineyard





*The bricks of San Soucci's chimney came from the shipwreck Queen.*

## BACK IN TIME IN 'SCONSET

*By Mary Bergman, Nantucket Preservation Trust*

No visit to Nantucket is complete without a jaunt out to the village of 'Sconset. By the late 1600s, 'Sconset was one of four fishing outposts on Nantucket, and soon simply constructed shanties were built to provide temporary shelter to weary fishing crews.

By the mid-nineteenth century, 'Sconset continued to offer refuge, this time to visitors seeking the simple life you can still find in the village today. An influx of Broadway actors made 'Sconset their preferred summer destination along with families from across the nation.

Like a wild, uncultivated garden, 'Sconset grew organically: a kitchen or bedroom added here, a house moved there. Those dainty rose-covered cottages that populate postcards began life as crude, one room, post-and-beam buildings with dirt floors. Take a stroll down Broadway in 'Sconset and you will find cottages steeped in history, frozen in time. Here are three worthy of the spotlight:

### *Auld Lang Syne | 6 Broadway*

Perhaps the oldest structure on the island, *Auld Lang Syne* is believed to have been first owned by Michael Coffin, who employed Native-Americans to fish for him, while he stayed ashore and did the cooking. Fish houses like *Auld Lang Syne* were often built with salvaged materials, as it was difficult to haul building materials all the way to 'Sconset. These compact shelters were built to withstand high winds this one has endured winter storms for almost 350 years.

### *Shanunga | 10 Broadway*

Many houses on Nantucket get their names from ships that were lost off the south shore—and such is the case with *Shanunga*, a ship that wrecked off Tom Nevers in 1852 en route from New Orleans to Boston. Over the years, *Shanunga* has been a fishing shelter, a tavern, an inn, and post office from the 1840s until 1883. Today, it is one of the best-preserved cottages in 'Sconset.

# NANTUCKET



## *San Souci | 26 Broadway*

Meaning “without a care” in Latin, this house likely began its life along Trader’s Lane as part of a twine factory. It was then moved to ‘Sconset in 1814 and was the first cottage in the village to be raised to two stories. Within *San Souci’s* walls are reminders of the island’s dangerous shoals and shifting sands. Hundreds of ships met their doom wrecked in the waters off Nantucket. A ship’s gangplank provides support for the cottage’s main stairs, and a mast serves as a ceiling beam. Bricks thought to be salvaged from the *Queen*, a British ship commandeered by pirates and wrecked on the shoals in 1813, were used to build the house’s chimney.

If you’d like to learn more about the village’s architecture and history, join the Nantucket Preservation Trust’s (NPT) leisurely walking tour of ‘Sconset, twice a month on Fridays, June to September, for \$10 per person. ‘*Sconset: House by House*, a new history published by the NPT, will arrive in bookstores in August.

[nantucketpreservation.org](http://nantucketpreservation.org)



*What was once the village post office is now Shanunga Cottage.*