

*The Stone Walls of Martha's
Vineyard*



Key points:

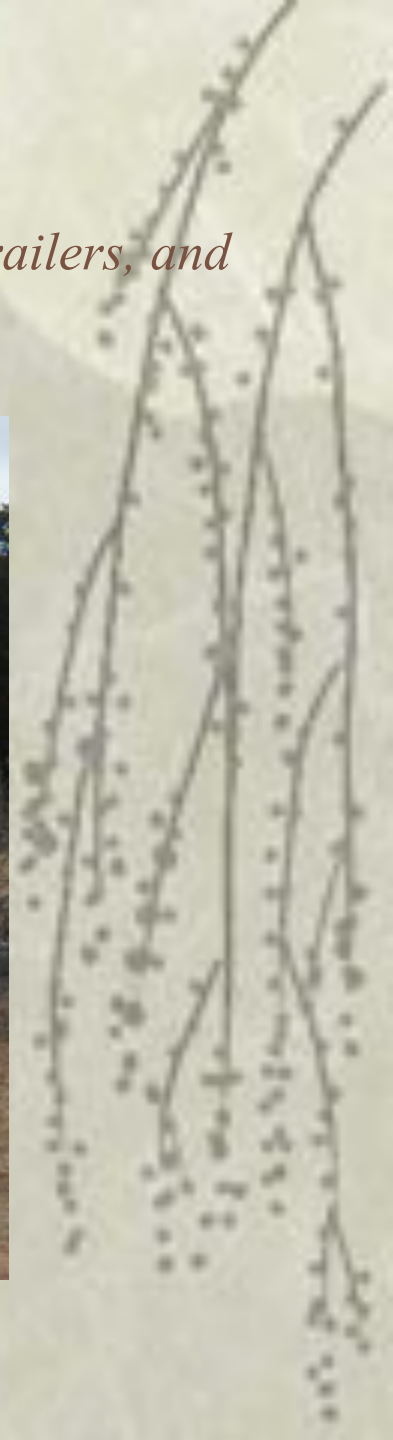
- ❖ Made of glacial erratics.
- ❖ Needed to remove them from fields anyway.
Why?
- ❖ Better than wood fences in many ways. How?
- ❖ Good for keeping in livestock.
- ❖ Good for marking boundaries.
- ❖ There are different types. Literally miles and miles of them on the island.
- ❖ Attractive too!

Imagine being an early settler, arriving to this island, and trying to turn something like this...



Into something like this?

*With no power tools, no tractors or backhoes. Only oxen and trailers, and
your bare hands.*



Some stone walls today look out of place, running through the middle of a forest. What is the explanation for this?



There are two main types of stone walls on Martha's Vineyard:

❖ **ROUGH-FACED WALLS**

- ❖ Rock as is.
- ❖ Most common.
- ❖ Easiest to build.
- ❖ Includes **lace walls**.

❖ **DRESSED WALLS**

- ❖ Made of cut stone.
- ❖ Decorative.
- ❖ Less common.
- ❖ Much more difficult to build.

This is a typical rough-faced wall.



This is another example of the common rough-faced wall.



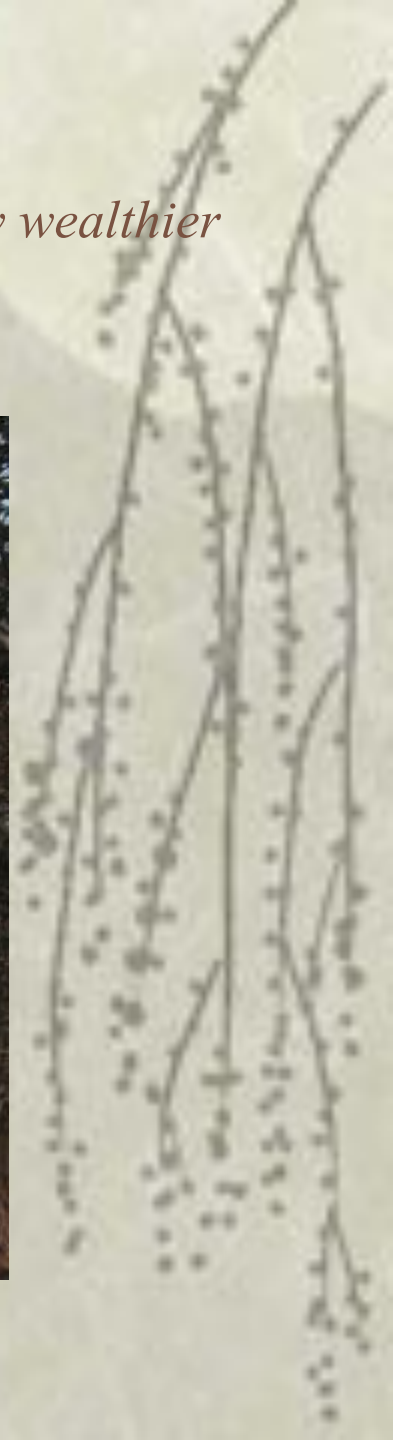
Here is an example of a dressed wall.



Here is another dressed wall. Think of how difficult it was to shape these rocks with crude tools?



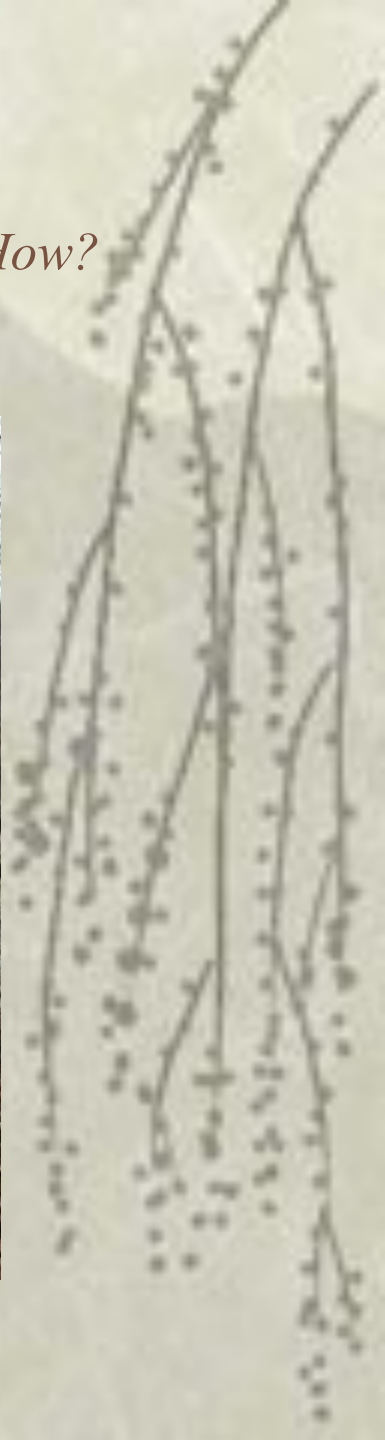
Dressed walls were ornamental, merely for show. Usually only wealthier people would have them.



The most unusual stone wall is the lace wall. Can you see why they are called lace walls?



They are really just a special type of roughed-face wall. How?



What are the theories on why they were built with spaces in between the stones?

