

The first colonists who settled on Bound Brook Island wouldn't recognize this landscape today. Land once cleared for farming has been reclaimed by tall trees, which now block the view of Cape Cod Bay.

Bound Brook Island is no longer even an island. When the Higgins family moved here, tidal waters from the Herring River estuary surrounded this high area of land - glacial till deposited at the end of the last Ice Age.

Just like at nearby Great Island and Griffin Island, Bound Brook was an ideal place for a settlement because of its arable land, and its connection to the sea. The community that took root here during the Colonial period flourished until the end of the 19th century.

“One of the most attractive points for visitors is in the northeast part of Wellfleet. It best combines the country and the seaside.”
Henry David Thoreau, *Cape Cod*



Family history

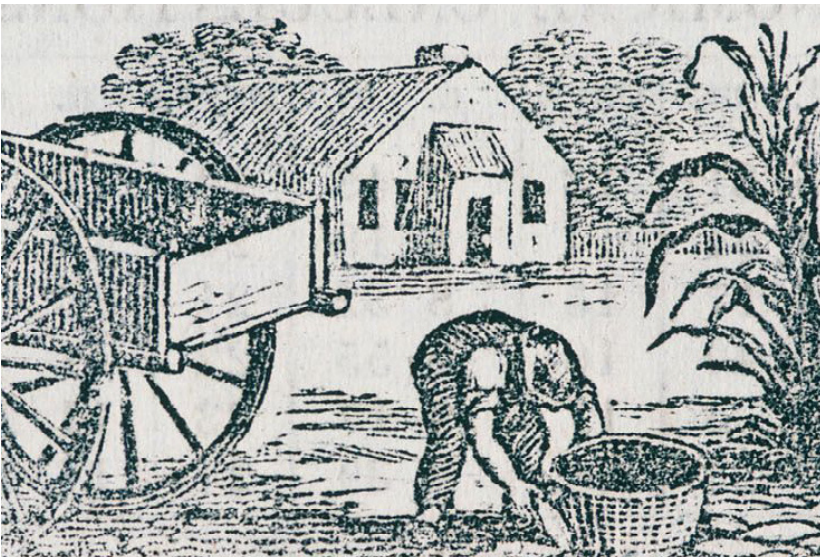
1623 - The first member of the Higgins family to cross the Atlantic Ocean was an English tailor. In the New World, Richard Higgins would become a town founder.

Although Higgins came to join the settlement in Plymouth, he eventually moved to Cape Cod and helped establish Eastham with a small group of other colonists, including Governor Thomas Prence.

Family history

1730 - The Higgins had been settled in Eastham for 80 years when Richard's great-grandson Thomas decided to venture further north to Bound Brook Island with his wife Abigail.

The Higgins were among the first settlers in Wellfleet before it was even a town. At the time, this area was part of the North Precinct of Eastham.



Caption: Settlers began farming on Bound Brook Island in the 1600s, possibly alongside Native Americans from the Punanokanit branch of the Wampanoag tribe.