

SHEARER COTTAGE RENOVATION

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To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

Hello Elvin,

My name is Richard Washington and I live in Tisbury Ma.

I first arrive on the Vineyard about 1943 with my brother and parents. We spent a week or two each summer at my aunt Irene Ford's house in the Highlands to get us out of Boston's summer heat. We all love the island so much that my parents bought a house in Oak Bluffs on School Street in 1945. Each summer we would leave Boston the day after school closed and return the Sunday before school opened. My parents and my brother have all died after many happy summers on the Vineyard. My mother was a nurse at MV Hospital for 20 years until her death in 1982. Our original house is still in the family and maintained by my nephew. My wife and I bought a summer house on Ocean Park in Oak Bluffs and although we lived in Los Angeles my children enjoyed the Vineyard in the summer. We sold that house and in 1995 I officially retired from the motion picture business and my wife and I moved to Tisbury as fulltime residents.

During my summer years as a juvenile in Oak Bluffs I sold a Boston News Paper . My last stop of the day was always Shearer Cottage. I could always sell 5 or 10 papers there. My mother and many of her friends had many friends that stayed there on summer vacation. I was a regular and met many of the Shearer family. I also met my wife in 1954, the year of hurricane Carol. Years later her brother David Van Allen married Lee Jackson who become Lee Van Allen, my sister in-law, the current owner.

Her current effort to remodel and perpetuate the history of her relatives for posterity, is a major undertaking by all of us. and we encourage all to help in this endeavor. The 100 plus years of existence and service to the island community, MUST continue.

Anything you can do the expedite the renovation will be greatly appreciated not only by both the family and their many friends, but by those patrons waiting for the grand opening of the NEW SHEARER COTTAGE so they can again enjoy the Vineyard.

Thank you in advance for your understanding, appreciation and assistance in this great endeavor.

Sincerely,

Richard, Carol Washington and family