

Copy of Alexander Graham Bell Letter.

(On the envelope) Miss Sarah Fuller
Warrenton St. Corner of Tremont
Boston

Introducing Miss Pease

Edgartown - Mass.
Nov. 17th 1887.

Dear Miss Fuller

Allow me to introduce Miss Pease of Edgartown who is anxious to know how you teach your pupils.

Miss Pease taught in public school in Cottage City and made a very successful start with a little deaf boy who came to her school. This has interested her in the work and she is anxious to know what others are doing.

I am sure you will be glad to show her every attention in your power.

Some time ago Miss Pease went to Boston - principally I believe, to find your school. No one seemed to know where the "deaf and dumb school" was until a horse-car conductor said he knew the place. She rode on his car to South Boston and speedily found herself in a school for idiots!

Moral ---?---

Yours sincerely

Alexander Graham Bell

Miss Fuller

Principal of the Horace Mann School
Boston Mass.
Warrenton Street corner of Tremont.

Miss Pease was Miss Abbie D. Pease. She taught school in Cottage City and Edgartown for some fifty-two years, beginning when she was sixteen.

She was interested in deafmutism, which, however was on the decline on Martha's Vineyard during her later life.

Alexander Graham Bell was also greatly interested in deafmutism on the Island. Indeed, he considered Martha's Vineyard the perfect showcase for the abnormality. It seems that he did not realize that that abnormality was declining, even as he was studying it, and that eventually it would vanish on the Island.

This disappearance of the abnormality seems undoubtedly the result of new blood on the Island, mainly Portuguese, but also Scottish, Irish and Nova Scotian, which pretty much brought an end to the close intermarriage that had been going on on Martha's Vineyard for many generations.

(E.G.H)

Gale Huntington