

my great grandfather  
R.E.A.

Nathaniel Ellis Atwood.

Born in Provincetown Sept. 13, 1807. private  
 Attended the public school for three weeks, and taught a ~~private~~ school  
 at Long Point at twenty - one.  
 Was master mariner at twenty - one years of age, and continued as such  
 for fifty years.  
 Elected a member of the Boston Society of Natural History, in 1847.  
 Elected a member of the Essex Inst. of Salem Sept. 13, 1856.  
 One of the founders of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and  
 a corresponding member for life.  
 A member of the Smithsonian Inst. of Washington D. C.  
 A member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1857 and  
 1858, and a member of the Mass. Senate in 1869-1870 & 1871.  
 Elected a member of the American ~~Academy~~ Academy of Arts & Sciences in 1868.  
 For fifteen years, in the Customs Service at Provincetown, Mass.  
 One of the founders of the Seamen's Savings Bank of Provincetown, and  
 A member of the Board of Trustees for forty years.  
 A member of the School Committee of Provincetown, for many years.  
 Connected with the U. S. Fish Commission for many years.  
 Was appointed by Gov. Henry J. Gardener, in 1856, as one of a commission  
 to investigate the artificial propagation of fish, with Prof. Louis  
 Agassiz and Hon. Reuben A. Chapman, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court,  
 In writing of this commission, and their report, "Freeman's History of  
 Cape Cod," page 665, concludes "We will venture to add, for the honor of  
 the Cape, that it may be doubted whether, as a practical Ichthyologist,  
 Mr. Atwood has his superior in America."  
 Was sent three times by the Town, as a committee to Washington D. C.  
 first, in relation to fortifying Provincetown harbor, during the civil  
 war, and twice in negotiating the fishing clauses of the Treaty of  
 Washington, which included the Alabama claims, also appeared as an  
 expert, before the Joint High Commission of England and the United  
 States, at Halifax, N. S. on questions relating to the fishery clauses  
 of the above treaty.  
 In 1868 he delivered a course of lectures before the Lowell Inst.  
 at Boston, on "Fishes and the Fisheries" which proved to be the most  
 popular course of the season.  
 He made many discoveries of fishes, which up to his day, and never  
 been known to science, one of them, a man eater shark, was named  
 "Charcharias Atwoodii" in his honor.  
 Dr. D. Humphries Storer, in his "Fishes of Massachusetts" referring  
 to this name writes: "Let his name, who has done so much to assist me  
 in making this report, be indelibly associated with the science to  
 which he is an honor."  
 His eugolist at the time of his death, Nov. 7th, 1886, well described  
 the man when he wrote, "Of a serene cheerful temper, unassuming in  
 manner, charitable to faults public spirited and benevolent, his  
 whole life was characterized by peacefulness, gentleness and an  
 integrity that was unswerving."