

Left: Centenary Church, West End.
Universalist Church (Christopher Wren Tower)
Center Methodist Church

Right: Second wharf: Kibbie Cod's
with his sail loft in back
of his store.



August — 1937

Kibbie Cook, the last of many generations of whalers is dead, but the house which sheltered him, his father and his grandfather still stands to whisper to the inquisitive ear, tales of slave trading days and whaling voyages in distant waters. For the Cooks were the big men of the East end of town as were the Nickersons in the West end at the time when whale oil was the life blood of that hardy race of men who spent three-fourths of their active life at sea and the other fourth sipping rum in the cellars of their homes strung out along the bay.

The old rum hook is still in the basement of the Kibbie Cook House, and standing there looking up at the rafters made from masts of the old whalers, one can easily imagine Kibbie secreting his stock of rum from one of his vessels in the black of night, while the temperance cursed township slept. Many of the floor boards in the old house came from the planking of his vessels and in the bathroom may be seen a panel opening into the secret passage to the slave cellar. The wood in the house is hand hewn, the nails hand wrought. And the sailing logs of many a far flung jaunt are still there as a sort of documentary proof as to the existence of Kibbie and his whaling hoards.

About thirty years ago the present Mary Heaton Vorse purchased the Kibbie Cook house after it had been vacant for about eight years following the death of the old sea captain. She and the Cooks have been the landmark's only owners throughout the years. She is, of course, a well-known writer, having traveled all over the world and written many books. Mrs. Vorse and the famous Hawthorne were the town's first tourists and since that time she has returned often to write a number of things in the atmosphere of her Cape Cod home. Very much interested in the cause of labor, but never having been affiliated with any political group, she is at present at work on a book dealing with the C. I. O. at the same time preparing to write one on Provincetown, playing up the old legends and characters of this interesting locality. She was one of the group which brought fame to the old Provincetown Players, who had their first theater on her wharf which once extended into the bay out from the place where John Dos Passos now lives. Fire and the ravages of winter seas have since swept the structure away.

.. Home of Kibbie Cook.
Now belonging to the
writer, Mary Heaton
Vorse. On the corner
of a "Private Way".

- 1940 -



PROVINCETOWN, MASS

W. G. STIFF