

From the Boston Post, Sept. 29

Provincetown Will Hold Celebration of Its Own North Truro and Many Other Towns Along Cape Cod Bay Will Also Commemorate the Landing of the Pilgrims

Provincetown, Sept. 28. — This historic and picturesque old town on the tip of Cape Cod, where the Pilgrims first touched foot on American soil, has definitely decided to hold its own celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims apart from that at Plymouth.

North Truro and other towns comprised in the historic old colony have signified their intention to do likewise, so that the entire cape from Provincetown around the bay to Plymouth will celebrate the event.

This will in no way interfere with the celebration which the Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission is planning at Plymouth, but will permit each community to tell in its own way, by pageant or otherwise., its own particular version of the Pilgrim story. Only this way, it is believed, can the full story be told and local pride adequately recognized, for each Pilgrim settlement has its own traditions, which today form the wrap and woof of its community spirit.

Although the entire Cape will celebrate the event, the principal demonstrations will be held at Provincetown, where the Pilgrims first landed, and at Plymouth, where they made their first permanent settlement. These two towns are on opposite sides of Cape Cod Bay, and form the horns of the Pilgrim crescent in which the various celebrations will take place.

Although the plans are only tentative as yet, it has been proposed to hold the Provincetown celebration first. This is in keeping with the historical facts, which place the landing at Provincetown five weeks ahead of the settlement at Plymouth. The other local celebrations will follow, closing with the one at Plymouth.

Owing to the fact that the actual anniversaries will occur between Nov. 21, when the Mayflower first cast anchor in Provincetown harbor, and Dec. 26, when the final settlement was made at Plymouth, the pageants, on account of the inclemency of the weather, will all be held in the summer time. Commemorative exercises, however, will mark the various anniversaries as they occur.

If there is one tradition and one spirit that can unite the various towns on the Cape and lift them above provincial narrowness it is the Pilgrim spirit and tradition. The celebration is bringing this about and developing a community of feeling and a degree of co-operation which is surprising in view of the isolated character of many of the towns hidden away among the sand dunes and almost out of touch with the rest of the world.

At Provincetown an executive committee, composed of representative residents, is co-operating with the Selectmen in making plans for the celebration. This committee is co-operating with the committee at Plymouth, North Truro and the other towns along the Cape.

In view of the importance of the Pilgrim events at Provincetown, the executive committee is planning a great celebration that will surpass if possible the one connected with the dedication of the Pilgrim monument on Town Hill nine years ago. A special effort is being made to erect some permanent memorial of the event. Just what form that will take has not yet been decided, but it will center about the monument already in existence.

The monument is greatly in need of a dignified approach from the harbor where the immortal compact of the Mayflower was signed and from which sprung the civil and religious freedom which is now enjoyed. It is also greatly in need of a safe approach from the east by land, the present road to the top being impassable. Plans with estimated costs are being prepared and these will be laid before the Selectmen, the

Board of Trade and the executive committee in charge of the celebration as soon as they are ready. These plans will form the basis of requests for national and State aid for permanent additions to the Pilgrim monument. The town itself is too small to bear the entire burden, as it has only 4500 inhabitants. The monument, however, is in every sense a national one, and for that reason the

national and State governments each appropriated \$40,000 and \$25,000 respectively toward the cost of its erection.

The town has already marked a number of historical spots with modest monuments. Near the beach on the west side of the town where the Pilgrims first stepped ashore from the Mayflower is a granite boulder set up to indicate the real landing of the Pilgrims. Nature never gave Provincetown a Pilgrim rock as it did Plymouth, so that when Myles Standish and John Alden and Priscilla Mullins and Governor Carver and Susanna White with little Peregrine, the first native son of the Old Bay State, stepped ashore it was upon the white sea sands to the west of the town.

The commemorative boulder bears this inscription on its face inscribed on a bronze tablet:

“The First Landing Place
Of the

Pilgrims, Nov. 11, 1620, O. S.
The map in Mourt's Relation
Shows that near This Spot
The Pilgrims

First Touched Foot on American Soil.
Erected by the Research Club of
Provincetown, 1917.”

The fame of Plymouth Rock has far outshone this modest stripe of white sea beach, but nevertheless it is this little stretch of beach which is the real landing place of the Pilgrims that every authentic history attests.

William H. Young is chairman of the executive committee. He is assisted by Charles W. Hawthorne, vice chairman and Mrs. Henry Mottet, secretary. Mrs. Mottet, who is the wife of Rev. Dr. Henry Mottet of New York, is a leader in the artist colony and in all matters that pertain

to the good repute of Provincetown. She is working out the pageant idea with the committee.

The executive committee, which is composed of three representatives from each society in town, includes the following: Art Association, Mrs. Mottet, Mrs. Eugene W. Watson and Charles W. Hawthorne; Beachcombers Club, composed of men artists, George Elmer Brown, who is skipper of the club, Max Bohm and Richard Miller; Cape Cod Monument Association, William B. Lawrence, M. C. Atwood and J. F. Snow; Nautilus Club, Mrs. Jennie Healey, Miss Mertie Kelley and Miss Louise Paine; Playground Association, Frank A. Days, Jr., Mrs. Charles O'Neil and Miss Ina Small; Research Club, Mrs. Grace Hall, Miss Betty Rich and Mrs. Florence Waldin; Sailloft Club, composed of women artists, Mrs. Melzar Chaffee, president of the National Association of Women

Painters and Sculptors, Mrs. Flora Schoenfeld and Miss Sarah Munroe; Summer Colony, Frederick C. Boynton Stowe Phelps and Dr. Percival Eaton.

The Board of Trade which is taking a prominent part in the plans for the celebration is represented by Judge Walter Welsh, Captain John A. Cook, and John F. Snow.

Publicity Committee: George Elmer Brown, chairman, Myrick C. Atwood, Sec., John Adams, George F. Miller, John F. Snow, Howard F. Hopkins, Rev. Henry Mottet.

In addition to the executive committee, an honorary committee representing the War Camp Community Service, the Masonic bodies and the other fraternal and benevolent societies is being organized so that every organization in the town will have a part in the celebration.

The Research Club held an interesting meeting Wednesday evening at the home of Mrs. Gertrude De Wager.

In reply to a letter in regard to the verification of the names of the four Mayflower passengers who died while the Mayflower was at Provincetown the following has been received:

List of passengers of the Mayflower who died in Provincetown in December, 1620:

“December 4. Dies Edward Thomson, servant of Mr. White, bp the first that dies since their arrival. December 6, dies Jasper, a boy of Mr Carver's. December 7, Dorothy, wife to Mr. William Bradford. December 8, James Chilton bp.”

The above paragraph is an extract from “A chronological history of New England in the form of annals.” By Thomas Prince. New Edition of 1862. Page 165

The author, Rev Thomas Prince, was born in Sandwich, May 15th, 1687, and died in Boston, Oct. 22, 1758. He was pastor of the Old South Church in Boston from 1718 till his death, and was impressed with the importance of preserving all historical records.

The names of those who died in Provincetown, with the dates were taken from Governor Bradford's pocket book, by Prince, which is indicated by the “bp” after the entries. All trace of the “pocket book is gone, and it is supposed to have been lost many years ago. Prince is considered the best authority to quote, according to the Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society.