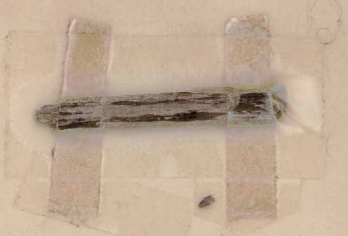
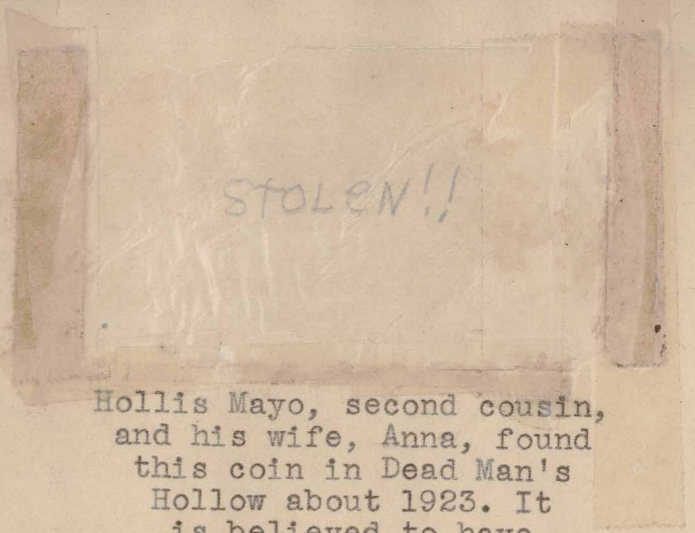


1783
006-159



December - 1902
The stock of a pistol of antique model was this week picked up near the wreck of the old frigate Somerset by Mr. David Ryder. It shows the action of air and water very forcibly, in the destruction of the iron and brass work.



June 7, 1917

What has become of the musket of ancient make found in 1876 at the ocean shore by the late Andrew Crocker? That old musket supposed to have come from H.B. M. frigate Somerset, should be included in the Monument Association's collection of curios.

Hollis Mayo, second cousin, and his wife, Anna, found this coin in Dead Man's Hollow about 1923. It is believed to have come from the Somerset. Given to Althea Boxell March 1941

After being buried for almost 86 years, the Somerset - built in 1746 and wrecked in 1778 - reared her skeleton to view once more the bars on which she had met her fate. (See picture on previous page)
At this time - 1866 - Mr. John R. Smith of Provincetown was fortunate enough to obtain a 3" square block of wood from her hull. This little sliver, taken from that block (which Mr. Smith gave Althea in June 1941) is 195 yrs. old!

Mr. Edwin A. Grozier of the Boston Post, who is also well-known to our townspeople, by his many generous gifts, shows that he has always the interests of Provincetown at heart. 1921

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1948

Wreck Of The Somerset

At the two hundred twentieth meeting of Boston Chapter held on November 9, Walter K. Watkins, Secretary of the Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution, read a most interesting paper to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the sinking of the British Warship Somerset near Provincetown.

It was recalled that the Somerset, of the fleet of Admiral Byron, grandfather of the poet Byron, was in pursuit of the French fleet then serving the American cause against the British, when she went ashore; that the Somerset was 30 years old, carried 64 guns, and had been virtually blockading Boston for four years.

It was also brought out that the Somerset owes her fame today to her bombardment of the redoubt on Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, and to the fact that Paul Revere in his manuscript account of his famous midnight ride of April 18, that year, stated that he rowed across Charles River at Charlestown, from near the present North End Park, in the shadow of the moored Somerset, a statement incorporated by Longfellow in his poem, "The Ride of Paul Revere."

"Then he said 'Good Night!' and with muffled oar
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore.

Just as the moon rose over the bay,
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay
The Somerset, British man-of-war;
A phantom ship, with each mast
and spar
Across the moon like a prison bar,
And a huge hulk that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide."

It was related that large numbers of people in Provincetown and Truro obtained clothing from the stranded Somerset, that the General Court ordered the local sheriff to compel them to return it, and that ultimately of the proceeds of the sale of what was salvaged the Commonwealth received one-half, the other half being divided among a number of individuals who assisted in saving it.

Three casks of liquor were to be sold for 300 pounds, depreciated currency. Gen. Washington directed that some of the cannon of the Somerset be sent to a furnace in Connecticut to be recast for the American forces. Some of the cannon were used to fit out a frigate, the Proctor, for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In 1886 the hull of the Somerset was unearthed from the sand and

examined with lively interest by thousands of persons, many of whom then first learned the history of that man-o'-war.

—February, 1929, Sons American Revolution Bulletin, p. 2 of Vol. IV, No. 1.



The Home of Edwin Atkins Grozier on Commercial Street, just beyond the Anchor and Ark Club (see panorama in that section.) See preceding page for story of Mr. Grozier's life.
— Picture taken September 1952 —