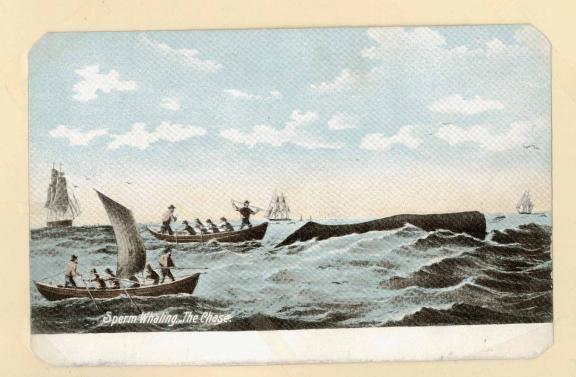


Same Whale as on preceding page - Card dated 1908



YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO CAPE COD - 1964

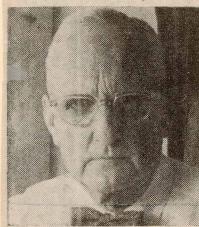
## Whaling Industry Began Here

THOUGH Cape Cod is named after a fisn, it should be remembered that the great whaling industry of New England had its beginnings here. Indeed, one might say the whales were here before the Cape itself, for we are told that once all the Cape lay far below the surface of the sea and whales swam over the site now occupied by Provincetown Monument!

At the time of the coming of the early settlers, whales were frequent in these waters. They swam by Cape Cod and could easily be observed by the people ashore. It was easy to attack and capture them by putting out in small boats. Watchmen took station on the hilltops and when a whale swam in sight, gave signals to the people below. Then they put out and killed their great prey.

The whales must have learned by sad experience to keep away from the shore, for eventually they passed by much farther out, and then sloops - small vessels under sail and carrying whaleboats were employed in the hunt. The Puritan preacher Cotton Mather refers to the whale fishery here. Another writer, Douglas, notes that a whale struck on the back of Cape Cod from which one hundred and thirty-four barrels of oil were taken. In the year 1739 six small whales were taken right in Provincetown Harbor, but only seven years later, 1746, not more than three or four whales were taken on the Cape. The whales were profiting, temporarily, by the lessons they had learned by coming inshore.

## Cetology Authority



COL. EUGENE S. CLARK, JR.

by Eugene S. Clark, Jr.

The following dates were taken from various records of Cape Cod towns, Museums, Government records and whaler's records.

Race Point, Provincetown, April, 1635, three large Right Whales stranded on the beach.
Provincetown, 1736, A large
Right Whale killed and towed

into the Harbor.

Wellfleet, During October, 1741, 150 Porpoises and 1000 Pilot Whales were driven ashore by townspeople.

Provincetown, 1858, Little Piked Whale stranded on beach.

Wellfleet, 27 Feb., 1872. A 40 foot Finback strands on beach.

East Dennis, Aug., 1875, 9 Pilot Whales driven ashore.

North Dennis, July 1875, Sperm Whale Porpoise strands on beach. Sandwich, December, 1854, 40 foot Right Whale strands at Sandwich Harbor.

Sandwich, 10 Nov., 1885, Huge Finback strands at Scusset Harbor

Sagamore, 1902, 65 foot Finback strands on beach.

Provincetown, 21 August, 1909, 14½ foot Little Piked Whale caught in fish weir.

Truro, 15 Jan. 1902, 35 foot Right Whale killed off shore.

Barnstable, Sandy Neck, Aug. 1941, 50 Foot Humpback strands on beach.

Provincetown, Nov. 16, 1946, 54 foot Finback strands between

docks.

Wellfleet, 55 foot Finback strands in January, 1947.

Truro, 54 foot Finback strands at Long Nook Beach, Jan. 1947. Hyannis, 4 March, 1949, 31

Pilot Whales strand in Harbor. Wellfleet, 8 July, 1948, 27 Pilot Whales strand on beach.

Wellfleet, Feb. 1950, 32 Pilot Whales driven ashore and processed into oil.

Dennis, January, 1950, 6 Pilot Whales strand on beach.

Hyannis, 15 June, 1954, 40 foot Sperm Whale strands on beach.

Falmouth, 29 March, 1958, Cuvier's Beaked Whale strands on Town Beach.

## June 1916

Whaling brig Viola cleared for sea Tuesday week, but three of her crew members left the craft and went to work for New Bedford parties ashore necessitating the shipping of new hands. The brig sailed Thursday but came to anchor "down below" to await a change of weather and was reported as remaining at anchorage as late as Saturday.