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- October 4, 1956 -

Cape Historian Tells Of Beginnings Of Provincetown Freezer Business

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About 1895, as far as I have learned, Daniel Francis Small founded the Provincetown Cold Storage Co., the first fish freezing plant on Cape Cod. He was born October 12, 1848, son of Daniel F. Small, a tailor who did his own cutting and ran a clothing store, and Maria O. Crocker. The father died at the age of 28. Theson, at ten, went

to Pittsfield to school, returning for high school to Provincetown. After graduation he worked for Blake and Paige, wholesale flour merchants in Boston.

Twenty-five years later, not feeling robust, he went back to Provincetown, where "the congenial air agreed with him." There at last, January 18, 1896, he got around to marrying. His bride was Leonora, daughter of Samuel S. Smith and Sarah Nickerson.

His great ability and sound judgment made the cold storage plant prosper. It paid large and steady dividends, sometimes one hundred per cent a year. In that fine Provincetown air, he went on managing it for thirty years. He was a Methodist and his wife was a Universalist. Being broad-minded, he gave liberally to his wife's church. Like nearly every other Cape Codder of his time, he was a strong Republican. For twelve years he was head of the water board. A founder of the board of trade, he gave the land for its building. This calm conservative with much business acumen had quiet tastes, except that he cherished a magnificent moustache with the ends turned up. He died August 8, 1925 when he was nearly seventy-seven. Many Provincetowners must have good stories to tell about him.



Frozen Pans of Fish inside the Consolidated Cold Storage Plant - About 1920

Fifty Years Ago

From the Files of The Register

November 1911

Provincetown is to have another cold storage plant, making four that will be in operation there next season.