



The Mackerel Fleet inside Long Point
-- 1875 --

The schooner *Chanticleer* was well known in the Provincetown fleet. She had more skippers than any other craft sailing out of this port. Her blunt nose and awkward lines caused the Masters of the fleet and more graceful schooners to look upon the craft with scorn. Because she was unwieldy the owners gave their youngest skippers a few trial runs in the vessel and if they made good promoted them to newer and faster craft.

In reading these items you should remember that the owners sometimes bought more shares as the vessel made good, or they sometimes sold the shares for 'most any reason. Masters changed frequently and they often made only one trip in a certain vessel. However, these records, which I am quoting, list the owners and Masters at the time the craft registered with the Customs House.

The *Chanticleer* was built at Essex in the year 1844. Her tonnage was 87 73/95 with a length of 65 ft. 6 in., breadth 18 ft. 6 in., and depth 8 ft. 3 1/2 in. The owners were listed in 1851 as follows: Alfred Cook 1/5, Henry Cook 1/5, Samuel Cook 1/5, Sylvannus Cook 1/5, and Silas S. Young 1/5. The Master was Alfred Cook.

The schooner, *Freddie W. Alton*, was built in Provincetown in the year 1864. She was 73 feet overall, 22 feet on the beam and 8 feet in depth. The Grandbanker was owned and operated by Frederick T. Daggert, James Cummings and John Garland, with other small owners from New York, Boston and Roxbury holding shares of 1/16. Master builder unknown.

The schooner, *John A. Paine*, was built at Truro in 1848. She was 73 feet overall, 20 feet on the beam and 7.8 feet in depth. The vessel was used mostly in the coasting trade by her owners, Edmund Smith, Jonathan Nickerson Jr., Amos Nickerson, Seth Nickerson 2nd, Seth L. Nickerson, Stephen T. Nickerson, Francis Nickerson, and Stephen Nickerson. In 1865 she was captained by L. B. Rich. The builder is unknown.

August 1855

Provincetown—The fleet engaged in cod fishing on the Grand Banks now numbers more than 100 vessels. They are about 85 tons each, carry an average crew of nine men, and spend about four months on the banks. There are now also about 25 whalers sailing annually out of this port. These are about 100 tons each.



The Fishing Fleet (Seiners) --
Long Point in background -
-- About 1915 --
Note the Navy Boats