

June 15, 1609

A mermaid was seen off Provincetown this day, 339 years ago. Captain Henry Hudson was rounding Cape Cod enroute to discover a now well known river, in 1609, when he logged this unusual incident: "June 15. This morning one of our company, looking overboard, saw a mermaid, and calling up some of the company to see her, one more came up, and by that time she was come close to the ship's side, looking earnestly on the men. A little after, a sea came and overturned her. From the navel upward, her back and breasts were like a woman (as they say who say her); her body was big as one of us; her skin was very white; and long hair hanging down behind, of color black. In her going down they saw her tail, which was like the tail of a porpoise, and speckled like a mackerel. Their names that saw her were Thomas Hilles and Robert Rayner."

Ben Franklin's uncle, who also bore the name of Benjamin Franklin, saw a sea serpent in Provincetown this day, 1719. The curious occurrence was related in a despatch to a Boston newspaper thus: "Boston, Sept. 28, 1719—On the 17 Instant there appear'd in Cape-Cod harbour a strange creature, His head like a Lyons, with very large Teeth, Ears hanging down, a large Beard, a long beard with curling hair on his head, his Body about 16 feet long, a round buttock, with a short Tayle of a yellowish color. The Whale boats gave him chase, he was very fierce and gnashed his teeth with great rage when he rose out of the Water he always faced the boats in that angry maner, the Harpaniers struck at him, but in vaine, for after 5 hours chase, he took to the sea again. None of the people ever saw his like befor."



c 1167 - New Life Saving Boat, "Victory", of the Wood End Station, Provincetown, Mass.

.. Uncle Bert, Motor Machinist Mate, 1st Class, standing up by mast, with Capn. George Henry Bickers, right.

About 1912



The "Victory" in Hartford, Conn for repairs. Uncle Bert, standing (with overalls) and Capn. Bickers with suspenders on his left. - About 1912



Capn. George Henry Bickers (He was Capt. of Wood End before Albert of Wood End Coast Guard Station - About 1912 Burch and also after Ike Fisher.)



Wood End Coast Guard Station - About 1933