

"...June 20, 1826, the state consented to the purchase by the United States of not more than four acres of land at Long Point for the erection of a lighthouse, reserving however, to the state and to the Town of Provincetown jurisdiction over the land for all civil and criminal processes. The lighthouse was built there the same year..."

In 1835 Long Point settlement of which now not even a trace remains was considered of sufficient size to be made into a separate school district.

On September 17, 1857 Hiram J. Snow testified before the committee on Cape Cod harbor that he was forty-nine years old, had lived in Provincetown eight years, had been keeper of the Long Point light for nine months, and before that he ran an

accommodation stage from Provincetown to Wellfleet. He said that in April 1851 during the gale that destroyed the Minot's Ledge light, he was on the beach at the head of Eastern Harbor. Water ran through into Eastern Harbor for two hours.

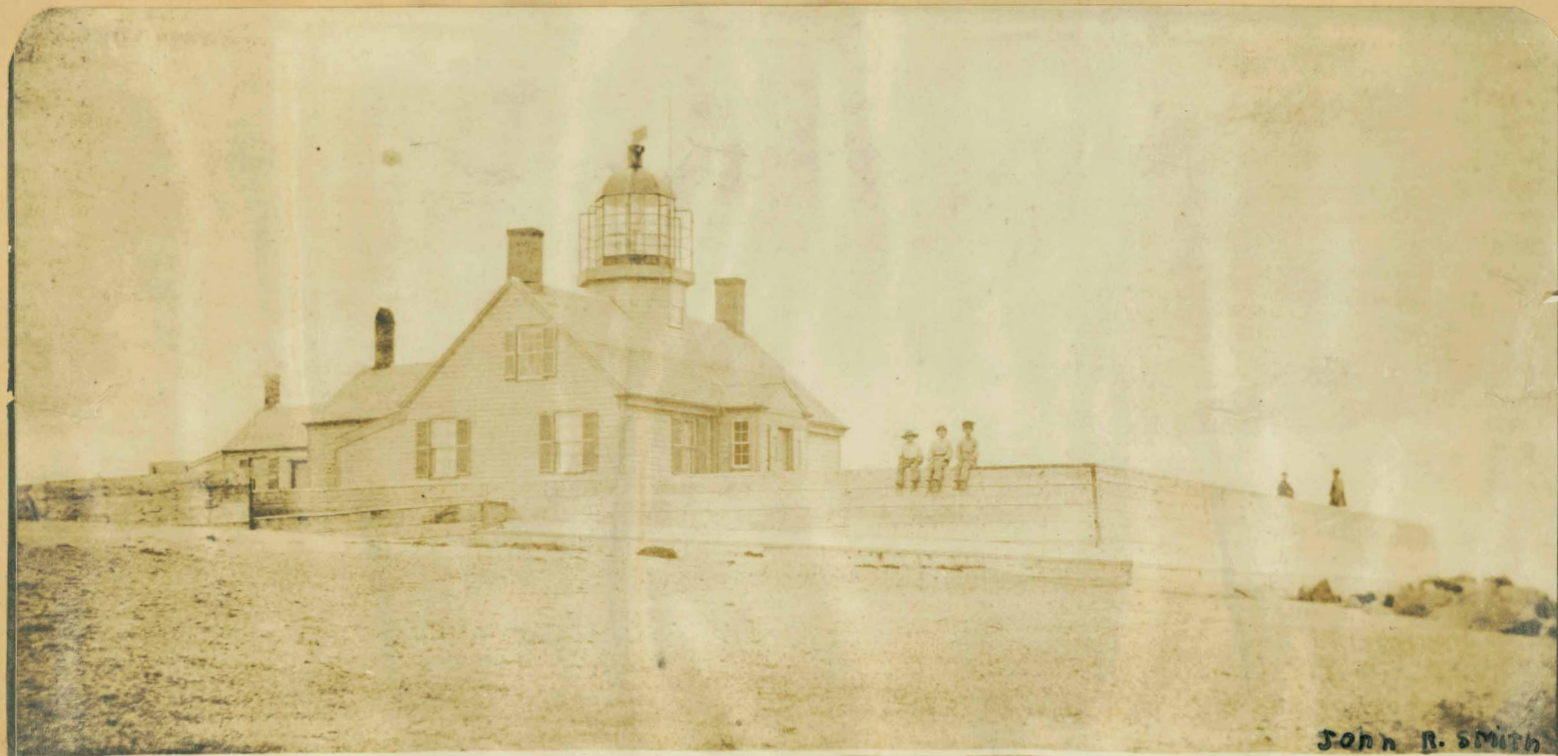
This narrow strip of sand which forms the extreme end of Cape Cod was at one time quite thickly settled, there being 38 families residing there permanently. The first building that was put up there was built by John Atwood (see map, preceding pages), and occupied November 1818. Prince Freeman, Jr., built the second, and Eldridge Smith the third. The nearness to the fishing grounds, and the abundance of fish that could be taken from the shore induced many families to locate there. Prince Freeman, Jr., now living, was the first child born on the Point; he was born November 7th, 1822.

When the schoolhouse was built in 1846, there were sixty scholars attended, and the inhabitants numbered over two hundred. The adult population were engaged in fishing, and the manufacture of salt. Eldridge Nickerson built the first set of works, which comprised about three thousand feet; others were built, and at one time there were six mills for pumping water for about seven or eight thousand feet of works, with an annual output of between five and six hundred hogsheads of extra quality of salt.

Fishing from the shore was carried on extensively with sweep seines, catching plenty of mackerel and shad. ... During a long protracted drouth, the drinkable water had to be brought from the town in barrels.

Government now lays claim to all the lands on the Point. Some attempts have been made by those that once lived there to get pay for the land they left, but no one has succeeded as yet. No industry is carried on there but the Cape Cod Oil Works, and no fish of any amount have been taken there for many years, except a few cod off Wood End Lighthouse.

..... from H. A. Jennings' "Provincetown" 1890.



- The First Lighthouse on Long Point - 1826 -

The first schoolhouse on the Point was kept in this lighthouse, about 1830, and the above three children were the only pupils, taught by Miss Hannah Sanborn.

Right, Hiram Snow and wife, Apphia Young

-October 1857 -

When the school-house was built in 1846 the students were moved out of the lighthouse where they had been attending classes since 1830. Miss Hannah Sanborn was the first schoolmarm, and later, she married Deacon John Dyer, a well known citizen, who was a mover of buildings and finally moved all the buildings from the Point over to the township. The old "little red schoolhouse" was floated across the harbor by barrels, and now stands on Commercial Street housing Arnold's Radio Shop, apartments, restaurant and barber shop. In 1846 there were more than two hundred inhabitants in the settlement, with the adult population engaged in fishing and the manufacture of salt.