



The Church of The Redeemer, (Universalist) Provincetown, Mass.

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Our Cover Picture

PRESERVATION OF ANTIQUES—

Mrs. William G. Darrow, Chairman

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, UNIVERSALIST Provincetown, Mass.

On the tip-end of old Cape Cod, the church "with the Christopher Wren tower and the Italian frescoing attracts scores of summer visitors with a taste for art and artistic things," says Robert Schauffler in "Romantic America". "This (Universalist Church) is easily the finest colonial church on the Cape, if not in New England".

heresy when all preaching was of endless punishment, and eternal doom. The girls liked it and Mother suspecting their secret, demanded the book. She read and believed this awful and dangerous new doctrine! She lent the book to cousins and friends and before long the whole company of the 'Pointers' had left the old teachings of *endless punishment* for the *larger hope*." (From "The Book In The Tide" by Sylvia's grand daughter, Nancy Paine Smith).

"More than a hundred years ago, about the time the lighthouse was built on Long Point, a company of friends and neighbors from the west end of the town 'way-up-along' moved across the harbor and settled on the Point. Among them was Prince Freeman, with his daughters, Sylvia and Elizabeth and little Prince. A daily task for children, those times, was to gather driftwood for the fireplace, so one day the children searching for wood, saw a book floating in the water, just beyond their reach. They found a barrel hoop and hooked the book ashore. It was the 'Life of John Murray'. No matter who John Murray might be, nor what his 'Life' had to tell, it was something to read and therefore a prize in that day when the mail came in once a week, brought around the Cape by a man on horseback. The girls dried the water-soaked volume and read it. It was a *wicked book telling of universal salvation!* It was

read on April 6th, that they met at the schoolhouse at six o'clock in the evening and took measures in respect to erecting a meeting house. In this building the society "worshipped and argued and flourished" until 1847, when they sold the property to the Methodists and proceeded to make elaborate plans for a church building to be the "finest south of Boston"!

Probably the building committee never realized how good were the plans used! The builder was John Gorham of Barnstable, who knew how to create a fine structure with perfect acoustic properties, crowned with a beautiful pointed tower after the general style and treatment of many spires created from plans by Sir Christopher Wren. This famous London architect died in 1723 but his influence in building was felt long after his death. Carl Wendte, a young German who had studied the art of mural decoration in Italy, painted the walls of the auditorium. He had settled in Boston in 1841 and had introduced the art of fresco-painting into this country, bringing into several towns and cities of New England lovely touches of color and beauty to the cold, bare walls of their meeting houses. In the Provincetown church he decorated the walls to conform to frescoing common in Italian churches, with the ceiling Grecian in treatment.

Early in 1900 the tower was leaking badly and was otherwise in need of repair. The expense of putting it in condition seemed so great, that some felt it should be removed. But Mr. M. N. Gifford expressed his views at length, after which five hundred dollars were raised and the tower saved. "There in its classic beauty may it long remain. May wind and storm deal gently with it. May fire spare it. May it remain always a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

An Acknowledgement Provincetown, Mass., Nov. 1, 1899. Dear Sir:

It is my pleasant duty, in behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Church of the Redeemer, to acknowledge the receipt from you, in memory of the late Wm. A. Atkins, of a beautiful Bible, for the use of our church.

The past summer was a successful one with us and it was very gratifying to have so many of our friends congregate with us, and to know that the services were a source of pleasure to them.

This beautiful and appropriate gift of yours seems to be a most fitting conclusion to a successful and gratifying season. It is received with thankful appreciation and will be valued by both Pastor and preacher.

In the hope that you may live long and prosper, and that you may always be able to follow the promptings of a generous heart, I remain,

Yours very truly,
A. P. Hannum,
Chairman of Trustees.

To E. A. Grozier, Esq., Editor and Proprietor of the Boston Post.

Sale Of Pews March * 1875

A week ago last Tuesday night, the pews at the Universalist Church were sold at auction by J. P. Johnson, Esq., auctioneer. This is the first time this method of supporting the society has been attempted, and the result exceeded the anticipation of the most sanguine, \$1730 being raised at the first sale, and others have been disposed of since.

Feb. 1, 1962

New Covering For Church Pews

A special meeting of the Get-Together Club of the Universalist Church was called last Friday to confer with Miss Dorothy Crowell and select material for covering the seats and backs of the

church pews.

The material chosen was a deep red velvet in keeping with the traditional decor of the church.

It was also voted to offer the church grounds and facilities for a Cape Cod Craft show and a public dinner. These will be given by the Long Point Business and Professional Womens Club during May or June.