

230

Frank K. Atkins Of Provincetown Dies at Age 63

Businessman Since
1894 Built Theater,
Started Bus Service

PROVINCETOWN, April 26
—Frank Knowles Atkins, 63, of
3 Carver Street, well-known
and active as a businessman
here since 1894, died at 8 o'clock
this morning at Quincy City
Hospital, where he had been
taken from his residence yester-
day morning. Death was as-
cribed to heart trouble, com-
plicated by a lung condition.

Mr. Atkins was born in Prov-
incetown and spent his life here.

He first started in business as op-
erator of a livery stable left to
him by his late grandfather, Sam-
uel Knowles, who operated the old-
time Provincetown-Orleans stage-
coach. The livery stable was on the
site of the Old Pilgrim Theater in
the center of town.

Later the business was moved to
a site opposite the railroad in Brad-
ford Street, where Mr. Atkins also
carried on a fuel, grain and build-
ing materials business and served
as agent for the Adams Express
Company. He erected the Pilgrim
Theater, which was Provincetown's
second movie house, and at that
time specialized in showing the
Pearl White thriller films and Mack
Sennett comedies with vaudeville
interspersed.

Started Bus Service

Mr. Atkins established the first
motor bus service in Provincetown
about 1911, thus carrying on a serv-
ice for Summer visitors which was
started with his horse-drawn livery
stable vehicles which took the Sum-
mer residents on sightseeing trips to
the ocean shore and the dunes.

He was the owner of one of the

first automobiles in Provincetown,
an Elcar, and he operated the first
commercial popcorn machine. Many
men now in business in Provincetown
worked for him at various times.

Perhaps his most interesting ven-
ture was the plant he established
on the present Provincetown Post
Office site where he, with his son,
Samuel K. Atkins, and his son-in-
law, Frank H. Hogan, manufactured
artists' paints. The output of this
business was not only used by paint-
ers of the Provincetown colony,
many of whose works are hung in
the world's eminent galleries, but
the paint products were sold
throughout the United States.

After the war the exportation of
raw materials became so costly that
the business was suspended.

Operated Gas Station

For the last seven years Mr. At-
kins and his sons operated a gasoline
filling station across from the rail-
way station.

He was married 37 years ago to
Miss Emma W. Cook of Province-
town, daughter of the late Captain
John Cook, a whaling master.

June 28, 1871

The omnibus is now one of our
greatest conveniences, and Mr.
Libby a careful and accomodating
driver. It should be liberally pat-
ronized, as the community can
scarcely afford to do without it.
Besides carrying passengers about
town he stands ready at a mom-
ent's warning to drive them to
the Dike, or Highland, at reason-
able rates.

Atkins' Passenger Auto Car, Provincetown, Mass.



In front of the Mayo Cottage

----- 1911

Mayo Cottage, Provincetown Mass.

1912

