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The people of the West are particularly interested in these old things. They often remark "We have but little that is old in the west. If you were to visit out there, you would be impressed with the newness of everything, as we in turn are charmed with the quaintness of everything here."

Now, in New England there are comparatively few who care to furnish their homes with anything but new.

Usually those who fall heir to a lot of old stuff, select from it, two or three pieces for themselves. Pieces they may think choice, or else, dear through association and the rest is sold to make room for the modern and up-to-date conveniences.

While most of people do not care to turn their homes in museums, nearly everybody is interested in, and likes to visit public museums, and if we of Cape Cod do not want our towns stripped of much that is interestingly old, it is time we got busy collecting in a general way things of ancient character, which are more interesting in their local surroundings than they can possibly be when borne away by strangers.

Why can we not start a museum right here in Provincetown? It is really time we adopted some plans by which our local antiques at least may be preserved and passed down for future generations.

Not too long ago, nearly every family on Cape Cod had a collection of whale bone ornaments and household utensils. Among these were pie crimpers, swifts, napkin rings, clothes pins, bodkins, paper knives, beautiful inlaid boxes and many other articles made by Cape Cod men or sailors while on their whaling voyages, which often covered a period of several years, and which industry so far as Provincetown is concerned came to a close not so very long ago. Then there are the polished, whales teeth often ornamented by pictures or etchings.

We can all recall these as highly cherished ornaments for the mantle and whatnots. Now of these things I do urge a collection as a beginning of our long delayed museum.

In the very early days of the whaling industry there was a particular kind of harpoon made here. At least one of these should be hunted up. With these interesting things many others might be mentioned that belong to Provincetown. With these interesting things many others might be mentioned that belong to Provincetown and the Cape and so are of more interest here than they can possibly be elsewhere.

Sandwich is not so very far away, and it was there about ninety five

years ago that the first pressed glass was made in America. There is more of that glass on Cape Cod than in any other locality. This, too, makes a charming collection. Most of it is beautiful. The designs seem to be more lovely than modern glass, and with collectors it is growing more and more desirable.

If we could only interest our town's people in collecting for a museum, it might be possible for us to have a few cases for the collection in Town Hall, and later as the collection grows an old fashioned house might be produced and, then, still later, would come the fireproof museum. For once this thing is started it will grow until we have a collection of rare old furniture, "things from over the sea", homespun fabrics, the products of the old art and crafts school, and much that was dear to the people of this country, one two and even three hundred years ago.

Provincetown Museum Teems with History

By ELSIE COCHRANE

Perhaps one of the most significant places to view the past three centuries is the Historical Museum at Provincetown. Within view from the front windows is the sheltering harbor where Peregrine White was born as the Mayflower rode at anchor. And one can glance through a glass case to read that name, Peregrine White, signed as witness to a deed of land drawn to John Doggett in 1695.

"The museum is a pilgrimage," Miss Elsie Long, curator told us. And we were not left in doubt as to its being a living thing, too.

Only last week Donald Baxter MacMillan, Provincetown born,

Antiques

returned from another Arctic trip assembling valuable data. While he has bought a home at Boothbay Harbor, Me., he still is a Provincetown favorite son. The town plans to greet the 76 year old explorer who was a member of the Peary North Pole expedition of 1909.

There are the early photographs, explorer's clothing, compasses, maps, housed for posterity in Provincetown Museum, the Donald MacMillan exhibit, tribute to a great man.

OTHER SEAFARING men in earlier days left Provincetown on whaling trips. Like folks of today, there was always a memento of the trip for those at home. These ranged from china to

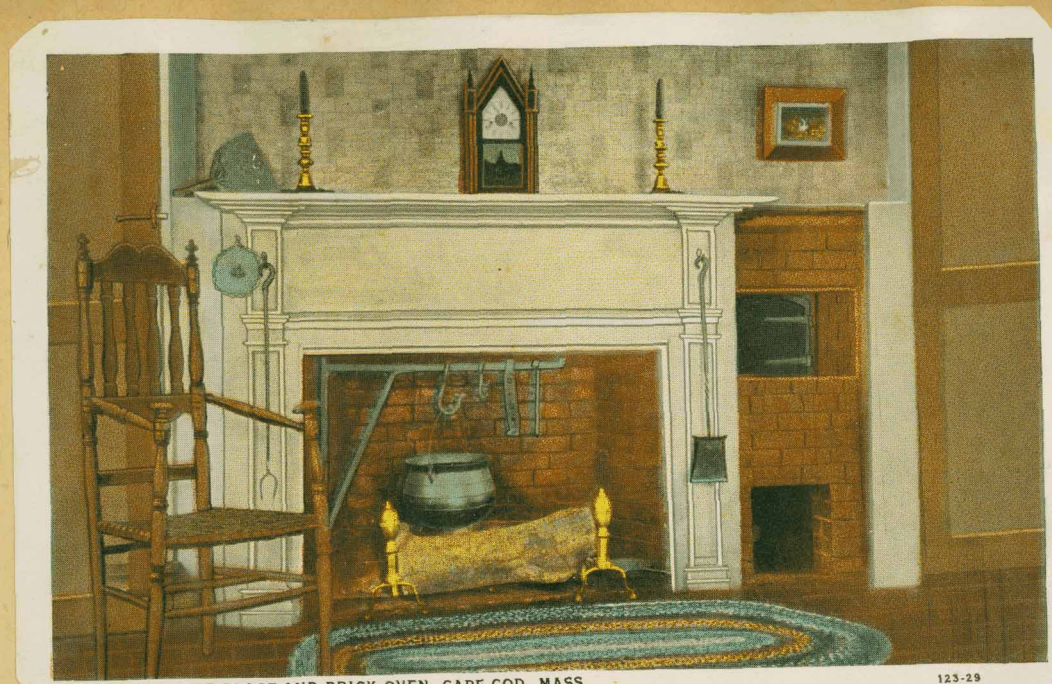
fans, dolls and far-away native handicraft.

"More and more folks in town are giving outright to the museum these choice former keepsakes," said Miss Long.

They seem to feel that these gifts they inherited are only in custodianship and the curator indicated the rich blue willow platter from Mrs. Joseph Ellis; twin pitchers in bronze and pink luster from Emeline C. Nickerson, 1843-1907; the cameo charm of a Wedgwood tea set; Spode and Royal Worcester cups and saucers. These are but part of several thousand keepsakes from seafaring men to their families over the centuries, now housed at the museum.

Unobtrusively occupying place in cases of rare Sandwich glass are occasional pieces from Europe. The lovely blue in butterfly wings hovering over a full blown flower is the motif enclosed in a glass paperweight. It's a long way from its original home—Bacarat, France.

COPIES OF "The Spectator," essays by Addison and Steele, brief lived from Mar. 1, 1711, to Dec. 6, 1712, can be seen at the museum. They, too, came across the sea to be read as part of John Hancock's library. His signature is on the fly leaves.



130 OLD FIRE PLACE AND BRICK OVEN, CAPE COD, MASS.

123-29

This old kitchen is downstairs in the Museum
- 1925 -

Yarmouth Register

March 15, 1890

— It is reported upon good authority that Benjamin Lancy has sold his lumber business to Messrs. Reuben Brown and Daniel F. Lewis, Mr. Lancy retiring from business in May.

Old family records of the early settlers hang on the walls—media, the sampler. Sally Lancy at 8 began a record in fine stitchery and finished the Benjamin Lancy family story at the age of 67 in the 1700's. Little fingers of small Emina embroidered with patience the Richard Collins—Emima Nickerson family record. The seven year, eight month old girl chose a variety of stitches from cross to satin in her 1800 needlework.

TODAY IS BEING recorded, too, in the museum from the angle of modern business. The sea brings in visitors as well as homecoming fishermen. New eating places are set up almost overnight. And the heartaches to the older families growing in proportion as landmarks go.

"We do not yet know the final fate of the First Congregational Church built here in 1714," said Miss Long. "However, we deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness of the purchasers. They have already set up a food stand in front of it, but the saving grace is the donation of the church communion set to the museum."

Here in its oak and glass cabinet is the symbol of the Mayflower fathers. The flagons for the wine, a plate for the bread and six goblets.

July 1938

A plaque commemorating the birth of Peregrine White, first white child born in New England, has been placed on the front of the Provincetown Historical Museum building overlooking Commercial St.