

The Research Club of Provincetown

INCORPORATED

An Historical Museum

for

Provincetown, Mass.

Research Club of Provincetown, Inc.

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Dear Friend :

As a lover of Provincetown the Research Club is appealing to you for help.

For a number of years the Club has been securing an interesting collection of Historical Articles, which has been temporarily placed in Town Hall.

Now it has agreed to purchase the Benjamin Lancy house, which is admirably adapted for the larger collection of which it is assured, and is sending out this appeal to friends, hoping their generous and prompt response will enable the Club to raise \$8,000.00 to purchase and equip the building and add this Historical Museum to the attractions of Provincetown.

Will you assist for the sake of the love you bear the old town?

Any amount will be gratefully received by the Club.

Each week the Provincetown Advocate will print the amount received, together with the names of the donors, so that everyone can know how the fund progresses.

Money may be sent to Nellie N. Law, Treasurer of Museum Fund, or to any member of the Research Club.

Anna M. Young, President
Carrie A. Cowing, Treasurer
Betty D. Rich, Secretary
Carrie Clarke Small,
Corresponding Secretary

Provincetown, Mass., September, 1923.

The desirability of an Historical Museum for Provincetown is well expressed in the following letter from Mr. J. Henry Blake, a former resident of Provincetown, who went to Cambridge in 1868 at the Museum of Comparative Zoology with Prof. Agassiz, and had charge for years of the Department of Shells, and has been connected with the Museum ever since :

31 College Avenue, West Somerville, Mass., July 11, 1923.

Mrs. Wm. H. Young,

Dear Mrs. Young: Some time ago Rev. Nancy P. Smith called on me and mentioned the subject of the Provincetown Museum, but I am late in fulfilling my promise to her to write to you regarding it. Let me say it is a matter I am in fully in accord and one I suggested some years ago in an article in the Beacon, I think. I shall be most happy to help in this good and necessary undertaking for, as I said then, Nantucket, New Bedford and other places have their Museums. Why not Provincetown? If it is late to begin, "better late than never", and, considering its important history, there is a double incentive for Provincetown to make an effort.

When a museum is once started there is greater and greater interest given it and, therefore, the donors to it will multiply. I will be pleased to give it a collection of shells and I think a special collection, also, to illustrate the mollusk fauna of Provincetown would be appropriate as a part of the town's history. These shells I will classify, giving names and locality, which will add to the interest and possibly induce some to give attention to the natural history of Provincetown.

I consider a museum necessary in every community as one means to promote education, or wisdom, and so help in getting an understanding also. This has been well written up by Prof. E. S. Morse, Salem, Mass. (See Atlantic Monthly July, 1893) who says: "If Public Libraries, why not Public Museums." I will not quote further from this paper but refer you to it. I know him well and I have written him for a copy of his paper on the subject and, if I am successful, will, with pleasure, send you a copy.

Trusting you will fully carry out your undertaking and promising to help in donations.

Very sincerely yours,

J. HENRY BLAKE.

The Research Club of Provincetown

Organized Oct. 18, 1910 Incorporated April, 1923

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