

264-B Bradford Street  
Provincetown  
November 13, 1961

*Advertising Town*

**MEMORANDUM**

To: The Board of Selectmen  
From: Roger Hawthorne  
Subject: THE TRENT AFFAIR

If the voters and Selectmen, past and present, have been sincere in urging better publicity for Provincetown than that, unfortunately, too often received in the past, I respectfully suggest that next January 1st is the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of the historic, so-called Trent Affair. The final act took place in Provincetown Harbor.

The Trent Affair, considered by most people at the time to be a mere incident, exploded into a "cause celebre" which, during the early months of the Civil War, very nearly precipitated the North into violent war with England. Briefly the story is this.

On November 8, 1861, an impulsive U. S. naval officer, Captain Charles Wilkes, ordered a shot put across the bow of H.M.S. Trent, a British mail packet and, under protests of the British captain, forcibly removed four emissaries from the Confederacy then en-route to France and England. The principals were James M. Mason of Virginia and John Slidell of Louisiana. Their mission was to negotiate exchange of Southern-grown cotton for European goodwill and economic aid. Instead they found themselves imprisoned in Fort Warren in Boston Harbor.

England became enraged at what it considered unlawful search and seizure on the high seas and immediately ordered 8,000 troops into readiness on the Canadian border and made other preparations for war.

Feeling ran high but cooler heads prevailed and following hush-hush conferences between President Lincoln and the British Ambassador in Washington, the President ordered the prisoners released if carried out in complete secrecy. On the night of January 1st, 1861, an American vessel steamed to Provincetown and under cover of darkness transferred the four Confederates to a British gunpoint for resumption of their journey. The significance of the event was that Britain was now on record as opposing seizure and search at sea, completely reversing her stand which led to the War of 1812. All this was concluded at Provincetown.

It must seem to many that this is an excellent opportunity to obtain nation-wide press, radio and TV coverage of a dignified and unique observance. We could have a parade with fire engines and children, an American and possibly a British naval unit in the harbor, a goodwill talk by the British Consul General from Boston, and special exercises in the schools. None of this would cost much.

As a tax payer and registered voter in Provincetown, Mr. Chairman, I should like to propose the following motion for discussion and possible enactment: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen appoint a committee of five citizens, including at least one selectman, to be known as the Trent Committee, to draft plans for an appropriate observance on or about January 1st, 1962 and, further, that said Committee report its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen not later than December 1st.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Roger Hawthorne

# Cape End Harbor Figured Century Ago In Tight Place In History Of Nation

By Helen Davis *Advocate*

12-28/62

One hundred years ago, in Provincetown Harbor, came the satisfactory conclusion of the historic "Trent Affair," changing the course of the Civil War by saving the North from serious complications with England, and establishing in international law the inviolability of ships of neutral nations.

While in port in Cienfuegos during a cruise in the West Indies, Captain Charles Wilkes of the United States sloop of war "San Jacinto" received information that on November 7, 1861 James M. Mason and John Slidell, ambassadors of the Confederate government, had embarked at Havana on the British mail packet "Trent" and were on their way to Europe to seek aid for the Confederacy.

Captain Wilkes watched for the "Trent" in the narrowest part of the Bahama Channel, 240 miles from Havana. With no orders from the U. S. Government and acting solely on his own responsibility, on the next morning, the 8th of November, he intercepted the "Trent" by firing a shot across her bow.

Under command of Captain Wilkes, Lieutenant Fairfax, with two boats, approached the packet and boarded her. He demanded the surrender of the southern envoys, who were personally known to him. With vehemently expressed protest, the captain of the "Trent" allowed the rebel passengers to be taken. Lieutenant Fairfax brought the emissaries aboard the San Jacinto with their secretaries Eustis and McFarland. Mr. Slidell's wife and children, who were aboard the "Trent", were permitted to continue on their voyage to Europe.

Mr. Mason and Mr. Slidell were well known on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line for their high posts in political and diplomatic service and both were at one time members of the United State Senate.

## Native Americans

James M. Mason was born in Virginia, educated in Georgetown, Washington, and was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. He studied law at the College of William and Mary in Virginia and began law practice in Winchester. He served three sessions as an elected member of the House of Delegates. Mr. Mason was elected to Congress in 1837 and was elected Senator for three terms. He was the author of the "Fugitive Slave Bill of 1850". At the beginning of the Civil War, Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, appointed Mr. Mason Minister Extraordinary to England, where he was bound on the "Trent" when captured by Captain Wilkes.

John Slidell, a native of New York and a graduate of Columbia College, moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, at the age of 19, following a scandal caused by a duel he had fought with Stephen Price, manager of the Park Theatre in New York City. In Louisiana, he set up a successful law practice. He was appointed U. S. district attorney and was elected several times to the Louisiana Legislature. Mr. Slidell was a "States Rights" Democrat in the House of Repre-

sentatives from 1843 to 1845, during which time he went to Mexico on a secret mission for President Polk. He represented Louisiana in the Senate from 1853 until he withdrew in 1861, when Louisiana seceded from the Union.

At the time of the "Trent" affair, John Slidell was on his way to Paris, France, to promote the cause of the Confederate States.

The "San Jacinto" arrived in Boston on November 19 and Captain Wilkes delivered the rebel emissaries to Fort Warren, a pentagon shaped granite fortress on George's Island in Boston Harbor, where they were confined with other prisoners of war. Prisoners at Fort Warren were comfortable and well-treated, although conditions were poor in many other Northern prisons. Leading Bostonians sent gifts of champagne and game and other delicacies to high ranking prisoners at Fort Warren and often visited them and showed sympathy for their plight.

## Captain Acclaimed

In the North, Captain Wilkes' decisive action was greeted with joyous acclaim.

A capable officer, he had a background of outstanding performance, although he was considered arrogant and ambitious and was not well liked, even by his own officers. Born in New York, he entered the Navy at the age of 13. His years of service included special duty in Washington and the command of a four-year naval expedition for exploration purposes in the Pacific and Southern Oceans. In recognition of his discoveries on the expedition he was presented a gold medal by the Royal Geographical Society of London. He also published several books on the results of his research during the expedition. In 1862, Captain Wilkes was promoted to the rank of Commodore and in 1866 he was commissioned a rear admiral on the retired list.

While the United States was treating Captain Wilkes as a national hero, with much ovation and celebration, the British were infuriated by what they termed an "outrage to the flag" and a violation of international law. Promptly England shipped 8,000 troops to Canada and prepared one of her fleets to sail to America to defend Britain's honor if she did not receive formal apology and the release of the prisoners.

The seizure by the U. S. of enemy emissaries from a British ship was justified by international law in effect at the time, which permitted national war vessels the right, in time of war, to search vessels of neutral nations and take from them property or persons in the employ of the enemy.

## Historical Precedents

The U. S. could also have pointed out historical precedent that its

(Continued on Page 6)

## Trent Affair --

action was within the law, for Great Britain had been the prime mover in cases of search and seizure on the high seas which had been adjudged legal according to the maritime law. The North felt that, in this instance, Great Britain was interpreting the law to suit her own convenience.

The general opinion in the U. S. was that because Captain Wilkes was entitled under international law to capture the Trent, Great Britain should be grateful that Captain Wilkes had showed a friendly attitude toward England by the moderation of his act.

The neutral vessel "Trent" had violated the law of nations as well as Queen Victoria's proclamation by conveying emissaries and dispatches of a warring nation.

Lord John Russell in England ordered Lord Lyons, minister in Washington, to secure a satisfactory answer within seven days. Lord Lyons received this dispatch on December 18 and on the 19th he met with Secretary of State, William M. Seward.

Recognizing the seriousness of this diplomatic crisis with Great Britain at the critical time of Civil War, President Lincoln called a

cabinet meeting on Christmas Day and ordered the emissaries to be cheerfully, but secretly, liberated.

On December 26, Mr. Seward sent Lord Lyons a message that the illegality of the seizure was recognized. The United States had the satisfaction that Great Britain had at last accepted a principle of international law, which the U. S. had for a long time tried to persuade, and which this nation had fought to defend in the War of 1812.

**On the night of January 1, 1862, an American vessel brought the prisoners from Fort Warren to Provincetown Harbor, where a British gunboat awaited them. Under cover of darkness, they were transferred to the British ship, which departed forthwith on its journey to England.**

Mr. Mason was unable to secure official recognition in London for the Confederate states. In France, John Slidell did not succeed in obtaining for the Confederacy the recognition he sought, but he did get supplies for the Confederate Army and Navy. After the war, Mr. Slidell settled in England.

At a meeting a few weeks ago of the Provincetown Board of Selectmen, Roger Hawthorne requested the Selectmen to celebrate the centennial anniversary of this

famous incident with due observance. At a later Selectmen's meeting, the Provincetown Board tabled the request of the Trent Affair Committee to hold the suggested celebration early in the Summer rather than in January.

It is maintained that Provincetown should be proud of its historical background, beginning at the very start of American history with the landing of the Pilgrims and the signing of the Compact and including Provincetown harbor's significant position as the rendezvous for the secret release of Mason and Slidell, an event of crucial importance in the Civil War.

# In Our Mail

## Calls Trent Affair Shameful

1/4/62

Editor, The Advocate:

It is no new thing to see the facts of history disregarded by an enthusiastic patriotism and a narrow provincialism, but I was truly astounded to read in your Dec. 28th issue that there is a Trent Affair Committee bent on observing the centenary of a shameful incident in our history. That Provincetown was selected for the secret transfer of the Confederate Commissioners and their secretaries to a British naval vessel is no matter for pride.

Captain Wilkes, of the San Jacinto, frustrated in his search for the Sumter, acted on his own initiative in intercepting the Trent and arresting the Confederate envoys. The Trent, incidentally, had sailed from Nassau and Havana. Captain Wilkes' second-in-command, Lieut. Fairfax, who boarded the Trent, opposed the action and had a perfect appreciation of the danger of precipitating war with Great Britain. It is no exaggeration to say that had the prisoners not been returned and an apology made, the Confederate government would have been recognized, and an offensive mounted which might have resulted in the independence of the Confederacy as the outcome of the Civil War.

As to the legality of the action, unfortunately Lieut. Fairfax did not seize the papers of the Commissioners which as "enemy dispatches" might have justified even seizure of the vessel.

As an example of the stupidity of a naval commander, and the resulting "knuckling-down" of his government, I can see in it no cause for rejoicing—the South may celebrate it as indeed they did at the time.

A. L. Rubenstein

## Committee Will Consider Commemoration Of Civil War Incident

The Board of Selectmen agreed to appoint a committee to look into the question of arranging an observance of the 100th Anniversary of the Trent Affair, an incident which occurred during the early months of the Civil War, and which nearly precipitated the North into war with England. The incident involved the removal from a British mail packet, the H.M.S. Trent, of four Confederate emissaries on their way to England to sell cotton. The British, enraged at what they considered unlawful search and seizure on the high seas, immediately ordered 8,000 troops in readiness on the Canadian border and made other war preparations. Feelings ran high, but following a secret conference between President Lincoln and the British Ambassador in Washington, the President ordered the prisoners released if it could be carried out in secrecy. On January 1, 1862, an American ship carrying the men steamed to Provincetown Harbor, where under cover of darkness, they were transferred to a British gunboat.

The significance of the event was that British was now on record as opposing seizure and search at sea, completely reversing her stand which led to the War of 1812.

The idea of commemorating the event was brought before the Board by Roger Hawthorne, who suggested that possibly some cooperative American-British celebration could be arranged.

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(Continued from Page One)  
During the public session of the meeting, the Selectmen also heard Richard A. Jennings request that the Board do something to remove sand sifting onto his property on Webster Place from an embankment of the Grace Hall parking area. The Board agreed to have the Town Manager investigate the situation and report back to them regarding it.

A license was issued to Mrs. Anthony P. Tarvers to operate an arts and crafts shop on Miller Hill Road, and a letter was read from State Commissioner of Natural Resources Charles H. W. Foster suggesting the town organize a Conservation Commission. This group, said Mr. Foster, would be a "fact finding and advisory agency" of local government, developed to coordinate the development and protection of a community's natural resources. Another of its functions is to purchase or accept gifts of land or interests in land for conservation purposes as well as to maintain proper open spaces in the town. No action was taken by the Board on this matter.

## Special Meeting

Minutes of a special meeting of the Board, held on Friday, were read. The meeting took up matters to be presented at a hearing of petitions by the State Division of Waterways on Monday.

Attending the Monday hearings was Town Manager Walter E. Lawrence, who presented two new petitions requesting the State to install three launching ramps and boat landings at Court Street and Johnson Street or other suitable locations and for the installation of finger piers, floats and boat landings adjacent to MacMillan Wharf in the recently dredged area. Funds for the construction would be divided equally between the Town and State as provided by law.

Mr. Lawrence also appeared on behalf of two previously submitted petitions requesting emergency aid for repairs to MacMillan Wharf and for erosion control in the East End, and revealed that he understands an engineer will be assigned immediately to make surveys on both matters and to draw up plans.

In other matters the Selectmen read a letter from the Board of Zoning Appeals giving the Board's opinion that sidewalk artists have been operating illegally, since the Zoning By-Law makes no provision for such activity. Mr. Lawrence was instructed to make a general survey of the situation with a view toward some action at the Annual Town Meeting.

The Zoning Board had suggested that no further licenses be issued until the by-laws are amended to provide for the sidewalk artists.

Mr. Lawrence was also authorized to draw up a definite policy regarding vacations and sick leave for town employees.

# Town Urged To Recall Trent Affair As History-Making National Event

By Helen Davis

*Advocate*  
11/16/61

At the regular open meeting of the Provincetown Selectmen in Town Hall Monday night, Roger Hawthorne urged an official recognition, next January, with due celebration and with arrangements for nation-wide publicity, of the 100th anniversary of the historic Trent Affair, a strategic Civil War incident which took place in Provincetown Harbor on January 1, 1862.

Mr. Hawthorne distributed to the Selectmen and to all persons attending the open meeting a mimeographed memorandum briefly describing the historic occasion. The Trent Affair began on November 8, 1861 when Captain Charles Wilkins of the U. S. Navy forcibly seized from the British mail packet, H. M. S. Trent, four Confederate diplomats enroute to Europe to seek aid for the South. Resenting the search of one of her ships, England reversed her former stand on the legality of search and seizure on the high seas and she prepared for war to avenge the insult.

## Second War Averted

In a successful attempt to avert war between England and the North, President Lincoln ordered the secret release of the four Confederate prisoners, who were removed from Fort Warren in Boston Harbor and taken down to Provincetown Harbor, where they were transferred to a British gunboat, in the ~~day~~ <sup>meets on Fridays</sup> night, on January 1, 1862, to resume their voyage to Europe.

Another important result of the Trent Affair, Mr. Hawthorne explained, was the fact that it brought about the Admiralty Law prohibiting search and seizure on the high seas.

"I rather suspect there are very few school children who realize the bearing of this event upon the success of the North in getting well launched into the Civil War," said Mr. Hawthorne. He added that up to that time the North had not achieved a major victory in the War.

Mr. Hawthorne went on to say, "If it is the intent of the Selectmen to make the most of Provincetown's historic background, I think this is an excellent way to do it."

Chairman of Selectmen John C. Snow acknowledged that Mr. Hawthorne had presented an excellent point, but he called attention to the fact that January 1 is a difficult time of year to do anything.

## Ceremony Inside

Mr. Hawthorne suggested it might be expedient to move the date of the ceremonies forward a few days. He added that if the weather is bad, the celebration can be held indoors. He assured the Board that the program would cost very little. He said, "I understand economy is important to the Selectmen."

"Economy is our watchword," was Mr. Snow's prompt rejoinder.

Mr. Hawthorne said he had drawn up the skeleton framework for the proposed centennial observance of the Trent Affair, but he suggested that it would be up to a committee appointed by the Selectmen to recommend appropriate ceremonies for approval of the Selectmen.

The Selectmen took Mr. Hawthorne's proposal under advisement.

R. A. "Pete" Jennings told the Board of Selectmen that sand from what he believes to be town-owned land is running down onto the northwest side of his land on Webster Place. He said he had been referred to the Superintendent of Schools by the Town Manager and then had been referred back to the Town Manager, who, in turn, referred him to the School Committee, who told him that any school land that had been turned back to the town was under the authority of the Selectmen. "And so I am here," said Mr. Jennings, "to see what can be done about that land that is running over on my land."

Selectman Ralph S. Carpenter explained that the State requires that at least 7 acres be held by the school, and for that reason the parking lot adjacent to the school is under school jurisdiction.

## Defines Area

Mr. Jennings said, "I am not talking about the parking place." He explained further that the area he was speaking about is northwest of 7 Webster Place. He went on to say, "When they were building the bulkhead by Francis Oliver's, I asked what they intended to do with the place south of the High School building, adjoining Webster Place. Mr. Walker is occupying that land, but no one ever sold it to him," Mr. Jennings informed

(Continued on Page 2)

# Cape-tip Observance Requested Of Famous Event During Civil War

PROVINCETOWN, Nov. 14 — Provincetown selectmen last night promised to study a suggestion that the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of the so-called Trent Affair in the Civil War be celebrated here about Jan. 1.

Meeting in public and executive session in the 2d District Court room, selectmen heard a plea from Roger Hawthorne that appropriate measures be taken to memorialize the 100th anniversary of this event, conclusion of which took place in Provincetown Harbor.

Mr. Hawthorne presented selectmen a memorandum citing briefly the history of the so-called Trent Affair and events which occurred in Provincetown Harbor. The famous James W. Mason of Virginia and John Slidell of Louisiana early in 1861 were taken from the British mail steamer Trent headed for England and imprisoned in Boston but later

were allowed to continue their trip. The transfer took place in Provincetown Harbor on the night of Jan. 1, 1862.

## Leave Prison

The two men were taken from their Boston prison aboard an American vessel, which steamed to a rendezvous in Provincetown Harbor under cover of darkness and transferred Mason and Slidell and two other emissaries to a British gunboat for resumption of their journey.

Seizure of the two men threatened for a time to involve the United States in a war with Britain

"If the voters and selectmen, past and present, have been sincere in urging better publicity for Provincetown than that, unfortunately, too often received in the past, I respectfully suggest that next Jan. 1 is the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of the historic, so-called Trent Affair," Mr. Hawthorne said. "The final act

took place in Provincetown Harbor." He suggested that a committee of three or more be set up to bring plans for observation of the date, or close to the date, at a selectmen's meeting early next month.

## Outlines Plan

Mr. Hawthorne said he has contacted the British consul in Boston and that he expressed a desire to come to Provincetown and participate in the observance, and that a parade could be held with possibly an American and a British unit participating. The events could be held inside if weather prohibited outside observance, he said.

The speaker also offered a resolution that a committee be named to draft the plans. The resolution was included in the memorandum submitted.

Chairman of Selectmen John C. Snow said the board would study

(Continued on Page 2)



### Trent Affair

A letter from Roger Hawthorne cited the names of a number of agencies and organizations which have expressed interest in a suitable observance of the Trent Affair. The letter also asked whether the Town intends to take any action toward that end. The letter further stated that the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce is "quite prepared to underwrite any cost involved in publicizing the event."

The letter suggested that if the observance is to be held in May or June and if an American vessel and British vessel are to be present, it might be well for the Selectmen to issue some sort of statement. Mr. Hawthorne offered to cooperate with the publicity, at no cost to the Town.

The Provincetown Selectmen issued a proclamation that the first day of June be designated to observe and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Trent Affair, together with appropriate ceremonies in schools and public assemblies, as later to be determined.

*Advocate 3/1/62*

*Advocate 1/11/62*

### Point To Trent Affair

264B Bradford Street  
January 9th

Editor, The Advocate:

Some readers will agree, as do I, that the Trent Affair was "a shameful incident in our history," but Mr. Rubenstein seems to be under a misapprehension about the proposed ceremony in Provincetown late this Spring.

The ceremony suggested is **NOT** to commemorate the seizure of the Confederate prisoners but rather the wisdom of President Lincoln in liberating them—and the fact that their release was affected in Provincetown Harbor. That is something that every school student in Provincetown should know, and that is one big reason why this observance, at little or no cost to taxpayers, should be held.

Mr. Rubenstein may or may not be interested, but re-enactment of the release of the prisoners, with suitable ceremonies, will bring dignified and national publicity to Provincetown, to many of us a welcome relief from some of the publicity Provincetown has received in the past.

Mr. Rubenstein also seems to miss the point by that acceding to Britain's demands the North not only averted a certain conflict, which might have cost us the war with the Confederacy, but placed Britain in the position of repudiating her previous position of "right of search and seizure on the high seas" which precipitated the War of 1812. And the whole matter was settled in Provincetown!

Roger Hawthorne

993

Trent Affair

THE TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

By The Board of Selectmen

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

1962

One hundred years ago the United States of America, although engaged in conflict with the Confederacy of the South, reached an accord with Great Britain on the important question, which had earlier precipitated the War of 1812, as to whether a vessel of any neutral power rightfully could be halted on the open sea, searched, and persons taken therefrom against their will.

The issue was resolved late in 1861 when Abraham Lincoln, then President of the United States, after consultation in Washington with Her British Majesty's Ambassador, Lord Lyons, agreed to release four Confederate prisoners, namely, James Mason, John Slidell and their two aides, all of whom had been removed from the British mail packet TRENT on November 8th and thence imprisoned at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor. On the blustery afternoon of New Year's Day, 1862, the four men were brought to Provincetown Harbor and transferred to a waiting British gunboat, H.M.S. RINALDO, to resume their trip to England.

The release of the prisoners was accomplished in secrecy and none but diplomats and Cabinet Officers knew the importance of the event, but it averted a certain outbreak of hostilities with Great Britain at a precarious time in American history; and it placed the British Government in the unique position of opposing the very policy of "search and seizure on the high seas" which she, herself, had maintained prior to the War of 1812.

In consideration of the importance of this historic event enacted in Provincetown in 1862, the Board of Selectmen does hereby proclaim that <sup>the last of June, 1962</sup> a day be designated ~~in May or June~~ of the present year to observe and commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of that event, together with appropriate ceremonies in schools and public assemblies as later be determined.

Ralph S. Carpenter  
Charles J. [unclear]

GIVEN at the Town Hall of Provincetown, this ~~fifteenth~~<sup>26th</sup> day of ~~January~~<sup>February</sup>, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and eighty-sixth.

By The Chairman of the Board  
William J. McCaffrey  
The Town Clerk

JOHN C. SNOW  
[Handwritten signatures]

THE TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

By The  
Board of Selectmen

264-B Bradford Street  
Provincetown, Mass.  
February 24, 1962

1962  
John C. Snow, Esq., Chairman  
The Board of Selectmen  
Provincetown, Mass.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

In view of the fact that a number of local, State and Federal agencies and organizations are interested in the possibility that the Town of Provincetown take public cognizance of the 100th anniversary of the Trent Affair, so-called, there is curiosity in a number of quarters as to whether the Town intends to take any action toward that end.

The agencies and organizations which have expressed interest in a suitable observance of the occasion include:

THE STANDARD-TIMES

The Library of Congress  
Associated Press Wirephoto (Boston)  
Radio Station WOCB-AM-FM  
British Broadcasting Company  
The Cape Cod Community College  
The Massachusetts Civil War Centennial Commission  
The British Embassy (Washington)  
ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWSFEATURES (N.Y)  
Civil War Centennial Commission ( Washington)  
The British Consul General (Boston)  
The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

As you know, the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce is quite prepared to underwrite any cost involved in publicizing the event, but if the observance is to be held in May or June and if an American and a British vessel are to be present, it is respectfully suggested that the Board of Selectmen might issue some sort of statement at, or following, its next regular meeting. If it does so, I shall be glad to so advise the various organizations listed above, and cooperate in any other way, without cost to the Town.

Yours sincerely,

*Roger Hawthorne*

s/ Roger Hawthorne

meets on Fridays

264-b Bradford Street  
Provincetown  
April 2, 1962

Please address any reply to:  
86 South Street  
Hyannis

Ralph S. Carpenter, Chairman  
The Board of Selectmen  
Town Hall  
Provincetown, Mass.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

It is my understanding that the Board of Selectmen, having issued a Proclamation setting forth June 1st ~~as~~ as Trent Day, to commemorate the part played by Provincetown in concluding the historically-important Trent Affair, so-called, have not yet formulated any specific plans for that observance.

It is my further understanding that the Board is curious as to what expenses might be involved in such an observance, and that this might have considerable bearing upon whether the Proclamation will be followed up. Respectfully, I should like to put forward a few suggestions.

Assuming that no Town funds are available for the observance other than possibly a small outlay from the special Selectmen's Fund, I suggest that the following activities could be undertaken at minimal cost.

1. Appropriate publicity will be handled by the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce without charge.
2. The British Consul-General or a representative of the Consulate-General will be available, without charge, to come from Boston to (a) address a High School assembly if this can be arranged with school authorities, and (b) to be guest of honor at a luncheon. Except for special guests, the luncheon could be on a Dutch treat basis.

The special guests would include: the Consul General and his wife; the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of whatever Naval or Coast Guard vessel is in the Harbor by pre-arrangement for the occasion, and accredited members of the press.

3. Mimeographing presumably could be handled by the High School, also without charge. (This would be in connection with preparation of Facts Sheets and other historical material for distribution to teachers in advance of the observance.)
4. There would be a small bill from the Committee for postage, perhaps a few trivial other items, but I venture to say that the total cost to the Town would be not less than \$50., not more than \$100.

2.

May I further suggest that ensuing publicity, favorable to the Town, would be well-worth the small expenditure involved.

Obviously, somebody has to do the coordinating necessary to make the June 1st event a success. If it is limited to schoolroom activities; a speech by the British Consul-General on the importance of British-American understanding, and a luncheon, I have reason to believe that Mr. William J. Costa of 4 Nickerson Street, Principal of the Veterans Memorial Elementary School, might be induced by the Selectmen to accept the chairmanship. At least, he has shown interest in the project. Several other townspeople have expressed willingness to serve as committee members if the observance is held within the limits put forward on Page 1.

Unless some definite action is taken by the Board of Selectmen at its first meeting in April, I suggest that there will be insufficient time to arrange any program for June 1st. This would be tantamount to repudiation by the Board of the Proclamation issued by their predecessors, an action which would certainly require some sort of public explanation since numerous Federal and State agencies, and the press, have been apprised of the Proclamation.

I should, Mr. Chairman, be very glad to be of any possible assistance to the Board or to a Committee, if one is appointed.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Hawthorne