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Article II. Objects and Purposes. The objects and purposes of this association shall be to promote and cultivate the fine arts, and to that end to establish and maintain for the town of Provincetown a permanent collection of paintings and other works of art. Also to hold exhibitions of paintings and other works of art and to promote the advancement of art by means of social intercourse between artists and those interested in the arts.

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^{*} The first picture Mr. Hawthorne painted in Provincetown, 1899 Exhibited with the Society of American Artists, 1900

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EDITH C. BARRY

7. Portrait Sketch

REYNOLDS BEAL -

8. Wellfleet

GERRIT A. BENEKER

9. The End of the Story Oll Splended
10. Still Life—Fish
11. Provincetown Wharves in Winter

12. Provincetown Church

13. The Tar Vat

CONSTANCE BIGELOW

14. Sketch

15. Sketch

ADOLPHE W. BLONDHEIM

16. The Alcove Window

+17. Shining Brass

HENRY H. BROOKS

18. Sketch—Annisquam

19. Sketch—Provincetown

GEORGE ELMER BROWNE

20. Seiners—Water Color

21. Return from the Weirs—Water Color

22. Cape Cod Trawlers—Water Color

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128. Sketch

129. Sketch

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131. A Block Print

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Splandid all of them 133. The Cloister—Etching

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156. Sketch

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A SKETCH OF PROVINCETOWN

Written especially for the catalogue

By Myrick C. Atwood, Deputy Collector, U. S. Customs Service

Perhaps no point of land stands out more prominently on the map than Provincetown. Thoreau writes:—"Cape Cod is the bare and bended arm of Massachusetts of which Provincetown is the fist, behind which the state stands on her guard, with her back to the Green Mountains and her feet planted on the floor of the ocean, like an athlete, protecting her bay."

To the stranger who has never visited the town, and knows it only from the generally accepted stories regarding the place, there would appear to be little of interest in the history, either of the place or the people, but to many there is an unending charm in its barren sand dunes, its ever changing marine views, its beautiful sunsets, the responsive hospitality of its people, and one loves the old town both for its associations and its history.

The earliest record is of the landing of Thorvold with his crew of Icelanders in 1004; it is said that here he lost his ship on the treacherous sands of Provincetown, and here in an encounter with the savages, he was mortally wounded by an arrow and knowing that the end of life was near he requested his crew to bury him in the place "where we repaired our ship and place a cross at my graye and call the place Cape of the Crosses".

While the exact locality of that grave is unknown yet there is no doubt that the dust of this hardy navigator is mingled with the sands of Provincetown and structures of masonry and ruins of their habitations have been found buried in the sands.

Bartholomew Gosnold visited the place on May 15, 1602, and it is recorded that while here a codfish was caught and from this fact he named the place Cape Cod.

The next visitor was Capt. John Smith of Pocohontas fame whose life she saved when about to be executed by her savage father Powhatan; this visit was in 1614. This early data while somewhat hazy has more or less foundation of fact.

The first authentic history is the landing of the Pilgrims at this place, Nov. 11, 1620 (O. S.) and from that date the history of the town is clear; for although their permanent settlement was at Plymouth the ship laid in this harbor for one month, here Perigrine White, the first English child born in New England, first saw light, and here Dorothy, the wife of Gov. Bradford, was drowned and her remains never recovered, here also the "Immortal Compact, said to be the first form of constitutional government in history, was signed, the nucleus from which sprang the constitution of the United States, here too they built a vessel, and here Miles Standish marshalled his valiant army of sixteen men, to explore the new country and to protect the colonists from attacks by the hostile savages who surrounded them.

Since that date, there has always been more or less of a settlement; the Pilgrims for years resorting here each fishing season for

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carrying on the fisheries, and more or less of them becoming per manent settlers. The town remained a precinct for many years, but was incorporated as a town in 1727. At three different periods, June 12, 1813, Mar. 2, 1829 and Mar. 30, 1836 parts of the neighboring town of Truro have been annexed, and its boundaries extended. A large part of its territory was lotted land at first, for many years, and belonged to the state or province, and known as province land, hence the name of the town, and the inhabitants held their titles under "Squatters sovereignty", but by Sec. 5, Chap. 470 of the Acts of 1893 the titles to the land occupied by the inhabitants were confirmed, and the title to the remaining territory of the township is still vested in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The town took little part in the Revolutionary war; it contained at that time but 36 families, 205 inhabitants and 20 houses and being located on the most exposed part of the coast, the Colonists were unable for lack of money and men to fortify the place, and it was reguarded in a way as neutral, although many of its citizens were engaged on board of privateers and in the Continental Army. who were not credited to the town. For this reason the enemy made use of the harbor as a rendezvous for their war ships, and by keeping men aloft on the lookout, could see over what is now Beach Point, and vessels going to or from Boston or other Northern ports. which must pass back of the town, were seen and a ship could easily be sent out to intercept and capture them. For this reason it was a constant menace to Boston. The British ships when in want of water or provisions, compelled the inhabitants to supply them. which demand the town was in no position to refuse. It is recorded however that in no case did they neglect to pay for anything that the people supplied.

A similar state of affairs existed during the war of 1812, and the British war ships made the same use of the harbor as in 1775, the Government being unable to protect it, it was entirely in the power of the enemy, who did not hesitate to make exactions for supplies whenever they needed them.

At least one naval engagement took place off Provincetown, the battle between the American Ship "Chesapeake" Capt. James Lawrence, and the British Ship "Shannon" Capt. Broke, on May 29, 1813, within sight of the hilltops where the people of the town flocked to see the battle, and although the result was disastrous to the American ship which was captured and taken to Halifax, N. S., and Lawrence and many of his crew were killed, yet it has always been looked on with pride by all Americans, for brave defense of the American ship and the last words of Lawrence as he was being taken below to die, "Don't give up the ship" has been a watchword in the American navy to this day.

From the earliest history of the town to the present time, its chief and its only industry of importance, has been the fisheries. In pursuit of this arduous calling the sails of Provincetown fisherman have whitened nearly every sea in the North Atlantic, their

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voyages have only been limited by the frozen barriers of the North or the heated belt of the Tropics, and occasional voyages have been made into and even beyond these limits.

In March, 1775, in the British House of Commons. Edmund Burke, the great Irish orator and statesman, used these words:—

"Look at the manner in which the people of New England have of late been carrying on their fisheries; while we look for them among the tumbling mountains of ice, and penetrating the deepest recesses of Davis Straits and Hudson's Bay, while we look for them beneath the Arctic Circle, we hear that they have pierced the opposite region of polar cold, that they are at the antipodes, and carrying on their business under the frozen serpent of the South; we know that while some draw the line and strike the harpoon on the Coast of Africa others run down the longitude of Brazil and pursue their gigantic game, there is no sea but is vexed by their fisheries, no climate that does not witness their toils."

This glowing tribute by one of the greatest statesmen that ever lived is worthy of remembrance in connection with the hardy pioneer fishermen of Cape Cod, who in the early days of this republic carried her flag to the remotest corners and recesses of the globe, it is not strange that the industry produced men who excelled as navigators and ship-masters. With a perseverance worthy their Anglo Saxon origin, they pursued their calling:—

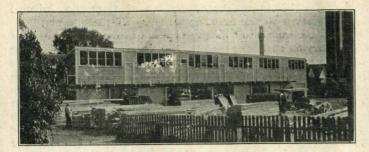
"By Afric's pestilential shore, By many an iceburg, lone and hoar, By many a palmy Western isle Basking in Spring's perpetual smile, By stormy Labrador."

Of late years the health giving climate, the cooling breezes and the quaintness and restfulness of the town have attracted many visitors during the summer, many of whom have become permanent residents of the place, "Many who came to scoff remained to praise".

Among the new comers have been many artists, drawn to the place by the ever changing marine views, the picturesque sand dunes, the pure and bracing sea beezes, the majesty and grandure of the mighty ocean, as it lashes with its gigantic billows, driven forward by the momentum gathered by a thousand miles of unobstructed space in the North Atlantic, until it breaks with the roar of thousand cataracts on the barren shores of Cape Cod. What grander subjects can Dame Nature furnish to inspire the painter's brush than these.

The old town welcomes them all, and extends its generous hospitality to the artist, the man, worn out by the exacting duties of strenuous business life, the teacher, weary of the drudgery of the schoolroom, the invalid with nerves unstrung, the professional and the thousand and one others all will find in its invigorating climate the rest and quiet so essential each year after the hurry and bustle of modern life.

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