

## Founder Of Old Wharf Dies



Funeral services were held yesterday at the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor for Mrs. Mary G. Bacon Bicknell, widow of the late noted etcher, W. H. W. Bicknell, who died Sunday at the Cape End Manor. Mrs. Bicknell would have been 95 years old on May 24. Burial was in Snow Cemetery, Truro.

Mrs. Bicknell had been a permanent resident of Provincetown for nearly a quarter of a century and with her late husband identified with the town since 1917. She was the founder in 1923 of the Wharf Players, the theatrical group which followed the Provincetown Players, and later president of the group.

She was responsible for the building of the Wharf Theater on a fish wharf in the West End of town and the mainspring of the effort to maintain here the tradition of the Provincetown Playhouse.

The theatre and its productions, in a number of which Mrs. Bicknell

acted, attracted favorable attention from many off-Cape writers and critics although the group struggled later with serious financial problems. The theater building was destroyed by a storm in the Winter of 1940, some years after the disbanding of the Wharf Players.

Mrs. Bicknell had a lifelong interest and participation in the theatre. She had been connected with a theater group in Boston and with the Music School Settlement, New York City. At one time she conducted from a Boston station a radio program devoted to better speech.

Mrs. Bicknell knew and was associated with many prominent professionals in the theater. Leon Throckmorton, of the Provincetown Playhouse of New York City, who produced the stage effects in "Emperor Jones," was technical director for the first season of the Wharf Theater and many other profession-

als were attracted to it.

Mrs. Bicknell's association with the theater and her husband's fame as an etcher made the couple known to a wide circle of friends in the arts. The Provincetown Art Association has a notable collection of Mr. Bicknell's work. His etchings are in permanent collections of a number of American art museums including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. He was awarded the Bronze Medal at the St. Louis Exposition. He is especially remembered for a portrait of Lincoln.

Mr. Bicknell died in Provincetown in 1947. Mrs. Bicknell, in failing health, spent the last four years at the Cape End Manor. She was born in Warren, the daughter of Edward Everett and Clara Hoppin Bacon. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Lillian Stanford of Wynnewood, Pa., and two brothers, Norval Bacon of Braintree, and Alfred, of Waterville, Me., and nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mrs. Bicknell's memory may be made to the Provincetown Art Association Development Fund or to the Provincetown Playhouse on the Wharf.