



Facing West towards Town Hall. Brick Building at right is old First National Bank (which is located now opposite the Anchor & Ark). Left: Jelly House, Boston Fruit man, Lai's Restaurant which occupies the spot where Nickerson's Monumental Works used to be...

- September 1952 -

Seventy-five Years Ago
October 7, 1874
Marble Working

We learn with pleasure that Mr. Reuben Nickerson, our townsman, has decided to resume his business of marble working in this place. Mr. Nickerson's skill in this art, at which he served a faithful apprenticeship with one of the best workmen in Boston, is generally accorded by all acquainted with him, and we regard his establishment as a valuable acquisition to the town. In every business and calling, we like to see home talent patronized and we hope our people, who are intending to have marble work done, will consult Mr. Nickerson, whose excellent taste and his desire to please those who patronize him, will, we hope, afford him all the business he can attend to.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1957

Looking Back Over The Years Into Cape Cod's Colorful Past

By Gustavus Swift Paine

Mr. Paine will welcome comment, information or questions addressed to him in care of The Advocate.



Born December 15, 1818 in Provincetown, Atkins Nickerson was a son of Elisha Nickerson and Bethiah Atkins. At fifteen he made his voyage for the first time to Bay Chaleur, New Brunswick, cod fishing. When he was twenty-two he was captain of the cod fishing schooner Caroline. Later for twenty-five years he was a whaling captain in the North and South Atlantic.

The Whalemens' Shipping List of New Bedford doubtless showed much about the vessels he commanded and their voyages. I have so far noted only that in 1853 he was captain and at least part owner of the schooner Walter Irving. On June 23, 1853, after sailing April 27th, it, or she, had 80 barrels of whale oil. Other Provincetown whaling families were the Cooks, the Bowleys, the Sopers, the Hilliards, the Alstrums.

In Provincetown meanwhile and later Captain Nickerson was busy in ship chandlery and outfitting and in many other activities. He was a partner in Eben S. Smith & Co., R. E. & A. Nickerson & Co.; and in the Central Wharf Co. He was associated with the Seaman's Savings Bank, the Atlantic Mutual Insurance Co., the Equitable Marine Insurance Co., and the Provincetown Steamship Co., of which he was president in 1891.

No one has yet traced carefully the development in Provincetown of marine insurance and legit-

imate salvaging. In these enterprises about a hundred years ago the Hilliards were important. Business relationships in Provincetown, as elsewhere on the Cape, were close, with many conflicts.

Young Captain Atkins Nickerson married February 27, 1842 Hannah Jane Freeman, daughter of John and Phebe Myrick Freeman of Orleans. A son, Walter Irving Nickerson, was born in Brewster July 4, 1850. Who, by

the way, was Walter Irving, for whom Captain Nickerson named a schooner and a son? Captain Nickerson was, of course a Republican and a Universalist.

Walter Irving Nickerson became cashier of the Melrose National bank. Captain Atkins Nickerson died at the home of this son in Melrose March 3, 1899. Walter's son, another Atkins Nickerson, was a graduate of Dartmouth in 1910, and I trust is still living.



Facing East from in front of the Seamen's Savings Bank. Robinson's Clothing Store, left. Third Building is the old Star Theater, now the Bowling Alley. This is the same scene as preceding page, top left. Taken September 1952.

Inventiveness was common on Cape Cod. One of the most illustrious inventors from the Cape was William Emery Nickerson from Provincetown who perfected the Gillette razor and blade.