

"A Cape Code Wreck"
 Made in Germany for J. L. Matherson, Provincetown, Mass.

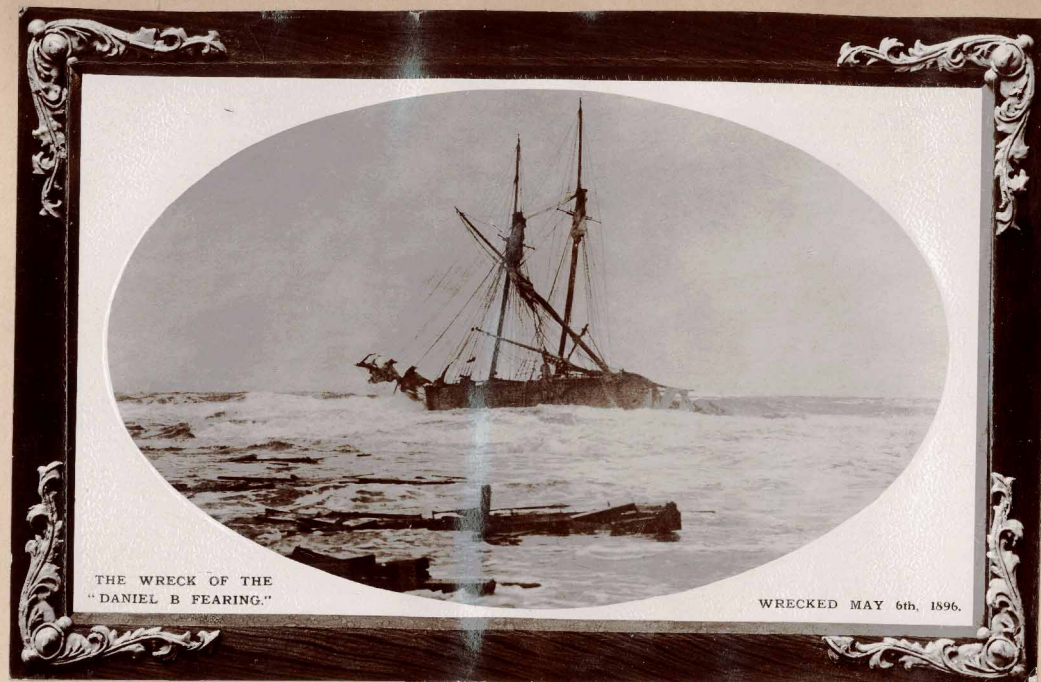
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Provincetown — Officers of the schooner A. Nickerson of this town, wrecked on Matanilla Reef, recently arrived home, and report that the brig Ocean, of Sandwich, took a forty barrel whale in the Bay of Mexico. - 1851



PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

W. G. STIFF



THE WRECK OF THE
 "DANIEL B. FEARING."

WRECKED MAY 6th, 1896.

December 1839

The month of December, 1839, was unusually pleasant to this day—two weeks of mild and clear weather. At midnight a storm of gale velocity blew up, the first of a series of severe storms which made the December of 1839 memorable in New England weather annals. The northshore suffered particularly in the gale of the 15th, but Cape ports were filled with disabled vessels. On the 22nd another severe storm, a northeaster swept the coast, and on the 27th, still another. The last did \$50,000 damage in Provincetown alone, carrying away wharves, inundating cellars, knocking down ten or eleven stores and tearing up many salt works.

15 One of the great historic storms of New England, the gale of 1839, raged this day—a northeaster with rain and snow. It blew up early, and by 2 P.M. snow ceased falling but the wind increased. This morning, while the Rev. John Bovie Dods was preaching the word to his flock in the Universalist Church at Provincetown, word came of the plight of the schooner Independence. Anchored in the harbor, she had bilged and sunk, and her crew of four had taken to the rigging. Parson Dods, a man of action, suspended his service, joined the Provincetown men gathered on shore, and helped man a whaleboat which, each oar double-manned, breasted the breakers to the schooner's side, took off the four men, and deposited them safely on shore. When the great gale of 1839 abated next day 21 vessels were ashore between Eastham and Provincetown. One brig and two schooners went down with all hands; three brigs and a sloop were totally wrecked; the remaining wrecks could be salvaged. Brig Rideout, from Bath, Maine for Matanzas, lost on Peaked Hill bars with all her crew, ten or twelve; brig Austin, sister ship of the Rideout, lost at Peaked Hill but crew saved; brig Carrabassett of Portland, Havana for Boston with 440 hogsheads of molasses, struck at Highland, two lost; so the toll goes, on and on for 21 vessels.

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