



Among the priceless relics at the Provincetown Historical Museum is this Bible from the British man o' war, Somerset, which harried New England during the Revolution, took part in the blockade of Boston, was mentioned in Longfellow's "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," and which was finally wrecked off Peaked Hill and its officers and crew taken prisoners and marched to Boston. Until a few years ago the bones of the stout vessel, wrought of sound English oak could be seen on the Back Shore. A piece of this oak is in the Museum case protecting the Bible.

Historical Museum Attracts Thousands To View Relics And Treasures Of Past

While no attendance records were broken at the Historical Museum this Summer, in August 2,117 adults and 514 children visited this Cape End storehouse of so many treasured relics of Provincetown's past and rare things brought from all parts of the world by the town's famed mariners.

Although the attendance did not reach last year's figures, the visitors were easier to handle and supply with information as they toured the four floors of the museum, now under the supervision of the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, with Arthur H. Bickers as curator and Herman Wheeler as assistant. An increase in the admission fee was probably a deterrent, but there was very little difference in the cash receipts, Mr. Bickers said.

Among the unusual items in the museum which never fail to attract attention is the replica of

a Bhuddist temple in India made of the pith of the cottonwood tree and worked out in amazing detail. Another is a paper-weight, a masterpiece of the glass-blower's art, made in Baccarat, France, now valued at \$1,000. Then there is an 1830 baby's nursing bottle with a sterling silver nipple in the cork. A large case contains more fine, authentic Sandwich glass than will be found in the museum at Sandwich. There are lovely pieces of copper lustre and Wedgewood in that inimitable cobalt shade now impossible to duplicate.

Everyone wants to see the \$3 bill on display and the shell from Jerusalem on which is delicately carved the scene of the Last Supper. As shell collecting is again becoming popular, a great deal of interest is shown in the marvelous collection in the Historical Museum. Curator Bickers said that it has more than 10,000 shells

of which 3,370 are catalogued, and these with notes and sketches were given by Prof. J. Henry Blake of Provincetown for whom shell collecting was a lifetime hobby. He was also a foremost authority on Viking remains in the New World.

On the first floor there is an exceptionally fine model of the Mayflower, the work of the late Mellen C. M. Hatch, engineer and historian, whose West End home was in the Octagon House. The Donald B. MacMillan collection of Arctic relics and explorer's equipment, ranking with any to be found elsewhere, attracts a great deal of interest, Curator Bickers said.

A beautifully wrought cabin gangway with rounded treads, all beautifully carved in a relief rope design, brought out a yarn from the curator, of which he has a large store, to the effect that the gangway came from the Caledonia, a steel vessel bound from Scotland to Boston with a cargo of fine linens. On March 17, 1873, while the vessel was off the tip of Cape Cod and despite a blinding snowstorm, the members of the crew decided to celebrate St. Patrick's birthday with strong Scotch ale. The Caledonia went aground and broke in two. However, a short time later she was patched up and made port with practically all of her cargo and crew. But empty stone bottles which had contained the ale littered the shore and two may be found in the museum, complete with the brewer's label. Mr. Bickers said there should still be Caledonia tablecloths around town. They bore the scene of the Last Supper!

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Somerset's Wreck Provided Plunder

NORTH TRURO—One of the most serious British losses in the Cape area during the Revolution was when the Naval fighting ship Somerset struck a bar not far from the Highland Light here.

It was stranded on the beach and 480 prisoners were captured by the Home Guard and marched through towns the length of the Cape on the way to Boston.

As for the contents of the ship, they had completely disappeared by the time of the sheriff's sale ordered by the General Court.



C. 1443. REMAINS OF ENGLISH FRIGATE, "SOMERSET," BY MOONLIGHT, PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

"Remains of the Somerset wrecked on Cape Cod November 3, 1778 about one mile west of Peaked Hill Bar Life Saving Station. During the Winter of '85 and '86, a portion of hulk was exposed by action of waves, but now lies buried about twenty feet in the sand." (Note on back of this 1908 postcard.)

See article ahead where she was exposed again for the third time.