

Note this postcard was taken by Billy May Smith husband of Nancy Paine.

## First Painter Used Dunes as a Desert

1870

PROVINCETOWN, May 14—Discovery by artists of Provincetown's "paintability" did not come all at once. A Boston painter named Marcus Waterman, pioneer in the discovery, first used Cape-end dunes as a double for the Sahara desert in the '80's and made the sandhills a background for models in Arab costume.

That spreading in vast patches over the dunes of the Lower Cape is reindeer moss—an Arctic lichen thriving in Summer heat on a landscape where no reindeer ever appeared to nibble on the growth which forms much of the animal's diet in the Far North?

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135. SAND DUNES AND SEA, CAPE COD, MASS.