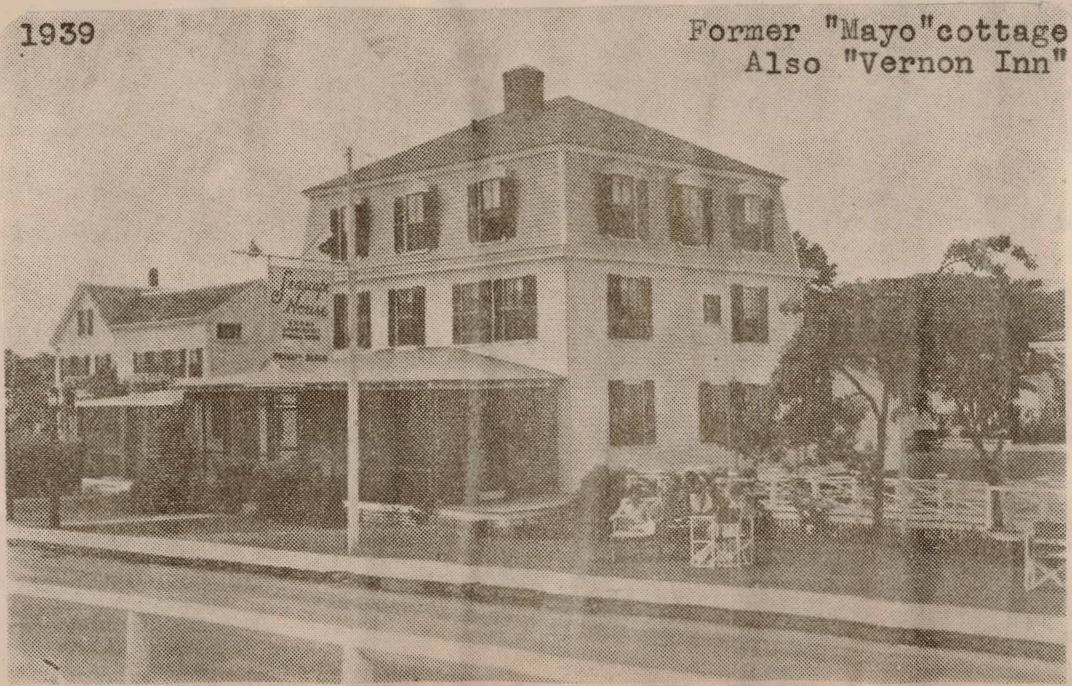


Mayo Cottage, Provincetown, Mass.

Historic Papers Destroyed in Fire

Most of Provincetown's old historic documents were destroyed when the Old Town Hall on High Pole Hill, the site of the present Pilgrim Monument, was burned in the 1870's.



1939

Former "Mayo" cottage
Also "Vernon Inn"

The Seascape House of Gordon Pulver

Now combined with the Kendall Cottage.

56-Cent Fine for Dog

Provincetown voted in 1775 that "for every dog that comes into the meeting house on the Sabbath day in the time of meeting the owner shall pay one-half dollar or kill his dog."

021 (239)

16 Cheated Sea To Return In '98

Came Back After Incredible Journey Rowing Their Dories

Provincetown mourned in May, 1898. The schooner Joseph E. Johnson had arrived with sad news. Sixteen of her crew, fishing on the Grand Banks, had got caught out in their dories in a fog. Days of cruising had been fruitless; the Johnson had found not a single dory. She arrived, all decked in mourning, on May 23. For three days sixteen Provincetown homes knew the awfulness of sudden death, and all Provincetown was filled with sadness.

On May 26, around Long Point, came a small fleet of dories. Into the harbor came the fleet. In it were every one of the 16 missing men. It seemed like a fairy tale to watchers on shore who knew, before the first dory reached shore, that the Johnson's men were at the oars. It was almost incredible. Had the fishermen landed in Nova Scotia, 200 miles from the Grand Banks, it might have made sense, and news would have come by the "magnetic telegraph" which would have put at rest all fears.

But here, many hundreds of miles south of the Banks, came the fishermen. They told this story:

Lost in the fog, unable to find the Johnson, blowing their fog horns until hope seemed lost, the men finally rounded up their eight dories and strung them together. Thus they remained for two days. Then the fog lifted. Abandoning two of the dories and distributing the men among others of the small fleet, they started the long pull to Le Havre, N. S., about 200 miles distant.

For food they had a small quantity of hardtack. This was soon exhausted, and they got down to a diet of raw fish. Then by great good luck along came the Norwegian bark China, Captain Anderson, Hamburg for New York. He took the 16 Provincetown men and their dories, and proceeded toward his destination. Subsequently the China fell in with the Boston schooner I. B. Merritt, homeward bound. Nine miles off Race Point the Merritt discharged her passengers and their dories, and triumphantly they rowed into Provincetown.