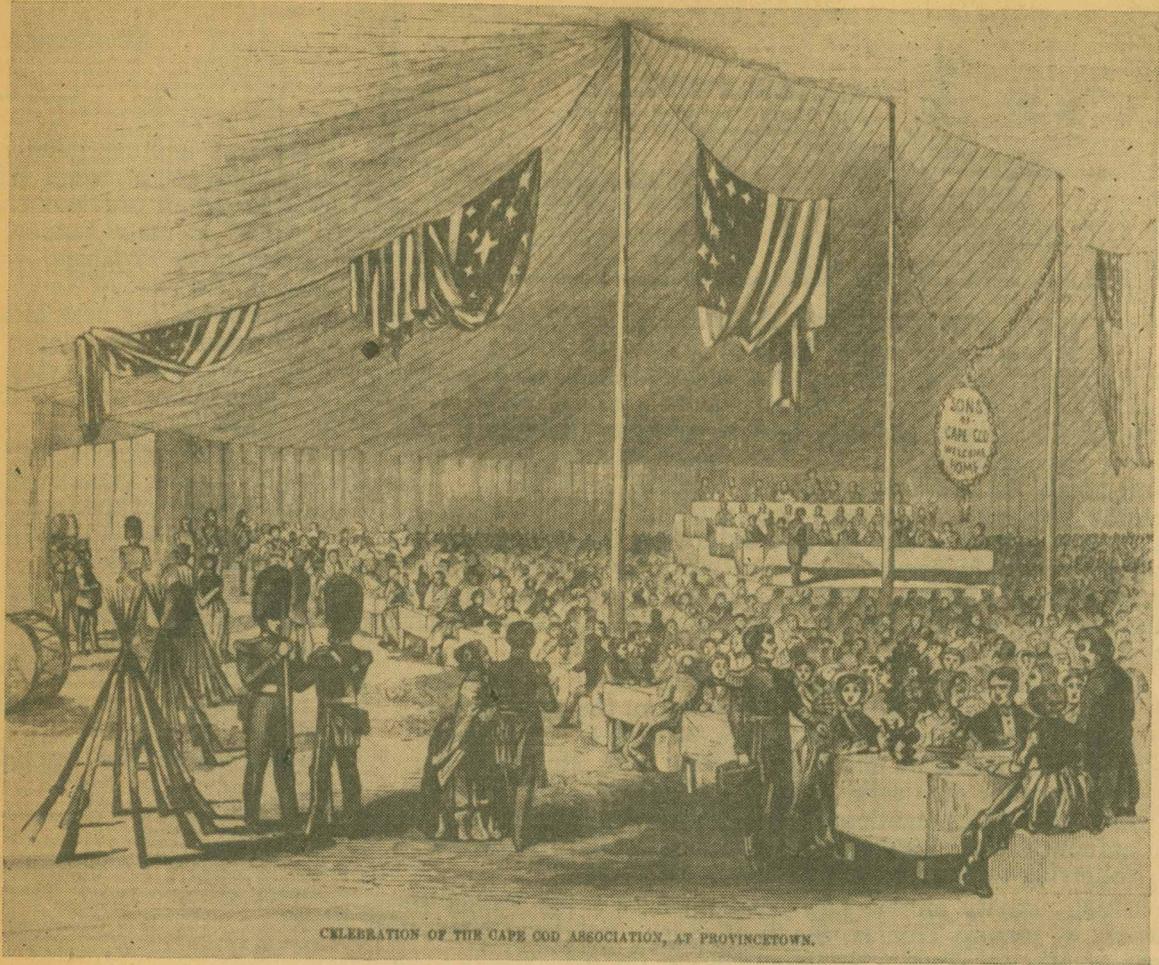


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Great Homecoming Brought 2,000 Together In 1852



CELEBRATION OF THE CAPE COD ASSOCIATION, AT PROVINCETOWN.

Reproduction of sketch in Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion showing "new and splendid pavilion of John Wright, the celebrated caterer" and part of the great assembly of 2,000 sons of Cape Cod gathered together in Provincetown "returned with joy to the parental household". Above reproduction made possible through the courtesy of Donald G. Trayser, Clerk of Barnstable County Superior Court, former editor of Barnstable Patriot and Barnstable County historian.

The New England Guards, accompanied by the Boston Brigade Band, performed escort duty by invitation. The picture which our artist sketched for us on the spot, of the interior of the mammoth tent, makes a striking scene. The pavilion was pitched on an eligible spot in the northwestern section of the town, although one was obliged to plod through heaps of sand, before reaching it. It is a large and beautiful tent, one of the handsomest ever pitched, and is capable of accommodating 3500. On the present occasion it was set for the accommodation of 2,000, that being the number of plates laid. Hundreds of ladies and gentlemen visited it to view and admire the admirable arrangements of the tables and the neat and substantial appearance they presented. The steamer Eastern City arrived at the Central Wharf in Provincetown,

with the party, promptly. They were met upon the wharf by the members of the town, the firemen in a neat uniform, and the members of the Odd Fellows Lodge, in full regalia. Godfrey Ryder, Jr., Esq., officiated as chief marshal. He introduced the selectmen and speaker of the day to the chief marshal of the Cape Cod Association, John L. Dimmick, Esq., who in turn introduced the gentlemen to Hon. Lemuel Shaw, the president. James Gifford, Esq., in behalf of the citizens of Provincetown, welcomed the association in a speech of exceeding beauty, brief, but to the point. He reminded the members of the ancient glory of their fathers; of their toil and sufferings, of their virtues, of their immortality; and he implored them never to forget with what a price their prosperity, happiness and lib-

erties had been purchased. To this address, Chief Justice Shaw, in behalf of the association, responded in an eloquent and feeling manner. We come, he said, like children of a large household, who have wandered from the old roof tree, actuated by a desire to elevate ourselves by the pursuits of industry, but come like children, who, wherever they have wandered, have never, for a moment, forgotten the land of their birth. We return with joy to the parental household, to cultivate and strengthen those ties which belong to a common brotherhood. Once more, in behalf of the association, the goodly company which he represented, he thanked the citizens of Provincetown for the cordial and sincere welcome which had been extended to them. After these ceremonies, the procession was

formed, the New England Guards, with the Brigade Band, acting as escort, marched through the whole length of the town, countermarching to the pavilion. The procession was quite lengthy, and we were pleased to see embraced all the school children of the town. The number of spectators was very large, for, in addition to the members brought from every quarter by packets, yachts and boats, the steamer Naushon brought a large number from Barnstable, and the Granite State about four hundred from Boston. The procession entered the pavilion at 3:30 o'clock, where the Cape Cod Association, with invited guests, sat down to a liberal and sumptuous repast. A most convivial and happy occasion it proved. Toasts, speeches, song and sentiment interspersed the ceremonies, and the whole passed off with distinguished success.

1901

Suggested 50 Years Ago

One of the major aims of the recently organized Provincetown Pilgrims Association is the construction of full-size replica of the Mayflower and anchor her in Provincetown Harbor. Just to prove there is really nothing new, here is an excerpt from a report, 50 years ago, in the Yarmouth Register:—

At the annual meeting of the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial association in Provincetown various suggestions were made as to the methods of creating an interest throughout the country in the movement to erect a monument on High Pole hill in commemoration of the first landing of the Pilgrims in Cape Cod harbor and the adoption of the memorable compact of government. Among other suggestions was one to build and anchor in the place where the Mayflower swung at anchor, where the compact was signed, and where Peregrine White was born, a reproduction of the old ship in as close an imitation as is possible in exterior and interior.