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- June 1, 1959 -

The day of the general store in Provincetown will shortly come to an end, when on June 1st Shaw's store on Commercial Street in the East End closes its doors. Mr. and Mrs. John Shaw, having recently sold their property, which houses the store, expect to move to the Onset area. What has been called for several years Shaw's Old Timer Store, was once "Freeman's General Store: A Little of Everything," and before that it was Josiah Swift's General Store. In the late 1930's Irv Freeman had run the store for over twenty years and had bought it from Josiah Swift, who made his money by dealing in iron junk. Josiah himself ran the store faithfully for thirty-five years. When Irv Freeman ran the store the two big windows displayed socks, gloves, lanterns, pie plates, magazines, crockery, sprinkling cans, oil cans, cakes, lawn grass seed, soap flakes, furniture polish, beer pails, flashlights, buckets, gasoline cans, axes, shovels, hoes, soap, paper cups, baking powder, vaseline, lemon squeezers, dog food, pudding flavor, Boston brown bread, canned peas, ink, peaches and animal crackers. And this was only a smattering, it seems, for inside on the shelves was an assortment of merchandise ranging from fish hooks to cage anchors, from patent medicines to bathtub stoppers. Irv ran his store for seven days a week during all his years in business and so the story goes was even excused from jury duty on the ground that public convenience would suffer if he put up his shutters and citizens would roam the streets in a vain search for artificial fish bait and safety pins. The store wasn't self-service, but it certainly was the super market of its time. Till the end of the month John Shaw is selling out his entire stock. We'd venture to say that you might find some treasure of the days of Irv Freeman, or possibly even from the times of Josiah Swift. For no proprietor of a general store ever really knows what's hidden behind that can on the top shelf or in that barrel way at the back . . .

October 20, 1960

Funeral Friday For Irv Freeman

Alpheus Irving Freeman, 85, whose former home was at 210 Bradford Street, passed way shortly after noon Tuesday at the Barnstable County Hospital, Pocasset. Mr. Freeman, who had been in ill health for some time, had been hospitalized since October 8. He was descended from one of the oldest families in Provincetown, and was a retired merchant, machinist and carpenter. He was also well-known along the shore, and was owner of his

own pleasure craft which he piloted to Florida. At an early age he was one of two who took down the tall steeple of the old Center Methodist Church.

The general store which bore his name, located at 491 Commercial Street, was particularly noted for its marine line. Mr. Freeman was proprietor of the store for many years, during his later years. The shop now houses the East End Gallery. He also operated a machine shop and a carpenter shop.

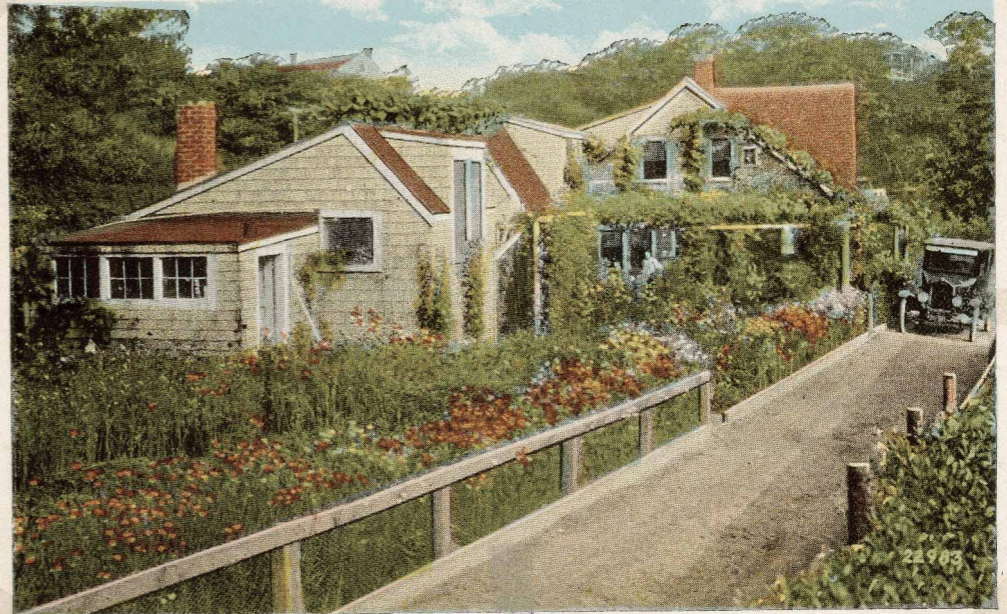
Born in Provincetown, the son of Prince I. and Dorinda (Cook) Freeman, he was married in November, 1899 to the late Alice Atherton (Adams) Freeman, who died 21 years ago. Survivors include

a daughter, Mrs. Louise Philibotte of North Wilbraham, and a sister, Miss Faustina Freeman of New Brunswick, N. J.; 2 grandsons, a granddaughter and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Nickerson Funeral Home with the Rev. Gilman L. Lane officiating, with interment in the family lot in the Provincetown Cemetery. Friends may call at the Nickerson Funeral Home today between 2 and 5 this afternoon and 7 and 8 tonight.

Instead of flowers friends are asked to send donations to the Barnstable County Hospital in Pocasset.

Cesco's Italian Restaurant and Garden, Provincetown, Mass.



- 1921 -



47 A PICTURESQUE LANE, PROVINCETOWN, CAPE COD, MASS.

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A little lane opposite Freeman's Store. About 1921 House at end of lane is Chesco's. See articles on Back Street at that point.