



An old Stereoscopic view card of the old Town Hall on High Pole Hill (Burned down 1873). This card is probably from an old print and about 1900

NOTICE BY ORDER OF THE SELECTMEN, 1836
 Any person or persons caught playing ball or other plays so that they disturb the Publick Highway, in the Town of Provincetown, shall be under penalty of one dollar for each and every offense.
 Samuel Soper
 Seth Nickerson, Jr.
 Nathan Freeman, 2nd
 Selectmen

TOWN MEETING PROVINCE-TOWN, MAR. 5, 1833.
 Voted: that each and every person chosen at this meeting to serve in any office in town this year where on Oath is required, shall take that Oath to serve said office or pay a fine. . . .
 Voted: that the Selectmen protect Henry Bickford from all riotous persons, if possible the ensuing year. . . .

PUBLISHED IN THE PROVINCETOWN BANNER, 1861

Certain appointments by Mr. Banks do not seem to be relished in this quarter. Our sea-faring folks seem to think that a man might have been found among the mariners better fitted for Pilot Commissioner, for instance, than a Boston trader; and that possibly the Cape might have furnished a man for State Inspector of fish who would understand the business quite as well as a shoemaker of Waltham. We are not yet prepared to speak of the qualifications of the parties alluded to; but it looks as though these may have received their appointments as reward for partisan services, solely, while men better qualified, and good Republicans, too, have been thrust aside. We certainly have hoped of fair things of Mr. Banks in this respect and trust that these appointments may be satisfactorily explained. We see no objection to Mr. Banks doing a good thing for a friend but then it should not be said that certain appointments "are not fit to be made". Does Mr. Swift know the difference between a brig and a barque? And does the new Inspector recognize the difference between a mackerel and a "pogy".

COPY OF THE WARRANT TO CALL A TOWN MEETING TO VOTE FOR A FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE, JAN. 17, 1779:
 To Seth Nickerson, Constable of the Town of Provincetown, Greeting: You are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to Notify and warn the male inhabitants of the Town of Provincetown, of twenty-one years of age and upward, have a freehold estate within the Commonwealth of the annual income of three pounds, or any estate to the value of sixty pounds, to meet at the meeting house, on Thursday, the seventeenth Day of Jan. Y. next at ten of the clock in the forenoon to give their votes for a Federal Representative in the Congress of the United States agreeable to the Constitution of the said Commonwealth given under our hands at said Provincetown this seventh day of Jan. Y. 1799.
 STEPHEN NICKERSON,
 JOSIAH NICKERSON,
 Selectmen.

Voted: Mar 1, 1819
 That Overseer of the Poor should school the children of Poor Widows and Paupers at least 3 months in the year, either summers or winters and pay for the same out of the Town Treasury

HE VOTED HIS SENTIMENTS
 Dennis S. was well known for his Irish wit and ready repartee. The person who attempted to ridicule him in an argument was sure to come off second best. At town meeting when a vote was taken on the license question, Dennis marched boldly up to the ballot box hold his vote so that everyone could see the big "Yes" printed on it. When the votes were counted his was the only yes vote cast. Considerable laughter and chaffing were indulged in by the crowd, but Dennis, taking it in his stride, replied, "Begorra byes, I voted me sintiments onahow." When it came to voting for an appropriation on Temperance, \$300 was called for. Dennis quietly waiting his chance to get even, rose to his feet and said: "Musther Moderator, if it is in order, I would like to make an amindmint to that motion. I move you, sir, that it be fufy dollars instead of three hundred; according to the vote on license, I am the only man in town that drinks whiskey. I'll guarantee that I can be kept straight for fufy dollars, making a clane saving to the town of \$250. This brought down the house. When quiet was restored, the vote was taken and the article carried without the "amindment." Dennis then rose and said, "I know domed well, some of yees voted aginst yer principles."

New Beacon - February 24, 1960
 Reading through an old 1910 Town Report, we became intrigued with what was occupying the voters of Provincetown 50 years ago. The warrant for the annual Town Meeting, held on February 14th that year, was composed of only 10 Articles, which included voting for Town officials. Town meetings convened at 9 o'clock in the morning and we note that among others Myrick C. Young and John Manta were sworn in as Ballot Clerks and George F. Miller, Sr., was chosen Moderator by unanimous vote. Business of the morning session was made up mainly of hearing reports of various boards and committees, with the meeting adjourning to Caucus Hall at 11 a. m. for voting on Town officers including 3 Fence Viewers, 3 Surveyors of Wood, Bark and Lumber, and 2 Field Drivers. Balloting occupied the townsfolk until 5 o'clock. During the evening session John Adams, George Bowley and A. D. Young were appointed a committee to look into the layout of a Town Landing and the meeting progressed to voting on the Budget. Included were such items as Fire Department, \$2,100; Police Department, \$1,000; Public Library, \$500; Watering the Streets, \$350, and Public Schools, \$13,000 with \$1,200 being appropriated for School Incidentals and Repairs, bringing the total 1910 Budget appropriations to \$34,856.62. Vital statistics for the year include 43, marriages, 139 births and 87 deaths. Having been under the impression the old-timers lived to a ripe old age we were surprised at the large percentage of babies and young people in their 20's and 30's who died that year. Reuben O. Kelley, Chief of Police, reported 49 arrests with \$289 being collected in Fines. Our most vivid recollection of Chief Kelley is his hat, which resembled the tall, round-domed hats worn by the Keystone Cops; an awesome and impressive sight from a youngster's point of view. Folks must have been unusually cautious because there were only eight fires listed in the report of the Fire Engineers. At the end of their report is a notice reading: "When one rings a church bell in case of an actual fire and one piece of apparatus is used, he is allowed \$1.00, school bells 50 cents." Fire Engineers were James H. Barnett, Louis A. Law, T. Julian Lewis, James E. Callahan and Albert W. Fuller. And just in case you think those weren't the good old days, please note: the tax rate in 1910 was set at \$22.70 per \$1,000!