



-- September 1944 --

All that remains of the Cape Cod Oil Works and brig alongside. Pilgrim Monument, left. Long Point Lighthouse, straight ahead. Forts Useless and Ridiculous, rt, (see their history on next page.)

AUGUST 6, 1953

Do You Know ?

WHY TWO FLAT-TOPPED MOUNDS STAND ON LONG POINT?

Twice in the last 200 years Provincetown was a ruined and almost deserted town. During the Revolution and again during the War of 1812 British ships rendezvoused in our harbor, blockaded the coast, and forcibly discouraged the fishing so important to Provincetown's economy. Between 1813 and 1860 the town prospered; its schooners sailed by the hundreds to farm the fishing grounds; but always Cape Cod's exposed and vulnerable position remained a threat in time of war.

In 1857 "to be nearer the fishing" a sizeable part of Provincetown lay on Long Point. Some thirty dwellings plus stores, salt works, even a schoolhouse, clustered along the shore of Lobster Pain (a tidal inlet empty at low tide) between Long Point and Wood

End. Then came the Civil War and renewed danger of blockade and bombardment.

This time, in what seems to have been only a gesture, the people prepared to defend themselves. Two imposing breastworks of earth were thrown up, probably to conceal and protect artillery commanding the narrowest part of the harbor entrance.

Later the entire Long Point colony moved back to Provincetown proper, floating the houses on barges, with "the people living within and the smoke curling up from the chimney". Most of the transplanted houses landed in the west end of town*, although the schoolhouse went to the center and became a department store. Today nothing is left of the Long Point settlement but decaying wreckage and the grass-grown remains of the breastworks where nothing stayed to be defended.

*where they multiplied, judging by the number of claimants who say their houses "originally came from Long Point".

J. D. B.



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A close-up of the wharf and brig in above picture. Standpipe and Monument in the center.