

**BARNSTABLE AND YARMOUTH,  
SEA CAPTAINS AND SHIP  
OWNERS. LIST OF SAILINGS  
FROM NEW ENGLAND TO SAN  
FRANCISCO, 1849-1856**

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Barnstable and Yarmouth, Sea Captains and Ship Owners. List of Sailings from New England to San Francisco, 1849-1856 by Francis William Sprague & Leavitt Sprague

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**FRANCIS WILLIAM SPRAGUE & LEAVITT SPRAGUE**

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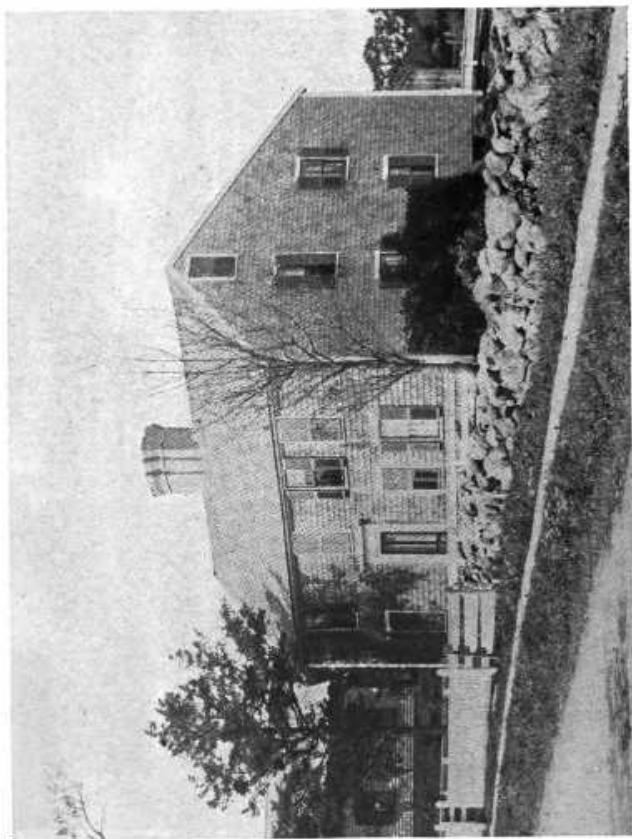


CAPTAIN CALEB SPRAGUE

BARNSTABLE AND YARMOUTH  
SEA CAPTAINS AND SHIP OWNERS

BY

FRANCIS WILLIAM SPRAGUE



**OLD GORHAM HOUSE, BARNSTABLE**

Built about 1690



## BARNSTABLE AND YARMOUTH SEA CAPTAINS AND SHIP OWNERS.

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THE earliest record that I find of Barnstable men engaged in shipping is that of Lieutenant Colonel John<sup>s</sup> Gorham, born 1652, son of Captain John<sup>s</sup> Gorham and Desire Howland. He willed the "Old Gorham House," in Barnstable, to his son Shubael in 1716.

My own notes of the "Early Whaling Industry" in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, are as follows: "The renewed interest in the whaling industry brings to our attention the question as to who first introduced it into New England. In 1897, an old diary written by Colonel John<sup>s</sup> Gorham, in Louisburg, Feb. 20, 1745/6, was sent to me by a Mrs. Sargent of Newburyport. It had been in the Eben Parsons family of Byfield, Mass., for a great many years. Before printing notes from it and making fac-similes of some of its pages, I submitted the\* "Waste Book" to Dr. Samuel A. Green of the Massachusetts Historical Society, who pronounced it genuine and of much interest.

"About whaling first in New England, an old man from Long Island, one Lopez, a Dutchman, that had been used to whaling at Long Island, came to Barnstable and to Cape Cod or Barnstable Bay, then abounding in whales, and my grandfather (Lieutenant Colonel John<sup>s</sup> Gorham) first fixt out with old Lopez, a whaling in y<sup>e</sup> year about 1680.

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\* Waste Book.



"Old Lopez was accounted a sort of a wizard, 'then after sometime y<sup>e</sup> Cape men learnt y<sup>e</sup> Nantucket men to be whalers.' Printed notes of this part of the diary may be found in the *New York Genealogical Record* for July, 1897. During the French and Indian Wars from 1690 to 1745, the 'Barnstable whale boats' were used to land troops along the coast."

With this diary was bound another diary written by the same author in 1737. In it he mentions the "Sloop Neptune, Solomon Davis, Commander." He also states that he, Colonel John<sup>d</sup> Gorham, was master of the brigantine Greenland, Aug. 13, 1737, bound to London. He further made note in his diary\* as follows:

"August 29, 1737 of things to be bought in London.

"To look out for y<sup>e</sup> Gorham's Coat of Armes, came from Huntingtongshire.

"London, October 1737

"Herald's office 7s 6d

"Paid a man for looking out the Gorhams in the city 1s 6d."

It is an historical fact that the Gorhams furnished the vessels that transported the troops from Cape Cod to Louisburg in 1745. This statement is borne out by the following extract from a letter written by Colonel John<sup>d</sup> Gorham to Sir William Pepperell.†

"HALIFAX, July 5, 1751.

"I was importuned by Governor Shirley and desired by your honor and many more of the Council, to raise a number of men and purchase whale boats, and proceed in the expedition, as I did upon condition of my having the liberty of going home (to England) with your honor's packet, in my own sloop as soon as the English flag should be hoisted at Louisburg. But I was disappointed in this, and received no commission in his royal regiment. My father died, and most of his regiment at Louisburg, but I thank you for giving me the commission of Colonel of my father's regiment.'" "In respect to the promise of send-

\* See *Mayflower Descendant*, July, 1903, p. 174.

† From *Parson's Life of Pepperell*, p. 240.

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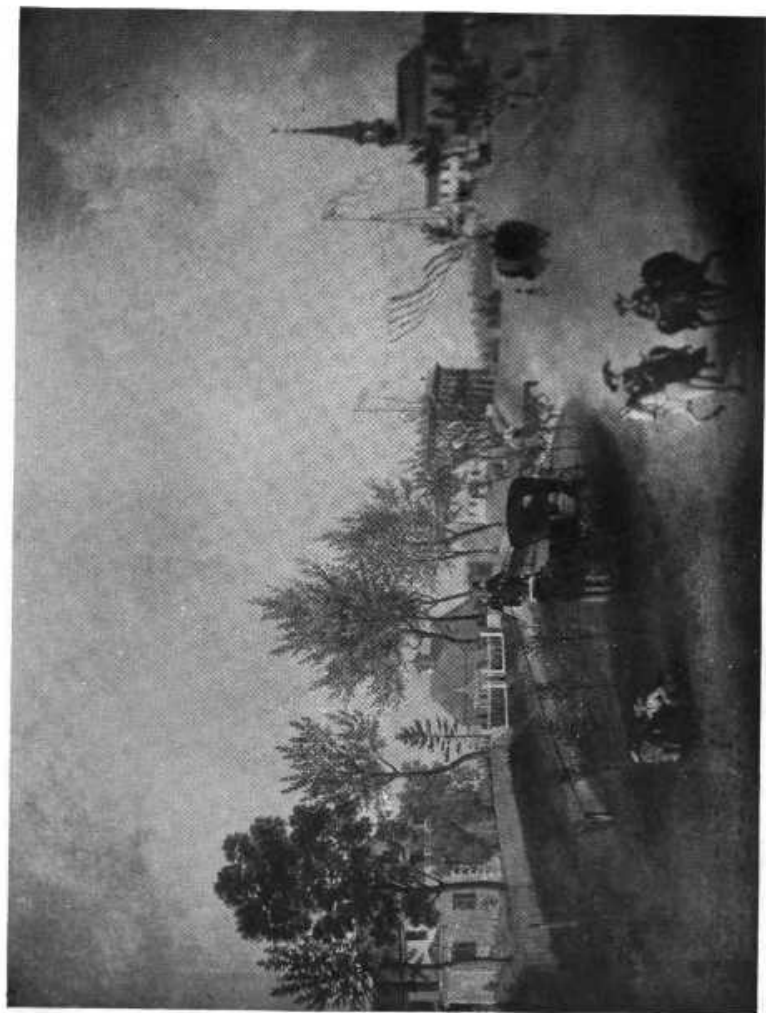
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BARNSTABLE VILLAGE, ABOUT 1850