### SOUVENIR: A LETTER FROM CAPE COD

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649016778

Souvenir: A Letter from Cape Cod by Bradford Sherman

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**BRADFORD SHERMAN** 

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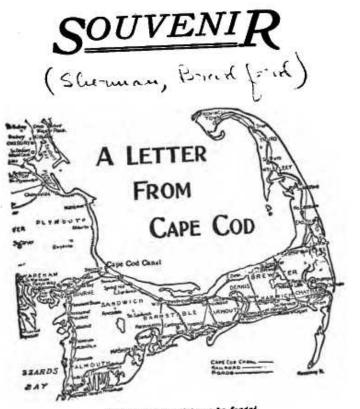
CAPE COD FOLKS

# AN ILLUSTRATED GETTER



TOP OF THE CAPE. FIVE MILES PROM PROFINCETOWN.

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Should old acquaintance be forgot. And never brought to mind?

> ORLEANS, MASS. 1918

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ADDRESS, B. SHERMAN 1949 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD CHICAGO, ILL,

#### PRICE, 50 CENTS

### A LETTER FROM CAPE COD.

Orleans, Mass., Sept. 25th, 1913.

Dear Friend:-

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Having recently visited, on Cape Cod, the home of my youthful days, it occurred to me that a few reminiscences, historical and otherwise, might interest you for a moment. So that is why this letter is written.

Cape Cod is of historic interest, it being the scene of the earliest settlement in New England. It is only a little strip of land stretching out into the Atlantic Ocean, and called, because of its peculiar shape, the Right Arm of Massachusetts. Extending from Provincetown, the tip of the Cape, to Buzzard's Bay, where it joins the body, is a distance of about seventy miles. From whatever direction the winds that sweep across this peninsula may come, they originate in the vast domain of "King Neptune," the Atlantic Ocean, and they are pure, clear and invigorating.

The historic interest of Cape Cod dates from November 11th, 1620, when the "Mayflower" anchored in Provincetown Harbor, and from her cabin was issued the famous Compact signed by the Pilgrim Fathers. This epoch-making document reads as follows:

"In the name of God, Amen.

"We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, etc., have undertaken for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our King and country a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and of one another, covenant and combine ourselves into a civil body politic, for better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid, and by virtue hereof, do enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

"In witness whereof, we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th day of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, King James of England, France and Ireland, the Eighteenth, and of Scotland, the Fifty-fourth, Anno Domini 1620."

The Compact was signed by forty-one persons. For particulars, names and order of signing, see Freeman's History of Cape Cod.

In seeking a location for a permanent settlement the Pilgrims explored the coast in small boats from Provincetown Harbor to Plymouth, where they decided to locate. Tradition says that on their first journey they landed at Bishop's Bluff, now in Eastham, where they camped over night, and, finding corn buried by the Indians, took some of it. Observing this, the watching Indians shot at them, using bows and arrows. The Pilgrims replied with shot-guns, and the Indians ran away in fear. It is claimed that this bluff is the first battle-ground in New England on which white men and Indians contended. Although no blood was shed, it was the beginning of a struggle which continued until a nation of red man had been practically annihilated. This bluff was on the land of the Nauset tribe of Indians.

On the 16th of December, 1620, the Mayflower sailed from her anchorage at Provincetown for the site selected, only a few miles distant. The Indians were on friendly terms with the settlers for many years, and even marriages were consummated between the members of Plymouth Colony and the dusky maidens of the Indian tribes. Mr. John Rolfe and Miss Pocahontas, of Virginia, were not the only couple that originated "first families." Similar alliances were contracted on Cape Cod and all along the shore in Massachusetts. The Indians remained friendly with the settlers until King Philip's War.

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