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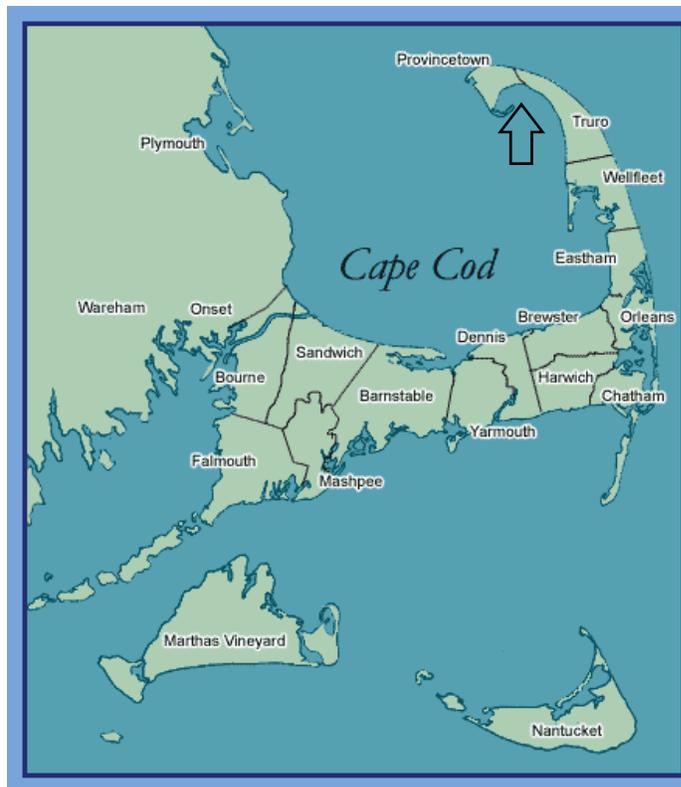
EXTRA THAR SHE BLOWS!

Cape Cod, 11 November 1620 The *Mayflower* is at anchor in the bay of Cape Cod which is a good harbor and pleasant bay, circled round, except in the entrance which is about four miles from land to land, compassed about to the very sea with oaks, pines, juniper, sassafras, and other sweet wood. Every day we see whales playing hard by us.
From "Mourt's Relation" (slightly transposed)

AFTER THE 1620 MAYFLOWER ANOTHER PLYMOUTH MAYFLOWER

In the Mayflower Society's extraordinary *Centennial History – General Society of Mayflower Descendants 1897-1997* compiled and edited by the late Duane A. Cline, three pages in Part 2 are dedicated to *Mayflower* namesakes of the U. S. Navy. It says that the first [modern] *Mayflower* was a screw tug built for the U. S. Navy in 1866 in Chelsea, MA. It also tells the story of the *Mayflower* that became the U.S. presidential yacht after serving as Admiral Dewey's flagship. In the spring issue of this newsletter, we covered various namesakes of the *Mayflower*. A list of 1620 *Mayflower*'s namesakes is also found on the www.SAIL1620.org Discover History – Commemorations page. A new namesake has been "discovered" and its story is retold here.

The *History of the Town of Plymouth*¹ by James Thatcher published in 1835 and *Plymouth Memories of an Octogenarian*² by Plymouth historian William T. Davis published in 1906, both tell the history of the whaling industry in Plymouth. Whales were abundant off of Nantucket in the late 17th century. In *Mourt's Relation*, it is recorded that in November 1620, while the *Mayflower* was anchored in Cape Cod Bay, "[E]very day we saw whales playing hard by us, of which in that place, if we had instruments and means to take them, we might have made a very rich return, which to our great grief we wanted. Our master and his mate, and other experience in fishing, professed we might have made three or four thousand pounds' [sic] of oil. They preferred it before Greenland whale-fishing, and purpose the next winter to fish for whale here."³ We do not know why Plymouth took so long to get into whaling. The Plymouth town government knew the value of whales for, Davis states that in February, 1673, the town ordered that of any whale or its parts



CAPE COD AND CAPE COD BAY

On 11 November 1620 the *Mayflower* was anchored in Provincetown Harbor (note arrow). It would be nearly a month before they discovered what is now known as Plymouth Harbor at the west side of the Bay. Also note the island of Nantucket at lower right.

that were found on the Plymouth beach that would make oil, two of three parts would belong to the town.

The Nantucket whaling industry is well known. In the same year that the Nantucket 238 ton whaler *Essex* was lost in a new whaling area some 2000 miles west of South America⁴, Plymouth launched its first whaler. She carried the name *Mayflower*. Before then, Davis says that "no persistent effort was made in Plymouth to engage in the whale fishery." The larger 345 ton whaler *Mayflower* was built in Berkley (north of Fall River), Bristol Co., MA, for a Plymouth whaling company formed by twenty-three individuals. She sailed for the Pacific in September, 1821, (perhaps to the same area

Continued on page 2

Another *Mayflower* continued

where the *Essex* was lost). Realize that there was no Panama Canal in those days and ships going from the East coast of the U.S. had to go around the southernmost end of South America, the dreaded and stormy Cape Horn. The *Mayflower* did not return until nearly three years later. Aboard were between two and three thousand barrels of oil. An oil and candle factory had been established in Plymouth during her absence and was located between Winslow Street and the shore. The *Mayflower* made two more three-year trips to the Pacific. She was sold in 1830 to a New Bedford owner. Perhaps she is the same *Mayflower* that sailed for three years in the Indian whaling grounds in 1841 and 1845. In 1822 another Plymouth company was formed and it contracted to have a bark built for whaling. Her name: the *Fortune*⁵!

1. *History of the Town of Plymouth from its First Settlement in 1620, to the Present Time with a Concise History of the Aborigines of New England and Their Wars with the English, &c.* by James Thatcher, M.D. A. A. S. (reprint of the 1835 original 2nd edition, Salem, MA: Higginson Book Company, 1991, p. 317-318)

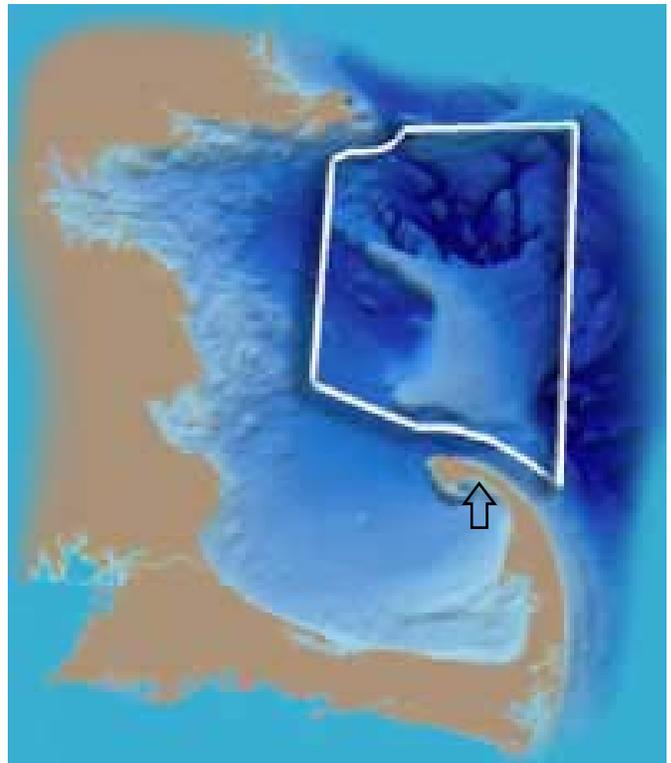
2. *Plymouth Memories of an Octogenarian* by William T. Davis (Plymouth, MA: Bittinger Brothers, 1906, p. 60-61)

3. *Mourt's Relation – A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth.* From the original text published in 1622, edited and with an introduction and notes, by Dwight B. Heath (Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, 1963, p. 16)

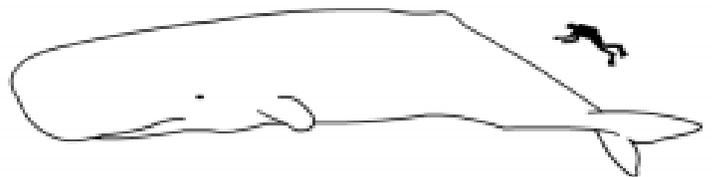
4. For an excellent telling of this tragedy and the ordeal of an adrift crew, read Nathaniel Philbrick's *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whale Ship "Essex."* (New York, NY: Viking, 2001)

5. The first ship to arrive after the *Mayflower* was the *Fortune* in November 1621.

A New Book About Whaling: *Leviathan: The History of Whaling in America* by Eric Jay Dolin (NY: W.W. Norton & Company,



“THAR SHE BLOWS!” Whales are still found in the Cape Cod area. Whale watch boats leave the Town Wharf in Plymouth Harbor for the The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (outlined above) 3 miles north of Cape Cod and 25 miles east of Boston at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay. Whales are also sighted east of Cape Cod. An arrow indicates Provincetown Harbor. *Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary map.*

**The Sperm Whale - The Largest of All Beasts**

(above) The Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) is the largest of all toothed whales and is the largest toothed animal alive, measuring up to 18 meters (60') long. Note the comparative size of the “frogman” at its right. The one that sunk the *Essex* was about 85 feet long. A major source of the oil was from its huge head. Another source was the blubber that is a layer of fat beneath the whale's skin. Before the perfected kerosene lamp (1857), the major use of gas lighting (1859), and electric lighting (1878), tallow, vegetable and animal fat were used for candles and lamps. Sperm oil was found to give a brighter light and burn cleaner with less odor and smoke than other fuels. It was very expensive, however, and sold for about \$2 per gallon (equal to about \$200 today).



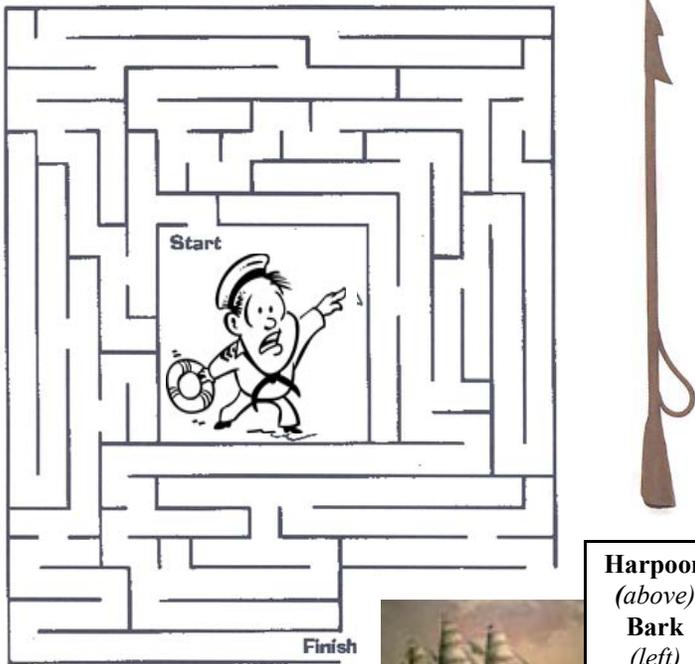
A Whale Oil Lamp

Note the two wicks typical of whale oil lamps.

“The mighty whale doth in these harbours lye,/Whose oyle the careful merchant deare will buy.”

From Rev. William Morrell's 1625 *New England. Or a briefe enarration of the ayre, Earth, Water, Fish, and Fowles of that Country.* This is a result of Morrell's visit to New Plymouth in 1623. He hoped his verse, in both Latin and English, would create interest in others, leading them to venture forth and propagate the Gospel in the New World.

Any comments about this newsletter? The editor would like to hear them. Please address them to Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr., Editor, JR PA Mayflower at 1530 S. Juniper St., Philadelphia, PA 19147-6218 or by e-mail to sbcwjr@comcast.net



Harpoon
(above)
Bark
(left)
Barks have three masts.

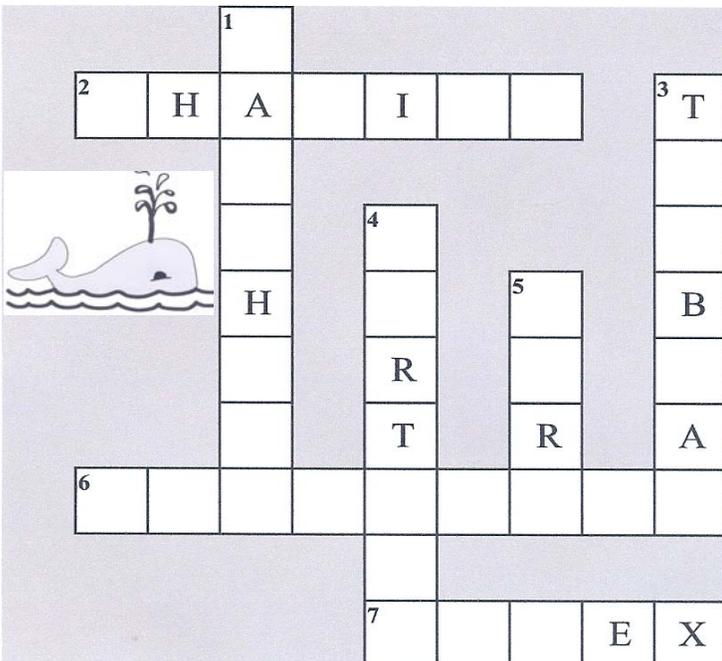
Help the sailor return to his ship.



A WHALE OF A CROSSWORD PUZZLE!

(For 3 grade and older)

Across: 2. The main story of this issue is about? 6. Island south of Chatham, Cape Cod. 7. Ship sunk by a whale.
Down: 1. Tip of South America. 3. First boat the U.S. Navy named for the *Mayflower* was a ? 4. Plymouth's 2nd whaler was called ? 5. The type of ship that was the first Plymouth whaler.



MAYFLOWER 16 X 20 WORDSEARCH

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1620 WORDSEARCH The following words are all found in this issue. Double words (e.g. Fall River) are found as one word. Apostrophes are omitted. Left over letters answer the question "What is the highest monument in the world?"

The Words:
 ANCHORED, BARK, BERKLEY, BLUBBER, BRIGHTER, CAPEHORN, CHELSEA, COMMEMORATIONS, DAVIS, DEWEYS, ESSEX, FALL RIVER, FLAGSHIP, FORTUNE, GREENLAND, HARPOON, HEAD, JUNIPER, KEROSENE, LAMP, MACROCEPHALUS, MARINE, MASTER, MATE, MAYFLOWER, NAMESAKES, NANTUCKET, NAVY, NEW BEDFORD, OAKS, PACIFIC, PROVINCETOWN, SANCTUARY, SASSAFRAS, SPERM WHALE, STELLWAGEN, TALLOW, THAR, THATCHER, TOOTHED, TUG, WINSLOW, YACHT.

The Greek words *physeter* and *macrocephalus* translate in English to "spouter/blower" and "large head(ed)."

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHALING?

Besides Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* and Nathaniel Philbrick's previously mentioned book about the incident that led to the writing of *Moby Dick*, there is the New Bedford (MA) Whaling Museum and the Mystic Seaport (CT) with the last surviving wooden whaler, the 1841 *Charles W. Morgan*.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

1. Cape Horn, 2. Whaling, 3. Tug boat, 4. Fortune, 5. Bark, 6. Nantucket, 7. Essex.

A PAGE TO COLOR

This illustration is called a “pen and ink” drawing. It is by Edward Shenton and from the 1944 Stanley Young children’s book *Mayflower Boy*. The story is a fictional story of a real Pilgrim child, Giles Hopkins, the son of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins. Giles was baptized in Hursley, Hampshire, England on 30 January 1608. Giles (sometimes spelled Gyles) came in the *Mayflower* with his father and step-mother Elizabeth and his sister Constanta. His half-brother Oceanus was born aboard the *Mayflower*.



“WHAT WILL WE FIND ASHORE?” ABOARD THE *MAYFLOWER* IN CAPE COD HARBOR, NOVEMBER 1620

Edward Shenton (1895-1977), the illustrator who drew the above, illustrated first editions of books written by such famous authors as Ernest Hemingway (*Green Hills of Africa*), F. Scott Fitzgerald (*Tender is the Night*), Marjorie Rawling (*The Yearling*), and books by Thomas Wolfe, William Faulkner, and the Australian master mariner and author Alan Villiers who was to become the captain of the 1957 ship *Mayflower II* on its voyage from England to Plymouth, MA. Edward Shenton illustrated more than 50 children’s and juvenile books. He taught illustration at the Academy of Fine Arts and the Moore College of Art, both in Philadelphia, PA. He was also a prolific author and poet. One of his longer poems, *Builders of America*, became a patriotic cantata that was performed and recorded by the Philadelphia Orchestra, with the actor Claude Raines as narrator. *Illustration used with permission of Edward H. Shenton, son of the late Edward Shenton.*
