

# Whaling Once Thrived Here

Whaling was once a considerable business in this city.

In the mid eighties, 20 ships, barks, and brigs, were either owned by city residents or sailed from this port to carry on the oil cargo business.

The vessels used a wharf, called Pardee and Young's or earlier Oil Company's Wharf, which was located off Davol Street. Here, the vessels fitted for their transoceanic cruises or unloaded their cargoes.

The business was confined to a period from 1832 to 1862. After that, the ships found a more lucrative enterprise in transporting gold hunters to California.

Of the whalers known to this port, there were nine ships, six barks, and five brigs.

The barks were three-masted vessels and the brigs were of the two-masted variety. The ships were of sizes larger than the other two classes.

The largest whaler ever to set sail from here was the ship Holder Borden, which weighed 442 tons. The smallest was the brig Taunton, 103 tons.

## First Whaleship

The first whaleship to sail from this port was the Gold Hunter. It sailed nine voyages and later was sold to, coincidentally, carry gold hunters in the succeeding business.

One of the most interesting stories in connection with industry is told of the Holder Borden.

After sailing from this port in November, 1842 for oil in the Pacific Ocean, all went well until the vessel was wrecked on an uncharted island in April. It went to the bottom with 1,600 barrels of valuable oil.

Some of the crew managed to get ashore and thus save some of the oil cargo and provisions.

Salvaging some of the ship's lumber and tools too, they then set

# North End's Named for

Bowenville in the North End derived its name from one of the oldest families in the city, the Bowens.

They were forefathers of the present Bowen family, which continues prominent in affairs of Fall River. They are Treasurer J. Whitney Bowen of the Bourne Mills, Councillor Edward H. Bowen and Harold C. Bowen, the latter two identified with the Joseph A. Bowen Co., fuel dealers.

The first Bowen, Abraham, was a great-great-great-grandfather of the present family and served as first postmaster of Fall River, from 1816 to 1824. Another Abraham Bowen was a great-great-grandfather, whose brother, James G. Bowen, succeeded the elder Abraham in the postmastership, becoming the second to hold the position.

One member of the family in

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about constructing a new schooner. One of their tools was a saw made from a barrel hoop.

## Schooner Is Launched

On Sept. 14, five months later, they launched the schooner Hope which was 45 feet in length on deck, 13 feet wide, and had a draught of three feet.

Although heavily ballasted, she fell over twice before being finally rigged.

Taking 25 of the crew, the captain then set out for Honolulu where he bought a new ship under the name of Captain Nathan Duffee. He returned to the island, picked up the missing crew and made sail for this city.

They arrived here on July 8, 1845—33 months after her departure.

In 1862, the bark Benjamin Franklin left on her maiden voyage and her return marked the end of the whaling industry here.