

Manuscript Edition 197

Transcribed by Elizabeth Witherell, May 2014

Black text is in ink in the manuscript; gray text is in pencil. Thoreau's changes and additions are in a smaller type size. Bracketed material is supplied by the transcriber.

[recto page]

should look over the rail 273

in that manner, if they

had not been looking them-

selves. As he walked away,

it appeared to me

~~I thought~~ that he came

[I thought *canceled in pencil*]

out of that scrape with

much the cleanest breast of

the two, and that he could

have made an effective ap- [ual *written in pencil over ive of effective*]

peal from human to divine justice

Still as far as

we could see behind us

across the Bay, we saw the

white sails of the mackerel

fishers hovering round Cape

Cod,--and when they were

all hull-down, and the

low extremity of the Cape was

also down, their white sails

still appeared on both
sides of it, around where
it had sunk, ~~like a city~~
~~on the ocean~~, proclaiming
the rare qualities of Cape
Cod Harbor.

[like . . . ocean *canceled in pencil*]

After leaving far on
one side Manomet Point
in Plymouth, and the Scit-
uate shore, we neared

[After . . . shore, *boxed and canceled in pencil*]

[W *written in pencil over w of we*]

[verso page]

[Mild] as it was on [sh]ore the wind

was cold & piercing on the water.

I was struck by the dif. of temperature on sea and land.
for Prov.--

still greater
was the change
in the summer

[S]o also ^ When I left Boston ^ in the steam-
last

boat the 25th of June ~~this summer~~,
it was a day on shore
~~the weather was~~ quite warm ^ and

[this summer *canceled in pencil*]

promised to be warmer still ~~as the~~

~~day advanced~~. People were dressed

in their thinnest clothes and

sat under their umbrellas on

{*illegible*}

{*illegible*} *written and canceled in pencil*

deck. When we were fairly out

on the Bay such as had only thin

coats were suffering with the

cold, and eagerly sought the shelter

of the pilots house, & the warmth

of the chimney. But when we

approached the harbor of Province-

town, I was astonished to perceive

what an influence that low

and narrow strip of sand, only

a mile or two in width, had on

the temperature (of the air) for

many miles around. We penetra-
atmosphere

ted into a sultry ~~air~~ in the harbor

[*air canceled in pencil*]

where our thin coats were once more
in fashion, and found the inhabitants
sweltering on shore.

I would warn those who have a sea voyage
to make, however short & however warm ^{the day on shore} ~~it may be~~ [it may *canceled in pencil*]
~~on shore~~, to carry their thickest clothing with them. [on shore *canceled in pencil*]

Leaving far on one side Manomet Pt
in Plymouth [and] the Scituate shore[,] we neared the

NB: Recto and verso have been determined by comparing the sequence of the contents
with *Cape Cod*, edited by Joseph J. Moldenhauer (Princeton: Princeton University
Press, 1988), pp. 205-206.

Description of the contents of the manuscript leaf in set 197 of the Manuscript Edition of *The Writings of Henry David Thoreau*, ed. Bradford Torrey and Francis H. Allen, 20 vols. Manuscript Edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin and Company, 1906) owned by the Bibliothèque Nationale de France

One leaf, framed in paper; text in Thoreau's hand on both sides

The final published version of the contents of this leaf can be found on pp. 205-206 in *Cape Cod*, edited by Joseph J. Moldenhauer (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1988).

Composition history of *Cape Cod*

The basic narrative of *Cape Cod* follows the events of Thoreau's first trip there with Ellery Channing in October 1849. By December 1849 he had written a lecture about the trip, which he delivered at the Concord Lyceum in two installments, on January 23 and 30, 1850. He compressed the account into one lecture and delivered that in South Danvers, Massachusetts, on February 18, 1850.

Thoreau traveled again to Cape Cod, this time alone, in June 1850. After returning from that trip, he revised his lecture to incorporate new information. He gave the revised lecture on December 6, 1850, in Newburyport, Massachusetts; January 1, 1851, in Clinton, Massachusetts, and January 15, 1851, in Portland, Maine.

Thoreau did not lecture about Cape Cod again, but he continued to work on the story in 1851 and well into 1852, turning it into a multi-chaptered account for publication. In November 1852, Thoreau sent the first three chapters—a hundred pages of manuscript, which Thoreau said was less than half of the whole thing—to George William Curtis, one of the editors of a new monthly magazine, *Putnam's*. The first four chapters were published in three installments starting in June 1855. In August, *Putnam's* discontinued the serialization.

Thoreau continued to work on the Cape Cod manuscript until his death in May 1862, adding a few details from his July 1855 and June 1857 trips to the Cape, as well as a good deal of historical material and information about natural history. *Cape Cod* was not published in book form until 1865. For a full account of the composition and publication of this material, see Moldenhauer's "Historical Introduction," *Cape Cod* 1988, pp. 249-296, from which the above summary has been drawn.

Manuscript leaf in set 197

Most of the contents of this leaf are in ink. There are some revisions in pencil, and Thoreau numbered the recto of the leaf “273” in pencil.

The recto page (“should look over the rail . . . uate shore, we neared”) was probably part of Thoreau’s first lecture version, delivered in January and February 1850. He is describing the October 1849 return from Provincetown to Boston in the steamer *Naushon*. The careful handwriting and spacing on this page are characteristics seen in other surviving lecture manuscripts, which are written on only one side of the page.

The material on the verso (“[Mild] as it was on [sh]ore the wind . . . in Plymouth [&] the Scituate shore we neared the”) contains a reference to Thoreau’s second trip, in June 1850: Thoreau writes, “When I left Boston for Prov.--in the steamboat the 25th of June this summer”. He must have added this material to the leaf after June 1850. He revises part of this passage, in pencil, to read “the 25th of June last summer”: that revision probably dates from 1851 or 1852, and it is likely that some of the other revisions in pencil date from the same period.

From surviving accounts of Thoreau’s Cape Cod lectures, it seems that his topics were concentrated in what appear in the book as the first five chapters (see Bradley P. Dean and Ronald Wesley Hoag, “Thoreau's Lectures before Walden: An Annotated Calendar” in *Studies in the American Renaissance 1996*, ed. Joel Myerson [Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1996], pp. 185-196). If that was the case, Thoreau probably composed the material on the verso page of this leaf and revised it and the material on the recto in 1851-1852 as part of preparing *Cape Cod* for publication. The number of revisions suggests that this is not fair copy, prepared for *Putnam’s*, but a draft stage preceding the fair copy—he would have added the penciled page number, “273,” late in the process, as part of keeping the draft in order.

Thoreau continued to work on *Cape Cod*, and at his death he left a manuscript that was between 360 and 400 pages long (see *Cape Cod* 1988, p. 305). The passage on this leaf appears late in the last chapter of *Cape Cod*: if this leaf were from final stage of Thoreau’s work on the book, the page number would be in the upper 300s.

Transcription and notes by Elizabeth Witherell, 5/28/2104