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The Cape Cod Association Gifts Large Collection to Cape Cod Community College

YARMOUTHPORT – Woody Foster, Board President of the Cape Cod Association, is pleased to announce that the Cape Cod Association's collection of historical records has found a permanent home at the William B. Nickerson Cape Cod History Archives at Cape Cod Community College.

For over a century, the organization's documents, including its constitution and meeting records have been handed from one board president to the next. Mr. Foster said that Sally Walker Helwig, Treasurer of the Cape Cod based non-profit, was instrumental in seeking out the best location for this significant collection. For over 25 years, her father, Rufus F. Walker, former President of the Association's Board of Directors stored these records in their family home in South Harwich. In 2005, they were professionally archived with the intention of being made available to the public. The collection, which showcases records from 1851 through 1969, includes meeting minutes, the original leather bound constitution written in 1851, newspaper clippings, scrolls, pictures and correspondence as well as student records including applications, report cards and correspondence.

"After consulting with local historical researchers, we believe that the Nickerson Archives is the ideal place to permanently house this important collection given its newly developed state of the art storage vault and its significant collection of Cape Cod historical records. We are also very pleased that the Nickerson Archives plans to digitize portions of our collection," said Ms. Helwig.

"This collection is an outstanding addition to the materials already preserved in the Nickerson Archives" said Mary Labombard, the College's Archivist. "For example, already in the collection are records of the Hyannis Normal School as well as the early records of the College itself, dating to before its founding in 1961. The history of education on Cape Cod is becoming one of the strengths of the Nickerson collection."

The Cape Cod Association and the College invite the public to view the collection. The Wilkens Library and the Nickerson Archives are open to the public year round with convenient evening and weekend hours.

The Cape Cod Association is one of the oldest charitable organizations on Cape Cod and has been providing scholarships since the mid nineteenth century. It was formed in May of 1851 to "encourage and promote among all the native born and descended of Cape Cod, temperance, industry, sincerity, good humor, charity, the social affections and generous sentiments." Millions of dollars in scholarships have been awarded; this year alone, the Cape Cod Association awarded \$450,000 to nearly 300 students, all of whom were born on and currently reside on Cape Cod or the Islands. To learn more, visit www.capecodassoc.org.

The William B. Nickerson Archives maintains a collection of over 10,000 items dated from the 17th century to the present that reflect the history and development of Cape Cod. The collection includes photographs, newspapers, maps, books, scrimshaw, whaling artifacts, yearbooks, ship models, genealogies, diaries, logbooks, oral histories, and more. To learn more, please visit the Nickerson Archives web page here: www.capecod.edu/nickerson.

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