



America was shaped by explorers racing to the New World, men-of-war plotting to catch or elude being caught, entrepreneurial crews of clipper ships rushing their cargos to port, and fishermen seeking to be the first to get their catch to market. Modern day sailboat racing reenacts those historical efforts to be the first. And then there is the magical allure of wind, water and sail and their affect on the human spirit. These are the reasons why, for centuries, sailing has been inextricably linked to American literature.

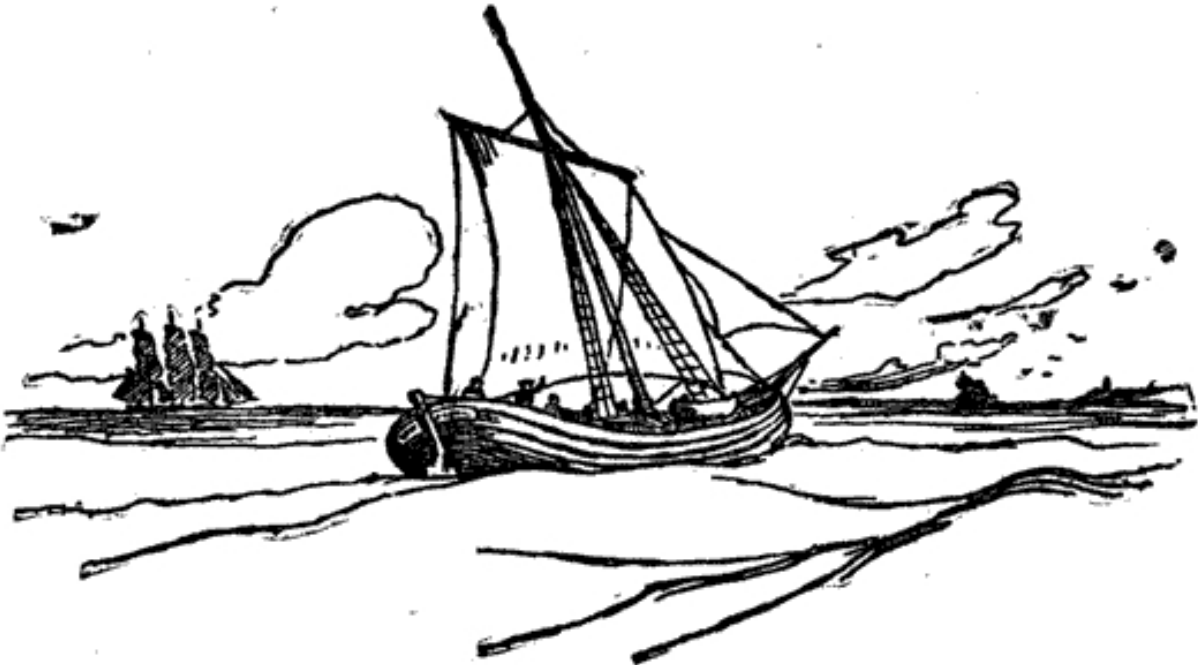
We have selected quotes from several authors - both American authors and those who influenced them - to highlight this connection. We have also chosen to open this exhibit with three quotes which provide a literary context.

Image: "SWELL" by [Thomas Allen](#) .

*...over the breaking billows, with bellying sail,
and foaming break, like a flying bird...*

- Beowulf

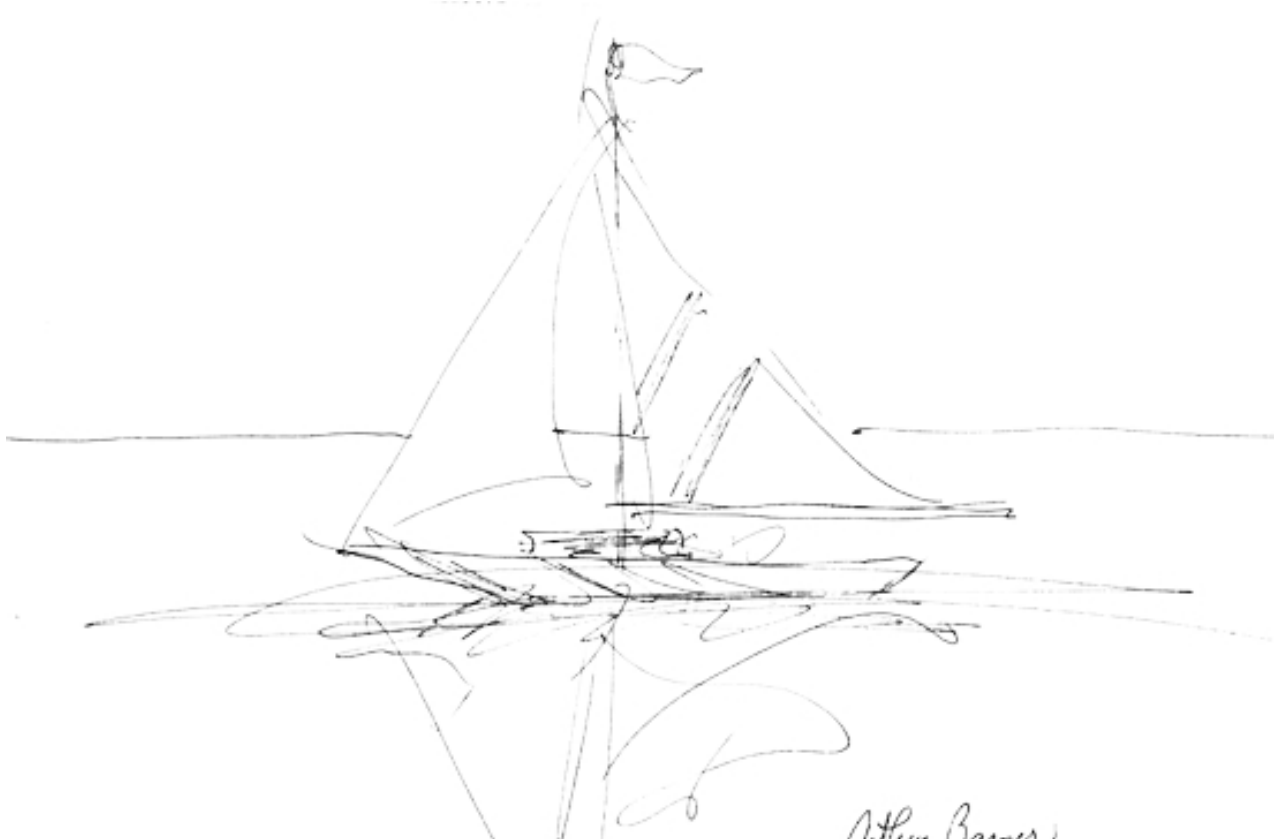
With a big front wheel and a small back wheel, the bicycle was a new invention, and it was the first of a new class of vehicles, the motor vehicles, which were to revolutionize the world of transport.



It was a great discovery, and it was the first of a new class of vehicles, the motor vehicles, which were to revolutionize the world of transport.



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and always sail as you find the things safe harbor. Don't let the trade winds bring your sails so.

Highland Falls, N.Y., Dec. 27, 1886. My dear Mr. Warner, I have just received your letter of the 25th and am glad to hear that you are well.

Yours truly,
Arthur Warner

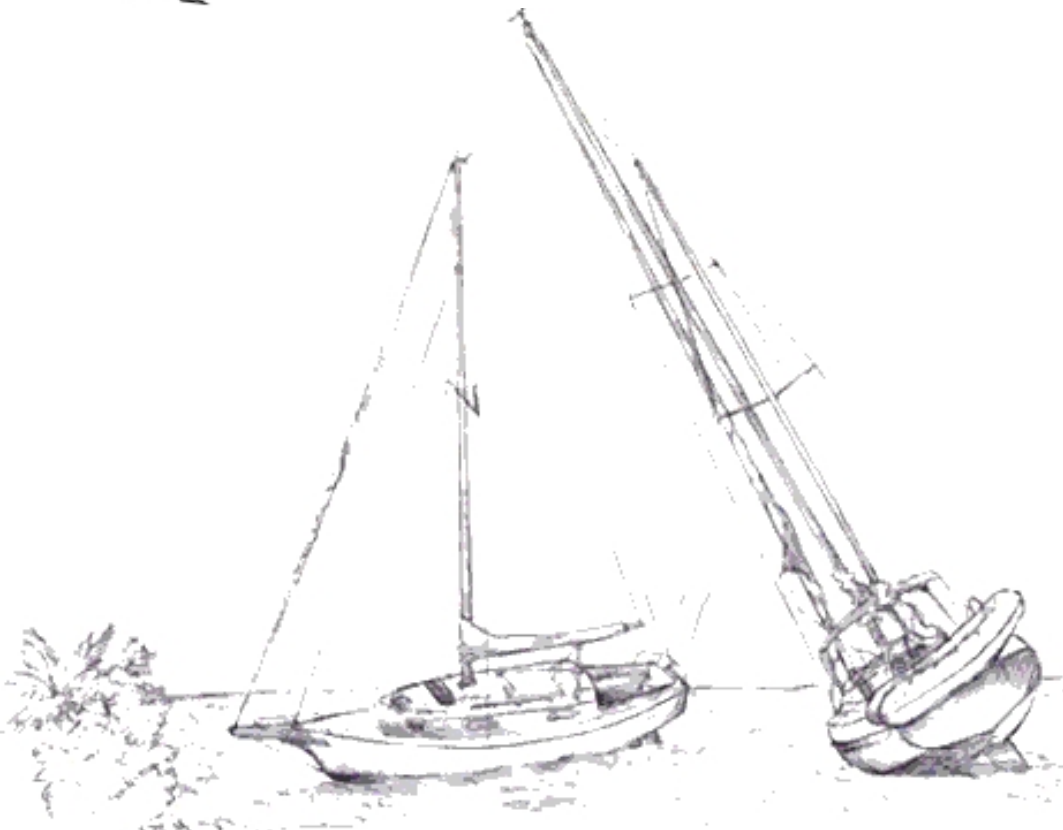


Special Field Office, State, The Maritime History of Massachusetts, 1921

...with the wind, the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...like a sea or a me)

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.



...with the wind, the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...of a grounded ship, one must sometimes go forward by going back.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.



~~How do the Americans feel about the boy's dream of sailing? Do you think it is a foolish dream? Why or why not? What do you think of the man's reaction to the boy's dream? Do you think the man is right or wrong? Why or why not?~~

~~I'm not a bit of a coward, for I'm learning how to sail my ship.~~

~~I don't know any more than you do, but I'll show you a few things that are worth knowing. I'll show you how to make a boat as close to heaven as you can get, and I'll show you how to make a boat as close to hell as you can get. I'll show you how to make a boat as close to heaven and to hell as you can get.~~
