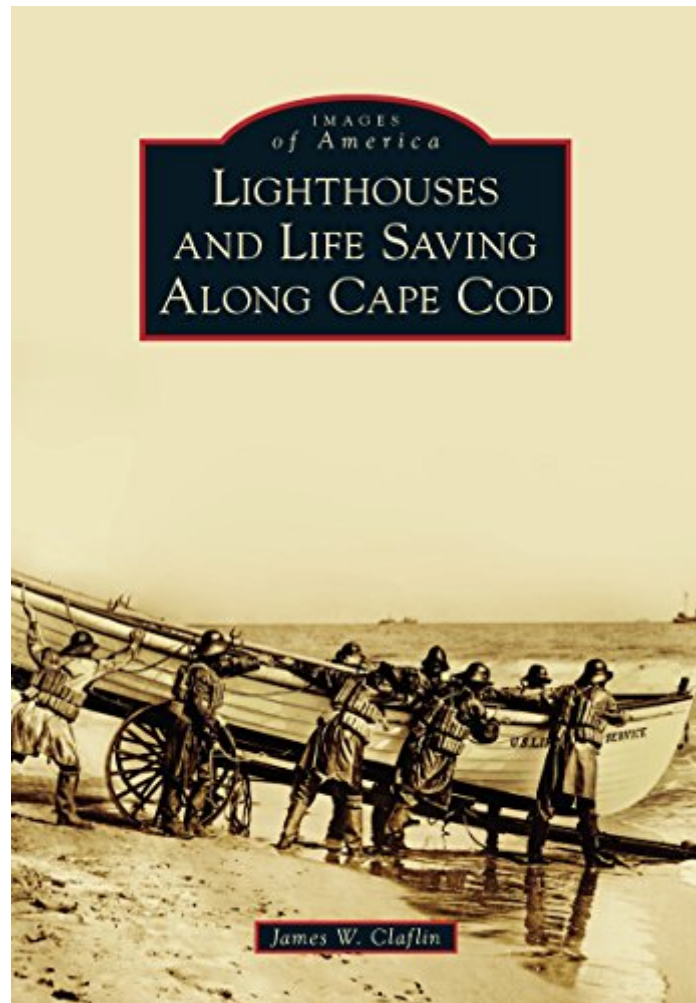




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Lighthouses And Life Saving Along Cape Cod (Images Of America)



Synopsis

For centuries, heroic men and women have guarded the treacherous yet beloved Cape Cod coastlines. From Provincetown to Chatham, Sandwich to Cuttyhunk, and many towns in between, residents have relied on the Atlantic for employment and nourishment. But Cape Cod has always been plagued with a shifting coastline that consistently defies mariners' efforts to pass through Massachusetts waters. In 1792, as shipping increased, mariners petitioned for a sorely needed lighthouse. It was not until 1797 that the first lighthouse on Cape Cod was built at the Highlands in North Truro. More lights and rescue stations would follow as the seas claimed their toll. Many lightship stations were also established from Chatham through Nantucket Sound to mark the constantly changing sandbars submerged offshore—more than in any other spot along the US coastline. Today, as sea levels change and sands continue to shift, some of these historic stations have been lost or moved, while still others are preserved only in such photographs as these.

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Customer Reviews

This book is full of rare photos, accompanied by very informative captions. Author James Claflin clearly knows the subject matter very well and covers all aspects of life saving on Cape Cod, including the early years of the Massachusetts Humane Society; the U.S. Life-Saving Service and its numerous life-saving stations that once dotted the eastern shores of the Cape; lightships; and of course, the Cape's lighthouses. Over time all of these functions were incorporated into the US Coast Guard, and so Mr. Claflin includes a chapter on the Coast Guard as well. For a small book, it is packed with information that is presented in a well organized manner. This book a pleasure to read and peruse. Errata: (with SO much information in the book, it is inevitable that there would be a mistake or two) 1. On page 66, lower photo it states that Chatham's twin cast-iron towers were built in 1881 - they were erected in 1877. On page 68, upper photo, the north tower is on the left, not the right. Prior to a massive renovation by the Coast Guard in the early 1950s, the west side of the keepers house was the front entrance. Thus, in this photo, the west side of the house is pictured and it is the left tower that was moved to Eastham. (A series of renovations to the west side of this building, beginning in the 1940s, have all but obliterated the architectural features that were originally seen on the west side of this building.) These errors are indeed minor and the overall quality of the book, both for its images and text, lead me to enthusiastically give this book a five-star rating. I purposely bought the physical book instead of the Kindle version because it is such fun to randomly flip through the pages and read the captions beneath any of the images that catch my interest. This is a book that I will read over and over again. I heartily recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of Cape Cod, to all who love lighthouses, and to Coast Guard enthusiasts everywhere.

Very interesting reading.

Superb vintage photographs. Tells the story of lighthouses and early Coast Guard from the days of the Massachusetts Humane Society and Life Saving Service up to today's Coast Guard. Wonderful reading, worth it for the photos alone.

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