

CAPE COD MAGAZINE / SEPTEMBER 2012 / 101 THINGS EVERY CAPE CODDER SHOULD KNOW

101 Things Every Cape Codder Should Know

Whether you are a native or a washashore, a full-time resident or a frequent tourist, there is a basic set of facts with which you should be familiar if you wish to call yourself a true Cape Codder

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1 Seven lighthouses are currently operational on Cape Cod. They are Chatham Light, Chatham; Highland Light, Truro; Monomoy Light, Chatham; Nauset Light, Eastham; Nobska Point Light, Woods Hole; Race Point Lighthouse, Provincetown; Stage Harbor Light, Chatham; Three Sisters Lighthouses, Eastham. Barnstable County has the most lighthouses of any county in the US.

2 Chances are you are a member of a Cape Cod founding family and you have a namesake somewhere on the Cape if your last name is: Almy, Atwood, Baker, Bangs, Bassett, Bearse, Bourne, Cahoon, Cammet, Carman, Chadwell, Chase, Cobb, Cole, Cook, Crocker, Crosby, Crow(ell), Dexter, Dillingham, Doane, Eldredge, Ellis, Feake, Freeman, Fuller, Godfrey, Gorham, Gray, Hallett, Hamblen, Harding, Hatch, Higgins, Howes, Knott, Linnell, Lothrop, Lumbert, Marston, Mayo, Newcomb, Nickerson, Norcutt, Norman, Otis, Paine, Palmer, Phinney, Prince, Rogers, Ryder, Scudder, Small(ey), Snow, Sparrow, Stewart, Taylor, Tha(t)cher, Tupper, Witherell, and Wood.

3 Even though the idea of constructing a canal was first considered by Myles Standish of the Plymouth Colony in 1623, widening and connecting the Manomet and Scusset Rivers wasn't begun until 1909.

4 Bartholomew Gosnold, an English explorer, named Cape Cod in 1602 after the abundance of cod in the local waters.

5 Put best by Joseph C. Lincoln (1870-1944), author of 47 books and plays about Cape Cod: "New England clam chowder is not a puree, thickened with flour and loaded with diced potatoes and bits of onion and chopped parsley, with, here and there, tiny fragments of clam as a feeble excuse for its name. It is not a thin, milk and watery broth, with bits of salt pork and onion skin on the surface and two or three tough clams, black necks still attached, lying on the bottom like drowned castaways." Everyone's is a little different, but never is it red.

6 As of June 3, 2012, 932 Cape Cod Baseball League players have appeared in a major league game over the 128-year history of the league.

- 7 The Laurentide ice sheet, which at one time 25,000 years ago covered hundreds of thousands of square miles, including most of Canada and a large portion of the northern United States, formed Cape Cod and Stellwagen Bank.
- 8 The Unknown United States Soldier's remains interred on Aug. 4, 1990, in Section 5 Grave 107 at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne were unearthed during highway excavation in South Carolina in the 1980s. He was identified as a member of the "Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry" by the buttons from his uniform.
- 9 Cape Cod houses were heralded as the perfect design for New Englanders, allowing for endless additions, or ell, as the family (or its prosperity) grew. The half Cape sports two windows to the left or right of the front door. A third, single window opposite the door graces a three-quarter version. A full Cape features two windows on both sides of the entrance.
- 10 You yield to motorists in the rotary. It's that simple
- 11 The Cape Cod Baseball League Hall of Fame, located in the basement at the JFK Museum in Hyannis, features the plaques of all inductees, memorabilia from the 10 teams in the league, and the original charter of the league. Autographed bats and baseballs with corresponding Major League cards are displayed in cases and show the direct connection between the Cape League and professional baseball.
- 12 Cape Cod Branch Railroad reached Sandwich from Middleboro in 1848.
- 13 Lower Cape is actually the portion higher up on the arm of Cape Cod. It was given this destination by Bostonians who headed south, or down, to Cape Cod, but didn't realize that they were heading east, and then eventually north.
- 14 In 1872, in response to the many shipwrecks off the coast of New England, the United States government established a lifesaving service, erecting stations every five miles on the beach to keep a continuous lookout. The salvage of shipwrecks and their cargo became an economic engine.
- 16 In the early 1700s, Sam Bellamy started out as an ordinary treasure hunter, looking for shipwrecks to impress one Maria Hallett of Eastham. After finding none, he became a pirate and plundered more than 50 ships on the Caribbean and Atlantic, under the moniker "Black Sam."
- 17 In February 1717 Bellamy captured the Whydah, a three-masted English slave ship. With her came gold and silver worth more than 20,000 pounds sterling—money earned from the sale of human beings, a huge fortune. The pirate fleet headed to New England, but on April 26, 1717, a fierce storm sank the ship, killing Bellamy and all but 2 of his 145 men.
- 18 The Cape Cod Tunnel will never exist. Get over it. But the permit is a fun way to mess with tourists.
- 19 Hyannis, the Wianno section of Osterville, and Iyannough Road (Route 132) are all named after Iyannough, a Native American sachem and leader of the Mattachiest (Mattakeese) tribe of Cummaquid. It is believed he died in his mid-twenties when his tribe fled into the swamps and remote islands fearful of the English settlers.
- 20 Naushon Island was purchased by John Murray Forbes with profits from opium dealing in the China trade during the Opium Wars.
- 21 Cape Cod has 560 miles of coastline.
- 22 Cape Cod has no ancient forest, although there were vast forests before European settlers arrived in the 1600s. Huge swaths were clear-cut to fuel the heating of homes.
- 23 Henry Beston's Outermost House, an icon of Cape Cod, was swept out to sea in a 1978 storm.
- 24 A little known Cape Cod tradition is to say "Rabbit Rabbit" at the first of the month.
- 25 The Bourne and Sagamore bridges were built as a WPA project in the 1930s.
- 26 Race Point gets its name from the swift tidal "race" that swirls around the point from the ocean to the bay.

27 Raytheon was awarded the contract to build PAVE PAWS (Phased Array Warning System) on Flat Rock Hill, the second highest point above sea level on Cape Cod and in the northernmost portion of the 22,000-acre Massachusetts Military Reservation, in 1976. The only remaining system on the East Coast, it uses 1,792 active antenna elements to detect ballistic missiles and track satellites and other objects in space.

28 Route 28 is the name of the route, not the speed limit, and because it traverses the Cape in a U shape, there are plenty of times you will be on
28 N or S in Chatham and Orleans and your compass will say the opposite.

29 The Brewster Store—a 156 year old structure, built as a church in 1852 on Route 6A— has been in business as a general store for more than 140 years.

30 As a military installation, the MMR has been used since National Guard training began on the Cape in 1911. During the 1940s, the base was activated by the U.S. Army and used to train and deploy troops being sent to fight in World War II.

31 The U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod was established on MMR in 1970 and in 2008 assumed full responsibility for all airfield operations on the base (when Air Force One comes to the area, it lands on the airfield's oversized landing strip). Other tenants at the reservation include the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Air Force, and the 6th Space Warning Squadron. The land is the largest piece of protected, undeveloped land on Cape Cod.

32 Historically, the land comprising the MMR was home to the Wampanoag tribe, who used the area for daily living and sacred sites. Before becoming fully used as a military installation, part of the land that makes up the reservation was used for sheep farming and the trees were harvested for the shipbuilding trade.

33 President Grover Cleveland summered on Cape Cod long before President Kennedy. He purchased a house in the neighborhood of Bourne now known as Grey Gables, named after Cleveland's "cottage." A special railroad stop was built for him. After Cleveland's daughter died, the residence was sold. Much later, the building became an inn, but was destroyed by fire in 1973.

34 Massachusetts Maritime Academy graduates go on to careers in engineering, business, government, environmental protection, marine science, military, law, medicine, management, education or many other professions. Some are even lucky enough to become hostages of Somali pirates.

35 Contrary to assumption, Deming Jarves, the principal founder and manager of the Boston & Sandwich Glass Company, did not choose Sandwich as a site for a glass factory because of its proximity to beach sand. Beach sand is too impure to make glass; it requires pure quartz silica. The company instead shipped in pure silica supplies first from New Jersey and New York and later from western Massachusetts. He chose Sandwich because there was a possibility that a canal would be built that would allow him to ship his product easier.

36 Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is an 842-square-mile federally protected marine sanctuary between Cape Cod and Cape Ann. The Bank, named after Lieutenant Commander Henry Stellwagen, whom the US Navy sent to survey and map the area in 1854, was once above water, but now it lies 100 feet below. It is known as an excellent whale-watching site, and is home to many other species of marine life.

37 The ingredients of a Cape Codder: Cranberry Juice, vodka and a lime.

38 The Hoxie House in Sandwich, a classic saltbox presumably built around 1637, is most likely the oldest house on Cape Cod.

39 The Kennedy compound began as a summer cottage at 28 Marchant Avenue in Hyannisport. In 1928, Joseph Kennedy purchased the structure, which had been erected in 1904, enlarging and remodeling it to suit his family's needs.

40 John F. Kennedy used the compound as a base for his 1960 U.S. Presidential campaign (he gave his victory speech at the Hyannis Armory on November 9) and later as a summer White House and presidential retreat until his assassination in 1963.

41 Sandwich meetinghouse on Spring Hill in East Sandwich is home to the oldest Quaker meeting in America. It was gathered here on 13 April, 1657, a year before Plymouth County began outlawing Quaker meetings, and still meets today.

42 This present Quaker meetinghouse on Spring Hill was prefabricated on the Kennebec River in Maine, in 1810, and shipped into Cape Cod Bay, unloaded in the creek north of the site on Spring Hill, and reassembled at the top of the hill according to the matching numbers on the timbers. Today, worship is held in about a quarter of the original space, separated by the huge wooden partitions that are moved by a huge winch.

43 Osterville is indeed a spelling mistake. The village was originally named Cotacheset, derived from the Native American name. Over time it became a center for oystering and was renamed Oysterville. Later a map misspelled the name as Osterville.

44 Centerville philanthropist Charles Lincoln Ayling founded Cape Cod Hospital after a train trip with some badly injured sailors, who had to travel to Boston for treatment. Ironic last name, isn't it?

45 In 1900, the Cape was home to seven golf courses. Today there are more than 50.

46 Kurt Vonnegut, the late author, once lived in West Barnstable. His daughter Edie still does.

47 Herbert Kalmus, an American scientist and engineer who played a key role in developing color motion picture film and co-founded the Technicolor Motion Picture Corporation, lived in Barnstable. Kalmus Beach is named after him.

48 The so-called target ship, located in about 25 feet of water three and a half miles off Eastham, is the SS James Longstreet (Hull Number 112), which was launched for duty on April 2, 1942. After she ran aground in 1943, the US Navy used her for decades as a target ship for early air to surface guided missiles. On one occasion, she broke her anchor chain and drifted for ten days before being recovered. She was sunk shortly after, but still used for target practice until 1971. A 1997 storm buried her permanently under the water level, and the site is off-limits to divers due to unexploded ordnance.

49 Billingsgate Island, once as large as 60 acres, hosted up to thirty residences and even had its own baseball team. A lighthouse was built there in 1822, and after an 1855 storm divided the island in half, a second lighthouse was built on higher ground three years later. Erosion forced many of the houses on the island to be floated on rafts across the harbor to prevent their loss. The 1858 lighthouse was abandoned in 1915 and destroyed by a storm in December of the same year. The other tower was torn down in 1922. What remains is a sand bar exposed at low tide and littered with large granite blocks.

50 Heritage Museums and Gardens was almost only an automobile museum. However, when Josiah Kirby Lilly wanted to found an institution dedicated to his father, he did some research and was convinced showcasing automobiles didn't have broad enough appeal. It was after his father's death in 1966 that the idea of creating a public place to house several of the Lilly family collections began to take shape.

51 One of the Cape's few remaining stands of Atlantic white cedar is located on the former site of Camp Wellfleet, a former U.S. Army base. This is not to be confused with another scenic boardwalk-accessible destination, the Red Maple Swamp, also located in the National Seashore lands just south in Eastham.

52 Guglielmo Marconi made the first transatlantic wireless transmission originating in the United States from Cape Cod, at Wellfleet. The beach below the bluffs where his station was located is now called Marconi Beach. In 1914 he began construction of a new transatlantic wireless receiver station in Chatham and a companion transmitter station in Marion. In 1920 the stations were acquired by RCA, and in 1921 Chatham began operations as a maritime radio station communicating to ships at sea using the call sign WCC. WCC supported the communications of Amelia Earhart, Howard Hughes, Admiral Byrd, and the Hindenburg.

53 Mitchell River Bridge is the last remaining wooden drawbridge in Massachusetts.

54 Monomoy Island, the eight-mile-long spit of land extending southwest from Chatham, has undergone a number of changes driving cartographers crazy. A storm in the spring of 1958 separated it from the mainland. The Blizzard

of 1978 divided the island into two. A storm five years ago reconnected South Monomoy to the mainland, although North Monomoy remains an island. Erosion and accretion change its geography almost daily, in addition to what the tides reveal and cover up.

55 The Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, which was the first Native American group to greet the Pilgrims, won federal recognition as a sovereign nation in 2007. After a contentious 32-year legal battle, it was long overdue.

56 When three members of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe become fluent in Wôpanâak, they will be the first people in history to reclaim a language in which there are no existing native speakers. Currently a child is being raised with Wôpanâak as her first language. She will be the first native speaker of the language since the mid-19th Century.

57 The 1955 Barnstable County Fair opened and closed on the same day due to a polio outbreak and a hurricane happening simultaneously. Only two visitors made the trip on the special train from Boston that day.

58 Brothers Malcolm G. Chace, Jr. and Arnold B. "Buff" Chace are credited with the creation of New Seabury in the 1960s, but development wasn't all smooth sailing. Construction in 1971 by Mashpee's enactment of a zoning by-law invalidating permits granted seven years prior. After six years of litigation, New Seabury prevailed, but in five months, the Mashpee Wampanoag filed a lawsuit to regain what they claimed was their tribal land. Building halted for three years before the courts ruled that the local group was not an officially recognized tribe (they have since garnered Federal recognition).

59 Mercy Otis Warren, author, poet, playwright, American patriot, and a descendant of a Mayflower passenger, lived in West Barnstable. A statue of her stands in Barnstable Village.

60 Falmouth resident Katherine Lee Bates penned America the Beautiful and the Shining Sea Bike Path is named for her famous phrase "from sea to shining sea."

61 The Olympic gold medalist Frank Shorter ran the 1975 Falmouth Road Race and was pitted against Billy Rodgers, fresh off his first victory in the Boston Marathon. There were 850 runners in the race, which Shorter won.

62 Crosby Yacht Yard in Osterville is one of only two boat yards still building Wianno Seniors. The other one is Shaw Yacht in Thomaston, Maine.

63 Cape Cod Healthcare and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution are the two largest employers on Cape Cod, with more than 1,000 employees each.

64 "Seventeen biologists and a rowboat" launched the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, following the dictum of Louis Agassiz to "study nature, not books." It has served as a home for 49 Nobel laureates.

65 It is pronounced East-HAM, not East-him, like Dedham or Wrentham.

66 First Encounter Beach is believed to be where the pilgrims and Indians first encountered each other.

67 The longest U.S. highway is Route 6, starting here and going through 14 states.

68 Eastham Windmill is the oldest windmill on Cape Cod.

69 Doane Rock in Eastham is believed to be the largest exposed glacial boulder on Cape Cod.

70 In the early 1800s Henry Hall, a veteran of the Revolutionary War who lived in Dennis noticed that sand blown in from nearby dunes helped cranberry vines grow faster. Today, growers spread one to two inches of sand on their bogs every three years, slowing the growth of weeds and insects.

71 Some cranberry vines on Cape Cod are more than 150 years old and are still bearing fruit.

72 In 1972, a group of sailors embarked upon a friendly boat race from Hyannis to Nantucket Island. Since, the annual Figawi race weekend has become a premier sailing event on the East Coast, attracting hundreds of competitors from across the country.

73 Popponeset is number 87 on the list of the top 100 CDPs in the country with the oldest median residents. Compared to the state of Massachusetts, with an average age of residency at 42.8, Popponeset's median residency age is 65.1.

74 Salt-making by solar evaporation thrived along Brewster shores in the first half of the 19th Century. Salt was in high demand for fishing fleets to help preserve the fish. When cheaper sources of salt were discovered, the industry died.

75 Notorious for its catchy jingle and tasty clams, Thompson's Clam Bar was once situated on the water in Harwich Port, where today the Wychmere Beach Club stands. It once seated 450

76 In a 2011 episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?*, Ashley Judd traced her direct lineage back to William Brewster, the town's namesake.

77 In July 1888, Helen Keller, and her teacher, Anne Sullivan visited Brewster. Helen is shown cradling a doll in a photograph recently discovered almost 120 years after it was taken. The mother of the woman who provided the photograph was Helen's playmate at the Elijah Cobb House.

78 Cranberries are a wetland fruit, the one we are accustomed to seeing harvested on the Cape, as Massachusetts is one of the main growing areas along with New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin. The natural bogs were created by the melting of glaciers more than 10,000 years ago, resulting in the form of impermeable kettle holes lined with clay (the clay prevents materials from leaching into the groundwater).

79 Cape Cinema, the 92-seat theater on the grounds of the Cape Playhouse, with its 6,400 square-foot Art Deco ceiling mural of Prometheus opened July 1, 1930, world-premiering *The Wizard of Oz*. Its mural is the largest in North America.

80 Route 6A, the Old King's Highway, at 39 miles long, is the longest contiguous historic district in America and contains four centuries of architecture. Along a two-mile stretch of Route 6A in Yarmouth Port, there exists an eclectic array of structures housing private residences, B&Bs, antiques shops, restaurants and galleries, not one of which was built in the 20th or 21st century.

81 The original Dennis Bracelet (also known as Eden Cape Cod Screwball bracelet) was made with one gold screwball fixed on a fitted sterling silver band, a design made by Dennis silversmith John Carey, who recently passed away. Today the bracelets are still being handmade on the premises of Eden Hand Arts in East Dennis by Carey's son-in-law.

82 Orleans has the oldest median age of all of the towns in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

83 Orleans has the distinction of being the only U.S. site of attack by the Germans in WWI. A German U-boat fired upon the tug *Perth Amboy* and four barges in the Nauset area in July 1918.

84 The conservation area known as "Crab Creek" is at the northern end of the Bass River, on North Dennis Road in Yarmouth, one of the most popular areas to catch blue crabs during the prime summer crabbing season.

85 Coast Guard Beach is usually rated one of the top beaches on Stephen "Dr. Beach" Leatherman's famous annual list.

86 In addition to being a well-known author and artists, Edward Gorey also had a lifelong dedication to causes promoting animal care and protection, which is a major theme seen throughout the collections seen in the Gorey House Museum in Yarmouth.

87 While Henry David Thoreau presented excerpts from his wanderings around Cape Cod in lecture form, he did not manage to publish them as a book. *Cape Cod* was published three years after his death from tuberculosis at the age of 44.

88 After being referred to as the South Parish of Eastham since 1644, Orleans was finally incorporated in 1797 (it had sought independence since 1717).

89 The National Seashore consists of Chatham, Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown. When it was established in 1962, it was the first time the federal government bought land to establish a national park.

90 Provincetown began promoting itself as a tourist destination to boost the economy after the Great Portland Gale of 1898 wiped out the town's fishing fleet and wharfs.

91 Before Truro was called by its present name, they called it Pamet (the name of the Native Americans living there) and Dangerfield (so named for the hazards involved in maneuvering through the harbor).

92 In the 1920s and 1930s, inspired by the town's unique beauty and freedom of exploration, gays and lesbians began to flourish in Provincetown. They were part of a movement that also included artists, writers, playwrights, poets, novelists, journalists, socialists, radicals, and dilettantes.

93 Since gay marriage was legalized in Massachusetts in 2004, Provincetown has become "the place to get married" with more than 1,400 marriage licenses issued to date. Couples choose Provincetown not only for its gay symbolism, but for its beautiful atmosphere.

94 After a 65-day journey, the Pilgrims sighted Cape Cod on November 19. Unable to reach the land they had contracted for, they anchored (November 21) at Provincetown.

95 Provincetown's Pilgrim Monument, at 252-feet, is the tallest all-granite structure in America.

96 When the current Provincetown Public Library was built in 1860 as the Center Methodist Episcopal Church, it was reputed to be the largest church of Methodist denomination anywhere in the United States. It cost \$22,000 to complete and could seat 900 people in the 128 pews.

97 Started in 1991 by the local fishing fleet, the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization that aligns protection of the oceans with the interests of our historic fishing community. It has become the leading community fisheries organization in the region.

98 The story goes that the Lind Tower, overlooking the Atlantic and Highland Links Golf Course in Truro, was moved there, stone by stone by a fan of Jenny Lind, a famous opera diva in the 19th century who climbed the tower in its previous Boston location to put on a concert for the people in the streets in order to prevent a riot after her show was overbooked.

99 The Edward Hopper House in Truro is the birthplace and childhood home of renowned artist Edward Hopper (1882-1967). Since 1971, it has been a not-for-profit art center, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The ground floor is a vibrant exhibition space featuring the work of emerging and established artists and the upstairs rooms are private artist studios—but none of the artist himself. Because the Edward Hopper Landmark Preservation Foundation was incorporated after Edward's death, his artistic estate had already been bequeathed to the Whitney Museum of American Art.

100 The Cape Cod Canal opened, on a limited basis, in 1914, and it was completed in 1916. Despite shortening the trade route from New York City to Boston by 62 miles, toll revenues failed to meet investors' expectations.

101 Congregational Church in Wellfleet is believed to be the only public clock bells in the world to ring in ship's time. The sequence of ringing is as follows: 1, 5, and 9 rings two bells, 2, 6, and 10 rings four bells, 3, 7, and 11 rings six bells, and 4, 8, and 12 rings eight bells. The ½ hours are struck by adding one stroke to the corresponding hour.

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