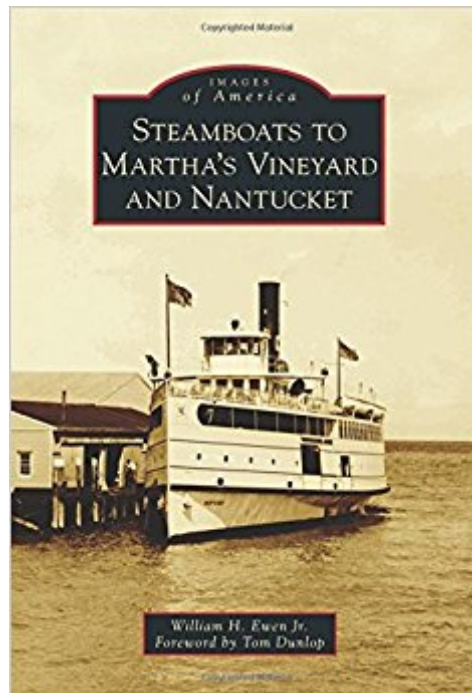




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Steamboats To Martha's Vineyard And Nantucket (Images Of America)



Synopsis

The islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, off the Cape Cod coast of Massachusetts, were first inhabited by members of the Wampanoag tribe. English settlements were established in the mid-1600s. As the populations and commerce grew, so did the need for reliable transportation. The islands were first served by privately owned sailing vessels, but things began to change with the introduction of marine steam power. In 1818, the little steamer Eagle was the first to cross Nantucket Sound. Although she only remained in these waters for three months, she began what was to become a tradition of steamboat travel to the islands that lasted for 170 years. The images in this volume include well-known steamers with familiar names like Nobska, Naushon, Gay Head, and Uncatena, as well as many others.

Book Information

Series: Images of America

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Arcadia Publishing (March 23, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1467122823

ISBN-13: 978-1467122825

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.3 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,216,555 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Passenger #1662 in Books > Travel > United States > Northeast > New England #1746 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Ships

Customer Reviews

William H. Ewen Jr. is a noted maritime historian and artist and also is the author of Images of America: Steamboats on the Hudson River. He has gathered images, many never before published, from museums, private sources, and his personal collection for this project. The foreword is by Tom Dunlop, author of three Vineyard books and a writer for the Vineyard Gazette and Martha's Vineyard Magazine.

The Great White Fleet (a term referring to the wonderful coastal steam boats which used to run

between New Bedford, Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket) were wonderful boats. Folks used to plan their visits to the island (or off) to take advantage of the scheduling of these vessels. They were beautiful, elegant and simple, and quiet except for the wail of their whistle. Islanders who knew, rode and loved these vessels still mourn their demise and are glad that occasionally one can hear a steam whistle from one of the current crop of ferries which have been refitted with an old steam whistle. This wonderful book contains photos and stories of an era of gracious (albeit occasionally inconvenient -- if the numbers of travelers and cars exceeded the capacity) travel that is sadly behind us. Meanwhile the NOBSKA's engine remains in storage, in case someone wishes to build a replica.....

This is a wonderful collection of photographs that bring alive the grand era of steamboats in the United States. Although there are modern, diesel-powered ferries operating to and from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket today, it's simply not the same. The old steamers like the Nobska, Naushon, and the others, all had distinctive personalities that just doesn't seem to be the case with today's modern boats. If you want to truly feel what the era of steamboats to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket was like, this book is for you. A great labor of love!

Great history and photo collection. Makes me miss the old Nobska ! This is the first new book like this that I know of since Paul Morris wrote "The Island Steamers" in 1977. Lots of good photos and a good written history.

Very disappointing. The photos are pedestrian, and not very well reproduced. Furthermore, there are very few pictures of the interiors of the island ferries. I recommend giving this one a pass.

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