

CUTTYHUNK ISLAND

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Pre History

Cuttyhunk, Elizabeth Islands, and Cape Cod formed by retreating glaciers during the ice age. The Elizabeth Islands extend 16 miles south west from Falmouth, MA separating Buzzards Bay from Vineyard Sound.

Early History (Pre-1602)

Branches of the **Wampanoag Indian Tribe** hunt and fish on Cuttyhunk and Penikese and are known to live on Naushon, Pasque and Nashawena. "Cuttyhunk is a shortened form of the Indian name Pooctohhunkunoh (POO cut uh HUNK uh nah) A good case can be made that the meaning of the root word is 'Halfway Island.' Looking at the nautical chart makes it clear that Cuttyhunk lies halfway between current-day Martha's Vineyard and current-day New Bedford." jessie little doe baird, Wōpananâak Language Reclamation Project.

A steatite (talc-schist) soapstone bowl used by the natives to grind grain, corn, seeds etc., dating to this period, was found on Cuttyhunk and is in the museum collection. Steatite has been a medium for carving for thousands of years.

17th Century

1602 **March 25th, Englishman Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold departs Falmouth, England on the bark Concord with about 30 men.** After exploring the coast of Massachusetts and the islands, on May 25th, they land on Cuttyhunk. He names it Elizabeth's Isle, which is later applied to the string of islands. They build a small fort and set out to explore and map the shoreline of Vineyard Sound and Buzzards Bay.

1602 June 1st, **"We employed ourselves in getting sassafras and the building of our forte.** The second, third and fourth, we wrought hard to make ready our house for the provision to be had ashore to sustain us till our ships return...the fifth we continued our labor, when there acame unto us ashore from the main, fifty savages, stout and lusty men with their bows and arrows...amongst them there seemed to be one in

authority because the rest made an inclining respect unto him...by this time Capt.Gosnold had come...our captain gave him a straw hat and a pair of knives, the hat awails he wore, but the knives he beheld with great marveling, being very bright and sharp, this our courtesy made them all in love with us.”(shipboard journalist, Gabriel Archer)

- 1602 **Bartholomew Gosnold names and describes “Elizabeth’s Isle”** with dimensions that show that Cuttyhunk and Nashawena were connected as one land mass. (See 1790)
- 1602 June 18th, **Gosnold and his men depart to return to England** on the bark Concord after just 22 days on Cuttyhunk. They decided their food sources would not get them through a challenging winter ahead. Had they stayed and succeeded, Cuttyhunk would be the “First English Settlement in the New World” and this small isle would be a national park.
- 1602 Recorded a writer for the New England Farmer in 1858, it is stated that “The first barley sown in this country, was upon the island of Martha’s Vineyard, in 1602, by a man named Gosnold.” Well, kind of. Explorer Bartholomew Gosnold’s men indeed planted the first recorded barley in the Western Hemisphere, together with wheat, oats, and peas, but it was most likely on Cuttyhunk, not Martha’s Vineyard. They abandoned the settlement after just a few weeks, and returned to England — much sooner than they had intended — and left before any of the barley would have been ready to harvest. Traditionally, barley was grown almost exclusively to make malt, which was used in the production of beer and whiskey.
- 1606 December 20, Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold, second in command, sailed from England on an expedition to establish a trading post and the first permanent English settlement in Virginia, that ultimately succeeded. After landing at Jamestowne (May 13, 1607), he was a member of the governing council, then died three months later on August 22, of malaria or ‘salt poisoning’ from drinking brackish tidal water thought to be fresh water. Gosnold was called the “prime mover” of both the 1602 and 1607 colonizing expeditions.
- 1606 **Elizabeth Islands included by King James I in a grant** to the Council of New England, which dissolved in 1635, after which the islands became the property of Alexander, Earl of Sterling.

- 1635 **“Great Colonial Hurricane”**, Category 5. Probably split “Elizabeth’s Isle” into Cuttyhunk and Nashawena creating Canapitsit Channel.
- 1641 **Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket sold for 40 pounds** by Alexander, Earl of Sterling to Thomas Mayhew; grist mill owner. merchant, businessman and governor of Martha’s Vineyard. Mayhew given right to plant on the Elizabeth Islands. Thomas Mayhew, b.1592 Southhampton, Eng– d. 1682 Whiltshire, Tisbury)
- 1654 **Mayhew receives the deed for Elizabeth Isles** from Indian Sachem, Seayk. Heavy timbering on the islands begins. **The Elizabeth Islands** with Wampanoag names: Nonamesset Island, Veckatimest Island, Gull Island, Uncatena Island, Naushon, Weepectet Islands (three small islands), Pasque Island, Nashawena Island, Baret Island, Rock Island, Penikese Island, Cuttyhunk Island.
- 1663 **Islands granted to the Duke of York's patent.** Later called “Dukes County” named after him.
- 1668 **Thomas Mayhew sold Cuttyhunk** to Philip Smith, Peleg Sanford, and Thomas Ward of Newport, RI.
- 1671 **Mayhew states** that “There are 15 families of natives at Elizabeth Isles, of which seven are praying families.”
- 1685 **The Elizabeth Islands transferred to Martha’s Vineyard Manor,** Town of Chilmark.
- 1688 **Peleg Sanford acquired his partners’ rights to Cuttyhunk and sells half to Ralph Earle of Dartmouth,** who immediately sells it to his son Ralph, Jr. He becomes the first permanent settler. They stripped the island of all its lumber, leaving it bare and windswept.
- 1691 **Control of Cuttyhunk passes** from the New York Dutch to the British Massachusetts Bay Colony.

1693 **Peleg Slocum of Dartmouth buys all of Cuttyhunk, Nashawena and Penikese.** Slocum family grazes sheep on the Islands following deforestation that began in 1688. They continue to live on Cuttyhunk for 200 years.

18th Century

- 1731 **Peleg Slocum bequeaths to son, Holder,** half the right to Cuttyhunk.
- 1759 **Paul Cuffe, noted black mariner, born on Cuttyhunk** (d.1817) to Kofi Slocum, a West African Ashanti, and Ruth Moses, a Wampanoag Indian. Kofi was a slave of John Slocum, owner of Cuttyhunk, who freed him in the 1740's.
- 1761 **“Near 20 families”** reported on the Elizabeth Islands.
- 1761 **Holder Slocum,** son of Peleg, bequeaths Cuttyhunk to widow Rebecka Almy (?) and nephews, Giles and Jonathan.
- 1764 **Kofi and Ruth Cuffe** move their family of 10 children to Martha's Vineyard. By 1766 they bought land in Dartmouth and moved there while continuing construction projects on Cuttyhunk. Paul Cuffe returned to work on Cuttyhunk 1776–1777. “Cuffe Rock” on the northwest side of the island is named after him.
- 1775 **Map shows one house lot** on Cuttyhunk.
- 1777 **About 80–90 persons** on the Elizabeth Islands. Naushon 59, Pasque 21, Cuttyhunk 13, Nashawena, 10.
- 1790 **Census:** 103 People live on the Elizabeth Islands.
- 1790 **Map shows that what is later known as “Barges Beach”** has breached, leaving an island at Canapitsit. An 1890 map, appears to show that the beach has self-repaired and is once again connecting Canapitsit “island” to Cuttyhunk. In 1602, English explorer, Bartholomew Gosnold gives the dimensions of Cuttyhunk being connected, one island mass with Nashawena.

19th Century

1800 **Five Slocum heads of family** live on Cuttyhunk.

- 1800's **Early fishermen, fishing for livelihood**, use simple nets, hook and traps from shore or skiff.
- 1807 **Two families living on "Cutterhunk"** (probably Slocum's). Most islands denuded of forest growth and continued sheep grazing. Lobstering reported to occur, but used for bait not eating.
- 1815 **"The great gale of 1815"**, before recorded hurricane history. The few island families (probably Slocum's) had no warning.
- 1822 **Hannah Sherman Slocum (1775-1822)** wife of Holder Slocum (a master mariner who settled on Cuttyhunk) died and was buried in the Slocum family burying ground near what is now known as "Barnacle". Hers was the **first engraved headstone in the cemetery**. One older burial in the cemetery was marked with a rough cut slate stone with no inscription, the only slate stone in the cemetery. Other older graves marked with field stones.
- 1822 **First Cuttyhunk Lighthouse built** of stone with a separate 25ft light tower with 10 lamps and 3 reflectors. The reflectors required daily cleaning to remove soot from the burnt whale oil and polishing to brighten the metal.
- 1830's **Beginning of Islanders piloting ships** along Cuttyhunk shores. Piloting and rescue services provided the islanders livelihood until the early 1900s and the industrial revolution.
- 1832 **Capt. Crandall of Ashaway Twine Co., RI**, provided tarred cotton hand lines to members of an informal bass club on Cuttyhunk.
- 1837 **"Cuttyhunk Light** stands on the south-west part of the island at the entrance of Buzzards Bay, intended to guide vessels into the bay, and point out the location of the Sow and Pigs to those entering the bay and Vineyard Sound. It is a fixed light, elevated 48 1/2ft. above the sea at high water. In entering Buzzards Bay, bring Cuttyhunk Light to bear east, 3 miles distance, and steer N.E.by E. which course will carry a vessel to good anchorage, in 62/ and 7 fathoms, about one mile from Dumpling Rock light. This is as far as a stranger should venture without a pilot, who can always be had on setting a signal." (Edmund Blunt, Atlantic Coast Pilot)

- 1840 Capt. Crandall of Ashaway Twine Co., RI, provides Cuttyhunk with stronger, finer diameter twisted line for rod and reel.
- 1842 William Allen Wall (1801–1885) a native of New Bedford, MA, painted “**Gosnold at the Smoking Rocks.**” The painting romanticized the moment of Capt. Bartholomew’s landing in 1602 and meeting with the native Wampanoag Indians. The painting is curated at the Whaling Museum of New Bedford. (See 1854)
- 1843 During the 11 years **Nickerson and Fanny (Norton) Chase** were **Cuttyhunk Lighthouse keepers** (1836–1847), the lighthouse was cited in a 1943 congressional hearing for poor construction, location and care being “not well built and leaked from roof to base.” In 1844, widow Fanny Chase becomes the first female official lighthouse keeper for 3 years. Her inventory noted “very poor oil”.
- 1847 **Mass. Humane Society established on Cuttyhunk and Nashawena.** (1786 Mass. Humane Society founded– state rescue service). Erected three buildings or huts on Cuttyhunk with supplies, boats and mortars (for shooting lines across the decks of stranded vessels), to aid those shipwrecked. Volunteers kept watch walking the island perimeter by day and night with lanterns, at set times.
- 1850’s **Sportfishing popular** relaxation for big city industrialists.
- 1850 **Census** lists 30 residents on Cuttyhunk.
- 1858 "In 1858 Mr. William C. N. Swift, Mr. Thomas Nye, and Mr. Eben Perry sailed out on one of their ships intending to return to New Bedford with the pilot. A severe storm coming up, they could not reach New Bedford, and had to land on the island of Cuttyhunk, where they passed the night and were hospitably entertained by **Mr. Otis Slocum, the owner of the island.** In the morning when about to depart they offered Mr. Slocum some compensation for his hospitality, which he declined, and they, desiring to show their appreciation of his kindness, asked him what he would **sell them Gosnold's Island** for; he told them he would sell it to them for \$50. Those gentlemen purchased it, and at their death it became and has remained the property of their heirs, who, with great pleasure, have within a few days signed the deed which I hold in my hand, and which will be read to you, conveying the islet to

the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, and with it will go this tower (Gosnold Monument), erected by your generous subscription.”
(See Sept 1, 1903)

- 1858 **William Madison Wood was born on Martha’s Vineyard**, his birth name was Joaquim Medeiros Sylvania. He later anglicized his Portuguese name to get a job in a textile mill, rising to become President of American Woolen Co., Andover, MA. Joining The Cuttyhunk Club and later buying their holdings in 1921, he shaped the future of Cuttyhunk Island for generations to come.
- 1858 **Albert Bierstadt (1830–1902) paints “Gosnold at Cuttyhunk, 1602”**, curated at the Whaling Museum of New Bedford. It is a romanticized depiction of the English Explorer, Bartholomew Gosnold’s ship, the Concord, and ‘fort’, “on an island, on an island, surrounded by fresh water,” as described by shipboard journalist, Gabriel Archer. The captain and crew left for England after 22 days and began planning for the Jamestown voyage of 1607. Bierstadt is better known for his sweeping landscape paintings of the American West. (See 1842)
- 1860 The separate light tower at the **lighthouse** was demolished and a second story added to the keeper’s house which included a new attached light tower. (originally built, 1823)
- 1863 **Lobstering was the occupation on the islands.**
- 1864 March 17th, Island removed from jurisdiction of Chilmark. Becomes **incorporated as the Town of Gosnold** with government seat at Cuttyhunk, although the first town meeting is held on Naushon. The Town of Gosnold includes the islands of Nonamesset, Uncatena, Weepecket, Gull, Naushon, Pasque, Nashawena, Penikese and Cuttyhunk. The Cuttyhunk Schoolhouse, built 1873, was the first building built in the newly incorporated town. Second was the Cuttyhunk Church, 1881. The Gosnold Town Hall was not built until 1926.
- 1864 **The Cuttyhunk Club**, a gentlemen’s fishing club was founded and the clubhouse built by a group of members of the West Island Club on Sakonnet Point. They buy most of Cuttyhunk from Slocum’s, the remainder owned by farmers and fishermen. Eventually, the Club

brings regular steamer and mail service to the island and built docks at the Narrows.

- 1865 **The Cuttyhunk Club builds 26 fishing stands**– long wooden platforms that stretched out from rock to rock into the surf– along the East, Vineyard Sound side of the island.
- 1865 **On all of the Elizabeth Islands: 3928 sheep** (310 per sq. mile).
- 1866 December 30th, Vineyard Sound Lightship damage.
- 1867 The **Sadie Veeder house is built at the end of Broadway**. Believed to be the oldest house on Cuttyhunk as of 2008. Sold to Edward and Virginia Nielsen, of Connecticut. Virginia, widowed 1980, married Charlie Tilton, Jr. and lived in the home. Michael and Laura Astrue bought and renovated the house in 2000.
- 1870 The **U.S. Life–Saving Service was organized on island**, but the station for the Elizabeth Islands was not built until 1889. In the meantime, lifesaving was carried out jointly by the local men of the Massachusetts Humane Society (1847) and those with the federal U.S. Life–Saving Service.
- 1872 December 2, **wreck of the coal schooner, Mary Givens** off Cuttyhunk. Light Keeper Samuel Austin Smith (1817–1889) awarded a Silver Medal by the Massachusetts Humane Society for rescuing the crew.
- 1873 The **Cuttyhunk School** was the first town building in the incorporated Town of Gosnold, 1864. The one–room schoolhouse was built on land given by the The Cuttyhunk Club.
- 1874 **A description of the Elizabeth Islands by Rev. Elias Nason, M.A. and the State of Massachusetts gives this information:**
Nonamesset is 1.25 mile long, Naushon 7.5 miles x 1.25miles., Nashawena 3.25 miles x 1.25 miles, Penikese is 100 acres, Cuttyhunk 2.5 miles x .75 miles, Uncatena and Pasque.

The **population of the Elizabeth Islands** is 99, 13 farmers, 8,301 acres, 32 houses, 22 voters, 3,270 sheep, 33 horses, 53 cows.

Valuation of the Elizabeth Islands \$173,713, tax rate .37 per \$100

- 1875 For one year, The **Cuttyhunk and Pasque Island Clubs** shared the boat “Helen Augusta” for transporting members to their hard-to-reach men’s fishing clubs.
- 1877 The **United States Postal Service** begins island delivery.
- 1879 **Hurricane of 1879**, no warning for island residents.
- 1879 December, The **Russian bark Ivalo ran aground on Cuttyhunk** and was declared a total loss. Two quarter boards are at the Museum of the Elizabeth Islands.
- 1881 Islanders raised \$1066.79 to build the **Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church** and assisted in its construction. It is a simple church with pressed-tin walls and ceiling, and plain wooden benches. The Cuttyhunk Club donated a 50’ x 75’ piece of their “fattening pasture” land for the building of the new church. A gate and picket fence closed off the entrance to keep the roaming cows and sheep from dropping in. The earliest faith traditions on Cuttyhunk were Quaker, Baptist and Methodist with island residents and lay leaders gathering in island homes to read the Bible and pray together.
- 1881 The **first wedding in the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church** was for John Veeder (1859–1940) and Myra Wainwright (1866–1966). Great-grand niece Susan Veeder recalls the family story “They did not have an organ at the church as yet, so several of the island women brought canaries to sing at the wedding.” John and Myra had a son, Louis Veeder, born 1889.
- 1884 **Wreck of the “City of Columbus”**, Boston to Savannah, off Martha’s Vineyard, Devil’s Bridge. Only twelve passengers (of 87) and 17 crew (of 45), survive.
- 1885 **Five farms on the Elizabeth Islands** with 3,770 sheep. Large portion of the islands engaged in fisheries; $\frac{2}{3}$ annual catch are porgies. Lobsters are the principal business of the islands.
- 1897 **Died, Mary D. Slocum Allen Daggett (1815–1897)**, could be called the “Mother of Cuttyhunk” for her relationship to four of the island founding families. The first church services were held in her home

where she admonished, “Touch not liquor” and to “Do good and be good”. First husband Holder Allen (1808–1872). Second husband, Alonzo Daggett (1810–1889), was the first postmaster. All buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.

- 1888 The **Bosworth House** (built 1874) opens as a boarding house and later enlarged with a dining room serving “shore dinners”, as island tourism increases. The inn was run by Elizabeth Veeder Bosworth (1863–1930) and her husband David Bosworth (1863–1935). After their deaths, daughter Estella Bosworth Snow ran the inn and later, her daughter Gladys Snow Gage until it closed in 1983.
- 1889 The Elizabeth Islands receive their **first lifesaving station built at Canapitsit** by the U. S. Lifesaving Service.
- 1889 **Town Cemetery established** on land donated to the town by The Cuttyhunk Club. Several Slocum family members already buried on the property (northwest corner) they had owned and sold to the Club in 1863.
- 1889 November 21st, **Capt. H.B. Miller (1852–1889), Captain of the shipwrecked bark Willie & Ida**, drowned and was buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery. The crew was rescued. They claimed the captain was drunk at the helm, and in a scuffle wrestled his gun away from him. The ship wrecked and Miller stayed with the ship.
- 1890 The original center building of the **Gosnold Free Public Library**, 10’x12’x8’, was built in 1890 and stood on the corner of Broadway and Tower Hill Rd. It housed the town’s weights and measures cabinet, a large scale that was standardized to check the accuracy of other scales used in the community. It was issued by the State of Massachusetts. (See 2017). There was also a few shelves for books and a bed for the Methodist minister to stay there on weekends. In 1890, Massachusetts legislation was passed promoting the establishment of free public libraries. In 1893, the small wooden structure was moved next to the schoolhouse and became the library. The original trustees were Annette B. Veeder, Josiah W. Tilton and Alfred Eisner. 1893, Albina F. Veeder, the first librarian, was paid \$5 a year and had an annual budget of \$15. The town also voted to use revenues from dog licenses to support the library. In 1890, the revenue collected for the library was \$2.68. (See 1957)

- 1891 **Henrietta Akin (1857–1891) died** in childbirth. Her husband, **Timothy Akin, Jr. (1857–1893) died** with 4 other men in the rescue of the crew of the Brig Aquatic, February 24, 1893. His death left their 7 children orphaned to initially be raised by islanders and later taken in by eldest daughter Henrietta Akin King. Buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.
- 1892 **John McCrae, a Canadian doctor, teacher, author, and artist**, while taking a break from medical school he attended Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory and kept sketchbooks which include a 1892 sketch of the Cuttyhunk Club. McCrae, who served in World War I, is best known for his memorial poem “In Flanders Fields.” “In Flanders fields the poppies blow, Between the crosses, row on row. That mark our place; and in the sky, The larks, still bravely singing, fly.”
- 1892 **First Cuttyhunk Lighthouse demolished** at the West End and a new one was built with the house and separate tower connected by a covered way.
- 1893 February 24th, the **Brig AQUATIC aground on Sow and Pigs Reef**. Five Cuttyhunk Lifesavers drowned and one was saved in the rescue attempt. All on the brig saved.
- 1894 **Elizabeth Islands have 48 dwellings.**
- 1894 **President Grover Cleveland is a guest of the Cuttyhunk Club.** He served two non-consecutive terms as President of the United States; 1885–1889 and 1893–1897.
- 1897 **Weekly mail boats** serve Cuttyhunk from New Bedford, weather permitting.
- 1897 “There were seven pilots working out of Cuttyhunk in the mid-19th century and **pilotage was the main occupation of the islanders.** (Arthur Cleveland Hall, New England Magazine, 1897)
- 1899 Twenty students schooled in the **one-room school house**. Teachers, Miss Carisma Snell and Miss Nellie A. Rogers taught all 8 grades. They only taught this one year 1899–1900.

20th Century

- 1900 **Industrial Revolution, end of the whaling era and shift to textile manufacturing** in Massachusetts. Tourism grows with trips to Cuttyhunk for seafood “shore dinners”. Many homes become boarding houses.
- 1900 **Cuttyhunk harbor was shallow** and only boats with shallow drafts could come inside. Larger boats anchored outside the harbor and offloaded passengers and freight into catboats, dories, or skiffs. The channel engineering proposals of 1900 were designed to allow passenger and freight vessels into the harbor as tourism was increasing. (See 1907)
- 1900 The **belfry and bell is added to the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church** that was built in 1881. A new organ is purchased with donations from Islanders and the The Cuttyhunk Club members. Over the years, the bell calls people together to worship, in times of crisis, and as an island emergency alarm.
- 1902 **President Theodore Roosevelt and President-elect William Howard Taft visit The Cuttyhunk Club** with John Archbold of Standard Oil. Their visit seems to be one of business rather than fishing. Neither Roosevelt or Taft signed the register. A photos is the only documentation of their visit. Roosevelt and Archbold’s relationship deteriorated in the following years.
- 1903 A small, **stone oil house was built** near the lighthouse at the West End, to store the sperm oil or kerosene to fuel the light.
- 1903 September 1st, **Gosnold Monument Dedication** at the West End, by the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, who owns Gosnold’s Isle. (See 1858)
- 1903 “On the hills we often see **motionless figures with spyglasses**, watching for incoming ships, for piloting is still a business with the men of Cuttyhunk, and one of the men told me that eleven ships were once taken into New Bedford in a single day by Cuttyhunk pilots.” (Elizabeth Watson)
- 1904 Beloved Cuttyhunk **school teacher, Margaret Brewer (1876–1972)**, captures island life and times writing “Cuttyhunk, As I Remember It, in 1904”. (Published by Cuttyhunk Historical Center, 1979)

- 1904 **William Madison Wood, Sr.**, President of American Woolen Co. of Andover, MA, **first comes to Cuttyhunk**, interested in joining The Cuttyhunk Club, a gentleman's fishing club est.1863. He begins buying land shortly thereafter. A Club member until it dissolved in 1921.
- 1905 **Sheep population** on the Elizabeth Islands 2,309, more than any other town in Massachusetts.
- 1907 **First jetty**, constructed by the State of Massachusetts, north side jetty 520 ft., south side jetty, 280 ft., creating a channel entrance to harbor.
- 1907 **Died Alonzo B. Veeder (1851–1907)** who was elected to seven offices at the 1902 annual town meeting. Buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery next to his wife Albina Flanders Veeder (1868–1938).
- 1909 **Eugene Terpeny (1849–1909)** was one of the early lighthouse keepers. Buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.
- 1909 **William Madison Wood Sr. buys** as much Cuttyhunk land as the The Cuttyhunk Club would sell him. He bought the rest of their holdings in 1923, after the club disbanded.
- 1909 **Avalon built by William Madison Wood Sr.** on property purchased from Tom and Jennie Jones who's house was razed for the construction project. Jones was Wood's private boat captain.
- 1910 The **Bowling Alley built** by William Madison Wood.
- 1910 Walter and Lizzie Allen bought land from his father's estate to form the **Allen House** property. They started the Poplars Boarding House about 1910. The "**Annex**" was the original Massachusetts Humane Society building from the south side of the island. Lizzie bought it and brought it to its present location with a team of horses. For a long time, the well at the Allen House supplied the town water. (See 1979)
- 1913 August 17, **Charles B. Church caught world record rod and reel striped bass from an "oar-powered skiff" off Cuttyhunk.** The striper was 73 lbs., 60 inches long and 30.2 inches in girth. He used an Abbie & Imbrie 6 lb, 11oz bamboo rod with J.B. Crook Reel, 15-thread haul

line, while casting live eel. Church reported three locations as a diversion to protect his “honey spot”. His holds the World Record in the “lines not tested category”, IGFA. (See 1970)

- 1913 September 11th, died **John Black (b. 14 Jun 1851, Amityville, N.Y.)**, of Hemoptysis in New Bedford, MA. He was a colored man who was shipwrecked off the island and settled to live on Cuttyhunk for 30 years. For many years he was Yacht Captain of the sloop “Helen” owned by members of the Cuttyhunk Club, one being John D. Archbald of New York. John Black married Sophia D Neunter, of New York in 1883. She died Oct 13 1907 and was buried at Cuttyhunk, presumably next to him in an unmarked grave. John was a US Veteran having served in the Navy October of 1864–1867 and he was on board the Union USS Monticello as “purseboy” or assistant to the purser on ship. John Black was a respected citizen of the community and the town paid for his tombstone. John Black was survived by a step-son William Treadwell of New Bedford.
- 1914 **Artist Clifford W. Ashley visited Cuttyhunk.** The museum collection includes a few of his oil paintings dated 1914, and photographs.
- 1914 **Died Estella Bosworth Snow (1887–1914)** was the first woman Selectman and Fire Superintendent. She is buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.
- 1915 **Died Frederick Allen (1837–1915)** was a long time Captain of the Humane Society and the inventor of an unsinkable lifeboat. He is buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.
- 1915 The **US Life–Saving Service** and the **Revenue Cutter Service** merged to become the **U.S. Coast Guard** and occupy the Canapitsit lifesaving station.
- 1915 The **population of the Elizabeth Islands climbs** from 99 (1870) to 155. About 50 on Cuttyhunk. Twenty–eight percent of the population of 155, was foreign born. The population declines into the 21st century.
- 1915 **Stores and summer lodging** operating on Cuttyhunk Island.

- 1916 **Died Oscar H. Stetson (1853–1916)** was the first keeper of the Cuttyhunk Store located in his home at the corner of Tower Hill Rd and Broadway. His widow, Estella Bosworth Stetson continued to run the store for several years. Both buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.
- 1917 **Freight service on the Alert I to CH begins** as a result of William Wood bringing supplies to the island to build Winter House. The boat was commissioned by Wm. Wood and built by C.A. Anderson Boatyard, Wareham, MA. The cargo vessel was painted dark green and was 65 ft. in length, beam 18 ft, the wheelhouse was aft and had a lifting boom forward on the open deck. Capt. Wm. Raymond piloted the vessel. (See 1925)
- 1917 **William Madison Wood built the Power House**, using half of a sheep shed from the West End. Tom Jones was the original manager. At first the current was DC only. (See 2008 and 2017)
- 1917 May 17th, **municipal water and sewer systems brought to Cuttyhunk** by William Madison Wood.
- 1917 **Winter House built by William Madison Wood Sr.** on land purchased from Fred Allen, who's home and barn were razed for the construction project. Mr. Wood brought electricity to the island and his homes, Avalon and Winter House. Winter House was built with an elevator and electricity installed in protective pipe conduit to protect lines from the seaside elements.
- 1917 **Avalon becomes the Wood family guest house**, as Winter House becomes the primary summer residence of William Madison Wood, Sr. and his wife Ellen Wheaton Ayer. It remained in the Wood family until 1954, when Avalon was sold to the Ralph Stewart family. It was later called, "The Inn on Cuttyhunk." (See 1957)
- 1918 **William Madison Wood Sr. turned Avalon over to his daughter Rosalind**, who worked with the American Red Cross to create a convalescent hospital for wounded Allied officers of WWI. The hospital was staffed and equipped by the American Red Cross. For two years, the house offered healthy surroundings; the finest care, and medical equipment; and relaxation, and peace of mind to wounded veterans.

- 1918 The **steamer Gosnold is sold to the U.S. government** and Cuttyhunk is without a summertime excursion service. Walter Loveridge puts the 38 ft. steamer **Queen** into service between Cuttyhunk and New Bedford.
- 1919 **Walter Loveridge**, who owned and operated ferry boats for Cuttyhunk and the leper colony on Penikese, purchases the 57 ft. **St. Francis** for **excursions to the island** and runs it until 1922.
- 1921 **The Cuttyhunk Club disbands**, due to the over-fishing of menhaden, a stripped bass food source, used to produce fertilizer at the Pacific Guano Factory, Woods Hole. In 1923, In the Club's remaining property is sold to William Madison Wood (1858–1926) of Andover, MA club member and president of American Woolen Company.
- 1922 The town issues **permits to occupy space on the new wharf** or Fish Dock. Nine fishermen rented space for an annual fee of \$9.
- 1922 **Electricity is extended to the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church** and included in the the building of the 'driveway' to the planned "Summer House" at the top of Tower Hill. From the beginning, with the building of **Avalon** (1909) and **Winter House** in (1917), the island's electrical infrastructure is placed underground.
- 1923 **William Madison Wood, Sr., buys the remaining land from the defunct Cuttyhunk Club** and now owns about two-thirds of the island. (See 1935)
- 1923 August 15th, **William "Billy" Wood, Jr. (30 years old) dies in a car racing accident** in Andover, MA. Billy Jr. was driving his Rolls Royce sedan at a high rate of speed when he lost control, also killing his good friend, World War I hero Major Alexander Gardner of North Andover. William Jr. graduated Harvard 1915. He developed quickly into a keen businessman with a love for his fellow man that tempered his business instinct." His father was leaning more and more upon his son to manage his business holdings. William Madison Wood, Sr., never recovers from the heartache of the sudden death of his son.
- 1924 **William Madison Wood, Sr.** has a stroke and retires as president of American Woolen Company of Andover, MA. Mr. Wood was a self-made man, one of the richest men in the world and the dominant voice in the

textile industry. By 1924, the company owned sixty mills and employed over 40,000 people. His empire also included Shawsheen Village, completed in the early 1920s, a planned corporate community in Andover.

- 1924 August 25th, **The Bark WANDERER**, last square-rigged whaler out of New Bedford, wrecked on Cuttyhunk's treacherous Sow & Pigs reef, making headlines and signaling the end of the whaling era under sail. After a ceremonial departure from New Bedford on Sunday, August 24, 1924, the 'Wanderer' anchored off Dartmouth's Dumpling Rock that afternoon as her Captain, Antone T. Edwards, went ashore for the night to deal with immigration procedures. Anchored next to the 'Wanderer' was the inbound whaling ship, captained by Edwards' brother, where a crew swap and immigration work around could happen outside of New Bedford port jurisdiction. Left behind on board to deal with the ensuing catastrophic storm were First Mate A. B. Gomes and an inexperienced and incomplete crew. After dragging anchor all night, the ship struck Cuttyhunk's Sow & Pigs reef on Monday August 25. Before her demise in a severe storm, islanders salvaged many treasures that are found in homes all around the island, including the captain's chair and table, iron cauldrons, oars and items crafted out of the ship's planking. After taking a beating against the rocks of Sow & Pigs, the 'Wanderer' was totally broken up by a storm on September 30. Five islanders were awarded Congressional Lifesaving Medals for their rescue heroics with two of the medals and several artifacts residing in the CHS collection. Cuttyhunkers, who often risked their lives to save shipwrecked sailors, also grabbed what they could from the Wanderer. Trypots meant for boiling blubber became flower pots. An oar from the Wanderer hangs in the rafters at The Cuttyhunk Fishing Club. Captain Edwards' chair is inside a private home, in gratitude for owners took him in. (Allison Thurston)
- 1925 The **Alert was purchased by Capt. Frank Wilcox** (age 22) who converted it to a 49 passenger vessel with regular passenger service to the island. He added the pipe rail and installed an awning. The Alert won the U.S. postal contract over Capt. Charles Tilton, Sr and Herbert Stetson's Ida, and Capt. Frank Veeder and Capt. James Tilton's steamer Minnie Pope. (See 1939)
- 1926 February 2, distraught from the death of his daughter Irene, during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-1919, and his son Wm. M.Wood, Jr. in an

- auto accident, 1923, **William Madison Wood, Sr. (1858–1926) dies from suicide** in Florida. He never completes “Summer House” on Cuttyhunk, planned to be built at the end of the “driveway” later called Tower Hill Rd. William Madison Wood, Sr. was instrumental in introducing electricity, sewerage, town water, telephone and harbor improvements to the island bringing his expertise of community development exercised in the Shawsheen Village of Andover, MA.
- 1926 **Gosnold Town Hall built and dedicated, serving all the Elizabeth Islands**; Nonamesset, Uncatena, Weepecket, Gull, Naushon, Pasque, Nashawena, Penikese and Cuttyhunk. The Town of Gosnold was incorporated in 1864.
- 1926 **Louise Taylor Haskell (1893–1978), came to the Cuttyhunk Elementary School** planning to teach for one year and instead, taught for 23. In 1935, Haskell had 17 students, the most she would ever have. After she retired, she remained on the island almost to the time of her death in 1978.
- 1927 **Cornelius “Connie” Ayer Wood Sr.**, son of deceased William Madison Wood, Sr., began bringing friends as guests and tenants to Cuttyhunk, creating the first summer colony.
- 1928 The **Cuttyhunk Club Farmhouse burned**. It was located on the south side of the stonewall path leading to Broadway. After WWII, “Sea Breeze” was moved to the north side of the stonewall path.
- 1929 June 16th, **World War I plaque dedicated to Cuttyhunkers who served**. Located outside Town Hall, eleven men are honored.
- 1930 **Irwin “Coot” Hall introduces the first strictly charter boat to Cuttyhunk**.
- 1932 July 14, **Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York, Democratic Presidential nominee, after spending a peaceful night, left Cuttyhunk at 10:15 this morning**. He was at the same anchorage used by **Col. Charles A. Lindbergh** for his amphibian, in his search here for his kidnaped son, last April. When Gov. Roosevelt prepared to leave Cuttyhunk there was a strong northwest headwind for his yawl going out of the harbor. Chief boatswain’s mate Jos. Paul offered Roosevelt a tow of the Coast Guard picket boat which had performed

the same service for Col. Lindberg's plane. The Coast Guard picket boat towed the Myth II out into Buzzards Bay. Gov. Roosevelt set sail to beat his way against the headwinds. (Boston Globe)

- 1934 May 24th, **First Paved Road for Cuttyhunk.** A Boston Herald article headlined, "\$20,000 Highway, Mile and Two-Tenths Long, for Five Cars, One Horse." Cuttyhunk is a two mile island with 67 residents, five cars, a wagon, one horse and one pony. Fifty residents attended the Special Town Meeting for the debate on the road to be one and two-tenths miles long and paid for by the town. The vote 33 to 17 in favor.
- 1934 **Poet Elizabeth Bishop (1911–1979) spent several weeks on Cuttyhunk** writing poetry following her graduation from Vassar. The landlord of her temporary home by the sea was Mr. Wuthenaur, a man who wanted to "simplify life" all the time, as noted in her journal. Bishop was a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and is regarded as one of the great American poets of the 20th century.
- 1935 The **Cuttyhunk Fishing Club** was founded by Cornelius Wood, Sr. The former gentleman's Cuttyhunk Club disbands in 1921 and sells the last of their holdings to William Madison Wood, in 1923. 1948, William Wood's son, Cornelius Wood, Sr, sells it to the Robert Lowell Moore family of Concord. (See 1948, 1998)
- 1935 The **early Cuttyhunk Junior Yacht Club was formed by Cornelius Wood, Sr. and Muriel Wood for island youth.** The first boats were three Penn Yan dinghies: Rapier (owned by Cornelius "Connie" Wood, Sr.) Sea Devil (owned by the House and Walker families) Puff-Puff (owned by the Garfield and Leffert families). The older boys initiated races, learned to set courses and to follow racing rules. Right from the start, the yacht club was the kids' project, run by and for themselves. Each season ended with a banquet on the porch of Winter House with speeches and awards. (See 1938 and 1956)
- 1935 **Died Annette Stetson Veeder (1857–1935),** who was the first school teacher, and one of the first three library trustees. She is buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.
- 1935 **Died Alpheus P. Tilton Sr. (1866–1935)** who was one of the first surfmen of the lifesaving station built in 1889, had the first gasoline

- motor on his fishing boat Pulmer. He is buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.
- 1936 Congress appropriates money to make Cuttyhunk a “**Harbor of Refuge**”.
- 1938 **New Coast Guard Boathouse built at The Landing.** Survived the 1938 hurricane.
- 1938 September 21st, late afternoon, **Hurricane of ‘38.** Particularly destructive as there was no warning and it was a dead hit. Strongest N.E. storm: recorded–gusts 185 mph, sustained winds 115 mph., lowest pressure 27.94, 15–20 ft surge, 25–50 ft waves.
- 1938 The **Cuttyhunk Junior Yacht Club boats** were moored at the Wood family boathouse located next to the Town Dock. Unfortunately, the hurricane of 1938 carried away the boathouse and most of the boats. This catastrophe, combined with the lack of summer jobs on the island, put an end to the club.
- 1938 to 1939, **new jetties were built and dredging** was done to complete the mooring basin following the ’38 hurricane.
- 1938 **Died Albina Flanders Veeder (1868–1938)** who was a **teacher** and the **first island librarian** with a salary of \$5 a year. She is buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery next to her husband, Alonzo B. Veeder (1851–1907)
- 1939 **The Alert was purchased by Capt. Joseph Dutra, Jr.** He acted as his own skipper and charged \$1.30 for a round trip.
- 1939 Cuttyhunk Channel designated a “**Federal Navigation Channel**” under the Army Corps of Engineers. Jetty repair, 8 ft. high.
- 1939 The Island’s **2 miles of dirt roads surfaced** with macadam, compacted layers of stone bound with tar. (See 1964)
- 1940 **Jetty repair** at the Channel.
- 1940 **Decline in population of the Elizabeth Islands** to 136 and falling. Lost 12% of population since 1915.

- 1941 Summer, Pre–World War II, **five British families spend some time on Cuttyhunk at the invitation of the Cornelius “Connie” Wood, Sr. family.** The children came to Yale University from England and were to be placed with foster families until it was safe for them to return home. A Cuttyhunk visit was a summer of fun for them until foster families could be found on the mainland. They were housed at the Seva Howes cottage, and Janet Jackson Bates cottage, next door, on Broadway. Cornelius Wood, Sr.’s second cousin, Dr. John Fulton, Jr. was the head of the program at Yale. Seventy–three years later, one of the “children” returned to the island to say, “Thank you, for the kindness of islanders and the unforgettable summer of 1941.”
- 1941 **The beginning of World War II, brought the end of piloting, striped bass guiding takes over.** Gasoline engine changes the sport of fishing. Guides began taking fishermen trolling. Sailing and power boating gains popularity.
- 1941 **Coastal artillery and lookout bunkers installed on Cuttyhunk and Naushon as World War II begins.** Cuttyhunk army installations disguised to resemble a ‘fishing village’ nestled in the hollow just west of the Lookout (a top Tower Hill Rd). Lookout bunkers and a few structures also on Copicut “Homer’s” Neck.
- 1941 School Teacher, **Louise”Hattie” Taylor Haskell** is also a lay leader at the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church. During WWII—when no minister was available for appointment to the church, Louise conducted services. She, and a pastor’s wife from the mainland, Lillian Berlew, who served as summer pastor for at least one year during the war, were the first women to preach in the Cuttyhunk Church. (See 1978)
- 1944 **Cornelius Ayer Wood, Sr. attaches a 100 year “Right of First Refusal” for Wood family descendants to the sale of certain Cuttyhunk properties previously owned by the Wood Family.** This trust refers to a 1941 Trust and “a right of first refusal to the beneficiaries of the trust administered by James W. Dalrymple and Clarence L. Tower, Trustees u/d/t dated December 9, 1941, recorded with the Dukes County Registry of Deeds, Book 206, Page 1.” The ROFR expires in 2044. Dalrymple and Tower are lawyers and part of the legal team of the American Woolen Mill Corp. in Andover, MA, representing the Wood family descendants. (See 2022)

- 1944 **September 14, the Hurricane of 1944, arriving during the nighttime.** Lowest pressure 28.35, 100 mph sustained winds. The spit connecting the Coast Guard Station at Canapitsit with Cuttyhunk, was breached. Shoaling narrowed the harbor entrance, so passenger and freight ferries had to be off loaded in the outer harbor.
- 1945 Seamond Ponsart, the five-year-old daughter of a lighthouse keeper on Cuttyhunk, desperately wanted a doll for Christmas. **The Flying Santa, who delivered to Lightkeeper households along the coast,** dropped her family's package from the plane, accidentally breaking the doll. Seamond was heartbroken. A new promised doll was delivered.
- 1945 **Army installation and coastal artillery units on Cuttyhunk, the Neck and Naushon are removed.** Many buildings sold for private homes and moved to other locations on island. On Cuttyhunk, the PX become the Lovell home, the Officers Quarters, "Government House"– The Baldwin House, the recreation hall, SeaBreeze– the Conway's. The location of the faux cedar shingled, "fishing village" was in the hollow of the land, just over the end of Tower Hill Rd.
- 1947 **The lighthouse built in 1892 is demolished and replaced by a steel tower navigation aid** at the West End–near Sow and Pigs reef. The hurricane of 1945 had caused irreparable damage. Then end of the era of a manned station. Current keeper Octave Ponsart and family were transported to their new assignment with their belongings from a beach on Cuttyhunk to a beach near West Chop Light using a Higgins boat, a type of Navy landing craft used for beach landings in World War II.
- 1948 **Cuttyhunk Fishing Club sold to Robert L Moore** (founder of the Sheraton Hotel chain) and **Eleanor Turner Moore** by the Cornelius Wood Sr. family. The Moores lovingly restored the old building, retained the original furnishings, paintings, and artifacts, and continued Granny's 4th of July tradition of entertaining island families at the club with musical chairs, games, bubbles, cupcakes and lemonade! The Moore family owned it for almost 50 years. (See 1935, 1998)
- 1949 **Work on Barges Beach begins to strengthen it after a breach** in a November, 1944 Nor'easter. Ten New York train 'car floats' were run

aground forming a spine down the length of beach, and four perpendicular. They were then sunk and covered with 150,000 cubic yards of fill over the two year construction. Three years later the beach repair extended 500 ft., an additional barge added. (See 1955)

- 1951 **Mackenzie Cuttyhunk Bass boats debut** and enable guides to fish close to rock caves where fish trophy ‘cows’ hydro-glide.
- 1952 **The second Coast Guard Station at Canapitsit removed and floated on a barge to Menemsha.** Commissioning of the new station at Menemsha took place on March 12, 1954. In January, 1974, the Coast Guard officially changed the name of the station to reflect its actual location. A small Coast Guard “boathouse” remains on Cuttyhunk at Canapitsit and later becomes part of the Mel Dorr residence.
- 1954 **Avalon sold to Ralph Stuart Waugh and his wife Janet by the Cornelius “Connie” Wood, Sr. family.** “Ralph Stuart” an orchestra leader performed on the east coast. Also a sport fishing enthusiast, the newlywed couple opened "The Avalon" sport-fishing club on Cuttyhunk Island, in 1954. They had two children Spence and Stuart, lived in Providence, RI and had an active social life in Palm Beach, the Bahamas, Newport and Cuttyhunk.
- 1954 The **flagpole and monument was erected in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery** to honor the memory of Capt. Irwin C. Hall (1879–1954). Capt. Hall came to Cuttyhunk at twenty-one to be a member of the Cuttyhunk Lifesaving Service. He was a surfman at the station built in 1889 off Canapitsit. He married Myrtle Bosworth (1884–1947), whose parents ran a boarding house. Capt. Hall was a superb seaman and master navigator. He commanded a submarine chaser during WWI and was awarded a Navy Cross in 1927 from Admiral Sims. He was highly praised by his crew and commanding officers for his heroism and fairness. Later in life he was a yacht captain. His funeral was one of the largest on the island.
- 1954 August 7th, a **Great White Shark in Cuttyhunk harbor** was shot and killed.
- 1954 **August 31st, Hurricane Carol arrives** during the early morning hours.

The active season followed with Hurricanes Edna (9/11) and then Hazel. Low pressure 28.35, 105 mph. sustained winds, category 3. Barges beach seriously damaged.

- 1954 **Hurricane Carol rips off the “witches hat” steeple** on the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church and it was re-built.
- 1954 **A new U.S. Coast Guard Station is built near 3 Corners**, closer to the island it protects. The **U.S. Coast Guard Station** closes in 1964, however it is maintained and managed by the Coast Guard and the furnished apartments are summer vacation rentals to active/retired Coast Guardsmen.
- 1954 The **fishing shacks rebuilt at The Point** following Hurricane Carol damage.
- 1955 **Canapitsit Beach repair, an additional barge added** following Hurricane Carol damage.
- 1955 **A building boom following the hurricanes of '54 and '55.** On the 250 acres of Cuttyhunk, 74 new homes.
- 1956 April 14, **the new Cuttyhunk Yacht Club was launched**, at the home of Robert and Eleanor Moore (former Cuttyhunk Club, c.1864). In the first newsletter, auditor Sally Garfield announced the officers: Alex Brown, Jr., Commodore, “Newie” Garfield, Treasurer, and George Kidder, Clerk. The group decided that incorporation was advisable and the eight incorporators (C.A. Wood, R. Moore, N. Garfield, Sr., D. Frothingham, R.E. House, Jr., G.H. Kidder, A.C. Brown, Jr., and N Garfield, Jr.) agreed to serve as the Board of Governors pending the first annual meeting of the membership. (The early Junior Yacht Club was founded about 1935).
- 1957 **Church parsonage built next to the church.** The Ashley, Dean and Spanos families gift the land and help build the Parsonage. It is the summer residence of the Methodist pastor.
- 1957 **Two wings added to the original section of the Cuttyhunk Library.** (See 1893)

- 1957 **Avalon sold by Ralph Stuart, to the Music Corporation of America–David Baumgarten Family.** David and his wife, Marilyn Snow Baumgarten, lived in the house from 1962 through the remainder of her life. Upon her death in 1982, David created The Marilyn Snow House Foundation in her memory. (See 1982)
- 1958 **Construction of new docks and marina** heralds "discovery" of the island by yachtsmen.
- 1958 The **Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church begins renting the Parsonage** to the School Committee for teacher residence during the school year, keeping a teacher through the school year and a consistent classroom experience for the children. It would later become problematic and end in 2006 when the parsonage is remodeled.
- 1960 **Watercolor artist Mary Lindenberg** of New York and Dartmouth, MA comes to Cuttyhunk frequently to paint island village scenes, during the late 1950s and early 1960s.
- 1960 **Doris J. Tilton Bosworth (1925–1960)** born to Charles W. Tilton and Sarah J. (Clark) Tilton. Married Lloyd H. Bosworth in 1946 and died 1960 at the age of 36. Doris was well known in the fishing world and appeared in national advertisements for fishing supplies. In 1949, Doris and Lloyd, also an accomplished sport fisherman, were featured in Sports Illustrated. In October of 1959, Doris caught a 43–pound striped bass on the West End of Cuttyhunk, which earned the International Game Fish Association’s World Record for striped bass for women anglers.
- 1960 **First International Swordfishing Tournament.** It lasted until 1972, while the fish were running.
- 1962 **Church sacristy/pastor’s study/office added on to the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church.** Dr. William Douglas, Methodist pastor, saw a need for a study during his early 1960’s ministry. That addition has since been used for an office, library and meeting place. Remodeled in 2009.
- 1963 **Norman Gingrass begins Island Air Service to Cuttyhunk,** based in Fairhaven. The seaplane lands and takes off in the harbor, along the shore of Copicut Neck OR where ever Capt. Gingrass determines is the

best wind direction. Many a passenger “white knucked” take-offs and landings on the narrow channel with Norman dodging sailboats. Capt. Gingrass was legendary for his unparalleled experience and sense of humor.

- 1964 After 25 years, the **2 miles of paved road** on Cuttyhunk is resurfaced.
- 1964 March 2nd, the **U.S. Coast Guard Boathouse decommissioned**. Coast Guard Service for the Elizabeth Islands continues from neighboring stations in Menemsha and Woods Hole. The U.S. Coast Guard Station & Boathouse are the last two remaining structures of our rich maritime heritage. The **U.S. Coast Guard Station** is maintained and managed by the Coast Guard and the furnished apartments are weekly summer vacation rentals to active/retired Coast Guardsmen. Both structures are signature buildings with their distinctive architecture and regulation white clapboard and red roof.
- 1964 The **U.S. Coast Guard removes the 100 ft metal Lookout Tower** erected at the top of Tower Hill Rd.
- 1965 The **Canapitsit stone jetty and Church’s breakwater projects started in 1959, completed**. Purpose to create “structures to preserve the natural beaches, protect the harbor and reduce shoaling.”
- 1965 **Prolific writer Robert “Robin” Moore (1925–2008)** releases “The Green Berets” 1965, and in 1969, “The French Connection”. Robin is the son of Robert and Eleanor Moore, at their summer home, the former Cuttyhunk Club. Over the course of his career he enjoys time with his family on Cuttyhunk and the solitude to write.
- 1967 **Rev. Dr. John Ward, Assoc. Prof. School of Theology, Boston University, appointed summer pastor** of Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church, beginning a ministry that would continue for 33 years. Extending Christian hospitality, he invites summer-resident Episcopal pastors Rev. Bill Munds and Rev. Boone Porter to continue presiding at Episcopal communion on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. in the church. For the first time, Catholics are welcomed to hold Mass in the Methodist church on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.; they had previously held services in the Town Hall. The Catholic priest conducting Mass for many years was Fr. Philip Kelly, flown over from the mainland and back each Sunday by Norman Gingrass. Fr. Kelly invited John and Carmen Ward to lead the music for

Mass. The friendship and collegiality of the Methodist, Episcopal, and Catholic church leaders became a model of Christian brotherhood visible to all. (See 1999)

- 1969 About this time, **Wyatt and Kitsy Garfield donate property to the Cuttyhunk Yacht Club**. The clubhouse was built soon thereafter by A.P. Tilton and Allan Potter.
- 1970 The **Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church altar is updated**. The altar rail that once separated the pastor from the congregation was moved back to become the front of the altar table. The original brass cross was affixed to island driftwood by Wally Ketcham. The quahog shell mosaics of St. Francis and the Virgin Mary, were created by Manuel Sarmiento, the caretaker of Nashawena Island and later a Cuttyhunk resident.
- 1970 October 10th, **Edward J. Kirker, new record holder 50 lb. test line category IGFA, 72 lb. striped bass**, Cuttyhunk Sow and Pigs Reef, live eel bait. Replaces the record of Charles Church (1873) with a more accurate standardized measurement and test line.
- 1971 **The ‘Witch’s Hat’ Steeple on the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church was struck by lightning and removed**. The striped bass weathervane, set atop the repaired cupola, was designed and created by Islander Stephen Baldwin. The iconic weathervane continues to distinguish the roofline of the church, as if in homage to the first Baptist deacon fishermen and the Cuttyhunk Club’s generosity in donating the land. (See 1997, 2018)
- 1972 **Died Octave Ponsart (1899–1972) the last lighthouse keeper**. Buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.
- 1972 **First International Swordfish Tournament ended** due to scarcity of fish.
- 1972 May 13, Andover, Essex, MA, **Cornelius “Connie” Ayer Wood, Sr (1893–1972) dies**. Cornelius Ayer Wood, Sr., 78 a banker and realty executive who earlier had served as vice president of the American Woolen Company, the corporation founded by his father, William M. Wood, Sr., died of a heat attack at the family estate, Arden, in Andover, Mass. Mr. Wood was named first vice president of the woolen concern

in the same announcement that contained his father's resignation as president because of ill health. He too resigned soon afterwards. Later, Mr. Wood became president and a director of the Park Square Building Company, Boston; president of the Shawsheen Realty Company and a director of the First National Bank of Boston, and the Old Colony Trust Company of Boston. During both World War I and II, Mr. Wood served as a Naval officer and was subsequently elected president of the Navy League. Mr. Wood leaves his wife, the former Muriel Prindle (1893–1979); a son, Rev. Cornelius A. Wood Jr., a daughter, Mrs. Muriel W. Ponzechi, and six grandchildren.

- 1973 **John Hornbach, begins teaching at Cuttyhunk Elementary School**, a tenure lasting five years. It was his first teaching job after graduating from college. He started with just three students. One thing Hornbach liked about teaching so few students was “they can move at their own rate. It’s almost like home schooling.” Students who learn fast can go on to the next grade level. Another advantage, he said, is “you do get to know your students very well. Kids don’t slip through the cracks. And you know the parents quite well.”
- 1973 **Capt. Brad Luther purchases the green and white Alert I**, and continues ferry service to Cuttyhunk, until 1983.
- 1977 **Windmill (80' high with 40' blades) built on Lookout Hill, to supplement generated electricity, but never integrated.** The project was spearheaded by visionary islander Allen Spaulding, Jr. who was the founder of WTG (Wind Turbine Generator) Energy Systems in Buffalo, NY. (See below, 1991, 2013)
- 1978 In 1978, the price of oil soared and domestic reserves plummeted resulting in long lines at gas stations. President Carter declared an ‘energy crisis.’ When David Vassar learned about a group of young environmental activists, engineers, and artists who were building a windmill to generate electricity on a remote island off the coast of Massachusetts, he sensed a story. After raising independent financing from his lawyer and landlord, David spent a solid year documenting the construction of the giant wind turbine. It is an engineering story as well as a story about the American spirit, but most of all it was a story about generating power from a renewable resource. In **1979, the Cuttyhunk Windmill was the largest wind turbine ever constructed for the generation of electricity.** It wasn’t built by General Electric or

funded by the Department of Energy, it was built by hand with private money from small investors. Although later retired from service, the Cuttyhunk windmill provided 'proof of concept' for what later became a ubiquitous source of renewable energy. Film "Generation on the Wind", David Vassar, producer/writer/director/editor. Academy Award Nominee, Best Documentary Feature. Winner, Best Documentary, Blue Ribbon, American Film Festival. Winner, Best Documentary, San Francisco Int'l Film Festival. Broadcast nationally on PBS and BBC in 1980.

- 1978 **Died Louise "Hattie" Taylor Haskell (1893–1978)** who was a longtime teacher in the one room schoolhouse, author of "The Story of Cuttyhunk", librarian and the first woman preacher in the Cuttyhunk Church. Having the school teacher also be a lay pastor, allowed islanders to meet and pray through the winter months when the church was closed. She is buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery. (See 1941)
- 1978 **Cuttyhunk Historical Association and Center founded by the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church**, is formed to collect and preserve the history of the island through a portion of the church's Jessie Ball Dupont \$1,000 fund. Alex C. Brown, Jr. Chairman of the Board of the church, becomes president of the newly formed organization including Janet Bosworth, Louise Ketcham and Robbie Lou Ashworth. **Janet Bosworth** is the history sleuth, researcher and curator. She reaches out to the community collecting, stories, photographs, documents and artifacts in her garage. She created summer exhibits on display at the one-room schoolhouse and library until the museum opened in 1991. (see 1980)
- 1978 The **Wally Ketchum brought a golf cart to the island** to make travel easier climbing Broadway to their home. Flora Lovell photographed the Ketchum's Harley-Davidson golf cart at the ferry dock with Elizabeth Munds, Catherine Munds on board and Lou Ketchum driving.
- 1979 The **Allen House is sold** by Clarence & Lucille Allen to Jay Solod, Leon Kutz and George Achille, associates through the textile industry. The sale included The Annex and small cottages Fair Play, Fowl Play, Horse Play, No Play (behind kitchen) and Last Fling (in front). (See 1910) Margo Solod and Nina Solod Brodeur owned and operated the Allen House Restaurant and Inn until it was sold in 1993. Solod bought out Kutz in '83 and Achille in '85.

- 1979 March 11, Muriel Prindle Wood, wife of Cornelius Ayer Wood, Sr. (1893–1972), dies. **Winter House** passes to their adult children, Muriel “Oriol” Wood Ponzeccchi, Cornelius Ayer Wood, Jr.
- 1980 **Kit Ackerman Dennis opens Cuttyhunk Crafts** in her family's island home. With the iconic ‘laundry on the line’ harbor view, she creates one-of-a-kind, collectable Cuttyhunk T-shirts, jewelry, woven, clothes pin baskets and more. Her summer shop continues for almost 20 years.
- 1980 **Cuttyhunk Historical Association Exhibit: “Cuttyhunk Pilots: Whaling Days and Wrecks”** Curator: Janet Bosworth
- 1980 October 8, The **Cuttyhunk Historical Association becomes the Cuttyhunk Historical Society Inc**, a non-profit corporation. Alexander C. Brown; President, Janet Bosworth, Vice President/Curator; George Shaw, Clerk; Alexander C. Brown, Treasurer. Directors: Carolyn Borges, Virginia Coope, Rev. John Ward. Every summer, the society installed informative exhibits, first in the library and then the schoolhouse. (See 1978 and 1991)
- 1981 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibit: “Fifty Years of Cuttyhunk 1910–1960: Island’s Old Houses and the Wood Era” “Island Handicrafts”** Curator Janet Bosworth
- 1981 **Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms begins** cultivating and selling Cuttyhunk oysters raised in the West End Pond and Penikese Harbor. They begin cultivating Belon oysters 1981–89, and then brand the Cuttyhunk Oyster. The summer of 1982, Raw Bar begins boat-side service in the summer months. Owners Seth and Dorothy Garfield, over the years employ island youth in every facet of the business learning the value of hard work, customer service, and the satisfaction of teamwork. (See 2022)
- 1981 **Bonnie Dale Veeder opens the Vineyard View Restaurant and Bakery** in the lower level of her home overlooking Vineyard Sound, an island breakfast favorite for the next 18 years! Her humor and commentary, a legendary accompaniment to fabulous meals. (See 1995)
- 1981 **Musical talent shows and plays were often held on the Town Hall stage** over the years. The summer of 1981, Rev. John Ward and Hamilton Brush did a barefoot song-and-dance number with ukuleles,

clad in crepe-paper “grass” skirts and leis!—not the only time islanders were surprised and delighted in the church pastor’s performance. Later, in the Musicale at Winter House—the Rev. Dr. Ward as a singing cowboy, a fiddler, and once, memorably, in a dress and wig as “Dorothy” from the Wizard of Oz with Shelly Merriam as the Scarecrow!

1982 **Barrier Beach Inventory Project** (Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies) identifies 7 barrier beaches on Cuttyhunk.

1982 In 1957, **David Baumgarten bought the Avalon**, and his wife, Marilyn Snow, lived in the house from 1962 through the remainder of her life. She was born Alice Snow on Aug 19, 1933 in Brooklyn, NY and died Aug. 27, 1982, at the Avalon. David created The **Marilyn Snow House Foundation, a charitable non-profit, in her memory**. (See 1999, 2017)

Mission Statement: The Marilyn Snow House Foundation will enrich the health, well-being, and cultural life of Cuttyhunk Island by carefully stewarding the historic Avalon property and dedicating it to the needs and interests of the islanders. Trust: 6912 E Randon Point Lane, Spokane, WA 99223. Tax-exempt since June 1994.

David Baumgarten retired as an entertainment agent in 1982, and died in 1995.

1982 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibit: “The Art of Cuttyhunk: 50 Artists”** Curated by Ethel “Smoke” Twichell

1983 **Rededication of the Gosnold Monument** (built 1903).

1983 After 95 years, the **Bosworth House closes as an inn** and restaurant. A year later, it becomes a private home for the Parsons family, then the Spengler’s. The home and inn was built in 1874. (See 1888)

1983 **Ginger Thompson**, owner of the Cuttyhunk Store “Abaft the House” on Broadway, paints the directional **compass rose in the middle of the intersection at 4-Corners**. It remains for decades and is repainted periodically by volunteers. (See 2024)

1983 Ray and Linda Hopps purchase the **Alert I and Cuttyhunk Boat Lines Inc.** from Capt. Brad Luther. (See 2006)

1984 **Cuttyhunk Harbor Commission established**. Public moorings installed.

- 1984 **“Most of the larger Elizabeth Islands average 100 ft or less in elevation,** an exception being Cuttyhunk (154 ft.), Nashawena (152 ft.), Pasque (118 ft.), and Naushon (136 ft.)” (Mass. Historical Commission Reconnaissance Survey Report)
- 1985 July 28th, the **Pilgrim Belle runs aground off Cuttyhunk**, on her maiden voyage. Steamboat style with Victorian interiors. Holes in the side were stuffed with mattresses to keep her afloat. Coast Guard was quick to respond, as well as local boaters. Passengers off loaded to Cuttyhunk. Islanders offered beds and food. The 193-foot passenger vessel, 84 passengers and 16 crew, began taking on water around 4:30 P.M. Rescue workers discovered a 3-by-9-foot hole in the vessel's hull. Pilot charged with negligence. Repairs \$357,000 and returned to service.
- 1985 George Achille sells his share of the **Allen House** (See 1970) and keeps the small cottage “Last Fling”, in front of it. He soon adds an addition to the cottage **closing off the road (Pottery Lane) that connects Broadway to Cemetery Road.** Memories of the Allen House van, loaded with luggage and guests “gunning it” to make the hill, are silenced.
- 1985 **First Aid and Safety.** Seth Garfield applied for a \$5,000 grant from the State of Massachusetts to bring trainers to the Island to teach CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) and first aid. At the same time the town started to build and train the fire department and Seth became Chief of Cuttyhunk Fire and Rescue. The department acquired more gear, a new truck, and sent Asa Lombard IV and Keith Hunter to the fire academy for 8 weeks of paid training. Oriel Wood Ponzecchi donated some stock as a challenge donation and established the First Aid and Safety Fund. It is used to buy equipment, pay for training and help support the Doctor’s in Residence program at Avalon (See 1999).
- 1986 The 1980s bring record numbers of deer, mice, and rabbits showing ill health and being part of the cycle transmitting Lyme Disease to humans through **deer ticks**. The town tries to target the problem with Damminix, a product to interrupt the cycle. **Lyme Disease** continues to be a health problem with higher incidence on the islands and spreading to the mainland. “Tick checks” become routine for islanders and visitors. (See 2014)

- 1986 Gary Hodges, manager of Naushon Farms, said that **coyotes arrived** there in 1986 and that 25 or 30 of his sheep were killed by coyotes that first year, including more than a dozen ewes taken in one night. "It was probably only a pair of coyotes hunting together," he added. **It takes 20 more years before the coyotes swim between the islands and arrive on Cuttyhunk.**
- 1986: **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibit: "Island Crafts by Islanders"**
- 1987 **Margo Solod and Nina Solod Brodeur bought the Allen House** from their father, Jay Solod and continue to run the inn and restaurant until 1993.
- 1987 **First Annual Musical Evening at Winter House** hosted by Oriel and Piero Ponzecchi. Organized and inspired by Judith Archer, local talent of all ages performs musical numbers. Winter House has two Steinway grand pianos. The Musicale moves to the church in 1997. There were some prior musical talent shows held at the Town Hall on occasion.
- 1987 **Muriel Wood Ponzecchi donated land** for the **Cuttyhunk Historical Society** museum, in memory of her parents Muriel (Prindle) and Cornelius "Connie" Ayer Wood. The founders launched a building campaign to address the growing collection, dedicated exhibit place and an apartment for a resident manager. (See 1991)
- 1987 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibit: Art Show**
- 1987 **Alert I, orange and white, wooden 1917 ferry, retired.** Alert II (blue and white) steel hull, begins service. Cuttyhunk Boat Lines owned by Ray and Linda Hopps (See 1983, 2006).
- 1987 **Norman Gingrass retires Island Air Shuttle** after 24 years of flying to Cuttyhunk (See 1963).
- 1987 **Dredging of the channel**, sand dumped on Jetty, Canapitsit and Church's Beaches.
- 1987 The parking lot at the **Fish Dock and Broadway paved** up to the top of the hill.

- 1987 **Buzzards Bay Coalition organized** by a group of concerned citizens from around the bay, with the support from the local, state and federal level. **Seth Garfield, president of the board of directors** said, “This project is designed to evaluate each municipality’s efforts in groundwater and coastal water protection and will, hopefully, serve as a tool in their efforts to restore and protect Buzzards Bay communities including members; Westport, Dartmouth, Acushnet, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisset, Rochester, Marion, Wareham, Bourne, Falmouth and Gosnold (The Elizabeth Islands).
- 1988 **Gid Fisher begins Island Shuttle service** to Cuttyhunk from New Bedford. (Ends 1995)
- 1988 **Town begins recycling at the landfill** on the way to the West End. Thank you to Ginger Cooper, Seth Garfield, Sandy Brown and Bee Elmore. With the help of Steve Baldwin, we hope to have a large composter system in place next year.
- 1988 The Lloyd Center for the Environment of Dartmouth, MA begins to **survey the moth population on the Elizabeth Islands**, setting UV light traps on the islands of Pasque, Naushon, Nashawena and Cuttyhunk. (See 2019)
- 1989 “This is the **first year of handling our own police force**. During the summer we have had an active police patrol for 14–16 hours per week. The force has given a number of speeding warnings and we think that message is getting through.”
- 1989 April 14, **Cuttyhunk begins recycling**. As per the selectmen: “Due to the increase in volume of the garbage left on Cuttyhunk, the town will begin an all out effort to try and reduce the garbage that stays on the island. This year we ask that you help out by recycling glass, plastics, tin cans and aluminum cans. Convenient stations will be placed around town for you to put these rinsed and clean materials into.”
- 1989 September, All the **sorted, recycled material (except plastic) collected this summer**, filled a 40 ft. tractor trailer and was shipped off this fall. Meaning, less trash added to the town dump at the West End.

- 1990 The **Cuttyhunk Cultural Council** was formed under the direction of Margo Solod with a committee of one initially. Early activities included a Tennessee storyteller, an artist’s residency program and a summer theater program. Partial funding is provided through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is a state agency committed to building a central place for the arts, sciences and humanities in the everyday lives of communities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (See 2015)
- 1990 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibit: “Island History Through Early Ships and Houses”**, at the schoolhouse. Curator: Janet Bosworth
- 1990 July, The Harbor Commission erects a **flagpole at the Fish Dock** in memory of Irwin “Coot” Hall, noted fishing guide, and Norman Gingrass, seaplane pilot.
- 1991 **New Cuttyhunk Historical Society Museum building dedicated.** Formerly, exhibits displayed at the school and library during summer months. Land donated by Oriel Wood Ponzeccchi in memory of her parents, Muriel (Prindle) and Cornelius “Connie” Ayer Wood, Sr., Peter Coope, President, Ethel “Smoke” Twichell, Vice-President/Curator/ Museum Committee Chairman Carolyn Powers, Museum Manager,
- 1991 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibit: “Treasures from our Collection”** Curator: Janet Bosworth.
- 1991 **August 19th, Hurricane "Bob"**, Lowest pressure 28.40, sustained winds 105 mph. Two breaches at Barges Beach. Over wash on the Road to the Landing and floods the Coast Guard Boathouse. Fuel Farm damaged and closed. The fresh water round pond at the Fishing Club is fouled with saltwater and begins to fill in with vegetation. “The hurricane event resulted in the most dramatic change in vegetation succession of invasive plants toward reforesting of the the island”, according to botanist/naturalist, Allie Thurston.
- 1991 August 19th, Boaters, seeking shelter from **Hurricane Bob**, gathered together with pets and a few possessions to ride out the storm at the **Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church**. Hymnals are piled on the altar and benches moved to provide a place to rest and read. Islanders offer food, water and conversation. The church has been standing firm through several major hurricanes including those of 1938, 1944 and 1954. Islanders also offered beds, food and hospitality. A National

Geographic photographer happened to be on island for the week (and much of the spring and summer) and documented island life for the June, 1992 issue.

- 1991 **Windmill on Tower Hill Rd.**, erected in 1977, **torn down** after Hurricane Bob. Remnants left at the top of Tower Hill Rd.
- 1991 **Cuttyhunk Elementary School**, one room school house, **closes** for lack of students. Reopens in 1993.
- 1992 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibit:** "Cuttyhunk Fishing Club: History and Artifacts." Curated by Ethel "Smoke" Twichell.
- 1992 August 7th, **Queen Elizabeth II runs aground** "off Cuttyhunk", in Vineyard Sound. Cause determined to be an uncharted rock.
- 1993 September, the **Cuttyhunk Elementary School**, one room school house, **reopens** with three students, one in kindergarten and two in preschool.
- 1993 The **Allen House Inn and Restaurant**, owned & managed by Nina Solod Brodeur and Margo Solod, **closed and sold** to the Boone and Vi Porter family. The sale includes The Annex. The the sale of the Allen House Inn and Bosworth House Inn (1984) sadly ends island summer dinner service to boaters and islanders alike, enjoyed over the last century.
- 1993 **First Audubon conservation presence** on the island on Elkan Blout property, adjacent to the cemetery.
- 1993 **Fr. Philip Kelly's last summer after 25 years** flying in to conduct Sunday Catholic Mass at the island Methodist church. The historic religious services under one roof, began in 1967 with the cooperation of Fr. Kelly, Rev. Wm. Munds and Dr. John Ward.
- 1993 **First Zoning By-Laws** adopted by the town.
- 1993 **Assessors report the number of parcels:** Cuttyhunk 187, Naushon 49, Nashawena 2, Pasque 6, 17 tax exempt.

- 1993 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibits:** “Irwin C. Hall and Family”, “Relics from The Wanderer”, Paintings by June Dean. Curated by Ethel “Smoke” Twichell.
- 1993 An historical marker **survey of the Cuttyhunk Island Cemetery**, near the Fishing Club, is conducted by Shelly Merriam for the Cuttyhunk Historical Society. The records are housed at CHS. “There are (239) people buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery, (176) gravestones and 64 veterans. Since its gift to the town by the The Cuttyhunk Club in 1889. the individuals remembered here reflect the island’s history of pilots, fishermen, lifesavers, lighthouse keepers, town politicians, war veterans, teachers, storekeepers and occupations related to tourism services. Also buried here are generations of families who have enjoyed the island as summer residents. Never to be told are the stories of those buried here, who washed ashore from shipwrecks and have remained nameless or those who died young before their stories began.”
- 1993 September, **The Cuttyhunk Store on Broadway closes**. The market was “Abaft the House” owned by Ginger Thomson Day and formerly by her parents, “Muggsy” and Flo Thomson. The town was without a market for a couple of summers before The Island Market opens. (See 1996)
- 1994 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibits:** “Avalon and Island Boarding Houses”, “Ships’ Lines and Half Models” by Tom Hale, “Paintings by Nancy Baldwin.” Curated by Ethel “Smoke” Twichell.
- 1994 Gonzalo Leon of Naushon elected **first off-island selectman** upon Wyatt Garfield's retirement.
- 1994 **Dot’s Gift Shop closes**. The tiny dollhouse sized shop off-Broadway, was owned by the beloved Dot Smith Brown. Over the decades, running a gift shop from home provided additional income for island women. Dot sold small collectables from her cottage built of timbers from the salvaged wreck of the ship Monticello.
- 1995 May, **lightning strikes and damages the Power House**.

- 1995 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibits:** “Harvesting the Sea, from 1880 On”, “Island Images by Cuttyhunk Artists”. Curated by Ethel “Smoke” Twitchell.
- 1995 July 1, **Gosnold becomes an independent school district** with superintendent, Russell Latham.
- 1995 **All-island Annual Fourth of July parade of golf carts begins.** John and Sally Medeiros and Ed Camara are the organizers and energy behind the event that quickly brings neighborly competition to the decoration of golf carts. The first golf carts arrived on island in the 1970’s. The parade ends at the bunker at the top of Tower Hill where island children sing, pastors offer a prayer, taps is played, military veterans are honored, and the national anthem is sung.
- 1995 **Fuel Tanks installed near the Town Dock** following damage from Hurricane Bob of 1991
- 1995 Asa Lombard IV takes over from Richard “Dick” Cornell as the **Island Cemetery caretaker**. Past cemetery caretakers, Caroline Cornell and Dorothy Tilton.
- 1995 **Gid Fisher’s “Island Shuttle”**, seaplane service, ends. (Begins 1988)
- 1995 September, **Bonnie Veeder closes the Vineyard View Restaurant** in the lower level of her home. Awesome cinnamon rolls, breads and muffins, egg breakfasts and pancakes! Outside, a hedge of beautiful Rose of Sharon in pink, blue and white. Greeted by “Love Bug”, the Portuguese water dog on the roof, who came bounding out of the second floor window of the house!! Bonnie continues to offer bakery goods in an area adjacent to the restaurant space, for a few years before beginning management of the Cuttyhunk Fishing Club Bed & Breakfast, 1998.
- 1996 **Kris Lombard and Nancy Battini open the Cuttyhunk Island Market** in the former Vineyard View Restaurant space at Bonnie Veeder’s. They are there two years before moving to a newly built location on Broadway. (See 1998)

- 1996 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibits:** “Island Boats – At Work and At Play, 40th Anniversary of CYC”, “Pasque Island Watercolors by William McDowell, 1914.” Curated by Ethel “Smoke” Twichell.
- 1996 **Gary Small begins “Bayside Air”** seaplane service. (ends 2004)
- 1996 **Pilot whales** sighted off the Neck in July.
- 1996 August, **Old Texas Tower removed** from Sow and Pigs Reef and replaced with a new one.
- 1996 **U.S. Coast Guard excavates the former lighthouse** location at the West End, removing lighthouse battery by helicopter. Also removed, lighthouse artifacts found in the process.
- 1996 **Town dump** on the way to the West End, closes. Burning of trash ceases and a compactor is used.
- 1997 Off-island **barging of trash and recycling** begins.
- 1997 February 14, **U.S. Coast Guard Boathouse gifted to the Town of Gosnold** with preservation restrictions (Book 698 pg 181).
- 1997 The **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibits:** “The Cuttyhunk Cemetery – A History in Stone” Curated by Shelly Merriam. “Island Artists – Manuel Sarmiento and Wilfred Tilton”. Curated by Ethel “Smoke” Twichell.
- 1997 August 7, 10 p.m. **The QE2, “takes a squat’ off Sow and Pigs Reef, Vineyard Sound.** *A squat is a nautical term about a complex hydrodynamic phenomenon. **The Queen Elizabeth II**, was taking a break from her Southampton to New York transit to try a five-day sail from New York to Halifax and back again, with a brief anchorage off East Chop. The vessel was ordered two-thirds of a mile off course too late to distance herself from the treacherous shoals off Cuttyhunk. The area is historically called “The Graveyard of Ships.” Planning a Quick’s Hole opening to The Vineyard, instead a hired local pilot aimed for the southwestern edge of Cuttyhunk and a boxy rock formation, not charted, left a 74-foot gash, along 300 feet of the keel. The QE2 had a 35-foot draft that should have passed over this 37-foot deep “obstacle,” but was sailing at 24 knots, 85 percent of maximum speed.

“A vessel moving quickly through shallow water creates an area of lowered pressure with its bottom and causes the ship to ‘squat’ lower in the water than would normally be expected. The rock upon which [the QE2] grounded should have given her room to spare if not for the squat effect.” All 1,815 of the passengers and most of the 1,000-member crew were evacuated to Newport. Towboats hauled the ship to dry dock for weeks of repair.

- 1997 August, the annual **Musicale** moves from **Winter House** to the Cuttyhunk Church. (See 1987)
- 1997 The Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church’s iconic **wooden striped bass weathervane**, designed and created by Islander Stephen Baldwin in 1971, and is recreated and replaced in by Bill Archer, Mark Brodeur and crew.
- 1997 The **Cuttyhunk Fishing Club** is sold by the **Moore Family** to Oriel Wood Ponzecchi. Robert and Eleanor Moore bought the Club from Cornelius Wood, Sr. in 1948. It has been enjoyed seasonally by their descendants John, Diane and Katie Moore. The Club, purchased by Wood’s granddaughter, Oriel Wood Ponzecchi, returns it to Wood family ownership after 70 years. (See 1923 & 1948)
- 1998 The **Cuttyhunk Fishing Club** opens as a **Bed & Breakfast** owned by Oriel Wood Ponzecchi and managed by Bonnie Veeder. It caters to families, individuals, large groups, weddings and of course, fishermen. Breakfast is open to the public July/August. Oriel and Bonnie’s goal is to make the Cuttyhunk Fishing Club Bed and Breakfast a convivial breakfast spot for visitors and Cuttyhunkers alike.
- 1998 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibits:** “Then and Now” The Good Old Days? Island life in earlier times. “Island Miniatures”: paintings by Flora Fairchild. Curated by Ethel “Smoke” Twichell.
- 1998 **Krisenia “Kris” and Ace Lombard III** move **The Island Market** to Broadway (from leased space at Bonnie Veeder’s) to a new building adjacent to son, Asa Lombard IV’s home. The market boasts a deli, custom sandwiches, fresh vegetables/fruits, dairy, staples and boating/fishing/gift needs. Patrons say, “They have at least one of anything you want.” It is open all year round with reduced hours in the winter. (See 2012)

- 1999 A new section (2AA) of the **Cuttyhunk Island Cemetery** created, adding a row by moving the southeast fence on either side of the shed up to the gate.
- 1999 **CHS Historical Society Exhibits: “Penikese: Island of Hope”** Curated by Thomas Buckley and Shelly Merriam. “Old Signs on Cuttyhunk”. Curated by Dave and Ethel “Smoke” Twichell.
- 1999 **Dr. John Ward and his wife Carmen, retire after 33 years** of ministry at the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church. Under his direction the Sunday evening hymn sing usually included the ‘Cuttyhunk Hymn’, “Brightly Beams Our Father’s Mercy” and the service always ends with “Savior Again to Thy Dear Name We Praise.” There was an island-wide potluck supper and farewell party on the lawn at Avalon, to acknowledge John and Carmen’s contributions and friendship over 33 years.
- 1999 **Doctor-in-Residence Program at Avalon initiated by Dr. Seymour DiMare**, providing summer emergency medical assistance, partnering with Chief Seth Garfield and Cuttyhunk Fire and Rescue. During the summer months the doctors man the Avalon office and a basic team of first responders assist with triage and transport. Jono Camara, Jon Frothingham and others have been first responders, police patrol and have carried pagers and responded to incidents. The pagers were added in about 1998 and have added quality response time to the team. In keeping with David Baumgarten's desire for the house to serve the community on Cuttyhunk through the Marilyn Snow House Foundation, a portion of the home houses guest physicians who provide free healthcare for the Island during the summer months. (See 1982) The volunteer doctors saw 58 medical cases in July/August.
- 1999 The town works cooperatively with the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding the town owned, decommissioned **U.S. Coast Guard Boathouse** and the proposed construction of a barge ramp adjacent to it. The existing pier, 1938 ramp/rails will be removed before construction. Shelly Merriam prepares an historical survey of the property (on file at CHS) and MHC deems it is eligible for National Historic Register designation.
- 1999 **Wayne Perrier** takes over as Superintendent of the island **Power House** and all its challenges. At the time, the town’s power is provided

by four aging Caterpillar generators that are very noisy! Early improvements are insulation of the power house and new thermal windows to view the generators and quiet the sound.

- 1990s **Island pay phones on Broadway**, the Bosworth House and the Fish Dock fade from use as more people have cell phones. Island telephones switch to service from satellites rather than the cable under the bay. The cable was often cut by trawlers or draggers and had to be repaired by divers while the island was without phone service. The last of the phone booths, at Broadway and Allen House path, was finally removed in early 2000s after sitting idle for several years. Oh, the stories it could tell.
- 2000 **Tom Hale, model boat maker**, creates a model of the historic 1938 U.S. **Coast Guard Boathouse** with finger docks, and ramps/rails into the water (Scale 1"=20ft). The model is a gift to the **Museum of the Elizabeth Islands** and exhibited in the 2003 exhibit "The U.S. Coast Guard, Lifesaving and Lightkeeping".
- 2000 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits:** "Island Reflections – Past and Present" Curated by Ethel "Smoke" Twichell, Carolyn Powers and Shelly Merriam. Exhibit Design by Kristine Hastreiter. "Photos of the Elizabeth Islands", Curated by Smoke and Dave Twichell, Shelly Merriam.
- 2000 **West End Pond dredged.**
- 2000 **Fuel Farm opens** near the Boathouse and Town Dock after almost a decade of no fuel service, resulting from damage from Hurricane Bob, 1991.

21st Century

- 2001 The **Gosnold Community Fund** was formed by Wyatt Garfield, David Twichell and Elkan Blout, to receive donations and distribute income to non-profit organizations serving the needs of the Gosnold Community. In general, needs include education, training, health issues, affordable housing, recreation, historic preservation and the environment. The fund is distributed by a local committee and managed by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts. (See 2012)

- 2001 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibits: “Just What Do You Do Here?”** Curated Carolyn Powers, Shelly Merriam. “ Island Life Photographed by Cuttyhunk School Children” Curated by Shelly Merriam.
- 2001 **Gosnold Town Hall, 75th Anniversary (1926–2001)**, Historical panel created for the town hall by Carolyn Powers and Shelly Merriam.
- 2001 **Barge Ramp completed next to the Boathouse for barge services**, including container trash removal, construction materials, septic servicing, vehicle transport etc. It is the first phase of improvements at the harbor landing and transportation center.
- 2001 **May, Capt. John Paul Hunter starts Seahorse Water Taxi service.** The regular route of *Seahorse*, 18 passenger vessel, runs between New Bedford and Cuttyhunk Island, and is also available for private charter. John Paul Hunter is at home on the water, having grown up on Cuttyhunk Island attending the one-room schoolhouse. (See July 2024)
- 2001 **Bart's Place restaurant** (owned by Chuck and Dawn Vogt) at Four Corners closes. A few years later, food service becomes more practical with food carts, Bart’s Cart (Vogts) and Island Dogs (Claudia Jenkins) at Four Corners and the Fish Dock.
- 2001 August 19, Cuttyhunk Historical Society granted non-exclusive right to use of the U.S. Coast Guard **Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse 2001–2026.** The Naushon Trust accepts financial responsibility and maintenance and hosts an annual August open house for visitors. (See 2025)
- 2001 August 31st, **Scalloper Legacy runs aground** near Canapitsit.
- 2001 August 25th, **school playground upgraded and dedicated.** Old pipe swing set and slide removed to the dismay of some. (See 2021)
- 2002 January 18, **Janet P. Bosworth, 88, of Cuttyhunk, died** and is buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery. She is the wife of the late Lloyd H. Bosworth, both noted anglers and longtime residents of Cuttyhunk. Janet was passionate about Cuttyhunk history and began researching and collecting artifacts and stories from the local community that resulted in the founding of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society. She was curator for many years before her death. In her book, “Cuttyhunk and the Elizabeth Islands” she said, “We can only hope that Cuttyhunk will be guarded

and watched over wisely, so that coming generations will wish to preserve their island as they remember it.” Janet was a supporter of The Buzzards Bay Coalition and their conservation efforts, and invited donations in her memory.

- 2002 The Cuttyhunk Historical Society names the museum, “**Museum of the Elizabeth Islands**” to more clearly reflect its mission, “ To preserve the traditions, records and history of the Elizabeth Islands for the benefit of present and future generations.”
- 2002 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibit:** “The Legacy of Gosnold’s Landing of 1602–2002”, **400th Anniversary**, Cuttyhunk commemorated with a special exhibit, guest speakers and special events coordinated with other area museums. “Exploration Through Photography by Oriel Ponzecchi” Curated by Carolyn Powers and Shelly Merriam
- 2002 **Electricity continued out to Copicut (Homer’s) Neck.** Some still choose to power by generator or run appliances on propane as in the past.
- 2002 Community effort designs & builds **public bathroom facility at the Fish Dock.**
- 2002 February 23, **Fire destroys one of Pete’s Place cottages**, caused by a defective gas stove. Quick response by trained island fire fighters saves the adjacent homes. Calm winds keep it from spreading to Broadway.
- 2002 Mark Storek brings ‘**mycuttyhunk.com**’ **wireless internet service** to Cuttyhunk.
- 2003 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibit:** “Heroes Among Us: Lifesavers and Lightkeepers” and “Watercolors by Norman Fortier.” Curated by Sandy Earle & Shelly Merriam
- 2003 Archeology team headed by Dr. Jeffrey Brain, of Peabody Essex Museum, begins a **series of archeological digs on Gosnold’s Isle – Gosnold Monument**, at the West End, that results in **NO evidence of artifacts c.1602** and Bartholomew Gosnold’s 22 day stay. They believe their systematic digs should have revealed some evidence even with earlier interest and the building of the monument. The archeological

team specializes in digs of the Colonial Era and discovered and unearthed the Popham Colony site in ME dating to 1608. (See 2004).

- 2003 May to August, **renovation of Coast Guard Boathouse exterior** by the Town supported by donations (new red roof, white paint exterior, new windows, green doors, black shutters).
- 2003 **Fuel farm and transfer station** near the Town Dock is complete and enclosed with a wire fence.
- 2003 The old orange and white **“Alert I”, sold in 1987, broke apart** while being hoisted and is scrapped. Former owners, Ray and Linda Hopps kept the quarter board and ships wheel. (See 2006)
- 2004 Power House Superintendent Wayne Perrier brings **electrical power to homes on Copicut “Homers” Neck**. Previously, homeowners used generators and propane gas refrigerators and ovens.
- 2004 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits: “Rooms With A View”**, houses of the Islands, their stories, styles and views. CHS conducted a survey and photographs of all Elizabeth Island homes. Notebooks in the museum library. Curated by Sandy Earle, Shelly Merriam. **“Watercolors from my Summer Journal by Holly Leon.”** Curated by Ethel **“Smoke” Twichell and Sandy Earle.**
- 2004 **Houses on the Elizabeth Islands:** Cuttyhunk 150 on 500 acres, Naushon 40 on 5,500 acres, Nashawena 3 on 1,800 acres , Pasque 1 on 860 acres, Penikese 1 on 75 acres.
- 2004 **Island Memories Evening** “The Way We Were” and “Hurricane Carol” Facilitated conversations about island memories by the Cuttyhunk Historical Society.
- 2004 **Oriel (Wood) and Piero Ponzecchi** celebrates her 80th birthday with a three day, all-island party.
- 2004 An archeology team headed by Dr. Jeffrey Brain, of Peabody Essex Museum, begins a series of **archeological digs on Joe Slate’s Island** in Cuttyhunk Harbor. There is **hopeful evidence in finding green glass shards that appear to date back to c. 1602 and Bartholomew Gosnold’s 22 day stay.** Further evidence is needed, including soil core

samples from the harbor to confirm, as suspected, that the harbor was fresh water in 1602. Gosnold describes their fort location as “an island, on an island, surrounded by fresh water.” (See 2003)

- 2004 October 10, **Bayside Air, owned by Gary Small, ends seaplane service** to Cuttyhunk from New Bedford. No one comes forward to continue service. (Small’s service began in 1996)
- 2005 After about 20 years– spring storms reverse the rocky conditions and make **Barges Beach, sandy** once again.
- 2005 Army Corps of Engineers and the Town of Gosnold submit **plan to construct a stone dike** 1300 ft. long and 10 ft. high along the top of **Barges Beach**, to “protect and stabilize the barrier beach and keep the channel open. Six agencies are against the proposal and encourage a “No Action Alternative” (let nature takes its course), and a regular dredging of the channel.
- 2005 **Fish Dock and guides' shacks rebuilt** in the original style by islanders, adding one more shack. Plumbing and electrical upgraded.
- 2005 June 24, the Boston Red Sox bring the **2004 World Series trophy to Cuttyhunk**. Pres./CEO Larry Lucchino delivers it by helicopter to the lawn of Avalon for viewing by the islanders. Lucchino noted that the 86 registered voters of the Elizabeth Islands equals the 86 years that blocked a Red Sox trophy. That stretch was called the “Curse of the Bambino” for selling “Babe” Ruth to the Yankees, Dec. 26 1919. Previously, Ruth had played six seasons with the Red Sox, leading them to three World Series victories. The island put out the word to every living, breathing human on island, boat or day tripper, to bring their numbers to 86 for the historic photo shoot at Avalon!
- 2005 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits: “The Nature That Connects Us – The Natural History of the Elizabeth Islands”**, curated by Allison Thurston, island naturalist/botanist, Shelly Merriam, Sandy Earle. (2005–2006) “Quahog Shells Mosaics of Manuel Sarmiento”
- 2005 **Basketball court at Coast Guard Barracks rebuilt** with concrete surface by islanders with a grant by the Gosnold Community Fund and support of the USCG.

- 2005 **Town water tank** (Tower Hill Rd.) behind the DiMare's home, **demolished**. Three new tanks installed and surrounded with a fence on top of Tower Hill Rd. Affectionately, called "The Zoo" by locals and with an occasional caged stuffed animal
- 2006 March, **MV Cuttyhunk Ferry Co. service begins**. Owned by Captain Jono and Sue Billings and their black lab dog, Pal. (See 2024)
- 2006 March, "The Selectmen **establish the Long Range Planning Committee** to: Obtain and review the Martha's Vineyard Commission's final compilation of the 2005 survey results; Develop a new set of survey questions addressing what the Committee thinks are the most urgent topics; Propose an appropriate master planning process to address the island's most important issues; Update the community about the Committee's progress, including a report at the May 2006 Town Meeting; Work with Town Department heads to assess future needs; Consider other issues that come before the Selectmen; Our goal is not to solve all island issues, but rather to get more people involved (in a transparent manner) in recommending solutions." Chair, Dix Leeson
- 2006 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Special Exhibit: "Kids on the Water – A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Cuttyhunk Yacht Club"** Curator: Shelly Merriam & Exhibits Committee
- 2006 A new section (3) of the **Island Cemetery** was created for cremains only on the southwest side of the cemetery by narrowing the driveway to a path and moving the fence for the new rows of plots.
- 2006 July 10th, the **Godspeed, replica of Bartholomew Gosnold's ship** that sailed to Jamestown, VA in 1607, makes a surprise visit to Cuttyhunk and receives a memorable island welcome. The replica was commissioned by Jamestown Settlement for its 2007, 400th commemorative year of the first English settlement in the New World and remains birthed at the Jamestown Settlement Museum.
- 2006 **125th Anniversary of The Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church** (1881–2006) History panel in the church curated by Shelly Merriam.
- 2006 August 6, **Dedication of "The Ward Parsonage"**, adjacent to the church, to honor the 33 years of summer service of Methodist minister Dr. John Ward, and Carmen Ward. (See 1967)

- 2006 September 15th, **Alert II, Cuttyhunk Boat Lines** owned by Ray and Linda Hopps and Ricky Hopps, **ceases service** after 33 years of ownership. Alert II sold to a gulf oil drilling company in December. Alert II, replaced the iconic orange & white, wooden Alert I. (See 2003)
- 2006 December 2nd, a **Power House fire** started at 3 a.m., with a spark from a compressor. Repairs were successful. Heroic efforts by power house superintendent Wayne Perrier and island firefighters.
- 2006 December 20, **First Annual Santa Cruise** on the MV Cuttyhunk. Santa Claus (looks a bit like Capt. Jono Billings) arrives with gifts for the island children and an open house (boat) party for islanders.
- 2006 The **Cuttyhunk light removed** from the West End, Sow and Pigs reef area, by the U.S. Coast Guard. No navigational aid remains.
- 2007 March, **The Town of Gosnold appoints a Conservation Commission.** It is the last town in the Commonwealth to do so. The five Commission members: David Warr, Mike Parker, Seymour DiMare, Lisa Wright & Jay Merriam focus on conservation issues and implementing the Massachusetts Wetlands Law.
- 2007 **“Cuttyhunk Telegraph”, the first Cuttyhunk email list,** is set up and managed by Paula DiMare. It keeps all our extended island friends in touch all year round, and proves to be invaluable in disseminating Town board minutes/agendas, committees/school information, meetings, local events, coordinating community services, surveys, family announcements and so much more. By 2017, 400 members are on the list serve.
- 2007 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibit: “Bartholomew Gosnold, Cuttyhunk to Jamestown, 1602–1607”.** Curated by Shelly Merriam, Allie Thurston (2007–2008) **“Cuttyhunk Images: Janet Wilder, Photojournalist”** Curated by Shelly Merriam (2007)
- 2007 The four old, noisy Caterpillar generators removed from the **Power House** and replaced by four, quieter John Deere generators. The island is a closed grid and the generators run on diesel fuel brought over on a barge. Superintendent Wayne Perrier.

- 2007 Asa Lombard III, Harbormaster reports 4,000 boats used the **harbor** services this summer.
- 2007 November, Verizon erects a microwave **communication tower** at the top of Lookout Hill to serve the island landline telephones. The receiver is in New Bedford disguised as a brick chimney near the Whaling Museum. Many islanders disappointed that it looks like a cell tower, but it is for landline reception only. (See 2016)
- 2008 Temporary **meteorological tower** erected at the West End to measure wind velocity for one year, collecting data for possible wind farm off shore. Wind farm site consideration ultimately withdrawn.
- 2008 The Cuttyhunk Union Methodist **Church roof and steeple** are repaired and restored after 127 years. A new access ramp and porch are added, replacing the steps, at the entrance to the church.
- 2008 May Town Meeting passes new **zoning by-law** dividing Cuttyhunk into two zones. Town center and suburbs (?)
- 2008 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibit:** “Bartholomew Gosnold, Cuttyhunk to Jamestown, 1602–1607”. Curated by Shelly Merriam, Allie Thurston (2007–2008) “Shifting Sands, Rising Seas – Barges Beach” (2008) Curated by Allison Thurston
- 2008 Allison Thurston, island naturalist, celebrates 20 years of giving her popular “**nature rambles**” on Cuttyhunk.
- 2008 Three new, quiet, energy efficient **generators** replace the old ones at the Power House, thanks to the efforts of Wayne Perrier, Superintendent and Paul Zimbone, Chairman Power and Light Commission and Jeff Spear. The generators are computer automated and 20% more fuel efficient. However, their reliability is shaky in the beginning.
- 2008 July 21, a **leatherback sea turtle** washed up on Cuttyhunk (Barges Beach), the third one this summer along the Southeast coast of Massachusetts. It was tagged in West Trinidad/Tobago. The turtles are following the warmer Gulf Stream waters that have been pushed farther north this season by hurricane activity in the Atlantic. This adult turtle was about 600 lbs., with a shell 5 ft. wide and flipper span of 8 ft.

- 2008 October 13, At the suggestion of public health consultant George Heufelder, and in order to create similar benefits for public health and planning issues, the **Long Range Planning Committee** has previously recommended to the Selectmen the establishment of a separate Board of Health and a Planning Board for Gosnold. The Selectmen currently perform the functions of both boards.
- 2008 November 30, a **fin whale** washes up on the west side of Canapitsit. It measures 60 to 78 ft. long and is the second largest mammal on earth, next to the Blue Whale. It is among the fastest of the whales, capable of bursts of speed to 23 mph. They prefer temperate to Arctic waters and open seas.
- 2008 November, The **Long Range Planning Committee** reviews its mission and priorities. (See 2006, 2012)
- protect Cuttyhunk’s most vulnerable resources (natural and human)
 - guide future growth
 - obtain practical tools (e.g. revised regulations and or grants) for future challenges
 - expand our thinking about the Island’s options
 - involve additional islanders in considering the Island’s future
- 2008 December, the Cuttyhunk Ferry Co. hosts the **first Cuttyhunk Creatives Holiday Fair** on board the boat in New Bedford. The boat is transformed into a Christmas wonderland with islanders selling their wares and food items. An economic boost for islanders and fun socializing with visitors.
- 2009 Spring, the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist **Church Pastor’s Study** is remodeled for use as a community conference room and pastor’s office. The addition was built in 1962.
- 2009 March, rebuilding of the **Town Dock** begins and is completed by early June. The MV Cuttyhunk ties up at the Fish Dock during the reconstruction. The reinforced design of the Town Dock includes a new fuel shed and safer laying of fuel lines to the pumps. Dedicated 8/13/09 with state and local dignitaries.
- 2009 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibit: “Fish Tales, Hooks and Chums – Fishing the Elizabeth Islands.”** Curated by Kathryn Butler

Balistreri, Shelly Merriam, Allie Thurston (2009–2010) “Shifting Sands, Rising Seas – Barges Beach.” Curated by Allison Thurston

- 2009 A engineering survey of the **Cuttyhunk Island Cemetery**, southwest of the Fishing Club, for the first time in its history. Magnetic pins mark the rows and plots in the newer sections to make plots easier to define.
- 2009 September, begins communication between the Town and the Commonwealth looking into possible sites for a **wind farm** that includes the area around Sow and Pigs Reef off Cuttyhunk. The area later removed from consideration in favor of a project further off shore to the southwest.
- 2009 A Connecticut bee specialist, Jerry Stage begins a project on Cuttyhunk and Naushon to study the local **bee population** attracted by seasonal flowering. He conducted a similar study on Penikese 25 years ago that provided new information on the surprising distance bees travel attracted by pollen.
- 2009 Private **grass landing strip** with east/west approach approved by the Town for Allen P. Spaulding, Jr.’s small plane, on his property at the West End. Mel Dorr has a landing strip for his plane at Canapitsit, behind his home. Public seaplane service ended in 2004.
- 2010 April 9th, the old **fire engine catches fire** in the station next to the Power House, apparently from a battery charger. Wayne Perrier smells smoke, discovers the blaze, drives the new firetruck out of the garage and uses it to extinguish the burning old truck.
- 2010 An avian monitoring device placed temporarily on the lawn of the CH Fishing Club as part of a study to track spring and fall **migrating birds**.
- 2010 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibit:** “Fish Tales, Hooks and Chums – Fishing the Elizabeth Islands.” Curated by Kathryn Butler Balistreri, Shelly Merriam, Allie Thurston (2009–2010) “Cuttyhunk Land and Sea”, underwater photography by Andrew Martinez. “Birds, Flora and Fauna” photography by David Twichell. Curated by Kathryn Butler Balistreri
- 2010 **Long Range Planning Committee**, established to develop plans to address critical issues and advise the Selectmen, studied the future use

of diesel fuel on the island in conjunction with the impending expiration of the current fuel oil provider's contract. The committee also convened a meeting with experts to discuss concerns about the long-term protection of the water supply. They also were asked to identify key potential land acquisitions that will protect environmental resources as well as provide opportunities for affordable housing.

- 2010 **U.S.Census count**, Cuttyhunk Island is one of the 5 major Elizabeth Islands that together constitute the Town of Gosnold, and is the seat of town government and all commercial activity. According to the 2010 census, the Town of Gosnold has a population of 75, but there is a significantly greater population throughout the year as indicated by the count of 215 housing units. The majority of the population is located on Cuttyhunk Island.
- 2010 **Gosnold's Gas**, managed by Jono Billings of Cuttyhunk Ferry Co., begins bottled **propane service** to the island. The town conducts island-wide inspections bringing propane storage up to code.
- 2010 Off island, bulk delivery of **propane and heating fuel** offered as an alternative to local services.
- 2010 August, the **West End Cut Dredged** and water quality improves. Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farm oyster production increases. (See 2011)
- 2011 The Town affixes identifying numbers to every dwelling for location/**mapping to assist in fire, police and rescue response**. 911 calls are received on the Vineyard and forwarded to Cuttyhunk island responder personnel. This system is different from the island street addresses.
- 2011 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits**: "Ice and Isolation: The Islands in Winter", "Boat Models of the Elizabeth Islands" Curated by Kathryn Butler Balistreri and Allie Thurston.
- 2011 CHS First Model Boat Regatta (July and August) Sponsored by CHS and Cuttyhunk Yacht Club.
- 2011 July & August, **First Annual Model Boat Races** on Cuttyhunk, in the spirit of the Bennett Yacht Club model boat races every Labor Day weekend on Naushon Island. It is a joint effort of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and the Cuttyhunk Yacht Club.

- 2011 August, **First Annual Cuttyhunk Fire Department 5K race** fundraiser.
- 2011 August 28th, **Hurricane Irene**. In August 2010 the West End Pond inlet was re-dug after 10 years of good flushing. The August 2011 Tropical Storm Irene filled in the inlet by about 85%, and an October storm closed the rest of the inlet. This closure was a premature occurrence since past track records show the inlet stayed open for at least ten years at a time. Efforts were made during the fall and winter to secure state or federal disaster funds to help with the costs of reopening the inlet. On the state level these efforts are still ongoing. The issue challenged Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farm production in its 30th Anniversary year.
- 2011 **Robert “Bob” Veeder** starts Cuttyhunk Lawn LLC, lawn service, brush removal, landscaping.
- 2012 May, The Board of Selectmen, at the recommendation of the **Gosnold Long Range Planning Committee**, retain a consultant, the Cecil Group, to assist in planning for future development. The consultant conducted several town meetings and interviews with town officials. Their objective was “to determine shared goals, and from this develop a list of key actions, responsibilities, level of effort and schedule for proceeding with municipal actions to implement the vision through the drafting of a master plan, strategic plans, or master plan elements that advance the common goals.” Prior to this move, the development planning in the Town of Gosnold has historically been ad hoc and generally reactive.
- 2012 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits**: “Ice and Isolation: The Islands in Winter” (2011–2012) “Island Eateries” Curated by Kathryn Balistreri
- 2012 June, The **Channel is dredged** after a complicated permitting process now required by State & Federal laws and environmental regulations. There is ongoing concern for the erosion of Barges Beach during winter storms, depositing sand in the channel.
- 2012 July, The **Gosnold Community Scholarship Fund** was formed to award scholarships to support the educational pursuits of full or part time members of the Gosnold community. Applications require academic

records, verification of need and an essay including a Gosnold connection. The fund is distributed by a local committee and managed by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts. The committee is Judith Archer, Gail Blout, Cathy Ford, Dorothy Garfield, Kelly Kimball, Aimee Lombard and Stewart Young. (See 2001)

- 2012 Allie Thurston, local botanist/naturalist, notes the **gradual return of Cuttyhunk to a “forested” landscape** due to the abandoned historical practices of seasonal burning and grazing sheep.
- 2012 A stained glass window of rainbow colored, tethered row boats is dedicated at the **Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church**. The panel is based on a painting by June Ashley Dean (c.1980s) and crafted by Kathryn Butler Balistreri. It is dedicated to the memory of Millard and Olga Ashley and their daughters June and Carol, and is the gift of daughter Joy Ashley Spanos and family.
- 2012 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits:** “The Era of the Fishing Club – Fishing with a Gilded Hook” (2012–2013), “Island Eateries” (2012–2013) Curated by Kathryn Butler Balistreri, Weezie Garfield.
- 2012 **Lyme Disease** from a deer tick bite is a continuing presence and concern on the island. Dr. Sam Telford of Tufts University is seeking volunteers for a research study to determine the public health burden of tick borne infections on Cuttyhunk. The study is open to people who spend more than 2 weeks here each year and are exposed to ticks. The results will be provided when the testing is completed.
- 2012 August, **Dale Lynch finds a 1796 ships bell** that he salvaged from what is believed to be the bark Willie & Ida, who’s Captain A.B. Miller (1852–1889) died in the shipwreck and is buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery.
- 2012 October 29, **Hurricane “Superstorm” Sandy** causes major flooding and erosion to Cuttyhunk Church’s and Barges Beaches, Fish Dock and Shore Rd. (near Coast Guard Barracks). The storm raged through full moon/high tide conditions with wind gusts to 90 mph. However, it reopened the inlet to the West End Pond, closed by 2011 Hurricane Irene. (See 2014)

- 2012 November, there are **148 registered voters** in the Town of Gosnold for the 2012 Presidential Election, Barak Obama vs. Mitt Romney. 87 voters participated (60 percent).
- 2012 The **Island Market**, owned and managed by Kris and Asa Lombard, for the first time in history, closes for the winter due to only 18 people living on island and the skyrocketing electricity rates of 60 cents per kilowatt hour! The highest rate in Massachusetts (mainland rates are about 7 cents per kilowatt hour). The first time the island is without a market over the winter. In the past, the market would open for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon. It was an important gathering place to keep in touch with neighbors who wintered over.
- 2013 January 4th, The **Gosnold Community Development Strategy** is based on a series of community meetings and interviews conducted by a planning consultant, the Cecil Group, during 2012, and Cuttyhunk Community Survey, 2009. The intent is to guide the identification and prioritization of development projects within the town. The strategy and priority list of projects and activities were reviewed, discussed and passed at a public meeting on January 4, 2013 and will be reviewed at least on an annual basis.
- 2013 February 8th, the **Blizzard of 2013** clocked winds of 100 mph and brought several inches of snow that necessitated plowing the 2½ miles of island roads!
- 2013 May, The **Solid Waste Department** on Cuttyhunk Island operates a compacting and recycling facility that provides for cost-effective management of waste. A by-law to address dumping of old vehicles, boats, and other trash was approved at the annual town meeting.
- 2013 June 5th, Allen P. Spaulding, Jr., a Wood family descendant, died when his **small plane crashed** upon take-off on his Cuttyhunk West End airstrip. Spaulding was the founder of WTG (Wind Turbine Generator) Energy Systems in Buffalo, NY. During the last decade of his life, he dedicated himself to the design and building of his, and wife Holly's home on the West End, that would exist entirely "off the grid." He was within a few months of completing his life project when he died. He is one of the great-grandchildren of William M. Wood, born to Allen and Anne Spaulding, Anne Spaulding the daughter of William M. Wood, Jr. and Edith Robinson Wood.

- 2013 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits:** “The Era of the Fishing Club: Fishing with a Gilded Hook” (2012/2013) Curator: Kathryn Butler Balistreri
- 2013 August 25th, Stuart Saginor, Executive Director of the Community Preservation Coalition, will present an overview of how the town can begin to use this program to protect open space and recreational land, preserve historic buildings, and help with community housing needs. The presentation will provide an overview of CPA, **Gosnold Community Preservation Act (CPA)** adopted in 2010. He will explain the matching funds the town will receive from the state, and give examples of what community-based projects can be funded from Gosnold's CPA account. There will also be a detailed training for the CPA Committee and other municipal officials on how to properly implement CPA in Gosnold.
- 2013 In October, the Town of Gosnold Board of Selectmen charged a volunteer committee with proposing a tick eradication strategy with a set of recommendations. The risk of contracting one of half dozen or so tick-borne diseases from a bite has risen from about ten percent to 40-percent over the past few years. In April, 2014, the committee presented a **Tick Eradication Proposal** to commence in the summer of 2014, that includes the application of a ‘tickicide’ to deer and white-footed mice. With the support of the Barnstable County Agent, the island is in the process of obtaining ten 4-Poster treatment stations to eliminate ticks on the deer. G. Bourne Knowles & Co. has a licensed and trained technician to set-up and maintain both the 4-Posters and Tick Control System boxes (TCS) to treat the mice. The Town has committed funds to cover all public areas on the island, including the Lookout, Marina, Ferry Dock and Fuel Depot, School, Town Hall, Library, and Cemetery. Private funding has been received to deploy and maintain the 4-Posters. Committee: Sara Lehner, Nina Brodeur, Libby Anderson.
- 2014 May, “Joe’s Electric” (The Conway Family), will begin **dispensing LED light bulbs** of all sizes and shapes, indoor and outdoor, to everyone on Island who wants to upgrade from traditional bulbs. This will provide an instant savings with no up front cost. Traditional 60-watt bulbs cost \$24 annually to operate. An LED equivalent costs \$5.00. That’s a \$19 savings per year per bulb. Refrigerators, electric heat, stoves and dryers should seriously be reviewed for replacement to more energy efficient models. Let’s collectively work to reduce our demand while

lowering our carbon use and enhancing our pocketbooks. Solving the problem, not contributing to it is a win for our island community, saving money as we prepare for a solar transition to a hybrid solar-diesel Power House. Cuttyhunk Land Initiative Tom Hardy/Wyatt Garfield

- 2014 June 25th, history was made during the summer of 2014 when Mystic Seaport Museum took the last remaining wooden whaleship in the world back to sea. Following a five-year restoration, the **Charles W. Morgan** sailed on her 38th voyage to New England ports-of-call. Capt. Jono Billings, at the helm of the MV Cuttyhunk, hosted islanders and guests with a birds-eye view of the 1841 Charles W. Morgan, on the water from Martha's Vineyard, through Quick's Hole to Buzzards Bay and New Bedford Harbor. The Morgan is known as a "lucky ship," having successfully navigated crushing Arctic ice, countless storms and Cape Horn roundings on its 37 whaling voyages, before retirement in 1921.
- 2014 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits: "Oil and Water"** oil paintings from the collection. Curator: Kathryn Butler Balistreri.
- 2014 July 30th, the cut at the **West End Pond** is complete and the pond is once again tidal and healthy, repairing damage from several previous hurricanes.
- 2014 August 2nd, the **pickle ball court** opens on the lawn of the Cuttyhunk Fishing Club, with support from the Gosnold Community Fund and Oriel Wood Ponzecchi, owner of the Fishing Club. The project was spearheaded by Wyatt "Wyzee" Garfield, Jr. with the support of many island pickle ball enthusiasts who helped build it.
- 2014 **The Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church** expands the tradition of welcoming pastors of different faiths. This summer the Catholic and Episcopal morning services continue with Sunday school. For the first time, the evening service welcomes visiting pastors of different faith traditions accompanied by guest pianists, singers and a gospel band. Including more than just Methodist services, the church is now sometimes called "**The Little Church on the Hill**"
- 2015 A **winter record snow fall** on island and freezing of the harbor, necessitates several visits from the Coast Guard ice cutter service.

- 2015 The **Cuttyhunk Cultural Council** is a volunteer group in its 25th year. The council is charged with determining a schedule of cultural activities annually and allocating a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council toward the cost of each of these occasions – ranging from painting classes to concerts, nature walks to film programs. Donations combined with the state funds support these events enjoyed by the community. Council members – Judith Archer, Sara Lehner, Tammy Zimbone, Dorothy Garfield, Teri Bordenave, Dawn Vogt, Patty Andrews, and Karen Nemiah. (See 1990)
- 2015 August 6th, the **First Annual Monument Day** festivities at the West End. The public festivities feature a Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farm demonstration, tours of the Gosnold Monument built in 1901, swimming “the cut” at high tide, picnics and shoreline walks.
- 2015 **Dr. Russell Latham, Gosnold Schools Superintendent** retires after 27 years (1988–2015). Among his accomplishments: meeting the needs of Gosnold’s Public School children from Naushon and Cuttyhunk and those of home schooled children. Bringing Specialist Teachers, an Instructional Assistant and Consultants to aid in meeting the needs of various students. Answer the needs of Naushon parents for representation on the School Committee. Renovation and maintenance of the Cuttyhunk School Building. The Summer Arts Program on Cuttyhunk and Naushon. Extensive Field trips and reasonable cost technology to the classroom with the help of the Rural Schools Grant. All with the support of the Town of Gosnold and the School Committee.
- 2015 December 6, **Charles “Charlie” Tilton, Jr.** 83, died in Greenville, SC. The Tilton family came over to Cuttyhunk from the Vineyard in the mid–1800s. Charles W. Tilton Sr. married Sarah J. Clark, the lighthouse keeper’s daughter in the early 1920s and had three children. Charlie, Doris and Sally. He attended the one–room schoolhouse through 8th grade. At age 12, he began fishing as a bass guide and it served him well his entire life. He earned enough money during the summers on the Island as a bass fishing guide and doing other related waterman work, to pay for college at University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he majored in civil engineering. He lived out his retirement years as a noted Cuttyhunk fishing guide, being most at home on the water.

- 2015 December 21, **Muriel “Oriol” Wood Ponzecchi died** at home in Pasadena, California. She was born February 8, 1924. Husband Piero Ponzecchi died, July 26, 2014 at home in Pasadena, California. Both were celebrated by the family and community, and buried in the Cuttyhunk Cemetery May 29, 2016.
- 2015 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits: “From Your Attic to Ours: Gifts We Treasure”** Curator: Kathryn Butler Ballistieri.
- 2015 The **U.S. Post Office**, still in the Veeder home off Broadway, for the first time in island history has a postmaster from the mainland arriving and departing on the MV Cuttyhunk. The winter schedule is Monday and Friday only. Summer schedule Monday–Saturday service.
- 2016 The Carter and Gwen Lynch, students in the one–room, **Cuttyhunk Elementary School**, connect with mainland classmates in Mattapoisett and Mohegan Island through technology. Under the direction of Principal/teacher Michelle Carvalho, June 1, 2016, 85 6th grade classmates, and chaperones from Old Hammondtown School, Mattapoisett, visit Cuttyhunk to learn about the history and science of this seaside community.
- 2016 June 7–15. **First Cuttyhunk Island Writers’ Residency Program.** Hosted by The Avalon and directed by Ben Shattuck, Westport art curator and writer. Workshop leader, writer–in–residence – Paul Harding, Pulitzer–Prize winning author of *Tinkers*, provided workshops for developing writers, and did a reading at Town Hall for the island community. Avalon also hosted a string band one evening and open to the public. Avalon plans to make it an annual pre–season program and offer scholarships to several participants.
- 2016 June 18th, the **First Cuttyhunk Plein Air Festival & _ARTY day.** Forty–five artists came to the island for the day to paint, exhibit, receive awards and sell their paintings before returning to the mainland. The event was sponsored by the Cuttyhunk Cultural Council, the Cuttyhunk Historical Society, and the Long–Range Planning Committee, in an effort to attract visitors to the island during the June pre–season.
- 2016 **Capt. Bruce Borges**, of lobster boat “Old Squaw”, closes his decades long, dockside fresh seafood business. He retires with his wife and island girl, Carolyn Cornell Borges. He met this island girl when he was

assigned to the Cuttyhunk Coast Guard Station. They still enjoy greeting visitors and friends at the dock on summer afternoons.

- 2016 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits:** “Scraps from the Past”, Curators: Kathryn Butler and Weezie Garfield.
- 2016 A resurgence of **island homes “for sale”**, following years of recession that began in 2007. The “going price” around 1 million!
- 2016 August 10, **First Kids Beach Clean-Up Day**. Charlie Andersen (13), was crowned “King of Trash” for wrestling a trapped, live 78 lb, blue fin tuna from a tidal pool on Barges Beach while scavenging for trash! The event was a fundraiser for The Women’s Center in New Bedford and raised \$8,600 in donations to fund a week of summer camp for 34 kids living in their safe shelter for battered women. Sponsored by “Cuttyhunk Kids Care” through the Little Church on the Hill (Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church).
- 2016 September 8th, four **goats arrive** on Cuttyhunk for a month, from Goatscaping in Duxbury. The goats are protected from predators by electric fencing enclosing the target grazing area. The island is testing the idea to help combat invasives poison ivy, sumac, bittersweet, and brush as habitat for ticks and tinder for fires.
- 2016 **Cuttyhunk First Aid and Safety** collects about \$2000 a year in donations and spends about \$1800 from the safety fund and \$2500 a year from the Town line item for First aid. Several members are given nominal stipends each year for training or responding.
- 2016 Oriel Wood Ponzecchi’s son, Jonny Winet and his wife Debra fully acquire **The Cuttyhunk Fishing Club**. They are committed to preserving its cultural, social and physical character well into the next century. Bonnie Veeder, continues as manager as she has since 1998. (See 1998, 2022)
- 2017 March, the installation of the town **Solar Array** at the West End, just beyond the Cuttyhunk Cemetery, is complete. Infrastructure at the Power House is installed and the switch is “on”. It is expected this effort will lower the skyrocketing island electricity rates of 60 cents per kilowatt hour, the highest rate in Massachusetts (mainland rates are about 7 cents per kilowatt hour). (See July 2018)

- 2017 Over the last 20 years, **Power House** Superintendent Wayne Perrier, Replaced all transformers on island and 60% of the underground lines some installed by Wm. Madison Wood starting in 1917. Perrier was also instrumental in the recent **solar array/power house project**.
- 2017 May 26, Memorial Day Weekend, the new **Town Dock at the Coast Guard Boathouse** is complete for the arrival/departure of passengers and freight aboard the MV Cuttyhunk. The project was over five years in the planning/permitting/funding process. The former town dock is now the Fuel Dock, complying with state regulations.
- 2017 **CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Exhibits: “Remarkable Women of the Elizabeth Islands”**, Curators: Kathryn Butler, Allie Thurston.
- 2017 July 16th, **“The Little Church on the Hill”** (Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church) hosts its first Rabbi, Valerie Cohen, from the Worcester Temple Emmanuel Sinai. Since the beginning of the “guest pastor of the week” in 2014, there have been Catholic, Congregational, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Unitarian pastors. Their services have featured some aspect of their respective traditions, but there have also been services led by the John Yankee Gospel Singers, a Baptist Gospel group and a service in the Taize tradition. All the while, morning Episcopal (Prevost, Porter) and Catholic (Conway, Lopes and other priests) have continued without interruption.
- 2017 The large **Cabinet of Weights and Measures** used by the Town of Gosnold was given to the Cuttyhunk Historical Society in 1999. It was moved from Town Hall to Winter House for storage, and finally to the Museum of the Elizabeth Islands the summer of 2017. This is a large (65 in. H x 65 i. W x 23 inch D), elaborately faux-grained wooden cabinet housing a beautifully machined precision equal-arm balance, a graduated set of weights, from thimble size to large cylinders, for use on it, several graduated sets of cast iron containers, bowls and pitchers, for measuring dry and liquid volumes. The round brass plate near the balancing handle says, “Made for the Town of Gosnold by E. Howard & Company, Boston. These implements were used, following the Acts of the Mass. Legislature adopted in 1847 and 1848, by Gosnold’s Sealer of Weights and Measures, an elected town official, to calibrate the scales and other measuring devices of local merchants. This ensured that their measurements of the goods purchased by their

customers were fair and accurate. The use of these tools was discontinued by the end of 1946. The scale cabinet was originally stored in its own small building at Broadway and Tower Hill. That building and the measures later being moved to become the town library. (See 1893). The measures were probably moved to Town Hall when it was built in 1926.

2017 **Winter House**, built by William Madison Wood, is for sale in its 100th year. (See 1917)

2017 August 11th, **Winter House** A large community turnout of 175 people met with Mr. Mark Snider, a hotel businessman from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket and his family, to hear their thoughts and vision for the Winter House property, and to hear the community's suggestions and concerns. Community concerns included the island's infrastructure (water, electricity, solid waste, transportation, etc.) and what would such a development mean to the character of the island. In order for Mr. Snider to go ahead with the purchase of Winter House, he needs 31 additional bedrooms (for a total of 40 bedrooms), a swimming pool, a spa, a 145–150 seat restaurant, and a hotel liquor license. The sense of the community was essentially split with about half present wanting more additional information from Mr. Snider and the Town before making an educated decision, and about half saying "no" to the proposal. Although there is a 90-day deadline for the sale to be finalized, the Town has its own timetable when considering the possibility of a liquor license, the increase of bedrooms for a hotel, and any impact on the island's infrastructure. Several more informational meetings are held in August, but with growing dissension, Mr. Snider withdraws the proposed project for Winter House, through a gracious letter to the community on August 27th.

2017 September 8–16. **First Cuttyhunk Island Artist's Residency Program** at Avalon. The program is coordinated by Tamalin Baumgarten, Director. "Our mission is to provide artists the time and setting to refocus their energy on their creative process within a supportive community environment, while enriching the cultural vitality of Cuttyhunk Island."
Ownership of the Avalon is now shared between the Marilyn Snow House Foundation (See 1982) and the Baumgarten Family Trust. The Avalon is once again called, "The Inn on Cuttyhunk."

- 2017 **Cuttyhunk Harbor** brings in about 30 percent of town revenue, although this figure is somewhat weather dependent. In FY17, revenue from the harbor and wharf totaled \$413,000. The Gosnold town budget for FY17 was \$1,381,944.
- 2018 March 15th, **Winter House**, an historic house on Cuttyhunk Island, was sold for \$2.4 million, setting the record for the largest sale in the town of Gosnold. Philip S. Houha and Diana Guardabassi Houha of Colorado, bought the home off Tower Hill Rd. for a private residence. Diana Houha is the great-granddaughter of Wm. Madison Wood, and granddaughter of Rosalind Wood Guardabassi. In addition to the main house, the property also includes a one-story seasonal residence “The Annex”, a two-story cottage “Rose Cottage”, a barn and two accessory structures on just under eight acres.
- 2018 June 12th, the town of Gosnold received a \$14,000 grant to buy a stationary, **self-service boat waste pump-out unit** for the Cuttyhunk Vessel Pump-out Station, the Baker-Polito administration has announced. The unit will be maintained and operated by the Buzzards Bay Coalition, a partner with the town, and will be available at no cost to boaters, according to a statement from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The unit will be at the dock entrance to Cuttyhunk Harbor and will be available from Memorial Day to mid-September. The nearest boat waste pump-out facility is more than 9 miles away, and the project could prevent the discharge of raw sewage into Cuttyhunk Harbor and Buzzards Bay by giving boaters a new option.
- 2018 June 15th, **Carter Lynch graduates from 8th grade**, the first graduate from the Cuttyhunk Elementary School in 10 years. The ceremony, at the Union Methodist Church, was attended by about 60 guests and dignitaries. Guest speaker, Dr. Cady Coleman is a chemist, retired United States Air Force Colonel, and former NASA Astronaut with more than 180 days in space, accumulated during two space shuttle missions and a six-month expedition to the International Space Station (ISS). She launched and landed aboard the Russian Soyuz spacecraft, and acted as the Lead Robotics and Lead Science officer during her tenure aboard the ISS, performing the second-ever free flyer robotic capture from the station. Carter will attend St. Andrews School in R.I. Michelle Carvalho, Principal and teacher since fall of 2015. Michael Astrue, poet, former

commissioner of the Social Security Administration and a Cuttyhunk summer resident, arranged for Dr. Coleman's participation.

- 2018 June 13th, the Martha's Vineyard Commission report that **The Buzzards Bay Coalition** recently announced intentions to apply to the Commonwealth for funding to purchase seven parcels on Cuttyhunk, totaling 63 acres, to be preserved for open space. To obtain that funding, a draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan must be completed by early July. On May 11, Mark Rasmussen of the Buzzards Bay Coalition presented to the Selectmen, the Coalition's plan to purchase 68 acres from the Ponzecchi Trust and Joint Owners with a closing date of December 31, 2019.
- 2018 July 10, "**Open Space and Recreation Plan** for the Town of Gosnold" draft, prepared by the Martha's Vineyard Commission. "This is the first Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for Gosnold to determine the priorities of Gosnold residents regarding open space preservation and also to learn their recreational preferences. The plan also analyzes current open space inventory and historical land use in Gosnold." "Gosnold has the smallest population of the 312 towns in Massachusetts — 75 — living in 39 households. The highly seasonal population is both an asset and a liability. Nine months of the year the man-made footprint is negligible. At the same time, the year round population is declining and the viability of sustaining a healthy year-round population is an ongoing concern."
- 2018 July 28, **Dedication of the Solar Array Farm** in the name of Allen P. Spaulding, Jr. who died June 5, 2013. Spaulding, a Wood family descendant, was the founder of WTG (Wind Turbine Generator) Energy Systems in Buffalo, NY. Spaulding installed a wind turbine atop Tower Hill Road in 1977, torn down in 1991. The remaining tri-blade turbine was moved to the solar array farm to commemorate Allen's early wind-energy contribution to the island.
- 2018 August, **widening of the entrance ramp to the Fish Dock**. Octagon picnic tables in place to encourage visitors to gather and patronize dock businesses. Entrance to the First Aid Dock (Seaplane Float Dock) deck with benches, also completed.
- 2018 September 19th, "**Seal Population Swelling in Gosnold**", MV Times. Gull Island, a low islet on the Buzzards Bay near Penikese and

Cuttyhunk, has grown heavy with seals. One day estimated there were a hundred seals. No surprise to Cuttyhunk harbormaster George Isabel, who said Gosnold has seen a “dramatic increase” in seals over the past three or four years.

“The bulk of the seals are on Gull Island and Pease Ledge just outside the [Cuttyhunk Harbor] breakwater,” he said. The seals used to show up in the autumn and depart in the spring, but now they stay year-round. Gull Island has both harbor seals and grey seals; the latter described as big animals. Isabel said the seals are likely a harbinger of sharks. He pointed to a recent sighting of a Great White shark near Penikese Island.

2018 Friday, September 21st, the **new stainless steel weathervane for the island church** is the product of a real team effort. Bruce Borges, drew a lively striper to serve as the model. J.C. Teixeira carved the image on steel on the new water jet table at General Supply and Metals. Tom Ray at A&R Machining used a special milling machine to balance the weathervane. Bill Archer adapted the substantial mounting hardware that Mark Brodeur produced in the 1980's when the original wooden fish was last restored. Bob Coutu, the steeple jack, clambered up the tower to put the new vane in place on Friday. The Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church’s iconic wooden striped bass weathervane, was damaged by a spring 2018 storm with winds reaching 90 mph gusts. The original wooden bass weathervane was designed and created by Islander Stephen Baldwin in 1971, repaired in 1986. It was then recreated and replaced by Bill Archer, Mark Brodeur and crew in 1997.

2018 September 28th, Wachusett Brewing Company just released a **Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms** and Westminster Bakers Co. collaboration. Introducing the Oyster Cracker Stout, created by adding several dozen fresh **Cuttyhunk Oysters** in the shell and boiling them for 30 minutes before removing to add 30 pounds of Westminster Oyster Crackers to the mash. “Oysters and stouts are one of the most famous food and beer pairings around the world,” said Christian McMahan, president of Wachusett Brewing Company. “We reached out to Seth Garfield at Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms, and were thrilled that they joined us on the project.”

2019 April 9th, The Massachusetts executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. announced **Gosnold was awarded a \$300,000**

grant to conserve 20 acres of the town's sole aquifer. including the town of Gosnold's Cuttyhunk Island Wellhead project. "The town of Gosnold and the Buzzards Bay Coalition have identified a once-in-a-generation opportunity for open space preservation in Massachusetts," said State Sen. Julian Cyr, D-Truro. "This Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant will help make the full plan for preservation of Gosnold's protected lands and public access beaches a financial reality."

2019 At the Gosnold town meeting on May 20, residents voted unanimously to contribute \$400,000 toward the **Buzzard's Bay Coalition's Cuttyhunk Conservation Project**. This provides 6% of the total project funding, and demonstrates the island's united support for keeping Cuttyhunk's rustic charm unchanged. The town's share includes generous grants from Naushon Island's Beech Tree Trust and from the Gosnold Fund at the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts. The Cuttyhunk Conservation Project will place 67 acres of Cuttyhunk's extraordinary natural landscape under permanent protection. This includes the land atop Bayberry Hill and Haps Hill (also known as Lookout Hill), the highest points on the island and an important rainwater recharge area for the town's public drinking water wells. Along the shoreline, the **Coalition will protect Canapitsit Neck (also known as Barges Beach), Church's Beach, and Copicut Neck**. These lands will be managed by the Coalition and preserved for public access, ensuring they remain open to the hiking, birdwatching, swimming, and fishing that is such a treasured part of island life. The Spaulding family has decided to protect the land under a permanent conservation restriction held by the Coalition. This will mean the land remains privately owned, but that development on it will be permanently limited. (See June 2018)

2019 June 7th, The State of Massachusetts announces grants are being awarded by the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) through the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The **Town of Gosnold, and its partner the Buzzards Bay Coalition**, will receive a state grant of \$20,419 toward the permanent protection of over 300 acres of undeveloped land on the island of Cuttyhunk. The funding will help match other state grants to acquire and protect 79 acres of privately owned, undeveloped land and secure a permanent

conservation restriction on approximately 230 additional donated acres.

- 2019 May 28 to May 31, ten Lawrence School 8th graders and their science teacher from Falmouth, MA were the first to participate in a pilot program on Cuttyhunk, in which they went on historical and ecological walking tours, heard a presentation on shipwrecks, made an art project using collected debris and visited the island's oyster beds to learn about aquaculture. The **pilot Cuttyhunk STEAM Academy** program (science, technology, engineering, art and math) was made possible by a donation by Dr. Michelle Costa-Cataldo and Ralph Cataldo.
- 2019 June 17th, **Gwen Lynch graduates from the Cuttyhunk School** filling the 1881 island church with family, friends, dignitaries and press. "She is an amazingly capable young woman. She has a warmth about her that attracts people to her young and old," her teacher, Michelle Carvalho said. "She's ready to soar." Actress, comedian and writer Jenny Slate said, "I told you sheepishly that I somehow thought that you would be out here churning butter," "Your no frills confidence is pure and powerful," Slate concluded. "It is my deep honor to congratulate you on work well done, on being a woman of warm heart and sterling character." After burying a time capsule near the school entrance, Gwen said, "I am ready to start the next chapter of my life." She will attend the Tilton School in New Hampshire, leaving the island without any students. Cuttyhunk Elementary plans to convert to a STEAM academy for off-island visiting schools, said Margaret Frieswyk, the school's superintendent. (See June 15, 2018)
- 2019 Since 1988, **The Lloyd Center for the Environment of Dartmouth, MA has surveyed moths on the Elizabeth Islands**, setting UV light traps on the islands of Pasque, Naushon, Nashawena and Cuttyhunk. Between 1988 and 2015, the highest number of species by far was caught on Naushon (240) with the rest distributed between Pasque (88), Nashawena (36), and Cuttyhunk (24) islands. On Cuttyhunk alone, from 2016–2018, 57 species detected in 2016 (late–August and early–October surveys), 40 species in 2017 (mid–September survey), and 16 species in 2018 (late–August survey). In addition, Cuttyhunk butterflies, included species such as Wood Nymph, American Copper, Cloudless Sulfur, and Buckeye, to name a few.

- 2019 October 2nd, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has allocated \$450,000 in emergency **funds to dredge the Cuttyhunk federal channel “Harbor of Refuge”**. The channel is in critical need of dredging and many on the island feared that a strong winter storm could cause the channel to silt in completely, leaving them cut off from the mainland. “I have shared these worries, and I now share the relief of the people of Cuttyhunk that the Army Corps of Engineers will complete this critical dredging project.” said U.S. Rep. William Keating, D-Mass. The Corps expects to dredge about 15,000 cubic yards of sand from the channel. Dredging begins November 7th. (See 2023)
- 2019 October 5th, a small ensemble of actors gather on Cuttyhunk Island to commemorate the 417th anniversary of the year that explorer Bartholomew Gosnold’s voyage journalists, Archer and Brereton, penned vivid descriptions of the island where some scholars believe Shakespeare set his final play. Hosted by the **Cuttyhunk Island Writers’ Residency and Ben Shattuck**, the actors spend four days exploring the island with some of Shakespeare’s richest text through poetry, movement, and music—culminating in a **performance of “The Tempest.”** Experience through Shakespeare’s eyes the magic, terror, and mystery of this “brave new world” that is the setting for Shakespeare’s last play; come and hear the “thousand twangling instruments” that, when you wake, will make you “cry to dream again.”

Bartholomew Gosnold came upon the Elizabeth Islands in 1602, about eighteen years before Plymouth Colony. He landed on Cuttyhunk and claimed it and the surrounding islands for Queen Elizabeth I. This early expedition was funded by the Earl of Southampton, a patron and friend of the playwright William Shakespeare. In the 1590s, Shakespeare dedicated two long poems to the Earl. While on this journey, one of Gosnold's crew, John Brereton journaled in great detail about their adventures. When they returned to England, these journals were printed and found in most London bookstores. It is his exact descriptions of Cuttyhunk that made their way into *The Tempest*! In 1902, Edward Everett Hale, a writer, Unitarian minister and chaplain of the United States Senate proposed a theory about Gosnold's time spent on Cuttyhunk saying: “Take down the *Tempest* and read of Caliban and mussels in the brook – sassafras logs and seamews and quarrels between sailors and gentlemen. That is the story of what happened in seven weeks.” Hale also said that Gosnold and his crew told the story of their voyage to Shakespeare

and the Earl of Southampton. “Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises, Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not.” — William Shakespeare, ‘The Tempest’ (1610–1611)

- 2019 October, Warfinger George Isabel reported slips sold out every weekend. Richie on “Knucklehead”, was here for almost 8 weeks. Dale Lynch reported that **Marina collection revenues** were up this past season by \$4,000, with seasonal revenue of \$176,735, the best season ever.
- 2019 October 22nd, the **Cuttyhunk Public Library** is torn down to make way for a new expanded library that is more accessible and energy efficient. (see 1890, 2021)
- 2019 October 31, two waterfront Vineyard Haven companies owned by Ralph M. Packer have been ordered by a federal judge to pay \$1.3 million in fines for years of violating federal and state environmental laws designed to protect clean air and water from pollution. The case was brought by the environmental enforcement section of the Justice Department in 2016. Attorneys for the Government state, “Violations from small facilities can collectively cause substantial pollution, and thus must be met with meaningful consequences.” **Packer is the only fuel provider for Cuttyhunk** over decades, and facilities and service is now in question. (See 2020)
- 2020 January 8, Cuttyhunk received an \$800,000 grant from the state to **repair its 2-mile road network and reconstruct the iconic retaining walls along Tower Hill Road.** “These roadways are the only paved means of transportation on the island, and are vital to the shipping and delivery of goods from the island’s docks to local businesses and homes,” the state wrote in an announcement. “These roadways are also a lifeline for local tourism, providing the only means of access and egress to Cuttyhunk Harbor for boaters and ferry passengers.” It has been 25 years since significant work has been done on the roads and walls. The cost is estimated at \$900,000. (See 2022)
- 2020 January 19, **Ralph M. Packer has been Cuttyhunk island’s lone fuel supplier for 50 years and a new lease with the town is in question.** In November, the state fined the company \$1.3 million for not being in compliance with several regulations pertaining to air pollution and underground storage tanks on Martha’s Vineyard. Cuttyhunk leases a

parcel to Packer and the company has six 6,000-gallon tanks. “The fundamental unease is the continuity of fuel supply for the electric power, for heating houses and boats,” said Gosnold Selectman Stewart Young. To comply with the new regulations, Packer estimated he would have to spend \$100,000 on the island facilities. There are only a handful of home-heating customers on the island, which has a year-round population of about a dozen people. The town has cut back its oil consumption, from about 60,000 gallons a year to about 20,000 gallons after installing new solar arrays. **Right now, the island fuel tanks sit empty and Packer brings fuel trucks over on barges.** The looming concern is serving summer residents, visitors and marina customers. “The town is obviously trying to be proactive,” said Gosnold Fire Chief Seth Garfield, who is also a member of the harbor committee. Garfield and a small group of others are seeking other possible fuel suppliers or other scenarios where Packer could continue to operate on the island. **Boating fuel dock closed until further notice.** (See 2023)

- 2020 January 27, Dale Lynch reported island daily water consumption of 1800 gallons/day. He is working with Environmental Partners on the location/cost of new wells.
- 2020 February, **Christine Fairchild has gifted additional land** from the adjacent “Household” property, to extend the **Cuttyhunk Town Cemetery** to include a new section (4) for cremains only.
- 2020 March 13, A notice from the Selectmen, the first mention of the **Corona Virus COVID19** arrival in Massachusetts and reference to MA Dept. of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control as sources for authoritative updates and guidance. This moment on would change life forever on the island.
- 2020 March 19, **Cuttyhunk Ferry Co.** changes due to COVID19 restrictions. Cancelled all charters and seal watches for 60 days. Close the galley. Crew members will continually wipe down rails, seats and counters with alcohol. Reminder to keep 6ft apart and other restrictions required by town and state. Expecting a big downturn to the numbers this year. Hoping to survive.
- 2020 April 17th, By Order of the Town of **Gosnold Board of Health**, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, public facilities on Cuttyhunk Island are

closed until June 15, 2020. The marina is closed, and there are no dinghy docks for transient use. Temporary tie-ups are prohibited at all Town docks, and no water or fuel is available. The rental moorings are not available for use. There are no public toilets and no waste disposal. Town Hall is open by appointment only, with social distancing.

- 2020 May 1, "These are challenging and extraordinary times. The contagious nature of the **Covid19 virus** has forced upon the world an unthinkable reality- shelter in place. As we stay home and explore our limited surroundings and resources, we struggle with a deep-seated need to reach out while isolated, to be together while apart. This need has always existed, but given our new reality, how do we meet it? Life on the Elizabeth Islands is revealing in its simplicity. Native tribes, tenant farmers, year rounders, summer visitors, were no strangers to "sheltering in place." In fact, they survived a hardscrabble life, hurricanes, world wars, illness and all the while, raised families and built community over the centuries. This summer the Museum of the Elizabeth Islands will share some of our stories on our Facebook page and web site (provide links). We invite you to reply and let us hear how these stories spark memories of community, generosity, personal resilience and resourcefulness. We need each other as we meet the challenges of this historic 2020 pandemic." Cuttyhunk Historical Society
- 2020 May 9th, **The Cuttyhunk Town Wells, Pump House, Water Resource Area** and Access Roads leading to them are and always have been closed to the public .There is a sign located at the end of Bayberry Hill Rd. and another located on the Well Pump House indicating that this area is Off Limits. (No Trespassing) That means, no visitor's, no hiking, jogging, dog walking or joyriding in your golf cart or ATV. This is the town's only source of drinking water and just as on the mainland the same rules would apply as to limiting public access. Dale Lynch, Gosnold Water Dept.
- 2020 July 4th, The popular **all-island golf cart parade and ceremony** on the Tower Hill Bunker, is **cancelled due to COVID19 caution**. The Cuttyhunk July 4th traditional parade, began in 1995 and usually ends at the bunker at the top of Tower Hill where island children sing, pastors offer a prayer, taps is played, military veterans are honored, and the national anthem is sung. (See 1995)

- 2020 July 15th, Cuttyhunk reports its **first positive case of COVID19**. A female, tested positive Wednesday and is a Cuttyhunk seasonal resident and homeowner. The woman had been on the Island for approximately a week and a half before she started showing symptoms at which time she left the island to be tested. The woman who tested positive remains off-Island. The individuals who were directly exposed were notified and directed to quarantine. Test kits arrived and the island doctor tested the primary contacts in quarantine on the Island. After contacting the state DPH, 25 other individuals, including first and second-tier contacts, were tested for the virus last Friday. Seven of those tests came back positive, with patients in multiple families and households.
- 2020 July 24th, **A state-coordinated public health response** has been initiated on remote Cuttyhunk after a recent **COVID** coronavirus incident. MA Department of Public Health nurses tested 97 residents for the virus at Avalon. Testing was open to all residents. Three public health nurses and a state epidemiologist conduct the examinations. The island's resident doctor, Dr. Pam Spatz was most helpful in this process. The mass testing comes after eight individuals residing on the island tested positive for the virus between Wednesday and Friday of last week, prompting a mandatory mask order and heightened concern from town officials. The tests were negative. The summer continued without incidence with heightened regulations and signage at the harbor, about town and at the beaches. Fire chief Seth Garfield has offered to transport positive COVID residents via ferry with full personal protective gear, while the two ferries to the island have instituted complex safety protocol. Visitors to the island, by and large, complied with limitations and guidelines.
- 2020 September, The **Cuttyhunk School reopened** with 4 children from 3 families, representing grades 2,5 and 7. Principal/Teacher Michelle Carvalho provided an energizing, exploratory education for all students that include the island environment and the island community. The program offers a safe, covid-19 bubble of indoor education, unique in Massachusetts. The school has had no students since Gwen Lynch's graduation, June 15, 2018.
- 2021 January, The **Cuttyhunk School** opens the spring semester with 8 children from 5 families, representing grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. The exceptional program offered by teacher Michelle Carvalho during a

covid year, is attracting families wanting in-person education rather than virtual education primarily offered on the mainland. The island, one-room schoolhouse education experience is a rare opportunity, designed by Principal/Teacher Michelle Carvalho, Supt. Margaret Frieswyk and the Gosnold School Committee.

- 2021 **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Exhibit: “Small Islands, Big Stories”** opens with a focus on the five major Elizabeth Islands, stories seldom told, objects seldom seen. Curated by Carolyn Powers, Shelly Merriam and Allison Thurston.
- 2021 CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands: “Celebrating Our Founders”, **40th Anniversary of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society**. CHS honors their donors and loaners with special signage, a tribute to our founding and founders in 1980. The **Museum of the Elizabeth Islands** now houses a collection of over 6,500 objects, archives and a research library. Residents and summer visitors stop by to see what’s new, explore family genealogies, share questions and stories, and engage with the history of the Elizabeth Islands.
- 2021 July 3rd, A casual **Cuttyhunk Historical Society Opening Party** on the lawn with auction coordinated by Horace Garfield. Museum opens with a sign "Masks recommended indoors, Masks available at the front desk" as Covid-19 restrictions ease for the summer.
- 2021 July 4th, The traditional decorated **Golf Cart Parade returns**. Following the COVID year and a few days of rain, people emerged from their homes ready to celebrate a ‘return to normal’. All feel safe outdoors and masking requirements eased indoors. There was an evening of music at Avalon with families mingling, children dancing and an air of community appreciation.
- 2021 July 10th, There is an official **Gosnold Library Opening Party** for the new building on Tower Hill. The design and placement compliments adjacent Town Hall and School. It reflects some of the character of the original building, but now has space for a growing collection, meeting space, children’s area, bathroom and small kitchen area. The shelving was donated by Warren Pierson of Cambridge Public Library. The walkway is lined with donor bricks commemorating island families and friends. The library is accessible and includes an accessibility ramp to

the rear entrance of town hall. Dorothy Garfield, Library Director.
Trustees: Gail Blout, Kris Lombard, Lisa Wright.

- 2021 The **First Annual Cuttyhunk Variety Show** on the Frazel/Wilder lawn at Four Corners. Hosted by Michael Frazel. This island “tradition” welcomes acts of all types, ages, and skills.
- 2021 July 27, the **mask mandate returns** indoors for Gosnold town buildings. An off-island Avalon visitor, attending a recent wedding, has tested positive with symptoms for the COVID-19 virus.
- 2021 July 24th, The **new playground opens**. The Cuttyhunk Playground Committee chaired by Roxy Leeson thanks Asa Lombard, Bill Archer, and Wayne Perrier for all they have done to assist the installers from the Kompan Company for this first phase completion of the playground. The second phase should take place in the fall. Donors: the Buzzards Bay Coalition, the Selectmen, and the voters of Gosnold. (See 2001)
- 2021 October, The **Cuttyhunk STEAM Academy** education program forms an Initial Board of Trustees, Ann Conway, Michelle Costa, Robert Elmore, Charles Field, and Sandy Parker. Their initial challenges will be to elect officers, create initial articles of incorporation and by-laws and file for 501(c)3 tax exempt status.
- 2021 October 19, A **high-tech buoy** designed to enhance maritime safety is installed in Buzzards Bay. State environmental officials say the buoy that measures wave height, wave period, wave direction, and surface water temperature every 30 minutes will be placed about four nautical miles southwest of Cuttyhunk Island. The buoy is a joint project involving the state, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems.
- 2022 January 28, **West End Conservation Restriction:** The Spaulding family has placed a permanent Conservation Restriction on more than 200 acres in the West End. This CR will be overseen by the Coalition for Buzzards Bay and is greatly appreciated by the Selectmen and the community at large.

- 2022 **A Wildfire Community Protection Plan** is approved by the Gosnold Board of Selectmen. Martha's Vineyard Commission commends Fire Chief Seth Garfield as a "big asset" in the creation of this plan for the towns in Dukes County.
- 2022 April, Ian Walsh, of **Buzzards Bay Coalition** arrives on Cuttyhunk for the summer to manage the newly acquired island BBC properties. (See Buzzards Bay Coalition 2018 and 2019)
- 2022 April 20, 2022, The Town of Gosnold entered into a construction contract with Dig It Construction, LLC of South Dennis, MA to complete the Cuttyhunk Island **Water System Improvements Project**. The largest public works project ever for the Town, it includes replacing and rehabilitating just under 2 miles of existing water main, fire hydrant installations, as well as upgrading the Island's well water sources and pump station. A second component of the project includes stormwater drainage improvements to Tower Hill Road and Broadway. The project is currently anticipated to be complete in September 2022, with the exception of final paving of all affected roads which will be performed in Fall 2022. Dale Lynch, Water System Manager, Town of Gosnold Water Department.
- 2022 May, Dig It Construction begins work on the **Water System Improvements Project** to continue in to October. Work will take place Monday–Thursday to avoid weekend disruption during the summer tourist season. Daily updates by Dale Lynch help the public plan to navigate the construction areas.
- 2022 Russell "Rud" and Julie Mason take over as managers of the **Cuttyhunk Fishing Club**. The Mason's innovative, fresh changes at the Club welcomes ease and enjoyment for guests and staff. In keeping with Oriel Wood Ponzecchi's and Bonnie Veeder's vision, the Club continues to serve as a valuable income source over the summer for young people as they make their way through college and/or into their careers, as well as to promote character building and leadership opportunities.
- 2022 July, 28th **Gosnold–Cuttyhunk Climate Action Network (Cuttyhunk CAN)** announces the launch of the first public draft of the 2022 Gosnold Climate Action Plan. The plan is the result of months of monthly meetings, conversations with the Selectboard and related

committees, conversations with businesses and community stakeholders, along with periodic updates at Selectboard meetings. The Plan was developed in conjunction with "The Vineyard Way," a project of the Martha's Vineyard Commission. The plan will be submitted to Duke's County and Commonwealth climate agencies. The group was formed in November of 2021 with a steering committee led by Nancy Wilder and Jonny Winet.

- 2022 October 1st, **Charmaine Couvillon Gahan**, becomes the owner of the **Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farm**, purchased from Seth and Dorothy Garfield who started the business in 1981. Gahan said, "her grandfather was a commercial fisherman, so an ocean-based career was in her blood." She has grown up summering on the island working with the shellfish crew. Like Garfield, she will continue to hire and mentor island youth.
- 2022 October 21st, The Town of Gosnold Selectboard announces the completion of the **Water System Improvements Project** begun April 20, 2022. The stormwater drainage improvements to Tower Hill Road and Broadway, and paving of all roads affected by the project, as well as re-seeding roadside areas, is also complete. The Town extends gratitude Dig It and Pawtucket Hot Mix who went "above and beyond their required work to make it as right as possible" for the island community. Special Thanks to Josh and all the contractors who became 'neighbors', Dale Lynch, Seth Garfield, Wayne Perrier and Leo Roy. (See April 20, 2022)
- 2022 December 15th, The Town of Gosnold received **two Massachusetts State Funding Grants**. The first is a \$475,720 grant to replace the **Marina Bathroom Facility** at the Cuttyhunk marina owned and operated by the town.
- 2023 April, **Cornell University students and the Massachusetts Environmental Police help the Center for Coastal Studies with the cleanup of 'ghost' lobster traps and gear** which washed up on Cuttyhunk Island's shores. Volunteers help collect traps, sort ropes, buoys and weights, and stack for collection/removal, near the ferry/ barge dock. The items included 400 unidentifiable lobster traps, an additional 244 mostly intact pots with id#'s, as well as several dumpsters of bottles, dominated by Gatorade. Participants: Laura Ludwig, Manager for Center of Coastal Studies, Massachusetts Environmental Police LTC Patrick Moran and SGT Matthew McClintock,

Mark Adams, Artist/Scientist in Residence at the Center for Coastal Studies, Josh Biggs & Anthony Lopardo, Cornell University students, Annie Lewandowski, senior lecturer at Cornell University, Megan Chiango, Newburyport artist, and islander Michell Carvalho, program director of the Cuttyhunk STEAM academy, and Sawyer DeVoe, Plattsburgh High School (NY) senior who grew up on Cuttyhunk Island. “This trip connects what we are learning in class about acoustic communication in whales to anthropogenic impacts on marine animals and their habitats,” Laura Ludwig, marine debris and plastics program coordinator for the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, Rhode Island

2023 May, **New Island Cemetery split-rail fencing installed** on the perimeter in time for Memorial Day Commemorations. July of 2021, The Town of Gosnold received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 to help with the replacement of the Cuttyhunk cemetery fence.

2023 June 1st, The **new roof on the Coast Guard Boathouse** is complete. Painting and securing shingles continues. The interior will be painted and panels will be installed.

2023 **Museum of the Elizabeth Islands new exhibit: “Island as Muse.”** Featuring, the Manuel **"Manny" Sarmiento** mosaic, the artwork of beloved **Flo Fairchild**, the needlework of **Nancy Hornbach** and the amazing **Harry Neyland**, as well as other donated or acquired art in the museum collection. William Shakespeare may have been the first to take Cuttyhunk as muse. Shakespeare and Bartholomew Gosnold shared the same patron, the Earl of Southampton; following Gosnold’s discovery of Cuttyhunk in 1602, Shakespeare likely heard tales at the Earl’s court of this tempestuous and fog-enshrouded isle. The *Tempest*, Shakespeare’s last play, followed shortly after. Therein lies the legend which persists to this day – that Cuttyhunk is *The Tempest* setting. Two centuries later, in 1858, Albert Bierstadt took Cuttyhunk as his muse in the dreamlike painting *Bartholomew Gosnold at Cuttyhunk*. Since then, writers, poets and artists have made Cuttyhunk and the Elizabeth Islands their muse.

2023 July, 29th, 4–6 pm, The **150th Anniversary Celebration of the Cuttyhunk Elementary School**. The Cuttyhunk School and Playground. Honoring the school’s past, present and future. The one-room schoolhouse was built in 1873 on land donated by The

Cuttyhunk Club. It is part of the Town of Gosnold Public School District, Superintendent, Dr. Margaret Frieswyck. Planning Committee Members: Tory Field Eskelsen, Tammy Zimbone, Roxy Leeson, Karen Melikian, Judith Archer, Isabel Day, Katie White Conway, Aimee Lombard, Heidi Frothingham, Carolyn Powers, CarOline Conway.

- 2023 August 3, **The Fuel Farm Facility service opens at the gas dock!** A welcome service for locals and sailors! Boats fill up at the fuel dock and vehicles have a separate pump in the yard. The fuel shack is complete and large enough to accommodate some food, drinks, snacks and boater supplies. Lexi Lynch manages the gas service and shack sales. The new **Fuel Farm** includes the “installation of concrete foundation, two aboveground ConVault tanks, stainless steel piping as well as dispensing equipment, a containment sump, and a high-level alarm system.” Cuttyhunk Island has had no on-island fuel for its residents and boaters since 2020. (See 2020)
- 2023 August 11th, Over 15,000 pounds of debris was collected from Cuttyhunk Beaches in April and some of it has now found a home as an art exhibit at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. **The Center for Coastal Studies Marine Debris & Plastics Program** was awarded one of eleven SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants this year to locate, remove and properly dispose of lost fishing gear and other debris from the shores of Cuttyhunk Island. Volunteers from Cornell University, island residents, and artists from the CCS Beach Brigade removed hundreds of lobster traps, rope pieces, and other items from the area before documenting and then loading most of the debris into containers to be removed. Bricks, concrete, wire hoops, plastic lobster trap gear, ropes and netting were all set aside to be used in construction or artwork. The art pieces will travel to Cuttyhunk Island with the project team for a presentation to the island community on August 11, followed by a collaborative island-wide cleanup on August 12.
- 2023 September 2, **The Cuttyhunk STEAM Academy is now a 501c3** non-profit, separate from the Gosnold School Department. The Board of Directors are Sandy Parker, President, Charles Field, Treasurer, Ann Conway, Secretary and Michelle Carvalho, Program Director. During the past year: 5 Coalition Sea Lab trips; 1 Sea Lab Educators Day; Overnight program for 8th Grade Our Sister’s School, New Bedford; Overnight program for 55 of the Island Institute Teaching Learning

Collaborative; 4 four-day programs for public school groups; 3 week long school vacation programs; Grade 9 Sea Lab week long summer program for 42; Facilitate/assist Center for Coastal Studies and Cornell University Debris Shoreline Cleanup; Participate/development of Southern NE Marine Debris Action Plan; offered fresh produce to Islanders in the off season; fundraising events; establish Butterfly Pollinator Garden near the school/playground, on island.

- 2023 Sept. 22, **Gift of Land** A piece of land abutting the Power Plant has been donated to the Town by Philip and Diana Houha. The Town is extremely grateful to the Houhas for their generous donation. The site is being considered for a Town Barn.
- 2023 September, **Windows replaced on the Coast Guard Boathouse.** The exterior is complete in its restoration. Next the interior projects.
- 2024 January 2, **Dredging of the Channel** With the Army Corps of Engineers' *Currituck* out of commission, Coastal Consulting won the bid for dredging the channel and it is underway. The dredged materials are being placed off of Church's Beach. It is expected that the dredging will be completed by the end of January/early February – weather permitting. The channel was last dredged in 2019/2020, and we are pleased that the Corps recognized the need for it to be dredged again.
- 2024 January 10, Cuttyhunk's beaches have experienced a great deal of damage during **three recent storms.** **Barges Beach** has sustained considerable damage with most of the dunes being destroyed. Large pieces of the barges are now strewn across the beach and have made the road impassable by most vehicles. In the 1960's Congress authorized the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to install a 2600' stone dike and 1000' apron on Barges Beach. Unfortunately, the project was only partially completed with ~1200' of the dike installed. Over the past 20 years the Town and the Corps have requested that this project be completed by installing the remaining ~1400'. Because permanent structures are no longer allowed on barrier beaches, all our requests have been denied. The Corps will be developing a plan that will incorporate the results of the drone survey, the historical background of the Congressional authorization of the original 1960's project, and the steps that need to be taken to stabilize the beach.

Church's Beach, has sustained major loss of its dunes as well as snow fencing. The road to Copicut Neck has experienced over wash in at least three areas with some sections under water. Protecting the utilities located under the road is a priority. In addition, the road needs to be maintained to allow fire trucks and other vehicles access to the Neck. Any closure of the road would potentially create a public health safety issue. The Town is asking the Conservation Commission to approve our request to install two rows of boulders (12' wide, 100' long, 3-6' tall). Sand bags may be used to help reinforce the boulders. We are requesting that this work be done immediately as we cannot afford to allow Church's Beach to continue to deteriorate. Utilities and access to Copicut Neck must be maintained.

- 2024 April 29, **Gosnold has been designated as a Green Community.** A project application needs to be submitted shortly for the \$130,930 grant. This money will be used for energy renovation of the Gosnold Town Hall. Thanks to Stewart Young for his commitment to making this designation happen.
- 2024 May 20, **Town of Gosnold, Gosnold Select Board chair, Gail Blout** is retiring after 24 years on the Selectboard. Gail Blout presented her last town report which received a standing ovation. Words do not suffice to describe her dedication to the town. While she is retiring from the Selectboard, she'll remain on the Cuttyhunk Public Library board of trustees and will serve as president of the (Avalon) Marilyn Snow House Foundation, a nonprofit organization with a goal of serving Cuttyhunk. She also will continue to lead the renovation of the USCG Boathouse and projects to protect Barges and Church's beaches.
- 2024 May 24, The **Center for Coastal Studies Marine Debris and Plastics Program** returned to lead a cleanup event on Cuttyhunk Island to remove fishing gear and other marine debris from the shores of the southernmost Elizabethan Island. Using funds allotted by the SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants, workers and volunteers with the non-profit will be joined by locals, fishermen, artists, and environmental advocates as they collect lobster traps, ropes, and other fishing-related equipment to be sorted and logged for recycling or reuse as artwork. This is the second year in which volunteers gather to remove junk from the Island, building on the 15,000-plus pounds of debris successfully removed last year. Kudos to Laura Ludwig and her

crew who have cleaned up tons of waste from island beaches including more than 120 lobster traps.

- 2024 **Public Safety Initiatives** also include additional AEDs (automated external defibrillators) at the marina and ferry docks and life rings and first aid kits placed at Barges and Church's beaches.
- 2024 May 31, **The Cuttyhunk Lifesaving boat was returned to the restored Coast Guard Boathouse** after being housed with the Westport Historical Society. It was on loan to the Buzzards Bay Coalition from the Town of Gosnold, and will be showcased in the future Visitor Center in the decommissioned Coast Guard Boathouse at the Cuttyhunk Landing. The lifeboat was removed from the Westport Life Saving Station by flat bed tow truck, and then by crane to the Cuttyhunk Ferry in New Bedford for its final journey home.
- 2024 June 3, **Tern death and bird nest destruction** by an all terrain vehicle in the Audubon protected nesting area of **Barges Beach**. Please obey and read the signs during the nesting season. These incidents involve hefty fines, and we want to maintain our good relationship with Audubon, who works so hard to preserve bird life.
- 2024 June 11, Don Rose, from the Vineyard hired as **Public Safety Chief** for the summer. His presence is much appreciated and his concern for safety is primary. The Selectboard reminds parents and their families to manage their carts so that no one under 16 is driving, no one is driving with a kid in their lap and that speed is minimal in highly trafficked areas. Golf carts, trucks, skateboards, motorbike etc. should stop at 4 corners and watch the yield at 3 corners. Respect leash laws and noise levels. Please get to know Don Rose respect his efforts to help the community. Common sense and care for others should prevail.
- 2024 June, **Audubon Bunker Project**, one of four abandoned U.S. Coast Guard bunkers, below Tower Hill on the coast overlooking Buzzards Bay and Sow and Pigs, was renovated and improved as a public lookout point on the island. The Selectboard is reviewing the design for the renovation of the Tower Hill bunker. The projects are funded by donations. Thank you Manny Capriotti and Chip Broderick.

- 2024 June, **Church's Beach**: Wyatt Garfield, Chris Hart, and Win Sanford install two sets of access stairs to the beach for safer entrance and dune protection. There are also designated areas to park and walking paths that protect the dunes & grasses from activity.
- 2024 June, Cuttyhunk CAN, The **Cuttyhunk Climate Action Network** is implementing a variety of initiatives to reduce food waste. Verimculture – see Michelle Carvalho about borrowing a worm bin. Composting or sharing extra food, see Nancy Wilder.
- 2024 June, **Wind Energy Collaborative**: Thanks to Michelle Carvalho and STEAM for organizing a wind energy research project in cooperation with the Greater New Bedford Voc/Tech High School. The project will involve a student designed, constructed, and operated temporary small wind turbine at the solar site.
- 2024 July 2, Christopher Bergen, owner of the CuttyQuad, Michelle Carvalho and friends, repaint the directional **compass rose in the middle of the intersection at 4-Corners**. In 1983, **Ginger Thompson**, owner of the Cuttyhunk Store “Abaft the House” on Broadway, painted the original image. (See 1983)
- 2024 July 8–20, **First Cuttyhunk Summer Theater Camp** with Henry Weisel. Theater, storytelling, make believe and performance. Work with a professional working actor and play games learning the basics. Develop skills as actors in rehearsal and on stage in a live performance.
- 2024 July, **Capt. John Paul Hunter of Cuttyhunk Water Taxi closes his business** on *Seahorse*, the 18 passenger vessel. John Paul Hunter is at home on the water, having grown up on Cuttyhunk Island, a Veeder family descendent. An ambitious entrepreneur, he obtained his license, purchased *Seahorse* and began transporting passengers for Cuttyhunk Water Taxi in May of 2001. The regular route of *Seahorse* ran between New Bedford and Cuttyhunk Island, and was available for private charter. (See 2001)
- 2024 A large pine tree in the **Cuttyhunk Cemetery** came down in a storm and was cut and hauled away. No stones were damaged in the fall.

- 2024 July 24, **Barges and Church's Beach:** Woods Hole Group has issued a draft update for its report on Coastal Resiliency Alternatives for Barges Beach. The report reaffirms the position of the Town that completion of the stone dike is the most cost-effective solution. We continue to communicate with the US Army Corps of Engineers and our state reps to advocate for this project. The Woods Hole Group is in the process of doing a similar analysis for Church's Beach.
- 2024 August 3–9, **“Cuttyhunk Olympics, Who needs Paris?”** Cuttyhunk Olympic Events, Cuttyhunk 5K walk/run and Fireworks on Saturday, August 3; Golf Tournament 3 par/3 holes Fishing Club Lawn, August 7; Appetizer Contest & Pickle Ball Tournament, August 8; Closing Ceremony/Variety Show at 4Corners, August 9th. Raised \$2500 for the Gosnold Community Fund.
- 2024 August 12, **Town considers one day liquor licensing** through an application process for certain events/organizations. Being a **dry town** means there are no full time or seasonal liquor licenses for bars, package stores, restaurants, etc. The Town is hardly ‘dry’ given all of the events that serve alcohol to the public including Cuttyhunk Historical Society (CHS) opening and auction open bar, CHS beer tasting event, Cuttyhunk Yacht Club (CYC) open bar parties, Avalon art show, library fundraiser, Olympic week party, many private events, as well as the behind the scenes selling of beer on the Fish Dock and the most recent flagrant free serving of beer. None of these public events have been licensed as required. Under discussion One Day Special License. The law limits commercial organizations to wine and beer. Registered nonprofits may serve any form of alcohol. Entities need to understand and comply with ABCC requirements including those related to the sourcing, purchase, transport, and storage of alcohol and very importantly consider how they will deal with the liability inherent in serving alcohol.
- 2024 September 9th, This week members of the **NBFD Marine Safety Divisions’ Marine 38 trained with Cuttyhunk Fire Dept.** on responses to the island. New Bedford Fire is their mutual aid response for Fire and Medical emergencies. Members of the Marine Unit led by Capt. Tom Carreiro along with Cuttyhunk Fire Chief Seth Garfield and local island responders identified and walked through response plans to areas such as the islands fuel dock, fuel farm, power station, solar farm, a series of large battery banks and diesel generators. Members

became familiar with the island's topography, a new series of fire hydrants, understanding of island's water supply source, a natural underground aquifer. Touring Cuttyhunk's inns and local retail, knowing the expected occupancies are all important considerations for an emergency response.

- 2024 **Electric Light Department:** Following up on the PLM Electric Power Engineering Co. 3-, 5-, and 15-year upgrade plan, the Town is moving ahead with the plan's first phase and will be submitting an application to MassWorks that includes funding for the purchase of 5 transformers and materials. If the application is approved, it is planned for the trenching from the Power House to the Marina to begin this fall.

- 2024 **October, Cuttyhunk Ferry Co. MV Cuttyhunk,** begins offering alternate service to the to the island on a smaller vessel, theThe vessel was built by Robbins Boat Works in 1994 and customized by a New Jersey boat builder. She is 40 ft. long with a 14 ft. beam, a 2002 Volvo Penta TMAD 74 diesel engine, 480 hp with cruising speed of 16-20 knots. Thirty-eight passenger capacity. Retired Capt. John Paul Hunter of Cuttyhunk Water Taxi was graciously offered to captain the new vessel, but he declined after having served the islands shuttle needs for 23 years. (See 2006)

- 2024 **New Marina Public Restroom.** Demolition of the old building is expected around Oct 15 with completion by Jan 1, 2025.

- 2024 **A Public Toilet facility to be located inside the Fuel Farm/Solid Waste** facility using SEC Visitor Center grant funds. Completion expected Fall 2024.

- 2024 **Coast Guard Boathouse Building Visitors Center** Interior painting will commence in the fall.

- 2025 **Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse.** The **Naushon Beech Tree Trust** is applying to take over the lease for the lighthouse, which is expiring after a 25-year term. The previous agreement accorded The Cuttyhunk Historical Society non-exclusive right to use of the U.S. Coast Guard Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse 2001-2026. The Naushon Trust accepted financial responsibility and maintenance and hosted an

annual August open house for visitors. CHS has always supported the designation through donations and will continue to do so. (See 2001)

PLEASE NOTE YOUR ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS WITH YOUR NAME AND SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION. Email to: sjmerr22@gmail.com. THANK YOU.

If you would like to receive updates of this list, email me at the same address.

All information is from the records, files, collection and publications of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and the Museum of the Elizabeth Islands, Town Meeting publications, Gosnold town board meeting minutes, department or committee chairmen, and newspaper/magazine publications etc.

The Cuttyhunk Island Timeline is dedicated to its creator Ethel "Smoke" Twichell (1927-2018), Curator, Cuttyhunk Historical Society 1991-2003. Administered by Shelly Merriam, 2003 to present.