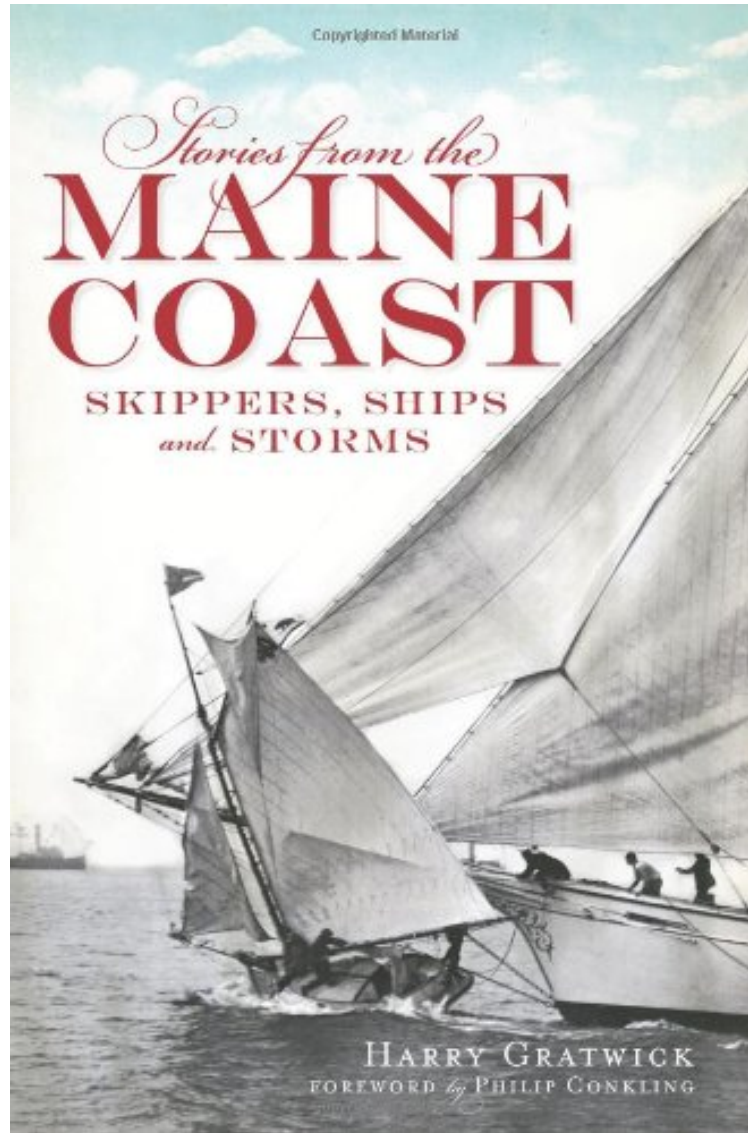


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Stories from the Maine Coast:: Skippers, Ships and Storms

Harry Gratwick

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Harry Gratwick : Stories from the Maine Coast:: Skippers, Ships and Storms before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stories from the Maine Coast:: Skippers, Ships and Storms:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. cozy sea stories for a winter's evening By Thomas C. Hayes Colorful stories told in a straightforward style that will appeal to anyone curious about seafaring on this coast. Harry Gratwick again (as in his other books on Maine) has sought out and found colorful characters. He lets them tell their own stories. The PT boat captain McAdoo, a patrician posted a few hundred miles from JFK's squadron, reveals himself in his

language. He picked up some sailors from a sunken Japanese ship, saving them from the inclination of his crew to machine gun them instead. McAdoo describes them as "rather surly." Bad manners, after someone saves your life! A professor of mathematics spends ten years building a large sloop of antique design, and Gratwick quotes his journal, which seems modeled on that of the 19th-century boatbuilder Slocum: "...barn door [of his boat shop] was open, allowing the wind to sweep right through and letting the boat feel that element which brings boats to life." Readers who warm to sea stories with a link to Maine's coast will settle in for rewarding hours with this latest book from Gratwick. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Maine lore! By Katharine G. Baker This book is about some famous and some less famous Down East skippers and their families. It also includes dramatic stories about boats and storms and shipwrecks. I loved the salty language from old sea dogs and the author's comfortably authentic use of boating terms. And I was amazed at the account of the competition among ferry boats to see which one could cover the fifteen miles between Rockland and Vinalhaven Island the fastest in 1892. The saddest story is the wreck of the "Royal Tar" which catches fire and sinks in 1836 with all the animals from a traveling circus on board, including a young elephant named Mogul. Gratwick has spent time in Maine historical societies up and down the coast, and has a great ear for a good yarn. He also fills the book with fascinating photos, drawings, and maps that make the stories even more alive. This book will be a fun read for people of all ages who are traveling to the Maine coast for the first time or for those who are immersed in Maine folk-lore, but want to learn more.

The history of Maine has always been inextricably tied to its coastline. The sea first brought settlers, and the rich fishing and shipbuilding industries sustained growth. The Atlantic also connected Mainers to the rest of the world. Goods and ideas traveled the maritime routes that originated in populous Portland and more isolated places like Carver's Harbor and Deer Isle. From Searsport's sailing masters to the burning of Royal Tar, author Harry Gratwick relates the adventures of the skippers and their crews. Read about the search for the Smithy Boat and other tales from Maine's shipping lanes.

About the Author Harry Gratwick is the author of *Mainers in the Civil War*, "*Hidden History of Maine*," "*Penobscot Bay*" and "*Stories from the Maine Coast*." He spends his summers on Vinalhaven Island and is a member of the Vinalhaven Historical Society. He writes for two local publications, "*Island Journal*" and "*Working Waterfront*," and holds an MA in history from Columbia University."