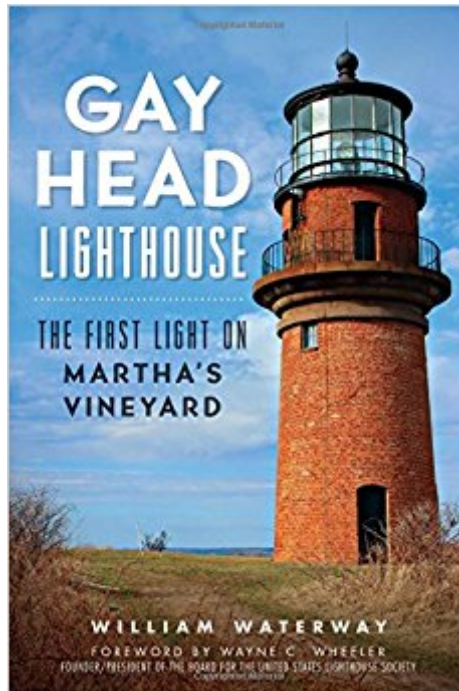


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Gay Head Lighthouse:: The First Light On Martha's Vineyard (Landmarks)



Synopsis

Standing tall on the colorful clay cliffs of Martha's Vineyard, Gay Head Lighthouse has provided safe passage to seafarers since 1799. The steadfast tower marks a dangerous and heavily traveled passage between the island and mainland known as Devil's Bridge. Being the first lighthouse on the Vineyard, Gay Head Light has a rich and varied history filled with stories of inspirational lighthouse keepers, disastrous shipwrecks and even mysterious deaths. Today, Gay Head Light serves as an iconic symbol of the island's maritime history and attracts visitors from around the world. Join author William Waterway as he charts the history of the lighthouse from the original wooden tower lit with oil lamps to the rebuilt brick structure that houses the famous Fresnel lens.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William Waterway is an award-winning author, poet and artist living on Martha's Vineyard. He is the founder of Vineyard Environmental Research, Inst. (VERI) , the nonprofit that saved the Gay Head Light during the 1980s. He is also the founder of Martha's Vineyard Magazine and Nantucket Magazine; Martha's Vineyard Poetry Society and producer of an MVTV program series. For more information visit williamwaterway.com.

When the author makes you forget why you bought the book in the first place, you know you've got something special. My great-great grandfather was one of the Keepers of the Gay Head Lighthouse, so naturally, I bought the book to see if anything was written about him that I didn't already know.

William tells the story of the light with such amiable prose (with a little poetry thrown in) that I completely forgot about Keeper Sam and wanted to know more about the lives of all the Keepers. My heart broke with the news of the Crocker children and it swelled with pride at the tenacity of all the families. If you are interested in Martha's Vineyard history, lighthouse history, or history in general, this book is excellent. I can't recommend it highly enough.

I so enjoyed my trip to the Gay Head Lighthouse and this book was another one that I wish I had read before going. I believe you miss so much of your trip to these places when you don't do a little reading of the history. I may have missed it on my trip but this book really helped me to go back in my memory and enjoy the Lighthouse all over again. I am so pleased that that beautiful little lighthouse has been saved from going over the cliff and many more will be able to enjoy it as I did.

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