

TIMESHIP *for kids*

WINTER 2009

ICE

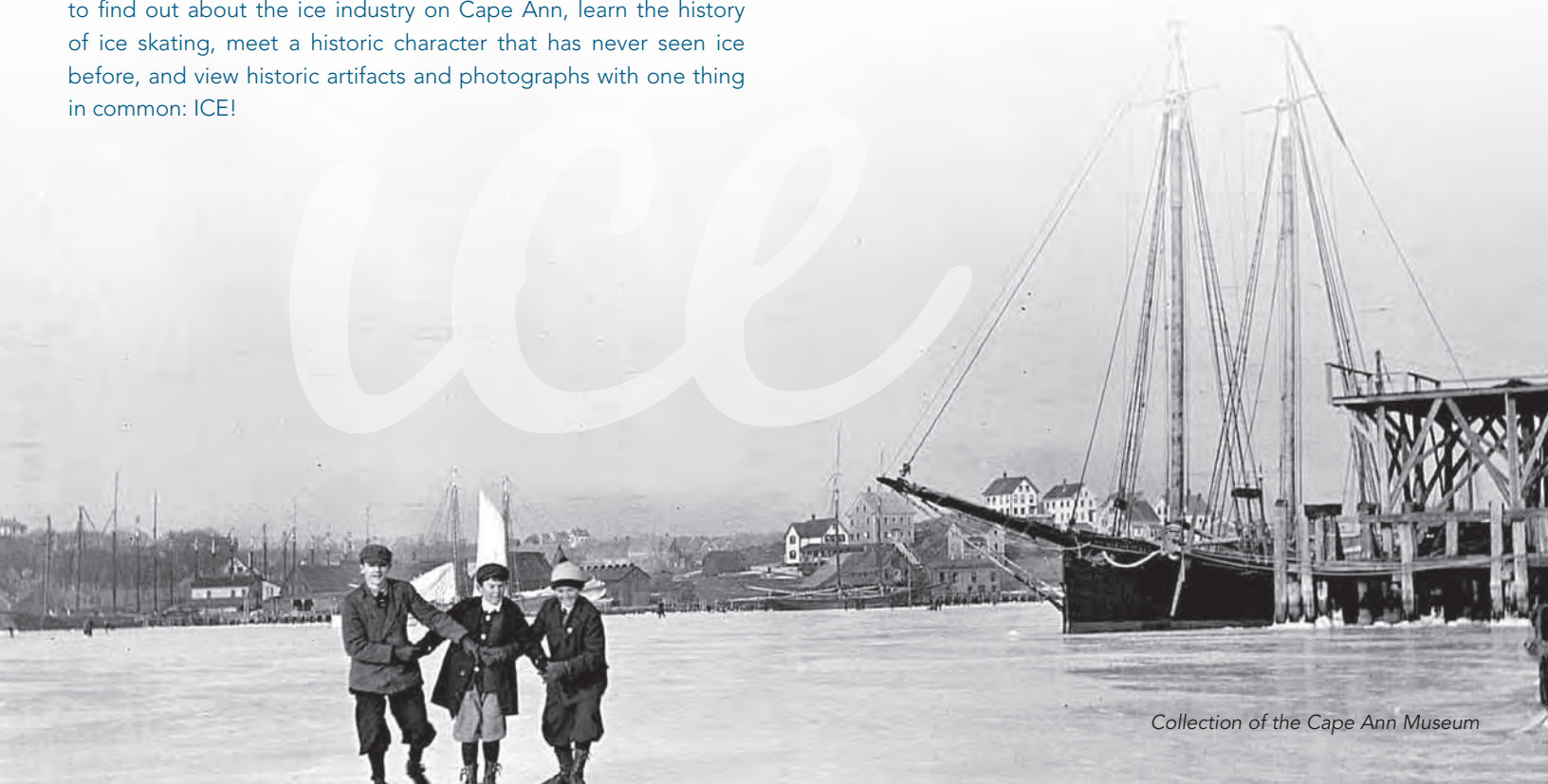
Brrrr..... Ice has always been a part of New England winters. Whether in the form of a frozen pond, a slippery sidewalk, or an icicle hanging off the window, if it is cold outside, chances are there is ice to be found.

Icy winters have affected Gloucester throughout the years. In January 1875 Gloucester Harbor was frozen to a depth of 16 inches. In 1917 Gloucester Harbor was frozen all the way to the Eastern Point Breakwater, and the Cut (canal) was shut down for six weeks. In 1934 Gloucester Harbor was frozen beyond Ten Pound Island to Eastern Point. Can you imagine looking out at a Gloucester Harbor Ice Skating Rink? Can you remember a time when it was that cold? The boys in the photograph below could! It is hard to tell, but they are wearing ice skates! Do you recognize that view of Gloucester Harbor? Why would this be an inconvenient situation for the boat in the picture?

Ice isn't strictly limited to wintertime. Fishermen use it all year to keep their catch fresh. It is a welcome product in the summer, chilling our beverages to get us through hot spells. Explore inside to find out about the ice industry on Cape Ann, learn the history of ice skating, meet a historic character that has never seen ice before, and view historic artifacts and photographs with one thing in common: ICE!



Charles A. Lowe Photo



History of Ice Skating

Two items in the Museum's collection that always come out during the winter are the skates pictured. These date back to the late 19th century. How are the two skates similar? How are they different? How have ice skates changed over the years?

Did you know that people were ice skating as far back as 5,000 years ago? People from Finland strapped sharpened animal bones to their leather boots to help them save time crossing frozen lakes. The idea spread throughout Europe. It was popular in the Netherlands. The Dutch shared their love of skating with the English, and settlers brought it to the New World. Skating was as dangerous then as it is now. There are accounts from 17th century Massachusetts of children falling through the ice.

Regardless of the danger, young and old alike kept doing it. It was useful and fun! In 1782 Gilbert Stuart, an 18th century portrait artist, whose portrait of George Washington hangs in the White House, painted the first known portrait of an ice skater. *The Skater* captured a Scottish man enjoying an afternoon skating in London. Painting a figure in action was not common at the time. Stuart was so successful at it, that his career took off. Visit the Cape Ann Museum to see a Gilbert Stuart painting.



The following poem is from Alice Morse Earle's *Child Life in Colonial Times* (1899):

*"'Tis true it looks exceedingly nice
To see boys gliding on the ice,
And to behold so many feats
Perform'd upon the sliding skates,
But before you venture there
Wait until the ice will bear,
For want of this both young and old
Have tumbled in,--got wet and cold."*



To Learn More...

Find this book in the Cape Ann Museum Library to read about children's activities in colonial times. Write your own poem about ice skating.



Collection of the Cape Ann Museum

Web Adventure

www.nga.gov

See 18th century portrait artist Gilbert Stuart's painting of *The Skater*.

Ice Industry On Cape Ann

Cutting ice from a pond in the wintertime and shipping it to tropical islands? What an idea! In the early 19th century, Massachusetts ice supplied warm locations with cold drinks. How did this impact Gloucester? Now fresh fish could be sold locally!

For years Gloucester fishermen distributed salted or brined fish all over the world. When Bostonian Frederic Tudor (a.k.a. the Ice King) invented the method for harvesting and storing ice, by removing ice from ponds in the wintertime, Gloucester soon jumped on board. Two of the earliest ice companies were the Gloucester Ice Company and the Fernwood Lake Ice Company. Nathaniel R. Webster started the Gloucester Ice Company in 1848, when he dammed a brook to make Webster's pond on land where Veteran's Memorial Elementary School stands today. During the winter months, Webster would have teams of men and horses harvest the ice. As the business grew, Webster built icehouses on Upper and Lower Day's Ponds along Eastern Avenue in East Gloucester and Cape Pond in Rockport. Eventually Webster's company would be called Cape Pond Ice.

Webster wasn't the only man involved in the business. Across town Francis W. Homans created a 32 acre man-made lake on Essex Avenue. It was called Fernwood Lake. In 1908, the Cape Pond Ice and the Fernwood Lake Ice companies joined together.

With the help of mechanization the process became more efficient. First the men would use plows to clear the snow off the pond. Then they would lay out a series of grooves creating a grid pattern. They would saw along the lines making a large ice float. This float would be moved across the pond to the storage house using ice hooks. It would then be split into separate blocks and stored in an insulated warehouse. The picture above shows men moving the ice floats. Only 10% of the ice is shown. This 1938 harvest in particular was 26 inches thick.



Harriet A. Wonson Viator Photo

As new refrigeration technology was introduced, the company moved the whole operation inside. In 1946, the Cape Pond Ice Company relocated operations to Commercial Street in Gloucester's Fort neighborhood, where it still stands today, the oldest East Coast block ice manufactory.

To Learn More...

On a map of Cape Ann, try to find the ponds used for making ice in the early 20th century. Which one doesn't exist anymore?



Harriet A. Wonson Viator Photo

Web Adventure

www.capepondice.com

Learn about the history of the ice industry and the oldest ice company on Cape Ann.

Tales from the Archives

Thornton Burgess was a popular children's book author who lived from 1874 to 1965. His stories are about nature's creatures that he loved and cherished. His dear friend Harrison Cady illustrated his books. Cady was an artist from Rockport who lived from 1877 to 1970. Cady gave Burgess' Peter Rabbit his familiar form. The close friends enjoyed working together and brought joy to many children. This story is from Burgess' *The Bedtime Story Calendar, Enchanting Tales of Field and Forest for Little People* (1915), from a book in the Cape Ann Museum archives. Peter Rabbit was a happy bunny. He loved the winter and how the snow cover made everything more beautiful. He lived in harmony with the other animals in the forest, though Granny Fox and Reddy Fox often chased him, because that is what foxes do.

Web Adventure

www.thorntonburgess.org

Learn about the prolific author of children's books and about the museum in his honor. See the link about Harrison Cady, the Rockport artist that illustrated his children's books.



Peter Rabbit Visits the Smiling Pool

By THORNTON W. BURGESS

PETER RABBIT had just given old Granny Fox and Reddy Fox the slip by ducking into the dear Old Brier-Patch. He had laughed almost in their faces as he sat there safely out of reach and watched them lick their chops and try to follow him and yelp and back out as the good old brambles scratched their faces and tore their bright red coats. When they gave up trying to get him, Peter watched them out of sight as they trotted down across the Green Meadows, which were now white, and past the Smiling Pool. That reminded Peter that he had not been over to the Smiling Pool since the snow and cold weather came.

"Granny and Reddy Fox won't come back here this morning and if they should I can run faster in the snow than they can for I do not break through as they do. I believe I'll go down and call on Jerry Muskrat," said Peter to himself.

So as soon as he was sure that Granny and Reddy Fox had really left the Green Meadows Peter sat up and looked this way and that way to make sure that fierce old Roughleg the Hawk was nowhere about. He was nowhere to be seen, so Peter kicked up his heels and with a light heart he started off, lipperty, lipperty-lip, to call on Jerry Muskrat, and as he ran he sang:

"I like the snow, the pretty snow,
That makes the world so white!
It covers every ugly thing
And hides it from our sight."

When he reached the Smiling Pool, Peter had to pinch himself twice to be quite sure that it really was the Smiling Pool. You see it wasn't smiling any more. No, Sir, there wasn't a bit of smile to it. He could hear the Laughing Brook still laughing, although its laugh did not sound quite so merry as in the

warm summer time, and when he looked over to it it didn't dimple and sparkle and gleam as he remembered it used to do. It looked black and cold, and somehow the very sound of its laugh made Peter Rabbit shiver. He looked again at the Smiling Pool and then he stared and stared with his mouth wide open in the most foolish way. What was the matter with the Smiling Pool anyway?

Something certainly was the matter. The Smiling Pool looked hard and glassy. Peter kicked some snow down the bank. Instead of sinking out of sight, as it ought to have, it slid along on the surface of the Smiling Pool. Peter stared more than ever and crept nearer to the edge of the bank. Now what happened next Peter never could explain. Perhaps he was nearer the edge than he had thought. Anyway, the first thing he knew his feet had slipped from under him and down the bank he was sliding flat on his back.

Peter closed his eyes and held his breath and waited for the plunge into the cold water. Instead he landed with a bump that knocked all the breath out of him.

"Oh!" cried Peter Rabbit, and for a full minute lay still, staring up at jolly, round, red Mr. Sun, who was looking down and laughing at him.

"Oh!" cried Peter again, and tried to scramble to his feet. But something was the matter with his feet! Each foot seemed to want to go in a different direction. Down went Peter again and bumped his nose. The more he struggled the more bumps he got and the more frightened he grew. Finally when he was quite out of breath he very carefully sat up. And where do you think he found himself? Why right on the middle of the Smiling Pool! Peter Rabbit had learned what ice is.



BEDTIME STORY No. 5

FOR JANUARY

TIMESHIP Activities

Timeline

Create a history of ice on Cape Ann using a timeline format. Include the following dates: 1848, 1875, 1908, 1917, 1934, 1946, and 2009. Make sure you list the importance of each.



Puzzle & Word Search

Complete the puzzle using the clues below. Then, find the answers in the word search.

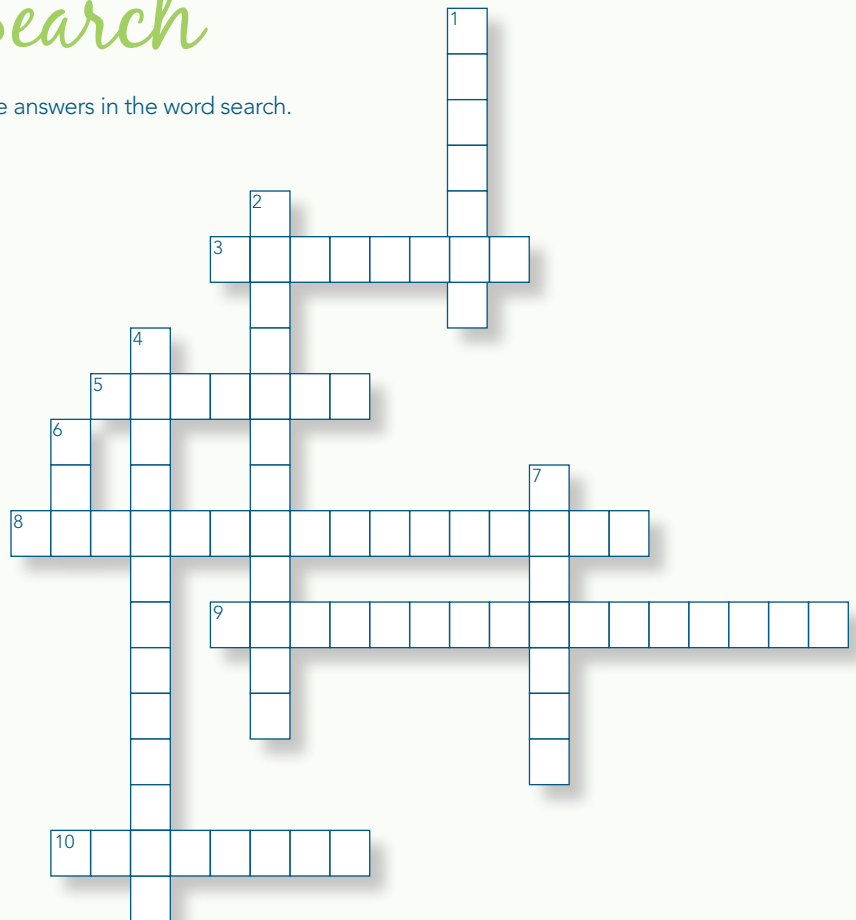
Across

3. A pond in Rockport where ice was harvested
5. Ice made this Gloucester industry even better
8. School where Webster's Pond once existed
9. Man who started the Gloucester Ice Company
10. Lake created by Francis W. Homans

Down

1. A fun winter sport
2. Rockport resident who drew Peter Rabbit
4. Artist who painted *The Skater*
6. Frozen water
7. Country where ice skating originated

V A Q X R Q M O I H D Y W I P E
 E N V V H V D F G W O N C B B L
 T Y Q D E A O V V U O E N L G O
 E U S F N R F L U L W D T I N S
 R O K W W O V V I X N P L H Z Z
 A K A A S J P Y V A R B R H Z O
 N A T H A N I E L W E B S T E R
 S E I V L B H N P R F Z S H W U
 M A N L E C I U T A O U I V F W
 E B G Z U F D S N F C R H D M U
 M F U K O J T F I S H I N G R Y
 O C K A S U O A L B C D L K D X
 R U Y D A C N O S I R R A H P D
 I J A R Q Y I J K M J I B W Q W
 A T T A I H I I A Z I J Y F U T
 L T F V Q G M T R S L H J D B B



More Activities...

Draw a picture of something you read about in this *TIMESHIP* issue.

Visit the Cape Ann Museum

Archives

View historic photographs of past icy winters in the archives.



Collection of the Cape Ann Museum

Special Exhibitions

View more Charlie Lowe photos in our special exhibition: Charles A. Lowe Photos; Gloucester, 1975 open until May 31, 2009.



Charles A. Lowe Photo

Permanent Collection

Folly Cove Designer Eino Natti created this *Winter Sports* design. Can you find the skaters in the picture? What other winter sports are being enjoyed? Visit the Cape Ann Museum to see more Folly Cove Designs.



CAPE ANN MUSEUM

ART HISTORY CULTURE

Address: 27 Pleasant Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts

Telephone: (978) 283-0455, Fax: (978) 283-4141

Hours: The Cape Ann Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Sundays, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The Museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays.

The second Saturday of every month is Family Free Day. For up-to-date information on exhibitions, special events, and public programs contact Museum Educator Courtney Richardson at 978-283-0455 ext. 12 or email courtneyrichardson@capeannmuseum.org

www.capeannmuseum.org

Student Art Gallery

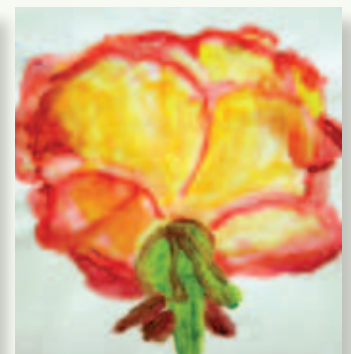
See original artwork in the Education Room created by students from Cape Ann and surrounding communities.



Meghan Ciaramitaro, Gloucester High School



Olivia Legendre, St. Ann School



Alexandra Legendre, St. Ann School