

history of the jersey shore

History of the Jersey Shore: From Colonial Beginnings to Modern-Day Icon

history of the jersey shore is a fascinating tale that winds through centuries of transformation, culture, and community. Stretching along the eastern coast of New Jersey, the Jersey Shore has evolved from a series of humble fishing villages and Native American settlements into a beloved destination known for its sandy beaches, vibrant boardwalks, and rich cultural heritage. Whether you're a local or a visitor, understanding the history of the Jersey Shore reveals much about the American coastal experience and the unique spirit of this Atlantic haven.

The Early Days: Native American Influence and Colonial Settlements

Long before European settlers arrived, the Jersey Shore was home to the Lenape people, the indigenous inhabitants who thrived along the coastal regions. The Lenape lived in harmony with the Atlantic environment, relying on fishing, hunting, and gathering shellfish. Their deep connection to the land and water laid the foundation for future communities.

When European explorers and settlers landed in the 1600s, they recognized the strategic importance of the coastline. Early Dutch and English colonists established fishing outposts and small farms along the shore. Towns like Cape May and Atlantic City began as modest settlements, benefiting from the abundance of natural resources and the access the coast provided to trade routes.

Development of Early Coastal Towns

The 18th and early 19th centuries saw these coastal villages grow slowly but steadily. Cape May, often cited as America's oldest seaside resort, became a popular summer retreat for wealthy Philadelphians and New Yorkers seeking respite from city life. The construction of grand Victorian homes and hotels during this era marked the beginning of the Jersey Shore's identity as a vacation spot.

Meanwhile, fishing and shipbuilding remained vital industries. Small-scale commercial fishing helped sustain local economies, and lighthouses were erected along the coast to guide ships safely through treacherous waters. These early developments set the stage for the Jersey Shore's transformation into a bustling hub of tourism and recreation.

The Rise of Tourism and the Golden Age of Boardwalks

By the late 19th century, advances in transportation—especially the expansion of railroads—made the Jersey Shore more accessible than ever. Trains from major cities like New York and Philadelphia could whisk vacationers to the coast in just a few hours. This accessibility fueled a tourism boom, transforming sleepy fishing towns into lively resort communities.

Boardwalk Culture and Entertainment

One of the defining features of the Jersey Shore's history is its iconic boardwalks. Atlantic City opened its first boardwalk in 1870, quickly becoming a model for other shore towns. These wooden promenades hosted amusement parks, arcades, theaters, and eateries, offering visitors endless entertainment options right by the sea.

Boardwalks became more than just places to stroll—they became social and cultural centers. The Jersey Shore's boardwalk culture was a melting pot of different classes and ethnicities, all drawn together by the allure of the ocean and the festive atmosphere. The rise of classic attractions like roller coasters, Ferris wheels, and saltwater taffy vendors helped cement the shore's reputation as a family-friendly destination.

Impact of Prohibition and the Roaring Twenties

The 1920s brought both challenges and excitement to the Jersey Shore. Prohibition led to the rise of speakeasies and underground clubs, especially in towns like Asbury Park and Atlantic City. These venues became hotspots for jazz music and nightlife, attracting visitors eager to enjoy the forbidden pleasures of alcohol and dancing.

During this era, Atlantic City earned the nickname "The World's Playground," hosting lavish conventions, beauty pageants, and boxing matches. The city's vibrant nightlife and glamorous casinos set it apart, although the Great Depression would later slow its growth.

Mid-20th Century: War, Renewal, and Changing Trends

World War II had a significant impact on the Jersey Shore, as many coastal areas were used for military training and defense. Post-war prosperity led to renewed interest in beach vacations, and the shore once again became a magnet for families across the Northeast.

Suburbanization and the Rise of the Car Culture

The post-war era also saw a surge in car ownership, which changed how people experienced the Jersey Shore. Instead of relying solely on trains, families could now drive their own vehicles to the beach, expanding the reach of tourism to previously less accessible areas. This shift encouraged the development of motels, diners, and roadside attractions along the coast.

Challenges and Resilience

Despite its popularity, the Jersey Shore faced economic challenges in the mid-to-late 20th century. Atlantic City's gambling industry was legalized in 1976 in an attempt to revitalize the local economy, leading to the opening of numerous casinos. While this brought jobs and tourists, it also altered the

character of the shore, sometimes sparking debates about development and preservation.

Elsewhere, towns like Ocean City and Wildwood maintained their family-friendly appeal with traditional amusements and clean beaches. Efforts to balance tourism with environmental conservation became increasingly important as coastal erosion and pollution threatened the shoreline.

The Jersey Shore Today: A Blend of Tradition and Modernity

Today, the history of the Jersey Shore is visible in its vibrant communities, diverse attractions, and ongoing commitment to preserving its unique coastal heritage. The shore continues to attract millions of visitors annually, from families enjoying classic boardwalk rides to young adults drawn by nightlife and music festivals.

Cultural Impact and Media Influence

The Jersey Shore's cultural significance extends beyond tourism. It has inspired artists, musicians, and filmmakers for decades. More recently, television shows and popular culture have spotlighted the shore's distinct lifestyle, further embedding it in the American consciousness.

Preserving the Shoreline and Celebrating Community

Local governments and organizations work tirelessly to protect the Jersey Shore's natural beauty and historical landmarks. Beach replenishment projects, dune restoration, and historic preservation efforts ensure that future generations can enjoy the same sun, surf, and sand that have defined the shore for centuries.

For visitors hoping to experience the Jersey Shore authentically, exploring historic districts, sampling local seafood, and attending seasonal festivals provide meaningful ways to connect with the region's rich past.

Insights for Visitors Interested in the Shore's History

If you're planning a trip and want to dive deeper into the history of the Jersey Shore, here are some tips:

- **Visit Historic Sites:** Places like Cape May's Victorian district or the Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City offer fascinating glimpses into the shore's past.
- **Explore Museums:** The Jersey Shore has several museums dedicated to maritime history,

boardwalk culture, and local heritage.

- **Walk the Boardwalks:** Strolling a classic boardwalk is a living history lesson, showcasing how these structures have served as social hubs for over a century.
- **Attend Local Events:** Seasonal events like seafood festivals and historical reenactments provide immersive experiences.
- **Learn from Locals:** Talking to residents can reveal personal stories and lesser-known facts about the shore's evolution.

Understanding the history of the Jersey Shore enriches any visit, turning a simple beach day into an exploration of American culture, resilience, and coastal charm. Whether you're drawn by the sand dunes, the echoes of jazz from speakeasies past, or the timeless rhythm of the ocean waves, the Jersey Shore's story is always waiting to be discovered.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the historical significance of the Jersey Shore?

The Jersey Shore has been a popular destination since the 18th century, known for its role in American maritime history, beach resorts development, and as a cultural hub.

How did the Jersey Shore get its name?

The name 'Jersey Shore' refers to the coastal region of New Jersey, named after the English Channel Island of Jersey by early settlers.

What were some of the earliest settlements along the Jersey Shore?

Early settlements included towns like Atlantic City, Cape May, and Asbury Park, which developed as fishing villages and later as resort towns.

When did the Jersey Shore become a popular vacation destination?

The Jersey Shore became a popular vacation spot in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the rise of railroads making it accessible to urban populations.

What role did Atlantic City play in the history of the Jersey Shore?

Atlantic City was a major resort city known for its boardwalk, casinos, and entertainment, playing a central role in the Jersey Shore's tourism industry.

How did the boardwalk culture develop at the Jersey Shore?

Boardwalks were constructed in the late 1800s to early 1900s to provide promenades along the beach, leading to the growth of amusement parks, shops, and entertainment venues.

What impact did Prohibition have on the Jersey Shore?

During Prohibition, the Jersey Shore became a hotspot for speakeasies and bootlegging, contributing to its reputation for nightlife and entertainment.

How has the Jersey Shore been affected by natural disasters historically?

The Jersey Shore has faced numerous hurricanes and storms, such as the 1903 Vagabond Hurricane and Hurricane Sandy in 2012, which caused significant damage and led to rebuilding efforts.

What cultural influences have shaped the Jersey Shore's history?

The Jersey Shore has been influenced by Native American tribes, European settlers, immigrants, and later by pop culture, including music and television.

How did the TV show 'Jersey Shore' impact the perception of the Jersey Shore?

The MTV show 'Jersey Shore' popularized the region worldwide, highlighting its nightlife and beach culture, though it also led to some stereotypes about the local population.

Additional Resources

History of the Jersey Shore: From Colonial Beginnings to Modern-Day Icon

history of the jersey shore is a rich tapestry woven from colonial settlements, industrial growth, cultural evolution, and tourism development. This coastal region of New Jersey has long been a significant part of the American narrative, offering more than just picturesque beaches and summer resorts. Understanding the history of the Jersey Shore reveals the dynamic interplay between geography, economy, and society that has shaped this unique stretch of the Atlantic coastline.

Origins and Early Settlement

The history of the Jersey Shore dates back to the early 17th century when European explorers and settlers first arrived along the eastern coast of what would later become New Jersey. Before European contact, the Lenape people inhabited the area, living in harmony with the coastal environment. Their presence left an indelible mark on the region's cultural and ecological landscape.

European colonization began in earnest during the 1600s, with Dutch and later English settlers establishing small communities. The strategic location of the shore, with its access to the Atlantic Ocean and proximity to major trading hubs like New York City and Philadelphia, made it an attractive site for development. Early settlements focused primarily on fishing, shipbuilding, and trade, leveraging natural resources and waterways.

Development Through the 18th and 19th Centuries

During the 18th century, the Jersey Shore's economy gradually diversified. Fishing remained a staple, but agriculture and salt hay harvesting also played important roles. The region's harbors and bays facilitated trade, while lighthouses and coastal fortifications underscored its strategic importance during various conflicts, including the American Revolutionary War.

By the 19th century, the industrial revolution and advances in transportation transformed the Jersey Shore. The advent of railroads made the shore more accessible, particularly for urban populations seeking respite from city life. Towns like Asbury Park, Atlantic City, and Cape May began to evolve from modest fishing villages into burgeoning resort destinations. Atlantic City, in particular, emerged as a major tourist hub, thanks to its boardwalk—one of the first in the United States—and its reputation as a gambling and entertainment center.

The Rise of Tourism and Cultural Significance

Tourism became synonymous with the Jersey Shore's identity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The combination of beaches, amusement parks, and cultural venues attracted visitors from across the nation. This period also saw the construction of iconic landmarks, including grand hotels and piers, many of which still stand as historical symbols of the shore's golden age.

The cultural impact of the Jersey Shore cannot be overstated. It became a melting pot where diverse American communities mingled, shaping music, cuisine, and social customs. The shore's role in popular culture expanded dramatically during the 20th century through literature, film, and, later, television. This cemented its status as an emblematic American coastal experience.

Challenges and Transformation in the Modern Era

Despite its allure, the history of the Jersey Shore also includes periods of hardship and change. Natural disasters such as hurricanes and nor'easters have repeatedly tested the resilience of shore communities. Economic shifts, including the decline of traditional industries and changing tourism patterns, have prompted reinvention and redevelopment efforts.

In recent decades, the Jersey Shore has balanced preservation with modernization. Efforts to restore historic districts, improve infrastructure, and diversify attractions reflect an ongoing commitment to sustaining the region's economic vitality and cultural heritage. The rise of eco-tourism and a growing focus on environmental stewardship highlight contemporary challenges and opportunities.

Key Features and Attractions Shaping the Shore's Identity

Certain features have played pivotal roles in shaping the Jersey Shore's historical and contemporary identity. These include:

- **Boardwalks:** Serving as social and commercial hubs, boardwalks like those in Atlantic City and Ocean City are central to the shore's appeal.
- **Beaches:** Miles of sandy coastline have made the shore a premier destination for sunbathing, swimming, and surfing.
- **Historic Towns:** Places such as Cape May showcase Victorian architecture and serve as reminders of 19th-century resort culture.
- **Marine Ecosystems:** The bays, estuaries, and barrier islands support diverse wildlife and are crucial for conservation efforts.

Comparative Perspectives: Jersey Shore vs. Other Coastal Regions

When compared to other Atlantic coastal destinations like the Outer Banks in North Carolina or the Hamptons in New York, the Jersey Shore offers a distinctive blend of urban proximity, cultural diversity, and historical depth. While the Outer Banks are known for their natural preservation and the Hamptons for upscale retreats, the Jersey Shore bridges working-class roots with entertainment and family-oriented recreation.

This multifaceted character contributes to the shore's enduring popularity, reflected in millions of annual visitors and its prominence in regional economies. Moreover, the Jersey Shore's accessibility via major highways and public transit options enhances its appeal relative to more remote coastal areas.

The Jersey Shore in Popular Culture

The history of the Jersey Shore has been widely represented in popular culture, influencing perceptions far beyond New Jersey's borders. Television shows, films, and music have both celebrated and critiqued the region's lifestyle and social dynamics.

The early 2000s witnessed a surge in media portrayals, with reality TV series amplifying the shore's reputation as a vibrant, if sometimes controversial, party destination. This exposure brought economic benefits but also sparked debates about authenticity and community impact.

Economic and Social Implications

The visibility afforded by popular culture has had tangible effects on the Jersey Shore's economy. Tourism revenues increased, but so did concerns about overdevelopment and environmental degradation. Local governments and organizations have since worked to balance growth with sustainability, emphasizing heritage tourism and community involvement.

Socially, the shore remains a space where longstanding traditions coexist with evolving demographics and cultural trends. Festivals, music events, and culinary offerings continue to reflect this dynamic interplay, reinforcing the shore's role as a living cultural landscape.

The story of the Jersey Shore is one of continual adaptation and resilience. From its early days as a cluster of colonial settlements to its current status as a multifaceted coastal destination, the region encapsulates broader themes of American history—migration, innovation, leisure, and environmental stewardship. The ongoing dialogue between preservation and progress ensures that the Jersey Shore remains a compelling subject for historians, tourists, and residents alike.

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history of the jersey shore: Jersey Shore Food History Karen L Schnitzphan, 2008-03-14
"Chock full of photographs, the book dishes on food from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s, all along the coast from Sandy Hook to Cape May." —RedBankGreen No trip to the Jersey Shore would be complete without indulging in the cuisine that helps make it famous. These foods we enjoy today are part of a long tradition beginning in the Victorian era, when big oceanfront hotels served elaborate meals. Diverse dishes and restaurants emerged during prohibition and the Great Depression, when fast food appeared and iconic boardwalk treats developed. Predating the farm to table movement, fancy and fast eateries have been supplied by local fishermen and farmers for decades. So whether you indulge in a tomato pie, pork roll or salt water taffy, take a mouthwatering historical tour and discover timeless treats from Sandy Hook to Cape May. "Tells the story of the original farm and sea to table American destination. The book is filled with information about the way the NJ shore has eaten through history and the food establishments that have spanned generations, some still operating today." —NJ.com "This book also gives us insights into the earliest days of Atlantic City's fine hotels. The Victorian era menus included in the volume are a treasure. I also loved her inclusion of such iconic former restaurants as Hackney's and Capt. Starn's and the still standing Knife and Fork Inn." —Atlantic City Central "If you enjoy walking the Boardwalk for your pork roll and salt water taffy fix, or if you appreciate the history of the region's former great restaurants like Hackney's, Capt. Starn's and Zaberer's, this book will be an entertaining read." —Atlantic City Weekly

history of the jersey shore: A History of Submarine Warfare Along the Jersey Shore

Joseph G. Billy, Harry Ziegler, 2020-02-24 The ingenious people of the Garden State were instrumental in the early development of the submarine. The first American submarine sank off Fort Lee in 1776, and the first successful one adopted by the U.S. Navy was invented by Paterson's John Holland at the end of the nineteenth century. Those early vessels were tested in the Passaic River and on the Jersey City waterfront. Today, the only surviving Union Civil War submarine, built in Newark, sits in the National Guard Militia Museum in Sea Girt. In 1918, the technology pioneered there was turned against the Jersey Shore when U-151 went on a one-day ship-sinking rampage. A World War II U-boat offensive torpedoed numerous ships off the coast, leaving oil-soaked beaches strewn with wreckage. Authors Joseph G. Bilby and Harry Ziegler reveal the remarkable history of submarines off the New Jersey coastline.

history of the jersey shore: The Jersey Shore Dominick Mazzagetti, 2018-06-20 In *The Jersey Shore*, Dominick Mazzagetti provides a modern re-telling of the history, culture, and landscapes of this famous region, from the 1600s to the present. The Shore, from Sandy Hook to Cape May, became a national resort in the late 1800s and contributes enormously to New Jersey's economy today. The devastation of Hurricane Sandy in 2012 underscored the area's central place in the state's identity and the rebuilding efforts after the storm restored its economic health. Divided into chronological and thematic sections, this book will attract general readers interested in the history of the Shore: how it appeared to early European explorers; how the earliest settlers came to the beaches for the whaling trade; the first attractions for tourists in the nineteenth century; and how the coming of railroads, and ultimately automobiles, transformed the Shore into a major vacation destination over a century later. Mazzagetti also explores how the impact of changing national mores on development, race relations, and the environment, impacted the Shore in recent decades and will into the future. Ultimately, this book is an enthusiastic and comprehensive portrait by a native son, whose passion for the region is shared by millions of beachgoers throughout the Northeast.

history of the jersey shore: The Birth of the Jersey Shore Randall Gabrielan, 2011-04-26 An encyclopedic collection of profiles of the people who shaped New Jersey's coastline—from architects and businessmen to sports figures and entertainers. The Jersey Shore evokes images of boardwalks and beach resorts, but its beginnings were far different. In the mid-nineteenth century, visionary entrepreneurs transformed the sleepy agrarian and maritime communities of the Garden State coast with a series of energetic new visitors and venues. Artists, politicians, athletes, entertainers and ordinary residents all played a hand in revitalizing the region. Major development of resorts began in Atlantic City in 1854, and it grew into "America's Favorite Playground." Joel Hayward was principally responsible for the formation of Ocean County, and the Albert brothers popularized Pinelands folk music. In the twentieth century, construction became more residential, and beloved businesses like the Smithville Inn started to cater to long-term patrons. New Jersey historian Randall Gabrielan traces the stories of the people who turned the Jersey Shore into the summer and residential destination that it is today.

history of the jersey shore: Lost Amusement Parks of the North Jersey Shore Rick Geffken and George Severini, 2017 By the end of the 19th century, New Jersey coastline was dotted with thriving amusement parks but are just fond and fading memories today. The Jersey Shore has always attracted people seeking relief from summer heat and humidity. Long before Europeans came here, the native Lenape clammed, fished, and played games on the beach and in the surf. These original people could scarcely have imagined that, by the end of the 19th century, the 120-mile-long coastline would be filled with amusement parks featuring gentle kiddie car rides, terrifying roller coasters, merry-go-rounds, and fast-food emporiums. James Bradley in Asbury Park and William Sandlass Jr. in Highland Beach created mass entertainment for hundreds of thousands of people. Their seaside recreation centers, along with those in Long Branch, Bradley Beach, Pleasure Bay, and others, endured for years. Sadly, they are now just distant and vanishing memories that are resurrected in this piece.

history of the jersey shore: The Other Jersey Shore Michael Aaron Rockland, 2024-05-17 River

otters, black bears, and red foxes drink from its clear waters. Prickly pear cacti grow from the red shale cliffs that overlook it, while on the river near Bordentown lies the archeological remnants of a sprawling estate built by the former King of Spain, Napoleon's brother, who lived there for almost twenty years. You might imagine this magical and majestic waterway is located in some faraway land. But in fact, it's the backbone and lifeblood of the Garden State: the Delaware River. The Other Jersey Shore takes readers on a personal tour of the New Jersey portion of the Delaware River and its surroundings. You will learn about the role that the river played in human history, including Washington's four crossings of the Delaware during the Revolutionary War. And you will also learn about the ecological history of the river itself, once one of the most polluted waterways in the country and now one of the cleanest, providing drinking water for 17 million people. Michael Aaron Rockland, a long-time New Jersey resident, shows readers his very favorite spots along the Delaware, including the pristine waterfalls and wilderness in the Delaware Water Gap recreation area. Along the way, he shares engrossing stories and surprising facts about the river that literally defines western New Jersey.

history of the jersey shore: Vacationing on the Jersey Shore Charles A. Stansfield, 2004 Nature and history at the shore. Visitor's guide to the resorts. Color postcard views, vintage and modern photos, and detailed maps.

history of the jersey shore: *Prohibition on the North Jersey Shore* Matthew R. Linderoth, 2010-12-10 Many of the North Jersey Shore towns we know today began as quiet retreats for pious New Yorkers wishing to escape the vice and crime of the city. Towns such as Long Branch, Ocean Grove, Red Bank, and Atlantic Highlands all got their start like this, but with the passage of Prohibition in 1919, the region became a haven for criminals who began smuggling liquor through the serene seaside. Speakeasies sprang up on virtually every corner, as gangsters like Vito Genovese, Charles Lucky Luciano, and Meyer Lansky ruled this brutal underworld, while civilians were caught in the crossfire of gun battles between rival syndicates. Discover the true drama that captured the Jersey Shore during Prohibition.

history of the jersey shore: *Cottages and Mansions of the Jersey Shore* Caroline Seeböhm, 2007 In this delightful collection of personal accounts, historical anecdotes, and gorgeous photographs, Seeböhm and Cook cast a fresh eye on the array of quaint cottages, quirky bungalows, and splendid mansions that generations have chosen as their summer homes.

history of the jersey shore: *Living with the New Jersey Shore* Karl F. Nordstrom, 1986 This volume in the Living with the Shore series provides practical and specific information on the status of the nation's coast and useful guidelines that enable residents, visitors, and investors to live with and enjoy the shore without costly and futile struggles against the forces of nature.

history of the jersey shore: History and Present Condition of the Newspaper and Periodical Press of the United States Simon Newton Dexter North, 1884

history of the jersey shore: **Guarding New Jersey's Shore** David Veasey, 2000 From the seventeenth to the twentieth century, New Jersey's low-lying, sandy coast has been the site of thousands of shipwrecks as ships bound for New York City or Philadelphia foundered on its offshore shoals. As coastal and international trade dramatically increased after the War of 1812, the federal government was forced to increase safety aids to mariners. To ensure their safe passage, a series of lighthouses was built and the U.S. Life-Saving Service was created. More than two centuries of the history of New Jersey's treacherous coast are preserved in *Guarding New Jersey's Shore: Lighthouses and Life-Saving Stations*. Gathered from a wide array of sources, more than 200 historic photographs and fascinating, documented text combine to create the only illustrated history of the state's thirty-eight lighthouses and forty-one life-saving stations. Sandy Hook, built in 1764, is the nation's oldest operating lighthouse. Navesink's Twin Lights was the first lighthouse to use electricity and was the home of Marconi's early radio experiments. From the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, which once served as a lighthouse, to Cape May Point, and up the Delaware Bay and River, the fascinating story of protecting mariners from perils Down the Shore is presented and preserved in *Guarding New Jersey's Shore: Lighthouses and Life-Saving Stations*.

history of the jersey shore: The Real Jaws Rachel Lee Perez, 2025-08-30 Explores the 1916 New Jersey shark attacks, their impact on shark fear, and how media shaped harmful misconceptions. In the Summer of 1916, a series of shark attacks along the New Jersey shore would send shockwaves across its otherwise peaceful beach towns. Spanning a terrifying two weeks, including the deaths of nearly five people, these attacks would officially cement an innate fear of sharks that humans have felt since the beginning of time. Although initially kept under wraps by the tourism industry, these attacks would ultimately plaster the front pages of newspapers across the United States and even overseas. As the news spread, the line between fact and fiction blurred, reshaping our cultural and scientific understanding of the beasts of the ocean. It was the 1916 shark attacks that would establish our modern-day misconstrued perception of sharks as evil, man-eating monsters, and would later inspire the film *Jaws*, which would perpetuate the same harmful narrative. *The Real Jaws* takes an in-depth look at each one of the attacks and how they instilled a centuries-long fear of the ocean's apex predator. It explores the various theories explaining why these attacks may have occurred and the probability of something like this happening again. And finally, it analyses the way the harmful misconceptions derived from films like *Jaws* have redefined humanity's relationship with sharks, leading humans to become the predators and sharks to become the prey.

history of the jersey shore: Haunted Jersey Shore Charles A. Stansfield, 2006-02-15 An entertaining look into the haunted history of the New Jersey coastline.

history of the jersey shore: Down the Jersey Shore Russell Roberts, Richard Youmans, 1993 Summer visitors and year-round residents alike are sure to discover Jersey Shore lore that captures their fancy in this entertaining account of the people, places, and events that have shaped New Jersey's famous shoreline. From ghost stories and the comic misadventures of the early Miss America Pageant to the dynamics of the changing coastline and poignant portraits of traditional crafts workers, Russell Roberts and Rich Youmans have chronicled the fascinating history and heritage of the New Jersey Shore. In this book you'll meet the luminaries who've frequented the Shore--from President Ulysses Grant strolling through Long Branch to Grace Kelly learning to surf at Ocean City. You'll find out why the boardwalk was invented, and also why early ones were removable. Join the authors as they pay tribute to the Shore's forgotten inventors, including Simon Lake, who some consider the true father of the modern submarine. Relive the Jersey Shore's role in wartime and learn the story of the mysterious Nazi submarine sunken off of Point Pleasant Beach. Read about Lucy the Margate Elephant, as a well as her two long-gone cousins. Discover all this and more as Roberts and Youmans explore the vast uncharted heritage of the New Jersey Shore.

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many ancestors in Scotland.

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