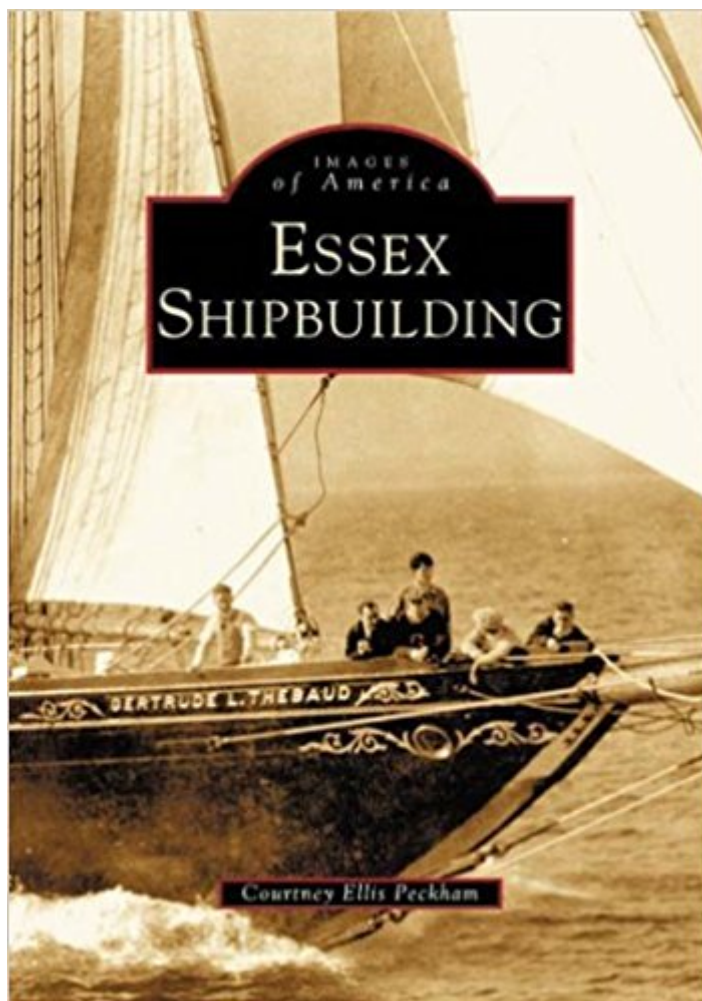


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Essex Shipbuilding (MA) (Images Of America)



Synopsis

For three centuries, shipbuilding flourished in Essex, a small village wrapped around a shallow tidal estuary that flows into Ipswich Bay. From sturdy little Chebacco boats to the tough but graceful fishing schooners that plied the Grand Banks, Essex vessels became known throughout the maritime world as swift and strong fishermen, and Essex shipbuilding became synonymous with craftsmanship of the highest order. More than four thousand ships slid down the ways destined for ports such as Gloucester, Boston, and New York. By the middle of the twentieth century, however, the industry had vanished and this extraordinary chapter in American maritime history was closed. Essex Shipbuilding recalls an era when dozens of vessels in different stages of construction lined the Essex River and the shipyard gangs worked six days a week, year-round, in any weather. Featuring the photograph collection of Dana A. Story, Essex Shipbuilding illustrates the firms of A.D. Story and Tarr & James, who built the famous racing schooners Mayflower, Columbia, and Gertrude L. Thebaud, and the high-lining fishermen Elsie and Adventure. Essex Shipbuilding also depicts these vessels at sea-fishing, racing, or pursuing more unusual work, from Arctic exploration to naval service in both world wars to rumrunning during Prohibition.

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Customer Reviews

Courtney Ellis Peckham is the manager of collections and research at the Essex Shipbuilding Museum. She holds a master's degree in United States social and cultural history from Tufts University and has spent much time researching the immigrant fishing communities of Gloucester in

the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

This is a great book, had pictures of my family members in it & explained a lot about what went on in Essex Ma. ship building in that era

This is a very appealing story with great photos. I live near Essex yet knew little of what went on there. The entire town was an industry and it is amazing to see boats built in what could be many peoples' backyards. The fact that so many skilled workers worked into their dotage contrasts sharply with the modern view on worker tenure at a job or with a company.

Courtney E. Peckham is the curator of the Essex Shipbuilding Museum and is therefore uniquely qualified to write a text on Essex shipbuilding. The compilation of her research is based on recently donated rare photographs and manuscripts related to shipbuilding in the tiny town of Essex, Massachusetts. Sailors, woodworkers, boatbuilders, historians, and general readers will enjoy both the narrative style of the text and the beautifully reproduced rare photographs. There are several books about Essex shipbuilding, notably by Mr. Dana Story of Essex. Dr. Kenneth Lawson has written a unique history of Essex ships used in US military service. The books by Gordon Thomas also cover ships built in Essex, MA. Ms. Peckham's book brings new information and photos to her readers, updating the research on Essex built vessels. While most of the books on Essex ships are sold primarily in the museum bookstore, this new book by Ms. Peckham should reach a wider audience through .com. I recommend the book.

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