



Edward Rowe Snow was born in Winthrop, Massachusetts on August 22, 1902. He was descended from sea captains for four generations back on both sides of his family, with the exception of his father.

A writer, historian, radio personality, preservationist and master raconteur, Snow was a tireless advocate for preserving the islands for future generations.

Snow served in the military during World War II; he was a high school teacher in Winthrop and a columnist for the Patriot Ledger, the daily newspaper in Quincy, Massachusetts. In the 1950s his radio show "Six Bells" was heard on dozens of stations throughout the region.

Also in the 1950s, Mr. Snow became the president of the Society for the Preservation of Fort Warren. Through the efforts of Mr. Snow and other members of the group, the fort on George's Island became a public park. But starting with the first edition of *The Islands of Boston Harbor* in 1934 and with the numerous books that followed, Snow became a premiere chronicler of New England maritime history: its sailing captains, shipwrecks, pirates, hidden treasures and ghosts.



Snow often led tours of the harbor islands, his booming voice ringing out across the water as he talked of legends and lore. His story of the ghost of the "Lady in Black" (who is said to stalk Fort Warren), if not quite based in historical fact, managed to intrigue generations of children who continue to explore the fort looking for her when they visit Georges Island. His stories piqued the curiosity of those who heard them and who now come to the islands to find their own treasures. His narratives continue to evoke a desire to search for island mysteries past and present. Mr. Snow's dynamic spirit continues to travel the islands with us all.



Created by

**The Friends of
the Boston Harbor Islands
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With over 30 years of service, the Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc. is a non-profit organization encouraging public use of the Boston Harbor Islands, protection of their fragile ecosystems and historic environment. Our members provide services to the national park area through volunteer programs, public education projects and advocacy efforts.

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Photo credits:

**Birthday photo, Suzanne Gall Marsh
Boat photo, Courtesy of Boston
Herald
Snow with artifacts, Life magazine
Snow as Flying Santa, Boston Herald**



For 45 years Edward Rowe Snow was the "Flying Santa" who flew by lighthouses throughout New England during the Christmas season, dropping packages to keepers and their families. He was often accompanied by his wife and his daughter, Dorothy. Today, the Friends of Flying Santa are keeping the tradition alive. See www.flyingSanta.com

Some books by Mr. Snow

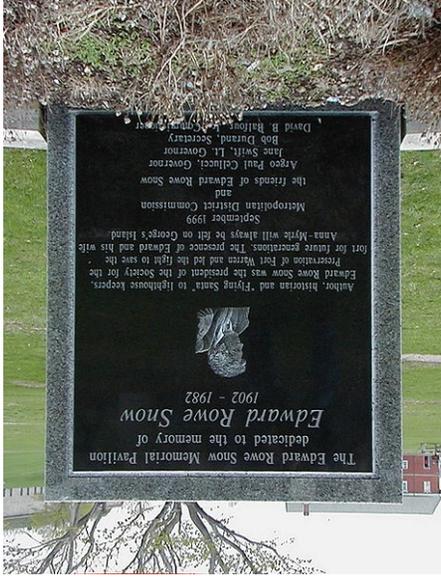
The Islands of Boston Harbor, their history and romance, 1626-1935 (1935, updated by Jeremy D'Entremont and republished by Commonwealth Editions, 2002)

Historic Fort Warren (Boston: Yankee Publishing, 1941)

Sailing Down Boston Bay (Yankee Publishing Company, 1941)

The Lighthouses of New England (1945 and later editions; updated by Jeremy D'Entremont and republished by Commonwealth Editions, 2002)

True Tales and Curious Legends: Dramatic Stories from the Yankee Past (Dodd, Mead 1969)



Memorial to Mr. Snow dedicated August 2000

A distinct granite memorial on Georges Island acknowledges Snow's contributions to the preservation of Fort Warren and the harbor islands. Friends member John Forbes, Jeremy D'Entremont Lighthouse Foundation and the Snow Bicknell family raised funds for the memorial dedicated in 2000. Every August, the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Mr. Snow's descendants and those who knew and loved him celebrate his birthday on Georges Island, sharing tales about their adventures with him.

Edward Rowe Snow was instrumental in preserving Fort Warren as an historic site, thus helping to lay the foundation for the establishment of the Boston Harbor Islands State Park in 1970

**Edward Rowe Snow
Master story teller
and island historian
Born Aug. 22, 1902
Died April 10, 1982**

