

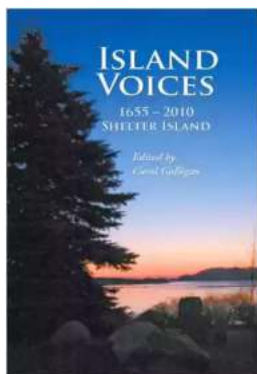
Island Voices: A Journey through the History of Shelter Island



Shelter Island, located off the eastern coast of Long Island, New York, is a picturesque haven known for its natural beauty, rich history, and vibrant community. The island traces its roots back to 1655 when European settlers first arrived, and since then, it has witnessed significant developments, marking its place as an integral part of American history. In this article, we will explore the fascinating journey of Shelter Island from 1655 to 2010, delving into the voices and stories that shaped this remarkable place.

Discovering the Early Settlement

The story of Shelter Island begins in 1655 with the arrival of European settlers, who sought refuge from political and religious persecution. These brave individuals ventured across the Long Island Sound, establishing a community that thrived on farming, fishing, and whaling. The early years of settlement were challenging, as the island struggled with harsh winters and limited resources. However, the resilience and determination of its inhabitants laid the foundation for the thriving community that exists today.



Island Voices, Shelter Island 1655 - 2010

by Eugenia W. Herbert (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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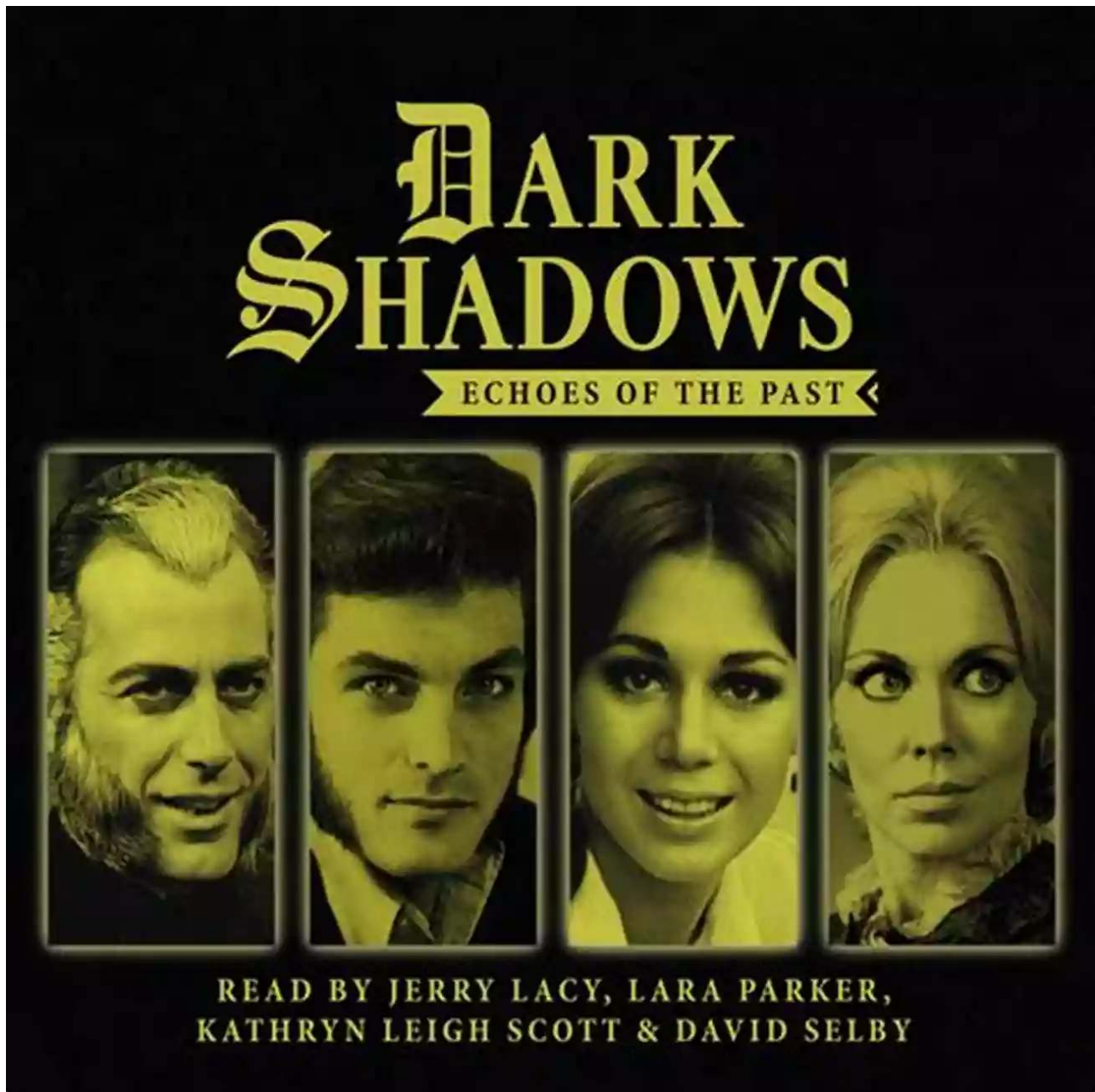
Influence of Native American Culture

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, Shelter Island was home to the Manhasset Native American tribe. Their rich cultural heritage and deep connection to the land have left an indelible mark on the island's history. Through archaeological discoveries and oral traditions, we gain insight into the traditions, customs, and spirituality of the Manhasset people, further highlighting the diverse tapestry of Shelter Island's past.

Revolutionary War and the Fight for Independence

The Revolutionary War brought tumultuous times to Shelter Island, as its inhabitants were forced to navigate the complex political landscape of the American colonies. The island's strategic location made it a target for both British and American forces, resulting in a series of skirmishes and raids. Stories of

bravery, sacrifice, and resilience emerge from this period, as Shelter Islanders played their part in securing American independence.



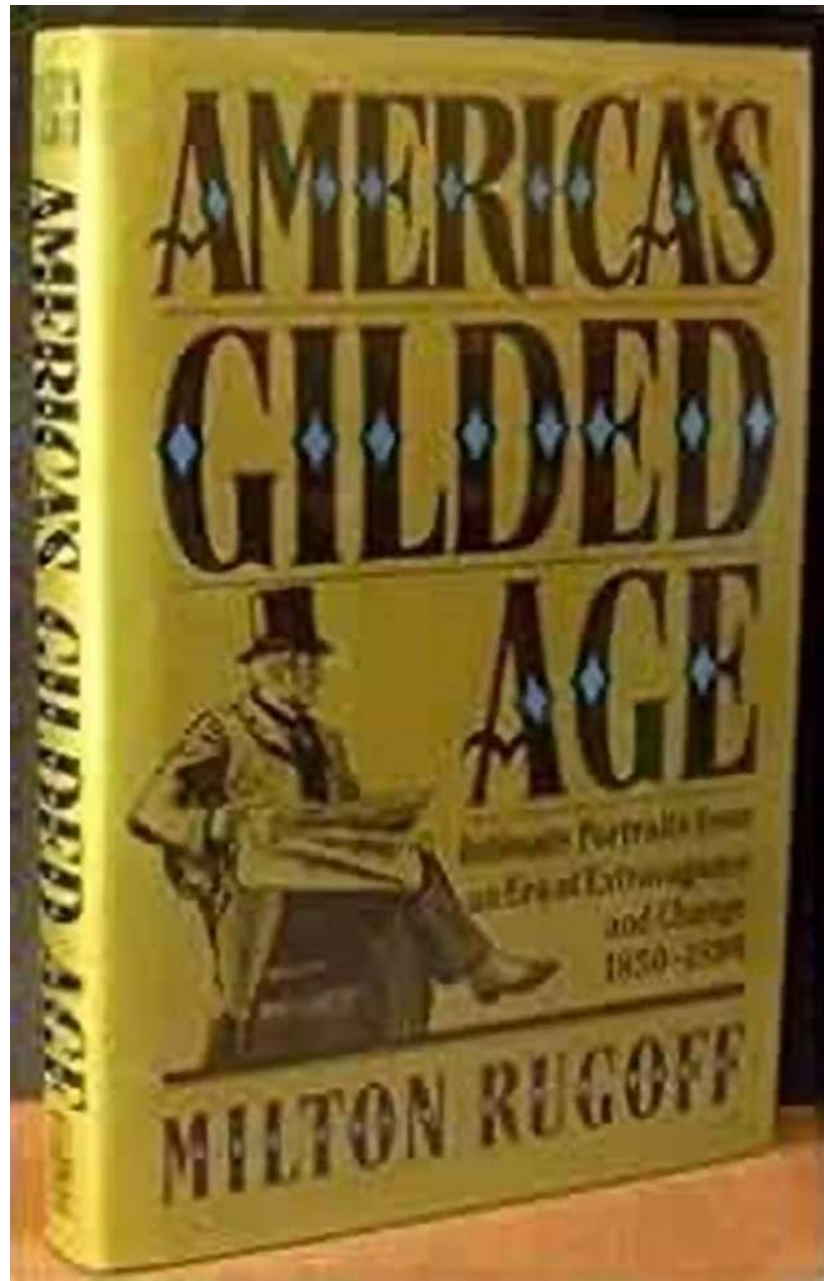
The Whaling Industry: A Boom for Shelter Island

In the 19th century, Shelter Island experienced a boom in the whaling industry, propelling it into a period of rapid growth and economic prosperity. Whaling ships set sail from the island's harbors, venturing into the treacherous waters in pursuit

of whales and their valuable resources. The whaling industry brought wealth and employment opportunities to the island, transforming its sleepy villages into bustling centers of commerce.

A Glimpse into the Gilded Age

As the 20th century approached, Shelter Island underwent a transformation of its own. The Gilded Age saw the emergence of wealthy summer residents who built grand estates along the island's shores. These opulent mansions served as retreats for influential individuals seeking respite from city life. The island became a hub of social gatherings, attracting artists, intellectuals, and business magnates from all over the world.



The Preservation Movement: Championing Conservation

In the latter part of the 20th century, Shelter Island faced the challenge of preserving its unique character amidst the pressures of modern development. A passionate community of residents, historians, and nature enthusiasts formed the foundation of the preservation movement, advocating for the protection of the

island's natural landscapes and historic sites. Through their efforts, Shelter Island retained its charm and remains a haven of natural beauty to this day.

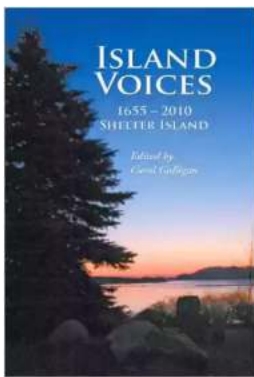
Embracing the Present and Preserving the Past

As we look towards the present day, Island Voices is an initiative that seeks to capture and preserve the stories, experiences, and traditions of Shelter Island's residents. Through oral history interviews, photographs, and community engagement, Island Voices ensures that the rich tapestry of Shelter Island's history is passed down to future generations. It is a reminder of the importance of preserving our collective heritage and the power of individual voices in shaping a community.



Shelter Island 1655-2010: A Journey Worth Exploring

As we conclude our journey through the history of Shelter Island, we are reminded of the island's enduring spirit, shaped by the voices of its past inhabitants. From the early settlers seeking refuge to the brave soldiers fighting for independence, the island has withstood the test of time. It has evolved from a humble settlement to a cherished retreat, embracing its history while looking towards the future. So, come and immerse yourself in the Island Voices of Shelter Island, where every story has a place, and every voice has a role in preserving the island's remarkable heritage.



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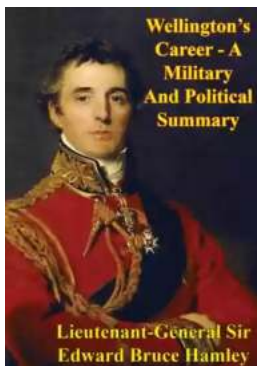
"Island Voices," edited by Carol Galligan, choreographs the story of Shelter Island through the eyes of its inhabitants. From the words of former New York State governor, Hugh Carey, to John Miller's interview with Osama Bin Laden, Galligan takes the reader through the history of Shelter Island, past and present.

In June of 2005, I started working at the Shelter Island Reporter as an editorial assistant. In March of 2006, our then-editor, Peter Boody, assigned me the Island Profile series, to appear weekly year-round. When our now-editor, Cara Loriz, was appointed in January of 2007, I was promoted to Feature Writer, the position I've held since.

In 2007, I encountered the Shelter Island Historical Society's vault and was enthralled. So many voices! All so silent and yet so deeply dramatic and moving. "Voices From the Vault," a performance piece which I then wrote and directed, with the invaluable help of my son, Zach Galligan, opened at Havens House in December of 2007. "Voices III" is planned for the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, 2010.

It was inevitable that many of the "voices" in "Voices" would find their way to the Reporter, as indeed they have. The two streams have come together in this book, "Island Voices." But it was not my idea.

Ed Brown (that's Councilman Edward Brown) stopped me one morning last fall. He liked a piece I'd written the week before. "Carol, everyone loves that old stuff. And the profiles, too. You have to get all that stuff together and put it in a book, make it a benefit for something." When I pointed out that I didn't own anything that appeared under my byline, he was dismissive. "There's got to be a way around that." There was.



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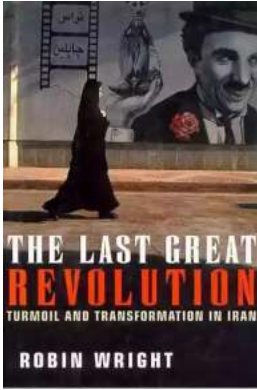
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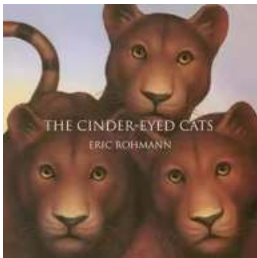
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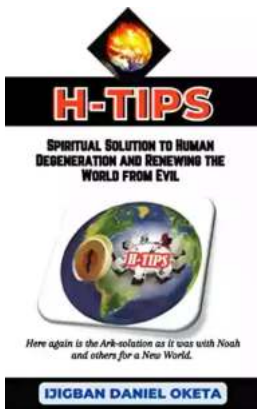
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