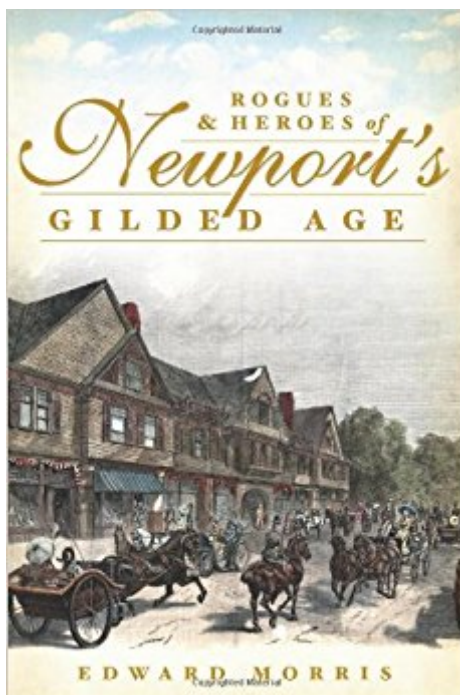


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# Rogues And Heroes Of Newport's Gilded Age



## Synopsis

Newport, Rhode Island, was the summer playground of the Gilded Age for the Astors, Belmonts and Vanderbilts. They built lavish villas designed by the best Beaux Arts-style architects of the time, including Richard Morris Hunt, Charles McKim and Robert Swain Peabody. America's elite delighted in referring to these grand retreats as "summer cottages," where they would play tennis and polo and sail their yachts along the shores of the Ocean State. The coachman had an important role as the discreet outdoor butler for Gilded Age gentlemen--not only was he in charge of the horses, but he also acted as a travel advisor and connoisseur of entertainment venues. From the driver's seat, author and guide Edward Morris provides a diverse collection of biographical sketches that reveal the outrageous and opulent lives of some of America's leading entrepreneurs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book makes Newport come alive. Sure, you can drive all around Newport's streets and see all the mansions one after the other, but Ed Morris provides the "inside story" about the lives of the real folks who lived in these mansions, their personalities and eccentricities. Ed Morris is a seasoned journalist with a flair for getting to the heart of the story. "Thaw, who had been sitting in the rear table with Evelyn, pulled a pistol out of his coat pocket, walked up to White's table and shot him three times in the head, shouting "You'll never go out with that woman again!" He threw the gun on the floor. The music stopped, and the audience dashed for the exits. The police arrived and took Thaw into custody." Ed Morris makes history exciting. The book is broken into three parts. The first part explains the colorful colonial history of Newport. The second includes biographies of famous

Newporters like Commodore Matthew C. Perry ("We have met the enemy, and they are ours."), the filthy rich August Belmont, and the architects Alfred Smith, James G. Bennett, Richard Morris Hunt, and Stanford White (the guy who got the three bullets in his head). Chapter 3 is the "Coachman's Drive-Around Tour." It starts in the downtown Harbor Front, proceeds up the Historic Hill, out Bellevue Avenue, along Ocean Drive, and back via Harrison Avenue to Thames Street. If you take this one-hour drive, you'll see lots of beautiful scenes and architecture. But if you've got Ed Morris's book with you, you'll know what happened inside these beautiful homes and all the dirt on the inhabitants of these "summer cottages." Ed Morris's book will raise your tour of Newport to a whole new level. Don't leave home without it.

After living on Aquidneck island all my life, hearing all the stories that happened in areas I drive by every day has been a fantastic experience. A great read with easy flow from section to section. I'm a younger reader and usually find historical content hard to get through but Ed's experience with the material is made quite obvious in this gilded age time capsule. I have not yet read his last book, but will definitely check it out. High props for making this read informative and lively!

A great tour of some Gilded age Newport's more infamous players. Well told, fun and enticing. Hard to put down. A perfect compliment to Ed Morris' earlier "A Guide to Newport's Cliff Walk" Both are an easy and a must read for those interested in the area!

Ed Morris' "Rogues & Heroes" is a fantastic read for someone planning to visit Newport but can still be enjoyed by a frequent visitor or long time resident! The book's different sections provide for a thorough overview of Newport life during the "gilded age" and cover many well know tourist attractions as well as those that are lesser known and visited. I recommend this book as well as his companion book "A Guide to Newport's Cliff Walk".

One of the best informal histories of Newport. Highly readable, concise, and packed with amusing anecdotes on the people who made Newport what it was and is today. A must read for anyone who has visited Newport in the past or plans to do so in the future.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries (the period often referred to as the Gilded Age), Newport, Rhode Island was the summer playground for many of the nation's wealthiest families. In his previous book about Newport, A Guide to Newport's Cliff Walk, author Edward Morris took us on

a walking tour of this picturesque oceanside trail lined with historic mansions. In his follow-up book, *Rogues and Heros of Newport's Gilded Age*, Mr. Morris assumes the role of coachman/guide and expands our tour through Newport's historic center, fashionable Bellevue Avenue, and scenic Ocean Drive. The description of notable landmarks is supplemented by interesting facts about Newport's colorful history, which makes this second book a worthy complement to its predecessor and recommended reading for any Newport history buff.

Interesting reading. I purchased this book to learn about Newport at this time in history. I have never been and this book was my initiation to the area.

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