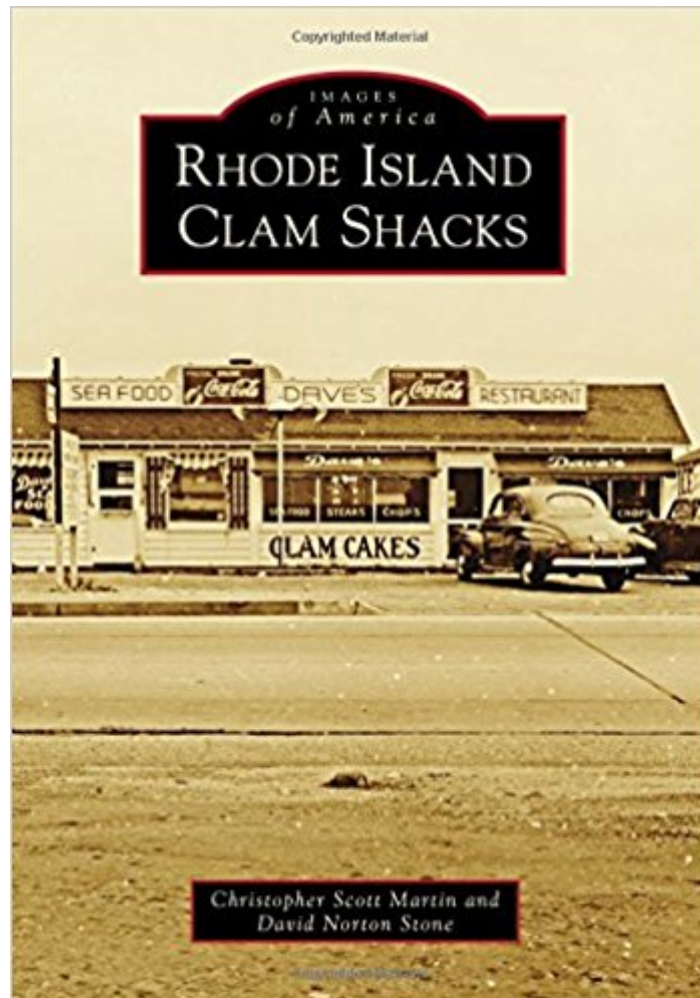




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Rhode Island Clam Shacks (Images Of America)



Synopsis

Steamships once plied the waters of Narragansett Bay, carrying thousands of guests to feasts of clams prepared in every way imaginable at scenic spots like Rocky Point and Crescent Park. After hurricanes and pollution destroyed Rhode Island's soft-shell clam and oyster beds, the quahog became the state's favorite bivalve, and Rhode Islanders took to their automobiles and drove to the beach for clam cakes and chowder at the shacks and chowder houses that carried on the old traditions. Quahogging remains a major business in Rhode Island, where men and women continue to make a living from the sea. The long lines at take-out windows attest that the future of Rhode Island's clam shacks is secure as they successfully balance changing tastes with time-honored recipes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christopher Scott Martin and David Norton Stone have compiled images from historical archives and from many popular local eateries, some of which have been serving clams to Rhode Islanders and visitors for a century. Martin is the curator of Quahog.org, a website about Rhode Island's history and cultural quirks. Stone is the author of the Rhode Island food books Clamcake Summer, Stuffed Summer, and Chowder Summer.

Typically with this series it's highly localized & each image is worth a thousand captions. The

photos are lovely & historically telling, the information in the lengthy captions is detailed, accurate and informative. It's a solid overview of historic vernacular shore front cuisine along the Rhode Island coastline from the late 1800s to the present. It would have been interesting see archeological information on Indian use of the resource, but of course there are no photos for that. It tells a wonderful story of an historic waterfront post Roger Williams & is well worth the price of admission. I only wish it had a more inclusive title. Nearly two thirds of it concerns clambakes, shore dinner halls & "Other Fishy Concerns." Having spent time at Crescent Park's Shore Dinner Hall, washed dishes at the Squantum Club, and heard tales about Vanity Fair it's a lovely photo history of the shores of Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island's southern coastline. But only 33% of the book speaks to clam shacks -- which seems stingy in light of the title. Clam shacks are rather tentative structures that revel in their ephemeral status on the edge of the littoral & ooze with the essence of a clam's transient life. They continue, in many cases, to a great, to be rickety roadside attractions & still express a cultural moment in time -- deserving of deeper investigation if you're going to go with that title.

Excellent book and read!

Excellent content and images!

Great book with wonderful photos. Very well-written and informative.

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