Captains' Mile is a presentation of the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth. Most of the Captains' homes described on the tour are private residences. Please be considerate of the owners' privacy.

48 MILL LANE
Captain Ansel Hallack (1770-1832)
One of the pioneers of the packet industry; he commanded the Jenny after the war of 1812. Later he operated the sloops Messenger which was grounded on a sandbar in Yarmouth Port harbor in 1824. As he dug beneath the ship in an attempt to free her, the vessel rolled over and crushed him to death.

57 WHARF LANE
Captain Edward Hallet (1799-1878)
Captain Hallet commanded the packet deep Eagle Flight. It made regular run between Boston and Yarmouth. It's cargo contained "spirits" that were served in the Donacie Tavern (#46 Old King's Highway). In the "Great Sailing Match" of 1837 five vessels raced from Barnstable to Boston. "Commodore Hall" was first, "Eagle Flight" was second.

92 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain John Eldridge (1779-1874)
Captain of transatlantic packet Liverpool. Captain John and his two brothers, Captain Az and Oliver, made Cape Cod captains famous. He began his seafaring life at age 13 principally commanding transatlantic packet ships. During the Civil War, he was in charge of the Union transport ships. He had a wonderful physique, tremendous strength and a powerful voice. When he retired his home became known for hospitality and grand manners. He was a cultured man who enjoyed the finer things in life, which he shared with his neighbors.

95 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Allen H. Knowles (1814-1875)
Captain Bungs Hallet built this home. When he was ready to retire, he swapped it for #41 Strawberry Lane with Captain Knowles. Captain Knowles was a Master Captain and part owner of the Charter of London, in which he carried hundreds of passengers to Australia and New Zealand. He received a silver pitcher from the British Government for saving the crew of the British ship Bonaventure. A chair he had reupholstered is on display at the Bungs Hallet House.

100 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Asa Eldridge (1809-1885)
Captain and apple and pear farmer, a famous of the Yarmouth shipmasters. In 1878, he set a record, sailing the Red Rover from New York City to Liverpool, England in just 13 days and 1 hour. Almost 2 years later he lost his life on the steamship Pacific which sank in the Irish Sea during the voyage from Liverpool to New York. He was 66 years of age. His portrait and a daguerreotype are on display at the Bungs Hallet House.

111 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Rubin Howes
Henry Howes was the original owner of this home. His grandson, Captain Rubin Howes lived here and became an antique dealer upon retiring from the sea. His house is known as one of "The Three Sisters."

115 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Nathan Hallack (born in 1797)
Captain Nathan Hallack was one of the earliest packet masters. He was elected to the Alms House Building Committee in 1831. This is one of the older houses in Yarmouth Port.

116 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain George Taylor (1847-1929)
His wife Abigail had a son George who was born rotated. George never got over his extents disability. He sailed to China and never returned. He continued to send money home to provide for his wife and child.

134 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Frederick Howes (1812-1882)
Captain of ship Clavus. This was Captain Howes' summer home. He is known for his invention of a sail called the "Howes Rig." It was more efficient and easier to handle than the angled toplip. He was known as the commodore of the captains, the oldest, wisest and most impressive.

138 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Winthrop Sears (1818-1883)
Captain Sears built this house. He went to sea at 13 years and at 21 was the master of the brig Robert Hall. During the Civil War he commanded a vessel in the Union Transport system. He retired at age 65 and became a solicitor, director of a bank, assessor and receiver of the poor. He also commanded barks Trenton and Ocean Port, the ship Conquest, and several steamers.

152 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain William Crowell (born in 1820)
Not much is known about Captain Crowell. As a sea captain, he was one of several Crowell family members to reside in Yarmouth Port. There are 63 sea captains from Yarmouth named Crowell.

165 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Bungs Hallet (1807-1893)
Captain Bungs Hallet built this house before he built the house at #93 Old King's Highway. Later this house was occupied by Frederick C. Smith, attorney, Justice of the First District Court, notary public and justice of the peace.

168 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain James Bacon Crocker (1804-1883)
Captain Crocker engaged in the East Indies and China trade. He commanded the Elver Pledge which was said to have been one of the finest East Indies sailing from Boston. He retired before his 40th year and built this home for his family. He ran a general store at the corner of 64 and Willow Street (currently Fresh Pond). The original store burnt down in 1863. The replacement building was brought from Nantucket, where it had been a sperm of candle factory.

169 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Nathaniel Matthews (1806-1883)
Captain Matthews commanded the famous clipper Winged Arrow. During his command of the Morning Star, he was sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to aid in their work in the South Seas Islands. He was admitted for his personal appearance. He was a clerk and treasurer of the First Congregational Society.

170 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Joseph Gorham (1805-1875)
Captain Gorham commanded some of the finest ships that sailed from Boston, including the Kit Carson, built at Shriver Shipyard in East Dennis. He and his three sisters became sea captains. The Register wrote: "His residence is a pretentious and substantial affair" indicating that the captain was a man of means and taste.

171 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Padlock Thaxter (1877-1867)
Captain Thaxter commanded the schooner Commodore Hall which was later commanded by Captain Thomas Matthews (#39 Old King's Highway). Later he commanded the sloop Serena P. Cole.

172 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain William Drane Loring (born in 1823)
Captain William Loring, a master mariner for 25 years, retired from the sea and ran a grain store. Captain of the bark Governor Hitchcock.

173 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Thomas Matthews (born in 1808)
Captain Matthew succeeded Captain Padlock Thaxter (#191 Old King's Highway) as Commander of the Commodore Hall winning the "Great Sailing Match" in 1837. In 1841 he built the schooner Yarmouth. He spent much of his career racing to Boston, beating the times of the Barnstable Packets. When the railroad came he became a station agent for the railroad.

203 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Aaron White (1820-1894)
Prestis White, the original owner, sold this house to his son Captain Otto White. Captain White commanded three ships in his short life, the Competitor, the Contest, and the Regulator. In 1862, The Regulator was wrecked off the coast of Formosa, the wreck caused by Chinese mooncussers. He died two years later at the age 37. His portrait hangs in the Bungs Hallet House.

210 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Isaac Myrick (born in 1792)
Captain Myrick commanded a packet which sailed between New York and Savannah for several years. After his war career, he engaged in business in New York, then later became a Yarmouth merchant. There are two buildings joined together on this lot (#388 and #4210).

211 OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Henry Avery (1841-1913)
Captain Avery was a Civil War veteran. He commanded the gun boat Wildwasser. At Fort Fisher, he towed a paddle boat with the Wildwasser and fired her cargo of 245 tons of powder in an attempt to blow up the fort.

14 SUMMER STREET
Captain Edward Gorham (born in 1830)
Captain of packet North. Captain Gorham bred horses from 1860 until 1890. He sailed the last packet boat to Boston in May 1871. This sailing was symbolic in that it ushered out the old way of life (packet ships) and introduced a new way of life (railroads).

For more information on the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth, please call 508-362-3021.

Yarmouth Port, MA
West End

Yarmouth Port, MA
A WALKING TOUR
OF HISTORIC
SEA CAPTAINS' HOMES
LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE OF YARMOUTH PORT, MA.

Look for houses with the Schooner Plaque
Presented by the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth

Sponsored in part by the Town of Yarmouth's Tourism Fund.
236. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Thacher Gorham (1806-1873)
Captain Thacher Gorham came from a famous seafaring family of 7 brothers where all but one became sea captains. He commanded the ship "Liber" and "Albatross." One brother was a cobbler. His shop is now the Administration Office and Archives of the Historical Society.

208. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Benjamin Hayes
Captain Hayes built this house: a mariner and prominent member of the local militia. The house originally stood where the "New Jerusalem Church" now sits in its current location in 1870.

1. STRAWBERRY LANE
Captain George Matthew (1810-1882)
Captain Matthews, at age 19, was second mate on a ship sailing where the captain, his wife and the first mate died from yellow fever. Second mate Matthews brought the ship safely home. After this accomplishment he was awarded command of the National Eagle. His picture and a model of the National Eagle are at the Range Hall House. He also commanded the ship "Uxie Lane.

8. STRAWBERRY LANE
Captain Edmund H. Hamblin
This house is currently known as the Edward Grove house. It was originally built by Captain Hayes in 1828. Captain Hayes was lost at sea during storms.

11. STRAWBERRY LANE
Captain Benjamin Hallett (1807-1895)
This was the house of Captain Allen Knowles. He owned it for 495 Old King's Highway with Captain Bannister Hall who was a captain in the China trade industry. This was Captain Hallett's retirement home. In 1846, Captain Hallett commanded the Fairfield Hall which was a group of British missionaries in Burma. Today this is the home of the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth. He also captained the brig "Pigeon," the boat "Atlantic," the ships "Herbert," "Nantucket," "Cats," "Fairehall," and "Gerrard."

44. STRAWBERRY LANE
Captain Freeman Taylor (born in 1805)
Captain of the schooner "Levo." Captain Taylor served as a representative to the State legislature. He was the father of 15 children and the father of Captain George Taylor (116 Old King's Highway).

277. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain John Eldridge (1777-1836)
Now known as the Colonial House Inn. Captain Eldridge moved into this house shortly after his marriage. After leaving the sea, he became a representative in the State Legislature. He lived in this house until his death in 1836.

278. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Winthrop Baker (died 1878)
Captain Baker built and lived in this house. The property was a gift to his widow from his brother. He died in Brooklyn.

282. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Thacher Taylor (1835-1911)
Captain Thacher Taylor was engaged in the fishing business and owned a storehouse on Central Wharf with Captain John Hayes. The storehouse was carried away in the storm of 1853. Captain Taylor was town Clerk, Treasurer, Selectman and Assessor.

302. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Seth Taylor (1835-1911)
Captain of clipper "Florida," ships Falmouth, Fortaleza and Agnes. Captain Seth Taylor was a famous sea commander. At age 21, as the first mate on the "Brier Rose," he brought her safely into port after the captain died at sea. His wife Inaams often went to sea with him and brought young son Seth.

303. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Henry Baker (1839-1894)
Captain of schooners "Anna," "William," and "William Loomer." Roberta was a pioneer in sailing large three-masted schooners.

364. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Oliver Grevier (1813-1878)
Captain Oliver Grevier was one of six Gorham brothers to become a sea captain. In 1874, while in command of the bark "Charles Campbell," he rescued 6 men, (the captain, the four mate and 4 crew members) from the shipwrecked "Thomas B. Babcock;" before they had been adrift for 11 days.

371. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Nathaniel Taylor (1817-1867)
Captain Taylor, a packet captain, commanded the schooners "Euphemia" and "Lucy Elizabeth." He built this house in 1845. Due to a severe arm injury, he relinquished his command and opened a dry goods store behind his home. He lived there until his death in 1867.

372. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Gorham Hallett (1832-1907)
Captain Taylor commanded ships "A. M. Lawrence," "Brown Brothers," "Clopotte" and "Agnes Americana." While commanding the "A. M. Lawrence," he was challenged by a notorious crew. One of the crew struck a blow to the captain's head. The "captain called for his pistols. His six year old daughter got the pistols and thus saved his life.

378. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Isaac Matthew Bray (born in 1840)
Captain of bark's C. G. Johnson and Western Belle. Captain Bray moved in original half cape house that had been on this property to make room for his new home. The first floor of his house is laid out like a ship.

45. WINTER STREET - Location were Captain Gorham lived
Captain Joseph Gorham (died 1897)
Captain Gorham was another of the five Gorham brothers who became sea captains. He was married in the Washington under Range Hall when he built it in the Atlantic; He was captain of the Adelphi, Yarmouth, Penobscot and John and Albert. He was moved to 43 Vesper Lane in the 20th century.

381. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Ezra Hoare (1836-1896)
J. M. Fisher, the original owner, ran a marble shop and granite works in the back of the house. He sold the house to Captain Haynes, born in Dennis, who was invalid, in the 1860s. In 1880, the house still had the original marble sconces on many of its fireplaces. In addition, there was a windmill located on the property.

399. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Charles M. Bray (born in 1823)
Captain Bray, commanded three master schooners. When he retired he operated a lumber and building supply business out of his backyard. The store was located in a shed. His clientele were poor people to whom he sold items at a cheaper price.

399. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Sylvanus Robbins (1817-1886)
Captain Robbins retired from the sea and became a farmer. His farm stretched from the back of his home to the bay. The glass pendant in the front door are a beautiful example of Sandwich glass.

399. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Gorham Hallett (born 1800)
Captain Hallett lived in this house, which is a wonderful example of the architecture popular on the Cape at the time. The house was built around 1825.

418. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Oliver Grevier (1813-1883)
Captain of schooners "Florida," "Anna," "William," and "William Loomer." Roberta was a pioneer in sailing large three-masted schooners.

425. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Sylvanus Whidden (1817-1886)
Captain Whidden went to sea at the age of 14. At 21 years, he changed his name from Edward to Sylvanus. By 24 years he worked his way up to captain and was master of many ports including Hong Kong, Calcutta, Yokohama and Liverpool. He commanded the "Mathilde D" which was commandeered by the Boston War Board.

462. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Edmund T. Bragg (1835-1918)
Captain Bragg commanded many ships for the Boston firm of Hunn & Cromwell, the Aushon, Flecton, Evers, Gurney and Ringgold. He made more money for the firm than any other captain in their employ. He owned Cape Horn 10 times, sailing to India, China, Japan, Australia, and Europe. Captain Bragg was active in the mercantile business after he retired from the sea.

194. CENTER STREET
Captain Solomon Taylor (1810-1873)
Captain of ship "Owen Bridge." Captain Taylor was a successful shipbuilder. He built his house when he retired from the sea. He was a deacon of the First Congregational Church and treasurer of the library.

433. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Edmund B. Hamblin (1822-1884)
Captain Hamblin commanded the bark "Narragansett" Corral, the ships "Regent" and "Ringgold." He was known as a careful ruthless commander. When he retired from the sea, he became a cranberry farmer. He suffered a fatal heart attack which is his cranberry bugs.

438. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Thomas Long (born in 1818)
Born in Harwich, he moved to Yarmouth at age 10. He was a deep water captain, involved in foreign trade.

446. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Nahumah B. Whidlon
Captain Whidlon was owner of this house. He built it for his wife. They had two children who were born one year apart and died within a few days of birth.

447. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Cyrus Hall (1847-1900)
Captain Hall went to sea when he was 15 years of age. He sailed the China seas in ships that were built for him, the brig "Volley," and the schooners "Atos" and "Oceanus," and as captain "Gunn Hall." He lived here until his death on February 11th, 1910. He was also captain of the ship "Penasco."

450. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Elihaa Dace (1788-1856)
Captain John Beane (1752-1777)
Little is known of Beane's sea going days. Elihaa Dace lived here after Captain Beane. Beane built a whaling vessel, the George Washington along with several other vessels. This whaling became the 3rd trade to open in Yarmouth. It was a celebrated meeting place and became known as "Square Dace's Tavern."

463. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Seth H. Hamblin (1823-1888)
Captain of bark "Narragansett" Corral. Captain Hamblin lived aboard for many years. He was the brother of E. B. Hamblin who lived at 434 Old King's Highway. He manufactured cranberry barrels. Seth was the Road Commissioner in Yarmouth and lived here until his death in 1908.

485. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Samuel Thaxter (1843-1901)
Captain Thaxter commanded the barque "Albatross" Schultz and schooner "Puritan," R.S. (spelled) and John Twy. The original owner of this house, Watson Thaxter, owned a carpenter shop across the street. Watson sold the house to Captain Samuel Thaxter. Samuel owned and operated a marine supplies store located at 400 Old King's Highway.

490. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Samuel Thaxter (1841-1901)
Captain Thaxter lived at 485 Old King's Highway. This building was a marine supplies store which he built. He also built this as a more lucrative and less dangerous means of earning a living than "going to sea". He sold chums, anchors, stay, cables, ropes, and other marine supplies.

500. OLD KING'S HIGHWAY
Captain Samuel Matthews (1801-1882)
Captain Matthews commanded brig "Samuel Russell," bark "Ulah," ships "Rip Van Winkle" and "Ringgold." On one of the voyages, a crew member broke his leg and Captain Matthews set the bone. He opened a dry goods store business when he retired from the sea. He was also a representative to the State Legislators and a Yarmouth selectman.