



[The Daily News of Newburyport](#) | [Page 01](#) Wednesday, 25 April 2018

Picturing Seabrook over the years

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SEABROOK — Following in his father's footsteps, Eric Small has been assembling a collection of more than 7,000 photographs of noteworthy people and places in town since the mid-1970s.

Small, president of the Historical Society of Seabrook, has assembled 450 of these photos into a 200-page book titled "A Visual History of Seabrook, New Hampshire."

He is selling copies of the book to raise money and awareness for the town's 250th anniversary celebration.

Before his death, Donald Small, Eric's father, collected photos of Seabrook residents and landmarks for decades, said Small, who noted his father's research of genealogy. The book is a wealth of 45 years worth of research, he said.

"I couldn't have done this without my father," Small

Continued from Page 1 said. "So we're really dedicating it mainly for him. He did genealogy for 17 families, research, and a list of all the town offices and the years. He did a lot of the militia. He was a militia captain at the 200th anniversary. He deserves a lot of credit."

Divided by chapters of each road and section in town, the book delves into Seabrook's history from its establishment in 1636 to the mid-1950s. It also includes a few photos from the 1960s and 1970s. Small began working on the book in 1974 after his father died.

With some 7,000 photos in his hands, Small said it was difficult to select which images would make the cut.

Noting his father's collection, Small borrowed a lot of photographs to add to the book, which he said mainly consists of people in town.

Small showcases several buildings in Seabrook, including the John Gove House built in 1719, the Old South Meeting House built in 1764 and the Crowtown School built in 1760 — one of seven schools in town at the time. Small said the Gove family was one of the more noteworthy families in Seabrook.

Small also spoke of Jonathan Weare, who helped establish the town's government in the mid-1700s.

"There was a lot of boat building going on in town," said Small, who added that there were also several shoe factories in Seabrook.

Also featuring numerous landmarks, the "Old Man of Seabrook" is mentioned in the book.

The sign, which first surfaced about 1910, served as an advertisement on the wall of a filling station on Route 1, Small said.

This was an ideal location for drivers to know they crossed the New Hampshire border, he said.

"Back then, Route 1 was the main road for travelers going north," Small said. The sign was up for more than 65 years and now hangs at Seabrook Public Library.

The book includes a special section on the 100th anniversary of World War I. Fifty-two men from Seabrook served as soldiers in the war.

Small also made sure to mention local resident Bertha Eaton, who served in World War I as a nurse for the American Red Cross.

In addition, there is a letter from World War I soldier Raymond E. Walton to his mother, Amelia A. Walton. He was the only Seabrook native to die in the war, Small said.

Small is selling copies of "A Visual History of Seabrook, New Hampshire" with the hope of raising money and spirits for Seabrook's 250th anniversary celebration, which will last for two weeks in August. The book, he said, is expected to be released the first week of August.

To order a copy, Small has left forms at Seabrook Public Library at 25 Liberty Lane; Town Hall at 99 Lafayette Road; the Seabrook Recreation Center at 311 Lafayette Road; and Provident Bank at 1 The Provident Way. The form must be filled out with a billing and shipping address and can be mailed to the Historical Society of Seabrook at 37 Folly Mill Terrace.

The retail price for the book is \$45, but if a book is ordered by June 1, the preorder price is \$35.

For more information, contact Small at 603-4982182 or visit the Historical Society of Seabrook website, www.sealib.org/brownlibrary.html.

Amanda Getchell covers Newburyport and Seabrook. Follow her on Twitter@ajgetch.

AT LEFT: In the late 19th century, laborers lay trolley line tracks in front of what is now Trinity United Church near where Town Hall stands today. The area was known as Smithtown, named after a local founding family. AT RIGHT: Raymond E. Walton, the only Seabrook resident to die in World War I. The American Legion in town is named in his honor.

Courtesy photos



Eric Small, president of the Historical Society of Seabrook, is publishing a 200-page book with 450 photos of Seabrook through the years in celebration of the town's 250th anniversary in August. He's hoping to sell books to help contribute to the celebration.