16 OLD CHURCH STREET
Captain Benjamin Matthews Jr. (1823-1862)

Bought 16 Old Church St. on 2/21/1850, next door to his Aunt and Uncle Isaac and Susannah (Matthews) Ryder. Benjamin's father was also a mariner. He purchased the home shortly before his marriage to Mercy Walker of Harwich. In the 1850 census he is listed as fisherman, the 1855 State census he is listed as seaman, and the 1860 census as Master Mariner. On his headstone at the Ancient cemetery in Yarmouth he has the title Captain. Captain Matthews passed away at age 39 in 1862 but the home remained in the family until 1938. The home was purchased from Elisha Doane’s daughters and sons-in-law after Elisha’s death and presently on the property are remnants of the Northside Ropeworks and the Pond Village Schoolhouse.

184 CENTER STREET
Captain Solomon Hamilton (1810-1873)

Captain of the brig Weatherly. Capt. Solomon was a successful shipmaster. He built his house when he retired from the sea. Home of the Organ of the First Congregational Church and treasurer of the library.

454 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Edmund Hamblin (1832-1884)

Captain Hamblin commanded the bark Nathaniel Cogswell, the ships Regent and Ringleder. He was known as a careful judicious commander. When he retired from the sea, he became a cranberry farmer. He suffered a fatal heart attack while in his cranberry bogs.

386 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Thomas B. Ryder (1798-1868) - Captain Long was born in Harriswick and moved to Yarmouth when he was ten. He married Nabby Tabbard in 1840 and it is probable that this house was built for him by Alfred Thacher. Kittridge identifies Long as being a deep water captain, or one who traded overseas.

466 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Nehemiah R. Whidden

Whidden Watch House. This was his home. He built it for his wife. They had two children who were born one year apart and who died within a few days of each other.

467 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Cyrus Hall (1817-1900)

Captain Hall went to sea when he was 10 years of age. He sailed the China seas on ships that were built for Elisha, the Algany Whaling and John and James Tower and the schooner Cyrus Hall. He lived here until his age 111 on February 11th, 1900. He was also the captain of the ship Velades.

450 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Eliza Doane (1768-1848)

Captain John Beverse (1752-1777)

Little is known of the 17 and 18th century days. Eliza Doane lived here after Captain Beverse. Doane built a whaling vessel, the George Washington along with several others for vessels. This dwelling became the 3rd tavern to open in Yarmouth. It was a meeting place and became known as the “Doane’s Tavern.”

463 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Seth H. Hamblin (1821-1908)

Captain of bark Nathaniel Cogswell. Captain Hamblin lived aboard for many years. He was the brother of E. B. Hamblin who lived at No. 434 Old King’s Highway. He manufactured cranberry barrels. Seth was the Real Commissary in Yarmouth and lived here until his death in 1908.

485 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Samuel Smith (1801-1880)

Captain Smith lived in the house until his death in 1880. Captain Smith commanded the brigantine Albert Schulte and schooner Mary Ann. A.S. Stoddard: A History of Yarmouth, volume 2. The house was part of Captain Smith’s horse stable. The house was purchased from the Smiths and sold to the Stoddard Family.

490 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Samuel Smith (1841-1901)

Captain lived at #45 Old King’s Highway. This building was a marine supplies store which he built. He was a more lucrative and less dangerous means of earning a living than “going to sea.” He sold anchors, stays, cables, ropes, and other marine supplies.

500 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Samuel Ryder (1832-1882)

Captain's Office. Ryder commanded many ships for the Boston firm of Howes & Cowdall, the Aswan, Phraebang, Friona, Flodin, and Ringleder. He made more money for the firm than any other captain in their employ. He owned Cape Horn 18 times, sailing to India, China, Japan, Australia, and Europe. Captain Ryder was active in the mercantile business after he retired from the sea.

372 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Edward Thacher (1808-1880)

Captain of the brig Weatherly. Capt. Edward was a successful shipmaster. He built his house when he retired from the sea. Home of the Organ of the First Congregational Church and treasurer of the library.

372 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY
Captain Edward Thacher (1808-1880)

Captain of the brig Weatherly. Capt. Edward was a successful shipmaster. He built his house when he retired from the sea. Home of the Organ of the First Congregational Church and treasurer of the library.

256 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Thacher (1835-1911)

Captain and his family lived here, which was originally built for Capt. Seth Thacher about 1879. Captain Thacher was engaged in the fishing business and owned a schooner behind his home. He owned the house until his death in 1905.

277 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Joseph Eldridge (1775-1856)

Captain’s house where he lived this short time after his marriage. After leaving the sea, he became a representative in the State Legislature. He lived in this house until his death in 1854.

278 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Seth Taylor (1835-1911)

Captain of clipper John T. Hoyt, ships Jabez, Fortune and Argus. Captain Seth Taylor was a famous Sea Commander. At age of 21, as the first mate on the Nobe Island, he brought her safely into port after the captain died at sea. His wife Hannah often went to sea with him and was a celebrated seamstress. He was a pioneer in selling large three-masted schooners.

303 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Thomas Ryder

Ryder’s ship was a house bought sometime between 1835 and 1845. He took up poultry farming when he retired from the sea. He was a long time member of the Boston Marine Society.

324 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Henry Bray (1821-1852)

Captain Nathaniel Mathews, a prominent citizen of Yarmouth, who commanded many ships including the famous clipper Winged Arrow, acquired the property from Aaron Thacher, who purchased it in 1834 from the estate of James Thacher, father of Annis’s wife Susan. The house was likely built circa 1815 when James Thacher acquired it from Josiah Hamblin. Captain Henry Bray and his wife Deborah Curtis Bray purchased the property with 30 acres from Captain Nathaniel Mathews in 1856. Henry Bray, Captain Mathews, and the schoolmaster Susan, died in Port Au Prince, Haiti of yellow fever in 1852 and were buried at sea. Deborah continued to reside in the house with their daughter.

413 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Nathaniel Mathews (1806 - 1885)

Captain Nathaniel Mathews, a prominent citizen of Yarmouth, who commanded many ships including the famous clipper Winged Arrow, acquired the property from Aaron Thacher, who purchased it in 1834 from the estate of James Thacher, father of Annis’s wife Susan. The house was likely built circa 1815 when James Thacher acquired it from Josiah Hamblin. Captain Henry Bray and his wife Deborah Curtis Bray purchased the property with 30 acres from Captain Nathaniel Mathews in 1856. Henry Bray, Captain Mathews, and the schoolmaster Susan, died in Port Au Prince, Haiti of yellow fever in 1852 and were buried at sea. Deborah continued to reside in the house with their daughter.

401 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Oliver Matthews (1830-1885)

Captain Marthana, brothers, nephew, Nathaniel and Richard were all shipmasters. Oliver commanded the brig Isabel and was forced to retire at an early age due to illness. He built this house and resided in it from 1835 until his death at the age of 73 in 1883. His portrait is in the Barnstable House.

425 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Sydnie Hawkins (1817-1886)

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Captain Sydnie Hawkins (1817-1886) commanded many ships for the Boston firm of Howes & Cowdall, the Aswan, Phraebang, Friona, Flodin, and Ringleder. He made more money for the firm than any other captain in their employ. He owned Cape Horn 18 times, sailing to India, China, Japan, Australia, and Europe. Captain Ryder was active in the mercantile business after he retired from the sea.

426 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Edward Thacher (1808-1880)

Captain Edward Thacher (1808-1880) commanded many ships for the Boston firm of Howes & Cowdall, the Aswan, Phraebang, Friona, Flodin, and Ringleder. He made more money for the firm than any other captain in their employ. He owned Cape Horn 18 times, sailing to India, China, Japan, Australia, and Europe. Captain Ryder was active in the mercantile business after he retired from the sea.

372 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Nathaniel Taylor (1837-1867)

Capt. Nathaniel Taylor commanded the schooners Yarmouth and Lucy Elizabeth. He built this house in 1847. Due to a severe arm injury, he relinquished his command and opened a dry goods store behind his house. He lived there until his death in 1867.

372 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Nathaniel Taylor (1837-1867)

Capt. Nathaniel Taylor commanded the schooners Yarmouth and Lucy Elizabeth. He built this house in 1847. Due to a severe arm injury, he relinquished his command and opened a dry goods store behind his house. He lived there until his death in 1867.

374 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Thomas Taylor

Taylor’s house was originally built for Capt. Nathaniel Taylor. In 1874, while in command of the bark Alice Campbell, he received a message to meet the first mate and 14 crew members from the schooners Thomas B. Ryder, after they had been adrift for 11 days.

373 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY

Captain Nathaniel Taylor (1837-1867)

Capt. Nathaniel Taylor commanded the schooners Yarmouth and Lucy Elizabeth. He built this house in 1847. Due to a severe arm injury, he relinquished his command and opened a dry goods store behind his house. He lived there until his death in 1867.
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 MILE LANE  
Captain Ames Hall (1770-1832)  
One of the pioneers of the packet industry, he commanded the Betty-oh-the sea of 1812. Later he commanded the sloop Menemsha which was grounded on a sandbar in Yarmouth Port harbor in 1832. As he dug beneath the ship in an attempt to fire her, he was trapped and crushed him to death.

57 WARE LANE  
Captain Edward Hall (1798-1878)  
Captain Hall commanded the packet sloop Eagle Flight. It made regular runs between Boston and Yarmouth. Its cargo contained “spirits” that were served in the Doane’s Tavern (449 Old King’s Highway). In the “Great Sailing Match” of 1877 fire vessels raced from Bar Harbor to Boston “Concordia Hall” was first. “Eagle Flight” was second.

95 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain John Eldridge (1798-1874)  
Captain of transatlantic packet “Liverpool.” John and his two brothers, Captain Asa and Oliver, made Cape Cod captains famous. He began his seafaring life at age 12 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 large 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.

99 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Eben H. Knowles (1814-1875)  
Captain Bangs Hall built this house when he was ready to retire, he supposes it in #11 Strawberry Lane with Captain Knowles. Captain Knowles was a Master Captain and part owner of the Chariot of Flame, 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 Rumrull. A chart he needlepoint is on display at the Bangs Hall House.

100 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Asa Eldridge (1800-1855)  
Captain Asa Eldridge was the most famous of the Yarmouth shipmasters. In 1854, he set a record, sailing the Red Jacket from New York City to Liverpool, England in just 13 days and 1 hour. Almost 2 years later he lost his life on the steamer Pacific which sank in the Irish Sea during the voyage from Liverpool to New York. He was 46 years of age. His portrait and a daguerreotype are on display at the Bangs Hall House.

111 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Rufus Hower  
Henry Bassett was the original owner of this house. His grandson, Captain Rufus Hower 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 Hall (born in 1797)  
Captain Nathan Hall was one of the earliest packet masters. He was elected to the Alms House Building Committee in 1831. This is one of the oldest houses in Yarmouth Port.

116 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain George Taylor (born 1827)  
His wife Abigail had a son George who was born with a disability. George never got over his son’s disability. He sailed to China and never returned. He continued to send money home to provide for his wife and child.

125 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Frederick Howes (1802-1882)  
Captain of ship Clenna. This was Captain Hall’s summer home. It is known for his invention of a sail called the “Howes Rig.” It was more efficient and easier to handle than the single top sail. He was known as the commander of the captains, the oldest, wisest and most impressive.

130 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 55 and became a successful contractor of a farm, sawmill and overseer of the poort. He also commanded banks’ Treport and Ocean Pearl, the ship Concord, and several steamers.

132 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain William Crowell (born in 1826)  
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 43 sea captains from Yarmouth named Crowell.

145 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Bangs Hall (1807-1893)  
Captain Bangs Hall built his house before he built the house at #19 Old King’s Highway. Later this house was occupied by Frederick C. South, 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 Profe which was said to have been one of the finest East Indiamen sailing from Boston. He retired before his 40th year and built this house for his family. He ran a general store at the corner of 6A and Willow Street (currently Fresh Picked). The original store burned down in 1863. The replacement building was brought from Nantucket, where it had been a sperm oil candle factory.

169 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Nathaniel Matthews (1806-1885)  
Captain Matthews commanded the famous clipper Winged Arrows. During his command of the Morning Star, he was sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to aid in their work for Foreign Missions to aid in their work in the South Sea Islands. He was admired for his personal appearance. He was a clerk and treasurer of the First Congregational Society.

176 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Joshua Gorham (1809-1875)  
Captain Gorham commanded some of the finest ships that sailed from Boston, including the Kit Carson, built at Shriver’s Shipyards in East Dennis. He and five of his brothers 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.

191 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Paddock Trucker (1797-1867)  
Captain Trucker commanded the schooner Commodore half which was later commanded by Captain Thomas Matthews (#197 Old King’s Highway). Later he commanded the schoop Stowif in Cape.

195 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain William Draper 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.

197 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Thomas Matthews (born in 1808)  
Captain Matthews succeeded Captain Paddock Trucker (#191 Old King’s Highway) as Commander of the Commodore half winning the “Great Sailing Match” in 1837. In 1848 he built the schooner Yarmouth. He spent much of his career racing to Boston, bearing the times of the fastest packets. When the railroads came he became a station agent for the railroad.

202 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Otis White (1822-1866)  
Prentis White, the original owner, willed this house to his son Captain Otis White. Captain White commanded three ships in his short life, the Comptroller, the Kerosene, and the Ringrave. In 1862, the Ringrave was wrecked off the coast of Fomosa, the wreck caused by Chinese moonshiners. He died two years later at the age of 37. His portrait hangs in the Bangs Hall 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 sea career, he engaged in business in New York, then later became a Yarmouth merchant. There are two buildings joined together on this lot (#202 and #210).

212 OLD KING’S HIGHWAY  
Captain Henry Ayer (1841-1913)  
Captain Ayer was a Civil War veteran. He commanded the gunboat Wilderness. At Fort Fisher, he issued a powder boat with the Wildstreet and fired her cargo of 213 tons of powder in an attempt to blow up the fort.

14 SUMMER STREET  
Captain Edward Gorham (born in 1810)  
Captain of packet Nighthawk, Captain Gorham lived here from 1840 until 1860. 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).

CAPTAINS’ MILE  
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

Yarmouth Cape Cod Beach
Sponsored in part by the Town of Yarmouth’s Tourism Fund.