

For Immediate Release

Coming October 1, 2018

The Making of Nantucket

Family Lives and Fortunes in the Nineteenth Century

by Everett U. Crosby

NEW BEDFORD, MA. Spinner Publications introduces its latest book, *The Making of Nantucket: Family Lives and Fortunes in the Nineteenth Century*, written by Everett U. Crosby, and scheduled for release on October 1, 2018. The book, which provides a new perspective on Nantucket's history and the people who forged its future, will be available in bookstores immediately.

Anyone familiar with Nantucket has heard many stories about its heyday as a world-famous whaling port. Those with a more intimate knowledge of the community have become acquainted with the names of its most celebrated historical families, and may have learned something of the significant events that shaped the future of the island. Yet no one has brought together the pieces of the island's history as Everett Crosby has done in *The Making of Nantucket*.

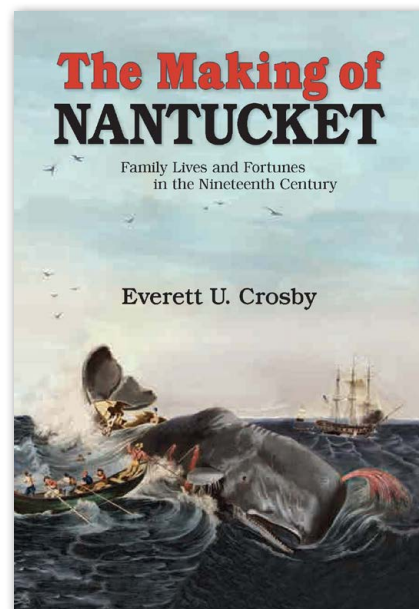
In these pages, the history of the island coalesces in the life of Captain Matthew Crosby, a successful, community-minded merchant-mariner whose career spanned most of the momentous nineteenth century. The author's perceptive analysis, based on extensive archival material, provides new insights into such events and concerns as the naval war of 1812, island shipwrecks, the financing of whaling voyages, the perils of life at sea, and the sudden terror of the Great Fire in the town.

Along the way, we come to know the men who gambled on long whaling voyages, and those who stayed at home to outfit more ships and tend to the needs of the community. We meet bankers and lawyers, shopkeepers and tradesmen, sons and daughters—people in Matthew's circle of family, friends, and acquaintances. We learn about rancorous political issues that engaged the citizens, and hear opinions on the growing tourist industry, new agricultural techniques, mainland travel, and the construction of the great houses that contribute so much to Nantucket's charm.

Meticulously researched, and written from a unique perspective, *The Making of Nantucket* belongs on the bookshelves of every Nantucket resident and, indeed, anyone who wants to learn more about how this small, isolated community found the resourcefulness to fashion a fortune from the sea, and then, having lost it, to reinvent itself as a prosperous summer resort.

Everett U. Crosby is Emeritus Professor of History and Chairman of the Medieval Studies Program at the University of Virginia. Born in Philadelphia, he was educated at the Germantown Friends School, Yale University (B.A. in history) and the Johns Hopkins University (Ph.D). Professor Crosby can claim a long acquaintance with the island, inasmuch as he first disembarked from the steamer *Naushon* in 1934, and members of his family have been summer, as well as year-round, residents for more than a hundred years.

Spinner Publications, is a non-profit publishing house in New Bedford whose mission is to record and promote the history, stories and culture of the cities and towns of southeastern New England.



\$27.00 PAPERBACK · 7" x 10" FORMAT