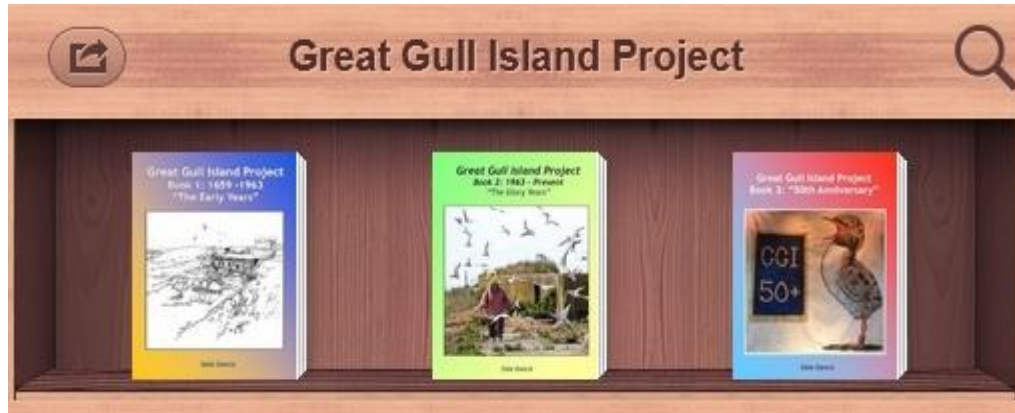


*Hold on to your hat...*



***No Fees, no luggage, no tests, just dozens of stories, hundreds of pictures, and thousands of memories!***

***Click on the “bookcase” for access to the books.***



Greetings Great Gull Islanders!

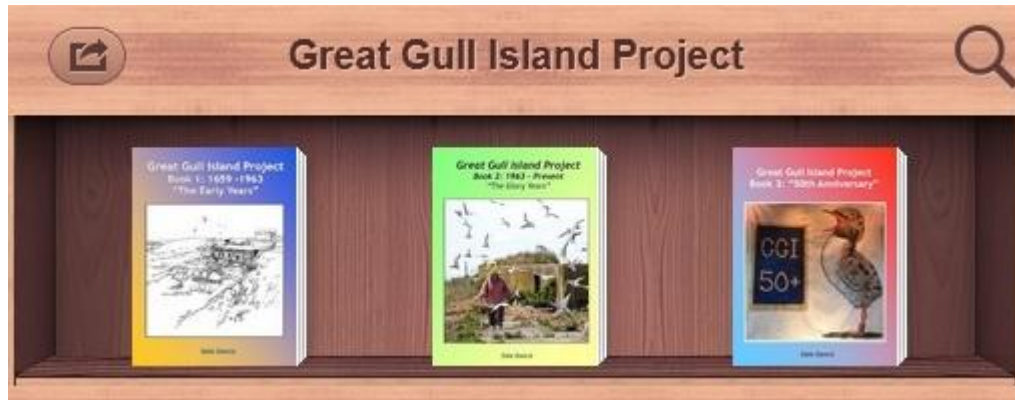
As a long-time volunteer to the Great Gull Island Project, I wanted to create a record of this remarkable effort. Also, as a volunteer in the Library at the American Museum of Natural History I started, in 2018, to explore the history of the Great Gull Island Project. Working with Helen Hayes made it possible for me to gain access to historic documents and photographs that are located in her museum office. I also received hundreds of photographs from many of the staff, students and volunteers. This generous support allowed me to create these books. My sincerest thanks to those who shared stories and memories with me. Many hours in the AMNH Library using their scanner before the pandemic provided enough material to work with while we were homebound during 2020.

These resulting three books cover the history of the island from when it was first purchased from the local indigenous tribe in 1659 and then by the U.S. Government in 1803 for an auxiliary property to the lighthouse on Little Gull Island. Then, in 1897, the U.S. Military acquired it to build a fort to guard the entrance to Long Island Sound. In 1949, Great Gull Island was purchased by the American Museum of Natural History and given to the Linnean Society of New York to manage. More than 70 years later, we look back and celebrate the history of the Great Gull Island Project as we know it today.

Included in the books are hundreds of photographs, several maps, deeds, anecdotes and descriptions of activities and events. Remember hearing about Robert Redford's visit? Even the components of a Culver Williams sandwich are mentioned! Hurricanes, dock rebuilding and, South Beach arrivals and departures recall the many challenges that Helen and others had to face to keep the Great Gull Island Project afloat.

World partnerships with ornithologists in South America are also part of the story, as is Anne Via McCollough's marvelous award-winning film, "Full Circle", documenting the Great Gull Island Project.

These three books on the history of Great Gull Island are now freely available on-line as "Flipbooks" at no charge. They are available by clicking on the image of the "Bookcase".



I hope you get as much pleasure looking through the books as I have had creating them.

I am currently investigating the possibility of making printed copies of the books available. At this point, the estimated cost for a printed set of books with shipping is \$180.00. If you might be interested in purchasing a set, please e-mail me at [ddancis@gmail.com](mailto:ddancis@gmail.com) and I will keep you posted.

My sincere thanks to Helen and the dozens of people who were kind enough to allow me to incorporate their photographs and stories into this project. Also, thanks to Joe DiCostanzo, Lydia Thomas and Jill Hamilton for proofreading the books. Finally thanks to my cousin, Jerry Baker who spent countless hours assisting with the creation of the "Flipbooks".

Enjoy,  
Dale Dancis

---

If you would like to consider making a contribution to the project, here is the address:

Great Gull Island -AMNH  
Helen Hays-ORNITHOLOGY  
American Museum of Natural History  
200 Central Park West  
New York, N.Y. 10024

E-Book 1: Great Gull Island Project: 1659-1963/ The Early Years; ISBN: 979-8-9887266-30

E-Book 2: Great Gull Island Project: 1963-Present/ The Glory Years; ISBN: 979-8-9887266-4-7

E-Book 3: Great Gull Island Project: 50th Anniversary; ISBN: 979-8-9887266-5-4

Great Gull Island Project/E-Book Set; ISBN: 979-8-9887266-7-8