Edward Rowe Snow was born in Winthrop, Massachusetts on August 22, 1902. He was descended from sea captains for four generations back on both sides of his family, with the exception of his father.

A writer, historian, radio personality, preservationist and master raconteur, Snow was a tireless advocate for preserving the islands for future generations.

Snow served in the military during World War II; he was a high school teacher in Winthrop and a columnist for the Patriot Ledger, the daily newspaper in Quincy, Massachusetts. In the 1950s his radio show “Six Bells” was heard on dozens of stations throughout the region.

Also in the 1950s, Mr. Snow became the president of the Society for the Preservation of Fort Warren. Through the efforts of Mr. Snow and other members of the group, the fort on George’s Island became a public park. But starting with the first edition of The Islands of Boston Harbor in 1934 and with the numerous books that followed, Snow became a premiere chronicler of New England maritime history: its sailing captains, shipwrecks, pirates, hidden treasures and ghosts.

Snow often led tours of the harbor islands, his booming voice ringing out across the water as he talked of legends and lore. His story of the ghost of the “Lady in Black” (who is said to stalk Fort Warren), if not quite based in historical fact, managed to intrigue generations of children who continue to explore the fort looking for her when they visit Georges Island. His stories piqued the curiosity of those who heard them and who now come to the islands to find their own treasures. His narratives continue to evoke a desire to search for island mysteries past and present. Mr. Snow’s dynamic spirit continues to travel the islands with us all.
Edward Rowe Snow was the "Flying Santa" who flew by lighthouses throughout New England during the Christmas season, dropping packages to keepers and their families. He was often accompanied by his wife and his daughter, Dorothy. Today, the Friends of Flying Santa are keeping the tradition alive. See www.flyingsanta.com

Some books by Mr. Snow:

- **The Lighthouses of New England (1945)**
- **Sailing Down Boston Bay** (Yankee Publishing Company, 1941)
- **Historic Fort Warren** (Boston: Yankee Publishing Company, 1941; later editions; updated by Jeremy D’Entremont and republished by Commonwealth Editions, 2002)
- **True Tales and Curious Legends: Dramatic Stories from the Islands of Boston Harbor** (Yankee Past, 1969)

A memorial to Mr. Snow dedicated August 2000

Memorial to Edward Rowe Snow

Memorial to Fort Warren

Edward Rowe Snow was instrumental in preserving Fort Warren as an historic site, thus helping to lay the foundation for the establishment of the Boston Harbor Islands State Park in 1970. His stories of the harbor inspired many people to work for the preservation of historic resources in New England. Edward Rowe Snow (1902-1982) was a master storyteller and island historian. He was born on August 22, 1902, and died on April 10, 1982. His enthusiasm for adventure and his love of the New England coast fostered a love of the New England coast in those who knew and loved him. The Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Foundation and the D’Entremont Lighthouse Foundation and the Friends of Fort Warren and the Harbor Light recognize Snow’s contributions to the preservation of Fort Warren and the harbor. A distinct granite memorial on Georges Island acknowledges Snow’s contributions to the preservation of the historic resources of the harbor.

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