



Timelines of  
Point  
Pleasant  
History

# The United States Coast Guard Cutter William Chadwick



Did you  
know...

In November 2022, the U.S. Coast Guard named its first Fast Response Coast Guard Cutter in honor of Point Pleasant native William P. Chadwick. The Coast Guard Cutter William Chadwick (WPC-1150) is the first of six Fast Response Cutters to serve USCG Station Boston. *Cover Image courtesy of Bollinger Shipyards.*

## Point Pleasant Native Honored With Cutter Name



Figure 1: William P. Chadwick. PPHS Archives.

The Chadwick family has a long and rich history at the Jersey Shore. It appears that the earliest Chadwick ancestor to emigrate here from Great Britain (c 1700) was John H. Chadwick. The Chadwick family made their way to New Jersey and first settled in Sea Bright, then part of Shrewsbury Township. Eventually, the Chadwicks migrated to the Squan Beach area, which today spans from Manasquan to near Ortley Beach.

They settled near both the Manasquan River and the Barnegat Bay and were well-known fishermen, baymen, and watermen.

William Chadwick was born in 1830 to John P. Chadwick and Anne Longstreet. In 1854, he married Anne Maxson, the daughter of John Maxson, one of Point Pleasant's largest landowners and local maritime wreckmasters.

In his capacity as a wreckmaster, John Maxson often was involved in the rescue of wrecked ships and their crews along the Squan Beach Coast as a member of the United States Lifesaving Service, which was the predecessor to the United States Coast Guard. The most famous of Maxson's successful rescues was the survivors of the British sailing ship *Ayrshire* on January 12, 1850 bound for the Port of New York that ran aground off Squan Beach. This incident marked the first time a life car was successfully used to rescue individual from stranded or sinking vessels.

Chadwick followed in his father-in-law's footsteps, and in October 1868 Chadwick was appointed a station keeper at Green Island by New Jersey Senator John G. W. Havens, who was the superintendent of the lifesaving service for the entire New Jersey coast. He maintained his office on Arnold Avenue in Point Pleasant. Green Island is now known as Chadwick Beach.



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## Station Chadwick Keepers:

### John Maxon:

1849 - ?

### William Chadwick:

October 7, 1868 –  
May 21, 1887

### William A. Osborn:

September 22, 1940 –  
August 31, 1950 (reassigned  
to Spring Lake Station)

### William S. Simpson:

August 25, 1950 –  
Still serving when the Life-  
Saving Service merged with  
Revenue Cutter Service

### CBM L.G. Brower:

1929 - ?

Source:

<https://media.defense.gov/2017/Jul/03/2001772660/-1/-1/0/CHADWICK.PDF>



## Did you know...

The Green Island station, also known as U.S. Coast Guard #108 Chadwick, was built in 1849 five and ¼ miles south of the head of Barnegat Bay. The original station burned down in April 1923 and a newer station built to replace it. *Photo courtesy PPHS Archives.*

## William Chadwick's Service

On February 3, 1880, William Chadwick and his crew from the Green Island station responded when the schooner George Taulane, which was enroute from Virginia to New York ran aground on a sandbar between the Green Island and Mantoloking life-saving stations during a severe nor'easter. The epic struggle to save the seven-man crew of the Taulane lasted nearly six hours in horrific weather conditions. Chadwick and his men had to brave dangerous surf, high wind, freezing torrential rain, and exhaustion but successfully rescued the men.

After a review of the actions of the lifesaving team that day by Superintendent Havens, he made the determination that their actions were worthy of the Congressional Gold Life Saving Medal.

Chadwick stayed as the keeper of the Green Island Station until he retired in 1886. He remained active in this area until his death in 1914. He and his wife are buried in the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery at the base of the Route 88 Canal Bridge in Point Pleasant.

## Coast Guard Cutter William Chadwick

In a ceremony on November 10, 2022, the United States Coast Guard commissioned and named its new Fast Response Coast Guard Cutter in honor of William P. Chadwick. The Coast Guard Cutter William Chadwick (WPC-1150) is the first of six Fast Response Cutters to be stationed at Coast Guard Base Boston. The 154-foot cutter will conduct missions offshore of the Northeast United States with a commander and 24-person crew.

Harry Chadwick, current member of the Point Pleasant Historical Society, is a relative of William P. Chadwick (second cousin, three generations removed).



[Click HERE for a video from the U.S. Coast Guard about the naming of the William Chadwick.](#)

[Click HERE for an article and video about the commissioning ceremony of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter William Chadwick in Boston on November 10, 2022.](#)

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