

Edward Newton: Lighthouse Keeper 1921–1926



Edward Webster Newton Sr. was born in Marshfield, Massachusetts on March 25, 1897 to Charles and Dora Newton. As the eldest of 16, Edward was taught his father's trade as a fisherman, staying in Marshfield until 1917. During World War I, he joined the military and served in the 103rd Field Artillery.

After returning from service, Edward married Evelyn Francis Hatch of Warwick, Rhode Island on July 26, 1919. The couple soon moved to Fire Island, New York, where Edward worked at the Fire Island Lighthouse on Long Island Sound. They had their first child, Elsie Francis, in 1920, before relocating to Rose Island, where they lived for five years and had two more children: Edward Webster Jr. and George Warren. Edward worked as the lighthouse keeper and curator for 5 years, until Evelyn tragically died on

April 8, 1926, after losing their fourth child in a fall. Evelyn was buried in Warwick, RI, and Edward moved to Boston, Massachusetts, with the children going into foster care soon after the move.

In Boston, Edward worked at a cod liver oil plant and was active in the community, gathering local support for the cod liver oil industry. He remarried twice, to Jennie Stoebel from 1930–1932, and to Mary Louise Cambra from 1937 until his death in 1950. Edward and Mary had a son named Robert and moved from Boston to New Bedford in 1939. In New Bedford, Edward continued his community activism with local fishermen in addition to owning and operating Finest Fish Store, at one point being presented an award in Washington, DC for his support of the cod liver oil and fishing industries. At age 57, he died of cancer on November 5, 1950, but his legacy lives on today in 16 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren.



Edward is pictured above in the Rose Island Boiler Room in 1925 and with his wife, Evelyn, in 1920. Some of the items in the Boiler Room with Edward can still be found at the museum today!