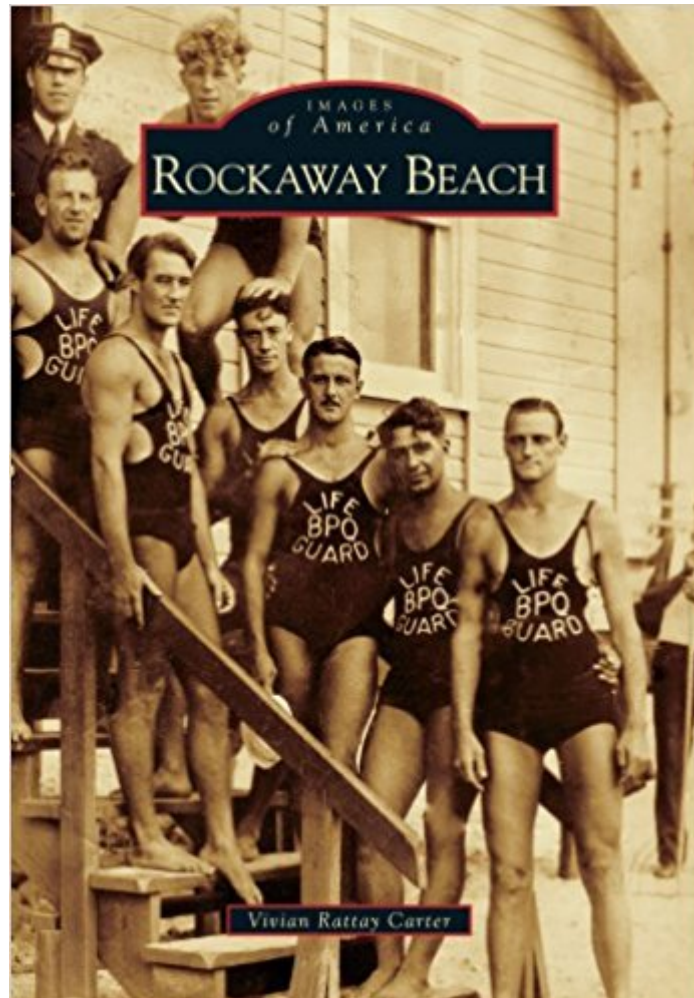




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# Rockaway Beach (Images Of America)



## Synopsis

The American frontier did not just consist of a prairie--it also included marshes and windswept sand dunes. When the earliest settlers arrived at Rockaway Beach on steamships in the mid-1800s, it was a narrow strip of land pocked with ponds and covered with dunes. Within 30 years, the community had grown into a wildly popular resort served by a thriving rail line. Amusement parks, hotels, taverns, and dance halls abounded, as did bungalow courts and open-air tent colonies. In the 1960s, the area was disrupted by urban development efforts and transportation infrastructure had declined. Today, Rockaway Beach is being rediscovered by a new generation of visitors and entrepreneurs as longtime residents work simultaneously to reinvigorate it. Through vintage images, Rockaway Beach chronicles the story of this beloved community and the efforts to recapture the magical success of an earlier era.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Much has been written about Rockaway's rise and fall as summer resort and its recent rebirth as a hipster haven. But local resident Vivian Carter thought there was another important story to tell of the people who settled in the peninsula and made it their home year-round. "I wanted to write something different," said Carter, a writer, teacher and lawyer who moved from Manhattan to Rockaway almost 20 years ago. "Before there was a bureaucratic behemoth they built churches, schools and sports leagues." Carter recently published the book "Images of America: Rockaway Beach," which includes scores of vintage photos as well as rich historical tidbits she found digging through boxes of old

papers and scanning rolls of microfilm."These people were amazing activists," Carter said. "They got their own street lights up, their own telephones going."Carter, who first became active in the community and local schools when her two teen-aged children were younger, sees parallels between the struggles of Rockaway's pioneers and its current residents, who she said are still fighting to get their share of services and attention from city government."We go out to these meetings to talk about how we can get improved train service," she said. "It's exactly what they were doing."Carter came across a treasure trove of information at the First Congregational Church, where she is a member."They had all these documents and records," she said. "I found a receipt from 1899 for advertising in The Wave newspaper. It gave such a window into what things cost and how people valued things."The Wave, which still publishes once a week, opened up its archives to Carter. She writes a regular column for the popular local newspaper."I think what is going to surprise people is the role women played in developing the institutions like the church and the hospitals," said Howard Schwach, managing editor of The Wave. "You have these really strong women who had a big part at a time when women weren't valued the way they should have been."Carter will be presenting an author talk, slide show and book signing on Monday at 6 p.m. at the Seaside Library on 115th St. For more information on the book go to [rockviv.com](http://rockviv.com)."New York Daily News, Lisa L. Colangelo

Vivian Rattay Carter is a columnist for Rockaway's The Wave newspaper and publishes a local events website, Oy Vey Rockaway. A lawyer and civic activist, she has served on the board of directors of the Rockaway Civic Association and as a lay leader of the First Congregational Church, whose earliest members included many of the pioneers of Rockaway Beach.

Love the all the photos and descriptions. I bought this for my husband because he is from Rockaway and he enjoyed reading about some of it's history. Seeing this book also made him a little nostalgic; especially when he saw photos of his school principal Monsignor and his old fife and drum corp from Camillus. I know he will cherish this book.

Purchased this as a gift for someone who grew up in the area. Arrived on time and exactly what I was hoping for.

Great shots of the Irish Riviera. It was purchased as a gift for someone who spent a lot of time there (not I, just an occasional municipal "tourist"!)

First of all I want to address McFisher's review: you seem to have missed the fact that this book is in the "Images of America" series and so one would expect there to be mostly photographs. And thank goodness for that. Vivian Carter's work on this great book saved over 60 of these old photographs from oblivion. The originals were destroyed in Hurricane Sandy's attack on the Rockaways. The digitized versions would not exist if not for this book. The photo on page 58 of the bungalow colony is idyllic, my absolute favorite - wish I could have been there then; it even beats the photo of those lifeguards.

I was terribly disappointed in this book. I'm a devotee of Rockaway Beach--spent my summers there my tween and teen-age years. They were my happiest summers. So when I saw this book, I thought it would give me an opportunity to reminisce over old pictures of the boardwalk, the concessions on the boardwalk, the penny arcades, the local shops. Instead the book contains a series of pictures of people I'd never seen before--church people, library people, school people, politicians. I saw the insides of a couple of churches, a few maps of the peninsula, and that's that. It was boring and told a story I wasn't interested in reading. And I'd had such high hopes for it!

Thought it was more than pictures but included some historical perspectives as well  
- disappointing

I bought this book because I live in Rockaway and have a long family history in Rockaway and Brooklyn. My family is related to William O'Dwyer and my grand parents were prominent figures in NYC politics in their time as well. I was upset to find that the book offered very little insight or new information on Rockaway's rich history and seemed to simply provide captions to photographs dug up from archives. From what I understand the author has no real connection to Rockaway and only moved into the area a few years ago. I would recommend picking up something with more substance such as "Between Ocean and City" or "Beyond the Golden Door" or simply talking to people on the peninsula who may offer a much richer oral history than this book provided. Seemed like the author was just aiming to make a quick buck.

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