

Why we should honor and celebrate Paul Cuffe



Compass from Brig Traveller that led Paul Cuffe on voyages to far-away ports.

WHY SHOULD WE HONOR OUR LOCAL HERO?

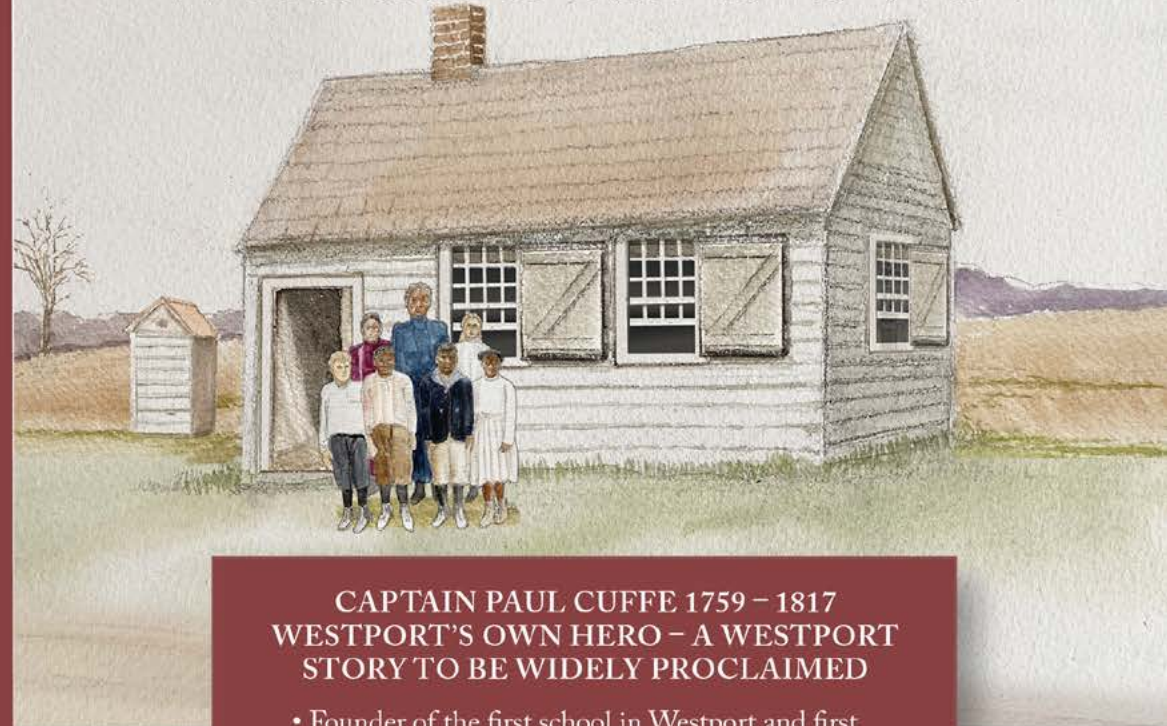
- To express Westport pride of an heroic leader from Westport's early history.
- To engage all of us in the exciting life of one of Westport's most accomplished citizens.
- To build awareness about this Westport hero whose life represents the best of Westport's proud traditions: the hard work of farmers and seafarers and the value of education.
- To highlight Cuffe's adventuresome and captivating story which can inspire all of us to be proud of our community and the values Cuffe lived by: bravery, kindness, generosity, resiliency, community support, ambition, diligence and perseverance.

Westport Historical Society
www.wpthistory.org
www.PaulCuffe.org



Design & Illustrations by Raymond Shaw

CAPTAIN 1759-1817 PAUL CUFFE: WESTPORT'S OWN



CAPTAIN PAUL CUFFE 1759 – 1817 WESTPORT'S OWN HERO – A WESTPORT STORY TO BE WIDELY PROCLAIMED

- Founder of the first school in Westport and first integrated school in America.
- Early advocate of the right for people of color to vote in Massachusetts in 1780.
- First person of color to gain an audience with a U.S. president.
- Strong opponent of slavery who sought to replace the slave trade by promoting African independence and commerce.

PAUL CUFFE:

Innovative Leader & Hero



PAUL CUFFE:

Bold Visionary

BRAVE SEAMAN, ENTREPRENEUR, BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST

- As a teenager, joined whaling expeditions and learned navigation. Ran British blockades to deliver needed goods to people of Nantucket from Westport. Was captured and imprisoned by the British navy and by pirates during the Revolutionary War.
- Built seven ships ranging from 12 to 268 tons at his wharf on Drift Road in Westport, was a successful whaling captain, ran a coastal and international trading business from Westport.
- Supported a community Smallpox hospital, aided the poor, sickly and elderly, helped families of his seamen, and provided half the funds for a Quaker meeting house, all in Westport.

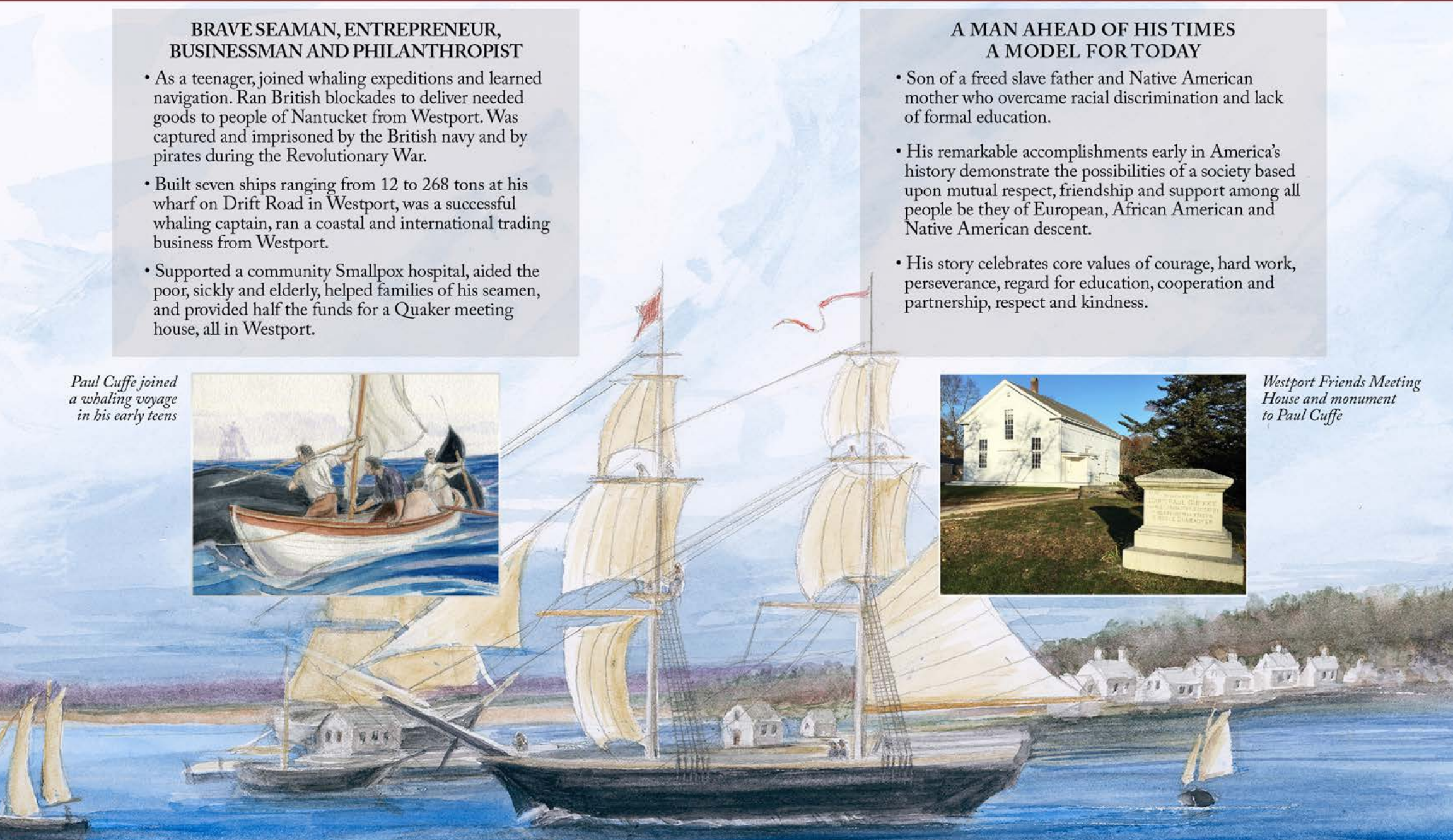
A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIMES A MODEL FOR TODAY

- Son of a freed slave father and Native American mother who overcame racial discrimination and lack of formal education.
- His remarkable accomplishments early in America's history demonstrate the possibilities of a society based upon mutual respect, friendship and support among all people be they of European, African American and Native American descent.
- His story celebrates core values of courage, hard work, perseverance, regard for education, cooperation and partnership, respect and kindness.

Paul Cuffe joined a whaling voyage in his early teens



Westport Friends Meeting House and monument to Paul Cuffe



Traveller passing Westport Point on way to Africa in 1810