

OLD SAYBROOK

Economic Development

For More Info on the Advantages of Living, Working and Playing in Old Saybrook check out The [OS Advantage](#) .

OS Fun Facts

1. Where to find the best Mini Golf in CT?

Saybrook Point according to CT Magazine

"The 18-hole course, mere feet from the gentle waters of Saybrook harbor, is as inviting as its scenic location. All the features of the holes—including local landmarks and classic mini golf challenges—are fresh and brightly painted, while the greens are true and in top condition. And at only \$5 per round, every visit feels like a hole-in-one!"



1 Saybrook Point Mini Golf in Old Saybrook

"Why it's the best: A fun, family-friendly mini golf course with quite arguably the best view in the state."

"Delight the kids w/ mini golf on the water in Old Saybrook, a [#BestofConnecticut 2014 winner](#)."

2. When did a Ferry first crossed the Connecticut River from Ferry Point?

1662

While the exact date of the first crossing is not known, the General Court of Connecticut authorized the establishment of a ferry across the Connecticut River at Tilley's Point (now Ferry Point) in 1662. John Whittlesey, a Saybrook resident, and his brother-in-law, William Dudley of Guildford, were appointed to jointly operate the ferry.



Ferry Crossing late 1800s

The Connecticut River was a significant barrier to east-west travel that was only overcome by ferry service which was often risky. At times it took four or five hours to cross the river from Old Saybrook to Old Lyme and the ferries did not always reach their intended landing spots.

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3. Which University called Old Saybrook its first home?

Yale

Originally known as the "Collegiate School," Yale technically got its start with one student trained in the home of Rector Abraham Pierson of Killingworth (now Clinton). Shortly after, it moved to its first official site in Saybrook. Nathaniel Lynde deeded a building and 10 acres of land in Saybrook to the Collegiate School in 1707.



Yale in New Haven, CT

Although the deed to the Collegiate School required the institution to remain in Saybrook, in 1716 the trustees voted to move the school. A number of local communities bid for the rights to host it, but New Haven outbid them all, and despite Saybrook's residents taking to the streets in protest, the Collegiate School moved to New Haven.

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4. What is the name of the first female African American pharmacist who operated her pharmacy and soda fountain in Old Saybrook?

Anna Louise James

Anna Louise James was born on January 19, 1886, in Hartford. The daughter of a Virginia plantation slave who escaped to Connecticut, she grew up in Old Saybrook. Dedicating her early life to education, Anna became, in 1908, the first African American woman to graduate from the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy in New York.



Anna Louise James at the counter of the James Pharmacy in Old Saybrook

The pharmacy where James worked in Old Saybrook started out as a general store for the Humphrey Pratt Tavern in 1790. The store moved to its current location at the corner of Pennywise Lane in 1877, where it became Lane Pharmacy. Peter Lane, one of

only two black pharmacists in early Connecticut, added a soda fountain to his establishment in 1896.

When Peter got called away to fight in World War I, he left the pharmacy in the care of his sister-in-law, Anna Louise James. In 1917, Anna took over the operations and renamed her business James Pharmacy. Anna, known to local residents as "Miss James," operated the business until 1967.

The pharmacy still stands today and continues to serve as a soda fountain.

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5. **What famous Old Saybrook resident and frequent golfer shot a hole in one at the Old Saybrook Fenwick Golf Course on the morning of the 1938 Hurricane (and later lost her entire home to the storm)?**



Lighthouse View from Fenwick Golf Course in Old Saybrook

Katherine Hepburn

Katherine Hepburn's family owned a summer home in the Fenwick Borough of Old Saybrook where Katherine spent much of her time. The Kate (The Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center) is a theater in [Old Saybrook, Connecticut](#) that opened in 2009. It is the only theater in the world that is named for [Katharine Hepburn](#), the 4-time Academy Award winning actress.

Read More about [Fenwick Golf Course](#)

Read More about the [Great New England Hurricane of 1938](#)

6. **Do you know that Old Saybrook was the HUB of Connecticut's Coastal Rum Running during Prohibition?**

An extensive operation to evade the law and provide liquor to prominent patrons at "Ye Castle Inn," as well as other shoreline and river speakeasies during Prohibition (1920-1933), was launched by August Campbell Strusholm, husband of Jenny Lindbergh and son-in-law of the Old Saybrook "Castle" owners Otto and Margaret



Trolley Power House at the Ferry Point - one of the drop-off points for Prohibition Smugglers

Lindbergh.

With ships that could outrun the U.S. Coast Guard, and late-night pick-up and delivery service provided by local residents from shoreline drop-off points, Strusholm developed one of the largest smuggling operations along the Connecticut coast. His ties to influential political figures and connections with New York-based criminal organizations ensured his success for several years.

[Read more](#)