



Valuable Lighthouse Prism Returned - Page 8

Famous Lighthouse Writer Ray Jones is Speaker at Keeper's Dinner - Page 11

# LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

DEDICATED TO THE  
UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE ESTABLISHMENT

Volume XI Number 3  
Fall 2005

## *Federal Government Takes Shape in 1790* “Light Money” Paid For America’s Revolution *States Traded Lighthouses For Debt Payoff*

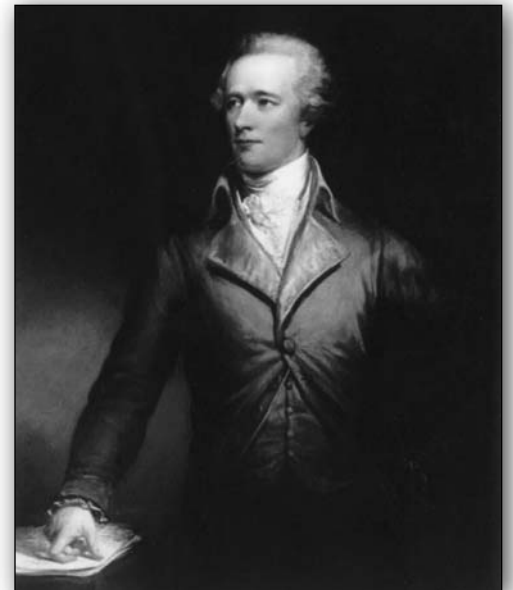
*By Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and Bruce Roberts*

A Revolutionary war-beleaguered nation became symbolized by lighthouses that marked our dangerous coastline during the late eighteenth century. They said to the mariner, “We care. We’ll help. We want to do business with you.” Our forefathers had a grand plan to pay off Revolutionary War debts and to populate and develop economically the interior territories of a growing nation. As visionaries, the Constitution’s framers knew that safe shipping meant prosperity. It was essential for the lighthouses to become the property of the new Federal government.

*When Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown October 19, 1781, the war had been finally been won. But, there was no United States of America, only 13 colony-states with their own independence, about a dozen lighthouses, and millions of dollars in war debts. Many Americans do not realize that our country did not suddenly appear as an organized nation following the writing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It took a dozen tough years to hammer out the details, and thanks to our Constitutions’ framers, the United States became reality. As we all know, it is still a work-in-progress with interpretation of our founders’ intentions. Lighthouses are at the root of the issues.*

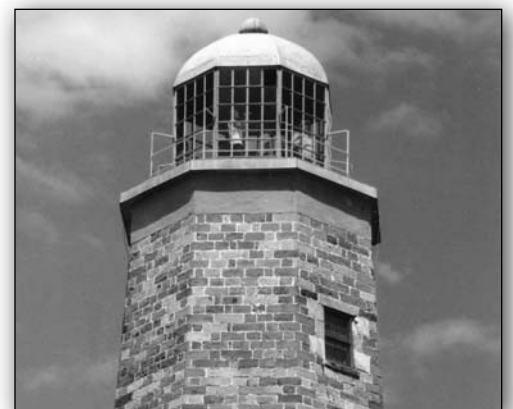
Following the war, the problems were just beginning. After years of debate, some of the hottest of which were heard during 1787-88, it looked like there was no hope to ratify the Constitution and create a strong central American government. That would have left this nation only a loose confederation of states. James Madison, a diplomat and creator of compromises, came up with the “sectionist agreement” to sweeten the pot for the two disagreeing factions in the North and the South. Madison worked out a deal that, simply expressed, convinced the North to look the other way, so to speak, concerning slavery in the South for 20 years, and the South agreed to vote for navigational legislation. The North was primarily concerned

*Story text continued on page 2*



*Alexander Hamilton became the first “superintendent of lighthouses.” He carried out the wishes of President Washington and made lighthouses a priority of the new Congress’s attentions. Taxes on shipping kick-started the nation’s economy and lighthouses were important to improve the safety of shipping to draw new people and goods to American ports. (Below) Cape Henry became the first Federally funded building in the new nation.*

Portrait by Daniel Huntington circa 1865, based on a portrait painted by John Trumbull. U.S. Treasury Collection.



# States Traded Lighthouses For Debt Payoff

Continued from page 1

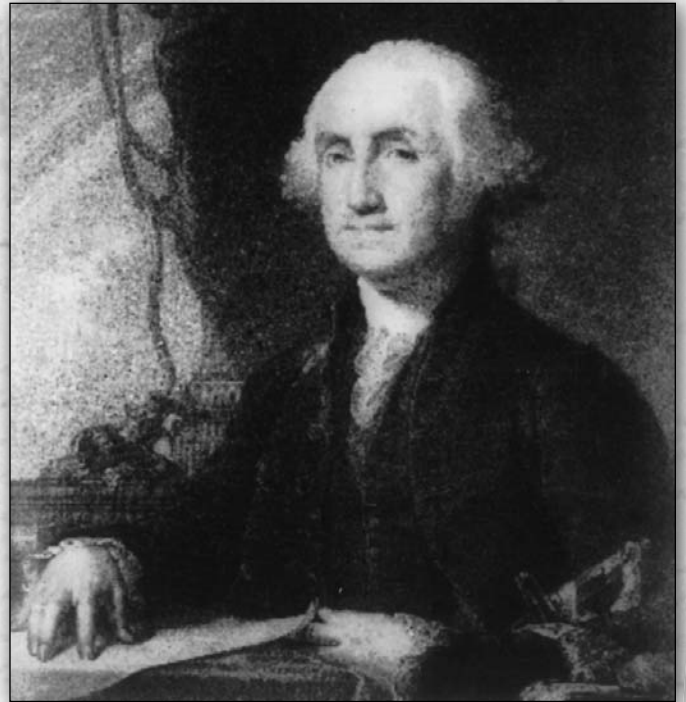
that shipping was given priority. On the other hand, the South was concerned that its agrarian economy would be allowed to continue, which relied heavily on slavery to be successful. In exchange, all states would relinquish ownership of their lighthouses to the new Federal government with the provision that the government would assume and pay off millions in war debts. The transfer of lighthouses to the government was perhaps the first real estate deal of the new nation. In exchange, the government received the right to charge duties on shipped goods to raise revenue to fuel the new government's economy. Nothing has changed—revenue to support and keep the new nation going was the greatest concern.

Alexander Hamilton and Madison had a plan, and it was a win-win situation although individual states remained wary of giving up any states rights. After all, the government was brand-spanking new and promises, after all, were only promises. By giving up state ownership of lighthouses, states were also giving up the right to charge a “Light Money” tax on all ships bringing in goods to the new nation. Hamilton crunched the numbers and Madison proposed the “tonnage resolution” under the Commerce Clause. All ships bringing in goods to the new nation would be charged a tonnage tax on goods imported. This was an old and accepted tax in Europe and a huge source of government revenue. Not only did it provide money for the general economy, pay off the war debts, build lighthouses and other navigational aids, but it also helped put American goods on equal footing concerning price comparison with foreign goods.

To further entice all the states to ratify the constitution, Madison promised that the new government would not only complete lighthouses already planned but it would also take over responsibility for building many new ones and maintain them all. This far-reaching legislation would serve as “legislative precedent” that would reverberate through history giving the Federal government future rights of grand proportion concerning claim to lands needed for infrastructure improvement. Its impact has reached the halls of Congress time and again over the past two centuries for various Federal projects ranging from ports, bridges, lighthouses, and even national parks.

*The early history of North Carolina's lighthouses was written by names we know. Alexander Hamilton, as Secretary of the Treasury, made the final decision where the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse would be located. President Jefferson appointed the first keeper in 1803 perhaps with the same pen he signed the Louisiana Purchase. Washington himself raised the pay of the keeper at Bald Head Lighthouse to \$333.33 a year—he said it was just as important as any other light.*

Thus, the story of North Carolina's lighthouses is part of the greater story about a fledgling country struggling to organize a Federal government and to become a *unified* nation. We remember Thomas Jefferson and his stirring words in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution—but it was Alexander Hamilton's deft handling of figures and money and the “Light Money” tax that helped turn the tide for the adoption of the Constitution. As George Washington's aide-de-camp during the Revolutionary War, he likely had listened to visions from the future President for developing this nation from coast to coast.



*Americans grow up in awe of this man. We hear the words over and over “Father of our Country.” And it's true, but there's more to this man than just the prestigious title. George Washington was a daring leader; he was smart, wise, determined, and he loved America. He saw the potential of the country with its vast, spacious land and its resilient people. He dared to dream of a united nation with a bright future and lit the way with lighthouses.*

Photo courtesy Library of Congress

Washington created the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment, as the service was then known, by proposing the ninth act of the first Congress—immediately following the first eight acts of business to create the various departments of the government. The first building funded Federally authorized by Congress was not a courthouse or post office but rather a lighthouse at Cape Henry. North Carolina would earn the privilege of receiving the first southern coastal warning light at Cape Hatteras (1803), proposed as early as 1794. In short order, the new government exercised its right to decide how to build the lights, where to place them, and which spots on the East Coast received priority for getting a lighthouse.

It was powerful precedent the government set when it won states' approval to take their lighthouses and the land they guarded into Federal ownership. The new government officially took charge of all lighthouses August 7, 1789. The "Light Money" and control of water navigation in America were keys to our government's ability to set standards for building lighthouses and to improve safety of shipping—but most of all, the "Light Money" paid for it.

Enjoy our lighthouses' stately beauty and know they are a significant part of our national history, woven into the fabric of our nation's framers' dreams. ✎

© 2005 Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and Bruce Roberts

*This excerpt is from an upcoming book on the history of the USLHE*

Readings on this subject:

*His Excellency: George Washington* by Joseph Ellis. Alfred A. Knopf, NY (2004).

*North Carolina Lighthouses* by David Stick. Division of Archives and History, NC Dept. of Cultural Resources (1992).

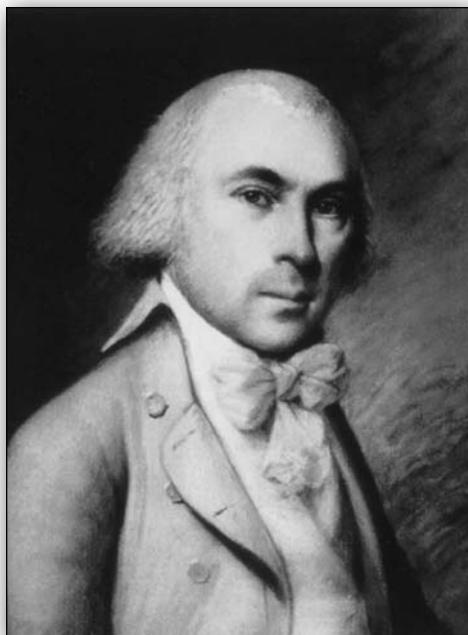
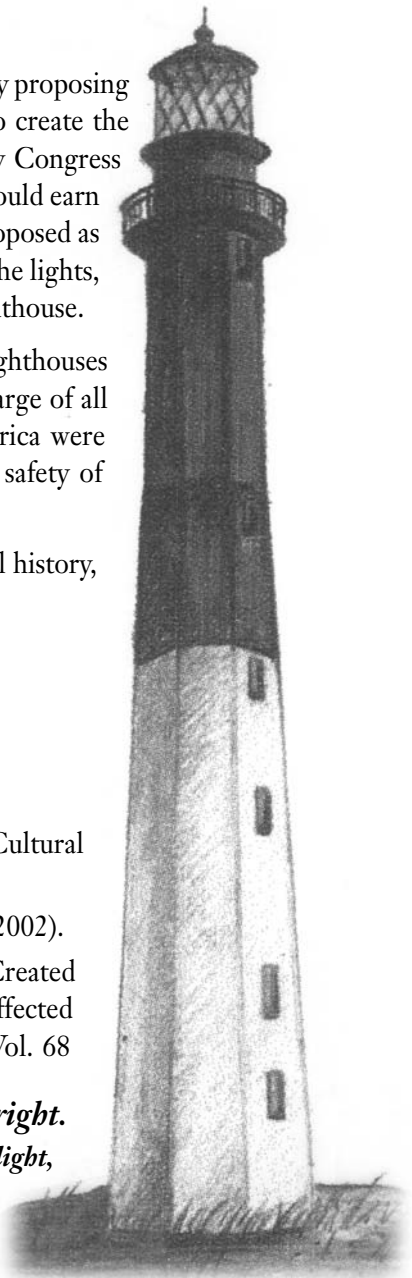
*Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph Ellis. Vintage Books, New York (2002).

Article "From the Lighthouse How the First Federal Internal Improvement Projects Created Precedent that Broadened the Commerce Clause, Shrunk the Takings Clause, and Affected Early Nineteenth Century Constitutional Debate" by Adam Grace, Albany Law Review, Vol. 68 (Jan. 2005).

### *The first Cape Hatteras at right.*

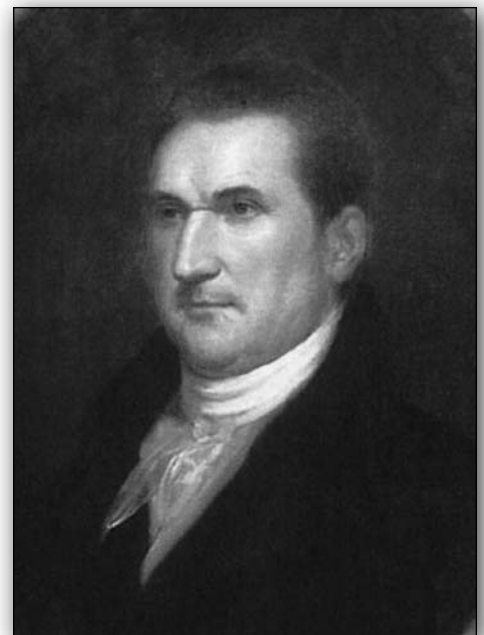
*North Carolina was recipient of the first southern, tall coastal light that served as a warning light, not the traditional welcoming harbor light. The government took responsibilities for all lighthouses, beacons, buoys, and public piers August 7, 1789.*

Art by Mike Litwin



*At left, James Madison was one of the American Constitution's framers. He successfully created compromises that would see the Constitution ratified and take effect in 1788. He then proposed the "tonnage resolution" that would pay war debts and give the new Federal government power over owning lighthouses and levying taxes. Photo courtesy [www.foundingfathers.info](http://www.foundingfathers.info) At right, Henry Dearborn, was a significant player in the formation of the United States. He served with General Washington at Valley Forge, became Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of War, and later helped shape the future of West Point. Between the years 1800-03, he built the first Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.*

Photo courtesy of Independence National Historic Park; Artist Charles Wilson Peale



# *A “modern,” early 20th century light*

# **The Cape Fear Light:**

# **Its History and Families**

# *A Lost Light 1903-1958*

by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

At the turn of the twentieth century, a drastic change had occurred in the channel through the Cape Fear River. A tall coastal light was needed as a guide around the shoals and into the river to the Port of Wilmington, North Carolina’s chief shipping point. To answer the need for a coastal light on Bald Head Island on the shore of the Cape Fear, the Light-House Board constructed a steel skeleton tower in 1903 at the end of Federal Road on the southeast tip of Smith Island. Its only principal keeper was Charlie Swan, “Cap’n Charlie” as he was known to islanders—a legend in his own time. It is said that Captain Charlie’s eyes were as deep blue as the sea he loved. He was from generations of seafaring men and his father had also worked for the U.S. Lighthouse Service. His valued partners were Assistant Keepers James Smith and Devaney Farrow Jennette, also from generations of seafarers.

A keen \$70,000 was appropriated in two \$35,000 increments to get this tower built because Frying Pan Shoals had become as dangerous as Diamond Shoals off Cape Hatteras and Lookout Shoals off Cape Lookout. A tower taller than the existing 110-foot-tall Old Baldy was needed to guide mariners past the shoals that caused shallow water far out to sea—as deadly as a loaded gun with a hair trigger for unsuspecting mariners. The white skeleton tower rose starkly 161 feet out of the sand on the southeast corner of the island, poised on a steep, sandy dune that put it high above the island as if on a pedestal. Its spider-web-like bracing and eight tremendous supporting columns made it an imposing structure. The black ironwork of the lantern room housed a magnificent, sparkling first order Fresnel lens illuminated by an oil lamp.

A tightly knit community formed between the lighthouse keepers, who lived in three separate oceanside homes near the lighthouse and the U.S. Life-Saving surfmen and their families; they were all especially kind to anyone in need of help. As “sister services,” the Cape Fear Lighthouse keepers kept constant vigil for shipwrecks. In *Bald Head: A History of Smith Island and Cape Fear*, author David Stick stated that if a wreck were spotted, keepers used signal flags to send out the alarm immediately to the Cape Fear Life-saving Station’s surfmen, pilots in Southport, and tugboat companies. All responded with teamwork to any emergency.



*Keeper Charlie Swan kept his light on Bald Head Island for nearly three decades. See an exhibit on him and the Bald Head Lights in the 1850s reproduction keeper’s cottage that serves as the Smith Island Museum of History. The Old Baldy Foundation maintains*

*the extant 1817 tower as a private aid to navigation that has become the most recognized symbol of the island and is the oldest tower standing in North Carolina.*

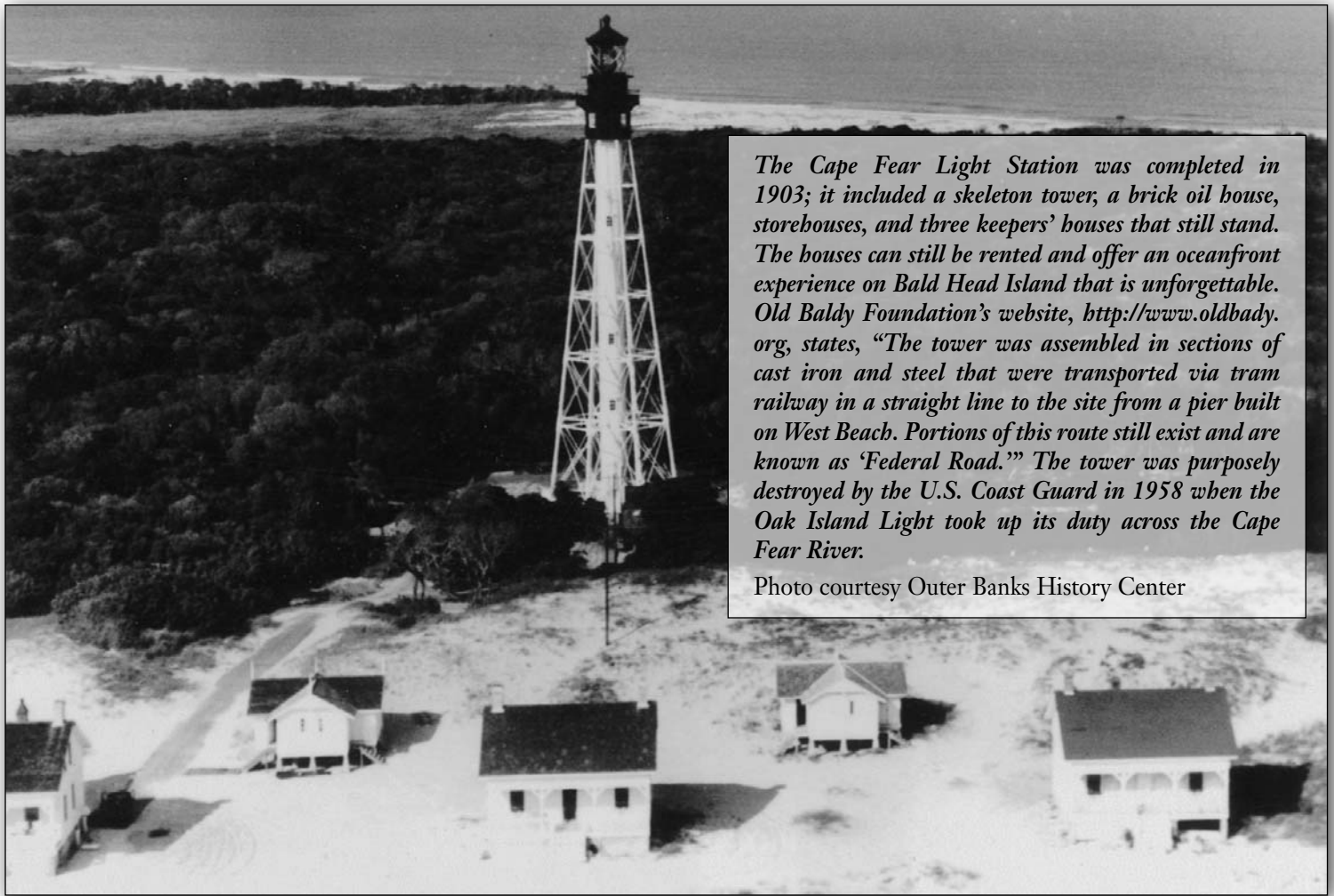
Photo courtesy Old Baldy Foundation and Smith Island Museum of History

Cap’n Charlie’s house could instantly become a convalescent ward where his wife, Marie, was ready to help unfortunate shipwreck victims with a bath, a change of dry clothing, and a bed in which to rest weary limbs. Assistant keepers’ families stood by to help also.

Cap’n Charlie manned the tower until his retirement in 1933 after 29 dedicated years. Sheafe Satterwaite, former professor with the Center for Environmental Studies at Williams College, Massachusetts, spent time with Cap’n Charlie and his family in Southport. He quoted the old keeper about his career. “We kept it [Cape Fear Lighthouse] burning and kept it in good repair all those years. There were only 11 days the light didn’t burn. That was during the First World War when the [German] submarines came over there. All the other years it went on the same...There were three keepers.

“The light came from France. At that time we didn’t know how to make that kind of glass. It has prisms and they magnify. It was 87,000 candle-power and burned [kerosene] oil. Later it had a mantle light—oil pressure, you know. It had a six-inch mantle. The light was on exhibition at the World’s Fair in Chicago. \*see note. It was brought right here from there and put in the lighthouse.

“She wouldn’t run good, the revolving gear, and they come in there about 20 years before I retired and put in a mercury



*The Cape Fear Light Station was completed in 1903; it included a skeleton tower, a brick oil house, storehouses, and three keepers' houses that still stand. The houses can still be rented and offer an oceanfront experience on Bald Head Island that is unforgettable. Old Baldy Foundation's website, <http://www.oldbaldy.org>, states, "The tower was assembled in sections of cast iron and steel that were transported via tram railway in a straight line to the site from a pier built on West Beach. Portions of this route still exist and are known as 'Federal Road.'" The tower was purposely destroyed by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1958 when the Oak Island Light took up its duty across the Cape Fear River.*

Photo courtesy Outer Banks History Center

fluid. They put a small light outside on the balcony then. The regular light was out 47 days then because we had to take the lens clean down and take all the old apparatus down and build new to put the mercury fluid in. After that we had no trouble at all. We had to watch all the time, night and day. The lens was so balanced you could take your little finger and move that whole thing around, even though it must have weighed three ton.

"It had a stove at the top and had a smoke stack up high. It burned so much wood, and hoisting it up 169 feet was a hard job, so they gave us an oil stove. That was a cold place up there.

"I lost one man from walking up the steps just about six months before I came out of service. He died of a heart attack. He dropped dead just shortly after he got up there—just started to talk and fell over...We never had anybody hurt there in all that painting danger; nobody got hurt or fell. We never had any bad accidents."

"It kind of hurt me when they blew up my light [1958]. I got the vestibule door. They gave it to me for a souvenir."

The U.S. Coast Guard destroyed Cap'n Charlie's light by dynamite blasts in 1958, but she didn't go down without a fight. The stalwart tower resisted destruction—Cap'n Charlie was holding her up, some say—and it took several blasts of dynamite to finally bring her down. The light was then passed to a more "modern" coastal lighthouse that the U.S. Coast Guard built on Oak Island across the Cape Fear on the neighboring island.

## Assistant Keeper Jennette died while on watch

Dawn Farrow Taylor is the great-granddaughter of veteran Assistant Keeper Devaney Farrow Jennette and proudly is his namesake. She is writing a book on her family's generations of involvement with the U.S. Life-Saving Service and Lighthouse Service, a lineage she is grateful for since she thinks the past, great generations have passed on to her a resilient spirit for life. Dawn wrote of Keeper Jennette. "'Pop,' as we called him, [Assistant Keeper Devaney Farrow Jennette] passed away in 1932 at change of command at the Cape Fear Light. At the time he was talking to Cap'n Swan, supposedly about chickens.

"Being that he died in 1932, I didn't get the pleasure and honor of meeting my great-grandfather. But I did know his wife and I have fond memories of 'Mom.' She called my great grandfather 'Dane,' short for 'Devaney.' Being from Cape Hatteras, there were not many options for one's livelihood, so in 1908 Pop entered into the Lighthouse Service in order to provide for the family. He and Mom had four children. There was my Grandmother Gladys Winifred. Grandmother had three brothers, Carl Ross, Devaney Elwood [Keeper Jennette's son], and Hubert Heath. That made quite a few mouths to feed! His first appointment as assistant keeper was in 1908 at the Thomas Point Shoal Light Station in Maryland. Quite a way from his island home.

“In those days travel wasn’t like it is today. Through some of the documents, it shows that it would be months and even years between visits back home. I couldn’t imagine not seeing my family for such long stints at a time. In 1909, Pop was appointed as Second Assistant Keeper at Smith Point Light Station, Virginia. Way back then he had a salary of only \$37.50 a month! But I imagine that in those days, that was good pay. Over the twenty-four years that he was associated with the Light House Service, he had the privilege of being a keeper at quite a few lighthouses. Two more lights were to play a role in his life. They were the Hunting Island Light [SC] in which he was stationed from 1917-1919 and the Cape Fear Light on Bald Head Island from 1919-1932. His years at Cape Fear made a lasting impact on our family and that of Cap’n Charlie Swan. I had always heard that after he had his heart attack while up-top the light, that he had to be lowered over and down the side of the light. Cap’n Charlie’s granddaughter, Thelma Margaret, stated that Cap’n Charlie had to wrap Pop before lowering him to the ground. Being that they were together for 13 years at Cape Fear, I imagine they had become like family to each other. It has been said that after Pop’s death, Cap’n Charlie was never the same and neither was our family. Mom, along with my father, Kenneth, and his sister Ella Nora, who we call Aunt Nonie, returned to their island home and the village of Buxton. There were many other keepers in our Jennette line as well as his two sons who became Coast Guardsmen. It is a heritage that I hold dear to my heart.”

## Keepers’ daughters– a favorite of the community’s young suitors—a story about Cap’n Charlie’s daughter

Traditionally, island women, especially keepers’ daughters married U.S. Life-Saving Service crewmen and Coast Guardsmen, as one would expect due to the proximity of the stations. Many of the families are descendants/relatives of both services. Marie (Swan) Harris is just one example. Marie’s father was veteran U.S. Lighthouse Service Keeper “Cap’n” Charlie Swan at the Cape Fear Lighthouse on Bald Head Island.

Marie spoke of her life as a keeper’s daughter. “I lived in Southport and went to school during the year and spent summers on the island with Papa. Oh we loved it! The island was our playground and the Atlantic Ocean was our swimming pool. I shadowed him everywhere he went. There was a small space by his desk in the keeper’s quarters where I slipped into and quietly stood and watched him write in his log everyday. And when he had first watch, that’s from sundown until midnight, he sometimes didn’t want to eat early so I took his supper up to him. That lens was beautiful! He cleaned it just so and we children never, ever touched anything.”

On Bald Head Island there was a Coast Guard Station and Marie, at age 18, married one of the handsome “coasties” in 1929. Having been raised in the traditional island way of life where a lighthouse was as much a part of the family as another loved one, she became a keeper’s wife and lived at the Cape



*Keeper Jennette, or “Pop” as he was lovingly known to his family, holds his grandson Kenneth Dickerson, Jr. in his left hand and granddaughter Nora Ella in his left.*

Picture from the private collection of Dawn Farrow Taylor

Lookout Lighthouse when her husband, Virgil, was stationed there in the 1950s. She loves to tell the story of meeting her husband. “He was stationed at the Bald Head Island Coast Guard Station and I was still in school in Southport when we met. While on a trip to Southport, the men [Coast Guardsmen] would stand on the corner and look the girls over.” Marie speaks with a big grin when she talked about how she and the other pretty girls must have been the inspiration for the song “Standing on the corner, watching all the girls go by.” A diminutive Marie walked past him and he asked one of his buddies while pointing her out, “Who is that girl?”

The Coastie friend told him, “Why, that’s Cap’n Charlie’s daughter.”

Although he had never even met young Marie, Virgil stated confidently, “That’s the girl I’m going to marry.”

In her home in Marshallburg where she lives with daughter Thelma Margaret, near Cape Lookout, her last lighthouse home, we sat near the back door beside the living room cooled by a breeze off Core Sound. Marie continued her story with her bright blue eyes smiling, “I was walking home from school with my friends one day and one dropped off at her house, then the next girl stopped at her house, and then it was just me continuing home. Before I knew it, a young man came up beside me and asked ‘Will it be all right if I walk you home?’ And I said ‘I suppose so.’ He was 6’ 2” and the most handsome face I’ve ever seen!”

Once again, the Lighthouse Service and Lifesaving Service/Coast Guard were blended in marriage. Virgil was stationed at Cape Lookout and Marie and her two daughters lived in the lower portion of the keepers’ quarters. She and daughter Thelma still speak of the cape as if it were a magical place. “I wouldn’t give anything for my life,” Marie concluded. †



*Keeper Devaney Farrow Jennette holds his little granddaughter, Nora Ella "Nonie." Note the shadows of the cross bracing of the Cape Fear Lighthouse, a skeleton tower that held a stairway up the middle circular casing. Also note the U.S.L.H.E. over the tower's entrance and the decorative stars on either side. The Lighthouse Service, as it was collectively called over its 150-year existence, was originally referred to as the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment.*

Picture is from the private collection of Keeper Jennette's great granddaughter, Dawn Farrow Taylor

*\*Note: The World's Fair, held in St. Louis to celebrate the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase, was ready to open in 1903 but was delayed until April 1904. The Cape Fear Light is listed as having been lighted 31 August 1903. One might presume the magnificent Fresnel lens was on display early in the pre-opening days of the fair and then shipped to Bald Head Island and put into service.*

*Thanks go to Dawn Taylor for her generously sharing information on her great grandfather, Devaney Farrow Jennette. And thanks to Marie Harris for her story about her father, Captain Charlie Swan.*

#### **Reader's list on the Cape Fear Lighthouse and surrounding lights.**

*Cap'n Charlie and Lights of the Lower Cape Fear* by Ethel Herring, Hunter Publishing Co. (1967).

*List of Beacons, Buoys and Day-Marks in the Fifth Light-House District.* Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Lighthouse Service (1932).

*Notes on Bald Head Island* by Sheafe Satterwaith (1964), in the collection of David Stick housed at the Outer Banks History Center, Manteo, NC.

*Bald Head: A History of Smith Island and Cape Fear* by David Stick. Broadfoot Publishing Co. (1985).

*North Carolina Lighthouses* by David Stick. Division of Archives and History, NC Dept. of Cultural Resources (1992).

*Oak Island Lighthouse* by its builder, Bill Brinkley. Self published (2002).

## **Lighthouse Survives Katrina Keeper's Son Doing Well**

The demure Biloxi Lighthouse is still standing, in an amazing feat of defiance after having endured a hurricane that meteorologists say could have qualified as a Category 6, if there were such a rating. The small lighthouse peers above wreckage of the destroyed Mississippi coast and the amount of destruction is unbelievable. Nearby in Gulfport the Naval Home was badly damaged. One of OBLHS's dearest friends, John Gaskill, is a resident of that home. Each summer, John returns to his Wanchese home and volunteers at Bodie Island Lighthouse, his childhood home. He had an unfortunate fall on the porch of the Bodie Island keepers' quarters and suffered broken ribs, which kept him from returning to Gulfport at the end of July as usual. Thus, as fate would have it, his delayed departure put John safely on the Outer Banks when Katrina slammed into the Mississippi coast and put 30 feet of water in the front yard of the Naval Home. With not a little anxiety and frustration, he has kept in touch with his "shipmates" at the home and all were safely rescued after the storm, many having to be taken out via the rooftop. The home is being re-established in Washington, D.C., temporarily. John is an inspiration with his stories of growing up at the Bodie Island Light Station during the 1920s and 30s. And the little Biloxi Light will continue as an inspiration for the Gulf Coast during its recovery and far, far beyond.

Following Hurricane Katrina, there are a number of Gulf lighthouses that were either destroyed or badly damaged. For example, the U.S. Geological Survey reported: "Chandeleur Islands, Louisiana, located east of the Delta, after Hurricane Katrina. Starting at the north end of the island chain looking south and west. The lighthouse was not found, tower appears at onscreen time stamp 18:33:33. As the flight proceeds south, the islands that do appear are marshy outcrops with no sand left. Comparison to before footage shows dramatic removal of all the sand... "I've seen dramatic responses in the Chandeleur Islands after a number of storms but I've never seen it this bad," said USGS scientist Abby Sallenger. The dramatic changes makes finding the same locations for 'before and after' comparisons more challenging. Before and after photo pairs are posted at <http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/hurricanes/katrina/>"

*Late information at printing time indicates no damage to North Carolina lighthouses during Hurricane Ophelia.*

# *The joy of returning an artifact to its “home”*

# My Search for The Jewel of the Cape Fear

*By Dr. Stratton C. Murrell*

This is the story of how a book can be the key to an extraordinary adventure which leads to the discovery of a priceless jewel, a historical artifact. It begins like this...

Cape Fear is a part of the southern Outer Banks of North Carolina which has rightfully earned the title of **The Graveyard of the Atlantic**. Many ships have been grounded on the dangerous sand shoals of this area and have been destroyed along with their captains and crews. The Cape Fear Lighthouse (1903-1958) was a beacon which guarded the entrance to the Port of Wilmington. It exhibited a magnificent first order Fresnel lens with hundreds of special prisms that magnified the intensity of the light so a ship's captain could maneuver safely into port. Or, if he navigated an ocean-going vessel, the light helped him to know to stay far enough at sea to avoid grounding on Frying Pan Shoals.

Since my family lives close to the ocean we have always been interested in water sports, but we knew very little about lighthouses. About forty years ago while we were in Labriola's Antique Shop in Wilmington, one of the clerks said that since I was an optometrist that I would be interested in a large bar prism which they had on display. She said that the prism was a part of the illumination system for Old Baldy near Wilmington. I was suspicious of the story, but it was a very unique lens so I purchased it for fifty dollars and put it on display at our home. The prism was a good conversation piece and reminded us that we had visited all North Carolina lights except Old Baldy. My curiosity grew each time I studied my prized prism.

A short time later we were at Fort Fisher, also near Wilmington where I saw a big wall map which showed that there used to be two entrances to the Port of Wilmington. I had heard stories that during the Civil War blockade runners took advantage of the two entrances and each time they wanted to make a run out to sea, they slipped through the port entrance that was guarded the least. Legend has it that Federal troops tried to fill in one entrance with rocks so that ships could not enter at this point. As a kid I had walked on “the Rocks” many times and had seen people fishing there. No one seemed to know the details of the story, but I had noticed that the large rocks were piled high near the shore and extended out across the water for only about a hundred yards. I figured that the “Feds” were not able to finish the job because of battle conditions. But much to my surprise, I noticed about one hundred years later that “the Rocks” extended all the way across the



*The 1903 Cape Fear Light sent a spear of light out across Frying Pan Shoals, which lingers off the coast of Bald Head Island. For a number of years this light was on as well as the familiar Old Baldy Light. This “modern” tower was destroyed in 1958 but Old Baldy continues to greet visitors to the island.*

Painting by Mike Litwin

river. According to the map “the Rocks” extended all the way to Bald Head Island. In fact, it was a back entrance to the Old Baldy Lighthouse.

The rocks were piled high on the mainland side, just above the water. But farther out into the water there were fewer rocks. After about one hundred yards more there were so few rocks that they were entirely covered at high tide. Apparently, most people figured that it was too dangerous to advance any farther.



## Dangerous exploration

I thought that it would be a great adventure to explore this “new” way to Old Baldy. We invited another family and their children to go with us across “the Rocks.” We calculated when the tide would be at its lowest point, which was early in the morning—so we packed our lunch and we were on our way. It was really exciting as we approached the other shore, but things went awry when I realized that just a regular map does not show certain geological conditions. The rocks ended in a salt marsh very close to the opposite shore, and there sat Old Baldy just a short distance away—across the salt marsh. I told my wife, Billie Jean, that we could wade across the way, but she said that this was a very bad idea because the tide was coming in. It would be especially dangerous for the children. We got back to the mainland just in time and breathed a sigh of relief that this part of the adventure had ended. But my intrigue with Old Baldy and the possibility that I had an artifact from its lens continued to build my curiosity. I wanted to know more.

The prism was on display at our home for a while and we told some stories about how it had inspired us to learn more about Old Baldy. We kept saying that one day we would go to Bald Head Island the regular way, but we never did.

Time went by and the children grew up and left home. The Peter Pan kind of adventure was pushed out of our minds and the hectic life associated with Civil Rights marches, Viet Nam, the Gulf Wars, and the robber barons of Wall Street took us into harsh reality.

## A Dream Accomplished

And then came a book which was the key to the continuation of an adventure which had begun thirty years ago. Bruce Roberts and his wife, Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, have recently written a book about the lighthouses of North Carolina (published by Our State Magazine 2004). I was at one of their book signings and as Bruce was autographing my copy I told him about the prism I purchased at Labriola’s Antique Shop. Bruce told me that if the prism was authentic that it was a valuable historical artifact. At that time Bruce suggested that I donate the prism to some museum. Later on I talked to Cheryl and she said that according to the time that I purchased the prism, it was probably from the Cape Fear Lighthouse which was built

► *Marilyn Ridgeway of the Old Baldy Foundation signs a receipt that Stratton Murrell (at right) has donated one of the prisms from the 1903 Cape Fear Light to the Old Baldy Foundation. At left is Mark Murrell and in the center is Stratton’s wife, Billie Jean. Stratton hopes this action will encourage more of the prisms bought at a local antique dealer’s shop will be returned.*

on Bald Head Island in 1903 and was torn down in 1958—not from Old Baldy that I had been led to believe all those years. She suggested that I contact The Old Baldy Foundation and donate it to their museum. I contacted the museum and the staff said that the prism is priceless. I then had the prism evaluated by a certified appraiser and I found that any non-cash donation over five hundred dollars had to be filed on form 8283 for a tax deduction. An article in this newsletter, “Lighthouse News,” indicated that there were probably several lighthouse prisms that had been part of the great lens in the Cape Fear Light that had been acquired by tourists and are still stowed away in attics all over the country.

## Returning a collector’s piece to its home

The problem is how to convince people that they should donate these prisms back to the North Carolina Lighthouses? Most people are not willing to donate expensive things unless there is some kind of reward. I have found that a reward can be a tax deduction and/or some sort of recognition for the donor who has saved something of historical value to North Carolina and that can be shared with future generations.

One story leads to another and the thought occurred to me that the donation of these prisms would be a noble thing to do in that it helps to conserve our lighthouses and their history. It would also be good public relations for North Carolina. But another question is how do you contact the people who now have possession of the prisms? One way would be for the story MY SEARCH FOR THE JEWEL OF THE CAPE FEAR to be published in this award-winning newsletter as well as Our State Magazine because it describes the adventure of finding a priceless prism while saving some of North Carolina’s history.

We donated our prism to the Old Baldy Foundation on June 17, 2005. This story is like the Antique Road Show except that instead of wanting to display or keep our prize in our family, we gave our prism to the Old Baldy Foundation so that others can enjoy it. We named the prism “The Jewel of the Cape Fear” not only because it is a priceless historical artifact of North Carolina but also because it may serve as a magnetic force which will persuade others to donate their prisms. Our adventure would have never happened except for the inspiration of Bruce and Cheryl Roberts and their book about the *Lighthouses of North Carolina: A Tribute to History and Hope*. ✎



## *Dimming the Light* **Jessie Lee Babb Dominique** **August 2, 1927 - August 5, 2005**

The maritime community has lost a significant piece of living history upon the death of Jessie Lee (Babb) Dominique August 5, 2005. Those who participated in the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society trip to Portsmouth Village a year ago will recall her leading our group and telling some of her wonderful stories about growing up on the island.

Lee is the subject of an oral history I have been working on from time to time over the past two years. During the times we spent together I found in her a dear friend and confidante. For a diminutive lady, she was a dynamo and possessed an unsinkable spirit. In her lifetime she had taken care of others during sickness and old age. She was an active member of the Ann Street Methodist Church where she dedicated much of her time along with helping organize Meals on Wheels. She was an avid square dancer and a volunteer for the Cape Lookout National Seashore as well as, a leader of the Friends of Portsmouth, and she gave numerous presentations to school and civic groups about her life on the island. I have Richard Meissner to thank for introducing us. Richard, Lee's dear friend, is the volunteer coordinator for Cape Lookout National Seashore, founding member and member of the Board of Directors of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society, and an all-round civically minded and significant contributor to Harkers Island and Carteret County.

Lee left a small piece of paper with a handwritten note that was discovered and shared by her nephew, Frank Giannino. In it she said, "...I thank God for creating me and giving me to the loving parents and family I had and for placing me on the beautiful Island of Portsmouth that will always be home to me...."

Lee was loved and cherished by many. And she will live on strong and bright in the hearts of those fortunate to have known her or to have heard some of her stories.

Richard wrote of her on the Friends of Portsmouth website <http://www.friendsofportsmouthisland.com>:

*"Friends will always remember Jessie Lee as 'the last baby born on Portsmouth, the last one to go to school there, and my family was the last to leave.' She was a charter member of The Friends of Portsmouth Island.*

*"Lee traveled to Portsmouth on Monday, August 1, with friends Frances Eubanks and Marjorie Spruill. They were joined by park volunteers Ed and Rene Burgess and Ocracoke friends Rudy Austin and Chester Lynn on Tuesday to celebrate Lee's 78th birthday.*

*"A celebration of her life was held at the Ann Street Methodist Church in Beaufort on Thursday, August 11. During that service, the Portsmouth Methodist Church Bell was rung to honor Lee. Chester brought a pail of Portsmouth sand to the gravesite where friends were invited to sprinkle a handful of sand into the grave. An informal celebration of Lee's life is planned for the Portsmouth Methodist Church on Saturday, October 15 at 11:00 a.m."*



*Jessie Lee sits on the porch of her aunts' and uncle's former home in Portsmouth Village, next door to her childhood home and near the Methodist Church. Traditionally, she has visited Portsmouth for her birthday; it always was a happy time.*

Photo courtesy of one of Lee's close friends, Marjorie Spruill

# Come Celebrate Our 10th Anniversary!!!

**This year's** annual Keepers' Dinner and awards banquet marks the 10th year of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society! There is an entire weekend planned, beginning **Friday**: a tour of the Roanoke Island Festival Park, the Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse, and the Washington Creef boathouse.

**Friday Dinner** will be at the Dunes restaurant in Nags Head.

**Saturday**: a reception at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras Village, home to the recently restored 1854 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Fresnel Lens; climb the Hatteras tower, picnic lunch, then visit Bodie Island Lighthouse. Mike Helsabeck will present the Society a donation from the sales of his "Snows at Bodie," a painting inspired by Bruce Robert's photography and will be used on the NC Wildlife Federation 2006 calendar!

**Saturday Dinner**: at the Comfort Inn South in Nags Head. Reserve a room at a reduced rate (252) 441-6315). **Guest speaker is Ray Jones**, author of *Lighthouse Encyclopedia*, Globe Pequot's original lighthouse travel series and *American Lighthouses* coauthored with Bruce Roberts, *Legendary Lighthouses* and many more. Get your Harbour Lights signed by **Nancy Younger**. Participate in a **brief members' meeting and meet our new officers and board of directors**. Take part in our lively **auction of lighthouse artifacts and collectibles**. This year's **raffle** (three chances of a week's stay in a house on the coast) will help the Society's ongoing efforts to educate people of our lighthouses and aid in their preservation. The drawing will take place October 22nd before the auction. Tickets have been sent separately with an addressed envelope for your convenience should you decide to purchase them, or return them.

**Sunday Send-Off Breakfast** at the Dunes.

Downloadable forms for registration can be found on our website:  
[www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org](http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org)

Or you may make reservations directly. **Make checks to the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society** and send to: Bett Padgett 1213 Dixie Trail Raleigh, NC 27607-6841

**NON-MEMBERS add \$15** to this amount. This will include a one-year's OBLHS membership. **Please include your address, phone number and email address as well.**

## Cost per person

- Saturday only is . . . . . \$ 60.00 \_\_\_\_\_ includes dinner
- Friday and Saturday is . . . . . \$ 85.00 \_\_\_\_\_ includes Friday's dinner and Saturday's meals
- Saturday and Sunday is . . . . . \$ 75.00 \_\_\_\_\_ includes Sat. & Sun. meals
- Friday/Saturday/Sunday is . . . \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ includes Fri. dinner, Sat. meals, Sun. breakfast
- Saturday dinner only is . . . . . \$ 35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Please note which activities you wish to join. Prices include entry fees and donations. If you have questions, please call Bett Padgett at (919)787-6378 or email at [bett@outerbankslighthousesociety.org](mailto:bett@outerbankslighthousesociety.org)

**Ray Jones** will be at the Lighthouse Gallery and Gifts in Nags Head on Saturday afternoon, the 22nd, for a book signing if you are unable to attend Saturday's activities.

This is always such a fun time together. Please join us for a memorable time and meet some great lighthouse enthusiasts. We guarantee you'll feel welcomed and part of a wonderful group!





# LIGHTHOUSE UPDATE

*Updates on the area lighthouse events & schedules*



Fall 2005 Vol. XI no. 3

<http://www.outer-banks.com/lighthouse-society> Contact us: [society@outer-banks.com](mailto:society@outer-banks.com).

AND NOW <http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org>: News, articles, logo items

VISIT US! Join or give gift memberships/donations online at our .org site.

**Currituck Beach Lighthouse** is open for climbing through Thanksgiving—thanks to the great efforts of its owner, Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc. (OBC) For the first time in decades, the Currituck Beach Light Station has a child living within the rooms of the 1876 Keepers' House. Young Benicio is the son of keepers Meghan Agresto and Luis Garcia. On the struggle over the lighthouse: OBC went to Federal Court on July 11th concerning the lawsuit the Currituck County Commissioners filed upon them regarding lack of adequate parking and restroom facilities. Such misinterpretation of local zoning ordinances to disallow pre-existing non-conformities such as height and limited parking, threaten federal National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act transfers all across the county. Money going for unnecessary legal defense is being kept from needed lighthouse repairs. Judge Boyle has not been in touch with OBC since that date. The lighthouse is open daily 10-6 until Daylight Saving Time, then daily 10-5. until the Sunday after Thanksgiving (closed Thanksgiving Day) and will re-open at Easter 2006. Climbing is \$6/person for all people 8 and older (age 7 and under enter the lighthouse free and group rates are available. Tours can be arranged at 252-453-8152 or call the lighthouse: 252/453-4939 or write [info@currituckbeachligh.com](mailto:info@currituckbeachligh.com). Updated postings at <http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org>.

**Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse** screwpile reproduction in Manteo is managed and leased by the North Carolina Maritime Museum on Roanoke Island with a tri-party agreement with the Town of Manteo and Roanoke Festival Park. The Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00am until 5:00pm. The current exhibit in the lighthouse is the Warren O'Neal exhibit that highlights the beginning of the "Carolina Boat" style of boat building on the Outer Banks. **Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse** is located on Manteo's charming waterfront. For info, contact Town Manager Kermit Skinner at [skinner@townofmanteo.com](mailto:skinner@townofmanteo.com). **Volunteers are needed** for the Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse. Please contact Scott Stroh, executive director of Roanoke Island Festival Park for more information. Phone: 252/475-1500 email [scott.stroh@ncmail.net](mailto:scott.stroh@ncmail.net) or call 252/ 473-2133. The lighthouse is open 9am-5pm Tuesday-Saturday, free of charge.

**Bodie Island Lighthouse** visitor center (252) 441-5711. Bodie Island is one of the few lighthouses that still has its original lens in operation. The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society will help in any way possible. The lighthouse is still under evaluation for repairs that will begin in 2007 or 2008. The Denver Service Center will make a 100% pre-design evaluation from which the Park will make requests for monies for needed repairs. Plans are for a reopening of the tower in 2010. The Park is seeking ways to make the entrance of the tower safe so that it can be open to the public as soon as possible. Since the NPS can request monies as a line item from Congress to cover both the tower and lens restoration, OBLHS will focus its fundraising efforts for other projects to help other NC lights. There is much work to be done! **Thank you to keeper's son, John Gaskill**, for being on the porch at Bodie Island Lighthouse, his old home during the 1920s and 30s, to greet visitors during June. John had a fall this summer while volunteering at the lighthouse, which delayed his return to Gulfport, LA. As fate would have it, this put John safely on the Outer Banks during Hurricane Katrina.

**Cape Lookout Lighthouse** is part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. **For driving directions** see <http://www.outer-banks.com/lighthouse-society/driving.asp>. Be sure to visit the National Park Service headquarters at the east end of Harkers Island. For more information call (252) 728-2250 or see <http://www.nps.gov/cal/>. **There is one more Cape Lookout Open House dates for 2005:**

November 5, 2005 - Cape Lookout Lighthouse Anniversary. On November 1, 1859 - Cape Lookout Lighthouse began operations. Reservation period begins on Monday, October 17, reservations will be accepted between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon Eastern Time. **For reservations call 252-728-5766**. This number is for **reservations only-- taken between 9 am and noon**. Call early. Plans are still underway for restoration of the Cape Lookout Historic Village and the lighthouse and a new visitors contact station on the island near the lighthouse.

**Cape Hatteras Lighthouse** will close for climbing October 15th and will resume at Easter 2006. There is a fee of \$6 to climb, children 12 and under and seniors are \$3. During the winter months re-evaluation for repairs and repairs are made. This winter the NPS will replace broken windows damaged by Hurricane Isabelle with replica encasement windows to match the originals.

**Ocracoke Lighthouse** is part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore like Bodie Island and Cape Hatteras. Ocracoke's base will close during winter months. It is open when volunteers are available usually in the summer months. **Thanks to Cy and Nina Francis for volunteering summer 2005!** They report to OBLHS that the lighthouse is in dire need of painting. The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society plans to find a donor for the paint. Want to help? Call Bett (919) 787-6378.

**Oak Island Lighthouse** is owned by the Town of Caswell Beach; cooperative efforts are ongoing with the friends of Oak Island Lighthouse. For more information, contact Judy and Gary Studer at [jstuder@btdtgroup.com](mailto:jstuder@btdtgroup.com). The deadline for becoming a "Founder" of Friends of Oak Island Lighthouse is being extended until January 31, 2006, in order to give people the benefit of contributing out of either 2005 or 2006 tax year. Find out how to join at <http://www.caswellbeach.org/lighthouse.html>. When you visit Southport, stop in the Ricky Evans Gallery, as he has now set up a "Friends of Oak Island Lighthouse Gift Gallery" featuring note cards and other



# LIGHTHOUSE UPDATE

*Updates on the area lighthouse events & schedules*

items designed by local artists with proceeds benefiting Friends. On Friday, November 4, the Friends will host The Steve Chapin Band (Harry's Brother) in concert at the Southport Community Building.

**Price's Creek Light Front Range Light (1850 ruins)** is not open for public visitation but you can get a good look at this pre-Civil War tower, the only river light still in its original location, from the Southport-Ft. Fisher ferry. It sits on commercially owned property by Archer Daniels Midland (ADM); no restoration plans by other interested parties have been successful. A keeper's quarters once stood behind it with a light that was at a higher elevation and served as the second light in the pair of range lights for a safe channel in the Cape Fear River as vessels headed for the Port of Wilmington.

**Old Baldy Lighthouse & Smith Island Museum:** call (910) 457-7481. <http://www.oldbaldy.org>. The Old Baldy Foundation owns, maintains, and staffs this historic lighthouse. Ann Mills, Executive Director and Keeper has updated winter hours starting Nov 29: Open Tues-Sat 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday 11 am to 4 pm. Closed Mondays. Christmas and New Year Weeks: Open Tuesday-Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Closed Christmas Day and Monday Dec 26; Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Closed New Year Day.

Haunted Historic Tours: Meet at Old Baldy Lighthouse at 6:15 to register. Tour begins at 6:30 pm. There will be Halloween treats and a night climb of Old Baldy after the tour. Fee: Adults \$7, Children under 12 \$5 Tour Dates: Saturday, October 22, 2005, Friday, October 28, 2005, Saturday, October 29, 2005.

The volunteer organization is planning restoration fundraising and educational programs. (See article)

**Roanoke River Lighthouse (reproduction)** is located on the town of Plymouth's beautiful waterfront about halfway between the northern and southern Outer Banks. Take a step back in time and visit this beautifully-constructed repro. For info, call the Chamber of Commerce at (252) 793-4804 or Washington County Tourism at 793-3248. Roanoke River Lighthouse in Plymouth and Maritime Museum is open Tues-Sat 10-3 and Sun 1-4 or by special arrangement (252) 217 2204. A small fee is charged. There will be a special boat show at the lighthouse on October 29 (Sat) from 10 am until. For special arrangements call Doward Jones 793-4777.

**Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum** is now open to the public. Shipwreck exhibits are in the lobby Basic hours are Mon-Fri 9 AM to 5PM thanks to volunteers. For more information, please see <http://www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com/> or call (252) 986-2995 or 2996.

**Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station** in Rodanthe, just north of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse; for info on this beautifully restored light station see <http://www.chicamacomico.net> or call the Chicamacomico Historical Association (252) 987- 1552. See the new USCG documentary about the heroic October 1896 rescue by the U.S. Lifesaving Station Pea Island of the E.S. Newman, The Voice of Gladdened Hearts, narrated by James Earl Jones. The station closes for the season November 25 and will reopen mid April 2006.

**Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station** in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore is getting a facelift! At last! It is being restored to the 1904-15 period and is still under repair in many stages. By the end of this year bathrooms will be stabilized and a new roof will replace the badly needed one. Another project fund has been requested to restore the entire life-saving station with furnishings and the boathouse. The entire restoration is estimated to be complete in 2011.

*Thank you to Diana Chappell* for doing OBLHS mailings including the newsletter. This job will be taken on by OBLHS member **Beth Deese**.

*Thank you to Shirin Pagels* who has become Membership Chair for OBLHS.

*Thanks to Judy Castleberry* for heading up OBLHS's fundraising.

*Thank you to Bett Padgett* for excellent event planning and leadership of OBLHS!

*Thank you to Ross Tracy* for website design and upkeep at [www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org](http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org)!

*Thank you to members* for your unfailing support for our efforts over the past 10 years!

*Thank you to Lauren and Paula Liebrecht* for a donation to the BILH fund in memory of their father, Lawrence C. Liebrecht.

**CONGRATULATIONS to our friends at the Chesapeake Chapter of the US Lighthouse Society. They are working tirelessly to refurbish the Thomas Point Lighthouse that will soon be open to visitors!**

For a good site to watch the results of our brave U.S. Coastguardsmen on Gulf shores- [www.uscgstormwatch.com](http://www.uscgstormwatch.com).

**All correspondence to OBLHS should be addressed to: P.O. Box 1005 Morehead City, NC 28557**

\*\*\* Please let us know if you are willing to receive your newsletter via Internet/email (if you haven't already).

Send your email address to Bett Padgett at [info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org](mailto:info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org).

\*\*\* The fourth mailing for 2005 will be around Christmas time in a different form than the traditional newsletter. Enjoy!

# Old Baldy Foundation Sponsors Lighthouse Learners Program

All 4th grade students in North Carolina study North Carolina history including lighthouses. On a recent visit to Southport Elementary School the staff of the Old Baldy Foundation learned that a vast majority of the students in Southport never visit Old Baldy Lighthouse. It seemed like a good opportunity for the Bald Head Island community to share this wonderful resource with the students of Southport. Thus, the Lighthouse Learners Program was implemented in November 2004.

Island residents and visitors to the lighthouse were asked to sponsor one Southport 4th grade student's visit to Old Baldy. A \$15 sponsorship included the student's ferry ride to Bald Head, the entrance to the Smith Island Museum, a box lunch and special programming on the lighthouse grounds. In addition, Old Baldy staff visited each of the four 4th grade classrooms prior to the visit to introduce the students to the history of Old Baldy and prepare them for their visit.

On April 15, 2005, a group of 73 students arrived on Bald Head Island. They were divided into smaller groups of 6-7 students and rotated through activities such as sending messages to one another using semaphore flags, studying shipwreck maps, hearing stories in the keepers' kitchen, writing thank you notes to their sponsors and, of course, climbing the lighthouse. In addition, the Bald Head Island Conservancy offered activities about the natural beauty and history of Bald Head Island.

As a result of the local publicity, a donor stepped forward to underwrite the visit by Southport Elementary School again in 2006. "We are very excited about the potential growth of this program" commented Ann Mills, Executive Director of the Old Baldy Foundation. "It seems such a shame that these students can see Old Baldy from Southport and not come visit this wonderful lighthouse," adds Mills. "It is really their lighthouse too and we hope that by seeing the light they will share our vision to maintain and restore Old Baldy for future generations." 🏹

# 65,000 Lighthouse Brochures Donated

Rick Hardesty at Rowan Business Forms in Salisbury, NC, has donated 65,000 brochures for the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society to distribute to visitors at the North Carolina Welcome Centers, the lighthouses, and through the North Carolina Department of Travel and Tourism.

Earlier in 2003, Rick provided 40,000 brochures to the Society. The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society thanks Rick Hardesty for his generous contribution with a total value of nearly \$50,000.

Ralph Burroughs of The Positive Influence, Winston-Salem, coordinated and prepared the prepress services for this outstanding project. Corporate gifts, such as those provided by Rowan Business Forms and The Positive Influence make the Society's work possible.

Thank you, again Rick and Ralph!



**Put the OBLHS CD in your car, and  
Find All 7 NC Lighthouses  
Learn lighthouse lore and legend  
Travel Easy ... Actual routing included  
Includes  
Price's Creek River Range Light near Southport,  
The Roanoke River Lighthouse at Plymouth & More!**




**Two editions accommodate entry by way of  
Roanoke Island and Hwys 64/264 & 158, and  
the Cedar Island-Swan Quarter Ferries**

**Easy Travel** 🏹 **Informative** 🏹 **Educational**

**Order from: Corporate Partner The Positive Influence  
P O Box 5964, Winston - Salem, NC 27113  
\$18.95 + \$2.00 S&H  
[www.NCLighthouseGuide.com](http://www.NCLighthouseGuide.com)**

**Benefit:  
The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society**

# LIGHTHOUSE NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

## PURPOSE OF THE OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

The purpose of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society is to aid in the preservation of the lighthouses of the area and to work with the National Park Service and other agencies, both government and non-profit groups, to achieve the safe keeping of the buildings, artifacts and records of the U.S. Lighthouse Service.

**The Lighthouse News is the official publication of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society.**

Editor – Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Design-Bruce Roberts

©2005 All material is copyrighted and cannot be used or borrowed without prior written permission from the editor.

Email: [society@outer-banks.com](mailto:society@outer-banks.com) or write OBLHS P.O. Box 1005 Morehead City, NC 28557

## Please Check the Expiration Date on your Mailing Label! Subscribe or Renew your Membership

**\$10.00 Student Membership • \$25 Individual Membership  
\$35 Family Membership • \$20 Senior Membership (60+)  
\$30 Senior Family**

**Please make checks payable to OBLHS. Thank You**

**You will receive a color brochure on NC lighthouses,  
logo sticker, newsletter, and membership card.**

The society operates on modest membership fees and occasional donations.

If you would like to renew your membership and/or make a donation,

**please mail your correspondence to:**

**OBLHS**

**P.O. Box 1005**

**Morehead City, NC 28557**

Name

Address

City, State,

Zip +4 code

Phone

Email

Gift for

Recipient's address

Email



ADVOCATES FOR NORTH CAROLINA LIGHTHOUSES

## OUTERBANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 22, 2005

Judy Castleberry  
5806 Mill Spring Lake  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
e-mail: [castleberry1@comcast.net](mailto:castleberry1@comcast.net)

Diana Chappell  
15445 Pine View Lane  
Beaver Dam, VA 23015  
[Diandmanda@aol.com](mailto:Diandmanda@aol.com)

Sandra MacLean Clunies  
6 Briardale Ct.  
Derwood, MD 20855  
e-mail: [sandy@clunies.net](mailto:sandy@clunies.net)

Roberts DaVia  
134 Magnolia Drive  
Winterville, NC 28590  
[rdavia@seathelights.com](mailto:rdavia@seathelights.com)

Virginia Chadwick Howell  
1120-108 Clarion Hts. Lane  
Raleigh, NC 27606  
[TheLadyByTheSea@aol.com](mailto:TheLadyByTheSea@aol.com)

Doward Jones  
P.O. Box 805  
Plymouth, NC 27962  
e-mail: [addiemae@williamstonnc.com](mailto:addiemae@williamstonnc.com)

Richard Meissner  
P. O. Box 625  
Harkers Island, NC 28531  
e-mail: [Richard.Meissner@partner.nps.gov](mailto:Richard.Meissner@partner.nps.gov)

Jim O'Donnell  
118 Meadow Lane  
Marietta, OH 45750  
e-mail: [odonnellj@marietta.edu](mailto:odonnellj@marietta.edu)

Mabry O'Donnell  
118 Meadow Lane  
Marietta, OH 45750  
e-mail: [odonnelm@marietta.edu](mailto:odonnelm@marietta.edu)

Bett Padgett  
1213 Dixie Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
e-mail: [bett@bettpadgett.com](mailto:bett@bettpadgett.com)

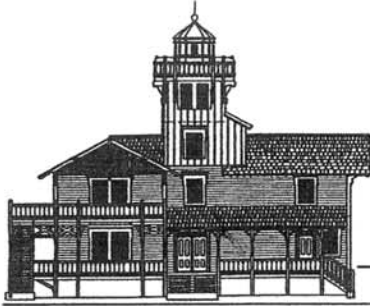
Bruce Roberts  
3601 Meadow Drive  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
e-mail: [broberts2@ec.rr.com](mailto:broberts2@ec.rr.com)

Cheryl Shelton-Roberts  
3601 Meadow Drive  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
e-mail: [croberts@outer-banks.com](mailto:croberts@outer-banks.com)

Charlie Votaw  
P. O. Box 615  
Avon, NC 27915  
e-mail: [csvotaw@beachlink.com](mailto:csvotaw@beachlink.com)

Shirley Votaw  
P. O. Box 615  
Avon, NC 27915  
e-mail: [csvotaw@beachlink.com](mailto:csvotaw@beachlink.com)

Shirin Pagels  
8 Pulaski Street Apt 1C  
Norwalk CT 06851  
email: [oblhsmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:oblhsmembership@yahoo.com)



# LIGHTHOUSE GALLERY & GIFTS, INC.

301 DRIFTWOOD STREET • NAGS HEAD, NC 27959 • 919/441-4232 • FAX 919/480-0154

## *Special Invitation for OBLHS Members*

Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts invites all the members of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society to the store Saturday afternoon, 1-4 PM October 22, for a special book signing by Ray Jones, America's foremost lighthouse writer and author of the *Lighthouse Encyclopedia*. Special Discounts for OBLHS members on books and lighthouse jewelry and antiques.

The lighthouse crew led by Russ and Carol Burnett can direct you to lighthouse treasures not found elsewhere. Also featured is the new release from Harbour Lights of Price's Creek Lighthouse -- the light everyone needs to complete their North Carolina Harbour Lights collection. You'll be able to get Nancy Younger to sign it later that evening at the Keeper's Dinner.

Lighthouse Gallery was designed from the original plans of the Point Fermin Lighthouse and was built by Bruce and Cheryl Roberts, founders of the OBLHS.

Price's Creek Lighthouse  
by Harbour Lights

