



AMERICA'S LANDFALL The Lighthouses of Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard

By Donald Davidson

It's strange that within one year two books would be published on the lighthouses of Cape Cod and the islands. Admont Clark's *Lighthouses of Cape Cod — Martha's Vineyard — Nantucket* (Their history and lore) is a hard cover book thoroughly researched over many years. It has slick paper which allows good reproductions of the photos and the chapters on each lighthouse contains human interest quotes.

Donald Davidson's 1993 book *America's Landfall, The Lighthouses of Cape Cod, Nantucket & Martha's Vineyard*, while covering basically the same territory as Admont Clark's work, is a different book all together. It's smaller, soft cover, and contains soft paper pages, which affects the quality of the photos.

The book is divided into chapters with one page on two or three lighthouses assigned to each chapter, in an odd sort of pairing. One chapter has the Plymouth Lighthouse at Gurnet paired with Great Point on Nantucket Island, another has the Sandy Neck station on the north side of Cape Cod linked with the Edgartown (Martha's Vineyard) lighthouse and the Dumpling Rock station way over in Buzzards Bay, with a photo of the Wood End tower inexplica-

bly stuck in the middle of the chapter! Luckily, there is an index. The location of each lighthouse is denoted by an arrow pointing to the appropriate spot on a small map of the Cape and islands.

The author even discovered a new lighthouse, Pamet Harbor, out near the tip of Cape Cod, which he says was constructed in 1849. Our 1849 and 1865 Light Lists do not mention this lighthouse; perhaps it's one of those "ghost" lighthouses.

Although the book is subtitled, "The Lighthouses of Cape Cod, Nantucket & Martha's Vineyard," it also includes the Plymouth, Scituate and Minots Ledge stations.

All in all the book appears to be a quick cut and paste job, with scant concern for organization. The few redeeming features include advice on how to reach each station (if it still exists and is accessible). The work also contains a transportation index listing phone numbers (as of 1993) of various charter airline and vessel companies and major ferries. On a positive note, the price at \$9.95, is only one third that of Admont's fine hard cover effort.

Soft cover, 5 1/2" x 8 1/4", 144 pages, numerous black and white photos and several small location maps. Published by the Peninsula Press.

LIGHTHOUSE WALL CALENDAR

The National Archives has published a new wall calendar for 1994 called *Lighthouses: 19th Century Plans and Evaluations*. Sorry to be late in informing you, but we only recently learned of it.

Featured in this calendar are 13 masterfully rendered drawings of 19th century lighthouses from National Archive holdings. Some of the plans included were approved for final construction, others remained only proposed projects. The drawings represent diverse geographical areas and various styles of construction. This is truly a unique calendar and one which you will want to keep as 1994 fades from memory.

Available through the Keeper's Locker for \$10.95 plus \$2 s & h.

BEAUTIFUL LIGHTHOUSES

By John Spatuzzi and Sarah Duncan

This small, slick booklet is filled with some dazzling color photos of American lighthouses. Actually, 130 color photos of lighthouses and one of lenses on 48 pages makes this publication a veritable photo album of some of your favorite lighthouses. Most photos are accompanied with a short caption which might give a fact or two about the lighthouse or its location or some statistical detail, but only in very sketchy detail. What the book is all about is photos of lighthouses, and for the most part gorgeous photos. John Spatuzzi is a helicopter pilot, so many of the shots were taken from the air, which gives you a whole different perspective of the structures and their surroundings.

Coated full color, soft cover, 48 pages, 7" x 10". Available for \$7.95 plus \$1.60 S & H by writing to Horizon Images, 6841 Pershing St., Hollywood, FL 33024

OCRACOKE LIGHTHOUSE

By Ellen Fulcher Cloud — 1993

This small booklet states it is Volume I of *Island History (Ocracoke Island, we presume)* and it's basically a series of lists pertaining to the lighthouse (important dates and events, keepers, other lighthouses and their keepers, etc.) and a few thumbnail sketches of some of the keepers and reproductions of a few old government documents. Taken as a whole, this is not an in-depth book and one which we would recommend only for a research library, such as ours at the Society.

Soft cover, 5 1/2 by 8 1/2, 80 pages with several black and white photos. Published and available through Live Oak Publications, P.O. Box 482, Ocracoke, NC 27960 for \$12 which includes shipping and handling.