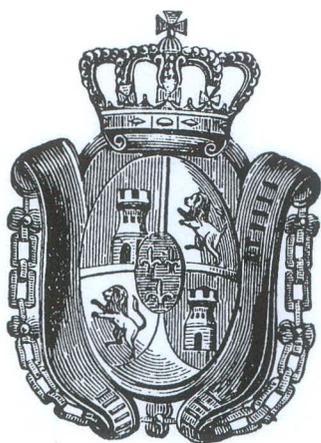


Foreign Affairs



Sambro Island

Nova Scotia

Our Canadian member and a contributor to the *Keeper's Log*, Chris Mills, reports that he has word that the 27 manned light stations of British Columbia will remain manned, at least for the time being. He states that the situation on the east coast of Canada, especially in Nova Scotia is pretty bad. Apparently the Sambro lighthouse, Canada's oldest, was off and on all last spring and is literally falling apart. Because it's the oldest lighthouse in Canada, Chris would like to see it restored and manned, much like we have decided to man the Boston Light Station in perpetuity.

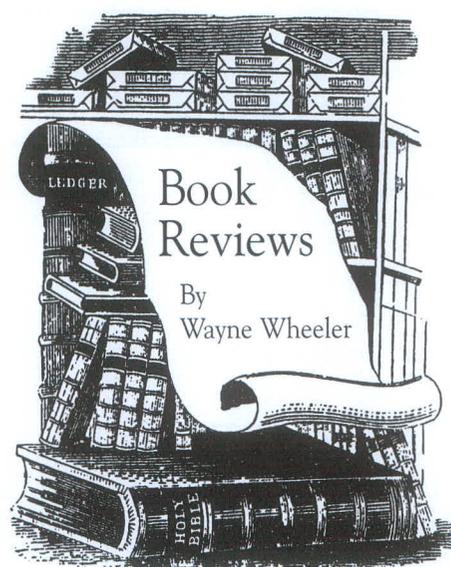
Chris lives in Ketch Harbor and can see the light from his home. "Everytime I look out the window it's off" he reports. He made several calls to the Canadian Coast Guard and they do respond, but shortly after they leave, it goes out. The Coast Guard stated that there is a break in the power cable furnishing electricity to the station. A diesel generator was installed but when the fuel runs out the light goes off. The Coast Guard is considering installing a solar powered system.

Last of the Scottish Keepers

This past March, Keeper Angus Hutchinson locked the door of the air Isle South Light Station for the last time. From that moment, Scotland's Northern

Lighthouse Board's 200 light stations were all automated. From Muckle Flugga in the north to Calf of Man in the south, all of Scotland's light stations have been unmanned and automated. The 200 plus year lighthouse keeper tradition is over. For Angus Hutchinson it represents the end of a 120 year family tradition of keeping the lights.

To mark the occasion of Angus's departure, the Princess Royal joined him at the farewell ceremony. Angus stated, "There was always a tradition in the service of sons following in their father's footsteps. In our case, that stretches back to the 1880's when my Great Grandfather joined. My grandfather, father and uncle were keepers too, so it's in the blood." He went on to say that he felt lucky, as he was 60 years old and could retire, but felt badly for the younger keepers who will now have to retrain for other positions. Angus remarked, "There really was nothing romantic about lighthouse keeping, although that's the way it's often been portrayed. Truth is that most of us signed up to put food on the table for our families. But there was always the sense of satisfaction that the [keepers] kept the lights burning for the safety of seamen of all nations."



BRIGHT LIGHT, WHITE WATER — THE STORY OF IRISH LIGHTHOUSES AND THEIR PEOPLE

By Bill Long

This is a scholarly work on the lighthouses of Ireland. At one time the aids to navigation of England, Scotland and Ireland were under Trinity House of Britain, with offices in Edinburgh, Scotland (the Northern Lighthouse Board) and Dublin (the Commissioners of Irish Lights). Eventually, Trinity House's domination of British lighthouses was reduced to the point where the Northern Lighthouse Board and Commissioners of Irish Lights took responsibility for the aids to navigation in their areas. Curiously, the Commissioners of Irish Lights are now responsible for all the aids of the island; Northern (British) Ireland, as well as the republic of Ireland.

Author Bill Long has done his homework and the book reflects his countless hours of research and in learning the vernacular of the "beast". If you purchase this book, and we hope you will, don't skip the introduction, it really sets the tone of the book. It starts out, "I was born, and grew up, in an old thatched farmhouse on the Waterford coast. It stood between two great sea-lights; Hook Head, seven miles to the east, with a landmass intervening, and Mine Head to the south-west, across six miles of open water. Capricious water, that whispered or roared as wind and tide dictated."

Carol Thompson

**LIGHTHOUSE
Oil Paintings &
Limited Edition Prints**

P.O. Box 1143
Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 357-8368

www.carolthompson.com

He speaks of his grandfather taking him to visit the Hook Head Lighthouse when he was seven. And he said, "I feel a close affinity with James in Virginia Woolf's novel, "To the Lighthouse", when, looking out at the lighthouse, he feels that - 'It satisfied him. It confirmed some obscure feeling about his own character.'

In fact, each of the seven chapters begins with a quote from *To The Lighthouse*. Six of the chapters divide the island into sections, beginning on the east coast and traveling clockwise. The seventh chapter deals with tenders, buoys, lightships, the administration and the keeper.

Detailed, and interesting information is provided on each lighthouse, some more detailed than others, as it should be. Certainly a rugged exposed station like the Fastnet deserves more ink than a small inner harbor station which led a quiet life. Many of the lighthouse stories are wrapped around an event; perhaps a ship wreck which caused the creation of the lighthouse, or a ship wreck which happened in spite of the lighthouse's existence. Bill Long's wry humor is sprinkled throughout the book and he introduces the reader to the evolution of Irish Lights in bits and pieces, tying the development of a particular piece of equipment or a change in procedures to an individual light station.

Bright Light, White Water is a comprehensive book and should satisfy almost all readers who seek knowledge about the lighthouses of the Old Sod. Sadly, the lighthouse segments are not accompanied by photos. There are a few black and white photos scattered throughout the book and a section of 16 pages of color photos in the middle of the book, no doubt a format to reduce costs. Yet, photos of the lighthouses placed with their history and, perhaps, a location map would have greatly enhanced this excellent work. At the back is an appendices listing all the Commissioners and other staff members who have held office since the Commissioners became independent in 1918. It also lists all who served as keepers, all 701 of them, as well as a useful glossary.

Hard cover, 7" by 9-1/2", 224 pages, several black and white photos and 16 pages of color photographs. Available through the *Keeper's Locker* with shipping and tax (where applicable) for \$29.95.

GREAT LAKES LIGHTHOUSES — AMERICAN & CANADIAN

By Wes Oleszewski

We recently received a snappy little book on the lighthouses of the Great Lakes, Canadian as well as American. The 200 page book contains short blurbs on over 300 lighthouses and aids to navigation.

The book begins with three short chapters: The Lakes in General, Some Things About Lighthouses and The Heart of the Great Lakes. These sections are followed by a chapter on each of the five Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair. Each chapter contains a brief review or synopsis on every lighthouse on the Lake. There are three lighthouses to a page, so the descriptions are very brief containing the name, a black and white photo, when established, location (i.e. bluff north of the harbor), status (active), type (conical, cast iron), access (boat, car), a short history and, if applicable, what's happening with the aid today.

Each Lake Chapter begins with a map of the lake with the aids indicated by number. Interspersed between each chapter is a short story related to aids to navigation or the Lakes.

The book has an index by lake as well as by state and a small box by each blurb which can be checked and dated after you visit a particular lighthouse (something akin to our Passport Program).

This is a handy little book with some useful information. It boasts that it is the only directory and guide of the entire Great Lakes. Unfortunately, it really doesn't guide one to the lighthouses, other than the maps at the beginning of each chapter. These maps indicate the general area where the lighthouses are located along with a location statement for each aid. However, stating that a lighthouse is at the entrance to some Bay doesn't help one zero in on the location. Another drawback is the inclusion of aids to navigation which are not lighthouses; the William Livingston Memorial Light on Lake Erie and several range lights and outer pierhead lights are not light stations. In fact, I counted 58 American listings which are not light stations; they were never manned. They may be aids to navigation with lights, but not lighthouses or light stations in the classical sense.

Soft color cover, 6" x 9" format, hundreds of very small black and white photos, maps of the lakes and indexes. Available through the *Keeper's Locker* for \$16.95 plus shipping and handling.

Her lights brighten homes all across America...

DONNA ELIAS' "GREAT AMERICAN LIGHTHOUSES" Collection

America's most loved series of lighthouse art!
Celebrating 150 historic American lights!
Beautiful watercolor prints and limited editions you will cherish for a lifetime!

Start your collection today...
Ask for Donna Elias' "Great American Lighthouses"
collection at fine shops and galleries nationwide.



Great American Lighthouses®

For more information and a free brochure call or write:
Resort Graphics, Inc., 447 Carson Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 • 1-800-621-2440