THE KEEPER'S LOG

VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER FOUR, 2012



- Herbert Bamber: The Making of an Engineer
- Browns Point Lighthouse
- Point Venus Lighthouse
- Camogli Harbor Lighthouse
- Hanging Curtains
- Lighthouse-Related Patents

Reprinted from the U.S. Lighthouse Society's The Keeper's Log – Summer 2012 <www.USLHS.org>

HERBERT BAMBER:

The Extraordinary Engineer of Highland, Michigan

PART I: THE MAKING OF AN ENGINEER

By John M. Havel

Introduction

Some of the most enduring images we have of America's lighthouses in their early days are those taken by Herbert Bamber in the late 19th century. In many cases, these crisp and straightforward views are the only windows to the past that we have of these grand towers of light.

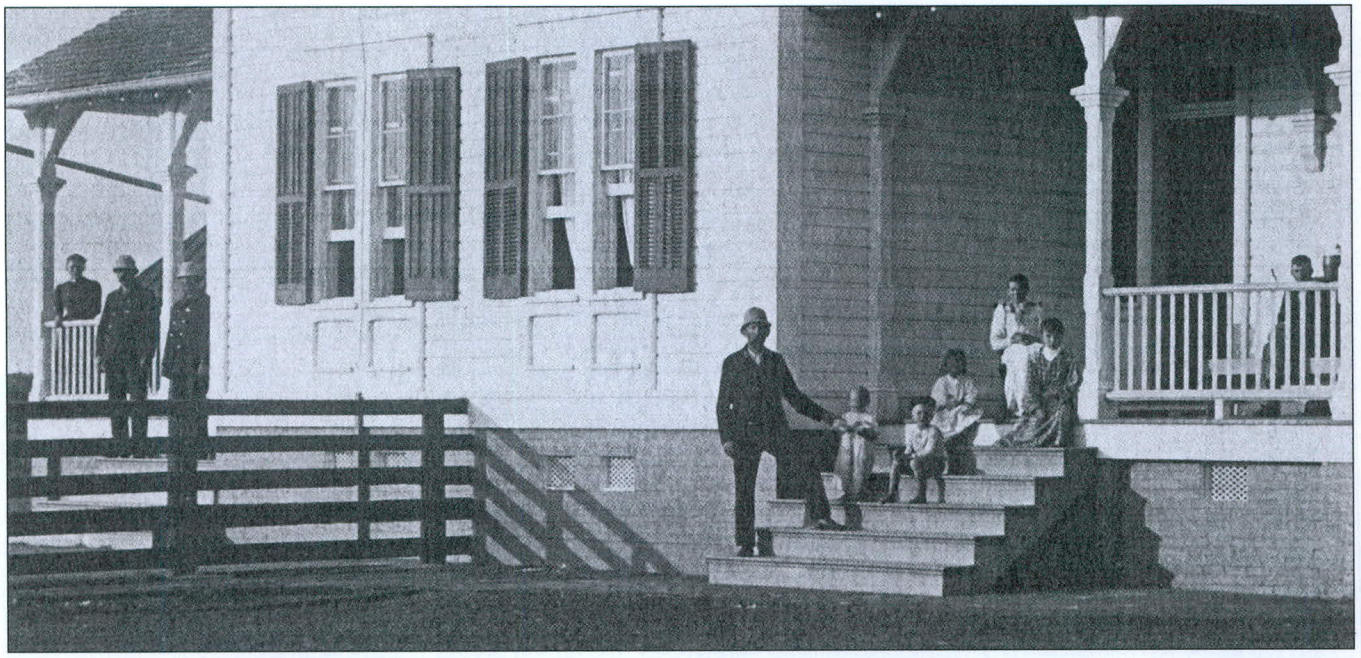
When examining these photographs carefully, several things become evident. The first is the enormity of this project at that time in history. Bamber spent several years traveling to at least 68 light stations scattered along both coasts as well as the Great Lakes, many being reached only with great difficulty. Second, within many of his precisely composed scenes, Bamber took the time to pose the proud keepers and their families gathered on porches and in front yards, pausing, for just a moment, to be captured in time.

But perhaps the most remarkable revelation about these extraordinary historical images is that the creator was not a photographer at all, but a civil engineer, a supervisor of construction. A practical problem-solver who analyzed the chemical nature of cement, oversaw the building of locks and dams, surveyed rivers and land,



The earliest known photograph of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, taken by Herbert Bamber, June 1, 1893, Buxton, North Carolina. Photo courtesy of National Park Service, Outer Banks Group, Museum Resource Center archive.

Reprinted from the U.S. Lighthouse Society's The Keeper's Log – Summer 2012 <www.USLHS.org>



Keeper's family and personnel at the Currituck Beach Light Station. Enlargement of photograph taken by Bamber, June 13, 1893, Corolla, North Carolina. Photo from the author's collection.

and invented an innovative scaffolding system for the construction of brick towers—and yet, Bamber will largely be remembered for the importance and excellence of his photographs.

The Journals of Herbert Bamber

"June 23. I sheared my first sheep" is Bamber's first entry in his journals. It is 1875 and he is 16 years old, living on a large farm in the heartland of Michigan. Subsequent entries detail Bamber's college years, his first job as a surveyor in Utah, and his becoming a civil engineer for the U.S. Light-House Establishment. The journals conclude with his assignment supervising the construction of the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse [Name was later changed to Ponce de Leon Inlet—Ed.] in Florida, completed in 1887.

Bamber's entries are usually brief statements on routine events of his day. He writes of activities on the family farm, the local weather, weddings and deaths within his extended family, books he has read, and family outings. He records a trip to the dentist, what his father's wool brings at market, and how the local Republicans are faring in local politics.

He has recurring entries for his birthdays when he almost always enters his personal statistics: height; weight; measurements of his chest, arms, and head; and how high he can do a "kick heel" against the wall. He also records the gifts he receives each Christmas, as well as presents exchanged by his family.

Through his diary, we follow Bamber to barn raisings, church meetings, temperance lectures, benefits, music recitals, suppers, book readings, political gatherings, orations, picnics, fireworks, and parades, most in the local community, but occasionally involving rail travel to nearby cities and towns. There is mention of frequent visitors to the Bamber farm, often referred to as the Ark House or the Ark Farm. Bamber's aunts and uncles seem to be endlessly stopping by, passing through or staying awhile, sometimes from the surrounding townships and sometimes from afar. In one entry, Bamber writes, "Uncle William was married last week. Another addition to my list of aunts."

Throughout the entries, Bamber reveals himself as a young adult coming of age as the country around him is recovering from the heartbreak and destruction that was the Civil War. Ten, fifteen, twenty years after so many self-inflicted wounds, the country was healing and growing. Photography was in its infancy, railroads and rivers carried more traffic monthly as progress marched steadily westward, and freedom and dreams of a better life were in the hearts of all Americans. It must surely have been a hopeful and expansive time for a young man, not unlike the decades after World War II. The maturity that comes in Bamber's later years has its roots in his early keen observations and his soaking up whatever pursuits were available to him. Bamber does not come across as an apprehensive or reclusive farm boy, but as an outgoing, confident, well-read, and energetic young man eager to experience the world around him. He is constantly in motion and filled with observations.



Bamber as a young man, date unknown. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Buell Baldwin.

His dry wit surfaces occasionally, as does the occasional philosophical musing—such as after his brother Sherman's death—but for the most part, his journals show the making of a future engineer, recording facts, figures, and dates, with only occasional flashes of sentiment or emotion.

Reprinted from the U.S. Lighthouse Society's The Keeper's Log – Summer 2012 <www.USLHS.org>

Early Life and Family

Bamber was born in Highland Township, Michigan, in 1858, the eldest of four children. His parents were Joseph S. Bamber and Sarah Ann Morse. Joseph was a sheep farmer who raised prized Merino sheep and was best known for the amount of good quality wool he could shear from his flock. In 1891 the Chapman Brothers of Chicago published a *Portrait and Biographical Album of Oakland County, Michigan*, which included a brief account of their family.

Joseph S. Bamber was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1835, and at age 4 accompanied his parents across the Atlantic to settle in America. In the Chapman biography, Joseph was described as, "one of the progressive farmers of Highland Township."

Sarah Ann Morse was born in Michigan in 1838, the daughter of Noah Pomeroy Morse of Connecticut. Noah came to Michigan in 1833 and established his farm in Highland Township. Noah built the first floor of his home with stone, adding a smaller, timber frame addition on top. The shape and appearance of the house led to the nickname "Noah's Ark."

Sarah Morse, age 19, and Joseph Bamber, age 22, married in 1857. The couple had four children: Herbert, Albert Morse, Mary Elizabeth, and Sherman Lincoln.

Herbert was the eldest, born August 25, 1858, and the only child not given a middle name. Through his journals, we learn that neither of his dear brothers would live to adulthood. Jumping ahead in our timeline, we find him writing in late December 1877:

"A sad occasion this for making an entry in my long neglected journal for darling brother Sherman is no more. After being confined to the house for about two weeks by the complete loss of action [of] his liver (the duct which conveys the bile from that organ being closed) the disease gained upon him and finally his brain became congested and yesterday forenoon death relieved from his sufferings....How often are we reminded that we are mortals. The hand of the angel death knows no age, no rank, no state, the loved and aged the innocent and darling are called, have been called. We know not who will be called next.... The death of him whom we mourn although caused by disease was almost entirely unexpected by me, and coming so suddenly we feel the loss more keenly. I can hardly realize that I write this in a house of mourning and that tomorrow we are to perform the last sad duties we shall ever be called upon to perform for what remains of our darling little brother but so it is."

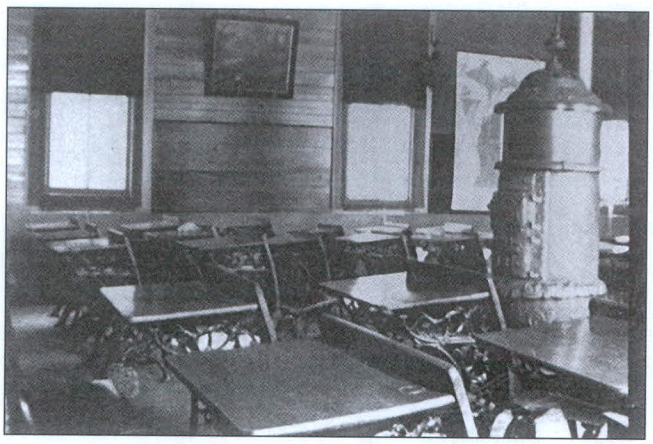
Sherman Lincoln Bamber was seven years younger than Herbert and was only 12 years old when he died.

Then in 1883, five years after Sherman's passing, Herbert was at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and brother Albert at the State Agricultural School in Lansing. Herbert noted in February and again in May that Albert is unwell. On May 20th, Herbert wrote, "Albert is sick with malarial fever at Lansing and unable to return home for vacation. Mother is coming for him at Mrs. Martin's [where Herbert was boarding in Ann Arbor]." Unfortunately, Albert never made the journey to Mrs. Martin's in Ann Arbor but died at college after battling typhoid fever for nearly four weeks (Herbert erroneously referred to it as malarial fever).

Herbert's only remaining sibling, Mary Elizabeth, married Leslie Albert Buell, a local farmer, on November 23, 1887. Soon after their marriage, the Buells moved to Minneapolis, Kansas. The couple named their only child, Herbert Joseph Buell, in honor of both Mary's brother Herbert, and her father, Joseph. Mary lived until 1948 when she passed away at the age of 84. It is Mary's granddaughter, Elizabeth Buell Baldwin, who graciously shared the photographs of Herbert and his family used in this article.

Bamber's Formative Years

As a boy, Bamber attended the one-room West Highland schoolhouse, just over a mile from his house, until the eighth grade.



The interior of the West Highland one-room schoolhouse where Bamber attended school until the 8th grade. Photo courtesy of Diane Needham, HTHS.

His first mention of attending school appears in his journal on August 30, 1875, when he was 16. "The Fall Term of our District School began today with Miss Atha Ruggles as teacher."

As the year turned to 1876, it was America's 100th birthday, and in the fall, Bamber wrote of an invitation he received. "Sep 5. Received the information that I had the privilege of taking a trip to Centennial International Exhibition."

"September 8: ...Father takes me to Milford and with twenty others take the 10 AM train for Detroit....We arrive at Philadelphia and disembark at the Centennial Depot about 10 PM. The party from Milford with myself put up for the night at the Lancaster House, a temperance hotel kept by New York parties.... Monday, September 11: Enter the exposition grounds of main building. Purchased a guide book and commence my examination of the grand show...."

Of the 11 journals discovered, Bamber filled two complete journals with his notes on the exhibits and experiences from his eight memorable days at the Philadelphia exposition.

By the age of 18, Bamber had outgrown his district school. In the spring of 1877, he began attending the nearest "high school" in the neighboring township of Milford, just south of Highland.

"April 2. After finishing the Winter Term of School at home and assisting in getting up a years supply wood, I commenced this day a term of School at the Milford Union School. I am boarding with Uncle Carlos Hayes…."

Then on June 21, he wrote, "The Spring Term of the Milford Union School closed today. And thus ended the first term of my attendance at a school other than one of our common district schools. Although I have not made the progress which I expected to make when I began the term, I found the facilities offered for study and the acquisition of knowledge much better than those of the averge [*sic*] district school."

Off to Agricultural College

Bamber's journals show he was a serious student, and we learn that his father encouraged him to continue his studies. Although they lived in a rural township, several colleges and universities were within 50 miles of the Bamber farm.

Reprinted from the U.S. Lighthouse Society's The Keeper's Log – Summer 2012 <www.USLHS.org>



Bamber, likely in his college years. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Buell Baldwin.

"February 25th [1878], Monday: As father had favored my attending school at the Agri. Coll Lansing, I decided last Friday evening to visit the College and ascertain what I could in regard to the institution. And as the Spring term begins tomorrow I took the train at Howell for Lansing this forenoon at 11:50."

Established in 1855, the Agricultural College of the State of Michigan was the first agricultural college in the United States. At the time Bamber attended, the college did not offer a degree in engineering, and it is probable that Bamber had not yet decided on his choice of profession. However, both basic and advanced coursework in mathematics as well as the sciences of chemistry and physics would provide an excellent foundation for his later studies. (The State Agricultural College became Michigan State University in 1964.)

Throughout the following months, in addition to his classroom work, Bamber wrote about routine chores at the Agricultural College, such as digging trenches and sharpening fence stakes, as well as his first experience with logging.

Bamber also wrote of how he enjoyed college life. He studied hard and he got high grades throughout. However, in November he remarked, "My years work at College has not been as satisfactory as it might have been. I have had a good standing in classes but for some reason or another I fail to accomplish as much as I expect to."

Bamber: Teacher

In December 1878, Bamber began a teaching job at the Lyman School in Highland Township. In those days, it was common practice for students to teach in their community while attending college. As Bamber noted in one entry, "About 2/3 of the Junior Class are teaching this winter, many for the first time." Bamber was one of those teachers.

"December 8th [1878], Sunday: The first Monday [Nov. 25] after arriving home from Lansing I began teaching in District No. 6 of Highland. Board & $80 for 16 weeks....I find that is not such a school as one might wish for. Have the names of 29 scholars on the rolls. Most of the larger scholars rather dull. Some rather disagreeable."

He then stated, "I thought that my first three days teaching were the hardest three days labor I ever was called upon to perform." Considering the farm labor he had been used to as a boy and a young man—cutting hay, harvesting wheat, husking corn, and raising barns—his admission is somewhat amusing.

Throughout the winter and spring of 1879, Bamber wrote of continued struggles with his teaching duties. At the end of the term, in March 1879, he wrote, "My school closed Mar. 15. It was not a success in all respects. Personally I did not seem to please the people of the district." However, expressing optimism, his next entry reads, "Have enjoyed myself first rate the past winter"—an unexpected comment after his disappointing teaching experience.

Bamber's return to college was highlighted by his acceptance into a fraternity and being elected class president. By October 1879, Bamber was back home teaching again, this time in the little town of Perry, a small village about forty miles from Bamber's home. He wrote, "Friday I engaged the Perry school....I am to get $30 per month and board."

After a year and a half of teaching Bamber concluded, "I have about decided that teaching is not my forte, not the profession for which I am permanently adapted."

In April of 1880, Bamber was stricken by an "attack of ague," the 19th-century term for the malarial symptoms of recurring fever, chills, and sweating.

Bamber returned home from Lansing to recover, but his condition became so dire that he abandoned the next two college terms. By the fall of 1880, he wrote of studying at home over the winter months and making up missed exams when he returned to school in the spring. During his final term of college, in June of 1881, Bamber mentions civil engineering for the first time. "Vacation has come and gone. This term I am taking Constitutional Law and Civil Engineering with the seniors and Entomology with the Juniors."

Reprinted from the U.S. Lighthouse Society's The Keeper's Log – Summer 2012 <www.USLHS.org>

Civil engineering, as opposed to military engineering, deals with the design, construction, and maintenance of roads, bridges, canals, dams, and public buildings. It is a wide-ranging profession that includes the knowledge of structures, materials, geography, geology, soils, hydrology, mechanics, etc. In Bamber's time, engineers also had to possess advanced skills in surveying, mapping, and drafting.

In August 1881, Bamber graduated from the State Agricultural College of Michigan with a B.S. degree. Neither Bamber's journals nor other records are clear on what discipline his degree was in.

Surveying for the Western Railroads

Bamber owes his first post-graduate job to a professor who wrote a letter on his behalf:

"About four weeks before the end of last college term, Prof. Carpenter wrote to Frank Davis, an old graduate of the college who had charge of a RR survey, asking if he could give employment to some [students]. The week before the term closed he received a reply stating that three… men were wanted at $75 per month."

"Father and mother finally decided to be present at our classday & commencement exercises....During the evening they learned through Prof. Carpenter that I was intending to go to Utah on a R.R. survey."

"I started for Chicago on Tuesday, Aug. 30....Our tickets cost us $79.50. They call for first class passage to Kansas City, 3rd class the reminder of the way."

Bamber arrived in Salt Lake City on September 8, 1881: "Salt Lake City—Our ride yesterday through the mountains was an enjoyable one as the day was fine. Some of the scenery was truly grand in its wild rough picturesque-ness.... At 10 this morning we take the train and as it moves southward we see for the first time the waters of Great Salt Lake. The water as we see it is of an ocean green and the shores in many places are white with the crystallized salt."

"We visited the Mormon tabernacle and saw the new temple in process of construction....The walls of the new temple are of solid granite and nine ft. thick....The vault of the tabernacle was festooned with evergreen and the room, though simple in appointments, was impressive in its simplicity and size."

"This morning we started for our field of labor. Took the morning train for Provo on Utah Central from thence we go to Clear Creek, present terminus town of Pleasant Valley R.R."

"Camped for the first time last night with nothing above me but my blankets and the blue vault of heaven."

By February of 1882, Bamber had been surveying for the railroads in Utah for six months. His journal entries reflect his liking for this work and his interest in the new and different nature of the western landscape.

"Friday, February 10th: Yesterday Palmer and I ran across a tree cut down by the beavers that was at least seven feet, eight inches in diameter where it was cut."

"April 2nd: A few weeks ago the Aurora Borealis made a magnificent display of color, nearly 1/4 of the firmament was of a bright pink color while the remainder being ___ already heightened the effect by its contrast. The display lasted about half an hour."

June 6, 1882, was Bamber's last day in Salt Lake City, marking the end of his survey work for the railroad. Bamber, at the age of 23, had successfully completed his first employment as an engineer.



Typical railroad survey crew, circa 1880. Two rodmen flank the surveyor with his tripod and transit. Photo courtesy of surveyantiques.com.

Bamber Meets Major Smith

We can assume by the successful work Bamber completed out west, and the choices he makes upon his return, that he has settled on becoming a civil engineer.

Less than three months after his return east, he wrote, "August 27th [1882]: In pursuance of plans formed last winter I matriculated at the University of Michigan last Thursday. My studies are in engineering and mathematics."

One year later, in June of 1883, while at the university in Ann Arbor, and shortly after his brother Albert died, Bamber received a new job offer.

From Indianapolis, he wrote, "Indianapolis, Indiana, July 5th: After Albert's death remained at home until June 11th when I returned to Ann Arbor. Found that Prof. Greene had received a letter from a Major Smith U.S.A. [Major Jared A. Smith, Army Corps of Engineers] in charge of government work in Indiana asking for an assistant engineer and after advising me to take the position recommended me to Major Smith for it....I wrote Major Smith accepting the position offered by him; consequently I am here this place being the location of Major Smith's office."

"Our work in the field will commence soon within ten days or two weeks and will be a survey of the Wabash River between Vincennes and Terra Haute....Met Major Smith this morning. Think I shall like him."

Bamber will only spend about one year working for Major Smith in Indiana, but his journals and subsequent events reveal that the major had a significant influence on Bamber's future as a successful engineer and his career with the U.S. Light-House Establishment.

From July 20, 1883, to October, Bamber described his exploits hopscotching from camp to camp while he surveyed a 60-mile stretch of terrain along the Wabash River bordering Indiana and Illinois.

In the late fall he wrote, "Sunday, October 28th [1883]: Finished our work on the river last Wednesday afternoon, i.e., having arrived at the mouth of White River we stopped work for the season....Major Smith leads me to expect to be given charge of surveying party next season if the appropriations do not fail."

At the end of 1883, Bamber was home for the holidays, but after the New Year he returned to his Indianapolis office working for Major Smith. At that time, they were engaged in the meticulous drawing, inking, and production of the Wabash River survey maps, one of the many tedious tasks of a civil engineer.

In March 1884 he wrote, "Am still in Major Smith's office....Had a talk with the Major about one week ago in which he gave me considerable encouragement to remain with him....I was led to expect to take charge of the engineering this season."

However, by August, circumstances had significantly changed. Major Smith was called to Baltimore to take charge of the 5th and 6th Lighthouse districts and Bamber accepted a position building a lock on the Monongahela River.

Locks are walled-in areas, built adjacent to a river dam, that allow ships and boats to be raised or lowered through a system of gates and machinery from one side of the dam to the

Reprinted from the U.S. Lighthouse Society's The Keeper's Log – Summer 2012 <www.USLHS.org>

other. Up until this time, Bamber's responsibilities had consisted only of survey and mapping work, but his new assignment would require much more of his engineering training and skills.

"Greensboro, Pennsylvania, August 12th: About the middle of June Major Smith received orders from the Chief of Engineers to take charge of the 5th and 6th Lighthouse districts, the officer in charge, General Babcock, having been drowned. Through Mr. P's [Petitdidier's] recommendation received an offer of a position here on Lock No. 8 for the season....As the location was healthful and the work new and promising to be instructive, I accepted."

Although Bamber could not have known it at the time, the news about General Babcock's drowning foreshadowed his long and successful career working for the U.S. Light-House Establishment. It was also not the last time Bamber would work with Major Smith.

Engineering With the Army Corps

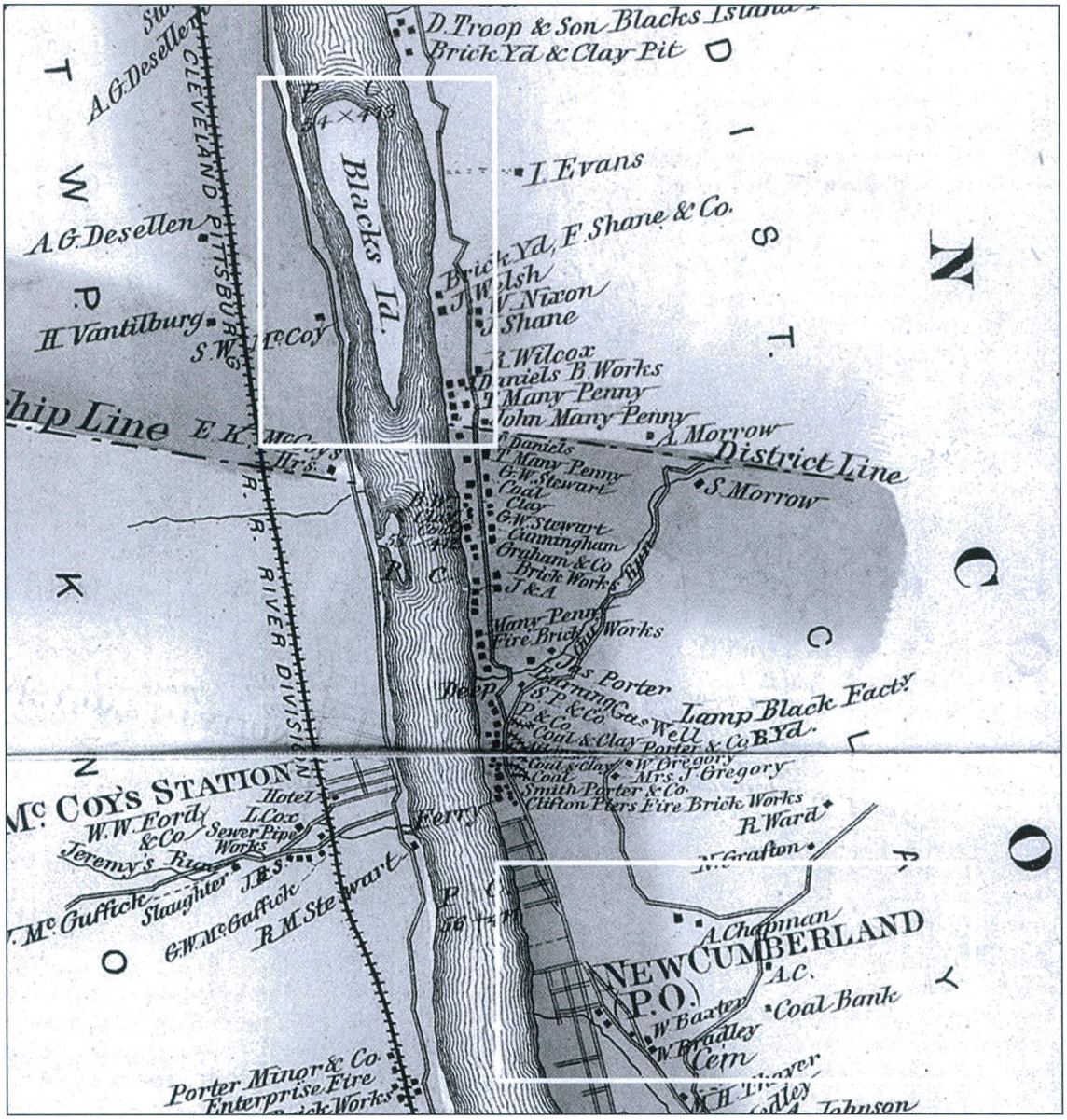
The Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio rivers had a long and troubled history in regard to navigation. These rivers were considered to be essential for trade and commerce, but they were largely unnavigable due to the numerous miles of shallow stretches.

It had been determined that a system of locks and dams would provide a year-round navigable channel for the 100-mile stretch downstream from Pittsburgh on the Monongahela River. Before the Civil War, six locks and dams had been completed, but the war dashed all hopes of further work and its aftermath left the rivers littered with debris and wreckage.

In 1866 William Milnor Roberts, one of the most prominent civil engineers of his time, was selected to undertake the massive clean-up and renewal of these crucial river projects. Roberts immediately began a survey and saw that millions of tons of coal, oil, and iron were struggling to travel hundreds of miles downriver in barges pushed by steam towboats.

He witnessed these barges, like huge floating islands, leaving Pittsburgh one behind the other, painstakingly navigating through narrow channels, round sharp bends, and between bridge piers, where a missed turn of the wheel meant certain disaster. In response to this challenge, Roberts deployed large snagboats and dredges, specially outfitted steamboats used for clearing large debris and deepening clogged river channels. Within three working seasons his efforts had greatly improved navigation on these vital waterways.

In 1870 a Colonel William Merrill succeeded Roberts and took over the renewal of the Ohio River and its tributaries, including the Monongahela. Merrill had been first in his class at West Point and the outspoken colonel seemed to relish lecturing Congress on its shortcomings. In 1871 he declared, "For a river one thousand miles long, with commerce estimated at over $500,000,000, the sums lately appropriated are insignificant." With his talents and reputation, Merrill was



Detail of an 1877 map of the Ohio River showing Blacks Island and New Cumberland, West Virginia, where, in 1885, Bamber worked for Col. William Merrill, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Although a dam and locks still exist at this location today, Blacks Island is no longer there.

Reprinted from the U.S. Lighthouse Society's The Keeper's Log – Summer 2012 <www.USLHS.org>

able to shake loose more funds to complete the work started by Roberts.

But it was not until June of 1880 that Congress appropriated $25,000 to build Lock No. 8, eighty-seven miles downstream from Pittsburgh. In 1881 Merrill's working party began construction.

Bamber joined Merrill's group in August of 1884 and in his journal he noted, "Work was well begun. The old cofferdams had been raised and pumping was commenced immediately. Now a new coffer has been built to include the lower end of the lock, two derricks are in position with their engines and considerable excavating has been done....August 31st: Weather has been favorable for our work during the month. Our excavation now amounts to 2400 yards and stone laying has been commenced....Colonel Merrill visited the lock this last week."

Less than one year later, in May of 1885, Bamber has relocated again, and is writing from Parkersburg, West Virginia. He had been sick since March and still had acute pain whenever he took a deep breath. He reported that in April Col. Merrill had offered him the position of inspector at the Blacks Island dam on the Ohio River. Reports from the time show that although work continued on Lock No. 8, Merrill had decided that Bamber's skills would be better utilized on the Ohio River project.

The *Official Register of the U.S., Containing a List of the Officers and Employés in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service* shows Bamber's employment in July 1885 as "Inspector," employed at the "Dam at Blacks Island, Ohio River, Near New Cumberland, W. Va.", with compensation listed as "p.m. 150.00" (per month $150.00). The project description states, "Improvement of the Ohio River; operating and care of Louisville and Portland Canal; improving Falls of Ohio River at Louisville, Ky.; improvement of the Monongahela and Alleghany Rivers; construction of an ice-harbor at mouth of Muskingum River, Ohio, and of harbors of refuge near Cincinnati, Ohio, and at mouth of Great Kanawha River, W. V., in charge of—Lieut. Col. William E. Merrill, Corps of Engineers."

He arrived in New Cumberland, on the bank of the Ohio River, in early June 1885. Although we do not see it often in his journals, Bamber's wit is evident in regards to his new location: "New Cumberland is a village of about 1200 inhabitants, mostly children. It has an indefinite length but a limited breadth."

From Locks to Lighthouses

The drowning of General Babcock in 1884 obligated Major Smith, now working for the Light-House Establishment in Baltimore, to hire the workmen needed to complete the construction of the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse in Florida, Babcock's principal project.

On July 19, 1885, just one month after his arrival in New Cumberland Bamber wrote, "Received a letter from Major Smith June 24th offering me an appointment as superintendent of construction on a Florida lighthouse. With Col. Merrill's permission, I accepted the appointment as it gave me a longer engagement than the one I have here with the same monthly salary averaging $150 per month. Expect to leave here early in August."

At just three weeks before his 27th birthday, Bamber began his first week working for the U.S. Light-House Establishment, under District Engineer Major Jared A. Smith. From that time on, lighthouses would be the focus of Bamber's professional career.

Consequently, Bamber turned over his responsibilities for the dam at Blacks Island to a new engineer on Saturday, August 1, 1885, and by Monday morning he reported for work at the offices of the 5th District in Baltimore, as the new superintendent of construction. At just three weeks before his 27th birthday, Bamber began his first week working for the U.S. Light-House Establishment, under District Engineer Major Jared A. Smith. From that time on, lighthouses would be the focus of Bamber's professional career.

Acknowledgments

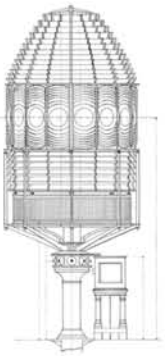
My sincere appreciation goes to Diane Needham and the Highland Township Historical Society (HTHS) of Oakland County, Michigan, for generously sharing the journals of Herbert Bamber. Deep into my research, I was searching every nook and cranny on Ancestry.com for a distant relative or descendent of Bamber, hoping to find just one photograph or other family information regarding this enigmatic figure. I had nearly given up the search when I had the good fortune to make contact with Needham. She told me that in 2005 the HTHS acquired 11 of Bamber's journals from a local collector. Two HTHS members, Dick Bohl and Roscoe Smith, had transcribed the handwritten journals, which then were published in the society's newsletter from 2007 through 2010. As their society is quite small, few people outside the Highland community were aware that these documents even existed. The journals have been invaluable in bringing the faintly outlined figure of Bamber into clearer focus.

Special thanks also go to Elizabeth (Betty) Buell Baldwin of Garrett Park, Maryland, (whose grandmother was Bamber's sister, Mary Elizabeth Bamber Buell) for entrusting numerous original photographs of Bamber and his family to me for scanning and publication—finally putting a face to his name.

Part II will cover Bamber's career with the U.S. Light-House Establishment, including the building of the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse and his remarkable journey photographing the lighthouses of America.

John Havel is a graphic designer with the U.S. EPA in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. He has been fascinated by the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse for many years, and this study of lighthouse engineer and photographer Herbert Bamber is an offshoot of a larger research effort to create an accurate, photographic history and chronology of this interesting and beautiful lighthouse. He lives in Raleigh with his wife, Aida, who helps him with lighthouse research.

Join the U.S. Lighthouse Society Today or Give the Gift of Membership!



Restoration & Preservation



Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse, MD

The U.S. Lighthouse Society has donated to many lighthouse preservation projects throughout the U.S. Most recently we were honored by being presented with the Preserve America Stewardship Award from The White House for our restoration work at Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse.

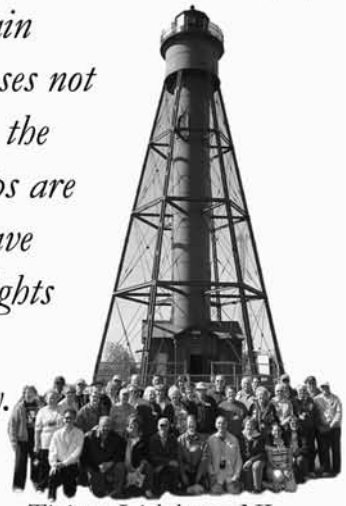
Help Support Our Important Mission!

Education



The Keeper's Log *magazine is the only one of it's kind and has been published quarterly since 1984. Receive this award-winning publication as a benefit of membership.*

The Society organizes domestic and international lighthouse tours. Many of our excursions gain access to lighthouses not normally open to the public. These trips are a great way to have fun, see lots of lights and learn about lighthouse history.



Tinicum Lighthouse, NJ

To learn more visit

www.uslhs.org

or

call Headquarters at

415-362-7255