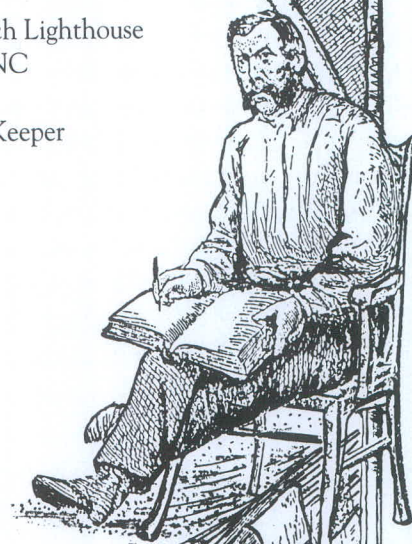


Pages from the Past

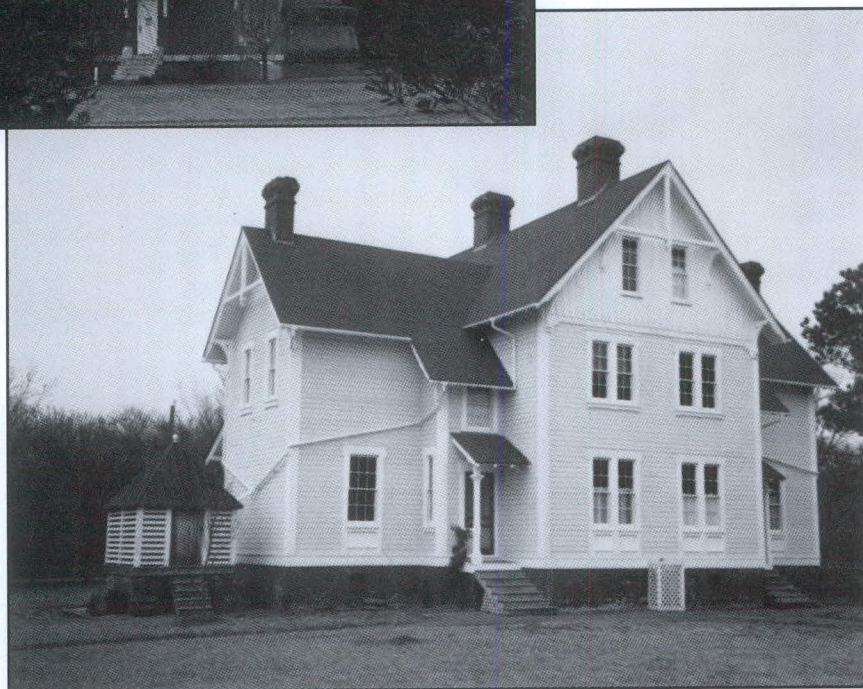


Currituck Beach Lighthouse
Outer Banks, NC

W.G. Burris - Keeper



Top photo—Ed Leuchter
Below—Gris Boxley-Carpenter



Recently restored assistant keeper's duplex

March 1, 1876 - The Italian Bark *Ottarina* struck this beach and went to pieces the next day. The crew of the L.S.S. station lost their lives attempting to rescue the crew (of this vessel). Nine of the crew were lost and four saved.

Nov. 26, 1877 - Some bodies from the wreck of the *Huron* came ashore near this station, more came on the 26 through the 29. The light keeper helped bury them.

Jan. 31, 1878 - About 11 a.m. I was informed there was a wreck on shore below here. I immediately hastened to the spot. We did all we could to save the passengers and crew and afterwards administer to their wants. The vessel is a total wreck and most of the cargo lost. Near a hundred of the passengers and crew remained and were fed at this station until February 2. I had about 70; it was the steamer *Metropolis* from Penn, bound for Brazil. It had been chartered to take passengers and supplies to a certain place up the Amazon River to build a railroad. The vessel was old and encountered a gale. Even after she left Delaware Bay she was breaking up badly before she reached the shore. Before night there was nothing to be seen except the top of the boiler.

Feb. 15 - During the past week we have been on the beach picking up bodies from the wreck, trying to identify them and take them home for burial.

Oct. 6, 1884 - New keeper A.J. Simpson

Dec. 19, 1884 - Snow, very cold fresh breeze. Snow frozen on the storm panes. 2nd asst. Heath reported that when he relieved Reed at 12 o'clock the light was burning up in the damper tube and the chimney melted and brass (sic) and the light was smoking bad. I went up in the tower and saw the chimney that was melted and smoked, the damper tube was also badly burned. I called Reed up in the tower and he said that he left the light in good condition at 12 O'Clock. Heath said that he had to put it out to regulate it at 12:30. I then gave orders to the two assistants that the light was not to be left alone any longer than it would take to call the watch and Heath told me plainly that he would go down and get his supper and feed his hogs after he lighted up any time it was his first watch, that he had always done and intended to do it until the inspector told him to leave.

Dec. 31 - Foggy, 1st asst. keeper on duty after lighting the light at 4:55 sunset he came down to look after his hogs, leaving the light unattended 25 minutes after being lighted. I have ordered him several times to stay by the light while he was on watch and not leave it unattended, but he defies my authority and leaves the light at all times when he chooses and is sometimes away from the light an hour or longer.

Apr. 25, 1885 - Keeper returned from Cape Hattaras at 6 p.m. being detained by the death of his mother, which occurred on the 15th.

July 3 - Assistant Heath removed, F.E. Simpson took his place.

June 17, 1886 - I left the watchroom to go down and call the watch. I stopped and signed the watch book and as I went out the door of the tower I heard a noise like something falling. I went out and saw the lens was stopped. I ran back into the watch room and when I got there I found that one of the pinion wheels of the revolving clock had fallen to pieces disconnecting the governor and causing the lens to revolve so fast that it threw open two of the glass doors of the red flashes. The frames of the doors had caught on the curtain cord puller which broke the glasses and frames all to pieces and caused the lens to stop. I called both of the assistant keepers and while the 2nd asst. revolved the lens by hand, the 1st asst. and myself put the clock together. I then lashed two of the ruby panels over the flash (panels) and the machinery worked again all right. I then went to the Kitty Hawk signal office to report the accident.

May 11, 1895 - 2nd Assistant cussed and abused the Keeper.

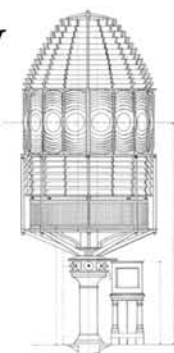
May 10, 1896 - Keeper went to Long Point for supplies and returned at 3:30 and found his boy 10 years brutally beaten by one L.N. Simmons, former keeper at this station, who is now teaching a public school here on this island.

June 1 - L.N. Simmons stopped in front of the station this morning and abused keeper and made threats he was going to report him for using that language.

June 1 - Keeper requests a transfer to some other lighthouse.



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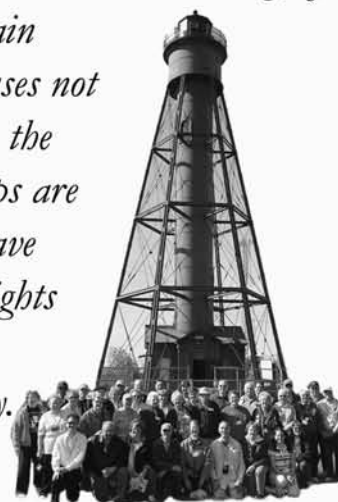
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Tinicum Lighthouse, NJ