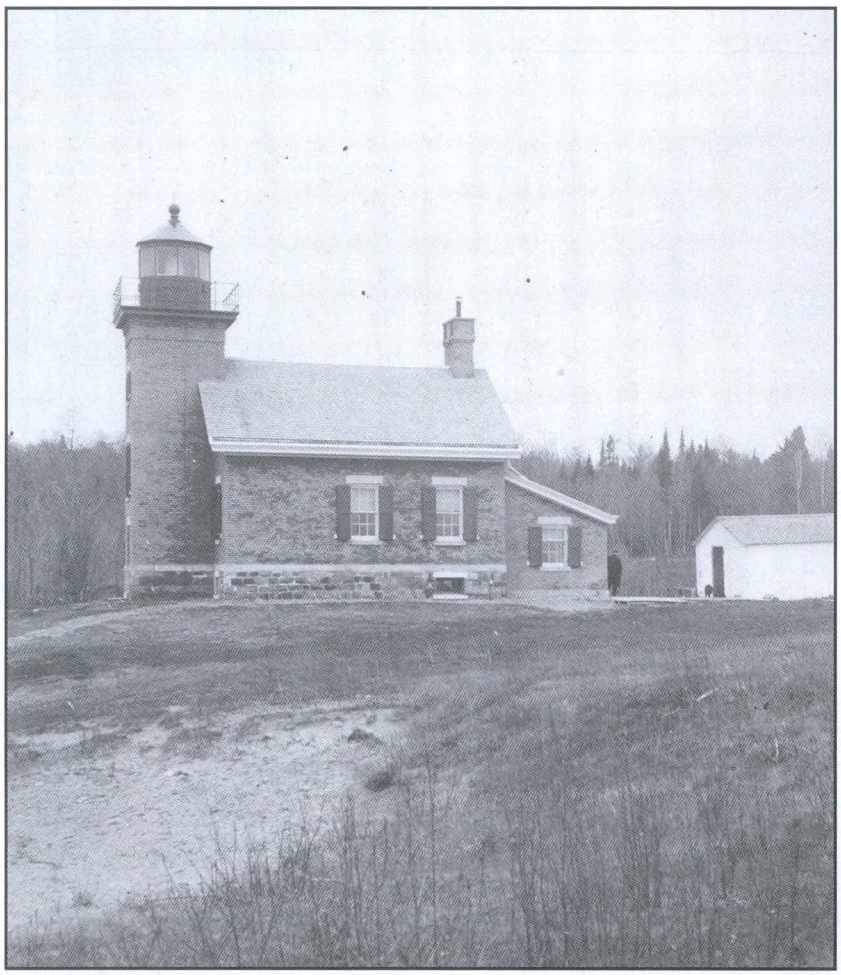
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Pages from the Past



Grand Island Lighthouse
Lake Superior, MI

July 22, 1872 - A very busy night fighting large blue Miller moths off of the outside of the plate glass with an old feather brush. We almost despaired conquering them, they were actually in myriads although it was drizzling rain. But fortunately a puff of cold air from the Lake about 3 o'clock a.m. caused them to vanish as suddenly as they appeared.



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July 12, 1872 - Although it is out of place, I not having received this book before the 18th, I think it well to mention that on the 12th of this month a dark body appeared in the sky about S.E. from this light at 10:40 a.m. I kept my eyes upon it, thinking that it was the blackest thunder cloud I had ever seen. All of a sudden a tremendous flame burst from this dark opake body and it left an hour and a half after the explosion. At 11:10 we heard a noise similar to the report of a thousand big guns. The sky was perfectly serene and clear at the time. Query. What was it? (Ed. - appears to be an early UFO sighting.)

Nov. 30, 1872 - It has been one continued snow storm and the wind blowing a perfect gale ever since the night of thirteenth. We extinguish the Light this morning as it is winter. The thermometer stood at 8 degrees below zero this morning and there is two feet of snow on the level in the woods. The icebergs are almost as high as they were at any time last winter. The wind has blown more furiously within the last few days than at any time since we have had charge of the light. The seas rose up the stairway eleven feet higher than has ever known before and has torn away 43 feet of the stairway, the spikes that we used being too short.



To our surprise we perceive a steamer out in the Lake, making her way down in spite of the wind and weather; she appears to be one of the new iron vessels that came out last year. The sight of the steamer compels us to light up for a few days longer. The only trouble in keeping the light in this severe cold weather is the ice making on the outside as well as the inside of the plate glass. We have used up all our salt and we are encroaching on the supply of Spirits of Wine (ed. - vinegar) rather beyond the regulation. But we must keep the ice off some way...

Apr. 1, 1873 - We have no remarks to make up to this date more than to say that we have had a very early, cold and boisterous winter and no prospect of an early opening (ed. - for navigation) as yet...the ice is two feet nine inches thick and the snow is three feet five inches on a level in the interior of the island...

Aug. 10, 1873 - This is Sunday. I have had great pleasure in dining with Mr. & Mrs. Weisner on board the Steamer Surveyor, in whose company, I have enjoyed three of the most delightful hours that I have ever spent in my life. I consider it one of the angel's visits which seldom falls to the lot of a secluded light-keeper.

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Aug. 15, 1873 - [ed. - The steamer was departing with the company on board and the keeper made this final comment.] After having passed so pleasant a time in the society of Mrs. Wisner and the gentlemen on board, we can well appreciate the sentiments of the poet who wrote the following lines;

When friendships have withered,
and fond hopes have flown,
Oh who would inhabit,
This drear world alone.

So we say as we watch the little steamer as she vanishes in the haze. The weather looks as if a north-wester is brewing. But we know that the commander of the steamer is a sailor every inch of him and a gentleman who will never shirk his duty...

Aug. 24, 1873 - At 2:30 a.m. an eared owl (the large kind) sat perched upon the railing of the tower, as sedate and important as a Judge Advocate upon a court martial. But when the bull's eye of the lens would flash upon him, he would throw up his wings and cast his head down, as much to say, I submit! But no sooner would the flash be off him, when he would hoot as if called, "Come on McDuff"...he finally retired to his native forest where he came across a brother chum with whom he had quite a conversation. Although I am an old resident...in the woods...I never could learn their language thoroughly, which prevents me from committing his honor's discourse to paper.

Feb. 28, 1874 - The monotony of the place prevents me from making many remarks further than to state the winter so far has been pleasant.

Apr. 20, 1874 - Maple sugar making has begun at last, and as usual it is accompanied with plenty of tooth ache. I consider hot maple candy the Dentist's Best Friend.

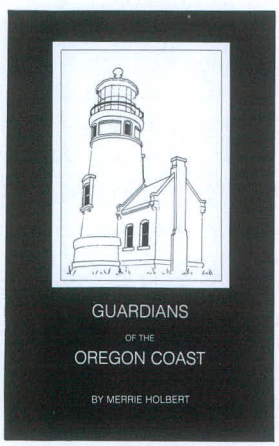
Jul. 10, 1875 - [ed. - The keeper's wife becomes ill and the following reference is to some women who visited her, attempting to assist.] ...I can not refrain from expressing my gratitude to those indeed benevolent ladies, who favoured this station with their presence, for their kindness to my poor invalid darling. She appears to recover her cheerfulness since these ladies have passed here. But alas! no hope.

Oct. 11, 1875 - My darling is becoming so weak, that I have concluded to send the family to Onata...

Nov. 7, 1875 - My darling has gone to the long rest...but, I hope to meet all my darlings yet in heaven.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathomed waves of ocean bear,
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its fragrance in the desert air.

Nov. 30, 1875 - It is winter. The Indian Summer has passed us unperceived. We have extinguished the Light for the season.

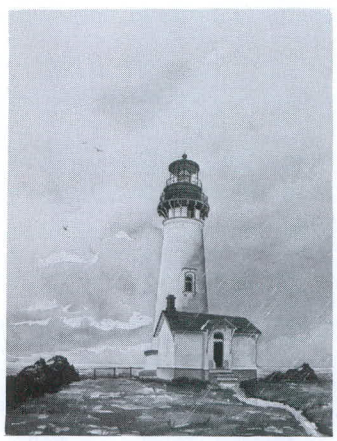


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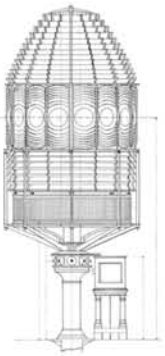
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Yaquina Head in driving rain

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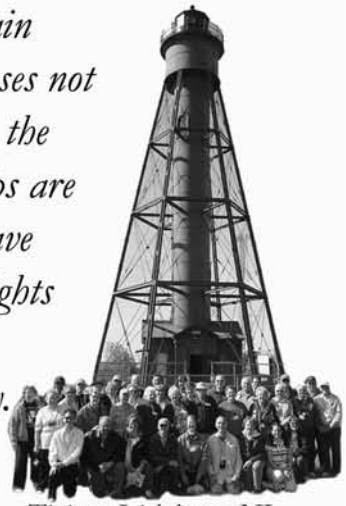
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