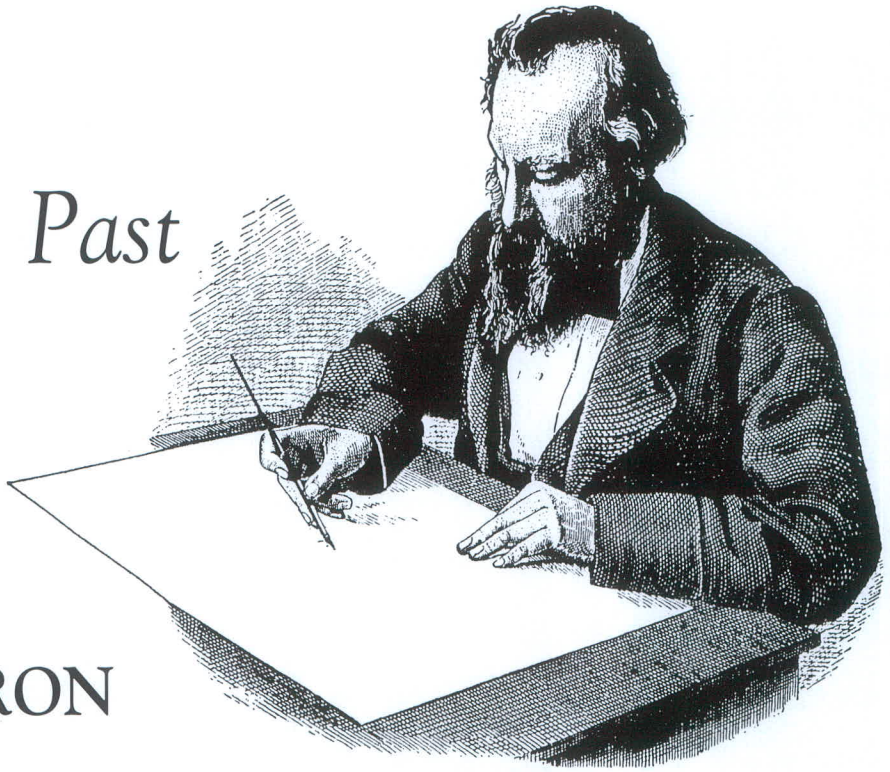
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Pages from the Past



PRESQUE ISLE
LAKE HURON

The Presque Isle light station was constructed in 1870 at a cost of $48,000. It was completed in November of that year and first lighted the next spring. For three generations the Garraty family were keepers of this station as well as the nearby harbor range lights and served at other stations too.

July 1876—"During July, a date I've forgotten, James Curtis, Edwin Hadley, N.V.C. Hart and Adam Wiseman pulled in the Hadley from 40 Mile Point to this light [station] reaching here about midnight. Mrs. Garraty was at Macinaw and Mr. G was sleeping too soundly, so we just put up on the floor of the boat house until morning when Mr. G gave us a grand breakfast, wonderful Raspberry pie, after which we started for the club house overland reaching these Sunday at 9 a.m."

H.V.C. Hart"

June 12, 1878—The painter removed from this station today to paint the range lights in the harbor. They gave this tower three coats of paint and painted the dwelling inside. This lighthouse which has been of red brick is now painted white. The outside of the keeper's dwelling which consists of Milwaukee brick [ed. yellow cream] is unpainted.

July 1, 1878—The vessel return amounts this year to June 30 A.D. 1878 Eight thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Two (8,942) Vessels & Steamers which passed by or in the vicinity of this Light Station since July 1, 1877.

Sept. 26, 1881—A very sad accident occurred between here and Crawford's Quarry on Saturday evening the 24th Instant resulting in the drowning of George W. Harrison and his daughter Georgia, age 16, Mr. Cowles, an attorney from Pt. St. Ignace, and Mrs. J. B. Patterson all of Crawford's Quarry, except Mr. Cowles. The above mentioned parties left this Light Station in a small sail boat they proceeded as far as Thompson's Harbor when the owner of the boat, Mr. F. Hagen, refused to go further on account of the approaching storm from the westward. The rest of the party desirous of reaching home that evening ventured out, but having no experience in the management of a boat they became victims of a melancholy accident. They are supposed to be drowned near Adam's Point. On Monday the 26th Inst. the boat was found and towed ashore by Paul Bartlett and John Garraty.

October 25—The body of Miss Georgia Harrison, one of the ill fated four drowned at Adam's Point on the 24 Inst. was found Wednesday, Oct. 19th a.m. The body being 24 days in the water.

Jan. 1, 3 & 6—A terrible shooting affray took place in this Presque Isle about 11 a.m. today. Mr. William McTervie, the Constable, while executing the duties of his office, was shot by a man named Alonzo Stone, he being shot in his side, the ball coming out at his back. The bullet was one size in a Muzzle Loading rifle and the passage cut a portion of his liver and kidney & fractured his back bone. Doctors Newton and Maiden were sent for, who immediately came and did all they could for the wounded man. But after three days of terrible suffering, he died on the Sixth at 2 p.m. The Post Mortum was made by these two physicians. Stone and Gill are under arrest and in jail awaiting trial at Rogers City. Deepest grief and Indignation exists throughout the Town Ship for the departed.

July 19, 1889—My Assistant, John McIntyre, is now in the county jail, the Sheriff arrested him with a criminal warrant for the crime of rape on my daughter Amie and threatened her life and tried to choke her. He obtained a hearing before a Justice and was bound over to the term of Circuit Court which will be held October next.

Apr. 2, 1890—My Assistant P.H. Garraty took the oath of office and reported to duty today as Assistant Keeper.

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July 14, 1891—I have turned over all the property belonging to the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment to my successor, Mr. Thomas Garraty, who has been transferred from the Presque Isle Harbor Range Lights. I have been Keeper of this Light Station since it was built in 1870 (21 years) and am now appointed Keeper of the Range Lights and will enter duty today. Patrick Garraty.

Nov. 13, 1897—Miss Anna Garraty, youngest daughter of the Range Light Keeper, and who is also a sister of the keeper and Assistant keeper at this station, met with a serious accident at 8:30 p.m. last night. While walking on the icy walks she slipped and fell breaking both bones of the right leg four inches above the ankle. The Assistant Keeper started immediately for Alpena to get the aid of the Doctor. It will be at least ten hours before the Doctor can get here and in the meantime Miss. Garraty is suffering great pain. 2 O'clock a.m.

The Doctor arrived at 5:30 a.m. and gave all the relief possible in such a case. He says it will be at least six weeks before Miss Garraty can leave her bed.

[She was walking again in February without the aid of crutches and went back to her duties of Assistant Keeper with her father at the Range Lights]

Jan. 10, 1903—Dr. Sicrist came out from Alpena this p.m. to attend to Patrick Garraty who is quite ill. The Doctor advises his removal to Alpena where he can be properly cared for.

Feb. 13—A furnished house has been rented at Alpena for the Range Light Keeper & Family who will move there as soon as roads are in condition for fast travel. Mr. Garraty is no better.

Feb. 20—Mr. & Mrs. P. Garraty & Miss Ann Garraty left for Alpena this morning for the Winter months.

Mar. 17—Mr. Patrick Garraty, Range Lt. Keeper, who has been in Alpena getting medical treatment since Feb. 20, has suddenly grown worse & is quite seriously ill today.

Mar. 22—Mr. P.H. Garraty, who has been with his father at Alpena returned today. Mr. Garraty Sr. is no better.

Mar. 28—Mr. Garraty Sr. who is very ill is growing weaker each day & the doctors do not give much hope for his recovery. All his family, except his two sons at this station, are at his bedside.

Mar. 30—A telephone message came early this morning saying Mr. Garraty was very low and sinking fast, his son P.H. Garraty left at once for his bedside. Death expected at any moment.

Patrick Garraty expired at 5:30 today. The end came, while not unexpected, it was much sooner than looked for. All the family were with him except his second son, Thomas, whose duties at this station would not permit him to leave, not even in this extreme case of necessity.

Apr. 5—A letter was received today from Lt. House Inspector Herbert Winslow, Cdr. USN, authorizing the Keeper at this station to employ Miss A.T. Garraty to take charge of the Range Light Station until a Keeper is appointed for that station.

May 18, 1905—Mr. P.H. Garraty, Asst. Keeper at this station, has been notified by the Inspector of his promotion to Keeper of the Middle Island station which will go into commission June 1st (after having been Asst. Keeper for 14 years).

June 2—Mr. John Garraty arrived from Stanard Rock Light Station today, he has been appointed Ass't Keeper of this station.

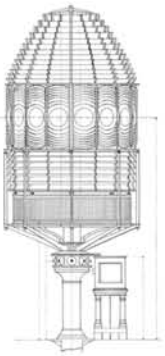
[as of this date, Thomas Garraty is keeper at Presque Isle, John is the Assistant, P.H. Garraty is the Keeper of Middle Island and Anna is the keeper of the Range Lights . . . some family!]

Sept. 14, 1914—Earl McDougall entered duty as 2nd Asst. Keeper today [Keeper's nephew, 3rd generation]



Presque Isle Light Station on Lake Huron in 1947. The building in front of the tower is the keeper's house, with the oil house and privy at right. The barn can be seen just behind the tower. The assistant keeper's duplex is at left. U.S. Coast Guard photo.

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Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse, MD

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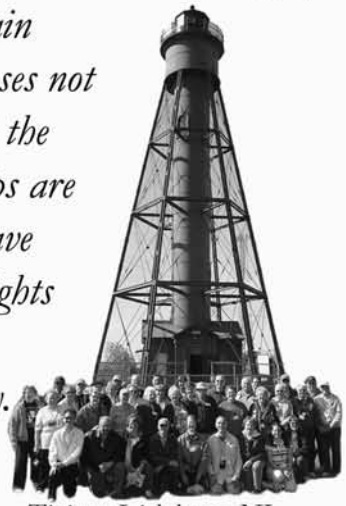
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