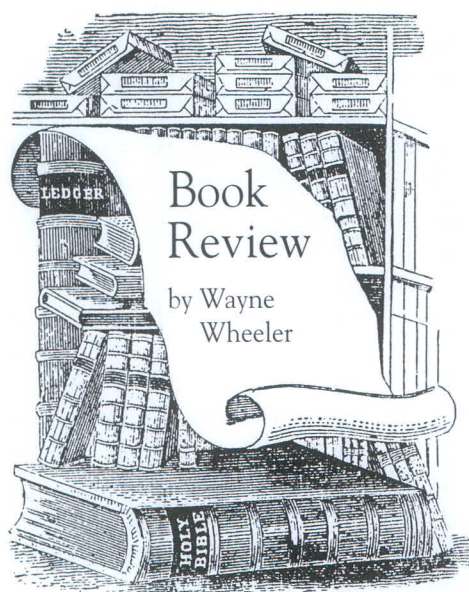


This station is a rival to Owls Head as one of the most beautiful in Penobscot Bay.

A tack to starboard eventually brought us abreast of the Pumpkin Island station, the island and the light station is for sale for a cool \$1.5 million.

The remainder of the day was spent tacking down Penobscot Bay to our overnight anchorage in Pulpit Harbor of Northhaven Island. The final day of our adventure dawned bright and promised a refreshing sail across the bay to our home port of Camden. No lighthouses on this day (save Curtis Island), but during the cruise we had seen nine, up close and personal.

Keepers wishing a sailor's eye view of the lighthouses of Penobscot Bay, and environs, I would recommend a call to Captain Ray Williamson at 1-800-736-7981 (Box 617, Camden, ME 04843). His schooners *Mercantile* and *Grace Baily* are just the ticket for a fun and relaxing passage past nine lighthouses and some beautiful scenery. An intimate cruise for six passengers may be obtained aboard his schooner *Mistress*. The state-rooms are quite snug, the decks broad and comfortable and the food outstanding. Be sure to tell him the Head Keeper sent you and do ask for the lighthouse cruise.



## Guardians of the Golden Gate Lighthouses and Lifeboat Station of the San Francisco Bay

By Ralph Shanks

A meaty book of 318 pages, of which 220 are dedicated to the lighthouses and life boat stations of San Francisco Bay. The remainder deals with the Life Saving Service in (northern) California, glossary, bibliography, etc.

Ralph's first book, the *Lighthouses of the Golden Gate*, has been out of print for a number of years. It has been a much sought after book on the used book market. Rather than reissue that fine book, he has developed a new book using much of the material from the original but, also, interlacing the lighthouse material with material on the U.S. Life Saving Service. After reading about the Lighthouse Service at Point Bonita the reader slides into the Life Saving Service at Point Bonita before moving on to the next Bay lighthouse. This "style" is rather disturbing as the two services have a different flavor. One has to constantly shift gears from USLHS to USLSS and, really, there is ample material for two different books. At the least, the material might have been separated into two parts: say, the Lighthouse Service in the front and Life Saving Service in the rear. There is a separate chapter at the back that talks just about the USLSS in California and mixes that with the modern Coast Guard, again a different breed. The material stretches all the way north to Humboldt Bay, far afield of the Golden Gate . . . but inexplicably no mention of the Service or Coast Guard south of San Francisco.

Overall there is some excellent material in the book, even if it is awkwardly mixed between the three services and blends historical information with contemporary material. There are numerous interesting historical photos which the printer apparently (and unfortunately) "gang" shot causing some to become gray, block up or washed out.

Soft cover, 6" by 9", 318 pages, black and white photos and drawings and a few maps. Available through the Keeper's Library at \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.



Left - Curtis Island Lighthouse, at the entrance to Camden Harbor, with Penobscot Bay in the background. The station was established in 1836, the present structures were built in 1896. Until recent years Curtis Island was known as Negro Island. Although the light is still federal, the house and island are licensed to the Town of Camden. Photo by Mark Ide, North Grafton, MA.