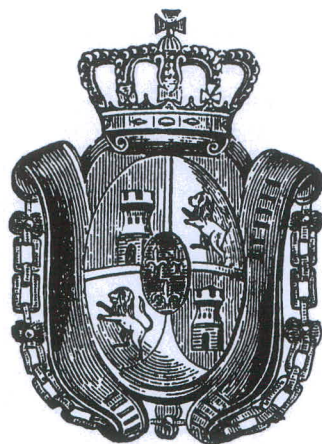


Foreign Affairs



Irish Lighthouses Go Automatic

Howth, Ireland

Currently there are only three manned lighthouses in Ireland. Our Irish Tour last year visited both of the southern Ireland lighthouses: Hook and Baily. This April the Hook Point lighthouse in County Wexford and Mew Island in County Down will be made automatic and the keepers removed. This will leave principal keeper John Crowley and his Old Baily Lighthouse as the last manned light on the O' Sod. Recently Keeper Crowley remarked, "It's sad to see it go and it was a nice way of life, but it's a pity that the next generation won't be able to see it." The lighthouse has been everything in his life as he is the fourth generation in his family to be involved with keeping lighthouses.

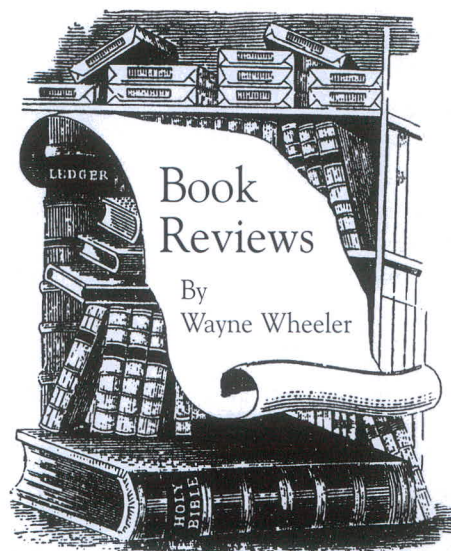
Keeper Crowley lives with his family outside of Raheny and has long been involved with the lighthouse service. He and his two sons, John and Sheamus, have worked at many Irish lighthouses. The senior Crowley enlisted in 1958 and said, "It would have been nice for my boys to take the tradition one generation further."

He remembers time spent at the famous Fasnet Lighthouse: "I remember the huge liners leaving for America and the Fasnet was known as the last place an emigrant shed his tears. It was a place of great beauty, even though you were in isolation." He realizes that the standard will be maintained (under automation) but that the system has changed.

Our last Irish Tour this June will visit Keeper John Crowley at his Baily Lighthouse, the last keeper of a manned lighthouse in Ireland. It will be automated in 1997.

Foreign Affairs

We recently were made aware of a new lighthouse society, The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society (NSLPS). They publish a ten page newsletter, *The Lightkeeper*, which not only relates lighthouse events in Nova Scotia, but throughout Canada. The newsletter contains historical and contemporary information on your favorite subject. Single membership is \$10 a year, family \$20. If you are interested write to: Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society, c/o Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water St., Halifax, B3J 1S3.



FLORIDA'S TERRITORIAL LIGHTHOUSES 1821-1845

By Thomas Taylor

There seems to be an incredible number of books on lighthouses flying off the press in recent years. Some are scholarly, some provide a new insight into a particular aspect of our favorite subject, and a great many are merely reprints of the same tired, old material, often inaccurate, which has been rolling off the press for years.

Thomas Taylor's new book *Florida's Territorial Lighthouses 1821-1845*, is clearly a cut above most lighthouse books published in recent years. Author Taylor really did his homework in researching the earliest lighthouses to dot the Florida shores. Prior to the publication of this limited edition, Tom had articles on other Florida lighthouses published in *The Keeper's Log* – specifically one on the Ponce deLeon Inlet light station and a series about the two Key West stations.

In this book, Taylor has dedicated a chapter to each of the 13 lighthouses that were constructed between 1821, when the United States acquired Florida as a Territory, and 1845 when it became a state. Other chapters detail the lightships of the Florida coast, a significant beacon, and lighthouses proposed during the Territorial years but were either not constructed, or completed after Florida became a state.

Each chapter begins with a short list of pertinent information: location, date first lighted, name of the contractor, cost, etc. Most chapters contain photos of the early stations, locations maps and other illustrations. Every chapter ends with an impressive list of bibliographical notes. One chapter had five pages of notes, attesting to some dedicated research.

Sprinkled through the chapters are quotes from contractors, the Lighthouse Service, keepers, and other principles. The book reads smoothly and is very interesting. A fine edition to any Keeper's library.

Of particular value, in addition to the copious notes at the end of each chapter, is an appendix listing many of the keepers of Florida's Territorial lighthouses and captains of the lightships. An eight page general bibliography caps this fine work.

Thomas Taylor even provided his own drawings where photos were not available or to illustrate a point. With all due respect, Thomas Taylor is a better researcher and author than artist, but we salute his effort.

This edition is limited to 1,000 copies all signed by the author. Soft full color cover, 8 1/2" X 11", 302 pages, numerous photos, maps, and drawings. Available through the Keeper's Locker at \$29.95 plus shipping and handling.

BAY BEACONS – LIGHTHOUSES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

By Linda Turbyville

What a pleasure to read an accurate and engaging book about lighthouses of a particular region. There is no doubt that author Linda Turbyville is a professional writer. She has crafted a fine book on the existing lighthouses of the Chesapeake Bay. Her 13-page Introduction is the finest I have ever read. In it, she provides solid background information leading up to the construction of the Bay's lighthouses. She weaves the construction of the various styles of lighthouses dotting the Chesapeake with the era in which they were constructed. The Introduction is historically accurate, smoothly written, and provides good, solid information without beating to death the history of lighthouses, as so many books do.

Following the Introduction are mini-chapters on each of the 31 existing lighthouses on the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Texas Tower, located 14 miles east of the entrance to the Bay, is the 32nd lighthouse to be included. This tower occupies the old Chesapeake lightship station. Each 'chapter' provides a brief history of the lighthouse, site, and construction. The chapter also includes at least one historic and one contemporary photograph. A side bar gives the date of construction, position, characteristic, and other important facts.

My only criticism is that the vanished lighthouses of the Chesapeake Bay have not been included. The book could easily have been sectioned to include these lighthouses, much as DeGast did with his Chesapeake Bay lighthouse book. Perhaps later editions can include these lighthouses in a section at the back of the book, with historic photographs, titled *They Also Served*.

The Forward of *Bay Beacons* was written by Herb Entwistle, President of the Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society, who said: "For those of us who love lighthouses in general, and those of the Chesapeake Bay in particular, *Bay Beacons* is a major work combining beautiful color photography with well

researched text. If you already love the lights of the bay, this will strengthen that love. If you are not already a lighthouse enthusiast, this volume will make you one." Amen.

Hard cover, color dust jacket, 9" x 11", 138 pages, numerous color and black and white photographs, and a location map. Available through the Keeper's Locker for \$29.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling.



EAGLE BLUFF JOURNAL 1895

By Phyl Mielke

From 1883 to 1918 William Duclon was the keeper of the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse in Door County Wisconsin, on the shore of Green Bay. He and his wife, Julia, raised seven boys in the small lighthouse. For many years, before the school was constructed, Julia was the boy's only teacher. She also taught each boy to play a musical instrument.

The author, Phyl Mielke, has created a fictional journal, based on fact, to reflect a year at the Eagle Bluff station as seen through the eyes of 12 year old Walter Duclon, the youngest of the seven boys. Julia challenged Walter to keep a journal for one year beginning in January of 1895. She said the journal would help his spelling and writing and would be like "pa's" lighthouse journal. Walter is instructed that he need not write in it every day, but should do so fairly often.

Author Mielke used old newspapers and books on Door County and the light-

house to add facts to the book. She also had talks with people who lived back when there was no electricity, indoor plumbing, and automobiles to produce 'the flavor of the bean.' Her imagination, coupled with facts, has created a charming story of life in a lighthouse in a rural setting at the end of the 19th century. Walter fills his journal with daily life at the station and during the course of the year you learn about his chores, his mother's work around the house, and duties of his father, the lighthouse keeper.

The book is sprinkled with subtle humorous passages such as his entry for July 12 – "I was in town today with Charlie and Oscar Anderson and we had a good laugh watching the summer people at the beach in their fancy swimming outfits. I don't know how they can stay afloat with all those clothes on. The ladies have these black wool suits with big sailor collars all trimmed in braid. They have wide black skirts with big woolen bloomers underneath and black stockings below that. Then they wear a white hat on top and swimming shoes on their feet. I guess they don't swim much, just go wading. It's funny to see ladies in short skirts with their legs sticking out below their skirts. I doubt we'll ever see ma in one of those outfits. I hope she doesn't get mad when she reads this page in my journal about us laughing at the ladies' get-ups....When we go swimming down by our dock, we get by in a lot less than that."

As the seasons turn from winter to spring to summer you learn about life in 1895 in a rural county. Walter tells of the chores which change with the seasons, of family life and the doings of his community: barn dances, fights, deaths and ship wrecks are part of the scene he witnesses and dutifully records in his journal.

The Eagle Bluff Journal 1895 is a charming and seemingly accurate account of those bygone days, of quiet times when the country moved at a slower pace. Although written for youth I found it a charming and enjoyable book.

Soft cover, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" color covers, location maps, a photo of the Duclon boys and several charming drawings. Available from the author by sending \$8.25 to Mrs. Mielke, 1025 Trillium, Sister Bay, WI 54234.