



CAPE HATTERAS: AMERICA'S LIGHTHOUSE

By Thomas Yocum, Bruce Roberts and Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

If one makes it through the Preface, lengthy Acknowledgments and the Introduction, the reader of this book will be treated to a fairly accurate rendition of the life and times of the Cape Hatteras Light Station.

The opening chapter deals with the first Cape Hatteras tower, constructed by Henry Dearborn in 1803. The city of Dearborn, Michigan was named after him. The chapter entails material relevant to early lighthouse affairs of our young nation. Chapter 2 contains the history of the modifications made to Dearborn's tower in 1854 and a few side bars which seem to show up in most books about lighthouses. The final chapter of Part One outlines the Civil War in the area of the lighthouse and contains numerous excellent contemporary color photographs by photographer Bruce Roberts.

Part Two outlines the history of the second Cape Hatteras tower (a skeleton tower which served the area when the Cape Hatteras tower was threatened with erosion in the late 1930's), U-boats in the area during both World Wars, the story of a proposal to construct a unique tower off-shore (which was never completed) and a slew of information about the Diamond Shoals lightships which served in the area.

A discussion of the changing shoreline and history of erosion in the area in another chapter leads to the present day and the effort to move the entire light station back from harm's way. An appendix lists all the keepers and assistant keepers of the station.

Cape Hatteras: America's Lighthouse (some other lighthouses might take umbrage at that statement) appears to be accurately researched and is well written (although there is no proof that California's Pigeon Point Lighthouse lens was transferred from the Cape Hatteras tower, as the book claims). The book is laced with numerous historical and contemporary photos, as well as several illustrations.

It is a shame that the authors didn't wait for the completion of the move of the lighthouse, as that would have nicely completed the story of the Cape Hatteras Light Station, but sales-wise it's probably good to strike while the iron is hot, and this lighthouse has received a ton of publicity lately.

Hard or soft cover, 8 1/2" by 10 1/2", 124 pages, numerous historical and contemporary photos. Available through the Keeper's Locker for \$26.95 (hard cover), \$16.95 (soft cover) plus shipping and handling.

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