



## UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

9005 Point No Point Rd. NE \* Hansville, WA 98340 \* 415-362-7255 \* [www.uslhs.org](http://www.uslhs.org)



# STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB



Number 50 - April 2025

Website: [www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club](http://www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club)

Email: [passportclub@uslhs.org](mailto:passportclub@uslhs.org)

## The Wickies Go Marching Along!

On USLHS tours some years ago, we sang the following ditty to the tune of “The Caissons Go Marching Along” as we hiked to the next lighthouse:

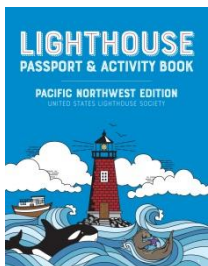
*“Over hill over dale we will hit the lighthouse trail  
And the wickies go marching along  
Climb the stairs, see the light, watch it shining through the night  
And the wickies go marching along”*

Visiting lighthouses with family and friends can add so much to the experience and marching along while chanting this song can even make that hike uphill more fun!

*“For it’s hi, hi hee, we love our family (In our version “we love the Society!”)  
They take us to places near and far  
So where ‘er you go, you will always know  
That the wickies go marching along”*

In our last *Flashes* we introduced different types of stamp collectors. In this issue, we focus on the “Collector Family.” Recent research indicates that multigenerational travel is increasing in popularity. Parents and grandparents are educating their children and grandchildren through travel which provides, among other things, historical perspectives. Lighthouses are a perfect vehicle to help provide insights into the past. Climbing the stairs to the top of a tower and getting a stamp is just the icing on the cake for a lighthouse visit. Susan Harbourt, owner of Michigan’s Portage River Lighthouse, in her recent blog stated “Picture your passport transforming into a treasure map, guiding you through a labyrinth of lighthouses, each brimming with its own unique tale and allure.” What more could a kid want?

## Kids Passport Book



To enhance these family excursions the recently released *Lighthouse Passport & Activity Book* is a great way for kids to expand their knowledge of lighthouses through activities and passport stamps.

The first edition, Pacific Northwest Edition, covers the states of Oregon and Washington. The book has activities including follow the dots, word searches and mazes in addition to photos and a place for stamps (13 for Washington and 9 for Oregon). The passport encourages adventure and learning and is a fun way to explore lighthouses together. It turns each lighthouse tells its own story.

(e.g. When was the lighthouse built? Why was it built here? How tall is the lighthouse?) Completion of each state earns a patch while completing both states earns an additional regional patch. More regions will be added in the future. To purchase the Pacific Northwest edition go to:

<https://uslhs.org/shop/collectibles>. An additional resource for families interested in lighthouses is Elinor DeWire’s Kid’s Corner which can be found on the USLHS website at: <https://uslhs.org/resources/kids-corner>





## **UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY**

9005 Point No Point Rd. NE \* Hansville, WA 98340 \* 415-362-7255 \* [www.uslhs.org](http://www.uslhs.org)

### **A Reminder about Mail in Requests**

We are still receiving feedback from some lighthouses that indicate (a) requests are being made for stamps that are not available by mail and (b) the instructions to receive the stamp(s) are not being followed. If you wish to receive a stamp by mail make sure our listing indicates that this is an option for that location and carefully follow any instructions. Some locations cannot accept donations, some don't want cash, some require a photo, some ask that checks be made out to a specific organization and there may be other requests. If they ask for a donation you should include \$2 for each copy of each stamp you request. Finally, remember to be patient. Handling stamp requests is not at the top of their to-do list. Many lighthouses are seasonal and don't deal with mail for half the year and there are a dozen other reasons why it may take a while before you get a response.

### **Lost Stamps**

We know about "Lost Lights" but what is the story with "Lost Stamps?" We have had a number of locations that no longer have a stamp that was once listed on our website. Some have disappeared with no one available to accept responsibility for a new one. In other cases it was a business that provided the stamp but they have closed their doors (e.g. Sisters Island & Rock Harbor, NY). The stamp may still be in the hands of the lighthouse but it is not currently available for a variety of reasons (e.g. Esopus Meadows). Sometimes we are unable to connect with the stamp holder to verify the website listing (e.g. Point Adams stamps at Fort Stevens). Initially, we simply include this fact in the listing but eventually we may have to remove them from the program. Once removed, to add a stamp back into the program it is necessary for another qualified organization to step forward and offer to provide the service (e.g. Point Hueneme).

### **New Stamps**

#### **East Chop Lighthouse, Massachusetts**

Martha's Vineyard Museum is the steward of two of the Island's lighthouses, East Chop and Edgartown Harbor Light. The East Chop stamp has a new design with text that replaces USCG with Martha's Vineyard Museum. They also replaced their other stamp (same design) so the impressions will now be clean and crisp.



#### **Diamond Head Lighthouse, Oahu, Hawaii**

One of our favorite lighthouses, Diamond Head, now has an updated design. The lighthouse is home to the Commander of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District and is only open for special events (like a USLHS Tour of Hawaii's lighthouses). However, it is easily visible from both Diamond Head Road and near the Kuilei Cliffs Beach Park. Their new stamp is available with the other Hawaii stamps at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Visitor

Center on Kauai.

#### **Mukilteo Lighthouse, Washington**

Built in 1906, the Mukilteo Lighthouse is a wooden structure, a rare feature since most lighthouses of that era were made of brick or concrete. It sits on a historic site once used by Native American tribes as a winter camp—Mukilteo means "good camping ground" in the local language. The lighthouse now has a stamp with a new "clean" design.





## UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

9005 Point No Point Rd. NE \* Hansville, WA 98340 \* 415-362-7255 \* [www.uslhs.org](http://www.uslhs.org)

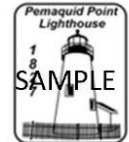


### Coquille River Lighthouse, Oregon

The Coquille River Lighthouse, located near Bandon, Oregon, is a historic landmark situated at the mouth of the Coquille River within Bullards Beach State Park. Commissioned in 1895 and first lit on February 29, 1896, it was designed to guide mariners safely past the treacherous shifting sandbars into the river and Bandon's harbor. They recently obtained a new stamp with a different design.

### Pemaquid Point Lighthouse, Maine

Over the years Pemaquid Point has had a number of different stamps including the one when it was featured on the Maine quarter in 2003 as part of the U.S. Mint's "50 States Quarters" program. The only other lighthouse to appear on a U.S. coin was Bass Harbor Lighthouse in 2012 as part of the "America the Beautiful Quarters Program". They now have a newly design stamp to replace the "quarter" stamp.



### South Haven South Pier Light, Michigan

One reason some folks are able to collect a large number of stamps is because different designs for the same lighthouse can be found at different locations in the same geographical area. For example, there are three designs for the South Haven South Pier Light. The one provided by the Michigan Maritime Museum has been redesigned and is now available. Two other locations also have stamps: the local Chamber of Commerce and Historical Association.

### White River Lighthouse, Michigan

The White River Lighthouse in Whitehall, Michigan was established in 1875. SPLKA (Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association) has created a new stamp to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the light. It is one of three anniversary stamps they offer which also includes one for Little Sable (150 years in 2024) and the North Breakwater light in Ludington (100 years in 2024)



### New Location

#### Cape Fear Life Saving Station Boathouse, North Carolina

A new addition for our Life Saving Stations Series is a stamp for the boathouse that was part of the Cape Fear LSS. The station was established in 1882 and was active until 1915. While the station house did not survive, the boat house did and has now been converted into a private residence. You can view it on Bald Head Island. The stamp is available at the Bald Head Island lighthouse where they can direct you to the location of the boathouse. While you are there you can also pick up stamps for Old Baldy, Cape Fear and Price Creek Lighthouses.



### Ask James

In Stamp Flashes #48 we introduced you to James Hill, a super collector. who has amassed over 2,800 lighthouse passport stamps. A true stamp ferret, James has a wealth of information about the Passport Stamp Program. We will be tapping into his stamp hunting history with a *Stamp Flashes* feature called "Ask James." If you are curious about any aspect of his stamp adventures or how he was able to



## **UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY**

9005 Point No Point Rd. NE \* Hansville, WA 98340 \* 415-362-7255 \* [www.uslhs.org](http://www.uslhs.org)

accumulate so many stamps, send him your question at: [james@uslhs.org](mailto:james@uslhs.org). We will publish the questions and answers in future issues.

### **Collector Profile: The Grashik Family (Nicole, Jason, Connor & Alexis)**

Several years ago Nicole Grashik agreed to help with the lighthouse passport stamp program by becoming one of eleven volunteers doing the yearly verifications for our website listings. She and her husband, Jason are USLHS Lifetime Members and, as the following profile indicates, their stamp collecting has turned into a family affair.

*The United States Lighthouse Society Passport Program is truly fun for all ages and is a great family hobby! My husband Jason and I started collecting stamps a few years after getting married. We were taking a tour of the Saginaw River Rear Range Light and they had passports for sale. I bought one, got my first stamps, and became hooked on the program! I had already seen 75ish lighthouses at that point so I did mail in requests or re-visited the ones that I had already seen. About the time I had gathered the majority of my stamps my husband decided he wanted a passport of his own so I had to go through the process again. We enjoyed the program so much that we started to plan vacations around lighthouses and stamp collecting. Our stamps have accumulated over the years and Jason has completed five passport books while I have completed six. We have them framed in shadowboxes with the USLHS passport patches that we have earned from each completed book.*

*Once our kids were born, we knew that we wanted them to join in on the fun so they had their own passports by the time they were six months old! We started taking them to lighthouses located within an hour of our house and have since branched out to other parts of our state. Connor is now seven and Alexis is five. They each completed their first passport over the summer when we visited Little Sable Point Light! They were both super excited to complete their book and get their USLHS patches in the mail. While visiting the different lighthouses that we collected stamps at, the kids had fun learning about not only the lighthouses but also the people that lived there and the local history. If we were able to climb the lighthouse it was even better! These types of adventures are a great way to get the kids fresh air, exercise, and new learning experiences. Not only that, but it gets them away from the video games and tablets which many children, including my own, seem to be so focused on!*

*Stamp collecting and "lighthouse hunting" has become one of our favorite hobbies! It has brought us on adventures that we would never have had otherwise! We have celebrated many life's milestones at lighthouse such as getting engaged at the top of Crisp Point Lighthouse, making the best of Covid at an overnight at Big Bay Point Lighthouse, and celebrating when our kids turned four years old by letting them climb Fort Gratiot Lighthouse. Our passports help us remember these fond memories and we look forward to adding to them in the years to come!*