

UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB



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Website: <https://uslhs.org/passports>

Email: passportclub@uslhs.org

Happy New Year to All Stamp Hunters

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to collecting more passport stamps in the New Year. To avoid having to climb ice covered towers (see photo) we have more stamps than ever to add to your collection. Members begin the year with three new Society stamps: The 2025 Cape Florida holiday ornament stamp, a 2026 member stamp and 2026 passport program stamp featuring the New London Harbor Lighthouse. In the near future we will be offering Series VII of the Society's Lost Lights Passport stamps. Finally, during 2025 we added a total of 26 redesigned stamps or stamps for new locations. So it is becoming easier to fill up those passports and achieve awards.



Regional Volunteer Inspector Needed

We are in need of a new volunteer to help us contact stamp locations in California and Washington once a year. The task is to contact each location via email or phone call and verify that our current website listing is correct. These contacts are important because in many cases it is the only direct contact some lighthouses and museums have with the Society. You don't have to live in either of these two states, but it is helpful if you have traveled to some of these lighthouses. We have all of the contact information from our previous volunteer which makes the task easier. So, if you are a passport stamp person, have some extra time especially at the beginning of the year, like making connections with lighthouses and want to help the Society, please send an email expressing your interest to passportclub@uslhs.org.

Notes from the Passport Inspector

- During the last half of 2025 significant delays occurred in processing completed passports. This occurred for a number of reasons as the Society switched databases and award badge suppliers. In addition, the large number of submission resulted in a shortage of badges and flags. The patience of the more than 80 individuals waiting for awards was greatly appreciated as we navigated these delays.
- Make sure all of your inquiries regarding passport stamps are directed to passportclub@uslhs.org. Please do not call the Society office or send passport question emails to info@uslhs.org.
- You might consider carrying a fresh stamp pad with you. Some of the impressions being submitted are so light that they are hard to read. Having fresh ink insures that you will get a nice dark image.
- For those of you who are including photos, thank you for identifying the lighthouse. If you include photos of nonparticipating lighthouses, please note this in your book and make sure and include extra entries to help make up your total of 60.

Stamp Updates

Willapa Seaport Museum

Located in Raymond, Washington, the museum is a community-driven maritime museum dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich nautical history of Willapa Bay and the surrounding coastal region. The stamp depicts the original Shoalwater Bay Lighthouse whose name was changed in 1892 to Willapa Bay.



Wisconsin Point Lighthouse

The Wisconsin Point Lighthouse—also known as the Superior Entry Lighthouse—is a historic navigational beacon at the tip of Wisconsin Point in Superior, Wisconsin. Built in 1913, this sturdy concrete lighthouse stands where the long freshwater sandbar of Wisconsin Point meets the Superior Harbor, helping guide ships into the Duluth-Superior channel on Lake Superior. So, there are now two stamps for the same lighthouse, one using the Superior Entry name and this one with the Wisconsin Point name. This new stamp is not available by mail at this time.



Correction/Addition

We have made a correction for the address for the South Carolina Maritime Museum, home of the stamp for the Georgetown Lighthouse. Also, the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum now is providing the stamps for Cape Hatteras Lens, Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and Diamond Shoals Lightship LV-71 Bell via mail with a donation for each stamp requested.

Stamp Moved

In Flashes #52 we noted that the Wood Island Life Saving Station in Maine now has the stamp for the key post from Appledore Island. To be clear, this is the same stamp that used to be at the Seacoast Science Center but now located at the Life Saving Station.

Coming Soon - USLHS Lost Lighthouse Passport Stamp Series VII

- **Willamette River Lighthouse** - Served as a navigational aid and a ship reporting station at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers in Oregon.
- **Greenbury Point Lighthouse** - Located on the north side of the entrance to the Severn River and Annapolis Harbor in Maryland. Built in 1848, it was extinguished during Civil War after which it was never returned to service. It was eventually replaced by a number of navigational aids including the well-known Thomas Point Shoal lighthouse.
- **Diamond Shoals Lightship LV-71** - Stationed on the dangerous shoals off Cape Hatteras, it is the only United States Lightship sunk by enemy action after it had saved the lives of the crew of the Norwegian bark, Merak.
- **DeTour Point Lighthouse** - Marked the passage, known as the Gateway to Superior, between Lake Huron and the St. Mary's River. It was eventually replaced by the DeTour Reef Lighthouse which was built directly over the dangerous reef.

Collector Profile

Marge Czop is a true “Wickie” and a longtime member of the Society. She lives outside of Chicago with her faithful companion Sadie. In recent years she has volunteered as one of our tour leaders as well as a regional stamp representative.

I've always lived in northern Illinois and knew about the Chicago Harbor lighthouse without understanding its purpose until I read about Abbie Burgess. In the early '90s, while teaching 2nd grade near Chicago, I used the story **Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie** to create a unit that integrated language, social studies, history, math, art. The students built lighthouse models, discussed their importance, and wrote an island life story. I became excited to share pictures of lighthouses with my class until I retired in 1995. I believe my interest began with that story!

In 1997, during a tough day, I found Grosse Point Lighthouse in Evanston, IL, and took comfort on the Lake Michigan shore as I watched the light pass over the water. When I checked, I found I could climb the lighthouse the next Sunday. The view from the top was magnificent and I then wanted MORE! My sister and I joined a lighthouse tour in the Outer Banks, where I met someone else searching for lighthouses. We toured on our own for several years and eventually discovered the US Lighthouse Society. We began taking 1-2 domestic trips per year with the Society. Of course, we were introduced to stamp collecting and so it began.

I completed my first book in 2007, and I distinctly recall my initial patch. One discovery led to the next, and now, 16 books later, I'm still searching for those elusive stamps. Stamp collecting became a passion, and joining MORE Society tours, both locally and abroad, proved the best way to grow my collection. Each new stamp offers a challenge to acquire, whether by travel or mail. I take great satisfaction in adding a new stamp to my database, ensuring that each entry records the location and date.

Along the way, I “volunteered” to be a Passport Ambassador. Each spring we contact every lighthouse in our territory and confirm the stamp's existence, location and other significant information for the Society's database. Each addition to my seventeenth stamp book provides a meaningful sense of achievement. My objective is to collect every stamp listed in the Society database. Although this endeavor may span several years, I remain dedicated to its completion and look forward to sharing my knowledge with interested parties. *Marge Czop*

How did you get started stamp collecting?

There are many reasons to start and to continue to collect passport stamps. If you are an avid stamp collector with an interesting story about how you got started collecting stamps and are willing to share it with other collectors please let us know. We will be happy to share your passion with others. Just email your “profile” to passportclub@uslhs.org and we will publish it in a future *Stamp Flashes*.