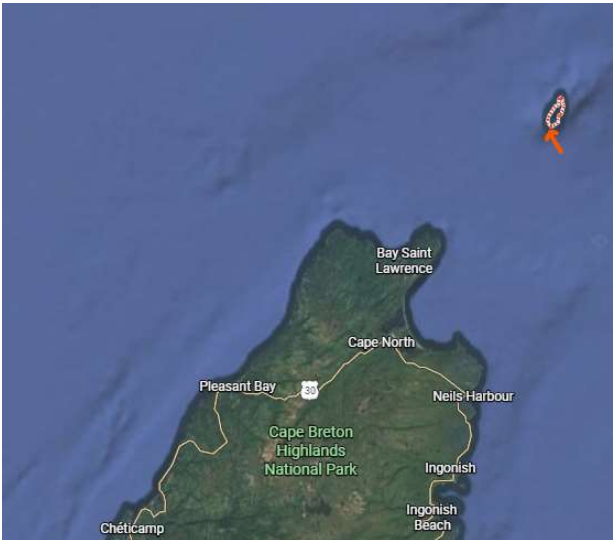




St Paul Island South Point (2nd lighthouse on site)
Credit: NS Archives



Original location shown by red arrow
Credit: Google Maps

The strong currents, local fog and the granite cliffs about St Paul Island caused numerous shipwrecks and many deaths prior to setting up two lifesaving stations on St Paul in 1832. It was the custom at that time not to identify casualties and bury them in mass graves on the island. By 1840 there were two lighthouses at either end of the Island to warn mariners of the deadly ledges at the bottom of those cliffs.

Billy Budge in his book, *Memoirs of a Lightkeeper's Son*, spoke of unusual events during the period his father was the lightkeeper for the St Paul South Point lighthouse from 1955 to 1960. On quiet, still evenings doors inside the lightkeeper's house started to open on their own. The fact that the basement door swung open always at 8pm had his mother arguing that their home was haunted. However his father did not believe in ghosts.

One night following Christmas the sound of ornaments could be heard falling to the floor. Billy's mother assumed that it was the family cat climbing through the Christmas tree and stated that they would clean up any mess in the morning. Billy's father got up first as he needed to extinguish the lamp in the lighthouse at daybreak. When he got downstairs, he was surprised to see that all ornaments were still on the tree in spite of the racket from the night before, a fact that he never shared with the family until they had moved off St Paul Island. Instead he told his family that he had done the cleanup!

No one knows if there are scientific explanations for these events or if these were true paranormal experiences. Certainly there are other NS lighthouses with similar tales which add to the stories that lighthouses tell us.



St Paul Island 3rd aid to navigation (notice lantern roof from on cliff below) on left
Lightkeeper's quarters in which the Budge family lived on right
Credit: Lighthouse Friends