

Sambro Island 1758

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society
Vol. 14, No. 2, June 2007

The Lightkeeper™



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The objectives of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society are: to promote and to support the preservation and awareness of Nova Scotia

lighthouses; to assist community groups in leasing or taking ownership of lighthouse sites; to provide access to written research and photographic documentation, to initiate oral history research and to classify and monitor the status of historic lighthouse sites.

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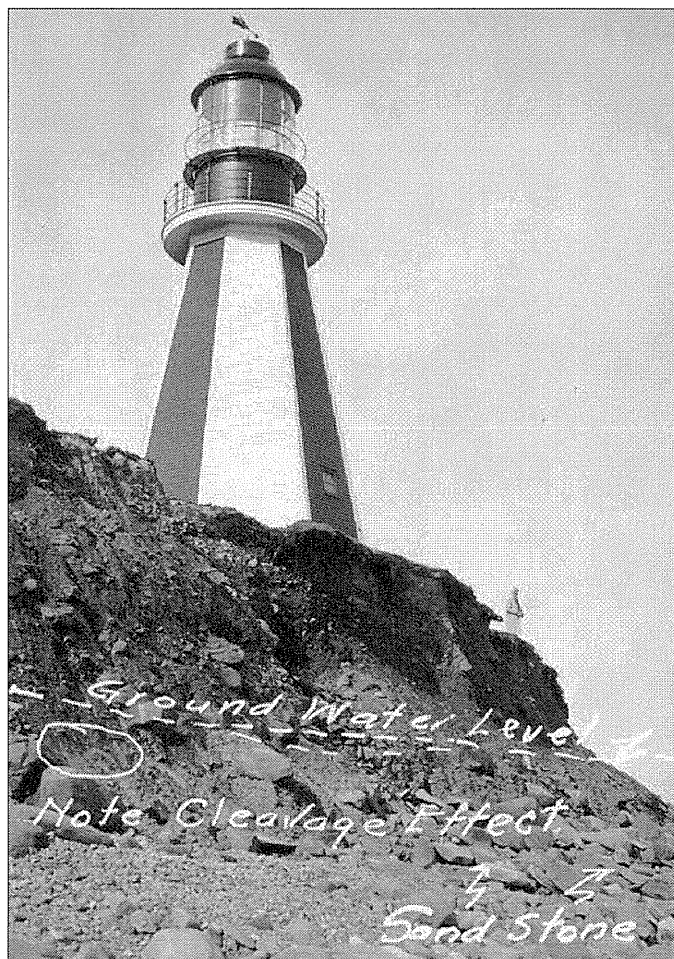
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DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS LIGHT?

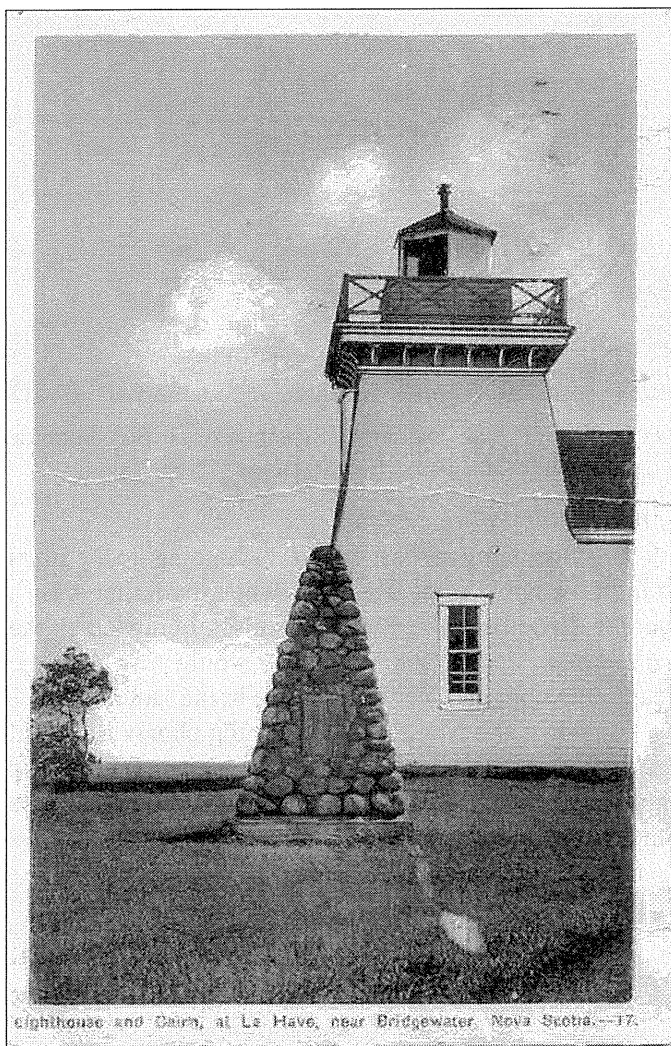
In this year's issues of *The Lightkeeper* we will be providing a picture of an 'unknown light' in the hope that some of our readers will recognize the light and be able to provide us with definitive information on its origin. If you have ideas or information about this light please contact Chris Mills at ketch1@eastlink.ca, or at 902-868-2313. We'll share your information in the next issue of *The Lightkeeper*



Cover :

Anne (Richardson) Wickens in 2002. (Chris Mills)

Inset photos: Anne and her sister Betty June in the 1930s (Betty June Smith) and the 1874 Bon Portage lighthouse (Anne Wickens)



THE ORIGINAL FORT POINT LIGHTHOUSE ON THE LAHAVE RIVER
FROM AN OLD POSTCARD

TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

To date we have not been able to recruit a board coordinator for this position. As a result, trips and programs are temporarily on hold. If you'd like to help with this position, please contact the NSLPS c/o the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic at the address on page 15.

FROM THE EDITOR

I am pleased to be involved once again with *the Lightkeeper*, after taking a year's break from editorial duties. I'd like to thank Nancy Eisener and Ashley Lohnes for taking over for that period – they did a great job of producing what has become a very important element of the NSLPS. Thanks are also due to Shawn Connors, who did all of the layout last year and who will continue to do so for 2007-08. Shawn is an instructor in the Graphic & Print Production program at the Nova Scotia Community College. This year, he'll also be using *The Lightkeeper* as

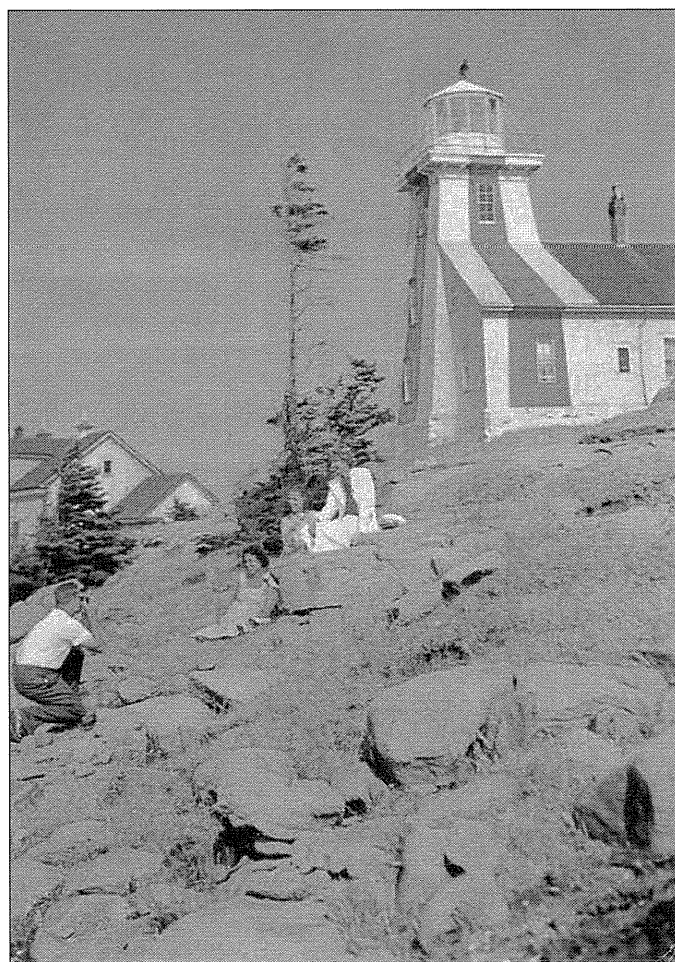
an educational tool for his students.

Divestiture and lack of funds to maintain Nova Scotia's lighthouses mean that these are critical days for the preservation of our historic lights. Despite this fact, the NSLPS has experienced a lull in membership and member participation over the past few years. As a result, we're making a concerted effort to stay in closer touch with community groups across the province and we're committed to attracting younger members interested in saving our lights.

We're also glad to hear at any time from anyone interested in helping save their own special lighthouse or a piece of lighthouse history. One of our society's enduring strengths is our expertise in facilitating dialogue between community groups and the Coast Guard. We also have a growing database, website and oral history collection which can be accessed by our members. Members can contact NSLPS board members at the e-mail addresses or phone numbers listed in *The Lightkeeper*.

Don't be shy!

Chris Mills
Editor, *The Lightkeeper*



DIGBY'S PRIM POINT LIGHTHOUSE FROM A POSTCARD. THE COAST
GUARD DEMOLISHED THIS LOVELY STRUCTURE IN 1964.

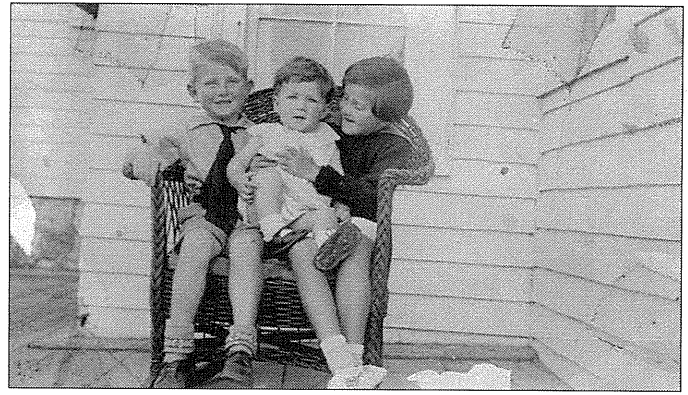
"I miss it yet" Anne (Richardson) Wickens and the Bon Portage Lighthouse Years

Chris Mills

In 1929, Morrill and Evelyn Richardson gave up mainland life to move to a small hunk of real estate just off the south western tip of Nova Scotia. As well as buying the lion's share of Bon Portage Island, they became keepers of its lighthouse for the next 35 years.

The Richardsons settled into the routine of their 600-acre island, as defined by the rhythm of the tide, the wind and the weather. Despite a grueling schedule (three children to raise, no electricity or running water, a farm to run, no telephone, and primitive living conditions in the drafty 1874 lighthouse), Evelyn found the desire and the time to make note of her family's life on Bon Portage. In 1945, she published her first book, *We Keep A Light*, which remains a classic Canadian account of life on the lights in the days before World War Two.

In early 2002 I sat down with eldest daughter Anne (Richardson) Wickens to record her memories of her parents and her lighthouse experiences. At 73 years of age, she had vivid, humorous and eloquent recollections



LAURIE, BETTY JUNE AND ANNE RICHARDSON AT BON PORTAGE ISLAND IN THE 1930s. *BETTY JUNE SMITH*

of life on Bon Portage Island.

One of my earliest memories is going up the stairs to light the light on the occasions when my father wasn't there to do it just at the minute of sunset. I crawled up the very narrow, steep stairs. My mother would push open the heavy trap door and we would all be in the lantern.

Then she would do the evening chores and light the light. She would have a few minutes to pick us up and show us the ocean and some of the islands. We would see other lights blossoming in the dark and that was always



THE 1874 LIGHTHOUSE ON BON PORTAGE ISLAND WAS HOME TO KEEPERS AND THEIR FAMILIES UNTIL THE COAST GUARD TORE IT DOWN IN 1964. *ANNE WICKENS*



RICHARDSON KIDS WITH THE OX AND A COW ON BON PORTAGE. *BETTY JUNE SMITH*

very interesting.

As a little girl, I pictured all lighthouses with people living in them. Cape Sable (eight miles east of Bon Portage) was a great big tall needle of a lighthouse and I thought there would be little boys and girls sleeping on all of the stories going up to the lantern, as Laurie and I did [in our lighthouse] when we got a little older. I would look over at my Great Grandpa Larkin's light [on Emerald Isle, also known as Stoddart's Island] -- it was just a little one storey light on the next island to us -- and I would think about my little half-aunt and half-uncle who were younger than I, sleeping in that and it was a great blow to me when I found out that they didn't!

Anne was just a year older than her brother Laurie and too young to remember his entrance into the world on Bon Portage Island. But as her mother later told her, it was an "interesting session."

Laurie was born in July which meant he could be born on the island because father could be practically certain of getting off to get the doctor and the midwife when the time came.

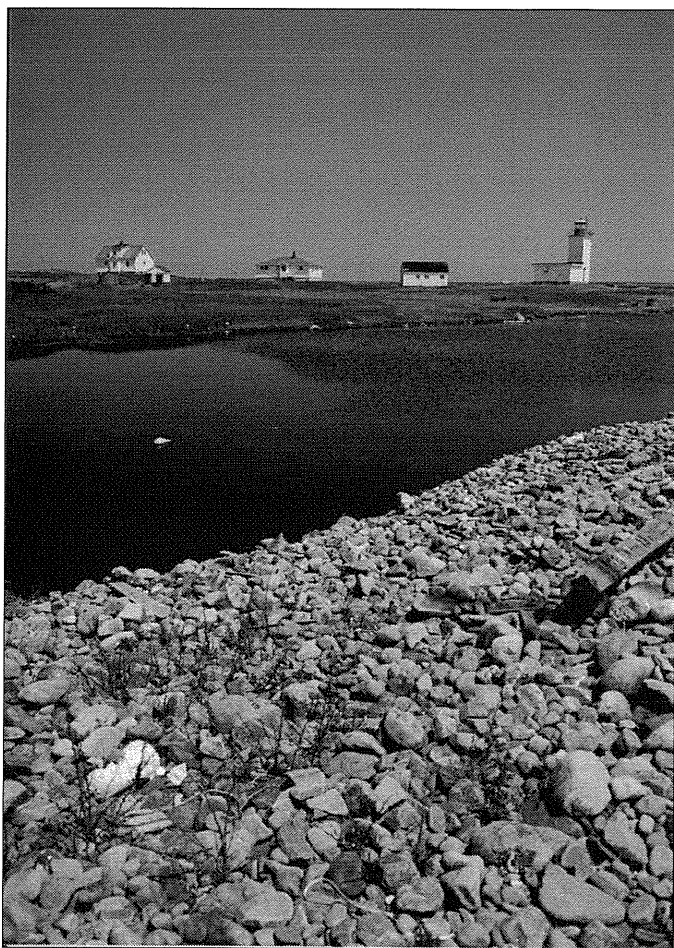
It was a very hard birth and in the middle of it, [our] cow Amaryllis decided to strangle herself! The cow wrapped the rope around her throat and lay down and started rolling around [outside]. The midwife screamed, the doctor dropped everything and went rushing out. He

didn't know what to do for the cow, so the midwife came tearing out with a carving knife and cut the rope!

Laurie did get born, eventually and my earliest memory of him is lying in a crib in my parents' bedroom. He was looking at me through the bars of the crib and I thought he was the most horrible looking object! But I couldn't help loving him anyway!

Little Laurie was followed by Betty June. Bon Portage Island's rock strewn shores and quiet woods were a wonderful playground for the three Richardson children. The ever-changing sea finally undermined the soft bank near the lighthouse and eventually "made away" with the stunted spruce trees favoured for "climbing," but on a lightstation where their father also farmed to supplement his income, there were other diversions for the children. [Dad's farming operation] was very gradually built up from one cow and a few sheep. The sheep became a flock of about a hundred and the first thing Dad needed was an animal for transportation and carrying heavy loads. So he invested in an ox.

They were the draught animals and nearly everybody in this area used oxen. The terrain is mainly peat moss and it's cluttered with glacial detritus -- either small stones, gravel moraine or enormous boulders -- and the ox can travel on that type of ground without the damage to his hooves that a horse sustains.



BON PORTAGE ISLAND IN 2004. CHRIS MILLS

The first ox was named Broad, and he was a Jersey. Broad would lie down and chew his cud and we would play by climbing up one side and sliding down the other. Then we would climb over his horns and slide down his nose. He never offered to get up, he never minded anything we did. We used to whack him right in the eyes because the flies liked to get in his eyes and we didn't want them to do that! He was the largest playmate I ever had and he was one of the very few playmates we had at the time.

While Anne and her siblings played, Morrill and Evelyn stayed busy, tending the light, keeping house, farming, cutting wood and any of the other myriad chores that came up in the run of an island day. As Anne grew older, she began to notice her parents' commitment and strength of character in their lightkeeping life.

I came to realize they were very dedicated. There was a journal of some kind that told the lightkeepers the exact moment of sunrise and sunset. At sunset you lit the light right then and there and at sunrise, you put it out right then and there, which of course, meant getting up four o'clock in the morning on summer mornings and staying up 'till around 10 in summer evenings.

The only lighthouse around us who paid much



EVELYN AND MORRILL RICHARDSON. ANNE WICKENS

attention to this was Cape Sable. Cape Sable was always lit *right* at the minute and always out right at the minute. This was the sort of thing my father tried to do. I remember him coming in, tearing through the kitchen, leaving the doors open behind him to dash up the stairs saying "The Cape's lit!" It was a dreadful dereliction of duty and a disgrace to the whole Richardson clan not to do your duty at the very moment it was supposed to be done!

Some of the other lightkeepers didn't seem to bother too much with this notion. Great Grandpa Larkin was one of them and on one occasion, Dad mentioned to the old gentleman -- he was



EVELYN (FOX) RICHARDSON.
ANNE WICKENS

in his 80s then -- that you know, the light wasn't being lit right when the sun went down. But Great Grandfather had been a sea captain in the days of sail and he did everything by the tide. He didn't see any reason at all why his little inshore light should be lit before the tide brought the local fishing boats in from the fishing grounds. In those days, he had a fish business, a farm and he sold fresh vegetables to any ships that called. Sometimes quite large vessels and often American yachts would come in to the anchorage just off his light, but no, that didn't matter! If they couldn't find their way in the dark it didn't matter. It was the fishing boats he cared about!

So, my father -- with his I'm sure great-grandfather thought persnickity-ness -- didn't get very far with Great Grandfather Larkin!

Dedication aside, Morrill Richardson found time for fun, although not everyone immediately caught on to his style of humour, as Anne told me.

Dad sort of wormed his way into [peoples'] affections. He was affectionate and very courteous. After mother became famous, so to speak and her books were widely read and people began coming to the island from all over, all the little old ladies fell in love with Dad. There was just no resisting him!

He had a quirky sense of humour, which tickled most people, although some people just looked at him with a very blank stare. Mother had a good sense of humour and she sort of put up with Dad's. But sometimes it would get to be a bit much for her. She had a best friend, Mildred Ritcey, who used to come to the island almost every summer. Aunt Mildred was very intelligent, very well-read, but she could not grasp father's puns! On one occasion they went out on the porch looking out at the beautiful star-lit night with the moon shining on the waters, and Aunt Mildred said "Ohh Morrill, what a night!"

Dad said "I've seen better *knights*, and better ladies!"

Poor Aunt Mildred went in and burst into tears! She never seemed to get the hang of the fact that Dad was pulling her leg!

The coming of the Second World War made life more demanding for the Richardson family. With the danger of enemy aircraft overhead and U-boats lurking offshore, lightkeepers and their families all around Nova Scotia had to be increasingly vigilant for strange craft

and happenings. Their duties came to include a daily listening schedule for instructions broadcast by CBC radio (Canada's national broadcaster) as to whether the light and horn should be operated as normal, or shut down if enemy craft were in the area.

During this extremely busy and stressful time, Anne's mother began to feel that changes in the wind might sweep away some of the old ways and the history of south west Nova Scotia. She also thought that perhaps readers might be interested in a family's life on an isolated island lightstation. Thus was born We Keep A Light.

Mother realized that this was a way of life that was changing and was going to change even faster in the war and probably afterwards. So it was important for people who lived then to get some of what their lives were like down on paper.

She was very interested in people, especially, I think in putting people together with their backgrounds, and that comes through in her books. She was always

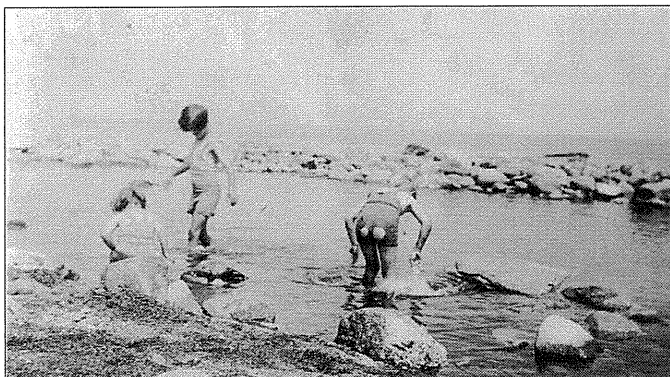
putting down some turn of phrase a fisherman would use. She would grab a pencil and paper and [record it], especially if it were something she hadn't heard or hadn't heard used just that way before.

I think my father didn't have any doubt at all that she could write a book if she wanted to, but he was afraid that people wouldn't be very interested in this sort of thing. Mother argued that

well, yes they had farm, well yes, they were lightkeepers, but they were still in rather a special situation and the fact that there was now a war made it even more so. She eventually convinced Dad that he should at least let her try, so he bought her an old second-hand typewriter.

I think the driving force behind it was the fact that she saw some of the old values disappearing. Her ancestors all the way back to seven or eight of the original settlers of Barrington Township, were Puritans. They had very religious moral beliefs -- the work ethic, keeping everything very plain. No ornaments, no detritus, not even any music in the churches -- which she didn't agree with -- and she was afraid these things were, in the turmoil of war, being lost. I also think she was a little afraid of what was thought of in those days as progress. I think she was afraid too much of the human condition would be swept away.

The public loved We Keep A Light -- just a few months after the book's publication in 1945, it won Gov-



RICHARDSON CHILDREN PLAYING BY THE SHORE AT BON PORTAGE ISLAND. BETTY JUNE SMITH



THE RICHARDSON'S "NEW" HOME (BUILT IN THE 1950S) ON BON PORTAGE ISLAND STILL STANDS. CHRIS MILLS

ernor General's Medal for creative non-fiction. Evelyn made the long journey from Bon Portage to Toronto to be awarded her medal. Then, with the creative bug firmly established within her, she began to write more, as Anne told me.

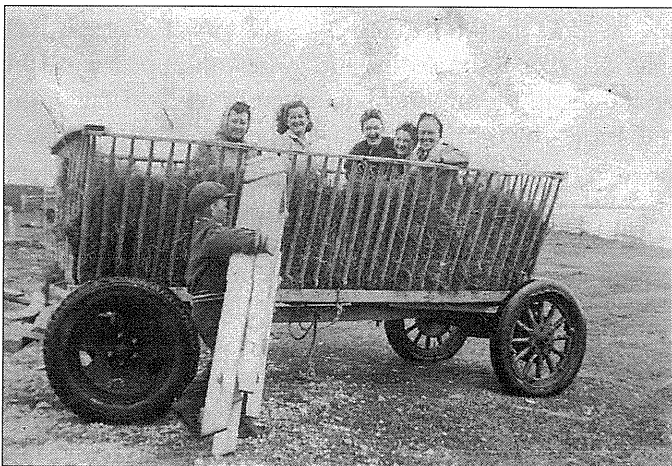
Having had a success and intellectual acknowledgement with the Governor General's medal, she set out [to record] the times of the sailing ships and things that

were part of her mother's childhood. Mother thought, "Well, I should try to save that too." So she did. First she wrote a novel called *Desired Haven*, based on the sea stories that were drifting around the shore here. Then she wrote *My Other Islands*, which was the story of her youth, bringing in [the story of] her grandparents. That book is my favourite of my mother's writing. It provides a link between the generation I didn't know at all, except for Great Grandfather Larkin, and my own.

Evelyn's growing portfolio of writings brought an element of fame to the "literary lighthouse," on Bon Portage Island. It also drew visitors, many bent on setting a face and a place to the story they had come to love.

One interesting visitor we had was a staff member of the Boston Public Library. [Her name was Harriet Balcom]. She had read *We Keep A Light*, wrote right away and invited herself to come. So mother wrote back and told her to come.

Often people came who had heard about the book or skimmed through it and they would come in their high heeled shoes and their fluffy, frilly dresses and this sort of thing. Well, Harriet turned up in rubber boots and a parka and some sort of very old, very dilapidated pants, with her



HAPPY TIMES IN THE HAY WAGON. ANNE WICKENS



ANNE (RICHARDSON) WICKENS IN 2002. CHRIS MILLS

camera. She wanted to see everything. We dragged her through the savannah (swamp), she fell in the bog holes and that was like being in the book, you know! Anything like that, Harriet just fell for it.

By now, the Richardson children were growing up and starting to make their way in the world. Anne left home to go to teachers college on the mainland. But she returned to the island in the 1948 to marry fisherman Arthur Wickens.

[My husband's] father and mother had kept Bon Portage light for almost two years during the First World War, and it's rather odd when you think about it, because his father was not fitted for island life, let alone lightkeeping, and it didn't last long. But it was a sort of bond. After we were married we lived that winter until June or July in the guest cottage which my father built on Bon Portage. But that was the end of my life on the island. I used to go back with my husband when he was substituting for Dad and lightkeeper. Arth would sometimes be gone for weeks at a time, fishing and I would gather up one-two-three-four kids, and go on and stay for a few days. But, that was the end of my Bon Portage experience.

Nonetheless, the "Bon Portage experience" stuck with Anne and six decades after leaving her island home she had this to say about her island years.

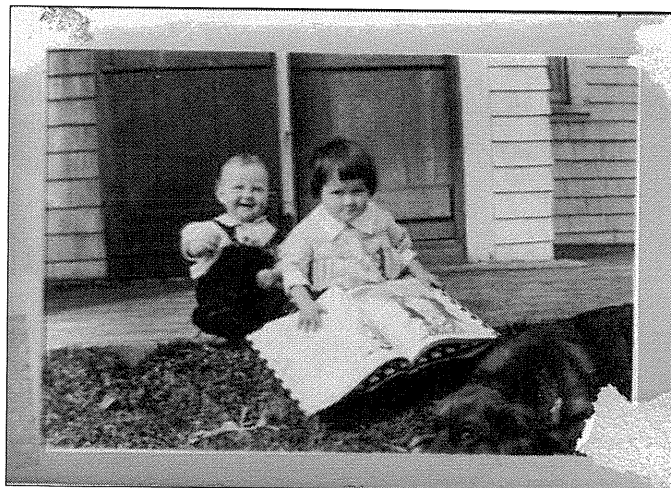
I was a very anti-social child. I hated to see company coming. I would get fond of some of the relatives, but I was always glad to see them go, just the same. To this day, I do not like people as people. I don't like crowds. I don't like lots of people talking.

What bothers me is where do people today go to find a place without people, where there's just themselves and nature? I mean as a family or as an individual. In a great many lives it can't be done. I have always prized the fact that I had that on Bon Portage. And frankly I miss it yet.

Special thanks to Anne Wickens for sharing her memories of life on Bon Portage Island with me, and to her sister Betty June for allowing me to reproduce family photos from her collection. Today, Anne lives in Bear Point, Shelburne County, just a few miles from her childhood island home. Her parents left the island in 1964, after 35 years, deeding their portion of land to Nova Scotia's Acadia University. It continues to operate the Evelyn and Morrill Richardson Field Station in Biology from the lightstation.

Evelyn continued to write books about the things that intrigued her most—the human history of south west Nova Scotia and about the natural environment that was so much a part of her life. Her last book, B Was For Butter...and Enemy Craft (detailing her family's experiences during the war) came out in 1976, the year she died.

Evelyn Richardson's legacy remains today in the form of more than half a dozen books (We Keep A Light is still in print), countless articles, a school and a literary prize named after her and in the stories of her surviving children, Anne and Betty June.



LITTLE LAURIE AND ANNE RICHARSON ON THE STEP AT THEIR LIGHT-HOUSE HOME. ANNE WICKENS

LIGHTHOUSE TECHNOLOGY - PART ONE: ILLUMINATION FOR PEPPER-POT LIGHTS

Barry MacDonald

No one has been able to say with absolute certainty, where this classic design originated, or when. The earliest historical record found (in Canada) is of a “pepper-pot” lighthouse on the St. Lawrence River in the early 1800s. Its basic design was meant to be utilitarian – with a broad base and sloping walls, making for a structure that would be an “anchor” in the face of the elements and endure the harsh environment common to the coastlines where they were located. Endure they have, with many of these lighthouses still standing after well over 100 years of service- a testament not only to their designers, but to the craftsmen who built them and those who have maintained them over the years. These little “work-horse” lighthouses could be the sole subject of a complete article, but for now, let us take a look at how the “LIGHT” in lighthouse evolved in these smaller beacons.

In order to project a beam of light out to sea for any useable distance, some method was needed to magnify the light-source (usually an oil lamp), and concen-



WILKINS REFLECTOR APPARATUS. BARRY MACDONALD



THE WILKINS REFLECTOR. BARRY MACDONALD

trate this light into a beam. The first method devised for this purpose was a concave metal reflector, coated with silver. The parabolic shape of the reflector re-directed the rays of light from the lamp and the shiny silver coating served to increase the intensity of the beam. This was a vast improvement on the light obtained from the lamp alone and it was this catoptric (from the Greek katoptron, or ‘mirror’) device which showed the reassuring light to mariners from these early lighthouses. A glance through the *List of Lights for the Dominion of Canada – 1875* shows the vast majority of Canada’s lighthouses using such devices. Although the Fresnel lens was available at this time, the budget of the Department of Marine and Fisheries allowed for only the most important lights to be equipped with this expensive method of illumination. It would take another quarter century before this dioptric (using refraction) device would see widespread use in the smaller lights.

Many of Canada’s first reflectors were actually hand-offs from Britain. As U.K lighthouse authority Trinity House converted their smaller lights to Fresnel lenses, the reflectors were sent to Canada, helping to make the boom in lighthouse building less costly. The accompanying photo is an example of one of these early devices.



IN 1958, THE PENNANT HARBOUR LIGHTHOUSE STILL USED A REFLECTOR IN ITS LIGHTING SYSTEM. COURTESY SPUD ROSCOE

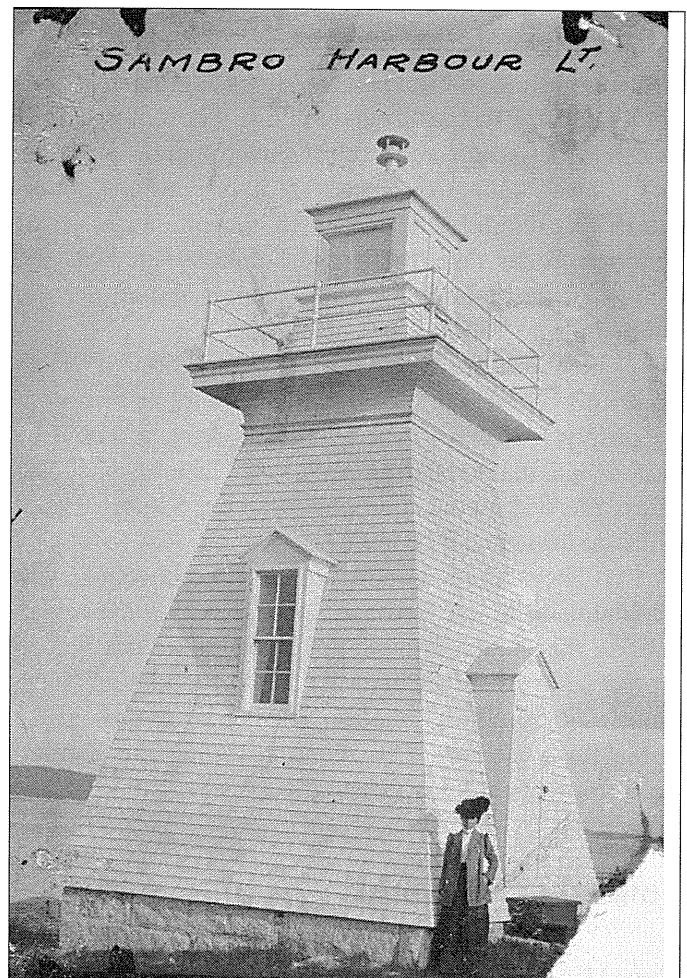
Made by the Wilkins company, this reflector employs the "constant level" principle and has an oil reservoir mounted on the support stand in such a way as to gravity-feed oil to the burner. Burners were of two types: flat or concentric (central-draft) wick. Both designs were quite effective, with the concentric wick providing slightly more light, but with increased oil consumption. Later, reflector lamps were purchased from an American manufacturer, H.N. Hooper of Boston.

Much care had to be taken when maintaining these reflectors as the silver coating was vulnerable to scratching, thereby diminishing its ability to reflect light. Aware of this potential problem, the *Rules and Instructions to Light-Keeper* - 1875 spelled out specific instructions for their care and maintenance:

The metallic reflectors are to be cleaned every day when in use; and twice each week, every reflector is to be taken from the frame or stand and placed on the polishing bench. They are then to be first carefully dusted, to remove all particles as would produce scratches in cleaning and particular care must be taken that the chamois

skins used in rubbing them are perfectly free from dust or gritty particles. The great art of keeping the reflectors in perfect order consists in the daily, patient and skilful application of manual labour in rubbing or polishing their surfaces, beginning at the center and gradually working outwards, with a circular motion of the hand. No damp or wet substances should be applied to metallic reflectors. If their luster becomes dim, a little of the polishing powder provided may be employed on the chamois skin. Use nothing but the rough powder provided by the Department, for polishing the silvered surfaces of the reflectors. During the process of polishing, observe closely that the reflectors are not scratched and as this can only happen through

Imprudence and the Keeper, when such is found to be the case, will be called to account for it. After the reflectors are cleaned and polished, they are to be put in their places and the curtains hung over them. In case any metallic reflectors, by being laid aside, or from any other cause, have become coated with oxide, use for its removal, rouge mixed with sweet oil and then dust on dry rouge and polish in the usual manner with dry and soft chamois skins.



THE 1899 LIGHTHOUSE AT BULL POINT IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE DOZENS OF "PEPPER-POT" LIGHTS THAT DOT THE NOVA SCOTIA COASTLINE. NSLPS COLLECTION

NEWS AND VIEWS

AGM

The NSLPS rang in its new year with a successful annual general meeting on April 25th at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. After the president's address, election of officers and presentation of the Craig Harding Award (which went this year to Chris Mills, whose name seems to be cropping up rather a lot in this News and Views section...), Parks Canada historian Ken Donovan gave an interesting presentation about Canada's first lightkeeper, Jean Grenard dit Belair. Grenard kept the Louisbourg lighthouse for a decade, beginning in 1734.

The society is fortunate that president Barry MacDonald has returned for a (record-breaking) 4th term. We are also lucky to have two brand new board members, who will bring fresh ideas and energy to the NSLPS. Welcome!

Big Birthday for Sambro Island

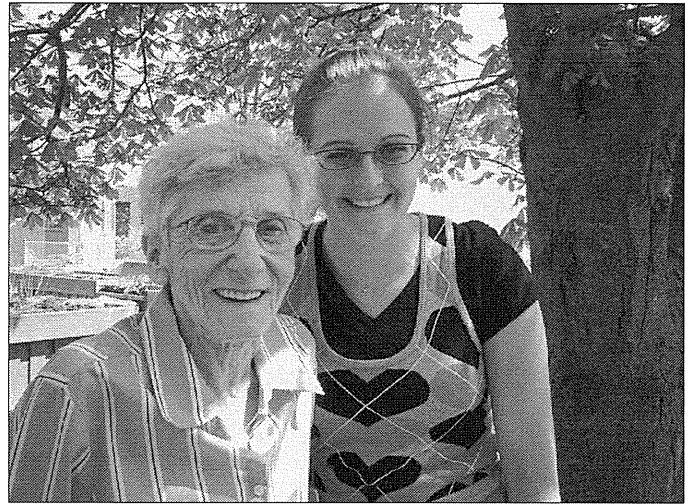
2008 marks the 250th anniversary of the beginning of construction of the Sambro Island light. It'll be a momentous occasion, but so far, no level of government has shown the slightest amount of interest in improving the condition of this dilapidated lightstation. Despite a quarter of a million dollar face-lift for the lighthouse in 1998-99, the rest of the station (2 keepers' homes and an historic waterside warehouse) is in a shambles.

It's time to lobby for the restoration of North America's oldest operational lighthouse and its surrounding property. If this was an American light, it would be staffed and maintained as a national historic site. But unless there is a concerted public lobby, Sambro Island will fade into greater obscurity.

The NSLPS is now setting up a meeting with the Mainland South Heritage Society to map out a plan to bring this station into the limelight, and to develop an appropriate way to celebrate the 250th birthday of North America's premier lighthouse site. Plans are now in the works for a Canada Post stamp featuring the Sambro light, from a photograph taken by Chris Mills.

Candlebox Memories

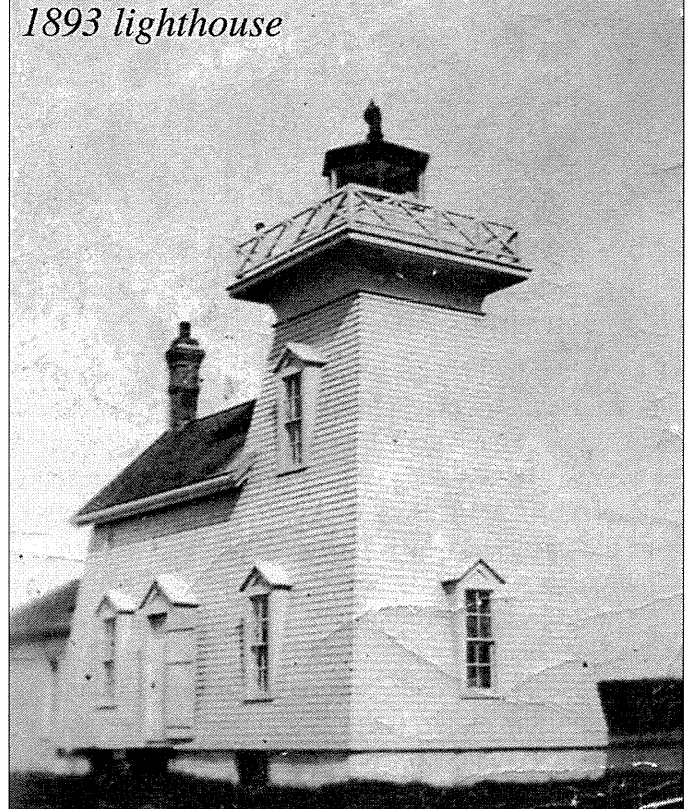
Chris Mills recently spent a couple of hours with Lois (Cottreau) Nickerson, who was born in the Candlebox Island lighthouse in 1924. This one acre, treeless island is part of the Tusket group in south west Nova Scotia. Lois



LOIS (COTTREAU) NICKERSON AND FRIEND CHARLOTTE FRANKLAND.
CHRIS MILLS

wasn't shy about saying that she wasn't too struck on life on the island – it was just too small and there were too few chances to get ashore. Medical emergencies also posed a problem – Lois lost a thumb in a ringer washer as a child. But she also remembers a loving family and good times

1893 lighthouse



THE ORIGINAL CANDLEBOX ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, WHERE LOIS (COTTREAU) NICKERSON WAS BORN IN 1924. FROM THE *LIGHTHOUSE DIGEST* WEBSITE

on the island. We'll share her memories in an upcoming issue of *The Lightkeeper*.

Lighthouse Protection Act Update:

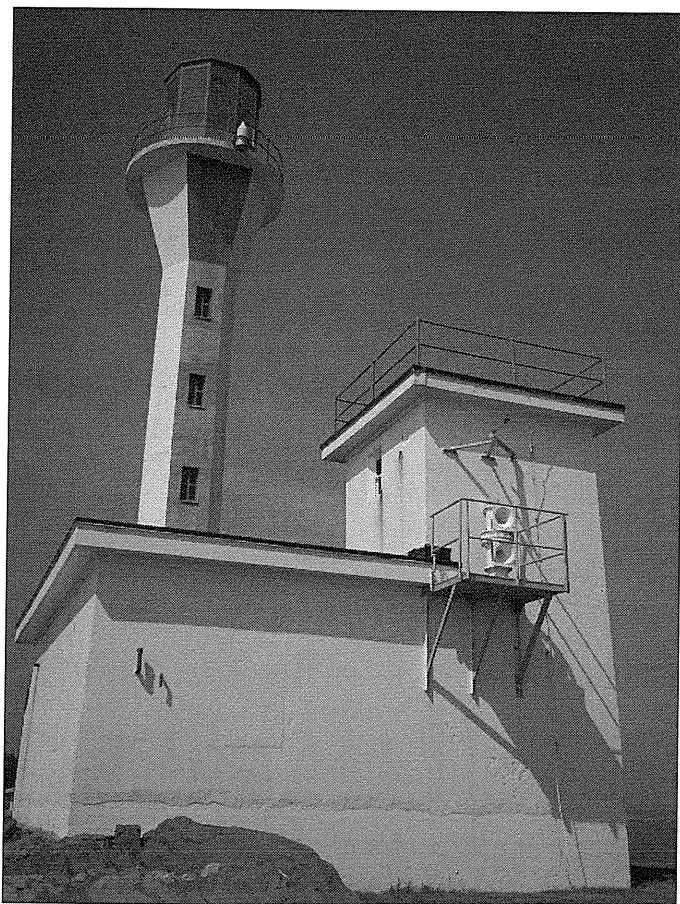
June 14

Bill S-220 has just PASSED second reading in the House of Commons! It will now be referred to the HOC Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. This will be the last hurdle before 3rd and final reading. South Shore MLA Gerald Keddy says there is a very good chance the bill will get through committee before summer recess.

How you can help: The best way to help see Bill S-220 passed into Law is to write your MP and let him/her know how important it is to ensure Canada's lighthouses are protected for future generations. A hand-written letter is much more effective than an email. You can also write to "key" ministers, namely, the Hon. Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Hon. John Baird, Minister of the Environment

Cape Forchu Lighthouse Needs Sprucing Up!

We're hoping the Coast Guard will soon spring for some paint and some people to apply it at the landmark Cape Forchu Light. A May visit revealed that the red and white paint on the concrete tower is badly faded. As usual, the Friends of Yarmouth Light are doing a great job of maintaining the rest of the site, which is now open for the summer season.



A FADED CAPE FORCHU LIGHTHOUSE SHOWS THE EFFECTS OF SUN AND WIND. CHRIS MILLS



THE DOOR TO THE OLD FOG ALARM BUILDING AT CAPE FORCHU. CHRIS MILLS

Shine A Light

Meanwhile, the Lighthouse Protection Act is back in the mainstream media again. The cover story for the June 10 issue of the *The Nova Scotian* (published in the Halifax *Sunday Herald*) is *Shine A Light: A delay in Ottawa could kill a bill to protect lighthouses*. In the article, Canadian Press journalist Hannah Zitner delves into the ongoing fight to make Bill S-220 a reality. Staunch supporter Pat Carney says "it's now or never." For the better part of a decade, the conservative senator from British Columbia has been one of the bill's strongest allies. She continues to carry the torch after the death last year of fellow senator and lighthouse supporter Michael Forestall.

Bill S-220 was to be debated in the House of Commons last month, but that was postponed until June 13th. Carney says if the bill dies in the Commons, there's not much hope that it will be re-introduced. This would indeed be a crime after the concerted and heartfelt efforts of the NSLPS, and the few politicians who have paid more than a passing interest in lighthouse preservation.

Spreading the Good Word

On March 24, 2007, NSLPS President Barry MacDonald delivered his message of “saving and protecting Canada’s lighthouses” to an appreciative audience in St. John’s Newfoundland. Co-sponsored by Heritage Canada Foundation and the Heritage Society of Newfoundland, the talk was aimed at educating lighthouse lovers in Canada’s youngest province in the current divestiture policy as well as the (proposed) Lighthouse Protection Act.

As part of promoting the talk, Barry was invited to do an interview on CBC’s noon-time radio show. This interview went well and Barry was invited to be a guest on the Radio Noon Cross-talk. This was a welcome opportunity to reach a larger audience with the message, while at the same time, listening to good Newfoundland lighthouse stories. The show aired on May 4th and steady calls from all around the province. CBC producers were very pleased and plan to repeat this topic on a future program. Many thanks to Gerry Amey and John Furlong at CBC-St. John’s.

FAREWELL

A major figure in the preservation of Nova Scotia’s maritime history has died. Stanley Spicer passed away on June 2, 2007 at the age of 83. Spicer was born in Canning, N.S., serving in the Merchant Marine and the Canadian Army during the 1940s. He became New Brunswick’s first provincial director of Physical Education in 1947, but it is for his tireless interest in Nova Scotia history that he is chiefly known.

Over the years Stan served on several association boards, including the Age of Sail Museum, North Minas Tourist Association, Fundy Geological Museum and the Spencers’s Island Community Association.

Spicer also wrote many historical books focused on Nova Scotia marine history, including *Masters of Sail*, *Sails of Fundy*, *The Saga of the Mary Celeste* and *Maritimers Ashore and Afloat*, along with contributing to many magazines. Between 1994 and 1997, he assembled a list of more than 8,000 sailing vessels built in the Bay of Fundy area for Acadia University.

Stan was kind enough to pass along an article about the Ile Haute lighthouse to the NSLPS, which we published in the April, 2006 *Lightkeeper*.

We send our condolences to his wife Gwen and their three children.

DOOMSDAY LIST

After a four year absence we have re-introduced this growing list of Canadian lighthouses and lightstation buildings in danger of being lost through neglect and environmental conditions. Please contact the editor with any suggestions or comments.

Bear River, NS Decommissioned wooden lighthouse

Cape Roseway, NS Dwellings and old fog alarm building

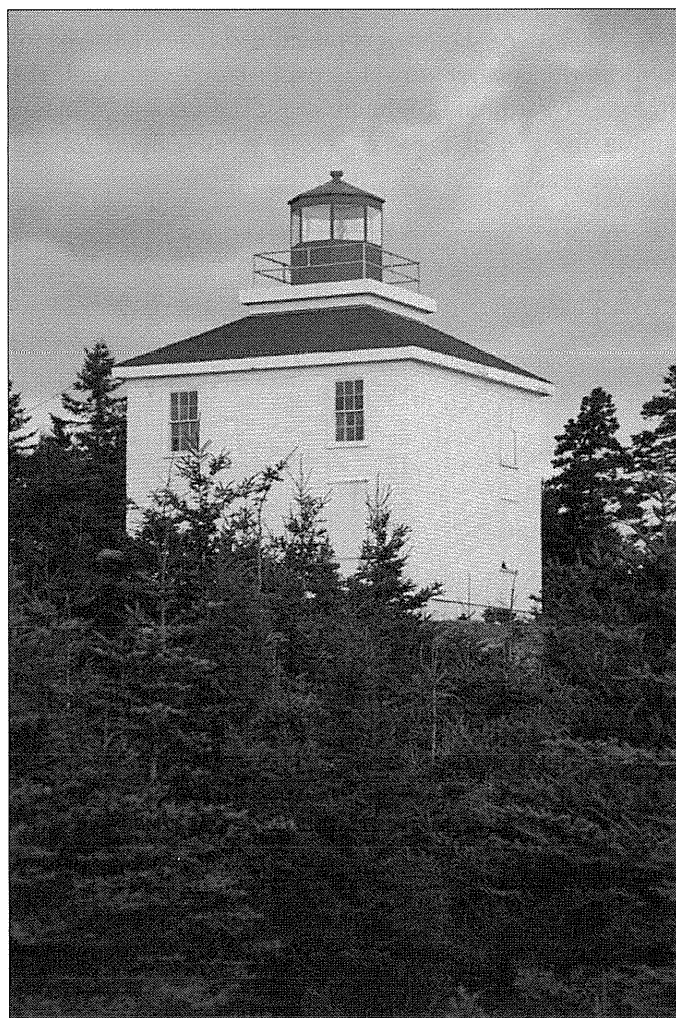
Country Island, NS Keepers house (one house burned in 2005)

Cross Island, NS Keepers houses

Devils Island, NS Wooden lighthouse and keeper’s house

Fish Fluke Point, NB Combined light and dwelling

French Point, NS Wooden lighthouse



THE 1929 ISSAC’S HARBOUR LIGHTHOUSE ON NOVA SCOTIA’S EASTERN SHORE IS ONE OF THE LAST OF ITS KIND. ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE, THE INTERIOR OF THE COMBINED LIGHTHOUSE/DWELLING IS DETERIORATING. CHRIS MILLS

Gannet Rock, NB 1831 Wave-washed wooden tower and attached concrete keepers' house

Georges Island, NS Keeper's house

Green Island, Richmond Co., NS Keeper's house and old lighthouse (one house burned in 2005)

Guyon Island, NS Keepers' houses

Ingonish Island, NS Concrete lighthouse and keeper's house

Isaac's Harbour, NS Combined dwelling/lighthouse

Keppel Island, NF Lighthouse, keepers' houses, fog alarm building, boat house

Margaree Island, NS Lighthouse and dwelling

Moshers Island, NS Keepers' houses and small fog alarm building

Peases Island, NS Keepers' duplex

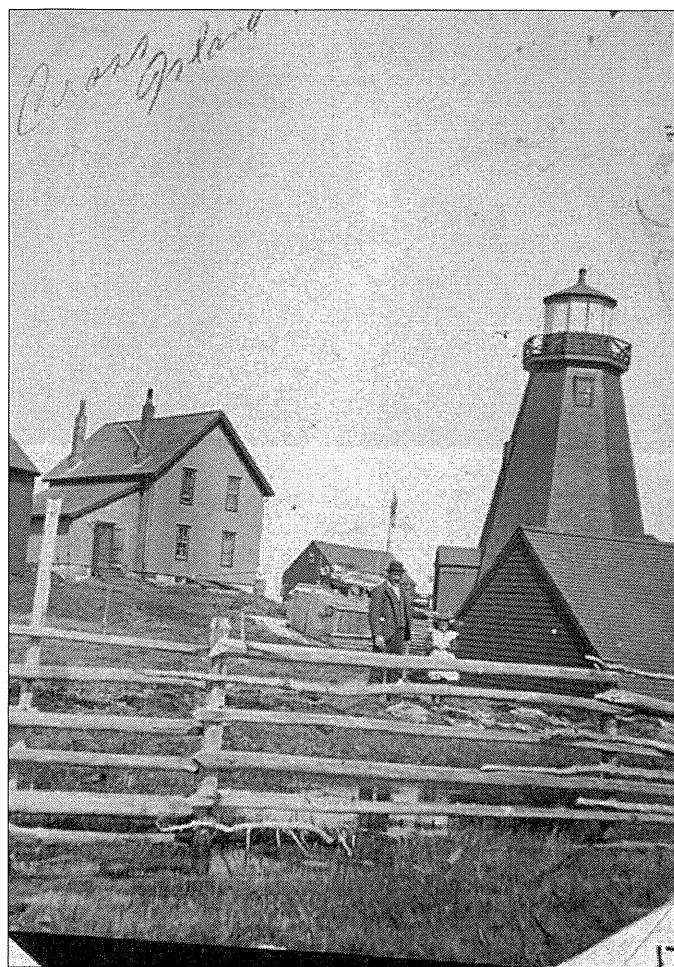
Queensport(Rook Island),NS Combined dwelling/light-house

Sambro Island, NS Dwellings and Gas House

Seal Island, NS Radio operator's house, barn

Southwest Point, Anticosti Island, QC

Saint Paul's Island,NS Southwest lightkeepers house, wireless operator's house at Atlantic Cove



THE ORIGINAL CROSS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE (BUILT IN 1832) BURNED TO THE GROUND IN 1960. CHRIS MILLS COLLECTION

Memorial Donations

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society would like to express our appreciation to the following people for their thoughtful donations in memory of our dear friend Dorothy MacLeod:

Philip Vienot, Mount Royal QC

Brenda Shannon, Halifax, NS

Lynn Sanderson, Halifax, NS

Marjory & Blair Anderson. Delta, BC

Alice Sanderson, River Herbert, NS

Tony & Chai-Chu Thompson, Halifax, NS

All donations to the NSLPS are tax deductible.

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NSLPS MEMBERSHIP FORM: January 1 - December 31, 2007

___ New ___ Renewal: Membership # _____

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TELEPHONE: _____

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CELL PHONE: _____

Family/Group names for extra cards: _____

Single - \$20.00

Institutional/Group - \$30.00

Patron - \$100.00

Family - \$25.00

Sustaining - \$50.00

Foreign - \$15.00 U.S. Funds, or equivalent.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Please make cheques payable to the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Mail to: THE NOVA SCOTIA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

c/o Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 1S3



BETTY JUNE RICHARDSON HELPING OUT WITH LIGHTHOUSE FARM WORK ON BON PROTAGE ISLAND. ANNE WICKENS