



PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHT STATION

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- 2 FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- 3 EVENTS CALENDAR
- 4 FEATURE ARTICLE
LIGHTHOUSES AND THE GREAT SHAKE OF 1886
- 9 VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATION NEWS
- 10 LIGHTHOUSES OF THE WORLD
BEAVERTAIL LIGHTHOUSE

THANK YOU & WISH LIST
- 12 GIFT SHOP FEATURES



PHOTO COURTESY OF
KEM McNAIR

Members and Friends,

It is with great sorrow that I report the passing of Tommy Campbell, a very dear and dedicated Lighthouse volunteer and Ponce Inlet resident. The Campbell family graciously requested that friends and family make donations to the Lighthouse in Tommy's memory in lieu of flowers. The long term effects of these generous endowment fund donations will help sustain Light Station preservation efforts for generations to come. The Lighthouse family misses Tommy dearly and we appreciate the donations made in his memory.

We are pleased to announce the opening of the redesigned "Native Americans in Florida" exhibit in the newly restored parlor of the Principal Keepers Dwelling. Restoration of this space began last November and consisted of repairs to the room's historic plaster walls and ceiling, stabilization and re-pointing of the fireplace, and refinishing floors, baseboards, doors, window sashes and frames. As months of rehabilitation to the interior space continued, museum staff developed interpretive exhibit signs and constructed cases to house the Native American artifacts. Our staff worked meticulously and the finished exhibit merits a trip to the museum. We welcome you to examine this revitalized exhibit on Florida's Native American heritage.

In February we launched our new and innovative main website in addition to an up-to-the-minute and user friendly online store site. Loaded with modern enhancements and exciting features, our very popular and educational online resources provide important information for those planning to visit the Lighthouse and wanting to learn about the Light Station's rich maritime and social history. In addition, the newly

designed website offers a wealth of information and hands-on activities for parents and teachers. Available online educational resources include pre- and post-visit lesson plans, kid activity pages, and enrichment exercises. Following these recent upgrades, we have experienced a significant increase in online visitation, teacher resource downloads, membership & merchandise sales, and charitable donations. Please visit us online at www.ponceinlet.org and experience a virtual tour of the Light Station, expand your knowledge of maritime and Florida history, sign up for our monthly *E-Luminations* electronic newsletter, and enjoy some online spring shopping.

This time of year is an active one at the Ponce Inlet Light Station. Be sure to visit us on April 21st for Florida Lighthouse Day. Held annually, this important event celebrates Florida's rich maritime and lighthouse history. Onsite activities planned for this day include Light Station and museum tours and numerous workshops focusing on several topics including crystal radio sets, Florida lighthouses, keeper duties, and turn-of-the-century life at the Ponce de Leon (formally Mosquito) Inlet Light Station. Be sure to stop by the Keeper's Office on the porch of Building 5 and talk with the "Old Lighthouse Keeper" during your visit. Planned activities are from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, no advance registration required.

For all of us at the Lighthouse, I wish you a fun-filled and pleasant spring season.

With Warm Regards,

Ed Gunnlaugsson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE MARITIME AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHT STATION.

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Subscription is a benefit of membership in the Association. The Light Station welcomes letters and comments from our readers.

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- Apr. 16, 2012 Board of Trustees and
MONDAY Quarterly Membership Meeting
 - May 21, 2012 Board of Trustees Meeting
MONDAY
 - Jun. 18, 2012 Board of Trustees Meeting
MONDAY
- ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE GIFT SHOP CONFERENCE ROOM.

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LIGHTHOUSE EVENTS APRIL-JUNE 2012

APR 21 (SAT)

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY

Help us celebrate Florida's surviving historic lighthouses on April 21st from 10:00 to 2:00. Enjoy family-oriented activities, live demonstrations, and kid's crafts. Test your knowledge about Florida's many lighthouses by taking the Florida Lighthouse Challenge. Climb to the top of the Lighthouse and learn about crystal radios and enjoy spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean, inland waterways, and the World's Most Famous Beach. All activities are included with the price of regular admission. No advance reservations required.

MAY 18 (FRI)

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

Participate in educational family-oriented workshops and discover the fascinating story of this important National Historic Landmark. All activities are included with the price of regular admission, no advance registration required.

MAY 19 (SAT)

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

ARMED FORCES DAY

Free admission to all active duty and retired armed forces personnel.

MAY 19 (SAT)

2:00 PM

LEMONADE LECTURE AT DeBARY HALL - OUTREACH PROGRAM

Join the "Old Lighthouse Keepers" Bob Callister and John Mann at DeBary Hall on May 19th from 2:00 to 3:00 for a Lemonade Lecture. Developed by the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse in cooperation with Volusia County and DeBary Hall, this fascinating talk will focus on the history of the United States Life Saving Service and the brave men who put their lives on the line to rescue mariners in distress. Admission is free. DeBary Hall is located at 210 Sunrise Blvd., DeBary, FL 32713. Contact Programs Manager Bob Callister at bobcallister@ponceinlet.org for more information.

FAMILY FUN DAYS AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

APR 10 - JUN 27

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

SEE DATES AT RIGHT

Come to the lighthouse and join in various family oriented mini-workshops intended for family participation and enjoyment. All activities are included with the price of regular admission. No advance reservations required.

April 10 - 13 (Tue - Fri), May 27 - 28 (Sun - Mon), June 19 - 21 (Tue - Thu), June 27 (Wed)

CLIMB TO THE MOON EVENT CALENDAR

APR 6 (FRI)

6:30 - 8:30 PM

MAY 5 (SAT)

6:30 - 8:30 PM

JUN 3 (SUN)

6:45 - 8:45 PM

Climb to the Moon at Florida's tallest lighthouse! Treat your significant other, family, and friends to breathtaking views of the ocean, beach, and coastal wetlands under the golden glow of the setting sun. Toast the full moon as it rises above the distant horizon with a sparkling beverage and enjoy panoramic views of the World's Most Famous Beach under its silvery light. Join the *Old Lighthouse Keeper* as he leads you on your journey into the past and discover the unique history of this National Historic Landmark.

Prices are \$20 per person for Association Members and \$25 per person for non-members. Participation is limited to 25 people per event. Contact Mary at (386) 761-1821 ext. 10 or via email at mary@ponceinlet.org to learn more about this special opportunity. Additional information about the new **Climb to the Moon** program may also be found online at www.ponceinlet.org.

2012 SPRING AND SUMMER HOURS OF OPERATION

NORMAL HOURS OF OPERATION

SEP 6, 2011 - MAY 27, 2012 Open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. (last adm. at 5:00 p.m.)

MAY 28 - SEP 3, 2012 Open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. (last adm. at 8:00 p.m.)

SPECIAL HOURS OF OPERATION

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MAY 25 - 27, 2012
(FRI, SAT, & SUN)

Open 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. (last adm. at 6:00 p.m.)

LIGHTHOUSES AND THE GREAT SHAKE OF 1886

(PART II – CONTINUED)
FROM JANUARY 2012
NEWSLETTER)

On Tuesday, August 31, 1886, the Great Charleston Earthquake rocked the east coast at 9:51 pm, creating shocks that were felt from Toronto to Key West. It was estimated to have been a 7.3 magnitude quake on the modern Richter scale, with an intensity of X on the Modified Mercalli scale which ranges from I (barely felt) through XII (total destruction). This was possibly the most powerful earthquake ever to strike east of the Mississippi River. It hit the village of Summerville, South Carolina, full force, leaving every house uninhabitable. Virtually every building in the nearby city of Charleston was damaged or destroyed, and hundreds of people were killed or injured. Some victims were so panic-stricken that they committed suicide or died of fright. Most residents were left homeless. Aftershocks continued for months after the August 31 quake. The frequency of these gradually declined, but seismic activity in the Charleston and Summerville areas has continued to be reported up to the present day.

In the preface of his book *City of Heroes*, Richard N. Côté writes:

Ten seconds after it started, at 9:51 pm, Charleston was in chaos. Within forty-five seconds, most of the damage was done. Within minutes the entire population... save for the dead, injured, or those too infirm to move, had fled into the streets. Within a few days after the first shock, at least 40,000 of the city's 60,145 residents were sleeping in the streets and public parks every night.

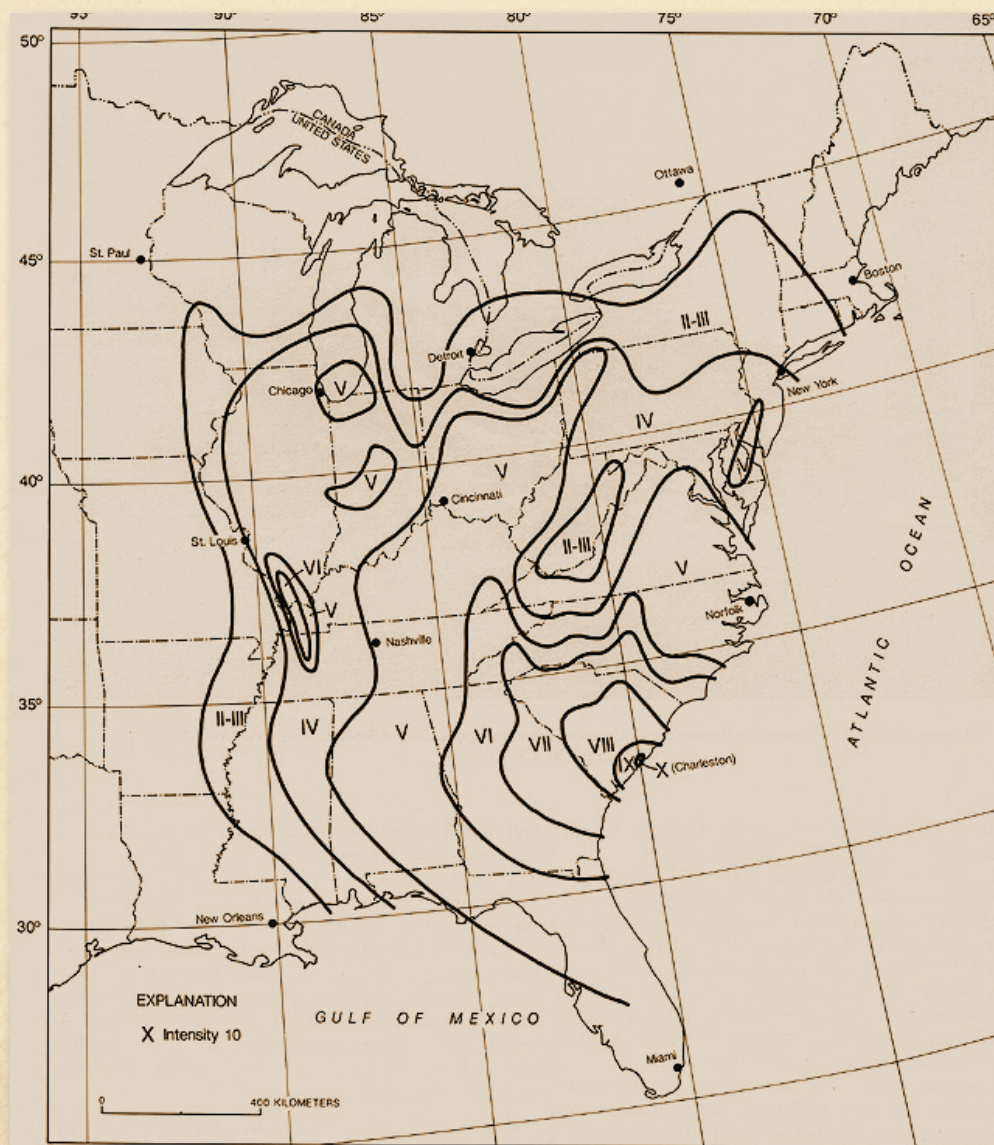
The Great Charleston Earthquake made its presence felt far from that city. At the Fort Columbus Fog-Signal Station on New York's Governor's Island, a shock was felt at 9:55 pm and lasted four minutes. The shock was a noiseless and fairly light tremor. On the Hudson River, the keeper at the Coxsackie Light Station felt a moderate shock at 10:10 pm, railway time.

At New Jersey's Absecon Light Station the keeper was on the gallery outside the watch room of the tower at the time of the first shock, 9:52 pm, Pennsylvania Railroad time. The up and down motion

of the tower's vibration was so severe that he found it difficult to walk back inside the tower. Objects inside the watch room rattled violently. A series of shocks lasted about 60 seconds. The keeper telephoned his wife to find out if she was experiencing the same phenomenon, and she reported that she had not noticed anything amiss. The keeper was so certain that an earthquake had occurred that he immediately entered his experience into the station's log. The chief clerk of the Light House Board was sent out to investigate newspaper reports claiming that the Charleston earthquake had rattled the Absecon tower. The clerk found no damage to the lens, storm-panes of the lantern room, or tower interior. He did record the keeper's log entries of the event, which included the observation

that *"During the time of the shock about fifty birds came to the light, thirty-two of which were the red-eyed vireo; staid (sic) about till morning."*

The chief clerk of the Light-House Board was also sent to the Barnegat Light Station on the south side of New Jersey's Barnegat Inlet. He interviewed the first assistant keeper who was on duty in the watch room during the evening of August 31. The keeper felt a series of severe shocks and the tower's up and down motion made it difficult to walk, just as it had for the keeper at Absecon. The lens seemed to run very fast during the event, and the keeper claimed that some cracks had appeared in the tower. The chief clerk was doubtful that the cracks had been made by the earthquake, and he likewise



ISOSEISMIC DAMAGE MAP SHOWS THE LEVEL OF DESTRUCTION OF THE 1886 QUAKE.



ALL BUILDINGS IN CHARLESTON WERE DAMAGED AND MANY WERE DESTROYED.

found no damage to the lens.

Virginia's Cape Charles Light Station was slightly shaken by an aftershock that occurred at 12:20 pm on November 5. The tower rocked for about fifteen seconds and a feather duster hanging in the tower swung back and forth. The event was not noticed by those on the ground. A slight shock was also felt at the Thimble-Shoal Light Station at about 2 pm on the same day.

At the Old Point Comfort Light Station near the entrance to Hampton Roads, Virginia, the keeper felt the August 31st quake at 9:55 pm, standard time. Tremors lasted about two minutes, and a rumbling noise was heard. The waves began to rise rapidly. Three distinct shocks were reported as occurring at 9:50 pm on August 31 by the keeper at Point of Shoals Light Station, a screw-pile structure in the James River.

In the Chesapeake Bay, the Hooper Straits Light Station near Tangier Sound experienced a shock at 9:55 pm on August 31. A second shock was recorded at 10 pm. Both shocks caused windows to rattle and were accompanied by a rumbling sound. Aftershocks were reported on October 22. At the Cove Point Light Station on the west side of the Chesapeake Bay, the keeper was sitting on his doorstep on the night of August 31. He felt a light shock and tremor and the dwelling shook. The time was about 10 pm.

In North Carolina, lighthouse keepers also recorded the earthquake's effects

and subsequent aftershocks. At the Light-House Buoy Depot in Washington, North Carolina, on November 5th the keeper noticed his house shaking at 12:32 pm while the family was at the noon meal. The shock was enough to fling water out of a glass on the dining table. Likewise, at Currituck Beach Light Station nothing was reported until November 5th, when several light shocks rattled the tower. Things were more exciting at the Cape Hatteras Light Station on August 31st. The first shock came at 9:50 pm. Three more followed with the last taking place at 10:29 pm. These shocks were strong enough to cause suspended objects to swing and to overthrow light objects. The keeper stated, *"Then the tower would tremble and sway backward and forward like a tree shaken by the wind. The shock was so strong that we could not keep our backs against the parapet wall. It would throw us right from it. The swinging was from northeast to southwest."* A slight aftershock was felt on September 3 at 11:05 pm.

In the Albemarle Sound, bounded by the Outer Banks of North Carolina, the Laurel Pont Light Station's keeper recorded a series of light shocks on August 31 beginning at 9:50 pm. More shocks were felt

on September 3 and October 22. At the Frying Pan Shoals Light-Ship, moored off Cape Fear, a tremor was felt on August 31 at 9:50 pm. The keeper was awakened by the tremor and a noise *"like a train of cars in motion."* The vessel felt as if it were scraping along a rocky bottom but no damage was noted. The keeper reported another tremor on September 25th.

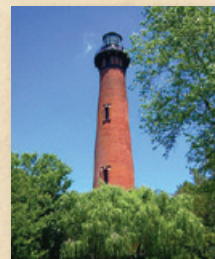
The Cape Fear Light Station's keeper recorded two earthquake shocks at 9:50 pm meridian time on August 31, with aftershocks on September 3rd and September 5th. The August 31st shocks were strong enough to break glass lamp chimneys in the tower and to stop the tower clock. The time of the Cape Fear event was considered significant to the investigation of the quake's causes, and the US Geological Survey office requested a confirmation of this time along with information about when the lighthouse clock had last been compared to a standard time clock.



ABSECON LIGHTHOUSE



BARNEGAT LIGHTHOUSE



CURRITUCK LIGHTHOUSE

At the Oak Island Range Lights near the mouth of the Cape Fear River, a strong shock on August 31st at 9:36 pm rocked the dwelling, stopped a clock, and moved the lower steps of the main light. Several lighter shocks followed. George Walker, the light keeper wrote, *"...we had a very bad earthquake shock lasted about thirty seckonds (sic)... the house rocked very badly... it stoped(sic) the clock and loosed the lower steps to main light - I have fixed them all right - that is all the damage done at this station. We had two other very light shocks two minutes after the first one I think they came from the North West."*

The keeper at the Hilton Head Range Light Station was in bed when the first shock came. His clock stopped at 9:54 pm local time. Ironically, he was talking to his wife about friends in Summerville, the suburb of Charleston that was virtually at the epicenter of the quake, when the doors and windows began to rattle as the whole house shook. Looking up at the tower, he saw that the light

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

appeared to go out and flare up again. The shocks continued and water was thrown up out of the cistern. The plaster in the house cracked, and some brick piers were knocked out of place. He also experienced the early morning tremor of October 22 which he recorded at 5:20 am, meridian time, and the one which followed at 2:45 pm. On November 5th, another noticeable shock occurred at 11:40 am.

Patrick Comer, keeper at the Daufuskie Island Light House (Range Lights) near Hilton Head, reported his experiences on the night of August 31. At 9:25 pm, local time (his clock had never been compared to standard time) he experienced a noise like a roaring fire and felt a fifty-second shock. The first shock was most severe and a total of eight more shocks came that night, including one early on the morning of September 1. The clock was stopped at the first shock. Comer made his way to the lantern room just in time to prevent the lens from falling off its pedestal. The keeper recounted a poignant story of a pet goat that was kept under the house. *"...and about 40 minutes or so previous to this strange rumbling, the goat came from under the house and into the house, this being a very unusual thing, we thought the insects worried him. He was put back and made fast to his little wagon. No sooner made fast than he began to bleat, most piteously. Someone said what must be the matter with the goat, when all at once came this strange noise. The goat was neglected. Everyone was frightened and the whole house began to shake. The goat could never be got to go underneath the piazza again. He pined away and died on the 27th September."*

The October 22 shakes were also reported by Comer, who recorded the first at 5 am and the second at 2:23 pm. These were accompanied by a rumbling noise and rattled the windows. He reported another tremor occurring at noon on November 5th.

The Bloody Point Range Lights, located at the southeast end of Daufuskie Island, were also shaken. Inside the keeper's house, items bounced off shelves as the house shivered and seemed to jump up

from the foundation. The sounds were at first like heavily shod feet stomping about, and these sounds eventually transformed into booming noises like heavy cannon fire. Keeper John M. Doyle recorded five strong shocks during the night. Plaster in the dwelling was cracked, small objects overthrown, and pictures on the walls were tilted at all angles. Brick walls, however, remained unscathed. He reported another minor shock on October 31st saying, *"Possibly these light shocks are constantly occurring here, but the conditions for observing them are not favorable."* During the night of November 4-5th, Doyle heard nearly constant rumbling noises, and on November 5th at noon a light shock passed under the house. At 1:00 pm on November 7th, two severe vertical movements occurred, first at one end of the house and then at the other, causing pictures on the walls to swing. On January 4, 1887, at 6:25 am, a moderate shock woke everyone in the keeper's dwelling.

Many cities felt what would eventually be called the Great Shake of 1886. Residents of Savannah first felt the August 31st quake at 9:25 pm. About 10 buildings were destroyed and 240 chimneys were brought down. The keeper of the range lights in Savannah Harbor reported another significant tremor on October 5th at 11:40 am causing the windows and crockery in his house to rattle. Columbia, Charlotte, Asheville, and Augusta all were affected on August 31st, and numerous aftershocks were felt throughout the region in October and November.

At the Tybee Island Light Station, the first event was felt at 9:30 pm local time on August 31. It continued for about ninety seconds and was accompanied by a heavy rumbling noise like thunder. Three more strong shocks came before 10 pm. The Appendix to the Light-House Board Annual Report of 1886 states, *"The (tower) wall was cracked about midway. It is about 6 feet thick where the*

crack occurred. It moved the lens, which weighs about one ton, 1 ½ inches to the northeast. It shook the signal office building, which is 35 feet high with a wall of concrete 10 feet thick, in the old Spanish fort, known as the Martello tower, sufficiently to throw crockery, etc.,



AMELIA ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, FLORIDA



MOSQUITO (PONCE) INLET LIGHT STATION WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE TIME OF THE QUAKE



LAUREL POINT LIGHTHOUSE



TYBEE KNOLL CUT FRONT RANGE LIGHT, EARLY 1900S

from stationary cupboards, and toilet bottles, etc., from bureaus." (Note: the 'old Spanish fort' was actually a fortification built by the US government in 1815 using a British style derived from a 1565 defensive tower built at Mortella Point on the Island of Corsica. The British called their short, round, and thick-walled towers Martellos. These were usually constructed of stone or brick, but the one at Tybee was tabby and wood. It is no longer standing.) The damage at the Tybee main light was enough to cause the keeper to request the services of the Sixth District's lampist as the lens had shifted off the center of its pedestal. John Johnson, keeper of the range lights at Tybee Knoll Cut, reported another aftershock on September 6th.

At Georgia's Saint Simon's Island, the light station there was rocked by strong shocks. Keeper Isaac L. Peckham reported that chimneys were tossed down and walls were damaged. One of the red flash

panels in the Fresnel lens of the St. Simons Lighthouse was broken during the first shock which was experienced at 9:30 pm, sun time. The clockwork machinery to the lens was thrown out of gear and many small pieces were broken out of the lens. The keeper was able to make suitable repairs almost immediately.

The Little Cumberland Light Station near Brunswick, Georgia, also reported the earthquake. On August 31, at 9:30 pm, a 5-minute tremor shook the tower and stopped the clock. Three more shocks were felt that night, and a light shock was reported on September 1. No damage was done to the tower on August 31st, although some storm panes were loosened. Plaster was cracked in the dwelling. The keeper wrote, *"I was standing on the Balcony of the tower when I felt it began to trimble (sic) and in a second the damper was shaken (sic) across the flaim (sic). Then the lens*

was shaking as tho (sic) it would fall to pieces, at the lens it appeared to be of a horizontal movement. It went from East to West while on the Balcony and in the dwellings it appeared to be more of a vertically (sic) tremor."

At the Sixth District's Amelia Island Light-Station, two shocks were felt on the night of August 31 at 9 pm, standard time. These were moderate to light and the lighthouse clock was stopped at 9:17 pm which the keeper had determined to be about 22 minutes ahead of standard time. No damage was done to the tower or keeper's dwelling.

The St. Johns River Light-Station in Mayport, Florida, experienced five distinct shocks on August 31, beginning at 9:20 pm, sun time. The first shock was moderate, the next two light, and the fifth was very light. No damage was done. The keeper also reported another event on November 5th at noon.

Joseph Champagne, Keeper of the Dames Point Lighthouse, a screwpile structure in the St. Johns River near Jacksonville, felt the first shock at 9:24 pm on August 31. It lasted about 7 seconds and was followed by three other shocks in succession until about 9:35. There was a rushing sound like the wind blowing through a forest, although the night was calm. The shocks cracked the plaster and stopped the lighthouse clock. *"The first tremor raised the house and then shook it east and west hard enough to splash the water out of the iron tanks."*

Principal Keeper William A. Harn of Florida's St. Augustine Light Station wrote on September 30, 1886, *"In reply to your circular of September 10, I would inform you that three distinct shocks of earthquake passed under this Station on the night of August 31st at 9:25 p.m. local time. The first shock was quite severe lasting about 30 seconds followed by two lighter ones which were just perceptible. The clock in the tower which is a pendulum one stopped at 9:25 pm. Just preceding the shock was a noise like a strong wind. The first impression of every one was that a squall had arisen until looking out it was found to be perfectly calm, scarcely a breath of wind blowing. The shocks were felt by all persons residing on the island. The windows and doors rattled loudly and bird cages swung violently. The motion was undulatory just before the shock the chickens cackled as if disturbed and*

just after the first shock all the dogs in the vicinity of the Station barked in an alarmed manner. The sky was clear and the stars shining brightly. The sea was very quiet, several persons were made sick by the motion. I was in the watch-room of the tower at the time sitting down."

To the south between St. Augustine and Cape Canaveral, the Mosquito (now Ponce de Leon) Inlet Light Station was still under construction. The tower was somewhere between 51-100 feet high and work had been going slowly as the result of difficulties between the foreman and the work crew. The supply of brick was running low and additional supplies had not been ordered until August 4, following a Congressional appropriation of funds for lighthouse construction. No report of damage at Mosquito Inlet was made in the Light-House Board's Appendix 3 or in the Sixth District reports.

Cracks uncovered during restoration work on the Ponce Inlet tower were suspected as being possible results of the quake. Mosquito Inlet was in the zone of mild to moderate damage, so it is difficult to estimate the level of injury that might have occurred. However, it is also likely that if significant damage had resulted from the quake, a report would have been made to the District Inspector or Engineer and an examination of the structure would have been made. No documents describing damage or inspections have as yet been found.

On October 7, 1886, the keeper at the Cape Canaveral Light Station reported his August 31 experiences. A shock accompanied by a noise like underground thunder came at 8:58 pm, noted by comparison with a standard clock at Titusville. The Light-House Board went to some pains to confirm this time, as it was considered important to the investigation by the US Geological Survey into the causes of the quake. In his September 20, 1886, letter to B. B. Smith of the Sixth District, Canaveral's acting keeper had stated, *"We experienced quite a shock in August the 31 at 9:30 pm causing the lens and tower to shake so much so as to shake out quite a lot of putty out of the frame of the lens stoping (sic) the time piece in the tower and the one in the Dwelling but doing no other harm."* Apparently, the 9:30 pm time was the most accurate. Another shock was felt on September 3 both in the tower and dwellings.



CRACKS IN THE PONCE (MOSQUITO) INLET LIGHTHOUSE TOWER

The Charleston quake was also felt at Florida's Cedar Key Light Station, at about 9:11 pm, sun time. Several moderate shocks were felt. The first shock came as a jarring motion and the second was an undulation, moving from east to west. At Pensacola, moderate shocks occurred at 9:07 pm, sun time. Clocks were stopped on the station.

The east coast was not the only site of seismic activity in the fall and winter of 1886-1887. At the Fort Point Light Station near San Francisco, a shock came on the evening of October 13, 1886, and more shocks followed in October and in January of 1887. At Mare Island, shocks were felt on October 15, shortly after 10 pm. Another was reported on January 19, 1887 in the late afternoon. Humboldt Light Station was also active in January as were Cape Mendocino, Pigeon Point, and Point Arena.

The Light-House Board's Annual Report of 1887 again described damage and repairs at facilities in the Fifth and Sixth Lighthouse Districts on the east coast. In the Fifth District, the light station at Bulls Bay, northeast of Charleston, sustained more damage than any other in the district. *"The lens was thrown entirely out of position and the light extinguished for one night - a misfortune which occurred nowhere else. The walls were seriously cracked, those of the kitchen irreparably so, and the floors in some of the rooms so disjointed as to require renewal. The illuminating apparatus was restored without delay, and in March all the other injuries were repaired and the station was put in good order."*



BULLS BAY LIGHTHOUSE, SOUTH CAROLINA

At the Morris Island range lights and Charleston Main Light, the earthquake *"threw the lens out of position and cracked the (main) tower extensively in two places, but not so as to endanger its stability. The upper and most serious crack extends somewhat spirally almost through a full circumference of the tower, but the sides of the crack are in very close apposition, and there has been no lateral displacement. The lens was immediately replaced and the broken parts were repaired without delay. At a later date the piece of the assistant*

keeper's dwelling and the paved walk were rebuilt, and the verandas were largely repaired. Broken piers were also repaired at the principal keeper's dwelling and 150 linear feet of gutter were put up, and at the front beacon, leaks were stopped in the roof and its brick foundation was repaired."

Examinations were made at various lighthouses to assess and confirm earthquake damage. John Robinson, keeper at Cape Romain wrote on October 31st that, *"I(n) compliance with your communication of the 11th instant, I have personally (sic) examined the tower on the outside in a boatswains chair for cracks, and find the following - on the s.e. side between the second and third landings a horizontal crack eleven feet long 1/16 of an inch wide, another horizontal crack on the s.e. corner above the upper landing two feet long and less than 1/16 inch wide, another on the s.w. corner the same as the later (sic). Three cracks in all, the point of a knife could not be pushed 1/2 inch into any of them. There are none visible on the inside, and none visible on the outside from the ground."*

Cape Romain continued to report tremors including one on November 28th at 3:20 pm, and another significant one on March 23 at 11:05 pm. The March 23 event stopped the tower clock and about two hours after the quake 20 feet of plaster fell from the dwelling ceiling.

Damage at the Daufuskie Island range lights had included the loss of most of the plaster in the keeper's house which supported the wooden tower. The plastering was all removed and replaced with ceiling boards, and repairs were made to both beacons. A plank walkway was constructed to connect the boat house and landing to a spot near the beacon. Aftershocks, including the November 5th event, did not cause further damage.

At Tybee Island, the earthquake extended some existing cracks in the tower and made some new ones but these cracks were not deemed to be dangerous. The lens was displaced by the quake and the attachments to its upper ring were broken. The lens was repaired immediately, although in a letter of September 3 to James Gregory, assistant



CHARLESTON MAIN LIGHT

district engineer B. B. Smith wrote that he feared the Tybee light to have been out since the first quake on August 31st. By September 4th his fears were relieved by a report that the Tybee light had never gone out or had been repaired almost immediately. At Saint Simon's Island, the quake broke some of the red flash panels of the lens which were also repaired quickly.

Fort Sumter was mentioned in the 1887 Annual Report, but no further earthquake damage was reported. Apparently, the fort was in very bad condition as a result of a cyclone in 1885. This damage was never repaired and had continued to progress. Some repairs were done following the earthquake to make the light keeper more comfortable.

Aftershocks continued for many months after the August 31 quake. At Summerville, tremors were felt almost daily through the following March. The frequency of these events gradually declined, but seismic activity in the Charleston and Summerville areas has continued to be reported up to the present day. The effects of the Charleston earthquake were devastating, but city's recovery from the destruction of the earthquake was a model for efficient and effective disaster response. Within less than a year much had been rebuilt and there were signs of growth all over the city.

It was eventually determined that the quake had been caused by the buildup of pressures along the Woodstock, Ashley River, and the Sawmill Branch Faults in an area known as the Middleton Place-Summerville Seismic Zone. Hundreds of quakes have taken place in this zone since 1886 and the rate of seismic activity in the zone is now increasing. Eight magnitude 7+ earthquakes have occurred there in the last six thousand years, and another one is considered inevitable by many seismologists.



VOLUNTEER ART HAHN JOKES WITH LIGHTHOUSE GUESTS IN THE LANTERN ROOM DURING THE JANUARY, 2012 CLIMB TO THE MOON EVENT.

Spirits soared as high as the tower for guests attending Climb to the Moon this past winter. As one of the Preservation Association's most popular offerings, the January, February, and March Climb to the Moon events provided participants with the unique opportunity to enjoy sparkling beverages and delicious hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Inlet Harbor Restaurant. Guests watched the sun set over the inland salt marshes to the west and the full moon rise over the Atlantic Ocean to the east. The atmosphere was jovial as guests made new friends and talked with event coordinator, Mary Clancy. Special thanks go out to volunteer Lighthouse Keepers Art Hahn, Tom Hellem, and Don Garrett, who provided tours of the Lantern Room and regaled visitors with colorful anecdotes about the history of the Light Station and the men, women, and children who once called it home. If you have not yet experienced this event, we encourage you to do so in the coming months. The next scheduled Climb to the Moon events are on April 6th, May 5th, and June 3rd. Please refer to this issue's Calendar of Events for more information.

Over 100 Girl Scouts attended the Lighthouse's Girl Scout Day on January 14th. Developed in cooperation with Girl Scouts of America, this wonderful event provides scouts of all ages the opportunity to work towards earning their Brownie, Junior or Cadet Lighthouse Interest badges. Special thanks go out to volunteers John and Jackie Mann, Gerry Harris, Tom Hellem, Bonnie Egertson, Joan Griffith, Wade Gonzalez, Don Garrett and Jean

Conover who staffed the many workshops attended by the girls that day.

The Preservation Association hosted its second Museum at Night event, on January 27, 2012. Lighthouse volunteers Tom Hellem, Claudia Kavanaugh, Don Garrett and John Mann rolled out the red carpet for the event's many participants. Activities included a tour of the Light Station and the opportunity to examine the tower's historic 3rd order rotating Fresnel lens. Listed as an active private aid to navigation, the lens is housed in the Lantern Room which is normally closed to the public.

Additional events held this past quarter included the Association's annual Beach Racing Day on February 24th and Florida Heritage Day on March 24th.

Developed in cooperation with the Living Legends of Auto Racing Museum and co-sponsored by Racing's North Turn Restaurant, Beach Racing Day has become one of the Association's most popular events. In addition to our regular offerings, Lighthouse visitors were given the opportunity to examine historic beach racing cars from the early days of auto racing, and talk with drivers, mechanics, and other pioneers who pushed their cars and nerves to the limit around the course's treacherous turns.

Scheduled annually, Florida Heritage Day is a celebration of the State's rich historical past and cultural sites. Individuals visiting the Lighthouse on this special day were treated to many on-site offerings including tours of the Lighthouse, workshops, and historical reenactments and discussions focusing on Florida's role in 2nd Seminole War, the Spanish American War, the Civil War, and World War II.

Lighthouse volunteers made the Association shine on March 13th, 14th and 16th, when they helped host several school tours. During the course of the three day period, the Lighthouse provided more than 160 fourth grade students the opportunity to participate

in a comprehensive tour of the Light Station and several workshops before sending them off to our friends at the Marine Science Center. Special thanks go out to our many volunteers for making the students' Lighthouse experience an enjoyable and educational one. We couldn't do it without you.

As many of our readers know, the Preservation Association's educational offerings are not restricted to the Lighthouse visitors only. Multiple educational outreach programs were also provided to local schools and special interest groups throughout the last quarter. The Lighthouse would like to acknowledge volunteers Allen Bestwick, who developed and presented four programs related to early radio communications to over 100 people; and John Mann, for his tireless efforts in helping us complete a recent educational program award application through Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Preservation Association encourages anyone interested in learning more about becoming a lighthouse volunteer to contact Programs Manager Bob Callister by phone at (386) 761-1821, ext. 18 or via email at bobcallister@ponceinlet.org for more information.



VISITORS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE HISTORIC CARS FROM THE DAYS OF RACING ALONG THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BEACH.

BEAVERTAIL LIGHTHOUSE

Beavertail Lighthouse is located on Beavertail Point on the southern tip of Conanicut Island in Jamestown, Rhode Island. The island is in the center of Narragansett Bay, dividing the bay into the East Passage and the West Passage. The island is connected to Newport on the east and North Kingstown on the west by bridges.

The current Beavertail Lighthouse is the third tower to have been constructed on the site. It is either the third or fourth oldest lighthouse in the United States, depending on the source consulted.

Funded with revenue raised from tariffs placed on imported and exported cargo passing through Newport, RI (10 shillings per ton foreign, 18 shillings per ton on domestic), the original Beavertail Lighthouse was constructed in 1749 following an official decree that a lighthouse was needed to aid ships navigating the hazardous waters of Narragansett Bay. Appearing in Newport Town Record in February, 1749, Newport officials stated:

"A committee was appointed to build a Lighthouse at Beavertail on the Island of Jamestown, alias Conanicut, as there appears a great necessity for a lighthouse as several misfortunes have happened lately for want of a light."

Construction of the first Beavertail Lighthouse (the third lighthouse to be erected in the colonies), began in May and ended in September, 1749. Designed the renowned American Peter Harrison, the original Beavertail Lighthouse was built of wood, stood 68 feet tall (including the lantern room), and measured 24 feet in diameter at its base. Capping the wooden tower was 11 foot tall by 13 foot diameter lantern room housing a whale oil spider lamp.



Described as a well maintained and orderly light under Keeper Abel Franklin, the original Beavertail Lighthouse was consumed by fire on July 22, 1753. Less than a month later, a committee was appointed for the purpose of *"erecting another Lighthouse with stone or brick, at the place where 'the former' had lately burnt."* Constructed of materials from Fort George on nearby Goat Island, the second Beavertail Lighthouse was erected on the same spot as its predecessor.

The new tower served mariners navigating the Narragansett Bay from its completion in 1753 until 1776 when Newport was overrun by the British in the early days of the Revolutionary War. From December, 1776, until October, 1779, Conanicut Island remained under the firm control of the British Army. The second Beavertail Lighthouse did not survive the occupation.

Lighthouse Superintendent William Ellery, who also held the post of Collector of Customs in Newport, described what happened to Beavertail Lighthouse when the British were forced to evacuate Narragansett Bay in 1779. *"They set fire to the lighthouse as they left. The intense heat of the flames so shocked the walls, especially about the windows, that our Masons have not since been able to make them tight and secure against the impressions of storms of rain."* Prior to burning the lighthouse, the British also removed the tower's lighting apparatus.

In 1793, Rhode Island ceded the still-damaged lighthouse to the federal government which had recently created the United States Light House Establishment to *"support, maintain, and repair the nation's lighthouses, beacons, buoys, and public piers."* In 1838, an inspection by Lieut. George M. Bache reported that Beavertail Light was 64 feet high and 98 feet above sea level, with a light (produced by fifteen whale oil lamps with reflectors) visible for 15 3/4 nautical miles out to sea.

By 1856, the second Beavertail Lighthouse was beginning to show the signs of its age. Finding the tower to be structurally unsound, the Lighthouse Board determined that the time had come to raze the old dilapidated lighthouse to the ground. Having withstood the ravages of both war and weather over its one hundred year history, the second Beavertail Lighthouse quickly fell under the hammers blows of the wrecking crew.

Completed in 1856, at a cost of \$14,500, the third (and current) Beavertail Lighthouse is a square granite tower measuring 45 feet tall and 10 feet in diameter. With a focal plane 64 feet above sea-level, the tower's beacon was originally a 3rd order fixed Fresnel lens. In 1899, the United States Light House Establishment removed the 3rd order lens and replaced it with a 4th order Fresnel lens. This optic remained in operation until it was retired in 1991. The tower's current optic is a modern electric DCB 24 beacon.

Automated in 1972, the Beavertail Lighthouse was restored by the Rhode Island Parks Association. The deteriorating Assistant Keeper's dwelling was rehabilitated to house the Beavertail Lighthouse Association Museum and the facility was opened to the public thanks to the joint efforts of the Rhode Island Parks Association, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Town of Jamestown, and the United States Coast Guard.

THANK YOU & WISH LIST

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association would like to convey its sincere thanks to several of our supporters for their recent donation to the Lighthouse and Museum. Volunteer and Board Member Earl Davis donated a beautiful four-string lute and 6-string guitar to the museum in February while Dick and Yvonne Punnett added to the lighthouse's collection of historic images with the donation of 19 vintage postcards. Last

but not least, long-time New Smyrna Beach resident Sigmund J. Dobrowski presented the Association with his wonderful collection of 15 miniature lighthouse models by the Danbury Mint. Placed on EBay, the replica lighthouses will be sold and all proceeds will be listed as a charitable donation in Mr. Dobrowski's name.

We are currently searching for photographs of the Light Station taken over the last 50 years.

Photographs that document the changes made by the Preservation Association are particularly scarce and very few images of the Station were taken in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. If you have such photographs and would be willing to allow us to scan them, we would be most grateful and the originals would be promptly returned to you. Please contact Ellen Henry at 386-761-1821, extension 17, or ellen@ponceinlet.org.

JOIN THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

A GENERAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Free admission to the museum and lighthouse during regular hours of operation
- 10 percent discount in the museum gift shop and online store
- One subscription to The Light Station quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to special events
- Volunteer opportunities

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

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- The benefits listed above for one individual

Senior \$10

- All privileges of General Membership for one individual 62 years or older

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- All privileges of General Membership for the immediate family
- Immediate family is limited to one or two adults and your children under age 18. Grandchildren are not eligible.
- You will be issued one membership card for each parent, and each card will list the names of your children.
- Child under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

2nd Assistant Keeper \$100

- All privileges of General or Family Membership
- Recognition of your membership in the quarterly newsletters' 2nd Assistant Keeper List

1st Assistant Keeper \$200

- All privileges of 2nd Assistant Membership
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Principal Keeper \$500

- All privileges of 1st Assistant Membership
- A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
- Recognition of your support in the quarterly newsletters' Principal Keeper List

Corporate Lampist \$500

- All privileges of General or Family Membership for up to five company principals
- A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
- Use of the Light Station's conference room for one meeting.
- Recognition of your companies support in the quarterly newsletters' Corporate Lampist List

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APRIL SHOWERS MAY BRING MAY FLOWERS BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO GET WET! ENJOY THE COOL AND SOMETIMES DAMP SPRING DAYS WITH THIS FASHIONABLE RAINCOAT AND WINDBREAKER. CUSTOM MADE FOR THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE AND MUSEUM, THIS LIGHTWEIGHT TWO-TONED WATER-RESISTANT RAINCOAT IS MADE OF 100% NYLON AND FEATURES AN EMBROIDERED IMAGE OF THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE. AVAILABLE IN THREE COLOR COMBINATIONS; BLUE & GREY, BLACK & GREY, AND RED & BLACK. PLEASE INDICATE DESIRED SIZE AND COLOR WHEN ORDERING.

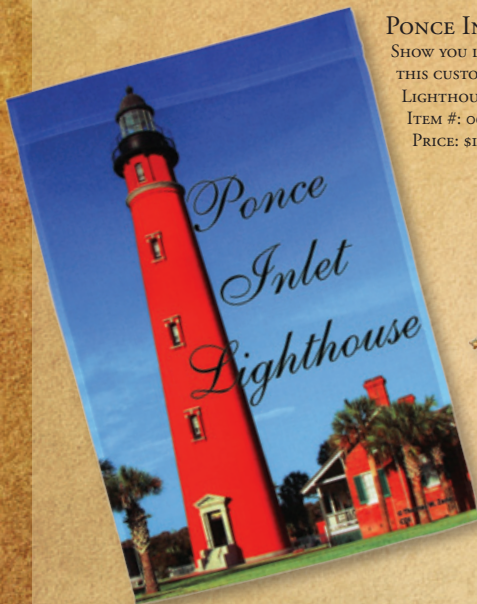
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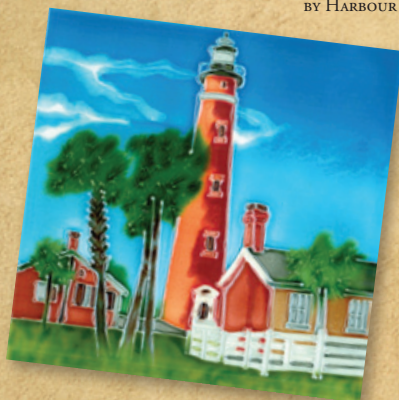
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SUITABLE FOR USE AS A DECORATIVE TRIVET OR WALL HANGING, THIS UNIQUE HAND-PAINTED CERAMIC TILE FEATURES A BEAUTIFUL IMAGE OF THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE. TILE INCLUDES CORK BACKING TO PREVENT SLIPPING AND A WIRE HANGER FOR WALL DISPLAY. AVAILABLE IN TWO SIZES: 8" X 8" AND 11" X 14".

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[PonceLighthouseStore.org](http://www.PonceLighthouseStore.org), and place orders by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 21.

Please contact the Gift Shop at (386) 761-1821 or via email at cmaroney@ponceinlet.org for more information. Usual UPS shipping charges and a \$4.00 handling fee apply to all orders.



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Limit one coupon per member. Coupon may not be used in conjunction with any other discount. Proof of membership must be shown at time of purchase. Not valid for purchase of Memorial Bricks. Good from April 1, 2012, through June 30, 2012.