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Bodie Island Lighthouse Chosen in Top Ten American Lighthouses by *USA Today*

by Bruce Roberts and Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

The idea of restoration for the Bodie Island Lighthouse was a leap of faith two decades ago. But, my oh my, we've come a long way!

In late 1993, we visited Bodie Island Lighthouse together. Since Bruce was a visiting photographer, National Park Service Ranger Chris Eckert allowed us into the tower. Although the exterior of the lighthouse looked good, the interior revealed the deteriorating condition of the historic structure. I touched the cast-iron handrail and saw what appeared to be blood on my hand. Rust was so prevalent due to accumulated, ambient moisture from lack of regular ventilation that it was literally dripping from the lighthouse's metal components. We asked why maintenance was not being done. "The U.S. Coast Guard has no money for lighthouses," was the ranger's response. Chris allowed us to climb the stairs, but he wouldn't accompany us—he knew what bad shape in which the stairs were.

When we first volunteered at the lighthouse in 1994, we were lucky to see a dozen people each day. Now? Nearly two-hundred thousand people visited BILH between April and December 2013. Close to 40,000 climbed the lighthouse after it was opened April 2013 through the end of the year. Many more roamed the fee-free lighthouse complex.

In June 2014, *USA Today* listed Bodie Island in the top ten best lighthouses in America. Kraig Anderson, lighthouse photographer and webmaster of *lighthousefriends.com* listed Bodie as #2 out of 10 on his list of favorites. It was the first lighthouse he had visited and he didn't stop traveling for 10 years until he had visited every light in America. *USA Today* stated, "This 156-foot Outer Banks beacon is often overshadowed by the nearby Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, located in the same national seashore. But its renovation last year, which opened the tower for climbing, makes it a must-see. 'It's stunning,' Anderson says, and one of many standouts in the region. 'The Outer Banks has the premier collection of

lighthouses in the United States.'"

There are many special features about this lighthouse. First, it still has its operational first-order Fresnel lens. Nearly all of these magnificent works of art have been removed from lighthouses all around America and are now mainly showpieces in museums and for the US Coast Guard. A lighthouse emitting the unmistakable beam from a Fresnel lens with its focused shaft of light is a rare experience to behold these days. And Bodie Island Lighthouse offers this experience.

Next, the natural setting of this light station is simply amazing. Following restoration, we can climb and see for ourselves the beautiful panorama surrounding it. From sound to marsh to fresh water ponds to the Atlantic Ocean, the unique sight is precious. Few places in this world still retain the richness of coastal wilderness such as here. Due to the efforts by many who believed this lighthouse would return to its former glory, we can stand on the balcony and taste the salt air and feel history lingering.

Finally, this light station is steeped in history. Bodie Island Lighthouse was the marker to southbound ships riding the shore-hugging cold current flowing from the north to turn out to sea to avoid Diamond Shoals off Cape Hatteras. And there were approximately 38 keepers who tended this light, which we can learn about daily life at the light station and a keeper's duties.

We feel strongly that OBLHS's efforts have made a difference and brought recognition to this light, helped move restoration plans forward, held a homecoming for keepers' descendants, and published the book *Bodie Island Keepers: Oral and Family Histories* in 2013. For all those who kept the faith and volunteered and/or donated to the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society's Bodie Island Fund, we congratulate you. Now, let's keep the light shining.

©2011 photograph by Bruce Roberts

Lighthouse Keeper David Evans Quidley

*Served at Bodie Island, Gull Shoal, Harbor Island, Wade Point,
Point No Point (Maryland), Brant Island Shoal,
and Roanoke River Lighthouses*

By Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

Lighthouse Keeper David Evans “Dave” Quidley’s family lineage traces back to Captain John Quidley who was born in 1640 in Devonshire, England and immigrated to Nansemond County, Virginia. The locale is now known as Suffolk and, as one would expect of a life-long mariner, he chose a homesite situated near the Nansemond River that is part of the Chesapeake Bay area. True to Hatteras Island heritage, Quidley ancestors and their descendants are part of a core group of families that produced men and women who spent most of their lives either directly employed by or married to members of various American civil and military services that helped keep the lights shining or rescued mariners in distress. Keeper Dave Quidley did both. In this article in which our keeper will be referred to as “Keeper Dave” or simply “Dave,” we will take a look at the stations at which he served, and the personal price he paid to work at isolated light stations. Throughout his US Lighthouse Service (USLHS) career that spanned 1917 to 1940, this lighthouse keeper frequented the Service’s records with commendations attributed to 32 rescues of grateful souls in need of help on the waters of North Carolina.

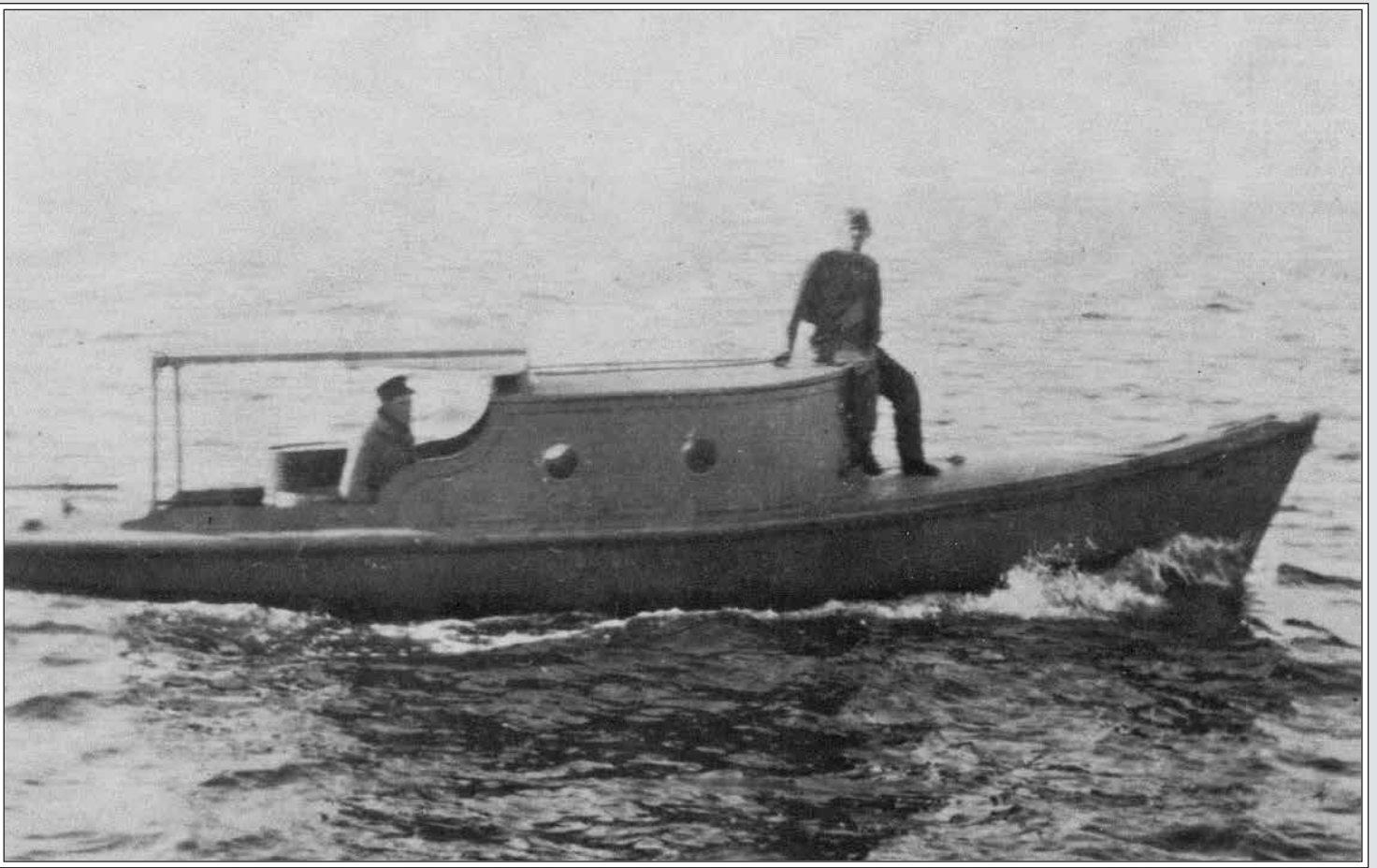
David Evans Quidley was born on Hatteras Island in the village of Buxton on February 27, 1891, to David G. Quidley Sr. (1847–1902) and Rovena Simpson Rollison (1864–1955) [pronounced “Rovene” by her grandson who was interviewed for this article].

According to one of David G. Quidley Sr.’s grandsons, Dallas E. Quidley Jr., he served as a life-saving surfman on horseback that patrolled the shoreline for ships in distress. When a foundering ship was spotted, he signaled the station at Kinnekeet and his fellow surfmen and equipment arrived to help. After his Civil War duty in the 1st NC Infantry, Quidley Sr. became a lighthouse keeper.

David G. Quidley Sr. and Rovena Quidley had three sons who served in the civil service: David “Dave” Evans, Guy, and Thomas Dallas (T.D.). Guy was a seaman with the Coast Survey while Dave, T.D., and first cousin A.J. Quidley became lighthouse keep-

ers. Bill Quidley (from David Quidley Sr.’s first marriage) and Amasa Quidley were raised in Dave’s home after Amasa’s parents died when he was young. Both would also become US Lighthouse Service keepers. In the 1930 census, several households immediately surrounding Dave’s home in Buxton are listed as lighthouse “captain” aka “keepers.” Other households were occupied by US Coast Guard life-saving surfmen. The influence of these two services revered by the community certainly was a factor in the careers that these young men chose.

Dave’s mother, Rovena, was the island midwife and is listed in the 1910 census as “nurse.” She delivered hundreds of babies including all 13 of Dave’s children. One of these was Dave’s son, Lenwood Quidley, who remembers her well. “I was burned one time and Grandma Rovene held my hand, blew on it, prayed over it. It went away—might have come back, but it went away. She was known as the ‘island



"My dad used a simple boat owned by the Lighthouse Service to rescue people time after time after time. He'd rescue people he could see from his station that were in trouble. The Lighthouse Service didn't write about every effort he made, they just wrote if what he did was really important. So there are other times he helped people." With Keeper Dave Quidley at the front of the boat is Keeper John E. Midgett.

Circa 1935 photograph courtesy of Lenwood Quidley

doctor." She used natural and spiritual remedies that endeared her to generations of Hatteras Islanders.

Keeper Dave's son, Lenwood Quidley, an accomplished maritime man himself, stated of his father, "He served on buoy tenders when still in his teens—near Wilmington—the *Violet* and *Jasmine*, I believe. He served short periods of time, 'temp' duty."

Dave listed his occupation prior to USLHS as "Fisherman." He attended "public schools to the 6th grade"; he listed his special qualifications as "painter, fisherman, and gasoline engineer with license for 65-foot boats." These skills would serve him well throughout his lighthouse career because a keeper had to be a jack-of-all-trades.

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In 1917 when Dave Quidley took his first assignment as an assistant keeper, our President was Woodrow Wilson. Inventions of the day were sonar echolocation, the cruise missile, the electric water heater, the modern zipper, and a British version of a forklift truck. A loaf of bread was \$0.18, a gallon of milk cost \$0.97, and a postal stamp was only \$0.03. In 1917, the average wage was \$70/month, equivalent to \$12,308/year in 2014; a car was about \$360 and the average house cost \$6,313—that would be \$107,914 today. Keeper Quidley's wage at \$43/mo was below average. He would earn promotions and commendations that would eventually bring his salary to \$2100. His retirement/disability pay in 1940 was \$1,079 each year, which is equivalent to a little over \$17,000 in 2014.

DAVID “DAVE” EVANS QUIDLEY’S CAREER

Keeper Dave’s first four assignments helped the USLHS to replace or substitute keepers who were on leave or had transferred to another station. His first duty station was at Point No Point, Maryland, in 1917. His starting pay was \$516 per annum. This remote, Chesapeake Bay caisson light is located several miles north of the mouth of the Potomac River on Maryland’s coast. He was ordered to report post haste as the station had been without an assistant keeper for two weeks. The isolated setting of this light would be repeated throughout his career.

Two months into his first assignment, still in his six-month probation period as a fledgling assistant keeper, Dave was transferred to Wade Point Light Station Dec 1, 1917, with pay at \$480. He had requested to be nearer his wife who was reported to have been in poor health at the time.

Next, he would step in for Victor L. Watson (also of Bodie Island and Cape Hatteras) who was taking two months paid sick leave from Gull Shoal Light Station. Watson’s leave coincided with the necessity to repair and reestablish the light at Wade Point after it “was one of the stations badly damaged by ice during the recent heavy weather,” as reported by Fifth District Lighthouse Inspector Harold King. Wade Point had been rebuilt in 1899 as a cottage-style lighthouse with about 1,000 square feet of living/working space. In winter, ice floes on the sounds and rivers of North Carolina were always a threat to screw pile lights because the slow, persistently moving ice could take a lighthouse right off its foundation. Dave packed his bags and made his way to Gull Shoal, located in Pamlico Sound.

Only a short time later in May 1918, Keeper Dave received another assignment that called for his timely arrival at Bodie Island Lighthouse (BILH) to replace 2nd Assistant Keeper Bill Etheridge. He responded immediately with a telegram to King in Baltimore, Maryland, “Will accept Body Island Light Station. D. E. Quidley.” He transferred June 1, 1918, with his pay set at \$456, a small reduction. The move proved to be a fortuitous one because he was promoted to principal keeper at BILH November 1, 1918, with

a pay increase to \$660. Each time he transferred, he received promotions as principal keeper, an esteemed title he would retain throughout his USLHS career.

Dave’s willingness to relocate paid off with a promotion, although there was a price to pay in stress and having to remain flexible. His stay at Bodie Island was brief, so if he were trying to get closer to home and family in Buxton, it wouldn’t last long. Or was he simply seeing how he liked a “big” coastal lighthouse as opposed to one of the “water stations” within the sounds or at the mouths of rivers? The only clue we have is Dave’s son Lenwood’s comments: “Grandma Rovene told my sister, and of course my mom told me, that there were two children who went to Bodie Island with my mother to live up there with my dad. Those two children, we didn’t know who they were—it was before I was born. But I figured it out—they were the first two born of my mother and dad: my sister Miranda and my brother Vernon. I remember my mother telling me that she didn’t like living there. Well, it *is* isolated. And I often heard about the mosquitoes.”

Next, Keeper Dave transferred to Brant Island Shoal, NC, on Jan 13, 1919, with another pay increase to \$780. This remote station was located between the Pamlico and Neuse Rivers, which led to ports at Washington and New Bern respectively. But Brandt Point itself was in no-man’s land, basically in the middle of nowhere. Trips to get mail or groceries were long and dependent on weather. He was given three promotions over the next three years raising his salary to \$1140. Possibly these pay increases helped offset the hours spent on a small water-logged lighthouse with only an assistant keeper as sole contact to all things social and worldly, but it’s difficult to imagine month after month, year after year of this sort of isolation with only infrequent trips home to see his family in Buxton. In 1926, it was noted by the lighthouse inspector that this keeper had been “sick, etc.” Nevertheless, Keeper Dave persevered under times of obvious duress.

And so did Keeper Dave’s wife, Lilla Margarette (Andrews) (1890–1962), who carried on during challenging years while raising a passel of children. Lenwood remembers his mother as “a beautiful

woman, a wonderful woman. I never heard anything but good about her, never.”

With a growing family, it is presumed that Keeper Dave gladly watched his salary gradually rise in increments during the years 1924-28 to \$1980.

After a decade at Brant Island Shoal, Dave transferred as principal keeper to his old duty station at Gull Shoal Light Station on December 1, 1929, with a decrease in pay at \$1920. He relieved his first cousin, A.J. Quidley. He would soon see his pay restored via the Compensation Act July 3, 1930, to \$1980. After 15 months at Gull Shoal, he received a promotion February 1, 1931, to \$2100—this would be the pinnacle of his annual salary.

Keeper Quidley transferred to the Roanoke River Light Station on May 1, 1932, with a pay decrease to \$1800. Son Lenwood said this was a career move as he was going for a position at Wade Point; indeed, 14 months later he did transfer as principal keeper to Wade Point July 1, 1933, another one of his former duty stations, with a salary of \$1800.

“My father took a demotion to get a job he wanted,” Lenwood commented. He transferred to Roanoke River in order to get a future position at Wade Point. This was a good move because most of his rescues were done here [Wade Point] and he received numerous commendations.”

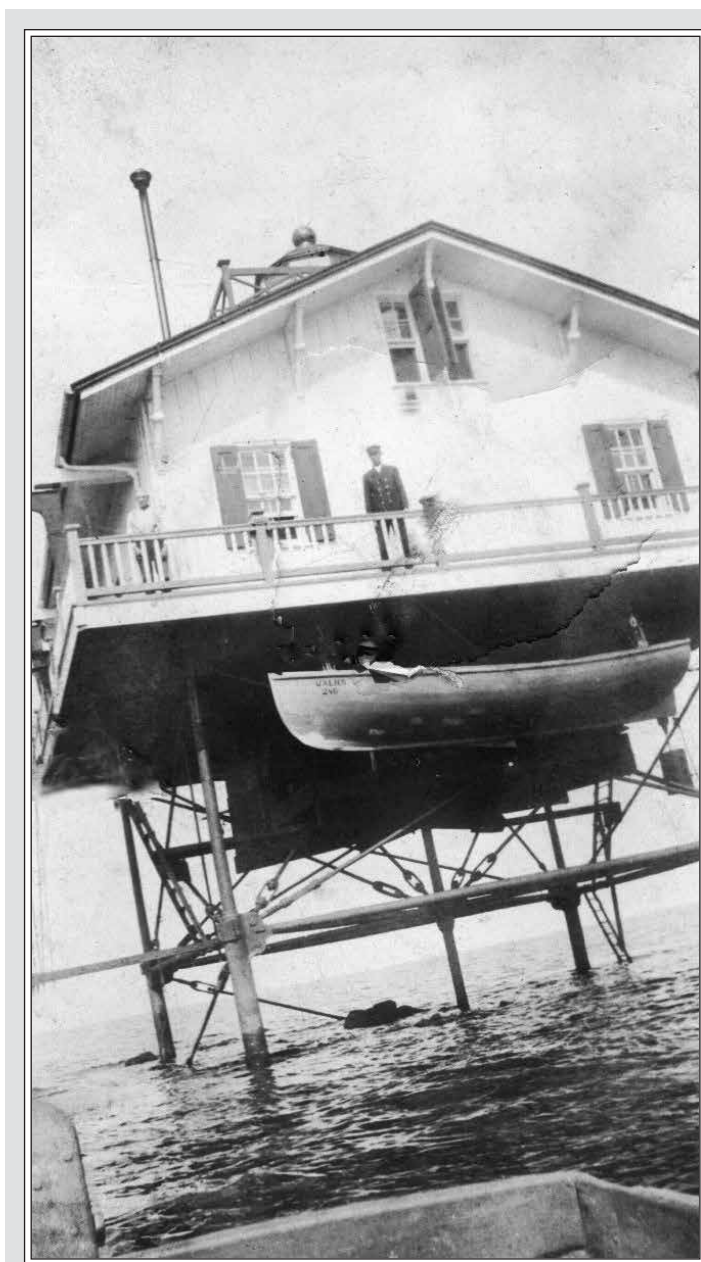
Among the 32 commendations he received from the USLHS, Dave had rescued family boaters, fishermen, and even a canoeist clinging for dear life to anything he could for hours. Most wrote the Lighthouse Service to thank Keeper Dave E. Quidley for his life-saving efforts. He touched many lives.

Keeper Dave transferred to the US Coast Guard and finished out his career at Hooper Island, MD, leaving the service on December 31, 1940, on disability.

A KEEPER’S SON REMEMBERS ALL THE GOOD THINGS

“I searched for someone to help get dad’s records for me,” stated Lenwood. “It had been on my

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(Above) Keeper Dave Quidley stands on the outside porch at Wade Point Lighthouse. He served here for a few months early in his career just before he transferred to Bodie Island Lighthouse and earned a promotion to principal keeper, a title he kept for the rest of his long career in the US Lighthouse Service. He transferred back to this duty station in 1933. During his half-dozen years at Wade Point, he earned many commendations for rescuing mariners in need of rescue. Not until his son, Lenwood, obtained his keeper father’s service records did he realize the great things Keeper Dave Quidley had accomplished.

Circa mid 1930s photograph courtesy of Lenwood Quidley

mind and I needed to do something about it. I was getting bits and pieces about his history from friends on Hatteras Island. My dad served at Bodie Island, but why didn't we know about him? The only way I knew my dad had served there was that my momma told me so. My sister and I are the last of the generation—last of the family. My sister remembers our mother telling her that our father had served at Bodie Island Light. I wasn't even born. Grandma Rovene told my sister and my mom told me.

"This is how I've come to know about my dad serving there. Before I didn't have a single piece of evidence that he did serve at Bodie Island, but now I've got it. Interesting, really. Now I have the step-by-step positive things about my father."

Lenwood hired a researcher to help him find his father's Lighthouse Service records from the personnel office in St. Louis. "It cost \$77, but I would have given \$700 if I had to." This indicates how important these documents on his dad are to him. "It took about four months to obtain. They did a beautiful job. I think it's beautiful how they kept records in those days, and most records are handwritten. My dad had a beautiful handwriting like when he signed his name. People addressed him as 'Captain Dave.' I heard that as a child."

Men who were known for their great ability on the water and handling a boat were often addressed with the title of admiration "Captain" or "Cap'n." Keepers were also called "Captain" due to their respected job and place in the community; additionally, as a rule, keepers had been raised near water and were expert watermen.

"I am proud of my father's rescues. I want others to know about this. In the one case it was an individual who held onto his life jacket for like 4½ hours before he was discovered. And the reason that gentleman was in distress, believe it or not, he was traveling from one point to another on a surfboard.

"My dad used a simple boat owned by the Lighthouse Service to rescue people time after time after time. He'd rescue people he could see from his station that he could see they were in trouble. The Lighthouse Service didn't write about every effort he

made, they just wrote if what he did was really important. So there are other times he helped people."

Although Lenwood had known his father most of his life, he went on a personal journey to find out more about him since his father was away from home a great deal. One of his strongest memories is when his father was stationed at Wade Point and had bought a home in Old Trap. Keeper Dave arranged for sons Lenwood and Preston to visit him in Elizabeth City. At about 12 and 14 years old, this was quite an adventure. The two boys traveled aboard the *Mallison* across Pamlico Sound from Hatteras Village. "My dad picked us up at the dock in Elizabeth City, introduced us to some of his friends, and then went to his home that he'd bought in Old Trap. It lies between the Pasquotank and North Rivers. We stayed about four days and took the same boat back to Hatteras Village. We couldn't go very much because it was too far away from us—a long way from Hatteras Village. It's a long boat ride back in his day and about 130 highway miles with nothing but sandy roads on the island back then. Which made a trip far longer because a vehicle would get stuck in the sand and we had to push it—a lot of pushing and digging it out.

"So I knew little of my father's work. When I visited him, he was not working. I didn't know about his rescues and many commendations. I personally didn't know anything about his rescue efforts until I saw this [personnel records]. I was too young to grasp what was being written. And when I visited him, we were at my father's home—not at a lighthouse. When my father was off from work, his time went to family.

"When he started at Gull Shoal, he speaks in his letters how difficult it was to get his mail, his groceries; he had to travel 45 miles by dirt road or travel that distance by boat. The best I can tell that despite only a sixth-grade education, it's obvious he taught himself over the years—beautiful handwriting. I have that in common with him—my handwriting, that is. I'm not looking for any glory except what I did to bring my father his dues to light."

"My dad and I share some of the same qualities: dedication to duty, honor to service, and love for fellow man. I have faith in my father's goodness.

It's in the numbers in his records. And I have his mechanical ability. Even as a kid, I made toys out of whatever things I could find and make into what I wanted. I even made a small car out of tin cans and a steering mechanism.

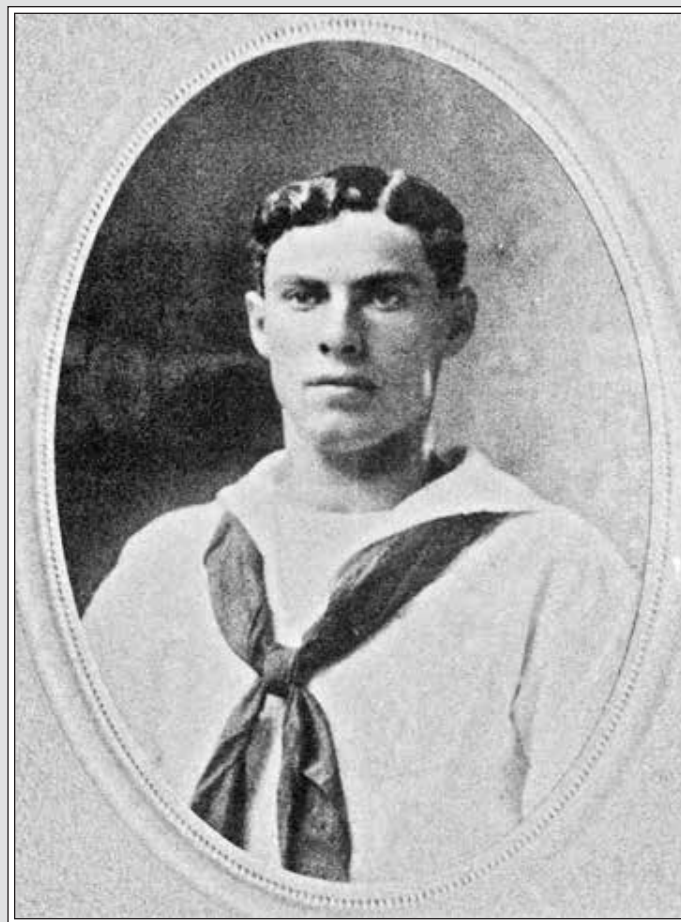
"Dad built a small model of a freight boat driven by sails. He made it for me when I was about 10 years old when he was at Wade Point. He brought it home to me in Buxton. I've kept it all these years—from seven decades ago. He named it after his last child, my sister Winnie Fay.

"I've served my country well and raised three sons. I was a Petty Officer Third Class when I got out of the Navy after two years. In the USCG, I went every step of the way from a recruit to Lieutenant Commander. So, I followed in my father's footsteps to a degree. I've been associated with lighthouses all my life throughout my Coast Guard career. I had to pick up the buoys, clean them, paint them, recharge the batteries, and number them while on the buoy tenders."

Dave and Lilla Quidley had four boys who became USCG career men. Lenwood stated, "There were four of us sons who followed in my dad's footsteps in the Coast Guard: my brothers Vernon, Preston, John David, and I. I think that's pretty amazing."

Keeper Dave's last home had much waterfront and was in the middle of nowhere in keeping with his keeper's lifestyle. He had grown to be comfortable in that setting, which had been his surroundings for over 20 years.

Keeper David Evans "Dave" Quidley died in Old Trap, Camden County, May 9, 1962. He is buried



Dave Quidley was young when a portrait of him as a "sailor" was done. He first served on buoy tenders before he became a keeper. The picture hangs front and center in son Lenwood Quidley's living room. Through memories, newly discovered records of rescues, and realization of the hardships endured in a keeper's job, Lenwood has gained even greater respect for his father.

Circa 1914 photograph courtesy of Lenwood Quidley

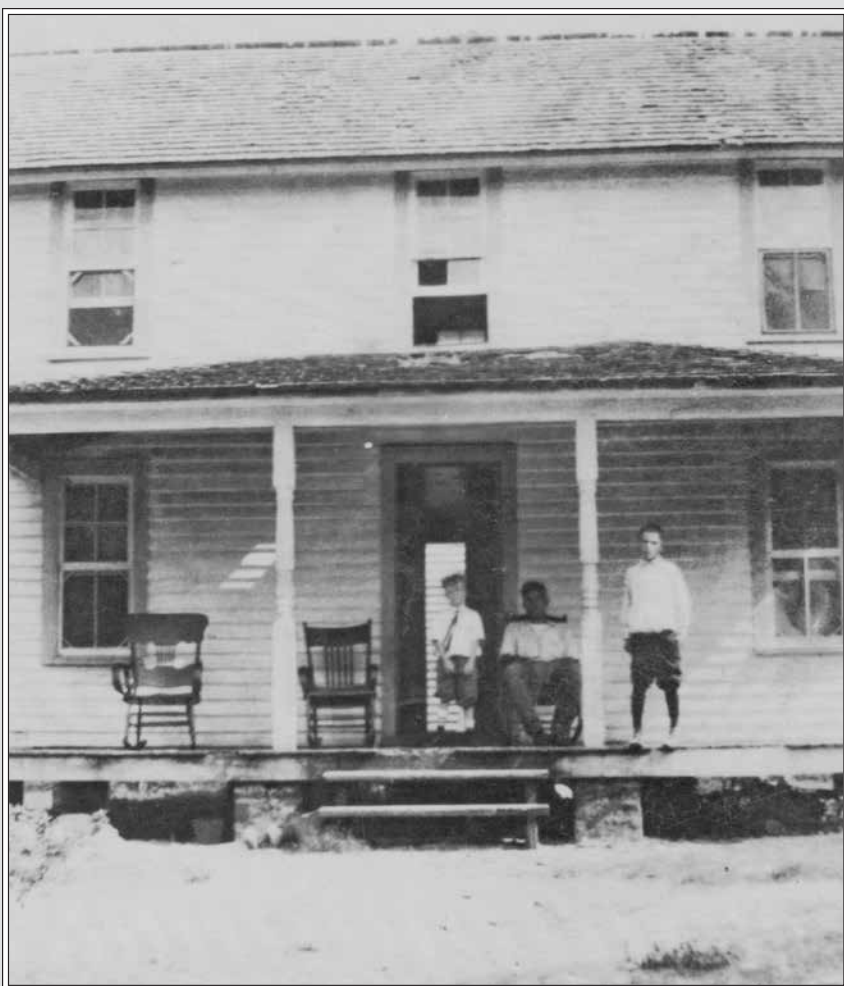
along with his wife Lilla in the Quidley cemetery in Buxton. Were it such that all human flaws could be corrected, perhaps it would be a more perfect world. But for anyone having sacrificed to serve his fellow man, we simply say, "Thank you."

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Lilla Margarette (Andrews) Quidley, wife of Keeper Dave Quidley, lived in Buxton with their many children. Son Lenwood said of her, "She was a beautiful woman, a wonderful woman...."

Circa 1930s photograph courtesy of Lenwood Quidley





Keeper Dave Quidley is sitting at center on the porch of his home in Old Trap, NC. Old Trap lay near Elizabeth City and would have been a far shorter trip to reach Wade Point Light Station than had he been traveling to and from the Outer Banks. With their father is (at left) son Lenwood and (at right) son Preston, about ten and twelve years old, respectively. The picture is taken during one of the trips Lenwood took as a youngster to visit his father when the keeper was off duty. The trip from Hatteras Island was quite an adventure for two young boys traveling alone.

Circa 1936 photograph courtesy of Lenwood Quidley

SOURCE INFORMATION

National Archives and Records Administration. US, Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.

Original data: General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. T288, 546 rolls.

If you would like to research an ancestor who served in military or civilian service for the government, contact the National Archives at St. Louis, National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138. Telephone: 314-801-0800 or E-mail: MPR.center@nara.gov

We discovered Keeper Dave Quidley too late to include him in the commemorative book *Bodie Island Keepers: Oral and Family Histories* by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and Sandra MacLean Clunies. How

wonderful to have his story while son Lenwood Quidley can give us first-hand witness to his father's life and work.

The editor thanks Lenwood Quidley, son of Keeper Dave E. Quidley, and Lanny Quidley, grandson of the keeper as well as Dallas E. Quidley Jr, author of *The Lighthouse Keeper's Son*, LifeRich Publishing 2014. A chapter on the keeper's mother, Rovenia (also spelled Rovene or Rovenia) Rollison Quidley) and his brother, Thomas Dallas Quidley, can be found in *Hatteras Keepers: Oral and Family Histories* by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and Sandra MacLean Clunies, Outer Banks Lighthouse Society 2001. Other information on this family and other relatives can be found in *Lighthouse Keeper's Son* by Dallas Quidley. Also thank you to Kay Lynn Midgett Sheppard for genealogical help on the Quidley family. The editor also expresses appreciation for all the diligent work that has gone into Ancestry.com.

Cullen G. Chambers



The lighthouse community mourns the loss of one of its
greatest champions in Cullen Chambers.

11/14/1950—01/20/2014

His restoration and preservation work stretched across America leaving behind his legacy of outstanding work at historic sites including Bodie Island, Key West, St. Augustine, and Tybee Island Light Stations.

From its inception in 1994, Cullen encouraged and applauded accomplishments of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society (OBLHS). He was our first Ex Officio board of directors member. In 1997, OBLHS sponsored him to perform a detailed inspection of the aging Bodie Island Lighthouse, report on the existing conditions, and create a formal report for the National Park Service of recommended repairs including techniques and



Lighthouse restoration expert Cullen Chambers poses with his wife, Christine. The lighthouse community and the other communities with whom Cullen worked on restoration and preservation projects have lost a great source of information and help; however, Cullen left a legacy of precedents in how to plan a restoration project with step-by-step, thoughtful techniques in approaching each structure individually. He stayed on the edge of technology using the most up-to-date materials. Foremost, he valued saving the historic fabric of a building. He was an outspoken advocate for keeping Fresnel lenses in their original towers and maintaining them as operational. You can see his outstanding work in restoration projects at Key West, St. Augustine, and Tybee Island Lighthouses. OBLHS appreciates his generous work in laying the groundwork for the restoration of the Bodie Island Lighthouse. Rest in peace, friend.

2011 photograph courtesy of John McPherson

materials. The project was a volunteer effort in which Cullen created an in-depth report that became the basis for the park's restoration timeline and strategies. The lighthouse is now restored and open for climbing.

We are indebted to this talented, humble, hard-working man for all his help not only at large but also specifically for the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society and North Carolina's lights.

Former OBLHS president, John McPherson, said this about Cullen, "Years back, Bruce and Cheryl asked me to attend the National Lighthouse Committee meetings in DC. There I was with a guy who liked lighthouses, surrounded by lighthouse experts. I was so fortunate to meet Cullen and Christine Chambers. We all connected and have been spending time together ever since. As president of the OBLHS, I was honored to give him the Bodie Island Award for all he did for NC lighthouses. We just spent two weekends with Christine and laughed and cried. I feel so lucky to have had Cullen in our lives, I love you man."

Our condolences go to his wife, Christine, twin brother Curtis, and his younger brother Roy Lain.

His light will continue to shine for all of us who had the privilege to meet and work with Cullen, and it will continue to shine in the sentinels he worked to save. A memorial service will be held in St. Augustine in October.

OBLHS Moving Forward

Changes in Board of Directors and Officers

At its annual board of directors meeting in May, several changes occurred as directors tapped the great talents of other board members. We are all still together and working as hard as ever as a team, but leadership is being renewed as we move forward.

Bett Padgett retired as president and the very able Diana Chappell will assume the role. Cheryl Shelton-Roberts retired as vice president and Richard Meissner, a Charter Member, Life-Time Member, and long-time BOD member, will serve as Ms. Chappell's vice president. Bob DaVia, our great membership chair will take over as treasurer while continuing as media manager as Judy Moon becomes the membership chair.

Ms. Padgett will continue as liaison for the society when political leaders must be contacted, and she will continue to plan our special events. The amazing secretary duo, Jim and Mabry O'Donnell, will continue their important roles for the Society. Ms. Shelton-Roberts will create two newsletter issues each year and help with fundraising as will Bruce Roberts. Gayle Keresey continues to help with educational projects and will assist with the newsletter, Virginia Howell is web administrator, and John Havel will continue his outstanding contributions to OBLHS as graphic artist while helping with the newsletter also. OBLHS has been a team effort since its inception in 1994.

An open director's position left by retiring Rick Ward has been applied for by Kelly Waller. Ms. Waller has been a regular event attendee and worked with Ms. Moon to organize and run the keeper's store. That is a big job often requiring the hauling about of clothing and other specialty items for OBLHS. Anything that is needed at any meeting or event, Kelly just seems to be there and get the job done. Welcome, Kelly! Official approval of the board of directors and officers will come along with the membership's approval in October at our next Annual Keepers' Weekend to be held on Hatteras Island this year.

If you are interested in a board position or have suggestions for OBLHS, contact the Nominating Committee at dingbatter204@ec.rr.com or odonnellm@marietta.ecu.

Congratulations to our friend **John Havel**, who recently received the Lois W. Bradshaw Volunteer of the Year Award from The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center. John joins a team of our board members who have won outstanding volunteer awards over the past two decades for services offered to lighthouses and other volunteer efforts.

A Display for the Hatteras Island Ocean Center

By John Havel

In October 2013, the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society was contacted regarding a new educational and recreation center being developed in Hatteras Village named the Hatteras Island Ocean Center. The founder of the project is Eric Kaplan who wants to bring economic development to the lower island as well as a rich and varied experience to visitors of his center. Approved by the National Park Service as a “priority project,” the new Ocean Center is intended to provide a wide variety of recreational and educational activities for people of all ages.

Plans for the Center are impressive. Located just a few hundred yards north of milepost 71, the 3-D renderings on the website (hioceancenter.org) show a fishing pier, a pier house with an event center for weddings and gatherings, beach access, and other amenities. In addition, Kaplan is developing an Ocean Center Ecology Park down the road from the pier to include wetlands with nature trails, access to Pamlico Sound for kayaking, stand-up paddling, and an education center that provides opportunities to learn about the extraordinary ecosystem of Hatteras Island.

Kaplan invited OBLHS to set up a display to inform the public about the lighthouses of NC, as well as about our Society. A preliminary list of other organizations that have been invited to exhibit in the space include: North Carolina Aquarium, National Park Service, Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station, Dare County Library, Coastal Studies Institute, Sea Grant, North Carolina Coastal Federation, Hatteras Waterman, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, Hatteras Genealogical and Preservation Society, Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Please visit the Ocean Center and see what is happening. It is located three miles south of Frisco on Highway 12 at mile marker 71, just upon entering Hatteras Village. Watch for the two yellow buildings on your right, the sound side, as you round the first curve, and the large signs for the Ocean Center and Beacon Place. There is much more information at their website or contact them at info@hioceancenter.org. A sequel to this article will appear in a future newsletter and we’ll keep you apprised of this exciting project.



OBLHS Board of Directors member, John Havel, designed this interactive exhibit that is now on display at the Hatteras Island Ocean Center in Hatteras Village. John has made the exhibit fun and informative. Some of the components include a brochure full of challenging questions on lighthouses that is sure to please both the young and the old. Brief histories of NC lighthouses will make each visitor's time in the area a richer experience. A more detailed article on this exhibit will be covered in a future issue. OBLHS thanks John for his hard work.

2014 graphic courtesy of John Havel

Cape Hatteras Foundation Stones To Be Relocated

By Bett Padgett and Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

In June 2013, the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society (OBLHS) and Cape Hatteras National Seashore of the National Park Service (NPS) began discussions about the situation of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse foundation stones. When the lighthouse was relocated in 1999 it was cut from its foundation and these stones were left to mark the original lighthouse site. OBLHS paid about \$12,000 to have the stones engraved with keepers' names in 2001, so our interest in this subject continues with great energy. The stones are a memorial to the keepers of the 1803 and 1870 towers, and we want descendants and visitors to be able to see the stones and experience their symbolism. The site has become fondly known as "The Circle of Stones." A.C. Joyner and daughter Rebecca engraved the stones at right.

FACE STONES OF FIRST PLINTH MARKED ORIGINAL SITE

The lighthouse was built on a granite foundation that was made up of five courses (plinths), the fifth being immediately under the tower and the first course rested on the pine mat about six feet below ground level. Before the lighthouse was moved, a cut was made between the first and second plinths to free the tower and enable it to be lifted and rolled to a new location. Thirty-six stones were left at the original site; however, storms have buried the stones several times. At right, the stones were almost completely buried in 2003 by Hurricane Isabel. Since the area had become hallowed ground, a decision had to be made as to the stones' future.

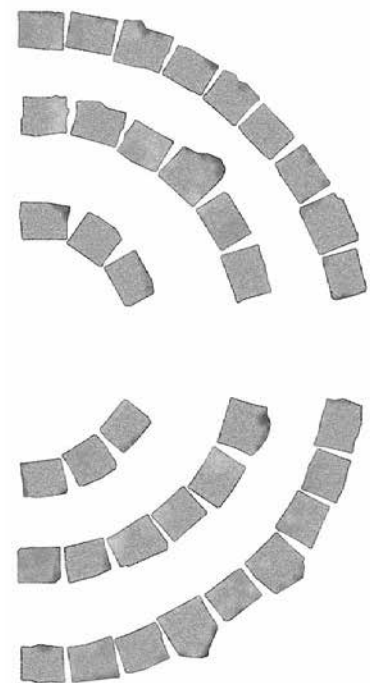
RESCUING THE STONES

In 2000, after approving OBLHS's efforts to engrave the stones, the NPS stated they would move the stones to a location close to the lighthouse when the ocean became a threat. After many months of negotiation, the stones will be moved next to the pavilion and placed in rows in an arc and used as an amphitheater for interpretive talks, an area where people may gather for special events. The Hatteras Island Genealogical Preservation Society (HIGPS) brought attention to the plight of the stones in December 2013 with a petition from Change.org which was sent to the NPS and to Walter B. Jones, US representative for North Carolina's 3rd congressional district, which includes Dare County—home of the iconic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. OBLHS wishes to thank Congressman Jones for his interest in the stones and representation in negotiations between OBLHS, NPS, and HIGPS.

The stones will be relocated in the shape of an amphitheater near the lighthouse and will be named "Keepers of the Light Amphitheater." At right is graphic artist John Havel's concept of what the amphitheater will look like in several months. He has even accommodated the appearance of the arrangement to include the irregularly shaped stones.

OBLHS also thanks its board of directors, loyal membership, the National Park Service, and friends who have made all this possible.

Photographs by Bruce Roberts



Fourth-Grade Lighthouse Engineers

By Bett Padgett

Earlier this year, I represented the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society while visiting two fourth-grade classes at the Canterbury School in Greensboro. I visited late in January and was impressed by the children and their teachers. The study of North Carolina's lighthouses is part of our state's fourth-grade curriculum. Some teachers brush through the subject but others spend weeks with the students in research and special projects. The result is many young, budding preservationists who are eager to learn more and visit our towers. Kudos to the fourth-grade team of teachers and students at Canterbury School.

I was moved by the students' sense of pride and ownership of "their lighthouse." The excitement on their faces when talking to someone who has visited "their light" is unforgettable.

Their projects were not only to conduct research and produce a report, but they also had to build the lighthouses using only recyclable materials! A few of the kids had visited some of the lighthouses with their families, and now many more would like to. I was asked what the children could do to help keep the flames lit and I told them to always remember their fourth-grade study of lighthouses and to spread the word. So, as I left, their new mantra was, "Never forget, spread the word."

One of the students was visiting the Outer Banks with her family during the Bodie Island Lighthouse Descendants event last year and the family had an opportunity to talk with many of the keepers' descendants. This was indeed an inspirational visit to Bodie Island Lighthouse. We hope the school may be interested in our Students' Lighthouse Travel Award program for 2015.



Currituck Beach Lighthouse is owned by the Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc. The lighthouse is open from 9AM until 5PM. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the lighthouse and grounds will remain open on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8PM. Climbing fees for adults are \$8/person; children under 7 free. They accept cash and checks. Meghan Agresto and Luis Garcia begin their 10th year as Keepers of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse. For more information visit <http://www.currituckbeachlight.com/>.

Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse (reproduction), situated on Manteo's waterfront, is an exterior reproduction of an 1877 screwpile light that was originally at the southern entrance of the Croatan Sound into Pamlico Sound located near Wanchese. The lighthouse is owned by the town of Manteo <http://www.townofmanteo.com/index.asp>. It is open every day 9AM to 5PM. free of charge.

Bodie Island Lighthouse grounds are open year-round. Guided tours for climbing the lighthouse will run from 9AM to 5:45PM. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens (62 or older), children under 12, and for those holding a National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Access Pass. Tour tickets may be purchased on site or may be reserved in advance. Info on Full Moon Tours and climbing can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/caba/planyourvisit/bodie-island-lighthouse-tours.htm>.

Ocracoke Lighthouse grounds are open year-round. The National Park Service is working with Eastern National, its cooperating association, in efforts to purchase an undeveloped tract of land near the lighthouse that would be utilized for additional parking spaces.

Chicamacomico Life-Saving-Station is located in Rodanthe, just north of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse at milepost 39.5 and is open Monday through Friday, 10AM to 5PM. with exciting programs offered at 2PM. daily through August. Elvin Hopper will be present July 23rd at 2PM to sign his book *Chicamacomico, How It Was Back Then* about the present day Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo communities. This historic site has seven acres representing the US Life-Saving Service with eight original buildings. The oldest one dates to 1874 and the newest is the Main Station built in 1911. Please visit www.chicamacomico.net.

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum is located at the end of Hwy 12 on Hatteras Island near the ferry landing and is owned and operated by the state of North Carolina. It is open Monday-Saturday, 10AM to 4PM. The museum operates under the NC State holiday schedule. <http://www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com/index.htm>.

Cape Lookout Lighthouse is part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Park headquarters and the visitors' center are located on Harkers Island, open Monday-Friday 9AM to 5PM. except Christmas and New Year's Days. The Visitors Center is open every day. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/calco/> or call (252) 728-2250. The Keeper's Quarters Museum and facilities at the Lighthouse and the Portsmouth Village Visitors Center opened in April. The Park has partnered with Island Express Ferry Service for transportation to the Cape and other locations within the seashore. There are two points of departure and where tickets can be purchased: the first is in Beaufort at the Town Hall/visitor center, 701 Front St. where you will find new exhibits and purchase ferry tickets to visit the lighthouse or Shackleford Banks. The second is at the Visitors' Center on Harkers Island; departure from Harkers Island will be from the dock at the Visitors' Center. More info about reservations, fees, full-moon tours, etc., see www.islandexpressferry.com or <http://www.nps.gov/calco/planyourvisit/lighthouse-climbs.htm>. This year's Portsmouth Island Homecoming was the largest ever! It was the 100th anniversary of the Methodist Church and the opening of the recently restored Washington Roberts house, one of the earliest homes built on the island. Cape Lookout is looking for volunteers! Opportunities for short or long stays are available. For information visit <http://www.nps.gov/calco/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm> or contact Kerby Price at kerby_price@nps.gov.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA) and its park visitor centers are open year-round, 9AM to 6PM mid-June through Labor Day and 9AM to 5PM the rest of the year. For more information call (252) 473-2111 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/caba/>. Cape Hatteras Lighthouse grounds are open year-round. Climbing hours for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse will be 9:00AM to 4:30PM daily in the spring and fall seasons and 9:00AM to 5:30PM May 24 through Labor Day, Monday, September 2. Climbing fees are \$8 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens (62 or older), children under 12 and for those holding National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Access Pass. In the first 13 days the lighthouse was open this season there were 2239 climbers. Info on Full Moon Tours and climbing can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/caba/planyourvisit/climbing-the-cape-hatteras-lighthouse.htm>.

Oak Island Lighthouse is owned by the Town of Caswell Beach that works with the Friends of Oak Island Lighthouse. Volunteers conduct tours to the top year-round with at least two weeks' notice. Children must be nine to climb. Info and to request to climb can be made at www.oakislandlighthouse.org.

Cape Hatteras Gets a New Coat

Ranger Patrick Gammon of Cape Hatteras National Seashore reported that about 450 gallons of primer and paint have been applied to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The exterior paint project began in late April and was completed in early June. The recent work included painting all exterior lighthouse masonry and ground level foundation, painting exterior metal window and door frames, and washing all granite stones. The contract included several phases of prep work using a work platform suspended by a system of ropes, cables and pulleys. First, the entire lighthouse was pressure washed and areas exhibiting deterioration were treated with a special sealant to limit moisture intrusion. In the final step the masonry received four coats of black and white paint for the tower and red for the foundation brickwork. The fresh coat of exterior paint will make this iconic beacon stand out even more boldly against the surrounding green backdrop of oak, pine and wax myrtle vegetation.

2014 Photograph by Judy Moon; info courtesy of the NPS



Price's Creek Front Range Light (1850 ruins) is not open to the public, but it can be easily seen from the Southport–Ft. Fisher ferry. This pre-Civil War tower is the only NC range light in its original location.

Old Baldy Lighthouse & Smith Island Museum: The Old Baldy Foundation (OBF) owns, maintains, and staffs this historic lighthouse. The museum and lighthouse climbing hours are Monday-Saturday until Labor Day 9AM to 4PM and Sunday 11AM to 5PM. Lighthouse and Museum admission \$6/adult (13 and up) \$3/youth (3-12) 2 and under FREE. The annual event, "The Pirates Are Coming," a fun family event is August 1st through 3rd. To learn more about OBF, see <http://www.oldbaldy.org/>.

Roanoke River Lighthouse (reproduction) is located on the town of Plymouth's waterfront about halfway between the northern and southern Outer Banks off Highway 64. Fourth of July is always a huge event for Plymouth; a big crowd is expected as visitation increases. The new boat docks adjoining the lighthouse grounds bring boaters constantly. There are added exhibits in the lighthouse. Hours of operation are 11AM to 3PM Mon.–Sat. and by appointment. Call (252) 217-2204. This reproduction and museum are projects of the Washington County Waterways Commission. See <http://www.roanokeriverlighthouse.org/>.

1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse in Edenton is located in Colonial Park on the downtown Edenton waterfront. It is operated by Historic Edenton State Historic Site. Interior restoration is ongoing. There will be guided

tours for the public Monday through Friday once it is open. For up-to-date info, visit their website: www.edenton-lighthouse.org.

Please Note: Bodie Island Visitor Center/Lighthouse Assistant needed (June through Oct. 2014 only). Volunteers are also needed; contact: Jason_Ginder@nps.gov or 252-473-2111, ext 9621.

In the News: If you've been by Edenton's Colonial Park lately, Executive Director Edenton Historical Commission Gregg Nathan reports that it is the perfect location from which to view the Roanoke River Lighthouse. A great deal of activity is ongoing as the contractors complete the interior restoration. The Historic Edenton State Historic Site can now begin the process of preparing the exhibit using the furnishings donated to the Edenton Historical Commission over the past two years to return it to its appearance during the early 1900s when a light-keeper and his assistant lived and worked in the house. The lighthouse dedication is tentatively scheduled for National Lighthouse Day August 7.

To members: *The Lighthouse News* will be published and mailed/e-mailed twice annually. Lighthouse Updates will be posted at <http://www.outerbankslighthouseociety.org> four times annually.

OBLHS received a donation from Clayton Elementary fourth graders. They are becoming regular donors to NC lights!

Continued on back page

LIGHTHOUSE NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

PURPOSE OF THE OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

The purpose of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society is to aid in the preservation of the lighthouses and maritime history of North Carolina and to work with the National Park Service and other agencies, both government and non-profit groups, to achieve the safe keeping of the buildings, artifacts and records of the U.S. Lighthouse Service.

The Lighthouse News is the official publication of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society.

Editor – Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Design – Bruce Roberts

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Email: info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org or write OBLHS P.O. Box 1005 Morehead City, NC 28557

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**You will receive a brochure on NC lighthouses,
logo sticker, newsletter, and membership card.**

Student membership receives an e-newsletter only.

The society operates on modest membership fees and occasional donations.
If you would like to renew your membership and/or make a donation, please
mail your *membership* correspondence to:

OBLHS Membership Chairman Judy Moon
3129 Moons Road
Long Island, VA 24569-2423

General correspondence: OBLHS
P.O. Box 1005
Morehead City, NC 28557

Lighthouse Updates continued from page 15.

Donations in memory of John Gaskill have been made to OBLHS by from Ruth Morris, Patti Rippel, Ruth Anne Schneck, Sharon Lee Gaskill, and Erline Gaskill. Joan Wyndham-Davis gave a donation and has suggested that a video of John Gaskill be shown in the keepers' quarters at Bodie Island Lighthouse. We are working on this project. John was son of Keeper Vernon Gaskill Sr. and greeted thousands of visitors and gave tours for several years.

Info on a grassroots movement to have August 7th officially recognized as National Lighthouse Day in perpetuity in the United States, an initiative of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/lighthouseaday>.

Long-time OBLHS member, Yvonne Zemotel, passed away in November 2013 and left a bequest to OBLHS. Her kindness is greatly appreciated and will be remembered.

The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society is a nonprofit organization with its 501 (c) 3 in excellent standing. We have accomplished many things since 1994, but we have many other educational projects we would like to see develop. Please consider a bequest in your will to help our lights shine on through our projects! Contact us at info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org or call Bruce Roberts (252) 247-5436. A representative sample of The Society's accomplishments can be viewed at <http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org/accomplishments.html>.

OBLHS offers grants to help school children visit lighthouses in their community and grants to help other lighthouse organizations in their quest for preservation. Information about each of these possibilities as well as contact information can be found at <http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org/index.html>.

Mark your calendars for the annual OBLHS Keepers Weekend October 10-12. Activities will be centered on Chicamacomico Life-Saving-Station, Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, and the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. More information will be coming soon! It has been nine years since our last visit to Cape Hatteras! For more information, contact info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org.