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Keepers of the Light Amphitheater From Circle to Arcs at Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

By Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

There has been another rescue at Cape Hatteras.

In late January and early February of this year, a quiet project began at the Cape Hatteras Light Station that will speak loudly into the future. Thirty-six granite stones engraved with keepers' names once comprised the revered area marking the original site of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse foundation—fondly known by many as the “Circle of Stones.” They were excavated from their sandy prison created by several events of storm-driven, ocean overwash and moved to the National Park Service (NPS or “the Park”) Buxton maintenance yard. After a thorough cleaning, plans began for a new “look” for the stones. The new design is one of historical appeal and promises to be even more useful than the old “Circle of Stones.”

In maintaining historical context, the Circle of Stones evolved into three rows of double arcs. All the stones now are arranged in such a manner that seated visitors will face the grand lighthouse with an unhindered view of it as well as facing a speaker; moreover, for the first time in their history, the stones are wheelchair accessible. We now have a new memorial officially named “Keepers of the Light Amphitheater.” Here is a brief story about the stones' journey.

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Photograph courtesy of the NPS

This view from the top of the lighthouse shows the National Park Service (NPS) Buxton visitor center at left and the mini amphitheater at right. Sod now encompasses the white area of shells to complete the project. The tribute to keepers is beautiful as well as practicable and soon will be filled with eager listeners for interpretive presentations and other events. There will be a dedication ceremony later this year.

This entire stones project appears to be not only unique but possibly unprecedented at an historic site: The stones' repurposed role as marking the original 1870 tower's foundation came first; next, they were engraved with 83 keepers' names, sponsored by the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society; finally, they have been relocated and now have a new role as the Keepers of the Light Amphitheater.

The first of five granite plinths, the "stepped" layers that supported the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, was the cutting line below ground level that freed the tower from its original foundation. Unleashed, the tower was lifted and moved 2,900 feet southwest to its current position in 1999. What happened to that first, subterranean layer of granite?

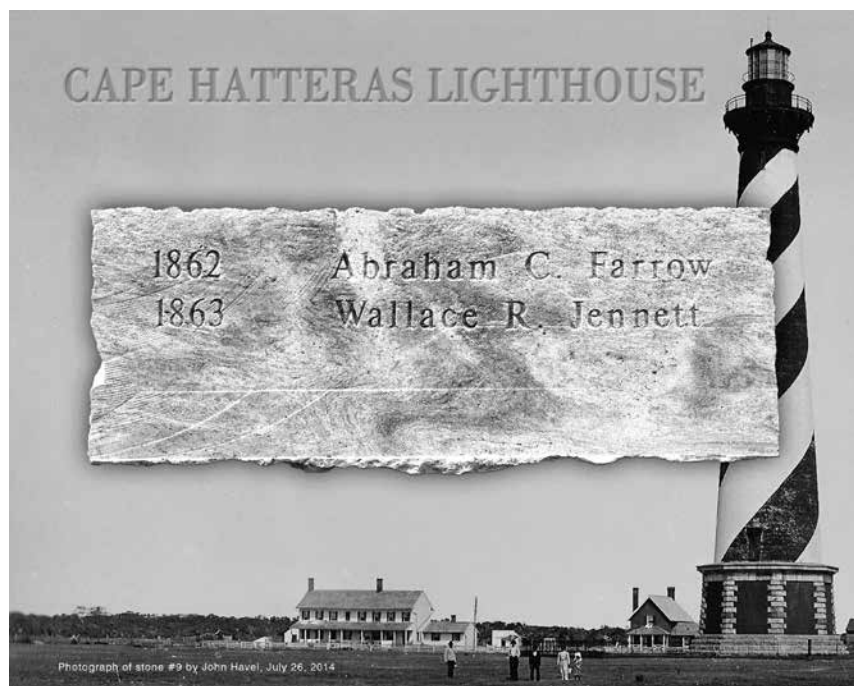
In 1999, the moving team was contracted to move *everything* belonging to the light station that was *above ground* to the new location. It just so happened that a top portion of that first plinth poked its head out of the sand. So, that meant that the plinth had to be excavated, broken into blocks, or "stones," and "moved." The movers did not need the dense blocks of heavy stones in their entirety; therefore, movers received permission to cut away about a foot of the "face" of each stone. Those faces were applied to the exterior of the reinforced brick foundation at the new location. Today, if anyone were to dig below the ground's surface under the lighthouse and

look at what was once the first plinth, he would find that it appears just as it did when the foundation was laid by Dexter Stetson's lighthouse construction crew in 1869. What happened to the rest of the stones left behind?

In 1999, the National Park Service had movers to place 36 of the 44 granite stones into a circle to represent the lighthouse's foundation at the original site. Eight of the remaining unmarked stones were placed as cornerstone markers at the old site to indicate where the Double Keepers Quarters and Principal Keepers Quarters once stood. The ninth one is thought to be at the NPS Buxton maintenance shop.

Going forward, in 2000, the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society (OBLHS) received permission to engrave the stones with names of keepers of both the 1803 and 1870 towers with the first known date of service for each man. The "Circle of Stones" became a place for milestone events including weddings, christenings, and

Four stepped layers of granite known as "plinths" are visible in the 1870 foundation of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse (at right). Photograph by Bruce Roberts. Before the move, a fifth plinth was below ground level and not visible. A diamond saw made a cut between the fourth (at ground level) and fifth (below ground level) plinths to free the tower to be moved. From the fifth plinth, 44 stones were cut, 36 of which were chosen to be engraved with keepers' names and mark the original site of the lighthouse. They have been relocated nearer the lighthouse, and now comprise the Keepers of the Light Amphitheater. Photograph by John Havel superimposed on a postcard from his personal collection





During the past 15 years, the granite blocks that came from the fifth plinth of the original lighthouse foundation have been tossed around by storm-driven overwash and even completely buried. The NPS uncovered the stones a few times and rearranged them, but it became evident that a choice had to be made: relocate them or lose them to the sea. The stones were excavated, cleaned, and rearranged as a mini amphitheater. They are pictured here after excavation in May 2014.

Photograph courtesy of the NPS

funerals. It also was a place that hundreds of keepers' descendants visited to place flowers on the stone bearing their ancestor's name or do a rubbing to capture the engraved name for a keepsake held by future generations of descendants. It became a very special place for many. It was perfect.

But capricious Mother Nature began to reclaim the old site just as she had threatened the lighthouse's foothold for decades. The heavy granite stones were tossed around, covered up, and uncovered only to be overwashed and buried again over several years. What was to be done? Relocate them? Let them wash away to sea? In view of the heated controversy concerning relocating the lighthouse, one might dread to even approach the subject.

But, overwhelming support was expressed to relocate the stones closer to the lighthouse. Great thought and planning ensued.

In June 2013, OBLHS's board of directors began discussion on the future of the stones. Hurricane Sandy had completely buried them and there didn't appear to be

any plans to uncover them. We made sure former Superintendent Barclay Trimble knew of the Park's initial plans for the stones as announced by then Deputy Superintendent Chris Bernthal in October 2000. In partnership, OBLHS agreed to have the stones engraved and promised to keep the stones cleaned. In turn, the Park agreed to protect them while acknowledging that eventually they would have to be relocated and made into a "mini amphitheater" in which special events and programs can be held. And that is exactly what has happened.

The NPS, OBLHS, a representative from Congressman Walter Jones' office, and representatives of the Hatteras Island Genealogical Preservation Society (HIGPS) met in March 2014 to begin solid plans for the location and design of the amphitheater. It has taken input from many interested individuals over the past year to make a vision happen. But then again, visions happen regularly at this revered light station.

Today, 36 engraved granite stones are gracefully placed in three rows of double arcs in their new location east of the lighthouse, thanks to the prescience of both the NPS and those who respect the stones and their his-

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torical value. The east side of the pavilion near the visitors center (close to the parking area) was agreed upon for two main reasons: first, the stones' proximity to the lighthouse is appropriate but does not infringe on the historic district for interpretive purposes; and secondly, the site is not disposed to flooding. John Havel took the original Park's plan for the mini amphitheater and gave it his expert graphic artist's touch.

All work was done by NPS personnel. Doug Blackmon, heavy machine operator for the Park, was assisted by Chris Kosciwicz from Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio to achieve the stones' new arrangement. The engineering design was followed perfectly to include an emergency access road as well as a five-foot-wide aisle down the center of the double arcs and between each row of stones, making the site handicap accessible. Doug has recorded the exact size and weight of each stone. The lightest weighs about 2,300 pounds while the largest tips the scale at over 5,700 pounds. The most difficult part of the job was the compacting of the layers of sand and clay that had to be made wet and firmly packed several times. Then came the durable crush and run gravel that had to be compacted and leveled also. And the finishing touch was a layer of crushed shells—an idea that came from Shelly Rollinson, Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor Outer Banks Group-South District. The overall arrangement is environmentally sound and pleasing to the eye.

From the top of the lighthouse, the stones look as if they are floating on a giant clam shell.

Congressman Jones' office communicated with the Department of Historic Preservation to ensure the stones will retain their historical status just as was done for the lighthouse following relocation.

Bright green Bermuda sod now surrounds the gray stones and white shells and makes the area come alive. The Park asks this of visitors: Do not remove the shells, but do pull up any weeds within the stones' area. As he bent over and plucked a dandelion weed, Doug said, "Just pull it up and toss it to the side. That way we can keep it a weed-free area at no extra cost."

But there is one more thing. In agreement with many others who have visited the site since the stones' relocation, OBLHS feels that something meaningful is currently missing at the historic complex: the original lighthouse site must be marked since the stones have been moved. OBLHS designed and sponsored a wayside marker at the original site years ago, but storms eventually destroyed it. Today, anyone asking about the former location of the tower is hard pressed to find an answer. The Park has discussed placing a buoy to mark the 1803 tower's location, but an appropriate marker and interpretation sign should be placed at the 1870 lighthouse's site to bring the story full circle.

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After excavation, the stones were carefully lifted with a forklift (at right). They were then placed on a loader and temporarily relocated to the NPS Buxton Maintenance shop (below).

Photograph courtesy of the NPS





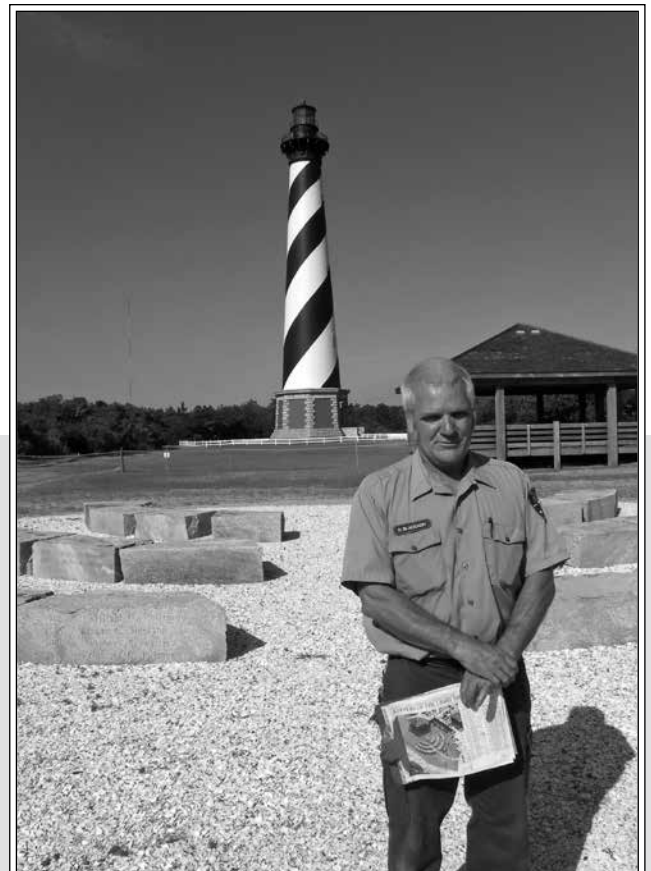
Visitors to the Cape Hatteras Light Station today will see the Keepers of the Light Amphitheater to the left of the main entrance to the visitors center. Programs and other events will take place here and continue the history of the engraved stones.

Photograph courtesy of the NPS

The editor would like to thank former OBLHS president Bett Padgett for her leadership in this project; John Havel for sharing his graphic artist's expertise and for his intense interest in the project, the NPS, and our loyal membership. Recognition is due to Doug Blackmon for his careful work using large machinery to lift, move, and reset the stones, and to Shelly Rollinson for having closely documented the stone relocation project and for granting interviews. Doug and Shelly both shared their photographs for this article. Thanks to HIGPS, and all those who voiced opinions that shaped the progress and execution of the stones relocation project.

Doug Blackmon operates heavy equipment for the NPS. Assisted by an employee from Cuyahoga Valley National Park, they excavated, lifted, and moved the 36 stones to the Park's maintenance facility for cleaning and storage. Meanwhile, they prepared a new ground-level foundation for the stones, and they have taken on a new purpose as a mini amphitheater (in back of Doug). The stones are made of New England granite with beautiful pink veins running through hues of gray and are engraved with Cape Hatteras keepers' names.

Photograph by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts



Benjamin Fenner Cox

Gull Shoal and Laurel Point Keeper

By Kay Davenport Ingram

Benjamin Fenner Cox



A US Lighthouse Service tender visits the Laurel Point Light Station to bring needed supplies and make repairs about a century ago.

Photograph courtesy of the US Coast Guard and part of the Roberts Collection at the Outer Banks History Center

Benjamin Fenner Cox: FAITHFUL. *Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful...*

These stirring song lyrics bring to mind what I think of when I came to the end of a long journey of discovery to find out who was a certain gentleman, my great-great grandfather, named Benjamin Fenner Cox.

Who was this man? This was a burning question of mine when I looked down at the scribbling on a pad that I used to write information for my genealogical research. Who was this man, who was a name on a page with dates beside his name? The facts stated he was Benjamin Fenner Cox born on December 31, 1861, in Hyde County, North Carolina, to Jeremiah Cox and Mary

White Cox. He died on June 15, 1945, in Columbia, North Carolina, but WHO was he?

“Pappy Ben” was what he was lovingly called in my family. Anyone who began to tell a story about him soon got a twinkle in their eye as they shared special tidbits and memories. Ben Cox began our branch of the family line when he married Margaret Williams,

affectionately called “Mammy Maggie” or “Mama Mag,” in 1885. They became parents to three girls, Eva Mae, Cora Lee, and Eleanor, and one son, Benjamin, whom they lost when he was five years old. My grandmother, Lillian Mae Brickhouse Davenport, was the daughter of Ben’s daughter Eva Mae who married Dennis Brickhouse. They had two daughters, Lillian and Mildred, but sadly Eva died from tuberculosis shortly after her girls were born. My grandmother Lillian Brickhouse, Ben Cox’s granddaughter, married Llewellyn Davenport and they had thirteen children. My father, James, was their sixth child, who married Bethany Sawyer and they had me, Kay (Kathleen) Davenport, now Ingram. So, there, that’s how I came to research this gentleman named, Benjamin Fenner Cox. To summarize, Benjamin had Eva Mae who had Lillian Mae who had James who had me! And now here I am trying to figure out: Who was this man—who was our “Pappy Ben”?

But he didn’t just belong to us, as my research led me to discover. The townspeople of Columbia, North Carolina, claimed him as theirs too. He was their “Captain Cox.” Their stories painted a picture of a crotchety, cantankerous, tenacious lighthouse keeper at the Laurel Point Lighthouse for 26 years, who safely kept commerce and goods coming from the Albemarle Sound down the Scuppernong River to their town. But wait, he was also “Brother Ben” to his family down in Hyde County, North Carolina, where he had also served on the Gull Shoal Lighthouse. He was a church planter, of sorts, when he worked hard to get Columbia Christian Church built. But wait again, he also was a road builder. When he wouldn’t give up on getting a good, passable road between Hyde County and Columbia built, even to the point of going out there and filling in dirt himself, the “official road builders” finally took over to build North Carolina Highway 94. The town of Columbia and Tyrrell County, with the support of his family, lobbied to have that road renamed the “Benjamin Fenner Cox Highway” by the State of North Carolina, and it was dedicated as such by the state in June 2010. And

then I discovered in addition to raising his own three daughters, he and his wife opened up their home and hearts to their neighbor’s baby boy, Clarence Cahoon, and raised him as their own when Clarence’s mother passed away at his birth. This young boy, who eventually went back to his biological father in his teen years, grew up to be Mayor of the town, but he always thought of “Cap’n Cox” as his father and “loved that man until the day he died,” his daughter Fleedie Cahoon Reynolds said.

What kind of man commands the love and respect and pride of which I’ve written above? I think if I were able to talk to Ben Cox, my great-great grandfather in person, he’d wonder what all the fuss was about. I don’t think he would consider himself anything special to be written or talked about. I think he would probably say, in a very matter-of-fact way, “I was doing what needed to be done.” These are just the very characteristics any community would want in their lighthouse keeper, somebody who would make sure that what needed to get done, got done. When somebody is out on that water in the dark, squinting and scanning the horizon looking for that light to guide them to safety, they are praying that a FAITHFUL lighthouse keeper is on the job with the wick trimmed and the lamp burning. Thank you “Pappy Ben,” “Cap’n Cox,” “Brother Ben,” Benjamin Fenner Cox, for shining that light to follow, and may we, your loving descendants, be FAITHFUL in keeping your light shining bright within us for generations to come.

Lovingly, your great-great granddaughter Kay.

Source: “Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful...” from song: “Find Us Faithful” – Steve Green

Benjamin F. Cox's Keeper Career

By Cheryl Shelton-Roberts

"Rivers are roads which move, and which carry us whither we desire to go."

— Blaise Pascal

River and sound lights, called "Water Stations" by keepers and the US Lighthouse Service, often were the alpha and omega of a keeper's career at North Carolina lights. These stations were easier to tend for a novice as well as for aging lighthouse keepers who avoided numerous, steep steps and multiple climbs each day. But these water stations also carried an element that could prove even more difficult than the coastal light stations: extreme isolation. There you are, literally midstream with only a few hundred square feet of living space and often alone. Families were discouraged, indeed banned in some instances, from visiting and certainly forbidden to stay overnight. Now granted, some defied the rules, but not often. In former oral histories, keepers' children and grandchildren recalled hiding in the coal bin of a screwpile light station if the Inspector showed up unexpectedly. However, when a keeper took these posts, he knew he'd be alone for the majority of his time on duty—during blinding rains, high winds, cold and heat, and during times of absolute quiet for days on end. In fact, it is noted on a government form that Keeper Benjamin Fenner Cox filled out, required to be completed each year for the Service by the keeper, "This employee is located at a Water Station and allowances marked X do not apply to his family who must live ashore."

This lifestyle required a special personality—someone happy with himself with no tendency toward anxiety or depression. It took a man of faith.

This station was indeed isolated. Have a look at the Lighthouse Service's location description for Laurel Point Light Station: "...about 1 ¼ miles NNE'ly from Laurel Point, S'ly side of the W'ly part of Albemarle Sound, N.C." This certainly called for pulling out an old lighthouse map and searching for it.

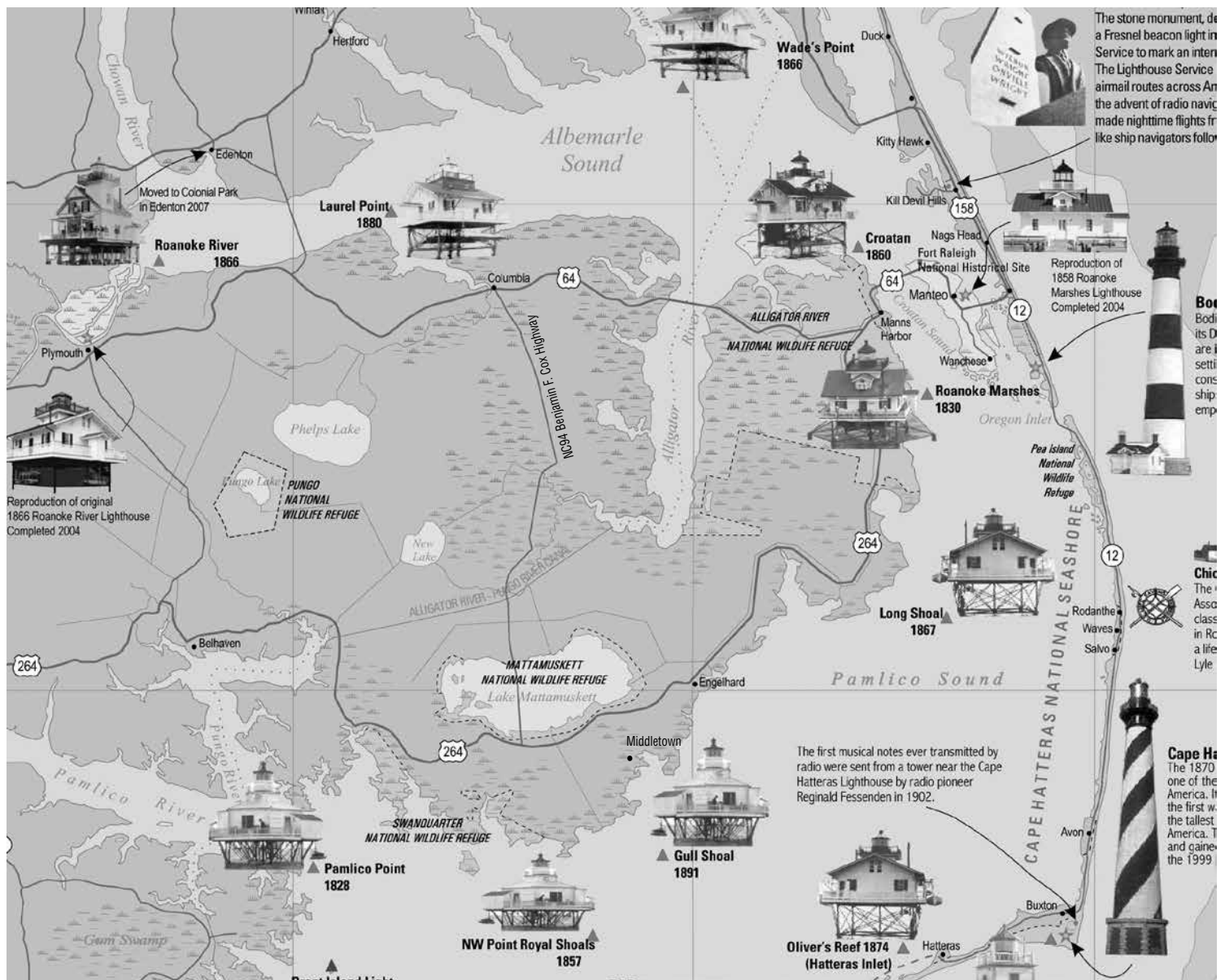
Benjamin Cox was born as the Civil War broke out in the country; indeed, his father served in the war. He was raised in Middletown, North Carolina, on Pamlico Sound where he learned the ways of a waterman. In its day, Middletown, sometimes spelled "Middleton" on old maps and other documents, was the busiest port in Hyde County and the county's first incorporated town in 1787 according to Hyde County's Chamber of Commerce. In mid-nineteenth century, a young boy had to work with his family to earn a living and he no doubt learned his mechanical expertise here and how to survive from and on the waters of Lake Mattamuskeet as well as Alligator River and the vast Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds. He carried these skills with him into his 30-year career with the US Lighthouse Service. And so did his brother, Walter Clyde Cox, who served at the Roanoke River Light that guarded the mouth of that tributary. These boys had been so accustomed to living by these waters that it must have been a natural transition for them to live on these light stations.

Benjamin stated on his application as a "nominee" for a keeper's position that he had, "...been living all my life near the water and have gone by water a large portion of my life...and have had some experience on a Light House being employed by Capt. T.B. Spencer, the present Keeper of Gull Shoal Light House."

As I studied Benjamin Cox's personnel records, the first thing that struck me as interesting was his age when he first entered the US Lighthouse Service. His first service is documented as assistant keeper at Gull Shoal in 1896 for four years—a station that was close to his home in Middletown on Pamlico Sound near the entrance to the Pamlico River. He replaced Assistant Keeper J. E. Jennette who had drowned. Benjamin was then 35 years of age, which was considered "older" at the turn of the twentieth century when a white male's life expectancy was an average 45 years. But he was an enterprising man, a business man who owned a general store in Columbia. He was a community leader, and someone who got out and experienced life at its fullest in the many roles he played. There's an endearing story that his great-great granddaughter shared about him that involved a berry bush in his front yard at home. Kids would try to steal the berries and he'd yell at them and try to cause fear to make them run and the stolen berries even tastier. But he also walked around town with pockets full of candy and a little money. He would give them to those more in need—all they had to do was ask him. The keeper delighted in this.

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Below is a portion of a map that shows several of the river and sound lights that once existed in North Carolina. Keeper Cox lived out his 84 years within a relatively small area in the eastern part of the state. Born at the beginning of one war in 1861, he died at the end of another in 1945. Standing as bookends to his life, he filled the volumes held between with a life full of work, family, and community involvement. With another child on the way expanding his family and responsibilities, he took a job with the US Lighthouse Service in 1896. Government jobs offered steady income, and the only such jobs available in most coastal towns were with the US Postal Service or the US Lighthouse Service. Having grown up on the shores of the expansive Pamlico Sound, water was his closest friend and gave him all the skills needed to become an outstanding lighthouse keeper. No doubt that from a young age, he was accustomed to hours of quietude and the arduous work of fishing that toughened both muscles and mind. After 30 years of service at Gull Shoal and Laurel Point Light Stations, his memory has been respectfully guarded. In 2010, the North Carolina Department of Transportation dedicated a road in his name that he championed to be hard surfaced. A portion of State Highway 94 is now the Benjamin Fenner Cox Highway.



River lights marked important places where passing vessels needed to heed their direction including marking the mouth of a river or a shoal that had to be avoided due to strong currents within the sounds and rivers. Until the mid-twentieth century, these liquid roads were vital to the tremendous amount of business done by water not only in the country but all over the world. Benjamin's first duty station, Gull Shoal, was established in 1891 because the dangerous point on the western shore of Pamlico Sound had caused damage or destruction to several ships including big steamers that traveled there. It appears the final straw was the sinking of a US Coast and Geodetic Survey schooner because Congress called for a light at Gull Shoal soon afterward.

At Laurel Point, Keeper Cox would have found the light station to have been the typical, six-sided, cottage-style light station on iron pilings driven deep into the mud of the sound. Dozens of these quickly built lights popped up on North Carolina's vast waters on the Albemarle, Croatan, and Pamlico Sounds along with numerous rivers leading to ports at Edenton, Plymouth, Bath, Washington, New Bern, and Elizabeth City. A keeper's vigil was just as important as that of the tall coastal lights we are far more familiar with. However, more attention has been given recently as we have seen the original 1886 Roanoke River Light having been relocated and restored in Edenton as well as a reproduction of the first, 1866 Roanoke River Light having been built in Plymouth and a reproduction of the Roanoke Marshes Light in Manteo. All are open to the public for tours, which is impressive.

Benjamin moved his family to Columbia after he took an appointment as keeper in 1900 at Laurel Point, 10 miles northwest from Columbia in Albemarle Sound near the mouth of the Scuppernong River. The Scuppernong is a blackwater river that winds through Tyrrell and Washington Counties into the Albemarle. It is named for the grapes that grow prolifically in the area. You see part of this river at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge at the Walter B. Jones Sr. Center for the Sounds in Columbia. Its dark waters are from tannic acid derived from cypress trees that grow throughout the region and appear as if they are standing on tiptoe to keep dry.

And it was this river that Benjamin would spend the rest of his life getting to know intimately through his many years of living on it and having a brush with death on it. For about 10 days in late December 1917 into early January 1918, the waters from the Great Dismal Swamp to the Outer Banks iced over, trapping humans, animals, and boats. The shallow depth of the Albemarle Sound at an average 10 feet and low salinity made it susceptible to freezing albeit rare. But freeze it did and Eastern North Carolina lay paralyzed waiting for the thaw. Boatmen were stopped and trapped by the ice including keepers at water stations. Further, Benjamin could not use his boat on the ice; therefore, the only way out was to walk—alone—and hope he didn't fall into a weakened spot of ice and become trapped in the grips of it. He knew there would be no one to hear his cries for help. Hypothermia in freezing water can take only minutes. After several days waiting for rescue and rations running dangerously low, the 57-year-old keeper set out on foot for home—he had no choice. He followed the shore of the Scuppernong, dragging his boat along with him by a rope tied around his waist to meticulously pick his way over the frozen sound and river. Amazingly, the keeper survived the ordeal with little harm to his health.

He faithfully served out 30 years with the US Lighthouse Service and retired December 31, 1926. His initial pay started at \$440 per annum; after 20 years of service it was raised to \$600; his pay three years before he retired was \$960 and was increased to \$1,440 just prior to retirement, which proves Benjamin was a valued employee of the civilian service. In 1918 Superintendent of Lighthouses George Putnam had won a long and hard-fought battle with Congress to establish a retirement plan for keepers in the field. The keeper's retirement pay was based on a formula that figures 75% of the average of his final five years of service, which came out to \$888.86 each year. According to his Personnel Classification Board Form No. 1 in 1923, the keeper "worked 105 hours per week," and part of it included "working half of the time from sunset to sunrise." He received allowances for his "Quarters, Light, and Fuel." He also earned \$0.45 each day for rations. His duties included: "Operating fourth-order light and bell fog signal; Keeping the station painted and clean; Keeping the machinery and small boats in order; Keeping station records and preparing reports; Going for mail and provisions; Observing aids to navigation and conditions of weather; Preparing meals and keeping rooms clean."

Keeper Benjamin Cox's Efficiency Reports in which he is graded on his quality and quantity of work as well as his attitude towards his job were always excellent. His pay rose above \$1,500 per year, one of the highest for the 1920s. We can now get a look at who this man was: a gentleman, family man, community leader, a man of faith, and a fine lighthouse keeper.



Christian Church, Columbia, N. C.

At left is Keeper Benjamin Fenner Cox standing center. As with many keepers, he was also known as Capt. (or Cap'n) Cox, a title given respectfully to men who had expertise in working boats. Standing with him are his daughters, Cora on his right and Eleanor on his left. Above is the church in Columbia that Keeper Cox is credited for having had great influence on its building.

Cox family photographs from the Kay D. Ingram Collection

Facts on Laurel Point:

The hexagonal light station had three landings, wooden steps, and rested on iron screw piles in 10 feet of water. A copper ventilator ball surmounted the iron lantern; a brass lightning conductor spindle was attached to a copper wire and led from the sill of the iron lantern down the side of the house to the water. Its fourth-order Fresnel lens was made by Barbier & Fenestre in 1877 and made one revolution every three minutes creating one white flash every 30 seconds. The clockwork mechanism was wound every four hours when operating; the chains dropped 18 feet through the center of the house.

Editor's Note: Information on Keeper Cox's 30-year career is from his official personnel records compiled by Eddie Cahoon and Fleedie Cahoon Reynolds that currently are on display at the Columbia Theater, a copy of which was shared with the Editor by the Roanoke River Maritime Museum in Plymouth. Information on Laurel Point Light Station is from "Report to the Department of Commerce & Labor, Light-House Establishment: Description of Light-House Tower Buildings and Places at Laurel Point Light-Station, North Carolina, Nov. 23, 1909." A big thank you goes to the keeper's great-great granddaughter, Kay Davenport Ingram, for her effort to share her research about him.

Navigating a Watery Labyrinth

North Carolina has few symbols like its historic landmark lighthouses from Currituck Beach to Old Baldy, but they are only a fraction of the beacons that once shone like precious gems from fourth-order Fresnel lenses on the state's many rivers and sounds. Although a steady succession of these lights once beamed over sand and water, all but one has come and gone. One original, the Roanoke River Lighthouse, stands restored in Edenton; a reproduction of the first Roanoke River Light and another of the Roanoke Marshes Light in Plymouth and Manteo, respectively, remind us of an era long past when water carried goods and passengers to ports that were the lifelines of coastal communities and beyond.

“Engineering Excellence: Saving Cape Hatteras Lighthouse from the Sea” Exhibit

By John Havel

A new exhibit entitled “Engineering Excellence: Saving Cape Hatteras Lighthouse from the Sea,” has been installed on North Carolina State University’s (NCSU) main campus. The exhibit highlights the remarkable engineering achievement of the “Move of the Millennium,” namely, the 1999 relocation of the 198-foot-tall Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to its safe new location 2,900 feet away from the eroding Atlantic shoreline.

The exhibit is installed in the lobby of Mann Hall, home of the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering (CCEE), and uses artifacts, photographs, and text panels to tell the story of the move and illustrate to students and visitors the practical application of many of the engineering disciplines taught at CCEE—such as structural, geotechnical, construction, environmental, and coastal engineering.

Four glass display cases, supplemented by large color display panels, tell the history of the decision to move the lighthouse as well as the method used to relocate it. Roughly chronological in design, the first section takes the viewer through the steps taken to prepare the worksite, including the massive excavation of the 130-year-old foundation, the placement of a dewatering system to keep the project site dry, and the installation of sensors and monitoring equipment to detect and report every movement and abnormality during the lifting and moving process. The next section illustrates the slow process of the removal of the stone and granite foundation below ground and its replacement by shoring towers as the lighthouse was carefully and skillfully cut away from its base. Using photographs and enlargements of original blueprints, the third section shows how specialized beams and hydraulic jacks were inserted beneath the tower and the 4800-ton structure was lifted to the level of a newly prepared roadbed. The final case shows the preparation of the “move pathway,” the 23-day journey down the track, and the precision lowering of the lighthouse on its new, reinforced-concrete foundation.

There are special panels to recognize two NCSU graduates who were involved in the relocation

project: Walter “Skellie” Hunt (deceased in 2012), a graduate of NCSU who became the Site Manager for the relocation project, and Bob Woody, who was the Chief Information Officer during the move.

The idea for the exhibit began with a single, but significant, artifact: a three-foot piece of yellow pine timber from the original foundation laid in 1869. Dr. Ellis Cowling of NCSU’s Forestry division owned the piece, but upon moving into a small retirement apartment this past year, he turned the piece over to his colleague and friend, Dr. Paul Zia, professor emeritus with CCEE. Dr. Zia believed that the piece should be on display and not remain hidden, so he discussed a possible display with the current department head, Dr. Morton Barlaz. They agreed that a display should be designed, and Dr. Zia began to explore possible locations, including the university library. At the same time he began calling other people involved in the move, requesting the loan of additional artifacts. Mike Booher, the official photographer during the relocation, offered his thousands of photographs as well as hard hats, a piece of the diamond wire saw used to cut loose the foundation, and other interesting memorabilia. Because of his contributions to the display and the move, there is a special panel about Booher near the end of the display.

Drs. Barlaz and Zia ultimately decided to install the exhibit in the main lobby of the engineering school, which was underutilized and would be an excellent place for the exhibit. Next, they needed help with the exhibit’s design and installation.

Renee Howard, Graduate Services Coordinator at the engineering school, worked with Drs. Barlaz and Zia and knew of the plans for the exhibit, as the yellow pine timber had resided on the floor of her office for some time. By chance, Renee also was taking guitar lessons from Bett Padgett, who, as Society members know, is the longtime, former president of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society. Renee asked Bett for recommendations of someone who knew about the move and might have some exhibit skills. Bett suggested me, as she knew that I had been the exhibit designer

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Ten large format color panels plus smaller color-matched text panels were printed and mounted by Telepathic Graphics in Raleigh for a new exhibit "Engineering Excellence: Saving Cape Hatteras Lighthouse from the Sea," located in Mann Hall at NC State University in Raleigh. Approximately fifty color photos, all taken by photographer Mike Booher, were printed at the local Costco, and specialized iron mounting brackets for the pine timber and a Hilman roller (an important component in the moving of the lighthouse), plus numerous other pieces, were made by Jake Rhoads, Facilities Maintenance Technician for the engineering school. The exhibit will remain in Mann Hall at NC State University (NCSU) for several years.

Photograph by John Havel

These three gentlemen were key players in the creation of the exhibit on the relocation project at Cape Hatteras Light Station. At left is Mike Booher, official photographer of the entire move process; center is Dr. Paul Zia, professor emeritus with the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at NCSU; at right is John Havel, graphic artist who helped design, create, and install all panels for the exhibit.

Photograph courtesy of John Havel



and curator of exhibits at the Museum of History in Raleigh some years back (almost 30 actually!). So Renee called me and in September of 2014 I attended my first meeting in Mann Hall and the rest, as they say, is history. On that day, in addition to meeting Renee and Dr. Barlaz, I was honored to meet Dr. Zia who is 89 years old and still active at the college.

With holiday schedules and foul weather delays, detailed planning of the exhibit did not begin in earnest until January 2015. As the design took shape, I created case-by-case drawings, which I presented at meetings, and submitted suggested text to accompany the photos and artifacts relevant to each section, which Dr. Zia edited and rewrote as the process moved forward. My wife Aida proofread the text and contributed valuable editorial suggestions before each panel went to print. In April I had requested the possible assistance of a design or art student to help me on evenings and weekends with the mounting, trimming, and installation of the many photos, text panels, and artifacts that I knew would take time and attention to detail. A graduate engineering student, Foad Faizi, was recommended and over the last six weeks of installation, Foad and I worked side-by-side and his work was consistently meticulous and extremely skillful.

The actual installation of panels began in late February and was completed on Saturday, March 28, just two days before the NCSU's Chancellor visited the Engineering School.

It is notable that I was not present at the actual move in 1999, and in fact did not become fascinated with the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse until approximately 2003, four to five years after the move. At that time I became interested in the lighthouse when I visited the site and observed the beautiful Victorian ironwork and architecture unique to Hatteras. I noted some specific differences from early photographs I had seen and began to ask questions and dig for answers. I was amazed to find out that, despite numerous beautiful books being available about the lighthouse, no complete or detailed history of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse had ever been written. As the most visited, photographed, and well-known lighthouse in North Carolina, and arguably, in America, I was surprised that more detailed research was not available. At that point I decided to write that book and I have been researching and collecting thousands of historical photographs and documents for over ten years.

As part of that research in 2009, I attended a small ceremony at the lighthouse honoring the tenth anniversary of the move. That is where I first met Mike Booher, the official photographer for the move, and several other key players in the relocation project. It was Mike's book, *Out of Harm's Way*, as well as Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and Bruce Roberts *Moving Hatteras: Relocating the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to Safety*, and other books and documents that I used to draft the text panels that would tell the story in this display.

Many people are unaware of the role NCSU played in the move of the lighthouse. Dr. Zia and Dr. Cowling were integral in the early decision making about whether the lighthouse should be moved, and they served on an interdisciplinary committee tasked by the National Academy of Sciences in 1986 to advise the National Park Service (NPS). This group authored the 1988 report "Saving Cape Hatteras Lighthouse from the Sea: Options and Policy Implications." The committee included engineers, scientists, historians, and construction industry consultants, and recommended relocation as the best overall solution after carefully studying fifteen different options which ranged from building additional sea walls or groins, to artificial seaweed for erosion control, to only moving the lighthouse a few hundred feet.

However, funding to move the lighthouse was not forthcoming, so in 1996, almost ten years after the initial report, and decades since the NPS had begun exploring how to preserve Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Dr. Zia and other NCSU faculty were again called upon to review the earlier findings and issued a second report in 1997. This report endorsed the original findings of the National Academy of Sciences to move the lighthouse and urged the NPS to act quickly to preserve the lighthouse from further damage.

Funding to move the lighthouse was finally secured in 1998 and plans moved forward swiftly to initiate the relocation process. Late in 1999, after the move was completed, Drs. Zia and Cowling were both presented with the Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service from the NPS for their role as advisors and consultants. Additionally, Dr. Zia received an International Chimney hardhat as part of his award, and Dr. Cowling was presented with the piece of yellow pine timber that he loaned for the exhibit.

On Monday, April 27, 2015, an opening reception was held at Mann Hall, with an enthusiastic gathering of many of the key players from the 1999 move, as well as those involved in the design, creation, and installation of the new display. Bob Woody and his wife Bebe came in from Manteo, and from the other end of the state, Mike Booher and his wife Sally drove down from Asheville. Additionally, twenty-nine members of Skellie Hunt's family attended the opening, including his widow Patty, son Walter Hunt IV, and his brother and former state Senator Neal Hunt. Dr. Zia and Dr. Barlaz spoke, as did I, and Bett Padgett entertained us all with her inspiring original song "If A Lighthouse Could Speak." And of course, there was a cake in the shape of the lighthouse!

The exhibit is to remain in place until a new engineering building is completed sometime in the next three to five years. If you are in the Raleigh area and need directions to Mann Hall, please contact Graduate Services Coordinator Renee Howard at 919-515-7344 for directions, parking instructions, and additional information.

John Havel is a graphic designer with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Research Triangle Park, N.C. He has been researching the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse for many years and hopes to write a thorough and accurate history of the lighthouse when his research is complete. John lives in Raleigh with his wife, Aida, who helps with his lighthouse research.

Bett Padgett sang "If a Lighthouse Could Speak" at the opening of the NCSU exhibit on the move project at Cape Hatteras Light Station. Bett began expressing her concern and respect for lighthouses during the time of the relocation project in 1999. Her song expressed the same worry that many had: the move would not be done. Her smile tells the successful ending to that story.

Photograph by John Havel



Annual Keepers' Dinner Weekend

By Bett Padgett

Join us for Outer Banks Lighthouse Society's 21st Annual Keepers' Dinner and weekend events, October 9-11, 2015.

This year we will be celebrating the river/sound lights and their history, AKA "Water Stations" to the US Lighthouse Service. We will begin in Plymouth, North Carolina, to visit the Roanoke River Lighthouse Replica, *the Gateway to the Outer Banks*, and hear the history of the town, the Washington County Waterways Commission, the lighthouse and how OBLHS played an important part. We are planning a boat trip down the river to see where the lighthouses once stood. There were three screwpile lights on the Roanoke River, each with wonderful stories.

Saturday will be spent in Edenton touring the beautiful, quaint historical town and visiting the third Roanoke River Lighthouse which was recently purchased by the town, relocated to the waterfront, restored, and decorated with period furniture and opened to the public. The Annual Keepers' and Awards Dinner will be at the Maritime Museum in Plymouth. Dinner will be catered by Kelly's Restaurant of Nags Head, *the premier caterer for northeastern North Carolina*. A special dedication of the Albemarle Riverlights Trail, a partnership between Plymouth and Edenton, will take place at this time. As always, there will be exciting prizes, raffle drawing, and a small but lively auction during this event – it's always exciting! The Keepers' Weekend is a time when our members reconnect through the lighthouses, explore, learn, and increase their lighthouse knowledge and lighthouse-community family. There will be more information posted on the website <http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org> later in the summer and we will keep in touch! We hope you will join us!

Letter from the OBLHS President June 2015

Hi, Fellow Lighthouse Lovers,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the “newish” president of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society. I say newish because I stepped into the position in May 2014 but haven’t had the chance to reach out to you before now. I have long loved the North Carolina Outer Banks and the lighthouses of North Carolina. I joined OBLHS in 2000 and began serving on the Board of Directors in 2005. You may have seen my name from my days of stuffing and mailing the newsletters and raffle tickets, or maybe during my tenure as Treasurer. When our wonderful past President, Bett Padgett, decided it was time for her to retire as President I stepped into the role. Bett is a very hard act to follow so bear with me as I learn the ropes.

One of my first official responsibilities was to lead the celebration of OBLHS’s 20th Anniversary at our Keepers’ Weekend last October. All members and guests in attendance honored our Co-Founders, Bruce and Cheryl Roberts, as well as Bett for the leadership that each of them have brought to our Society. We also honored all of the current and past Board of Directors (BOD) – over 35 individuals—for the many hours of dedication that they have given to make OBLHS what we are today. Each BOD member in attendance was presented with a lantern thanking them for “Leading the way - Keeping the lights shining bright.” As I said that night, the BOD led the way, but it takes all of our members to make the Society the success that it has been for 20 years and will be for decades to come. During the presentation of the lanterns the group started singing “This Little Light of Mine.” This impromptu song really represents what I love about our members - they will do whatever it takes to keep our lights shining - and have fun doing it! While working hard for our lighthouses, many of us have become life-long friends. If you have the opportunity to join us at a future Keepers’ Weekend, please do. At our annual events we learn more about our lights and the Outer Banks, eat some great local cuisine and have lots of fun with our new and old friends.

I am always interested in hearing from our members. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our Society or if you have comments you would like to share, please send me an email at Diandmanda@aol.com or drop me a note at OBLHS, P.O. Box 1005, Morehead City, NC 28557. I hope you all have a great summer and that you will be able to visit a lighthouse in the near future – hopefully a North Carolina lighthouse.

Meanwhile, THANK YOU for keeping the lights shining bright!

Diana Chappell

Diana



Part of the OBLHS Annual Keepers Dinner Weekend took place at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. Picture here is a group of former and present board of directors leading a room full of people in the singing of “This Little Light of Mine.” Miniature lanterns symbolized not only the lights that we endeavor to serve and save but also our inner light and faith shining through of.

We extend appreciation to Joe Schwartzer and wife Melanie for inviting us to hold our event there. We also express gratitude for our two main speakers: Author and historian Kevin Duffus revealed a surprise from his research that shows that the pedestal now on display in the museum that supported the first-order Fresnel lens in the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is not the original one from the 1803 and 1854 towers. That original pedestal is now in the Pigeon Point Lighthouse. John Havel made a presentation of a proposal to return the lighthouse to its original, historic appearance including recreating the iron fence that surrounded the lighthouse compound, reproducing original doors that are now absent, replacing the exterior pediments that once adorned the windows, and finally, last but not least, having a new first-order Fresnel lens built to be exhibited in the lantern room.

Photograph by John Havel

Ways You Can Help OBLHS Support Our Lighthouses

The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society (OBLHS) makes every dollar we receive work for the good of North Carolina Lighthouses. A private non-profit organization, we appreciate your help whether your donation is small or *large*—to us, no matter the amount, it's large. The most recent donors include Bill Parrish, Walter Garrish, and Jim and Mabry O'Donnell. Thank you!

We have accomplished many things since 1994, but we have many other educational projects we would like to see develop. A representative sample of The Society's accomplishments can be viewed at <http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org/accomplishments.html>.

OBLHS awards grants each year for up to three schools or recognized youth groups (up to \$1,000 each) through its Students' Lighthouse Travel Award. Many of these students would never see a lighthouse otherwise, even if they live within driving/ferry distance. Applications are due for the Travel grant January 1. We also award a **Special Lighthouse Project Grant**. This grant application for creative projects related to North Carolina lighthouses is due February 1. You can see these grant applications or request further information at www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org; click on "Kids Corner & Education." **Read on!**

Here are some suggested ways you can pitch in:

Support OBLHS on smile.amazon.com. It's easy! Go to smile.amazon.com; go to "Your Account" (upper right of page); choose "Change Your Charity"; in the search charity field, type Outer Banks Lighthouse Society. That's it! You will see at the top of your order page *Supporting: Outer Banks Lighthouse Society, Inc.* If you need to set up an account with Amazon, all instructions are there and it will take you only a few minutes time. Once finished, you are on the team!

Give a memorial in honor of a loved one such as Joe and Cindy Younger did recently in memory of Josephine Lewis. We warmly acknowledge each and thank the donor. It is wonderful for a donation to carry on the memory of a loved one. Joe and Cindy, we congratulate you on choosing to help OBLHS in tribute to your friend.

Finally, you can: **Help us by Doing yourself a favor: Visit a lighthouse** and season your humor with a little salt air.

If ever the Editor misses giving you public credit for your donation, contact cheryl@ec.rr.com.

Become a lifetime member like the following: Wendy Brewer, (the late) Jack Goodwin, John Howard Jr., Gayle Keresey, Lauren Liebrecht, Richard Meissner, Paula Liebrecht, Judy Rosson, and Rebecca Taylor.

Make 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.

Make a donation directly to OBLHS at P.O. Box 1005, Morehead City, NC, or go to www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org. In the upper left menu, click on "Membership & Donation," and select the option you want. On this page, you have the opportunity to renew your membership, give a gift membership, and/or make a donation via Paypal or with your charge/debit card. Go ahead, try it!

Currituck Beach Lighthouse is owned by the Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc. The lighthouse is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. beginning March 28. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the lighthouse and grounds will remain open on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8 p.m. Climbing fees for adults are \$10/person and children under 7 can climb free. Season passes are being introduced this year: \$50 for an individual, \$120 for a family (5), and +\$30 to add another person on to the pass. They accept cash and checks. December 1 will mark its 140th anniversary. Plans for a free climb that day are being discussed. For more information visit <http://www.currituckbeachlight.com/>.

Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse (reproduction), situated in Manteo, is an exterior reproduction of an 1877 screw-pile light that was originally at the southern entrance of the Croatan Sound from Pamlico Sound located near Wanchese. The lighthouse is owned and operated by the town of Manteo <http://www.townofmanteo.com/index.asp> and is located on Manteo's beautiful waterfront near the Roanoke Island Maritime Museum. <http://roanokeisland.com/MaritimeMuseum.aspx>. The lighthouse is always open daily, free of charge from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA) and its park visitor centers are open year-round, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. mid-June through Labor Day and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. the rest of the year. For more information call (252) 441-5711 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/caba/>. Program schedules and descriptions are available on-line at each park's website: Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, www.nps.gov/fora; Wright Brothers National Memorial, www.nps.gov/wrbr; and Cape Hatteras National Seashore, www.nps.gov/caba. Program schedules can be found in the summer newspaper, In The Park, which are available at all National Park Service visitor centers and Outer Banks Visitors Bureau welcome centers.

Quoted from the new Cape Hatteras National Seashore superintendent: "The Outer Banks Group national parks welcome visitors from across the country and around the world," said Superintendent David Hallac. "They are wonderful places to experience the natural resources of the Outer Banks and we are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides." In addition, Hallac stated, "We also feature the parks as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities."

Bodie Island Lighthouse grounds are open year-round. The lighthouse opened for climbing April 17. This year, the Bodie Island Lighthouse will be open as a self-guided experience, similar to how the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is operated. Wait time will be significantly reduced and the

amount of time spent experiencing the lighthouse will be self-determined. This change should allow more visitors to have an opportunity to climb the lighthouse each day. Climbing hours are 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily with ticket sales from 8:45 a.m. - 4:25 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens (62 or older), children 11 years of age and under, and for those holding a National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Access Pass. Tour tickets may be purchased on site the day of the tour or may be reserved in advance. In the first 13 days the lighthouse was open last season there were 2,035 climbers. The NPS will offer Full Moon Tours this year. Information on climbing can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/caba/planyourvisit/bodie-island-lighthouse-tours.htm>.

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse grounds are open year-round. A Condition Assessment for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was completed by Joseph K. Oppermann, Architect, P.A. in 2014. The NPS Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) will be developing a Historic Structure Report for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to include a Management Summary, Developmental History, and guidelines for Treatment and Use; work on the report began this spring. These reports will serve as guidelines for future lighthouse renovations (no set dates available at this time). The lighthouse opens for climbing April 17. Climbing hours for the lighthouse are 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily in the spring and fall, and 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., May 22 through Labor Day, Monday, September 7. Ticket sales begin at 8:15 a.m. daily and close at 4:30 p.m. in the spring and fall, and at 5:30 p.m. May 22 through Labor Day. Climbing fees are \$8 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens (62 or older), children 11 years of age and under, and for those holding National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Access Pass. <http://www.nps.gov/caba/planyourvisit/climbing-the-cape-hatteras-lighthouse.htm>. Special night climbing tours are offered weekly during the summer months on Thursdays through September 3, 2015. Check the Park's calendar or newspaper for the weekly tour schedule. www.nps.gov/caba/planyourvisit/calendar.html.

Ocracoke Lighthouse grounds are open year-round. Currently, the tower is not open, but it is within a lovely village setting and is one of the oldest lights on the East Coast having been built in 1823.

Chicamacomico Life-Saving-Station is located in Rodanthe, just north of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse at milepost 39.5. The station is open in the spring until the day after Thanksgiving. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Exciting programs are offered at 2 p.m. daily through August. This historic site has seven acres representing the United States Life-Saving Service with eight original buildings. The oldest 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, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The museum operates under the NC State holiday schedule. Visitation is free but donations are appreciated. <http://www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com/index.htm>.

Cape Lookout Lighthouse is part of Cape Lookout National Seashore. Park headquarters and the Visitor Center are located on Harkers Island and are open year-round from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days. The grounds are open year-round. In winter the Visitor Center is closed on Sundays. The Keepers' Quarters Museum and facilities at the lighthouse and the Portsmouth Village Visitor Center opened in April. The Park has partnered with the Island Express Ferry Service for transportation to the Cape and other locations within the seashore. In April 2014 the Park opened a new center in Beaufort at the town hall, 701 Front Street with new exhibits. Ferry departures in Beaufort are from Graydon Paul Park across the street from the Visitor Center. Ferry tickets for Cape Lookout and Shackleford Banks will be sold at both Visitor Centers. Departure in Harkers Island will be from the dock at the Park Hdqtrs/ Visitor Center. Info can be found at www.islandexpressferry-services.com. The lighthouse will be opened for climbing May 12 - September 20. Tues. - Sat. Also, it will open for climbing Sun. May 25; Sun. July 6; Sun. Aug. 31. Adult \$8; children 12 and under and seniors, \$4. Tickets are on sale Tues. - Sat, at the Light Station Visitor Center. Tickets are sold on a first come/first served basis. Moonlight climbs will be offered; call (252) 728-2250 for more information or visit <http://www.nps.gov/caloo/>. The lighthouse received a new coat of paint in April. Rough storms had scoured the tower clean of paint in places. Cape Lookout National Seashore celebrates its 49th anniversary in 2015. Established by President Johnson, the 56 miles of wild and beautiful shoreline within Cape Lookout National Seashore has been a favorite recreational location for generations.

Oak Island Lighthouse is owned by the Town of Caswell Beach with ongoing cooperative efforts with the Friends of Oak Island Lighthouse (FOIL). General public tours to the second level only (just 12 steps up - not to the top) for anyone 7 years of age or older are available only during the summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day). Second level tours are only on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Volunteers conduct tours to the top year-round with at least 2 weeks' notice. A request to climb can be made at their web site. Children must be 9 years old to climb. The lighthouse grounds are open year round with limited 30 minute parking provided at the base of the tower from sunrise until sunset. www.oakislandlighthouse.org. Three different couples from the area asked for special tours in order to get engaged since the first of the year....and three said "YES." Last year's tours to the top were a record-breaking 3500. Please visit their website for further information and to request a special tour.

Price's Creek Front Range Light (1850 ruins) is not open for public visitation, but from the Southport-Ft. Fisher ferry you are afforded a good view of this pre-Civil War tower, the only range light in NC still 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 spring climbing hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

& Sunday 11a.m. - 4 p.m. 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 July 31st - August 2nd. To learn more about OBF, see <http://www.oldbaldy.org/>

Roanoke River Lighthouse (reproduction) is located on the town of Plymouth's beautiful waterfront about halfway between the northern and southern Outer Banks off Highway 64. Hours of operation are 11a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and by appointment. Call (252) 217-2204 to arrange a group visit. Visit <http://www.roanokeriverlighthouse.org/> The Roanoke River Lighthouse and Museum are projects of the Washington County Waterways Commission. OBLHS will hold part of its Keepers Dinner Weekend here. See more details in this issue or contact info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org.

1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse in Edenton is located in Colonial Park on the downtown Edenton waterfront. The lighthouse recently opened to the public seven days a week, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A small fee is charged by Historic Edenton State Historic Site: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for youth 12 and over, younger children free. The lighthouse will be open for guided tours seven days a week for the foreseeable future. Visit their website: www.edentonlighthouse.org.

Maritime Center Lighthouse Facility in Washington, NC, opened October 24, 2014. It is owned by the city and operated by Washington Marina. The lighthouse was designed to resemble the architecture of the Pamlico Point Light, which once marked the entrance of the Pamlico River. The structure includes shower and laundry facilities for boaters, as well as public restrooms and, on the second floor, new quarters for the Dockmaster and Dock Attendants. It is active with a focal plane of about 35 ft. (11 m); white flash every 3 seconds. It is a two-story wood building with an upper octagonal story and an octagonal lantern centered on the roof. The upper story and lantern room are painted white with red roofs. It is located on Stewart Parkway on the waterfront of Washington, a historic town on the Pamlico River estuary. Site and building are open daily.

Due to expense: We will vary the number of newsletter issues each year. We will publish one main (expanded) "summer" issue with two mailings coming in spring and late fall. If you are interested in helping to sponsor the newsletter, please let us know. Contact cheryl@ec.rr.com. Please be sure to read "How You Can Help OBLHS" in this issue. Thanks to our members and friends, we are still going strong in our 21st year. A huge thank you goes to our hard-working board of directors and people who go the extra miles to help. Thank you to Ralph Burroughs for helping with the design, printing, and shipping of our wildly popular North Carolina Lighthouses brochure. Over 100,000 have been offered at visitor centers.

There will be a dedication ceremony for the Keepers of the Light Amphitheater later this fall. For more information contact us at info@outerbankslighthousesociety.org. See article this issue on the new arrangement of the stones from the original foundation of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. We are proud to be part of this exciting stone relocation project.

OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016 AND LEADERSHIP ROLES

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Cape Lookout Lighthouse received a new coat of paint this year.

Photograph by Courtney Whisler

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@outerbankslighthouseociety.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**

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