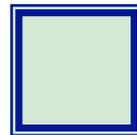


**FRIENDS OF PORTSMOUTH
HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE**

P.O. Box 8232

Portsmouth, NH 03802-8232



NAME

Street Address

City, State 00000

Check out our web site
at

www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org

You can also join us on
Facebook and Twitter

A Chapter of the
American Lighthouse
Foundation

www.lighthousefoundation.org

1821 SHIPWRECK AT WHALEBACK LEDGE

In April 1821, the schooner *President*, heading to Thomaston, Maine, from Boston, struck Whaleback Ledge off Kittery, Maine – nine years before a lighthouse was established there. The vessel and its cargo were a complete loss. As the crew and passengers struggled in the waves, several boats full of soldiers arrived from Fort Constitution in New Castle, New Hampshire.

At first, most of the would-be rescuers opted not to get too close to the ledges in the heavy seas. According to a newspaper account, Corporal George McAuley asked his crew, “Shall we save them or perish in the attempt?”

The response was unanimously “Yes,” and seven people from the wrecked vessel were soon rescued from certain death.

MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE

We'd love to have you as a member. Members receive discounts on FPHL merchandise at events, and receive our newsletter and emails with up-to-the-minute news and announcements. Also, please let us know if you're interested in volunteering at open houses or other events. To join, please fill out the form below and mail with a check or money order (payable to Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse) and mail to Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, PO Box 8232, Portsmouth, NH 03802-8232.

Annual dues (dues in all categories and other donations are tax-deductible):

Commissioner: \$500 ___ Inspector: \$250 ___ Keeper: \$100 ___ Assistant Keeper: \$50 ___

Family Membership: \$25 ___ Individual Membership: \$15 ___ Child Membership (12 or under): \$5 ___

Name _____

Address _____ City/State: _____

Zip code: _____ Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse (FPHL) was founded in 2001 as a chapter of the nonprofit American Lighthouse Foundation. FPHL now cares for the 1878 Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse in New Castle, New Hampshire, and also the 1872 Whaleback Lighthouse offshore from Kittery, Maine. Your donations are vital to the preservation of both of these historic treasures.

FIVE LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

**Saturday, September
25, 2010
8:30 a.m.**

Join us aboard the M/V *Granite State*, departing from Rye Harbor on Route 1A in Rye, N.H. The narrated cruise will pass close to Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, Whaleback Lighthouse, Boon Island Lighthouse, Cape Neddick "Nubble" Lighthouse, and White Island Lighthouse in the Isles of Shoals.

**Tickets are \$35 for
adults, \$25 for
children under 12.**

**Call Granite State
Whale Watch at 603-
964-5545 for
reservations.**



Portsmouth Harbor Beacon

*Newsletter of the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse
A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation*

Summer 2010

HATS OFF TO FPHL'S VOLUNTEERS!

For the first time in our history, FPHL held open houses every Sunday in 2010. With a few open houses still to go, we've provided educational tours of the lighthouse for about 2000 people this season. Nearly 40 different volunteers helped at this year's FPHL events.



Bob Trapani, executive director of FPHL's parent organization, the American Lighthouse Foundation, said, "Often times with lighthouse preservation, one of the most challenging aspects is to improve upon a record of excellence achieved in the past, especially one driven by volunteers, but the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse have done just that this year. With the FPHL further elevating their efforts during the 2010 open houses that occurred every Sunday this summer, the chapter not only forged a big win for Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse and the visiting public, but also for the spirit of volunteerism and the great things it is capable of achieving."

"No doubt visitors were able to greatly benefit from the educational and cultural value of the open houses, but the benefits did not stop here. The consistency of the open houses also allowed for the ongoing preservation project to obtain more widespread community awareness, which is a key to the long-term success of the project."



"Yet for all the public and preservation benefits that the 2010 FPHL open house schedule achieved, it could not have become reality without a yeoman's effort on the part of nearly 40 dedicated FPHL volunteers. These individuals teamed up to not just open the lighthouse and talk about its history, but to share their heartwarming passion with each and every visitor -- a passion that has unquestionably made a lasting impression on many visitors."

"Hats off to all the volunteers who played a part in this noteworthy success. Your efforts are both inspirational to your fellow lighthouse preservationists and a vital contribution to Portsmouth Harbor Light's ongoing care!" *Photos by Bob Trapani, Jr.*

SECOND SEASON OF TUESDAY CRUISES FROM KITTERY POINT

For the second consecutive year, Neil Odams of Captain and Patty's Cruises of Kittery Point, Maine, has donated the proceeds of each Tuesday evening cruise to our organization. This year's cruises have netted about \$2000 for FPHL. The cruises, which continue through October 5, leave from the dock in back of Cap'n Simeon's Galley restaurant at 90 Pepperrell Road (Route 103) in Kittery Point. The cost is \$18 for adults, \$15 for children 12 and under. Call 603-431-9155 for reservations.



Captain Neil Odams aboard the Sir William Pepperrell

FPHL Secretary Sharon Mills wrote the following:

My husband Bob and I decided to go on one of the Captain and Patty's river cruises out of Kittery Point in early June. Although there were storm clouds and a short burst of rain early in the cruise, we were rewarded with a beautiful rainbow over Whaleback lighthouse and the sun came out for the remainder of our trip. It was one of the most enjoyable short cruises we have ever been on. I've lived in Kittery most of my life, but had never traveled through most of the waterways and seen the areas we passed. The history shared was very interesting and the sights beautiful.



When the sun came out it shined perfectly on the water, making conditions for taking photos great. I even learned of a light and oil house located at Fort Stark, New Castle, that I didn't know existed.

We highly recommend the cruise for anyone who wants to see and learn more about this area.

Left: Whaleback Lighthouse, photo by Sharon Mills

Governor Wentworth's Plea for a Lighthouse

Royal Governor John Wentworth said the following in the council chamber of the province of New Hampshire on April 4, 1771:

When we reflect on the many distressful Losses that now fill our Sea Coast with Widows & Orphans, which wou'd undoubtedly have been in a great degree prevented, by such an aid as herein earnestly requested; their tears, their pitiable Complaints irresistably engage our Minds in So Salutary purposes: Every future expiring cry of a drowning mariner upon our Coast will bitterly accuse the unfeeling Recusant, that denys and in effect wastes that Life, to save a paltry shilling – I trust the Honble Assembly will therefore enable me to establish this Light, and that we shall participate with ev'ry Contributor in the Blessings of our fellow Creatures whose Lives may thus be rescued from Death.

Construction soon began, and Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse went into service on June 8, 1771.

1826 Fire at Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse

At about 10 p.m. on January 31, 1826, with a temperature of 15 below zero, a fire started in the lantern of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse and spread quickly. Soldiers in the neighboring fort responded; some of them ran to the lighthouse with blankets around them. A Sergeant Chickering fought the flames until most of his clothes were burned from his body. The fire was soon out and the lighthouse was saved. The customs collector, Timothy Upham, wrote a letter of thanks to the commander of the fort:

Few opportunities are presented in times of peace for brilliant achievements, but services so frequent and various as voluntarily rendered by the officers and soldiers of the fort and their readiness on all occasions is fully appreciated by the public and is acknowledged with pleasure by one who has no greater pride than in the recollection that he was once a soldier.

Some of the soldiers suffered frostbite. Sergeant Henry Becker sustained a severe hernia during the crisis that left him permanently disabled. Upham presented \$20 from the U.S. Treasury Department to the company for replacement of the men's fire-damaged clothing. He suggested that any funds left over could be used to purchase wine to drink to the health of the President.

PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE'S KEEPERS: CAPTAIN TITUS SALTER (1722-1798)

It's believed that Titus Salter, son of Captain John Salter, was born in 1722 on Star Island in the Isles of Shoals. Salter, like his father, followed the sea most of his life. He captained merchant vessels and became one of Portsmouth's leading businessmen.

In 1775, Salter headed a committee that developed plans for fortifying Portsmouth Harbor. After some success as a privateering captain, he was put in command of 90 men at the new Fort Washington on Peirce Island in Portsmouth. In March 1776, Salter wrote to the authorities:

I have posted a guard on Fort Point at New Castle, with orders frequently to go to the top of the lighthouse, observe and report any ships sailing toward this port.

In the summer of 1779 Salter served as captain of the ship *Hampden* during the Penobscot Expedition, an attempt to take back control of Maine's Castine Peninsula from the British. The campaign failed miserably and is remembered as the nation's worst naval defeat.

Salter was put in charge of Fort William and Mary in New Castle beginning in 1786, which also meant he was in charge of the original (1771) Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. Salter lived in Portsmouth, about two miles from the fort and lighthouse. Salter delegated the day-to-day care of the lighthouse to one of the soldiers at the fort, Elias Tarlton. In November 1789, President George Washington visited Portsmouth. He noted in his diary:

From hence I went by the old Fort (formerly built under the English government) on an island which is at the entrance to the harbour, and where the lighthouse stands. As we passed this fort we were saluted by 13 guns.

In March 1790, Salter entered into a contract with the State of New Hampshire spelling out his duties as commander of the fort and keeper of the lighthouse. During this period, the State of New Hampshire paid for the fish oil and cotton wicking needed to keep the lighthouse in operation.

A federal lighthouse establishment was set up in 1789, and the states gradually ceded management of their lighthouses to the U.S. Treasury Department. The light station and adjacent fort in New Castle were ceded to the federal government in February 1791. On May 5, the local customs collector, Joseph Whipple, wrote to Salter:

You are hereby requested to continue the same mode of attendance as when you were employed under the State. You will see that the Glass of the Lanthorn is kept clean at all times, that the pan containing the oil is duly supplied to the use, but such as shall appear to you of a good quality, and you will pay particular attention to the Snuffing of the Wicks & see that no wick is used but such as is of a proper Size to afford the best light, and in every respect it is expected that you will fulfill the terms Specified in your Contract for Supplying and Attending said Light House.

A fire broke out in the lantern in late 1791, during the first trial of whale oil in place of fish oil. The fire, which was caused by the oil itself catching fire, broke the lantern glass. New lamps suited to whale oil were installed in 1793, along with proper ventilators. Previously, the lack of ventilation in the lantern had caused the light to be dimmed by the nightly accumulation soot on the lantern glass.

In 1793, President Washington ordered that the light be maintained at all times, with a keeper living on site. There was no proper housing for a keeper at the fort, and Salter refused the keeper's position under the new requirements. David Duncan took over as keeper in June 1793.

Salter and his wife, Elizabeth (Bickford), had ten children. Elizabeth Salter died in 1776. Titus Salter died in Portsmouth in September 1798.