



# The Bay Run



Newsletter of  
The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers  
and Friends Association, Inc.

Volume 18 Issue 8  
Spring 2014

"Our mission is to preserve the history of the  
Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their Keepers"

## IN THE BEGINNING...

*...there was the Pharos Lighthouse in Alexandria, Egypt.*



*Pharos of Alexandria*

This story begins with the founding of the city of Alexandria by the Macedonian conqueror Alexander the Great in 332 BC. Most of the cities named by Alexander disappeared but Alexandria thrived for many centuries and is prosperous even today. The Pharos Lighthouse, named one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, was constructed of white marble and stood at the eastern tip of the island. It was the prototype of lighthouses the world over and has lent its name to denote "lighthouse" in several languages becoming the generic term for a lighthouse.

This lighthouse, the Pharos of Alexandria, was the first known lighthouse and stood for 1600 years on the coast of Egypt. It was built on the island of Pharos to guide ships into the busy harbor of Alexandria. More than 350' high, the only taller man made structure at that time was the pyramids of Giza. According to records, it was built in 3 stages all sloping inward. The first stage was square, the second octagonal and the top cylindrical.

A broad spiral ramp led to the top where a fire burned at night. There was a large carved mirror, perhaps made of polished bronze, to project the fire's light into a beam, allowing ships to detect the light from the tower at night or the smoke from the fire during the day, up to one hundred miles away. There were also stories that this mirror could be used as a weapon to concentrate the sun and set enemy ships ablaze as they approached. The Pharos of Alexandria is the best known of the lighthouses of antiquity. Considered by the ancients as an architectural "wonder", it was reportedly destroyed by an earthquake about 1350 AD.

In 1994 a team of archaeological divers were thought to have found remnants of the Pharos. Tourists with diving gear are invited to swim amongst the remains of the great Pharos lighthouse often wondering what it would have been like to have climbed the ancient structure thousands of years ago.

The **Colossus of Rhodes**, another structure listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, was constructed on the Greek Island of Rhodes. It was a statue of the Greek Titan Helios and was erected in 280 BC, standing over 98.4 feet high making it one of the tallest statues in the ancient world. The records, which differ quite a bit, have this statue placed on a breakwater in the Rhodes harbor. It is believed that dirt was piled up as the building of the statue progressed and removed once it was completed. It took twelve years to complete.

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**Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.**



The winter of 2013 – 2014 can't end soon enough for me. It's time to think about warm weather and venturing outside once again. There has been too much snow and cold weather this year.

Our meeting in Anglesea was a great way to spend a winter's day. It was great seeing everyone and learning about all the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse Keepers from our guest speaker, Steve Murray. After the meeting, we walked over to the firehouse museum where we saw an antique fire wagon. The wagon, used in this area, was not pulled by horses but by the firemen themselves. It has been restored to its original state right down to the bell. It makes one think--just how good were those "good ol' days"!

All our boat trips to the Delaware Bay lights are set for 2014. There will be four cruises: two sunset cruises and two moonlight cruises. One cruise will be going out to Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse again this year. The one to Harbor will be five hours long because of the additional distance. The others will last about four hours. We always have a great time. I hope you will try to attend at least one cruise. It is well worth your time.

The rest of our planned events will be scheduled and posted in the Bay Run and on our Web Site (Delawarebaylightkeeper-friend.org). Keep your eyes open for these fun times.

Remember the organization is only as strong as its members and we need each and every one of you to be involved. This is your organization and we need you.

***Till then, keep the lights shining. Angelo***

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*The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. (DBLHKFA)  
is a 501(c)(3) non-profit preservation and educational organization.*



It looks like we are in for another busy year...our regular meetings and speakers, the cruises, trips, the out-reaches for Maritime Days in June, the National Lighthouse Day in August, and the Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey in October all spent at Hereford Light. As usual we can use all the help we can get for these various events.

We got off to a great start at a well attended January meeting with our good friends from Hereford Light at the Anglesea Fire House. The presentation celebrated the 140th birthday of Hereford Inlet Lighthouse.

Steve Murray did his usual great job relating the history of Hereford's keepers. Giving biographical information and interesting tidbits about the keepers, he began the history with the



first keeper who served in 1874, and continued through the tenth and last keeper at Hereford assigned in 1960. After that the new keepers were members of the Coast Guard from Base Cape May who performed routine maintenance to the light. The honorary Keeper is now Peter Harp, who dressed in his 19th century uniform, gives tours of the lighthouse. Harp was introduced and entertained us by singing several sea chanteys while playing the banjo.

Katie and I kicked off the New Year at Lewes, DE where, with our friends, the Coyles, we went to see the anchor lowered at midnight from the main mast to the deck of the Overfalls Lightship. It's just like Times Square but without the mob! A few hundred people attended the third year of this celebration. It was fun with hot chocolate and fire pits to help keep everybody warm.

Don't forget to bring a friend or neighbor to our meetings and other events. Spread the word!!



*Continued from Page 1*

## IN THE BEGINNING...



*Colossus of Rhodes*

in the late 19th century thought the Colossus looked like. It is referenced in the plaque located inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty:

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch...

(from "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus)

There are many stories as to the structure of this statue. One is that this Colossus straddled the harbor of Rhodes. Many illustrations show the statue with one foot on either side of the harbor with ships passing under it. Other illustrations depict the Colossus standing with both feet on a pedestal. The mechanics of the situation reveal that the Colossus could not have straddled the harbor since the building of it would have effectively closed the entire mouth of the harbor during construction. The Rhodians would not have had the means of dredging and reopening the harbor after construction. The statue was made entirely of bronze and it could not have been built with its legs apart without collapsing from its own weight. This light was also felled by an earthquake in 224 BC. Media reports in 1989 suggested that large stones found on the seabed off the coast might have been the remains of the Colossus; however this theory was later shown to be without merit.

The design, posture and dimensions of our Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor is based on what engineers





*by Peggy Stapleford*  
*Activities/Program Chair*

**Sunday, April 13, 2014** - Annual Keepers Spring Banquet to be held at the new Sea Isle City Yacht Club. Please check banquet reservation form

enclosed. Guest speaker: Mike Horan, Retired Oceanography teacher, Ocean City High School, Ocean City, NJ; participant in the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, NJ Topic: "Environmental and Ecological Effect on Sea Life". Hope to see you there. The meeting will begin at noon, banquet at 1 PM and speaker's presentation at 2 PM.

**Saturday, June 7** - Bay Day at Bivalve, NJ Come out, browse around, sample delicious seafood, learn about the Bay and enjoy!!

**Saturday & Sunday, June 21 & 22** - Maritime Days at Hereford Inlet Light, Anglesea, NJ. Visit the concession stands, eat, take in the ocean breeze and enjoy the atmosphere. Volunteers needed.

**Summer Meeting** - Date and location TBA



**Saturday, July 12** - Delaware Bay Lighthouse Moonlight Cruise, Ship John Shoal and South; for more information call: (856) 825-0123 or (609) 884-1329

**Sunday, July 20** - Delaware Bay Sunset Cruise, Brandywine and North

**Thursday, August 7** - National Lighthouse Day celebrations at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, Anglesea, NJ. Come out to enjoy the presentations and festivities. Volunteers needed.

**Saturday, August 9** - Delaware Bay Lighthouse Moonlight Cruise, Harbor of Refuge and North

**Sunday, August 24** - Delaware Bay Lighthouse Sunset Cruise, Ship John and South

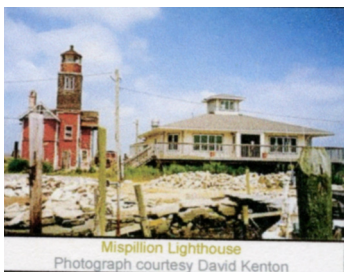
**Saturday, October** - Fall meeting; place TBA

**Saturday & Sunday, October 18 & 19** - New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge. We will again be taking part in the Challenge by participating at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse in Anglesea, NJ. Volunteers needed as always.

**Saturday, January 15, 2015** - Winter meeting; place TBA

## RESEARCHING MISPELLION LIGHTHOUSE (Continued from Winter Newsletter)

**"And, now, the rest of the story..."** From 1877 on, this area continued to be bat-



Mispillion Lighthouse  
 Photograph courtesy David Kenton

tered by wind and water. Stone, earth and wood were used in an attempt to preserve the land, protect the lighthouse and fend off Mother Nature in general. In December of 1929, Mispillion Lighthouse was deactivated and replaced by a 60 foot steel skeleton tower which had once served in 1924 at Cape Henlopen. The lighthouse and most of the land around it was sold to private individuals in 1932. After being sold several times and greatly neglected, in 1991 the property was eventually purchased by Galen and Eileen Stauffer. In January of 1992, a storm surge of

8 feet washed the tackle shop and restaurant a mile inland. Amazingly the lighthouse was not moved. The couple repaired the marina and built a large restaurant but it was not a profitable endeavor. At that time the lighthouse was in bad shape, just a shadow of its former self.

A local lawyer, Merritt "Sam" Burke bought the property in 2001, hoping to work in conjunction with The Keepers of the Mispillion Light, a local group who had begun to restore the lighthouse. But in April of 2002, problems arose between Burke and the locals concerning a dispute over zoning of a nearby fort owned by Burke. It seems they just could not work together. On May 2, 2002, lightning struck the tower causing a lot of damage. Soon after that, the remains of the lighthouse



Mispillion Light in 2006

mysteriously disappeared.

It was shortly after that Sally and John Freeman stepped forward to say that they had worked out a deal with the Sam Burke family. The plan was to obtain the remains of the lighthouse and incorporate them into a modern, expanded lighthouse with an updated lantern costing \$53,000. The lighthouse remains would be moved to a lot recently purchased by them in Ship Carpenter Square in Lewes, DE. There has been at least one open house on the site since the reconstruction.

Mispillion was Delaware's last standing wooden framed lighthouse. It's great that there is now a replica, a reminder of what was once there, even though it turned out differently than The Keepers of The Mispillion could have imagined. Mispillion Lighthouse Keepers through the years were: 1873 – 1881 James H. Bell; 1881 – 1896 Henry B. Spencer; 1896 – 1911 Walter P. Graham.

Plan a visit to Ship Carpenter Square the next time you visit Lewes. Be sure to send us some pictures.

(NOTE: "The old skeletal tower still remains near the mouth of the Mispillion River. The Burke family sold the site to the State of Delaware in 2004 for \$1.2 million. This area is run by the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control and has been developed into a research center for the study of horseshoe crabs." Kraig)

References: *Historic American Engineering Record for Mispillion Lighthouse; Forney, Gowdy, Kenton, Ruth, and Trapani; et al.*



## CRUISE NEWS FOR SUMMER OF 2014

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2014 Cruises to the Lighthouses of the Delaware Bay have been scheduled for the following SUNDAYS: July 20 and August 24. The July 20 cruise will go to Brandywine in the lower Delaware Bay. This 4 hour sunset cruise will leave the dock in Fortescue, NJ at 4:30 PM. The 4 hour August 24 sunset cruise will leave the dock at 3:30 PM going north in the Bay to Ship John Shoal. The SATURDAY NIGHT MOONLIGHT CRUISES are scheduled for: July 12 leaving at 4:30 PM (Ship John Shoal and south = 4 hours) and August 9 leaving at 3:00 PM (Harbor of Refuge and Delaware Breakwater = 5 hours). All cruises take place aboard the Bonanza II out of the New Jersey State Marina (Higbee's –slip #5). RESERVE SOON --CRUISES FILL UP QUICKLY!!

Cost for the cruises will be \$40 for adults and \$20 for children under 12 years of age. Passengers must be at the dock at least one half hour before departure time. Lighthouses visited are: Miah Maull, Cross Ledge, Elbow of Cross Ledge, Fourteen Foot Bank and either Brandywine or Ship John. You are asked to bring bug spray (just in case), a jacket and a box lunch if you wish. Soda and water are provided.

For reservations please contact: Elma Gardner (856) 825-0123, e-mail: [elmagardner@verizon.net](mailto:elmagardner@verizon.net); OR Darlene Rigazio (609) 884-1329, e-mail: [darlenej50@yahoo.com](mailto:darlenej50@yahoo.com). Checks (payable to DBLHKFA) are NOT deposited until after the cruise; if the cruise is cancelled due to inclement weather, your check will be returned. We must have home & cell phone numbers for you in case of a cancellation OR you can call any of the above numbers. Refunds WILL NOT be made if you DO NOT let us know you WILL NOT be there. Payment is due 2 weeks BEFORE the cruise, checks can be mailed to: Maxine Mulligan, Treasurer, 1049 Simca Terrace, Vineland, NJ 08360.

There are former lighthouse keepers and members of the coast guard aboard these cruises to narrate and answer your questions. Background information and the history of each lighthouse will be given. Photographers will have an excellent opportunity to get beautiful pictures. Spend a "Day (or night) on the Bay"; it will be a pleasant, rewarding, educational experience.

## "CROSSED OVER THE BAR"

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*"For Though from out our boundary of Time and Place The flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face When I have crossed the bar."* (Alfred Lord Tennyson)

**PAUL BRADLEY**, of Wilton Manors, FL passed away on January 19, 2014. He was an illustrator and lighthouse artist and provided our founder and organization with many lighthouse illustrations. Paul was an honorary member of our organization who will long be remembered for his generosity and his talent. He will truly be missed by all of us.

**PAUL VERNON PEIRSON, JR.**, passed away on Saturday, March 1, 2014 at his residence in West Grove, PA. He was the husband of Linda Peirson, with whom he shared 40 years of marriage. They are both long time members of our association. Paul retired in 2007 from the automotive industry where he had worked for 40 years. Remembered as a gentleman with a great sense of humor, determination and a ready smile, we will miss him greatly.



Belated birthday greetings to Absecon Lighthouse celebrating "157 Years Young" on January 18. Hereford Inlet Light is currently celebrating its 140th birthday.

Sandy Hook Light is celebrating its 250th Anniversary on June 14. The light was first lit on June 11, 1764. AND...it's a 50th Anniversary for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry!

Congratulations to our VP Bill Geilfuss for his photographs selected to appear on the 2014 NJLS Calendar. Thanks to Bill Geilfuss, Peggy Stapleford and Rod Mulligan for pictures appearing in this issue.

Did you know?? In 1915 the US Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

HEREFORD ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE FUND RAISER will be held on Saturday, April 26, 6:30 PM at the Wildwood Country Club. Come out for an evening of music, dining and dancing. Cost \$75 per person. Open bar. All proceeds profit the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. For reservations call Hereford (609) 522-9520. The theme this year will be honoring the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May.

WEB SITE STATISTICS: Kelly Mulligan reported we had over 7,000 visitors to our web site in 2013. January, April and June were the busiest months. Most people viewing were from the US and Canada. The majority downloaded the newsletter and viewed the information on the lighthouses, calendar and newsletter. Thanks, Kelly, for a job well done.

As Oprah says: "Everyone has a story". If you have any information you would like to share with us about your time in the Coast Guard or experiences on a lighthouse or lightship, please submit them to The Editor at 1049 Simca Terrace, Vineland, NJ 08360 or e-mail them to: Memax1@juno.com I am always looking for interesting items for the Newsletter. Thanks.

## CAPE MAY-LEWES FERRY SOLD



The Delaware River and Bay Authority found a buyer for the Cape May Ferry, a mothballed ferry boat, but will sell it at a loss. The new owner has plans to convert the vessel into an oceangoing barge that, among other things, can cater to the evolving offshore wind industry. The barge would not have motor power but would be towed to work sites. This 320 foot long by 68 feet wide platform will be used to deliver parts and components to service the windmills. The new owner said that there are no large barges like this anywhere in the region.

The "Cape May" has been idle for four years and was only used when a fourth boat was needed or one of the other three smaller vessels was out of service. It had been for sale since 2007. Another Cape May-Lewes Ferry, the "Twin Capes", was put up for sale in 2010. The "New Jersey" will be celebrating 50 years in service July 1 of this year.

## JANUARY WINTER MEETING



*Members & guests listening to presentation*



*Plaque presented to Steve Murray of  
Hereford Inlet Lighthouse.*

*Left to right: Angelo Rigazio, President; Paul DeFillipio,  
Official from Hereford Light & The Anglesea Fire Compnay;  
Elizabeth Mugnier, Manager of Hereford Light;  
Diane Magiure & Steve Murray, Chairperson of Friends of  
Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, Inc., displaying plaque*



*Steve Murray discussing former  
Hereford Lighthouse Keepers*



*Peter Harp, Honorary Keeper of  
Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, providing  
some sea chanteys for our entertainment*

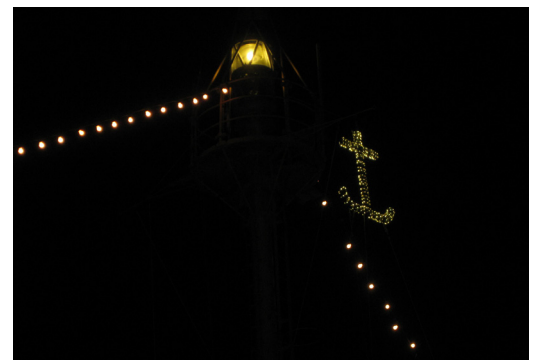


*Steve Murray accepting our  
donation*



*Original fire apparatus on display*

*Overfalls Lightship anchor falling  
to welcome 2014 New Year.*







*Bivalve, NJ*



*Cruise anyone?*



*Creek at Beaver Dam*



*Delaware Bay*



*Ice around pilings at Fortescue Creek*



*Ice along pier at Fortescue*



*Maurice River*



*AJ Meerwald tucked in for the Winter*