



# PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHT STATION

4931 South Peninsula Drive • Ponce Inlet, Florida 32127  
www.ponceinlet.org • www.poncelighthousestore.org  
(386) 761-1821 • lighthouse@ponceinlet.org

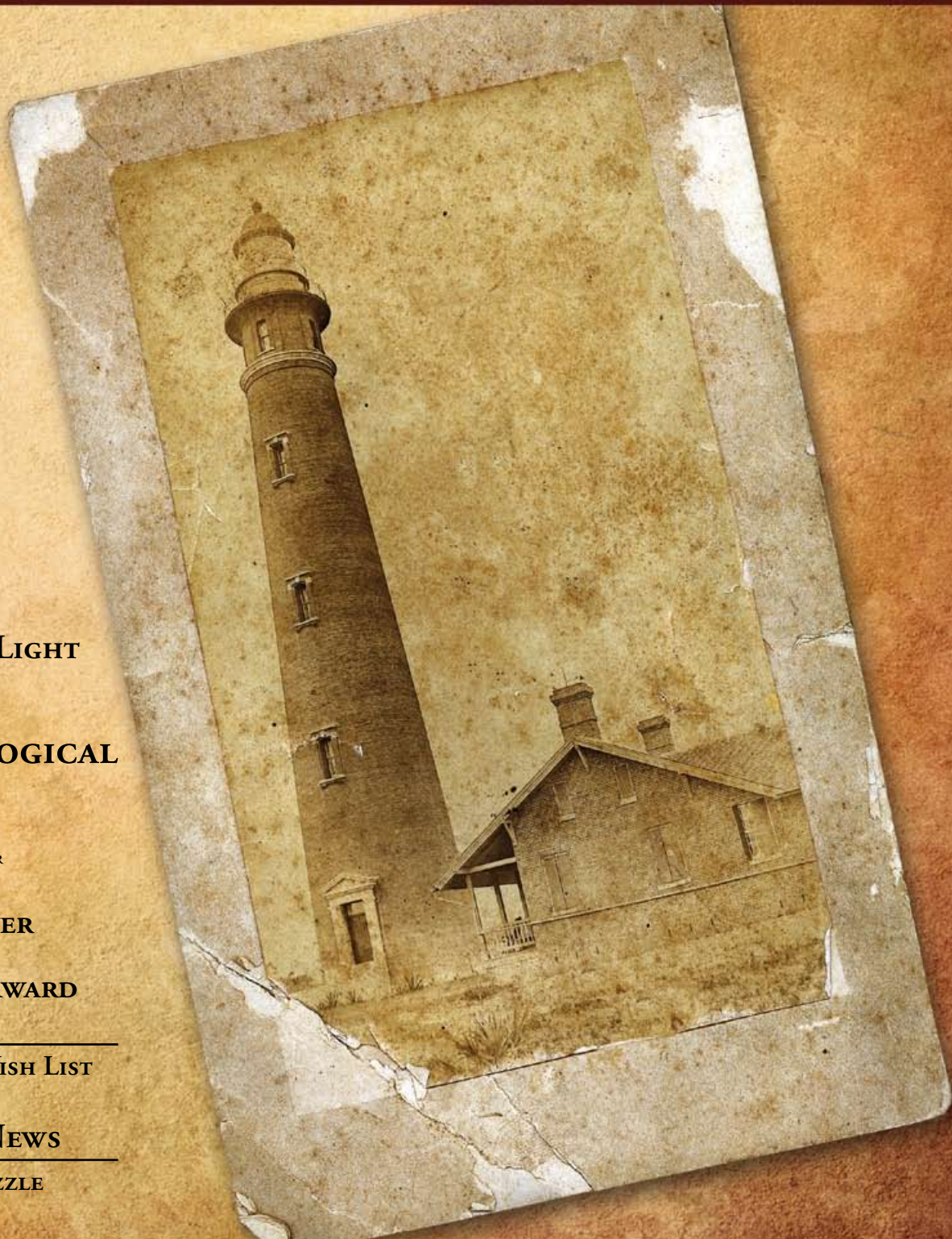
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE







We are pleased to announce that the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse received the fourth and final installment of the Cycle 18 General Operating Support Grant awarded for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The

Association would like to convey its sincere thanks to the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, for their continued support of the Light Station through the Historic Museums Grants-in-Aid Program. This state funded program provided General Operating Support funds to historic and cultural sites throughout Florida.

We would also like to thank our many advocates in both the public and private sector for writing letters of support which were used in the Cycle 18 and pending Cycle 19 grant applications. With your assistance we successfully defended our application for continued general operating support and were approved for operational support funding for the upcoming 2007-2008 fiscal year.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who have dedicated so much of their personal time to the continued success of the Light Station's educational programming and tours. The Association recently hosted a wonderful volunteer appreciation dinner at the Palmetto Club to recognize the invaluable contributions of these volunteers to the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station. Details related to this special event and other important volunteer activities can be found in the Volunteer and Education article featured in this newsletter.

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station is happy to announce that the new World War II at the Light Station exhibit was successfully unveiled on April 20th. This wonderful addition to the museum was designed by Curator Ellen Henry and constructed by our maintenance staff. Despite inclement weather, the grand opening was a great success and included our first ham radio broadcast which could not have occurred without the assistance of volunteers Allen Bestwick, George Kangas, Paul Milward, and Gene Greneker. We invite all of our readers to come

visit this new and exciting addition to the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station and read more about this interesting period in the Light Station's history online at [www.ponceinlet.org](http://www.ponceinlet.org).

The Association is proud to announce that several new educational outreach projects will be unveiled in the months to come. Curator Ellen Henry has worked long hours these past months developing our new Filibustering to Cuba traveling exhibit. Featuring text panels, artifacts, and accompanying teacher resources pertaining to the Spanish American War, Stephen Crane, Yellow Journalism, and American filibustering expeditions to Cuba in the late 1800s. This new exhibit will be made available to local educational facilities and schools.

The second outreach project scheduled for unveiling this fall was developed by Historian Mike Bennett with assistance from Volusia County educational specialists. Consisting of a reproduction U.S.L.H.E. library box containing lighthouse themed books, educational materials, videos, DVDs, and artwork, the new travelling library will be made available to Volusia County schools free of charge.

We hope everyone enjoys our newly expanded quarterly newsletter. We welcome your feedback and suggestions regarding the new format and newsletter content. Those wishing to contact us may do so by emailing Historian/Project Manager Mike Bennett at [mbennett@ponceinlet.org](mailto:mbennett@ponceinlet.org). We appreciate your continued support and hope to see you all again at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Ann Caneer*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

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The Light Station is published quarterly by the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, Inc.

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

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

July 11, 2007 Budget, Finance, and Endowment  
Fund Committee Meeting

July 16, 2007 Board of Trustees Meeting and  
Quarterly Membership Meeting

Aug. 20, 2007 Board of Trustees Meeting

Sept. 17, 2007 Board of Trustees Meeting

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE GIFT SHOP  
CONFERENCE ROOM



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**Racing's North Turn**  
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## LIGHTHOUSE EVENTS JULY–SEPTEMBER 2007

**JULY 4 (WED)**  
10:00AM – 3:00PM

### INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

Participate in family activities and listen to live entertainment. Included with regular admission, no advance reservations required.

**JULY 5 (THURS)**  
10:00AM – 4:00PM

### RACING FANS FAMILY DAY

Participate in family activities, take a tour, enjoy new lighthouse exhibits, participate in turn of the century kid's activities, and listen to live entertainment. Included with regular admission, no advance reservations required.

**JULY 14, 21  
& 28 (SAT)**

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FROM  
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

### CANAVERAL LENS DEMONSTRATION

Join our old-time lighthouse keepers as they talk about the history of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and demonstrate their maintenance duties on the 1st Order Fresnel Lens. Included with regular admission, no advance reservations required.

**AUG 7 (TUES)**  
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FROM  
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

### NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY

Enjoy family oriented workshops, live entertainment, and special events. Children can participate in turn of the century activities. All special activities are included with regular admission. No advance reservations required.

**SEPT 11  
(TUES)**  
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FROM  
8:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

### 9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial service for the victims of 9-11. The Lighthouse grounds and tower will be open to the public at no charge during this time.

**SEPT 15 (SAT)**  
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FROM  
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

### FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY

Enjoy family oriented workshops, activities and demonstrations. Learn about Florida's many lighthouses and enjoy live entertainment. All special events are included with regular admission, no advance reservations required.

## LIGHTHOUSE HOURS

### 2007 SUMMER HOURS OF OPERATION

**JULY 1, 2007 – SEPTEMBER 3, 2007**

Open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. (last admission at 8:00)

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2007 – MAY 27, 2008**

Open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. (last admission at 5:00)



# WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS, PIONEER KEEPER

William H. Williams was one of four sons sired by true Florida pioneers. Born in either Georgia or North Carolina near the turn of the eighteenth century, William Henry Williams journeyed to Florida with his parents, Samuel and Ana Maria Williams, and his uncle Wm. Williams, in 1803. Generous Spanish land grants made possible by the Royal Order of 1790 offered land in Florida to foreigners willing to swear allegiance to Spain and convert to Catholicism. Samuel and Wm. Williams soon established large plantations along the Halifax and Hillsborough (now Indian) Rivers.

Samuel Williams was granted 3,200 acres approximately ten miles north of Mosquito (now Ponce) Inlet in exchange for his oath of loyalty to Spain.

1803 SPANISH LAND GRANT SURVEY OF SAMUEL WILLIAMS' 3,200 ACRE ESTATE ON THE HALIFAX RIVER NOW LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN DAYTONA BEACH.

Stretching west from the river bank, this large plantation was located between Bay Street and Wilder Avenue in the heart of present-day Daytona Beach. Aided greatly by slave labor, Samuel Williams cleared vast tracks of virgin forest, used cut timber to construct a manor house, service buildings, and slave quarters, and cultivated a variety of crops including rice, cotton, and sugarcane. Goods and equipment were transported between the river and fields via a system of plantation roads, the longest of which connected Williams' home on the west bank of the Halifax to his rice fields near present-day Campbell Middle School. This historic roadway, the city's oldest thoroughfare, was renamed Loomis Avenue in honor of the son of Daytona's founder, Matthias Day.

Fifteen miles south of the Orange Grove Plantation, Wm. Williams established his own estate on 2,200 acres situated between the Hillsborough River and Turnbull Creek. Although considered expansive by today's standards, Williams felt that the land grant was insufficient for his needs. Hoping to rectify the situation, he petitioned the Spanish government

for additional lands in 1804, claiming that he possessed too many slaves for only 2000+ acres. The Spanish approved his request and granted him an additional 2,020 acres on the St. Johns River which he named Spring Garden. Leaving three of his brother's sons (including William H. Williams) to manage his New Smyrna estate, Wm. Williams dedicated himself to the cultivation of the new land grant which would later be renamed Deleon Springs.

Accustomed to the luxuries of today, it is difficult to imagine the hardships faced by most of the region's early settlers. Dominated by mosquito infested swamps and dense forests, the Florida peninsula was a difficult environment in which to live. Hostile Native Americans, injury, and diseases such as cholera and yellow fever were sources of constant danger for the early pioneers and sent many to an early grave.

William, Abner, and William Henry Williams became the sole heirs of both the Spring Garden and New Smyrna plantations following the death of Wm. Williams in 1808. The brothers continued to manage the two estates for the next four years, dividing their time between the two locations until 1812 when ongoing regional conflict, Indian attacks, and the Patriots War forced them to leave Florida. Forced to abandon their plantation at New Smyrna and leave Spring Garden in the care of a half-blood Seminole named Burges, the three brothers would not return to east central Florida for nearly a decade.

Samuel Williams died in 1813 shortly after the three brothers departed for Georgia. Although his will clearly identified his four sons as the rightful heirs to the Orange Grove Plantation, his widow quickly petitioned the Spanish government for control of her late husband's estate despite existing Spanish laws that forbid women from owning property. With the aid of Joseph M. Hernandez, a prominent St. Augustine lawyer to whom she would later be married, Ana Maria Hill succeeded in securing her claim in 1817. Aided by Hernandez's already considerable wealth, the Orange Grove Plantation underwent a period of intense improvement and was soon added to his list of valuable properties, making him one of the wealthiest and most influential land owners in the region.

Returning to the Halifax area following the United States' acquisition of Florida in 1821, William H. Williams settled on a portion of the old New Smyrna plantation. Like many other land owners of that time, William may have accumulated a high debt as a result of the high cost associated with running a plantation. Although it is not known, this type of financial need may have forced

William to sell his one third share of the Spring Garden Plantation to an associate from Georgia named Joseph Woodruff in 1823.

Continuing to manage his New Smyrna plantation, William H. Williams became active in local politics and fathered several children with his wife Fanny throughout the following decade. Dual appointments as a Justice of the



ARTIST'S RENDITION OF THE 1835 MOSQUITO INLET LIGHTHOUSE AS IT WOULD HAVE APPEARED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MOSQUITO INLET.

Peace and Notary Public for Mosquito County between 1833 and 1835 made him one of the county's first professional public servants, an occupation he would continue to pursue for many years.

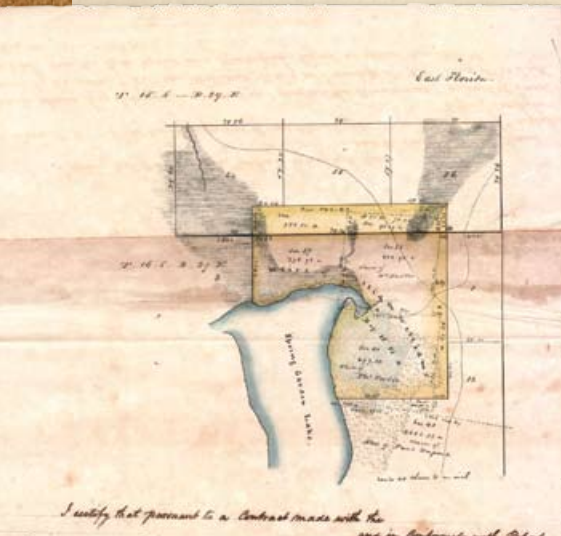
Appointed Keeper of the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse on March 10, 1885, William H. Williams sold his property in New Smyrna and moved both his family and servants to the small light station situated on the south side of Mosquito Inlet. Designed and built by Winslow Lewis, the poor quality of the lighthouse and surrounding buildings quickly became evident. Williams wrote his supervisor in St. Augustine on numerous occasions and their ongoing correspondence quickly generated a lengthy list of building flaws that brought the integrity of its chief designer into question. Williams was preparing to correct these discrepancies when a violent storm struck the inlet on October 21, 1835.



ELIZABETH ANN WILLIAMS, SISTER OF WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS AND DAUGHTER OF SAMUEL WILLIAMS.

Serving on a grand jury in St. Augustine at the time, Williams soon learned of the storm's impact on Mosquito Inlet. Upon returning, he found the light station in a state of near devastation. In a letter penned on November 4, 1885 to John Rodman, Superintendent of Lighthouses in St. Augustine, Williams wrote "I returned to Mosquito and found myself a beggar having lost everything in the house, my wife and children narrowly escaping with their lives. Where the house stood is now a beach, the tide flowing over the spot where it formally was. The Lighthouse is standing but in a very perilous way and it is more than probable that it will fall by the first high tide or N.E. wind."

Homeless and fearful for his family's safety due to growing tensions between



THIS 1830 TERRITORIAL SURVEY CONFIRMED THE SPANISH LAND GRANT AWARDED TO THE HEIRS OF Wm. WILLIAMS AT SPRING GARDEN (NOW DELEON SPRINGS)



THIS SPANISH DOCUMENT GRANTED OWNERSHIP OF THE ORANGE GROVE PLANTATION TO ANNA MARIA HILL, WIDOW OF SAMUEL WILLIAMS AND WIFE OF JOSEPH M. HERNANDEZ.



the U.S. Government and Seminole Indians, Williams moved his family into the home of his stepfather, Florida Militia General Joseph Hernandez, 50 miles to the north. Despite the distance, Williams retained his position as Keeper of Mosquito Lighthouse and continued to pursue approval for emergency repairs until the outbreak of the Second Seminole War put all such plans on hold. Left to weather the elements in its damaged state and subject to continued



GEN. JOSEPH M. HERNANDEZ PROVIDED REFUGE TO HIS STEPSON WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS AND SERVED AS COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE FLORIDA TERRITORIAL MILITIA DURING THE SECOND SEMINOLE WAR.

beach erosion, the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse finally collapsed on April 23, 1836.

The Second Seminole War, which began in December, 1835, had a devastating effect on Florida's growing agricultural industry. Under the leadership of such men as Coacoochie (the Wildcat), plantation settlements throughout Mosquito County were attacked and destroyed. Like his father and uncle who had served in the British militia during the

Massacre of the Whites by the Indians and Blacks in Florida.



NEWSPAPER ILLUSTRATIONS SUCH AS THIS WERE PRINTED DURING THE SECOND SEMINOLE WAR. THE GRAPHIC AND ONE-SIDED NATURE OF THE ILLUSTRATION WAS DESIGNED TO ILLICIT ANGER FROM THE WHITE COMMUNITY

Revolutionary War, William H. Williams joined a band of citizen soldiers from the Hillsborough and Halifax River area called the Mosquito Roarers.

Serving as a lieutenant under the command of Major Benjamin Putnam, William H. Williams participated in many battles during the Second Seminole War, including the Battle of Dunlawton from which he earned some notoriety. Lieutenant Williams was one of the men under Putnam's command when he came ashore at Dunlawton Plantation on January 17, 1836. Hoping to surprise a band of Seminoles who were rumored to be in the area, the soldiers soon found themselves outgunned and outflanked with their backs to Halifax River. Knowing that escape was the only option, Major Putnam ordered his men to their boats.



SEMINOLE INDIAN WARRIORS HIDE FROM U.S. SOLDIERS WHO ARRIVE TOO LATE TO PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF NEW SMYRNA AND OTHER SETTLEMENTS ALONG THE HALIFAX AND INDIAN RIVERS.

Lt. William H. Williams, in a final act of defiance, turned his backside to the approaching Seminoles and dropped his trousers before heading to his boat. The response from the enemy was immediate. All the fire from the Seminole warriors seemed to turn his direction as his trousers hung about his ankles and a spent musket ball found its mark. One can only assume that the pain suffered as a result of the ensuing wound was as great as that suffered upon his ego with the subsequent retelling of the event in the days to come.

The Second Seminole War would continue until 1842, leaving much of the territory in shambles and crippling the region's agricultural industry for several decades. One unknown reporter wrote of the war, "the whole of the country south of St. Augustine had been laid to waste, not a building of any value was left standing and all has been burnt to the ground."

As peace and stability were once again restored, the question of statehood became a heated topic of debate. William H. Williams, always the public servant, was elected to represent Mosquito County in the Florida Legislative Council which had been tasked with writing the first Florida Constitution, a necessary step towards petitioning for statehood.

In the years that followed, William H. Williams continued his long tradition of public service and remained a Representative of Mosquito County until 1842 when he was voted out of office. Filing a claim for 160 acres along the Hillsborough River, Williams moved back to New Smyrna in 1843 and began all over again. With the help of slave labor, 40 acres of land were cleared for cultivation and a new home for his wife and 5 children erected. Elected as the first sheriff of the newly formed Orange County (which included the Halifax River area at the time) in 1845, William Henry Williams held this final public position less than 6 months before passing away only a stone's throw from his childhood home.

RUINS SUCH AS THOSE AT THE BULOW PLANTATION STATE PARK ARE FASCINATING REMINDERS OF THE HALIFAX AREA'S VIOLENT AND TRAGIC PAST



## LIGHTHOUSES OF THE WORLD

### WEST POINT LIGHT

Located on the southwestern tip of Prince Edward Island in the Canadian Maritime Provinces, the West Point Lighthouse is one of the tallest and most unique black and white towers on the island. Constructed in 1875, the West Point Lighthouse consists of a two-story keeper's dwelling attached to a 67-foot square pyramidal wood tower topped with a red lantern room. The tower's flashing white light was first lit on May 21, 1876, and remained a manned aid to navigation until 1963 when the last keeper retired.

As the first lighthouse built by the federal government on the Island, West Point Light is associated with the transfer of responsibility for aids to navigation from the colonial government to the new Federal Department of Marine. Canadian wooden framed lighthouses generally exhibited tapered octagonal, hexagonal or square forms. The square design of West Point Lighthouse, which came into vogue in the late 1860's, is generally associated with the changeover from colonial to federal control.

Although the tower's 2-story keeper's house was demolished in 1963 following the automation of its lantern, it has since been reconstructed based on its original 1875 plans. In addition to being an early example of a new Canadian lighthouse design, the station has several unusual features, including a rather formal entranceway, and centrally placed windows in each facade.

Of particular architectural interest are the first two floors of the tower, which are subdivided and plastered to create additional living space for the keepers. A dumbwaiter also exists that was once used for transporting oil to the lamp on the fourth floor. Running through the center of the tower, from the first story to the top, is a long shaft that once housed the weights which operated the clockwork mechanism for the rotating beacon.

Restored in 1982, the station now offers overnight accommodations and includes a restaurant as well as a museum. It continues as an active aid to navigation managed by the West Point Development Corporation.



Copyright Kelly Arine Loughery



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Archaeological investigations are ongoing at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Almost every time we dig a hole or work underneath one of our historic buildings, artifacts are found. Sometimes, it's as easy as looking in the undergrowth and finding an old bottle just lying on the surface. Over the past few years, we have found so many items that it seemed time to have a professional archaeological survey of the entire Light Station.

After interviewing three different consulting firms, we selected New South Associates, located in St. Augustine. Dr. Greg Smith, the Principal Investigator and Florida Branch Manager for New South, had already conducted a survey of the St. Augustine Light Station, and this experience made him the ideal choice for the job. Dr. Smith told us that even though a number of lighthouses have been recorded as archaeological sites during the process of listing sites on the National Register of Historic Places, most have not been the focus of archaeological testing or excavation. Our project would be fairly unique.

Our goals for undertaking this survey were many. A number of important documents concerning Light Station history are missing. The keeper's logs from 1887-1898 were destroyed in a fire. A portion of the logs from 1907 are also missing, and the Coast Guard's Light Station logs from 1945-1947 and 1949-1953 have yet to be located. There are very few documents, letters, stories, and diaries about the lives of the women and children who lived here. We hoped to unearth more information about daily life, including evidence of how everyone spent their time, what they ate, and what objects they used most often, what they carried in their pockets, what they wore, and how they worked and played.

We also hoped to discover more about how Light Station land was used. Were trash pits dug anywhere, or were they confined to a certain area? Was garbage burned or just buried? Were there remains of wells or drain fields or early electrical and plumbing lines? Could we find evidence of the temporary buildings that were constructed to house workers and supplies prior to the building of the Station? Would evidence of the tramway from the river to the tower, used to help move supplies to the construction site, be found? Would there be remains of the various radio antennas used in the Coast Guard years? Were certain areas of the property used more



A TRAMWAY WITH A MULE-DRAWN CART WAS USED TO MOVE SUPPLIES FROM THE RIVER LANDING TO THE TOWER CONSTRUCTION SITE.

than others? Would it be possible to locate the graves of two men who were drowned with the Station's chief engineer, Orville Babcock, in 1884?

Another area of interest for us was the possibility of uncovering evidence of prehistoric materials. Timucuan Indians lived in the Ponce Inlet area, and many shell mounds are nearby. We also wondered if evidence of Seminole activity could be found, as the early residents had written about frequent visits from Native Americans who came to the Inlet to fish and hunt.

Our survey was conducted in February and March. The procedure was fairly straightforward. The property would be gridded using existing fences as a guide, and test holes would be dug approximately every 20 meters. The holes would be one meter deep and 50 cm in diameter. The earth removed would be screened for artifacts, food remains, and other materials. Any discoveries would be sorted, categorized, recorded, and sent to a laboratory for analysis if necessary. Hidden features such as wells, trash pits, or other structures would be mapped, and we would begin to see a pattern of land use emerge.

On the first day of the project, Dr. Smith and his assistant, Toni Wallace, began by gridding the property and marking where the test holes would be dug. Test holes in and around the parking lot area were dug first, and we were on our way! Almost immediately it became obvious that much of the property had been disturbed. A few items such as brick fragments were unearthed. Moving



TONI WALLACE SCREENS DIRT FOR SMALL ARTIFACTS.

to the fence line of the nature trail, the archaeologists found a fragment of amber glass belonging to a bottle of "Dr. Glover's Imperial Mange Medicine", probably dating from the 1930s. Dr. Glover's was used for dogs, but it could also be used as a shampoo for children.

Day two began with digging test holes inside the white picket fence that outlines the historic Light Station. A number of interesting discoveries were made. An area of densely packed coquina was unearthed along the south fence. This could possibly be remains of a tennis court constructed by the Ponce Inlet Women's Club during the



GLAZED TERRA COTTA WATER PIPES WERE DISCOVERED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE PRINCIPAL KEEPER'S DWELLING.

early 1970s. A kitchen drain pipe was located coming from the northeast corner of the Second Assistant Keeper's dwelling, along with a gravel drain field for the septic tank associated with the 1921 bathroom addition. Water pipes were discovered on the south side of the Principal Keeper's dwelling, possibly installed during 1921 when bathrooms and indoor plumbing were added to all the houses. An underground copper wire was discovered running east and west on the south side of the pump house.



TEMPORARY KITCHEN AND QUARTERS WERE BUILT FOR THE MEN WHO CONSTRUCTED THE LIGHT STATION.



DR. GREG SMITH EXAMINES A TEST HOLE IN THE PARKING LOT AREA.



GE MAZDA 50 WATT LIGHT BULB





THE "LADDER" ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE TOWER WAS ACTUALLY A TRACK FOR THE HOIST LIFT. A SMALL STEAM ENGINE WAS USED FOR POWER. THIS ENGINE MAY HAVE SAT ON A BRICK FOUNDATION WHICH WAS UNEARTHED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE TOWER.

The discovery of trash pits in the nature trail area came on day three. A large pit where trash had been burned was the first to be uncovered. It contained food remains, tin cans, paper and plaster fragments, portions of a boot, nails, egg shells, china fragments, burned animal bones, melted glass, and heat-warped bottles. A Mazda 50 watt light bulb in nearly perfect condition was found here. Mazda was a name used by GE on its finest bulbs, Ahura Mazda being the ancient Persian god of light. During



A SECTION OF ORIGINAL GUTTER WAS FOUND ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE PICKET FENCE, BEHIND THE PRINCIPAL KEEPER'S DWELLING.



DR. SMITH AND TONI WALLACE SORT ARTIFACTS DISCOVERED IN THE TEST HOLES.

World War II, the beacon's lamp was dimmed from 500 watts to 50, and it is fun to imagine this bulb was once used in the Fresnel lens at the top of the tower. This was the only trash pit found during the survey in which items had been burned. Trash was simply buried in all the others.

It also soon became obvious that the property had been kept very clean by the early keepers. Trash pits were located primarily in what is now our nature trail area, although a few pits have been uncovered inside the white picket fence. Most of the items found in trash pits on the Station can be dated to 1930-1950. In the earliest years, trash may have been dropped into the river or buried outside the historic grounds.

One of the most exciting finds of the survey was unearthed on the fourth day. An underground brick "foundation" was discovered west of the tower near the walkway to the Lens Exhibit Building. This feature appeared to be about 10 feet square and one layer of carefully-laid bricks deep. It may have functioned as a staging area for bricks or as a pad for the hoist engine that was used during construction to lift materials to the top of the rising tower.

The next two days of digging brought the discovery of more trash pits in the nature trail area. These were filled with interesting items such as broken dishes, bottles, personal objects like combs and toothbrushes, dry cell batteries, electrical fixtures, tin cans, food remains, pieces of shoes and toys, men's razors, rusted tools and hardware, paint cans, and a 6-foot long section of original gutter from one of the keepers' dwellings. Once all the items were collected, the archaeologists spent several days sorting. Items were categorized, and some, like unidentifiable fragments of metal and glass, were marked for reburial. The others were cataloged and taken for cleaning, photographing, and further identification and analysis. A superficial look at what was



A ROLL OF MEDICAL TAPE, A MCCORMICK MUSTARD JAR, AND A MASON JAR WERE FOUND IN A TRASH PIT. NOTE HOW THE MASON JAR WARPED WHEN THE TRASH WAS BURNED.



# Laertes LIFE PRESERVER

During the early months of World War II, German submarines (U-boats) were very active along the Florida coast. These U-boats would lie in wait to torpedo both military ships and civilian cargo vessels. At first, Florida residents did not realize that lights on the shore provided the perfect backdrop to silhouette passing ships at night. The U-boats could easily pick off their targets until February, 1942, when the Navy ordered coastal blackouts in Florida.

The blackouts helped to protect coastal shipping, but the U-boats continued their attacks for several years. From 1942 to 1943, 111 US ships were attacked offshore and in the Gulf of Mexico. Twenty-five ships were torpedoed between Key West and Daytona Beach.

On May 3, 1942, the Dutch freighter Laertes was torpedoed by a German sub, possibly U-564 or U-109, both active in Florida waters. The Laertes was on a voyage from New York to Bombay with a 5,230 ton cargo of war supplies including three aircraft, 17 tanks, and 20 trucks. She was sailing along the coast prior to entering a trans-Atlantic shipping lane. Eighteen crew members went down with the ship. This life preserver, now on display in our new World War II exhibit, washed ashore at Ponce Inlet. Today, the Laertes' scattered wreckage sits in 72 feet of water, 11 miles off Port Canaveral.



A LIFE PRESERVER FROM THE TORPEDOED SHIP LAERTES WASHED ASHORE IN PONCE INLET.

## FEATURE ARTICLE, CONTINUED



found tells us that the keepers ate a diet rich in fish, seafood, beef, pork, chicken, and eggs. Canned foods could not be identified, but judging from the number of cans, they had plenty to choose from. Catsup, mustard, relish, pickle, and fruit jars were found, along with fruit juice bottles, Clorox bottles, and the always numerous whiskey and carbonated beverage bottles. The large amount of food containers suggests that by the 1930s and 1940s, the keepers were purchasing rather than hunting or growing much of their food.

Judging from the scarcity of clothing and footwear remains, these items were probably used, handed down, and used again. The majority of bottles and dishes found were broken, again suggesting that useful things were rarely discarded. The large number of paint cans in the trash pits confirms what the keepers recorded in their log books - painting was an almost daily activity, year in and year out. Dr. Smith's inventory shows that the most common items found were metal fragments and broken glass bottles. One of his favorite finds, and one of the most unusual, was a tiny toy dinosaur or alligator crafted from a lead alloy.

It is interesting to note how clean the Station was kept. Most of the trash pits were located outside the picket fence. This may be typical of a military-style site that received regular quarterly inspections by the Lighthouse Service and, later, the Coast Guard.

Most of the unearthed objects date from fairly modern times. We do not yet know how or where the items from the Station's earliest years were discarded. Much of the ground around the lighthouse has been disturbed, probably more than once. Also still waiting to be found are the remains of the temporary buildings and the graves of those who died during the construction of the Station. We have not yet unearthed any prehistoric artifacts or features, although these are commonly found in the surrounding area. With the ongoing help of Dr. Greg Smith, we plan to continue our investigations in order to interpret, as completely as possible, the story of this historic site.



MINIATURE LEAD ALLOY DINOSAUR OR ALLIGATOR DISCOVERED DURING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

FIX THIS CAPTION.



We would very much like to express our appreciation to radio room volunteer and historic interpreter Allen Bestwick. Allen is responsible for the creation and management of our ham radio station. Our appreciation also goes to our two radio room volunteers, Paul Milward and George Kangas. They kept the station operating under less than ideal conditions during the opening reception for World War II at the Lighthouse. This is the first time, since 1953, that the Light Station has officially communicated



ALLEN BESTWICK IN LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER UNIFORM WITH A GUEST AT THE OPENING RECEPTION FOR WORLD WAR II AT THE LIGHTHOUSE.

from its own radio station. Gene Greneker, who volunteered many hours in the development of the radio beacon exhibit, visited us the week before the opening. Thanks for your help and your donation of the teletype equipment.

Our thanks also go to Terry Pitcher and Bruce Zarajczyk for donating artifacts, and to John Lane for his help with materials from the Commodore wreck site. Ray Chaikie donated vintage tools, a camera, and other early 20th century items. Gerry Harris donated a Coast Guard manual from the 1950s, and Robert Ash gave a 1950s telephone. Once again, Julie Davis has provided us with a number of items direct from the riverbank, including an intact Johnson Brothers dinner plate. Thank you all!

THIS COMPLETE JOHNSON BROTHERS DINNER PLATE WAS FOUND BY JULIE DAVIS ON THE RIVER SHORE NEAR THE LIGHT STATION.



We are currently seeking late 19th and early 20th century household items for our education department. Appropriate donations might include tools, kitchen implements, clothing, shoes, accessories, small furnishings, and personal items for men, women, and children. A vintage player piano is also on our wish list!

The museum is always grateful to receive artifact donations for the collection. Antique lighthouse items, clothing, shoes, hats, and toys are currently being sought. US Lighthouse Service uniform items, insignia, buttons, hats, and badges are needed, along with Coast Guard items from 1937-1953. Objects, personal items, clothing, documents, and photographs from the early years of Ponce Park are also welcome. Please call Ellen Henry at 386-761-1821 for more information about our collecting needs.



GENE AND JANE GRENEKER WITH GRANDSON GAGE



GEORGE KANGAS (L) AND PAUL MILWARD (R) OPERATE THE HAM RADIO STATION DURING THE OPENING FOR World War II at the Lighthouse.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

How important are volunteers to the lighthouse programs? Consider this fact – in 2006, 45 volunteers (both tour/educational program volunteers and Board members), gave over 2800 hours to the Lighthouse. When you consider that number, the answer is “invaluable”. The Association could not maintain the current level of educational and outreach programming that it currently provides to our visitors and local community without the assistance of these dedicated men and women.



LIGHTHOUSE VOLUNTEERS GATHER DURING AWARD DINNER AT THE PALMETTO CLUB

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, formed in 1972 by a group of concerned citizens dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the historic Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse, was initially composed of an entirely volunteer work force. The following years witnessed a change in the Association as people were hired and the number of volunteers associated with the preservation and maintenance of the Lighthouse dwindled to two. In 2003, a volunteer tour guide program was initiated, and several people were recruited. Today, three of those original recruits are still with us, and the active volunteer corps has grown to 28.

In appreciation for this revival of volunteerism, the Association established the Volunteer Award Program in 2006. Designed to recognize the valuable contributions of our volunteers at the Lighthouse, this program will recognize these selfless men and women for various levels of service. We honored our volunteers during a special dinner at the Palmetto Club on April 19th. Held during National Volunteer Week, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner provided a wonderful opportunity for Lighthouse staff and volunteers to eat, socialize, laugh, and share many memories before the awards ceremony.



ANN CANEER AND BOB CALLISTER SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 250 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The following awards were presented by Program Manager, Bob Callister:

50-100+ HOURS OF SERVICE: Dorothy Beard, Haley Blais, Rebecca Callister, Hal Cokash, Mariann Elkowitz, Edson Graham, Theresa Helfrey, Helen Magale, Jackie Mann, Jan Reece, Al Sepa, and Art & Tana White.

200 HOURS OF SERVICE: Budd Solano (201 hrs)

250+ HOURS OF SERVICE: John Mann (250 hrs), Tommy Campbell (273 hrs), Gerry Harris (295 hrs), and Art Hahn (351 hrs).

500 HOURS OF SERVICE: Allen Bestwick was honored for his contribution of over 500 hours of volunteer service. Allen became a volunteer in 2004, but has spent several hundred hours in the past year helping with the new Radio Room Exhibit, finding artifacts, recruiting ham radio operators, and working on educational activities. Thank you Allen!

We also honored three volunteers with Lifetime Volunteer Awards. They have been active in the preservation and restoration of the Lighthouse for years, and certainly deserve special recognition.

Tony Girolami has been involved with the Lighthouse since he retired to Ponce Inlet from Chicago in 1986. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1996 and is our most active volunteer with over 800 hours of service each year.

Earl Davis has been particularly active at the Lighthouse since he retired from Florida Power & Light in the early 1980s. He's been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1984 and was elected Treasurer in 1985. He has been a tireless

volunteer at the Lighthouse for over 30 years.

Gladys Davis was the last baby born on Light Station grounds. Her father was Edward Meyer who served as the First Assistant Keeper, last civilian Principal Keeper, and first Coast Guard Keeper at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station. Chief Meyer settled in Ponce Inlet with his family following his retirement from the Coast Guard. When the Federal Government awarded the Lighthouse property to the town of Ponce Inlet in 1972, Gladys was one of the original signers of the Articles of Incorporation.

She was elected to the first temporary Board of Directors in 1972 and the first permanent Board in 1973. If it were not for the untiring efforts of Gladys and the other members of the original Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association this historic landmark may have been lost years ago.

We gladly welcome anyone interested in becoming a valuable member of our volunteer force. Please visit us online at [www.ponceinlet.org](http://www.ponceinlet.org) for more information regarding volunteerism at the Lighthouse. If you would like to join this special group of volunteers, please call Bob Callister, at (386)761-1821 or by email at [bobcallister@ponceinlet.org](mailto:bobcallister@ponceinlet.org) for more information.



BOB CALLISTER WITH LIFETIME AWARD RECIPIENT TONY GIROLAMI



LIFETIME VOLUNTEER AND LIGHTHOUSE ADVOCATE GLADYS DAVIS POSES WITH BOB CALLISTER



ANN CANEER AND BOB CALLISTER SHARE A LAUGH WITH LIFETIME VOLUNTEER EARL DAVIS



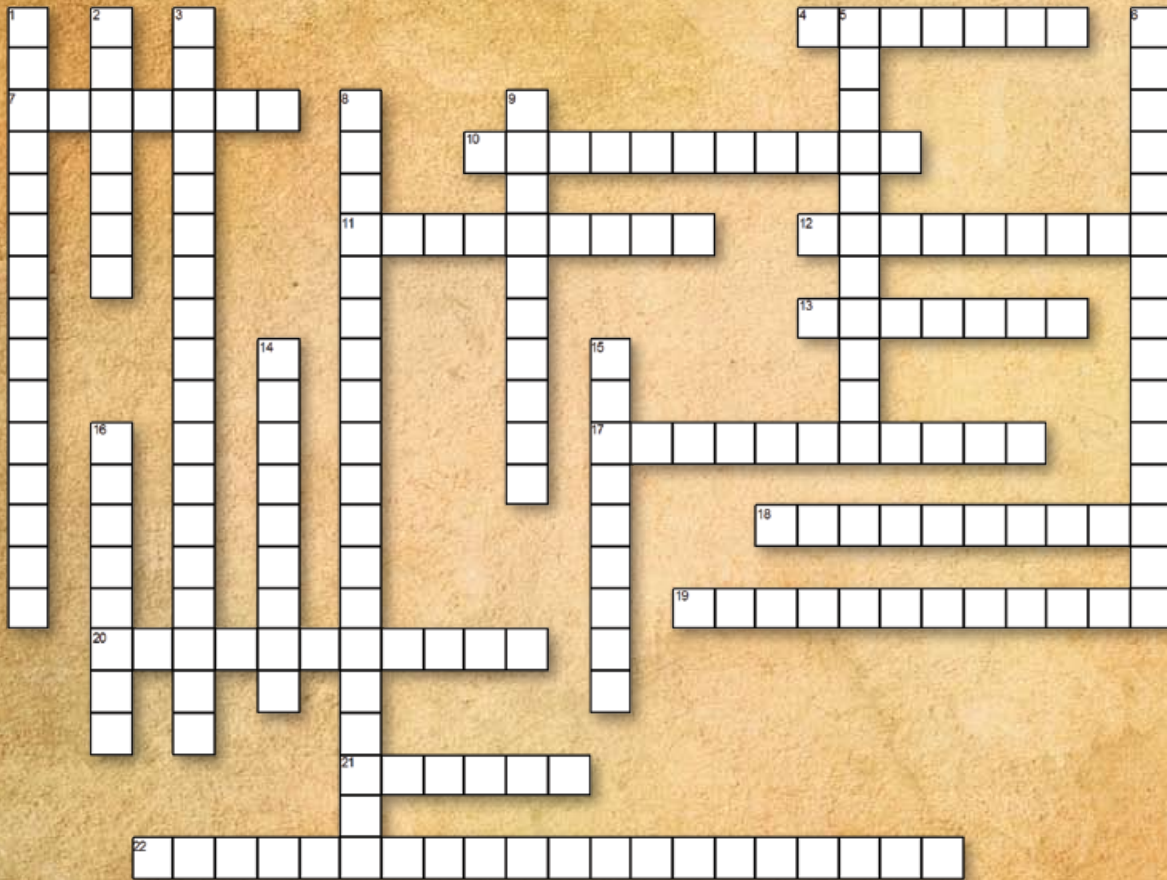
Although the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse has hosted over 16 school groups during the past quarter, Homeschool Day, held on March 14, 2007 was our biggest educational event so far this year. Hosted in partnership with the Marine Science Center, Homeschool Day is scheduled twice a year and has quickly become a very popular and anticipated event within the homeschool community, drawing parents and students from as far away as the Gulf Coast and Florida panhandle. Special events offered during this special day included a wide variety of student workshops including compass reading, how to use a quadrant, knots per hour, and navigational markers. Many of the parents who stopped to talk with us throughout the day praised the event as one of “the best Homeschool event (we) ever attended”. We thank the staff and volunteers who made this event so successful, and look forward to our next Homeschool Day on November 8th.



HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE THE USLHE BEACON FOR A SPIN AROUND THE LIGHT STATION UNDER THE CLOSE SUPERVISION OF THEIR VOLUNTEER CAPTAIN.



STUDENTS AND PARENTS ALIKE ENJOY USING A QUADRANT TO DETERMINE THEIR LATITUDE.



**ACROSS**

- 4 A layer of this densely packed material may indicate that tennis was once played at the lighthouse.
- 7 Former lighthouse keeper William H. Williams was the first to hold this position in Orange County.
- 10 A buried brick pad may have held this heavy lifter.
- 11 Early inhabitants of the Ponce Inlet area.
- 12 Native American attacks near this historic city signaled the beginning of the 2nd Seminole War.
- 13 Conveyance used to transport supplies from the river to the Light Station's construction site.
- 17 An invisible navigation signal transmitted from 1940 to the early 1950s.

- 18 Namesake of the beacon's WWII light.
- 19 Accused of shoddy lighthouse construction.
- 20 Large farms that once thrived along the Halifax and Indian Rivers.
- 21 Preyed on Allied shipping during World War II.
- 22 Study that provides insight into the light station's historic past.

**DOWN**

- 1 William H. Williams was a Lieutenant in this militia unit made up of county residents.
- 2 Took 18 souls to a watery grave in 1942.
- 3 Home to July's Lighthouse of the Quarter.
- 5 Downtown Daytona Beach is located on the site of this former plantation.
- 6 First keeper at Mosquito Inlet
- 8 First lighthouse built by the Federal Department of Marine.
- 9 Rumored to have accessorized himself with a lantern reflector during the Battle of Dunlawton.
- 14 Enforced along the coast to combat German attacks on shipping during World War II.
- 15 Commanding officer of the Mosquito Roarers, first Congressional Representative from Florida, and step-father of William H. Williams.
- 16 An artifact rich site



# JOIN THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

## A GENERAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

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

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

**General** ..... \$20

- The benefits listed above for one individual

**Senior** ..... \$10

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

**Student** ..... \$10

- All privileges of General Membership for one individual 12 years or older with a valid student identification

**Family** ..... \$40

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

**2nd Assistant Keeper** ..... \$100

- All privileges of General or Family Membership
- Recognition of your membership in the newsletters' New Keepers List

**1st Assistant Keeper** ..... \$200

- All privileges of 2nd Assistant Membership
- Two gift General Memberships

**Principal Keeper** ..... \$500

- All privileges of 1st Assistant Membership
- Personal guided tour of the Light Station
- Exhibit sponsorship recognition

**Corporate Lampist** ..... \$500

- All privileges of General or Family Membership for up to five company principals
- Use of the Light Station's conference room for one meeting with up to twenty attendees. This meeting will include a personal guided tour of the Light Station.
- Recognition of your companies support in the newsletters' New Corporate Lampist List
- Exhibit sponsorship recognition



**PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE  
MEMBERSHIP COUPON**

**20% OFF ANY  
SINGLE ITEM**

Limit one coupon per member. Coupon may not be used in conjunction with any other discount. Proof of membership must be shown at time of purchase. Not valid for purchase of Memorial Bricks.

**Good from July 1st, 2007 through September 30th, 2007.**

Please complete the entire form to enroll, or join online at [www.poncelighthousestore.org](http://www.poncelighthousestore.org).

### Select type of membership:

- General ..... \$20
- Senior ..... \$10
- Student (submit copy of ID) ..... \$10
- Family ..... \$40

- Gift Membership From: \_\_\_\_\_
- Renewal

- 2nd Assistant Keeper ..... \$100
- 1st Assistant Keeper ..... \$200
- Principal Keeper ..... \$500
- Corporate Lampist ..... \$500

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Children: \_\_\_\_\_

(List any additional names on a separate sheet.)

We will contact 1st Assistant Keeper, Principal Keeper or Corporate Lampist members to obtain gift membership and company principal information.

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Donation enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Or, make check payable to:**

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**Thank You for Your Generous Support!**



# GIFT SHOP



EMBROIDERED TANK TOP WITH A NAUTICAL DESIGN AVAILABLE IN BLACK, PINK AND ASH. PRICE: \$16.99. ITEM #3409 (NOTE SIZE AND COLOR WHEN ORDERING.)

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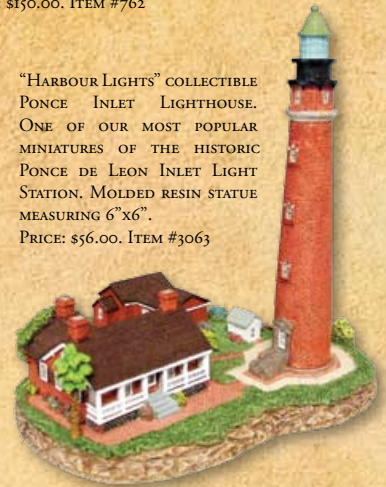


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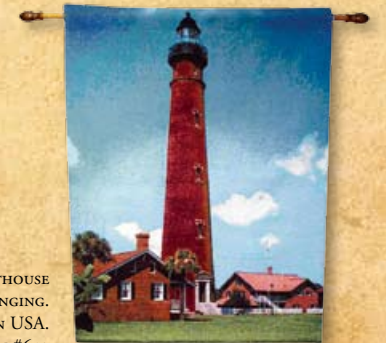


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The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Gift Shop specializes in unique lighthouse and nautical themed gifts for people of all ages. Our wide selection includes clothing, house wares, toys, and collectibles including a wide selection of Harbour Lights and other miniatures. Customers may also shop online at [www.PonceLighthouseStore.org](http://www.PonceLighthouseStore.org), and place orders by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 21.

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

## PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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