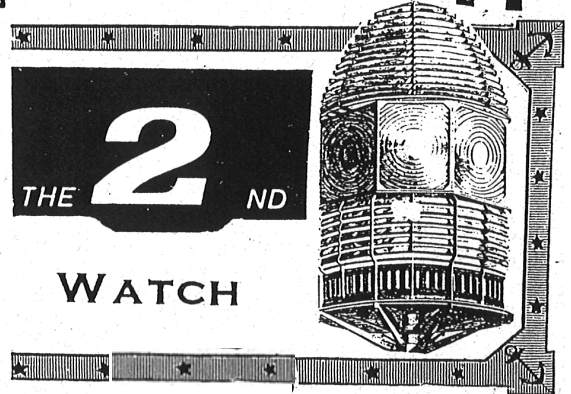
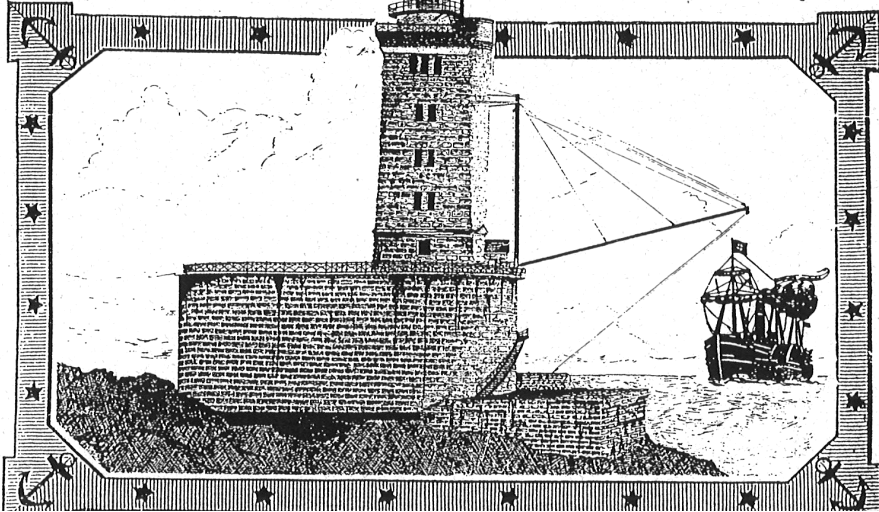


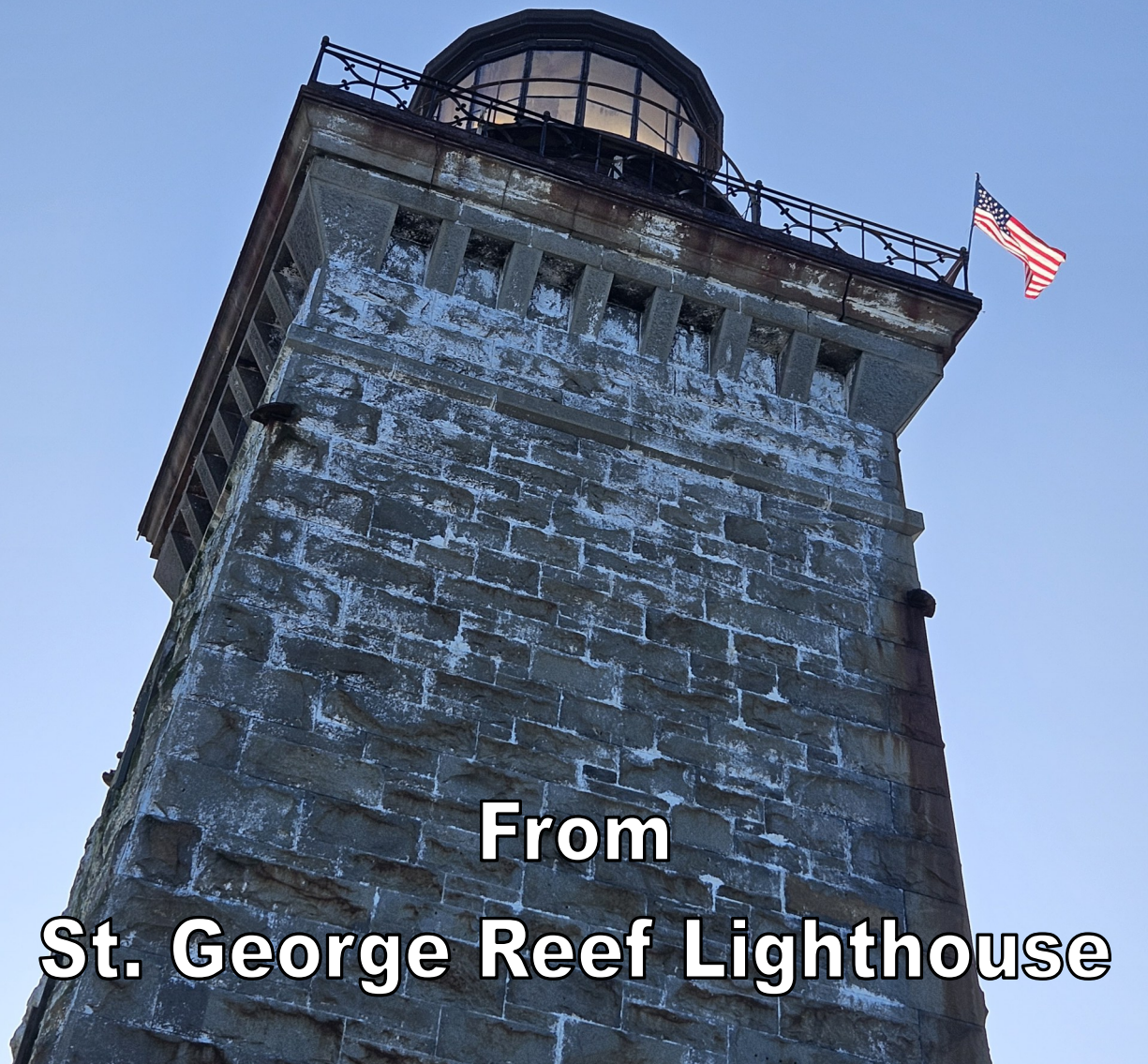
St. George Reef
Lighthouse Preservation
Society



THE **2** ND
WATCH

SUMMER 2025

Happy Independence Day



From
St. George Reef Lighthouse

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Festival in Crescent City, California**



**Please call us at
707-273-1905**

**Questions regarding
donations or volunteering**

**Web site address:
saintgeorgereeflight.org**

**Find us on facebook: Saint
George Reef Lighthouse
Preservation Society**

**Mailing address: PO BOX
577, Crescent City, CA 95531**

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Presidents Message

With the beginning of summer the society is working diligently on grant proposals and shore based projects. Also we are searching for the availability of a helicopter outfitted with floats to transport work parties as well as tours for the future. Our future work will be based on fundraising for transportation to the rock as well as supplies to do the projects. Please consider making a donation large or small to our ongoing restoration activities.



Summer is now here and with it the annual July 4th Festival down at the waterfront park in Crescent City, Saint George Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society will have a booth. We will have newsletters to pass out, mugs, sweatshirts, books and postcards for purchase. Questions about the lighthouse and the society will be answered by our volunteers so please stop by. We will also be selling Raffle tickets!

Dave and Marsha Berry have been supporters of our organization for many years. When I decided to interview Jen Lewis at Point Cabrillo Lighthouse in 2024, Dave and Marsha travelled up from Healdsburg, California to spend time at Point Cabrillo as well. We all had a lot of fun. Dave and Marsha strongly encouraged the editor to interview former keepers, Coastguard personnel and anyone associated with Saint George Reef Lighthouse. It was a great suggestion to say the least. Thank you Dave and Marsha Berry, great members and wonderful friends!

A special shout out to Richard and Merri Lea Hoff for their help with financial reports and NOAA reports. These reports take a lot of time and effort to fill out properly. Also a thank you to board member Nick Mavris for his help with all the legal forms that need to be scrutinized and properly filled out. Board member Marla Benson has been hard at work putting together our booth for the July 4th fair. Clar Byers of Cholwell, Benz & Hartwick has been a godsend doing our accounting work pro bono. Thanks, Clar!



**Society members left to right:
Marsha Berry, Jen Lewis, and Dave Berry.**

Happy 80th Birthday Dave Berry 6/24/2025 and Happy 78th Birthday
Marsha Berry 7/8/2025!

An interview with Jen Lewis:
Point Cabrillo lighthouse fundraising and
outreach manager
and
Saint George Reef Lighthouse Preservation
Society
Volunteer Jen Lewis



I first visited with Jen Lewis in 2023 when she inquired about our lighthouse tour schedule for that year. She informed me that she was the lighthouse fundraising and outreach manager for Point Cabrillo lighthouse. (south of Fort Bragg, California) This started quite a conversation about volunteer work, lighthouse history, and ways to finance restoration projects and fundraising challenges. Jen was able to come to Crescent City that fall and see Saint George up close and really enjoyed the tour. Later, Jen worked at the lighthouse as a docent and work party crew member and has been involved with fundraising projects as well as posting pictures and information on our website as time allows. Her efforts have been greatly appreciated by the Saint George Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society.

In January, 2024, I traveled down to Point Cabrillo Lighthouse to meet friends, visit with Jen and see Point Cabrillo Lighthouse up close. Anyone who gets an opportunity needs to make this a vacation destination. The lighthouse and outbuildings are restored and beautifully maintained. Two keepers quarters and two small outbuildings can be rented and are nicely furnished. The first assistant keepers cottage is a museum and office. The lighthouse itself is a short walk away from the keepers quarters and it houses artifacts and a gift shop as well. Tours of the lantern room where the original operating 3rd order fresnel lens is housed are also available.

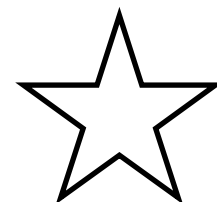
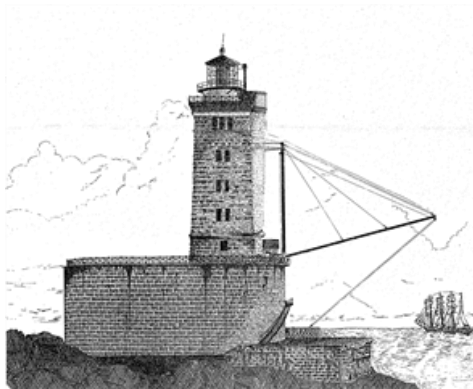
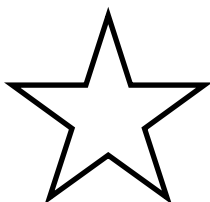
I interviewed Jen sitting at a picnic table where it was shirt sleeve weather, sunny with a million dollar view of the Mendocino coast. I couldn't believe it was January! During the interview Jen explained Point Cabrillo Lighthouse's connection with Saint George Reef Lighthouse.

Wilhelm Baumgartner stationed at Saint George Reef Lighthouse was later transferred to Point Cabrillo Lighthouse and made the first Principal (head) keeper in 1909. He served there from 1909 to 1923. While visiting Jen, I called former keeper John Gibbons. (who served at Saint George Reef Lighthouse in the 1950's). In 1955, Mr. Gibbons traveled down to Point Cabrillo lighthouse to celebrate his 21st birthday with fellow Coastguardsmen James (Red) Griffin stationed there while on leave. Mr. Griffin was a fellow keeper at Saint George earlier in his Coastguard career. At the time of Mr. Gibbons visit, the head keeper was Bill Owens. Mr. Owens joined the Lighthouse Service in 1931 and served the lighthouses at Point Conception, Point Sur, Point Arena and lastly Point Cabrillo Lighthouse. He retired in 1963.

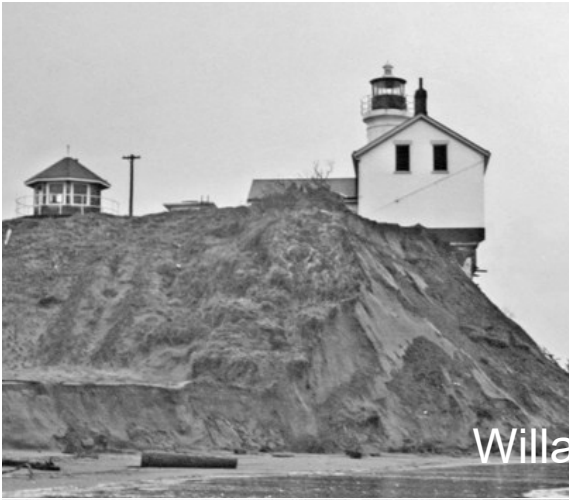
It was great seeing Point Cabrillo Lighthouse and the wonderful job the volunteers are doing there. It is well worth a visit. Thank you Jen Lewis for agreeing to be interviewed and for all your help.



Third Assistant Keepers quarters left, and Principal (head) Keeper's quarters, right.



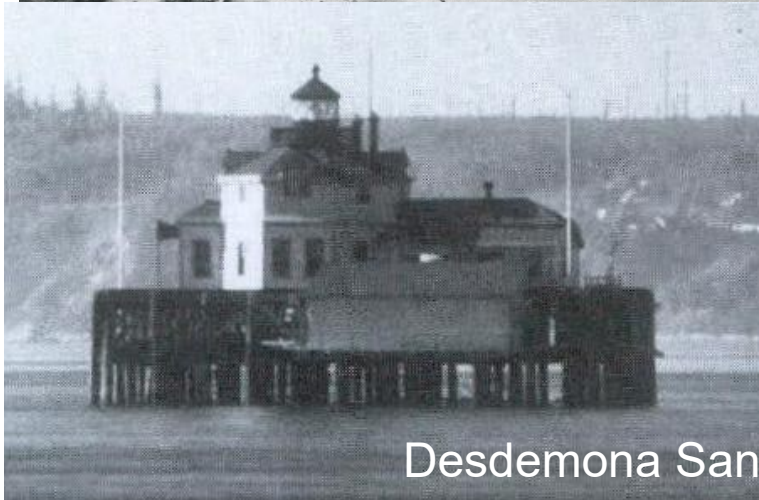
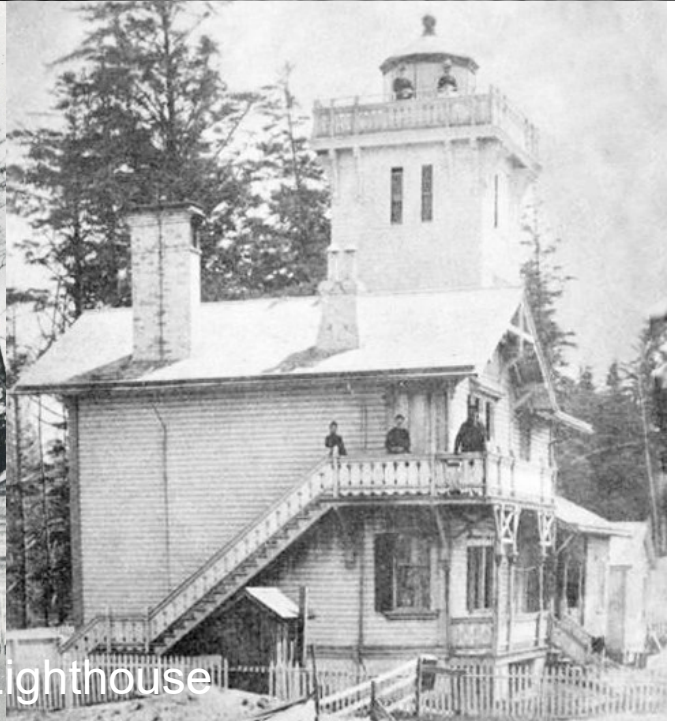
NORTHWEST LIGHTHOUSES GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



Willapa Bay Lighthouse



Point Adams Lighthouse



Desdemona Sands Lighthouse



NORTHWEST LIGHTHOUSES GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Three lighthouses no longer existing graced the pacific northwest shores in the late 1800's. Willapa Bay (Cape Shoalwater) Lighthouse 17 miles north of the Columbia rivers mouth, Point Adams Lighthouse on the southwest corner of the Columbia river's mouth and Desdemona Sands Lighthouse, built on a sandbar west of the present day Astoria-Megler bridge.

Willapa Bay (Cape Shoalwater Lighthouse)

The Cape Shoalwater (later Willapa Bay) Lighthouse was established in 1858 on the north side of what is now known as Willapa bay. The building was constructed in the 'Cape Cod' style as many light stations of that era. The lantern room was identical to those used at several west coast lighthouses; notably Battery Point in Crescent City, Humboldt Harbor in Eureka and the original Santa Barbara lighthouse. (all three in California) The light was displayed as a fixed white light, using a 4th order lens. Drifting sand and erosion were a constant problem at this lighthouse. Finally, in 1938, the building was abandoned and the light reestablished on a skeleton tower further inland. (The light would have to be relocated again in the future) The original structure was dynamited in 1940 for safety reasons. Today, where the original lighthouse would have stood would be a mile off the coast.

Point Adams Lighthouse

Point Adams Lighthouse was established in 1875 at the mouth of the Columbia river. The location was then the northwest corner of the Oregon coast before the construction of the South Jetty changed the configuration of the coastline. The building was a frame structure similar to the light stations built at East Brother Island in San Francisco Bay and Point Fermin lighthouse both in California. Both of these lighthouses were designed by Paul Peltz in the Gothic Revival style. As with Willapa Bay lighthouse, drifting sands around the station were a constant problem. The lighthouse originally had a flashing red and white light signature (and also a steam fog signal) until the establishment of Tillamook rock lighthouse in 1881. It was then changed to a fixed red light. The steam fog signal was discontinued after 5 years due to its being inaudible above the pounding surf. Due to the completion of the south Jetty in 1895, the coastline put the location of the building further inland and the light at Point Adams were not as useful as it once was. The light station was discontinued in 1899. Recommendations led to a new light station to be established at Desdemona Sands as a replacement. The abandoned light station was burned down in 1912 due to vandalism and to make way for gun emplacements at Battery Russell.

Desdemona Sands Lighthouse

The lighthouse established at Desdemona Sands was established in 1902, assisting both the Columbia River Lightship and Cape Disappointment Lighthouse in aiding shipping crossing the Columbia river bar. The lighthouse structure was built in 1902 on piles driven in the shoal west of the Astoria-Megler Bridge is located today, and the light displayed utilized a 4th order lens. Desdemona Sands had a near twin in Washington state with the Semiahmoo Lighthouse built near Blaine, Washington. The lighthouse was a keepers only station as it lacked living space for families. The shoal that the lighthouse marks got its name from the bark 'Desdemona' which wrecked on the shoal in 1857. Eventually, the lighthouse was electrified in 1933. After the building was demolished in 1945, a light beacon was utilized until it was discontinued in 1964.

It is unfortunate these three buildings did not survive. Today, all three would have made interesting museums of local maritime history.



Saint George Reef
Lighthouse
Preservation
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