

BARRIER
ISLANDS
CENTER

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

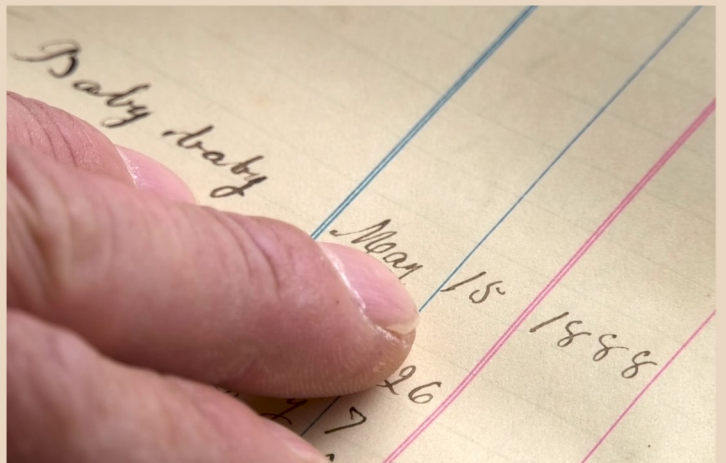


The Barrier Islands Center Presents

The Almshouse

a James Spione Film

Thursday, March 14th, at 7:00 p.m.
The Historic Palace Theatre in Cape Charles
FREE Screening

A sepia-toned photograph of a large, multi-story building, likely the almshouse, with a horse in the foreground.

Heart of the Community, Soul of a Culture

barrierislandscenter@gmail.com | 757-678-5550 | www.barrierislandscenter.org

As winter begins to ease on the Eastern Shore, we here at the Barrier Islands Center find ourselves eagerly anticipating the arrival of spring. For me, a true harbinger of the season is the large flock of snow geese that descends like clockwork on one particular Seaside Road farm that I pass on my running route. Warmer weather, longer days, and a renewed sense of life all serve as welcome reminders that nature's cycle is once again in motion.



Viewing the tranquil image of the Barrier Islands Center property – pictured here with the iconic crepe myrtle-lined drive – we are reminded of the many enjoyable activities and events that await on the BIC's 18-acre farm.



One of the spring events the Barrier Islands Center is particularly excited about is the premiere of our eighth documentary, which explores the rich history of the Almshouse, or Poorhouse, where the BIC is located. The film will premiere on Thursday, March 14, at 7 p.m. at The Historic Palace Theatre in Cape Charles. This free screening will be open to the public – so please mark your calendar and invite some friends! Filmmaker Jim Spione will take questions from the audience following the short film.

It is truly remarkable to think that the BIC buildings and farm have been a home for individuals and families for over 140 years. Now, as the Barrier Islands Center, it's a cherished gathering place. Today, it stands as a testament to our commitment to preserving Virginia's coastal history and providing a space for people to come together, learn, and enrich their lives.

In a world that often feels busy and complicated, the Barrier Islands Center remains a peaceful and enjoyable place where people can connect with history, the cultural arts, and each other. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue nurturing this special place, and we look forward to welcoming you all to the farm this spring.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

2024 OYSTER ROAST FUNDRAISER

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Art & Music on the Farm

May 25th | 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Guest Musical Performers

Linda Lay and Springfield Exit

With a powerhouse voice and remarkable range, Linda Lay is one of the best singers in grassroots bluegrass and country music. She leads an exceptional ensemble of award-winning musicians in Springfield Exit. The core trio of Linda, her husband David Lay, and multi-instrumentalist David McLaughlin formed nearly two decades ago, joining their varied experiences and creating a feeling of their very own, combining elements of bluegrass and country with sounds stemming from their Appalachian roots.



Andrew Alli and Josh Small

Andrew and Josh provide a unique blend of acoustic blues, folk, and soul music with an honest and loving approach. Andrew Alli is a Richmond, VA, native who recently received a nomination for Best Emerging Artist by the Blues Music Association. He took up music relatively later in life at the age of 20. After being inspired by a busker playing harmonica on the street one day, he hit the local music store and got his own harmonica. From then on, Andrew committed himself to learning the instrument's history. He soon fell in love with the blues and began studying all the harmonica greats, including Big Walter Horton, Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson, Junior Wells, and more. He has developed his unique playing style while still paying his respects

to his biggest influences from the past.

His musical partner, Josh Small, is a slide guitarist, banjo player, and singer/songwriter. He also hails from Virginia, learning music by watching his father play guitar and banjo and listening to his mother's beautiful mountain singing style.

Ken Heath and the True Disciples

Ken Heath is a native of Petersburg, Virginia, where he was raised up to the sounds of the gospel music of the Black Holiness Church and Virginia's rich Gospel quartet tradition. His grandfather, Moses Lee Tucker, sang with numerous local gospel quartets from his rural hometown of Dinwiddie, VA. Eventually, he formed the Gospel Inheritance Quartet, a much sought-after group in the region. His grandparents' house became the meeting hub for many other Petersburg gospel groups, including the Modernaires, The Lambs of Joy, and the Petersburg Gospel



Singers. At 14, Ken had the opportunity to perform on drums with his idols, Richmond's Maggie Ingram and the Ingramettes, at the Masonic Temple in Petersburg. The group instantly recognized his talent, and he went on to perform widely with the Ingramettes. While with the Ingramettes, Ken began learning keyboards, and still often performs with the Legendary Ingramettes today. He later moved to Charlotte, where he formed Ken Heath and The True Disciples in 2014 with fellow singers Kenneth "KJ" Jones and Chris Robertson. The trio is joined by Maurice Johnson, Sr. on drums, Rodney Easter on bass, Joe Brown on guitar, and Bryan Pitt and Justin Brown on keyboards. The



True Disciples are known for their spirited, electrifying performances, and their mission can be summed up into four words: Building Relationships Through Christ.

The Mustard Cutters

The Mustard Cutters are a powerhouse string band of women based in Southwest Virginia that plays highly danceable tunes and great two-stepping songs. The band includes Gina Dilg (fiddle), Trish Fore (banjo), Ashlee Watkins (guitar), and Brett Morris (bass).



BARRIER ISLANDS CENTER

Celebrating 20 years of preserving coastal history, educating, and having fun on the farm!

BIC members experience the Museum, Education and Cultural programs in a special way. Members will enjoy our quarterly newsletter, invitations to exciting opportunities (including an advance opportunity to purchase tickets to our sell-out Annual Oyster Roast), 10% discount in our museum shop, and, most importantly, a personal connection with the rich past of Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Your gift as a BIC member provides critical support for important educational and cultural programs that enrich the lives of so many children and adults on the Eastern Shore, across the region and beyond.

Simply take a moment to complete this card and choose your membership level. You'll be assured of fun educational and social opportunities offered at your BIC.

Membership Types

Individual	\$25
Family	\$50
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Please fill out this form and return with payment to:
Barrier Islands Center, PO Box 206, Machipongo, VA 23405
You may also join online at www.barrierislandscenter.org

Dogs on the Farm

Since 2010, Eastern Shore Dog has found a home at the Barrier Islands Center. On the grounds and in the historic buildings, they have trained group classes in nose work and companion obedience. In addition, the Barrier Islands Center and Eastern Shore Dog have hosted special events for dogs and their people, including Dog Socials, Kids' Dog Camp and advanced search dog workshops.

Please contact Anna Malik to schedule some quality time with your four-legged friend!

amalik1103@gmail.com | (757) 607-6069

SPOTLIGHT ON: Kristen Dennis



Kristen and husband Charles

Many people keep the BIC wheels turning, but Kristen is truly a key player. You may hear her friendly voice answering the phone, greeting visitors, or helpfully handling gift shop orders. She manages membership, designs quarterly newsletters, and serves as the lead organizer of the BIC's Oyster Roast Fundraiser. Recently, Kristen re-initiated the critical ongoing project of digitizing and documenting hundreds of the museum's artifacts. She loves puzzles and organizing, so she is methodically working through the BIC's 20+ years of loan or gift accessions, photographing their place in the museum, and ensuring all loan and gift agreements are current.

BIC: How did you get to where you are today?

At the relatively young age of 21, I fell in love with the Eastern Shore and moved from my hometown of Vienna, Virginia, in 1989. In 2005, Laura Vaughan asked if I would like to work at the Barrier Islands Center. From the beginning, I was thankful for that opportunity. Working with extraordinary people passionate about our community has been a pleasure.

BIC: Is there a current project you are working on that excites you?

Yes! Donated or loaned artifacts to the Barrier Islands Center must be documented appropriately and entered in our archival database. I have been digitizing those records. The process is tedious, but I've thoroughly enjoyed every minute. I've learned more about our community, donors, and history. I've also recently dug into the archival storage of photographs. Some are very old and give you a deeper understanding of life on the islands in the mid to late 1800s.

BIC: Why do you feel this is so important?

It's a way to honor our donors - by preserving what they've entrusted the Barrier Islands Center to care for.

BIC: What makes the BIC and the Eastern Shore a special place?

The Eastern Shore is peaceful and unhurried. The night skies are breathtaking, and the seaside and bayside are extraordinary. But it's the people that truly make this place special for me. Going to the hardware store is like a homecoming. We know our neighbors, and people are amazingly kind!

The Barrier Islands Center also has lovely qualities. People visit and often speak of it being a "happy place." It truly is. Children are in awe, and the adults are fascinated by the unexpectedness of it all! The BIC is a treasure for people of all ages.



WORKSHOPS



MY FIRST FIELD TRIP



Come Learn (and have fun) With Us!

Please *PRE-REGISTER* for all classes and programs. Thank you!

757.678.5550 or barrierislandscenter.org

EXPLORING EXPRESSION WITH CHARCOAL



Ages 18 and older (Intermediate Class)

Instructor: Barbara Loomis

Wednesdays, March 13th - March 27th (3 weeks)

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$90 per person

Experiment with the possibilities offered by one of the world's oldest creative media, charcoal. During this four-week course participants will experiment with a variety of forms, techniques and supports used in drawing with charcoal as they explore this incredibly expressive medium. Drawing experience is highly recommended. Supplies provided except a drawing board.

"Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?":

Music and Society in 1930s America

Speakers: Gregg Kimball and Cluny Brown

Friday, April 5th

10:30 a.m. - Noon

Cost: FREE

The tumult of the 1930s can hardly be exaggerated. Americans struggled through the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, labor conflict, and the clouds of war in Europe. Despite this turmoil, the era also saw the development of rich American musical genres such as Swing, Urban Blues, Country, and modern Gospel. Dr. Gregg Kimball and Cluny Brown will explore the songs of the era, and how music lifted spirits, expressed everyday struggles, and conveyed hope for the future.

COFFEE HOUR SPEAKER



BARRIER ISLANDS CENTER

Coffee Hour
Speaker Series

PRESERVING SUMMER'S BOUNTY



Ages 16 and older

Instructor: Matt Ertle

Saturday, April 6th

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50 per person

Have you been interested in fermentation but not sure how to get started? We will discuss and demonstrate how to start some small-batch fermentations with equipment that won't break the bank just in time for all those beautiful ESVA summer veggies to start showing up. Come learn how to preserve fresh produce in a safe, healthy, and tasty way!

WATERCOLOR MEMENTOS



Ages 16 and older
Instructor: Sarah Morgan
Saturday, April 6th
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Cost: \$125 per person

Create unique mementos of your travels using a simple travel watercolor set and soft bound journal. Students will learn how to select subjects, develop compelling compositions, mix colors and paint vignettes of their favorite scenes while wandering -- the world, the U.S., or the Shore! Tips and tricks include how to transport and protect paintings while traveling, additional equipment, and how to turn your painting from a few pencil lines into a finished artwork. Materials provided by instructor.

Ages 18 and older (Intermediate Class)
Instructor: Barbara Loomis
Wednesdays, April 10th - April 24th (3 weeks)
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$90 per person

Working from life, participants will take a close look of the delicate marvels that emerge from the spring gardens and draw a three-part portfolio that reflects their observations. Elements of botanical illustration will be discussed but creative expression will be the focus of this three-week session using wax based colored pencils. Instructor will provide supports for all drawings, participants should bring Prismacolor (or other high-quality wax based colored pencil). Drawing experience is highly recommended.

RENDERING SPRING FLOWERS



Ages 13 and older
Instructor: Eden Ertle
Saturday, April 20th
Class #1 - 10:30 a.m. **(SOLD OUT)**- Noon **OR**
Class #2 - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Cost: \$30 per person

Knitting for Beginners Have you always wanted to learn how to knit? Has teaching yourself got you down? Come learn to knit from Eden in a small class setting! She has been knitting for 25 years and working as an art teacher for 20 years, so her patience in teaching knitting is just what you need. In this beginner course, you will learn how to make the knit stitch, and how to 'bind off'. By the end of the session, you will have a square of fabric you knit yourself that you can either keep and admire or use as a washcloth. Yarn and needles are provided.

KNITTING FOR BEGINNERS



Ages 16 and older (Intermediate Class)

Instructor: Eden Ertle

Saturday, April 27th

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Cost: \$40 per person

Do you already know how to knit but would like to try a new technique? Try cable knitting! Requiring a 3rd needle, cables can add an interesting design to your next project. Participants will make a small cable knit square as a sample, or the instructor can help you to read a pattern on something you have already started. Yarn and needles are provided.

CABLE KNITTING



Ages 16 and older

Instructor: Heather Apgar

Saturday, May 4th

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50 per person

Would you like to make floral arrangements with flowers that are in season in your area? Heather will walk you through the steps for making a lovely arrangement using flowers that are blooming in their season for a more sustainable approach to floral design. Materials supplied but bring a pair of floral scissors.

SEASONAL FLOWER ARRANGING



Ages 18 and older (Intermediate Class)

Instructor: Barbara Loomis

Wednesdays, May 8th - May 22nd (3 weeks)

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$90 per person

Plan and execute an oil portrait of a furry friend! In this three-week course participants will discuss the elements that go into painting a portrait of that special companion. Choosing photo references, composition, and rendering the textures of fur will be among the topics covered. Participants should bring their own references and oil paints; canvas supports, in class medium and solvents will be provided by the instructor. Prior oil painting experience necessary.

PET PORTRAIT IN OIL



Ages 16 and older

Instructor: Eloise Shelton-Mayo

Saturday, May 11th

12:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$60 per person

Join us for a workshop that explores the fascinating medium of oil & cold wax on paper. Eloise will show and bring some things to try with cold wax. It's a BLAST! Cold wax, wedges, skewers, tissue paper, palette knives, charcoal, Gamsol + more will be provided. Students need to bring oil paint in white, red, ultramarine blue, medium yellow, black and any favorites. Oil paper can be purchased at cost from Eloise. Bring an apron or old shirt.

OIL AND COLD WAX



ACRYLIC AND POWERWAX



Ages 16 and older

Instructor: Eloise Shelton-Mayo

Saturday, June 8th

12:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$70 per person

Learn how to use the powerwax medium with instructor Eloise Shelton-Mayo. This vibrant new medium gives a cold wax look and effect to Acrylic paint! You'll love the vibrancy of color; powerwax seems to brighten the color. We'll create a series of paintings on paper 10" x 10", 8" x 10", 8" x 8", or size that feels right for you. Instructor provides powerwax, watercolor paper with gesso, wedges, and tissue paper. Participants need to bring some flat brushes and acrylic paint.

Ages 16 and older

Instructor: Heather Apgar

Saturday, June 15th

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50 per person

Would you like to learn how to make your own, unique patterns that can be used in textile design? Heather will walk you through the steps to make your very own block print for practicing a repeat design for a variety of artistic applications. Supplies included.

BLOCK PRINTING



Ages 4 - 7

Instructors: Traci Jones and Martha Hennessey

Session I - June 17th - 21st **OR**

Session II - June 24th - 28th

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Cost: \$150 per child

Calling all pirates, princes, and princesses to join us as we visit mysterious lands. Off we go to days when pirates ruled the seas and royalty ruled the land. We will make castles, crowns, sea monsters, pirate maps, and more. ARRRRGGG, Your Majesty, this camp is filled with a bounty of music, games, activities, and creative art experiences for our noble princes, princesses, and sea-faring pirates. Pre-registration is required two weeks before the start date of each camp. Class size limited.

PIRATE, PRINCE, AND PRINCESS CAMP



Ages 6 - 8

Instructors: Julie Head, Education Director of ES Soil & Water Conservation District and Erin Morgan of 4-H

Tuesday, July 2nd and Wednesday, July 3rd

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Cost: \$15 per child

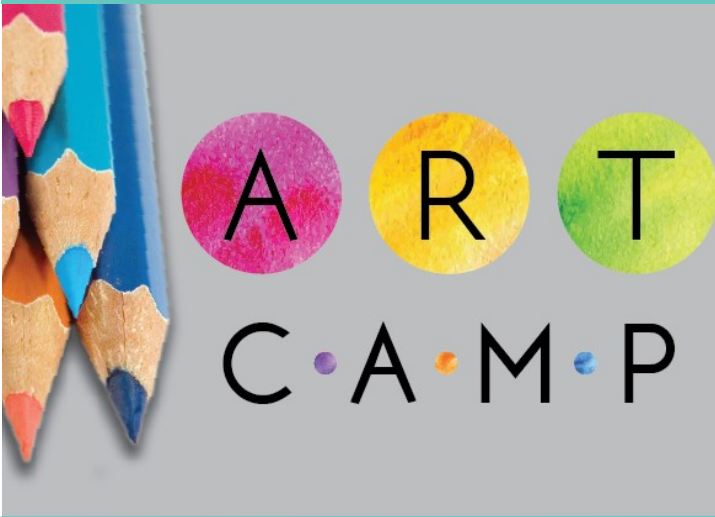
Campers will interact with farm animals and learn about how agriculture is all around us and how it is connected to our everyday lives. We will finish up with making ice cream!

BIC JUNIOR AG CAMP



Cont...

BUDDING ARTIST CAMP



Ages 6 - 8

Instructors: Eden Ertle and Traci Jones

Monday, July 8th thru Friday, July 12th

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Cost: \$150 per child

Do you have a budding artist at home? A child who sincerely loves art. Then join us this summer for an art camp they will love. We will work with a variety of media like painting, fun drawing materials, collage, fiber art, and more. Campers will learn how to use basic shapes to draw more complex things. Instruction comes from artists and educators with over 20 years of experience. They will demonstrate the tricks and techniques that will help your child feel confident with their art and continue growing! Materials and snacks provided.

Ages 10 and older

Instructor: Virginia Custis

Thursday, August 1st

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Cost: \$25 per person

In this workshop, students will foster an appreciation for the beauty of nature and its resources. Participants will be introduced to creating miniature "fairy" houses and furniture from natural materials. Glue guns, glue sticks, natural and miniature decorative items provided, but students are welcome to bring anything extra that they want to add to their creations. Must be able to use hot glue gun independently.

TINY TREASURES



Ages 9 - 12

Instructors: Eden Ertle and Traci Jones

Monday, August 5th thru Friday, August 9th

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Cost: \$150 per child

Is your child an artist? Do they enjoy art and want to grow in their ability? This is a great opportunity to do just that! In this camp, students will have the opportunity to try new techniques. They will learn important techniques of drawing, such as shading, blending, and value. Campers will explore color mixing and other painting methods! Materials and snacks provided.

GROWING ARTIST CAMP



Ages 8 - 12

Instructors: Julie Head, Education Director of ES Soil & Water Conservation District and Erin Morgan of 4-H

Tuesday, August 13th and Wednesday, August 14th

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per child

Did you know that pretty much everything you eat, wear, and use has a connection to agriculture? Come join us for an exploration of agriculture as we interact with farm animals, make bread and ice cream, and enjoy a number of other fun activities centered around agriculture.

BIC AG CAMP



SHARING THE MIC

BARRIER
ISLANDS
CENTER

WITH DAVID PHILLIPS

Now available on Sharing the Mic with David Phillips:

Documentary Filmmaker **Jim Spione**: For the past 13 years, Jim Spione has worked with the Barrier Islands Center to produce revealing and enlightening documentaries about the barrier islands of Virginia and life on the Eastern Shore. Jim and David discuss the 8th film currently in production about the history of the Almshouse, now the Barrier Islands Center.



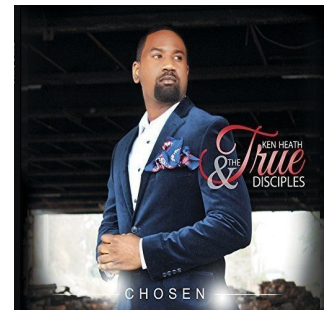
Artist **Carole Böggemann Peirson**: Dutch artist Carole Böggemann Peirson has been a professional oil painter since 2005 and is mainly known for her East Coast landscapes. A few life-changing events in 2020 caused a shift in her work from figurative to semi-abstract. Her ethereal works in oil and cold wax are inspired by the idea that all living things are connected and that we are spiritual beings having a temporary physical experience. Carole hopes her love for life and her optimism about the future will shine through in her work and that the viewer will feel uplifted looking at it time and time again.

Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Cultural Vibrancy, **Jon Lohman**. Before that, he was the director of Virginia's state Folklife Program, where he initiated and carried out numerous programs, including an award-winning Folklife Apprenticeship Program and the corresponding book *In Good Keeping*. Jon has presented and served on curatorial committees for multiple local and national festivals, including the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the Richmond Folk Festival, Merlefest, Floydfest, the Lowell Folk Festival, the American Folk Festival, and the National Folk Festival. Jon has presented his work and collaborated with the Smithsonian, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the State Department, and numerous cultural organizations and festivals throughout Virginia and the country.



April 1st podcast: Dr. Christopher Hein, Associate professor in Coastal Geology at The College of William and Mary/VIMS. Hein's research focuses on coastal populations, infrastructure, and ecological communities currently threatened by atmospheric warming, accelerated sea-level rise, changes in the frequency and intensity of coastal storms, and variability in sediment supply rates. His primary research focuses on the mainland and barrier islands of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. He also has active projects studying dune processes in the North Carolina Outer Banks, barrier-island processes in the Gulf of Maine, and marshes processes along much of the US East Coast. Chris was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award at William & Mary in 2022.

May 1st podcast: Ken Heath of the gospel group Ken Heath and the True Disciples: Ken is part of the gospel band The True Disciples, who will once again perform at Art and Music on the Farm at the BIC in May. He is a native of Petersburg, Virginia, where he was raised to the sounds of the gospel music of the Black Holiness Church and Virginia's rich gospel quartet tradition. The True Disciples are known for their spirited, electrifying performances.



To listen to these and past episodes, go to [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and [Amazon Music](#) or [Buzzsprouts website at https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1763674](https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1763674)

HISTORY MOMENT

The Job of a Barrier Island Lighthouse Keeper

By Robert "Gus" Gustafson



Smith Island Lighthouse Keeper (1895-1896)
Benjamin Franklin Toy

Before automation in the 20th century, a succession of lighthouse keepers and their families kept the lamps shining at the two lighthouses on the seaside in Northampton County -- the Smith Island Light (also called the Cape Charles Light), which started operations in 1828 and the Hog Island Lighthouse which was erected in 1853.

Despite the romantic image of lighthouses, in reality, lightkeepers endured rigid routines, strenuous work, tedious bureaucracy, and occasional moments of intense excitement. The logbook kept by keepers of the Hog Island Lighthouse between June 1872 and the end of the 19th century is on display at the Barrier Islands Center. It provides insights into the daily life of lighthouse keepers as they struggle against the elements and temperamental equipment to keep passing mariners safe.

In the early years, lighthouse keepers were commonly chosen more for their political connections than their ability to operate a lighthouse. As time passed, efforts increased to ensure that lighthouse keepers were diligent. In 1835, a list of eight instructions were delivered to lighthouse keepers that included keeping the lights burning at night, maintaining accurate accounts of the oil used, and not selling booze out of the lighthouses.

By the mid-1800s, the need for a professional corps of competent lighthouse keepers became increasingly apparent. In 1851, Congress appointed a commission to investigate the "lighthouse problem." Based on its recommendations, the Lighthouse Board was established, and professionalism, accountability, and transparency were the new priorities. Lighthouse keepers were hired based on merit and could be terminated without political interference. Uniforms were issued, and a detailed set of rules and regulations were promulgated and remained in force for the remainder of the century.

In 1881, the Lighthouse Board delivered to each lighthouse a 49-page hardbound book titled "Instructions to Lightkeepers" which listed 211 directions to keepers to guide all aspects of their work. Keepers were admonished to "read them carefully and attentively."

Keepers were responsible for all aspects of their lighthouses, including the operation of the increasingly complicated light mechanism, lenses, and foghorns. "Ignorance of any point will not be considered an excuse for neglect of duty." A typical entry in the Hog Island logbook from March 1896 reported, "Tonight our light did not make regular flashes owing to the clock being out of order and had to turn the lens by hand from 10 to 12 o'clock midnight until we could get the clock to run alright again."



Smith Island Lighthouse Keeper's Residence

Routine maintenance expected of keepers, including cleaning, polishing, and painting, was also described in detail in the 1881 instructions, and these activities appear to have



Hog Island Lighthouse Keepers' Dwellings c. 1897

taken a great deal of the keeper's time. The 1881 instructions dedicate several pages to mixing paints and caustic cleaning solutions for use at the lighthouse. A typical passage reads, "Black paint for outside work may be prepared with dry lampblack mixed with copal or coachmaker's varnished then thinned to the consistency of cream with spirits of turpentine." Painting was a routine activity, and logbook entries include, "Painted the service room and watch room this morning and vestibule..." "Finished painting the boat," and "We have commenced to polish the frame of the

lens **again.**" (emphasis added)

Evidently, painting and general cleanliness were not always up to standard since the logbook reports that Inspector R.D. Evans visited the lighthouse on August 6, 1882, and found, "House dirty and untidy. Lamps not properly charged. Tower wants attention, paint, etc."

The 1881 instructions provided the precise type and amount of food that was to be provided for the keepers' meals. On December 22, 1879, Keeper Thomas Braxton recorded in the logbook, "Received four months rations for two keepers from Captain Terry." For each man, this would have included at least 45 pounds of beef, 45 pounds of pork, 20 pounds of flour, 10 pounds of rice, 6.5 pounds of raisins, 65 pounds of ship biscuits, 14 pounds of brown sugar, 1 3/5 pounds of tea, 6 pounds of coffee, 3 1/4 pounds of butter, plus beans, pickles, vinegar, molasses and 2 1/2 bushels of potatoes.

Keepers were admonished to keep careful records of absences, and a monthly report was to be submitted. Lightkeepers were permitted to "leave their stations to attend divine worship on Sundays, to procure needful supplies, and to attend important public occasions." There are frequent entries in the logbook noting brief absences by the head keeper and his assistants. On July 23, 1896, Keeper George Doughty wrote in the logbook, "I the Principal Keeper left the Light Station at 9 AM to go to the main land and returned at 3 PM on the 25th having been to take my wife to the family physician." At other times, he reported going to Eastville "on private business at court" so his son could "have a tooth drawn."

The 1881 instructions stipulate that lighthouses could never be unattended, even when no assistant keeper was assigned. In that instance, "some member of the family, or other responsible person, must be stationed in [the keeper's] absence." This role often fell to the wife of the keeper, who was on site and knowledgeable about the workings of the lighthouse.

Occasionally, the wives of keepers were appointed assistant keepers, a clear acknowledgement of the essential role these women served in the operation of the lighthouse. Precisely this situation occurred at the Hog Island Light in 1867 when Sallie Boole, the wife of Head Keeper David Boole, was appointed First Assistant Keeper to work alongside her husband at the salary of \$400 per year (the same as a man would have received). She served in that capacity for six years.

For all the work, rigor, and diligence required of lighthouse keepers in the late 19th century, there are also many entries in the logbook, like the one made by George Doughty on May 9, 1896, "Nothing of any importance worth noting in the journal having occurred at the station in the past 6 days" and the simple notation from June 18, 1872, that reads simply, "Beautiful Weath."



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