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Summer 2016

UNCLE SAM VISITS LIGHTHOUSE PARK



Uncle Sam, looking remarkably like SGLA President Jim Kemp, paid a visit to St. George Island to participate in the annual Independence Day parade on July 4. He greeted visitors in Lighthouse Park, and spent some time manning the Community Patrol car to help direct traffic during the parade. Welcome, Uncle Sam – and Happy Birthday America!



A Tribute to Lou Kellenberger

The Cape St. George Light lost a dear friend and benefactor with the passing of Lou Kellenberger on June 28. Lou and his wife Betsy were long-time members of the St. George Lighthouse Association, and avid supporters of our efforts to preserve the Cape St. George Light. As a professional photographer, Lou often visited the island to shoot new images of the lighthouse, and never hesitated to make his beautiful photos available for our promotional use.

On two separate occasions, his award-winning photos of the Cape St. George Light have appeared on the cover of *Lighthouse Digest*, the national magazine that supports and reports on the activities of the world's lighthouses.

Lou and Betsy supported many of the area's lighthouses with their photography. As members of the St. Marks Refuge Association, they were active in the efforts to restore the St. Marks Lighthouse. When the Cape San Blas lighthouse was moved to Port St. Joe in July of 2014, Lou and his camera were there in the rain to document the historic event.

While we knew Lou well as an accomplished lighthouse and nature photographer, only in his passing did we learn more about our dear friend. Born in West Virginia, Lou and Betsy spent many years in Dothan, Alabama, before relocating to Tallahassee. Lou retired as a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley in 2010, but in his generous way continued to offer retirement planning assistance to Tallahassee city employees.

It is difficult to express the extent of the appreciation and gratitude that we owe Lou for all he has done for the Cape St. George Lighthouse. His photographs appear in our brochures and on our website, and his prints are offered for sale in our gift shop. Never did Lou seek a penny of compensation for sharing his work with us. He just wanted to help preserve lighthouses.

We thank him for that, and can only be grateful that his light will shine on through the many images of our area's lighthouses that he has left for us to share with future generations.



Indian Blanket flower photographed by Lou Kellenberger

See What's New at the Lighthouse Gift Shop

Gift Shop Manager Carol Talley is excited about introducing several new items available (or soon to be available) at the Lighthouse Gift Shop.

Beach Bird Collage by Artist Judy Anthrop

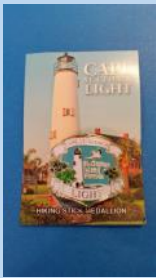
Michigan artist Judy Anthrop, who spends the winters on St. George Island, has created clever shell art collages using natural items found on the island. Using a combination of shells, sand, scrub oak leaves, and palm bark, Judy depicts fun scenes of birds in their own social environment.



Prices:

Small = \$25.00

Large = \$35.00

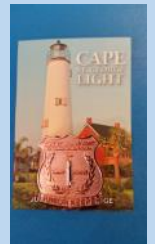


Cape St. George Light Hiking Stick Medallion

Hiking Stick Medallions have become a popular collectible in the U.S. as well as in other countries. After many requests from customers, the Gift Shop is now offering a Hiking Stick Medallion that features the Cape St. George Lighthouse. **Price \$7.00**

Cape St. George Junior Keeper Badge

One of the goals of the St. George Lighthouse Association is to encourage young people's interest in lighthouses. We are hoping that our new Cape St. George Light Junior Keeper's Badge will promote that effort and encourage kids to find out more about the important role that Lighthouse Keeper's played in the history of our nation. **Price \$7.00**



Cape St. George Light Puzzle



At long last, we have a Cape St. George Light Puzzle in development. The puzzle will be a collage of pictures graciously contributed by a number of fine photographers. The pictures depict the evolution of the Cape St. George Lighthouse from the last days of the 1852 Lighthouse on Little St. George Island, to the recovery of the fallen lighthouse, the volunteer cleaning of 22,000 bricks, the construction of the new lighthouse, and the lighthouse and keeper's house as they look today.

The puzzle will consist of 672 pieces and the completed puzzle size will measure 18" x 24.5". The puzzle is expected to be delivered around Sept. 1, 2016. This puzzle will make a great Christmas Gift! **Price \$24.00**

NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY AUGUST 7

The Cape St. George Light will celebrate National Lighthouse Day on Sunday, August 7, by offering free climbing during open hours from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Climbers must be at least 40 inches tall.

National Lighthouse Day commemorates August 7, 1789 – the day that Congress approved “an Act for the establishment and support of lighthouses, beacons, buoys, and public piers.” The legislation was the Ninth Act of the First Congress and established the first public works program undertaken by the new government. The act was signed into law by President George Washington.

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Lighthouse Service in 1989, the United States Lighthouse Society petitioned Congress to declare August 7 as National Lighthouse Day. A joint resolution was sponsored by Sen. John H. Chaffee of Rhode Island and Rep. William J. Hughes of New Jersey, and signed by President Ronald Reagan on November 5, 1988.

The resolution designated August 7, 1989, as National Lighthouse Day and called for “lighthouse grounds, where feasible, to be open to the public.” But the legislation only established National Lighthouse Day for the year 1989, and in spite of ongoing efforts by many lighthouse supporters, the day has never been added to the official national calendar.

Rep. Hughes spoke eloquently before the U.S. House of Representatives in 1989, stating that the designation of National Lighthouse Day “will provide some long overdue recognition for the important role which lighthouses played in the history of our country, and the values of safety, heroism, and American ingenuity which they represent.” He asked “communities and citizens groups around the country to rededicate themselves to the protection and restoration of these historic structures.”

So while National Lighthouse Day may not be “official,” we at the Cape St. George Light are proud to celebrate it every year to honor the lighthouses that are such a critical part of our maritime heritage, and to remember the commitment of the keepers who worked so diligently to keep the lights shining.



The Cape St. George Light and Keeper's House, photographed by Lou Kellenberger

Last Keepers at Cape St. George Light Station By James Hargrove

James Hargrove is a Lighthouse Museum docent and a retired professor from the University of Georgia who makes his home on St. George Island.

One of the major transitions at the Cape St. George Lighthouse took place in 1939 when President Franklin Roosevelt transferred the Lighthouse Service from the Department of Commerce to the U.S. Coast Guard. With war approaching, the President decided that military control was preferable to civilian management of coastal defenses.

In 1938, keeper Walter A. Roberts, Jr. relocated to the Port St. Joe Rear Range Beacon. John Walter Montgomery then transferred to Cape St. George as Assistant Keeper to Thornton K. "Gus" Cooper, who served as Keeper from 1938 until his death in 1939. The Lighthouse Service requested that Sullivan Richard White, the keeper at Cape San Blas, move to Cape St. George to assume duties there. Mr. White had joined the Lighthouse Service after World War I while he was living in Morgan City, Louisiana. And so it turned out that Sullivan White and John Montgomery would become the last two men to serve as lighthouse keepers at the Cape St. George Light Station.

When the Coast Guard took control, all keepers were asked to decide whether they wished to join the Coast Guard or retire. Mr. Montgomery and Mr. White both elected to join the Coast Guard. During their service at Cape St. George, both men were rated as Boatswain's Mates First Class. Later on, Mr. White was promoted to Chief Boatswain's Mate. In general, this meant that both men could be in charge of crews of enlisted men and also operate boats such as the ones used to travel to Apalachicola.



John W. Montgomery manning the helm of a launch at the Dinner Key US Coast Guard station, from which he and his crew maintained the Carysfort Reef Light Station. He served in the Coast Guard for 24 years, mostly at light stations. After his death, his ashes were buried at sea. (Photo courtesy of Leonard Montgomery of Panama City Beach).

I recently had the privilege of talking to Leonard Montgomery, son of John W. Montgomery, and also Michael Millender and Theresa Crosby at Island View Seafood in Eastpoint, who are Sullivan White's grandchildren. These people kindly shared photographs of their families and told what they remembered. As a child, Mr. Montgomery lived at Cape St. George for several years.

"One of the main things I remember about Dad is that he always had a paintbrush in one hand," recalled Mr. Montgomery. "He was constantly painting the tower, the fences or the dwellings." Indeed, one of the last photographs of the lighthouse reservation shows buildings and fences that glisten with white paint. Incidentally, there was no scaffolding for painting the tower. The keepers rigged up a bosun's chair and hung it from a rope from the metal "bird cage" around the lantern room.

Photographs of Sullivan White demonstrate the transition from the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard. In some photos, Mr. White stands outside one of the keeper's dwellings dressed in his Keeper's uniform, including a cap with a lighthouse surrounded by a gold embroidered wreath and a jacket with brass buttons that we know were embossed with lighthouses. In other photos, Mr. White stands near the home he bought in Apalachicola wearing his Coast Guard fatigues with white navy-style seaman's cap.

Last Keepers at Cape St. George Light Station By James Hargrove *(continued from page 4)*

Before the lighthouse was automated, the light source was an incandescent oil vapor lamp that had a mantle rather than a wick, and the beautiful Fresnel lens still focused the beacon. Leonard Montgomery recalled, "My mom could light the Cape St. George Light in an emergency. Also the light roared like a giant Coleman lantern and could be heard some distance down the beach. My folks' bed was positioned such that the light shined on my dad's pillow. If it began to sputter he would be up in the lantern room to keep it from going out."

The Cape St. George Light Station never had electric power. During the 1940's, there was a gas powered water pump. Everything else was kerosene-powered including the Servel refrigerator, a stove, and the Aladdin mantle lamps. Fifty-five gallon barrels of kerosene were stored in the oil house near the base of the tower.

During World War II, the Coast Guard installed a beach patrol at the station and built a wooden observation tower where breezes kept the temperature cooler than was the case in the lighthouse tower. Michael Millender said that he heard that German naval personnel came ashore one evening and left papers around the lighthouse buildings. Shortly thereafter, a U-boat torpedo sank an oil transport ship called the *Empire Mica*, and the smoke could be seen from the lighthouse. The lighthouse keepers were required to stay at their stations, and telephoned Apalachicola for help. Rescue boats sped out from town to pick up survivors. Later, scuba divers recovered some artifacts from the sunken ship. Two of its light fixtures were salvaged and are used today at Island View Seafood in Eastpoint. The propeller is on display at Anderson's seafood restaurant in Panama City Beach.

Mr. Montgomery remembered that the Coast Guard had inherited Old Neb, the lighthouse horse, when the prior keepers departed. His father loved Old Neb, who had first been acquired near the turn of the century by keeper Edward Porter. When the Coast Guard furnished a Jeep for transportation, they asked John Montgomery to dispose of the horse. He refused to do that, and instead convinced the "Brass" to furnish 100 pounds of corn and oats each month to feed the old horse. Finally, the animal developed severe arthritis and had to be euthanized. The horse had served at the lighthouse for almost 50 years.

After 1944, John Montgomery was assigned to the Crooked River Light Station as the last USCG keeper in residence, where his family stayed until 1952 except for a two year assignment in the Caroline Islands. In 1953, he returned to the Apalachicola USCG Station as the Officer in Charge. In that position, he maintained Aids to Navigation from West Pass to Lake Wimico. Thereafter, he was transferred to the Miami area, where he served at the Dinner Key Coast Guard Station and took care of Carysfort Lighthouse, which is on an isolated reef.

When his Coast Guard service ended, Sullivan White retired in Apalachicola, where he lived until 1966. After his death, he was buried in Magnolia Cemetery, where his grave marker can still be viewed.



At left, Sullivan R. White poses in his US Lighthouse Service uniform around 1939. At right, he wears his US Coast Guard fatigues outside the family home in Apalachicola. (Photos courtesy of Michael Millender and Theresa Crosby of Island View Seafood in Eastpoint.)

One Thousand Finds for Lighthouse Cache by Lois Swoboda

The Saint George Lighthouse geocache has just been found for the one thousandth time.

The cache, hidden on December 6, 2006, is by far the most visited geocache in the county and one of the most popular in Florida.

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.

At its simplest level, geocaching requires eight steps. Players register for a free membership online at www.geocaching.com; visit the "Hide & Seek a Cache" page and enter a postal code then choose any geocache from the list and click on its name. They then seek a chosen cache using a handheld GPS receiver.

Visitors 1000 and 1001 to the lighthouse cache were Ashley Watts aka "Wattsgirl" and friend Amanda Baldwin both of Crossville, Tennessee.

The best friends are both teachers and visited the cache while on an annual girl's getaway. Although Baldwin had found about 30 geocaches in the past, it was Watts' first day caching and the St. George Lighthouse cache was her ninth find.

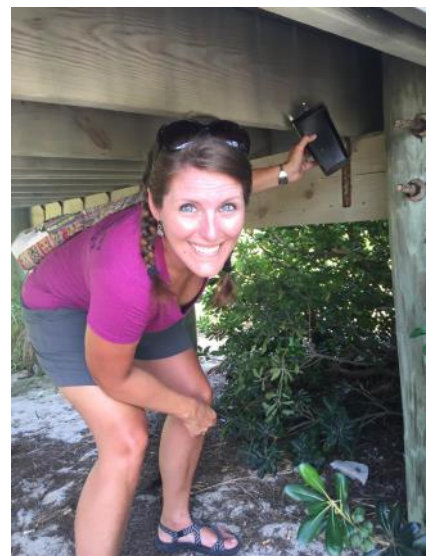
Baldwin said she began geocaching when her daughter found information on the hobby on the internet.

This was the women's first visit to Franklin County and they were very impressed.

In addition to caching, they camped at Julian Bruce State Park, kayaked and fished.

"We are looking forward to coming back," said Watts.

Ashley Watts, "Wattsgirl," bags the St. George Lighthouse Cache



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Welcome Lighthouse Keeper Tracy Evans

We are delighted to welcome new Lighthouse Keeper Tracy Evans to the Cape St. George Light! Tracy joins Susan Uhl and Mark Vail on the team of modern-day keepers who welcome visitors to the lighthouse, tell guests about the light's fascinating history, and answer questions about the lighthouse, museum, and St. George Island.

Having resided in Franklin County since his youth, Tracy remembers visiting the lighthouse when it stood on Cape St. George. He used the lighthouse as a visual aid to navigation during the years that he operated a shrimp boat in the Gulf of Mexico, giving him first-hand knowledge of the importance of seeing a friendly beacon when out at sea.

Tracy currently works full-time as a member of the Franklin County Roads Department, and prior to that assignment was an employee of the Franklin County Parks & Recreation Department. We are excited to bring on board someone who has experience with both the lighthouse and Lighthouse Park.

Tracy will work at the lighthouse on Friday and Saturday, and Susan will be there Sunday through Wednesday. Also on the team is Mark Vail, who will continue to oversee maintenance of the lighthouse, keeper's house, and the park, as well as fill in at the lighthouse as needed.

So please stop by to welcome Tracy, say hello to Susan and Mark, and climb the lighthouse!

Tracy fills the position left vacant when Jim Dunkin resigned for health reasons. We thank Jim for his years of dedicated service to the Cape St. George Light and wish him all the best.



Lighthouse Keepers Susan Uhl and Tracy Evans

Quick Blinks

- Richard Roberts, son of our friend and benefactor Bill Roberts, sent a note about an unusual coincidence he experienced in his summer travels. Richard was vacationing in Athens, Greece, and one day was wearing his Cape St. George Light t-shirt. He stopped at a souvenir shop in the old section of town, and found himself face-to-face with a lady who was also wearing a Cape St. George Light shirt! She was from North Carolina, and had visited St. George Island and the lighthouse last summer. She knew the story of the lighthouse, and remembered reading about Richard's father and grandfather, who was a Keeper at Cape St. George. Richard said that the lady "really loved visiting the museum and the lighthouse and was very complimentary of the people there." Small world . . .
- Stay tuned during coming weeks for the new edition of the St. George Lighthouse Association website. Under development by 2K Web Group of Apalachicola, the new site will focus on CSG lighthouse news and photos, while still offering the background story of the collapse and reconstruction of the historic lighthouse. The web address will remain the same: www.stgeorgelight.org



- The August Full Moon Climb at the lighthouse will be held on Thursday, August 18, from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Call the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745 for availability and reservations.



Olivia Hurt from Tallahassee enjoys the view from the top of the Cape St. George Lighthouse while visiting her family on St. George Island.

A Parting Shot . . .



On Friday, May 20, a major storm complete with thunder, lightning strikes, rain, and hail hit the island and knocked out power for a couple of hours in some areas. First responder, fire, and sheriff personnel had a busy evening, and when it was over, a beautiful rainbow appeared. Andree Grogan, who lives in Decatur, GA but was visiting her home on the island, rode her bicycle through the hail and ultimately got this shot of the lighthouse. What we are wondering is what happened to the pot of gold that seems to be right behind the Keeper's House?