



Please note that as a result of the current pandemic, the March 2021 meeting will not be held, However, mark your calendars for **April 12, 2021** as we are planning our first virtual meeting and presentation at 7:00 PM!

All members are asked to register their email address for virtual programming and PPHSM news communications. If you haven't already done so, visit the link below and register today!

http://bit.ly/pphs_emailreg

Celebrating Women Lighthouse Keepers in Honor of Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. In December 2020, the Ocean County Historical Society hosted a virtual presentation titled "Women Lighthouse Keepers" by historian Mary Rasa, who is a former museum curator at Sandy Hook and former National Park interpreter. Key points from Rasa's presentation about the contribution of Women Lighthouse Keepers, can be viewed in its entirety by visiting http://bit.ly/OCHSWOMENLIGHTHOUSE_RASA (proper capitalization required).

One of the first acts of Congress after colonial times was to establish a lighthouse service on August 7, 1789, which is why Lighthouse Day falls annually on August 7. The job of lighthouse keeper was the second federal position available to women, the first being office clerk. In 1859, Maria Mestre de los Dolores Andreu was named the first woman lighthouse keeper in the country in St. Augustine, Florida. While 140 women were officially appointed lighthouse keepers or assistant lighthouse keepers in the United States, over 600 women unofficial keepers actually contributed to the manning and upkeep of United States lighthouses, many of whom were wives or daughters of federally appointed lighthouse keepers.

Ida Lewis was keeper of the lighthouse at Lime Rock Lighthouse in Newport, Rhode Island from 1857 to 1911. Her father, Captain Hosea Lewis, was appointed Lime Rock Lighthouse's keeper in 1854 and moved the family to live on the rock in 1857. However, Captain Lewis suffered a stroke four months later, so Ida assumed most of the keeper's duties along with her mother, which included filling the lamp with oil and sundown and midnight, extinguishing the light at dawn, and polishing the lens in addition to rowing her younger siblings to school every day and obtaining supplies from town. In failing health herself, Ida's mother was lighthouse keeper in 1873 when Captain Lewis died. After her mother's death from cancer in 1878, Ida officially was appointed as keeper in 1879, but she had already rescued countless people by that time. Ida made her first rescue at 12 years old in 1854 by assisting four men whose vessel had capsized. During her 54 years on Lime Rock, Ida is credited with saving 18 lives, but that number might be as high as 25. She was the first woman to receive the Gold Lifesaving Medal from the government in 1881 for her rescue of two soldiers earlier that year. In fact, Ida is the only lighthouse keeper to have a lighthouse named after her. Since lighthouses are named for the plot of land or sea they stand upon, so the Rhode Island legislature officially changed the name of Lime Rock to Ida Lewis Rock in 1924, thus changing the name of the lighthouse to Ida Lewis Rock Lighthouse, which today serves as the clubhouse of the Ida Lewis Yacht Club.



Ida Lewis
Photo: USCG Creative Commons

Closer to home, people who have taken a cruise out of Bayonne have passed by a small lighthouse one mile north of Staten Island called Robbins Reef Lighthouse, which was built in 1883. Kate Walker arrived at Robbins Reef Lighthouse in 1885 when her husband was appointed keeper. Kate, a German immigrant, immediately felt the effects of isolation due to being more than a mile away from other humans but assumed the duties of assistant keeper without complaint. When her husband died from pneumonia in 1890, Kate assumed all of the principal lighthouse keeper duties. The U.S. Lighthouse Board permanently appointed Kate as lighthouse keeper in 1895. Kate maintained both the light and the foghorn and rescued sailors after shipwrecks. It is believed Kate rescued fifty people from drowning during her tenure as keeper at a time when she also raised two children. Kate was frequently the subject of magazine and newspaper articles including the *New York Times*. Kate worked at the lighthouse until she retired at the age of 73 in 1919. The Robbins Reef Lighthouse is commonly referred to as "Kate's Light," and Kate is the subject of a recently published children's book titled *Kate's Light: Kate Walker at Robbins Reef Lighthouse*.



Kate Walker (1909)
Photo: USCG Creative Commons

Sandy Hook Lighthouse was built in 1764, decades before the formation of the United States Lighthouse Service. "We like to call it the oldest lighthouse in the country because it's the oldest structure in the country," Rasa said. The Patterson Family from Howell produced a number of lighthouse keepers, including Charles Patterson, keeper of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse in 1861, and his sister, Sarah Patterson Johnson, who was officially appointed as assistant lighthouse keeper in May 1867 with an annual salary of \$360 despite performing assistant keeper duties since 1864. Sarah had already lost two children in infancy and her husband by the time she was appointed assistant keeper. Sarah and Charles exchanged letters while on duty at Sandy Hook and at home in Howell which tell about life as a lighthouse keeper at Sandy Hook Lighthouse, many of which are on display at the lighthouse today.



Sarah Patterson Johnson
Photo: NPR Archives

See the resources on the back to learn more and please watch Mary Rasa's full presentation at http://bit.ly/OCHSWOMENLIGHTHOUSE_RASA



Women Lighthouse Keepers Resources:

Sandy Hook's Patterson Family: Service to the Sea
by Mary Rasa (online .pdf file):
https://gardenstatelegacy.com/files/Service_to_the-Sea_Rasa_GSL20.pdf

Books:

- Women Who Kept the Lights*
by Mary Louise Clifford and J. Candace Clifford
- Mind the Light, Katie: The History of Thirty-Three Female Lighthouse Keepers*
by Mary Louise Clifford and J. Candace Clifford
- Kate's Light: Kate Walker at Robbin's Reef Lighthouse*
by Elizabeth Spires, illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully

Point Pleasant Beach Historic Overlay District Approved

The Point Pleasant Beach Borough Council approved the downtown Historic Overlay District which will preserve the vintage character of Arnold Avenue and Bay Avenue structures at its February 16, 2021 meeting. Under the ordinance, developers who maintain or convert buildings constructed between the 1880s and 1980s with the authentic styles, features, and materials of their era of origin will be provided with incentives.

The ordinance specifically relieves parking restrictions, building heights, and more if developers work with the borough in following set guidelines, according to the *Ocean Star*.

Another feature of the plan is for signage to incorporate three-dimensional lettering, logos and images using wood and wood-like materials, window etching, and awnings according to the presentation posted to the Borough of Point Pleasant Beach website. A proposed coastal color palette invoking the "muted seashore tones of yesteryears" is also a part of the plan.

to learn more about the plan, visit <https://pointpleasantbeach.org/2021/02/18/a-new-image-for-our-historic-downtown/>

In accordance with the guidance from state and local health officials and concern for our museum patrons, the Point Pleasant Historical Museum remains closed to visitors until further notice.

Around the Town 75 Years Ago...

The images below were scanned from the 1946 Point Pleasant Beach Guidebook.

Point Pleasant Beach in New Jersey



"THE GARDEN SPOT OF THE UNIVERSE"

Beautifully situated along the Atlantic Ocean, Point Pleasant Beach is the paradise of vacationists from every state in the union.

Every year thousands of tourists, combined with residents of the metropolis who make their summer home here, enjoy the advantages afforded them by the many natural attractions that abound in this community.

Three natural lakes, the Beautiful Manasquan River, the world-renowned Barnegat Bay, the Bay Head-Manasquan Canal, establish for lovers of boating, fishing, a sportman's paradise.

The Atlantic Ocean, with its wide sloping beaches, is the haven for thousands who enjoy lounging on the white sands, refreshed by the salty dips in its blue-green waters.

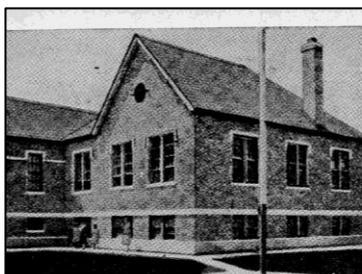
Excellent highways create a network of pathways to the East's two largest metropolitan centers, New York and Philadelphia, which are within two hours' travel by car from this resort.

Railroad and bus service is unsurpassed.

The refreshing breezes from the Atlantic, that mingle with the air currents swept from the Jersey pine belt, just west of here, make for those wishing to regain their health, a haven of restoration.

An excellent police force and efficient fire department, modern business houses, excellent schools and many churches, all lead to—

EVERY ADVANTAGE TO MAKE A GARDEN SPOT OF THE UNIVERSE WHICH AWAITS YOU HERE AT POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NEW JERSEY.



RAILROAD STATION
AT
POINT PLEASANT
BEACH



ANOTHER MODERN
EDUCATIONAL CENTER
THAT IS AFFORDED
POINT PLEASANT BEACH
STUDENTS

Phone P. P. 520 We Deliver
**POINT PLEASANT
SEA FOOD MARKET
AND OYSTER HOUSE**
FRESH FISH DAILY
Clams - Lobsters - Crabs - Bait
Hotels and Restaurants Supplied
616 Bay Avenue Point Pleasant Beach

Phone Pt. Pleasant 645-M
PHILADELPHIA HOUSE
Emmy M. Jonason, Prop.
ROOMS
1½ Blocks from Ocean
Bathing from House
113 Central Ave. Point Pleasant Beach

LAKE VIEW COTTAGE
MRS. C. E. HERZOG
109 Arnold Ave. Point Pleasant Beach
ROOMS by DAY, WEEK, MONTH
Bathing Phone
From House Point Pleasant 1523

Phone Numbers you May want to Call

If you wish to report a fire tell operator to connect you with the Fire Department.

Same procedure should be taken if you wish to call First Aid Squad.

Police	Call 500
R. R. Station	Call 16
High School	Call 422
Boro Clerk	Call 1118
Board of Health	Call 1249

DOCTORS

Dr. Appleton	Call 1267
Dr. Witte	Call 1380-164

THEATRES

Arnold

PPHS annual dues are due in April!

Don't delay...send in your membership form and \$10 dues today!