

Grand Manan Archives

Finding Aid - Gannet Rock Lighthouse (MG90)

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Language of description: English

Grand Manan Archives

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http://www.grandmananmuseum.ca/MUSEUM_Archives_Collections.html

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Gannet Rock Lighthouse

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Summary information

Repository:	Grand Manan Archives
Title:	Gannet Rock Lighthouse
ID:	MG90
Date:	1931-1989 (date of creation)
Physical description:	5 cm of textual records
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
Note [generalNote]:	Formerly held as MG12 Lighthouses/Fog Alarms MS4 Gannet Rock

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Gannet Rock Lighthouse is nine miles southeast of Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, in the Bay of Fundy. It is Grand Manan's oldest lighthouse, built by John Purvis in 1831. Seven years earlier--in 1824--the New Brunswick government ordered that a lighthouse be built off the coast of Grand Manan, where rocks endangered ships approaching Saint John.

The lantern, put up by Joseph Hogg, was first lit on Christmas Eve 1831 by Capt. Lamb of Saint John, New Brunswick, who remained as keeper until 1835. He was replaced by E. G. Miller, who drowned in 1837. Jonathon Kent was keeper from 1837 to 1843 when he was replaced by Henry McLaughlin.

In 1853 Walter McLaughlin became keeper of Gannet Rock and kept journals until he left in 1880. At that time the keeper paid his assistant out of his own salary. One assistant, Finlay MacDonald, was paid £167 for 9 months' work in 1867. McLaughlin returned one day to find that his assistant had abandoned the Rock and left the death flag flying. Walter McLaughlin left Gannet Rock in 1880 to tend the new lighthouse at Southwest Head on Grand Manan and was succeeded at Gannet Rock by Oliver Kent, son of Jonathon Kent.

Oliver Kent remained there for 18 years, until 1898, when Lincoln Harvey took over the job. Harvey left in 1904 and was succeeded by the following keepers: Coleman Dalzell, 1904-1910; Sidney W. Tatton, 1910-1912; Allen Wilson, 1912-1919; Arthur Wilson, 1919-1929 (acting principal keeper, 1919-1920); Donald W. Wilson, 1929-1944; Garfield Wilson, August - November 1944; Hayward Forsythe, 1944-1946; Frank Linton, 1946-1947; Frank M. Tucker, 1947-1955; Bernard G. Deveau, 1955-1959; Howard N. Ingalls, 1959-1962; Ralph N. Maker, 1962-1963; Lawrence Benson, 1963-1966; Addison Naves, 1966-1971; Douglas S. Daggett, 1971-1974; Donald Denton, 1974-1982; Sidney Guphill, 1982-1989; Barry S. Bagley, 1989-1996 (acting principal keeper).

A new house was built in 1884 and rebuilt in 1887. A brick house was built in 1906 and the present house was built of cement in 1931. The original lamp burned a mixture of whale oil, turpentines and

other inflammables. In 1931 Gannet Rock was reputed to be the second most powerful light in the world (85,000 candle power), second only to England's Eddystone Light. Today there is a 1,000 watt light 24 hours a day. Gannet Rock Light was automated and the last keepers left in April 1996.

Sources: J.G. Lorimer, "History of the Isles and Islets of the Bay of Fundy"

Deborah Daggett information used by permission.

Custodial history

Information about the custody of these records prior to acquisition is incomplete.

Scope and content

This collection contains plans showing how the Gannet Rock Lighthouse is situated on the rock, correspondence, newspaper articles, and a book excerpt by an unknown author.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on contents.

Immediate source of acquisition

Source unknown.

Location of originals

MMC Manan McLaughlin records are available on microfilm at New Brunswick Provincial Archives F-230 and F-231

Restrictions on access

No restrictions

Finding aids

Available upon request.

Related material

Other records of weather and stores on Gannet Rock are located in the W.B. McLaughlin file (MMC). Records of other lighthouses in the Grand Manan area are also available in the Archives.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
MG90-1/6	File - Letter: September 28, 1989. To: W. Dathan From Lorna A. Wilson on L. Wilson's family history at Gannet Rock	1989		