



The Bay Run



Newsletter of
The Delaware Bay
Lighthouse Keepers
and Friends Association, Inc.

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"Our mission is to preserve the history of the
Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their Keepers"

A VISIT TO HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA —A MEMORIAL TO THE CIVIL WAR

Memories of the Civil War come alive when visiting the 135-acre historic Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA. Established in 1847, this historic site overlooks the James River and is considered a Garden Cemetery designed by the architect in a rural style escaping the layout of the monotony of a regular cemetery. The architect, Norton, left trees and other plants untouched to create a calm landscape and a peaceful haven for visitors. This has been a fully operational cemetery since the 19th Century. Some of the famous people interred here include authors, suffragists, presidents and many other notables who have influenced the course of our nation's history.



Let's take a tour with my granddaughter, a very knowledgeable guide. As we enter the cemetery, I notice a 90' tall pyramid. It is part of the "Soldiers' Section," which is a tribute to 80,000 Confederate soldiers buried there. 3,000 are from the Battle of Gettysburg. Twenty-five Confederate army officers are also buried in this area including Generals JEB Stuart and George Pickett. This gigantic pyramid was dedicated by the Confederate Women of Virginia.

In another area of the cemetery, there are 5 ex governors of Virginia and 2 Supreme Court justices. Venturing further into the interior, we enter the "Presidents' Circle" which houses former presidents James Monroe's and John Tyler's burial sites. Monroe's monument is nicknamed "The Birdcage" due to its cage-like design. John Tyler was the only one in presidential history to not be officially recognized by the powers that were in Washington at that time, due to his allegiance to the Confederate States of America. Despite protests, Confederate President Jefferson Davis hosted a huge event honoring Tyler when he passed away and ordered a confederate flag draped

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Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



Hello from windy North Cape May, New Jersey. The winter months have passed, and we are slowly finding each day a bit warmer. Nights still have temperatures in the upper 30's but if the days are warmer, I will not complain. It is time to turn over the garden beds and figure out what we are planting this year. I will also be cleaning up the yard and tuning up the lawn mower for another season of grass cutting.

I attended the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge meeting on March 11, 2025, in Tuckahoe, NJ preparing for the upcoming challenge October 18-19. I learned that 73% of the participants in the 2024 challenge completed the challenge visiting all eleven lighthouses, three lifesaving stations and one museum. Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Service Station has been included as a required site to visit this year.

The winter meeting on Saturday, January 25 at the Nature Center of Cape May was a well-attended informative meeting with speakers Mark Allen and Jeff Stewart. Everyone participated and enjoyed learning about the Cape May Harbor, the Nature Center of Cape May and the progress of restoration on Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse. Thank you everyone who attended our meeting and supported us.

So, until next time, keep the lights shining! *Angelo*

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*The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. (DBLHKFA)
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over Tyler's coffin during the ceremonies. President of the Confederate States, Jefferson Davis, and his family are also buried in Hollywood Cemetery.

Along the pathway, there is a statue of an "Iron Dog" supposedly watching over a young child who passed away. Another story told is that the dog was moved there to keep the statue from being melted down into bullets during the Civil War.

We visited the Palmer Chapel, a picturesque site with stained glass windows where we get a beautiful view of the James River.

Hollywood Cemetery is the final resting place of Lewis Gitner, a very influential philanthropist and prominent businessman in this area. While visiting Virginia's capital, check out the beautiful Gitner Botanical Gardens.

Hollywood Cemetery is one of the most visited cemeteries in Virginia and one of the most historic and beautiful cemeteries in the United States. This cemetery was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1969.

Thanks for the guided tour EM, very interesting indeed.

(Pictures compliments of the Associated Press)

Civil War statistics 1861-1865 -

Confederate military served: 1,050,000 Deaths 74,524

Union military served: 2,213,363 Deaths 140,414



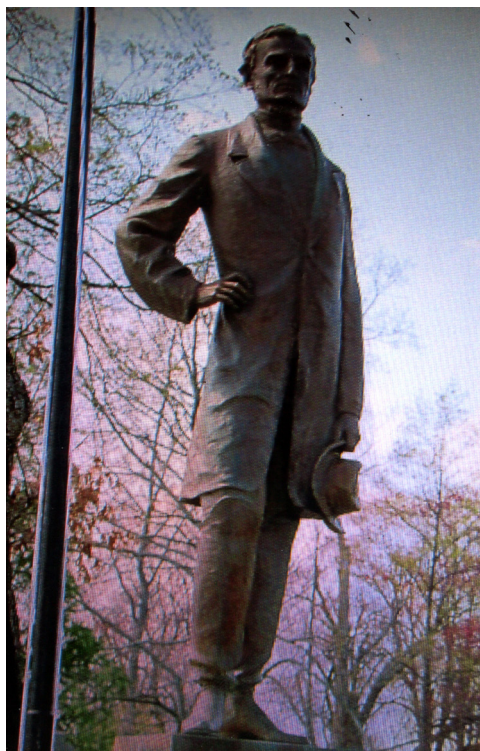
Tribute to the Confederate soldiers



Scenic James River



Gitner mausoleum



Jefferson Davis, President of the
Confederate States



The "Bird Cage" of James Monroe



General JEB Stuart grave site



The Iron Dog



John Tyler burial site

FROM THE LOG OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

by Rod Mulligan

Our winter meeting held at the Nature Center of Cape May was quite a success. The Nature Center founded in 1992, is a staffed nature center and open to the public. Its mission statement is: “to provide quality environmental educational experiences to encourage stewardship of the harbor and other natural areas, to promote volunteerism as a means of community involvement and service and to reflect a philosophy of responsibility for education.” Check out their web site. (The Nature Center)

Our meeting was held in the “Charlotte Todd Educational Center” where, after our lunch break, Mark Allen introduced Jeff Stewart, Jr. from Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse Friends, who reported his organization was committed to the restoration, preservation, and public education of Brandywine Light. He provided information on the restoration details and the factors that have delayed the process. The project came to a halt in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. Plans have resumed, but the group is now facing rising expenses and funding. They will continue with the plans and expect to open the lighthouse to the public in the near future.

Mark Allen spoke regarding the history of Cape May Harbor. The harbor was created in 1911 after years of dredging were completed. In 2007, burned-out boats and wrecks were abandoned along the harbor. The boat owners walked away leaving their boats abandoned. In 2008 a group of volunteers cleaned up the harbor removing the sunken, abandoned boats. In 2002 Cape May adopted Ordinance 481-2002 requiring a registration process to monitor the use of the harbor. Anyone who anchors a boat in the harbor for 30 days or more must register with the City of Cape May.

Our thanks to Jeff and Mark for the interesting, informative presentations. *(NOTE: Our thanks also to Secretary, Darlene Rigazio’s minutes for information recorded in Rod’s absence.)*



Thursday, May 1, 4 PM: Our spring meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1 in Cold Spring Village at the newly renovated Cold Spring Brewery, 733 Seashore Road, Cape May, NJ 08204 Phone # 609-854-3077. The meeting will feature our President Angelo Rigazio giving a power-point presentation on the “Forgotten Lighthouses of the Delaware Bay”. (NOTE: Angelo was the last keeper assigned to Harbor of Refuge). A brief meeting, a discussion and a question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. Merchandise and food will be available for purchase. Come out; bring a friend. All are welcome.

FYI On Thursday, April 24 at 4 PM there will be a presentation at the Cold Spring Brewery by Mark Allen, our Program & Activities Chairman – “The Life and Times of Robert Smalls and His Cape May Connection”. The play was written by Mark; Jeffrey Hebron and Nena Wise will be performing. It is the riveting true story of escaping slaves during the Civil War who abscond with a confederate gunboat and make it to freedom. It reveals Smalls’ interesting connection to Cape May. This play is presented under the auspicious of the Center for Community Arts. Come out and enjoy the presentation. All who are interested are welcome.

WORDS WE LIVE BY

Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson written in 1776

...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government...

The Preamble to the Constitution by James Madison

(James Madison is known as the “Father of the Constitution” due to his contributions. In 1787, he and delegates from 12 other colonies met in Philadelphia and penned this important document.)

We the People of the United States in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, Insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.

SECTION 1—All legislative processes herein quoted shall be visited in a Congress of the United States which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

The Bill of Rights

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are considered “Our Freedoms” – The Bill of Rights:

The First Amendment – protects freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom to assemble and petition.

Second Amendment – the right to bear arms.

Fifth Amendment – “Due Process”...nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty and property without due process of law nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction to the equal protocol of its law.

Eighth Amendment – The legislative has the right to make the rules for the government and the regulations of land and naval forces.

Fourteenth Amendment – All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and the state in which they reside. (Only one parent must be a citizen.)

Fifteenth Amendment – Right to vote not denied by race.

Nineteenth Amendment – Right to vote not denied nor abridged by sex by any state.

Twentieth Amendment – No president should be elected to the office of president more than twice.

The Gettysburg Address written by Abraham Lincoln in 1863

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. We are engaged in a great civil war...we are highly resolved that these men have not died in vain And that the government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Closing part of the Inscription on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty written by Emma Lazarus in 1883

...”Give me your huddled masses yearning to breathe free; The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these homeless tempest-tossed to me; I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

(NOTE: The United States has the longest living framework of government in the world.)

(Taken from an article by Jean Jones, Staff Writer for the Cape Gazette, October 4 – 10, 1996)

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS, BUFFS ORGANIZE

A group of former Delaware Bay lighthouse keepers and others with connections to the bays' many lights organized former "Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends".

Carole Reily of Buena known locally as the "Lighthouse Lady," produced a series of postcards featuring Delaware Bay lights and now is working on a book about the keepers and their experiences. She had located a few men who had served on the lights and in 1995 they decided to get together at the home of Bill Johnson, in Newport, for a reunion. Last year, a larger group met at the Charlesworth Hotel, in Fortescue, for a second reunion, and decided to organize. "We need to decide who we are, what we are, and what we do," said Dan McFadden, who later was elected president.

The group agreed that their goal should be preserving and educating the public after the history and tradition of Delaware Bay lighthouses and having fun while doing it.

Following an afternoon of working out the framework of the new organization, officers were elected. Reily was elected vice president, Roxie Vallantine secretary, and Zoe Maden, treasurer. Vallantine will produce a quarterly newsletter, Bill Horn, Fred Ruddick and Bill Holwell were elected directors. Officers will serve for two years and directors for one year.

The group agreed to meet on the first weekend in February, May, August and in November an annual reunion dinner would be held each year.



WHAT IS AMERICA TO ME?

by E. S. Dizon*



What is America to Me What is America to me? A name, a map, or a flag I see
A certain word DEMOCRACY, What is America to me?

The house I live in, A plot of earth, the street, The grocer and the butcher
Or the people that I meet
The children in the playground, the faces that I see
All races and religions, That's America to me.

The place I work in, The worker by my side
The little town, the city where my people lived and died
The howdy and the handshake, the air feeling free
The right to speak your mind out, That's America to me.

The things I see about me, The big things and the small
The little corner newsstand Or the house a mile tall
The wedding and the churchyard, The laughter and the tears
The dream that's been growing For more than two hundred years.

The town I live in, The street, the house, the room
The pavement of the city Or a garden all in bloom
The church, the school, the clubhouse, the million lights I see
Especially the people, That's America to me.

Dedicated to the millions of men and women who have given their lives to preserve our country and its ideals.

("E. S. Dizon, an immigrant wrote this tribute to the people of America in 1943. This poem (and eventually a song) were included in a book of the same title as Dizon ventured throughout our country.)