Few repairs were needed over the years. In 1881 the exterior walls of the dwelling were repainted two coats white, a storm porch was built over the back door, and a window was put into the east side of the kitchen. The sides of the covered way were sheathed. The boat house was moved back from the water five feet and the walls battened. In 1887 a brick cistern was built and 50 sq. ft. stone retaining wall was rebuilt.

In 1896 an important improvement was made to the lighthouse. Previously only a hand bell was available on station to be rung in acknowledgment of a passing vessel's signal. On October 10, 1896, "the Grindle Point Light Station, Maine, changed to a 1,000 pound bell struck by hand."

With fewer and fewer commercial steamers finding reason to tie up at Islesboro, it became more difficult to justify the expense of a keeper and a manned station. Grindle Point was marked for discontinuation in 1923. Fierce objections were voiced, primarily by influential wealthy summer residents and automation was temporarily set aside. In January 1934 a final plan to deactivate the station was drawn up and given out shortly thereafter. With the automation, the lighthouse service erected a later design skeletal tower close to the vacated lighthouse station. The height of this tower was 21' and the visibility of its flashing white light was 9 nautical miles. It was taken down in 1987. In that same year, Scott Rolerson arranged for the permanent loan of a 1,000 pound bell from the Shore Village Museum.

At the time of automation residents of Islesboro sought and obtained the lighthouse buildings from the government and it was sold to the Town of Islesboro February 11, 1935 for the sum of $1,200 for the purpose of a public park and a ferry terminal. The dwelling house became the Islesboro Sailors Memorial Museum.

This pamphlet was a project of Islesboro Central School's 1995 Graphic Arts Class.

Cover photo: Phil Seymour

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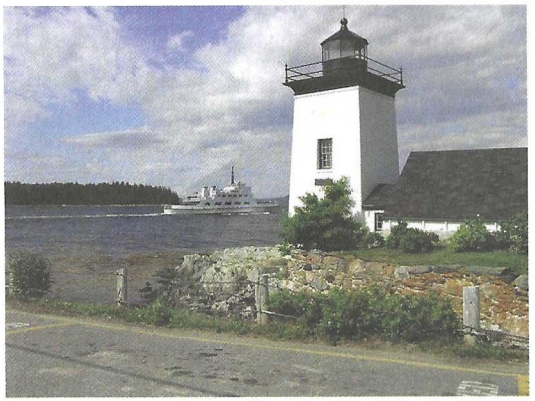
ISLESBORO SAILORS MEMORIAL MUSEUM and GRINDLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE



The purpose of this museum is to preserve the memory of the seafaring men of Islesboro. The Museum opened in 1938 with a collection of memorabilia assembled by Miss Alice L. Pendleton and Mrs. Arline Pendleton.

HOURS:

July 1st through Labor Day
9:30AM to 4:30PM
(207) 734-0913

2021
Saturday & Sunday