



The Docent Diaries of the Point Pinos Lighthouse

First Lit 1855

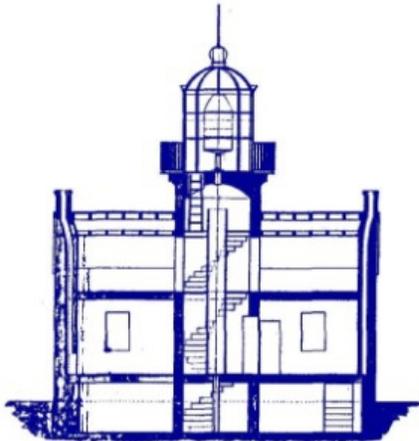
The Oldest Continuously Operating Lighthouse on the West Coast

Volume One, Number Two

Fall, 2021

From the Time Line (1855-1905)

- 1855 Point Pinos lit February 1
Whale oil lamp
Dirt path to lighthouse, horse & mule
- 1861 - 1865 American Civil War
- 1869 Transcontinental railroad
- 1871-1893 Keeper Luce clears trail
Later becomes Lighthouse Avenue
- 1875 Boat Parade: pre Feast of Lanterns
- 1880 Robert Louis Stevenson visits lighthouse
De Monte hotel built & 17 Mile Drive
Del Monte train service begins
- 1881 Toilet paper for outhouse
- 1882 Kerosene lamp
- 1889 Whistle buoy installed offshore
Pacific Grove City incorporates
- 1893-1914 Emily Fish is keeper
Set oval fence w/ Monterey cypress hedge
Brick oil house built



Andrew Wasson, 4th Keeper

Andrew was born 1839 in Schenectady New York to James Wasson and Anne Coombs. He came to California around the horn in 1855 at age 14, where he worked in the mines, making a stake of \$8,000. He tried farming in Pajaro Valley and lost all his funds gained in mining.

He served as Deputy Sheriff of Monterey County from 1857 to '59. He married the widow Cathrine Nester Cole after '58. He had various jobs in stock (cattle and horses) and business until '63.

In 1863, at the age of 24, he was appointed the keeper of the Point Pinos Lighthouse by President Abraham Lincoln.

In 1870 he was elected sheriff and tax collector for Monterey County. In 1873 he responded to Tiburcio Vasquez (*earlier ran with Anastacio Garcia*) gang's robbery and murder in Tres Pinos where he captures Moreno and the State rewarded \$1000 plus expenses.

He was not re-elected as he did not capture Vasquez and failed to renovate the dilapidated county jail having no funds. He reverted to farming in the Salinas Valley, Gonzales area.

In 1880 and 1881 he served as Sergeant at Arms of the California state senate in Sacramento.

He divorced his old wife and acquired a new wife, 26 years his junior, the 17 year old Minnie Snook. He then created one of the largest orchards in Oregon of 2000 plus acres of prunes.

In 1888 he moved to Puget Sound, WA. In 1891 he is elected to WA. state legislature. Also in 1891 he is appointed collector of customs for greater Puget Sound by President W. H. Harrison

He returned to Sacramento, where in the 1900 census, his listed occupation was "capitalist". He died of apoplexy (heart attack or stroke) at age of 71 in 1911.

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Restoration Report



Volunteers discussing maintenance of the garden area and the other native plants

Lantern Repair

Our old tower has been worked on for over a year, from top to bottom, due to excessive amounts of corrosion. Besides the small Lighthouse Restoration group from the Pacific Grove Heritage Society, a professional architectural firm from San Francisco has been helping.

The vertical protecting plates (10) around the tower under the glass were impossible to restore. They will be replaced with new, marine grade, stainless steel plates that will last a long time. The underlying concrete was repaired and painted with a special coating of Aquafin SB2, at a cost of \$250 per gallon.

The aluminum gallery around the lantern has been repaired, powder coated and is ready to be reinstalled. All of the gaskets between the unlike metals have been fixed to prevent more galvanic corrosion.

Future projects after the tower is completed will be a new roof as well as repainting all trim. There is always something to do, even fixing the latches on the gate!



Docent's Corner

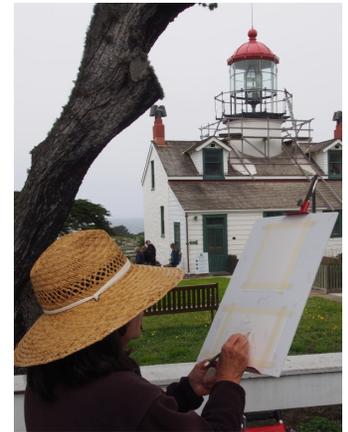
Visitors

May	478	July	764
June	765	August	908



Trainee Docent John has proposed to the City of Pacific Grove that a plaque be placed on a boulder near the site of the foghorn.

The foghorn was removed in 1993 due to noise concerns. Locals had adapted and loved it. Tourists were not so in love with being woken up at 2am. It is foggy in Pacific Grove.



Laura setting up to do a watercolor

Tech Corner

NEW LED LAMP!

Uses 1/5 the energy and is only changed out once a year. This means the backup batteries will last five times as long during a city power failure.

Same, on for 3 seconds and off for one. While on, the lights are lit sequentially to avoid overheating.



Learn more

www.cityofpacificgrove.org
www.pointpinoslighthouse.org
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