CRISP POINT LIGHT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CPLHS Facebook group page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/crisppointlighthouse/

Friendly Reminder: Please inform us of any address changes; resending to new addresses takes time and requires additional funds. Your attention to this is greatly appreciated! Please email updates to Teri Beasley at crisppoint@gmail.com.

2022 Season End Highlights
Pages 1, 5

Newest merchandise
New members
Page 2

Ways to Help Crisp
Pages 2

President's Message
Page 3

MDOT recap
Page 4

2023 Keeper Dates
Page 4

2023 Summer Conference
Pages 6

In Gratitude
Page 6

Unsung Surfman
Pages 7

Plaque Program Order Form
Page 8

Deadline for the next Newsletter submissions is March 15, 2023

2022 Season End Highlights

by Heather Johnson

Crisp Point Lighthouse and Visitor Center was tucked in for the winter on October 22, 2022. Thank you John Raths, Cameron Lovett, Linda and Rick McKinney, Chewy and Bill Beasley for lugging batteries, boxing up merchandise, pulling the water pump and all of the other tasks that go into closing the buildings.

People from 47 states and six countries visited Crisp Point with Canadians leading the international majority.

From May Rock Hounds to October's group of 49 Jeeps (where did they park all those!!), there were 14,361 recorded guests who travelled to Crisp Point to experience its unique beauty and tranquility. Welcome and thanks for visiting!

Photo courtesy Cameron Lovett

Limewash coated Crisp Point Tower, September 25, 2022. Look at those storms rolling in!

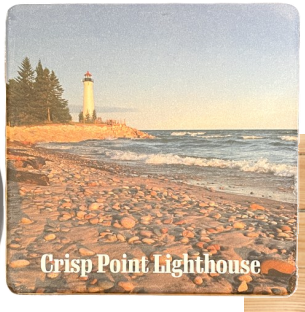
The Crisp Point Tower Exterior Restoration Project was completed by National Restoration on September 23, 2022. Cameron summarizes the work in his President's address on page 3.

While at the Lighthouse on October 21, I met with Bryan Lijewski, from the State Historic Preservation Office, anticipating a final inspection to satisfy the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program grant requirements. The site inspection revealed a few areas of the newly limewash-coated Tower had "rubbed off".

We immediately contacted John Fletcher, National Restoration, who is in charge

Continued on page 5

Don't miss exclusive Crisp Point merchandise!



The 2022 miniature Crisp Point replica is in stock! Don't forget to check out the beautiful CoasterStone coasters featuring the photography of CPLHS Board Member Linda McKinney. Plus, new hoodies, beanie caps, patches, challenge coins, puzzles, books, shirts, mugs....and so much more!

All Crisp Point merchandise can be found online at

https://crisppointlight.square.site/

Welcome New Members

David Barrios - Clinton Township, MI
Jerry Braun - Gaylord, MI
Kurt Calder - Galesburg, MI
Colleen Candeway Family - Spencerville, IN
Darlene Chisolm Family - Albion, MI
Lori Cook - Kingsley, MI
Azumi Homma Family - Valpraiso, IN
Kayleen Hormann Family - Hoagland, IN
George Horsman Family - Amherst, OH
Dawn Johnson Family - Interlochen, MI
Gerald Marquette Family - Garden City, MI
Michigan Milkyway - McMillan, MI
Brandi Miller Family - Mishawaka, IN
Steven Neely Family - Jenison, MI
David Olivier - Rockford, MI
Stephanie Papist - Newberry, MI
Kenneth Rouston Family - Grayling, MI
Linda Ruehle - Owosso, MI
James Steffens Family - Hopkins, MI
Linda Stoetzer - Sault Sainte Marie, MI
Arthur & Johncie Turner Family - Jackson, MI
Lisa Turek Family - Manchester, MI
Judy Umlor - Trout Lake, MI
Shannon Williams - Auburn, IN

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Date: January 14, 2023
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Location: Veterans Memorial Library
301 S. University Ave.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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PayPal Giving Fund

ebay for Charity

Kroger

kroger community rewards

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CRISP POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Find out more ways at:
www.crisppointlighthouse.org/how

Membership Questions?
Please email **Teri Beasley**
at **crisppoint@gmail.com**

INK CARTRIDGES

Ink Cartridge Recycling

Please drop printer cartridges off at the Visitor Center.

by Cameron Lovett

Another season is now behind us. Thank you to everyone who came out this year to see Crisp Point and to all the volunteers who helped keep Crisp Point operating. We would not be able to do what we do without our volunteers, members, donors, and visitors.

This year we had over 1000 exterior bricks replaced on the tower, the exterior paint stripped, and re-coated with a breathable limewash primer and limewash. Unfortunately, we had a major storm come through before the limewash had completely cured, and some of the limewash came off. Once the problem was discovered, it was too late in the season to be able to re-coat it.

The contractor is planning to replace up to 200 bricks in the spring and recoat the tower again in 2023 with limewash at no charge to CPLHS. Many of the bricks in the tower are still the original 1903-1904 bricks and they are softer than modern bricks. It is likely this will require continuous maintenance in the future, regardless of the coating we use. Also, since we have not used this limewash product before, it is unknown how long it will last before we have to re-coat it again after it is redone in the Spring. Limewash is not the same as paint, and I was pleasantly surprised that it is as white as it is now. I expected more brick color to be showing through. Limewash has a chalky texture and a high pH, and due to the high pH it is resistant to mold.

As for the Lake Superior water level, unfortunately, it is now back to above normal. The level went back above normal around May 2022. I am thankful we were able to beef up our erosion control rocks around the lighthouse in 2021. This should help us weather any major storms with the levels above normal. We will have to keep an eye on it, though, as usual. The US Army Corps of Engineers is forecasting the lake level to be above normal through April 2023.

This year completed our 2nd year of Adopt-A-Highway along our three mile stretch of M-123 between Luce County Road 500 and Newberry. Similar to 2021, we did not get as many volunteers to help us with this work as I was hoping. If there is any chance you can help out with this work next year, please contact me at crisppointlighthouse@yahoo.com and visit our web site Calendar of Events or Facebook Events listings for more details. The first litter pick-up for 2023 is tentatively set for May 13th.

We hope that everyone has a good holiday season and stays safe. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Board Applications Accepted

Are you the right and perfect person to help CPLHS follow through on its mission for Crisp Point? Do you have a special skill, talent or vision you'd like to share to sustain Crisp Point for future generations? We would love to hear from you!! Board applications are always accepted and are reviewed when a Board position is available. Potential candidates must be a lifetime member of the Crisp Point Light Historical Society. Memberships can be purchased or upgraded at crisppointlighthouse.org/member.html and Board applications can be found at:

https://www.crisppointlighthouse.org/boardmemberapplicationform11-11-21.pdf

MDOT 2022

Photo courtesy Cameron Lovett

Above: May 14 crew - John Highlen, Rick McKinney, Shelley Guy, John Monroe, Amanda Monroe, Duke Guy, Bill Beasley, Teri Beasley and Linda McKinney

Above right: July 17 crew - Cameron Lovett, Shelley Guy, Mallorie Koetsier , Duke Guy

Right: September 24 crew - Cheryl Evers, John & Amanda Monroe, Roger Lovett, Shelly Guy, Duke Guy, and Cameron Lovett.

Uncharacteristically, the weather held up for all three of the MDOT cleanup dates.

The first cleanup, on May 14, had 9 participants and only 4 bags of trash were picked up...not bad for a Spring cleanup! On July 17, 4 participants filled 5 bags and the same was collected by 7 people on September 24.

The tentative 2023 dates are May 13, July 16, and September 23.

Contact Cameron Lovett at crisppointlighthouse@yahoo.com

2023 KEEPER DATES

While enjoying your visit at Crisp Point and talking with the Keepers, have you ever thought to yourself, "This would be fun!". As a Keeper, you have the opportunity to experience something the general public doesn't get to...the beauty of Crisp Point at night while you and your assistants camp there. Now is your chance!

The Keeper Application period for the 2023 season opened November 1, 2022. With 154 planned open days during next season, many of these days have keepers scheduled. BUT there may be times available and/or cancellations for you to sign up and experience the life of a Crisp Point keeper for a few days.

Simply review the General Information and Duties to see what is expected of Keepers and convince two to five adults (who also must be CPLHS members) to assist you. Follow the instructions on the Sign Up Procedure; both of which are found on our website at this link:

www.crisppointlighthouse.org/volunteerkeepers.html or

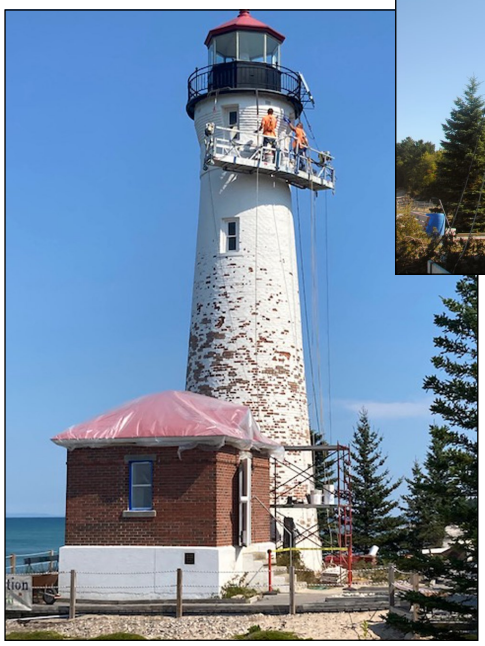
email Bill Beasley, Keeper Coordinator, at keepercoordinator@crisppointlighthouse.org

HIGHLIGHTS, continued

of the restoration project. Instinctively, we knew the "major storm" Cameron refers to in his address, adversely effected the curing of the limewash. Review of the weather data from the weather station at Crisp confirmed our suspicions:

- 4 significant rain events from September 25 through October 19
- Sustained winds over 20mph for up to 8 hours on 6 different days!
- Wind speeds of 30 mph on 3 different days
- High winds of 33mph and 35 mph were recorded on 2 of those days

Photos courtesy Bill Beasley



Left and above: Limewash primer application.

John Fletcher has talked to the manufacturer of the limewash who confirmed these environmental conditions prohibited complete curing of their product.

We are pleased to hear John say he is completely committed to the success of this project and will work to complete the restoration in 2023. He is passionate about his decades of work on lighthouses and historic buildings around Michigan; his diligence and experience was recognized in 2021 when National Restoration received the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation.

Limewash is a centuries old approach to a new-age problem. We now know there are going to be adjustments and changes which have to be made because there are no existing identical case studies. This presents a very unique opportunity for the Crisp Point Tower to set precedence and shine for future Great Lakes lighthouse restorations.

Maintaining the Tower bricks and coating will, more than likely, be a perpetual occurrence; similar to mitigating the erosion at the Tower base with additional rocks. For these reasons, we endlessly express our deepest gratitude to donors and volunteers who support the mission of Crisp Point Light Historical Society.

Photos courtesy Heather Johnson

Left: Limewash fade on northwest side of Tower, October 21, 2022.

Below: Limewash appears to rub off.

Right: Northwest view of the Tower on 12.26.22

Photo courtesy Chip Scholten

CPLHS Lighthouse Conference

LOCATION: WHITEFISH COMMUNITY CENTER
7052 N M 123. Paradise, MI 49768

TIME: 9:00am - Light breakfast
10:00am - Conference begins
Noon - Lunch, catered by Paradise's Berry Patch Restaurant

July 15, 2023

CONTACT: Shelley Guy; phone: 616.994.3144 or email: hdbluedevil@chartermi.net

Conference Speaker

Crisp Point Light Historical Society welcomes Bryan Lijewski from the State Historic Preservation Office as the annual guest speaker. Bryan oversees Michigan's Save Our Lights Program. Check out the Spring 2023 edition of the CPLHS Newsletter for more details!

RECOMMENDED ON tripadvisor®

Travelers' Choice™ 2022

Crisp Point received Tripadvisor's Travelers' Choice Award again in 2022! Based on reviews, Crisp Point is placed in the top 10% of attractions worldwide. Thank you to all of our volunteers for their hard work to make this possible.

Thank you to everyone who supports, and has supported, Crisp Point in any way!

We are so grateful for all of the Keepers who helped fulfill Crisp's Mission of preserving the Light and making our Visitors feel welcome in 2022.

Thank you to all of the Donors and Visitors for your appreciation of Crisp, your patience & support.

Kudos and gratitidue for the MDOT clean up volunteers.

A special thank you to Cathy Chenard and Judy Haupt for storing cleaning supplies and helping to deliver merchandise to the Lighthouse.

Unsung Surfman

by Heather Johnson

Lighthouse Keeper...the familiar term elicits nostalgic images of hardworking men (and the occasional woman) diligently keeping the Lights on at their respective Lighthouses. Primarily, Keepers were responsible for tending and maintaining the Lighthouse complex and records. Obviously, the most important duty was to light the oil lamp signal each and every night to guide ships through dangerous waterways. These "wickies", named so because they had to trim the light's wicks, were also responsible for directing and assisting the surfmen.

Surfman is the term for the highest qualification in the United States Coast Guard used to describe the men of the United States Lifesaving Service. It is reserved for the service's most highly trained boat handlers.

Surfmen are, oftentimes, the unsung heroes of the Life-saving Stations. There are many biographical accounts of the Keepers but few exist of the surfmen who risked their lives to rescue frightened passengers or retrieve unfortunate crew from foundered ships.

The excerpt to the right, from the Crisp Point Life-saving Station Keeper's log on December 1, 1897, describes the undetailed rescue of seven passengers aboard the schooner barge, James Paige.

But historical records from the Great Lakes Shipwreck Society describe the event chillingly different.

The Paige, under tow by the wooden steamer H.B. Tuttle, was cut loose during a winter gale to fend for herself. Trying desperately to reach the safe haven of Whitefish Bay, her frozen sails caused the boat to founder in front of the Vermilion Life-saving Station.

Captain Bernie, Vermilion Life-saving Station Keeper, telephoned the Crisp Point Life-saving Station crew for help.

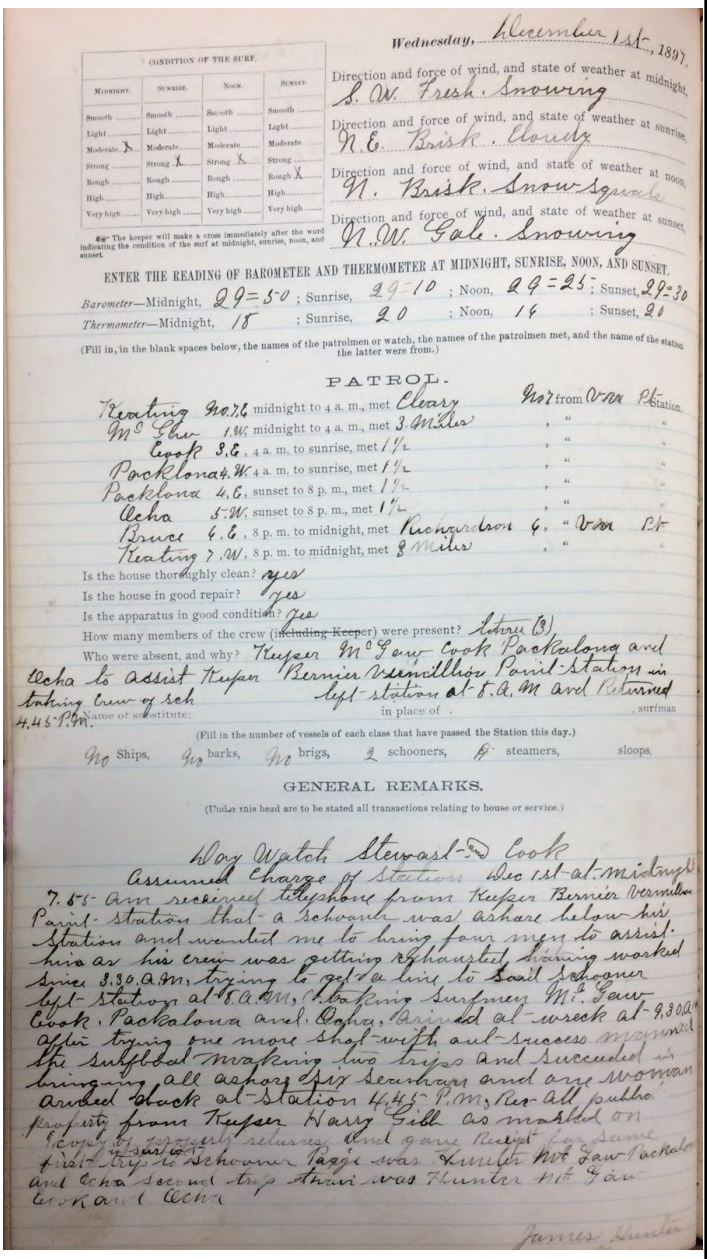
It is unclear who was the Head Keeper at Crisp during this time frame. J.H. Gibb had resigned his post on October 20, 1897 while James Hunter was appointed Head Keeper on November 17, 1897. In any event, James Hunter recorded himself and surfmen McGaw, Cook, Packlona and Ocha dispatched to assist Captain Bernie at the Vermilion Life-saving Station.

The Paige began to break apart from ice accumulation and battering winds. Abandoning sleighs, these surfmen dragged their 25 foot surfboat across mountains of ice to launch it in the frigid waters. Four, half-frozen crew members were brought back to shore.

Three remained aboard the Paige.

In an ice damaged surfboat, the Vermilion surfmen and Crisp's Hunter, McGaw, Packlona and Ocha again braved the freezing Lake Superior waters to retrieve the remaining crew members.

Although their frozen clothing had to be cut from their bodies, "six seaman and one woman" survived!



Wednesday, December 1st, 1897.

CONDITION OF THE SURF.

Midnight.	Sunrise.	Noon.	Sunset.
Smooth	Smooth	Smooth	Smooth
Light	Light	Light	Light
Moderate X	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Strong	Strong X	Strong X	Strong
Rough	Rough	Rough	Rough X
High	High	High	High
Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high

☞ The keeper will make a cross immediately after the word indicating the condition of the surf at midnight, sunrise, noon, and sunset.

Direction and force of wind, and state of weather at midnight. S.W. Fresh. Snowing

Direction and force of wind, and state of weather at sunrise. N.E. Brisk. Cloudy

Direction and force of wind, and state of weather at noon. N. Brisk. Snow Squalls

Direction and force of wind, and state of weather at sunset. N.W. Gale. Snowing

ENTER THE READING OF BAROMETER AND THERMOMETER AT MIDNIGHT, SUNRISE, NOON, AND SUNSET.

Barometer—Midnight, 29-50 ; Sunrise, 29-10 ; Noon, 29-25 ; Sunset, 29-30

Thermometer—Midnight, 18 ; Sunrise, 20 ; Noon, 14 ; Sunset, 20

(Fill in, in the blank spaces below, the names of the patrolmen or watch, the names of the patrolmen met, and the name of the station the latter were from.)

PATROL.

Keating N.W. 6 midnight to 4 a. m., met Cleary from Ocha Pt Station
Mc Gaw 1.W. midnight to 4 a. m., met 3 Miles " " "
Cook S.E. 4 a. m. to sunrise, met 1/2 " " "
Packlona 4.W. 4 a. m. to sunrise, met 1/2 " " "
Packlona 4.E. sunset to 8 p. m., met 1/2 " " "
Ocha S.W. sunset to 8 p. m., met 1/2 " " "
Bruce 4.E., 8 p. m. to midnight, met Rivingston 4. " Ocha Pt
Keating 7.W., 8 p. m. to midnight, met 3 Miles " "

Is the house thoroughly clean? yes
Is the house in good repair? yes
Is the apparatus in good condition? yes
How many members of the crew (~~including Keeper~~) were present? Keeper (1)
Who were absent, and why? Keeper McGaw Cook Packalona and Ocha to assist Keeper Bernier Vermillion Point Station in taking crew of sch left station at 8 A.M. and Returned 4.45 P.M.
Name of substitute: in place of , surfman

(Fill in the number of vessels of each class that have passed the Station this day.)

No Ships, No barks, No brigs, 2 schooners, No steamers, sloops.

GENERAL REMARKS.

(Under this head are to be stated all transactions relating to house or service.)

Day Watch Steward-Cook
Assumed Charge of Station Dec 1st at midnight
7.55 AM received telephone from Keeper Bernier Vermillion Point Station that a Schooner was ashore below his Station and wanted me to bring four men to assist him as his crew was getting exhausted having worked since 3.30 AM, trying to get a line to Said Schooner left Station at 8 AM, taking Surfmen Mc Gaw Cook, Packalona and Ocha, Arrived at wreck at 9.30 AM after trying one more Shot with out success manned the Surfboat making two trips and Succeeded in bringing all aboard Six Seamen and one woman arrived back at Station 4.45 P.M, Rec all public property from Keeper Harry Gibb as marked on Copy of Property returns and gave Receipt for same in our own Surfboat on first trip to Schooner Paige was Hunter Mc Gaw Packalona and Ocha second trip Same was Hunter Mc Gaw Cook and Ocha

James Hunter

Today, 'Surfman' is the highest certification of the US Coast Guard for small boat operations. There are approximately 504 Surfmen located at only 19 surf-stations in the United States; stations are set up around the country where wave conditions exceed 8 feet for 36 days or more per year. There aren't any locations on the Great Lakes. Unlike yesteryear, women are enlisting into the challenging and rigorous surfman school. In 2020, the Coast Guard designated the 14th woman into this elite service.

Sources: CPLHS archives, Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society Facebook Post 2021, US Coast Guard and theworldlink.com

Crisp Point Memorial and Honorary Plaque Program

Memorialize or honor your loved one with a special plaque at Crisp Point ...and also help raise funds for the preservation and restoration of Crisp Point Lighthouse! For a donation of $400, an image of Crisp Point Lighthouse shines atop of the name of your loved one. The precision tooled bronze plaques are ¼" thick, 3.5" wide, and 6" tall with an exterior grade clear coat. You can pick from two wording options preceding the person's name: 1) "In Memory of" or 2) "In Honor of". Plaques are mounted on existing posts along the walkways at Crisp Point. Plaques are only installed from May to October each year; please allow at least six months for installation to occur.

*CPLHS is not responsible for theft, vandalism, acts of nature, natural deterioration, or any other issues beyond our control to the plaques once installed at Crisp Point. CPLHS reserves the right to remove plaques for any reason.

There are two ways to donate:

1.) Fill out the following form completely and enclose payment.

Make check or money order payable to: Crisp Point Light Historical Society

Mail to: PO Box 229, Paradise, MI 49768

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Please specify one of the following (list first and last name only as space is limited on the plaque):

- ☐ In Memory of: _____
- ☐ In Honor of: _____

2.) Pay online at PayPal using a credit card, debit card, or your PayPal account.

Go online and visit https://www.crisppointlighthouse.org/memorial.html or scan the QR Code.

Crisp Point Light Historical Society is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit. Your donations may be tax deductible, please consult your tax advisor for deductibility. All donors will receive a donation thank you letter from the Crisp Point Light Historical Society. Thank you very much for participating in this very special fundraiser!

Once at the PayPal site, you can pay by using a credit card, debit card, or your PayPal account. You do not need a PayPal account to use this service. Where it says "(Optional) Use this donation for", make sure to choose "In Memory of Plaque" or "In Honor of Plaque" from the pull-down menu. You will also have the option to add more to the donation to help offset the processing fees. On the next page, also tell us the name you want on the plaque where it says "Write a note (Optional)".

The Crisp Point Light Historical Society is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit. Your donations may be tax deductible, please consult your tax advisor for deductibility. All donors will receive a donation thank you letter from the Crisp Point Light Historical Society. Thank you very much for participating in this very special fundraiser!

CPLHS Contacts and General Information can be found online at

http://www.crisppointlighthouse.org/contacts.html

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March 15, 2023

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR CRISP POINT ADVENTURES !