

67th Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention

March 4-5, 2022 (Rescheduled)

Newsletters

LIGHTHOUSE #1 – Published March, 2020 CAPE CANAVERAL AT CAPE CANAVERAL



Since the theme for the next convention is “Lighting the Way for Friendship and Fun in 2021” and their logo is a Lighthouse, I decided to write about the many lighthouses around the State of Florida, there are some 50+ all around the perimeter. I will be starting at Cape Canaveral heading south, around the Keys and back up the other side and, of course, there are quite a few around the shoreline of the Panhandle. Then jumping across the state from Pensacola Lighthouse to Amelia Island and down to Ponce de Leon Lighthouse ending in Daytona Beach.

In the 1600’s Spanish explorer, Ponce de Leon gave the area the name of Caba de las

Corrientes (Cape of Currents) which became Canaveral but was renamed Cape Kennedy after our President was assassinated in 1963. Some people did not like the change. In 1973 the name of Cape Canaveral was restored by an act of the Florida legislature.

The first lighthouse was erected in 1848, 3 years after we became a State but prior to the Civil War. The first lighthouse was too short and not bright enough, only 60 feet tall. Boats couldn’t see the light until they were already wrecked on the Southeast Shoals. In 1850 the lighthouse was shut down because of the warring Seminoles. In 1868 a new lighthouse was built and was 151 feet tall which made it tall enough for mariners to see the light. This new light stood for 26 years until erosion threatened it and it was moved to its present site where it remains today.

In July of 1853, Captain Mills Burham was appointed the lighthouse keeper where he served for 33 years. After his death in 1886, his wife Mary and his oldest daughter were the lighthouse keepers until sometime into the 20th century. The lighthouse is now owned by the U.S. Air Force. It is maintained by the Coast Guard, as all lighthouses are.

The Convention is just starting to roll along and is gaining momentum. If you purchase your ribbons by May 31st, the price is \$35.00 for the weekend. Our registration chairman, Linda Reid, reminds you to make checks to “67th F S D C” and mail to 1062 Old Millpond Road, Melbourne, FL 32940.

Excerpts from the above article are from “Florida’s Fabulous Lighthouses”. This book can be purchased from Carol Douget, Chairman of this Convention. It is one of the “money maker projects”. Send inquires to her at cldcpa@yahoo.com.

Judy Anderson

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LIGHTHOUSE #2 – Published April, 2020 JUPITER INLET AT JUPITER BEACH



The name “Jupiter” is quite old. It predates the arrival of the Europeans. Native Americans called the area Jobe but some English cartographers decided that it looked like Jove, the main god of the pagan Roman pantheon and renamed it Jove which eventually got translated into Jupiter.

The original lighthouse was to have been built 2 miles north of Fort Jupiter in the early 1830's to be used as an aid for coastal navigation and to bring supplies to the Fort, however the project was abandoned because of the Second Seminole War. Congress, finally in 1853, authorized the building of a new lighthouse and in 1854 the new (and present) site was selected. But construction was not easy. It had been slowed by shifting sands and a Third Seminole War and then it became nonoperational for a period of time. Rebel partisans disabled the lens so that the light could not function and it did not for over a year. As time passed the lens was restored and the Lighthouse was finally relighted in July 1860 on the eve of the Civil War.

During the war a Captain James Armour helped guide the Union soldiers who found and retrieved the missing lens and put the light back into service. And he served the next 42 years as the lighthouse keeper. Amour also helped the Union Navy capture Confederate blockade runners heading from Jupiter and the Indian River Inlet to Nassau.

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse is 108 feet tall with a focal plane of 146 feet – focal plane is how far the light is visible out in the ocean. The Coast Guard indicates the height from “mean high tide to the focal plane” is 146 feet. Thanks to the lighthouses elevation it may be seen about 20 miles or more at sea by low riding boats. Aircraft and taller boats will see it much sooner. The elevation is thanks to the Native Americans who had created a mound of shells on which the Lighthouse stands.

More interesting facts about the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse can be found in the book “Florida’s Fabulous Lighthouses” where I found the excerpts above. The book can be purchased from Carol Douget, Convention Chairman. Contact her at cldcpa@yahoo.com.

Even though there is the scare of the VIRUS going around, you should still be thinking of getting your ribbon(s) for this convention early, before May 31, 2020, while they are still \$35.00 for the weekend. Let Carol Douget or Linda Reid, registration chairman, (reid20@bellsouth.net) know if you or any of your clubs would like registration forms.

Judy Anderson

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LIGHTHOUSE #3 – Published May, 2020

ALLIGATOR REEF LIGHTHOUSE



Interesting facts I will share as we travel around the State of Florida about our Fabulous Lighthouses will be distances between, where they are located, historical information and just curious things to know. For instance: our last stop was Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, there is only one other lighthouse between Jupiter and Miami – Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse. The next lighthouse is not until we reach Miami, the Cape Florida Lighthouse but from there to Key West there are 17 structures. Not all are on land, some were built on reefs, some on sand bars and some on piles of rocks.

Traveling south on US #1 from Miami to my next write-up, Alligator Reef Lighthouse, there are 7 lighthouses – most of which are built on reefs, (Alligator being one), 2 on land and 1 on rocks. There are names like Fowey Rocks, Bobo Chila, Molasses Reef, Hen and Chickens. But Alligator Reef sounded interesting to me. There are no alligators there and the reef is not shaped like one either. It was named for a ship, the USS ALLIGATOR. This ship successfully conducted missions against pirates in the early 1800s but, sadly, was lost when it ran on the reef in 1822. However, the crew was so dedicated to keep the ship from falling into pirates' hands, they actually destroyed it. It is said the ship still lies on the shallow bottom near the reef.

This lighthouse is 150 feet, top to bottom, with a focal plane of 136 feet of light, per official Coast Guard viewings. Built in 1873 at a cost of \$135,000, an almost unheard of amount of money in those days, it is extremely structurally sound as it weathered the infamous Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 with winds gusting from 200 to 250 miles per hour and with seas surging 30 or more feet above normal. It has been reported that over the years some brave lighthouse keepers even lashed themselves to the structure to avoid being washed away by hurricanes. Now that's dedication.

And it is with this same dedication that Carol and Richard Douget are going ahead with their plans for the 2021 State Convention, Lighting the Way to Friendship & Fun. It will still take place in Daytona Beach at the Daytona Ocean Center, same place as last year, on February 19 & 20, 2021. We all pray and hope this nasty virus will be gone long before then and that square and round dancing will once again be the high-light of our fun. There will be more news about the activities being planned as well as the "how-to's" in the upcoming months. In the meantime-----please bump elbows, keep social distancing and smile behind your masks!

Judy Anderson

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LIGHTHOUSE #4 - June, 2020 KEY WEST LIGHTHOUSE



Here's an interesting little tidbit I read about: Ponce de Leon sailed to the Keys in 1521 and named them "The Martyrs" because he thought they looked like "long-suffering human beings." Fortunately, that name did not last.

The original Key West Lighthouse was built in 1825, by the Federal Government, a short four years after Spain ceded it to the United States. The waters off the Florid Keys were so perilous that salvaging goods from the many wrecked ships was the major livelihood of its people.

In 1825 Congress authorized the building of a lighthouse in Key West. The original lighthouse, sitting on nothing but sand, was destroyed in the Great Hurricane of 1846. Many lives were lost as some of the residences took shelter in the lighthouse.

Work on the current tower started in 1847, but funding was so slow that the lighthouse didn't get finished until 1849, even though at that time, it was considered "state of the art" in design. The people thought it was so beautiful they were anxious to see it completed. This new lighthouse was built on one of the highest points in Key West, Whitehead Point, and stood 60 feet tall. It was powered by 15 oil lamps. The initial focal plane was 67 feet above sea level. An additional 26 feet was added to the lighthouse in 1894, thus raising the focal plane to 91 feet.

At that time, the Key West Lighthouse was one of the few lighthouses in the South that remained in the hand of the U.S. Government thought out the Civil War. Thus, during the war, it served to help the Union warships navigate the waters around Key West as they came and went from the naval station there.

The Key West Lighthouse remained in operation until 1969, when it was declared obsolete and was deactivated. The tower was transferred to Monroe County in 1972 and subsequently leased to the Key West Art & Historical Society.

Here's another little tidbit of information: U.S. Highway #1 STARTS in Key West, Florida, and ENDS in Fort Kent, Maine, not the other way around, a distance of 2,369 miles. U.S. #1 does continue into Canada.

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There is not much to report this month about the upcoming 2021 Florida State Convention because our Chairman, Carol Douget, had been restricted from flying back to Florida from Maryland. She had flown up there the beginning of March to be with her sister, who was hospitalized (non-virus related) but when it was time to fly back the airlines were shut down (that WAS Virus related), so she could not return – HOWEVER – that ban is lifted, and she may be home now. I do know that the two (2) Big Lighthouses for the raffle at the convention are completed. (There was an unfinished one at this year's convention.) Richard said they are both painted and ready to grace the lucky winners' yards. There will be pictures in upcoming magazines/flyers, so be on the look-out for them. I know you will want one at your home, for sure.

Judy Anderson, Publicity

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LIGHTHOUSE #5 SANIBEL ISLAND LIGHT

Sanibel Island Light is located on the eastern end of the small 12-mile-long island across the mainland of Florida's Gulf coast from Punta Rassa. It is now connected to the mainland by a causeway bridge built in the 1960's.

As early as 1833, the residents of Sanibel petitioned for a lighthouse to be built but Congress took no action at that time. And again, in 1856, the Lighthouse Board requested a lighthouse be built, again. Congress took no action. Then in 1877 a group of government workers surveyed the eastern end of the island. This time these government workers "reserved" a section of the land for the lighthouse project – but – again, no action. It was not until after the Civil War that yet another petition was submitted to Congress stating that a lighthouse would cause a big increase in trade and that boaters and travelers would be able to visit the island more easily. Finally, in 1883 Congress appropriated \$50,000 for the project, and the lighthouse was finally started in February 1884. It was lit for the first time in August of 1884.

The lighthouse is built 112 feet above sea level using an iron skeleton-type tower. It has a focal plane of 98 feet. There is an external spiral staircase that the lighthouse keeper had to climb to service the lamps when needed. There were no provisions made for the keeper to live inside the structure; however, a small home was built beside the lighthouse for his needs.

There have been two recorded big hurricanes that struck the lighthouse, but fortunately, there was minimal damage either time. The first recorded one was in 1944, where it is said that several residents and the keeper clung to the outside spiral staircase after the keepers' home was destroyed – all did survive. The second hurricane recorded was Charley in 2004. The predicted forecasted storm surge of 13 feet never materialized, so nothing was lost.

The State Convention is still being planned for Friday and Saturday February 19 & 20, at the Daytona Beach Convention Center. Several great different money-making ideas are planned. Of course, there is the usual souvenir shirt, red, with the convention lighthouse logo. Then there will be the two 5-foot-tall wooden Lighthouses to be raffled off. Pictures and tickets will be distributed to each area soon along with more raffle tickets for the beautiful handmade quilt

featuring 10 of "Florida's Fabulous Lighthouses." "Florida's Fabulous Lighthouses" is the title of the coffee-table book where I have taken excerpts for these articles; there are some for sale also.

Stay safe, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and PRAY – PRAY – PRAY

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LIGHTHOUSE #6 EGMONT KEY LIGHT

Egmont Key is a small island in the Tampa Bay area. It is known that Spain ruled the Florida area longer than the United States had been a country, but it soon gave way to British rule. It was under British rule that the Key was named. It was named after the Earl of Egmont, Lord of the Admiralty, and a very prominent man in Brittan, John Perceval.

At the time the first lighthouse was being built (1848) a Colonel Robert E. Lee was making a survey of the southern bay coast and recommended some defensive works be built. That was when the first Lighthouse was put on the Key. It lasted less than six months because a hurricane washed over it with huge 15-foot waves. Needless to say, that was referred to as the GREAT HURRICAN of 1848. Even though it was rebuilt, there were many more valiant storms that took its toll on the structure second tower, so it was dismantled in 1857. A second tower was built and lighted in 1858, this time it was constructed with 3-foot-thick brick walls and stood 90 feet tall.

Before the second lighthouse was built, the Seminole Indians were being forced to migrate to Oklahoma, but they were relocated on Egmont Key for a while. Their chief, Billy Bowlegs, was offered \$200,000 to move his tribe westward voluntarily. He refused and led an attack in Big Cypress instead, which started the Third Seminole War. It was this incident that eventually led to the Indians now infamous "Trail of Tears."

It was during the Civil War that the "light" was removed from the top of the lighthouse by the Confederates mostly to frustrate the Union Navy's efforts to blockade Tampa Bay. Early in the Civil War, Confederate blockade-runners used the island as a base. Later it was captured (in July 1861) by the Union forces who used it as a base for attacks on the Confederate ships and other hostile positions in the Tampa area.

Egmont Key is steeped in so much early American history; it would be tough to give it justice. The Spanish-American War, Second & Third Seminole Wars, Civil War, and even World War 1 and World War 2 are all etched in Egmont Keys History. There are many books at your local library that would be worthwhile researching and enjoying. For a lot of this information here, I found in "Florida's Fabulous Lighthouses" book, which you can order from Carol Douget, Convention Chairman. They will be only \$16.00 each now, and I believe there are still four left. Contact her at cldcpa@yahoo.com or phone: 410-952-7408. This is another "money-maker" for the 2021 Florida State Square Dance Convention.

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LIGHTHOUSE #7 CAPE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE



Even though the Florida State Convention is POSTPONED, the chairmen, Carol & Richard Douget, have asked that I continued writing about the Lighthouses around the State of Florida just to keep the momentum going and keep the interest about what is planned around this theme – LIGHTING THE WAY TO FRIENDSHIP AND FUN.

The Cape Florida Lighthouse is located at the southern end of Key Biscayne. It was built in 1812 to protect shipping in the straits of Florida. The first time the lighthouse was built, it was 65 feet tall with wooden stairs. In December of 1825, the lighthouse was lit for the very first time.

In 1835 a major hurricane struck the island, damaging the lighthouse and destroying the keeper's house. The lighthouse keeper, Captain Dubose, moved his family to Key West for safety. Assistant lighthouse keeper John Thompson, remained to guard the light along with an African American handyman named Aaron Carter. In 1836, the already much-damaged lighthouse was attacked by a fierce band of Seminole Indians. The two men did manage to flee into the lighthouse while being shot at; both were wounded. The Indians kept firing into the structure, which ignited the kerosene oil stored at the bottom. The fire forced both the wounded and burning men up onto the lighthouses platform that ran around the light. Carter eventually died of his wounds. The Indians, after looting and burning the other buildings, left the next morning believing both men were dead. Thompson survived but had no way to get down from the tower since the stairs were burned away. A United States Navy schooner, the *Motto*, heard the explosion of a gun powder keg during the attack and, over the next few days, could rescue Thompson. After this siege, the Cape Florida Light remained extinguished from 1836 to 1846.

The tower and keeper's quarters were ordered rebuilt in 1846. It remains the oldest standing structure in Miami-Dade County. The lighthouse was re-lit in 1847. But in 1855, it was renovated again, and 95 more feet were added to its height.

In 1861 the lighthouse was attacked again, but this time by Confederate sympathizers after Florida seceded from the Union, it remained dark for the rest of that war. In 1866 service was finally restored only to be discontinued, again, in 1878 when it was determined the light was

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not strong enough to warn ships away from the offshore reefs, its focal was only 100 feet, so that same year, 1878, a lighthouse was built on Fowry Rocks Reef, only 7 miles further south and was lit. The Fowry Rocks Reef has a focal of 15 nautical miles and is still operational to this day.

If you have any ideas or suggestions that you think would make this unusual convention's format more enjoyable, please contact the Dougets at 321-446- 8593 or email cldcpa@yahoo.com.

In the interim, stay safe by wearing your masks when going out - always wash those hands when you come back - still smile even when it cannot always be seen. Surprise a friend by calling them, especially your single friends.

Judy Anderson, Publicity

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STATE CONVENTION NEWS

Everyone is aware by now that the 67th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention is **POSTPONED – NOT CANCELLED – only POSTPONED!!!** But --- the dates have been changed. The 67th Florida State Convention will now be held on March 4th and 5th of 2022. Everyone has agreed to remain on board, and everything will stay the same. Carol and Richard Douget have graciously agreed to continue chairing the convention and are carrying thru with their original theme: **“LIGHTING THE WAY TO FRIENDSHIP AND FUN,”** featuring Lighthouses.

They wanted to convey that there is no need to worry about having bought items that are “dated” as they will be not reordering replacements until the current inventory runs out. There are still plenty of shirts available – maybe they will become collector’s items, you never know. Also, a reminder that if you have already purchased raffle tickets for the beautiful Lighthouse Quilt and/or the two (2) beautiful 5-foot Lighthouses, don’t toss them away as the drawings will still be held at the convention in 2022, but also remember your name and phone number is on the ticket half that the Dougets kept so you won’t lose out either way.

Hotel and campground reservations cannot be made now. Most places will not accept reservations this far in advance, even under normal conditions. We will just have to wait to see what the future holds. There will be more information in the ensuing months. In the interim, please stay safe, as directed. Wear your masks, as required. Keep social distancing, as directed. Wash your hands, as directed. And above all, keep in contact with your friends by phone, Facebook, or email, let them know you’re thinking of them and wishing them well. A little LOVE goes a long way---so spread a little L-O-V-E!!!

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LIGHTHOUSES #8 thru #12 Fowey Rocks, Boca Chita, Triumph, Pacific, Carysfort

Since the State Convention has been POSTPONED until March 4th and 5th of 2022, there is plenty of time to write about all the great lighthouses around the Florida Keys area. There are a total of 24 from the Cape Florida Lighthouse in the Miami area around the tip of Florida to the Sanibel Island Lighthouse. There is not much excitement concerning some and others have an interesting past so starting with my number #8 Lighthouse.

#8 Fowey Rocks Lighthouse: It is located only 7 miles southeast of Cape Florida Lighthouse, which is on Key Biscayne, and it was completed in 1878. It stands 110 feet above the water and is octagon in shape. Fowey Rocks is named for the Royal Navy frigate *HMS FOWEY* which was wrecked on a near-by reef in 1748. Efforts to save the boat failed so it remains sunken but today its location is excellent for scuba diving. The hurricane of 1935 washed away the first deck of the lighthouse but the tower did survive as did the light on top. One of the early lighthouse keepers was Jefferson Browne who later became Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

#9 Boca Chita Lighthouse: This is a "private" lighthouse owned by Mark C. Honeywell and is situated on a 29-acre island out in the Atlantic Ocean. The island is also owned by Honeywell. The light house has an estimated height of 65 feet but it does not have a working light. This was strictly Honeywell's "toy".

#10 Triumph Reef Light: It is only 19 feet tall and is located just a few miles south of Fowey Rocks and just north of Carysfort Reef Lighthouse. It is triangle-shaped and is set on a set of piles that connect at the top, like teepee poles, called a dolphin. It was a lighted buoy between 1968 and 1977 but became a lighthouse sometime before 1982. Little is known about this light.

#11 Pacific Reef Light: This is a skeletal pyramidal, hexagonal, iron, screw-pile and was designed to operate unmanned. It may be named for the vessel *PACIFIC* that wrecked on the East Key in the Dry Tortugas in 1857 although the light was not built until 1921. The height from mean high water to focal plane is only 45 feet. This tower is at sea and located just 3 miles southeast of Elliot Key but it is still within the Biscayne National Park. The lantern room was removed from this light and is presently on display at the Founders Park in Islamorada Key. Contrary to reports, this is an active light which can be seen for 9 miles.

#12 Carysfort Reef Lighthouse: This lighthouse was also named after a shipwreck that happened back on October 1770, the *HMS CARYSFORT*, but the lighthouse was not built until around 1825 and was build using regular piles driven through "disks". It stands 112 feet tall. The tower is a deep shade of red, made of iron, and is octagonal in shape in a skeletal design which allows the wind to pass through easily. This design probably helped when the hurricanes happened. It became operational in 1852 and is still operating to this day.

The State Convention is still in a holding pattern as you can well expect until this nasty Covid-

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19 stuff is under control. All of us square dancers are frustrated at not being able to dance but, thankfully, there is still email, facebook, and the good ole "Ma Bell" that keeps us in touch at least a little bit. The two (2) Lighthouses being given away are covered and safe as well as the beautiful Lighthouse Quilt. It is likewise being kept in pristine condition. Don't worry if you have misplaced your raffle tickets, remember you filled out half of each ticket with your name and phone number so you are still eligible to win.

Another little reminder: wear your MASK, wash your HANDS, keep SOCIAL DISTANCING, and call a LONG TIME-AGO FRIEND! Surprise them, it'll make their day as well as your own.

Judy Anderson
Publicity
