

Boston, September 1815

Sir

Permit me to recall to your recollection the conversation I had with you in December last on the subject of the Keepers of Lighthouses Salaries. I now enclose you the result of my investigations on that subject, having visited every light House in the United States since that time.

I am,

Samuel H Smith Esq
Commissioner
of the Revenue.

Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Ob. Servant

Winston Lewis

Light House Keeper's Salary

The Salaries of the keepers is stated on a calculation that no man fit to take the responsibility, can attend to the keeping of a light house for less than 350 Dollars per annum, for they all have families & to do their duty, they must be confined to the light houses & cannot attend to other business — I have taken a careful view of the situation of every light house in the United States: where the Salary is named at a less sum than 350 Dollars, there is some advantage attending the situation adequate to the difference, where the sum named is over 350 Dollars, the light house is peculiarly situated in a section of the country where subsistence is procured at a higher price. For I have endeavoured to come as nearly as possible to what I have long wished to see — an Uniformity in the Keepers Salaries throughout the United States.

Passamaquoddy \$350 Has the advantage of Wood, but is situated in a cold part of the country where provisions are always high.

White Head \$300. Has the advantage of Wood & Land to keep a cow.

Franklin Island \$500- Has the advantage of Wood & a small Garden situated on an Island near the Main.

Sequin. \$300- Situated on an Island six miles from the Main; no wood but has pasturing & hay for three cows.

Portland. \$350. No land but what the buildings stand on & no other advantage.

Wood Island. \$300. Situated on a small Island near the main, has Wood and a small Garden.

Boon Island. \$500. This light is very important & is the worst situated of any one on the coast, being a small rock, twelve miles from land, over which the sea breaks in hard storms, the keeper's extra expense in getting his supplies is great.

Portsmouth \$350- Situated four miles from Portsmouth, has no land nor any advantage.

Thumb Island \$350. Has two lighthouses situated on a Sand Bank, but has some advantage from the Company resorting there in the summer.

Migram Point \$300 Has a Garden & is situated near the Town of Gloucester.

Thatchers Island \$350 Situated on an Island difficult of access, has two lighthouses some distance apart, the keeper is at an extra expense to obtain his supplies and must always keep an assistant, but has some advantage in keeping sheep.

Bakers Island Situated on an Island easy of access, there is a piece of good ground on which
\$300 he keeps a cow & has a small Garden.

Boston \$350. Situated on a Rock has no advantages

Scituate \$300. Has no land, but is near the Town of Scituate & supplies are easily obtained

Plymouth \$350. Has two Lighthouses, but has land for a good Garden

Chatham \$300. Has two Lighthouses, but is situated in the Town which affords the Keeper
some advantages.

Cape Cod \$300. Has a Garden & land to pasture a cow

Nantucket Point An important light situated thirteen miles from Nantucket Harbor on
\$400. sand, no land for cultivation & no advantages & has to pay an extra expense
for all his supplies.

Nantucket Beacon Situated one mile from the Town, has many advantages from its situation.
\$250.-

Cape Poge \$300. Has a small Garden & keeps a cow

Gay Head \$350. Situated among the Indian Settlements, Martha Vineyard, has a
Garden, but is at an extra expense for his supplies.

New Bedford No land nor dwelling house, but the situation is favourable for
\$300. obtaining supplies.

Newport \$350. No Wood or land on the Island and supplies must come from Newport

Point Judith Has a Garden & can keep a cow, situated on the Main.
\$300.-

Watch Hill \$300. Has a Garden & Wood is obtained at a low rate, situated on the Main

New London \$350. No land nor is there any dwelling house belonging to the Public

Lynde Point No land for cultivation, no wood, but is situated in a fertile neighborhood
\$300.

Faulkner's Island Four miles from the Main, the Island small, but fertile & easy of access
\$300.

New Haven Situated on the main, has the advantage of a House of Entertainment
Six mile point \$300, where much company resort and a good Garden.

Twin Weather Island The house is large & the advantage of keeping a public House is considerable - Has a Garden.
\$300-

Montauk \$350 Situated on the East end of Long Island, has no advantages from land owned by the Public or from its Situation.

Gull Island \$450 A very important light, on a small rock, just sufficient for the Sills of the Buildings & difficult of access. the keeper must be at considerable expense for his supplies.

Eaton's Neck \$300- Has land for a Garden & keeping a cow.

Sands Point \$300- Has land for a good Garden & commodious house which is much resorted to, in the Summer Season.

Sandy Hook \$400. This appears to have been a long established Salary, has a horse & cart allowed, which ought to be discontinued, for it has many advantages, - two Beacon Lights.

Cape Henlopen \$400 Situated on a plain of sand, no advantages and the keeper must be at an extra expense in getting his supplies.

Cape Henry \$400 Situated as Cape Henlopen

New Point Comfort \$350 No land for cultivation, but supplies are more easily obtained than at Cape Henry -

Old Point Comfort \$350 Situated the same as New Point Comfort.

Smiths Point \$350 Situated the same as New & Old Point Comfort.

Shell Castle \$350 Situated on an Oyster Bank where the tide flows up to the Sill of the House, no Water but what is brought five Miles except Rain Water, this is not a Light of much importance, but I think no man of any respectability can be found to keep it under \$350.

Cape Look Out \$400 Situated on the extremity of the Cape eight miles from the main Land, no land which can be cultivated, no Wood nearer than three miles, the Salary for keeping the Light I think ought to be put on the same footing as all the Southern Light Houses 400 Dollars.

Cape Hatteras \$400 No Wood on the public land & the Garden nearly covered with sand, which makes its situation similar to Cape Look Out.

Charleston \$400 Situated on an Island, has no land for cultivation. as all the Keepers of the Southern lights have to employ one negro for the sole purpose of attending to the Light houses (all whites being Gentlemen) the Salary of 400 Dollars will have to be continued.

Sylve \$400 - Situated the same as Charleston.

Georgetown \$400 Situated the same as Charleston.

St. Simons \$400 Situated on a fertile Island has four acres of land which affords a good Garden, but it is presumed that no Keeper in that part of the Country would keep ^{for} his self, as a Slave must be employed when time is worth nearly that.

Bald Head \$400 The Site for the new Lighthouse is in an area of nine acres which will afford a Garden & keep a Cow, Wood convenient without expense, his present salary is \$425. I think it ought to be put on the same footing as Charleston 400 Dollars.

Race Point \$300 Situated on the extremity of Cape Cod, has no land for cultivation no Wood, but has the advantage of a good Fishery in the Summer

Point Gammon \$300 Situated on the South side of Cape Cod, has six acres of Land tolerably good for pasturing, can keep a Cow & have a small Garden.

Petell Manan \$350 Situated on a barren point of Land in the Province of Maine, promises no Advantages.

Boston, Dec. 16th. 1846

There are now forty eight Keepers of Lighthouses in the United States, the whole amount of Salaries contemplated is 16550 Dollars, making an average of \$344.79 for each Keeper.

The foregoing is humbly submitted for consideration by

Samuel H. Smith Esq
Commissioner
of the Revenue

Respectfully
Sir

Your O^b Servant
Winthrop Lewis

Light Houses

Keepers Salary

Present Proposed
Doll. cts Doll. cts

Portsmouth.....	300	"	350	"
Boston.....	333	33	350	"
Nantucket.....	266	67	400	"
Little Bearon	166	67	250	"
Thatchers Island	350	"	350	"
Bakers Island	266	67	300	"
Plumb Island	266	67	350	"
Cape Cod.....	225	"	300	"
Cape Poge.....	225	"	350	"
Portland.....	300	"	350	"
Plymouth.....	250	"	350	"
Sequin.....	200	"	350	"
Wigwam Point....	200	"	350	"
Whitehead.....	200	"	300	"
Franklin Island	200	"	300	"
Wood Island....	225	"	300	"
Peabody Island...	300	"	350	"
Chatham.....	250	"	350	"
Boon Island....	400	"	450	"
Fortunate.....	200	"	350	"
Race Point.....	300	"	350	"
Point Gammon	300	"	350	"
Holmes Hole....	300	"	350	"
Petite Manan	300	"	350	"
Parpaulin Cove	300	"	350	"
Gayhead.....	300	"	350	"
Clarke Point....	225	"	350	"
Newport.....	300	"	350	"
Watch Hill.....	200	"	300	"
Point Judith	260	"	350	"

Carried forward 7,910 01 10,250 "

Light Houses

Keepers Salary

Present Proposed
Doll. cts Doll. cts

Brought forward	7,910	01	10,250	"
New London.....	250	"	350	"
Paulkners Island	225	"	300	"
Lynole Point....	175	"	350	"
Five mile Point	225	"	300	"
Fayerweather Island	225	"	300	"
Sandy Hook } Sandy Hook Beacon }	400	"	400	"
Catars Neck....	333	33	350	"
Sands Point....	250	"	300	"
Montauk.....	333	33	350	"
Little Gull Island	533	33	533	33
Buffaloe.....	300	"	350	"
Pesque' Isle....	300	"	350	"
Cape Henlapers	400	"	400	"
Cape Henry....	400	"	400	"
Old Point Comfort	250	"	400	"
Smiths Point....	250	"	400	"
New Point Comfort	250	"	400	"
Bald Head.....	400	"	400	"
Cape Hatteras....	400	"	400	"
Shell Castle....	250	"	400	"
Cape Lookout...	300	"	400	"
Charleston.....	400	"	400	"
Georgetown.....	400	"	400	"
Frybee.....	433	33	433	33
St. Simons Island	400	"	400	"
Bayou St. John..	180	"	180	"

586
750
2200
177
20600

16,173 33 19,896 66

Custom House Boston,

September 20th 1816.

Sir,

I have examined your report to Sam^l. H. Smith Esqr., Commissioner of the Revenue, on the increase of the Salaries of the Keepers of the several Light Houses in the United States, and coincide with you in opinion on the propriety of the increase which you have recommended.

The expences of living have increased very considerably since the pay of most of the Keepers was established.

Their insulated situation renders it difficult & expensive for them to procure most of the necessaries of life; while the loneliness of their habitations, compared with the pecuniary inducement to occupy them, precludes those characters best qualified for the stations, from accepting them.

They hold most important & responsible offices; on their sobriety & strict attention to the well tending of the lights,

depend the lives and fortunes of the enterprising mariner
and adventurous merchant.

I presume that the report will be considered just,
from the reasons which are assigned for establishing
the pay of each.

With due respect,

your ob^t. Serv^t

Wm. Dearborn
Super^t. of Lt. Houses in
Boston.

Capt. Winslow Lewis.



Treasury Department
Revenue Office March 27th 1819.

Sir

I have the honor to submit for
your consideration a Statement of the
annual allowances which it is proposed
to make to the Keepers of the Light
Houses of the United States from the
31st of December 1818, which includes, likewise,
a view of the allowances now made.

I am

with sincere respect

your ob.^t St

Samuel Smith

Commissioner of the Revenue

Hon. Secretary of the Treasury.