Everything you want to know about Beavertail light

A great addition for your island book shelf

A new book detailing the history of Beavertail Lighthouse has just been published.

The book is called "Beavertail Light Station on Conanicut Island" and is authored by Jamestowner Varoujan Karentz. The book has been released by a subsidiary of Amazon.com, "BookSurge" publications of Charleston, S.C.

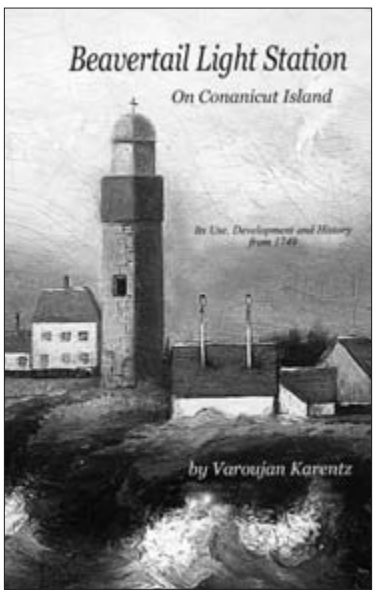
"Beavertail Light Station" gathers much of what has not been previously been written about the lighthouse and provides the reader a different view of Jamestown's top visitor destination.

Navigation hazards, shipwrecks, piloting, light improvements and fog signal experiments made Rhode Island's Beavertail Light Station one of the most noted landmarks in New England guiding seamen who voyaged into Newport and Narragansett Bay.

"Beavertail Light Station" covers over 250 years of history about America's third oldest lighthouse. The first navigational aid at Beavertail was established in 1705, well before the Revolutionary War. The book documents the people who kept the light, the development of the lighthouse through the years, and the mariners who have used this navigation aid at the entrance of Narragansett Bay.

Beavertail light was recognized for its technological innovation and lived through the federal bureaucratic conflict of four different managing organizations beginning in 1749.

Karentz follows the early slave trade and Colonists who insisted the lighthouse be built. He describes the work ethics and reporting requirements of the generations of "keepers" who tended the light. Karentz describes how Beavertail utilized modern methods of lighting over time. Electricity improved operations by replacing the whale oil and fossil fuel burners used by the U.S. Lighthouse Board during the 1800s. His efforts lead the reader to the current Beavertail operations, when the "keeper" was no longer needed by the U.S Coast



Guard because the light station was automated.

In his book, Karentz highlights the historical aspects of Beavertail with details of the difficulties the navigator experienced when making landfall coming into Rhode Island Sound. Establishment of the light assured that ships were on proper courses for safe voyages into Narragansett Bay.

Karentz said that "while much has been written about Beavertail in the past, not much has been said about how the light was used by navigators and little has been documented under one cover about changes to the light over the past 75 years." Included in the book are chapters about Narragansett Bay lightships and the establishment of Beavertail State Park and how the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association, which operates the museum at the light station, was founded and its probable future.

A native Rhode Islander and retired corporate executive, Karentz has long been captivated by the history of Conanicut Island. He moved to Jamestown in 1986. A cruising sailor for the past 20 years, a navigator in the U.S. Navy and a historian of immigrant settlement in Rhode Island, he has authored a number of historical essays.

Karentz has been involved with a variety of leadership roles on historical preservation and serves on the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association board of directors.

Proceeds from sales of the book will be donated to the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association.

Youth book group to read about whaling adventure

The Jamestown Philomenian Library's Child & Parent book discussion group for children in grades 4 to 6 and their parents will meet on Tuesday, May 6, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The book for the meeting is "The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed," by Heather Vogel Frederick.

The book is set on a whaling ship in the fall of 1835. Twelve-year-old Patience Goodspeed is the daughter of the captain and gets involved in all kinds of adventures after they depart from Nantucket.

Pre-registration is required to plan for refreshments. To reserve the book and sign up for this new book discussion group, call the library at 423-7280 or visit the library's Web site www.jamestownri.com/library or email the children's and young adult librarian at rowenadunlap@gmail.com.

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Dear Pat,
I am writing to let you know how happy I am with the job that you did for us at 69 Mill Street in Newport. Your crew did an excellent exterior shingling and paint job on our hundred-year-old building. They were meticulous, easy to work with and very solicitous of our tenant and neighbors.
I very much appreciate your responsiveness and willingness to keep me apprised of day to day happenings and even though I have been 3,000 miles away during most of the project.
Thanks, too , for completeing the job on time! I would not want to be involved in an outside project of this magnitude as the snows fall.
If you would like to bring any future clients to the house, please feel free to do so. I also am more than willing to talk with anyone regarding how pleased we are with your work.
Sincerely,
Pam Wiseman

To Whom It May Concern:
Patrick Baker is a master painter with an extensive knowledge about construction.
Recently, he painted Eveherdee, my home in Newport, an 1891 Sanford White Victorian. As one knows, Victorian homes are noted for a multitude of colors and Eveherdee sports six wonderful mixtures...beautiful to look at, hard to paint.
Patrick and his wonderful crew took on the challenge of painting a three-story house with impossibly high eaves and the added task of material matching all along the way. The house turned out magnificently, mainly due to the attention to paint detail on the spindles, grooves and trimlines associated with a Victorian.
Patrick is first rate, always updating information about any problems and always on schedule. I highly recommend him for any job.
Sincerely,
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