

Pemaquid Point Lighthouse 1-page talking points

- Welcome - I am a volunteer member of FPPL. PPL, fully operational navigational aid in Gulf of Maine (from dawn to dusk, flashes every 6 seconds), owned by USCG, leased to ALF. For the past 20 years, FPPL, a chapter of the ALF, provides custodial care of the tower and vestibule to provide safe public access for visitors to climb the tower. USCG maintains the light.
- We receive NO financial support from Bristol, so none of the money you paid for entry comes to us. Therefore, we request \$1 donation/per climber, to provide yearly maintenance costs for the 200-year-old structure. (We greatly appreciate any additional donation, if you are so inclined, as well.) Thank you for your support.
- Give safety instructions to climb
- PPL commissioned by President John Quincy Adams in 1826. \$4,000 allocated by Congress; Government purchases PPoint land for \$90. Lamps burning sperm whale oil, utilizing reflectors, emitted its first light in 1827
- What you see when you climb: Give info on Fresnel Lens (1857) and fuel sources (whale oil, lard, kerosene, acetylene gas flame, halogen bulb, LED bulb). DON'T TOUCH THE LENS!!
- Islands one sees from lamp room - Franklin, Allen/Brenner, Monhegan (can show on map)
- 107 years of keepers (14 in total): First was Issac Dunham, paid \$350/annually for 10 years; Last was Leron Elwell (1928-1934), paid \$1,639 annually
- Restorations:
 - 1835 - because mortar was mixed with salty ocean water in 1827 and had to be rebuilt; cast iron staircase replaced wooden one and interior brick veneers added
 - FPPL renovations (internal and external) completed between 2007 with grants from Lowe's and National Trust for Historic Preservation, and personal donations
- PPL chosen for flipside of Maine Quarter - issued in 2003 (on wall to show). [Maine separated from Massachusetts and became a state in 1820.]
- By 1602 when Capt John Smith explored area, he found British fishing colonies already established in Pemaquid Harbor. Area rich in cod, tall pine trees, beavers - products England wanted.
- Abenaki names and meanings: Pemaquid: "land jutting far out" (15 miles by land from Damariscotta [Abenaki for "many small fish" to Pemaquid Point - road down peninsula not constructed until mid-1800s). Monhegan: "island way out there." Sequin Island: "where the sea vomits." Muscongus: "many ledges." Wiscasset: "coming out of Harbor but can't see where"