

Life and Death at the Doomed



This photo, taken in 1949, shows the entire island where the Smith Island Lighthouse was located. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

By Timothy Harrison and Debra Baldwin

Smith Island Lighthouse that was once located near Port Townsend, Washington is gone. It no longer exists. For all practical purposes, the government abandoned the lighthouse in the late 1960s, and by the late 1980s, all remnants of the lighthouse disappeared from the face of the earth when what little remained of it toppled over the cliff and smashed to pieces.

In the early years of its dignified career the lighthouse that at one time had its own block house to protect its personnel from Native American attacks eventually became a vital link to the mariner at sea. Over the years the Smith Island Lighthouse, built in 1858, went through the up and downs of budget cuts as well as growth when it was staffed by a lighthouse keeper, assistant lighthouse keepers, and eventually a contingent of Coast Guard personnel who staffed a radio beacon station.

Lighthouse keepers and their families came and went. Some did not stay long while others, such as DeWitt C. Dennison (1830-1891), lived at Smith Island Lighthouse for an amazing 25 years. After serving for 25 years as the keeper of Smith Island Lighthouse, time finally caught up with him and he retired. His son Frank Dennison was appointed as his



The head keeper and assistant keeper with family members are shown in this very early photograph of Smith Island Lighthouse. Unfortunately, the name of the keepers and the family members were never recorded with the photo, nor is the date of the photo known. In later years, the fence shown here was replaced by a white picket fence. (Photo courtesy U.S. Lighthouse Society.)

replacement. A few months later DeWitt Dennison died at the lighthouse. Not long after that, Frank Dennison's mother and siblings left the lighthouse, leaving him there by himself. However, after he built himself a new boat, he courted Fanny Larson who lived on San Juan Island, and before long the couple was married. Two

of the couple's children, Winifred and Dewey, were actually born in the keeper's house at Smith Island Lighthouse. In 1905 Frank Dennison was transferred to Fairway Island Lighthouse in Alaska. It was not the most desirable place to be stationed, and in 1908 he quit the Lighthouse Service to

Story continues on page 56.

Smith Island Lighthouse



This early view of the Smith Island Lighthouse near Port Townsend, Washington shows the station with a white picket fence and well-manicured lawn. It is obvious that the keeper(s) took pride in maintaining a well-kept light station. If you look closely, you will notice that the shades or curtains in the lantern were drawn to protect the lens and the brass fittings from the harmful rays of the sun. In later years, one of the keepers must have felt that the white picket fence was too much work to maintain and it was removed. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



In 1909 Katie Poor, a school teacher from the small farm town of Albion, Nebraska, met Smith Island assistant lighthouse keeper Ray E. Dunson at the Lighthouse Service exhibit at the Alaska and Pacific Exposition in Seattle, Washington. The couple fell in love and married on October 9, 1909. Katie and Ray Dunson lived at Smith Island Lighthouse where Ray's father, Joseph Dunson, was the head keeper. In 1912 Ray Dunson and his wife Katie were transferred to the Cape Arago Lighthouse in Oregon.



Following in his father's footsteps, Ray Dunson started his official lighthouse career in 1905 when he became an assistant keeper under his father, Joseph, at Smith Island Lighthouse where he served until 1909 when he was transferred to Cape Arago Lighthouse. In 1917 he transferred to the Willapa Bay Lighthouse and in 1920 he went to Alki Point Lighthouse. In 1931 he became a keeper at Yaquina Head Lighthouse and in 1936 he went to Mukilteo Lighthouse where he retired from lighthouse keeping in 1939. Ray Dunson died on January 19, 1940 at the young age of 56. (Photo courtesy of Barbara Dunson.)



Sheep are occasionally mentioned in old stories about Smith Island Lighthouse. This old photo showing a man with one of the sheep was taken at Smith Island Lighthouse; however, the year that the photo was taken is unknown, as is the name of man in the photo. It is known that sheep were on the island as late as the 1930s, because family records indicate that Bessie Clements, wife of assistant keeper Edwin Clements, tended sheep on the island. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

make his living primarily at fishing. While on a fishing trip in 1910, he disappeared, lost at sea.

In 1909 Katie Poor, a young school teacher, left her small farming community in Nebraska to marry assistant keeper Ray Edgar Dunson and live at Smith Island Lighthouse. Dunson's father, Joseph Dunson, had been the keeper before him. Reportedly, it was Ray Dunson who introduced rabbits to the island, something that proved to be a mistake as the rabbits soon multiplied at a great rate.

A man named R. R. Bays served as the head keeper from May of 1930 to September of 1931, followed by D. W. Clark who served from September 1931 to April 1933. Some of the other keepers who served over the years at Smith Island Lighthouse were Henry Hill, B.B.

Meagher, Dwight Southmayd, William Windom, Hal Graves, Arthur Frey, Orval A. Risdon, and R. C. Tolman. For the most part, all of the lighthouse keepers who lived at the remote and isolated Smith Island Lighthouse lived there with their wives, and it was a place where children were born and the kids played with family pets, all while isolated from the outside world.

Tragedy struck in January of 1880 when assistant keeper John Wellington, who served under head keeper C. P. Dyer, drowned at the lighthouse in a tragic boating accident. And he would not be the only assistant keeper to meet his death at Smith Island Lighthouse. Another keeper, who had at one time served with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in World War I, went to Smith Island Lighthouse with his wife, thinking this would be their last government lighthouse post before retirement until tragedy struck.

The Edwin Clements Story

Edwin Clements, who was an assistant keeper at Smith Island Lighthouse in the 1930s, had an interesting life before arriving at Smith Island Lighthouse. Born in Detroit, Michigan on Oct. 8, 1891 to George and Emily Clements, Edwin was the eldest of five children. His family was Canadian and his father had a farm in Ponoka, Canada on which Edwin worked in his early years. His grandfather was a career military man, and when WW I came around, both he and Edwin enlisted to serve in the war - his grandfather in the 34th battalion and Edwin in the 18th Battery Field Artillery at Regina, Saskatchewan. It doesn't sound all that unusual for two men

in a family to serve together, except when you consider that Edwin's grandfather was 78 years old at the time! He had lied about his age on his enlistment papers, claiming to be only 45, and he ended up serving for nine months before being sent back to Canada. He was later quoted as saying that if another war came along, he would "make another try for it."

In the meantime, Edwin Clements followed in his grandfather's footsteps and went on to France as a sergeant attached to the 21st Howitzer Battery and on October 17, 1917 he was wounded and awarded a military medal for bravery. He continued serving with the 21st Battery until the armistice in 1918. After the Great War,



Anna Bearman, wife of Charley Bearman, the head keeper at Smith Island from 1937 to 1942, was affectionately known as the "Queen of Smith Island." (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Charles "Charley" H. Bearman in his U.S. Lighthouse Service uniform at Smith Island Lighthouse. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Astrid (Bearman) Smith and Anna Bearman, wife of keeper Charley Bearman, and Billy (William Jr.) Smith on board the Coast Guard vessel at Port Townsend as they leave for their new home at Smith Island Lighthouse. Astrid was the daughter of Charley and Anna Bearman. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

The household goods and family members of lighthouse keeper Charles H. Bearman are loaded on a Coast Guard vessel at Port Townsend, Washington in 1937 as they prepare for their first trip to their new home at Smith Island Lighthouse. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

Coast Guard Brings In Body of Keeper

By Transradio Press

SEATTLE, Jan. 7.—The Seattle coast guard brought in the body Sunday of missing Lighthouse Keeper Edward Clements. The body was discovered late Saturday night climaxing a search which began last Friday. Details of the finding of Clements' body were not immediately available.

The lighthouse keeper had disappeared after he had set out from his post at Smith island, six miles off Whidby island, to repair the light on a nearby island. His boat was washed up on the beach several days later.



The keeper on the left is Edwin G. Clements, and we are unsure who the keeper on the right is. However, it appears this photo was taken at Patos Island Lighthouse before Clements went to Smith Island Lighthouse. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

The finding of the body of lighthouse keeper Edwin G. Clements in 1939 was only a short two-paragraph story in the *Oregonian* newspaper on January 7, 1940. Sadly, they did not even get his first name correct in the story when they listed his first name as Edward, when in fact it was Edwin. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



B.B. Meagher was the head lighthouse keeper at Smith Island Lighthouse in the early 1900s. In 1918 he received a letter of commendation from the government for transporting the officer of a disabled steamer by the lighthouse boat through rough seas to get assistance. (Jim Gibbs photo, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

he returned to Canada where, on April 19, 1919, he married Elizabeth "Bessie" McClellan, who had been working as a nurse in the King George Hospital in Winnipeg. In 1920, they then moved to Milltown, Washington where Edwin had to be repatriated since he had served in the Canadian forces during the war. Sometime during the following period, Edwin and Bessie adopted a son, Alec Savage. Unfortunately, Alec became a disappointment to Edwin later in life and they became estranged.

In 1929, Edwin moved to Seattle, Washington and in the early 1930s, he joined the United States Lighthouse Service and was assigned to be an assistant keeper on Patos Island Lighthouse on the Georgia Strait on Puget Sound, Washington. He served there for a number of years before being transferred to Smith Island as an assistant keeper, which he hoped would be his last duty station. Heroically and tragically, that part came true in an unexpected way.

Story continues on next page.



Assistant lighthouse keeper Edwin G. Clements is shown here with his sister Madeline (l) and Dulcie (r). Interestingly, Madeline Clements Rodgers was the long time lamplighter for the beacon on Ben Ure Island in Washington. Watch for a story about her in a future edition of *Lighthouse Digest*. (Photo courtesy Georgene Finch)



Smith Island Lighthouse assistant keeper Edwin G. Clements and his wife Bessie with the family dog. It is believed this photo was taken at Patos Island Lighthouse where he was previously stationed. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



As a young man, before becoming a lighthouse keeper in the United States, Edwin G. Clements and his grandfather, W. J. Clements both served with the Canadian Army in Europe during World War I. Edwin's grandfather was 78 years old at the time, but lied about his age stating that he was 45 years old so that he could enlist. (Courtesy David and Georgene Finch.)



This is the Minor Island Beacon Light that was serviced by the keepers from Smith Island Lighthouse. Etched and inscribed over the door it reads "USLHS 1935," meaning that the beacon was constructed by the U.S. Lighthouse Service in 1935. The sign to the right said "DANGER Naval Bombing Area." Naval aircraft from Whidbey Island Air Station, five miles to the east, dropped unarmed bombs and sonar buoys nearby, practicing for submarine hunting. All the drums lying about were oil drums, mostly empty. When this light went out on December 29, 1939, assistant lighthouse keeper Edwin G. Clements rowed out to service the light. He never returned. Ten years later, in 1949, Coast Guardsman Don Skiff went out to service the beacon at Minor Island and nearly lost his life in a storm. For a while he was trapped on the island with no food or water, but luckily he eventually managed to get back to the mainland. He was much more fortunate than Edwin Clements had been. Reports indicate that the Minor Island Light was discontinued in December of 2015. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

In 1939, there were at least three lighthouse families serving on Smith Island. In charge was head keeper Charles "Charley" Bearman who was there with his wife Anna, both in their 50's, along with their daughter Sylvia, age 19. Charley Bearman had replaced Charles Nykel as the head keeper. Edwin Clements was 48 years old when he arrived with his wife Bessie at Smith Island Lighthouse. Clements was appointed an assistant keeper to serve under Charley Bearman.

The other assistant was 26 year old George Welsh who had his young family with him - his wife Josephine, age 25; daughter Mary Jane, age 2; and newborn son Patrick, age 4 months. It is believed that George had been newly assigned to Smith Island only at the beginning of December that year. Before Smith Island

Lighthouse, George Welsh had been stationed with the Coast Guard at Willapa Bay.

Smith Island has an interesting topography. While the main lighthouse was situated on the island itself, there was a long spit of attached land, known as Minor Island, that projected out about 1000 feet to the east, and when the tide was in, it covered the spit, making it impossible for ships to see. So, a kerosene lamp was kept lit at the end of the spit to prevent ships from crashing onto these rocks. One of the duties of the Smith Island Lighthouse keepers was to tend to the Minor Island light as well, ensuring that it remained lit every night.

On the evening of December 29, 1939, there was a bad storm raging, and the light on Minor Island had gone out. The duty



Supply ship off Smith Island Lighthouse, circa 1939. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

that night fell to George Welsh to attend to it. But because of his young family and new infant son, and perhaps also because of his unfamiliarity with the sea conditions and being so new to Smith Island, Edwin did not want him to risk the trip and volunteered instead to take his place to relight the lamp. He never returned that night.

Edwin Clements' boat was found upturned on the beach the next day, and the day after that, his body was recovered by the Coast Guard crew who had been sent to find him. Edwin had given his life in taking George's place - a true hero's sacrifice in the line of duty.

Edwin Clements was buried in Crown Hill cemetery in Seattle and his beloved Bessie rests beside him. Unfortunately, until now, his years of service at either Patos Island or Smith Island were not recorded, and without immediate posterity to keep his memory fresh, he had slipped into the void for these many years until *Lighthouse Digest* obtained an old photo album of photos and newspaper clippings from a yard sale of family life at Smith Island Lighthouse, which led to the research to locate additional photos from descendants of the light keepers.

It was written of Edwin Clements that he had a kindly nature, lovable traits of character, and amiable consideration for all about him. His sister, in telling the story of his untimely death to her family, was known to say "that's just the kind of man he was..." And in a newspaper article written by the Canadian Legion in memoriam of his death, they wrote, "No words can set forth his generous love of his fellow men, and his death was, we know, as he would have wished it, "ON DUTY"- his constant desire to aid others."

Story continues on page 60.



On the far left is Felix Bearman, brother of Smith Island Lighthouse keeper Charley Bearman, from a photo believed to have been taken in Astoria, Oregon in 1911. In 1916, prior to the U.S. entering the Great War, and while stationed at Tillamook Lighthouse, Felix appeared in a vision or a dream to Charley Bearman to say goodbye to him. A few days later the news was delivered to Tillamook Lighthouse that Felix Bearman, a crewman of the Lighthouse Tender *Manzanita*, had lost his life by drowning when a small boat overturned while he and others were servicing a buoy. Also shown in this photo is the wife and children of Charley Bearman; Gunnar, Mrs. Anna Bearman, and baby daughter Astrid. (Photo courtesy of Debbie Greco.)



Supplies for Smith Island Lighthouse had to be offloaded from a larger supply ship or lighthouse tender and then loaded onto small skiffs and then offloaded again and carried by hand up to the lighthouse. As can be seen by this late 1930s photo, it took a lot of men to accomplish this labor-intensive work. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

This building served a number of purposes over the years. However, when this photo was taken, it was the radio control building. The horn protruding from the left top of the building is not a fog horn; it was an alarm horn that would sound if the radio beacon equipment stopped working. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Lighthouse keeper Charles "Charley" H. Bearman and his wife Anna at Smith Island Lighthouse around 1940. (Courtesy Jim and Nancy Curtis.)



A number of Coast Guard personnel posed for this photo of Flag Day at Smith Island Lighthouse, circa 1937-1938. The child on the lawn appears to be Billy (William Jr.) Smith, the grandson of keeper Charles Bearman. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

That Others May Live

Assistant lighthouse keeper George Welsh went on to have another eight children and many grandchildren, presumably none of whom would have been born had Edwin Clements not gone out that night in his place. George Welsh continued to serve at Smith Island until September 15, 1941 when he was honorably discharged from the Coast Guard.

The Charley Bearman Story

After Edwin Clements' drowning, Charley Bearman continued as the head keeper at Smith Island Lighthouse where he served until 1942. A book could be written about Charley Bearman's life. He was born as Carl Henrik Johansson in Finland on November 1, 1887. At some point prior to immigrating to America, he changed his name to Carl Henrik Bjornman and immigrated to the United States. When he arrived in Astoria, Oregon at the age of 20, he changed his name again, this time to Charles Henry Bearman, which he apparently thought was more "American."

Charley Bearman subsequently met and married Anna Matilda "Tittie" Lindblad Kjalldstrom on December 20, 1908, and the couple eventually had four children: Gunnar, Astrid, Ragnar, and Sylvia. Charley Bearman then held various jobs working at a saw-mill in the logging industry, and also fishing. In 1912 when he became a naturalized citizen, he joined the United States Lighthouse Service and served on the Lighthouse Tender *Manzanita*. Family records also indicate that Charley Bearman's brother, Felix, joined the Lighthouse Service and that he also served on board the Lighthouse Tender *Manzanita*.

In 1914 Charley Bearman was transferred off from the *Manzanita* to Oregon's dangerous Tillamook Lighthouse.

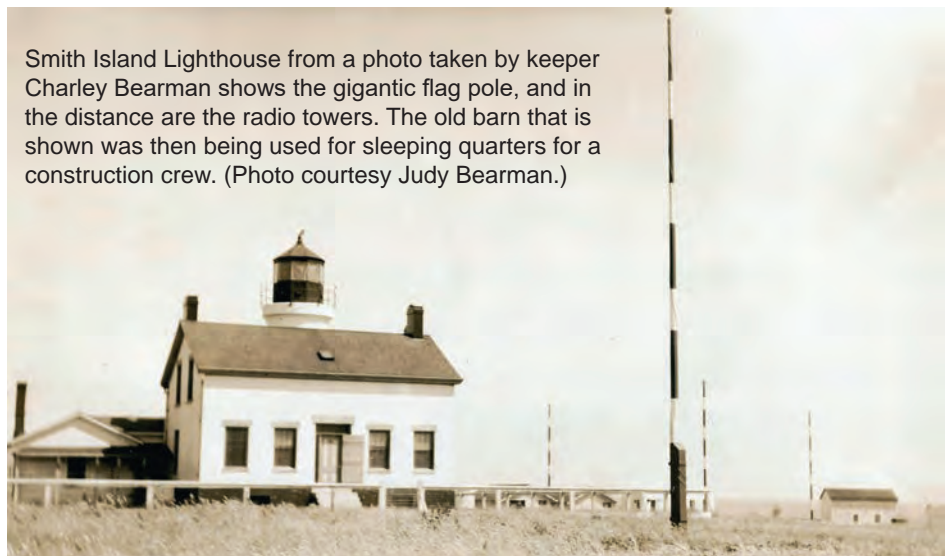
Story continues on page 63.



This photo was labeled "Two Keepers and Dad - on the right is Frank W. Dorrance." We do know Frank W. Dorrance served at Destruction Island Lighthouse from 1928 to 1935, and Patos Island Lighthouse from 1938 to 1941, and it is known that he was stationed at Point Robinson Lighthouse in 1944. We were able to identify the man in the middle of the photo as Smith Island Lighthouse keeper Charles H. Bearman, but we don't know who the man on the far left is. It's a shame that all the names were not written on the back of the photo, or where it was taken and what year it was taken. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Charley and Anna Bearman lived in this house while stationed at Smith Island Lighthouse. Anna Bearman is shown on the steps with the family dog. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Smith Island Lighthouse from a photo taken by keeper Charley Bearman shows the gigantic flag pole, and in the distance are the radio towers. The old barn that is shown was then being used for sleeping quarters for a construction crew. (Photo courtesy Judy Bearman.)



Coast Guard keeper George Welsh (1914-1994) with two of his children, Mary Jane and Pat, at Smith Island Lighthouse. (Photo courtesy Dianne Cadwallander.)



Pat and Mary Jane Welsh, children of George Welsh, at Smith Island Lighthouse with the lighthouse cat. Circa 1940. (Photo courtesy Jerry and Colleen Evans.)



This early photo, taken a number of years before they moved to Smith Island Lighthouse, shows the children of lighthouse keeper Charley and Anna Bearman: Gunnar, Astrid, and baby Ragnar. (Courtesy Jim and Nancy Curtis.)



Charles H. "Charley" Bearman, head keeper at Smith Island, is shown here wearing a white Lighthouse Service hat, which was common for many keepers to wear in the summer months. However, some keepers wore white hats year 'round. (Photo courtesy Nancy Curtis.)



Charley Bearman, now retired from lighthouse life, is shown here with his wife Anna. (Photo courtesy Jim and Nancy Curtis.)



Coast Guard keeper George Welsh with children Mary Jane and Pat at Smith Island Lighthouse. After he left the Coast Guard, he owned a farm where he raised ten children. When World War II broke out, it was written that he said farming was essential to the war effort. Later he sold the farm and took a job as a maintenance person at the Willapa Harbor Hospital. (Circa 1940 photo courtesy of Jerry and Colleen Evans.)

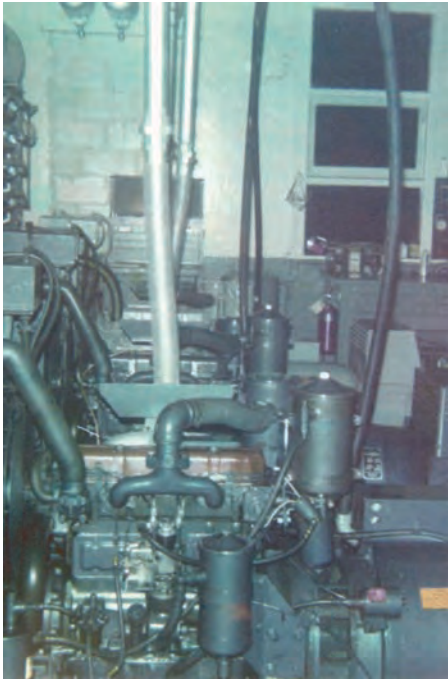
Josephine Welsh, wife of Coast Guard keeper George Welsh, with children Pat and Mary Jane at Smith Island Lighthouse. (Circa 1940 photo courtesy Jerry and Colleen Evans.)



Various support buildings at Smith Island Lighthouse in 1940. At the far left and barely in the photograph is the paint house, then two water tanks, the garage, a shop, radio building, and engine room. (Photo courtesy Judy Bearman.)



This nice view of Smith Island Lighthouse with one of the assistant keeper's home shows that the station once had a very tall flagpole. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



The generator room at Smith Island Lighthouse as it appeared in 1949. (Don Skiff photo, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



This panoramic view shows the entire Smith Island Light Station with all of its support buildings as they appeared in 1949. (Don Skiff photo, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

Below: The radio room at Smith Island Lighthouse as it appeared in 1948. (Don Skiff photo, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Left: The structures that the keepers lived in were called keeper's homes. But, as time went on that was changed by the Coast Guard to Quarters A and B. This is the kitchen in Smith Island Lighthouse Quarters A as it appeared in 1949. (Don Skiff photo, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



The Fresnel lens as it appeared when it was still in the lantern of Smith Island Lighthouse. The lens is now on display at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle, Washington. (Don Skiff photo, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



This view shows the lantern room at Smith Island Lighthouse. In 1964, as the lighthouse was sitting on the edge of the cliff, noted lighthouse author and historian Jim Gibbs received permission from the Coast Guard to salvage and keep whatever he could. Gibbs hired the Leiter Hockett Salvage Company to remove the lantern. Jim Gibbs then had the lantern transported and installed atop the Skunk Bay Lighthouse that he had built near Hansville, Washington where it remains to this day. The Skunk Bay Lighthouse is now privately owned by the Skunk Bay Lighthouse Association and is not open to the public. But, if it had not been for the Jim Gibbs (1922-2010), the lantern from Smith Island Lighthouse would not have been saved. (Don Skiff photo, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

(Interestingly, lighthouse records for Tillamook Lighthouse list the spelling of his last name as Bjorman and Bjornman.) Later in life Charley Bearman made a recording of his memories of life at Tillamook Lighthouse. In spite of its dangerous and remote location, Charley Bearman said that his time at Tillamook Lighthouse were among the happiest days of his life. While at Tillamook Lighthouse, he enjoyed making furniture from the wooden crates that were used to hoist supplies on the rocky outpost. He also enjoyed experimenting with cooking for the crew of four men who were always on duty at the lighthouse. To pass the time, he also enjoyed playing cribbage and pinochle with the men. But he also enjoyed the quiet time that he spent reading everything that was made available to the keepers, which helped increase his knowledge.

One night in late March of 1916 while stationed at Tillamook Lighthouse, Charley Bearman claimed that he was awakened by a ghostly figure of his brother Felix who said he said he was there to say goodbye. Charley thought it was a dream of some kind. Later he learned that his 23 year old brother had drowned while he and others were attempting to secure a buoy that had broken its mooring off Peacock Spit in Astoria, Orego; when the boat had overturned.

Shortly after the death of his brother, Charley Bearman resigned from the Lighthouse Service. When the United States entered the Great War in April of 1917, Charley became a foreman at the McEachern Shipyard, doing his duty to help with the war effort. After the conclusion of the war, he went to work as a millwright. In 1934 he secured a new job as a uniformed employee of the U.S. Public Health Service Quarentine Station in Knappton, which he held until 1937 when he again entered the U.S. Lighthouse Service by securing the position as the head keeper of Smith Island Lighthouse. When the Coast Guard took over the Lighthouse Service in 1939, he continued to remain at Smith Island. However, in 1942 the Coast Guard removed him from Smith Island Lighthouse and sent him to supervise projects to convert old hotels and other large buildings into dormitories for the war effort. He remained in the Coast Guard until his retirement in 1955.

Story continues on next page.



The Smith Island Lighthouse as appeared in 1970 after its lantern room was removed. The structure is now standing precariously close to the edge of the 60-foot high cliff. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

Looking up from the beach at Smith Island Lighthouse. The end is near. (Don Skiff photo, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

As can be seen in this 1983 photo, a section of the Smith Island Lighthouse has broken away and debris can be seen on the beach below. Also, the bluff has moved dramatically closer to the keepers' homes and other structures. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)





This photo, taken on land looking toward the Pacific Ocean, shows what is left of the crumbling lighthouse on the left, and one of the abandoned keepers' homes that has been taken over by the birds. (Courtesy David and Georgene Finch.)

The Lighthouse Was Doomed

When Charley Bearman left Smith Island Lighthouse, he knew that it was a doomed station. Erosion had been a constant problem. Once the lighthouse structure was declared unsafe, it was replaced in 1960 by a skeleton tower further back from the eroding cliff. That tower stood 97 feet high above sea level.

For a number of years afterward, the Coast Guard maintained a presence on the island, mainly for the important radio beacon station. But modern technology eventually made the station obsolete. Jim Gibbs, in his book *Lighthouses of the Pacific*, may have described it the best when he wrote, "It was a sad obituary for old Smith Island Lighthouse when it slid off the cliff, and few were anywhere near to shed a tear over its demise."



Left: Not much remains of Smith Island Lighthouse as it teeters on the edge of the bluff. (Courtesy Coast Guard Museum Northwest.)



This series of three photographs, taken in 1989, show what remains of Smith Island Lighthouse, ready to collapse over the edge of the cliff marking the end of a once important lighthouse station on the Pacific Coast of the United States of America. Shortly after these photos were taken the last remnants of Smith Island Lighthouse went went down over the side. (Courtesy of David and Georgene Finch.)

