

# Cape St. Francis Lighthouse



**1865 - John Munn and other residents of Harbour Grace present a petition to the House of Assembly asking for a lighthouse at Cape St. Francis.**

**1875 – During a terrible winter storm on November 29, two schooners, *Water Witch* and *Hopewell*, sink near Cape St. Francis. These losses add a sense of urgency to the project.**

**1876 - A launch is constructed at Biscayne Cove to be a landing place for construction materials for the light and fog alarm. A road is built from the landing to the end of the existing lighthouse road. Messrs. Cameron & Carnell begin construction of the lighthouse.**

**1877 - The light is first lit. The lantern is set atop a short, square tower that rests on the flat roof of a wooden dwelling. At a lower elevation is the flat-roofed structure that houses the fog alarm equipment. Later in the year a steam siren trumpet is installed. John Hagan is appointed the first keeper of the light.**

## Interesting Facts:

Water for the fog alarm is obtained from a brook up the hill from the lighthouse, flowing to the station via an open channel, and is then fed into cisterns through iron pipes. Because the open channel allows debris to plug the iron pipes, earthen pipes are extended to the brook in 1878.

Water was delivered during the winter "by manual and horse labor." The earthen pipes were often damaged by the frost and required repairs almost every year.



**1879 – On December 13 inspector Neville, accompanied by Austin Oke, arrives at Cape St. Francis at 2:55 a.m. for a surprise inspection. They find only one of the wicks in the two-wick, concentric lamp burning. Austin Oke puts the lamp in proper working order, and after the pair spend nearly an hour in the lantern room with no sign of the keeper, they finally call him from his bedroom. Keeper Hagan is reprimanded for his negligence, suspended for a time, but then allowed to return to his post.**

**1911 - A new "optical apparatus" is installed at Cape St. Francis, and the light's signature is changed from fixed red to fixed white.**

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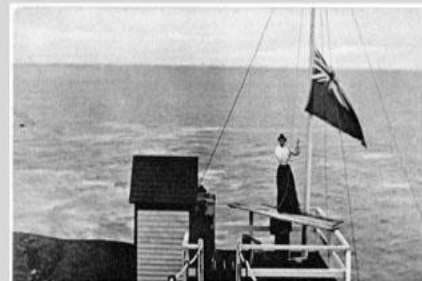


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**1912 - A new diaphone (two tone) fog alarm is installed that produces a two-and-a-half-second blast each minute.**

**1939 – 1945 – During the Second World War American soldiers are stationed at the Cape. They live in a barracks just above Pouch Cove, patrol the road and keep a lookout from the lighthouse for enemy submarines.**



**1957 - The original Cape St. Francis Lighthouse is replaced by a two-storey keepers' duplex, with an adjoining concrete structure that contains the fog signal equipment, topped by a lantern.**

**1975 - The last resident keeper leaves Cape St. Francis.**

**1993 - The duplex is demolished and a helicopter landing pad is built to make accessing the remote station a bit easier.**

**Keepers of the Light:**

**John Hagan (1876 - 1887)**

**William Tilley (1887 -1890)**

**John Moulton (1891 - 1900)**

**Jonas Soper (1901 - 1910)**

**William Noseworthy (1911 - 1912)**

**Charles Gruchy (1912 - 1930)**

**Edward Noseworthy (1930 -1965)**

**Franklin Noseworthy (1965 - 1995)**



**Assistant lighthouse keepers included Jonas Soper, John S. Noseworthy, Richard Noseworthy, Gordon Vaters, Tom Hudson, Ted Sullivan and Levi Bragg among others.**

Information drawn from: [www.lighthousefriends.com](http://www.lighthousefriends.com) and local residents.