

THACHER ISLAND COMMITTEE

REPORT

January 24, 1996

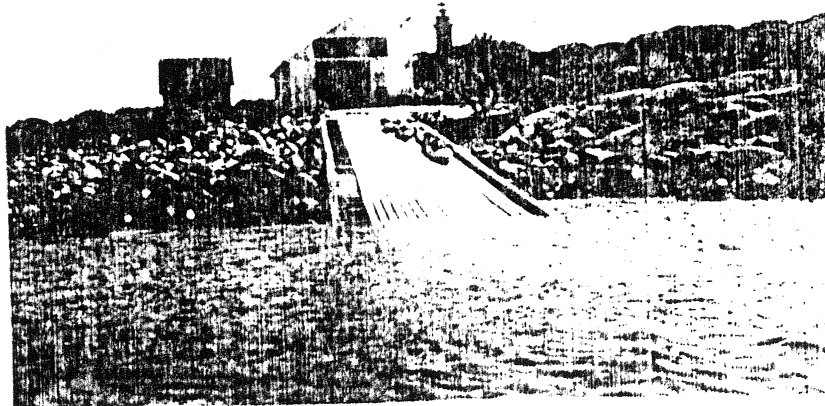
Just when the committee thought its responsibilities were winding down...whoops! Another BIG PROJECT came out of the blue! The landing ramp was demolished in a December storm. This is the ramp that was rebuilt only two years ago. Needless to say, it puts regular activities, at least temporarily, out of business.

However, the committee, with the help of the Association, is busily investigating every avenue for assistance...but we'll need all the help we can get.

We have contacted the Coast Guard...and the men at Group Boston are sympathetic...and agree that a more rugged structure must be built this time around. They will get a request off to Washington as soon as possible. The bureaucracy moves slowly ...so we will continue to make contacts. We'll have an engineering study done. (Are there any of our members with expertise in this area who would be willing to donate some time?) We are in the process of contacting the Fish & Wildlife Service, the Army Corps of Engineers and some philanthropic organizations. (Do any of you lighthouse buffs have any ideas? Does anyone have any fund raising programs?) We would like to see an all-out effort to get this job on line by the 1997 season. We don't want to discourage anyone by naming an amount...but the last ramp cost over \$66,000...and was supposedly an exact replacement of the one that was constructed by the Coast Guard in 1985. We obviously need something better! The engineering study done in 1983 estimated the replacement cost at \$130,000.

This brings you up to date on the recent "happenings" on your Island. There should be a bone fide newsletter going out in April. In the meantime, we're interested in your input. Drop us a line!

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TOWN OF ROCKPORT
THACHER ISLAND COMMITTEE
THACHER ISLAND ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Edited by

T.I.C. Co-chairman Mary Bennett & T.I.A. Secretary Dottie Carroll

THACHER FAMILIES

At the present time, we have twelve Thacher families who are LIFE members of our Association.

In September, we picked up a few more annual memberships, making a total of seven in that category.

Fourteen other Thacher Families who are former members have been contacted, but we still have not heard from them as to their current interest in Thacher Island and its Association. We do hope that they will decide to join us once again in our efforts to keep the island in good shape and open for visitors.

A note from "Thomas" Thacher of New Canaan, CT., states that he is a descendant of Ralph, who was a son of Thomas, who was nephew of Anthony. Ralph was a minister on Martha's Vineyard. The older Thomas came to America with Anthony, in 1635 and, for some reason, Thomas declined to accompany Anthony on that fateful voyage.

We heard from another descendant of Thomas - Harold F. Thatcher (with a "t"). He mentioned that descendants of Ebenezer Thatcher meet once a year in Bernardston, MA., with over 100 in attendance. Some of these folks are members of our Association and have been to the island.

Burnell and Millie Thacher hope to look up some California Thachers and will keep in touch with us as to any interesting information on them.

We did hear from a direct descendant of Anthony - Harris I. Thacher of Janesville, Wisconsin. He owns a farm in Wisconsin which, he stated, "has been in the Thacher family since 1872 when it was acquired by his great grandfather, Alfred. In 1981 some of the dairy farm acreage was sold to make way for an apartment building." Harris has a son in Florida and a daughter in Illinois. He is now retired and he and his wife enjoy traveling throughout the States and overseas.

Note: We would like to point out that the correct name of our island is "Thacher Island" - no "t" on the middle and no "s" at the end.