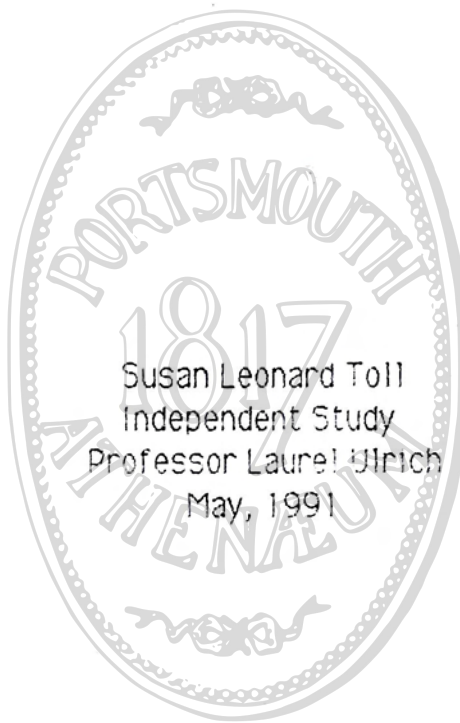


37281

Eliphalet Grover's Log: Boon Island 1828-1839



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Independent Study  
Professor Laurel Ulrich  
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Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth, N.H.

Lighthouses and lighthouse keepers have long been a source of mystique and romanticism. Folklore and legend are often so pervasive that historians have difficulty deciphering fact from fiction; yet within the manuscript collection of the Old York Historical Society, an original log of a lighthouse keeper offers a unique research opportunity. The log was kept by Eliphalet Grover, the keeper of the Boon Island light, from 1828 until 1839. Grover's tenure on Boon Island lasted from 1816 until he was relieved in May, 1839.

The circumstances of Grover's dismissal have been the cause of considerable historical speculation, including the theory that he was relieved from his post for destroying a United States government buoy, and the assertion that he sold oil intended for use in the lantern of the lighthouse. Subsequent investigation, however, reveals that the 1830's were a tumultuous period in the administration of America's lighthouses. Posts as lighthouse keepers were frequently rewards for political partisanship, and while the "Buoy theory" and the "Oil theory" of Grover's dismissal cannot be disproved, a more plausible explanation is that he was, unwittingly, a victim of the spoils system.

Regardless of the reason for Grover's removal from Boon Island, his log is useful as a primary document. Boon Island is a small outcrop of rock located seven miles off York's coast, and Eliphalet Grover was the first lighthouse keeper to reside on the island for a period of more than five

I would like to offer sincere thanks to Jane Porter for sharing her enthusiasm and expertise on lighthouses and keepers. Her familiarity with Grover's log was a tremendous help in deciphering difficult passages, and her willingness to share other research often guided me to valuable information. She has assumed the challenge of sorting fact from fiction with regard to lighthouses and lighthouse keepers, and I look forward to her forthcoming book.

years. The log is a testament to one man's struggle to survive what many call the loneliest place on earth, and it is a fascinating account of the trials of maintaining a light for those navigating the treacherous coast of Maine.

Beneath the laconic entries "1 Tube Glass Broaken" and "Came heare the Cutter" lies a captivating, though incomplete, account of Eliphalet Grover's life on Boon Island. Although Grover seldom refers to his wife, Susanna, or their children, the log documents the equipment and the trials of lighthouse keepers in the early 19th century. In addition to recording Eliphalet Grover's toils on Boon Island, the log can be interpreted within the context of lighthouse technology and administration, as a record of material culture, and within the genre of folk diaries. A complete transcription of the log has been completed to make Eliphalet Grover's story more available in reproducible form and to encourage further research while preserving the fragile original log.

#### Lighthouse Administration: The Spoils System at Work

Americans began building lighthouses in the 18th century and by the mid 19th century lighthouses dotted the Atlantic coast. Boon Island posed a serious threat to the safety of mariners trading along the Maine coast, and in 1797 the Boston Marine Society began negotiations with General Benjamin Lincoln to promote the construction of an unlighted beacon on Boon

Island. As the Boston Customs Collector, Lincoln was responsible for Maine's (then part of Massachusetts) lighthouses. In 1799, the first navigational aid was erected on Boon Island; a beacon forty feet high, costing \$600 was the first of many structures on the island that would be swept away or demolished by the sea.

The construction of a lighthouse on Boon Island was authorized in 1811 by Albert Gallatin, the Secretary of the Treasury. Lighthouses were then under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department; responsibility alternated between the secretary and the commissioner of revenue until the fifth auditor assumed control in 1820. Stephen Pleasonton, the fifth auditor, supervised America's lighthouses until the creation of the Lighthouse Board in 1852.

Stephen Pleasonton expedited some forms of progress during the 19th century and drastically hindered others. Lighthouses proliferated during Pleasonton's reign: only 49 lighthouses existed within the United States in 1812, but by 1842 there were 256 lighthouses and 30 lightships dotting the nation's coasts.<sup>1</sup> Yet Pleasonton's tenure was not without flaws. In 1810, for example, Winslow Lewis earned a contract with the federal government to use his version of the Argand lamp in all of the country's lighthouses. Ami Argand had devised a hollow wick which was a vast improvement upon the older spider lamp system, and Lewis convinced the

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<sup>1</sup>Francis Ross Holland, Jr., America's Lighthouses: Their Illustrated History Since 1716. Stephen Greene Press: Brattleboro, VT 1972, p. 32.

government to adopt the Argand lamp with a parabolic reflector.<sup>2</sup> (See material culture discussion for detail on reflectors.)

Shortly after Lewis' lamps were installed, a French physicist, Augustin Fresnel, developed a lens that was far superior to Lewis' Argand Lamp system. The Fresnel lense revolutionized the quality of the light emitted by lighthouses in France and England. Yet America was slow to adopt Fresnel lenses, in part because Winslow Lewis and Stephen Pleasonton were on very friendly terms; Pleasonton had allowed Lewis to develop a monopoly on the reflecting apparatus used in lighthouses. Thus the innovations of Fresnel were introduced in the United States only after Pleasonton's hesitations were brought to the attention of Congress.

In the same manner that Stephen Pleasonton showed favoritism to Winslow Lewis, posts as lighthouse keepers were often rewards for political favors. Francis Holland writes that during Pleasonton's administration "the nation's coasts were not adequately marked, and lights were poorly maintained by poorly trained keepers, most of [whom] were political appointees."<sup>3</sup>

Customs collectors supervised lighthouse keepers, but they, too, were subject to the capriciousness of the spoils system. Nathan Cummings was appointed Portland Customs Collector by President William Henry Harrison,

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<sup>2</sup>Francis Ross Holland, Jr., America's Lighthouses, p. 14-15.

<sup>3</sup>Holland, America's Lighthouses, p. ix and 32.

and though Cummings was "an active member of the Whig party,"<sup>4</sup> he was removed from office when John Tyler became president. Even correct party affiliation did not guarantee job security.

Boon Island was not exempt from this political turmoil. Captain John Thompson was removed from his post as keeper on Boon Island in September, 1843. Thompson wrote to President John Tyler in protest and his words indicate his perception of the importance of politics in the post:

I voted for your Excellency for Vice president and intended to exert my feeble influence to promote another election for you for President - why I am removed, I am at loss to determine.<sup>5</sup>

Thompson's letter echoes Eliphalet Grover's astonishment over the loss of the Boon Island post as recorded in his log: "Turn[ed] off [f] Boon Island after serving as lighthouse keeper 22 years 10 months and 20 days without cause." (May 10, 1839; log page 37.)

The assertion has been made that Eliphalet Grover was dismissed from Boon Island for destroying a government buoy and for surreptitiously selling lighthouse oil for personal profit.<sup>6</sup> Yet a closer reading of Grover's log

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<sup>4</sup>The Cummings Memorial, A Genealogical History of the Descendants of Isaac Cummings of Topsfield, MA Compiled by Rev. George Moor. New York: B.F. Cummings, 1903 p. 357.

<sup>5</sup>John Thompson as cited in Snow, Famous New England Lighthouses, p. 139.

<sup>6</sup>See Ranaid Langille, "A Boon Island Lighthouse Keeper," Unpublished manuscript, Old York Historical Society, York, Maine. Langille misinterprets the presence of receipts within Grover's log as evidence of embezzlement, and errs in his assessment of one of the signatures on the receipt. The receipt is signed by Seward Merrill, not Seward Munci as Langille claims. Seward Merrill was authorized to build a new lighthouse on Boon Island in 1831 after a storm devastated the

indicates that five months after he was "Examend Before John Anderson" for misconduct, he received a new boat from Anderson, the Superintendent of Lighthouses in Maine. (April 9, 1838 and September 29, 1838; log pages 30 & 32.) Had Grover's behavior been reprehensible enough to remove him from the post, it is unlikely he would have been given a new boat. Moreover, Grover was appointed lighthouse keeper on Whaleback in 1841, and it seems improbable that had he been guilty of serious misconduct like embezzlement he would have been reappointed as a lighthouse keeper. Given the political climate of the time, it seems much more likely that Grover was a pawn in a political power struggle.

#### Grover's Log as a Record of Material Culture

Eliphalet Grover's periodic inventories of lighthouse equipment on Boon Island are rare resources for understanding the materials used by lighthouse keepers in the early nineteenth century. Storm damage and repairs were also noted and in his log Grover has left a record of the equipment used in maintaining a lighthouse. The "lanton" (lantern) Grover mentioned was an iron and glass structure on the top portion of the lighthouse which protected

island. The receipt in Grover's log indicates that Merrill removed the "Old Stand" (probably the stand for the lantern) and any equipment "Belongin ther to." (July 22, 1831) Merrill was a representative of the United States government, and the receipt is proof that Grover remitted obsolete equipment to a legitimate figure. Furthermore, Langille suggests that pages have been cut out of the log to remove evidence of misdeeds; yet Grover's entries are continuous and the pages could easily have been blank.

the light source. Inside the lantern, many small lamps gave off light which was reflected through a system of lenses, focusing the light and increasing its visibility.

Reflecting apparatus of the early nineteenth century were sheets of metal coated with silver, and "buff skins" (usually deer skin) were needed to polish the reflectors and remove residue from lamps. "Tube glasses" were chimneys on the lamps; long tube glasses were used in the winter and short tube glasses in the summer. Similarly, different types of oil were used in summer and winter. Winter oil, pressed at lower temperatures, was thinner and did not freeze as easily as summer oil. Eliphalet's inventory also included "1 Dimon" (diamond), presumably to cut replacement panes of glass for the lantern.

#### Grover's Log as a Work Diary

Marilyn Ferris Motz has analyzed rural work diaries of midwestern Americans.<sup>7</sup> While the farms of Michigan and Ohio are far from Boon Island, Motz's insights into these work diaries are germane to Eliphalet Grover's log. Unlike the farmers of the midwest, Grover was expected to keep a record of his activities regarding the lighthouse, but with that difference excepted, the log is similar to the diaries Motz has examined.

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<sup>7</sup>See Marilyn Ferris Motz, "Folk Expressions of Time and Place" in Journal of American Folklore, Vol. 100, 1987 p. 131-47.

Motz notes that work diaries often lack a first person pronoun. The writer removed himself or herself from the work that was completed and tried to record events objectively. "The diaries," she says, "in this sense represent records of work accomplished, catalogs of achievement."<sup>8</sup> There is certainly a paucity of first person singular within Grover's log. Terse daily entries "Tube Glass Broaken" and "Came heare the Cutter" dominate the log, and only when something extraordinary such as a severe storm or a shipwreck interrupted the daily routine of life did Eliphalet write more prolix narrative entries.

Eliphalet Grover's seasons were marked by changing from winter to summer oil and putting up or taking down oil heaters. Winter oil was the result of pressing oil at or below freezing temperatures, while summer oil was pressed at higher temperatures. This process was supposed to provide a thinner winter oil that would not congeal into a useless mire if frozen. Unfortunately much of the oil, both summer and winter, often did congeal, leaving "settlings" which could not be burned in the lantern.

Marilyn Ferris Motz writes of rural work diaries:

We find in these rural folk diaries not the struggle of the self for differentiation from the rest of the universe, but rather the attempt of the individual to record the sequence of events of his or her life, to place himself or herself in the rhythmic pattern of the natural environment, to record the changing seasons

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<sup>8</sup>Motz, "Folk Expressions of Time and Place," p. 139

and different types of work that mark this natural cycle.<sup>9</sup>

Grover's seasonal ritual of putting up oil heaters and burning winter oil in November or December came full circle in March or April when he took down the heaters and returned to using summer oil.

Eliphalet Grover's life was also patterned by the sea. Storms and gales caused shipwrecks periodically, but even ordinary tides repeatedly washed away Grover's boat slip. His log records an endless struggle to maintain the structure that was critical to landing a boat on Boon Island. The winter of 1835 was particularly destructive; throughout February and March, "the Sea Carried a way" huge sections of Grover's slip. Fifty, then twenty-five, then twenty-two feet of the slip were washed into the ocean. By April, "44 feet more of the Slip" had been destroyed and "all But 4 pieces" had to be replaced. Grover completed repairing the slip in June. Throughout the log there are patterns of work, destruction and repair, and seasonal changes which marked the life of Eliphalet Grover.

#### Grover's Log as a Biography

Eliphalet Grover's log is not a personal or emotional diary, it is a record of work and a ledger of occasional business. Yet when the routine of ordinary work was disturbed, Eliphalet's entries change from mundane to fascinating, and in these rare entries we glimpse Eliphalet Grover the man.

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<sup>9</sup>Motz, "Folk Expressions of Time and Place," p. 146.

Many facts about Grover's life are known from other extant documents, but his log offers some clues, however scant, to the personality of the man who lived on Boon Island for twenty-one years.

Grover's entry of October 3, 1832 exemplifies one of the few narratives within the otherwise terse log.

Came from york in my Boat with a full  
Load of provision in her and got with in  
one mile of the island When She Srpung a  
Leak and When I got on the island the Water  
was over the th[w]arts and She a fiild and  
turnd Over and I lost all my things.....Stove  
the Boat Veary much Before I Could get her up  
out of the Sea. I was Veary near Drounding  
my Self But it Was not So to bee.

Grover's brush with death elicited no recorded self-examination; rather his fatalism seems anchored to a belief in a greater power. While his log bears no evidence of active religious practice, it implicitly suggests that Grover felt his fate was not always within his own control.

The year before Eliphalet Grover was dismissed from Boon Island, a young Celia Lainton [Thaxter], moved with her family to the Isles of Shoals. Her father, Thomas Lainton, assumed the post of lighthouse keeper on White Island in 1838, and the poet-historian grew up learning to tend a lighthouse. Celia Thaxter's writings depict life on the Isles of Shoals, and

interspersed with her descriptions of the people and their habits are references to lighthouse keeping. Thaxter remembers the "'oil-schooner' that brought supplies for the lighthouse, and the inspector, who gravely examined everything to see if all was in order."<sup>10</sup> The oil contractors and inspectors stopping at White Island figured as prominently in the lives of Thomas Loughton and Celia Thaxter as they did in the life of Eliphalet Grover.<sup>11</sup>

Celia Thaxter's writings may also shed light on Eliphalet Grover's family. While on a steamer bound to Bangor, Thaxter met a man who had grown up on Boon Island. According to Thaxter, he lived on Boon Island until he was fourteen or fifteen, when his family moved to York. The man also said that as a boy he discovered the bones of carpenters who were drowned after "finishing some building." The bodies had been buried "in a cleft covered with stones."<sup>12</sup> After a storm washed the rocks away and the remains were found, they were taken to York for proper burial. Eliphalet's log entry of April 11, 1839 reads: "Employd Secuareing my Slip and takeing up the Bones of two people that ware Drownd heare When the first monument was Erected heare to Send on Shoare to put in the grave yard in york." (log page 35.)

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<sup>10</sup>Celia Thaxter, Among the Isles of Shoals, Heritage Books 1978 reprint of Boston: JR Osgood, 1873 edition. p. 134.

<sup>11</sup>Grover's log notes that Charles W. Morgan of New Bedford was one of the contractors. The ship *Charles W. Morgan* rests in the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, CT.

<sup>12</sup>Thaxter, Among the Isles of Shoals, p. 149.

Thaxter was unable to identify the man on the steamer by name, but she relates,

He spoke with bitterness of his life in that terrible solitude, and of 'loneliness which had pursued him ever since.' All his relatives were dead, except his wife. He ended by anathematizing all islands, and, vanishing into the darkness, was not to be found again.<sup>13</sup>

Eliphalet Grover's will indicates that he had three (surviving) sons: Jeremiah (b. 1802), Eliphalet Jr. (b. 1814) and Samuel, whose birthdate is not recorded.<sup>14</sup> The forlorn man in Thaxter's account may well have been Eliphalet's youngest son, Samuel. At the time the bones were exhumed in 1839, Jeremiah would have been 37 and Eliphalet Jr. would have been 25 years old. Although it is possible that Eliphalet Jr. was still living with his parents at that age, Grover's log suggests that Eliphalet Jr. may have lived on the mainland during his adolescence. "Oct 19 Eliphalet to Bord With Mr. Emerson. Left with EA Emerson \$10 to pay for Eliphalets Bord." (Log page 1.) Grover does not specify the year, but the entry is among the first of the log, and appears to be written in 1829. The first and last pages, as well as pages written upside down, seem to have been used for miscellaneous personal records. Noting money paid for Eliphalet Jr.'s board on the

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<sup>13</sup>Thaxter, Among the Isles of Shoals, p. 150.

<sup>14</sup>George Ernst, Genealogy of the Grover Family, Genealogy Files, Old York Historical Society, York, Maine.

mainland would seem logical in these entries. Grover also notes that "Eliphalet Comenced tradeing With Mr John Colcot." (August 2, 1833; log page 23.) Eliphalet Jr. was then 19, and Grover's entry suggests that his son was venturing into business with John Colcot.

Thus if Eliphalet Jr. was not living on Boon Island, Samuel was probably the man Celia Thaxter encountered. It is easy to imagine a boy growing up with only the company of his parents on a remote post like Boon Island feeling isolated and disparaging of island life.<sup>15</sup> Without the comraderie of other children, like Celia Thaxter experienced on the Isles of Shoals, Samuel may well have been quite lonely. Samuel eventually moved to Somerville, Massachusetts, but his sentiments suggest that life as a lighthouse keeper's child was not always romantic or adventurous. Loneliness and isolation were often profound.

Both Eliphalet Grover and his son Samuel occupied some idle time with woodworking. Grover crafted a pine box veneered with mahogany, cherry, and maple while on Boon Island. The box is elaborately decorated with human figures in military uniform and it is lined with newspaper. He also constructed a violin and an intricately carved cane, and Samuel is credited with a smaller violin.<sup>16</sup> These objects are in the collection of the Old York

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<sup>15</sup> If Samuel was indeed present when Eliphalet removed the bones from their rocky grave, and he lived on Boon Island until he was 14 or 15, his birthdate would have been in 1824 or 1825. This indicates that Susanna Grover bore her first surviving child in her early 20's and her last surviving child in her mid 40's. Given this span, she probably gave birth to other children who died prior to the time Eliphalet wrote his will, or to daughters not mentioned in the will.

Historical Society.

Eliphalet Grover's log does not detail activities like woodworking, but it does offer insight into the trials of life as a lighthouse keeper on Boon Island. The sea constantly washed away man-made structures, and building was undertaken with implicit understanding that destruction was inevitable. Eliphalet Grover's long tenure on Boon Island is a testament to perseverance, and his log provides a rare opportunity to examine the life of a lighthouse keeper through a genuine historical document.

The following complete transcription of Grover's log is designed to make the story of Grover's life on Boon Island more accessible, and to encourage its use in further research. The actual log is 8 X 13 inches and its cover is made of blocked wallpaper with a green and white decorative pattern, bound with string.

Spelling and punctuation (or lack thereof) have been maintained as in the original. Where the log is illegible or indecipherable, brackets [] denote any speculation on the content of the text or explanation of the text's location in the log. The original log contains 46 pages and pagination is noted by a line (.....) between entries. Page numbers in the lower right refer only to the transcription and are provided for reference. Photocopies of two original pages follow the transcription, and a photocopy of an inventory page

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<sup>16</sup>Laura Sprague, ed., Agreeable Situations: Society, Commerce and Art in Southern Maine 1780-1830. Kennebunk, Maine: Northeastern University Press for the Brick Store Museum, 1987, p. 45.

is included within the transcription. A bibliography is appended to assist with futher research.



Logg Book for  
1828

September 25 1817 Received my Boat in  
portsmouth From Mr Mark Green pd him for  
her \$98..64

September 12th 1829 Received of the Superindender  
200 Dollars towards the repares Don on Booniland  
275 Due me

October 19 Eliphalet to Bord With Mr Emerson  
one dollar 25 Cents per weak pd to Mrs Emerson  
5 Dollars Due from Mr Emerson 2 Dollars for 1/2  
Quintile Cod fish  
Left with E A Emerson \$10 to pay for Eliphalets  
Bord

Mont Desert Light Litt august 15 1830  
Whaies Back Light Litt 16 of September 1830  
March 31 1834 William Pickren Superindender  
Rezind his office

.....  
*[ back of first page has a chart that is empty except for documenting that  
7 lamps were lit ]*  
.....

January 1st 1828  
7 Lamps in light house & 2 Spare ones  
all want repara but 3  
3 good inside burners  
9 good outside Burners  
7 Tin Oile Sisterns all want painting  
5 Wood horses for Sisterns to Set on  
7 Oile heaters  
1 Oile feeder  
1 Oile measure  
1 hand Lanton & Lamp  
1 Lanton Canester  
1 Lamp Torch  
2 Wick Braces  
1 pare of Cissors  
1 Dimon

81 Long Tube glass  
 104 Short Tube glass  
 7 Grose Wicks  
 2 Buff Skins  
 25 # whiteing  
 1 Lanton Stove without funnel  
 8 Lencess  
 7 Reflectors  
 92 Gs Summer Oile 8 Gs out of the 92 fell Short  
 50 Gs Winter Oile  
 45 Gs Bad Oile  
 6 Spare Wick thimbels  
 12 Wick Sticks  
 1 Coddener

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January 1 1828	1 Tube glass Broaken
5	1 Tube glass Broaken
12	1 Tube glass Broaken
25	part of the Sash of the Lanton Rusted off and Came Down
February 16	Set 2 panes of glass in the Lanton
26	Set 1 pane of glass in the Lanton
March 13 1828	Set 3 panes of glass in the Lanon
14	painted the Lanton inside
21	Took down my heaters
April 2	1 Tube glass Broaken
8 & 9	Employed Drilling holes and puting a Strap on my Slip
May 6 1828	Received a Copy of the Superindenders Orders from the Comisioner
7 & 8	Employed painting the Lanton outSide

and painted the Spouts under the  
Eves of the house and Set 1 pane of  
glass in the Lanton

13 1 Tube glass Broaken tryd to measure  
my Oile But found it So Child that I Could  
not Du it

17 Clenzed out my Lamps and Drew of  
my Oile and found in the Bottom of 2  
Sisterns [ *illegible*] Settleings makeing an  
[ *illegible*] Settleings in all

24 1 Tube glass Broaken

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June 9 1828 Came heare the Cutter from  
Portland

10 1 Tube glass Broaken

25 1 Tube glass Broaken

July 8 1828 1 Tube glass Broaken

9 Set 2 panes of glass in the Lanton

30 Received of Cornelius Grennell [Sr]  
101 gallons of Winter Oile  
151 gallons of Sumer Oile  
4 grose of Wicks  
12 yds Cotton Cloth  
2 Buff Skins  
17# of Whiteing  
Receipted for 5 New inside Burners  
With Cases  
2 New out Side Burners with Sockets  
Soddering on two legs to Lamps  
1 pipe to Lamp  
1 fountain

August 24 1 Tube glass Broaken

September 14 Came heare the Cutter and fetcht  
me a Small Keg of paint 10# Whiteing  
1 Small paint Brush 15 panes of glass

19 Sea Started my Slip Caried away 2 Braces

Stove in all the underpinning of the monument  
 [ *The day marker that preceeded the lighthouse* ]  
 on the Southern Side Beet of 10 Corses of the  
 Shingeis and Some of the Boards up Set  
 my Water Sisterns Stove all my platforms  
 to peices and hove Down my Wall The  
 heavyst Sea Since i Lived heare But  
 one

[ *in margin* ]

25 took out 3 Gs for nouse  
 use out of the New Contract

.....  
 October 22 1828

Set 2 panes of Glass in the Lanton

November 18  
 24

put up my heaters  
 1 Tube glass Broaken

December 30

1 Tube glass Broaken

January 1 1829

on hand 107 gs of Sumer Oil and  
 78 Gs of Winter Oil 176 Tube glasses  
 7 Grose Wicks 2 Buff Skins Burnt  
 During the year 136 gs Summer and  
 73 Gs of Winter Oil Broaken 11 Tube  
 Glasses 2 Buff Skins used 4 grose Wicks  
 Burnt

[ *In Margin* ] 26

209 Gs [ *Different Per* ]  
 took 3 gs of winter Oil for house use  
 Oil 9 gallons Short [ *Different Per* ]

Febuary 7 1829  
 27

Set 1 pane of glass in the Lanton  
 Lost the lower part of the Slip

March 6 1829

the Sea Racked my Slip all to peices  
 the lower part gone and midle part  
 the Bolts Broken of and the upper  
 part Rotten and tumbled Down So  
 that it all wants to bee made New  
 2 Tube glass Broken

18

30	Went to portland
April 1st 1829	a new Superintendent of Lights in Maine
5	Took Down my heaters
24	Set 5 panes of glass in the Lanton
25	painted the Lanton inside
27 & 28	Employed painting Lanton outSide
.....	
May 19 1829	Begun to make the Repares on the Buildings
[ <i>In Margin</i> ] 6	took 3 gs of Sumer Oil for house use
June 29th	Measured my Oil and it found the Sumer Oil to fall Short 6 Gallons and Winter Oil Short 3 Gallons 14 1/2 Gs of Settlings
July 11th 1829	Receivd from the Contractor 77 Gallons of Winter Oil 177 gallons of Sumer Oil 1 Buff Skin 14 yds Cotton Clothe 1 pr of Sisers 4 grose Wicks 12# Whiteing 3 Setters 7 Short Tube glasses
15	Completed my Repares on the Slip and Buildings
August	Nothing meteareil
September 3 & 4	Strong gales from NW took up 2 Boats with 2 men in each Boat most Dead
25	Mr William Tetherly Died on Booniland at 3 AM AE 78
28	Orders from the Superindenter to use Such Tube glasses as I thought proper
.....	

October 7 1829

Came nere the Cutter from  
Portland to inspect my Repares  
and broght me a New Sute of Sails  
for my Boat

9

measurd my Oil and found the Sumer  
5 gallons Short on hand 172 Gs Sumer  
and 83 Gs of Winter Short 2 gallons

31

at 9 PM all my famely was forst to go  
to the Lighthouse and Stay until 5  
Next morning at our return to the  
house found all our Water gone and  
all the platforms gone and all my  
Turnips & Cabage Washt away and  
my Walls all Down I have Been hear  
13 years 4 months & 28 Days and  
Never See Such a time before the Sea  
Wasnd the Small Rocks from under the  
Lighthouse and Dwelling house the  
Island was all under Water for 4 hours.

November 5th 1829

at 7 AM See a Schooner 2 miles  
SE from the island with her main  
mast gone Sune after See another  
Schooner take of the Crew Wind  
NW Blowing fresh

6

Set 2 panes of Glass in the Lanton  
put up my heaters

24

December 23

Set 1 pane of 1 glass in the Lanton

January 1st

1830

On hand 62 Gs of Winter Oil and  
140 gs of Sumer Oil 181 tube glasses  
8 Grose Wicks 1 Buff Skin Burnt  
During the year 121 1/2 Gallons of  
Sumer Oil and 86 Gs of Winter Oil  
for house use 4 Gs of Winter & 3 of Sumer  
Gs

[Numbers rewritten]

214 Gs

[In Margin]

Sumer Oil 5 Gs  
Winter 3 Gs

Short Burnt for  
house use 4 Gs of  
Winter & 3 Gs of Sumer

February 18                      Set pane of Glass in the Lanton

March 22 1830                  Took Down my heaters  
[ *Info on oil*  
*scratched out*  
26                      uncommon full Tides and Strong gales  
from the NE Racked the upper part of  
the Slip and tore up all the platforms

April 10                      1 Tube glass Broaken  
22                      1 Tube glass Broaken  
26                      Cienzed out my Lamps

May 31st                      Employed Cleaning and Oiling my  
Oil Sisterns

June 16                      Set 2 panes of Glass in the Lanton  
17                      Employed Scrapeing and painting  
my boat  
26                      Came neare the portsmouth Cutter

July 1st 1830                  Came heare the portsmouth Cutter  
10                      my Boat got veary much injured  
By Beeing Driven against thee Rocks  
So that She Cant Bee repaired  
19                      1 Tube glass Broaken  
..... Continued to Next page  
22 1830                  Receivd from the Contractors  
118 Gs Sumer Oile  
79 Gs Winter Oil  
3 Grose Wicks  
2 Buff Skins  
16 yds Cotten Cloth

August 1 1830                  Came heare the portsmouth Cutter and

	Could Not Land
5	Came heare the portsmouth Cutter and Landed and Came heare the portland Cutter With New Sashes for the Lanton and Ordered me not to Light my Lights
16	Lit my Light again 11 Nights the Lights Suspended I Should Consumed in the time 4 1/2 Gs of Oil
28	Employed painting my Lanton out Side
September 5 1830	
	Came hear the Cutter and Broght my Lanton top and took a way the Old Sashes and Black Smiths Tules
6	Went to york for the Spindle of my Vane <i>[A vane was a piece of metal used to help ventilate the lantern]</i>
11	Came of again with the Spindle and Could Due nothing with it
19	Receivd a List of Riging from the portsmouth Cutter for capson fall in portsmouth harbor
.....	
October 20 1830	
	Set 4 panes of glass in the house Windows
November 15	the Sea Broak one of the Brases of of the Steps
24	1 Tube glass Broaken
December 1st 1830	
	put up my Oil heaters and Begun to Burn Winter Oil
	Anual Report Ending 31 Day of December 1830 on hand 161 1/2 gallons of Sumer Oil and
209 1/2	
4 1/2	
-----	
214	58 gallons of Winter Oil and 177 Tubes glasses and 6 grose Wicks and 1 Buff Skin Burnt Dureing yeare 126 1/2 gallons of Summer Oil and 83 gallons of Winter Oil Burnt in all During year 209 1/2 Gs Lights out 11 Nights in that time Should Burnt

January 15 1831	4 1/2 Gs of Oil Burnt in All 209 1/2 Gs at Night and in the 16 Day and Night the island all under water the most part of the time and the Sea and Large Rocks that washt against the Slip has Rackd it to the Westward Some parts of it 2 feet from the 15 until the 17 as Dismel a time as I Ever had Since I have Been on Booniland
February 7 1831	I Tube glass Broaken
March 22nd & 23	Employd Repairing my Boat
April 1 1831	Took Down my heaters and Began to Burn Sumer Oil
4	I Tube glass Broaken
6	Came heare the portsmouth Cutter with a letter for me from Esqr Chandler Dated November 15 1830 Concerning the Bad Oil on hand january 1st 1828
.....	Continued Next Page
28 1831	the Seas Broak one Brace from the Slip and Rackd it veary much
May 6 1831	Came heare the Contractor to Build the New Light house but could not Land for the Want of Boat
[ in margin ] 7	Comenced Superintending Came here the Cutter form Portland
7	Landed the metearels for Building the Light house
22	Came heare the portsmouth Cutter Bound to portland
31	at 6 AM layed the first Stone in the new Lighthouse on Booniland
June 18	Came heare the portsmouth Cutter
21	Came heare the portland Cutter and Brought me a New Boat and 3 new oars and 1 Old one

and took a way my Old Boat

July 3 1831

1 Tube glass Broaken

11

Landed the Lanton and all the apperaters for  
the New Light house

13

Came heare the portsmouth Cutter

21

Lit up my new Lighthouse Lamps

22

Compleated the New Lighthouse

25

Receivd of the Contrator

17# Whiteing 36 Long and 36 Short

Tube glasses

2 Oil Sisterns

5 Grose Wicks

2 Buff Skins

30 yds Cotton Cloth

300 gs Sumer Oil and 136 Winter 1 Bad

Took a way 24 Gs of Bad Oil and Left none  
in return

[In Margin]

on hand When I Litt up the New Light  
house 90 Gs of good Sumer Oil and 24 Gs  
of Bad Oil Wich the Contractor took a way

[Loose paper insert]

Booniland July 22 1831

Receivd of Eliphalet Grover Keeper of Boon  
island Light house the Old Stand and all  
the apperaters Belongin ther to

[Signed]

Seward Merrill

[Loose paper insert]

Recd from Boon Island Light House twenty  
four galls of poor Sediment Oil

July 23rd 1831

[Signed] Jonathan Howland Jr

July 24th 1831

Went of the Crew that Built the New  
Light house

25

1 Tube glass Broaken

August 3

1 Tube glass Broaken

19

1 Tube glass Broaken

28	Receivd from the Cutter 4 Window frames and Sashes 10# putty 20 Squares of glass and 6 pr of hinges portland Cutter name Dector
[ <i>In margin</i> ]	
September 9	1 Tube glass Broaken
[ <i>In margin</i> ] 15	Red 6 Qts of [under] Lamp Oil Emloyd Repairing my Slip and putting in new Window frames and Windows in the house
October 1 1831	Booniland Set of to the Superintendent of Portsmouth NH Williams Pickren Esqr Colector
7	1 Tube glass Broaken
10	1 Tube glass Broaken
19	Came heare the Cutter from portsmouth to Examon the State of things Belonging to the United States
20	1 Tube glass Broaken
23	1 Tube glass Broaken
26	Receivd of William Pickren Superintendent of Light houses in New Hampshire 4 Squares of glass 6 pr of iron hinges and 2# of Nales
	1 Tube glass Broaken
November 6th 1831	1 Tube glass Broaken
16	1 Tube glass Broaken
18	2 Tube glasses Broaken
26	put up my Oil heaters
28	2 Tube glasses Broaken
29	made a fier in the Lanton for the first time
.....	
December 1 1831	1 Tube glass Broaken
4	Begun to Burn Winters Oil
6	3 Tube glasses Broaken By the Ga[r] of the Vane [ <i>The vane is a portion of the ventilation system in the lantern. Gar is a fish with a</i>

*pointed jaw Perhaps Grover meant that the  
pointed end of the vane broke the tube glasses]*

8	1 Tube glass Broaken
10	1 Tube glass Broaken
22	1 Tube glass Broaken
27	the Cutter Went past heare
1832	
January 2nd	1 Tube glass Broaken
16	1 Tube glass Broaken
19	Came heare the Cutter from portsmouth
20	the Cutter went past heare
	Last anual Report Ending 31 of December 1831 on hand 96 Gs winter and 253 Gs of Sumer Oil 224 Tube glasses 1 Buff Skin 7 grose Wicks Burnt Dureing year 308 Gs of Oil
Febuary 10	1 Tube glass Broaken
12	1 Tube glass Broaken
15	1 Tube glass Broaken
21	1 Tube glass Broaken
26	Came heare the Cutter from portsmouth
March 2nd 1832	1 Tube glass Broaken
9	1 Tube glass Broaken
15	1 Tube glass Broaken
.....	
April 3 1832	Came heare the Cutter
6	Came heare the Cutter
	3 Tube glasses Broaken
10	Came heare the Cutter and Broght me two Bracess for my Lanton
11	Took Down my Oil heaters
29	1 Tube glass Broaken
May 2nd 1832	1 Tube glass Broaken

10	1 Tube glass Broaken
13	1 Tube glass Broaken
19	1 Tube glass Broaken
29	Came heare the Cutter from portsmouth
June 1 1832	
	the Sea Broak one of the Braces from the Slip
7	Came heare the Cutter from portsmouth
12	Came heare the Cutter and took a way my Lanton Stove to Bee Repared and one Broaken Brace to Bee mended for the Slip
15	Broak the iron of of the Boats Keel and Lost it By Strikeing against the Rocks
16	1 Tube glass Broaken
20	Came heare the Cutter and fetcht me a Brace for my Slip
.....[ Page ripped ]	
July 9 1832	
11	1 Tube glass Broaken
16	1 Tube glass Broaken
20	Came heare the Cutter and Brought the Superintendent to See me
28	Came heare the Cutter With Mr. Walker
29	1 Tube glass Broaken
August 2nd 1832	
3	1 Tube glass Broaken Employed White washing the Dwelling house in Side
5	1 Tube glass Broaken
11	Receivd from the Contractors 148 Gs of Winter Oil 199 Gs of Sumer Oil 72 Long Tube Glasses 36 Short Tube Glasses 6 Grose Wicks 28 yds Cotton Cloth

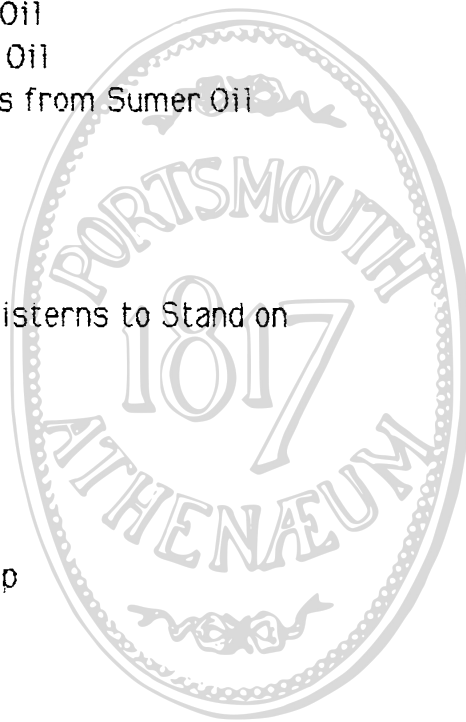
	2 Buff Skins
	20 # Whiteing
14 & 15	Employd painting the Lanton inside and Out
18	Came heare the Cutter
Sept 4th 1832	Employ painting the floers in the house
5 & 20	Came heare the Cutter With my Coal for to use in the Lanton
.....[ <i>Page ripped</i> ]	
October 3 1832	at 7 PM Came from york in my Boat With a full Load of provison in her and got With in one mile of the island When She Sprung a Leak and When I got on the island the Water was over the tharts and She a filld and turnd Over and I Lost all my things my main mast and Main Sail Both Oars Spreats and thort and my Compas and Stove the Boat Veary much Before I Could get her up out of the Sea I was Veary near Drounding my Self But it Was not So to bee
9	Came heare the Cutter to fetch me paints and 2 Brushes to paint my Boat
12	Receivd from William Pickren Superintender 1 mast for my Boat 1 main Sail 2 Oars and 2 Spreats and 2# of Nails By the hand of Capt TN Shaw
November 3 1832	Came heare the Cutter
9	put up my heaters
22	1 Tube glass Broaken
25	Came heare the Cutter
December 1st 1832	Made a fier in the Lanton for the first time and Begun to Burn Winter Oil

.....  
 Last Anual Report Ending 31 of  
 December 1832 on hand 213 Gs of Sumer Oil  
 and 102 Gs of Winter Oil and 9 Gs of Settleings  
 305 Tube glasses 9 Grose of Wicks and 1 Buff Skin  
 Burnt Dureing yeare 365 Gs of Oile in the  
 Lanton and 4 Gs of Winter & 3 Gs of Sumer for house  
 use makeing in all 372 Gallons

Memorandum of all the Articals Belonging to the Light  
 house on Booniland January 1 1833

213 Gallons of Sumer Oil  
 102 Gallons of Winter Oil  
 9 Gallons of Settleings from Sumer Oil  
 12 Lamps in Lanon  
 2 Spare Lamps  
 12 Reflectors  
 7 Tin Oil Sisterns  
 5 Wooden horses for Sisterns to Stand on  
 12 Oil heaters  
 2 Wick Bo[x]es  
 1 Oil Caseses  
 1 Oil feader  
 1 Lamp Torch  
 1 hand Lanton and Lamp  
 1 Lanton Canester  
 1 pr of Sisers  
 1 Dimon  
 305 Tube glasses  
 9 Grose of Wicks  
 1 Buff Skin  
 12 Wick Sticks  
 1 Codderer  
 15# of Whiteing  
 1 Sheat iron Stove  
 4 Squares of glass for the Lanton

.....



January 7 1833	Came heare the Cutter at 4 AM
February 1 1833	1 Tube glass Broaken
7	1 Tube glass Broaken
March 22 1833	Came heare the Cutter
23	1 Tube glass Broaken
April 2nd 1833	1 Tube glass Broaken
5	Took Down my heaters
14	1 Tube glass Broaken
16	Went on Shoare for iron to Secuar my Slip
22	Came from york with iron to Secuare my Slip
23	Employd trying to Secuare the Slip
May 3 1833	Employd on the Slip 4 finist the Slip
6	Came heare the Cutter from portsmouth
June 4th 1833	the Cutter went past to the Eastward
[ <i>Entry Crossed Out</i> ] 7	the Cutter went past to the Westward
July 5 1833	Came heare the Cutter from portsmouth
16	Came hear the Cutter and Broght Mr Walker to inspect the Buildings
August 1833	from the 4 until the 10 my Self and one hand Employd White washing the Buildings on Booniland
26	Came heare the Cutter
.....	
September 7 1833	Came heare the Cutter

Receivd from the Contractors  
 286 Gs Sumer Oil  
 181 Gs Winter  
 15 # Whiteing  
 2 Buff Skins  
 30 yds Cotton Cloth  
 4131 Gallons  
 of Oil for  
 18 years  
 Supply  
 12 Came heare the Cutter and Brought  
 me my Coal for Winter and one keg of  
 White Lead 1 paint Brush and 1 paper  
 of Lamp Black and a [jug] of paint  
 Oil  
 [In margin] 45 Bushels  
 for 50 of  
 Coal  
 20 & 21 Employd painting the Lanton out Side and in  
 25 Came heare the Cutter and Broght me a  
 Stove for my Lanton  
 October 7th 1833 Came heare the Cutter Bound to  
 portland  
 9 put up my New Lanton Stove and  
 Clenzed out my Lamps  
 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 17 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 19 at 1/2 past 7 AM a [moferere]dite Brig [*Probably*  
*a reference to a Hermaphrodite Brig*]  
 Caried a way her foretopmast  
 3 or 4 miles S West from the  
 island Wind West a moderate Breeze  
 25 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 .....  
 November 11 1833 Came heare the Cutter from  
 portsmouth  
 Bound to portland

16	1 Tube glass Broaken
20	put up my heaters and made a fier
	1 Tube glass Broaken
24	1 Tube glass Broaken

December 6 1833 Came hear the Cutter from  
portsmouth

10	1 Tube glass Broaken
28	1 Tube glass Broaken

Last Anual Report Ending December 31 1833  
on hand 138 Gs of Winter Oil and 262 Gs of  
Sumer Oil and 192 Tube glasses and 5 Groce  
of Wicks 1 Buff Skin Burnt Dureing year  
234 Gs of Sumer Oil and 141 Gs of Winter Oil  
4 Grose of Wicks Consumd and 13 Tube glasses Broaken  
2 Buff Skins and

234 S  
141 W

Burnt Dureing 375 Gs this year 1833

January 1834 3 at 1/2 past 2 PM the Cutter  
past by

6	Came heare the Cutter
18	1 Tube glass Broaken
26	1 Tube glass Broaken

Febuary 13 1834 Came heare the Cutter

15	1 Tube glass Broaken
17	1 Tube glass Broaken

March 16 1834 Went past the Cutter

19	measurd my Winter Oil and found it to fall Short 7 gallons
20	1 Tube glass Broaken

Clenzed out my Lamps in the Lanton  
[ *In margin* ] Burnt Dureing Winter 3 Gs of Winter Oil  
for house use Short 7 Gs

April 4th 1834	Came heare the Cutter
7	took Down my Stove and heaters
8	1 Tube glass Broaken
12	Went past the Cutter
May 7 1834	1 Tube glass Broaken
12	1 Tube glass Broaken
22	Came heare the Cutter and Brought me Some green paint to paint my Boat and Rigen for Capson fail
30	1 Tube glass Broaken
.....	
June 4 1834	Employd White wasning painting One Rume in the house
14 & 16	Employd Cleaning and painting my Boat
25	Came heare the Cutter
July 14 1834	on hand 156 Gs of Sumer Oil and 10 1/2 Gallons of Settling from my Sumer Oil
15	Receivd of the Contractor 145 Gs of Winter Oil 203 Gs of Sumer Oil 34 Tube glasses 4 Grose of Wicks 26 yds of Cotton Cloth 2 Buff Skins
16	Came heare the Cutter
29	Came heare the Superintendent and stopt 6 or 8 minutes
[In margin]	Capt howlen gave me the 10 Gallons of Settleings to put on my Slip
August 10 1834	1 Tube glass Broaken
12	1 Tube glass Broaken
Sept 4	Came heare the Cutter Bound to portland

10 Broak one of my Boats Oars a Landing  
 15 Came heare the Cutter and Broght  
 my C[o]al for Winter and the  
 Superintender Came to See me  
 24 Came heare the Cutter and  
 Broght me paint to paint my  
 Water Sisterns

October 6 1834 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 15 Came hear the Cutter and Broght  
 me hoops to hoop my Water Sisterns  
 16 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 28 29 & 30 Employd hooping and painting my  
 Water Sisterns

November 2 1834 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 5 Came heare the Cutter Bound to  
 portland  
 8 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 15 put up my heaters lanton full of  
 frost all Day  
 20 1 Tube glass Broaken

December 5 1834 Went past the Cutter  
 [ *in margin* ] 14 made the first fier in the Lanton  
 17 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 27 1 Tube glass Broaken

My Last Anual Report January 1 1835  
 on hand 118 Gs of Winter Oil and 220 Gs of Sumer  
 Oil and 89 Tube Glasses 6 Grose of Wicks 1 1/2 Buff  
 Skins Burnt Dureing year 390 Gs of Oil  
 18 Tube glasses Broaken 4 Grose of Wicks Burnt and  
 2 Buff Skins used

January 7 1835 at Night the Sea Broak a way  
 50 feet of my Slip on the West Side  
 8 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 14 1 Tube glass Broaken

23 Came neare the Cutter

February 3 1835 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 3 at Night the Sea Caried a way 25 feet  
 of my Slip on the East Side

5 Came heare the Cutter the Capt  
 Lost his hat and like to lost him  
 Self a landing

[ *In margin* ] 5 Capt Shaw Broght me a hhd of Beef and  
 a hhd of pork No askt for

8 the Sea Caried a way 25 feet of my Slip on  
 the East Side

17 1 Tube glass Broaken

22 1 Tube glass Broaken

25 the Sea Caried a way 22 feet more of my  
 Slip on the West Side

March 9 Went past the Cutter

11 1 Tube glass Broaken

20 1 Tube glass Broaken

23 1 Tube glass Broaken and the Sea started  
 44 feet more of the Slip on the West Side

30 & 31 the Started all the Slip So that it must all  
 Come up But 4 piecses

---

April 8 1835 Came hear the Cutter But Did not Land

9 Receivd from the Cutter 1 Keg of White lead  
 and grean paint to paint my Boat

10 Took Down my heaters

11 Cleanzed out my Lamps

19 Receivd from the Cutter jug of paint  
 Oil and fore Saile for my Boat

21 1 Tube glass Broaken

[ *In margin* ] April 22 Agread with Daniel P Drown Superintender  
 to Repare the Slip and platform  
 5 1/2 # Green paint to paint  
 my Boat and not anof for one Coat

May 4 1835

1 Tube glass Broaken Came of with  
iron to Repare my Slip

9

Came of with Timber and all the  
materials to Repair my Slip and  
Could not Land it

11

Landed with the Matearels to Repare my Slip

20

Came heare the Cutter with new  
Order to Keep me at home

June 7 1835

Went past heare a Top Sail Schooner  
With a Rack in to for portsmouth

12

Came heare the Cutter Bound to portland

13

Compleated my Slip platform and  
Boat house

15 & 16

Employd painting My Lanton & Boat

20

1 Tube glass Broaken

18

Came heare the Superintendent to  
Inspect my Work

[ *In margin* ]

Consumnd 3 Qts 1 pint pr Night

July 1 1835

Measurd my fountains and found them  
to hold 1 Quart and 1 [gill] & a half Each

7

Came heare the Cutter Bound to portland

7 8 9 & 10

Employd Whitewashing the Buildings

14

Compleated my Whitewashing

13 Days Employd Whitewashing ail the  
Buildings on Booniland

Continued to Next Leaf

July 31 1835

Receivd of the Contractors

145 Gs of Winter Oil

278 Gs of Sumer Oil

27 Tube glasses

4 Grose Wicks

31 yds Cotton Cloth

2 Buff SKins

15# Whiteing

on hand 103 Gs of Sumer Oil

13 Gs of Winter Oil

[ *In margin* ]

on hand 15 Gs of Settlements  
that Capt Howlen  
gave to me for my Slip

August 10  
14

Came heare the Cutter  
Schooner Growler of Newbury got on  
the NW Leag and Beet over and fild  
nearly full of Water and i got part  
of her mackrel on the island and  
the rest on Board a mackrel vessel  
and then i got 2 Vessels to take  
her in to and Went with her to Cape  
Nedeck

21

Came heare the Cutter and Capt  
Shaw offer to keep the Light for  
Four Hundred Dollars

September 10

1 Tube glass Broaken

15

1 Tube glass Broaken

18

Came heare the Cutter Bound to  
portland

23

Receivd 47 1/2 Busnels Char Coal for  
the use of Boonisiand Light house By  
Capt Tuckerman

28

1 Tube glass Broaken

.....  
[ *On reverse side of last page/upside down* ]

April 1830 Shingled the frontRuff of my house

September 1831 made new picket fence Between me and  
Preple

October 1st 1831 Set of to New Hampshire

May 18 1832 Wife and Child went on Shoare and My uncle  
Andrew Grover Came to See me

May 22 1832 Bought a Lot of Land of Joseph young

August 2nd 1833 Eliphalet Comenced tradeing  
With Mr John Colcot With four hundred Dollars

April 18th 1834 Built a New Seeder post  
fence Round my Lot of Land in York

[Next page is rightside up]

Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth, NH Page 24

March 4 1836	Came heare the Cutter Bound to Portland
26	1 Tube glass Broaken
.....	
April 8 1836	Clenzed out my Lamps
	my Sumer Oil is So Bad that I Cannot
	Burn it
20	took Down my heaters
21	Employd Cal[k]ing and gra[v]eing my Boat
.....	
May 12 1836	Came heare the Cutter Bound to portland
25	1 Tube glass Broaken
.....	
June 2nd 1836	Came heare the Superindender and
	Brought me paints and metearels to
	Repare and paint my Boat
6 & 7	Employd Cleaning and painting my Boat
13	Employd painting my Lanton
14	Came heare the Cutter
16	1 Tube glass Broaken
.....	
July 18 1836	Came neare the Cutter
19	1 Tube glass Broaken
.....	
August 2nd 1836	Came heare the Cutter after pirats
6	Came nome in the Cutter from portsmouth
	Bound to portland and Sent 2 Braceses By
	her to Bee mended
22	Came heare the Cutter with my Braceses
.....	
August 15 1836	
Received from the Contractors	
152 Gs of Winter Oil	
219 Gs of Sumer Oil	
15 Long Tube glasses	
3 Grose of Wicks	505 Gs on hand
29 3/4 Cotton Cloth	August 15 1836
2 Buff Skins	
on hand 134 Gs of Sumer Oil	

21 Gs of Settlements to Bee taken out of the 505 Gs

21  
484 Gs

September 2 1836	Came heare the Superintendent
9	Receivd 70 Busheis of Charcole
10	1 Tube glass Broaken } 20 fild my Lamps ever three Nights
20	Receivd from the Superintendent a Copper Stove funnel for my Lanton Stove
October 1836 20	1 Tube glass Broaken
28	Came heare the Cutter and Steam Boat With a Water Sisteren for me
29	at 1/2 past 2 AM the Steam Boat Came on Shoare and Bilged
30	Received 1 Cask of water from the Cutter and 4 Bbls from the Superintendent Sent By Capt Falls
.....	
November 3 1836	1 Tube glass Broaken
7	Came heare a Schoonar With Cole and meteareis for a house over the Water tank
8	Came heare the Cutter with a mason
14	Came heare the Cutter and took of the joiners and Mason
17	put up my heaters and Long Tube Glasses
26	Came heare the Cutter from Portland
December 8 1836	1 Tube glass Broaken
15	1 Tube glass Broaken
19	See a vessels mast a Bove water out Side york Ledge

Last anual Report Ending 31 of December  
 1836 on hand 247 Gs of Sumer Oil and 107 Gs  
 of Winter Oil 296 Tube glasses 5 Groce of  
 Wicks and 1 Buff Skin Broaken and Con  
 Sumd Dureing year 11 Tube glasses 4 Grose  
 of Wicks and 2 Buff Skins Burnt Dureing  
 yeare 217 Gs of Sumer Oil and 153 Gs of Winter  
 Oil makeing in all 370 Gs of Oil

.....  
 January 21 1837 the Wind took of part of Rufe of the  
 Monement and Caried it in to the Sea  
 24 Tank frozen Over  
 29 the Cutter went past heare  
  
 Febuary 2 1837 the Cutter went past But never Calld  
 20 1 Tube glass Broaken  
  
 March 10 1837 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 31 Went in to York  
  
 April 5 1837 Came heare the Cutter  
 7 at 1/2 past 3 PM the Schoonar Boston of  
 Boston Struck on the NW Leadge and  
 got of again at 10 PM  
 11 the Cutter past Close By  
 15 Took Down my heaters and put up Short  
 Tube glasses  
 16 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 23 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 24 Cienzed out my Lamps and put up  
 my heaters and long Tube glasses again  
  
 May 20 1837 Took Down my heater and put up  
 Short Tube glasses  
 25 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 27 Came neare the Cutter Bound to  
 Portland  
 28 1 Tube glass Broaken

June 1 1837

1 Tube glass Broaken

.....[ *Page ripped* ]

July 11 1837

Came heare the Cutter With four men  
to Repair the Buildings

Receivd 3 Gs of paint Oil

[ *In margin* ] July 11

Comenced Repairing the Building  
and Went of August 2 1837

15

Came heare the Cutter with the  
Superintender But he would not  
Come on Shoare

21

Came heare the Cutter and took  
of the joiners

25

1 Tube glass Broaken

27

Came heare the Cutter and left 3 men  
to finish the Repares on the Buildens

July 15 1837

Receivd from the Contractors

184 Gs of Winter Oil and

239 Gs of Sumer Oil

30 Tube Glasses

3 Groses of Wicks

30 yds of Cloth

2 Buff Skins

10# of Whiteing

.....  
August 2nd 1837

Came heare the Cutter and took  
of the joiners and painters

8

Came heare the Cutter with the  
Inspector to inspect my Conduct  
Careings on

17

Received my Cole for Winter

19

1 Tube glass Broaken

September 6

Came heare the Cutter and Brought me  
a cask of Water

20

Cienzed out my Lamps

21	1 Tube glass Broaken
October 10 1837	Came heare the Portland Cutter
22	Came heare the painter to paint the
	Rufe of the house
25	1 Tube glass Broaken
November 6 1837	Came heare a Boat and took a way the
	painter
8	put up my heaters and Long Tube glasses
12	1 Tube glass Broaken
December 6 1837	Receivd your letter of 22 of November
	and pd one Dollar and fifty cents for fetch
	ing it of
16	Came heare the Portland Cutter Withe
	New Orders to me
20	1 Tube glass Broaken

.....

Anual Report Ending 31 of December 1837  
on hand 277 Gs of Sumer Oil and 109 Gs of  
Winter Oil and 316 Tube glasses and 4 Gr  
of Wicks and 1 Buff Skin

Burnt Dureing year 217 Gs of Sumer	
Oil and 152 Gs of Winter Oil	153w
Broken and Consumd 4 Grose of Wicks	<u>370</u>
2 Buff Skins and Broak 13 Tube glasses	
on hand 9 Gs of Setleings from Sumer Oil	
and 6 Gs from Winter Oil used for house	
use and going into Lanton 7 Gs of Oil	

January 1 1838	Set of to the State of maine
	on hand 277 Gs of good Sumer Oil
	109 Gs of good Winter Oil and 91 Tube
	Glasses good
	9 Gs of Setleings from Sumer Oil

6 Do from Winter Oil 4 Grose Wicks  
 1 Buff Skin 15# of Whiteing  
 10 yds of Cotton Cloth  
 225 Tube glasses Not good

.....  
*[ Inventory page is photocopied on the following page ]*

*[ On back of inventory page ]* April 5 1838 Went in to York with  
 Mr Preble  
 15 Came from York with Mr. Trafton

.....  
 January 7 1838 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 20 Came heare the Cutter from Portland  
 But Could not Land  
 25 1 Tube glass Broaken  
*[ In margin ]* 29 first fier in the Lanton  
  
 Febuary 10 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 18 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 21 Came heare the Cutter from Portland  
  
 March 4 1838 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 14 15 & 16 Employd Repairing my Boat  
 21 1 Tube glass Broaken  
  
 April 5 1838 Came heare the Cutter  
*[ In margin ]* 9 & 10 to Kennebunk for destroying a Buye  
 Belonging to the United States  
 10 Examend Before John Anderson Esqr  
 for mis Conduct and Destroying a Buye  
 Belonging to the United States  
 20 painted my Lanton in Side  
 22 in to York for iron and Timber for  
 the house and Slip on Booniland  
 25 of a gain  
 26 27 & 28 Employd Securing my Slip  
 29 Took Down my heaters and put up  
 Short Tube glasses  
 28 at 9 PM Came heare the Cutter and  
 Brought me paint & Oil to paint my Boat

STATEMENT of Oil, Lamps, Reflectors, Apparatus, &c., at the Light House, under my care, at  
*Boon Island*, on the first day of January, 183*8*

Description of Articles.	Number or Quantity.	Summer Oil, Gallons.	Winter Oil, Gallons.	Quality.	
				Good.	Bad.
Oil, Gallons.	12	277	109	Good	
Lamps lit up, - - - - -	2	9 1/2 of setting	from		
x Spare Lamps, - - - - -	12	6 1/2 of setting	from		
x Reflectors, - - - - -	12				
Apparatus, - - - - -					
x Oil Butts, - - - - -	5	of them	at good		
x Wooden Horses, - - - - -	12				
x Oil Heaters, - - - - -					
Clock Work, - - - - -					
Iron Treves, - - - - -					
x Oil Feeders, - - - - -	1				
x Oil Carriers, - - - - -	1				
x Tube Boxes, - - - - -	1	that I make my self			
x Tube Cleaners, - - - - -	1				
x Hand Lanterns and Lamps, - - - - -	1				
x Lantern Canisters, - - - - -	1				
x Torches, - - - - -	1				
x Frames, - - - - -	1				
x Wick Boxes, - - - - -	2				
x Scissors, - - - - -	1				
x Files, - - - - -	1				
x Diamonds, - - - - -	1				
x Tube Glasses, - - - - -	1				
x Wicks, - - - - -	4				
x Buff Skins, - - - - -	1				
x Whiting, - - - - -	15				
Copper Drip Pans, - - - - -					
Tin ditto, - - - - -					
Iron Ladles, - - - - -					
Copper Tunnels, - - - - -					
Iron ditto, - - - - -					
x Stoves, - - - - -	1				
Cotton Cloth, - - - - -	10				

Number of Lamps suspended during the last 5 years, —

Number. —

Period. —

Alteration in the number of Lamps, during said 5 years: What and when? —

REMARKS:

4 of my Oil Butts good  
 and 3 of 2 good the apparatus all in good repair

*Edw. Hallett Grover*  
 Light House on Boon Island

and [Coil] of Rigeng for Capson fall  
from the Superintendent John Anderson Esq

May 11 & 12 1838

Employd painting my Lanton out Side

13

1 Tube glass Broaken

14 & 15

Employd Cleaning and painting my Boat

16 17 & 18

Employd makeing Doar frames for the  
Dweilling house and Old Light house

.....  
June 12 1838

Came heare the Cutter and took me  
to [carer] her in to York

14

Receivd from the Superintendent a Number  
of Blanks

15

Came from york in the Cutter and She  
Went home to portland

18

Painted the [Dar] posts

19

Employd Whitewashing the Rumes  
in the house

20

Painted the floer in the nouse

21

Lost one Sistern of Sumer Oil  
all leakd out 69 Gs

[ *In margin* ] 21

Lost 69 Gs of Sumer Oil By the Sistern  
Leaking Leaving me But 150 Gs

22

Employd Clenzeing my Oil  
Sisterns and Oiling them in Stead  
of paint

July 6 1838

Employd painting my Oil Buts By the  
Order of the Superintendent

11

At 4 PM See a Brigs Topmast go over the  
Larboard Side in a Squai 3 or 4 miles SSE from  
the island 7 painted ports on a Side

25

hove all the water a way out of the Tank  
it Stunk So that we Could Du nothing with  
it for the Want of Beeing paid over in  
Side with Bees Wax

27

Employd Calking and graveing my Boat

30

Came heare the Oil Vessei But Could not  
Land my Oil

31st

Received of the Contractors  
155 Galls of Winter Oil  
250 Do of Summer Oil  
24 Tube Glasses  
4 Gross Wicks  
32 Yds Cloth  
2 Buff Skins

.....  
August 1st 1838

In to York after materels to Point & White  
wash the Light-House

8th

3 hands Employd Pointing the Light-House

9

Came heare the Superintendent from  
portland

13

3 hand Employd pointing the Lighthouse  
Received 2 Gallons of yallow paint and 7  
panes of Glass and 30# of Beeswax  
and 1 paint Brush from the Custom house  
Boat from Portland Sent me By the  
SuperIntender

14

3 hands Employd pointing the Lighthouse  
my Seif Employd Waxing my Tank  
3 hands Employd pointing and white  
washing the Buildings

15

3 hands Employd pointing and white  
washing

16

Caried the mason on Shoare and got  
1 Cask of Lime to finish Whitewashing

17

1 Tube glass Broaken

September 6 1838

Sent my Boat to york for my Winter Cole  
With 2 men in her and the Wind and Sea  
was So Ruf that they Could not Return  
until the 15 and Landing Stove my Boat  
all to peiceses and Lost 46 Bushels of  
Cole and Came near Lusein Both my men in  
the Boat

17

1 Tube glass Broaken

[ *In margin* ] 29

Receivd a New Boat from John Anderson  
Esqr Superintendent of Lights in the State

of Maine

September 29 1838      Receivd a New Boat from John Anderson  
Esqr Superintendent of Light houses in the  
State of Maine Without Cable or anchor  
or mast holes or Steps  
29      1 Tube glass Broaken

October 6 1838      1 Tube glass Broaken  
27      Got of my Cole for Winter and Landed it  
Safe  
31      put up my heaters and made a fier  
in the Lanton

November 10      1 Tube glass Broaken  
24      1 Tube glass Broaken

December 1 1838      Begun to Burn Winter Oil  
16      1 Tube glass Broaken  
23      1 Tube glass Broaken

Annual Report Ending December 31 1838  
on hand 243 Gs of Sumer Oil and 109 Gs of  
Winter Oil and 326 Tube glasses 4 Grose of  
Wicks and 1 Buff Skin  
Burnt Dureing the yeare 215 Gs of  
Sumer Oil and 150 Gs of Winter Oil  
Broaken and Consumd 14 Tube glasses and  
4 Grose of Wicks 2 Buff Skins

January 3 1839      1 Tube glass Broaken  
9      Came heare the Cutter Boat  
10      1 Tube glass Broaken  
16      2 Tube glasses Broaken

[The entry for January 26 appears to be in a different handwriting. Eliphalet Grover did not use days of the week, nor did he normally capitalize the word "house." It is possible that Grover dictated the entry for someone else to record; the style is consistent with Grover's other entries.]

January 26th

Saturday Strong Gaies from the South East Sea making very fast. Sunday morning left the House and went into the Light-House See carried away all my Flat Forms and Riped the Shingles of of the Monument & Porche of the House unhung the Porch Doors and came in to the Dwelling House the Sea washed away the Rocks before the Door So as to make a fair Breach on the House Sea went into the Light House Door broke the latch and like to have destroyed my Oil I have been here 23 winters and never See Such a time before Damage Done Cannot be repaired Short of one hundred Dollars,- at 3 PM Tide Down so we could venture out

.....  
[Log returns to Grover's hand]

January 28

But the Rocks has almost Shut us up in the house they are heid up Round the Doar So the Sea has wasnt the Luce Rock away So as to make a fair Breach a gainst the front of the house and if there aint a wail made in front of the house it will not Bee Safe to Stay heare Employd Clearing a pasage from the Doar to the Lighthouse and monument The Sea Stove my Water Sistern at the Corner of the house

29 & 30

Febuary 1 1839

in tryeing to get the Boat of to go on

Broak Broak the iron on her keel in three  
 peiceses  
 2 found one Brace that was Beet of of the  
 Slip  
 9 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 19 Received my Boats anchor and Rode [*Chain and  
 rope for an anchor*] that was left at the  
 Customs house at Portsmouth  
 Came heare the Cutter from portland  
 20 Employd Secureing the Slip  
 at 5 PM a Ship about 6 miles SE from the  
 island her fore mast gone and N Maintop  
 mast under her mizentop Sail and Square  
 main Sail and gibb  
  
 [*In margin*] 41 # of Rigeing for Rode  
 for my Boat and anchor 16 3/4 #  
 \$11.79  
  
 March 8 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 23 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 Employd for Several Days Repareing the  
 platforms  
  
 .....  
 April 9 1839 Employd Repareing the Shingles that  
 the Sea Beet of of the Wood house  
 10 Employd Repareing the Shingles on the  
 porch 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 11 Took Down my heaters and Employd  
 Secuareing my Slip and takeing up  
 the Bones of two people that ware  
 Drownd heare When the first monument  
 was Erected heare to Send on Shoare to  
 put in the grave yard in york  
 Boght 1 Keg of White Lead and 2 Bundles  
 of Shingles and 8# of Nailes for the  
 Repares of the Buildings  
 19 1 Tube glass Broaken  
 26 painted and Whitewasnt the New Shingles  
 that I put on Where the Sea wasnt them of

[In margin]

1/2 M. of Shingles To Repair the  
Buildings 1.75

[Four pages have been cut out of the log, on the next page there is a short  
entry upside down for Sept. 21 1837]

September 21 1837      Received from Capt Thomas Clark a gun  
price \$21..50

[The next page is also written upside down]

Do Capt John Thompson to E Grover

for the Crop of Hay 1831

\$2.00

To one thousand Shingles

\$3.25

\$5..25

may 1833 to 1 Bushel of meal

75

Contra [Pd]

6.00

To Load of Slabs

\$1 00

To 1 hammer

33

1.33

October 1831

Do Joseph P Junkin for Copper \$0 75

Boonisland January 19 1832

Do to Capt T Shaw of the Revenue Cutter

for 206# of [Ships] Bread [rd]

October 1st 1832 Eliphalet Went to Mr Pillows in  
portsmouth

November 25th 1832

Do Capt Thomas M Shaw

To 1 Quintile of pollack at \$2..50

January 7 1833 [illegible] Quintile Cod

at \$4.50..... \$2 25

\$4 75

*[ last page is right side up ]*

Dwelling house on Boon Island

54 feet Long and 17 feet wide

Lighthouse 27 feet high

Diameter at the Base 18 feet at the top 10 feet

Lantern 7 feet high Diameter 6 feet

Contractors

Charles W Morgan

Samuel Rodman junior

Edward Merrill all of New Bedford

31 Dollars & 98 Cents for Each Lamp

Last Contract \$25.96

Contract for five years from the 8th Day of  
January 1833

1834

August 22 Came here my uncle Andrew

August 10 1835 agreed with Daniel Brooks to take a paper

with him and pd my part in advance one Dollar

June 19 Uncle Andrew went from me

May 10 1839 Turned off of Boon Island after

Serving as Lighthouse Keeper 22 years and

10 months and 20 Days Without Cause

*[ written on the side of page, between entries ]*

November 22 1841

Took Charge of

Whales Back Light

house as Keeper after

Being Turned from Boon

Island 2 years 6 months

and 12 Days

.....  
[on back cover page]

October 28 1828

Richard Adams into my house

April 14 out of my house

58 1/2 months \$8..25 Cts



January 1834 3 at 1/2 past 12 (P.M.) the Cutter

past 134

6 came here the Cutter

18 1 Tule glass Broken

26 1 Tule glass Broken

February 13 1834 came here the Cutter

15 1 Tule glass Broken

17 1 Tule glass Broken

March 16 1834 Went past the Cutter

19 measured my Winter Oil and found it  
to fall Short 7 gallons

20 1 Tule glass Broken

Cleaned out my lamps in the lantern

April 4 1834 came here the Cutter

7 took Down my stove and heaters

8 1 Tule glass Broken

12 Went past the Cutter

May 7 1834 1 Tule glass Broken

12 1 Tule glass Broken

22 came here the Cutter and brought  
me some green paint to paint  
my Boat and Rig for Capt. son  
fall.

30 1 Tule glass Broken

Burned & Drowned  
Winter 3 ggs  
Winter Oil 7 ggs  
more we  
Short 7 ggs

April 8 1836 Cleaned out my lamps  
my Summer Oil is so Bad that I cannot  
burn it  
20 took Down my heaters  
21 Employed Calking and graving my Boat

May 12 1836 Came here the Cutter Bound to portland  
25 1 Tule glass Broken

June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1836 Came here the Superintendent and  
Brought me paints and materials to  
Repair and paint my Boat  
6 17 Employed Calking and painting my Boat  
13 Employed painting my Lanton  
14 Came here the Cutter  
16 1 Tule glass Broken

July 18 1836 Came here the Cutter  
19 1 Tule glass Broken

August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1836 Came here the Cutter after pirates  
6 Came home in the Cutter from portsmouth  
Bound to portland and sent 2 Braces by  
pir to be mended  
22 Came here the Cutter with my Braces

W. L. B. 1836

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