Dust of Lights
St Marks.
1830
1839 – 1841
(42 Beatties)

Treasury Department
Jany 16th 1830

Sir

The compensation to be allowed to William Livingston who has been appointed Keeper of the Light House at the mouth of St. Johns River, and Samuel Crosby Keeper of the Light House at St Marks is four hundred dollars each.

I am respectfully
Your Obt. Servt

S D Ingham

Secretary of the Treasury

Stephen Pleasanton Esquire
1st Auditor of the
Treasury

St. Marks, (Flor.)
Oct. 1/39.

From
J. S. Beattie

Sept. with his St. Ho
acct for the
quarter ending 30 June 1839
and Estimate for September quarter
also enclosing several reports
from Keeper of Lt House
at St Marks, in regard to re-
pairs deemed necessary ~~in car~~
~~sequence of~~ to Lt Ho.

Collectors Office St Marks Florida
Oct 1st 1839

Sir

In reference to the condition of the Light House at the entrance of this Port I beg leave to call your attention to the inclosed reports of the Keeper dated March 20th; May 21st; June 2nd and August 2nd 1839.

With these representations and my own observation I judged it expedient for the Public interest to direct such repairs as appeared necessary to preserve the public property. The whole expenses thus incurred, placing the house in good condition – save the lights and painting the Lanthern, will amount to about two Hundred and Twenty five Dollars.

I beg leave also to call your attention to the Keepers report of date March 20th in which he refers to to the breach made by the sea in 1837 and which is making steady advances toward the foundation of the Light house. To Pile this with Palmetto logs and fill in with shells and earth will cost perhaps about two hundred and fifty Dollars.

By reference to Keepers report of June 2nd you will find there stated the dimensions of a boat best calculated for his uses.

Although not precisely situated on an Island yet he is as completely cut off from Wood, Water & Provisions by any land route as if he were entirely surrounded by water. The use of a Boat for the above purposes is essential.

I must further beg leave to ask your attention to the inclosed communication from the Pilots in relation to the Buoys at the entrance to the Port of St Marks.

These Pilots are sober, judicious and experienced men whose suggestions are deserving all due consideration

With great respect
I have the Honour to be
Sir
your very Obed.t Servt.

F. L. Beattie
collector

Thos Pleasanton Esq.re
5th Auditor
Treasury Dept.t

P.S. In direct reference to the items of your instructions dated 10th Sept 1839 I would respectfully submit the following Statement

Light-house Dr

To J. P. Hungerford Keeper for services from 12th February to 17th March at $500.00 per An:	$ 45.20
To Benj: Metcalf Keeper from 17th March to 1st May 45 days at $500.00 per An:	61.64
From May 1st to July 1st two Months	83.33⅓
From July 1 to thirtieth Sept. — 1 Quarter	125.00
For repairing Cistern	18.00
D. Rices account for repairs to Keepers house	128.00
*For Glazing Painting Plastering and Whitewashing Light-house — about	225.00
	686.17⅓

*Painter & Glaziers bill not yet received but supposed to amount to not less than fifty nor more than seventy five Dollars

Add to the above amount of items.
The estimated expense of piling and filling in the breach made in the bank by the sea on the South side of the Light house ---- 250 00

Total required $936.17⅓

E. E. T. L. B.

request a Warrant to issue for the above, as Beattie being now here

Dr F. S. Beattie

Collector port of

St Marks

Recd 22 May 1839

Postmaster

Mr D Canada —

St Marks Light House May 21 1839

Dr F. S. Bratty

Sir The Light House under my charge here is very much in need of whitewashing It has not I believe been whitewashed but once since it was erected whereas I believe it is customary to white wash them every six months By refering to my report of 20 march you will find the same statement in relation to its situation

Mr Davis a very good mechanic is now at my house and would be glad to take the job at a reasonable rate, and I have no doubt would do it justice. Please write me on the subject and be so kind as to inform me if any of the other repairs recommended in my report of 20 march and Apl 1 can be made soon or if you would not authorize me to make such as are indispensable

I am Sir your Humble & obt Servt

Benj Metcalf Keeper

Dr F. S. Bratty Collector &c
St Marks

Lt. Col. J. Gratiot
Chief Engr. Corps
of Mexico

Light House Sept.r 6th 1839.

Doct F Beattie

Dr Sir

We the Pilots of the port of St Marks have to beg, that you will endeavour to procure a sufficient quantity of Buoys, for the outer Bar and harbour. The Buoys should be Can Buoys coppered with Musroom Anchors. four will be sufficient. two to be down at a time. where they will be anchored will be twelve feet at high water. we want eight Spar Buoys for the harbour. six to be coppered up to sixteen feet, and the other two up to twelve feet. they will want about four feet chain, with a swivel at each end of them. with suitable iron anchors so that they can be got up and shifted easily. Six of the Buoys should be twenty four feet long, and the other two eighteen feet long it would be well to make some yearly appropiation for the attendance and shifting of the Buoys. and we think that it had best be given to the Pilots, as they are the most interested in the Buoys being well attended to.

very respectfully yours.

M C Robertson
Isley Decaw
Thomas Oglesbee
David Kennedy

To Dr F Beattie
Collector of the port of
St Marks.

St Marks Light House June 2 1839

To Lieut D. L. Braitly
Superintendant of
Light houses St Marks

Sir

Since my report of 20 March
I have expended much time and labour in cleansing and repairing
the lamps reflectors &c in the light house. I find on examination that they are in a much worse condition than I at
that time supposed them to be = The lamps were allmost
all of them in a leaky condition, and have undergone
repairs as far as they are capable of being repaired with my
limited means = The reflectors are very much scratched and
the face of many of them quite yellow from the copper
showing through the plate = The tightening screws
are in such a condition that many of them do not hold
at all, and the tubes, rims &c so much bent and out of
true, that the tube glasses stand in all positions except
perpendicular = The inside spiral tubes are so much
worn in a number of cans, that it is with difficulty that
the wicks are raised and lowered = I fear that 2 or 3
of the lights will have to be suspended before winter in
consequence = There is also a difficulty in keeping a uniformity in the lights in consequence of there being so much
glass broken in the body of the house allowing the wind
to puff in two freely even in windy weather, and there
is not a square of glass here either for the windows
or lantern to repair them with

I am of the opinion that the most economical way to ensure good and uniform lights will be to supply them with an entire new sets of lamps reflectors &c = I deem it my duty to give you this seasonable notice = and would be glad if they could be examined by some more competent person - in season that timely notice may be communicated to the contractors if it should be deemed necessary to adopt new

If a boat is furnished for the use of the light house I would recommend that it be of as light draught as possible as the water is very shallow about the beach

In accordance with your recommendation I have consulted the Pilots who give the following as a suitable one for this place Length 18 ft = Beam 6 ft = 4 Oars sloop rigged with center board = I would not wish to dictate, but would be glad to have as small a one as will possibly answer for the purpose of wood - Water must but it = I cannot but hope that some kind of a boat will be furnished as soon as convenient as I dislike to depend wholly on borrowing from my neighbours

I enclose Copies of my reports of March 20 & Apl 1 with other papers which I understand you have not had access to

All which is respectfully submitted
by your Obt & Humble Servt

Benj Metcalf = Keeper

Dr F. S. Brattin
Collector &c
Sp Marks Tenn
By R. J. Hackley Esq

St Marks Light House Aug 2 1839

Dr F. S. Beattie

Sir

I would not trouble you again so soon, did I not believe the public property here was in great need of immediate attention. During the recent storms of wind and rain I have had an opportunity of discovering what the dry season did not bring to view

The rain beats through the building over and through almost every window: and in the lantern, over and around the door, and in many places through the sash, insomuch that the lantern floor is covered with water, running down freely through the scuttle to the lower floor, and thence through the Stairs, drenching them from top to bottom

The vapour ~~arising~~ from the water on the lantern floor arises and coats the inside of the glass so much that but little light can escape, which continues for a considerable time after the storm subsides, and sometimes drenches the wicks so much that they are ignited with difficulty. The necessary repairs I believe would be of but trifling expense, and would save the wood work of the building from premature decay

I have the honour to be
your Most Obt Servt
Benj Metcalf
Keeper

Dr F. S. Beattie
Collector &c St Marks

To Ambrose Crane Esq
Superintendant of Light houses &c

Light House March 20 1839

Sir

I have the honour to submit the following report of the situation of the public property now under my charge at the light house on Osceola point for your consideration

The lightning rod has broken loose from all the hooks save one and hangs loose from top to bottom.

There is much glass broken from the windows in the body of the house and one square broken in the lantern

The outside of the house needs whitewashing

The lamps machinery &c are somewhat out out of order - some of the lightning screws do not hold - The lamps - reflectors &c need adjusting - There is no cloth for wiping the lamps. There is no hand lantern which is very necessary in windy weather.

My instructions make it nessessary to keep an accurate account of the quantity of oil consumed daily There are no small measures here which makes it nessessary for me at present to guess at small quantities

The Keepers house is badly out of repair - the kotchen is allmost uninhabitable, covered with soot in every part much of the plastering is off and daily dropping off. The two front rooms are entirely without plastering overhead and the walls much broken with here and there a patch of paper The hearths are much broken and settled

The brick work in the body of the house is considerably cracked & the windows much broken - The upper rooms are in no better condition The cistern is badly out of repair and only supplies the keepers allowance of water
and there is no privy on the premises

I beg leave to call your attention to the bay or shoal which makes up at high tides on the south side of the light house buildings. and extends at high water tides some hundreds of yards and is constantly increasing I am informed by those who have lived sometime on the beach that it has been wholly made within the last three years and threatens ultimately to injure the public buildings unless checked in seasonable time

I would respectfully enquire if it is not customary for the government to furnish the Keepers of light houses with a boat. At present there is none here and I consequently suffer great inconvenience

I have just examined the diamond in my possession and find it of no account. The point being broken

All which is respectfully submitted
Benj Metcalf. Keeper
St marks light house

A Cram Esq
superintendent of light
houses - St Marks

Copy of Report
March 1839

Francis S. Beatty, 2nd
St. Marks Flor.

Oil on hand at St Marks
Light House 30 Sept
one quarter

July	Gallons	Qrts	Pints	Gills	Wicks	St. Mk. Light	Gallons	Qrts	Pints	Gills	Wicks	St. Mk. Light	September	Gallons	Qrts	Pints	Gills	Wicks	St. Mk. Light
1	1	"	"	"	5	"	1	1	"	"	"	4	"	1	1	"	"	"	5	"
2	1	"	"	"	1	"	2	1	"	"	"	3	"	2	1	"	"	"	1	"
3	1	"	"	"	2	"	3	1	"	"	"	1	"	3	1	"	"	"	2	"
4	1	"	"	"	1	"	4	1	"	"	"	3	"	4	1	"	"	"	1	"
5	1	"	"	"	1	"	5	1	"	"	"	1	"	5	1	"	"	"	2	"
6	1	"	"	"	2	"	6	1	"	"	"	2	"	6	1	"	"	"	1	"
7	1	"	"	"	3	"	7	1	"	"	"	"	"	7	1	"	"	"	2	"
8	1	"	"	"	"		8	1	"	"	"	"	"	8	1	"	"	"	1	"
9	1	"	"	"	5	"	9	1	"	"	"	1	"	9	1	"	"	"	"	"
10	1	"	"	"	2	"	10	1	"	"	"	2	"	10	1	"	"	"	4	"
11	1	"	"	"	1	"	11	1	"	"	"	1	"	11	1	"	"	"	3	"
12	1	"	"	"	4	"	12	1	"	"	"	1	"	12	1	"	"	"	1	"
13	1	"	"	"	"	"	13	1	"	"	"	"	"	13	1	"	"	"	3	"
14	1	"	"	"	6	"	14	1	"	"	"	"	"	14	1	"	"	"	1	"
15	1	"	"	"	3	"	15	1	"	"	"	2	"	15	1	"	1	"	2	"
16	1	"	"	"	2	"	16	1	"	"	"	2	"	16	1	"	1	"	1	"
17	1	"	"	"	"	"	17	1	"	"	"	"	"	17	1	"	1	"	1	"
18	1	"	"	"	5	"	18	1	"	"	"	4	"	18	1	"	1	"	3	"
19	1	"	"	"	4	"	19	1	"	"	"	2	"	19	1	"	1	"	2	"
20	1	"	"	"	"	"	20	1	"	"	"	1	"	20	1	"	1	"	"	"
21	1	"	"	"	3	"	21	1	"	"	"	3	"	21	1	"	1	"	2	"
22	1	"	"	"	2	"	22	1	"	"	"	"	"	22	1	"	1	"	1	"
23	1	"	"	"	1	"	23	1	"	"	"	2	"	23	1	"	1	"	"	"
24	1	"	"	"	2	"	24	1	"	"	"	1	"	24	1	"	1	"	3	"
25	1	"	"	"	1	"	25	1	"	"	"	3	"	25	1	"	1	"	4	"
26	1	"	"	"	"	"	26	1	"	"	"	"	"	26	1	"	1	"	2	"
27	1	"	"	"	2	"	27	1	"	"	"	4	"	27	1	"	1	"	"	"
28	1	"	"	"	4	"	28	1	"	"	"	3	"	28	1	"	1	"	4	"
29	1	"	"	"	"	"	29	1	"	"	"	1	"	29	1	"	1	"	2	"
30	1	"	"	"	3	"	31	1	"	"	"	2	"	30	1	"	1	"	2	"
31	1	"	"	"	2	"	31	1	"	"	"	"	"		32	00	00	00	55	00
	31	"	"	"	67	"	31	"	"	"	38	"								

32 Consumed in July

G. L. S. G

Oil on hand July the 1 — 316 - 0 - 0 - 0

Consumed from July 1. to September the 30 inclusive — 97 - 2 - 0

218 " 2 " 0 - 0

On hand September 30th

Gross. Doz. Wicks

Wicks on hand July the 1 — 4 — 2 — 10

Used from July 1. to September the 30 inclusive — 1 2 10

3 — 0 0

On hand September 30th

St. Marks Light House September 30th 1840

John P. Hungerford, Keeper

October	Gallons	Quarts	Pints	Gills	Tube Lights	Wicks	Gallons	Quarts	Pints	Gills	Tube Lights	Wicks	November	Gallons	Quarts	Pints	Gills	Tube Lights	Wicks	December	Gallons	Quarts	Pints	Gills	Tube Lights	Wicks
1	1	"	1	"	3	"	1	"	1	"	4	"	1	1	"	"	"	2	"	1	1	"	1	"	3	"
2	1	"	1	"	"	"	2	1	"	1	"	1	"	2	1	1	"	"	4	"	2	1	"	1	"	"	"
3	1	"	1	"	4	"	3	1	"	1	"	"	"	3	1	1	"	"	1	"	3	1	"	1	"	4	"
4	1	"	1	"	2	"	4	1	"	1	"	"	"	4	1	1	"	"	"	"	4	1	"	1	"	2	"
5	1	"	1	"	"	"	5	1	"	1	"	3	"	5	1	1	"	"	3	"	5	1	"	1	"	"	"
6	1	"	1	"	"	"	6	1	"	1	"	2	"	6	1	1	"	"	"	"	6	1	"	1	"	"	"
7	1	"	1	"	2	"	7	1	"	1	"	"	"	7	1	1	"	"	4	"	7	1	"	1	"	2	"
8	1	"	1	"	3	"	8	1	"	1	"	"	"	8	1	1	"	"	"	"	8	1	"	1	"	3	"
9	1	"	1	"	2	"	9	1	"	1	"	5	"	9	1	1	"	"	3	"	9	1	"	1	"	2	"
10	1	"	1	"	1	"	10	1	"	1	"	1	"	10	1	1	"	"	"	"	10	1	"	1	"	1	"
11	1	"	1	"	"	"	11	1	"	1	"	3	"	11	1	1	"	"	"	"	11	1	"	1	"	"	"
12	1	"	1	"	4	"	12	1	"	1	"	1	"	12	1	1	"	"	3	"	12	1	"	1	"	4	"
13	1	"	1	"	"	"	13	1	"	1	"	2	"	13	1	1	"	"	"	"	13	1	"	1	"	"	"
14	1	"	1	"	6	"	14	1	"	1	"	"	"	14	1	1	"	"	2	"	14	1	"	1	"	6	"
15	1	"	1	"	1	"	15	1	1	"	"	5	"	15	1	1	"	"	2	"	15	1	"	1	"	1	"
16	1	"	1	"	2	"	16	1	1	"	"	2	"	16	1	1	"	"	"	"	16	1	"	1	"	2	"
17	1	"	1	"	3	"	17	1	1	"	"	1	"	17	1	1	"	"	4	"	17	1	"	1	"	3	"
18	1	"	1	"	"	"	18	1	1	"	"	"	"	18	1	1	"	"	"	"	18	1	"	1	"	"	"
19	1	"	1	"	2	"	19	1	1	"	"	"	"	19	1	1	"	"	3	"	19	1	"	1	"	2	"
20	1	"	1	"	1	"	20	1	1	"	"	4	"	20	1	1	"	"	"	"	20	1	"	1	"	1	"
21	1	"	1	"	1	"	21	1	1	"	"	3	"	21	1	1	"	"	1	"	21	1	"	1	"	1	"
22	1	"	1	"	"	"	22	1	1	"	"	5	"	22	1	1	"	"	3	"	22	1	"	1	"	"	"
23	1	"	1	"	4	"	23	1	1	"	"	1	"	23	1	1	"	"	1	"	23	1	"	1	"	4	"
24	1	"	1	"	2	"	24	1	1	"	"	"	"	24	1	1	"	"	3	"	24	1	"	1	"	2	"
25	1	"	1	"	"	"	25	1	1	"	"	1	"	25	1	1	"	"	"	"	25	1	"	1	"	"	"
26	1	"	1	"	3	"	26	1	1	"	"	3	"	26	1	1	"	"	7	"	26	1	"	1	"	3	"
27	1	"	1	"	1	"	27	1	1	"	"	5	"	27	1	1	"	"	"	"	27	1	"	1	"	1	"
28	1	"	1	"	4	"	28	1	1	"	"	4	"	28	1	1	"	"	3	"	28	1	"	1	"	4	"
29	1	"	1	"	3	"	29	1	1	"	"	3	"	29	1	1	"	"	2	"	29	1	"	1	"	3	"
30	1	"	1	"	3	"	30	1	1	"	"	2	"	30	1	1	"	"	2	"	30	1	"	1	"	3	"
31	1	"	1	"	2	"								31	1	1	"	"	1	"							
	34	3	"	1	"	00	59	"	00	35	"	3	"	00	"	00	"	58	"	00	"	38	"	3	"	35	"	00
																					2	"	3	Consumed in Family		

G 2 P G

Oil on hand October the 1 — 218-2-0-0
Consumed from October 1st to Decem 111-3-0-0
the 31 inclusive —
On hand December the 31— 106-3-0-0

Grss. Doz. 12

Wicks on hand October the 1 — 3 " — "
Used from October 1st to December — 1 2 4
the 31 inclusive — 2 = 2 = 4
On hand hand December 31st

St Marks Light House December 31st 1840

John. P. Hungerford, Keeper

Francis S. Beattie
Lieut. at St. Marks, Flor.
Ail on hand dunigth
qr. endg. 31. Dec. 1840.

(Mr. B dec? in man'll.)

Light House Jc
of Cut L
Attwood
Dec 26 1860

Delivered for the use of St Marks Light House

	300	Gall Spring Oil
	155	" Winter —
on hand	125	
	580	Total on hand
	75	Tube Globes
	183/4	Gas & Glass
	15	Do Whiting
	5	Grop Wicks
	2	Buff-Skins
	1	Pair Snuffers
	5	Burners Complete
	2	Outside Burners
	5	New Oil Butts

Dec. 26th 1840 Joseph Howland

Abstract of Expenses for the Support of the St Marks Light House by F. J. Beattie Supt
Quarter Ending 31 March 1851

To Amount due J. R. Hungerford Keeper of Light House from 1st Jany to 31 Mch 1851	112	50
Commission 2½ pct	2	81
	$115	31

Richd Hayward adm
F. J. Beattie Ext

Collectors Office
St Marks Fla
31 March 1851

[illegible]
Dep Coll

From St. Marks, Flor.
April 15/41.

M. Scott Jr., Dep. Coll., with a Statement by Mr. Beattie's (late Sub.) Admr., of Salary due the Lt. Ho. Keeper for mar. quarter. —

Ans. Apl. 24/41

Collectors Office
District of St Marks
15 April 1871

Sir

I have the honor herewith to transmit to you the Light House Ofc for 1st Qr 1871 being the time of transfer of Books & Acts to John F Hackler late Collector

You will perceive the Ofc receipt by the proper person as per Comptrollers requirement

I am Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
Wm Scott Jr
Asp Coll

J Pleasanton Esqr
1st Auditor of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Dr General Account of Light Houses Disbursments in Account with the United States by F. S Beattie Superintendent Ending 31 December 1840 Cr

1839 30 Sept^r	To Amt of Disbursments for 3^d qr 1839 as per Qc rendered	128 12	
31 Decr	To Amt of Disbursments for 4th qr 1839 as per Qc rendered	128 12	
1840 31 March	To Amt of Disbursments for 1st qr 1840 as per Qc rendered	128 12	
30 June	To Amt of Disbursments for 2^d qr 1840 as per Qc rendered	444 32	
	To balance due the U. S.	21 91	
		$850 59	
1840 30 Septr	To Amt of Disbursments for 3^d qr 1840 as per Qc rendered	308 74	
31 Decr	To Amt of Disbursments for 4th qr 1840 as per Qc rendered	123 01	
		431 75	
		− 10 18	
1840 31 Decr	To Balance due F. S Beattie	421 57 399 66	

1839 30 June	By Amt due the United States this day Error in striking Com^{rs} June qr 39 − 2.00 − .20 short one cents to Supt − $ 1.87	$850 59
1840 30 June	By balance due the United States	21 91
31 Decr	By Errors in 3^d Quarter 1840	10 18
	By balance due F. S Beattie	399 66
		431 75

Collectors Office
District of Nantucket
7 May 1841

W Scott Jr
Asst Clk

Sept. qr. 1840 − $ 282.48
Dec^r " − 115.31
$ 397.79
1.87 or error.
$ 399.66

Balance due Supt $ 399.66

Sept. qr. 1840 $ 421.57
Dec^r " 21.91

$399.66 Credited to him on Customs a/c

$399.66 Credited to him in Settlement of his Customs account for the quarter ending 31. March 1841.

Memo. May 1841

Dr. — T. S. Beattie, late Supt. of Lights at St. Marks, Flor. — Cr.

To remittance Oct. 18. 1839 — $ 936.00. By disbursements in

	June qr. 1839 —	$ 85.41
	Sept. " — "	128.12
	Dec. " — "	128.12
	Mar. " 1840 —	128.12
	June " — "	444.32
Balance due to Supt. — —	399.66	Sept. " — " — 306.26
		Dec. " — " — 115.31
	$ 1335.66	$ 1335.66

By balance Pr. Contra — $ 399.66

Cr. to him on Acc. Customs — Mar. qr. 41. K — Deduct

Balance due to him on his Acc. for Sept. qr. 1840, directed to be credited to him on Customs account . . . . $ 282.48

Amt. of his Acc. for Dec. qr. 1840 — Do " Do " — 115.31 — 397.79

Error of Short credit to him in striking his Commission on rapt. in June qr. 1839 . . . . . 1.87 — $ 1.87

Balance due from him 31. Mar. 41. as Coll. $ 988.54