Custom House. Apalachicola January 15th 1850

Sir

Your favor of Dec 24th "Relative to Light House at Cape St Blas." was received by due course of Mail and contents noted. In accordance with your instructions of June 15th I have had the Tower at Dog Island painted White at a cost for Labour & Painting of $75.

I visited the Light House a few days since and found all in good order except the dwelling. This ought to be ceiled, the walls are all falling down. and the roof of the house is in a leaking condition

The Light House at St Georges Island I have had repaired as per your instructions - and now it shows a light of fourteen Lamps on the water. The Light House Boat is so much out of order that an expence of Forty or Fifty dollars must be incurred before it can be used. I was compelled to purchase for this Light. forty Gallons Oil - before the Oil man came round.

At Cape St Blas I have had the Tower Whitewashed and repaired and within a few days have had to repair the Cylinder that winds up the works. a number of the Iron Cogs being broken.

The Boat at this Light is out of repair

I have now Seven Can Buoys in and about the Harbor all that are necessary but a few Spar Buoys - or Stakes at different points I think that two would answer which I believe could be procured here and put down at an expence of ten or fifteen dollars each -

One to be replaced was put down Eight Years since by Mr Brown. and has within a short

time Boston from decay.

Respectfully
Your Obt Svt

B S Mawley
Collector &
Superintendent Light Ho

To
S. Pleasanton,
5th Auditor

answered Jany 23d 1850.
G.G.C.

Apalachicola, Flor.,
Jany 10/50

Benjn S Mawley, Supt. &c.
Sir, I have the honor to enclose herewith Invoice & Bill of Lading of Articles shipped on board the Steamer Wm. Gibbons, Capt. Hall, for the Light House Establishment, and to request that you will cause the same to be delivered to the Keeper of the Light House on Dog Island, Florida.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Svt
[illegible]
Keeper Light House
Cape St. George, Flor.

Recd & Jany 23/50

Custom House Apalachicola
April 8th 1850.

Sir

I have forwarded you my quarterly accounts to 1st Apl signed by the Widows of the late keepers of Dog & St George Islands. The keepers of the above named light houses have died during the latter part of the quarter

I have made no change, as I pray that justice will be done for the department competent persons are in attendance and as there is a large family in both cases I truly hope that as long as no complaint is made, which has not been done as to the lights, that they may be retained

I must request that lamp Glasses be supplied for the different Light Houses, the glasses left by Mr. Howland are of no use not being of proper shape & poor quality. I also have to report that Mr Howland has at all Light Houses in this District left common oil for the winter, which oil will not burn.

Very Respectfully.

T. S. Sawley
Supt. of Lt Houses

J Pleasanton Esq
Supt. of Lt Houses.
Washington

ans: April 23/50

Custom House

Apalachicola April 30. 1852

Sir.

I made a contract for building the dwellings and out buildings for the Light Houses at Dog Island and St George, now under contract with Messrs Emerson and Adams.

A copy of the proposals was forwarded to your Department and with this I forward copy of the contract entered into with Grady & Co (This was the lowest bid offered by fifteen hundred Dollars) The Light Houses I am happy to say are about completed waiting only for the glass, and I am satisfied from what I have seen that the Contractors are doing full justice to the work.

The Reflectors, the Clock for Dog Island revolving light, and the oil as well as the oil Cans are still wanted from your Department, and as soon as they arrive, I shall again be able to start the lights which I hope to do by 15th May.

Please forward all that is necessary as soon as possible. and oblige

Your most Obd't Servant

T. D. J. Yawley

Collector & Sup't Lights

Hon S. Pleasanton

5th " Auditor

Washington.

Custom House Apalachicola

Aug. 27th 1850

Sir

Your official favor of 12th inst. is at hand. Mr. Hawley is still absent and I have forwarded the letter to him. The statement regarding condition of Light Houses &c. Estimates was dispatched by last mail.

There is one point in your letter, which I deem it my duty to notice particularly as I was not aware that information on the subject had not already been communicated to the Department. On the first July Mr. Hawley relinquished the situation as keeper of Dog Island Light and the Collector sent down a man by the name of Saml. Bray to take charge who has since remained. We have been visited here by a very severe gale, which has done much damage on the coast. I have not yet been enabled to ascertain particulars of damage at the different Light houses, though reports have reached us which if true will require a large appropriation. Mean the amount previously Estimated for. Boat Bell at Dog Island is reported sunk in four fathoms water. The keepers House undermined and otherwise injured, at St George Light, keepers House undermined, Chimney thrown down, & boat lost and the Light House itself badly cracked, At Cape St Blas, the tower much injured, as also dwelling of keeper

The water rose much higher here than I have ever known and I have been a resident 20 years — A vessel was brought in to day with every thing to her deck swept away —

Reports from St. Andrews show a disastrous state of things there — and I have no doubt the whole coast from the Southern cape of Florida has suffered greatly

I will endeavor to procure accurate information and transmit the same without delay

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

H R Taylor

Dep Collr

I have been under the necessity of hiring a boat for the use of Dog Island Light at $1.00 pr. day as the keeper was entirely without means of communication ~~out of~~ to escape for himself and family in want of necessity —

A Boat is also required for Cape St George, but there is great difficulty in procuring one

Respy.

H R Taylor

Dep Collr

Quincy Florida Sept 12th 50

Sir

Your two Letters of 12 & 24th Augt were forwarded me at this place by my Postmaster Mr Taylor I left my Post a few weeks since with my family to Leave them during the Sickly Season and to return to the discharge of my duties at Apalachia but in a few days I was taken down with congestive fever and from that time until this I have not been able to leave my bed without assistance and am now only beginning to walk in bed I write this hoping that it will be a satisfactory explanation for the backwardness of my papers getting to your department I hope to be able to leave here for Apalachia in Eight or 10 days As to the appointment of Mr Austin I recommended him at his own request and thought it would be a good appointment Mr A stating that he would send his son down and go himself as soon as he could settle some small business in town It was necessary that some person should go immediately as Mrs Taylor had left

As I informed the ~~department~~ department Mrs Kirby left St Josephs Light sometime since and I sent Samuel Bray and recommended his compensation

I will as soon as I go to Apalachicola make some inquiries relative to repairs at St Georges light and forward the name to the department.

I will assume proposals as directed in your letter of 24th for repairs of Light Houses and with this I send a Statement of the late damage done by Gales which you will please take immediate action upon as I think practicable as you as possible to have all done at the same time as the distance for Workmen to go to the L Houses are some thirty miles. I will write you more fully when I get back to my post but at present must close from meetings

Very Respectfully your
obt Servt

S. L. Meriwether

S L Gleaston Esq
Washington

Collector

Columbus Georgia Oct 20th 1851

S Pleasenton Esq

Dear Sir

We understand that the government intends rebuilding the Light Houses lately destroyed by the storm on the coast of Florida near Apalachicola, and wish such information as will enable us to bid for the contract— Is there can the plans and Specifiation be seen and will it be necessary for us to visit Washington, if so at what time, We take pleasure in being allowed to refer you to the following named persons for our cabability of doing the work

Hon M J Wellborn
Hon L H Howard
Hon Seaborn Jones
Hon Geo Stiggis
Hon Alfred Iverson
Hon G E Thomas

Resp Yours

Geo L Morton
Patrick Adams

Ans Oct 25 1851—

Custom House

Apx March 8th 1852

Sir

Your letter of Feb 26th is just received and I am happy to state in answer from the late pleasant weather that I think if not both, that the Dog Island light will be finished by the first of may. I have given out my proposals for the dwellings. Copys. of which I forward you I shall attend personally as much as possible,

I hope the Lantern reflectors &c will be here by the first of May also oil sufficient to last the season or until the Oil man Arrives again as no Oil was saved and no Cans all being under the Ruins

I have the Hon to be
Respectfully yours

B S Hawley
Collector

S. Pleasonton Esq
5th Auditor
Washington City

Mar 16/52

Wm. M. Greely Mar.

Copy

Know all men by these presents, that we, Cornelius Grady and John W. Babcock are held and firmly bound unto the United States of America in the sum of Twenty five Hundred and Seventy nine Dollars, for the which payment well and truly to be made and done we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated this 24th day of March 1852 —

The Condition of the above obligation is such that whereas, The collector of the Port of Apalachicola Benjamin L. Hawley gave public notice that he would receive proposals for the eriction of a Light Keepers house at Dog Island and at Cape St George with specifications published in the Apalachicola Commercial Advertiser under date of 4th March, and whereas said Cornelius Grady was the lowest bidder for said contracts to wit for the construction of the specified improvements at Dog Island in the sum of Thirteen Hundred and nine Dollars — and in the construction of those at Cape St George in the sum of Twelve Hundred and Seventy Dollars The work to be completed agreeably to the specifications by the first day of May next —

Now if the said Cornelius Grady shall well and truly perform the work agreeably to the specifications, and by the time set forth a printed copy of which is hereto appended then this obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

Sealed with our Seals and dated the year and date above written

Witness
(Cty) H R. Taylor (Cpy) Cornelius Grady (L.S.)

(Cpy) John W. Babcock (L.S.)

Custom House
Apalachicola Sept 13th 1852.

Sir.

On the 4th June last I had the pleasure of addressing you a letter stating that the Light Houses and dwellings at Dog Island and at Cape St George were completed and received according to contract; also asking of you at your earliest convenience to please to have forwarded (2) two Boats for the keepers, as all the Boats were lost during the gale that destroyed the Towers and dwellings.

I had an old Boat repaired at small expense that answers at present for St George Light, and have been under the necessity of hiring one for Dog Island, as that is more exposed and in a time of a severe gale the keeper would have to flee to the Boat for safety.

This Light House is about forty miles from here, and at times it takes from twenty four to thirty hours to make the trip to Town in a large and open Bay subject to sudden storms and I think a Boat Sloop rigged covered over, with room below for two berths, about four or five tons tonnage would be suitable for that Island

Such a Boat from the best information I can

get, will cost about (300) three hundred Dollars.

A smaller and open sail boat similar to the Boats last forwarded by your department, will answer for St George.

Should you wish I can purchase Boats here that would answer, but not at the cost or of the materials of those built at the North.

The Ladings have been regularly lit for about four months, and I am pleased to state that from conversations with a number of Captains of Vessels and their Pilots, that there are no better lights in the Gulf.

Mr Captain Howland left no oil last season. I purchased here and in New Orleans, and have enough to last untill November, and probably it will be best to procure it here untill his next annual visit

We have just passed through a severe Gale on our Coast, and at our Port, but I am happy to state that not one dollars worth of Government property was injured,

I see that an appropriation has been made for Cape St. George Light. A Boat will also be wanted there when the buildings are completed.

To the
Hon S. Reasonton
5th Auditor

Very Respectfully
Your most Obt Servant
B. S. Sanderlin
Supt of Lights

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Custom House
Appalachicola July 20. 1846

Sir

I have again visited the Light House at Dog Island in company with an experienced Carpenter to inspect the condition of the Tower; it was the day after a heavy rain & we found the ~~the~~ frame and whole building inside was very wet. It is covered on the sides with sawed Shingles over a sheathing which is not close, as it should have been; (tongued & grooved); The Shingles have shrunk and warped so much that the rain drives in on every side: The Carpenter thinks it cannot be patched or repaired like a roof, as the sides slope from top to base. He says, to make it safe, it must be new shingled, or weatherboarded: By measurement it will take about 4 thousand feet of boards or 22 thousand Shingles which will cost delivered at the Light House about 75$. He offers to do either for 150$ complete, and warrant it tight & secure; but thinks that weatherboar

ding

is preferable, and it can be jointed and rabitted so as to prevent being drawn by the sun. —

The frame of the Tower is a good one but I think if left in its present state (so often wet) it will soon rot. I shall endeavour to use all diligence & economy in keeping it in order, or in the repairs, but I can make no other suggestion in regard to the repairs than the above. I shall await your reply before doing anything further

Your Respectfully
James W Spencer
Col 1st Regt of
Light Apalachicola

To
Stephen Pleasanton Esqr
5th Auditor of Treasury
Washington



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