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RGR

June 6, 1929.

Mrs. Edith M Grant
Box 97
Wickford Harbor, R. I.

Dear Madam:

1. As requested in your letter of June 2, 1929, a short history is furnished of the old Poplar Point Light Station.

2. This light was established back in 1831. Congress by an act of March 3, 1831, appropriated $3,000 for a beacon light at or near the entrance of Wickford Harbor, town of North Kensington, R. I. Your title papers may indicate that this property was purchased from Thomas Albro under a deed dated April 16, 1831. The consideration for this purchase was $300. State jurisdiction was ceded by the General Assembly in June of 1831.

3. Under a contract dated June 1, 1831, between Christopher Ellery, Collector of the Customs for the District of Newport and Superintendent of Lighthouses, and Charles Allen of Kingston, R. I., it was agreed that the second party should construct the lighthouse, dwelling and tower, for a consideration of $1,889. A contract bearing the date, June 21, 1831, was let to a Mr. Winslow Lewis of Boston for fitting the lighthouse with lamps, reflectors, oil heaters, etc. This was at a stipulated price of $375.

4. In November, 1831, Samuel Thomas, Jr. received from the Secretary of the Treasury the original appointment as keeper to this lighthouse. His salary was fixed at $350 a year.

5. The light was shown from an octagonal wooden tower rising above the eastern gable of the dwelling, elevated 48 feet above high water. A sixth order steamer lens and argand lamp were, in 1855, substituted for the eight old wick lamps with their 14-inch reflectors. A new lantern was substituted for the old one in 1871 and certain partition and woodwork (lining and closets) done within the dwelling.

6. The light was finally discontinued in 1882, having been supplanted by the present Wickford Harbor Lighthouse. Mr. Albert R. Sherman of Pawtuxet, R. I., bought the property at public auction on October 15, 1894. The records of the Bureau do not extend beyond this.

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7. If you should happen to have a photograph of the lighthouse as it stands today, the Bureau would appreciate a print of the same since our files do not contain any pictures of the old station.

Very truly yours,

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.