Tenants Harbor
March 1945.

Mr. Edward Rowe Snow,
20 Terrace Avenue,
Winthrop, Mass

Dear Sir:

Your letter received,
I am afraid I can be of very little help to you in your quest for information in regard to the Grant family, who for many years were Light-Keepers at Matinicus Rock. I am a native of Matinicus, and in my younger years, was personally acquainted with them all, so I will begin with the older members of the family first;
Capt. John H. Grant (Senior) was a resident of Rockland, Me. in 1861 and he and Mr. Burgess of Matinicus Rock were no strangers. One day these two Gentlemen met on the street. It was a short time after the Election of President Lyncoln, Naturaly, they began to talk on the Topic of the day.
(As you well know, there was no Civil Service Law

that times. "So to the Victor belonged the Spoils")
Mr. Burgess, said there was no doubt that a
new Keeper would soon take his place
at Matinicus Rock. and asked his friend
Capt: Grant why he did not apply for it:
Capt: Grant told him. That he would not
want to take the place from him and
what was more, he had never thought
of such a thing.
Mr. B said, there is no one, I would rather
give up the place to, So you had better
try for it,
Mr. Grant: said. After thinking the matter over
he took his friends advice, And sent his
application, and was Accepted.
Capt: John H. Grant: became Principal Keeper
of Matinicus Rock Light House, and his older
son Isaac Grand was appointed his first
Assistant, and went with his father to
take over the Station,
Capt Grant (Senior) persuaded Miss Abbie, the
daughter of the former Keeper. to remain with
them and teach them how to take care of
the Lights properly. And that was how the
Romance started, Miss Abbie Burgess, became
Mrs. Isaac Grant; They remained several years

at Matinicus Rock. But finally they were Transferred to White Head Light-Station.
And William Grant (A younger brother of Isaac) became First Assistant for the his father, and John Grant Jr. was Second Assistant from then on.
Mr. & Mrs. John Grant Jr. Had a family of Five Sons and Two Daughters.
The little Grave you asked about was that of the older of the two Daughters. (If I remember right) her name was (Bessie) and her age about Three Years. During the four years I was at Matinicus Rock I have passed, her little Grave in the cleft of the rock that was formed into a little Court by the use of Cement. Many. Many times. It is beside the path that ~~goes~~ leads from the Dwelling houses to what is known as the Lower Landing on the North-east end of the Island.
John Grant Jr. died while in the Service and his wife and family removed to Vinalhaven. later on they went to Portland Maine. As the Sons grew to the age of manhood they became Officers on board of some of the Light-House Tenders.
Now. I will go back to the Capt Isaac Grants family. After they left White Head. I knew but little about them. But he was call back into the Service

and he became Government Store Keeper at Portland, Me. Their second daughter Miss Mary Married a young man by the name of Richardson (I think) and resided at South Portland.
While they were at White Head their oldest daughter died. But I dont know her resting place. It may be Either of these three places, Spruce Head, Seal Harbor or Jamesen's Point, Rockland Me. This last remark is only a guess. I wrote it because I am quite sure that the Family of Capt John Grant (Senior) are at Jamesen's Point.
The little Story I have told you, is one that Capt. John Grant (Senior) Told to me, after my Husband, Thaddeus A. Wallace, became Third Assistant for him in 1887
He remained at the Rock four years and was then transfered to Tenants Harbor. Where he died in 1898
No one can remain eleven years in the Light Service without seeing some rough water. But I doubt if the Public would be very much interested in any thing I could tell you.
For any adventure of mine would be Tame and Domestic when compared with what is happening to day.
I am wishing you Success in your undertaking & remain, Most Sincerely Yours. (Mrs. Ellen A. Wallace)

Personal

Mr. Snow

If you can gather any information from these pages, I am glad to have written them for you. But: I never tell my simple stories for the Public, that I don't know nor care. These people are Old Friends of mine. And very worthy people and I revere and honor their memory.

Very Respectfully.

E. C. W.