SEGUIN ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE STATION

Origin of the name Seguin is unknown, although the following have been put forth as possibilities:

- **Segunau – alone out at sea ☙ Algonquin**
- **See g' uin - sea-go- in ☙ Pigeon English**
- **Sigan - hump or rounded mass ☙ Abenaki**
- **Satquin - place where sea vomits ☙ Indian**
- **Siguenoc – tortoise ☙ Indian**

Explorer Samuel de Champlain's map of 1607, referred to Seguin as "la tortue," the tortoise. Seguin is a French Huguenot name, but there is no supporting evidence that this is the source of the name of the island.

Lighthouse was commissioned by George Washington in 1795 and a wooden house and tower were erected in 1796 for a cost of $6,300.

Count John Polereczky, a Hungarian, who fought with the French Expeditionary forces in the American Revolution, was Seguin's first lighthouse keeper. He served on Seguin from 1796 – 1802. He survived his tenure on Seguin and returned to his home in Dresden, where he served as Town Clerk for 25 years and died on June 8, 1830 at the age of 83.

In 1819, bids were sought through April 1820 to replace the wooden tower with one made of stone. The cost to build the tower was $2,248.

In 1857, the current brick duplex keeper's house and attached granite tower were erected at a cost of $35,000. The tower is 53 feet tall

First Order Fresnel Lens:

- **Installed in 1857 with a single kerosene lamp, replacing the Lewis Lamp Apparatus, which consisted of scores of parabolic reflectors and Argand lamps.**
- **Only continuously operating First Order Lens north of Virginia.**

- **Focal point of the light, at 180 feet above sea level, is the highest on the Maine coast**
- **Characteristic is a fixed white light**
- **Can be seen for over 20 miles**
- **Protected by bulletproof glass**
- **Lens is 6 feet in diameter and 9 feet high, with the total apparatus measuring 17 feet in height.**

Brick oil house was added in 1892

Fog Signal:

- **Original bell on view at the Boothbay Harbor Coast Guard Station.**
- **Steam whistle installed in small wooden building eight yards southward of the lighthouse in 1872**
- **Current brick building erected in 1889**
- **In 1907, fog at Seguin set an all-time record for fogginess at 2,374 hours or 31% of the year**

The 756 foot tramway is powered by a "Buddha" engine and is the only operationally tramway in Maine. It was built to replace an unsafe tramway during the period Elson Small was a keeper on Seguin, 1926 – 1930, per Connie Small.

Ghost stories include the Captain, the Little Girl, and the Keeper & his Piano Playing Wife. Local lore has the latter at neighboring Pond Island, rather than Seguin.