Vintage Photograph of Famous Maine Lighthouse Keeper Located

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It was several months ago that Tim Harrison, editor of Lighthouse Digest, made a public appeal through the newspapers for a photograph of Loring W. Myers who served as the lighthouse keeper at Lubec Channel Lighthouse from 1890 to 1923.

Proving once again that old term about the 'power of the press', Dorothy Pickard of Gorham, Maine called Harrison saying that a friend had told her about his quest after reading about the search for a photograph in a local newspaper.

"We had a great chat on the telephone that day," said Harrison. He went on to say that Mrs. Pickard gave him a wealth of information over the phone and said she would mail him any information she could find on her grandfather.

Several days later a large package arrived from Mrs. Pickard that was loaded with historical information on Loring Myers and the famous lifeboat he had invented. Although a copy of an old hand-drawn, pen, ink and chalk image of Myers was enclosed, there was no photograph. Harrison, said that although the vintage hand-drawn image was exquisite, is was only a copy and still not a real photograph, which he was really hoping to locate.

However, Harrison was elated with what he had received and the material would be extremely helpful to be used for a book on the lighthouses of Washington County that he hopes to have completed in time for the International Lights Across the Border Lighthouse Challenge that will be held in the area on the weekend of August 9.

One of the most interesting finds that Mrs. Pickard shared with Harrison was that Loring Myers was the brother of the mother of Connie Small, Maine's famous "First Lady of Light," who wrote the best selling book, "The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife." Interestingly, Connie married Elson Small, who also became a lighthouse keeper at Lubec Channel Lighthouse from 1920 to 1922, as well as going on to serve at St. Croix and Avery Rock Lighthouses.

However, on Wednesday morning, January 30, as he opened his email, Harrison said he nearly fell off his chair with excitement when he saw a note from Dorothy Pickard's son, David, with a high-resolution attachment of an old photograph of lighthouse keeper Loring Myers. "I kept looking at that photograph," said Harrison, who went on to say, "I wish we had a time machine - - I've learned so much about this amazing man, I wish I could have met him."

Harrison, who has been working for over 20 years to locate and document and save lighthouse history for future generations, said that uncovering old material like this is invaluable and to a lighthouse historian, it's like finding gold. He is extremely thankful that people like Mrs. Pickard are willing to come forward and so generously share their family history for the benefit of future generations.

Harrison hopes that stories like this will encourage other people to come forward and share lighthouse photos and history with him. Harrison says, "There's a lot of history out there, tucked away in attics, family Bibles and old photograph albums; all just waiting to be rediscovered."

Harrison can be contacted in care of Lighthouse Digest, P.O. Box 250, East Machias, ME 04630 or by phone at 207-259-2121 or via email at Editor@LighthouseDigest.com.



This tattered old photograph is the only known photograph of Capt. Loring William Myers in his U. S. Lighthouse Service uniform. Myers served as a lighthouse keeper at Lubec Channel Lighthouse from 1890 to 1923. The letter K on his jacket lapel indicates he was the Head Keeper. In 1939 the United States Lighthouse Service was merged into the United States Coast Guard. Photograph courtesy of his granddaughter, Dorothy Pickard.

Contact