

ans
16/1/1894

JOHN MCNEIL,

Harbor Master and Superintendent of Docks and Piers.

Office at Gregory's Block, Foot of Fairfield Avenue.

Bridgeport, Conn., Jan. 15 1894

P. O. Box, 2165.

Mr. Johnson.

Dear Sir.

Thank you very much for the circular you so kindly sent me. I send you by mail to-day, three small photographs giving you an idea of our methods for lighting the entrance to our harbor from 1842 to 1857. Your humble servant was twelve years old the former year, and assisted my father in arranging the lights, who was doing this work at his own expense. He continued the work during his life, and my younger brother has carried it on since. Will you

Kindly present these pictures to
the Chairman of the Light-house
Board with my compliments?

I thought you might be
interested to know what hard work
it was in those days. A few
words are on the back of each
picture, descriptive of each,

Yours sincerely,

John McNeil.

P.S. I hope to see you here at
some time in the near future.

Yours truly
J. McNeil.

(Established in 1851,--rebuilt in 1871.)

Appropriated by act of Congress, for
a beacon-lt. at Bridgeport Bar,
Conn., - - - - - Sept. 28, 1850, \$3,500.
" For rebuilding beacon-lt. at
Bridgeport, - - - - - July 15, 1870, 45, 000.
" For additional protection to
screw-pile lt-ho. in Bridgeport
Harbor, - - - - - June 23, 1874, 5,500.

(Established in 1851,--rebuilt in 1871.)

1867 *Bridgeport beacon, Conn.*—Lower part of structure, which had been corroded, repaired; fenders, bolts, &c., renewed. Damage to lantern by vessel running into it, repaired, and the whole beacon repainted.

1868 134. *Bridgeport Beacon.*—During last winter this iron-pile beacon was badly injured by the ice, and although it has been repaired, it is not regarded as secure, and should the ice be as heavy this winter as last, it will probably be carried away. In view of this, and the frequent and expensive repairs to the structure, its exposed position and importance as a guide to the harbor, and the apparent steady increase of the commerce of Bridgeport, it is recommended that a stone structure, similar to those lately built upon the Hudson river, be substituted for the present beacon, and an estimate of the requisite appropriation therefor is submitted.

1869 133. *Bridgeport Beacon, Connecticut.*—No repairs have been made at this station. A new boat has been furnished and the boat-ways repaired. The recommendation of last year to replace the present inefficient iron structure by one of stone capable of withstanding the shocks of storm waves and ice, and be at all times reliable, is renewed, and the same estimate will be included in the annual estimates.

1870 138. *Bridgeport Beacon, Connecticut.*—The reconstruction of this beacon is authorized by the appropriation made July 15, 1870. The work will be commenced at an early day and will be prosecuted so as to insure its completion during the fiscal year.

1871 157. *Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut.*—The rebuilding of this beacon was authorized by the appropriation of July 15, 1870. The plan adopted is similar to that for *Long Beach Bar*, viz, a Light on keeper's dwelling, which is founded on screw-piles; these being protected by an ice-breaker of granite blocks placed in riprap. The entire iron and wood-work for this structure is completed, and contracts are now in operation for the erection of the Light-house, and building the ice-breaker. The Light will probably be exhibited by October next.

1872 160. *Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut.*—The iron-pile light-house adopted for this locality has been completed and occupied by the keeper. The light has been exhibited in the new structure since November, 1871. A stone breakwater surrounding the light-house and protecting it from the floating ice-fields has recently been constructed. The light in the old structure has been discontinued.

1873 166. *Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut.*—The better protection of the iron screw pile light-house against the floating ice is deemed necessary, and a coping of heavy stones to resist the ice is proposed, for which there is required the amount of \$5,000, for which an estimate is submitted.

1874 169. *Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut.*—The fog-bell apparatus at this station has been improved by the addition of a new part to the machine of improved pattern.

1875. 173. *Bridgeport, entrance to Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut.*—The work of coping the granite breakwater, which protects this light-station, by heavy blocks of stone has been completed during the year by contract, made under the appropriation of Congress therefor.

1876. 175. *Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut.*—During the severe storms of the winter and early spring, many of the large coping-stones surmounting the breakwater which surrounds this station were carried away. These have recently been recovered and secured upon the breakwater, and as an additional protection against their being again removed a considerable quantity of riprap-stone has been delivered at the deepest places along the base of the breakwater, where it serves to break the force of the waves.

1880. 177. *Bridgeport Harbor, Long Island Sound, Connecticut.*—The buildings were painted inside and outside, and some slight repairs were made.

An. Rep. 1889. 194. *Bridgeport Harbor, Long Island Sound, Connecticut.*—Some 600 tons of riprap were placed for the protection of the screw-pile foundation, and various repairs were made.

1894. 252. *Bridgeport Harbor, Long Island Sound, Connecticut.*—The breakwater around the light-station was raised and extended 50 feet on the northwest side. A new Gamewell fog-bell apparatus was installed. Various repairs were made.

1898. 293. *Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut.*—Under authority of the Secretary of the Treasury, dated April 7, 1898, a battery of two 10-inch guns was placed on the light-house foundation by the War Department.

From "Statement of Appropriations, &c."
 from March 4, 1789, to June 30, 1882.
 Published in 1836.

FORM 152.

General object (title of appropriation), and details and explanations.

Bridgeport light-station.

Section 2 of the act of April 21, 1806, provides, "That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, required to cause a beacon or pier to be erected near the mouth of the harbor of Bridgeport, in the State of Connecticut".....

For a beacon light at Bridgeport Bar, Connecticut.....

For rebuilding beacon light at Bridgeport.....

For additional protection of screw-pile light-house in Bridgeport Harbor.....

Total.....

Date of act making the appropriation.	Reference to the Stats. at Large.			Amount of annual appropriation.	Year of expenditure.	Expenditure by warrants.	Repayments.	Amount carried to the surplus fund.	Net expenditures.
	Volume.	Page.	Section.						
Apr. 21, 1806	2	406	2-3	1,000 00	1807 1808	955 30		44 70	955 30
Sept. 28, 1850	9	501	1	3,500 00	1852 1853	3,498 00		2 00	3,498 00
July 15, 1870	16	297	1	45,000 00	1871 1873	45,000 00 69 60	69 60		45,000 00
June 23, 1874	18	218	1	5,500 00	1875	5,500 00			5,500 00
				55,000 00		55,022 90	69 60	46 70	54,953 30