# They All Weren't Angels




**A stereopticon slide of the Farallon Island (CA) Lighthouse shortly after completion in 1865. Lighthouse Society artifact.**

United States Land Office
Marquette, MI

June 29, 1859

To: Colonel Thornton Jenkins
Sectry, U.S. Lighthouse Board

Great complaint is made about the keeper of the light at this place. He is a habitual drunkard, frequently thrashes his wife and throws her out of doors. He has several times failed to light up till near morning – last night he did not light up until after midnight – it was a dark stormy night – three sail vessels and one steamer came in during the night. There are about nine steamers coming into this harbor about twice a week, each and upwards of twenty sail vessels in the iron ore trade lying in this port – constantly arriving and departing – therefore it is quite important that the light should be kept by a sober man as well as an efficient one.

Certain "pot house" politicians here have recommended to the collector at Mackinac the appointment of Henry Graveraet – an old man of over seventy years, dissipated & an imbecile, and we protest most earnestly and respectfully against any such appointment.

We respectfully request that immediate action be taken in this manner before any irreparable injury is done to any of the shipping coming into this port.

Respectfully your obedient servants,
Peter White, Register, U.S. Land Office
M.H. Maynard, Deputy Collector

Treasury Department
Office of the Lighthouse Board

9 May 1890

Subject: Farallon I. Station, Cal.
2nd Assistant removal

Sir:

On 3d May '90, the Inspector of the 12th L.H. District in accordance with paragraph 16 of the L.H. Regulations, directed the discharge of Martin J. Van Bergen, 2nd Assistant keeper at Farallon Light Station, Cal., for drunkenness on duty. In addition to this offence Mr. Van Bergen is also guilty of sleeping on watch, disobedience of orders, using obscene and threatening language to the keeper and incompetence.

The Board has the honor to ask that this 2nd Assistant Keeper be removed to take effect from May 30 '90.

Respectfully yours,
George Coffin,
CDR, USN
Secretary to the Board