REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RG26, E17C
Massachusetts

Custom House, Boston,
Octr. 28th. 1817

Sir,

The Light Houses which I contracted to have built this season on Brant Point Nantucket, at Tarpaulin Cove, the West Chop of Holmes' Hole & on the Island of Petit Manan have been finished & lighted.

In conformity to your instructions, I herewith send you a report made to me by Capt. Winslow Lewis, containing a description of each, the time when they were lighted, their bearings, and such directions, as it is important should be made public, for the information of mariners.

These buildings with the dwelling houses for the Keepers are all of stone and finished in a faithful and substantial manner. The lights are represented to me as very excellent.

This work has all been done since the first day of June last and the first of October instant.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your obt. Servt.

H. H. Dearborn
Supt. of Light Houses in Mass.tts

Samuel H. Smith Esqr.

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Boston October 27th 1817.

Sir,

On the 25th Nov.r 1816 the new Light House on Point Gannon was lit as a fixed light with 7 lamps, since which I have by your request, obtained the following directions. To go into Hyannis Harbor. Vessels coming from the eastward bound through the south channel must bring Point Gannon Light to bear N.W. leaving the Bishop & Clarks on the larboard hand. You must not go nearer to them than 4 fathoms, they are a dangerous ledge of Rocks bearing S. by E. from the Light House 3 miles distant and are always dry at high water. When the light bears N. by W. steer W.N.W. keeping in 4 fathoms until the Light House bears N.N.E. then steer S.W. or S.S.W. by N. keeping in 3 fathoms which will keep you clear of a dangerous Reef running from the Light house to Great Rock. The light will bear S.E. by E. when you are abreast of the Great Rock then steer N.N.W. until you are within one mile of the shore and anchor in 3 fathoms soft bottom. Vessels should never come nearer than ¾ mile to the Light house as there are sunken Rocks which lay off ½ mile from the shore.

Vessels bound to the Westward from Hyannis must run to the southward until the Light House bears E. by S. and then steer W. by S. for Sacunnesset point which course

will carry you clear of the S. W. Rock which bears from the Light West 4 miles distant on which is only 7 feet of water. W½S 8 miles from the light lays a dangerous Ledge called Collins Ledge 3 miles from the shore. There is 3 fathoms close to it all around it and it is dry at low water. In running this course (W. by S.) light bearing E. by N. you will have from 3 to 4 or 5 fathoms if to the southward towards the shore. Shoe you will have from 4 to 10 fathoms and close to the shore Shoe 13 fathoms.

On the 1st October 1817. The New Light House on Nantucket Great Point was lit as a fixed light with 14 patent lamps with 14. 18 inch reflectors — the lamps are 67 feet above the level of the Sea.

On the 3d October 1817 the new Light House at Tarpaulin Cove in the Vineyard Sound was lighted as a fixed light with 7 lamps & reflectors.

On the 4th of October 1817 the new Light House on the West Chop of Holmes Hole, Vineyard Sound, was lighted as a fixed light with 8 lamps & reflectors.

Directions for the Vineyard Sound.

Vessels entering the Vineyard Sound from the Westward

must leave Gay-Head light on the starboard hand about 3 miles when it bears S. E. by S. steer S.E by E. until Tarpaulin Cove light bears S.E and then stear for it until within half a mile of it then steer to the eastward by it's keeping about that distance until the light bears West then steer S.S.W into the Cove and anchor in 3. 4 or 5 fathoms the light bearing from S.S.W to S.W.— In steering from Tarpaulin Cove to Holmes' Hole Harbor bring the Cove light to bear W. by S. or W by S½ and steer E by S or E. by S ½ S having regard to the tide which runs strong until the West Chop light bears S. E by S. then steer S.E. by E or E.S.E. until the Chop light bears west one mile distant then steer south for Holmes Hole harbor and anchor in 4 or 5 fathoms light bearing N W or N.W by N as in going further up the harbor the light will be shut in by the woods to the southward of it you have the best anchorage in the middle of the harbor in three fathoms.

In coming into the Vineyard Sound bound Eastward over the Shoals Leave by Gay-Head lights as before directed and steer N.E. by E. until the West Chop light bears S.E by S. then steer E.S.E. or S.E by E. giving the Chop a birth of one mile or come not into less than 4 fathoms until it bears W. by N ½ N then steer E by S ½ S for Nantucket lights which you will make

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right ahead, in keeping that bearing and steering that course you will go channel way between the Hedge Fence and Squash meadow Shoals where you will have from 11 to 13 fathoms water until you pass Cape Poge light. In coming from the eastward keep the Chop light bearing from W by S to W.S.W. until you are within 1½ miles of the light then steer S.W or S.W by W for the harbor and anchor in 5. 4 or 3 fathoms but if bound out of the Sound to the westward give the West chop a birth of half a mile and steer W.S.W. until the Cove light bears W. by S. then steer S.W. by W. which will carry you out of the Sound.

Bearings and Distance

Gay-head light bears from Tarpaulin Cove light S.W.¼ S 9 miles dist.
Tarpaulin Cove light bears from the West Chop light West 10 miles dist.
From the West Chop light the West end of the Hedge Fence S.S.E ½ E 3½ miles distant.
From the West Chop light to the east end of the middle ground N.W. ½ W ¼ mile distant.
From the West Chop to the East Chop S.E by E. 2 miles.
From the West Chop light to the Squash meadow Shoal S.E by E ½ E. 5 miles distant.
From the West Chop Light to the east end of the Hedge Fence E. ¾ S. 6 miles distant.

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On the 3d October 1817 the new Light House on Petit Manan was lit as a fixed light with 9 lamps and reflectors.

A person has been employed by me to take the bearings and distance from the Light of the several dangerous Rocks that lay near it with the courses from the Light to the several harbors in the neighborhood of it – I have not yet received his communications, but as soon as they are made they will be handed you.

I am very respectfully
your most obt. Servt.

Henry A. S. Dearborn Esqr.
Superintendant of Lt. Houses
in Massachusetts.

Winslow Lewis –
Superintendant for
Lighting the United States
Light Houses. –