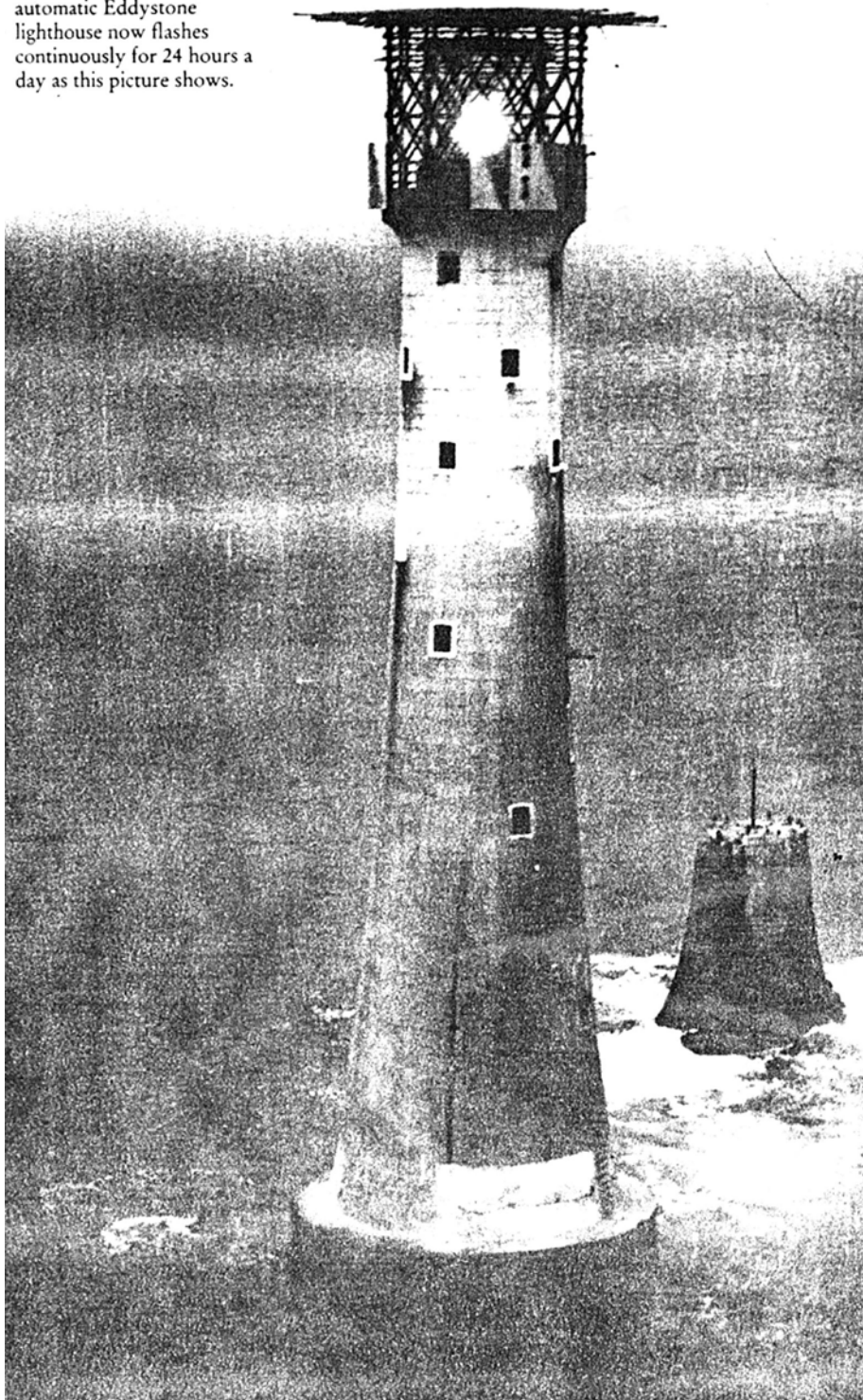


ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. BULLETIN

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2000 EDITION

The light in the
automatic Eddystone
lighthouse now flashes
continuously for 24 hours a
day as this picture shows.



PRESIDENT	Mrs. Bettye Ross	(02) 9589 – 0229
SECRETARY	Mrs. Valda Behag	(02) 9546 – 2819
TREASURER	Mrs. Dora Lenane	(02) 9181 – 2121
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Wesley Fairhall	(02) 9546 – 5555
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Bernard Sharah	(02) 0567 – 8989
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BULLETIN EDITOR	Mr. Richard Henke	(02) 9587 – 8207
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PUBLIC OFFICER	Mr. Robert McGarn	(02) 9587 – 4469
AUDITOR	Mrs. L. Thompson	

Meetings are held 8 PM every second Tuesday of the month (except January) in the Meeting Room 1st Floor, Rockdale Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale. Members, please bring a plate. Visitors are welcome.

NEXT MEETINGS

September 12th and October 10th

“Video’s on Australiana”

With many thanks to our Treasurer and Social Secretary Mrs. Dora Lenane we will have the privilege to see a series of films on Australia.

LET’S EXPLORE GLADESVILLE

DATE: Wednesday, November 1st, 2000 at 10:15 AM
DEPARTS FROM: Beside Sydney Town Hall in Druitt Street to catch the Bus.
CONTACT: Mrs. Dora Lenane on (02) 9181 – 2121

Visit Historical Rockend Cottage in Punt Road, Gladesville built in the early 1850’s by John Crotty.

Rockend is a Nineteenth Century Sandstone Cottage clinging to the edge of a rocky elevation above Looking Glass Bay at the Parramatta River near Bedlam Point at Gladesville. It is a single-storey building with a large attic and two additional wings, built in a style, which architectural historians refer to as “*Victorian Georgian*”.

Andrew (Banjo) Patterson had been in residence at Rockend in the 1870’s while he attended Sydney Grammar School.

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY STALL AT THE BEXLEY FAIR

DATE: Saturday, November 4th, 2000

Mrs. Joan Byrne-Rankin has booked a site for St. George Historical Society to have a stall to the Bexley Fair. Any donations of Craft, Cakes, Jams and other items will be gratefully accepted.

For any enquiries, please contact Mrs. Bettye Ross on (02) 9589 – 0229 in the evening

THE EDITORS REPORT

I trust that all members are in good health, and for those who are ailing, the society sends its prayers and well wishes for a speedy recovery.

It would be wonderful to see more members at our monthly meetings, please make an effort to come to even one meeting during the year. The guest speakers always deliver an interesting talk on their area of knowledge. I would also implore members to support Mrs. Dora Lenane and Mrs. Joan Fairhall by attending the outings organised by these ladies.

I offer a very special thanks to Mrs. Bettye Ross, Mrs Dora Lenane and Mrs. Joan Fairhall for their contributions towards this bulletin, without their fine articles and information this bulletin would be empty.

This bulletin would not exist if it were not for contributions of articles by society members. If you would like to see your name in print please let me know what you have to offer, are you approaching a special Birthday, Wedding anniversary, or have visited a historic building which you thought would be suitable for us to arrange a trip to please put pen to paper and tell us about it. I am always eager to hear from you and share your ideas with others.

To get your information to me, call me, or any member of my family on (02) 9587 – 8307 or mail your news to me at the following address: 27 Waratah Street, Bexley NSW 2207

Kindest regards,

Richard Henke
The Editor

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wesley Fairhall (Senior Vice-President) has taken off on a seven-month tour of South Africa and I understand South America and I have stepped into his role as President. Our thoughts will be with Wesley as he travels but we shall be glad when his happy face appears back with us.

Our thoughts too are with those who we know have been going through health problems, three that come to mind are Margaret Persen, Joan Fairhall and Arthur Ellis. Be assured our thoughts and prayers are with you all on the road to recovery and we look forward to seeing you at our Meetings soon.

I'd like to take this opportunity of reminding all that our Meetings are above the Rockdale Library at 8 PM. the second Tuesday of the month, the more recent ones being 12th September and 10th October.

It is encouraging to see Members, who can't frequent most meetings, to see them now and again. You are missing some good Speakers, pleasant company and a very edible supper.

It is disappointing to those who arrange Speakers and also to the Speakers who have often traveled some distance to have a small group to address.

Remember we get out of any activity what we put into it and if we don't see you soon then I hope you'll join us on one of our outings.

Best wishes to all,

Bettye Ross
The President

FEEDBACK FROM A RECENT EXCURSION

The Ward Havard Lecture at Liverpool Library on Saturday, August 5th, 2000

Once again a group of members from the St. George Historical Society were warmly welcomed by the President, Mrs. Kath Gee, and members of the Liverpool District Historical Society for the 34th Annual Ward Havard Memorial Lecture. This year Mrs. Olive Havard, 1903 – 1997, was also remembered.

In the many years that we have been attending these lectures we have always been informed and entertained by the quality and variety of the speakers and the subjects they have covered. This year proved to be no exception.

Councillor Cecelia Anthony, representing the Mayor of Liverpool also welcomed the assembly.

President Gee then introduced the speaker, Associate Professor Carol Liston, who spoke on “The Female Orphan School of Parramatta, 1818 – 1886.

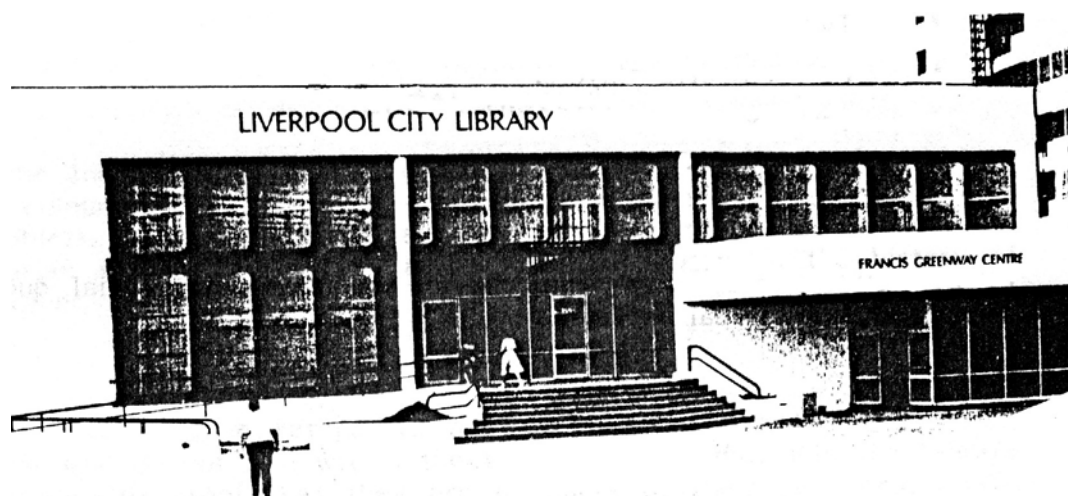
Professor Liston is the Associate Professor of History at the University of Western Sydney, whose Parramatta Campus has been established on the historic site of the Female Orphan School.

Her research has investigated the building fabric, the management of the orphanage and the personal lives of the staff and children who worked there. Old pictures of the house show that the design was that of a Stately British House and much repair to that which would have been expected for such a building, much of which is still standing today.

Also touched upon was a male orphanage near Liverpool, Professor Liston is researching with the intent of producing a book on the school and after the interest she aroused. I'm sure it will have many interested purchasers.

A Vote of thanks to the speaker was given then the guessing competition was drawn and First Prize was carried off by one of our attending members, Mrs. Gloria Henke. We were then invited to partake of a beautiful afternoon tea, after which we departed with thanks to the organisers and workers for a great social afternoon.

SOURCE: Mrs. Joan Fairhall – Social Director



THE EDDYSTONE LIGHTHOUSE

At a Service recently our Minister mentioned The Eddystone Lighthouse and said the third builder of this edifice had placed at its base a plaque stating "except the Lord build the house, the builders labor in vain" from Psalm 127:1. This Lighthouse (4th on the site) had been built by John Smeaton. and stood from 1759 to 1882 when it was replaced by one of much greater height.

But to begin at the beginning I had noticed a replica of Eddystone Lighthouse at Lydham Hall, and knew I had heard of such a landmark before but couldn't recall anything about it, so I set to at the Mitchell Library and decided to find out what was famous about this Lighthouse.

Firstly of course it is the most famous Lighthouse in the world. It is 14 miles south-west of Plymouth and 9 miles south of Rame Head, Cornwall and stands on ridges of gneiss rock which have been battered about ceaselessly from the sea with 23 jagged pinnacles rising up above the water pointing towards the land. It can only be seen half a mile away and goes down into the depths of the English Channel on a very wide base. Seafarers named it the "Eddy-Stones" because of the turmoil of currents flowing through its rocky teeth. Some sea captains gave this reef such a wide berth their ship was wrecked on rocks of the Channel Islands or the rugged north coast of France.

In 1694 a patent was granted by the crown "to erect a Lighthouse or Beacon with a light upon the rock called Eddystone off Plymouth... as safe direction for ships hereafter to avoid that dangerous Rock upon which the lives of so many of our good Subjects have perished," Six years later Henry Winstanley from Saffron, Walden, Essex, a ship owner, inventor, showman, designer, conjurer, engraver and businessman commenced work on the first Eddystone Lighthouse. He had drawn plans up the previous winter and his men armed with picks set to fix 12 iron bars 3½ inches. diameter in a circular pattern on the rock. Pick after pick was discarded too blunt to proceed, but with perseverance six months later the holes were ready for their iron stanchions.

Work proceed slowly and Winstanley, working from the guard ship Terrible, which had been provided for him as an assuery of safety due to England being engaged in one of the numerous wars with France, was kidnapped. It seems the captain of the Terrible strayed from his position to check out a nearby French merchant ship with an eye to looting. However a thick fog descended preventing the French ship being captured and also the Terrible from returning to Eddystone. The kidnapped Winstanley was brought before Louis XI V who was concerned at the incident, punished the officer responsible and after endowing Winstanley with many presents sent him home with the alleged words "your work is for the benefit of all nations using the sea. I am at war with England, not with humanity."

November 14 Henry Winstanley lit the first Eddystone Lighthouse's tallow candles suspended in the lantern gallery of this 80 ft. tower. Constant wave and spray prevented the cement between the blocks of the solid base setting, often the tower shook and shuddered as frequent storms assailed it so Winstanley set to and increased its height after encasing the whole circumference with iron bands and also increasing the size and height of its base. This cost Winstanley personally \$000 and was finished in 1699 being known as the second Eddystone Lighthouse. He stated he could wish for nothing better than to be in it during "the greatest storm that ever was".

Unfortunately in November 1703 whilst he was effecting some repairs to his prize one of the greatest storms ever in the British Isles hit and thousands of people died in its few short hours of devastation. Houses were swept away, ships as well, with 8,000 sailors lost, and inland rivers burst their banks. When the sun came the next morning the twisted remains of the 12 iron piles which held the base stood alone. Henry Winstanley had got his wish.

Two years later John Rudyerd a Cornishman in the silk trade decided he would design and build the next Eddystone Lighthouse and enlisted the services of two expert shipwrights from Her Majesty's

Naval Dockyard at Woolwich. He was to build it of timber and when almost completed in July 1708 lit the first 24 tallow candles on his magnificent structure. Five years later he died but it stood in service for another 46 years until one of the three keepers named Henry Hall woke one night to find a fire in the lantern room. He was a man of 94 years of age, and tried to wake the other two keepers who had had a heavy drinking night. Henry using only a leather bucket was flinging the water upwards towards the fire when finally his two companions woke and tried to help but the fire had too firm a hold. The lantern roof collapsed and a bullet of molten lead dripped from its remains towards the gaze of Henry Hall who was looking up. He screamed and said "God help me. I'm on fire inside!" The others were skeptical when Henry stated the molten lead had gone down his throat and the three resumed their efforts with Henry unable to communicate. The inferno was seen from the land and a boat set out to pick the three keepers up but it was not for 8 hours that the men were rescued.

Henry Hall was put under medical attention complaining and mumbling about his awful experiences but it was put down to the dreadful experience along with its shock in one of such advanced years. Henry spent 12 days convalescing before he suddenly died. The Doctor to allay all doubts of Henry's declarations performed a post-mortem only to find a flat piece of lead weighing 7 ounces 5 drams in the pit of his stomach. Today this can be seen in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh.

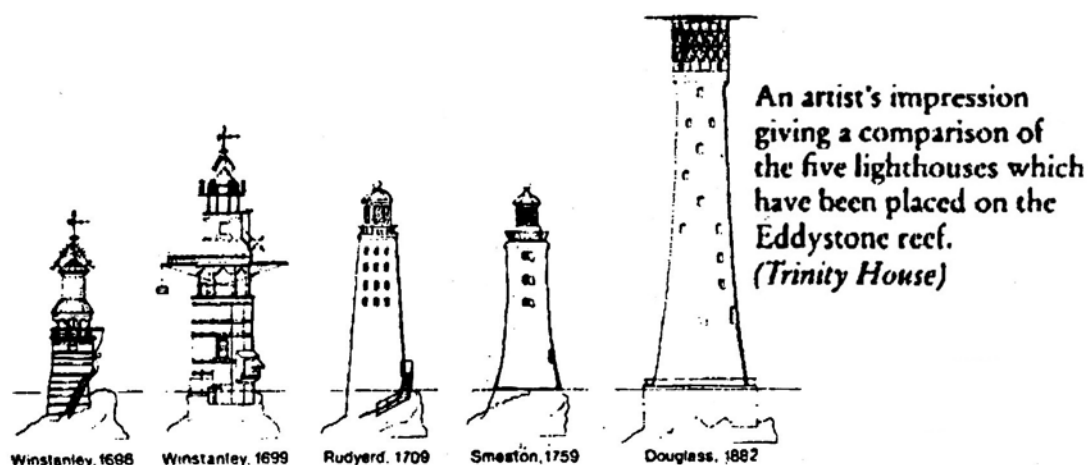
John Smeaton of Yorkshire was a mathematical instrument maker who also turned his talents to engineering. He decided to build a new Eddystone Lighthouse of stone and work began August 1756 and was an engineering feat. At last after three gruelling years of conflict between man and nature, the Eddystone reef was once again conquered using 1,493 blocks of stone weighing almost 1,000 tons, 700 marble joggles, 1,800 oaken trenails and £40,000 to do it. He placed an inscription on the last stone '24th August 1759 Laus Deo' as well as the text from the Psalms. Some years later he commented that the glow from the lighthouse appeared 7 miles away.

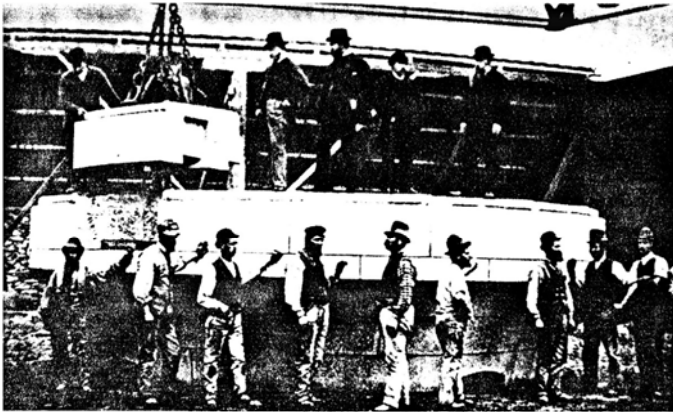
Smeaton's Eddystone Lighthouse stood from 1759 until it was decided to build another taller and larger one. This 5th and last one, still standing, was built by James Douglass 1882 and differed from Smeaton's use of trenails and dowels to Douglass preferring dovetailing the blocks of stone together.

So next time you are at Lydham Hall take time to see the replica of Eddystone Lighthouse in the cabinet above the stairs and to the right of the back dormer window and dwell for a little time on the mammoth task each of the foregoing builders undertook.

SOURCE: "The Rock Lighthouses of Britain: The End of an Era?"
By Christopher P. Nicholson 2nd Ed.
Pub. by Whittles of Caithness, 1995

Illustrations and article on the Eddystone Lighthouse were contributed by Mrs. Bettye Ross.

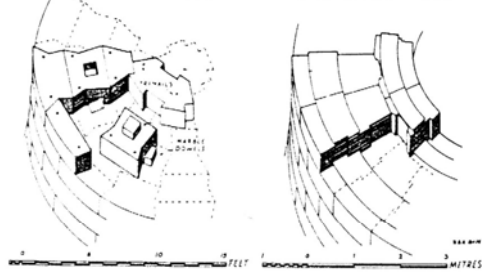




The EDDYSTONE MASONRY DETAILS

SMEATON 1756

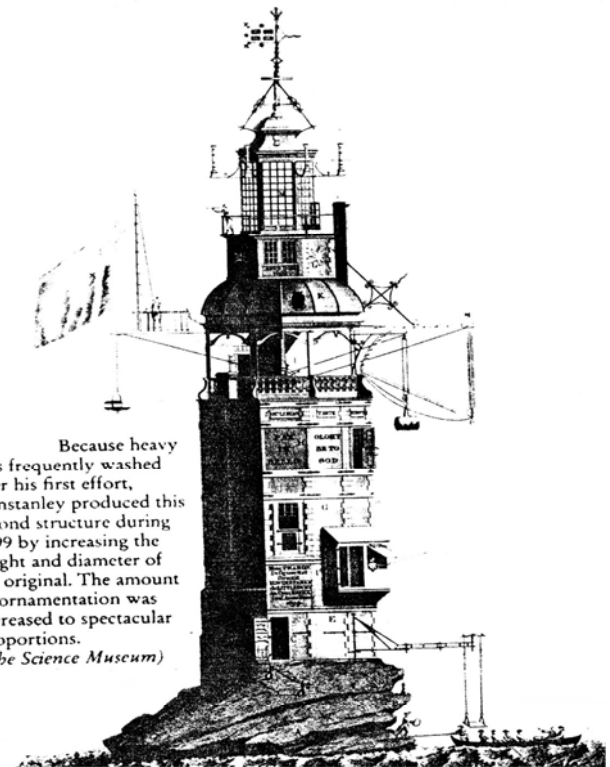
DOUGLASS 1882



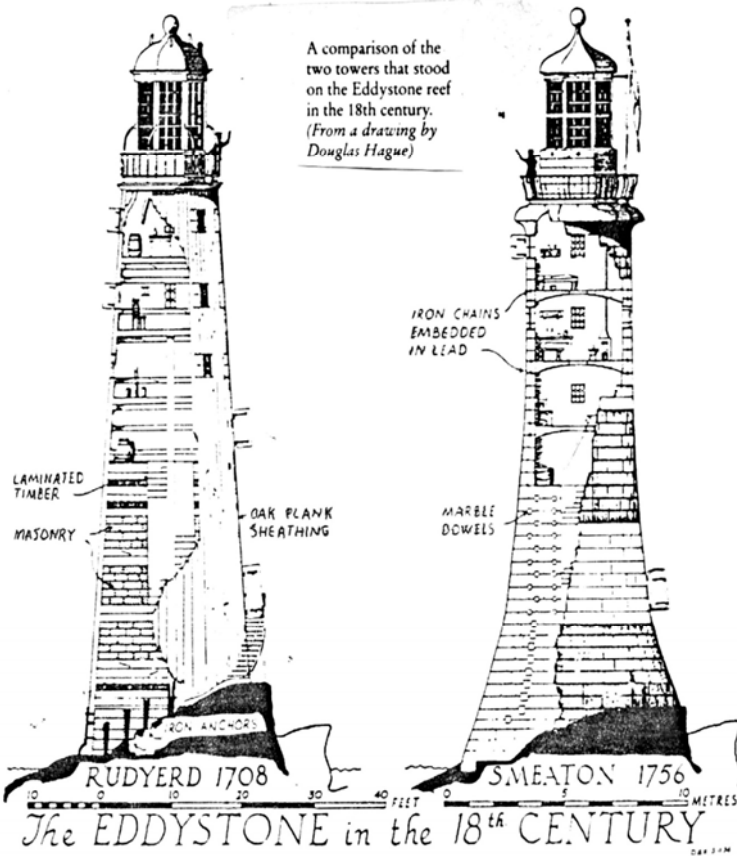
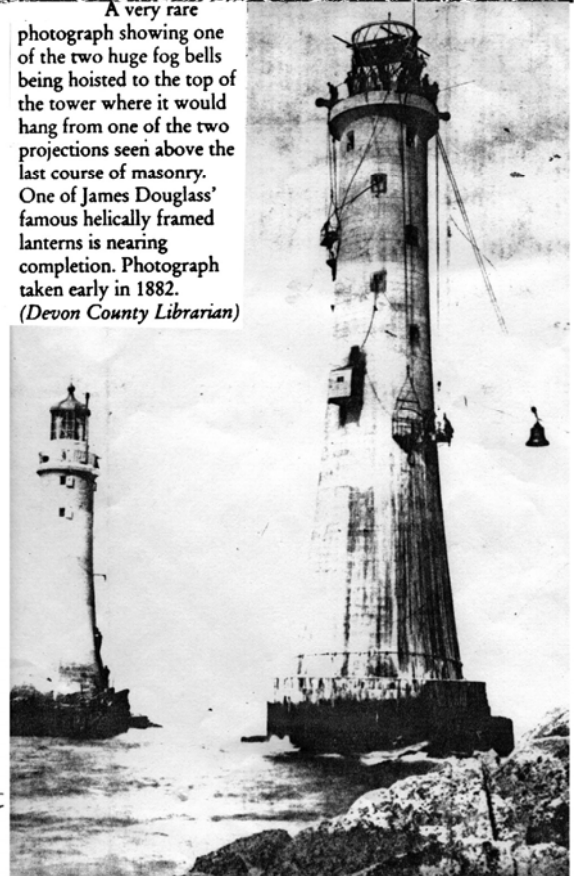
Above: Some of the masons responsible for the incredible accuracy of Douglass' tower posed on the final few courses of the lighthouse prior to their dispatch to the reef in 1881. The 'dovetailing' of the blocks can be clearly seen. (Courtesy of P. G. Lacey)

A comparison of the masonry details from the Smeaton and Douglass towers that show how Smeaton used trenails and dowels, while Douglass preferred dovetailing the blocks of stone together. (From a drawing by Douglas Hague)

Because heavy seas frequently washed over his first effort, Winstanley produced this second structure during 1699 by increasing the height and diameter of his original. The amount of ornamentation was increased to spectacular proportions. (The Science Museum)



A very rare photograph showing one of the two huge fog bells being hoisted to the top of the tower where it would hang from one of the two projections seen above the last course of masonry. One of James Douglass' famous helically framed lanterns is nearing completion. Photograph taken early in 1882. (Devon County Librarian)



A comparison of the two towers that stood on the Eddystone reef in the 18th century. (From a drawing by Douglas Hague)

IRON CHAINS
EMBEDDED
IN LEAD

MARBLE
DOWELS

OAK PLANK
SHEATHING

LAMINATED
TIMBER
MASONRY

RUDYERD 1708

SMEATON 1756

The EDDYSTONE in the 18th CENTURY

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th, 2000

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Membership	465.20	Postage – June, 1999	67.20
Donations	70.00	Postage of Bulletin	284.75
Sale of Publications	306.90	RAHS Conference	80.00
Raffles	111.00	Laser Labels	12.25
Badges	24.00	RAHS Subscriptions (50)	60.00
Profit from Donated Goods	15.75	G.I.O. Insurance	199.95
Sale of Craft	37.70	Rotary Club Rockdale	25.00
Christina Stead Day	32.85		
			<hr/>
	1063.40		729.15
		F.I.D. \$ 0.45 GDT \$ 5.50	5.95
Bank Interest	2.86		
		Balance in Bank	<hr/>
Bank Balance b/f 1999	1267.26		1598.42
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$ 2333.52		\$2333.52

I have examined the Books, Bank Statements, Vouchers, Cheques and Butts presented to Mrs. Dora Lenane, Treasurer of this above Society, and this presents a true statement of these financial affairs as at June 30th, 2000.

Audited and found correct 29.6.2000

L. Thompson

WORDS OF WISDOM

Give a man fish he will have food for the day, Teach him to fish and he will be fed for a lifetime.

We have too many high sounding words, and too few actions that correspond with them.

I find that a great part of the information, I have was acquired by looking up something, and finding something else on the way.

Count the day won when, turning on its axis, this earth imposes no additional taxes.

A teacher affects eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops.

If people would consider not so much wherein they differ, as wherein they agree, there would be far less uncharitableness and angry feeling in the world.

There is no accounting for tastes, as the woman said when somebody told her that the police wanted her son.

Act so as to elicit the best in others and thereby in thyself.