



TWO LIGHTS: EAST TOWER

CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE
JUNE 30, 2007



ABOUT TWO LIGHTS

IN 1827 THE ORIGINAL STONE MARKER AT CAPE ELIZABETH EIGHT MILES SOUTH OF PORTLAND, MAINE WAS REPLACED BY THE FIRST TWIN LIGHTHOUSES ON THE MAINE COAST. THE PAIRED LIGHTS SERVED AS "RANGE LIGHTS" ALLOWING SHIPS APPROACHING PORTLAND HARBOR TO DETERMINE IF THEY WERE ON COURSE. IN 1855 FRESNEL LENSES WERE INSTALLED IN THE TOWERS AND IN 1874 THE ORIGINAL RUBBLESTONE TOWERS WERE REPLACED WITH NEW 67-FOOT CAST IRON TOWERS EMPLOYING SECOND ORDER FRENSEL LENSES.

IN JANUARY 1885 MARCUS HANNA, CIVIL WAR MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER AND KEEPER AT TWO LIGHTS, PERFORMED A HEROIC RESCUE OF TWO SAILORS FROM THE GROUND SCHOONER "AUSTRALIA" OUT OF BOOTHBAY. SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE WAS AWARDED A GOLD LIFESAVING MEDAL FOR "HEROISM INVOLVING GREAT PERIL TO HIS LIFE". IN 1997 THE US COAST GUARD LAUNCHED THE 170-FOOT BUOY TENDER, MARCUS HANNA WHOSE HOME PORT IS SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE.

DURING THE 1920'S TWO LIGHTS BECAME A SUBJECT OF RENOWN AMERICAN ARTIST EDWARD HOOPER. IN 1924 THE WEST LIGHT WAS PERMANENTLY EXTINGUISHED. ANOTHER DRAMATIC RESCUE OCCURRED IN 1947 WHEN KEEPER EARLE DRINKWATER SAVED ALL 32 CREW MEMBERS OF THE BROKEN COAL COLLIER "OAKY L. ALEXANDER".

THE EAST LIGHT IS CURRENTLY AN ACTIVE AID TO NAVIGATION OWNED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD AND LICENSED TO THE AMERICAN LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION WHICH IS WORKING WITH THE MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN, RESTORE AND PRESERVE THE LIGHTHOUSE AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S COMMENTS ON BLACK & WHITE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

BLACK & WHITE IS A VERY DIFFERENT MEDIUM FROM COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND, I AM DISCOVERING, WELL SUITED TO CERTAIN SUBJECTS. I BELIEVE THIS IS ONE OF THEM. WHILE I HAVE USED BLACK & WHITE TO POWERFUL EFFECT ON AT LEAST ONE PRIOR OCCASION IT WAS A VIEWING OF AN ANSEL ADAMS EXHIBIT DURING A RECENT VISIT WITH MY YOUNGER SON IN CLEVELAND THAT INSPIRED ME TO CONSIDER GIVING BLACK & WHITE A BROADER PLAY IN MY OWN WORK. THE RESULT IS THE CREATION OF THE BLACK & WHITE VERSION OF THIS SHOT OF ONE OF THE TWO LIGHTS IN CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE. IN DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY THE CREATION OF A REALLY GOOD BLACK & WHITE IMAGE IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS ONE MIGHT THINK. IN THE END, I AM SURE, AS IN SO MUCH OF PHOTOGRAPHY, THERE IS A BIT OF MAGIC INVOLVED AND EVERY PHOTOGRAPHER ADDS HIS OR HER OWN TOUCH TO THE BASIC INCANTATION.—TOM WRIGHT

THE IMAGES

THESE IMAGES ARE CREATED FROM A SINGLE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN USING A HANDHELD 7.1 MEGAPIXEL KODAK EASYSHARE P712 DIGITAL CAMERA AND PROCESSED IN ADOBE PHOTOSHOP WITH THE GENUINE FRACTALS PLUGIN RUNNING ON A POWERBOOK G4. THE IMAGE WAS PRINTED USING EPSON ULTRACHROME (GICLEE) TECHNOLOGY.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

TOM WRIGHT IS A LONG TIME RESIDENT OF GOFFSTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE WHO IMMIGRATED FROM UPSTATE NEW YORK BY WAY OF VERMONT. HIS INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHY IS INHERITED FROM HIS FATHER, WENDELL F. WRIGHT, WHO WAS A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER ALL HIS LIFE, AND HIS LOVE OF ART FROM HIS YOUNGER SON WHO GRADUATED FROM RINGLING SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN IN SARASOTA, FL IN 2005 WITH A DEGREE IN ILLUSTRATION. A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THESE IMAGES GO TO THE THERESE G. WRIGHT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR STUDENTS AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT MANCHESTER.

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