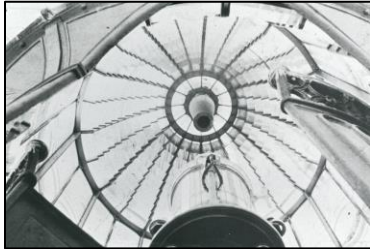




The Seaside News

The Famous Fresnel Lens



Augustin-Jean Fresnel was a famous French inventor. He created the Fresnel lens that was put into lighthouses so that they would reflect light far out to sea. This was important because lighthouses were placed in dangerous areas to warn sailors. When sailors saw the light, they knew that they had to be careful of things like sandbars. Each lighthouse was painted in a special way so that sailors could tell them apart and know where they were. Lighthouses were kind of like traffic signs that give safety information. Cape Hatteras had a Fresnel lens put into the 1854 and 1870 lighthouses. Today, the lens is in the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras, North Carolina.

People called keepers worked at the lighthouses. Being a keeper was an extremely hard job. They had many tasks to do. It was important for them to keep the lighthouse lit all night every night so that sailors were warned away from sandbars where they could get stuck and have their ship break apart from wind and waves. The keepers climbed the many lighthouse stairs every day to fill the lamp with oil so that the light would burn. In the early days of lighthouse history, they used whale oil. In the later days, they used kerosene. At night, the keepers took turns in the watch room looking out for shipwrecks in case the people on the ships needed to be rescued. During the day, the keepers would clean the lens that had more than a thousand glass prisms that reflected the light.

Joke of the Month!

What do ghosts like to eat in the summer?



I Scream



Cape Hatteras Lens Word Search

H P W M P F S Z S E H H K M Z
 I R A H F N Y P S L B T H E P
 R I V C E M E U K P J K A X C
 A S E L N F O N I T S U G U A
 B M S E L H R E S C U E D H F
 D H P K T A W D Z J V S V G V
 N Q Y H L P M I W H A W M N U
 A L G Z E V Y P N I Y S B B K
 S I F C N P C G L D Z M H M X
 L D J N S H I O V E G V E T F
 Q J T Q E C R J E A N Z C K S
 N G I S R S K C E R W P I H S
 L Y D U F R E P E E K O Q M T
 W A R N E D Q K K J U I Y Z O
 T S E R O E F J D N E L T M P

AUGUSTIN FRESNEL JEAN KEEPER LAMP LENS
 LIGHTHOUSE OIL PRISM RESCUED SAILORS SANDBAR
 SHIPWRECK SIGN WARNED WAVES WIND

Questions

1. Who invented the Fresnel Lens?
2. Why was a lighthouse lens important?
3. Name a job Keepers did every day.
4. How many prisms were in the Cape Hatteras Fresnel lens?

4. More than a thousand.

shipwrecks.

3. Light the lamp, clean the lens, fill the lamp with oil, and watch for

2. Because it warned sailors of danger such as sandbars.

1. Augustin-Jean Fresnel

Answers