

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL BIOGRAPHY OF THE GARRITY FAMILY IN PRESQUE ISLE,  
MICHIGAN

by

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This thesis research examines the lives of the Garrity family during their time of service at the range lights and lighthouses of Presque Isle, Michigan. The written history of their family is discussed and then the material history of their family is analyzed. The material history, sourced from a 2005 archaeological excavation of a kitchen dump behind the New Presque Isle Lighthouse, is analyzed in order to interpret if and how the artifacts connect with the historical record of the family. The goal of this thesis research is to discover the time of production and use for the artifacts and then determine whether or not that lines up with the timeline of the Garritys' service in Presque Isle. The artifacts that do line up with the timeline contribute to a deeper understanding of the daily lives of the Garrity family, thus providing an archaeological biography of the family rather than just the historical record. Photos are included throughout the research in an effort to allow the reader to see and understand the use of these artifacts, and in so doing better understand the Garrity family and their work as lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes.



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL BIOGRAPHY OF THE GARRITY FAMILY IN PRESQUE ISLE,  
MICHIGAN

A Thesis

Presented to the Faculty of the Department of Maritime Studies

East Carolina University

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

Masters of Arts in Maritime Studies

by

Sophia Stuart

April, 2018

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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This thesis focuses on the history of the lighthouses of Presque Isle, Michigan and the history and archaeology of the Garrity family, who served as lighthouse keepers in the area for 74 consecutive years. Although the Garritys were not the only family to serve as lighthouse keepers in Presque Isle, their service at all four lighthouses is thoroughly documented in the historical record of the area. In addition to the amount of historical documentation, the extended length of service from various members of the family results in the Garritys providing a unique view into the lives of lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes. The primary research question for this thesis is: What can the application of an “archaeological biography” approach contribute to the knowledge of the Garrity’s time at the Presque Isle lighthouses? The intent of the question is to use “archaeological biography” as a model for examining the Garrity family and their time in Presque Isle, viewing them as a unique case study in regards to lighthouse-keeping families and lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes as a whole.

“Archaeological biography” is a newer concept within the field of archaeology that is defined as, “the study of individuals, families and households, using the methods of archaeology” (Praetzellis 2016:133). This idea applies to the Garrity family because the history of their family can be further explored and examined as a result of the investigation of the artifacts found in the kitchen dump at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse. In order to create an “archaeological biography,” two basic principles must be agreed on. The first is that, “all archaeological sites are created by events and processes that occur in historical time,” and the second, “because all sites consist of the material remains of events like these, first and foremost they reflect things that happened at particular places and times, and the people who lived and worked there” (Praetzellis 2016:134).

The kitchen dump at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse and the artifacts excavated from it meet both of these requirements because, 1) the kitchen dump was formed and used in historical time, and 2), the material remains recovered from this site can then be used to, as stated above, “reflect things that happened at particular places and times, and to the people who lived and worked there” (Praetzellis 2016: 134). These artifacts and the information discovered about them, combined with the known history of the family, will result in an “archaeological biography” which will reveal new details about the Garrity family and their time at the Presque Isle lighthouses. The published and recorded history of the family is important to the Presque Isle area as part of their region’s history, but on a broader scale the Garrity family and the historical and archaeological information about them provides a unique perspective on lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes in the mid-1800s and early 1900s.

The two lighthouses in Presque Isle where the Garrity family served were built in 1840 and 1870 respectively. The first served the region as a guiding light to Presque Isle Harbor, one of the only safe harbors for ships along the treacherous coast of Northern Lake Huron, and the second as a guide for avoiding the rocky coastline of Presque Isle. Today these lighthouses serve as museums to the public, allowing tourists to explore a day in the life of a lighthouse keeper and providing a hands-on historical experience. Much of the history in the museums focuses on the Garrity family and their service as lighthouse keepers in the area. This research utilizes the historical information concerning the Garritys, as well as the archaeological data recovered from two excavations on the lighthouse premises, to develop a better understanding of the Garrity family and their work in Presque Isle. Furthermore, this work provides the public with a basic understanding of the life and work of a lighthouse keeper during the period and presents specific historical and archaeological information about the Garritys as an example of the lifestyle of

lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes. Although this topic has received some academic attention, there is still much that is unknown about the daily lives of these lighthouse keepers.

The location for this thesis work is in Presque Isle, Michigan, which is situated approximately 25 miles (40 km) north of Alpena home of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The proximity to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS) is advantageous for future archaeological research as well as access to a wide variety of historical resources within the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection in the Alpena Library.

The archaeological excavations at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse were conducted by a group of students under the supervision of Dr. Richard Clute from Alpena Community College (ACC) in 2005. Interpretation and analysis of the artifacts recovered from this excavation are the basis for the “archaeological biography” of the Garrity family presented in this thesis. In 2005, two separate excavations were conducted by the team from ACC in two different areas of the lighthouse grounds. The first was conducted in the family privy, located at the end of a cement walkway roughly 40 ft. (12 m.) from the house. The excavated privy was the most recently used privy on the grounds; there were other less recent privies that were not excavated. The family privy was a brick building that remained on the grounds until its demolition 1967 (Kimball 2005:1). The 2005 excavation of the privy yielded no artifacts other than hydrated lime, which was commonly used to prevent the spread of the odor of privies and was also used as a deterrent for flies (Kimball 2005:5).

The second of the ACC 2005 excavations was conducted on the kitchen dump, which was located about 100 ft. (30.5 m.) from the backside of the house. It is unclear when this depository came into use, but the presence of 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts like batteries and lightbulb stems on the top layer of soil suggest the kitchen dump was utilized even after the lighthouse was

automated and keepers no longer resided there. The kitchen dump excavation yielded several important artifacts including, personal items such as women's make-up and panty-hoes as well as items of general use such as liquor bottles and batteries (Kimball 2005:5). However, since the surface of the kitchen dumpsite was not buried, there is always the possibility that the site was looted and, therefore, an element of the archaeological integrity of the site may have been compromised. Conclusions drawn later in this thesis about how these different artifacts confirm stories or events from the historical record will assist in the construction of the "archaeological biography" of the Garrity family.

The historical research for this thesis sets the framework and foundation for the historical and archaeological significance of the New Presque Isle Lighthouse and the keepers who lived there. The historical research comes from both the primary and secondary resources listed in the bibliography, many of which are housed in the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection, in addition to information from local historical authors such as Judith Kimball, who worked on the 2005 excavation, and Janet Young who has researched the history of the Garrity family extensively.

A detailed genealogy of the Garrity family during their time of service as lighthouse keepers will provide further significant historical context to this study. This genealogy is obtained from primary documents such as census lists, the logs of the lighthouse keepers, and other primary-source documents. The genealogy of the Garrity family, as well as a list of the other lighthouse keepers, helps define the list of residents who would have utilized the privy and the kitchen dump during the time period. Some of the descendants of the Garrity family still reside in Presque Isle and the surrounding area and according to both Janet Young and Judith Kimball, they were helpful and hospitable when each of these women were conducting their own

research about the Garrity family and their history in Presque Isle (personal communication Janet Young and Judith Kimball, October 2016).

Listed below are the foundational research questions for the project.

Primary Research Question:

- \* What can the application of the “archaeological biography” approach contribute to the knowledge of the Garrity family’s time at the Presque Isle lighthouses?

Secondary Research Questions:

- \* What is and how has “archaeological biography” been used in archaeology and how is it relevant to this study?
- \* What additional information can be interpreted about the Garrity family and their time as lighthouse keepers based on the excavated material culture?

To conduct this research it was necessary to undertake a more thorough examination of the artifacts and archaeological data recovered from the kitchen dump and privy sites and to interpret their use in a historical context. Very few people besides the Garrity family and the additional keepers resided on the site of the New Presque Isle Lighthouse for any significant length of time. As a result, few people could have contributed to the overall artifact accumulation in the kitchen dump at the lighthouse, which decreases the margin of error in this regard. Because the historical record focuses on the Garrity family more than the grounds-workers, the interpretation focuses on the historical record of the family and how the recovered artifacts illustrate their lives as lighthouse keepers in Presque Isle. These interpretations and conclusions contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of the Garrity family as lighthouse keepers, thus making their jobs and their lives more tangible to the members of the public learning about them in the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum.

Above all, this research offers a broader understanding of what the life of a Great Lakes lighthouse keeper in the late 19th and early 20th centuries entailed. While plenty of historical documents on the family exist, this research combines the historical and archaeological information and portrays the life and service of the Garrity family in the form of an archaeological biography, presenting them as a unique case study of lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes.

The results of this thesis research have both small and broad scale applications for future research. Small-scale applications may include similar case studies being conducted on the archaeological remains from other privies or kitchen dump sites at the other lighthouses in the surrounding area. On a larger scale, this study broadens the understanding of the lives and work of the lighthouse keepers of the Great Lakes and how the Garrity family contributed to that legacy of service both historically and materially. Additionally, this research offers a platform for combining historical and archaeological research by using physical artifacts to confirm different stories or events from the historical record of the family, thus creating an archaeological biography of the Garritys and their service as lighthouse keepers.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### Historical Research:

The majority of the historical research for this thesis was obtained through research in books, sources available on the Internet, and historical archives in both Michigan and Wisconsin. A large portion of this research comes from the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection in the Alpena Library. The variety of resources available there, such as the microfilm of the lighthouse keepers logs of the Garrity family and the Pat C. Labadie Collection were used to obtain historical information about the area as well as information about the genealogy of the



Garrity family and their records as lighthouse keepers. Some additional locations with historical sources were accessed during the 2016 East Carolina University (ECU) summer field school in Sheboygan, WI, including the Mead and Manitowoc Public Libraries. Additional historical information was found in local museums in Presque Isle such as the Presque Isle Township Museum and the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum and the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum.

#### Archaeological Research:

The archaeological research for this project includes a material culture study of the artifacts excavated in 2005. There are plenty of artifacts to examine without further excavations in the area being conducted at this time, which helped significantly with minimizing the cost of resources needed to complete this thesis. Analysis of the material culture includes organization of the material by cataloguing the artifacts photographically and then creating a display for them. This catalogue can be used in combination with the historical record to teach the public at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum more about the lighthouse keepers and the different items they used in their everyday lives. Detailed artifact studies are an essential part of this research that help to illuminate the life and work of the Garrity family.

The research question regarding what can be learned from the artifacts guides the interpretation towards possible historical conclusions. For example, were there food scraps in the kitchen dump that could be indicative of the diet the lighthouse keepers had? Did the presence of liquor bottles correlate with any record of alcoholism within the family or among the workers on the property? Were there any remnants of common lighthouse supplies in the kitchen dump? Could any of this information then be tied back into the historical record? Questions such as these, posed toward each individual artifact, helped to determine what, if any,

historical information could be confirmed by the presence of the artifacts at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse site.

The desired effect for this archaeological interpretation is to supplement present interpretation at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum. The museum display is currently very interactive, but the display of the artifacts recovered from the excavation is out of sight in the basement, and there is no information about the individual artifacts that are displayed. The goal of this thesis is to provide a better overall understanding of how these artifacts exemplify the “archaeological biography” of the Garrity’s life so that this information can then be shared with the public in general, as well as the local community in order to create a better understanding of their lives as lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes.

## **PREVIOUS RESEARCH**

Little peer-reviewed or academic research has been conducted specifically on the Great Lakes’ lighthouse keeper families. Many of the academic texts concerning lighthouse keepers focus on the job as a whole and do not focus on specific examples of the keepers. Two exceptions to this pattern of scholarship are *Lighthouses and Keepers: The U.S. Lighthouse Service and its Legacy* by Dennis L. Noble (2014) and *America’s Lighthouses: Their Illustrated History since 1716* by Francis Ross Holland Jr. (1972). Both of these works combine general information about lighthouse keepers, while using a variety of specific examples from across the country. Nevertheless, the specific look at lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes remains minimal. The report from the 2005 ACC excavation will be one of the primary pieces of information used for this project (Kimball 2005).

Two theses from East Carolina University’s Maritime Studies program that focused on lighthouses were useful to this research. These include: *Ship Ashore! The Role of Risk in the*

*Development of the United States Life Saving Service and its Effects on Wrecking Patterns along the North Carolina Coast* by Joshua Marano (2012) and *A Historical and Archaeological Analysis of the Middle Island Life Saving Station: Applying Site Formation Theory to Coastal Maritime Infrastructure Sites* by Andrew Weir (2007). In addition to these theses, the Ph.D. dissertation of Dr. Jennifer McKinnon entitled *The Archaeology of Florida's US Life-Saving Service Houses of Refuge and Life-Saving Stations* (2010), will provide an example for analysis of artifacts from a lighthouse, and was beneficial to the overall execution of this project.

Beyond peer-reviewed academic studies, the extent of historical work on the lighthouses of Presque Isle comes from two local authors, Janet Young and Judith Kimball. Janet's work focused on the genealogy of the lighthouse keepers, specifically the Garritys, and their service as a family. Her primary work on the area is entitled *A Place Called Presque Isle* (2015). Judith Kimball has also written on the lighthouses of Presque Isle in her book *Postcard History Series: Grand Lake and Presque Isle* (2015), and served as the historical consultant to the excavation team from ACC in 2005 (2005). Her first-hand account of the 2005 excavation contributes to the archaeological portion of this thesis research. Personal communication with both of these women revealed a wealth of knowledge about the region, its history, and the Garrity family, which proved to be of considerable help throughout this thesis research.

In regards to publications on "archaeological biography," due to the recently new nature of the concept, it is still somewhat sparsely addressed in academia. Aside from Adrian Praetzellis' references to the concept in his book, *Archaeological Theory in a Nutshell* (2016), mentioned previously in this chapter, there are some academic publications that discuss archaeological biography, but are not written as one because the term had not yet been introduced. The best example of this is Anne Yentsch's work, *A Chesapeake Family and Their*

*Slaves: A Study in Historical Archaeology* (1994). Yentsch drew on her skills as a historical archaeologist to examine the Calvert family and their ownership of slaves in their Maryland household in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Yentsch 1994:8-20). Although she titles her research “a study in historical archaeology,” the way in which she reveals new information about the family through artifacts and information recovered from the site where the family once lived could be termed today as an “archaeological biography.”

There are two other academic works that explore the concept of “archaeological biography”, but do not specifically address it. The first work is a journal article by Kristjan Mímisson, entitled, “Twisted Lives: On the Temporality and Materiality of Biographical Presences” (2012). He defines biography as, “merely a generic term for a multitude of historical narratives that aim to outline the social life, the processual career and the cyclical transformations of both persons and things,” and states that biography can be written about one or the other (Mímisson 2012:456). However, he then quotes Fredrik Falhander’s work entitled *Archaeology as Science Fiction: A Microarchaeology of the Unknown* (2001), which states, “many attempts to the individual within archaeology have remained on the level of accrediting past peoples with generalized agency and abilities, knowledgability, self-awareness and self-determination, creativity and intention” (Falhander 2001:16). Though this work does not quite address “archaeological biography,” Mímisson does conclude that biography on its own, without some sort of proof, is lacking and also stresses the importance of chronology when establishing that proof (Mímisson 2012:456). The chronology of the artifacts found at the kitchen dump site contributes proof of their dates of manufacture and use, which helps connect them directly to the Garrity family who used and then discarded them during their time at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse.

In the second work, Jody Joy's article, "Reinvigorating Object Biography: Reproducing the Drama of Object Lives"(2009), she discusses "object biographies" and how the biographies of historical objects can be used alongside personal biographies to enhance the general knowledge regarding a person or family (Joy 2009:552). Her opening sentence states that, "Objects have always been at the centre of archaeological research but, prompted by the increasing prominence of object studies in the social sciences, archaeologists have become more interested in relationships between people and objects" (Joy 2009:540). Although her general idea of "object biographies" is not what is being discussed in this thesis, her point about the importance of objects and their relationship to the people archaeologists are studying aligns perfectly. The study of material culture often mandates that the archaeologist learn about the person who created or used an object, and thus the story of that person or group of persons becomes enhanced by the study of that specific artifact. This applies to the Garrity family because the information gathered on the artifacts discovered in the kitchen dump provides additional details about their daily lives as lighthouse keepers in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

As stated above, the primary research question for this thesis is, what can the application of the "archaeological biography" approach contribute to the knowledge of the Garrity's time at the Presque Isle lighthouses? This question is answered in the third and fourth chapters where the artifacts are analyzed and then the results are discussed. The secondary question of what is "archaeological biography," how has it been used and how does it pertain to this project is answered above. The other secondary question of, what additional information can be interpreted about the Garrity family and their time as lighthouse keepers based on the excavated material culture, is answered in the following chapters. Chapter two discusses the history of the

region and the Garrity family in order to form a basis for understanding the historical context before examining the artifacts in chapter three.

## CHAPTER 2: THE HISTORY OF THE PRESQUE ISLE LIGHTHOUSES AND THE GARRITY FAMILY

Among all the hosts who are called to the service of the government...perhaps none is charged with duties of such moment and of such universal usefulness as is the lighthouse keeper. The soldier and the statesman protect the national honor and the person and property of the citizen, and their acts are performed in the gaze of the world. But the quiet man who trims and lights the shore and harbor lights, and watches them through the long night...stands his vigil for all humanity, asking no questions as to the nationality or purpose of him whom he directs to safety.

-William S. Pelletreau (Dolin 2016:xv)

The danger, adventure, and never-ending solitude experienced by lighthouse keepers has fascinated historians, students, poets, and the general public for hundreds of years. However, due to the lack of documentation in some respects, certain aspects of this career are still a mystery to the academic world. The purpose of this thesis research is to use the historical and archaeological record of the Garrity family in Presque Isle and their service as lighthouse keepers to broaden the understanding of their family's career and to look at the careers of lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes through a case-specific lens.

In order to establish a framework for the historical importance of the artifacts from the Presque Isle lighthouse, which are analyzed in this thesis, it is important to begin with a brief history of the Presque Isle community and the lighthouses within it. This chapter examines the early history of the area, the history of Presque Isle, and the history of the two lighthouses that were constructed in 1840 and 1870. In addition to this information, a brief history of the keepers of the lighthouses is included. Due to their length of service at the lighthouses in Presque Isle, the majority of the information about the keepers focuses on the Garrity family. However, in order to present a thorough history of the keepers of the Presque Isle lighthouses, the other keepers, those present both before and after the Garrity family, are briefly examined as well.

## **The History of Presque Isle**

Michigan's early history is similar to all other Great Lakes states in that the trading of furs and the establishment of settlements was taking place around the lakes long before the territory officially became the state of Michigan on January 26th, 1837 (Wallin 1990). The fur trade initially drew people to the Great Lakes, as they were the hub for the French fur trade in the 1700s. In fact, it was French explorers and traders that named the peninsula, Presque Isle, which translates to "nearly an island" in French (Young 2015:8). This description is fitting as the peninsula is connected to the mainland by a very thin strip of land and is located toward the northeastern corner of Michigan approximately 270 miles (434.5 km) north of Detroit. French explorers identified Presque Isle on their early maps of the area in the 1700s because the peninsula created a safe harbor for them to rest for the night during their explorations of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan (Young 2015:8-10).

Over time, as the fur trade declined and more people moved to Michigan, fishing became the primary industry in the area. It reached its peak in the 1840s when Presque Isle and the nearby town of Thunder Bay reportedly produced a combined 12,000 barrels of fish equaling over 15% of the American and Canadian fishing industry on the upper Great Lakes (Young 2015:53). As time went on, and the country continued to grow and develop, the primary industry shifted from fishing to the lumber trade. Lumber was used locally for building and supplying the steamships that were becoming more commonly used for trade in the Great Lakes and was also exported to Europe to compensate for their lumber shortage and desire to build ships (Rodgers 1996).

These shifts in industry resulted in an increase in immigration to the Great Lakes so people could take part in the growth and prosperity of the upper Midwest, and Presque Isle was



no exception. During the mid-1800s the community grew and flourished as more ships began to use the harbor for safety from storms during the long journey across Lake Huron. It was also a key refueling station for steamships because it was the only safe harbor at the time on the almost 300 miles of treacherous shoreline on Lake Huron (Young 2015:30). And, because of the increase in steamboat traffic, the people of Presque Isle realized that a lighthouse would be beneficial to increase the amount of ships using the harbor as well as improving the ships' safety during their journey across Lake Huron (Young 2015:30-31).

### **The Need for a Lighthouse in Presque Isle**

During the early and mid-1800s, the leaders of the United States realized the importance and need for lighthouses on their rapidly growing shores, both on the coast and on inland waterways like the Great Lakes. By the mid-1830s, around 150 lighthouses had been constructed throughout the country, although they were primarily located along the coast of the northeastern states due to the dense population and shipping industry there (Dolin 2016:85). However, with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, the focus shifted toward building more lighthouses on the Great Lakes in order to illuminate the trade routes that were continuing to grow and flourish there (Dolin 2016:85). "By 1865 there were seven lights on Lake Ontario; twelve on Lake Erie...ten on Lake Huron; twenty six on Lake Michigan, and fifteen on Lake Superior" (O'Brien 1976:16)

This building frenzy was accompanied by the realization that some sort of governing body would need to regulate and standardize these lighthouses in order for them to function at the same level of efficiency as those throughout Europe. This idea started in the late 1700s when the country realized that individual states should not govern their own lighthouses, but instead, they should establish national control; thus the United States Lighthouse Establishment, was

born. The name was changed shortly after to the United States Lighthouse Service (U.S.L.S.). This new governing body was, “charged with the planning, establishing, staffing, and maintaining of lighthouses, buoys, and piers along the country’s coastal waters” (Caravan 1996:13). This task continued throughout the early 19<sup>th</sup> century until 1852, when the establishment was altered to a nine-member delegation known as the Lighthouse Board. The Lighthouse Board maintained control over the lighthouses until 1939 when the U.S. Coast Guard took over as a result of the Presidential Reorganization Act (O’Brien 1976:8).

While the administration of lighthouses was being established and organized in the 1830s, the increasing growth in the maritime industry of Presque Isle required a lighthouse on the shores of the peninsula. In 1837, U.S. Navy Lieutenant G.J. Pendegrast visited Presque Isle on his journey throughout the Great Lakes to evaluate the safety of a variety of shorelines and harbors. He observed, “This is an excellent harbor, and ought to be provided with a light, to show vessels how to enter it in a stormy night. All the steamboats bound up or down the lake stop here for wood” (Young 2015:32).

Because of this assessment, Congress appropriated \$5,000 in 1838 for the construction of a lighthouse on the Presque Isle peninsula (United States Department of the Treasury 1882:417). This amount was based on an assessment from Stephen Pleasonton, Fifth Auditor and acting Commissioner of Revenue in his report to Levi Woodbury, Secretary of Treasury for the United States Light-House Establishment. His report on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1838 concluded that the average allotment the government should appropriate for each of the nation’s new lighthouses to be constructed was \$5,000 which included building expenses as well as the cost for the Fresnel lenses that would be used to illuminate these lighthouses (United States Light-House Establishment 1871:106-116). Congress appointed Navy Lieutenant James Homans to choose

the location on the north shore of the peninsula and he reiterated the importance of a lighthouse there. His report stated,

Presque Isle, on Lake Huron...is likewise a large harbor, well sheltered from the winds, and is frequented by all classes of vessels passing Lake Huron...for shelter in storms, and for supply of wood for steamers. It is, too, the only safe haven on the route between Fort Gratiot and the Straits of Michilimackinac, a distance of 240 miles. On upward voyages, vessels failing to reach the safe precincts of Presque Isle are often driven by stress of weather back to Gratiot, 180 miles-no good shelter intervening. The site selected at this place for a light-house is upon the point of land on the northeast side of the entrance, where the ground is moderately high;...From this situation, the light can be best seen by vessels passing up or down the lake, and will serve as a guide to those seeking entrance into the harbor (United States Light-House Establishment 1871:248).

Both of these assessments stressed the importance of a lighthouse in Presque Isle and thus, plans for the construction began soon after the appropriation of the funds from Congress.

The U.S.L.S. published an advertisement in the *Detroit Free Press* on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1839 for engineers to send in their proposals for the construction of the lighthouse (Kimball and Porter 2015:7). On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1839, Abraham Wendell, one of the members of the U.S.L.S. in charge of Presque Isle's district sent a letter to Jeremiah Moors informing him that his design and projected cost had been chosen by the U.S.L.S., and he should begin plans to travel to Presque Isle with the equipment and materials necessary to execute his design (Wendell 1839).

However, Moors' progress was hindered when he encountered a storm while coming into the harbor and had to toss all the building materials necessary for the project overboard in order to save the ship. Stephen Pleasonton reported the incident to Andrew Wendell in a letter on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1839 (Pleasonton 1839). Due to the time and materials lost in the storm and the impending winter, the construction was postponed until the following spring (Pleasonton 1839). The construction, due to complications and lack of resources lasted into the summer, and was finally completed in early fall of 1840. Moors received his payment of \$4,000 in a letter from

Andrew Wendell on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1840, for successfully constructing the lighthouse, dwelling, well, and outhouse, per the dimensions and terms of the contract (Wendell 1840).

The lighthouse was constructed about 150 ft. (45.7 m.) from the edge of the water and was very short compared to other lighthouses in the area. The structure is made of stone and brick and stands 31 ft. (9.5 m.) tall from the base to the coping, measuring 50 ft. (15 m.) tall with the addition of the lens tower (Inspection of the Presque Isle Lighthouse N.D.). The structure tapers with the diameter at the bottom measuring 12 ft. (4 m.) and the diameter at the top measuring 6 ft. (2 m.). A spiral stone staircase leads to the top of the tower which, originally housed a Lewis lamp, but was soon replaced by a fifth order Fresnel lens (Inspection of the Presque Isle Lighthouse N.D.). The original keeper's dwelling measured 35 × 20 ft. (10.6 × 6 m.) and contained five rooms. Moors also designated a privy on the property measuring 5 × 4 ft. (1.5 × 1.2 m.), in addition to a well measuring 8 ft. (2.5 m.) deep behind the lighthouse toward the woods (Inspection of the Presque Isle Lighthouse N.D.). All of these dimensions coincided with the stipulations the U.S.L.S. set forth in their proposal for the lighthouse at Presque Isle (Lewis 1990b:1-4).

With the completion and certification of the tower by John Scott in 1840, the U.S.L.S. needed to select a lighthouse keeper. They appointed Major Henry Livingston Woolsey as keeper on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1840 (Lewis 1990a:1). Major Woolsey was a decorated veteran with family involved in national politics which was the type of person appointed as a lighthouse keeper at the time because the U.S.L.S. was made up primarily of military veterans and they trusted military officers with government work (Noble 2014:28). When Woolsey and his wife Elizabeth were married in December of 1837, Henry was 55 years old and starting his second marriage and Elizabeth was 50 years old and starting her third (Young 2015:71-72). The

Woolseys only served for a few years in Presque Isle until his death in May of 1848 (Young 2015:84). He was replaced on May 5th by George Murray, a temporary keeper, until a more permanent keeper could be located. On May 22nd, 1848, Stephen V. Thornton was appointed as the next keeper of the Presque Isle lighthouse (Young 2015:85).

Thornton had participated in the “Patriot’s Rebellion” of 1837 in an attempt to liberate Canada, and had lived in Michigan before his service, as well as after, with his wife Susan and their three young children (Rodgers 1996:3&14). Their oldest child, and only son, Levi unfortunately died during their time at Presque Isle on June 26th, 1850. However, they did welcome a third daughter, Mary, in 1853. Thornton resigned later that year and was replaced by Louis Gideon Metivier Jr. on July 27th (Young 2015:87). Metivier, a cooper by trade, and his wife Sophia had moved to Mackinac Island from Quebec in 1844 and then to Presque Isle in the summer of 1853. They moved into the keeper’s house with their three children and had two more during their time in Presque Isle. Metivier resigned in July of 1861 to care for Sophia, who died two months later at the age of 31 (Young 2015:87-89). He was replaced by Patrick Garrity on September 30th of that same year (Young 2015:94). The Garrity family and their service in Presque Isle will be described later in the chapter.

During the time of operation of the Presque Isle lighthouse, the trees of the surrounding forest continued to grow and repeatedly made the short lighthouse difficult to see from the water. During a survey of the lighthouse by Oliver G. Brown in 1910, the trees were still observed as a problem and the auditor included that, “A large space should be cleared around the dwellings, in order to protect the property against forest fires” (Department of Commerce and Labor: Light-House Establishment 1910:17). Different keepers attempted to solve the problem by cutting trees down, but the problem eventually escalated to the point that the U.S.L.S. decided it would

be more beneficial to build a second, taller lighthouse to guide ships along the coast (Young 2015:66-68). Therefore, on July 15th, 1870, Congress appropriated \$28,000 for a lighthouse on the lake coast one mile north of the 1840 harbor lighthouse (United States Department of the Treasury 1882:417). From this point on, the lighthouse constructed in 1840 was referred to as the Old Presque Isle Light and the lighthouse constructed in 1870 was referred to as the New Presque Isle Light (personal communication, Janet Young, October, 2016).

### **The New Presque Isle Lighthouse**

In an effort to avoid the problems that occurred during the construction of the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse, the U.S.L.S. decided to appoint a more experienced engineer to build the new structure. They chose Orlando Poe who was born in 1832 and graduated sixth in his class from West Point in 1856 with a focus in engineering (Taylor 2014:15). Poe served in the military as a topographical engineer and then afterward as a civil engineer. After his time in the military he accepted a job as an engineer for the U.S.L.S. and not only built lighthouses, but oversaw an entire district (Taylor 2014:16). Poe developed his own style of construction, altering the traditional style of other lighthouses on the Great Lakes.

Prior to 1870, most light stations consisted of a keeper's cottage with a short tower jutting up out of the roof or side of the cottage. But Poe's 109-foot-tall design for Presque Isle--almost 20 feet in diameter at the base, gently sloping inward to about 12 feet at the top--broke that mold. The gallery was supported by corbels (structural brackets), and each of the four windows featured a rounded arch. These elegant, Italianate elements distinguished what would later be called the "Poe style" of lighthouses (Taylor 2014:18).

As a result of this unique design, the New Presque Isle Lighthouse was dramatically different from the old lighthouse and provided a substantially more visible light which could be seen from 18-19 mi. (29-30.5 km.) away (Kreger 1980:2).

The lighthouse was constructed out of brick, which was painted white in 1878 and has remained the same color to the current day. The brick began to degrade over time however, so

the Presque Isle Township commissioned improvements to the brickwork and a new coat of paint in 1989 (personal communication, Judith Kimball, October, 2016). The tower itself stands at about 113 ft. (34 m.), including the height of the third order Fresnel lens (Kreger 1980:5). The original keeper's dwelling on the property was attached to the tower by a covered walkway and measured 31 × 38 ft. (9.5 × 11.5 m.). This dwelling was eventually designated for the assistant keepers when a new, larger keeper's dwelling was built in 1905 (Kreger 1980:6).

In addition to the tower and the original keeper's dwellings, other buildings on the property included: a barn built in 1870, approximately 30 × 18 ft. (9 × 5.5 m.); an oil house constructed in 1871 and measuring about 7 × 9 ft. (2 × 2.8 m.); the fog signal building constructed in 1890 and measuring 42 × 22 ft. (12.8 × 6.7 m.); the cistern house constructed in 1898 and measuring 7.5 × 7.5 ft. (2.2 × 2.2 m.); and the workshop, constructed in 1903 and measuring 24 × 16 ft. (7 × 4.8 m.) (Kreger 1980:5-6).

In addition to these fixed structures, there were a variety of privies used on the property over the course of time the different keepers resided at the lighthouse (Kreger 1980:6-7). The artifacts that are analyzed in chapter 3 were sourced from the most recent of the privies, as stated in the previous chapter. Figure 1, on the following page, is the original map of the property that the lighthouse and surrounding buildings were constructed on in 1870.

While the transfer process between the old lighthouse and the new lighthouse was taking place, the U.S.L.S. determined that additional lights would benefit the Presque Isle peninsula to guide ships safely into the harbor since the New Light was being used to guide ships along the coast. As a result of this determination of additional need, Congress appropriated \$7,500 in 1869 to build the two harbor range lights deemed necessary for the job (United States Department of the Treasury 1882:417).

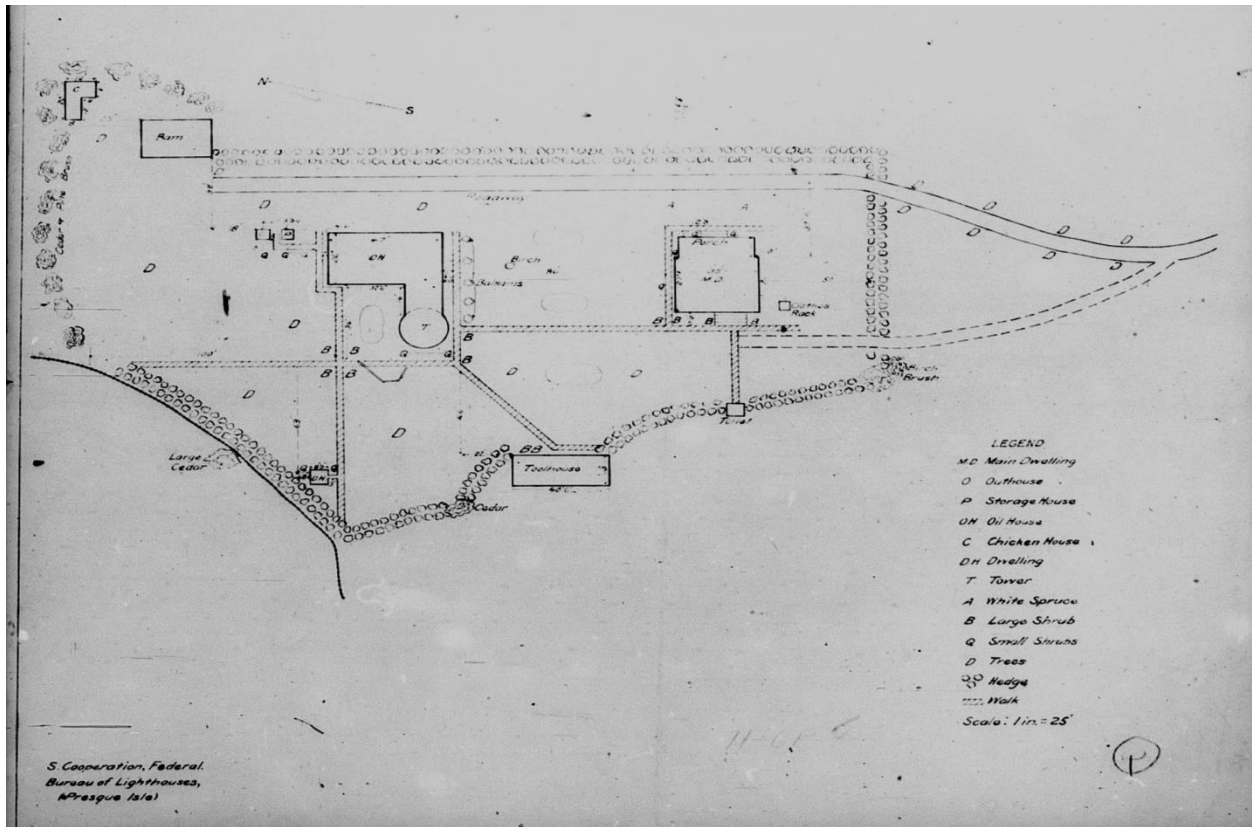


Figure 1: With Permission from the Thunder Bay Special Collections Office.

Orlando Poe submitted the designs and the two structures were quickly built consisting of the small, front range light tower and the 35 ft. (10.6 m.) tall rear range light above the small keeper's quarters (Young 2015:100). They were built 1000 ft. (304.8 m.) apart, with a walkway between the two structures. The light from the rear range light could be seen from about 11 mi. (17.7 km) away (Young 2015:100-102). In order to use the lights as a guide, "Mariners visually aligned the front and rear range lights in order to navigate around the rocky shoals and safely enter the harbor" (Young 2015:102). After Poe completed the construction of the range lights in 1870, the U.S.L.S. was charged with finding additional keepers for the new structures now in Presque Isle.

The first keeper of the range lights was Isaac Codington, a Civil War veteran who moved to Presque Isle with his wife Matilda and their two daughters. According to Codington's very



limited journal keeping, Matilda died in 1872 and his health deteriorated afterward. As a result, his daughters assumed the majority of the work maintaining the range lights (Young 2015:104-105). However, when this was discovered by an inspector in 1875, Isaac was asked to resign and Captain William Sims, along with his wife Adeline, assumed the duties of keepers of the range lights (Young 2015:135-139). Captain Sims kept detailed records of his time at the range lights as well as records of the happenings in the region. Adeline passed away from illness in 1881 and since Sims was advancing in age, he retired in 1887 at which time Thomas Garrity took over the task of keeper of the range lights (Young 2015:138-139).

Upon the completion of the new lighthouse in 1870, and with the range lights functioning well, the old lighthouse was no longer needed for operation. Thus Patrick Garrity and his family moved from the keeper's dwelling at the old lighthouse to the larger dwelling at the new lighthouse (Young 2015:95-96). The Garrity family served at the new lighthouse until 1935, while simultaneously maintaining the range lights after Captain Sims retired (Young 2015:96).

### **The History of the Garrity Family**

Patrick Garrity Senior, born in 1827, and Mary Chambers (later Garrity), born in 1831, lived within 10 miles of each other in Mayo County, Ireland. However, they did not meet until both moved with their families to Mackinac Island in 1848 to escape the potato famine that was ravaging Ireland in the 1840s and 50s (Young 2015:91). During the first several years of their acquaintance, Patrick traveled frequently due to his involvement in the government-commissioned mapping of the upper Great Lakes region that took place from 1841 to the 1860s (Captain Meade 1859). Patrick and Mary married in 1859 and had their first child, John, in July of 1861. Patrick knew the region well due to his work mapping for the government, which was the primary reason for his appointment by President Abraham Lincoln as the fourth keeper of

the Presque Isle lighthouse in July of 1861, at which time Patrick and Mary moved into the keeper's dwelling with their infant son (Young 2015:92-95). During their ten years of service in the old lighthouse, they welcomed four additional children into their family; their first daughter Annie in 1862 who died 6 years later, their daughter Mary in 1864, their son Thomas in 1866, and their third daughter Kathryn (referred to as Kate) in 1867 (Young 2015:96).

The second part of Patrick's thirty-year service in Presque Isle took place at the new lighthouse, where he moved with his family in 1870 when it opened for the navigational season. Not long after their arrival they welcomed Patrick Jr. to the family and two years later completed the family with their seventh and final child Anna in 1872 (Young 2015:95). Throughout his 42 consecutive years of service, Patrick maintained a highly positive reputation for his work and involvement in the community. His obituary reflected, "he was a man of strong individuality, always mindful of what was right...this was his principle in life, and was the principle that he adhered to in the rearing of his family or in the performance of his duties" (*Alpena News* 1903). The family was also known for their hospitality; Mary's obituary states that, "Mr. and Mrs. Garrity were never known to turn a person, friend or stranger, hungry from their door...Many a shipwrecked sailor and passenger has known Mrs. Garrity's gentle attention and kindly hospitality" (*The Alpena Evening News* 1912).

In addition to Mary's hospitality and the feat of raising seven children (six past their childhood), she also helped her husband with the daily duties of maintaining the lighthouse. In fact, from 1872 to 1882, the government recognized Mary as the official first assistant to her husband and she received a salary of \$400 each of the ten years of this commission (Young 2015:95-96). However, the government then recused her title as assistant keeper simply because she was a woman and the government believed that the job was better suited to a man (Majher

2010:36). The job of assistant keeper was reinstated less than two years later and filled by her son, Thomas Garrity (Majher 2010:53).

Despite the lack of recognition from the government for Mary's continued work at the lighthouse, she still contributed to the impact that female lighthouse keepers made in Michigan. With her documented ten years of service, she joined 24 other women in the state of Michigan who served as assistant keepers, and therefore, contributed to Michigan's status of having the most females recorded in the U.S.L.S. (Majher 2010:9). Mary and her daughter Anna hold another Michigan record in the U.S.L.S. to this day as the only two related female keepers in the state (Majher 2010:24). Interestingly, four of the six Garrity children pursued a career in the service of lighthouses in the area, primarily Presque Isle, and one of the remaining two children, Kate, was a housekeeper for her brother Thomas during the majority of his time of service at the lighthouses in Presque Isle.

### **The Garrity Children and their Service**

The careers of the Garrity children are discussed in chronological order according to their birth, beginning with John. John Garrity, the oldest child born in July of 1861, did not immediately follow in his parents' footsteps in the lighthouse-keeping profession. John initially served the Presque Isle Township as treasurer from 1883 to 1885 and was involved in the lumber industry until 1904 (*Presque Isle County Advance* 1884). He then returned to Presque Isle to be closer to his family and assumed the position of assistant keeper at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse from 1904 to 1913 (Young 2015:168). In 1913 he left Presque Isle and proceeded to serve at three different remote lighthouses on Lake Superior. These included: the Rock of Ages Lighthouse on Isle Royale, the Mendota Lighthouse on Bete Grise Bay, and finally the

Raspberry Island lighthouse until his retirement in 1929. John lived out the rest of his life in nearby Alpena until the age of 91 when he passed away (Young 2015:168-170).

Mary Garrity (later McDougall), born in 1864, was the only one of the Garrity children to not serve at a lighthouse as a career and, was the only daughter to marry. In 1889 at the age of 25, she married the local mail carrier, Daniel Angus McDougall (Young 2015:171). They had eight children over the course of their marriage, which ended with Daniel's death in 1907. They lived in nearby Alpena and frequently visited her family at Presque Isle, where their children enjoyed helping their aunts and uncles with the duties they performed at the lighthouses (Young 2015:171-174).

Born in 1866, Thomas Garrity had the longest career of service as a lighthouse keeper in the entire family. His official career started at the age of 18 when he replaced his mother Mary as the assistant keeper for his father at the new lighthouse (Majher 2010:53). He moved to the range lights as the primary keeper in 1887 and remained there until 1891 when he moved back to the new lighthouse to replace his father as primary lighthouse keeper. Thomas served at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse until his retirement in 1935 (Young 2015:142-150). During his extensive career Thomas assisted with a variety of rescues, some on his own and others involving other family members. One particular rescue recorded in the *Presque Isle County Advance* (1889) discussed how Thomas and Patrick Jr. rescued all 11 passengers from a sailboat that was caught in a storm in May of that same year. The youngest of the passengers, a baby about six months old, survived the ordeal as a result of the Garrity brothers' quick thinking and action (*Presque Isle County Advance* 1889).

Thomas also fought two enormous forest fires, in 1891 and 1908, along with the other members of his family in order to protect their livelihood and the lighthouses. As a result of

their efforts, the fires did minimal, if any, damage to the lighthouses (Young 2015:146-147, 160-161). The U.S.L.S. rewarded his hard work and dedication three separate times when he and the New Presque Isle Lighthouse received the coveted U.S.L.S. efficiency pennant in 1914, 1915, and 1931 (Young 2015:152). This was an esteemed award considering that there were 140 lighthouses in the 11<sup>th</sup> district and only one was awarded the pennant each year. Upon his retirement Thomas moved to Alpena where he lived until his death in 1944 (Young 2015:153).

Kathryn (Kate) Garrity, born in 1867, spent her early childhood at the old lighthouse until their move in 1870 to the new lighthouse. There she assisted her parents throughout her childhood and when her brother Thomas moved to the range lights as head keeper, she accompanied him to act as his unofficial assistant and housekeeper (Young 2015:153). Kate remained unmarried and lived with her brother Thomas for the duration of his lighthouse service and moved with him to Alpena upon his retirement. She passed away at the age of 94 in 1961 (Young 2015:154).

Patrick Henry Garrity Jr., born in 1871, served in a variety of roles during his time in Presque Isle. He assisted his father at the new lighthouse and also assisted his brother Thomas at the range lights for 14 years (Young 2015:167). After his service as an assistant, he left Presque Isle to take a job as the primary lighthouse keeper at the Middle Island Light Station in 1905. He worked there until 1924 when he transferred to the St. Clair Flats Range Light where he stayed until his retirement in 1937. He and his family also moved to Alpena where they lived until his death in 1958 (Young 2015:167).

Lastly Anna Garrity, the youngest child, born in 1872 followed in her mother's footsteps as a famous female lighthouse keeper in Michigan. During her early life she assisted her father and brothers at the new lighthouse and the range lights with their various duties (Young

2015:155). On one of these occasions, November 12<sup>th</sup> of 1897, 25-year-old Anna suffered a terrible fall while walking from the keeper's quarters to the main lighthouse, resulting in a broken leg. The doctor in Alpena was sent for, but Anna's leg never healed properly, due to the lack of sufficient medical care, resulting in a significant limp for the rest of her life (Young 2015:156). However, the limp did not prevent her from continuing lighthouse work and climbing the stairs to the lights on a daily basis. She demonstrated dedication even more so in 1903 when she was appointed head keeper of the range lights and assumed the responsibilities there at the age of 31. She served faithfully at the range lights for 23 more years until her retirement in 1926 (Young 2015:157-159).

Anna Garrity's tenacity was rewarded at the end of her career when, from 1923 to 1926, she was placed in charge of a male assistant keeper, Mr. Vince Newagon (Kimball and Porter 2015:99). This was a unique situation, not only in the region but the country as a whole, for there were very few head female keepers who were placed in charge of male assistants (Majher 2010:36). At the end of this three year period, the 11<sup>th</sup> District Superintendent expressed a desire to automate the range lights in Presque Isle. Anna agreed because, as she continued to age and her limp worsened, it became increasingly difficult for her to accomplish all the necessary tasks at the lighthouse. She retired on August 31, 1926 and moved to Alpena to be with her siblings. She died not long after her retirement in 1937 (Young 2015:166). Anna is commemorated in Presque Isle to this day by a large statue erected in her image outside the front range light (personal communication, Janet Young, October, 2016).

The Garrity family, from their father's commission in 1861 to Thomas' retirement in 1935, served a consecutive 74 years at the various lighthouses in Presque Isle. This number can also be calculated as 76 consecutive years if the cutoff date is Patrick Jr.'s retirement in 1937, even though the

end of his service was not in Presque Isle. If the years of service are all added together, the combined service totals as follows in Table 1:

**Table 1: Total Years of Garrity Family Service (created by author).**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Length of Service</b>	<b>Combined Family Total</b>
Patrick Garrity Sr.	10 years at the Old PI Lighthouse, 20 years at the New PI Lighthouse, and 12 years at the range lights. (42 total)	42 years
Mrs. Mary Garrity	Assisted her husband during his 30 years of service.	72 years
John Garrity	Assistant keeper from 1904-1913 in PI and served at other local lighthouses from 1913-1929. (25 total)	97 years
Thomas Garrity	Served 51 consecutive years between the Range Lights and the New PI Lighthouse.	148 years
Kathryn Garrity	Kept house and assisted her brother Thomas for 48 years.	196 years
Patrick Garrity Jr.	46 years of service between assisting, keeping the range lights and working at other local lighthouses.	242 years
Anna Garrity	23 consecutive years of service at the Presque Isle Range Lights.	265 total years of service as a family.

The 74 consecutive years of Garrity service and combined 265 years of service resulted in the family being referred to in the area and by lighthouse historians in a variety of ways. Because of the fact that so many of her children continued in the U.S.L.S., Patricia Majher refers affectionately to Mary Garrity as “The Mother to a Lighthouse Dynasty” in her book *Ladies of the Lights* (2010:52). Helen Wallin, a local historian for the Presque Isle area, refers to the Garrity family as a “tradition” due to the length of time they were present in the different lighthouses of Presque Isle (1990:180).

The extent of their service also warranted mention in several larger collections of lighthouse history such as: *Great Lakes Lighthouses: Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Michigan* by Bruce Roberts and Ray Jones (1994), the *Great Lakes Lighthouse Encyclopedia* by Larry and Patricia Wright (2006), and Eric Dolin's (2016) *Brilliant Beacons*. Dolin summarizes, "For many, lighthouse keeping became a family business of sorts...One of the best examples of this is the Garr[i]ty clan, which produced a veritable dynasty of keepers who worked at a variety of lighthouses on Lake Huron and Superior between 1864 and 1926" (2016:268).

One of the reasons the Garritys are so unique in the historical record of lighthouse keepers is the fact that, despite all the hardships they endured, their family truly embraced the harsh conditions of the life of lighthouse keepers for an extended period of time. The following section discusses the duties and responsibilities of lighthouse keepers of the period and also explores the importance of the family dynamic amidst these arduous and repetitive tasks.

It is also important, before moving on to the description of the duties of lighthouse keepers, to briefly discuss the only lighthouse keeper after the Garrity family ceased to man the lighthouses. As previously discussed, the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse had been decommissioned and the range lights had been automated after Anna Garrity's retirement, leaving the only lighthouse that required daily maintenance to be the New Presque Isle Lighthouse.

After Thomas Garrity's retirement in September of 1935, Elmer C. Byrnes took over the occupation of the New Presque Isle Lighthouse with his wife Flora and his six young children. He served as the lighthouse keeper until 1947, although the Coast Guard took control of the lighthouse in 1939, but they allowed Byrnes to stay on as a civilian keeper (Lighthouse Friends 2017b:2). After Byrnes left in 1947, the Coast Guard assumed complete control of the lighthouse until its automation in 1970 (Wright 2006:185).



Elmer Claybourne Byrnes was born on July 26, 1887 and married his first wife, Julia Claverly, on April 15, 1914. At this time Elmer was serving as first assistant to the lighthouse keeper at the Point Iroquois Lighthouse in Bay Mills, Michigan (Seeing the Light 2003:2). Soon after their marriage Julia gave birth to their first child Elizabeth (referred to as Betty). In 1917 Elmer was promoted to head lighthouse keeper and remained so until 1935 (Lighthouse Friends 2017a:2). During his time as head keeper Julia gave birth to their five sons, Elmer Jr. in 1918, Robert in 1920, Francis in 1921, Ralph in 1923, and John in 1927. Elmer Jr. only lived to be 14 years old when he was killed by a bullet to the heart from the young boy who was behind him in line on a boy scout trip and accidentally pulled the trigger (Lighthouse Friends 2017a:3). Shortly after their move to Presque Isle, Julia passed away on January 24th, 1936 from a cerebral hemorrhage. Her death took place at the Byrnes family home in Alpena, because the Byrnes did not winter at the lighthouse, but had a home for the winter months in town. Elmer married his second wife Flora LaChance on October 24th, 1936, in Alpena, Michigan (Lighthouse Friends 2017a:4).

Elmer died in 1956 and in honor of his memory, the mannequin sitting in the study at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum is in his likeness and portrays him in his uniform, sitting at his desk writing in the lighthouse log (personal communication, Janet Young, October, 2016).

Elmer's daughter Betty wrote a brief memoir about her time in Presque Isle entitled, *The Second Lighthouse of My Life*. Below is an overview of an excerpt from her memoir.

During her time at Presque Isle, Betty and her siblings hatched a scheme to earn a little spending money. The Byrnes children decided to hang out in the station's parking lot and when tourists would arrive after tour hours, they would say it was a shame the lighthouse was closed, but that just this once they would take them up in the tower. The children made decent money in tips, but when their father discovered the source of their new-found wealth, he grounded them for a week. Accepting gratuities for tours was strictly forbidden, and Keeper Byrnes was afraid he could lose his job (Lighthouse Friends 2017b:2).

Elmer, as stated previously, only served as head lighthouse keeper for four years, before being demoted to civilian lighthouse keeper. The following section discusses the duties of a head lighthouse keepers and how their families assisted with the execution of those daily tasks.

### **The Duties of a Lighthouse Keeper in the 1800s and early 1900s**

The work of lighthouse keepers throughout history can be described as monotonous or boring at times because, despite the occasional shipwreck or catastrophe, their daily lives consisted of cleaning and preparing the lights to operate efficiently at night. Due to the monotony of the work and the fact that it often came with solitude, it was sometimes difficult to find people who were both willing to have a career as a lighthouse keeper and also met the U.S.L.S.'s requirements for keepers. Initially, the Lighthouse Board preferred to hire married men, because they were deemed more reliable (Central Michigan University N.D.:1).

Additionally, it was recommended that the man chosen for the job was between the ages of 18 and 50 and possessed the following skills: the ability to keep simple financial accounts, the ability to both pull and sail a boat, the ability to read and write, and the skill to maintain the lighthouse equipment and make minor repairs if need be (Central Michigan University N.D.:2). If an individual managed to fulfill all of these requirements and was appointed lighthouse keeper, they then had to quickly learn about the daily jobs that their future occupation would entail.

This learning process was made easier by the publication of *Instructions to Light-keepers* in July of 1881 by the United States Lighthouse Establishment and the Lighthouse Board. The 99-page document outlines the daily tasks of cleaning and polishing required for the Fresnel lenses, fog signals, and all other pieces of machinery at the various lighthouses in the United States. It also includes instructions on how to fill out the logbook, how to deal with certain situations such as shipwrecks, and the guidelines for the behavior of light-keepers. The opening

page outlines the responsibilities of the light-keeper as such: “The keeper is responsible for the care and management of the light, and for the station in general” (U.S. Lighthouse Service 1881:5). The instructions in the manual were so specific that the recipe for the whitewash used to clean the lighthouses was even included (U.S. Lighthouse Service 1881:29).

It was expected that if a keeper was unsure about how to handle a situation or how to fix a problem with the light, only after they had thoroughly searched the manual for an answer, could they contact the Lighthouse Board with the question. The purpose of the detailed manual was to compensate for the lack of training lighthouse keepers received upon appointment (Holland 1972:24). This was an issue that the Lighthouse Board recognized as a fundamental problem with the U.S.L.S., so they compiled the manual in order for keepers to have a reference for solving problems on their own (Holland 1972:44). In addition to this detailed manual, in 1901 the U.S. Lighthouse Board also published the *List of Allowances to Light Stations*, outlining the annual allowances of food, oil, supplies, and equipment that each lighthouse would receive.

The work completed on a daily basis with the equipment from this annual allowance was monotonous and difficult. An excerpt from the Superintendent in 1835 outlines a few of the daily tasks that lighthouse keepers were required to complete:

1. You are to light the lamps every evening at sun-setting, and keep them continually burning bright and clear till sun-rising.
2. You are to be careful that the lamps, reflectors, and lanterns are constantly kept clean, and in order; and particularly to be careful that no lamps, wood, or candles be left burning anywhere so as to endanger fire.
3. In order to maintain the greatest degree of light during the night, the wicks are to be trimmed every four hours, taking care that they are exactly even on top.
4. You are to keep an exact account of the quantity of oil received from time to time; the number of gallons, quarts, gills, consumed each night, and deliver a copy of the same to the superintendent every three months (Holland 1988:9).

Each of these tasks consisted of several smaller tasks, resulting in lighthouse keepers working around the clock in order to keep the lighthouses running at peak efficiency. In the event of foul weather, keepers had to work even harder to help sailors who were vulnerable on the water.

“During storms the keeper remained in the tower throughout the night, for that was when mariners were most in need of a steady, strong light, and when the lighting apparatus was most vulnerable to being upset by the rough conditions” (Dolin 2016:235).

Despite their workload, lighthouse keepers and their families still managed to enjoy their lives at the lighthouses and enjoyed occasional leisure time. The Garrity family specifically enjoyed hunting and fishing, especially when fishing for sturgeon in the harbor. According to one family story, Thomas once caught a sturgeon weighing 350 pounds (Young 2015:150). In the winter, the Garrity family took advantage of the ice on nearby ponds and in the harbor itself. “Thomas took pleasure in horse-drawn sleigh rides with his siblings and friends and ice skating in the harbor. His logbook entries contain comments on the “fine quality” of the ice and how they all enjoyed “fine skating” at the harbor (Young 2015:151-152). One advantage of this leisure time was that it was something that the whole family could enjoy once all the tasks for the day were accomplished. Family dinners were also a common form of leisure for the Garritys, especially as their family grew and some members moved to nearby Alpena (Young 2015:149).

The family dynamic as a whole was a very important aspect of the service of a lighthouse keeper. The more children a lighthouse keeper had, the more help he would have completing the daily tasks around the lighthouse. One way families specifically impacted the occupation was that if a lighthouse keeper had a family, that meant that his children and wife were trained by him in how to keep the lighthouse running in case of his absence, injury, or even death. Stephen Pleasonton, a federal official for the U.S.L.S. pointed this out in a letter to his superior in 1851 in

which he stated, “So necessary is it that the lights should be in the hands of experienced keepers that I, in order to effect that object as far as possible, recommend, on the death of a keeper, that his widow, if steady and respectable, should be appointed to succeed him” (U.S. Lighthouse Establishment 1858:8). This suggestion by Pleasonton was well received and resulted in the appointment of approximately 30 widows nationwide in the 1850s and almost 50 by the 1870s (Clifford and Clifford 2000:129). In addition to wives replacing their husbands as primary keepers, if they took the position of assistant, this was also beneficial to the Lighthouse Board since the employees were all in the same family and, therefore, the Lighthouse Board would not have to construct additional dwellings for a new assistant and his family (Holland 1972:51).

Another interesting aspect of having children at lighthouses was that they often received a better education from their parents than they would at the remote schools near the lighthouses. Part of the allowances for lighthouse keepers involved reading material, so children at lighthouses were exposed to books and learned to read at a younger age than other children in the area (Holland 1972:47). In some cases where the lighthouse was in such a remote area that there was not a school, the keeper and his wife could still manage to educate their children with the literature available to them at the lighthouse (Holland 1972:48). It is interesting to note that the books were rotated amongst the lighthouses in the area, so keepers’ children also received a wider array of literature than other children their age would have (Holland 1972:47).

Families played an important role in the completion of lighthouse tasks because they completed the chores at a quicker pace and family members could step in if the primary keeper was injured, sick, or absent for a short period of time. The Garritys were an example of this because the children rotated the responsibilities of assisting their parents in their childhood and eventually took over the lighthouse responsibilities in Presque Isle completely as adults. While

there are multiple families recorded to have worked at the same lighthouses, it is the length of time and number of family members in the service that makes the Garrity family unique.

## **Conclusion**

This chapter has discussed the history of the Presque Isle harbor community as it relates to the early history of northern Michigan. The chapter explored the need for a lighthouse in the region, the construction of that lighthouse, a brief discussion of the lighthouse keepers who lived and worked there, and the eventual realization that the constructed lighthouse was no longer adequate after 30 years of service due to its height. The chapter then examined the construction of the new, taller lighthouse one mile north of the previous one as well as the construction and staffing of the range lights that were used to help ships navigate safely into the harbor.

The next section of the chapter discussed the history of the Garrity family in detail. Over the span of 74 consecutive years and 2 generations, they served at the various Presque Isle lighthouses and created a family legacy of service within the community. The unique length of time the Garritys served, as well as the number of family members who served at the lighthouses, set them apart in the historical record of lighthouse keepers in the Great Lakes.

Discussion within the chapter then transitions to the job of a lighthouse keeper, which included monotonous, daily tasks in addition to the dangerous aspects of the job. Family support was also a very important dynamic for lighthouse keepers. Family allowed keepers additional help in accomplishing the daily tasks, and also provided the Lighthouse Board with trained replacements in case the primary keeper was injured or died.

The lighthouses at Presque Isle encompass all of this unique history in regards to the construction of the lighthouses, information on the lighthouse keepers and on the Garrity family. According to Bruce Roberts and Ray Jones in *American Lighthouses: A Comprehensive Guide*

(1998), it is the fact that all four lighthouses, the two main lighthouses and the range lights, are close together and easily accessible to tourists that gives, “visitors an unusually complete look at the history of a light station” (1998:226). This visible evolution of the construction of lighthouses, the advancements in technology, and the preservation of these sites for the public does indeed make Presque Isle a unique and important site, both historically and archaeologically. The two main lighthouses are also museums and provide the important hands-on aspect of the sites that makes the history of these lighthouses and the keepers who lived there, the Garritys in particular, truly significant.

In the nomination for the New Presque Isle Lighthouse to be added to the National Register of Historic Places, when discussing the significance of the site, the report stated the following:

The Significance of the Presque Isle Light Station...stems from two sources. First, the three historic buildings of the light station complex played a role in the expansion of shipping and passenger travel on the Great Lakes and the subsequent development of the northern counties of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. Thus, the complex is associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Michigan’s history. Second, the light tower and its associated keepers’ residences are well preserved examples of functional architecture associated with safe travel along Michigan’s coastline. Thus, the complex embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction important to the State’s architectural heritage (1980:3).

This statement accurately summarizes the historical significance of the Presque Isle Lighthouse sites and the goal of this thesis, to combine this significant historical information concerning the Garritys and their lives as shown through the archaeological record. The next chapters of this thesis will analyze the artifacts found in the kitchen dump at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse and attempt to find connections between the recovered artifacts and the historical record of the Garrity family and their time at the lighthouses of Presque Isle.

### CHAPTER 3: ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

The purpose of this chapter is to analyze and interpret the artifacts excavated during the 2005 Alpena Community College (ACC) summer field project. This interpretation is used to create a clearer “archaeological biography” of the Garrity family and their time as lighthouse keepers in Presque Isle. Given the basic principles of an “archaeological biography,” as discussed in chapter one, this chapter analyzes and interprets the excavated artifacts in an effort to ascertain new information regarding the daily lives of the Garrity family.

Before beginning the artifact analysis and interpretation, it is important to explain the process by which they were recovered. The field project took place in June of 2005 at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse and was coordinated by Judith Kimball and managed by Dr. Richard Clute (personal communication, Judith Kimball, October, 2016). Ms. Kimball is not an archaeologist, but has a long history of involvement with the lighthouses of Presque Isle, including publications about them as well as service on the township board that currently manage the museums within the lighthouses. Dr. Clute is an archaeologist associated with the Besser Museum for Northeastern Michigan and also teaches classes at ACC.

The excavation was conducted by Clute, Kimball, 13 listed excavators from ACC, and, “former archaeology students and guests” (Kimball 2005:15). The archaeological report does not include the copy of a permit for the excavation, but their introduction specifically states,

This report follows the format for the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Documentation but is not intended to be filed as a report to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. It is intended for the archaeological students who participated in the excavation exercise and for members of the Presque Isle Township Museum Society and the Presque Isle Township Parks and Recreation Committee who supported the study (Kimball 2005:4).

It is important to understand that this declaration needs to be considered when analyzing the validity of the excavation. While the excavated artifacts did come from the kitchen dump, the



lack of detail and permits for the excavation result in it being classified as a training exercise rather than an excavation. This means that biases and possible breaches in standard archaeological excavation etiquette could have taken place since the work was conducted by students practicing their skills rather than trained archaeologists.

According to the report's abstract they, "excavated the subsurface features of the Lighthouse Keeper's privy and portions of the kitchen dump for the Lighthouse Keeper's residence" (Kimball 2005:3). It is important to note that this field project was very brief, lasting only four days, and was not a complete excavation of the privy or the kitchen dump.

The excavation of the kitchen dump produced a variety of artifacts including bottles, ceramic sherds, personal items and various metal objects (Kimball 2005:7-8). There is no mention in the report of the tools that were used for the excavation, including no mention of whether or not screens were used to sift through for the smaller artifacts during the excavation. Due to the amount of artifacts uncovered, the team decided to remove a number of artifacts of interest and clean them by means of rinsing them off (Kimball 2005:4). The team was not confident they would have the space for all of the excavated artifacts in the lighthouse museum, so an executive decision was made to place selected artifacts back into the excavation pit where they were buried once again. These artifacts included a variety of bottles and glass jars, ceramic pieces, and other small objects. The team kept roughly half of the artifacts recovered from the excavation for the museum exhibit and placed the rest back into the kitchen dump before reburying them with the excavated soil (personal communication Judith Kimball, June 2017).

This action taken by the team results in an incomplete representation of the artifacts recovered from the site within the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum exhibit. This action also compromised the integrity of any future excavations or studies of the site due to the

interference within the stratigraphic layers. Despite the uncommon execution of the excavation, is not possible to rewrite this chain of events. It is, however, possible to identify and analyze the artifacts that were recovered and placed in the museum exhibit in an effort to provide contextual information for the artifacts in the exhibit. Therefore, this chapter includes all identified and interpreted information on the artifacts residing within the current exhibit at the museum. The possibility of future re-excavation of these artifacts as well as a further excavation of the site will be discussed in the following chapter however the circumstances of the initial excavation would make this difficult.

What follows is an analysis of the recovered artifacts that were cleaned and then set up in a display case in the basement of the New Presque Isle Lighthouse. The artifacts were arranged without any context as to what they were or what time period they were from. The museum in the lighthouse is filled with antique objects collected over time by members of the township that fit the time period the lighthouse was in service (personal communication, Judith Kimball, October, 2016).

However, it is one of the goals of this research to present information on the artifacts recovered in an effort to show visitors to the museum actual objects the Garrity family used in their daily life, as well as to provide contextual information on those objects. The remainder of the chapter is divided into three sections relating to the function of the recovered artifacts. These classifications of functionality and the subgroups within the sections are based off of Stanley South's system of artifact classification from *Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology* (1977). The sections include, in chronological order: household artifacts, personal artifacts, and miscellaneous artifacts.

Within this analysis, it is also important to note that the artifacts were either categorized individually or, due to multiple artifacts of the same type, in groups. Each artifact or group of artifacts will be identified in the analysis by the number and name they were given during the categorization. This numbering and naming process was meant to merely assist in the initial intake of information about the

artifacts therefore some of the names given at the time of categorization do not exactly match the identity of the artifact. This will be explained further in the sections where this issue is prudent.

## Household Artifacts

This section of artifacts is the largest of the 3, containing 21 individual artifacts and 8 groups of artifacts. In order to make the classification less confusing, the artifacts have been divided into sub-categories pertaining to their function as a household item. These subcategories, in order of appearance, include: tools, foods, beverages, kitchen items, and other household items. Each artifact will be first described, then identified and interpreted in regards to the connection, if any, to the Garrity family and their “archaeological biography” within the perspective section.

## Tools

Group 3 consists of 4 nails varying slightly in length. The nails appear to be made of iron due to the color and pattern of the heavy calcification that has accumulated on them over time. Figure 2 is a picture of the nails side by side. When moving the nails for this picture, small pieces of rust began to fall off of the nails demonstrating their fragile state as small, heavily calcified artifacts.



Figure 2: Group 3: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

In order to remove the calcification from the nails, electrolysis would be required, but this process, due to the level of degradation of the metal, would most likely destroy the nails

completely. The only means of identification for these nails is their shape, square at the head and then tapered into more of a flat shape down the shaft. This shape is indicative of machine made, iron cut nails from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and onward (Wells 1998:83). This specific type of nail also frequently did not possess a particularly sharp point which also coincides with the description of the nails excavated from the kitchen dump (Wells 1998:83).

It can be interpreted that these nails were used during the construction of the lighthouse itself or during the construction of either the keeper's quarters, or another building on the lighthouse grounds. Due to the amount of buildings and presumed improvements to these buildings over the years, as a result of the extreme weather they were subjected to, it is quite possible that further excavation of the site would reveal many more nails of similar size within the site.

Group 10 consists of 3 different pieces of degraded and calcified metal. The first 2 artifacts within the group are pieces of what appears to be a spring or coil, and the other artifact is another nail, similar in shape and size to those in group 3. The only description that can be offered about the artifacts in this group is that they display a similar level of calcification to the artifacts in group 3 as can be seen in Figure 3.

Figure 3 also shows, at the head of the nail, how one movement of the artifact allowed some of the delicate calcification to become dislodged from the head and shaft of the nail. The only interpretation that can be made is that all three artifacts are made of iron due to the color of the calcification on the artifacts.



Figure 3: Group 10: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Group 12 consists of 6 metal pieces of what appears to be an oil lamp. The largest of the 6 pieces can be assumed to be the base, but the other 5 pieces, 4 of which are identical, are difficult to identify without the rest of the lamp to offer context. The List of Allowances to Light Stations (1901) by the United States Lighthouse Board lists all the tools provided for the lighthouses, including a variety of lamps. However, the document does not include photos therefore it does not assist in providing further context for what type of lamp was excavated from the site. Small, personal lamps were provided by the U.S.L.B., but without the body or the fuel container, it would be extremely difficult to determine which type of lamp this was or if this lamp was even issued by the government, or purchased independently (United States Lighthouse Board 1901:14). Figure 4 shows the pieces of the lamp, the proposed base in the top, right corner, and demonstrates with the scale the small overall size of the lamp.



Figure 4: Group 12: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

## Foods

This section includes 3 different glass jars, each of which do not appear to have been used for beverages, but rather for condiments. Artifact 3 and artifact 16 are the same jar in regards to both shape and size. However, due to the fact that they were housed on different shelves of the exhibit, they were catalogued at different points throughout the day and therefore were not combined into one group of artifacts as the two jars in group 8 were. Figure 5 shows artifact 3 and figure 6 shows artifact 16 from a different angle.

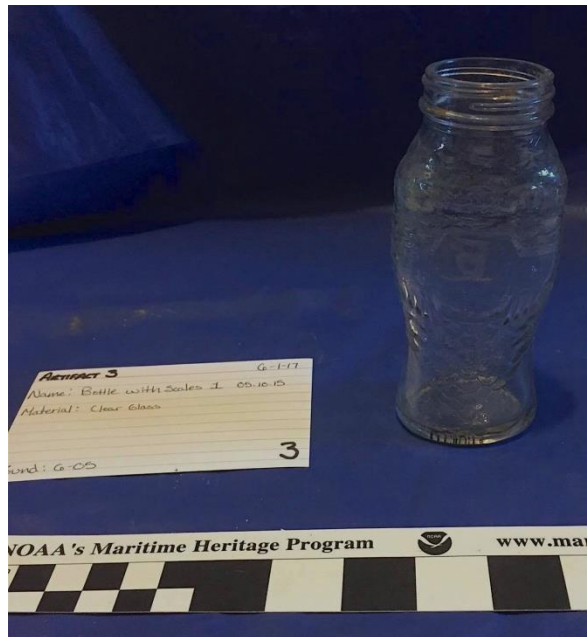


Figure 5: Artifact 3: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

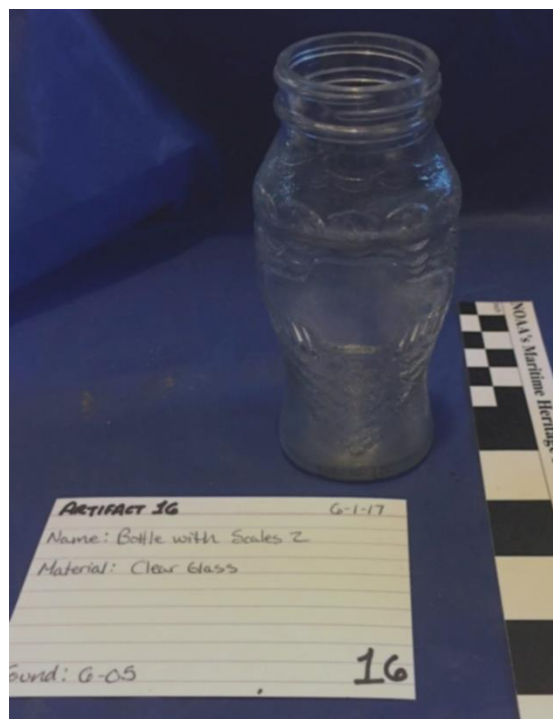


Figure 6: Artifact 16: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Despite the unique shape and designs on these jars, no information was found on the company that produced them or the contents of the bottles. They are both shaped like a fish and display scale-like texturing as well as a thick and long shape through the middle that can be

likened to the modern Chevy cross symbol. The only indicator for a date is the maker's mark on the bottom of both bottles of the Obear-Nestor Glass Company that they used between 1915 and 1978 (Lockhart et. al. 2014:1). The fish-like shape of the bottle could be interpreted that it was used for some type of either fish sauce, or condiment for seafood, but this is only speculation. Both jars, regardless of their contents are very unique in the detail of the texturing of the bottle, setting them apart from the rest of the artifacts excavated from the kitchen dump.

Group 8 consists of two almost identical jars as displayed in Figure 7.



Figure 7: Group 8: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The only visible difference between the two is that the bottom of one of the jars is stamped with a flag with the word French's in the middle, and the other is not. According to the French's company timeline of glass jar production, these particular barrel-shaped jars date to 1921 and were featured in French's first major advertising campaign (The French's Food Company LLC 2014:1). Condiments, such as mustard, were an important part of the otherwise bland diet that many people consumed in the early 1900s and into the middle of the century



(Lindsey 2017a:12). Due to the commonality of mustard and other condiments used during the period, it is thus no surprise that the Garritys also used mustard to spice up their daily meals.

## **Beverages**

This category of household artifacts is made up of a variety of bottles of shapes and sizes and one artifact that could be a bottle stopper. The contents of some of these bottles have been identified, but others can be left to interpretation. It is also a consideration that while some of the bottles may have contained alcohol, this could have been used medicinally at the lighthouse. A medicine chest is listed as one of the items supplied to the lighthouses by the government, but there is no description of the size or the contents of the chest (Unites States Lighthouse Borad 1901:15).

Artifact 2 is a 400 cc, clear glass bottle that displays some texturing on the front and back faces of the bottle as shown in Figure 8.

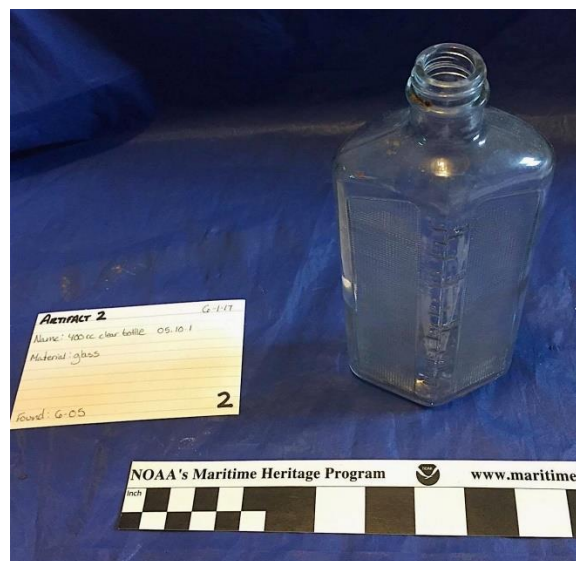


Figure 8: Artifact 2: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

There is no maker's mark and therefore no other specific features of identification on the bottle. The interpretation that can be made is that since the bottle has the specific measurements

listed along the front and back of the bottle, it was likely used for medicinal purposes and the measurements assisted with administering the proper dosage.

Artifact 4's only identifiable characteristic is the maker's mark of "Ball" written in cursive and stamped on the bottom of the bottle. The company changed names several times between its start in 1880 and the present where it is now referred to as the Ball Corporation (Whitten 2017a:2). Most of their products, the most famous being their canning jars, were stamped with the name "Ball" in cursive script on the bottom, so this bottle is no exception to that general rule (Whitten 2017a:1-2).

The other distinguishing feature is the stamp around the top of the bottle which reads, "Federal Law Forbids Sale or Reuse of this Bottle" in all capital letters as seen in Figure 9.

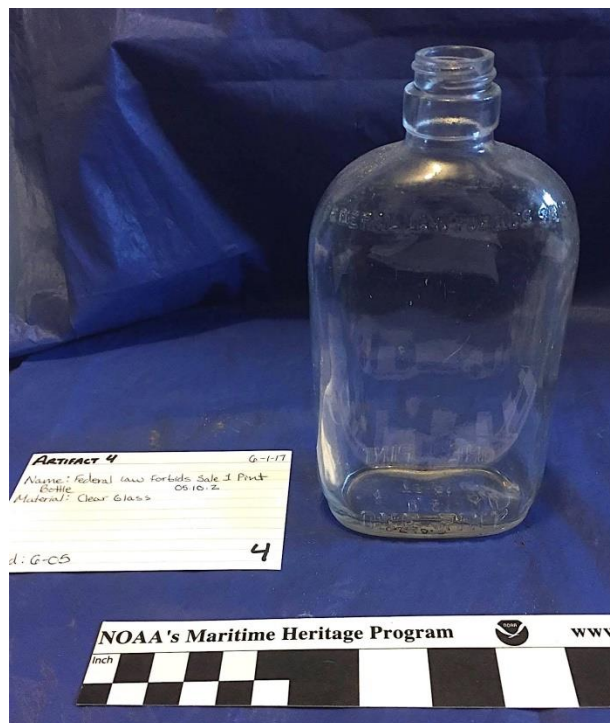


Figure 9: Artifact 4: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

This stamp is indicative that the bottle was produced and used during the Prohibition era and contained some type of illegal alcoholic beverage. The embossing on the bottle indicates the date of production was probably between the 1930s and the 1960s (Historic Glasshouse

2007:1). “One law required that alcoholic bottles must be embossed with the text, “FEDERAL LAW FORBIDS SALE OR REUSE OF THIS BOTTLE.” This law went into effect in 1935 and was repealed on December 1, 1964” (Historic Glasshouse 2007:1). This date places the bottle at the end of the Garrity timeline of service, and was therefore more likely used by the Byrnes family or the Coast Guard.

Artifact 5 is a small, clear glass bottle with a black plastic cap which remains intact as seen in Figure 10.

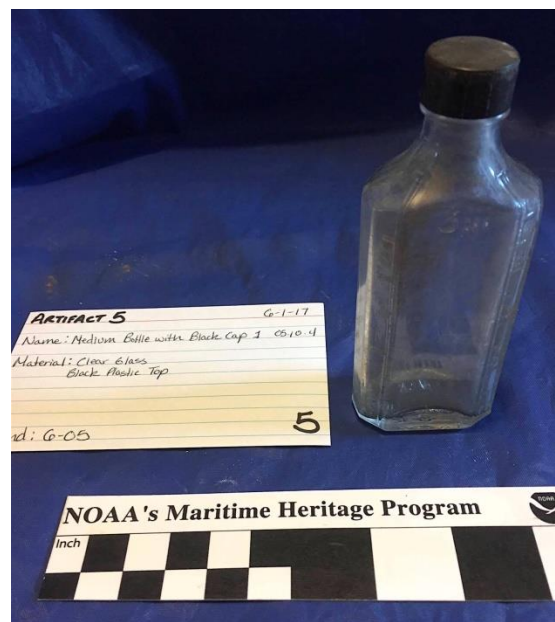


Figure 10: Artifact 5: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The bottle bears the maker’s mark of the Owens Illinois Glass Company, a capital letter “O” with a capital letter “I” in the center and a horizontal diamond shape around it extending outside of the “O.” The company used this specific maker’s mark between 1929 and 1960 (Whitten 2017c:1). Based on the small size of the bottle and the measurements marked out on the side, it is probable that this bottle was also used for medicine rather than a beverage.

Artifact 14 is a large brown bottle, with an in-tact black plastic cap, which also bears the stamp of, “Federal Law Forbids Sale,” as shown in Figure 11.

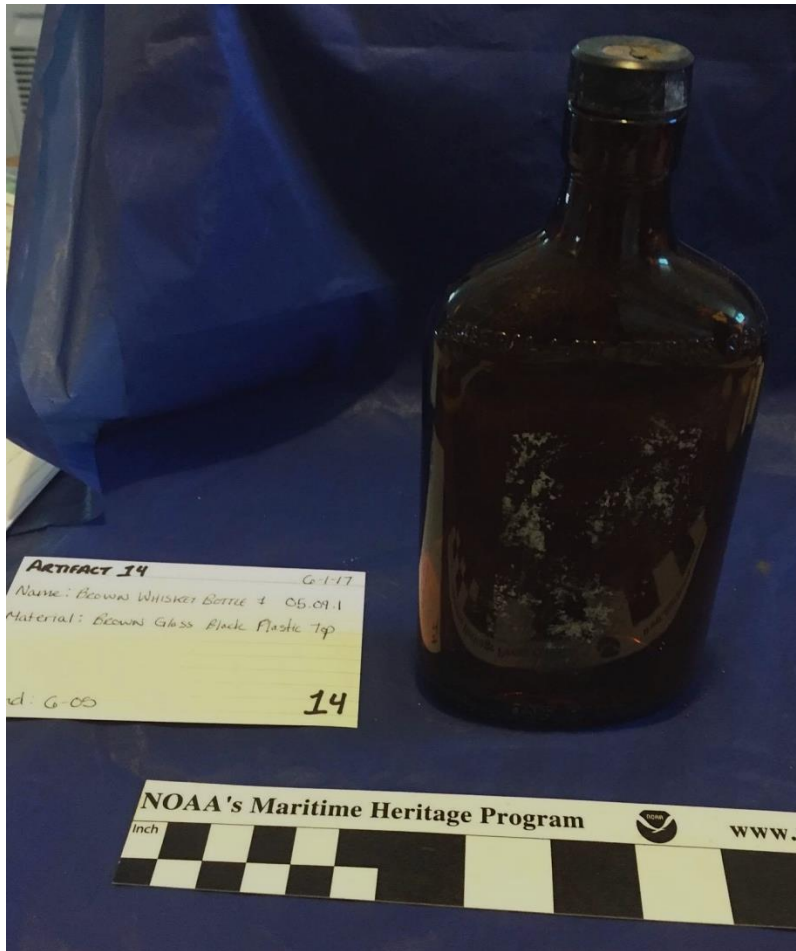


Figure 11: Artifact 14: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

There are no specific markings on the bottle that indicate the company from which it originated, but as seen in the photo, small traces of some sort of adhesive still remain on the bottle, most likely a glue that once adhered a sticker with the brand name on the bottle. But the embossing does once again date the bottle's production between the 1930s and 1960s (Historic Glasshouse 2007:1). Since the bottle is also brown and not clear, it could be interpreted that the darker glass could have been used to house a darker colored alcoholic beverage, such as whiskey.

Artifact 15 is another large, brown bottle with an in-tact black plastic cap and embossed with the phrase "Federal Law Forbids Sale of this Bottle". This bottle differs from artifact 14 however by the unique nature of the detail of the bottle as shown in Figure 12.

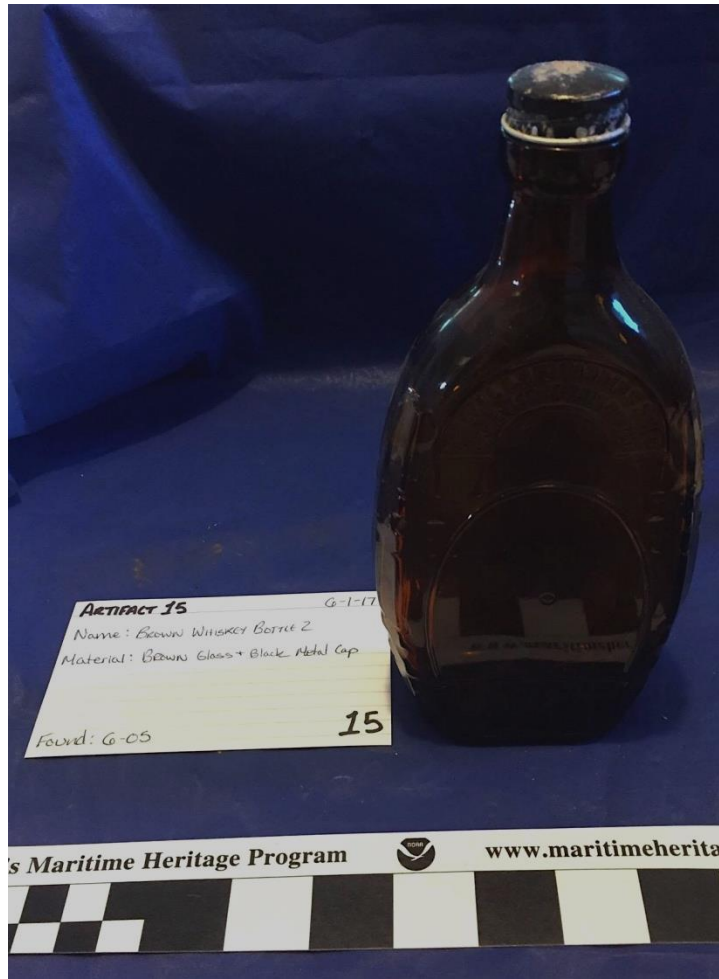


Figure 12: Artifact 15: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The shape and decoration of this bottle differs from artifact 14 as it is more rounded, the stamp is rounded and in the center of the bottle as opposed to across the top, and the bottle is sparsely decorated with lines and textures. While the embossment still dates the production of the bottle between the 1930s and 1960s, the different shape and style of bottle could indicate that it was produced by another company and possibly contained a different type of alcoholic beverage than the other bottles previously discussed in this section (Historic Glasshouse 2007:1) A small piece of a sticker still exists on the backside of the bottle, but without the full sticker it is not possible to derive any additional contextual clues as to the specific identity of the bottle from it.

Artifact 20 is a taller, brown bottle with a long, thin neck and an in-tact black plastic cap. The bottle is the only one of its shape among the artifacts within the collection of artifacts at the museum. The unique shape and detail on the body of the bottle is shown in Figure 13.

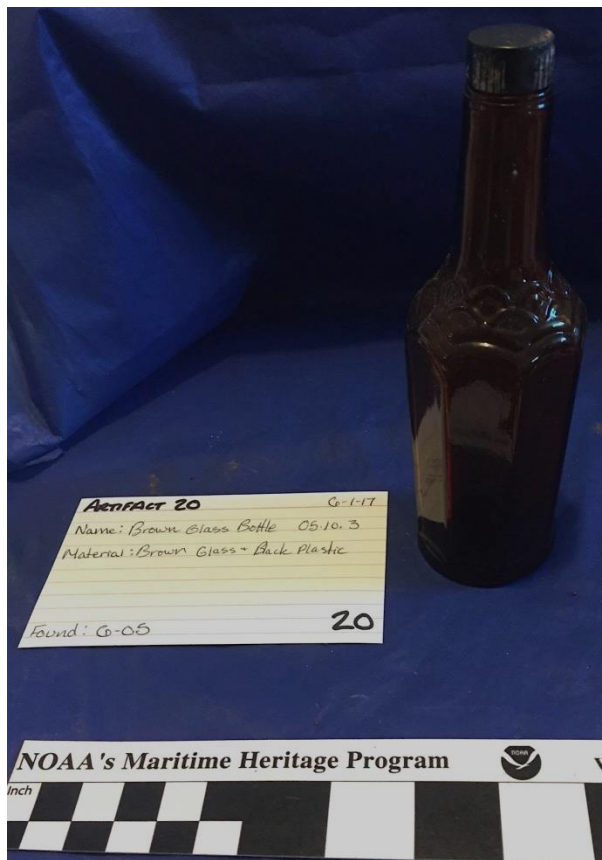


Figure 13: Artifact 20: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The bottle has no maker's mark, but the tapering shape from the long neck and slowly outward into the shoulders of the bottle can provide an approximate date. "Liquor bottles with fluted or decorative shoulders and/or necks appear to be primarily a product of the early 20th century, with some dating back as early as the 1890s" (Lindsey 2017c:14). This date, while broad, still places the production and use of the bottle within the timeframe that the Garrity family served at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse.

Artifact 21 is a medium sized, clear glass bottle with unique texturing on all four sides. There is also some type of residue present on the inside of the bottle as shown in Figure 14.

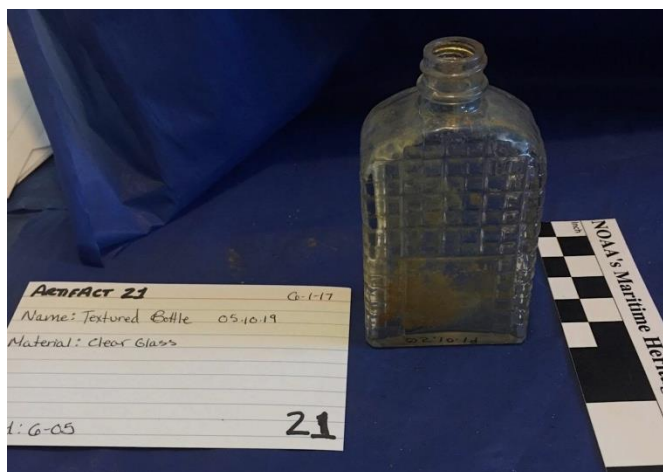


Figure 14: Artifact 21: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The size and decoration of this bottle is unique however without a maker's mark or any other distinguishing characteristics, there is no way to obtain a date of production for this bottle or to determine what contents were inside.

Artifact 22 is a very small, clear and textured bottle with no cap. The maker's mark on the bottom of the bottle is from the Owens Illinois Glass Company, and displays a capital letter "O" with a capital letter "I" in the center and a horizontal diamond shape around it extending outside of the "O." The use of this specific mark was between 1929 and 1960 (Whitten 2017c:1). This date is toward the end of the time that the Garrity family resided at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse, and therefore it is inconclusive of whether or not they, or the Byrnes family or the Coast Guard after them used this bottle. Due to its small size it was most likely used for medicinal purposes as opposed to being used for a beverage. The small size of the bottle is demonstrated in Figure 15 where it is pictured next to a standard 3 × 5 in. (7.6 × 12.7 cm.) card.

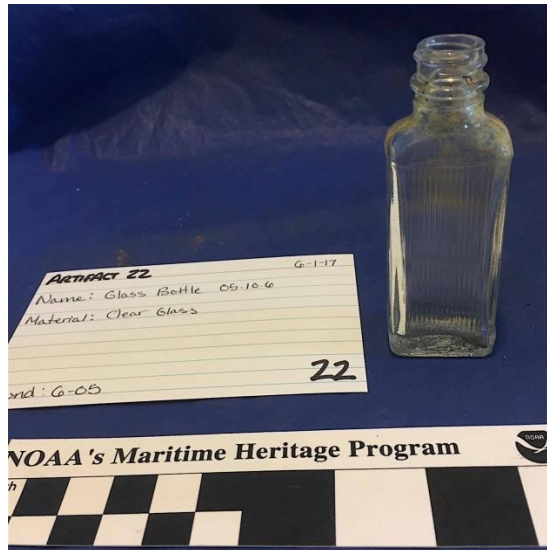


Figure 15: Artifact 22: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Artifact 24 is a very small, brown glass bottle without a cap and bears the same maker's mark as artifact 22. The small size of the bottle is shown in Figure 16 in which it rests on a standard 3 × 5 in. (7.6 × 12.7 cm.) card for reference.

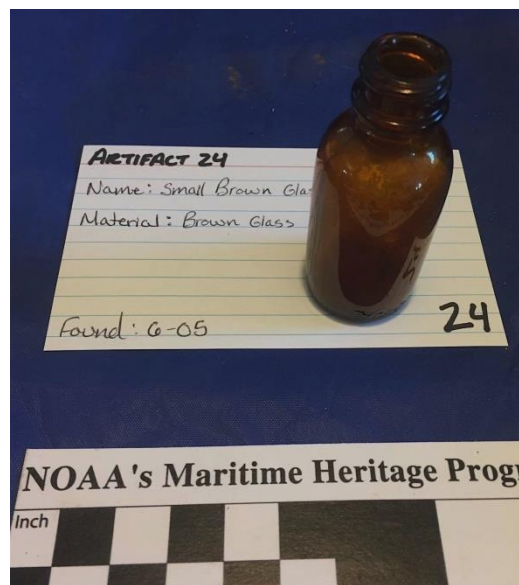


Figure 16: Artifact 24: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

As stated earlier, the maker's mark on the bottle is from the Owens Illinois Glass Company, and displays a capital letter "O" with a capital letter "I" in the center and a horizontal diamond shape around it extending outside of the "O." The use of this specific mark was



between 1929 and 1960 (Whitten 2017c:1). This date, again, is toward the end of the time that the Garrity family resided at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse, and therefore it is inconclusive of whether or not they, or the Byrnes family or the Coast Guard after them used this bottle. Due to its small size it was most likely used for medicinal purposes as opposed to being used for a beverage.

Before examining the group of artifacts in this section, it is important to address the number of alcohol bottles which were recovered from the kitchen dump site. For lighthouse keepers, drinking alcohol while on the job was not permitted due to the impairment of judgement that alcohol causes. This rule applied to keepers as well as visitors at the lighthouses; “Intoxicated Persons: 17: Keepers must under no circumstances allow an intoxicated person to enter a light tower, nor to remain on the premises longer than is necessary to get him away by the employment of all proper and reasonable means” (United States Light-House Establishment 1881:6).

The only recorded instance of an involvement with an intoxicated individual by the Garrity family took place at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse in 1930 involving a staff member, second assistant Vincent M. Newagon.

Three generations of Garritys regularly gathered at the lighthouse to share in meals and to enjoy the woods, beaches, lakes and each other’s company. On one such occasion in 1930, seven-year-old Rosemary (Hainstock), granddaughter of Mary Garrity McDougall, eagerly scampered up the 138 steep, winding steps of the Presque Isle light tower...After reaching the top, she leaned against the outer railing, enamored with the breathtaking view. Suddenly, the keeper’s assistant, who was intoxicated at the time, grabbed little Rosemary from behind, turned her upside down, and dangled the terrified child by her ankles over the side of the railing. Rosemary’s mother stood on the ground below the tower, momentarily frozen with terror as she heard her daughter screaming for help and saw her hanging precariously over the iron railing. When Mrs. McDougall screamed at the top of her lungs demanding Vincent pull the child to safety, he complied. The incident lasted only a few minutes, but has lingered in the Garrity family memories and has been retold for over eighty years (Young 2015:150).

According to the lighthouse service timeline, Vincent Newagon served at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse as second assistant from 1922-1928 (Young 2013:1). Due to his presence at the event, it can be assumed that he was invited by the family, but his presence and intoxicated state ultimately caused panic at the event. His drunken state may also explain why he served as a second assistant for only a few years. The dates of production for all of the alcohol bottles found at the site originate toward the end of the time period the Garrity family resided at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse.

The number of alcohol bottles could be interpreted to have originated instead from the time period after 1947 when the Coast Guard took over the operation of the lighthouse (Wright 2006:185) The demographic of exclusively men at the lighthouse rather than men mixed with women and children can more easily be interpreted as an environment in which alcohol would be more readily consumed. Due to the multiple men at the lighthouse at one time, there would also be more personal items, or bottles, and thus more possibilities for the consumption of alcohol during their time off

The final group of artifacts within the beverage section is group 11 which consists of 2 colored glass stoppers, one light purple, and the other turquoise. No information could be found on the purple stopper, which has a slightly tapering neck and a spherical head. The turquoise stopper has a flat head with a shorter and rounded neck and is slightly smaller than the purple stopper as shown in Figure 17.



Figure 17: Group 11: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The turquoise bottle stopper is the top of a unique type of bottle for carbonated beverages called a Codd Bottle. Originally a British design, the bottles contained a marble that, after the bottle was filled upside down, would rise to the top and seal against a rubber stopper under the glass bottle stop (Odell 2007:1). The idea of the marble inside was to seal the space where air would enter the bottle, thus the beverage would only slowly lose carbonation. The design was intended to assist in maintaining the carbonation for an extended period of time (Odell 2007:2-3). The production of Codd bottles in the United States began in 1923, which coincides with the end of the Garrity family timeline (Odell 2007:9). It was common practice for children to break the bottles in order to retrieve and play with the marbles, making the in-tact bottles very rare (Odell 2007:8). Further excavation of the kitchen dump could possibly reveal pieces of the broken bottle, or perhaps the marble itself.

### **Kitchen Items**

The following sub-category of artifacts contains excavated artifacts whose function would be in the kitchen, most of which are dishes and then one is part of a kitchen utensil.

Artifact 11 is a white ceramic egg cup with a thick and thin strip of gold trim around both openings as shown in Figure 18.



Figure 18: Artifact 11: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Egg cups were commonly used to house a poached or cooked egg that was still in the shell. The egg was placed in the larger side of the cup, while the cup rested on the table on the base. The consumer would then crack the top of the shell with the spoon and eat the egg out of the shell while upright, rather than attempting the same action with the egg rolling around on a plate. There is a large chip in the rim of the artifact, but other than that, it is intact. The only indication of production is a stamp, “MADE IN JAPAN S” inside the base of the egg cup. This stamp however is too generic without any additional detail to ascertain a specific date for the artifact.

Artifact 12 is a green and white colored kettle made of a type of enameled metal known as graniteware. “Graniteware is enameled tin or iron used to make kitchen utensils since the 1870s. Early graniteware was green or turquoise blue with white” (Kovels 2017:1). According to this given timeframe, it is probable that the Garrity’s used this kettle during their time at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse. The reason for disposal of the kettle may have been that the handle broke or there was a crack in the kettle. “Graniteware was prone to cracking, which

would expose the metal underneath and cause it to rust clear through” (Collectors Weekly 2017:1). This oxidation process is evident on the kettle in several places as seen in Figure 19. However, the majority of the kettle remains intact.



Figure 19: Artifact 12: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Additional excavation of the site could result in the discovery of the handle, lid, or both. It is also possible that there were additional pieces of graniteware used at the house because it was low cost, light weight, easy to use, durable, and easy to clean, making it an ideal piece of cookware for a lighthouse (Collectors Weekly 2017:1).

Artifact 27 is a very thin, slotted, metal spatula head without a handle as is shown in Figure 20. The artifact is in very good condition, displaying little to no oxidation despite being buried for a significant period of time.

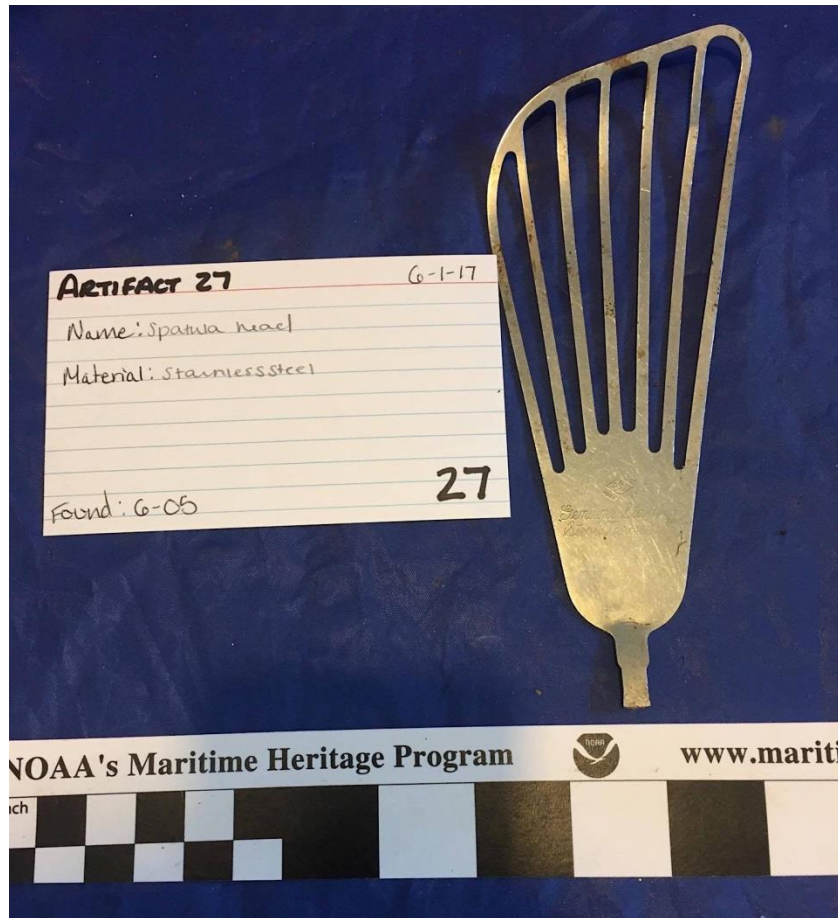


Figure 20: Artifact 27: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The company name, A & J Manufacturing, stamped on the front face of the spatula head provided enough information to obtain a vague date of the mid 1920s for production of this particular spatula (A-J Manufacturing 2017:1). This date suggests that the spatula was most likely used by the Garrity family and probably discarded into the kitchen dump when it broke off from the handle

Artifact 28 is one large piece of what appears to be the top of some sort of ceramic pitcher. The piece is decorated with light purple flowers as well as light and dark green leaves as shown in Figure 21, and has a spout for pouring inside the lip of the piece.

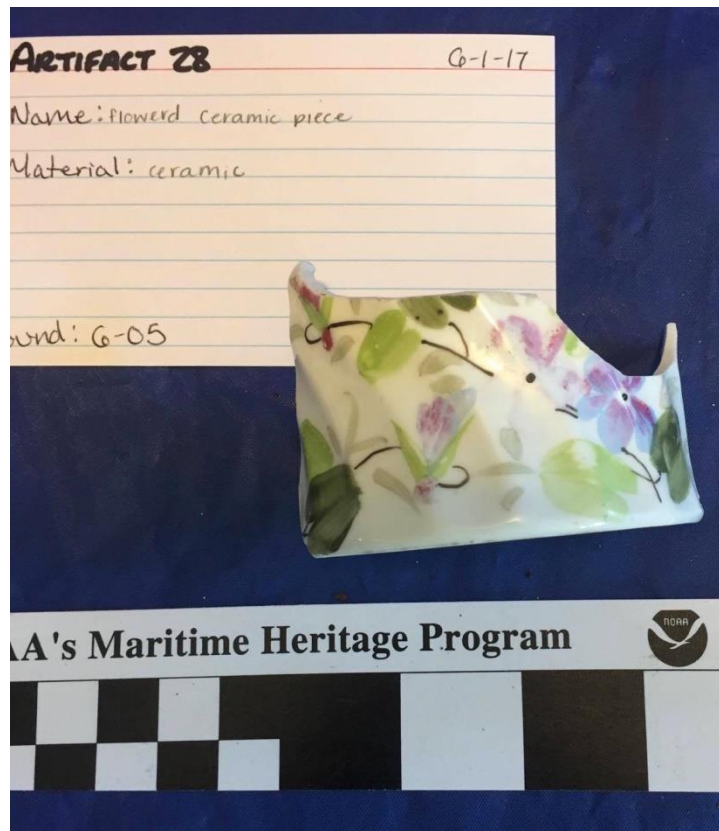


Figure 21: Artifact 28: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Since there is only one piece of the pitcher and it is from the top, there is no maker's mark or other indicating features regarding the production of the piece. Further excavation of the site could possibly reveal additional fragments of this pitcher, or even additional items such as matching cups or saucers with the same floral design. However, since the piece is probably part of a pitcher as opposed to a teapot, it is also possible that it is a single pitcher rather than part of a matching set.

Group 4 is made up of 6 pieces of a white ceramic coffee mug with pink flowers and green leaves stamped with the insignia of the Homer Laughlin Company on the bottom of the base piece of the mug. There is also a thin line of silver detail long the rim of the mug as well as on the handle as shown in Figure 22.



Figure 22: Group 4: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Reconstruction of the mug's original shape was not attempted during the examination and analysis, but due to the size of the pieces, it appears that the mug would be almost, if not entirely complete if it had been reassembled.

The Homer Laughlin Company was started by brothers Homer and Shakespeare Laughlin with the help of partner Nathaniel Simms in Ohio in 1869 upon the premise of, "making quality china at a fair price" (Homer Laughlin China Company 2017:1). Simms left the business in 1873, and the Laughlin brothers proceeded to take the United States by storm with their extensive line of dinnerware and cookery items, adding new designs and decorations each year; with peak production in 1948 when they produced 10,129,449 dishes (Carnegie Public Library 2017:3).

The Laughlin brothers determinedly started what is now the oldest, most productive, and largest privately owned pottery still producing American



dinnerware. Throughout its long history, so popular and extensive did Laughlin ware become that the company claims to have made about one-third of all the dinnerware produced in the United States (Racheter 1997:6).

In 1929, the company constructed their eighth production plant for the sole purpose of producing and distributing the Virginia Rose and Marigold designs (Racheter 1997:7). These names do not refer to the decoration on the pieces themselves, but rather the design of the ceramic pieces such as the curve of the edge, the depth of the bowl, etc. Marigold was produced immediately at the plant, and Virginia Rose followed shortly after in 1932 (Racheter 1997:7). Even though this date is close to the end of the Garrity timeline, it is still possible that they used it however it is also possible that the mug was purchased by the Byrnes family during their time of service at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse.

The pieces in Group 4, which were recovered from the kitchen dump site would, if assembled, make up a Virginia Rose coffee mug. “The shape is a round scalloped rimmed form with periodic embossing” (Gonzalez 2002:179). This design was simple and elegant, and Homer Laughlin’s most popular ceramic pattern until they introduced Fiesta Ware in the 1960s (Rachetter 1997:8). The particular style of decoration on the recovered mug is labeled JJ59 by the company, but is more frequently referred to as Moss (or Mossy) Rose, and was the most popular decoration on Homer Laughlin’s Virginia Rose ceramic pieces (Racheter 1997:129).

Due to the proximity of the company to the Presque Isle lighthouses and the explosion of popularity that Homer Laughlin created in the late 1800s and early 1900s, it is not surprising that one of their mugs was discovered in the kitchen dump site. The coffee mug, despite the delicate decoration, is a thick and sturdy piece of drink ware that would have served well at the lighthouse as opposed to a china teacup. However the broken state of the mug is suggestive of the reason it was discarded into the dump.

Interpretation of this coffee mug suggests that it demonstrates a sense of practicality from the lighthouse keepers. On the one hand, the design on the mug is pleasant to look at, but is also sturdy and would be considered more durable than other types of china or porcelain used during that era. It would be fascinating if further excavation of the kitchen dump site revealed additional pieces of the Virginia Rose, Moss Rose set because they would further demonstrate the sense of practicality from the lighthouse keepers, whether it was the Garrity or the Byrnes family.

In regards to the items discussed previously that could either have been used during the time the Garrity family was present, or the Byrnes family was present, it is also possible to postulate that some of these artifacts could have been used by both families. The Garrity children, upon their retirements in the 1920s and 1930s, may have left some small items they did not want to take with them to Alpena for the incoming Byrnes family to have in their home. There is no way to prove that this happened, however it would be a possible explanation for the presence of artifacts that were produced and discarded between the 1930s and the 1940s.

Group 9 consists of 2 decorative, collectible spoons that were found near the dump site during the excavation as opposed to inside the kitchen dump itself. The first spoon, pictured on the left in Figure 23, is darker in color and has an eagle perched on top of a circle at the top of the spoon and the word “souvenir” written down the stem. It appears that the darker color is due to degradation of the metal, so a light dose of electrolysis or a sodium bicarbonate scrub would quite possibly reveal additional details on the spoon that would help to obtain a more specific date for it. However, based on the current details available to the naked eye, there is not enough detail to ascertain a specific date. There is a line of souvenir spoons similar to this one from different cities, but several have the eagle perched at the top, so without more detail, it is impossible to discover which of the spoons it is.



Figure 23: Group 9: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The second spoon was produced in honor of the launch of the *Baltimore* in 1954, thus dating this spoon in the timeline of the Coast Guard occupation of the lighthouse rather than that of the Garrity or the Byrnes family. The spoon says “good luck” and has a horseshoe and clover on the handle and then in the lower portion of the spoon there is a profile of *Baltimore* as well as the name. It is interesting to note that while *Baltimore* was an individual ship, Baltimore-class cruisers were also a type of ship used by the United States during and after World War II. In all, 14 of them were constructed and used primarily as aircraft carriers, including *Baltimore* (Ewing

1984). These spoons were interesting and detailed artifacts despite the fact that there is no way to know why they were on the site.

### Other Household Items

The final sub category of household artifacts includes those that did not fit into the four previous categories, but are still items that would be considered to be used around the house. The first three artifacts discussed have to do with the common practice of writing at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse.

Artifact 9 is a clear glass inkwell stamped on the bottom with the insignia of LePage's Signet Ink, however, this company not only made ink, but a variety of home and office products, including a range of industrial glues (LePage's 2017:1). Besides the basic information that the company started in 1879 and still exists today, there was no information or specifics regarding their production of inkwells (LePage's 2017). The inkwell is pictured in Figure 24.



Figure 24: Artifact 9: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Artifact 30 is a broken inkwell that is very similar in both size and shape to Artifact 9, as shown in Figure 25. There is no distinguishing company name or maker's mark on this artifact, making it impossible to find the correlating date of this artifact. But, given that the inkwell is so similar in shape and size to artifact 9, it could be postulated that the inkwells were produced during a similar time period.

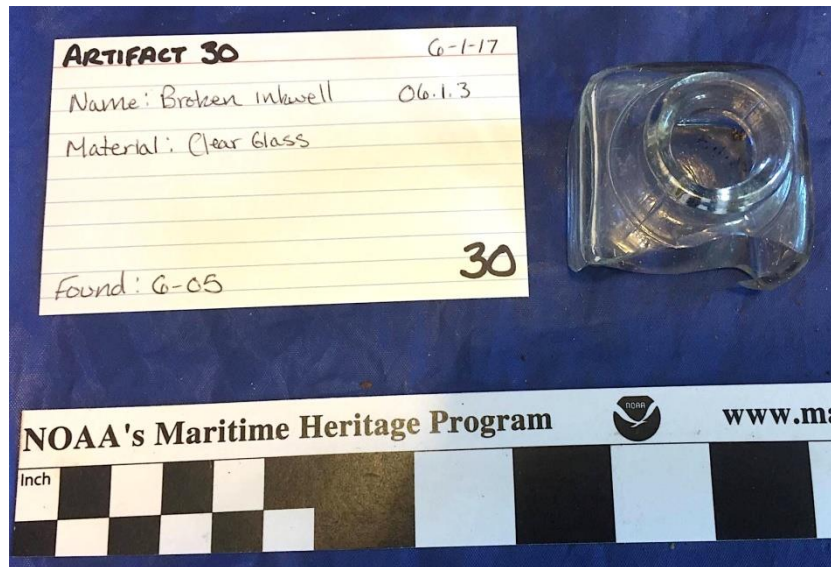


Figure 25: Artifact 30: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The discovery of these inkwells at the site signifies that they were definitely used on a regular basis by the family if there were two in one small, excavated area of the kitchen dump. The fact that there are two in such a small excavation pit could suggest that there could be more, either from the same company, or others, within the kitchen dump. The presence of artifact 32 also supports this observation as it was used as an ink bottle.

Artifact 32 is a clear, triangularly-shaped bottle, the size and shape of which is often identified as an ink bottle. These bottles were, “of a more disposable utilitarian nature and often – but certainly not always – discarded after use of the commercially produced contents contained in the bottle” (Lindsey 2017b:3). The bottle possesses no maker’s marks or distinguishing features other than the unique triangular body of the bottle as shown in Figure 26. Thus without a specific company mark on the bottle it not possible to discern where the bottle of ink was sold. It is possible to conclude however that the bottle is too small to contain the government issued amount of one pint of ink, so it can be determined that the ink was purchased by the family rather than provided for them (United States Lighthouse Board 1901:4).

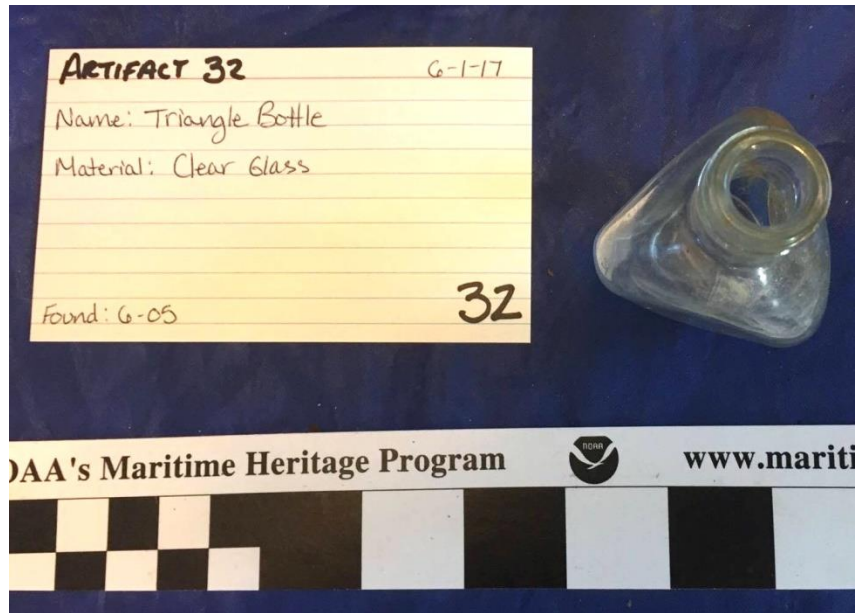


Figure 26: Artifact 32: Photo taken by author 5/1/17

All three of the artifacts discussed above relate to the common practice of writing at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse. Writing in the lighthouse watch book was a daily task for lighthouse keepers, even though they were discouraged from wasting space in the logs with personal information, which did not pertain to the lighthouse.

A watch book must be kept also at all stations where there is more than one keeper...In keeping the journal, two pages (the right and the left), are to be used for one month. The events of the day must be written on one line across both pages. As a general rule, if carefully written, one line will be found sufficient. The visits of the Inspector or Engineer, or of the lampist or machinist, and an account of any work going on or delivery of stores, must be noted; as also any item of interest occurring in the vicinity; such as the state of the weather, or other similar matter. The books must be kept in ink, with neatness, and must always be kept up to date (United States Lighthouse Board 1881:9)

In addition to the daily entry, keepers were also required to submit reports to the U.S.L.B within four separate time frames: when necessary, annually, quarterly, and monthly. When necessary included: “receipt for extra supplies, keeper’s receipt for property on taking charge, receipt for delivery of supplies, shipwreck reports, reports of any damage to station or apparatus...and, any unusual occurrence” (United States Lighthouse Board 1881:9).

Considering the size of the Garrity family, it is probable that the receipts for extra supplies would have been sent more frequently from them than from other keepers in the past with smaller families. Annual reports were to consist of nothing more than property returns. Quarterly reports included: “expenditures of oil, etc, vouchers for salary, and an abstract of passing vessels” (United States Lighthouse Board 1881:9). The salary for lighthouse keepers increased during the Garrity’s time at Presque Isle on multiple accounts, necessitating salary vouchers and changes to also be sent more frequently than with past lighthouse keepers (Young 2013:1).

Finally, monthly reports included: “report of condition of station, both to Inspector and Engineer, fog signal report, and absence report” (United States Lighthouse Board 1881:9). Two pages in the *List of Allowances to Light Stations* are dedicated to the books, ledgers, and paper materials keepers were given, however, the only mention of ink is in bulk, by the pint, and an inkstand (United States Lighthouse Board 1901:3-4) Since a pint of ink would be cumbersome to have on a desk, it can be postulated that a variety of inkwells were purchased during the time when keepers were at the lighthouses in an effort to make the daily tasks of writing in the logs easier.

These mandated tasks would explain the frequent need for ink, but it can also be postulated that the inkwells were used for more personal reasons as well. Schoolwork for the children is one possible use, and another is personal correspondence to other family members or friends due to the solitary lifestyle the Garrity family, and those before and after them, endured at the lighthouses of Presque Isle. There are pages of letters written by Major Henry Woolsey and his wife Elizabeth, during their time of service at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse, to their young son Henry during his service in the Navy between 1842 and 1844 (Young 2015:72-83). These letters provided the only source of communication between these parents and their son

during his time at sea, thus exemplifying the value of written communication for lighthouse keepers, especially when they lived in such an isolated place.

Artifact 17 is one of the most puzzling artifacts recovered from the site, a small, painted, ceramic chicken or quail, depending on how the markings on the face of the bird are interpreted. The beak is missing, but other than that the small, colorful bird is intact as shown in Figure 27. There are no maker's marks or other distinguishing features, so there is no way to determine a date for this artifact's production or where it came from.

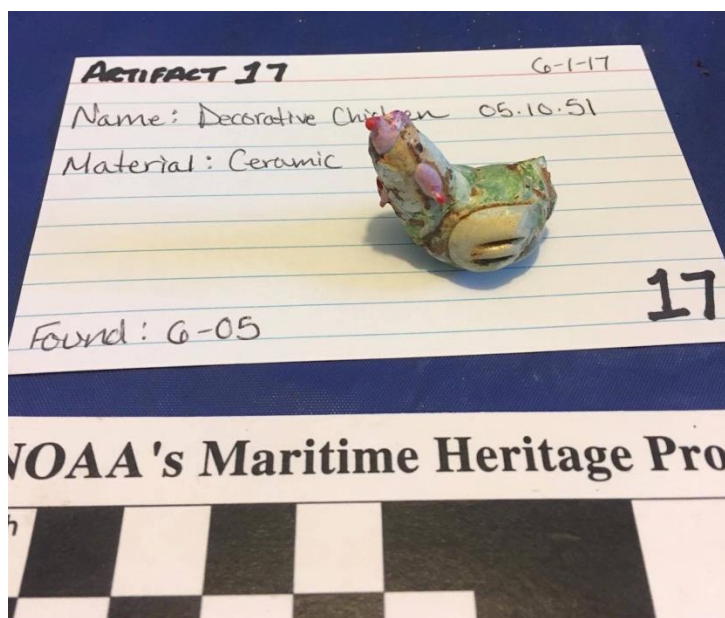


Figure 27: Artifact 17: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

However, its use could be interpreted possibly as an early model of a pie bird, a small ceramic bird with slits in the wings used to help pierce pies and help the excess steam escape while baking. There are small slits in the wings of the artifact but they do not extend through the entire width of the bird as the slits within the wings of traditional pie birds do. The shallow slits in the wings of the bird may indicate an earlier, failed model of a pie bird, but there is no way to confirm this interpretation. An alternate explanation would be that the small bird served no productive purpose other than a simple household decoration.



Whether or not the bird had a practical use, its presence in the site is indicative that decorations were used within the isolated home to some extent. It is interesting to contemplate that when the trips to the store for supplies were so infrequent, they still chose to spend money on such a small, impractical object for the house. Further excavation of the site may reveal additional such birds, or other small, decorative artifacts which could indicate a theme in the type of decoration that was used throughout the lighthouse keeper's house.

Artifact 31 is a colored glass object that appears at first glance to be a cup. The white base color with dark red (ox blood) details and sleek, octagonal lines of the shape of the artifact set it apart from any of the other glassware recovered from the site. The artifact itself is identified as the cigarette holder from a five-piece set sold by the Akro Agate Glass Company (Bowey 2010). The company started in Akron, Ohio in 1911 and, "made only marbles until 1932, when the company expanded into a range of small items including children's tea sets, ashtrays, flower pots, and novelties" (Bowey 2010:1). The company closed after World War II, when they could no longer afford to import and produce their most popular product, marbles (Bowey 2010:2).



Figure 28: Artifact 31: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Due to the service timeline this artifact could have belonged to the Garrity family but it is more likely that the Byrnes family owned it or it was used by the Coast Guard during their occupancy of the New Presque Isle Lighthouse. The artifact exhibits no physical damage, as shown in Figure 28, so it is odd that it was recovered from the kitchen dump where many of the artifacts were broken or damaged in some way. Additional excavation of the site may reveal the rest of the pieces from the set of five, and if it did not reveal them it would be even more of an anomaly that a single piece from the set was discarded, undamaged, in the kitchen dump.

Artifact 33 is a heavily oxidized metal bell with a large slit in the top and a hole in the bottom. Figure 29 also displays a hole in the side of the artifact, which appears to be the result of oxidation rather than function due to the jagged edges and obvious degradation of various portions of the bell. The artifact is larger than a hand-held bell and similar in size and shape to the type of bell that would be attached to the harness of a horse pulling a sleigh. “The majority of horse and sleigh bells were made from about 1845 to about 1920” (Classic Bells Ltd. 2017:1).

A common characteristic of bells from this era is that the throat, the slit along the center of the bell, ends in circular openings at either end. The length and width of the throat give the sleigh bell its louder, rich tone as compared to other types of bells designed to vibrate less and thus make less noise (Kovatch 2015:3). Artifact 33 possesses the same type of throat characteristic to that specific era of sleigh bells, a timeframe which identifies the production and usage of this bell within the Garrity family’s time if service at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse. Another common characteristic of sleigh bells of that era is that there is a hole in the bottom of the bell into which either a rivet or screw is placed to attach the bell to the horses harness (Classic Bells Ltd. 2017:1-2). There is a large hole on the underside of the bell, which assists in further confirming artifact 33 as a sleigh bell from the era.



Figure 29: Artifact 33: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The most fascinating aspect of identifying this artifact as a sleigh bell is that there is probable photographic evidence of the Garrity family using it. As mentioned in the previous chapter, the Garrity family enjoyed going for sleigh rides during the winter months and the family photo of such an outing, as shown in Figure 30, displays the horse and sleigh that they used for such outings.



Figure 30: Obtained from the personal research collection of Janet Young, with her permission in October, 2017.

There is not a specific recorded date for the picture, due to the fact that the family did not write it down, but the Garrity children appear to be in their mid to late 30s and 40s, which would date the photo to the early 1900s. It is also difficult to identify the individuals due to the lack of published photos of the family, but from their pictures in other documents it appears that Mary and her husband Daniel are seated in the front, with Kate and Thomas behind them and then Mary and Patrick in the back of the sleigh. The other possibility is that the man in the front is John Garrity, and Daniel was perhaps the one taking the photograph. It is obvious that the size and shape of the bell recovered from the dump site is very similar to that which was used on the Garrity family horse that pulled their sleigh. Therefore, the strongest confirmation of a family tie to any of these artifacts was captured and is available for all to see in this family photo.

Group 6 is made up of three small metal artifacts and one glass artifact. They were included as a group because the display within the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum had the three smaller objects resting inside the glass tray. Figure 31 displays all 4 artifacts laid out so that the details on each can be observed more thoroughly.

The metal artifact in the upper left corner of Figure 31 based on observation is most likely the back of a hair clip referred to as an alligator clip. The clips open, like an alligator's mouth, and grasp hair within the clip and are used to this day for styling hair. There is minimal oxidation on the artifact, suggesting that the metal it is composed of is not prone to rust. The artifact in the upper right corner of Figure 31 is most likely the top to a pepper shaker since there are two holes and salt shakers normally have more holes since salt is more frequently used than pepper.



Figure 31: Group 6: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The artifact in the lower right corner of Figure 31 is the lid to a glass jar which would be adhered to the jar itself by a wire that rested in the indentations of the lid (personal communication, Dr. Jennifer McKinnon, February, 2018). However, the artifact itself displays no maker's marks so it is impossible to date the specific production of the artifact. The last artifact displayed on the left of Figure 31 is what appears to be a man's wedding ring with a slight amount of oxidation on two portions of the band. The ring is large and determined to be a size 12 or 13 after a comparison to the author's personal ring size. This suggests that the man who the ring belonged to had large hands, but there is no engraving on the inside of the ring to obtain additional details from. This artifact is not technically a household item, but was included in this section due to the fact that the other three artifacts in the group did fit within this sub-category. It would be interesting to postulate reasons that a wedding band would be discarded

into the kitchen dump, but no stories were found within the history of any of the families who resided there that could contribute any additional information toward a postulation.

Many of the household artifacts described and analyzed in this section correlate with the timeline of the Garrity family at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse, but many of them also correlate with the Byrnes family timeline, or even later with the Coast Guard occupation of the lighthouse. But for the artifacts that do line up with the Garrity family, reasons for their presence in their home were proposed in an effort to develop the “archaeological biography” of their family. Many of these artifacts such as artifact 17, group 4, artifact 28, and artifact 11 each demonstrate that the keeper’s quarters at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse did contain a variety of small objects that added beauty to their isolated home. The majority of the artifacts discussed in this section did indeed contribute to the household in some practical way, but the artifacts with specific details on them show that the Garrity family valued objects within their home that were both pleasing to look at as well as practical to use.

### **Personal Artifacts**

The artifacts in the following section are split into two categories, toys and artifacts relating to personal hygiene or appearance. These artifacts can be more specifically tied to the individuals who lived at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse and the timeline for some of these artifacts will align their use with the Garrity family and contribute to their overall “archaeological biography.”

### **Toys**

When discussing the two artifacts included in this sub-category, it is important to note that all the Garrity children were adults by the time period that the artifacts correlate to. However, Mary and Daniel McDougall’s eight children, the nieces and nephews discussed in

chapter two who frequently visited the Presque Isle lighthouses where their aunts and uncles lived and worked, would be at the age where toys would still be used and played with. The McDougall's grandchildren also visited the lighthouses frequently in the 1930s increasing the timeframe in which children were present at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse (Young 2015:173). Therefore, due to the dates that will be presented within this section, the items discovered are more likely to belong to the McDougall children than the toys of their aunts and uncles from when they were children. The other option is that these toys could have belonged to the Byrnes children, although the identified timeline of use for both of the artifacts discussed better correlates with the Garrity family.

Artifact 23 is a large metal toy truck, which is heavily oxidized and missing all four wheels however the body of the truck itself is intact and un-corroded as shown in Figure 32. This artifact was not recovered from inside the kitchen dump, but was found sitting at the base of a tree near the kitchen dump during the ACC 2005 excavation (personal communication, Judith Kimball, October, 2016).

The original color of the dump truck was a red cab with a lighter blue bed. The dump truck was manufactured by the All Metal Products Company (also referred to as Wyandotte Toys) which, was founded in 1920 in nearby Wyandotte, Michigan (Hayden 2008:1). According to an article about the company, the dump truck was one of the most popular items in the late 1920s and early 1930s (Hayden 2008:1). The article also states that the dump truck was made of steel, the durability of which would explain why it was still intact and minimally corroded despite the fact that it has been exposed to the elements since the 1930s (Hayden 2008:2). It can thus be interpreted given this timeline, that this truck belonged to one of the McDougall boys who simply abandoned it when the wheels broke, or forgot it by a tree one day and never

returned for it. The date of the early 1930s also eliminates the Byrnes children as the owners since they did not move to the New Presque Isle Lighthouse until 1937.



Figure 32: Artifact 23: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Group 7 consists of two pieces of a small, white porcelain doll. The larger of the two pieces makes up the body, and a portion of each of the legs, the smaller piece is made up of the back of the head and neck as shown in Figure 33. Despite the faint “Made in Japan” stamp on the back of the doll and the stamp of the Japanese kanji, the exact date or manufacturer for the doll could not be found. The doll, due to the short hair, appears to have been a boy. Production of small porcelain dolls was most common in China in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but production shifted to the United States and Japan in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (History of Dolls 2018:3). Given this timeline, the doll most likely belonged to the Byrnes children since they were present at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse until 1947.





Figure 33: Group 7: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

### **Personal Hygiene and Appearance**

The majority of the artifacts described and analyzed within this section are various products used for personal hygiene. The remainder of the artifacts are either items jewelry or other products used to enhance one's personal appearance.

Artifact 6 is a medium sized clear glass bottle that curves in for an easier grip on it and also has a black cap. The bottom of the bottle is stamped with the insignia of the word "drene." "Drene shampoo was introduced by Procter & Gamble of Cincinnati, Ohio, in the mid-1930s. It was the first modern synthetic (no soap) shampoo and it marked the company's entrance into the hair care business" (Smithsonian 1984:1). The unique design, with the "grip grooves" in the center of the bottle, was incorporated in an effort to distinguish the product from other shampoo bottles on the market. In the words of the bottle designer, Donald Deskey, "[The] New design has cosmetic appeal, bold display, and a flexibility of display that permits placing the carton in a horizontal or vertical position" (Box Vox 2012:2).

The new design did so well in the market that the company decided to patent the design on November 29, 1949 (Box Vox 2012:4). The unique bottle design can be seen on artifact 6 in Figure 34 and even more prominently on artifact 26 in Figure 35. The subtle difference in the shape of the two bottles can then postulate that the bottles recovered from the kitchen dump were probably some of the earlier bottles released as they were perfecting the shape. There is also no indication in the sources on the company for a variety of types of shampoo, therefore it can be postulated that the reason for the size difference is that the bottles were either purchased at different times, or at different locations. Although the timeline does border when the Garrity family left the New Presque Isle Lighthouse, it is harder to determine whether the Garrity or Byrnes women used this product. Without a specific date on these particular artifacts, it can only be said that it is possible that either or both of the women in these families used this hair product.

Artifact 26 is a small, clear glass bottle with a metal cap on top and contains more prominent narrowing of the bottle in the center than artifact 6. It is also stamped with the “drene” insignia on the bottom of the bottle.

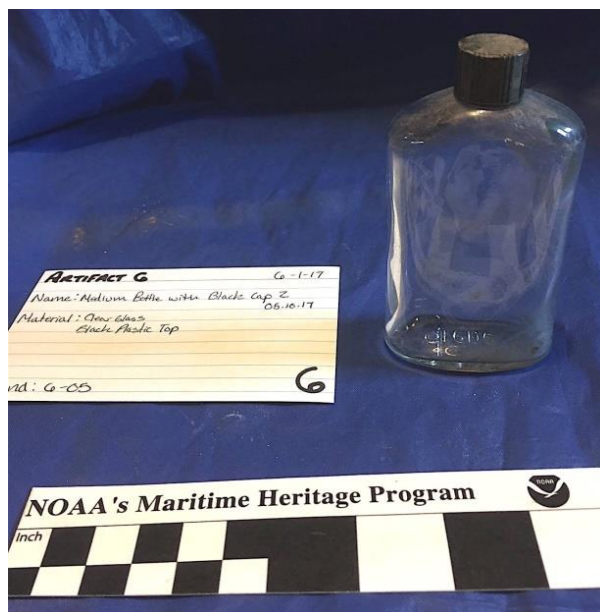


Figure 34: Artifact 6: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

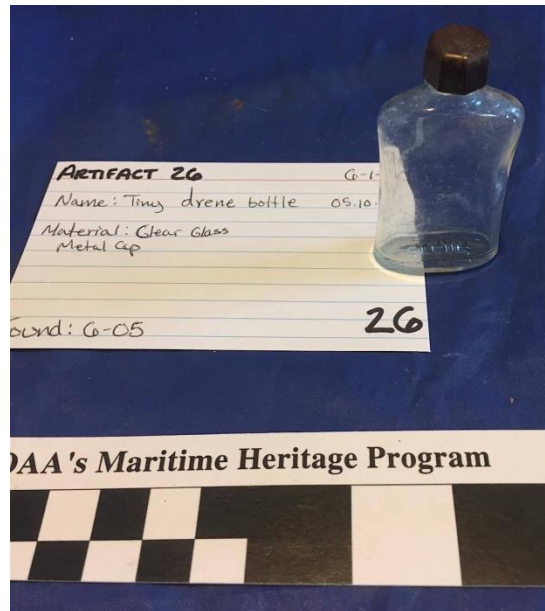


Figure 35: Artifact 26: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Artifact 7 is a medium sized white glass jar with carved markings and a black plastic lid as shown in Figure 36. The bottom of the jar is stamped with the word “Woodbury” indicative of a product of the Woodbury Soap Company, one of the first companies credited with using sexual appeal to advertise their cosmetic products in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Sherrow 2001:5).

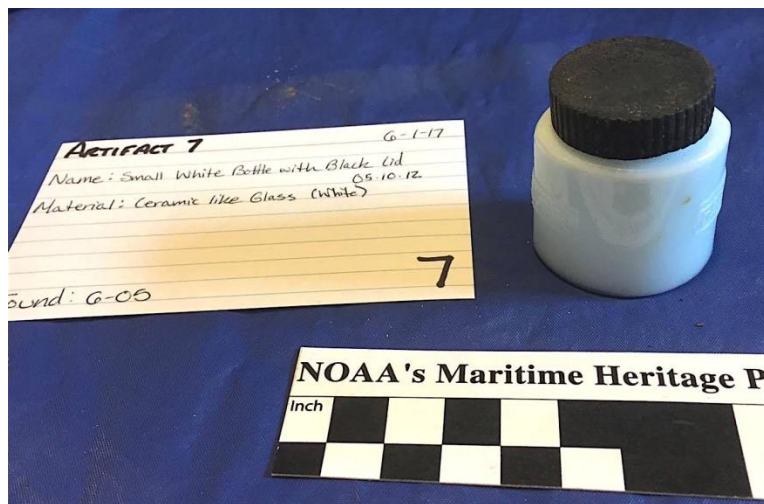


Figure 36: Artifact 7: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The white glass the jar is made out of is referred to as milk glass, which became popular in France toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was often seen as a status symbol (Milk Glass 2018:1). During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, this trend of status remained attached to milk glass

products in the United States. But in the 1930s that status decreased when milk glass was produced at a lesser quality and therefore “milk glass made during the Depression was considered less elegant and delicate and more a production of the harsh times” (Milk Glass 2018:1). After the Great Depression, milk glass became commonly used in a variety of products including the containers for different cosmetic care products such as cold cream (Milk Glass 2018:1).

Artifact 8 is also made out of milk glass and is cylindrically shaped with an oxidized metal lid, shown in Figure 37. The jar is stamped on the bottom with the Hazel Atlas Glass Company maker’s mark of a capital letter “H” over a smaller letter “a”. This particular maker’s mark was used from 1923 until the late 1950s, dating production of the jar to sometime in that period (Whitten 2017b:2).



Figure 37: Artifact 8: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Group 2 consists of three different sized milk glass jars, each of which is missing its lid. While the size varies, it can be seen in Figure 38 that each of the jars still share similar cylindrical shapes, regardless of the depth of the jar.



Figure 38: Group 2: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

The two smaller jars do not bear any distinguishing maker's marks or other features, but the largest jar is stamped on the bottom with the Jergens label. The company began in 1882 and, "by the turn of the 20th century, the company had expanded to include a number of beauty care and cosmetic products, and would soon launch its most famous product, Jergens Lotion" (Smithsonian 1985:1).

As a result of this timelines for artifact 7, artifact 8, and the artifacts in group 2, all of the milk glass jars analyzed previously could have been used either by the Garrity women or the Byrnes women. However, Flora Byrnes was the only adult woman, as their children were younger when they moved to the New Presque Isle Lighthouse. Therefore, since the Garrity women were all adults and more concerned with buying cosmetic products for their appearance than a young girl would have been, and due to the number of jars recovered from and the probability of more within the site, it can be postulated that it was most likely the Garrity women who used these particular milk-glass jars during their time at the lighthouses.

It is interesting to note that each jar in Group 2 is a different shape and size, and artifacts seven and eight have different materials for the lids, suggesting that each jar contained a different

product. There is no way to know which product was in each jar, but with four Garrity women living at the house, three of which went through adolescence and one who went through a courtship, it can be postulated that further excavation of the dump site would reveal many more milk glass cosmetic jars. Despite the harsh conditions they lived in, it was still important for the Garrity women to purchase personal care items like cosmetic creams in order to care for their skin and maintain their appearance in spite of the work they did on a daily basis. In addition, given the description of the variety of products that Jergens carried, it is also possible that larger milk glass jars could be excavated that had held talc or ear swabs and could have been utilized by both the men and women in the household.

Artifact 10 is a medium sized, clear glass jar with the letters spelling out “Barbasol” around the exterior of the jar as shown in Figure 39. The Barbasol Company began in 1916 in Indianapolis, Indiana and grew in popularity with their variety of products, the most popular being shaving cream (Barbasol 2017:1). This particular jar was commonly referred to as the “Giant Jar” and was sold in 1950 for 75 cents (Barbasol 2017:2). The maker’s mark on the bottom of the jar associates its production with Armstrong Cork Company, and dates it to a timespan between 1939 and 1969, confirming the date from the Barbasol company website (Lockhart et. al. 2013:447).

The jar should have a black, metal lid, but only the jar was recovered from the dump site (Barbasol 2017:2). Additional excavation of the area may unearth the lid to the jar as well as additional jars used by the Coast Guard servicemen who lived in the lighthouse from 1947-1970. It makes sense that servicemen would have to be clean shaven for the sake of uniformity therefore it is likely that this Barbasol jar is not the only one buried in the remainder of the kitchen dump site.



Figure 39: Artifact 10: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Artifact 25 is a small brown bottle with a black lid with the word Zonite written across the top as shown in Figure 40. The company that produced Zonite as an antiseptic started in the early 1900s and advertised their product as a variety of things including an antiseptic, mouthwash, or a cleaning agent (Finley 2006:1). Their advertising campaign centered around Zonite's versatility and new formula, sodium hypochlorite more commonly referred to as bleach, which made it more effective than peroxide or other commonly used antiseptics (Finley 2006:1). This artifact is analyzed within this section as opposed to the beverage section since it could be used as a mouth wash or an antiseptic.

It makes sense that this product would be found at a remote lighthouse because of the variety of practical uses it served for the family in one product rather than purchasing several different things. As discussed previously, a medicine chest was provided at each lighthouse, but the list of allowances published by the U.S.L.B. does not specify what was included within that chest (United States Lighthouse Board 1901:15). However, it is quite possible that with this product's variety of uses, that it might have been included within the chest.

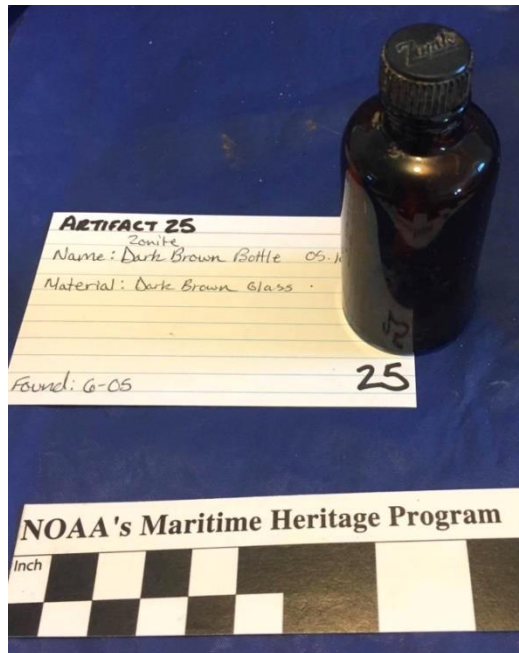


Figure 40: Artifact 25: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Artifact 18 is a curved metal piece with a clip on the back and is decorated with a green foilback (artificial gem) flower and a larger foilback diamond as shown in Figure 41. Jeweler William Belli ascertained that the piece was most likely a brooch or decorative element to be worn on a simple garment (personal communication, William Belli, September 16, 2017).

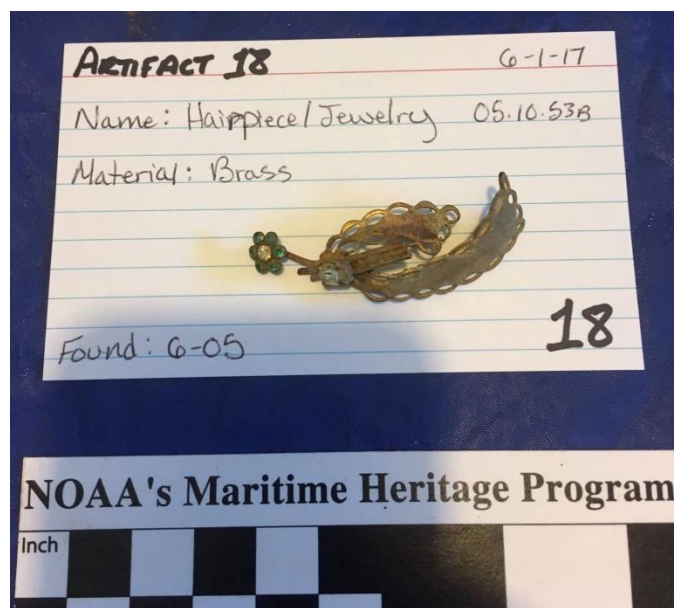


Figure 41: Artifact 18: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.



Artifact 19 is made of the same metal material as artifact 18, but has no decoration and has two symmetrical curves that meet with an opening in the middle as shown in Figure 41. Mr. Belli believes this indicates it may have been used as a shawl pin, to keep the shawl in one place while about the woman's shoulders (personal communication, William Belli, September 16, 2017).

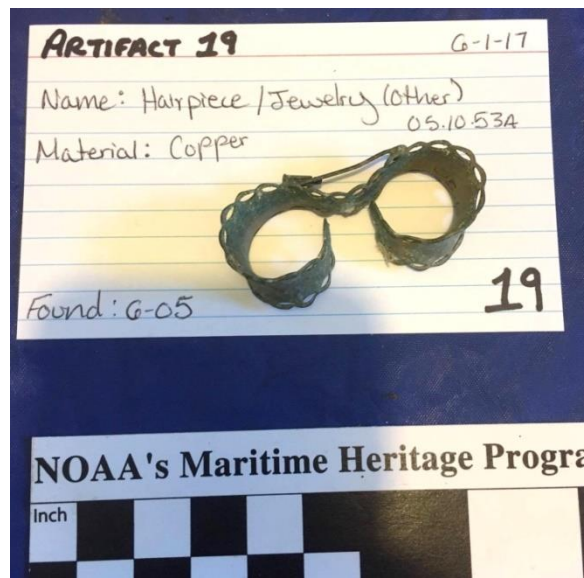


Figure 42: Artifact 19: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Despite the fact that neither of these artifacts could be dated, they can still reveal some information in regards to how the Garrity women conducted themselves. In addition to personal care products that tended to their faces, skin and hands, it was also important to these women to wear decorative pieces on their clothing. It can be postulated that these pieces were not worn every day, but rather for family outings, such as sleigh rides, or trips to town. In fact the family photo in Figure 30 does display the Garrity children on a sleigh ride in a variety of outfits that would not be worn for standard lighthouse work. But it would be interesting to see if additional decorative pieces of jewelry or hairpieces could be found with additional excavation of the site. If more pieces could be found, it could possibly make it easier to identify these artifacts 18 and 19 by some sort of commonality or maker's mark on a newly discovered artifact.

Group 5 consists of four nail polish bottles of various sizes, all made of clear glass as shown in Figure 42. Two of the bottles are identical nail polish bottles with Cutex written on the black caps, the largest bottle has a metal lid is fully intact with the brush still inside, and the smallest of the four bottles is broken along the backside. No information was found on the other two bottles without any distinguishing factors, but information was obtained regarding the two Cutex bottles. The company was founded by Northam Warren in 1911 and began selling one product, a liquid cuticle remover called Cutex (Bennett 2017:1).

Cutex grew rapidly as a company adding new products each year including colors of nail polish and manicure kits that included a variety of Cutex products and tools, allowing women to completely care for their nails at home (Bennett 2017:3). The company released a variety of colors of nail polish, and expanded their collection each year, including adding different shapes and sizes of bottles. The rectangular shape of the bottles recovered from the kitchen dump, in addition to the texturing on the sides of the bottles, best matches the nail polish bottles that were used around 1926 (Bennett 2017:7).



Figure 43: Group 5: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

However, due to the fact that the bottles were recovered empty, there is no way to tell which of the many colors Cutex had released at that point were in each of the bottles. This timeframe allows for the interpretation that the Garrity women used the nail polish bottles recovered from the kitchen dump since they were at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse for several years after the abovementioned 1926 release date of the nail polish.

It is fascinating to note that these women, who lived in such remote isolation and endured manual labor every day, still took time to invest in the upkeep of their nails. The variety of sizes of bottles indicates, as did the cosmetic jars, that there were probably a variety of colors and brands of nail polish at the lighthouse. These women cared that the rough, manual labor that was a part of their daily lives was taxing on their hands and their bodies, and thus, took specific care in order to make themselves feel pretty in the smallest ways.

### **Miscellaneous Artifacts**

This final sub-category of artifacts contains 3 individual artifacts and one group of artifacts that did not have a place in any of the other sub categories. These artifacts were difficult to obtain any information on but they were still included within the analysis and interpretation in the interest of giving a full report of all the artifacts displayed within the exhibit at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse.

Artifact 1 is a portion of what appears to be a large animal bone, probably the lower extremity of a bovine femur due to the overall size and the curvature of the bone (Faine 2013:7). The painted numbers visible on the bone in Figure 43 came from the initial ACC 2005 excavation in which they painted numbers for a basic identification system on a variety of the artifacts. This process further compromises the integrity of the artifacts within the display, but it is still important that they are catalogued and analyzed.



Figure 44: Artifact 1: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Despite the fact that animal bones are one of the most common artifacts recovered from archaeological sites, artifact 1 was the only bone recovered from the kitchen dump (Faine 2013:1).

Artifact 13 is the small brass casing of a bullet with the letters “REM UMC” and “38 SPL” on the flat face of the casing. The small size of the casing shown in Figure 44 is indicative of a revolver and the “38 SPL” marking stands for the name of the gun, the Remington .38 Caliber Special. This type of gun was utilized by a variety of branches of the military throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century (The American Rifleman 1982:68). Due to the militaristic issuing of the gun, it is most likely that the bullet casing came from the Coast Guard occupation of the New Presque Isle Lighthouse after the Byrnes family left.

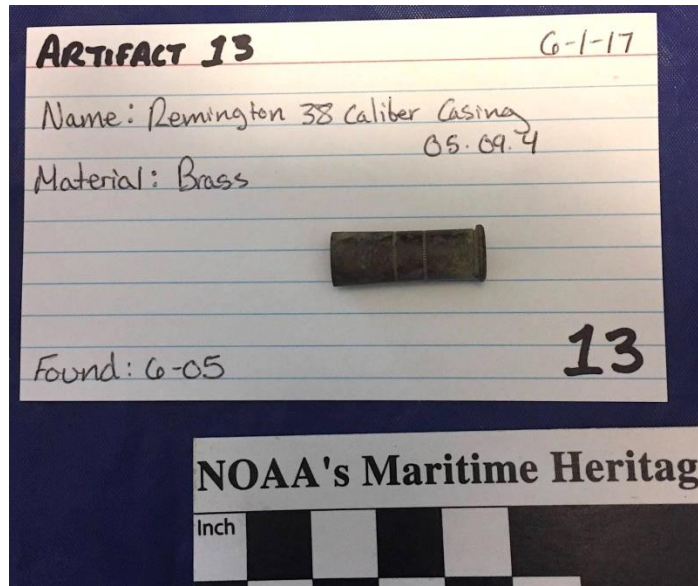


Figure 45: Artifact 13: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

Artifact 29 is a misshapen piece of corroded metal with 2 holes on the face of the object. The artifact remains unidentified, however it could to be part of some kind of oil lamp or a piece of machinery from the lighthouse that decayed over time. This interpretation stems from the fact that there are two obvious places where hoses or nozzles could have been attached to the artifact as shown in Figure 45, suggesting that something was supposed to be poured into or out of it.



Figure 46: Artifact 29: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

One possible interpretation is that it was part of a canister used for oil storage since oil was constantly used at lighthouses for both lubrication and the maintenance of the lights themselves

(United States Lighthouse Board 1881). There are a variety of tools listed in the *List of Allowances to Light Stations* which are specifically for use at lighthouses however, without historical photos of these different tools, identifying artifact 29 on its own is not possible (United States Lighthouse Board 1901:3-11).

Group 1 consists of 7 oyster shells of similar size, shape and color as shown in Figure 46. The presence of these shells within the kitchen dump is strange considering that oysters primarily reside in salt water (National Geographic 2015:1). Due to the fact that oysters are not native to the region, the question of where these shells came from and how they got into the kitchen dump remains unsolved.



Figure 47: Group 1: Photo taken by author 5/1/17.

This chapter has described, analyzed, and interpreted each of the 33 individual and 12 groups of artifacts recovered from the ACC 2005 excavation of the kitchen dump New Presque Isle Lighthouse. A catalogue of the individual artifacts can be found in Appendix C and a catalogue of the groups of artifacts can be found in Appendix D. The following chapter will use the analysis from this chapter and the historical record of the Garrity family from chapter two to

create a more complete “archaeological biography” of their family during their time of service at the Presque Isle lighthouses.

## CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

This thesis has examined and analyzed the artifacts recovered from the ACC 2005 excavation of the kitchen dump at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse in Presque Isle, Michigan. The goal of this examination and analysis was to ascertain if any additional information could be learned about the Garrity family during their time at the Presque Isle lighthouses and how this information could be applied to an archaeological biography of the family? The primary research question was: What can the application of the “archaeological biography” approach contribute to the knowledge of the Garritys time at the Presque Isle lighthouses? The secondary research questions were: 1) What is and how has “archaeological biography” been used in archaeology and how is it relevant to this study? and 2) What additional information can be interpreted about the Garrity family and their time as lighthouse keepers based on the excavated material culture?

In response to the primary research question, the application of an archaeological biography approach can contribute significantly to the knowledge of the Garrity family’s time at the Presque Isle lighthouses. The archaeological methods used were the examination of historical sources as well as material culture in order to learn more about the activities that made up the daily lives of the Garrity family. The historical sources provided a baseline of information on the family history, their lives at Presque Isle, and their lives after their service, but was severely lacking in personal details about their day-to-day lives.

The information obtained from the individual artifacts, which was discussed in chapter three and is summarized below, adds a wide variety of small details to the overall knowledge of the daily lives of the Garrity family. This information could be added into documents already published about the Garritys, or used, as it is in this thesis, to write something new, combining



the historical and archaeological data about their family into a single work examining their documented and material lives as lighthouse keepers.

The new and detailed information about their daily lives such as the foods they ate, the dishes they liked to use, the toys the children played with, and the things the Garrity women used for personal care, can also be displayed in the museum alongside the artifacts themselves. The current display is housed in the basement of the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum and simply has the artifacts displayed in a glass case for the visiting public to see.

One recommendation is that the Presque Isle Township members who maintain the lighthouse and work at the museum use the information from this thesis to create a more interactive and detailed display of the artifacts. Simply expanding the display to a larger case, or spreading the artifacts out in smaller cases in the rooms they were used in throughout the house, would allow visitors to be able to see the artifacts in a more relatable context than they are currently in. For example, placing a small glass case with the bottles and condiment jars in the kitchen with a card next to each with the date and information acquired from this research would give visitors a better idea of what the Garritys ate and drank on a daily basis.

An additional suggestion would be, in the room that is modeled as a bedroom, to have a small glass display on the vanity containing the cosmetic jars and nail polish bottles with a card displaying the details pertaining to each of these artifacts in the case. This type of display would help demonstrate to the public what the Garrity women spent the little extra money they had in order to help themselves feel beautiful in the desolate environment they lived in. Small changes such as these would give visitors to the museum more information about how the Garrity family lived during their time there. The current set up with antiques from the period helps give the lighthouse an accurate, historical feel, however, displaying the actual artifacts that the Garrity

family and other lighthouse keepers used and touched would contribute to the accuracy and tangibility of the museum display as a whole.

In response to the first secondary research question, it was answered in chapter one, discussing the definition of an “archaeological biography” as, “the study of individuals, families and households, using the methods of archaeology” (Praetzellis 2016:133). This is a simple definition which, when applied to the Garrity family, has resulted in the acquisition of additional information on the daily lives and practices of the family based on the data interpreted from the material culture left behind by the family at the Presque Isle kitchen dump site. In addition, the two key principles needed in order to create an archaeological biography were also discussed, that, “all archaeological sites are created by events and processes that occur in historical time,” and also that, “because all sites consist of the material remains of events like these...they reflect things that happened at particular places and times, and to the people who lived and worked there” (Praetzellis 2016:134).

In response to the remaining secondary research question, many new interpretations about the Garrity family and their daily lives can now be made as a result of this process of creating an archaeological biography. As discussed in chapter three, interpretations were made for almost all of the artifacts and groups of artifacts discussed in the chapter. One interpretation, based on Artifacts 9, 30, and 32, was the importance of writing to the Garrity family and the other lighthouse keepers at Presque Isle before them as a result of the inkwells and ink bottle discovered in such a small section of the site. They used the inkwells and ink bottle for their daily duties at the lighthouse, but it is also evident that they used them as a key component for their personal communication with the outside world and their friends and family who were so far away from them.

Another general interpretation is that the Garrity family purchased products that made their isolated house feel more like a home, such as small decorative ceramic birds (Artifact 17), as well as decorative china dinnerware (Artifacts 11, 28 and group 4). The artifacts from Group 4 were produced by the Homer Laughlin China Company, the largest distributor of ceramics in the United States and that is proven by the fact that their dinnerware was used in as isolated a location as the New Presque Isle Lighthouse.

A variety of interpretations can also be made about the personal care items found in the site such as the cosmetic jars and nail polish bottles. Different shapes and sizes of each were found, suggesting that there were different types of cosmetics and colors of nail polish at the house. This theory is further confirmed by the fact that there are different company names stamped on the cosmetic milk glass jars. The presence of this variety of cosmetic products may provide insight into cultural expectations of women for this time period and how the Garrity women conformed to them. The bottles of nail polish in Group 5 further exemplify this fact that the Garrity women cared about the appearance of their nails despite the amount of work they did with their hands every day.

The mannequin personifying Elmer Byrnes in the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum symbolizes what many people think of when they picture a historical lighthouse keeper: an old man in a uniform whose life and career show in his face and demeanor. The Garrity women and their attention to personal and household details prove that while their lifestyle and location did take a toll on their lives, they still made every effort to live up to the cultural norms of women despite the amount of work that they did on a daily basis. The Garrity women took the time to maintain both their personal appearances and the state of their homes. They wanted to create a

family environment as best they could, and Mary McDougall did, bring their children and grandchildren into that would allow them to live and work around the people that they loved.

Interpretations were made about the majority of the artifacts discussed in chapter three, providing a variety of new information about the Garrity family and their daily lives at the lighthouses of Presque Isle. However, there is still much more that can be learned, and the best way to obtain that additional information is another, larger scale excavation of the kitchen dump site, or other sites on the grounds such as the other privies located around the perimeter of the New Presque Isle Lighthouse. If such an excavation were to take place, it is important that the archaeological integrity of the site be maintained to the fullest extent including establishing vertical and horizontal control of the site as well as keeping and documenting all artifacts recovered from the dump site as well as the stratigraphic layer from which they were recovered. Taking these additional precautions will prevent any future excavations from being questioned as to the validity of the methods used for the project.

Further excavation of the site could reveal many more artifacts that could correlate those already recovered, such as the rest of the Ox Blood Akro Agate set, or additional pieces of Homer Laughlin ceramics, or new artifacts that would reveal additional information about the daily lives of the Garrity family. As seen by the picture at the beginning of chapter three, within the single trench the ACC team dug through the kitchen dump site in 2005, there were too many artifacts for the team to be able to process and maintain, therefore, they were placed back in the site. With the extraction of those artifacts, in addition to the supposed others throughout the rest of the dump site, a much more detailed archaeological biography of the Garrity family could be created.

Another option would be to excavate the dump sites or privies at the range light living quarters a short distance from the New Presque Isle Lighthouse where a few of the Garrity children lived at different times, or the dump site and privies at the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse that the Garritys lived at until 1870. It would be interesting to see if there were any artifacts found at all three of the lighthouse locations, or at least found at two, confirming that the Garritys had common products that they used wherever they were living. These additional findings and interpretations are all of course contingent on obtaining the funding and permits for additional excavations to be completed. It is, therefore, recommended that additional excavations by qualified archaeologists should take place in an effort to stock the New Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum and the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum with artifacts that were actually used by the people that lived there as opposed to antiques acquired at local shops. This would set the museum apart from others in the area and allow the township to truly celebrate and honor the Garrity family and their time at the Presque Isle lighthouses.

An additional project that could be undertaken in order to learn more about the artifacts found in the kitchen dump would be historical research concerning the assistant keepers who lived at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse during the time of the Garrity family's service. Besides their names in the log along with their respective positions and the story from chapter three discussing the incident with Vincent Newagon, there was no information about the assistant keepers that could be found in the research on the Garrity family. These men lived around the Garritys and worked alongside them yet their stories remain untold. In an effort to include them in this study, the names of the assistants who were not Garritys and their dates of service are listed below in Table 2.

**Table 2: New Presque Isle Lighthouse Assistant Keepers (created by author)**

TITLE	NAME	SERVICE
First Assistant	Hendrick Tighon	1888
First Assistant	John McIntyre	1888-1889
First Assistant	Arthur Cater	1913-1915
First Assistant	Emil Mueller	1917-1924
Second Assistant	Arthur Cater	1909-1913
Second Assistant	Fred Hawkins	1913-1914
Second Assistant	Earl McDougall	1914
Second Assistant	Joseph Martineau	1917-1921
Second Assistant	Vincent Newagon	1924-1930

The Garrity family spent 74 consecutive years and 265 collective years in service at the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse, the New Presque Isle Lighthouse, and the harbor range lights. This family made their mark on the community and the maritime industry of the region by tirelessly working to maintain the lighthouses and to assist anyone, on land or on the water, who needed their assistance. Their history is told here through historical and archaeological documentation and their day-to-day lives are coming to light within their personal “archaeological biography”. In the words of Kristjan Mimmison, “Material culture is conditioned by the ontological unity of people and things as it imbues our lives with the pastness as well as being the source of our futurity” (Mimmison 2012:461) In simpler terms, material culture brings the past to us in the present allowing us to learn and thus better shape our futures.

As stated previously, the goal of this thesis research was to obtain additional information about the Garrity family and their time at the Presque Isle lighthouses through the study of the

material culture left by their family in order to create an “archaeological biography”. Their story has been told, their material culture analyzed, and all that is left to do is to share that information with lighthouse enthusiasts from around the world in an effort to truly honor and commemorate this family, their service to the state of Michigan, and more importantly, the growing country of which they were such an important part.

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APPENDIX A: JANET YOUNG PRE-RESEARCH APPROVAL

Figure 48 is a copy of Janet Young's signed permission for the interviews discussed throughout this thesis. The permission letter was drafted to East Carolina University International Review Board (IRB) standards.

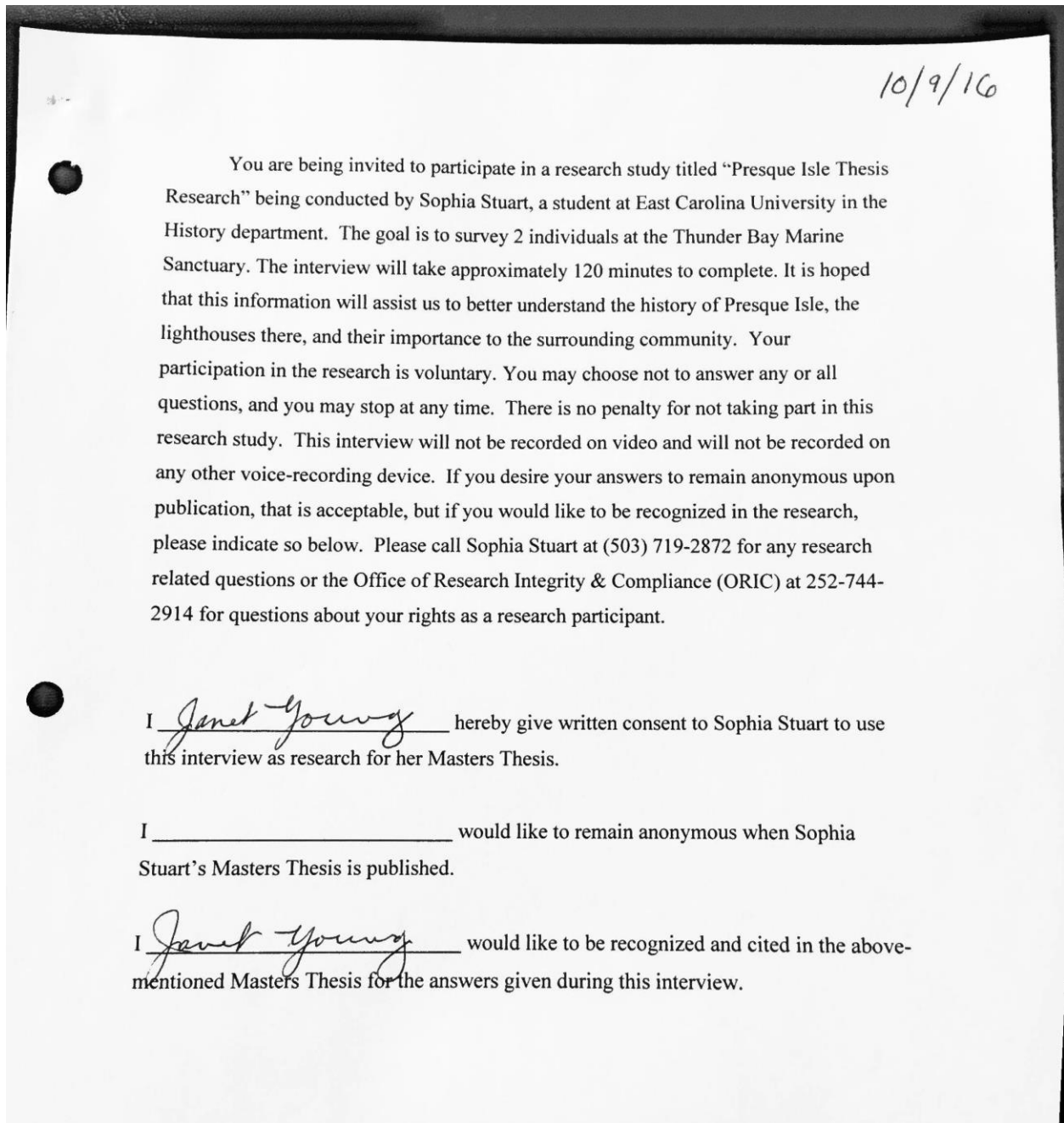


Figure 48: Signature obtained on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 by author before interview with Janet Young.



APPENDIX B: JUDITH KIMBALL PRE-RESEARCH APPROVAL

Figure 49 is a copy of Judith Kimball's signed permission for the interviews discussed throughout this thesis. The permission letter was drafted to East Carolina University International Review Board (IRB) standards.

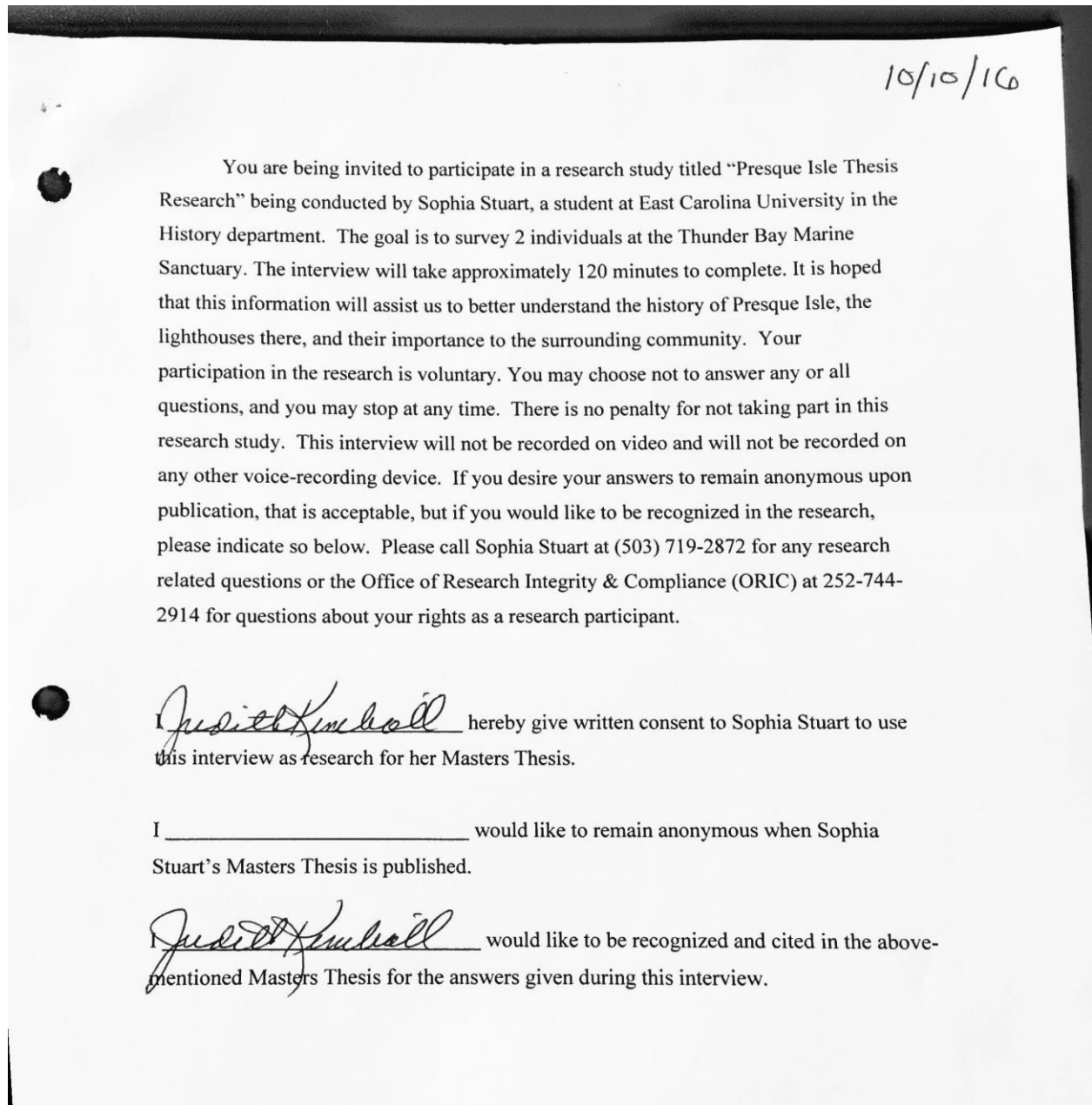


Figure 49: Signature obtained on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 by author before interview with Judith Kimball

## APPENDIX C: INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL LETTER

Figure 50 is a copy of the approval letter from East Carolina University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) office signifying that the survey conducted with Janet Young and Judith Kimball complied with national regulations for surveys conducted within academic research.

4/20/2018

<https://epirate.ecu.edu/App/sd/Doc/0/AGHLA/4GN614BFM5R6N00KLD6D/#fromString.html>



**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**  
**University & Medical Center Institutional Review Board Office**  
4N-70 Brody Medical Sciences Building · Mail Stop 682  
600 Moye Boulevard · Greenville, NC 27834  
Office 252-744-2914 ☎ · Fax 252-744-2284 ☎ · [www.ecu.edu/irb](http://www.ecu.edu/irb)

### Notification of Exempt Certification

From: Social/Behavioral IRB  
To: [Sophia Stuart](#)  
CC: [Bradley Rodgers](#)  
Date: 10/5/2016  
Re: [UMCIRB 16-001876](#)  
Presque Isle Thesis Research

I am pleased to inform you that your research submission has been certified as exempt on 10/5/2016. This study is eligible for Exempt Certification under category #2.

It is your responsibility to ensure that this research is conducted in the manner reported in your application and/or protocol, as well as being consistent with the ethical principles of the Belmont Report and your profession.

This research study does not require any additional interaction with the UMCIRB unless there are proposed changes to this study. Any change, prior to implementing that change, must be submitted to the UMCIRB for review and approval. The UMCIRB will determine if the change impacts the eligibility of the research for exempt status. If more substantive review is required, you will be notified within five business days.

The UMCIRB office will hold your exemption application for a period of five years from the date of this letter. If you wish to continue this protocol beyond this period, you will need to submit an Exemption Certification request at least 30 days before the end of the five year period.

The Chairperson (or designee) does not have a potential for conflict of interest on this study.

IRB00000705 East Carolina U IRB #1 (Biomedical) IGRG0000413  
IRB00003781 East Carolina U IRB #2 (Behavioral/SS) IGRG0000416

Figure 50: IRB Notification of Exempt Certification, issued by the IRB Office of East Carolina University.

APPENDIX D: CATALOGUE OF INDIVIDUAL ARTIFACTS

Table 3 contains the full description of each of the individual artifacts recovered from the New Presque Isle Kitchen Dump Site including their measured weight.

**TABLE 3: Individual Artifacts (created by author)**

Artifact Number	Material	Type	Color	Weight	Form	Date	Additional Features
1	Bone	Bovine	White	390 g	Partial	Unknown	NA
2	Glass	Bottle	Clear	398 g	Complete	1915-1978	2 types of measurement of the liquid are displayed on the bottle
3	Glass	Container	Clear	185 g	Complete	1915-1978	Distinct scale markings and bottle slightly shaped like a fish. Same as #16
4	Glass	Bottle	Clear	374 g	Complete	1930s-1960 (*1941)	Federal Law Forbids Sale stamped on bottle
5	Glass	Bottle	Clear	110 g	Complete	1929-1960	Black plastic cap
6	Glass	Bottle	Clear	117 g	Complete	Mid 1930s	Black plastic cap
7	Milk-glass	Jar	White	100 g	Complete	1870-1940s	Black plastic lid
8	Milk-glass	Jar	White	85 g	Complete	1923-1964	Rusted metal lid
9	Glass	Inkwell	Clear	114 g	Complete	1879 onward	Textured on the sides but not the front or back
10	Glass	Jar	Clear	114 g	Complete	1950s	Textured spelling Barbasol around the jar
11	Ceramic	Egg Cup	White	121 g	Partial-one large chip	Unknown	Silver painted trim
12	Metal	Kettle	Marbled green & white	1036 g	Partial-several small holes	1870s-1945	No handle.
13	Metal	Bullet Casing	Brass color	5 g	Complete	Early 1900s	NA
14	Glass	Spirits Bottle	Brown	360 g	Complete	Early 1900s	Black plastic cap
15	Glass	Spirits Bottle	Brown	400 g	Complete	Mid 1900s	Black metal lid. Bottle is decorated and is stamped with Federal Law forbids Sale
16	Glass	Container	Clear	183 g	Complete	1915-1978	Distinct scale markings and bottle slightly shaped like a fish. Same as #3

Artifact Number	Material	Type	Color	Weight	Form	Date	Additional Features
17	Ceramic	Decorative	Various colors	20 g	Partial-missing beak	Unknown	Painted with grooves in the wings
18	Metal	Hairpiece/Jewelry	Brass color	6 g	Complete	Unknown	Green gem flower and other white gem-probably foilbacks-too light to be real stones
19	Metal	Hairpiece/Jewelry	Brass color	8 g	Complete	Unknown	Two loops that come together in the middle
20	Glass	Bottle	Brown	233 g	Complete	Early 1900s-1930	Black plastic cap and decorated body
21	Glass	Bottle	Clear	147 g	Complete	Unknown	Textured throughout the body
22	Glass	Bottle	Clear	73 g	Complete	1929-1960	NA
23	Metal	Toy Truck	Rusted Metal	712 g	Partial-missing wheels	1922	Artifact is still intact, just missing wheels. Was found next to the site by a tree.
24	Glass	Bottle	Brown	44 g	Complete	1929-1960	NA
25	Glass	Antiseptic Bottle	Brown	104 g	Complete	1922 onward	Black plastic cap
26	Glass	Cosmetic Bottle	Clear	40 g	Complete	1930s onward	Metal cap
27	Metal	Spatula Head	Silver	35 g	Complete	Mid 1920s	No handle but spatula head is intact. Stamped with company name and logo
28	Ceramic	Cup	White	58 g	Partial-one piece	Unknown	Painted with green leaves and purple flowers
29	Metal	Unknown	Rusted Metal	118 g	Partial	Unknown	2 holes appear to be part of the design, not from decay. Found near site not in it.
30	Glass	Inkwell	Clear	102 g	Partial-back side is broken	Unknown	Found near site not in it.
31	Glass	Cigarette Holder	White and Oxblood	133 g	Complete	1932-1951	Part of a 5 piece set. Oxblood is a deep red color. Found near site not in it.
32	Glass	Bottle	Clear	55 g	Complete	1929-1960	Bottle is an odd triangular shape
33	Metal	Bell	Rusted Metal	100 g	Complete	1845-1920	Sleigh bell with one small decaying portion

## APPENDIX E: CATALOGUE OF GROUPS OF ARTIFACTS

Table 4 contains the full description of each of the groups of artifacts recovered from the New Presque Isle Kitchen Dump Site including their measured weight.

**Table 4: Groups of Artifacts (created by author)**

Group Number	Number of Artifacts	Dates	Description
1	7	Unknown	7 of the same type of Oyster shell-the species could not be identified.
2	3	1923-1964	3 cold-cream, milk-glass jars weighing 60 grams, 57 grams and 120 grams. The largest of the 3 is stamped with JERGENS on the bottom. The other two jars have a bit of unidentified residue inside them. All 3 jars display some type of texturing, but the sizes and shapes of the jars vary.
3	4	Post 1800s	4 iron nails in an advanced stage of calcification.
4	6	1873-present (*1932)	6 pieces of a ceramic coffee mug. If reassembled, it is possible that the mug could still be incomplete. Painted with green leaves and pink flowers. Stamped on the bottom with the Homer Laughlin Company name and logo.
5	4	Early 1900s (*1926)	4 nail polish bottles, 2 of which are identical cutex bottles that each weigh 25 grams, have black plastic lids stamped with the cutex logo and are textured bottles. Another bottle is smooth with a black cap and weighs 27 grams, and the last bottle is tiny and broken and weighs 10 grams.
6	4	Unknown	4 random pieces. The first is a wedding ring, approximately size 11 or 12 and weighing 9 grams. The second is the back of an alligator hair clip weighing 1 gram. The third is a glass ash tray weighing 71 grams, and the fourth is the metal top of a salt or pepper shaker weighing 2 grams.
7	2	1930s	2 pieces of a small ceramic doll. The larger piece includes the body and portions of both legs and weighs 13 grams. The smaller piece is the back of the head and neck and weighs 2 grams. The face of the doll was not found, but the lack of hair makes it probable that it was supposed to be a male doll. The back of the body is stamped with a Japanese Kanji and the mark Made in Japan.
8	2	1921	2 glass French's mustard jars. The first bares the French's label in a flag on the bottom and weighs 141 grams, the second does not bare the French's label and weighs 140 grams. Both jars display identical texturing on the body.
9	2	1954 launch date for the ship on the spoon	2 decorative spoons found near the site. The first weighs 9 grams and has an eagle perched at the top of the spoon and the word SOUVENIR down the handle. The second weighs 8 grams and has a horse head along with a four-leaf-clover and an anchor that says good luck, the base of the spoon displays a profile view of the Battleship Baltimore.
10	3	Unknown	3 random metal objects found near the site. 1 is an iron nail weighing 17 grams, and the second and third are two rusted pieces of a spring with a combined weight of 34 grams.

Group Number	Number of Artifacts	Dates	Description
11	2	1872 onward	2 glass bottle stops. The first is purple and has a thin neck and spherical top and weighs 28 grams. The second is aqua and has a thin pointed neck and a flat top and weighs 14 grams.
12	6	Late 1800s - mid 1900s	6 metal pieces of an oil lamp. The first is the base and weighs 34 grams, the second is a raised piece that weighs 17 grams, and the other four are identical round pieces, each weighing 12 grams.

