

## Eugene C. Ingalls - Family Photo Album



Inez Beatrice Robinson Ingalls, who married lighthouse keeper Eugene C. Ingalls on July 27, 1904, was the daughter of Herbert Robinson, who served as the 1st assistant keeper at West Quoddy Lighthouse from 1905 to 1907 prior to her husband becoming the assistant keeper in 1907 at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse. Her daughter Alison was born at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse. (Jean C. Budrow collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Alison Jean Ingalls, the daughter of Eugene C. and Inez Beatrice Robinson Ingalls, was born at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse on March 28, 1912. On December 29, 1916, she was on the mainland watching her father's boat approaching from Petit Manan Lighthouse when it suddenly disappeared. His body was never found. (Jean C. Budrow collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Reta Frances Ingalls was only 14 months old when her father Eugene C. Ingalls lost his life in 1916 at Petit Manan Lighthouse. In spite of the tragedy, she grew up to love lighthouses and all that they represent. (Jean C. Budrow collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)





Monument to lighthouse keeper Eugene C. Ingalls who was lost at sea; his body was never recovered. On June 2, 2016 in a ceremony sponsored by *Lighthouse Digest* and co-sponsored in part by the West Quoddy Head Light Keepers Association, a U.S. Lighthouse Service memorial marker was placed at his monument at the Hillside Cemetery in Machiasport, Maine. (*Lighthouse Digest* photo by Kathleen Finnegan.)



Lighthouse keeper Herbert E. Robinson (1858-1933) was the father-in-law of lighthouse keeper Eugene C. Ingalls.

**Herbert E. Robinson's service record:**

- Assistant keeper, Lubec Channel Lighthouse . . . .1896-1902
- Assistant keeper, Libby Island Lighthouse . . . . .1902-1905
- Assistant keeper, West Quoddy Head Light . . . . .1905-1907
- Head keeper, Moose Peak Lighthouse . . . . .1907-1919
- Head keeper, Monhegan Island Lighthouse . . . . .1919-1922
- Head keeper, Pemaquid Point Lighthouse. . . . .1922-1928

In the spring of 1899, while stationed at the Lubec Channel Lighthouse in Lubec, Maine, he had to spend an extended period of time on the mainland because of the sickness and eventual death of his son.

When Herbert E. Robinson retired, he moved to Newburyport, Massachusetts. On March 4, 1933, Herbert caught pneumonia while standing outside in the rain listening to the radio loudspeaker broadcast of the inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and he died a few days later. His remains were transported back to Lubec, Maine where he was buried in the Bayview Cemetery in Lubec, Maine. (Portrait from the Jean C. Budrow collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



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Mary Estelle Myers Robinson (1863-1952), wife of Herbert Robinson, who was the 1st assistant keeper at West Quoddy Lighthouse from 1905 to 1907.

Mary's daughter Inez grew up to marry Eugene C. Ingalls, who assumed her husband Herbert Robinson's position as assistant keeper at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse in 1907. Her granddaughter Alison Ingalls was born at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse.

Interestingly, Mary Estelle Myers Robinson was the sister of Loring Myers, who was the long-time lighthouse keeper at Lubec Channel Lighthouse from 1890 to 1923. Her husband Herbert Robinson served as assistant keeper under Loring at the Lubec Channel Lighthouse from 1896 to 1902. Another sister, Mable A. Myers, (born 1867) married Ira Scovill who was the head keeper of the West Quoddy Life Boat Station and they were the parents of Constance "Connie" Scovill. Connie married lighthouse keeper Elson Small and is best known as Maine's First Lady of Light who wrote the book *The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife*. To add to the list of family ties, Loring Myers' daughter Lorena Myers married Leo Milton Allen, who was the assistant keeper at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse from 1912 to 1917. (Jean C. Budrow collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

In World War I, Mary Estelle Myers Robinson had the distinction of becoming the first female from Maine to become a yeoman in the U.S. Navy. After her training at the Emerson Hospital Nursing School in Boston, she was assigned back to Moose Peak Lighthouse where her husband Herbert was the lighthouse keeper and where her duty was being assigned to care for the U.S. Navy personnel who were stationed at the lighthouse to watch for enemy ships. Later, a tree was planted in her honor on Baxter Avenue in Portland. (Courtesy Jane Morse.)







Ira Scovill, shown above, married Mabel Myers who was the sister of Lubec Channel Lighthouse keeper Loring Myers whose sister Mary Estelle Myers married keeper Herbert Robinson. Ira Scovill was the keeper of the U.S. Life-Saving Station at Quoddy Head. Ira and Mabel Myers Scovill's daughter Connie married lighthouse keeper Elson Small, who started his lighthouse career as the 1st assistant keeper in 1920 at Lubec Channel Lighthouse. (Connie Small collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

Pictured are Constance "Connie" Scovill Small (1901-2005) and her husband lighthouse keeper Elson Small (1896-1960). Elson started his lighthouse career as the 1st assistant keeper at the Lubec Channel Light in 1920 and then went on to serve at the following Maine lighthouses: Avery Rock from 1922 to 1926, Seguin Island from 1926 to 1930, St. Croix River Light from 1930 to 1946, and finished his career at New Hampshire's Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse from 1946 to 1948. Starting at the age of 86, Connie gave her first of over 500 lectures on the importance of saving the memories and the photographs of the lighthouse keepers and their families for future generations. She gave her last lecture at the age of 103, just a short time before her death in 2005. (Connie Small collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



The Quoddy Head Life Saving Station in Lubec, Maine, where Ira Scovill was the keeper, was often the site of community gatherings as shown here. Surfmen of the life-saving crew can be seen posing by the support beam in the middle of the photo. Standing by the wall next to the swing, behind the horse and buggy, is West Quoddy Head Lighthouse keeper Ephraim Johnson who wrote the letter of recommendation for his assistant keeper Eugene Ingalls. (Judi Kearney collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



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Vintage image of Pemaquid Point Lighthouse in Bristol, Maine where Eugene Ingalls' father-in-law Herbert Robinson served as the lighthouse keeper from 1922 to 1928. In November of 1927 while stationed at Pemaquid Point Lighthouse and nearing his retirement, Herbert C. Robinson was cited for bravery in rescuing two of three people who were washed off the rocks at the lighthouse. Sadly, the third person drowned.

After the death in 1916 of keeper Eugene Ingalls, his widow Inez and her children lived with her parents Herbert and Mary Estelle Robinson at the lighthouses where they were stationed. At Pemaquid Point Lighthouse, Reta Frances and Alison Jean Ingalls sold post cards and fudge to the tourists. With the money that they made, they purchased a set of China for their mother that had Pilgrims on it, and for many years afterwards it was used for Thanksgiving dinners. One of Alison's favorite memories of living at Pemaquid Point Lighthouse was when she witnessed famous aviator Charles Lindberg flying past in his plane the Spirit of St. Louis. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Born in Machiasport, Maine on July 9, 1875, Herman M. Ingalls started his career with the Lighthouse Service in August of 1893 on the lighthouse tender *Lilac*. In March of 1897, he was promoted to 1st Mate on the lighthouse tender *Geranium*, the same vessel that his brothers Eugene Ingalls and Frank Ingalls would serve on. In 1903, Herman M. Ingalls was transferred back to the *Lilac* and became commanding officer of the vessel in June of 1912. A month later, he was transferred to the lighthouse tender *Sunflower* in the 5th District of Virginia, but shortly thereafter he was transferred again to become the captain of the lighthouse tender *Zizania* where he served until May of 1924 when he became captain of the lighthouse tender *Hibiscus*. In September of 1937, he was promoted to the Superintendent of the First Lighthouse District until his retirement in April of 1940. He died on April 1, 1965 and was buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Yarmouth, Maine. Interestingly, three of the Ingalls siblings were born on September 22 – Frank in 1878, Eugene in 1880, and Grace in 1885. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)





One of Eugene C. Ingalls' brothers was Herman Melville Ingalls, who, as the captain of the U.S. Lighthouse Service lighthouse tender *Zizania*, spent days searching the waters off Petit Manan Lighthouse for his brother's body, which was never located. He is shown here on the lighthouse tender *Zizania*.

Keeping the Ingalls' lighthouse tradition alive, On December 22, 1906, Herman's Ingalls married Maria Louisa (Minnie) Sterling, who was the daughter of James W. Sterling who was an assistant lighthouse keeper at Halfway Rock Lighthouse from 1885 to 1887, an assistant keeper at Cape Elizabeth Lighthouse from 1887 to 1888 and for many years thereafter he served on the lighthouse tenders *Lilac* and *Hibiscus*. Additionally, James W. Sterling was a second cousin of famous Maine lighthouse keeper and author Robert Thayer Sterling. James' uncle was John T. Sterling who was the first keeper at Halfway Rock Lighthouse. (Lois Ingalls Sprague collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

In spite of a long 43-year career with the U.S. Lighthouse Service, our extensive search for photographs of Frank Benjamin Ingalls in his lighthouse keeper's uniform has proved unsuccessful. In July of 1939 when the Lighthouse Service was taken over by the Coast Guard, Frank Ingalls chose to remain a civilian keeper until June 10, 1941, when he joined the Coast Guard. He retired in 1945 as a Boatswain Mate 1st class. (Lois Ingalls Sprague collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Another brother of Eugene C. Ingalls was Frank B. Ingalls, shown here in 1953 during his retirement with his wife Jennie L. Kinghorn Ingalls, who he married on December 3, 1903. Like his brothers Eugene and Herman, he also was as a crewman on the lighthouse tender *Geranium* and served for seven years before becoming the 2nd assistant lighthouse keeper at Whitehead Lighthouse in 1907. He was then promoted and transferred in 1909 to become the 1st assistant keeper at Egg Rock Lighthouse. In 1912, he was promoted again to become head keeper of the St. Croix River Lighthouse where served until 1923 when he became head keeper at Whitlocks Mill Lighthouse until he retired in 1942. Born on September 22, 1878, Frank B. Ingalls died September 11, 1959 and was buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Machiasport, Maine. (Lois Ingalls Sprague collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)





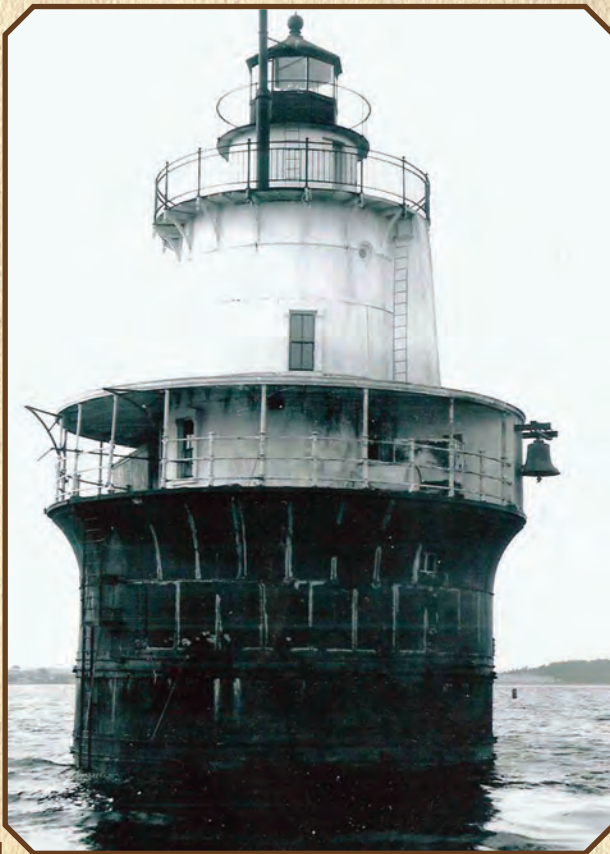
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Whitlocks Mill Lighthouse in Calais, Maine, the northernmost lighthouse on the Atlantic coast, is where Frank B. Ingalls, brother of Eugene and Herman Ingalls, was the lighthouse keeper from 1923 to 1942. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



Mary Estelle and Mabel A. Myers were sisters of Loring William Myers, shown here, who was a keeper at the Lubec Channel Lighthouse from 1890 to 1923. Mary Estelle Myers married lighthouse keeper Herbert E. Robinson, and their daughter Inez married lighthouse keeper Eugene Ingalls, and their daughter Alison was born at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse. Mabel Myers married Ira Scoville, keeper of the Quoddy Head Life Boat Station, and their daughter Constance "Connie" married lighthouse keeper Elson Small, who also served as a keeper at the Lubec Channel Lighthouse. Loring Myers' daughter Lorena married Leo Milton Allen who served as a lighthouse keeper at a number of Maine lighthouses, including being the assistant keeper at West Quoddy Head Light from 1912 to 1917 where their daughter Ruth was born. (Dorothy Pickard collection, *Lighthouse Digest* archives.)



The 1890 Lubec Channel Lighthouse in Lubec, Maine where Eugene C. Ingalls' father-in-law Herbert E. Robinson, his uncle Loring Myers, and his cousin by marriage Elson Small all served as lighthouse keepers during various times. The Lubec Channel Lighthouse was sold at a government auction in 2007 and is now privately owned. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)





On November 4, 1899, Leo Milton Allen married Lorena Myers, who was the daughter of Lubec Channel Lighthouse keeper Loring Myers and a cousin to Eugene Ingalls' wife Inez.

Leo Allen replaced Eugene Ingalls as the assistant keeper at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse when Ingalls was transferred to Moose Peak Lighthouse. In 1919 in recalling life at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse, Leo-Allen wrote "The watches were very hard as the fog never left in the summer – only a few hours a week." Leo and Lorena Allen are shown here later in life at Goat Island Lighthouse in Cape Porpoise, Maine. (Photo courtesy Allen Bent.)

Lorena Allen, wife of West Quoddy Light assistant keeper Leo Allen, is shown here with her daughter Ruth Allen, who was born on October 13, 1913 in the same room of the keeper's house at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse where Alison Jean Ingalls, daughter of former West Quoddy assistant keeper Eugene and Inez Ingalls was born on March 28, 1912. (Photo courtesy Allen Bent.)



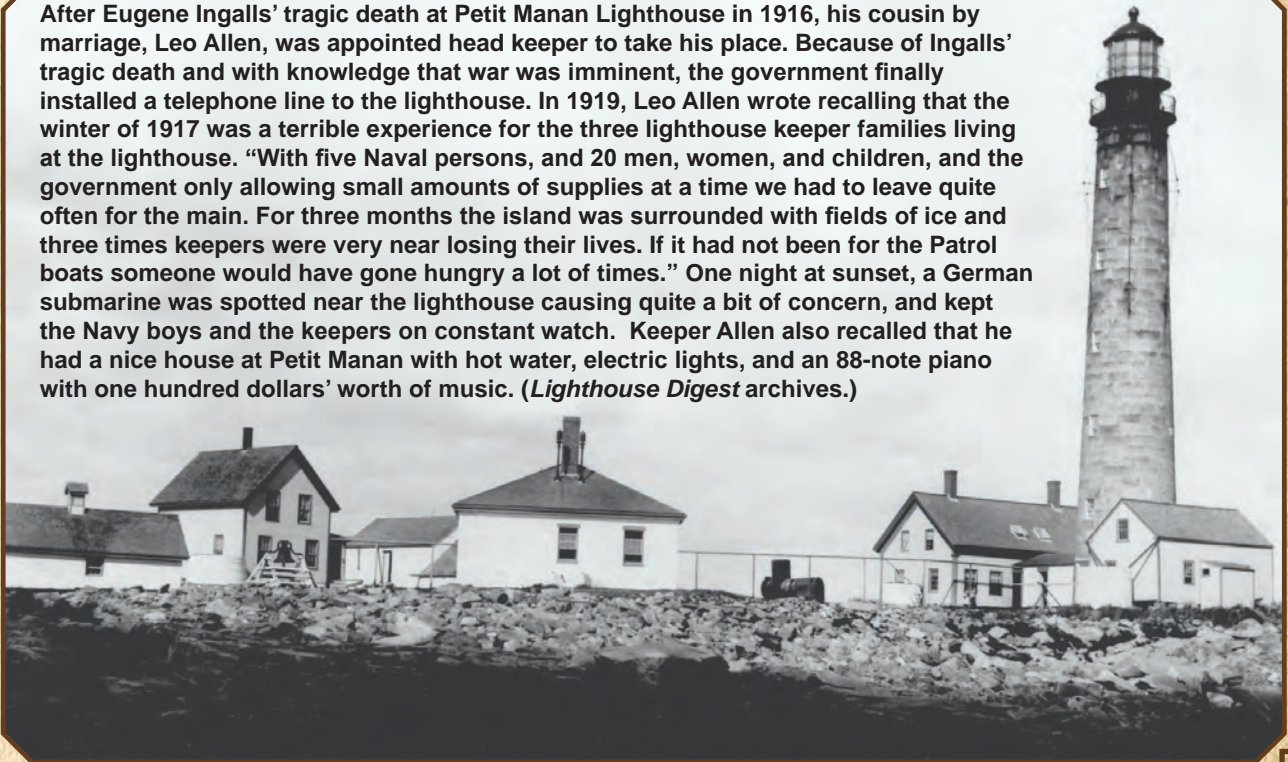


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Leo M. Allen (February 19, 1881-February 1950) who served at the following Maine lighthouses:  
Mohegan Island Lighthouse, 1st assistant keeper, 1907-1909  
Saddleback Ledge Lighthouse, 1st assistant keeper, 1909-1912  
West Quoddy Head Lighthouse, 1st assistant keeper, 1912-1917  
Petit Manan Lighthouse, Head keeper, 1917-1921  
Goat Island Lighthouse, keeper, 1921-1926.  
(Courtesy of Arthur Bent.)

After Eugene Ingalls' tragic death at Petit Manan Lighthouse in 1916, his cousin by marriage, Leo Allen, was appointed head keeper to take his place. Because of Ingalls' tragic death and with knowledge that war was imminent, the government finally installed a telephone line to the lighthouse. In 1919, Leo Allen wrote recalling that the winter of 1917 was a terrible experience for the three lighthouse keeper families living at the lighthouse. "With five Naval persons, and 20 men, women, and children, and the government only allowing small amounts of supplies at a time we had to leave quite often for the main. For three months the island was surrounded with fields of ice and three times keepers were very near losing their lives. If it had not been for the Patrol boats someone would have gone hungry a lot of times." One night at sunset, a German submarine was spotted near the lighthouse causing quite a bit of concern, and kept the Navy boys and the keepers on constant watch. Keeper Allen also recalled that he had a nice house at Petit Manan with hot water, electric lights, and an 88-note piano with one hundred dollars' worth of music. (*Lighthouse Digest* archives.)

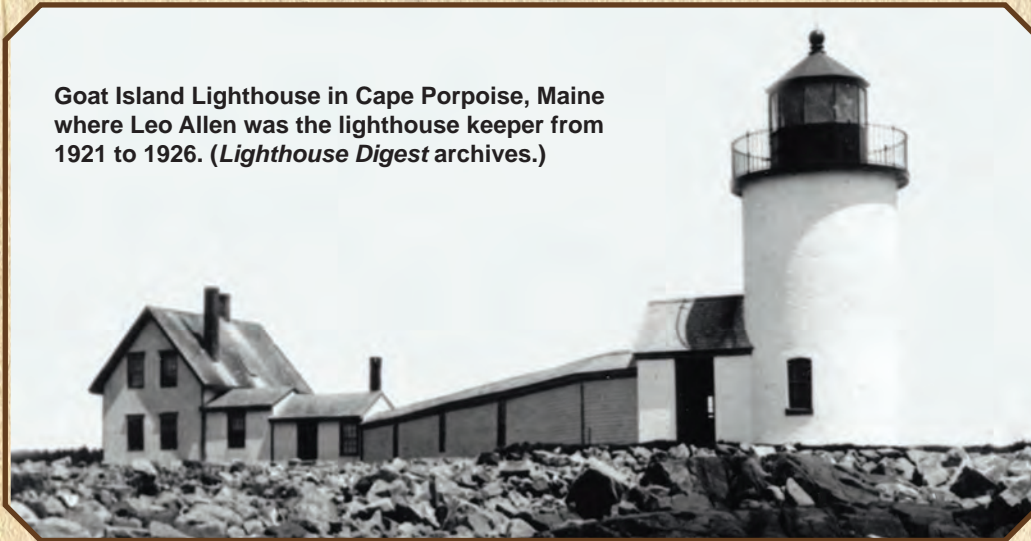






Shown are the children who attended school on the island at Petit Manan Lighthouse in 1919. On the bottom left is Ruth Flora Allen who was born on October 13, 1913 in the keeper's house at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse. She was the daughter of lighthouse keeper Leo Allen and his wife Lorena. The other children are not individually identified, but they were the children of Petit Manan assistant lighthouse keepers Alonzo A. Connors and Charles H. Colbeth. The children were taught by a travelling school teacher in a small school building on the island. (Courtesy of Arthur Bent.)

Goat Island Lighthouse in Cape Porpoise, Maine where Leo Allen was the lighthouse keeper from 1921 to 1926. (Lighthouse Digest archives.)



Lighthouse keeper Leo Allen is shown here on the far right at a family reunion that he hosted on Goat Island Lighthouse during the time that he was the keeper there from 1921 to 1926. When he retired from the Lighthouse Service, he hired himself out to wealthy individuals as a captain on their private yachts and sailing vessels. For a while he worked for James Roosevelt, son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, while captaining his vessel the *Half Moon*. As well as his knowledge of the sea, he knew his music. One newspaper wrote of him, "Capt. Leo Allen is a maestro harmonicist and can reel off "The Irish Washerwoman or Dem Golden Slippers so tunefully that you can hardly keep your feet still if you are anywhere in range!" Leo Allen is buried at the Hillside Cemetery in Osterville, Massachusetts. Hopefully the day will come when his gravesite will be marked by a U.S. Lighthouse Service Memorial Marker. (Courtesy of Arthur Bent.)