

Maritime History of the Great Lakes

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Detroit Post and Tribune, 4 Jul 1882

Description

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GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Mr. A. J. Slyfield of Point Aux Becs Scies lighthouse has resigned, and his son Edward has been appointed his successor. Mr. S. is a veteran in the light house employ, having been constantly at it for 30 years. He first took the old South Manitou light in 1852. It was a very rickety, poor concern, and it is mainly through his efforts and under his supervision that the new tower was built in 1858. While on the island light he, in several instances, assisted in saving lives from wrecks, among them the crew of the brig J. T. Scammon and schooner Wm. Aldrich, in early years.* He took charge of Point Aux Becs Scies (Betsy) light 21 years ago last September and has faithfully night after night kept "a light in the window" for our storm-tossed craft, and it seems to be appreciated by some.

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*The brig J. YOUNG SCAMMON went ashore in a gale June 8, 1854 and became a total loss. While Dr. Slyfield was busy rescuing the crew and passengers, his wife was back at the light giving birth to his son. The schooner WILLIAM ALDRICH went ashore in 1856, and was later recovered, lasting until 1916. Alonzo J. Slyfield was a medical doctor who came to S. Manitou Island for his health (imagine! people in those days thought fresh air, hard living and self-denial were better for your health than drugs!). His son moved from Pt. Betsie to Ludington N breakwater light in 1888, serving as keeper until 1909.

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