

Jones Point Lighthouse Timeline

(Located one mile south of Alexandria, VA – on west bank of Potomac River)

- 1856** Present white wooden frame dwelling with integral roof-mounted black lantern constructed by Charles Church. Illumination by whale oil lamps in 5th –order Fresnel lens.
- 1858** Light fueled by newly installed gas line.
- 1866** Benjamin Greenwood, age 21 assumes duties as keeper.
- 1900** Gas replaced by mineral oil.
- 1903** Keeper Greenwood dies, having raised 14 children with two wives at lighthouse.
- 1919** Flashing acetylene light placed 100 yards from lighthouse.
- 1926** Skeletal steel tower constructed near shoreline. Lighthouse turned over to the Mt. Vernon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- 1934** Station automated.
- 1936** U.S. Army Signal corps establishes secret radio station, forcing last keeper, Mrs. McMahan to leave. Station falls into disrepair.
- 1961** Skeletal tower deactivated when nearby Woodrow Wilson Bridge completed.
- 1964** National Park Service signs agreement with DAR and establishes Jones Point Park.
- 1993** Light re-lit.
- 1995** Light becomes private aid to navigation.
- 2003** Hurricane Isabel damages steps & lower portion of lighthouse.

Source: *Bay Beacons* by Linda Turbyville, *Lighthouses and Lifesaving Stations of Virginia* by Patrick Evans-Hylton.