

New Cape Henry Lighthouse Timeline

(Located on grounds of Fort Story, northern end of Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA) Revised 3/5/2007

- 1881** 63 foot tall tower of white and black prefabricated cast-iron plates built 350 feet southeast of old tower. Jay Edwards, first keeper lights first-order Fresnel lens. Old tower darkened.
- 1891** Norwegian bark *Dictator* runs aground 350 yards off Cape Henry.
- 1912** Lard-oil lamps replaced with incandescent oil-vapor lamps, fueled by kerosene.
- 1916** U.S. Army establishes Fort Story.
- 1922** Characteristic changed from fixed white to a group-flashing light.
- 1923** Electric wiring and radio fog signal installed. Letter "U" assigned to station.
- 1929** World's first synchronized radio beacon installed.
- 1939** U.S. Coast Guard assumes jurisdiction of lighthouse and all other lighthouses.
- 1983** Automation – beam now visible 17 miles away.
- 1984** CG firefighter Michael Brulz becomes last human to man Cape Henry Light station.
- 1990** Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) expresses interest in leasing lighthouse.
- 2000** Portions of the movie - *Hearts in Atlantis* filmed at tower site.
- 2005** APVA seeks management of tower and two keeper's houses with Coast Guard.

Source: *Bay Beacons* by Linda Turbyville and APVA.