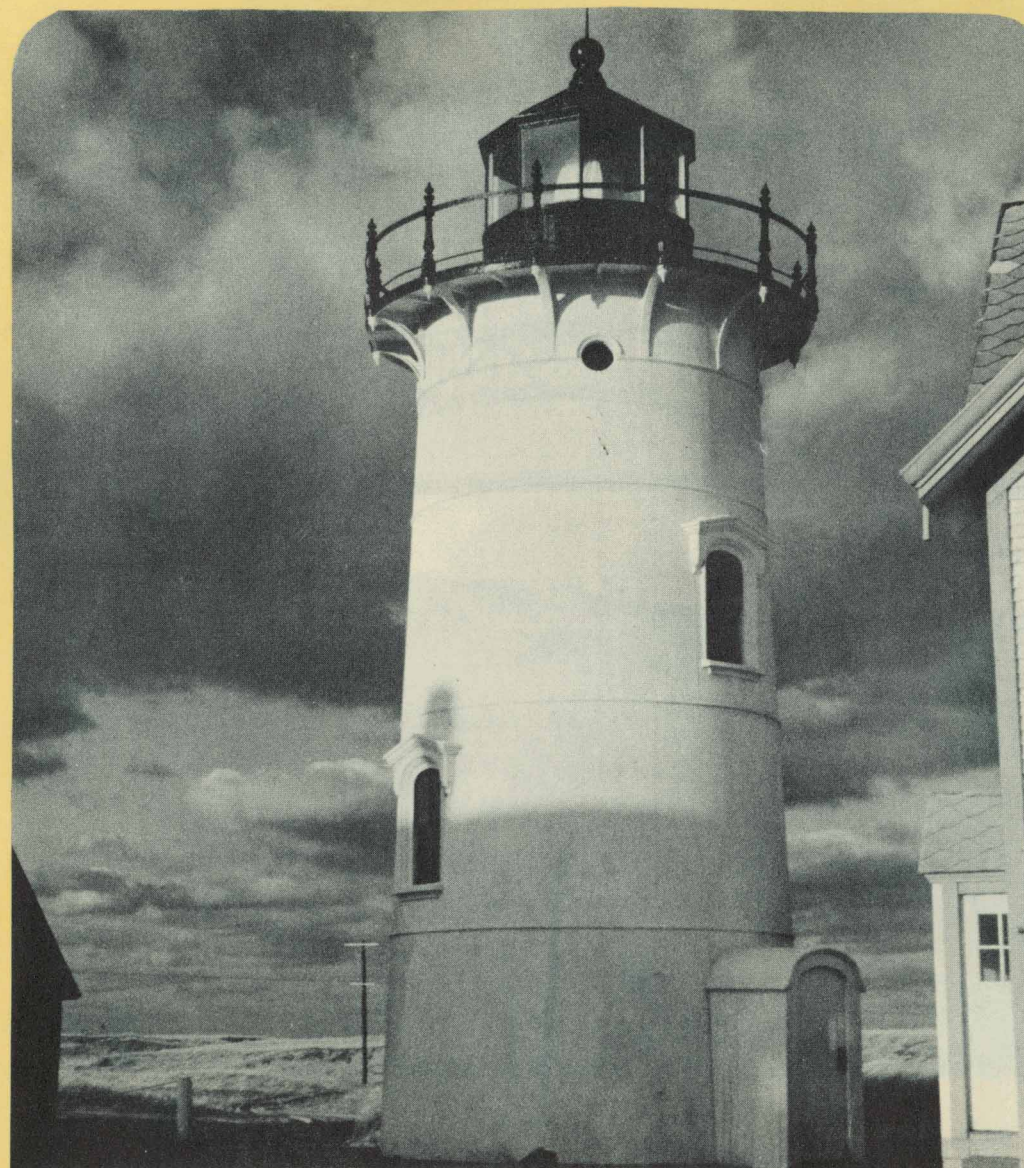


1349

THE LOSS OF THE SAULDA

January 31, 1845 . . . Four good men perished when the schooner Saluda of Barnstable struck the Bars at Race Point this day in 1845. Captain Benjamin F. Ames, of Osterville, the 22-year-old master of the schooner, mistook Race Point Light for Cape Cod (Highland) Light and shaped his course accordingly. As the tide rose she beat over the bar and onto the beach. The crew remained until 4 a.m. when in the intense cold and high surf the schooner began to break up. Three of the crew were swept overboard to their deaths as she rolled over in the surf. Then Captain Ames and the mate took to the rigging and they too dropped into the surf and Ames drowned. The mate, Peter Peterson, of Hyannis, made shore and was the only survivor of the Saluda's five man crew.

A marine observer of Provincetown said that the light at the Race, supposed to be revolving, does not completely disappear and consequently is often mistaken for Highland Light. On this particular night the extreme cold caused the vapor which made it impossible for Captain Ames to see land.



RACE POINT LIGHT

- 1956 -

John W. Gregory

This lighthouse is one of many that guard the promontories of the Cape.

THE SKELTON, 1875 . . .

Found by Nathaniel Atkins

About a half mile from the shore and three and a half miles east of Race Point Light, a human skeleton was found almost entirely on top of the sand. Mr. Atkins digging about the body found fifteen pieces of gold and silver coins, one dating 1719, a dollar, 9 quarters, 1 nine-piece, 2 pesteracens, and 1 half pesteracen bearing dates from 1708 to 1782. A silver watch with hands corroded stopped at 10:30. The watch was inscribed S. Boverich, London, No. 130. Bits of woolen clothing and leather buttons lay about the remains.

The body was that of a man 5 ft. 8 inches tall, and found lying on his left side. It is thought he may have been a shipwreck victim who died of exhaustion and exposure about 75 years before, as determined by the condition of the bones when found.