The Last Lightkeeper
Le dernier gardien de phare

Angus Newman • 1893-1967

Mr. Angus Newman, a native of Campobello Island, was the last lighthouse keeper for the Mulholland Point Lighthouse. Angus began his vocation in 1926, after serving in the Great War from 1914-1918. He was 33 when he began tending this lighthouse. Angus was extremely faithful to his task, knowing full well that mariner’s lives depended on Mulholland Point Light.

Angus Newman’s daily task began in the very early hours each morning, leaving home each day well before daybreak, to extinguish the light for the daylight hours, then rowing across the Narrows to Lubec, where he was employed. After working his 8 hour daily shift at the local smoke shed, he would again row across the Narrows, back to ignite the light for the darkening hours, and begin his trek home by foot. Mr. Newman’s daily routine consisted of a 5.9 mile walk each day in all seasons, no matter the conditions. Angus walked the equivalent of over three times the distance around the earth’s equator during his service.

As can be seen, the currents of the Campobello/Lubec Narrows are notoriously dangerous. When the roads were impassable in winter, Angus would leave his home in Welshpool and walk the weekly 3 miles to his “Light” by way of the shoreline.

In 1963, Angus Newman retired from his lightkeeping duties after serving 37 years of service. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Bridge opened in 1962. The bridge included navigation lights on its underside, and the lighthouse was deemed unnecessary and decommissioned.

This lighthouse stands as a symbol of the Island’s maritime history, and a monument to its faithful and last keeper – Angus Newman.