

A little piece of history

Our photo this week shows a model of the lighthouse that was once located at Oak Orchard Harbor in Carleton. It is currently on display for the next two weeks at the Carleton Town Hall. This authentic scale model was meticulously made by Richard Anderson, a summer resident at Oak Orchard On-The-Lake. Working from an old photograph of the original lighthouse which included people in the picture, he was able to determine the dimensions. He constructed the model in Florida last winter.

For much of this summer season he has had the model in front of his cottage. The model includes a working beacon light. Mr. Anderson has taken an avid interest in this locality and its history through extensive research of its history.

In 1867 the Federal Government appropriated \$87,000 for improving the Oak Orchard Harbor. It was dredged to a depth of 13 feet and two piers were constructed which were each 1,600 feet long. In 1871 the lighthouse was erected at the far end of the west pier. A lighthouse keeper's house was built nearby which later became the Edward Archbald

residence.

The census of 1875, 1892 and 1900 indicate that a John R. Kelly was the lighthouse keeper. Both of these structures were erected at a total cost of \$4,000.

Abandonment of the lighthouse by the government commenced in 1905. By February 1914 part of the west pier had washed out and on Dec. 15, 1916 a violent storm caused the lighthouse to topple into the lake. Eventually both piers washed away because of no upkeep. The present stone jettys at Oak Orchard Harbor are in the same location of the old wooden piers.

Boxwood Cemetery Tour

At 2 p.m. Sept. 30 a guided walking tour of Boxwood Cemetery will be hosted by the Friends of Boxwood Cemetery. The cemetery is located just north of Medina on Route 63. The cemetery chapel will be the gathering place. Tour guides will be County Historian Bill Lattin and Village of Albion Historian Neil Johnson. Ridgeway Historian Richard Nellist and Medina Historian Shirley Nellist will also both be on hand to answer questions, especially related to burials.

