

Certainly, the cost of transporting stone to Gibraltar Point had to be factored into the costs, but the men of the 41st Regiment were authorized to assist, and for a time the new lightkeeper was fed out of the rations of the garrison of the blockhouse on the Point. Despite gradual growth in revenue from the lighthouse fund, it was completely spent out.

At this stage the possibility of building a third light, to signal the entrance into Kingston harbour and the St. Lawrence, simply fades out of consideration. It seems unlikely that there were no advocates from among Kingston's population for this service, but the general lighthouse fund was exhausted by the construction of the first two, especially the stone light on Gibraltar Point, guarding what was still the least active of the three ports. In 1812 the balance of the lighthouse duties had recovered to the amount of £419, which should have been enough to construct a Mississauga Point-style lighthouse at the lower end of Lake Ontario. But war intervened.²⁰ In early 1814, the Mississauga Point light was destroyed to make room for Fort Mississauga, which, according to some sources, received the equipment from the old light.²¹ If so, a subsequent petition made it clear that, at least in 1818, there was no longer a light at the entrance to the Niagara River.²² Nor would there be until the Americans allocated \$1,000 to put a light on top of the mess-house in Fort Niagara on the opposite side of the river. This was first lit in 1823.²³ With the responsibility to vessels entering the Niagara River abandoned, Upper Canada was left with a single lighthouse.

The return of peace in 1815 and the revival of merchant shipping triggered the return of the lighthouse tonnage duties but no new Upper Canadian lights. Only one request made it to the floor of the legislature. Less than a week before the end of its 1817 session, the House of Assembly concurred with a message from the lieutenant governor who was recommending a lighthouse at Long Point on Lake Erie as "essential to the safety of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels on that Lake," as well as offering support for the establishment of a "colonial Trinity House for the purpose of superintending the general communication of these Lakes."²⁴ However, no substantial action was taken and, after their summer break, the issue of a Trinity House was never raised again.

On the other side of the Lakes, however, the attitude proved quite different. The War of 1812 had drawn to the attention of many Americans the vast extent of the northern lakes. The return of peace triggered a major migration into the region. Congress began adding lights on the lakes to its annual lighthouse appropriations, starting on Lake Erie in 1816 with funding for lights on Bird Island (Buffalo, NY) and Presque Isle (Erie, PA). By 1826, there were eight operational lights on the American shores, with further appropriations for two more sites and a replacement structure at Buffalo that spring.²⁵

²⁰ *JHA*, 72, 2 March 1812.

²¹ Wright, 58.

²² *Ninth Report*, 535 (13 Mar. 1818)

²³ Wright, 26.

²⁴ *JHA* 400, 28 March 1817.

²⁵ United States, *Statutes at Large*, 14th Cong. Sess. 1, Chap 120 (27 April 1816) Bird Island, NY (\$1590), Presque Isle, PA (\$1590); 14th Cong. Sess. 2, Chap. 33(3 March 1817) Bird Island & Presque Isle (\$17,000); 15th Cong. Sess. 2, chap. 102 (3 Mar 1819) Galloo Island, NY (\$12,500) Sandusky/Marblehead (\$5000); 16th Congress, Sess. 2, chap. 52 (3 March 1821), Oswego River