

SCITUATE, 1811
BOOK 116, PAGE 182
SCITUATE LIGHTHOUSE
REBECCA AND ABIGAIL BATES
AMERICAN ARMY OF TWO

The United States Government opened a lighthouse at Cedar Point in Scituate in 1811. Simeon Bates was its first lighthouse keeper. In the summer of 1814 when Simeon was away, he left his daughters Rebecca and Abigail in charge of keeping the light. When they saw barges filled with British soldiers being launched from a British frigate, they became alarmed. They knew British raiding parties had sacked towns along the New England coast. The two sisters took up a fife and drum and loudly played them while hiding in the cedar trees. The British troops thought they were coming upon the Scituate Militia and beat a hasty retreat. The legend of the “American Army of Two” was created. Scituate Lighthouse is now owned by the town and operated by the Scituate Historical Society. Over the years, there have been reports of music from a fife and drum mixing in with the sounds of the wind and the waves crashing on the jetties leading into Scituate Harbor.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr. and John Zigouras
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