

**PLYMOUTH, 1802**  
**BOOK 95, PAGE 78-79**  
**HANNAH THOMAS**  
**AMERICA'S FIRST FEMALE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER**  
**KEEPER OF NORTH AMERICA'S FIRST "TWIN LIGHTS"**

The Plymouth (Gurnet) Lighthouse, located on Gurnet Point on the north side entrance to Plymouth Bay was authorized by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1768. The first lighthouse, a wooden dwelling with a lantern at each end of its roof, made this the site of North America's first "twin lights". The lighthouse was built on the land of John and Hannah Thomas. Hannah and John Thomas were the first keepers of the light. When John was killed in the Revolutionary War, Hannah became the first female lighthouse keeper in America (1776-1790). During the Revolutionary War, the towns of Plymouth, Duxbury and Kingston erected a fort on the Gurnet. In 1802, Hannah and her son John sold the lighthouse to the United States Government. It is presently cared for by Project Gurnet and Bug Light, Inc.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.  
and Carol A. Lloyd

From the "Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection"