



# The Maritime News

The Official Newspaper  
of San Francisco Maritime  
National Historical Park

June, July, August 2006



## Schooner *C. A. Thayer* Returns To Hyde Street Pier This Summer

After a two-and-a-half year rehabilitation, the National Historic Landmark vessel, *C.A. Thayer*, returns home to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park this summer.

NPS contractor Bay Ship And Yacht Corporation, carefully shaped, fitted and fastened nearly 340,000 board feet of fine-grained Douglas fir between the schooner's remaining sound timbers and planking. The result of the project, which was accomplished primarily inside a giant seaplane hanger at the old Alameda Naval Air Station, is a vessel poised for another 111-year voyage.

The *Thayer* received regular maintenance during her years with the State and National park systems, but her basic structural timbers were all original, 1895 material. Although massively-built, of tight-grained Douglas fir timber, vessels of this type were designed for a working life of perhaps twenty years. By the mid-1990s, *Thayer's* framing timbers were soft with dry-rot.

The rebuild process began in December of 2003, when the *Thayer* was towed to the Bay Ship and Yacht Yard in Alameda, California. Following removal of her masts and deck machinery (such as capstans and winches), the vessel was hauled onto a floating dry dock and supported in a massive steel cradle. House-moving dollies shifted the cradle aboard a barge, and tugboats towed the barge to the old Naval Air Station. There, deckhands carefully rolled *Thayer* ashore and into the huge seaplane hanger.

Following a high-tech laser-scan to determine its shape, workers carefully dismantled the vessel's hull, stripping off the outer planking by hand to expose the rotted frames or "ribs" underneath. Piece by piece, over many months, the individual timbers were replaced using Douglas fir. The major centerline timbers of the bow and stern

Photos from top, left, clockwise: *Thayer's* hull and bow seen through scaffolding that has surrounded her for the past two years in a seaplane hanger in Alameda. Photo taken in early 2006 shows the hull fully planked and caulked;

**Inside the hold** of the ship. The white, l-shaped pieces are called "knees." A knee is produced from the part of the Douglas fir tree where the root connects to the trunk, taking advantage of the natural shape and strength. The knees support the main deck beams and connect the hull to the deck above. The pieces of wood between the knees, attached to the hull, are temporary supports called cross spawls. They were installed to help hold the shape of the hull during construction;

**Workers caulking** the hull by driving oakum, tarred hemp fiber, into the seams between the hull planks. Caulking is a fine art. The right amount of oakum must be driven between the planks with the right amount of pressure to ensure a watertight hull;

**Workers "pay"** the main deck seams with hot marine glue, one of the final steps in caulking the deck. Caulking stiffens up the deck and makes it watertight;

**A recent photo** shot from the main deck looking toward the fore hatch and bow. The white outer structures are the bulwarks, coated with a white primer. The main deck is complete and caulked, and the hatch openings are restored to their original configuration. Photos: NPS

were replaced, as well as the heavy deck beams. The original "L"-shaped "knees," were refurbished and reinstalled, supporting the main deck beams. Shipwrights laid down a new deck, of 4" square planks, in 40-foot lengths, and caulked it tight.

Although structurally sound and watertight once more, *Thayer's* rehabilitation work will continue at Hyde Street Pier for a number of years. Ongoing projects will include installation of interior fittings, completion of the forward deck house, and restoration of her sailing rig.

### Welcome

Summertime weather at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park can fool you. In San Francisco during the summer, "Sunny California" can sometimes mean cool and foggy. Surprising weather for this time of year -- something you might not expect. The same can be said for your experience visiting the park.

The park, located on the west end of Fisherman's Wharf, offers a unique experience. A walk down Hyde Street Pier will transport you back to the 19th century. Get a feel for what life was like on the waterfront more than 100 years ago. Step aboard a square-rigged ship and explore the different decks.

After visiting the pier, drop by the Visitor Center, to view the fine art exhibit, "W. A. Coulter: A Master's Brush With the Sea." The oil paintings and illustrations, done by Coulter between 1869 and 1936, depict some of the most significant moments in the city's maritime history. The exhibit is free and runs through the end of October.

On page three you will find information on many of the programs available on the Pier, in the Small Boat Shop, and in the Visitor Center.

See you at the Park!

Kate Richardson  
Superintendent



### 1 *C.A. Thayer* Returns to the Hyde Street Pier

The 111-year-old vessel is structurally sound and watertight once more. More *Thayer* information available on the park website: [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr)

### 2 Events on the Horizon

Fourth of July celebration, Festival of the Sea, Sea Music Concert Series.... mark those calendars for summer and fall events at the park.

### 4 Catherine of the Farallons: Activity Page for Kids

Family life on a barren, rocky outpost, 26 miles from San Francisco, surrounded by the Pacific Ocean.

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Established in 1988, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park encompasses only 34 acres, but contains the most national historic landmarks of any unit in the National Park Service. In addition to the fleet of ships at Hyde Street Pier, the park includes the Aquatic Park Historic District (Maritime Museum, urban beach, picnic area and bocce ball courts), a Visitor Center and a research library (in Fort Mason Center).

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# New Rudder for *Thayer*



NPS Photo

The 111-year-old *C. A. Thayer* is returning to Hyde Street Pier this summer after having undergone an extensive restoration. Part of that restoration included building a new rudder for the ship. (A rudder is used for steering and is attached to the stern of a vessel.) Park shipwrights and volunteers began the process by surveying the old rudder to see if any of it could be salvaged. After determining the entire rudder was too rotten and worm-eaten to save, plywood patterns were made of all the pieces. Second growth Douglas fir was purchased, and the work of cutting the new pieces of lumber to the correct shapes began. The final product is an exact replica of the existing rudder: 1800 pounds, 25 feet long, 4 ½ feet wide and 16 inches thick.

Shipwright Foreman Ron Oakes is shown here rounding the top end of the rudder post. The old rudder post is behind him. Two basic pieces comprise the rudder, the rudder post and the blade. The post and blade are attached to the ship's stern by metal fasteners called pintles. The pintles connect with other metal pieces called gudgeons to form a hinge. This hinge allows the rudder to swing from side to side, steering the ship. The blade (not pictured) was later attached to the lower end of the rudder post.

Employees Ron Oakes, John Conway, Diane Piagneri, David Hall, and volunteer Malcolm Brown (who showed up every Tuesday) spent three months producing the rudder. Most of the work was accomplished pier side, providing a fascinating project for visitors to observe. The most common question the crew heard was "What is it?" For now, the mostly finished rudder is safely stowed, waiting patiently to be affixed to the stern, and getting back to work, providing safe steerage for the *C. A. Thayer*.

# Events on The Horizon

July 4th Celebration: Aquatic Park Historic District, great spot to see the fireworks.

July 8 & 9: Maritime Museum open late, evening tours available.

September 9: Festival of the Sea, all day on Hyde Street Pier, music, ship tours, crafts for kids, sail-raising demos.

October 15, November 12, December 9: Sea Music Concert Series, sea music aboard the *Balclutha*.

### MARITIME SKETCHBOOK CLASS OFFERED

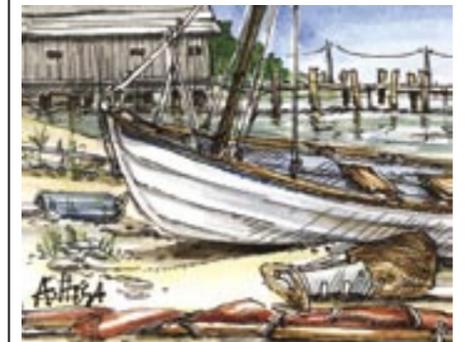


Illustration by Amy Hosa

*Saturday, August 26, 12:30PM-4:30PM. Fee: \$35.* Develop a simple sketch from stunning waterfront views. Explore a variety of techniques to add color and shading using watercolor and color pencil. Create a maritime color palette. Demos on drawing boats, water surfaces and reflections. All levels welcome. Location: China Camp State Park, San Rafael, at the Chinese shrimp-fishing village. It's a special day for the park's Chinese junk, and Bay Area traditional small craft and work boat associations, so join us for festivities and dinner too! For more information: amy\_hosa@nps.gov or 415-561-7113.

For information on more classes, please turn to page 3, under Boat Shop Classes.

# Museum to Undergo Major Restoration



NPS Photo

The Aquatic Park Bathhouse building, home to the park's Maritime Museum since 1951, will close this year on July 10 for much needed restoration.

Please join us on July 8 and 9 for a free, special evening event at the museum, 900 Beach Street, in San Francisco. The museum will be open until 9:00pm and Park staff will present evening tours.

Construction will take approximately three years, during which time the windows and roof will be replaced, and the poured concrete bleachers and underground spaces will be renewed and reinforced. The existing elevator will also be extended upward one more floor to improve public access and enjoyment of this architectural work of art. For more information, call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000.

# Sign Aboard at the Park Association

You can show your support for the Park through membership in the Maritime Park Association, our non-profit partner organization. Your membership assists with preservation and education projects for Park ships and collections. Membership comes with special benefits at each level, including the *Sea Letter* magazine, free park admission, and Maritime Store discounts. For more information, call Member Services at 415-561-6662 x 13, or go to [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org).

## Visitor Information

### Dates and Hours of Operation

The *Hyde Street Pier*, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM-5:00PM—last entry at 4:30PM (October 1-May 27), and 9:30AM-5:30PM—last entry at 5PM (Memorial Day-September 30).

The *Maritime Museum* (Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building), located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street, is open 10:00AM-5:00PM. *The museum is closing on July 10 for major renovation work. For more information, call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000.*

The *Visitor Center*, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM-5:00PM (October 1-May 27) and 9:30AM-7:00PM (Memorial Day-September 30).

The *Maritime Library*, located on the third floor of Bldg. E in Fort Mason Center (auto entrance at Buchanan Street and Marina Blvd), is open 1:00PM-8:00PM Tuesdays, 1:00PM-5:00PM Wednesday-Friday, and 10:00AM-5:00PM Saturdays.

### No-Fee Areas

Visitor Center, Hyde Street Pier, Aquatic Park Historic District (including the Maritime Museum) and the Maritime Library (Fort Mason Center).

### Boarding Pass (Entrance Fee For Historic Vessels): \$5.00

Free for supervised children under 16. Free with National Parks Pass, Golden Eagle, Golden Age/Access Pass or Park Annual Pass.

### Reservations/Permits

Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. At least one month's notice and application for Special Use Permits is required. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis.

### Contact Information

General Park Information: 415-447-5000  
Maritime Store: 415-775-2665  
Maritime Library: 415-561-7030

USS *Pampanito*: 415-775-1943

Park Website: [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr)

Association Website: [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org)

# Music, Tours, Events, Living History and Classes

## MUSIC

### CHANTEY SING

Saturdays, June 3, July 1 and August 5, 8PM-MIDNIGHT. No fee. Aboard the historic vessel Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier.

Reservations required: call 415-556-6435 or email [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov).

Sing traditional working songs aboard a historic floating vessel. Bring a mug for hot cider served from the ship's galley.

### MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS

Saturdays, June 17, July 15 and August 19, 2PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun. Ages 7 and up. ☺

## PROGRAMS

### NEW PROGRAM!

#### CAULKING A SEAM

Saturdays, July 22 and August 12, Noon. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.

Watertight seams were essential on wooden sailing ships. Park Ranger Carol Kiser demonstrates the steps involved in caulking a deck seam. ☺

#### CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Saturdays, June 24, July 22 and August 26, 1:30PM-2:30PM. Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. No fee.

Learn a little about life at sea and make a maritime craft! ☺

#### CRABBIN' OFF A PIER IN THE BAY

Saturdays, June 10, July 15 and August 19, 2PM. On Municipal Pier. (See map on back page for pier location.) No fee.

Join a Park Ranger to learn the "how tos" of catching elusive crabs off the park's Municipal Pier. What are the regulations? What's the best bait? Ring net or Star net? How do you tell the difference between Dungeness, Brown Rock and Red crabs? Which crabs can you keep and which ones must you throw back? ☺

#### EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR

Sundays, June 25, July 30 and August 27, 2PM. Meet on Eureka's gangway. Vessel admission. Take a special tour of the ferryboat Eureka's engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run.

#### HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR

Sundays, June 4, July 2 and August 6, 3PM. Meet at the gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission. Tour includes climbing moderately steep ladders and entering cramped spaces.

Explore the major engineering spaces and learn about steam engine technology and its effects on the working environment of the marine steam engineer.

#### THE OCEAN: BARRIER OR HIGHWAY?

Sundays, June 11, July 30 and August 13, 3PM. In the Visitor Center.

Was the ocean a barrier or a highway for the vessels Balclutha, Thayer and Hercules? Join a ranger for a thirty minute slide presentation to examine this question.

#### BIRDS OF THE BAY

Sunday, June 11, July 16 and August 20, 9:30AM-11:30AM. Meet at the Hyde Street Pier entrance. No fee.

See shore, migratory, city and resident birds on this easy stroll. Bring binoculars, bird books and dress in layers. ☺

### ☺FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

#### LIFE IN NELSON'S NAVY

Saturdays, June 3, July 1 and August 5, 2PM. In the Visitor Center theater.

View a slide show about life in the British Royal Navy at the time of Nelson, featuring period food, clothing and surgical instruments.

#### MARITIME HEROICS IN THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE

Saturday, June 24 and Sundays, July 9 and August 6, 2PM. In the Visitor Center theater. While San Francisco burned, sailors evacuated thousands of residents forced to flee to the shores of San Francisco Bay (at the present site of the park). Join a ranger for a slide presentation about these heroic efforts.

#### SHIP RADIO DEMONSTRATION

Saturday, June 24, 10AM-12PM AND 1-4PM. In the Maritime Museum. No fee.

Inside a replica WWII ship's radio room, docents interpret the technology and explain the vital role ship's radio operators played. They will also send a real radiogram message for you to anywhere in the United States! ☺

#### SMALL CRAFT ON HYDE STREET PIER

Saturday, July 29, and Sunday, August 20, 2:00PM. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. No fee.

Join a Park Ranger for a special tour of the unique collection of small craft berthed on Hyde Street Pier's floating docks.

#### SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR

Saturday, August 12, 9:30AM-2:30PM. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. No fee. Reservations required; call the Boat Shop at 415-556-4031.

Bring a bag lunch and ride with us over to our small craft warehouse in Alameda. We'll tour the collection of nearly 100 local historic boats, discussing interesting elements of their history, design and construction.

## COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

#### A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901

Saturdays, June 10, July 8 and August 12, 11AM-4PM. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.

Step into the past as you board our historic ships. Help the sailors on Balclutha raise the staysail in the morning and return for musical fun during the afternoon dogwatch. Learn about life in 1901 from the ferryboat passengers on Eureka, or join Mrs. Galan on the Ark houseboat for an afternoon tea to discuss the issues of the day. The beach comes alive with a picnic in July, and swimmers braving the water in historic bathing attire in August

## MODELMAKING

#### MODELERS' WORKSHOP

Saturdays, throughout the summer, 9:30AM. Meet on the car deck of the Eureka. Vessel admission.

The Hyde Street Pier Model Shipwrights will be conducting ship model building classes in the model shop on Eureka every Saturday. Classes begin at 9:30am and continue into the afternoon. Anyone interested in building ship models is invited to participate. Each participant will select and obtain a model and receive individual instruction during each stage of construction. Modelmeister Paul Reck, who has built models on display in the Visitor Center and St. Francis Yacht Club, will be the primary instructor. Please drop by any Saturday morning. For information, contact Leo Kane at [kanebulota@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kanebulota@sbcglobal.net).

## VOLUNTEERS



NPS Photo

### REMARKABLE VOLUNTEERS

At San Francisco Maritime, our volunteers provide a variety of services that support the museum exhibit shop, maritime library, historic documents department and interpretation and education.

We are grateful for volunteers who come and offer their assistance during our many annual special events including Festival of the Sea, Fourth of July and Fleet Week. We depend on them during city and neighborhood activities such as the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival and the Fisherman's Wharf Merchant's Association Crab Festival.

We try to make every event a special event for everyone involved. When volunteers enjoy what they are doing, it is guaranteed the event will be a wonderful success.

San Francisco Maritime is also very grateful to our corporate partners such as the California State Automobile Association (CSAA), Charles Schwab Financial Services, The GAP, Levi Strauss, Old Navy, Philip Morris - USA, Hands on Bay Area and the Volunteer Center of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. All of our corporate partners provide volunteer service, and in many cases, financial support as well.

In Fiscal Year 2005, over 137,000 volunteers across the country donated 5.2 million hours to our National Parks at a value of \$91.2 million. We depend heavily upon our dedicated volunteers and the multitude of services they provide. Our volunteers will freely tell you that the tasks and projects which they participate in are anything but dull or boring.

The National Park Service salutes all volunteers. The world is a big place, and volunteers are making it a better place for everyone to call home!

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED AS A VOLUNTEER?

Have we got the perfect challenge for you! Call the Volunteer Office at 415-556-1613, or visit [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr) and join the crew.

## BOAT SHOP CLASSES

These classes are held at the Small Boat Shop on Hyde Street Pier, 415-556-4031.

#### INTRODUCTION TO BRONZE CASTING

Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18, 9AM-5PM. Fee: \$100.

Learn how to build your own melting furnace, make patterns for hardware for boat and home, and cast them in bronze. Construct a furnace suitable for melting most non-ferrous alloys as well as basic blacksmithing. Patterns for cleats, oarlocks, port lights, and other boat hardware will be made and cast in bronze. The casting session will focus on split-patterns and cope & drag sand casting. No experience in working metals needed, moderate experience in

woodworking helpful but not necessary. For more information call Lucas Lineback at 415-567-4653.

#### OAR, PADDLE AND SPAR MAKING

Two Saturdays and two Sundays, June 24 and 25; July 1 and 2, 9AM-5PM. Fee: \$125. Hand-carve your own paddle, spar or pair of oars. Begin with spruce or ash and work to the final shape with the bandsaw, draw-knife, block plane, spoke shave and in-cannel gouge. Learn how to use these tools in the creation of an elegant and useful piece of wood. For more information call Lucas Lineback at 415-567-4653.

#### FIREBENDING AND STEAMBENDING

Saturday, July 22, 9:30AM-4:30PM. Fee: \$75. This class introduces two ancient and useful methods of bending wood. One method uses steam to soften the wood and the other bends planks directly over an open fire. We'll get the opportunity to compare both methods as we bend planks on the beach and bend frames on the adjacent pier. For more information call Lucas Lineback at 415-567-4653.

#### MARITIME SKETCHBOOK IN COLOR

Saturday, August 26, 12:30PM-4:30PM.

Fee: \$35.

Develop a simple sketch from the stunning waterfront views, and explore a variety of techniques to add color and shading. Tips for creating a maritime color palette. Demos on drawing boats, water surfaces and reflections. Media: watercolor and color pencil. All levels welcome. Location: the Chinese shrimp-fishing village, China Camp State Park, San Rafael. It's a special day for the park's Chinese junk, and Bay Area traditional small craft and work boat associations, so join us for festivities and dinner too! More info: [amy\\_hosa@nps.gov](mailto:amy_hosa@nps.gov) or 415-561-7113.



Photo by Age of Sail

## AGE OF SAIL

The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association's Age of Sail education program is booking programs for the school year. These programs offer hands-on, student-centered learning, and take place aboard the park's historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Programs range in cost from \$25 to \$62 per student. For information call Lucas Lineback at 415-567-4653, [ageofsail@maritime.org](mailto:ageofsail@maritime.org) or [www.maritime.org/nmmaedu](http://www.maritime.org/nmmaedu).

## WWII SUBMARINE USS PAMPANITO

Open daily. At Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf. Fee: adults, \$9; 6-12, \$4; under 6 free with adult; over 62, \$5; active duty military, \$4; family ticket, \$20. Information: 415-775-1943.

The Balao-class USS Pampanito (SS-383), a museum and memorial owned and operated by the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, made six patrols in the Pacific during World War II. Admission includes a self-guided audio tour.

## Today In The Park

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- 10 Crabbin' On Municipal Pier  
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- 24 Maritime Heroics in 1906  
Earthquake and Fire

- Ship Radio Demonstration
- Crafts for Kids
- Oar, Paddle & Spar Making class  
begins
- Modelmaking Workshop
- 25 Eureka Engine Room Tour

### JULY

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Earthquake and Fire  
Maritime Museum open until 9PM
- 15 Crabbin' off Municipal Pier

- Music of the Sea for Kids  
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# Fun and Education for Younger Sailors

## Catherine of the Farallons

In our park's visitor center is the enormous Fresnel lens used in the Farallon Island lighthouse. The Farallon Islands are located about 26 miles west of San Francisco. In the late 19th century, the lighthouse keeper, his assistants and their families, including 10 children, made the island their home.

It's not for everyone, life on the Farallons. Catherine O'Caïne, the daughter of a lighthouse keeper there, remembered the fog and wind and the rocky terrain covered with many kinds of nesting birds. The big excitement for the children who lived there was the arrival once every three months of the supply boat carrying food and mail.



NPS Photo

Catherine's father tended this lighthouse on the Farallon Islands. The lightning rod at the very top of the lighthouse is on exhibit in the park's visitor center. Can you find it?

The island was so isolated that its small school eventually failed because few teachers wanted to live so far from civilization. There were no doctors or hospitals there and if someone got sick, the families had to build a huge bonfire in hopes of attracting the attention of a passing ship.

But Catherine liked to remember the times she and the others spent exploring the island, collecting bird nests and eggs, and enjoying the colorful sunsets at the end of the day. On the rare days when the fog cleared, the children liked to look through a telescope at the beaches of San Francisco. "You could see the people moving," she said. "They looked like little ants running around."

For Catherine, the isolation of the island was part of what she loved about it. "I used to come to San Francisco to get my teeth looked over," she said, "and oh, I thought it was terrible, and oh, I wanted to get back home. There were so many people on the street. I wanted to get back to the silent night."

Which would you prefer? Living in the city or on an island out at sea? The next time you go to Ocean Beach or cross the Golden Gate Bridge, look for the Farallons way out on the horizon. Imagine Catherine at her telescope, looking back at you.

Sources: Catherine O'Caïne Strittmatter Oral History, Anne T. Kent California History Center, Marin County Free Library: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/lb/main/crm/index.html> and San Francisco Maritime N.H.P. "Voyages" curriculum: <http://www.nps.gov/safr/local/education/education.htm>

## Make a Lighthouse Shape Poem

A shape poem combines artwork and poetry. Using the illustration below as a guide, draw a picture of a lighthouse.

Next, think of words that describe what it must have been like to live on the Farallons. Using those words, write a poem that describes how Catherine might have felt living on the island.

Once you've written the poem, copy it along the outline of your drawing. Voila! A poem in the shape of a lighthouse!

