



## Teaching about Hendrick's Head Light *The Sea Chest: Author's Note*

Although *The Sea Chest* is a fictional story, and Sanctuary Island a fictional island, there is a legend about a severe storm in the Atlantic in the mid-1870's that wrecked a vessel off the coast of Southport Island, Maine. According to the story, The Hendricks Head lightkeeper was unable to do anything for the vessel due to the ferocity of the storm. Afterwards, he found a bundle of feather mattresses washed ashore. Inside was a sea chest holding a baby girl and a note from her parents, the captain and his wife, committing the child into God's hands. The story says that the keeper and his wife had recently lost their own child and that they adopted the baby, named her Seaborne, and raised her as their only child. However, no mention of the child exists in the lighthouse log of the time.

Local historians believe the legend arose from a 1900 C.C. Munn novel entitled *Uncle Terry*. The story was perpetuated in Edward Rowe Snow's *Famous Lighthouses of New England*.

### READ MORE

#### Hendricks Head Light

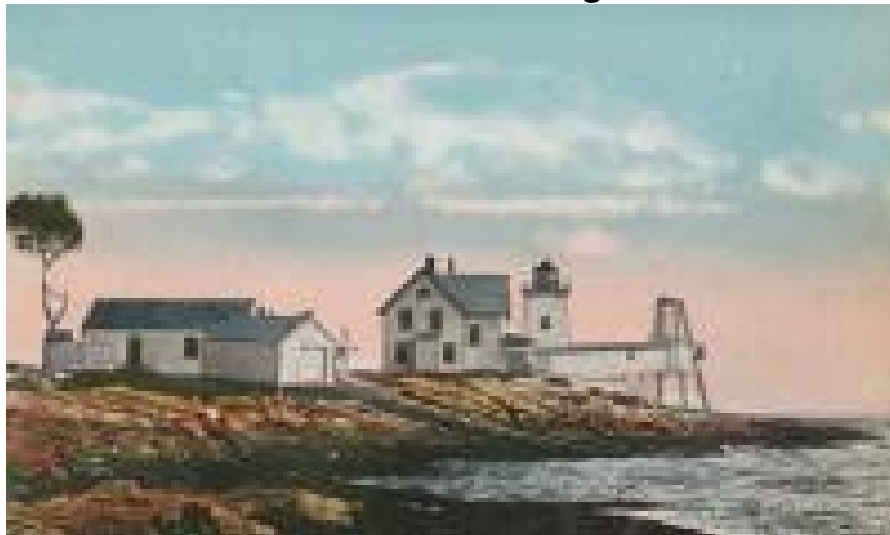


image from Author's personal postcard collection

The story of the baby in the sea chest is interesting from an historical perspective, as many people cling to the truth of the story, as first published by historian and author Edward Rowe Snow in his book, *Famous Lighthouses of New England*. And yet the sleuthing work of historian Barbara Rumsey of the Boothbay Region Historical Society reveals a different story. You can read more at: [Out of Our Past, Boothbay Historical Society, The Baby that Washed Ashore at Hendricks Head](#)