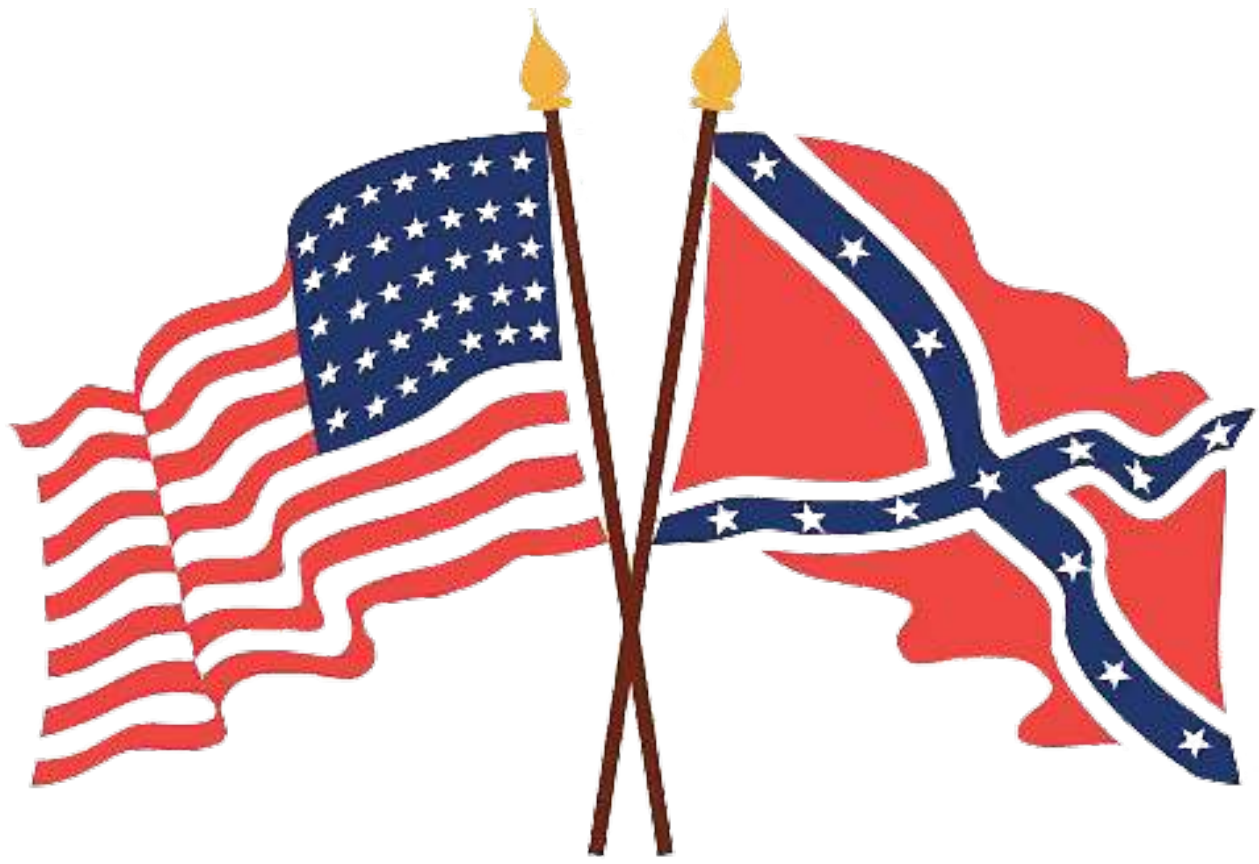


1861 - 1865

Civil War Turns Out the Light

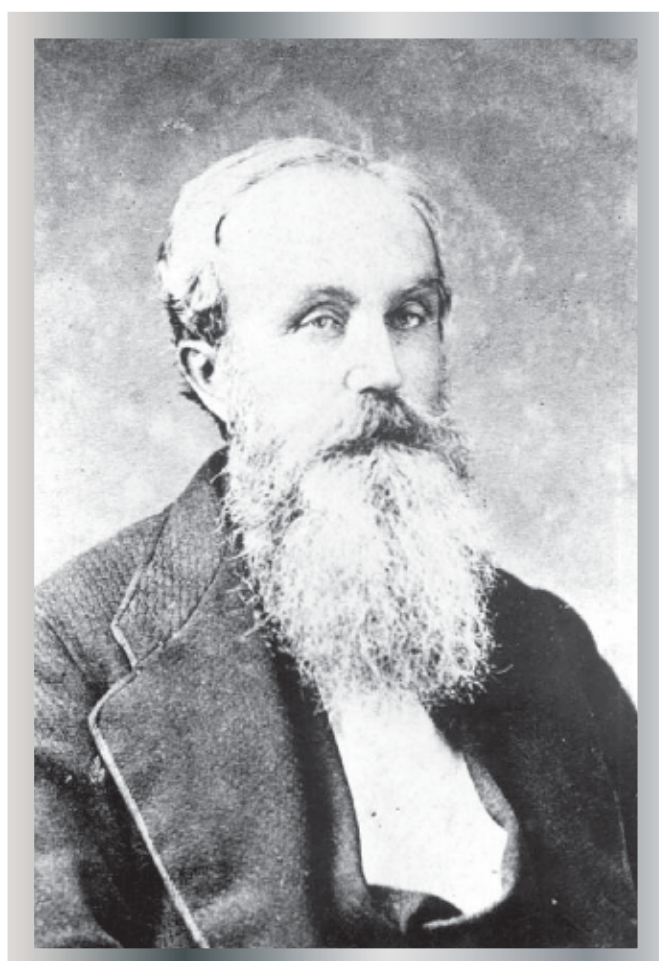
The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Falls Under Confederate Control



Florida was one of the original seven Confederate States of America, seceding from the Union in February 1861, following Abraham Lincoln's election.

The newly formed Confederate Lighthouse Board ordered all lighthouses in Florida to "go dark". Each Head Florida Lighthouse Keeper was told to take his light apart and ship the pieces to St. Augustine for safekeeping from Union troops. The Union Navy controlled the coastal waters of the Atlantic, but with no lights from lighthouses, they lost their ability to safely navigate around the shoals and reefs of Florida.

The Light is Dismantled to Keep It Safe



Mills O. Burnham

Mills Burnham was the Keeper at Cape Canaveral. He sent key parts of the Winslow Lewis lamp to St. Augustine, as directed, but buried the remaining equipment in boxes in his orange grove.

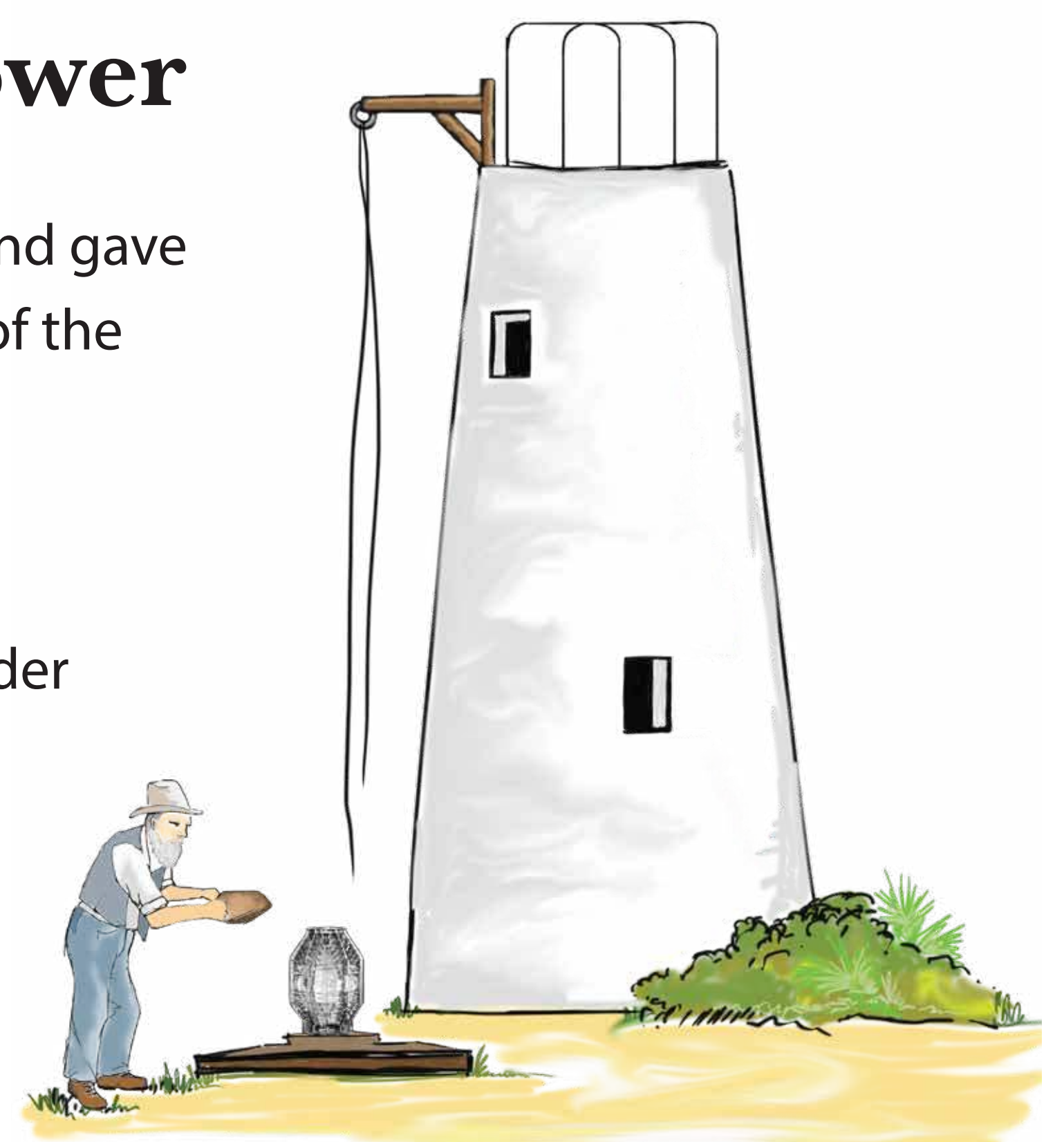


Burying the Light.

A New Light Shines from the Old Tower

When the War was over in 1865, Burnham dug up the light equipment and gave it to the Union representative sent to reactivate the light. But the parts of the light sent to St. Augustine for safekeeping had disappeared.

A new Lighthouse had been authorized before the War and would have a 1st Order Fresnel lens, but it would not be completed until 1868. In order to provide some amount of light until that time, the old Lighthouse was repaired and reconfigured to accommodate a smaller 4th Order Fresnel lens. It was lit on June 1st, 1867 and would remain in service until the iron Lighthouse was completed the following year.



Installing the Temporary 4th Order Lens