

NOT SO HUMBLE BEGINNINGS.....

The first ever lighthouse ever built was constructed in New Alexandria and was named the “Pharaoh’s Lighthouse”. Egypt in the years of 300 B.C. and 280 B.C. had what was deemed the largest lighthouse ever made even to this day and was even considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World during its time. It was built during the reign of Ptolemy I and his son Ptolemy II, and the Pharaoh’s Lighthouse stood for several generations but was ultimately destroyed over time by invaders and other foreign attacks and was never reconstructed.

The tower was built from stone brick and the main lightsource was an open flame housed in the summit of the tower that casted its light across the New Alexandria harbor that led many ships to its shores. It would go on to serve as the beginning for a new era of coastal navigation that will impact the generations to come.

The lighthouse itself stood at a colossal 450 ft. tall which is almost twice as tall as the Punta Penna Lighthouse located in Penne, Italy which is the current tallest lighthouse in the world.

The Pharaoh’s Lighthouse
New Alexandria, Egypt
300-280 B.C.
Estimated 450 feet in height

Punta Penna Lighthouse
Penna, Italy
1906 A.D. - Present
230 ft. in height
Current tallest lighthouse in the **WORLD**



COLONIAL EXPANSIONS

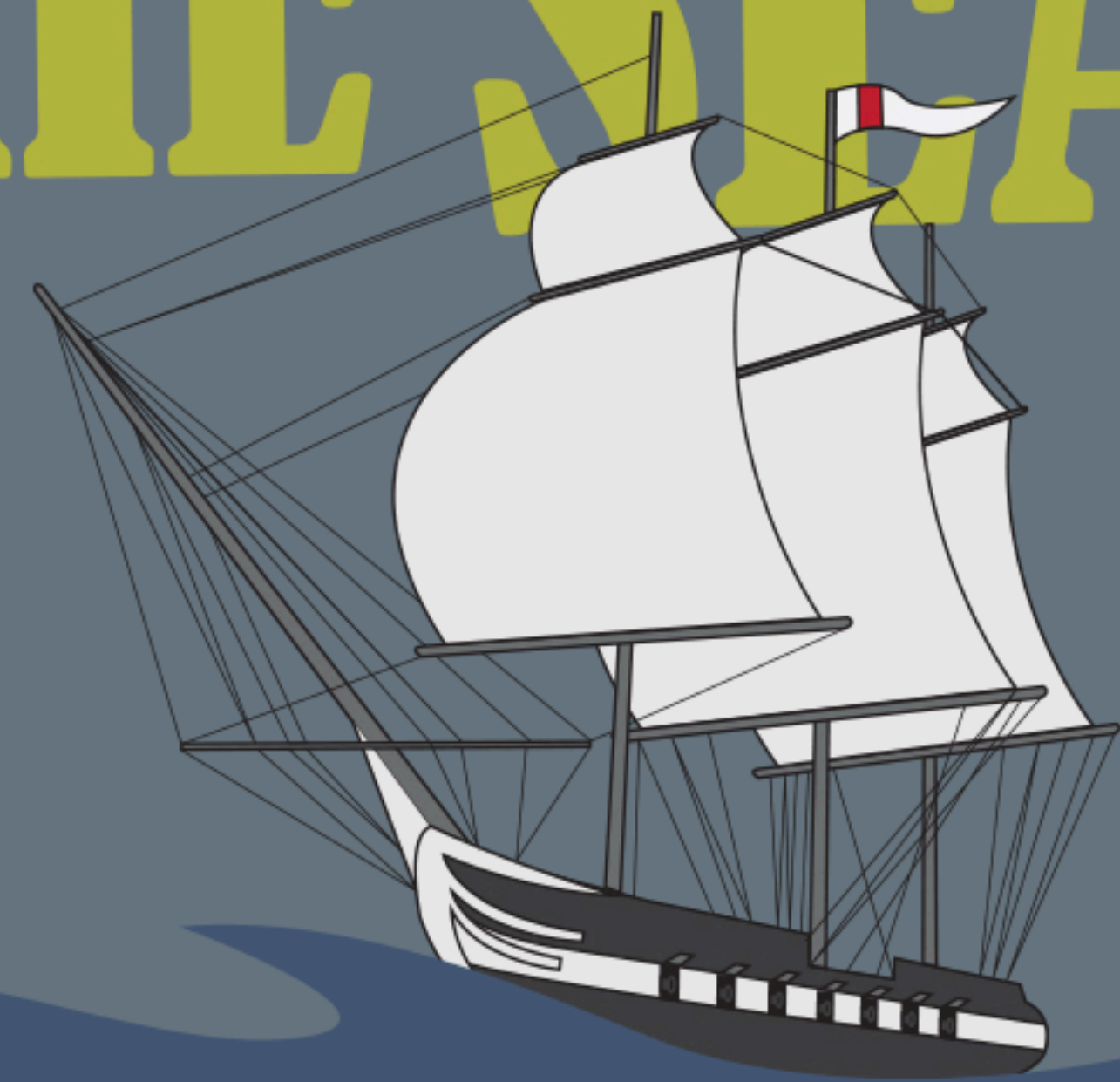
Lighthouses were instrumental to early sea travel for seaward merchants and even military vessels as they were used for navigating the waters of Europe, Africa, the Mediterranean, and later the Atlantic Ocean towards the European colonies in the Americas.

Ships would use the light given off by the lighthouses in order to avoid the rocky shores or other hazardous terrain that could render the ship as good as sunk if not properly led into the harbors during weather such as storms and nighttime arrivals on voyages.

Storms were another harrowing obstacle for early sailors as it would greatly obstruct the view of the shoreline for the crew and would cause them to either collide with an obstacle or even run the ship aground on the shore and risk even more damage or even trap the ship with escape being a much bigger affair. Lighthouses allow their light (and later on horns) to guide ships to the safety in the harbor in any weather condition, and has saved an untold number of lives and ships during their centuries of service.

SAVIORS OF THE SEAS

Since all seafaring vessels at the time were mostly constructed out of wood, they were highly susceptible to heavy damage if they were to strike a rock or some other obstacle, it could be catastrophic for the ship and would more than likely either sink the vessel or render it out of commission and would require repairs.





MODERN HEROES

While lighthouses aren't primarily used for their original purpose as extensively in their prime with the advancement of navigation technology, lighthouses still play a role in today's naval theatre by serving as beacons and a building that houses the GPS transmitters used by coast guards around the globe.

One of the various devices that now compliment the lighthouse's role, are the GPS navigation bouys that line the coasts around the world, especially in the U.S. The U.S. and its territories host buoy complememnts for over 50,000 lighthouses and cover about 95,000 miles of shoreline today.

Despite being mostly automated and unmanned in present day, lighthouses still guide weary mariners back to the safety of the harbors and play an important role in navla safety as they are used to house the central transmitter of the GPS navigation buoys that they need to function properly. Some of the lighthouse stations that once housed the crew have been converted into museums that teach about their history and how they contribute to society in today's day and age.

A big part of the modern line of maritime safety measures, are the thousands of GPS buoys that line the coastlines around the world. These solar powered instruments act as an early warning system that can be seen on modern GPS systems that can help ships maintain safe passage just as lighthouses have done, and work alongside them and compliment eachother.