

2012

## NOTICE TO EDITORS

### INSTITUTION AWARD FOR BELL ROCK LIGHTHOUSE

The 202-year old Bell Rock Lighthouse, in service 11 miles out to sea from its former Signal Tower Shore Station, now an Angus Council Museum, is regarded as one of the *Seven Wonders of the Industrial World* because of the extraordinary feat of its erection, on a usually submerged rock against the action of the sea, using the limited technology of its time.

To promote knowledge of the building of this engineering masterpiece, beneficial not only to maritime safety but also as a model for Rock lighthouse erection at Skerryvore and elsewhere, the Institution of Civil Engineers in Scotland organised a commemorative plaque. In September 2012 this plaque was presented to Mrs Helen Oswald, Provost of Angus, for the Museum. Recently installed, it designates the Lighthouse and Shore Station an *HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK*.

The plaque wording is based on original research at Heriot-Watt University by Professor Roland Paxton FRSE of the Institution's *Panel for Historical Engineering Works*, set out in his recent book *Dynasty of Engineers: The Stevensons and the Bell Rock* (published by the Northern Lighthouse Heritage Trust). Whilst the plaque acknowledges Stevenson's key role in the lighthouse's creation, it also recognises for the first time in this way the roles of others including Rennie, Logan, Watt and Capt. Taylor and indicates the innovative expedients employed and other detail.

The attractively refurbished Museum is open daily (except Sundays). Admission Free.



Roland Paxton with David Taylor, great-great-great-grandson of the Master of the SMEATON Tender, viewing plaque

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# HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK BELL ROCK LIGHTHOUSE 1811

THE OLDEST SEA-WASHED ROCK LIGHTHOUSE IN CONTINUOUS SERVICE  
ERECTED FOR THE NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD 11 MILES OUT TO SEA  
FROM 1807-11 ON A REEF SUBMERGED UP TO 5m BELOW HIGH WATER

CHIEF ENGINEER : JOHN RENNIE (1761-1821)  
RESIDENT ENGINEER (NLB ENGINEER 1808-42) : ROBERT STEVENSON (1772-1850)  
CLERK OF WORKS AND DRAUGHTSMAN : DAVID LOGAN (1786-1839)

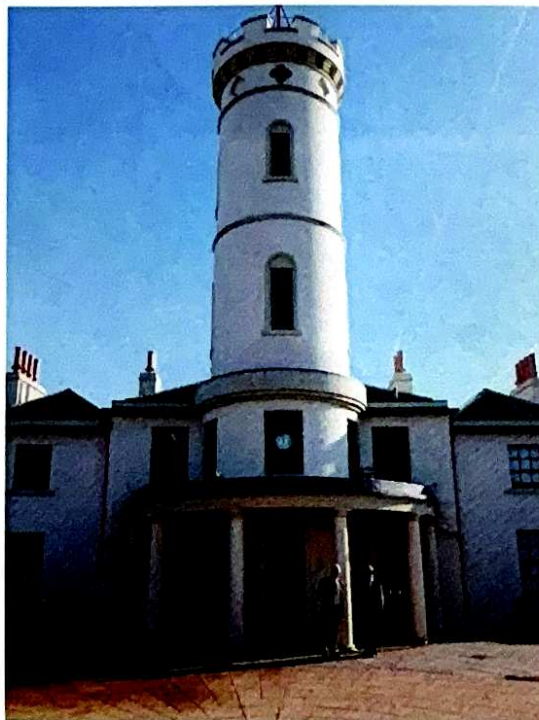
COST: £61,331. INNOVATIVE EXPEDIENTS DESIGNED AND ERECTED BY  
MILLWRIGHT FRANCIS WATT (1778-1823?) UNDER STEVENSON'S DIRECTION  
TO BUILD THE 36m TOWER IN FOUR WORKING SEASONS INCLUDED AN  
IRON RAILWAY, SPECIAL CRANES AND A TEMPORARY BEACON BARRACK

THIS BELL ROCK SIGNAL TOWER SHORE STATION, HOME TO THE  
LIGHTKEEPERS, WAS ERECTED 1811-13. ENGINEER : ROBERT STEVENSON  
MASTER OF THE TENDER ('SMEATON') : CAPT. DAVID TAYLOR (1768-1843)

PRESENTED TO THE ANGUS COUNCIL BY  
THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

16.09.2012

Close-up of plaque erected at Museum in February 2013



The Signal Tower Museum, Arbroath. Completed in 1813 as the Bell Rock Lighthouse Shore Station