Collectors Office
District of Portland & Falmouth
Portland Dec 14 - 1851

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ult. covering the appointment of John Grant, as Light House Keeper at Libby Island - in the place of Matthew Keller removed -

I transmitted the Grant appointment with letters of instructions to William B Smith Esq. the Collector of Customs at Machias, presuming it a fair probability that said Grant lived in the District in which the Light House is located, than at any other place -

The Collector at Machias writes me under date of the 7th inst, that he handed to one John Grant of Cutler, the only person of that name within his knowledge, the appointment & accompanying papers and that said Grant replied, he had made no application for said appointment nor had he any knowledge of any having been made -

The fair inference is, that another person of the same name made the application for the appointment and if so, I have no means of ascertaining his place of residence - The papers in the Department, will I presume, show the place of residence - I have written

the Collector at Machias, to inform the Grant, that he will not take possession, until I ascertain from the Department who the person is, appointed – I would therefore respectfully request, that I may be informed of the residence of the Appointee –

I have the Honor to be
with much Respect
Yr. Ob. Servant

Luther Jewett
Collector

Ans. 8 Dec. 1850

Hon. Stephen Pleasonton
Fifth Auditor of the Treasury
Washington –

Copy

Dec. 14/50.

Luther Jewett, Dept. enquiring whether the Grant appd. to dilly J. Rackley – Had left the Appt. & the army man. &c. –

Ans. Dec. 18/50 –

(Rockland, Me.)