'26 OCT 2 AM 9:01:50

REFERENCE SERVICE SLIP
Archival Research Room Record Request
National Archives at St. Louis

Date: 10/05/2026

REQUESTER INFORMATION

Name (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Researcher ID Card Number
Burns, Andrew	4563213
E-Mail Address:	**Phone Number:**
afbfg4@umsl.edu	636-415-7353

INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much as possible)

Name used in Service (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Service Number/SSN	Date & Place of Birth
Blackmer, John, A.		

MILITARY SERVICE

Branch of Service:
- ☐ Air Force
- ☐ Army Air Corps
- ☐ Army Air Force
- ☐ Army
- ☐ Marine Corps
- ☐ Navy
- ☐ Coast Guard
- ☐ Unknown

Type of Rank:
- ☐ Enlisted
- ☐ Officer
- ☐ Unknown

Service Period (Check all that apply):
- ☐ 1939 & Prior
- ☐ 1940 - 1950
- ☐ 1950 & After

Date & Place of Death:

State of Residence (upon entry into service):

Other Identifying Information (Parent's Names, CSC Number, etc.)

Researcher Signature: Andrew Burns

CIVILIAN SERVICE

(Agency & Location)		
Lighthouse Service (CT/NJ/NY) 3rd District		
	From: 1918	To: 1918
(Agency & Location)		
	From:	To:
(Agency & Location)		
	From: B425	To:

Other Identifying Information (Maiden Name, Job Title, etc.)

This Space Intentionally Left Blank

STAFF USE ONLY

Appointment Time and Date:

Additional Researchers: ☐ Yes ☐ No

CMRS Service Request Number: C-0008296379

Attendant Signature:

CMRS Search Request Number(s): Rqst Sent 10/7/26 mx

Remarks:

'26 OCT 23 PM 12:52

SCREENING NOTES

- ☒ Reviewed and Nothing Removed TW
- ☐ Items Removed and User Informed

Hold Requested: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total Requests:

Screened Items:

☐ Additional charge outs and signatures on reverse side

Time Out:

Final Return:

John A. Blackmer

Mr. John A. Blackmer,

INACTIVE

LEGAL RESIDENCE
New York.

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SALARY	BUREAU OR OFFICE	DATE OF EFFECT OF ACTION AUTHORIZED
Keeper, 3rd Dist. {South West Ledge etc Comm	$516	L. H.	Aug 14, 1918
Removed close of Oct. 6 1918.		INACTIVE	

11—1248

Form 73

NOMINATION

JHG

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 3rd DISTRICT.

Tompkinsville, N. Y., Aug. 13, 1918, 191
(City.) (Date.)

APPOINTMENTS RECEIVED AUG 22 1918 PM 4 SECOND U.S. CIVIL SERVICE DISTRICT

AUG 21 1918 18 50 AM

LIGHT HOUSES AUG 21 1918

5

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:
(Through Sec'y 2nd C.S.Dist.)

Action recommended, Probationary appointment.

Name, John A. Blackmer

Legal residence, New York

Position, Keeper

Salary, $516 per annum CHIEF CLERK

Location, Southwest Ledge Lt.Sta. and New Haven Middle Bkw.East End Light, Conn.

Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

1918 AUG 22 PM 1 45

Effective August 11,1918 { the actual date of entrance on duty, ~~as soon thereafter as he enters on duty~~

Former position,

Former salary,

Location,

Rank on eligible list, 1 Rating, Keeper Percentage, 83.0, Other eligibles considered:
None

Previous incumbent, James H. Bentley Services terminated, August 10,1918

Reason, Resigned

Assignment to duty on Aug.11,1918 was necessary for the reason that it was not practicable to permit this position to remain vacant until appointment certificate could be obtained.

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Remarks: There are no quarters for families of keepers at this station. No employee of District desiredtransfer to this position. Nos.1 to 4 on eligible list will accept appointment only to certain specified stations.

8/24/18 ok HH

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, AUG 19 1918, 191

For and in the absence of the Superintendent

Assistant Secretary, Second Civil Service District.

1st Asst. Superintendent

~~Assistant~~ BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

AUG 22 1918.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

not Paperwork

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN AUG 23 1918 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1918 AUG 23 PM 1 24

Acting Commissioner

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

CERTIFICATE OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

August 23, 1918.

Mr. John A. Blackmer,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office and to a probationary period of not to exceed six months as provided by paragraph (c) of section 1 of civil-service rule VII, Keeper in the Lighthouse Service at a salary of Five Hundred and Sixteen dollars per annum, effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

By selection from certificate of eligibles (No. ____) issued by the Local Civil Service Board for the Third Lighthouse District.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED AUG 24 1918 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(Signed) Clifford Hastings.
Chief of Appointment Division.

R
Ho

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: James H. Bentley,

Legal Residence: New York.

(See reverse side.)

11—6980

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

LIGHT OCT 18 1918 HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OCT 19 1918 9 18 AM

CHIEF CLERK

1918 OCT 19 AM 11 09

I, John A. Blackmer

do solemnly [1] swear (See below) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So HELP ME GOD.

John A. Blackmer
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Affirmed (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 14th day of September, A. D. 191 8

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) Frances F Costello

(Official title) Notary Public

My commission expires 1922

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present Keeper	$516. p.a.	Southwest Ledge Lt.Sta.& New Haven Middle Bkw.East End Lt., Conn.
Former [5]		

(The above should be filled in by the district officer before sending to appointee)

Office of Lighthouse Inspector, 3rd District

Tompkinsville, N. Y., Oct 17/18
(Address) (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on August 11, 1918
(Date)

J. T. Yates
(Signature, followed by title)

[1] Insert here "swear" or "affirm," as the case may be.
[2] Insert here "sworn to" or "affirmed," as the case may be.
[3] The oath may be taken any time after the date of appointment and prior to the payment of compensation, but no compensation shall be paid until the oath is executed in proper form.
[4] This oath should be taken before a justice of the peace, notary public, judge, clerk of a court, a chief clerk in the office of a lighthouse inspector or other employee in the Lighthouse Service designated by a chief clerk, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a collector of customs or postmaster, as neither officer has power to administer oaths in such cases. In case the officer administering the oath has no seal, his official character should be duly certified to by the clerk of the proper court or the proper county clerk, except in the case of chief clerks in the offices of lighthouse inspectors and other employees in the Lighthouse Service designated by them, who are not required to have a seal.
[5] Give this information in all cases where new oath is required.
Failure to fill out this oath properly will result in its return for correction.

11—944

DISMISSAL OF JOHN A. BLACKMER, Keeper at Southwest Ledge Light Station, etc., Conn., at $516 per annum, effective at the close of October 6, 1918.

Ho

Secretary.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
OCT 17 1918
HOUSES

JHG

THIRD DISTRICT
GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

CHIEF CLERK
APPOINTMENTS
1918 OCT 19 PM 3 25

Commissioner of Lighthouses: Oct. 14,1918

SUBJECT: John A. Blackmer, assistant Keeper, S.W.Ledge Lt.Sta.

The following correspondence re John A. Blackmer, assistant keeper of Southwest Ledge Light Station and New Haven Middle Breakwater East End Light, Conn., is enclosed for the Bureau's consideration.

#516

1. Letter dated Oct.6th from keeper of S.W.Ledge Lt.Sta.
2. Letter dated Oct.7th from Asst.Keeper S.W.Ledge Lt.Sta.
3. Copy of letter of charges dated Oct.8,1918 addressed to Asst.Keeper of S.W.Ledge Lt.Sta.
4. Letter dated Oct.9,1918 from assistant keeper of Southwest Ledge Lt.Sta.

In view of the fact that Mr.Blackmer acknowledges refusing duty, as shown in attached correspondence, it is recommended that he be dismissed from the position of assistant keeper of Southwest Ledge Light Station and New Haven Middle Breakwater East End Light, Connecticut, effective at the close of October 6,1918, his last day of service. Mr. Blackmer has not been granted leave in excess of the accrued rate. The approval of this recommendation will not be in violation of Section 2 of Civil Service Rule 1.

J. T. Yates

10/21/18
ak

McC. Bureau of Lighthouses, October 18, 1918.
Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommending that Blackmer be dismissed from the Service, effective at the close of October 6, 1918.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN
OCT 22 1918
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

G. R. Putnam

1918 OCT 19 PM 3 09

...ICATIONS
...E INSPECTOR
...KINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Supt N
1st
Gov - make charges against
Blackmer for refusing duty,

Southwest Ledge Sta

THIRD DISTRICT

Lighthouse
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Oct 6, 1918

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3D DIST. OCT 8 9 1918 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

LIGHT OCT 17 1918 HOUSES

Lighthouse Superintendent

J A Blackmer Lasst keeper has quit the light.

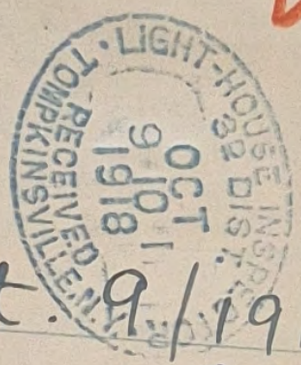
Has been very disagreable Lathey and has Neglected his duitys in several ways also point blank refused duty yesterday asked him to go & light Middle B.W. light's & refused so I spoke to him of same & also failed to stand his watch last night.

He informed me this morning he was going ashore to stay.

David Griffiths Keeper

Pers.
To Bn -
as he acknowledges refusing duty rec dism eff date
he left sta 10/11

4



New York, Oct. 9/1918



Lighthouse Inspector:-

Dear Sir- Referring to the charges preferred against me as assistant keeper of Southwest Ledge Light Station of failure to perform the duties assigned me, I do not know what duties are here referred to, but I certainly did most heartily whatever I was instructed to do. As to the Breakwater lights, I explained my action in regard to them in my previous letter. They were both burning brightly on Saturday night, and as it was my opinion that his main reason in insisting on their

being attended to on Sunday was because he knew of my prejudice against unnecessary work on that day, I refused to help him.

I did sleep on my watch that night, but learned to do so from him. The last night I was there was the only night I recall that he did not sleep on his watch - that is, when it occurred from midnight to sunrise. On these nights he invariably slept.

As to being absent from duty on October 6, that was the day I left the station.

What else could I do after being suspended?

Respectfully yours.

John A. Blackmer

c/o New York Herald

Composing Room.

New York City

October 22, 1918.

Sir:

Having been charged with failure to perform the duties assigned to you, and with refusing to obey orders, and the charges having been sustained to a degree sufficient to warrant such action, the Department, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, has dismissed you from the position of keeper of Southwest Ledge Light Station, etc., Connecticut, at $316 per annum, effective at the close of October 6, 1918.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

APPOINTMENT ENTERED
OCT 23 1918
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CARDED

(Signed) Clifford Hastings

Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. John A. Blackmer,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.
Hc/R

Per.

5

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET

LIGHT DEC 14 1918 HOUSES

(To be furnished for each person appointed in the service of the Department immediately upon entrance on duty. The statement should be signed by the appointee or employee. If unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness.)

DEC 14 1918 12 59 PM CHIEF CLERK

1. What is your full name? (State whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. and spell out names in full, including middle name or names. Example: Mr. John Richard Roe. If name itself is merely a letter, it should be so stated.)

John Allen Blackmer

2. How do you intend to write your name on the pay roll? (This should agree with signature to your oath of office.) John A. Blackmer

1918 DEC 14 PM 4 07

3. Bureau or Service, place, and district in which employed:

Lighthouse Service. S.W. Ledge Light Station Third

Bureau or Service. Place (city, town, station, or vessel). District.

4. Position to which appointed Keeper - (Salaries L.H. Keepers)

5. Compensation $ ~~636~~ 576.00 p.a.

6. Appropriation from which paid Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

7. In what manner did the employee enter the service? (Examples: "From stenography and typewriting examination ——, 191—;" or "Without examination;" or "By reinstatement;" or "By transfer from ——," stating Department, Bureau or Service, position, and salary, if known.)

Local Civil Service Exam Aug 7, 19

8. What is your present legal (voting) residence? (Give city or town, State or Territory, county, and Congressional district.)

New York City, N.Y. New York 23d

City or town. State or Territory. County. Congressional district.

9. When the legal residence given in answer to question 8 differs from that given in the certificate of appointment, the discrepancy should be explained.

CARDED

10. What is your race? (Answer "white," "colored," or "Mongolian.") White

11. Where were you born? Sandwich, N.H.

12. When were you born? March 26, 1866

Month. Day. Year.

13. If foreign born, state when and where naturalization papers were taken out

14. What is your marital condition? Single

15. Give name and address of person whom you would like to have notified in case of accident.

Dr. G. F. Poole,

Name. Number and street.

23d St Y.M.C.A.

City or town. State or Territory.

New York City

11—1434

16. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States? No.

(If answer is "Yes," give in blank spaces below the information called for by the headings.)

Name.	Post-office address.	Position and department or office in which employed.	Relationship.	Married or single.
		Position		
		Department or office		
		Position		
		Department or office		
		Position		
		Department or office		

17. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.)

Varicose vein in scrotum

18. Have you ever held any other position in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below the Department and Bureau or Service in which you served, the position held, the salary you received, and the dates of your appointment and separation from the service.) No.

Department.	Bureau or Service.	Position.	Salary.	Appointed.	Separated.

19. Do you hold any State or municipal office? (If so, state name of such office and compensation attached.)

No

20. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during any war? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) No.

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.

21. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States other than during war time, indicate such service in the spaces below.

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.
✓			

22. Are you the widow or orphan of an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? ..... (If answer is "Yes," give the information called for by the blanks below.) No

Relationship (widow or orphan)

Name under which soldier or sailor rendered service ✓

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.

23. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States civil service? (It is intended that the answer to this question shall state briefly the lines of work followed by you before receiving your present appointment, with the exception of your service indicated in answer to questions 18, 19, 20, and 21.)

Telegraph operator and printer

24. What education have you received? (Indicate the grades of schools you have attended, and, in case you have attended schools of higher grade than high schools, give the institution, degrees received, and date in each case. Example: Public school; high school; business college; Cornell University, A. B., 1900; Columbia University, LL. B., 1903.)

High School

25. What special qualifications have you—educational, professional, technical, mechanical, etc.? (Examples: Qualified as "Lawyer," or "Civil engineer," or "Translator," or "Interpreter," or "Draftsman," or "Carpenter.")

No

26. What, if any, civil-service examinations have you passed? (Give names and dates as near as you recollect.)

None but Local Civ Ser Exam Aug 7/16

27. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.)

Yes

Date, Sept 5, 1918

Witness (in case signature is by mark):

(Signature) John A. Blackmer

P. O. Address New Haven
City or town.
Conn.
Number and street.

State or Territory.

(If appointee is to be employed in the field, this form should be reviewed and approved by the proper field officer and need not be signed by an official of the Bureau. If appointee is to serve in the District of Columbia, the form should be reviewed and approved by the proper Bureau officer. When forwarding this form, no letter of transmittal is required.)

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded Dec 13, 1918

(Signature) J. A. Yates

(Official title) [illegible]

11—1434