26 AUG 11 PM 3:26:55

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

Date: 08/14/2026

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
Nelsen, Alfred		Norway

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: 1908	To: 1918	
(Agency & Location) N425		
From:	To:	
(Agency & Location)		
From:	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-00079833809

Attendant Signature:

CMRS Search Request Number(s): Sent to arc search 8/17/26

Remarks:

26 AUG 25 AM 9:56

SCREENING NOTES

☒ Reviewed and Nothing Removed KW ☐ Items Removed and User Informed

Hold Requested: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total Requests:

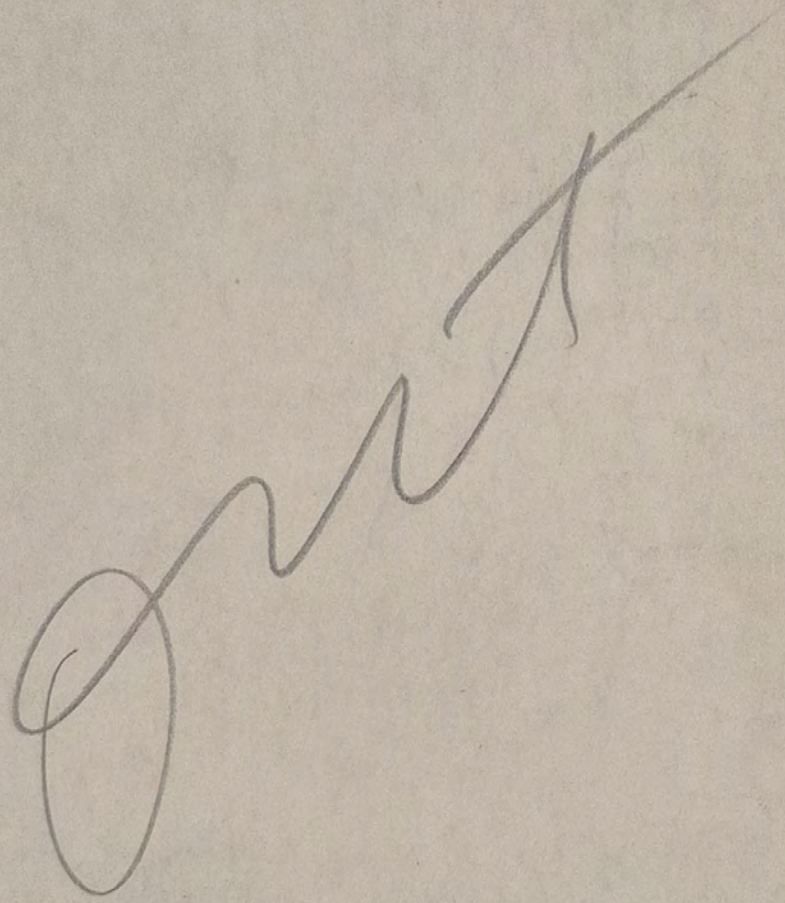
Screened Items:

☐ Additional charge outs and signatures on reverse side

Time Out:

Final Return:

NELSON. ALFRED



Form 73

RGW .

ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, OR TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEE

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHT-HOUSE ESTABLISHMENT

Office of the Inspector, 3rd L. H. Dist.,

Tompkinsville, New York.

August 17, 1910.
(Date)

Bureau of Light Houses.

~~The Light-House Board,~~

Washington, D. C.

Sirs: I have the honor to recommend the (1) Promotion
(Probationary appointment, transfer, promotion, etc.)
of (2) Alfred Nelson (Name of person—letter for letter—as reported to Board) of (3) New York. (State of legal residence)
from (4) Keeper. (Official title of present position, as Keeper, First Assistant Keeper, etc.)
at (5) Cold Spring Harbor Light Station, New York. (Official name of aid, as given in Light List, as Absecon Light-Station, N. J.)
at (6) $46.00 per mo (Salary now paid) to (7) Keeper (Official title of position, as Keeper, First Assistant Keeper, etc.)
at (8) Stratford Shoal Light Station, Connecticut. (Official name of aid, as given in Light List, as Absecon Light-Station, N. J.) at
(9) $52.00 per mo (Salary recommended), effective beginning (10) August 1, 1910 (the date
of his entrance on duty) (~~or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty~~) (Strike out the clause not appropriate)
in the place of (11) Gilbert L. Rulon, (State name of *last* person holding position)
who (12) was transferred (Died, transferred, resigned, dismissed, etc.) on (13) July 11, 1910. (Last day of service)
Mr. (14) ..... stands No. (15) ..... in list of eligibles,
Class (16) ....., with an average of (17) ..... per cent, and
was considered with (18) .....
(19) letters of declination of ..... herewith.

Respectfully,

R. M. Daugherty

Captain, U. S. N., Inspector.

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD

BUREAU OF LIGHT HOUSES

AUGUST 19,1910, 190

Approved, and respectfully forwarded to the Honorable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

Acting Commissioner.

NOTE.—This form should be sent to the Light-House Board in duplicate. Letters of declination, if any, should be sent with this letter.

This letter is returned for correction of items Nos. .....

11—2314

GENERAL APPOINTMENT—PRIOR DATE

Department of Commerce and Labor
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
Washington



August 19, 1910.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Keeper of Stratford Shoal (Middle Ground) Light-Station, New York,

in the Light-House Service

at a salary of Six Hundred and Twenty-four dollars per annum,

effective August 1, 1910, on and after which date

you have continuously served in the above-mentioned position.

(vice Gilbert L. Rulon.)

(By transfer from Keeper of Cold Spring Harbor Light-Station, New York, at $46 per month.)

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Robt. M. Pindell, Jr

Chief Clerk.

Mr. Alfred Nelsen. N Y.

Through the Commissioner of Light-Houses.

Appropriation:

11—1774

Le
D

BUREAU OF LIGHT-HOUSES
OCT 9 1912
DEP'T OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Office of the Inspector of
Third Lighthouse District
Tompkinsville, New York.

Oct. 8, 1912

Alfred Nelson, Keeper,
Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta.

Referring to recent inspection of the Light-Station at which you are employed.

The excellent condition of the light as to cleanliness, orderliness and operation is commendable, and the fact will be entered on your record.

YATES

Copy forwarded to Commissioner for information contained.

yates

Nelson, Alfred

(Cross Reference)

For ~~basis of this action~~ Commendation see

letter dated Oct. 14, 1912

in file of 1617.

FWO/EJC.

REGISTERED.

RECEIPT REQUESTED.

2
LIGHT
MAR14 1914
HOUSES

LIGHT
MAR31 1914
HOUSES

March 9th, 1914.

Alfred Nelson, Keeper,

Stratford Shoal Light Station,

Port Jefferson, N.Y.

You are hereby charged with submitting an untrue report of absences for the month of February, 1914 on Form 65, dated March 1st, 1914. you having been absent from your station from February 11th to February 22nd, 1914, as shown by your letter dated March 5th, 1914, but failed to report your absence as stated on your Monthly Report submitted on Form 65.

You are directed to submit any statement you may desire to make through official channels, within three or four days from the receipt of this letter. Any statement made must be couched in temperate language, free from countercharges and confined to the point at issue.

YATES

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 1ST DIST. MAR 12 1914 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE
LIGHT MAR 14 1914 HOUSES
LIGHT MAR 21 1914 HOUSES

3

Inspr
C C
Sh

Sheatford Shoal Light Station
Port Jefferson L. I.
March 10th 1914

Inspectar

Your letter of March 9th at hand in reply to form 66 Leave of absence dated March 1st 1914 wer no Leave of Abcence was shon

I beg to Inform You if 11 days Leave of Abcence stated on letter of 6th was not an Abcence report of March 1st 1914 it was an oversight on my Part in dating and signing Abcence report

Nelsen
Keeper

wanted

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

JHG

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIG LIGHT
MAR14 1914
HOUSES

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

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR
3RD DIST.
MAR 20 1914
RECEIVED
TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

LIGHT
MAR31 1914
HOUSES

March 13,1913

Commissioner.

The following correspondence etc. re Alfred Nelson, keeper of Stratford Shoal Light Station, New York, is enclosed for the Bureau's consideration.

1. Form 65, report of Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta., for month of February,1914.
2. Copy of letter of charges dated March 9,1914 addressed to Alfred Nelson, keeper.
3. Letter dated March 10,1914 from Keeper Nelson.

It is recommended that Mr.Nelson be cautioned that all reports must be accurate and complete, and that greater care must be exercised by him in the future in the making out of his reports.

Yates

HRW-McC.

Bureau of Lighthouses,
March 27, 1914.

Returned to Third Inspector for recommendation as to whether or not Nelson's period of absence from February 11 to February 22, 1914, should be charged to leave without pay, or whether or not part thereof should be (or has been) charged to annual leave, and the remainder charged to leave without pay. State number of days specifically. Upon receipt of your further report and recommendation the Bureau will give further consideration to the matter of the action recommended by you, etc.

Return papers with your report.

Gillette

Acting Commissioner.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

JHG

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
MAR 14 1914
HOUSE

Dep. Commr.
Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
E. C. G.
Examiner.
Personnel.
Accounts.
Contracts.
Chf. Clk.
Commr.

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

March 13,1913

Commissioner.

The following correspondence etc. re Alfred Nelson, keeper of Stratford Shoal Light Station, New York, is enclosed for the Bureau's consideration.

1. Form 65, report of Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta., for month of February,1914.
2. Copy of letter of charges dated March 9,1914 addressed to Alfred Nelson, keeper.
3. Letter dated March 10,1914 from Keeper Nelson.

It is recommended that Mr.Nelson be cautioned that all reports must be accurate and complete, and that greater care must be exercised by him in the future in the making out of his reports.

YATES

HRW-McC.

Bureau of Lighthouses,
March 27, 1914.

Returned to Third Inspector for recommendation as to whether or not Nelson's period of absence from February 11 to February 22, 1914, should be charged to leave without pay, or whether or not part thereof should be (or has been) charged to annual leave, and the remainder charged to leave without pay. State number of days specifically. Upon receipt of your further report and recommendation the Bureau will give further consideration to the matter of the action recommended by you, etc.

Return papers with your report.

Acting Commissioner.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Dep. Commr,
Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Examiner.
Personnel.
Accounts.
Contracts.
Chf. Clk.
Commr.

LIGHT
MAR 31 1914
HOUSES

JHG

4-3-14 Letter to Nelson, copy 3d and Dept

Returned to Commissioner.

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

March 30,1914

It is recommended that all of the excess leave, in this instance, be charged to annual leave, and that Nelson be required to make up his excess absence, by deducting same from allowance of shore liberty for subsequent months. Should he fail to deduct the excess leave taken from authized leave for subsequent months, proper deduction in salary will be made at the end of the year or at the termination of his services, should he leave the service before the end of the year.

yates

25

7

LIGHT
MAR31 1914
HOUSES

JHG

March 30,1914

Returned to Commissioner.

It is recommended that all of the excess leave, in this instance, be charged to annual leave, and that Nelson be required to make up his excess absence, by deducting same from allowance of shore liberty for subsequent months. Should he fail to deduct the excess leave taken from authized leave for subsequent months, proper deduction in salary will be made at the end of the year or at the termination of his services, should he leave the service before the end of the year.

YATES

McC.

Caution. April 3, 1914.

Mr. Alfred Nelson,
Keeper, Stratford Shoal Light Station, New York,
(Through Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York).

Referring to the monthly report of conditions at your station (form 65) for the month of February, 1914, it appears that you were absent from the station from February 11 to February 23, 1914, in excess of the amount allowed by the regulations, and that you failed to report said absence on the form referred to.

Your attention is invited to page 147 of the Instructions for the Personnel, "False documents," which provides that no person in the Lighthouse Service shall knowingly or negligently make any false return. All reports from employees of this Service must be accurate and complete, and you are cautioned against further infraction of the Instructions referred to. All of the excess leave in this instance will be charged to your allowance of annual leave and you will be required to make up the excess by a deduction from your allowance of shore liberty for subsequent months.

The fact that you have been cautioned will be noted on the records as part of your official history.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
APR - 3 1914

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information.

Commissioner. Commissioner.

Referred to Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York, for his information and files.

The action recommended by you in your indorsement of March 30, 1914, as to action to be taken in regard to the excess leave, is approved.

Acting Commissioner.

JHG

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT MAR 19 1914 HOUSES

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, Third DISTRICT,

Tompkinsville, N.Y. (City.) March 17, 1914 (Date.), 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Transfer and demotion.

Name, **Alfred Nelsen** Legal residence, **New York**

Position, **Assistant Keeper** Salary, **$480 per annum**

Location, **Great Captain Island Lt.Sta. and Jones Rocks Light, Conn.** Appropriation, **Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses**

Effective **April 10, 1914** (~~the actual date of entrance on duty,~~ or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Keeper Former salary, **$624 per annum**

Location, **Stratford Shoal (Middle Ground) Lt.Sta., N.Y.**

Rank on eligible list, Rating, Percentage, , Other eligibles considered:

Previous incumbent, Emil M. Usinger Services terminated, **April 9, 1914**

Reason, **Transferred.**

Relatives in Government Service,

Remarks: Letter from Mr.Nelsen requesting this transfer attached herewith.

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

YATES

Secretary, *Civil Service District.*

1 Incl

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

MAR 19 1914

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

Acting Commissioner

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

11—3814

GENERAL APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

LIGHT
MAR241914
HOUSES

March 21, 1914.

Mr. Alfred Nelsen,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Assistant Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Four Hundred and Eighty dollars per annum,

effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

(By transfer from keeper at $624 per annum.)

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) GEO. W. LEADLEY,

M Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Emil M. Usinger.

Legal Residence: New York.

11—3692

MAR 24 1914

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHT HOUSE BOARD
MAY 28 1909
NO. 12095

EFFICIENCY REPORT

(Read the instructions on the reverse side of this Form before attempting to fill it out.)

1. Bureau Third Light-House District. 2. Where employed Plum ~~Island~~ Beach L.S., R.I.
3. Name Alfred Nelsen 4. Where born Norway
5. Age 39 6. Position Asst. Keeper.
7. Compensation $40 p. m. 8. When appointed (*a*) Nov. ~~28~~ 13, 1908.
9. How appointed (*b*) Form C. S. Eligible Register.
10. Appointed from — State New York; Congressional District Seventh; County Kings
11. Status under Civil Service Rules (*c*) Classified Competitive
12. Is the employee an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? No
13. Other Government service
14. Duties (describe fully) Assisting in the attendance and operation of a light and fog-signal and incidental work connected therewith, including the cleaning and painting of station.
15. Efficiency — Quantity of work (*d*) 8; Quality of work (*e*) Good; Interest manifested in work (*f*) Good
16. Is this employee fully earning the salary he is now receiving? Yes
17. Remarks (*g*)

C. Thomas.
Head of Bureau or Office.
Captain, U.S.N., Inspector.

May 20, 1909

11—3005

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 3

JAN 5 1912

Department of Commerce and Labor

JCW

EFFICIENCY REPORT

JAN 2 1912

(The parenthetical letters refer to instructions on page 3, which instructions should be read and understood before attempting to fill out the form.)

1. Name Alfred Nelsen ✓ 2. Age 36 ✓ (Last birthday.)
3. Bureau of Lighthouses 4. Position Keeper, Stratford Shoal Lt.Sta., N.Y. ✓
5. Compensation $624. p.a. ✓ 6. Where employed " " " " " ✓
7. When appointed (*a*) Nov.28,1908. ✓ 8. How appointed (*b*) Civil Service Exam. ✓
9. Status under Civil Service Rules (*c*) Classified Competitive ✓
10. Is the employee an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? No ✓
11. Does the employee receive a pension? No ✓ If so, state the amount None ✓
12. Other Government service None ✓
13. Duties (describe fully) Keeping flashing white, fourth order, light and 3rd class Daboll fog signal, caring for building, cleaning, painting, etc. ✓
14. Has the employee special qualifications? No ✓ If so, state them None. ✓
15. Efficiency (*d*):

	Averages.	Relative weights.	Products of averages multiplied by weights.
Quantity of work	100	2	200
Quality of work	100	3	300
Interest manifested in work (see also Question 17)	100	3	300
Attendance		2	
Total		8 10	800
Average percentage			100 ✓

11—4259

16. In the following form state the number of days of annual leave, sick leave, and leave without pay taken in each of the years 1908, 1909, and 1910:

—	1908.		1909.			1910.		
Annual.	Sick.	Without pay.	Annual.	Sick.	Without pay.	Annual.	Sick.	Without pay.

17. Is this employee a purely routine employee, or does he manifest interest, not only in his own work but also in the work of the office or bureau as a whole, to the extent of overtime work or voluntary efforts by suggestion or otherwise to add to its efficiency? (Answer fully.) Takes great interest

18. On the basis of efficiency alone, is this employee overpaid or underpaid as compared with others in your office engaged on the same grade of work, or is his salary a fair equivalent for the service rendered? (Answer fully.) Salary right

If the present salary is above or below a fair equivalent, state what, in your opinion, it should be.

19. Is this employee superannuated? No If so, what percentage of salary is unearned?

20. Remarks: (*e*)

The official who is primarily responsible for the statements herein submitted will sign here—

Oscar C. Luther
Assistant Superintendent

The official who approves the statements thus submitted will sign here—

C. T. Chauncey
Commander, U.S.N.,
Inspector.

Chief of Bureau or Office.

Jan. 23, 1915, Bureau wrote 3rd Inspr. to make further report in the case of Alfred W. Nelson, rel use of oil at station.

File Charles W. Oliver.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

JHG

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
JAN 15 19
HOUSE

Hydros.
Mar. Surv.
Personnel
Accounts
Contracts
Chf. Clk
Dep. Chf. Clk.
Disbr.

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

January 18, 1915

Dept Bu concurs
also Seattle dept & rec end
3 recs.
JHC Jan 15

Commissioner.

The following correspondence re Alfred W. Nelson, assistant keeper of Great Captain Island Light Station and Jones Rock Light, New York, is enclosed for the Bureau's consideration:-

1. Letter dated Dec. 1, 1914 from Asst. Supt. Luther.
2. Letter of charges dated Dec. 7, 1914 to Assistant Keeper Nelson.
3. Letter dated Dec. 9, 1914 from Mr. Nelson.

It will be seen from the attached correspondence that Mr. Nelson submits as an explanation of being out rowing while the fog signal was in operation and he was supposed to be on watch, that he did not know about the hours of watches in the day time, which explanation, in view of the fact that Mr. Nelson has been a keeper and assistant keeper for more than six years, is not considered satisfactory, and it is recommended that Mr. Nelson be cautioned against a reoccurrence of his violation of the Regulations, page 160, entitled WATCHES, which requires that watches shall be stood in such place and manner as to give continuous and the best possible attention to the light and the fog-signal when in operation, and informed that a repetition will result in this office taking further disciplinary action in his case.

OK but make it strong
JHH
Jan 15

YATES

McC.

February 16, 1915.

Subject: 3d Inspector's letter Jan. 13, 1915, charges Alfred W. Nelson.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information, and with recommendation, after careful consideration, that no more drastic action be taken at this time in the case of Nelson than that the Department authorize the Bureau to address a letter to him reprimanding him for his offense, a copy of such letter of reprimand to be submitted to the Department for its files, and that a further report and recommendation be made in the case of this assistant keeper at the end of three months.

See Bureau recommendation of this date in the case of Charles W. Oliver, the keeper of this station.

LIGHT
FEB 27 1915
HOUSES

Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
[redacted]
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Commr.
[redacted]mmr.

February 24, 1915.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

The Department is in receipt of the Bureau's communication of the 16th instant, with enclosures, relative to the conduct of Alfred Nelson, assistant keeper of Great Captain Island Light Station and Jones Rocks Light, Connecticut, and in view of the circumstances in the case has approved the recommendation to the effect that no more drastic action be taken at this time than that the Bureau address a letter of reprimand to Mr. Nelson, with the understanding that further report and recommendation be made at the end of three months. It is noted that a copy of the letter of reprimand will be furnished the Department for its files.

By direction of the Secretary:

(SIGNED) T. J. FITZGERALD

McC.
2 inclosures.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Acting Chief Clerk.
March 3, 1915.

Referred to Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York, for his information, guidance, and files. Inclosed are the original and carbon copy of letter of reprimand of this date to Nelson. Make further report and recommendation in the case of Nelson at the end of three months.

See Bureau indorsement of today on Department letter of Feb. 24, 1915, in the case of C. W. Oliver.

Acting Commissioner.

C-R

HRW-McC.

Reprimand.

March 1, 1915.

Mr. Alfred W. Nelson,
Assistant Keeper, Great Captain Island Light
Station and Jones Rock Light, N. Y.
(Through Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York).

Referring to charges preferred against you on December 7, 1914, by the Inspector of the Third District to the effect that while you were supposed to be on watch and while the fog signal was in operation you were out rowing.

Your explanation that you did not know about the hours of watches in the day time is not considered satisfactory, in view of the fact that you have seen service as a keeper and assistant keeper for more than six years, and are required to be familiar with the Instructions for the Personnel, page 160, par. "Watches," which provided that at stations having an assistant, watches shall be stood in such place and manner as to give continuous and the best possible attention to the light and the fog signal when in operation. After careful consideration of the matter, it has been decided that no more drastic action will be taken at this time other than to reprimand you for your violation of the above referred to Instructions and to warn you that a repetition of this offense will result in consideration being given to taking more drastic action in your case.

The fact that you have been reprimanded will be noted on the records as part of your official history.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
MAR 1 - 1915
Commissioner

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information. See Dept. letter of Feb 24-1915.

Acting Commissioner.

LIGHT HOUSES MAY 29 1915

FWO/WJL

Hydrog.
Engr. Comdr.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Den. Commr.
Inspr.

May 28,1915.

Commissioner:

Referring to Bureau's endorsement of March 3rd 1915, relative to Alfred W.Nelson, Assistant Keeper of Great Captain Island Light Station and requesting further report and recommendation at the end of three months.

The Bureau is informed that there has been an improvement in the condition of this station, and Mr.Nelson's conduct has been satisfactory since he was reprimanded by Bureau's letter of March 1st 1915; it is therefore recommended that no further action be taken in his case at this time.

Yates

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
JUN 1 1915

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommended for approval. See Sept letter of Feb 24 1913.

Commissioner.

LIGHT
JUN 5 1915
HOUSES

Hydrog.
Engr. Corps.
Mar. Engr.
~~Secretary~~
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comms.
Commr.

June 3, 1915.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

The Department is in receipt of the Third Inspector's letter of the 28th ultimo, forwarded by the Bureau on the 1st instant, in the case of Alfred W. Nelson, assistant keeper of Great Captain Island Light Station, etc., Connecticut, and in view of the report that Mr. Nelson's conduct has been satisfactory since he was reprimanded by Bureau letter of March 1, 1915, approves the recommendation to the effect that no further action be taken at this time.

SIGNED) E. F. SWEET

Assistant Secretary.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
JUN 5 1915

To Lighthouse Inspector Tompkinsville, N.Y.
for files of his office. By direction of the Commissioner:

TSC
Chief Clerk

C-R

Form 73

JHG

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT - DEC 27 19.5 - HOUSES

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, Third DISTRICT.

Tompkinsville, N.Y. (City.) Dec. 24, 1915 (Date.), 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Increase in compensation.

Name, Alfred Nelsen

Legal residence, New York

Position, Assistant Keeper

Salary, $492 p.a.

Location, Great Captains Is. Lt.Sta., and Jones Rock Light, N.Y.

Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

Effective January 1,1916

[1] ~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Assistant Keeper

Former salary, $480 p.a.

Location, Great Captains Is.Lt.Sta. and Jones Rock Light, N.Y.

Rank on eligible list, Rating, Percentage, , Other eligibles considered:

Previous incumbent, Alfred Nelsen

Services terminated, Dec. 31,1915

Reason, Increase in compensation.

Relatives in Government Service,

Remarks: In accordance with Bureau letter of Dec.17,1915.

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

YATES

Secretary, Civil Service District

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

DEC 27 1915

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

C V

Acting Commissioner

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

11—2314

WDN 1123

GENERAL APPOINTMENT—FIXED DATE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

LIGHT HOUSES DEC 30 1915

December 29, 1915.

Mr. Alfred Nelsen,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office, and to actual entrance upon duty (unless on authorized leave) on the date indicated, ~~Assistant Keeper~~ in the ~~Lighthouse Service~~ at a salary of ~~Four Hundred and Ninety-two~~ dollars per ~~annum~~, effective January 1, 1916.

(By increase in compensation from $480 per annum.)

E&D June 1, 1916. gw

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

R
M

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice:

Legal Residence: New York.

11—1393

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
AUG 18 1917
HOUSES

FWO-WJL

Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Commr.
Commr.

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3D DISTRICT
TOMPKINSVILLE, N. Y.
August 16, 1917.

Dept rec'd dinner
AUG 20

Commissioner:

Referring to letter from this office dated July 27th 1917 and Department letter of August 9th 1917 concerning the suspension from duty of Alfred Nelsen, Assistant Keeper, Great Captains Island Light Station.

The following correspondence is enclosed for the Bureau's consideration:

1. Copy of telegram of July 24th 1917 from the Keeper of Great Captains Island Light Station.
2. Copy of memorandum of July 25th 1917 re Alfred Nelsen calling at the Inspector's Office.
3. Copy of letter of July 25th 1917 addressed to Alfred Nelsen.
4. Affidavit dated July 25th 1917 received from Alfred Nelsen.
5. Letter of July 24th 1917 from the keeper, Gt. Captains Is. Light Sta.
6. " " " 28th " " " " " " " " "
7. Copy of letter of charges dated July 31st 1917 addressed to Alfred Nelsen.
8. Letter of July 30th 1917 from the Keeper, Gt. Captains Is. Lt. Sta.
9. Letter of Aug. 2nd 1917 from Alfred Nelsen.
10. Copy of testimony taken at this office on August 13th 1917.

As Mr. Nelsen is guilty of disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, addressing improper language to a superior officer, and of permitting visitors at the Great Captains Island Light Station contrary to orders, and also of attempting to defraud the Government by presenting for survey an axe belonging to himself with the view of obtaining a new axe from the Lighthouse Service, it is recommended that Mr. Alfred W. Nelsen be dismissed from the position of assistant keeper, Great Captains Island Light Station effective at close of July 24th 1917 his last day of service.

Mr. Nelsen has not been granted leave in excess of the accrued rate.

J T Yates

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
AUG 20 1917

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommended for approval.

Acting Commissioner.

EB-MM

LIGHT
AUG 17 1917
HOUSES

AUG 17 1917

Dear Sir:

Referring to your communication of August 14, 1917, in regard to Mr. Alfred Nelson, Assistant Keeper of Great Captains Island Light Station, New York, you are respectfully informed that the matter is being investigated, and that you will be further advised in regard thereto at an early date.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD

Secretary.

J.

Hon. Benjamin F. Taylor,
~~New York~~, N. Y.
Harrison

LIGHTHOUSES---Bureau's files.

Exact copy as signed by.....
Mailed .....by.....
Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington.

To Lighthouse Inspector Tompkinsville, New York.
for files of his office. By direction of the Commissioner:

AUG 17 1917

Acting Chief Clerk

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

Comr. Putnam.

Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Obf. Clk.
Supplies

Chief of Bureau:
Please prepare a reply for the signature of Secretary Redfield, and return original letter to this Office.

Rec'd 3d Reply

LIGHT 11—1917
AUG 21 1917
HOUSES

W. C. Redfield

...e of Representatives U.S.
Washington, D.C.

August 14th, 1917.

CHIEF CLERK
AUG 15 1917

...field,
...ce,

...ry:

SECRETARY
AUG 15 1917

...e time I had the honor of representing
...nal District in the House of Represent-
...leasure of enjoying your acquaintance,
...the liberty at this time to write you
...red Nelson, an Assistant-Keeper at Cap-

INDEXED

LIGHT
AUG 15 1917
HOUSES

...obert Buske, the keeper at Captain's Island Lighthouse, has preferred charges against Mr. Nelson. As a result, Mr. Nelson has been suspended. Although a hearing was held before Mr. G. T. Yates, he still remains suspended, and I doubt very much whether you will receive a full report in regard to this matter.

LIGHT
AUG 21 1917
HOUSES

The true facts are that the entire controversy has been brought about by the ill temper and disagreeable disposition of Captain Buske. Many of us who have boats in and about Captain's Island, have felt that the Captain's mind is affected. It seems he was born in Germany near the Russian line. His father died while insane, and his sister is either an inmate in an asylum, or died in one. From what I can learn the Captain is subject to attacks which affect him mentally, at which times he is very disagreeable, and it is almost impossible to work or do anything with him.

SECRETARY
AUG 22 1917

While subject to one of these attacks, his treatment of Mr. Nelson was so outrageous that the poor man lost his temper, and told the Captain to "go to Hell." It was because of this the charges were preferred. The Captain has elaborated upon this charge, and accused Nelson of having two men visit him on the government grounds, whom he described as "rummies."

LIGHT
AUG 22 1917
HOUSES

I happen to know these two men and neither of them are "rummies." The facts are that the Government owns but five acres of the entire Island known as Captain's Island. Nelson's wages are so small that it is almost impossible for him to keep himself, his wife, child and mother, without doing something in addition, so in order to make both ends

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C.

8/ 17 Amend
8/ 17 asked Mr Yates
8/16/17, mailed to 3 Yates

August 14th, 1917.

CHIEF CLERK AUG 15 1917

Hon. William C. Redfield,
Secretary of Commerce,
Washington, D. C.

SECRETARY AUG 15 1917

My dear Mr. Secretary:

During the time I had the honor of representing the 25th Congressional District in the House of Representatives, I had the pleasure of enjoying your acquaintance, and therefore take the liberty at this time to write you relative to Mr. Alfred Nelson, an Assistant-Keeper at Captain's Island.

INDEXED LIGHT AUG 15 1917 HOUSES

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LIGHT AUG 22 1917 HOUSES

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meet, he has raised chickens. He digs clams and catches eels while off duty. These he sells to the people in Port Chester, and Mr. Daniel Kohler is one of his customers.

Mr. Kohler and his friend intended to go black-fishing. They wanted some fiddlers for bait, and rowed over to the Island and landed on that part which does not belong to the Government. They walked over to Mr. Nelson's house, and asked him where they could get some fiddlers. There is a pond on the Island, off of the Government reserve, where fiddlers can be gotten. Mr. Nelson directed these men to this place, and I think, went with them and helped them get some fiddlers.

The other charge is that Nelson tried to pass an axe off on the government. The real facts are that Nelson had an axe which he had bought himself and had used for chopping wood while in the government employ. The axe became dulled and of no use. Nelson suggested to the Captain that if the axe was condemned, the Government might get another one. The Captain said it could not be done, and nothing more was said about the matter.

The Captain has made another charge to the effect that on one occasion, unknown to Mr. Nelson, he (the Captain) had to fill the oil cups. From what I can learn, the oil cups must be filled every half hour while the fog signals are in operation. Mr. Nelson has no knowledge of the occasion, and never heard of it before. Mr. Yates asked Nelson where he was at the time, and he truthfully told him he did not know, because he had never heard of the matter before. He states that he might have left the station room for a minute by the east door for the purpose of getting a cup of coffee. The charge must be frivolous, or the Captain would surely have called Nelson's attention to it at the time.

From what I understand, the Captain had only been upon the Island a few days when he was attacked by the malady from which he is suffering, came into Mr. Nelson's quarters, while Mr. Nelson was at dinner with his family, called him names, shook his fist in his face, pounded one hand against the other, and raved around like an insane man for some time. Mr. Nelson was so astounded that he could not and did not reply, except that he suggested to the Captain that if he had any complaint to make, that he wished he would make it at some other

House of Representatives U.S.
Washington, D.C.

Hon. W. C. Redfield - 3 -

8/14/17.

time than when he was with his family, and in the Captain's quarters, and that the Captain had no right to come into his quarters, except for the purpose of inspection.

This attack was so uncalled for, that when the Captain regained his senses, he apoligized to Mr. Nelson, called his attention to the disease from which he was suffering, and begged him to pay no attention to anything he said or did while he was suffering from these attacks, which the Captain called the "blues."

The Captain has been subject to these attacks about once every month, and Mr. Nelson has been putting up with it, and from what I can learn, the Captain is not a fit person to be left in charge of the Island, not only by reason of the disease from which he is suffering, but because of Pro-German tendencies. I have been informed that he has declared he has no sympathy for this country.

Mr. Nelson is a sober, industrious man, and has been in the service continuously for nine years. He is a hard-working man and one of so few words, and with no bad habits, that it seems that the charges are not made a whole cloth, but are really the result of a spite that the Captain holds for him.

I am taking the liberty of writing this letter, so that Mr. Nelson might receive justice. I appreciate that more attention will be given to the Captain's words than to Nelson's, but it seems a shame that a man of Nelson's character and good qualities should be made to suffer unjustly because of some frivolous, unwarranted accusation made by a superior officer, and particularly by one suffering from a malady such as the Captain is.

I hope you will pardon me from intruding upon your valuable time, and that you will appreciate I am writing this letter solely that justice might be done to Mr. Nelson.

With kindest personal regards, I beg to be, as ever

Very truly yours,

Wm. Taylor

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

August 16, 1917.

8/17 Wrote Taylor, copy to Insprs.

Subject: Letter August 14, 1917, from Hon. Benj. I. Taylor to the Secretary of Commerce regarding Alfred Nelson.

Hydrog.
Engr. Const.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Commr.
Commr.

Referred to Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York, for remark and return. See Department letter of August 9, 1917, suspending Mr. Nelson.

Conway
Acting Commissioner

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Office of Inspector, 3rd Lighthouse District,
Tompkinsville, N.Y. August 20, 1917.

Returned to Commissioner inviting attention to report from this office dated August 16th 1917.

Mr. Buske was observed when he called at this office on August 13th and for a number of years past he has called at this office frequently on account of having been employed in this vicinity, but this office has never noted any language or conduct that would indicate that he is suffering from some mental disease as referred to in attached letter.

In view of the charge in the attached letter that Mr. Buske has pro-German tendencies, it is recommended that the writer be called upon to furnish evidence as to remarks or conduct on the part of Mr. Buske on which the charge is based.

J. O. Yates

H B Bureau of Lighthouses August 22, 1917.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, with statement that the Bureau concurs in the views of the Inspector. It is recommended that the Bureau prepare a letter, for signature at the Department, to Mr. Taylor, requesting that he furnish the information indicated by the Inspector, and also informing him of the dismissal of Nelson, if the Department in the meantime has approved Bureau recommendation of August 20th for his dismissal. All of the papers in this case are now at the Department.

Conway
Acting Commissioner

Approved
William Redfield
Secretary

LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR 3D DIST. AUG 18 1917 RECEIVED TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.
LIGHT AUG 21 1917 HOUSES
CHIEF CLERK AUG 22 1917
SECRETARY AUG 22 1917
LIGHT AUG 22 1917 HOUSES
SECRETARY AUG 22 1917
AUG 22 1917 12 24 PM
AUG 22 1917 3 42 PM

August 22, 1917.

LIGHT
AUG 22 1917
HOUSES

LIGHT
AUG 29 1917
HOUSES

Sir:

Charges of (1) disobedience of orders, (2) neglect of duty, (3) addressing improper language to a superior officer, (4) permitting visitors at the station and (5) attempting to defraud the Government, having been preferred against you and sustained in a degree sufficient to warrant such action, the Department, upon recommendation of the Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses, has dismissed you from the position of assistant keeper of Great Captain Island Light Station and Jones Rock Light, New York, at $492 per annum, effective at the close of July 24, 1917.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Clifford Hastings.

Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Alfred Nelsen,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

L

AUG 29 1917

LIGHT AUG 29 1917 HOUSES

3

Dear Sir:

Referring again to your communication of August 14, 1917, in regard to the charges preferred against Mr. Alfred Nelson, formerly assistant keeper of Great Captains Island Light Station, New York, by Mr. Robert Buske, keeper of the station, the Department begs to state that charges of disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, addressing improper language to a superior officer, permitting visitors at the station and attempting to defraud the Government, having been preferred against Mr. Nelson and sustained in a degree sufficient to warrant such action, the Department has dismissed Mr. Nelson from his position, effective at the close of July 24, 1917.

In regard to your statements relating to the pro-German tendencies of Mr. Buske, the Department would appreciate a full statement of the information upon which you based your remarks, in order that the matter may receive further consideration.

Respectfully.

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD
Secretary.

Hon. Benjamin I. Taylor,
Harrison, New York.

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD
Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington

AUG 29 1917

To Lighthouse Inspector Tompkinsville, New York,
for files of his office. By direction of the Commissioner: See your indorsement of August 20th.

Chief Clerk

X
183

HB-MM

1 inclosure.

August 16, 1917.

Subject: Letter August 14, 1917, from Hon. Benj. F. Taylor to the Secretary of Commerce regarding Alfred Nelson.

Referred to Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, New York, for remark and return. See Department letter of August 9, 1917, suspending Mr. Nelson.

Acting Commissioner

AUG 17 1917

Dear Sir:

Referring to your communication of August 14, 1917, in regard to Mr. Alfred Nelson, Assistant Keeper of Great Captains Island Light Station, New York, you are respectfully informed that the matter is being investigated, and that you will be further advised in regard thereto at an early date.

Respectfully,

Secretary.

Hon. Benjamin L. Taylor,
~~New York~~, N. Y.
Harrison

Temporary

1013

LIGHT
AUG9 1917
HOUSES

August 9, 1917.

Sir:

Upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, the Department has suspended you from duty, for a period not to exceed 90 days, effective July 24, 1917, pending the disposition of charges preferred against you by the keeper of Great Captains Island Light Station, New York.

This suspension shall be with lawful pay if you are exonerated of the charges, or if the same are not found sufficiently substantiated to justify suspension without pay; and shall be without pay and allowances if they are sustained in a degree sufficient to warrant such action.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Clifford Hastings.

Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Alfred Nelson,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

C

(3)