'26 MAR 10 AM11:59:47

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

Date: 03/06/2026

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
Pessarra, William		

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 (TX)		
From: 1918	To: 1919	
(Agency & Location)		
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-000711636?

CMRS Search Request Number(s): Submitted to Dr. search 3/11/26 sgn

Attendant Signature:

Remarks: P160

'26 MAR 23 PM 1:06:13

SCREENING NOTES

☑ Reviewed and Nothing Removed SBM ☐ 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:

Mr. William Pessarra

LEGAL RESIDENCE
Texas

INACTIVE

Wm. Mr. Pessarra.

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SALARY	BUREAU OR OFFICE	DATE OF EFFECT OF ACTION AUTHORIZED
Laborer TEMPORARY, Not exc 1 mo	Brazos River U.S. Gyp	540	L N	May 16. 1918
	Last day service June 15, 1918.		
TEMPORARY (Pendelg) Keeper	Brazos River	U.S. Texas	660	L.N.	Nov 26, 1918.
	Last day May 18, 1919.		
			INACTIVE

11—1948

Form 73

JAM-MCC

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, Eighth DISTRICT.

APPOINTMENTS New Orleans, La., May 22, 1918.
(City.) (Date.)

5

RECEIVED MAY 22 1918 NEW R. & HARB. BRANCH

MAY 25 1918 HOUSES

1918 MAY 27 PM 7 52

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Temporary appointment for a period not to exceed 30 days from date of certification of eligibles for permanent appointment as assistant keeper.

Name, William Pessarra. Legal residence, Texas.

Position, Laborer in the Lighthouse Service. Salary, $540 p.a. (without rations)

Location, Brazos River Light Station, Texas. Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective May 16, 1918, {'the actual date of entrance on duty, or ~~as soon thereafter as he enters on duty~~ CHIEF CLERK

Former position, - - - Former salary, - 1918 MAY 27 PM 3 00

Location, - - -

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

- - - - - - - -

Previous incumbent, New position. Services terminated, - - -

Reason, Pending appointment and arrival of a new assistant keeper, vice Harris A. Brown resigned at close of May 15, 1918.

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Remarks: Owing to the emergency existing at Brazos River Light Station, Mr. Pessarra was assigned to duty on May 16, 1918. He has never been employed under any branch of the Department of Commerce.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the
U. S. Civil Service Commission, May 22, 1918

E. H. Brown
Secretary.

Inspector.

10

Civil Service District

Temporary pending Certification

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

MAY 27 1918

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

1918 APR 28 PM 3 37

1918 MAY 27 PM 12 14

1918 MAY 28 PM 5 APPOINTMENTS

Approved (new position):

E. F. Sweet
Acting Secretary.

Acting Commissioner

C
R

1 Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11-2314

GENERAL APPOINTMENT—FIXED DATE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

May 29, 1918.

M. William Pessarra,

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, Laborer at Brazos River Light Station, Texas, in the Lighthouse Service at a salary of Five Hundred and Forty dollars per annum, effective May 16, 1918.

Your appointment will continue for a period not to exceed one month.

ORDERED.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Clifford Hastings.

Chief of Appointment Division.

C
R

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: New position.

Legal Residence: Texas.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED MAY 29 1918 ON JOURNAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

11—1393

MAY 29 1918

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT HOUSES JUN 13 1918

JUN 13 1918 8 52 AM

I, William Pessarra

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.

William Pessarra
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 8th day of June, A. D. 1918.

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) O. Hoefle

(Official title) Notary Public

My commission expires June 1st 1919

OFFICIAL TITLE	RATE OF PAY	NAME OF STATION, VESSEL, OR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.
Present Laborer in the Light-house Service.	$540.00 p.a.	Brazos River Light Station, Tex.
Former [5] Temporary appointment not to exceed one month.		

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

RSW

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 8th DISTRICT

New Orleans, La., June 10, 1918.
(Address) (Date)

CARDED

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on May 16, 1918.
(Date)

(Signature, followed by title) Inspector.

[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.

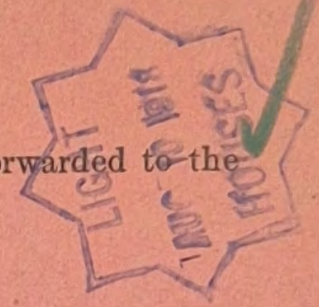
11—944

1918 JUN 14 AM 10 50

MCC

MEMORANDUM SHOWING LAST DAY SERVED BY TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE

(To be filled in immediately after the last day temporary employee serves, signed by the proper official and forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce.)



Name of employee William Pessarra.

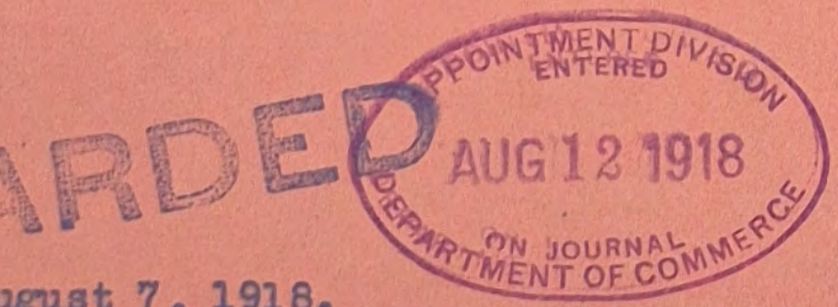
Designation Laborer in the Lighthouse Service. *Compensation* $540 p.a.

Place of employment Brazos River Light Station, Texas.

Date of appointment: May 29, 1918, effective May 16, 1918, for a period not to exceed one month.

Last day served June 15, 1918.

CARDED



Superintendent of Lighthouses, 8th Dist.
(*Official title.*)

Date August 7, 1918.

Lighthouse Service.
(*Bureau or service.*)

11—2876

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET

(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.)

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.)

William Pessarra

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

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

LIGHTHOUSE (Bureau or Service.) | Brazos River Light Station, Tex., (Place (city, town, station, or vessel).) | 8th (District.)

4. Position to which appointed: Laborer in the Lighthouse Service.

5. Compensation: $540.00 per annum.

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.)

Temporary appointment without examination

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

Freeport (City or town.) | Texas (State or Territory.) | Brazoria (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.

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

11. Where were you born? Bryan Brazos Co. Tex

12. When were you born? May (Month.) 18th (Day.) 1885 (Year.)

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

14. What is your marital condition? Wife and two children

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

Mrs. William Pessarra (Name.) | (Number and street.)

Freeport (City or town.) | Texas (State or Territory.)

11—1434

ARDED

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.)

None.

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.)

Department.	Bureau or Service.	Position.	Salary.	Appointed.	Separated.
~~U.S.L.S.S.~~		~~Surfman~~	~~$780 per annum~~	~~Aug. 1912~~	~~Jan. 1915~~
U.S.L.S.S.		Surfman	$780 Pa.	Aug 1912	Jan. 1915

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? No. (If answer is "Yes," give the information called for by the blanks below.)

Relationship (widow or orphan).....

Name under which soldier or sailor rendered service .....

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

LIGHT
JUN 13 1918
HOUSES

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.)

Foreman at Sulphur Docks Freeport Sulphur Co.

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.)

Public school

1918 JUN 14 AM 9 19

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.")

Carpenter

CHIEF CLERK

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

W. S. L. S. S. Aug. 1912

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, June 8th, 1918

Witness (in case signature is by mark):

(Signature) William Pessarra

P. O. Address: Freeport
City or town.

Number and street.

Texas
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 June 10, 1918.

(Signature) R R Doan

(Official title) Inspector, 8th Lighthouse District.

11—1434

1918 JUN 13 PM 3 50

Form 73

MCC

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF ~~LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR~~ Eighth DISTRICT.

New Orleans, La., November 30, 1918.
(City.) (Date.)

CHIEF CLERK 5 LIGHT DEC 3 1918 HOUSES

RECD DEC 4 PM 3 08

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES

DEC 3 1918 8 50 AM

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Temporary appointment for a period not to exceed 30 days from date of establishment of a register of eligibles for permanent appointment.

Name, William Pessarra — Legal residence, Texas

Position, ~~Additional~~ Keeper in the Lighthouse Service. — Salary, $660 per annum.

Location, Brazos River Light Station, Texas. — Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective November 26, 1918, { the actual date of entrance on duty, ~~or thereafter when entered on duty~~

Former position, - - - - — Former salary, - - -

Location, - - - -

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

No eligibles available.

Previous incumbent, Frank P. Spratley — Services terminated,

Reason, Transferred to Horn Island Light Station, Miss.

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Remarks: Due to the necessity for maintaining the full authorized complement of keepers at this station, William Pessarra was assigned to duty on November 26, 1918. He previously served as temporary laborer at above station, at $540 p.a., from May 16, 1918, to June 15, 1918, inclusive. This nomination is made to fill the lowest rated position at this station, in accordance with Department letter of June 5, 1918.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, November 30, 1918.

TEMPORARY
Pending the establishment of a register of eligibles.

Secretary, 10 Civil Service District.

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

DEC 3 1918

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION RECEIVED ACTION TAKEN DEC 5 1918 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1918 DEC 4 PM 2 35

Bowman
Acting Commissioner.

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

11—2314

GENERAL APPOINTMENT FIXED DATE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

December 5, 1918.

Mr. William Penaarra,

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, Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Six Hundred and Sixty dollars per annum,

effective November 26, 1918.

Your appointment will continue for a period not to exceed thirty days from the date of establishment of a register of eligibles for permanent appointment.

CARDED

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED DEC 6 1918 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(Signed) Clifford Hutinds

Chief of Appointment Division.

R
Ho

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Frank P. Spratley,

Legal Residence: Texas.

11—1383

Form 111

[redacted] **OATH OF OFFICE** [redacted]

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

ARRIVED JAN 2 1919

CHIEF CLERK 5

1918 DEC 30 PM 3 01

LIGHT DEC 30 1918 HOUSES

DEC 30 1918 9 17 AM

I, William Pessarra,

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.

William Pessarra

William Pessarra

(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 17th day of December, A. D. 1918.

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) P. Storfle

(Official title) Notary Public

My commission expires June 1st 1919

	Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present	Keeper in the Light-house Service	$660 p.a.	Brazos River Light Station, Texas.
Former [5]	Temporary appointment for a period not to exceed 30 days from date of establishment of a register of eligibles for permanent appointment.		

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

MCC

Office of ~~Lighthouse Inspector~~, Eighth District

New Orleans, La., December 26, 1918.

(Address) (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on November 26, 1918.

(Date)

CARDED

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

(Signature of officer)

[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

MCC

MAY 23 1919 4. 03 PM

MEMORANDUM SHOWING LAST DAY SERVED BY TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE

(To be filled in immediately after the last day temporary employee serves, signed by the proper official and forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce.)

1919 MAY 26 PM 2 40

LIGHT HOUSES MAY 23 1919

CHIEF CLERK

Name of employee William Pessarra

Designation Keeper (additional) in the Lighthouse Service *Compensation* $ 1919 MAY 26 6PM p. 4. 34

Place of employment Brazos River Light Station, Texas.

Date of appointment: Dec. 5,1918, effective Nov.26,1918, for a period not to exceed 30 days from date of establishment of a register of eligibles for permanent appointment.

Last day served May 18, 1919.

CARDED

APPOINTMENT DIV. JOURNAL DEPT. OF COMMERCE MAY 27 1919

1919 MAY 27 AM 8 47 APPOINTMENTS

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 8th Dist.,
(*Official title.*)

Date May 21, 1919.

Lighthouse Service.
(*Bureau or service.*)

11—2876

U. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

William Pessarra

Life-Saving Service, Velasco Station.

December 31, 1914. Services discontinued --discharged at own request.

For authority see report of changes dated January 23, 1915.

William Pessarra.

Life Saving Service, Velasco, 9th Dist.

Enlistment as Surfman on December 5, 1912

For authority see Report of Enlistments, dated Jan. 10,1913.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
DEPARTMENTAL STOCK FORM 2187.

U. S. LIFE-SAVING SERVICE.
DEC 9 1912
RECEIVED.

INFORMATION AS TO THE PERSONNEL.

Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

Washington, D. C., June 15, 1909.

To Supervising Officers of the Treasury Department and others concerned:

You are hereby directed to have each new appointee or employee in your office at the time of taking the oath answer in full, in his own handwriting, all of the following inquiries, and date and sign the paper at the end. You will then forward the paper to the Department.

FRANKLIN MacVEAGH,
Secretary.

In what branch of the service are you to be employed? Life Saving Service

Position? Surfman

Compensation? Sixty Five Dollars per Month

Where is your legal residence? Quintana Brazoria Co Texas
(Town, county, Congressional district, and State.)

Where were you born? Bryan Texas
(Give town and State.)

In what year were you born? 1885 What is your race? White
(Answer "white," "colored," or "Mongolian.")

Are you married or single, widow or widower? Single

Did you render military or naval service in the War of the Rebellion, or the Spanish-American War?

If so, in what capacity and in what organization? None

Have you any relatives in the service of the Government? If so, state the relationship of each, and the service in which employed? None

Have you ever before been employed in the Treasury service? If so, give date of original appointment and a statement in chronological order showing place or places occupied, length of time of service in each place, and compensation received therein. No.

Signature of appointee or employee. William Pessarra
(Write Christian name in full.)

Date, Dec. 5th. 1912