2024 DEC 13 PM 3:46:09

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

Date: 12/10/2024

REQUESTER INFORMATION

Name (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Researcher ID Card Number
Flynn, Kylie	
E-Mail Address:	**Phone Number:**
knfgbb@umsl.edu	217-440-1332

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
Ponte, Franklin, J.		1899 MA

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: 1980 MA

State of Residence (upon entry into service):

Other Identifying Information (Parent's Names, CSC Number, etc.)
First name also Frank

Researcher Signature:

CIVILIAN SERVICE

(Agency & Location)		
Lighthouse Service (MA)		
From: 1926	To: 1929	
(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: 2-3043939782

Attendant Signature:

CMRS Search Request Number(s):

Remarks:

'25 JAN 15 PM 2:30:38

SCREENING NOTES

☐ Reviewed and Nothing Removed

☐ 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:

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE/LIFESAVING SERVICE—RECORDS CHECKED

Employee Name: Ponte Franklin J **DOB:** 1899 MA
MA 1926-1929 DOD: 1980 MA

Records checked:

Agency: Commerce 6028	Area: Bay 10, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative
Agency: Commerce 6029	Area: Bay 10, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative
Agency: Old Commerce	Area: Bay 10, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative

AND

Agency: Treasury 2189	Area: Bay 13, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative
Agency: Treasury 2188	Area: Bay 13, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative
Agency: Old Treasury	Area: Bay 13, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative

If Negative:

Agency: Treasury SRCs series 1	Area: Bay 13, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative
Agency: Treasury SRCs series 2	Area: Bay 13, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative
Agency: Treasury SRCs series 3	Area: Bay 13, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative
Agency: Coast Guard SRCs	Area: Bay 13, Lower Catwalk	positive	negative

If Negative:

CMRS: possible CG service	Area: _____	positive	negative
ARCIS: _____	Area: _____	positive	negative

Notes: _____

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.
EJC-RMC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.
March 29, 1939.

LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 30 3 30 PM '39

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Emergency employment of Frank J. Ponte, as Laborer for duty as Keeper, Palmer Island Light Station.

It is requested that the Bureau please authorize the continued employment of the above substitute until such time as it is practicable for this office to make other recommendation.

As the Bureau is aware, all structures, excepting the tower at Palmer Island Light Station were demolished at the time of the hurricane and tidal wave on September 21, 1938, and to date the regular keeper's condition has not been such as to permit his return to duty. It is also probable that at such time as the keeper is able to resume duty that he would not consider further detail at Palmer Island due to his tragic experience, which included the loss of his wife, at the aforementioned time.

The present substitute who is giving satisfactory service is occupying temporary quarters which have been provided for him at the station and is receiving pay at the rate of $110 a month.

No previous papers found as to employment of temp.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON April 5, 1939

Returned to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Chelsea, Massachusetts, with advice that the Bureau is unable to locate authority for the employment of a temporary laborer at this station. Under the circumstances, however, his continued employment is approved for the reasons given, provided the employment of a laborer for more than 30 days in such case is agreeable to the District Civil Service Manager. If such is not approved by him, it appears that your office should submit nomination for the temporary appointment of a keeper for this duty.

For the Commissioner:

W. P. Harman,
Administrative Assistant

hlm/see

Dept. letter Dec. 20 1925, requesting return of Probationary appt. certificate issued to Frank J. Ponte Kpr. 1080 p.a. in 2d dist. for insertion of effective date to 2d Supt. Nov.23 for compliance.

NOV 2 3 1925

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 2d Supt for compliance .

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
BOSTON, MASS.
GEE-EJC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
1925 NOV 28 PM 3 55

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
BOSTON, MASS.
November 27th, 1925.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Appointment certificate, Frank J. Ponte, Keeper, 2nd Dist.

Reference: Bureau's endorsement Nov. 23, on Appointment Division Letter, Nov. 20, 1925.

Returned herewith is Certificate of Probationary Appointment of Frank J. Ponte as Keeper at $1080 per annum, in this district, for insertion of effective date (November 9, 1925).

Superintendent.

- - - - - -

EK
Incl.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.
December 1, 1925.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce in accordance with Department letter of November 20, 1925, in the matter.

J. S. CONWAY
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

GEE-HL

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 JUN 6 PM 4 02

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Airways
Surveys
Radio
Weather
Clerical
Chief Engr.
Hydrg.
Radio
Engr. Const.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Adm. Assist.
Dep. Commr.
Commissioner

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

June 5, 1928

Letter of Caution

Frank J. Ponte,
Asst. Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station:
(Through the Keeper)

1. Referring to complaints made against you by your former senior, keeper of Boston Light Station, as to inefficiency in maintaining the light and to your general conduct as assistant keeper, and especially to the language used by you when your attention was called to the above infractions of the Regulations, you are hereby cautioned against repetition of such actions.

2. Your present senior has been instructed to report to this office as to your general conduct and ability and you are warned that a repetition of occurrences at the Boston Light will lead to preferring of charges against you.

3. You should at all times be governed by Instructions to Employees as to the proper manner of conduct and carrying out the duties of an assistant keeper and complying strictly with the spirit of the Regulations.

4. This letter has been made a part of your official record, a copy of same being forwarded to the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

EATON
Superintendent.

COPY FOR COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
JUN 7 - 1928
Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information

F. C. HINGSBURG
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.
GRE-LJC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

8/22/28 ind. dept.

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 AUG 17 PM 12 11

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

August 15th, 1928.

Airways
Surveys
Constrn.
Commun.
Weather
Clerical
Adm. Offer.
Air Engr.
Chief Engr.
Hydro.
Radio
Engr. Constrn.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Adm. Assist.
Dep. Commr.
Commissioner

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Subject: Frank J. Ponte, Assistant Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station, charges preferred.

1. Herewith are copies of charges preferred against the above employee and his answers thereto, together with copies of letters from Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station, dated August 14, 1928, lettered "A", and copies of letters in regard to former trouble with this man while serving as Assistant Keeper at Boston Light Station, lettered "B".

2. Although the charges are proven in all respects, I am under the impression that if Mr. Ponte was sent a strong letter of reprimand by the Bureau, it would suffice for the time being, as it is my intention to transfer him at a later date to some other less desirable station for the best interests of the Service.

3. Although the offenses charged and proven warrant dismissal, in view of the frankness of his answers, which is commendatory, and in view of my intention to transfer him to a less desirable station, recommendation is made as above, namely, that strong letter of reprimand be issued by the Bureau advising Ponte that he will be given another chance but that he will be transferred as stated above; also if his services are then reported as not being satisfactory and any trouble is experienced, he will be dismissed.

4. The Superintendent however has no objection to his dismissal at this time if the Bureau considers that this action is warranted.

Concur - Rec OK + Bur
to Dept - Copy to Dept
reprimand to Rec
8/18
OK HGP
Aug 20

Superintendent.

"A"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.
GEE-RL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

REGISTERED MAIL

August 6, 1928

1928 AUG 17 10 PM 12 LIGHTHOUSES

Frank J. Ponte,
Asst. Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station:
(Through the Keeper)

Subject: Charges.

1. The following specifications and charges are preferred against you and you will be allowed a period of three days to answer same.

Charge 1. Neglect of Duty, and Disobedience of Orders.

Specification 1. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, while on the mid-watch of the morning of May 29, 1928, did not maintain proper watch, as he did not start fog signal when necessary so to do, it being necessary for the keeper, who was awakened, to start signal.

Specification 2. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did go to sleep while on watch on July 7, 1928, and fail to call the principal keeper until 1.15 A.M., a period of about one and one-half hours late.

Specification 3. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did on July 15, 1928, leave his station and duty during his watch, after lighting up, and was absent therefrom for a period of fifteen minutes, from 8.55 P.M. to 9.10 P.M., leaving the station unattended.

Specification 4. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did, on July 16, 1928, after receiving definite instructions from the principal keeper that "hereafter he would stand his watch in the signal house or nearby the tower" neglect to heed such instructions and after lighting up at 7.30 P.M. went directly to his quarters remaining therein until 8.05 p.m.

Specification 5. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did, on July 17, 1928, disregard the instructions as specified in specification 4, that he again went directly to his quarters at 7.30 p.m., after lighting up and did not return to his watch and stand until 8.20 p.m.

Specification 6. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did, on July 18, 1928, disregard the instructions as specified in specification 4, that he again went directly to his quarters at 7.30 p.m., after lighting up, and did not return to his watch at the signal house until 7.50 p.m.

"A"

Charge 2. Conduct unbecoming Assistant Keeper and official of the Lighthouse Service.

Specification 1. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did, immediately upon arrival at Bakers Island Light Station, on May 2, 1928, refer to his former keeper, the Keeper of Boston Light Station, in an uncomplimentary manner, using vile and profane language towards him, threatening to do him bodily harm, etc., all in the hearing of the Keeper of Bakers Island Light Station; this to the great detriment of discipline, etc., in the Lighthouse Service.

Specification 2. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, since his assignment to the position or Assistant Keeper of Bakers Island Light Station, on or about May 2, 1928, has failed to maintain and uphold the high degree of promptness expected of an assistant keeper, showing a disposition to antagonize his senior officer, all to the detriment of the efficiency of the Lighthouse Service.

2. You are granted the above period of three days, in order to answer fully to charges, and to show reasons why you should not be dismissed from the Lighthouse Service.

EATON
Superintendent.

"A"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES AUG 10 1928 CHELSEA, MASS.

SECOND DISTRICT

Baker's Island Lt. Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Aug 8, 1928

Superintendent of Lighthouses—
Sir—

1928 AUG 17 PM 12 SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES

Through Keeper. In answer to charges against me received August 7, 1928.

Specification 1. While on the mid. watch of the morning of May 29, I did Keep a good watch. But being a new Asst. here and having never seen the lights lit in the signal house and not knowing that they were lit, I mistook them for the lights ashore concluding that the weather was clear.

Guilty

Specification 2. "The Keeper knew that I slept on watch, when the weather was clear and when the light was running good, for periods of 30 to 45 minutes and he told me it was alright. And I knew that the Keeper slept on watch, so I thought I g. could do the same thing. But the night July 7, I went to sleep I set my alarm clock at 11.15 P.M. for 12 mid. and it failed to go off. thats

Guilty

"A"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE
SECOND DISTRICT

SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES AUG 10 1928 CHELSEA, MASS.

Baker's Island Lt. Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

2.

Aug 8, 1928.

how I called the Keeper late, or at 1.15 AM. The Keeper has called me a few times at 12.45 A.M. or 45 minutes late. But I don't remember the dates.

1928 AUG 17 PM 12 12 LIGHTHOUSES

Specification 3. I did take a little walk with my wife from the station, but I could see the light all the time and if it went bad I could have got to it in a few minutes, so I consider myself on duty at the time.

Specification 4. On July 16 After recieving instructions from the Keeper to stand watch in the Signal house or near the tower, I did go to my quarters for my search-light and sweater and had a little lunch and did a few odd jobs for my wife. She haveing the three Government carpenter's to feed which was alot of extra work for her, haveing two small babies to take care of.

Specification 5. On July 17, I did go to my quarter's for my search light and

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND DISTRICT

Baker's Island Lt. Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Aug 8, 1928.

1928 AUG 17 PM 12 LIGHTHOUSES

sweater and had a little lunch and did a few odd jobs for my wife. She having the three government Carpenter's to feed which was alot of extra work for her, having two small babies to take care of. Specification 6. On July 18 I did go to my quarter's after lighting up for my search light and sweater and had a little lunch, and did a few odd jobs for my wife. She having the three government carpenter's to feed which was alot of extra work for her, having to small babies to take care of.

Charge 2. Specification 1. The Keeper at Boston light did treat me dirty and was responsible for me having to move from Boston Light. He Knew that wife was going to give birth to a Child in two weeks, and only giving me four days to pack my furniture with my wife in that condition Thats why I did say that Id fix him if anything happened to my wife. And

"A"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE
SECOND DISTRICT

SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES 2ND DIST. AUG 10 1928

Baker's Island Lt. Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

4.

Aug 5, 1928.

I was made to come to Baker's Island when it wasn't on my list for a transfer Because Mr. Lee the Chief Clerk had crossed it off last fall. The Keeper here has alss refered to his former Asst's. in an uncomplimentary manner to me.

Specification 2. I have done my best since I arrived at this station, working eight to ten hour's a day and standing an eight-hour watch at night with no chance to get a nap in the day time and getting only four to five hour's sleep at night. The Keeper say's I showed a disposition to antagonize him, but I never it was him who would always get sore for nothing at all and then he wouldn't speak to me for day's at a time.

Respectfully Your's.
Frank J. Ponte.
Asst. Keeper.

Payne
Inspr.

Let. of Aug. 15 from 2d re charges preferred against Frank J. Ponte, Asst. Keeper, Bakers Island Lt. Sta.

RLC:EMF Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C., August 22, 1928.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce recommending paragraph three for approval, The Bureau concurring with the Superintendent's recommendation. A copy of Bureau letter of reprimand will be furnished the Department.

H. B. BOWERMAN

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.
CEE-HL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 SEP 20 PM 3 42

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

September 19, 1928

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Subject: Frank J. Ponte, Assistant Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station, charges preferred.

1. Reference is made to Superintendent's letter of August 15, recommending that the Bureau send a letter of reprimand to the above employee, and to which no reply has as yet been received.

2. Forwarded herewith is further correspondence in the case of Ponte, reporting that on the evening of September 10, the keeper of Bakers Island Light Station found him asleep on watch, and Ponte's answer to this charge.

3. In view of this repeated offense and of the charges previously preferred against this man, as forwarded by our letter of August 15, it is recommended that he be dismissed from the Service, the Bureau to determine the effective date of dismissal.

4. Recommendation for dismissal of Frank J. Ponte is not in violation of section 2 of Civil Service Rule I, relative to political or religious opinions or affiliations of the employee.

Superintendent.

1 incl.
RLC:EMF Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C., September 24, 1928.
Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce recommending the dismissal of Keeper Ponte, effective on a date later to be determined and reported. It is further recommended that inclosed Department letter of August 30, approving the Bureau's recommendation of August 22 for reprimanding Keeper Ponte, be cancelled.

J. S. CONWAY
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

RTHOUSES
1928 OCT 10 AM 10 08

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

October 6, 1928.

Mr. Frank J. Ponte,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

Having been charged with neglect of duty and disobedience of orders and having been found asleep while on watch and such charges having been substantiated in a degree sufficient to warrant such action, the Department, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, has dismissed you from the position of Keeper at $1200 per annum at Bakers Island Light Station, Massachusetts, effective at the close of business on a date later to be determined and reported to the Department.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

ELVA J. GARDNER

Chief of Appointment Division.

OCT 10 1928

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 2nd Dist. Supt

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 OCT 26 AM 8:55
Airways
Surveys
Construction
Communication
Weather
Clerical
Adm. Office
Air Engr.
Chief Engr.
Hydro.
Radio
Engr. Conserv.
Mat. Mgr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Assist.
Law Commr.
Commissioner
SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES
NOV 3 1928
1st DIST. MASS.

18/3/2 Tack

26 Griffin St.
New Bedford, Mass.
Oct 24, 1928.

Supt. ✓
1st Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Draftsman
Junior Engr.
1st Clerk
3rd Clerk
4th Clerk
5th Clerk
Messenger
Depot Kpr.

Commissioner of Lighthouses—

Sir—

I would like to know why I was dismissed from the lighthouse service at Baker's Island Lt. Station. for sleeping on watch when the Keeper was the one who told me too. And he sleeps on watch every night and does not get dismissed from the service. And he also works on the summer cottages every day and made me

do all of the station work alone. I have three government capenters who will be my witnesses to what I say. Why is it that the Keeper can do as he pleases and get away it. I know I got a raw deal, because every body at Baker's Island, I mean the summer people know how mean and tricky the Keeper is. He is also taking a carpenter's livering away from Sherman Burnham who stays on the Island. I would like to reciev an aswer to this letter as soon as possible.

Respectfully Yours.

Frank J. Ponte

Bureau of Lighthouses, October 31, 1928.
Chelsea, Mass.

H. B. BOWERMAN

RG:EMF

October 31, 1928.

Mr. Frank J. Ponte,
26 Griffin St.,
New Bedford, Mass.

Dear Sir:

1. In reference to your letter of October 24, relative to your separation from the position of keeper at Bakers Island Light Station, Mass.

2. This matter is being given consideration, and you will be further advised at an early date.

Respectfully,

H. B. BOWERMAN

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

GWB-HL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1928 NOV 6 PM 3 46

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

November 5, 1928

11/8/28 Ltr Pontes copy 2d

Rec'd advising copy to ... Nov 7

Airways
Surveys
Constrn.
Commun.
Weather
Clerical
Asst. Offcr.
Air Engr.
Chief Engr.
Hydro.
Radio
Engr. Constrn.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Adm. Assist.
Commissioner

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Subject: Frank J. Ponte, dismissed assistant keeper, Bakers Island Light Station.

Reference: Bureau's endorsement October 31, on letter Frank J. Ponte October 24, 1928 (returned herewith).

1. The above man, having been charged with neglect of duty, disobedience of orders, and having been found asleep while on watch, was dismissed from this Service at the close of October 15, 1928, said charges having been substantiated in a degree sufficient to warrant such action.

2. In this connection the Bureau is further advised that this man, having caused considerable trouble at Boston Light Station, was transferred to the position of assistant keeper at Bakers Island Light Station on May 1, 1928, and was advised that he would be given another trial, also that if during this probationary period any further trouble was experienced with him same would be reported to the Bureau and his dismissal recommended.

3. At the time the charges were preferred against Ponte by the keeper the Superintendent made a personal visit to the light station in an endeavor to obtain further facts in the case and upon interviewing Ponte he assumed a very insolent manner. It was also noted that the lens and oil apparatus in the lighthouse lantern, which were supposed to have been cleaned by the assistant that same morning, were in a slovenly condition. This matter was called to the keeper's attention, who stated that this was a sample of the work done by Ponte and in calling such matters to his attention only received insolent replies.

4. The charges made by Ponte against the keeper of Bakers Island Light Station in the attached letter have already been investigated by this office and found to be greatly exaggerated and in some cases false. This man also forwarded the District Civil Service Secretary a letter containing practically the same information as the one forwarded the Bureau, in which he requested a hearing in this matter. Ponte's letter was forwarded to this office, together with the Secretary's reply in which Ponte was advised that the Civil Service rules do not allow for a hearing in the case of persons who are dismissed from the Service and that it was not suggested he call at the Secretary's office.

Superintendent.

RG:EW

November 8, 1928.

Mr. Frank J. Ponte,
26 Griffin St.,
New Bedford, Mass.

Dear Sir:

1. In further reference to your letter of October 24, relative to your separation from the Lighthouse Service:

2. The records indicate that you were separated in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations at the close of October 15, 1928 for neglect of duty. The records also indicate that prior to your service at Bakers Island Light Station you served at Boston Light Station and that at the latter station you also had difficulty, and that your transfer to Bakers Island Light Station was for the purpose of giving you another trial. The charges made by you against the keeper at Bakers Island Light Station have been investigated and found to be greatly exaggerated and in some cases false. Receipt is also acknowledged of Mrs. Ponte's letter in this matter dated November 6.

Respectfully,

G. R. PUTNAM

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

1 incl.

Copy to 2nd Superintendent. Inclosed is further letter in this matter dated November 6 from Mrs. Ponte, and your report as to the charges made by her is also requested.

G. R. PUTNAM

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 NOV 8 AM 9 01

26 Griffin St.
New Bedford, Mass.
Nov. 6, 1928.

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 NOV 20 PM 4
Surveys
Constrn.
Commun.
Weather
Officer
Adm. Offr.
Air Engr.
Chief Engr.
Hydro.
Radio
Engr. Constrn.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Adm. Assist.
Dep. Comm.
Commissioner
C2

Dept. of Commerce.
Bureau of Lighthouses.
Washington, D. C.

Oil Lands

Enclosed letter is copy of letter I have sent to Supt. Eaton at Boston. This is in regard to Mr. Pontes separation from Baker's Island as keeper. As follows-

"Receipt" to Pontes letter in this matter is dated Nov 9

11/6" RA

To the Commissioner-

Enclosed you will find a copy from a letter I have sent to Supt. Eaton at Boston. This is in regard to Mr. Pontes separation from Baker's Island as keeper. As follows-

Superintendent Eaton:

Three weeks of time have elapsed since we were the subjects of most unfair treatment at your hands. The groundless cause for our dismissal from the Service has caused much comment among those knowing the circumstances. You have had time to rectify this injustice, (you admitted yourself Paine was preposterous in his demands, during recent inspection) and not having done so, we

ful that in justice to the Light house Service and the following assistants to Paine, an immediate investigation is in order called for. The smallest act of fairness was to have given Mr. Paine the privilege to resign. Instead he was not even allowed the decency of an investigation. The worst criminal gets a hearing at least but the reason we were rushed from the Service so suddenly and quietly is because we know so much concerning Paine and his crooked dealings on Bakers Island.

Will you please explain why in eleven years Paine has had fifteen assistants? Looks like there was something wrong when the keeper fails to have harmony with one man in fifteen. Sounds impossible that the assistant can be at fault in every case. Write to any one of Paine's former assistants and ask their opinion of him. Why not try changing the keeper from there instead of constantly shifting

miserably treated men from under that mean keeper?

Mr. Ponte was dismissed presumably on the "neglect of duty and disobedience of orders". Please note this: Mr. Paine ordered Mr. Ponte to clean toilets, spade and plant flower beds, do inside painting and cleaning for different cottagers on the Island. When he refused he was charged with "neglect of duty and disobedience to orders". As superintendent and a gentleman please tell me if work mentioned would be cataloged under station work. It might be for the betterment of the service if you would investigate proceedings at Bakers Island further than from Mr. Paine's word.

You know the circumstances of Paine's complaints, if not the details are on file. Mainly - the lense stopped revolving while Mr. Ponte was on duty in the dark, oily, lonely original house! A punishment inflicted by the trusted.

keeper for a minor offense. I ask were lives jeopardized on a clear night for five minutes because of this? Or were lives in more danger during a thick fog with no signal for over an hour? October eighteenth the fog came in at 3:45 A.M. during Paine's watch. No signal was going at 4.15 o'clock also no light in keepers dwelling or in signal house. At 4.20 his phone was rung three times before he answered. The question, "Don't you think its time you started the signal?" was given to him four times before his sleepy brain could grasp its meaning. No signal was started until 5:00 o'clock, the fog increasing constantly. Was this "neglect of duty", and was this safety service? It was the result of being fast asleep on watch and the privilege handed to an unscrupulous, pampered, deceitful keeper.

The party phoning Paine at this time is ready and willing any

time to face him and testify to the.
I ask for justice in this case in the form of an investigation and can furnish plenty of witnesses and evidences that this man Paine is grossly guilty of breaking rules and falsely representing himself and others to the government. Judging from his conduct in regard to the book of rules I have concluded it has the importance of a Mother Goose book.

After the talk you had with me at Bakers Island in September nine and the statements you made at the time I believe you to be man enough to take this matter into consideration and give Mr. Ponte a fair and impartial trial. If not this affair shall be presented to the Commissioner of Light houses in Washington.

Let me hear from you at the earliest convinience possible.

Signed -

Commissioner, I am asking only for justice in this matter, that Mr. Ponte's dismissal may be disregarded and that he might be reinstated in the service again in good and regular standing.

Respectfully,
Mrs. F. J. Ponte.



COPY-HL

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

EJC-HL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 NOV 20 PM 4 02

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.
November 8, 1928

Mrs. Frank J. Ponte,
26 Griffin Street,
New Bedford, Mass.

Dear Madam:

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 6th.

2. Referring to your statement as to the number of assistants Mr. Payne has had at Bakers Island Light Station, you are advised that same is somewhat in error. In the last seven years there were twelve changes in the above position - six due either to transfers or promotions to some other stations in the district, five resigned and one dismissed.

3. You are also advised that the fact that Mr. Ponte was found guilty of sleeping on watch is sufficient cause to warrant his dismissal. On October 6, 1928, when charges were preferred against Mr. Ponte, a copy of same was forwarded to the Commissioner of Lighthouses, together with a letter in which this office recommended that he be given another chance, provided there would be no reoccurrence of these offenses and in the event that his services were again reported unsatisfactory or any trouble experienced he would be dismissed from the Service.

4. Before reply was received to the above letter, another report was received stating that while Mr. Ponte was on watch the light stopped working at 8.55 P.M., and at 9.15 P.M. the lens was still not revolving. The keeper, upon going to the signal house, found Mr. Ponte stretched out on a box, asleep.

5. In view of the recommendation made to the Bureau there was no alternative other than Mr. Ponte's dismissal.

Respectfully,

Geo. E. Eaton

Superintendent.

RG EJD
Incl.

November 17, 1928.

SUBJECT: Letter of November 13, 1928 from Mrs. F. J. Ponte, concerning dismissal of Frank J. Ponte from his position as Assistant Keeper of Bakers Island Light Station.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Chelsea, Massachusetts for report and return, attention in this connection being invited to Bureau indorsement of November 8.

H. B. BOWERMAN

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

LIGHTHOUSES
28 NOV 15 AM 8·51
SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES NOV 19 1928 2nd DIST. CHELSEA, MASS.

26 Griffin St.
New Bedford, Mass.
November 13, 1928.

Airways
Surveys
Constrn.
Commun.
Weather
Clerical
Adm. Offcr.
Air Engr.
Chief Engr.
Hydro.
Radio
Engr. Constrn.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Adm. Assist.
Dep. Commr.
Commissioner

Commissioner of Light houses.
Washington.

Rec to grnd for report & to see Bn ind in this case of 11/A Rfd 11/15 HTCD Nov 15

Sir.

Letter dated November the eighth received and we do not consider this affair concluded as yet.

In regard to statement, "A transfer to Bakus Island Light Statim was for the purpose of giving another trial." To say a man was put under Paine for another trial for the purpose of his making good, is folly. In seven years Paine has had twelve assistants, five to resign. If he was such a remarkable keeper to make good with, why did so many men in so few years leave the Service from under him and the others

ask for transfers? If this change was made for the purpose of giving Mr. Ponte another trial, why was this statement made prior to the change. "I'll send Ponte to Paine and he will fix him!" I have no proof for this as Superintendent Eaton said this to Keeper Babcock of Boston Light Station. From experience a keeper's word is right, true or untrue. Does this prove that Mr. Ponte was given a fair chance to redeem himself to the Service?

The statement that the charges made against Paine "were greatly exaggerated and in some cases false" is not completed as no proof for same was given. I ask for a list of charges made that were as stated and proof for them. Also waiting for a reply to letter I wrote November sixth.

Respectfully - Mrs. F. J. Ponte.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

GEE-HL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1928 NOV 20 PM 4 C/ LIGHTHOUSES

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

November 19, 1928

Airways
Surveys
Constrn.
Commun.
Weather
Clerical
Adm. Offcr.
Air Engr.
Chief Engr.
Hydro.
Radio
Engr. Constrn.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Adm. Assist.
Dep. Comm.
Commissioner

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Subject: Frank J. Ponte, dismissed assistant keeper, Bakers Island Light Station.

Reference: Bureau's endorsement of copy of letter to Ponte, November 8, and letter November 17 forwarding Mrs. Ponte's letter November 13, 1928.

1. Mrs. Ponte's letters of November 6th and 13th are returned herewith with report that this office does not consider it necessary to answer the numerous questions and charges made by Mrs. Ponte to both the Bureau and this office as she has already been advised several times that her husband's dismissal from this Service was due to his being unable to remain awake while on watch and his neglect of duty. In other words, the Bureau is advised that he was discharged for the good of the Service. The charges made against Ponte, having been substantiated upon investigation, warranted his dismissal.

2. Mrs. Ponte has also been advised that the charges now being made against the keeper and which have also been investigated, as previously stated, were found to be exaggered and in some cases false. Ponte failed in his duty in not reporting in writing to the office any neglect of duty on the part of the keeper, when same occurred.

3. As requested by Bureau in its endorsement on letter to Ponte of November 8th, enclosed is copy of letter from this office to Mrs. Ponte in answer to her letter of November 6th.

Superintendent.

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 DEC 3 PM 3 38

26 Griffin St.
New Bedford, Mass.
December 1, 1928.

Commissioner of Light houses.
Washington, D. C.

Sir-

Weeks have passed and no answer has been received to my letter dated November thirteenth. It was stated that the charges we made against Paine were false. I asked for proof that they were false. We can give proof and provide witnesses that what we have stated is true. It is not our object to bring forth all of Paine's faults, we are trying to show you wherein Mr. Ponte had done nothing but what the keeper has also done. If one man receives punishment, why not the other?

Respectfully,

Mrs. F. J. Ponte.

Airways
Surveys
Constrn.
Commun.
Weather
Clerical
Adm. Offcr.
Air Engr.
Chief Engr.
Hydro.
Radio
Engr. Constrn.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Adm. Assist.
Dep. Commr.
Commissioner

OK HHD Dec 7

Send file w. return in reply to letter 11/8/28 + Supts further letter of 11/19

RF 177

[redacted]
8 Waverly St.
New Bedford, Mass.
January 15, 1929.

LIGHTHOUSES
1929 JAN 17 AM 11 38

Frank J. Ponte

Airways
Surveys
Constr.
Conditions
Weather
Clerical
Adm. Offcr.
Air Engr.
Chief Engr.
Supply
Opers. Constr.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Adm. Asstt.
Info. Officer
Comptroller

Commissioner of Lighthouses.
Washington, D. C.

OK HH Jan 17
Consider this Bureau of now closed case. Suggest like wise action like last letter

Sir:

Having received absolutely TPf/17
no word from the department for several months, I am writing again in regard to the "Paine and Ponte" affair.

An investigation was advised to consider the facts of one man's dismissal and the keepers privilege of same faults with no dismissal. We can furnish proof, evidence and witnesses that Keeper Paine has falsely represented Mr. Ponte and that he himself

has been guilty of neglect of duty and other charges. Why not an investigation?

I trust we may here from this department shortly.

Very truly.

Mrs. F. J. Ponte.

PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION BOARD FORM NO. 14—FIELD QUESTIONNAIRE
(To be filled out in accordance with the instructions given in P. C. B. Forms Nos. 15 and 16)

Bureau No. 1287 Sheet No. 2(b)5

Space reserved for the use of the Board

1. Ponte (Surname) Frank (Given name) J. (Initial)

2. Department Commerce
3. Bureau Lighthouses
4. Field service Lighthouse Service
5. (a) Field station Bakers Island Light Station
(b) Subdivision Second District
(c) City or town Manchester State Mass.

6. Pay roll title Light Keeper
7. Customary office title Assistant Keeper
8. Present administrative allocation $1320-1680 1440.00
9. Present gross rate of pay $ 240.00
10. Deduction for allowances $ 1200.00
11. Net rate paid in cash $

12. Indicate by an "X" in the proper box or boxes the kind of allowances, if any, received by the employee:
☐ House ☐ Room { ☐ Furnished ☐ Unfurnished } ☐ Heat ☒ Fuel ☒ Light ☐ Laundry ☐ Uniform ☐ Subsistence or rations in kind Meals per day: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

13. Describe any other allowance, privilege, or perquisite of value

14. If any special equipment or a bond is required by law or regulation to be furnished at the employee's expense, state kind and annual cost
Uniform - $50.00

15. (a) Regular hours of work: From No regular hours m. (b) How many hours per week excluding unusual or irregular overtime work?
Summer Winter (c) If not a full time and all-the-year-round position, state number of hours per day;
number of days per { week / month / year }
(d) If certain hours of availability for duty, outside of regular working hours, are required, state hours and type of such duty

16. (a) Rate of pay for overtime (b) Amount of overtime pay in last 12 months

17. (a) Does the employee in any way direct or supervise other employees? No (b) If so, in what way? (See Form 16 before answering)
(c) How many?

18. If the employee supervises other persons through immediate contact, give the name and the sheet numbers of such persons. (For such of these as may not be covered by questionnaires, give number and kinds by occupations.) If the employee exercises supervision through section or division heads, give the title of such sections or divisions and the names and sheet numbers of their heads.

19. (a) Is the employee in any way directed, supervised, or instructed, or his work reviewed? Yes (b) If so, in what way? (See Form 16 before answering.)
Works under the immediate supervision of the Keeper and follows detailed instructions in regard to his work.

20. What is the name, official position, and sheet number of the employee's immediate superior? Arthur L. Payne - Keeper.
Sheet No. 2(b)4

21. Employee's education: Strike an "X" over the number representing the highest grade or year completed in each type of school:

Elementary								High				Normal				College				Postgraduate or professional				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 X	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	(Kind)

Other education (describe):

22. What length and kind of experience or other training did the employee possess upon original entrance into this position which was most qualifying or pertinent?
Went to sea for 7 years as A.B. seaman or quartermaster. Served 1 year on U.S.S. Acushnet C.G. Cutter 1st class seaman.

10—1856

23. TO THE EMPLOYEE: Describe in detail the work you do. Put each distinct duty, task, or process in a separate paragraph. Explain first those that require most of your time. Explain occasional duties last. In the column at the left opposite each paragraph enter the approximate percentage of your time devoted to the work described in that paragraph. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO COMPOSE THIS STATEMENT WITHOUT FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS OF P. C. B. FORM NO. 15.

Percentage of working time	
50%	I am on watch from 4 P.M. to 12 mid one week and from 12 mid to 8 A.M. the next. Also a 4 hour watch either in the forenoon or afternoon. I must watch the weather and if it comes in foggy I must start our fog signal and must watch the light to insure favorable condition to prevent light from going out and from fire and lens stopping and smoke up.
25%	I must keep the grounds clean and keep the grass mowed in the summer time. And must keep quarters painted and windows puttied. Also while wash cellar and paint furnace and clean it. I must keep lens clean and brass polished and fill oil tank and clean the windows in the tower and carry oil to signal house.
25%	I must paint the house I live in and whitewash the tower in and out and also paint steps, windows and doors and wash the paint work when needed. Also must paint the dory and power boat and whitewash the oil house. I must go ashore for mail and supplies I use a power boat in the summer and a dory in the winter time.

24. I hereby certify that the foregoing was composed by me after reading P. C. B. Form No. 15, and that it is a true statement of my duties.

Frank J. Ponte
(Signature of Employee)

25. TO THE PREPARING OFFICER: Write your own description of the employee's work. If in describing the work of the position you would cover the same subject matter and use the same language and expressions, indicate your concurrence in the employee's statement and utilize the rest of the space below by giving further and broader information regarding the position, such as the kind and degree of responsibility involved, the ultimate purpose of the work, its place in your organization, its working conditions, etc. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet. See instructions in Form No. 16.

There are two keepers at this station.
I concur in the above.

26. How long have the employee's duties been substantially as described above? 3 years

27. I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the statements made by me on both sides of this sheet are accurate and complete.

September 29, 1928 (Date) — Edward J. Curran (Signature of Preparing Officer) — Chief Clerk. (Title)

28. I hereby certify that I have read all of the foregoing and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made on both sides of this sheet are accurate and complete, except as indicated in attached memorandum, marked ____. In my judgment the compensation of this position should be in a range from $1200 to $1800.

September 29, 1928 (Date) — Geo. E. Eaton (Signature of head of field office or station) — Superintendent. (Title)

29. I hereby certify that I have read all of the foregoing and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the statements made on both sides of this sheet are accurate and complete, except as indicated in attached memorandum, marked ____. In my judgment the compensation of this position should be in a range from $1200, to $1500.

OCT -8 1928, 1928 (Date) — J. S. CONWAY (Signature of head of bureau or his representative) — Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses. (Title)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1923

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

Frank J. Ponte
(Name)

Mass
(Legal Residence)

STATUS

11—8940

DESIGNATION	ACTION	SALARY	2d. BUREAU—SERVICE—STATION	DATE OF EFFECT
Keeper	Prob.	1080	LH.—Boston, L.S. Mass	Nov. 9, 1925
" Lab	Prom.	1140	" " " "	Sept. 19, 1926
"	Transfer	1080	" Bakers 2d L.S.	May 1, 1928.
"	COMPENSATION Act. May 28, 1928.	1200	" " " "	JUL 1 1928
"	Dismissed — Oct. 15, 1928.			

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

EJC-RMC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 OCT 15 AM 9 24

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

October 13, 1928.

CHIEF CLERK
1928 OCT 17 AM 10 32

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Frank J. Ponte, dismissal from Lighthouse Service.

Reference: Notice of Dismissal dated October 6, 1928.

1. The Bureau is advised that the effective date of dismissal in the case of Frank J. Ponte, Assistant Keeper at Bakers Island Light Station, is October 15, 1928.

10-17-28

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
ENTERED
2068
OCT 20 1928
ON JOURNAL
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Superintendent.

EJC

CARDEL

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
OCT 16 1928

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information

H. B. Bowerman
Commissioner of Lighthouses
Acting

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

WASHINGTON

October 6, 1928.

Mr. Frank J. Ponte,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

Having been charged with neglect of duty and disobedience of orders and having been found asleep while on watch and such charges having been substantiated in a degree sufficient to warrant such action, the Department, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, has dismissed you from the position of Keeper at $1200 per annum at Bakers Island Light Station, Massachusetts, effective at the close of business on a date later to be determined and reported to the Department.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

OCT 9 1928

[illegible] L. GARDNER

Chief of Appointment Division.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

October 3, 1928.

Memorandum for Mr. Libbey

The attached recommendation from the Bureau of Lighthouses for the dismissal of Frank J. Ponte, Assistant Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station, is made by reason of his neglect of duty and disobedience of orders in that he was absent from the station during his watch and on other occasions was found asleep on watch. It also appears that he has conducted himself in a manner unbecoming an Assistant Keeper. The charges are considered sufficient to warrant the action recommended by the Bureau.

Chief of Appointment Division.

Enclosure
D-G

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

GEE-HL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SEP 26 1928
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 SEP 20 PM 3 42

September 19, 1928

CHIEF CLERK
1928 SEP 25 PM 2 47

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Subject: Frank J. Ponte, Assistant Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station, charges preferred.

1. Reference is made to Superintendent's letter of August 15, recommending that the Bureau send a letter of reprimand to the above employee, and to which no reply has as yet been received.

2. Forwarded herewith is further correspondence in the case of Ponte, reporting that on the evening of September 10, the keeper of Bakers Island Light Station found him asleep on watch, and Ponte's answer to this charge.

3. In view of this repeated offense and of the charges previously preferred against this man, as forwarded by our letter of August 15, it is recommended that he be dismissed from the Service, the Bureau to determine the effective date of dismissal.

4. Recommendation for dismissal of Frank J. Ponte is not in violation of section 2 of Civil Service Rule I, relative to political or religious opinions or affiliations of the employee.

Eaton

Superintendent.

1 incl.
RLC:EMF Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C., September 24, 1928.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce recommending the dismissal of Keeper Ponte, effective on a date later to be determined and reported. It is further recommended that inclosed Department letter of August 30, approving the Bureau's recommendation of August 22 for reprimanding Keeper Ponte, be cancelled.

Action O. K.

Chief Clerk

J.S. CONWAY

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

1928 AUG 31 PM 3 09
LIGHTHOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 1928.

The Commissioner of Lighthouses:

For the reasons stated in the Second Superintendent's letter of August 15, 1928, the Department has approved the Bureau's recommendation of August 22 that a strong letter of reprimand be addressed to Frank J. Ponte, keeper at $1200 per annum of Bakers Island Light Station, Massachusetts. It is understood that the Department will be furnished a copy of the Bureau's letter to Mr. Ponte.

By direction of the Secretary:

Chief of Appointment Division.

A-G /

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES
SEP 19 1928
2nd DIST. CHELSEA, MASS.
1928 SEP 20 PM 3 43

SECOND DISTRICT

Baker's Island Lt. Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Sept 17, 1928.

Insp.
1st Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Draftsman
Junior Engr.
1st Clerk
2nd Clerk
3rd Clerk
4th Clerk
5th Clerk
Messenger
Depot Kpr.

To Be sent the Inspector to keep record

Superintendent of Lighthouses—

Sir—

Through The Keeper.

In answer to the letter I recieved about light stopped revolving the night of Sept 10. All I can say is that it is impossible for a man to sit down in a chair in the signal house for six hours without dozing off some time on account of the oil fumes in there. That' why the Keeper made me stand my watch in there, while he staid in his quarters. He has come around three or four times to see if I was asleep. He Knew that having nothing to occupy my mind, such as reading or listening to the radio or talking with my wife, that I might fall asleep some time, so as he could have some charge against me, because he has a grudge against me and want's to have me dismissed. But now that I stay in my quarters I Know nothing like that can happen. The reason a copy of this letter should not go to the commissioner is because the Keeper is to blame for making me stand my watch in the Signal house for no reason at all.

Respectfully Yours.
Frank J. Ponte. Asst Keeper.

Payne
Keeper

COPY-HL

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

EJC-HL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

September 12, 1928

F.J.Ponte, Asst. Keeper,
Bakers Island Light Station,
(Through the Keeper)

1. Attached herewith is copy of letter from the keeper, Bakers Island Light Station, for your information and to report at once by letter to this office, in regard to same; also advise if there is any reason why a copy of this letter should not be forwarded to theCommissioner of Lighthouses with recommendation for your dismissal from the Lighthouse Service.

/s/ Eaton
Superintendent.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Supt. ✓
1st Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Draftsman
Junior Engr.
1st Clerk
2nd Clerk
3rd Clerk
4th Clerk
5th Clerk
Messenger
Boot Kpr.

SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES
SEP
13
1928
2nd DIST. CHELSEA, MASS.

SECOND DISTRICT

Bakers Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

September 11, 1928

Superintendent of Lighthouses
Chelsea. Mass.

September 10, 1928. - Light stopped revolving at 8.55 p.m. At 9.15 p.m. Asst had not got it revolving. Keeper got out of bed, went up in weight box. cleared cable of twists and had light revolving - went to Signal house after Asst. Keeper Porter, found him stretched out in a chair and a box. asleep.

Payne
Keeper

August 29, 1928.

The Commissioner of Lighthouses:

For the reasons stated in the Second Superintendent's letter of August 15, 1928, the Department has approved the Bureau's recommendation of August 22 that a strong letter of reprimand be addressed to Frank J. Ponte, keeper at $1200 per annum of Bakers Island Light Station, Massachusetts. It is understood that the Department will be furnished a copy of the Bureau's letter to Mr. Ponte.

By direction of the Secretary:

AUG 31 1928

Chief of Appointment Division.

A-G

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.
SEE-EJC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

CHIEF CLERK
1928 AUG 23 PM 2 23

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 AUG 17 PM 12 11

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2ND DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

August 15th, 1928.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Subject: Frank J. Ponte, Assistant Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station, charges preferred.

1. Herewith are copies of charges preferred against the above employee and his answers thereto, together with copies of letters from Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station, dated August 14, 1928, lettered "A", and copies of letters in regard to former trouble with this man while serving as Assistant Keeper at Boston Light Station, lettered "B".

2. Although the charges are proven in all respects, I am under the impression that if Mr. Ponte was sent a strong letter of reprimand by the Bureau, it would suffice for the time being, as it is my intention to transfer him at a later date to some other less desirable station for the best interests of the Service.

3. Although the offenses charged and proven warrant dismissal, in view of the frankness of his answers, which is commendatory, and in view of my intention to transfer him to a less desirable station, recommendation is made as above, namely, that strong letter of reprimand be issued by the Bureau advising Ponte that he will be given another chance but that he will be transferred as stated above; also if his services are then reported as not being satisfactory and any trouble is experienced, he will be dismissed.

4. The Superintendent however has no objection to his dismissal at this time if the Bureau considers that this action is warranted.

ACTION TAKEN
1928
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Superintendent.

RLC:EMF Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C., August 22, 1928.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce recommending paragraph three for approval, the Bureau concurring with the Superintendent's recommendation. A copy of Bureau letter of reprimand will be furnished the Department.

H. B. Bowerman
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Action O. K.
Chief Clerk

"A"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.
GEE-HL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.
August 6, 1928

REGISTERED MAIL

1928 AUG 17 PM 12 LIGHTHOUSES

Frank J. Ponte,
Asst. Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station:
(Through the Keeper)

Subject: Charges.

1. The following specifications and charges are preferred against you and you will be allowed a period of three days to answer same.

Charge 1. Neglect of Duty, and Disobedience of Orders.

Specification 1. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, while on the mid-watch of the morning of May 29, 1928, did not maintain proper watch, as he did not start fog signal when necessary so to do, it being necessary for the keeper, who was awakened, to start signal.

Specification 2. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did go to sleep while on watch on July 7, 1928, and fail to call the principal keeper until 1.15 A.M., a period of about one and one-half hours late.

Specification 3. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did on July 15, 1928, leave his station and duty during his watch, after lighting up, and was absent therefrom for a period of fifteen minutes, from 8.55 P.M. to 9.10 P.M., leaving the station unattended.

Specification 4. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did, on July 16, 1928, after receiving definite instructions from the principal keeper that "hereafter he would stand his watch in the signal house or nearby the tower" neglect to heed such instructions and after lighting up at 7.30 P.M. went directly to his quarters remaining therein until 8.05 p.m.

Specification 5. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did, on July 17, 1928, disregard the instructions as specified in specification 4, that he again went directly to his quarters at 7.30 p.m., after lighting up and did not return to his watch and stand until 8.20 p.m.

Specification 6. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did, on July 18, 1928, disregard the instructions as specified in specification 4, that he again went directly to his quarters at 7.30 p.m., after lighting up, and did not return to his watch at the signal house until 7.50 p.m.

Charge 2. Conduct unbecoming Assistant Keeper and official of the Lighthouse Service.

Specification 1. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, did, immediately upon arrival at Bakers Island Light Station, on May 2, 1928, refer to his former keeper, the Keeper of Boston Light Station, in an uncomplimentary manner, using vile and profane language towards him, threatening to do him bodily harm, etc., all in the hearing of the Keeper of Bakers Island Light Station; this to the great detriment of discipline, etc., in the Lighthouse Service.

Specification 2. In that the said Frank J. Ponte, assistant keeper Lighthouse Service, attached to, and serving at Bakers Island Light Station, since his assignment to the position or Assistant Keeper of Bakers Island Light Station, on or about May 2, 1928, has failed to maintain and uphold the high degree of promptness expectedof an assistant keeper, showing a disposition to antagonize his senior officer, all to the detriment of the efficiency of the Lighthouse Service.

2. You are granted the above period of three days, in order to answer fully to charges, and to show reasons why you should not be dismissed from the Lighthouse Service.

[signature]

SATON
Superintendent.

"A"

COPY-HL

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND DISTRICT

Bakers Island Lt. Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Aug. 8, 1928, 192

1928 AUG 17 PM 12-12 LIGHTHOUSES

Superintendent of Lighthouses

Sir:

Through the Keeper

In answer to charges against me received August 7, 1928.

Specification 1. While on the mid watch of the morning of May 29, I did keep a good watch. But being a new Asst. here and having never seen the lights lit in the signal house and not knowing that they were lit, I mistook them for the lights ashore concluding that the weather was clear.

Specification 2. The Keeper knew that I slept on watch, when the weather was clear and when the light was running good, for periods of 30 to 45 minutes and he told me it was alright. And I knew that the Keeper slept on watch, so I thought I could do the same thing. But the night July 7, I went to sleep I set my alarm clock at 11.15 P.M. for 12 mid. and it failed to go off that's how I called the Keeper late or at 1.15 A.M. The Keeper has called me a few times at 12.45 A.M. or 45 minutes late. But I don't remember the dates.

Specification 3. I did take a little walk with my wife from the station, but I could see the light all the time and if it went bad I could have got to it in a few minutes, so I consider myself on duty at the time.

Specification 4. On July 16 After receiving instructions from the Keeper to stand my watch in the signal house or near the tower, I did go to my quarters for my searchlight and sweater and had a little lunch and did a few odd jobs for my wife, she having the three government carpenters to feed which was a lot of extra work for her, having two small babies to take care of.

Specification 5. On July 17, I did go to my quarters for my searchlight and sweater and had a little lunch and did a few odd jobs for my wife, she having the three government carpenters to feed which was a lot of extra work for her, having two small babies to take care of.

Specification 6. On July 18 I did go to my quarters after lighting up for my searchlight and sweater and had a little lunch and did a few odd jobs for my wife, she having the three government carpenters to feed which was a lot of extra work for her, having two small babies to take care of.

Charge 2. Specification 1. The Keeper at Boston Light did treat me dirty and was responsible for me having to move from Boston Light. He knew that wife was going to give birth to a child in two weeks and only giving me four days to pack my furniture with my wife in that condition. That's why I did

"A"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND DISTRICT

Bakers Island Lt. Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Aug. 8, 1928, 192

say that I'd fix him if anything happened to my wife. And I was made to come to Bakers Island when it wasn't on my list for a transfer because Mr. Lee the Chief Clerk had crossed it off last fall. The Keeper here has also referred to his former Assts. in an uncomplimentary manner to me.

Specification 2. I have done my best since I arrived at this station, working eight to ten hours a day and standing an eight hour watch at night with no chance to get a nap in the day time and getting only four to five hours sleep at night. The Keeper says I showed a disposition to antagonize him, but I never it was him who would always get sore for nothing at all and then he wouldn't speak to me for days at a time.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Frank J. Ponte.

Asst. Keeper.

/s/ Payne
Keeper

(COPY)
FJB

"A"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND DISTRICT

Bakers Island Lt. Station
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

August 14, 1928, 192

Superintendent of Lighthouses
Chelsea, Massachusetts.

1928 AUG 17 PM 12 12
LIGHTHOUSES

In the Superintendent's letter of August 10, you direct the Keeper of Bakers Island Light Station to make a statement covering the reply of the Assistant Keeper of this station to Specification 2, which statement follows:

The Keeper did not know that the Assistant slept on watch and did not tell the Assistant that it was alright to do so. The Assistant's statement to this effect is false. The Keeper cannot understand how the Assistant can make the statement that he knew the Keeper slept on his watch as the Keeper has always kept a strict and vigilant watch. Even when the Keeper was here for several weeks without as assistant, the watch was maintained at all times.

To the best of the Keeper's knowledge he has called the Assistant on time with the exception of one or two times when the Keeper was in the tower at twelve o'clock working on a bad lamp and did not call the Assistant until this had been adjusted.

The Keeper also wishes to say that it is his belief that the Assistant knows that his statements are false and that they were maliciously made to cover up the Assistant's delinquencies.

Respectfully,

/sig/ PAYNE
A. L. Payne
Keeper

(COPY-FJB)

"A"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND DISTRICT

Bakers Island Lt. Station
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

August 14, 1928, 192

Superintendent of Lighthouses
Chelsea, Massachusetts.

In reply to the Superintendent's letter of August 10, with en closure of a copy of the Assistant's letter, and complying with the Superintendents instructions to answer immediately:

The Keeper of Bakers Island Light Station has notified the Assistant of his intention of leaving the station with the exception of a few times when the Keeper has left early and the Assistant not being up has let him sleep and had the Keeper's wife notify him that the Keeper was off the station when he came on duty. It is evident that the Assistant has not appreciated this courtesy. The Assistant's statement that the Keeper left the station on June 10, without notifying him is a fabrication. The Keeper has witnesses who heard the Keeper giving instructions to the Assistant as to the work to be done and where he would find the station books. The Keeper also has a signed statement of a witness to the above. It is interesting to note that the Keeper left on June 10 as an accommodation to the assistant's mother in law. The Keeper cannot conceive how a normal intelligence could have a favor done in his immediate family with out being aware of the fact.

The Keeper has not used profane language to the assistant. As to the matter of taking the carpenters to board this was talked over and the assistant's wife said she was quite able and willing to take them. The Assistant still objected and was emphatically told to take them as the Keeper's wife (as usual) has had them for two weeks and it was his turn now/ .

The Keeper did tell the Assistant to turn in on the night of May 2, as he had just arrived and looked all in, and the Keeper would stand the watch. The watch was maintained all that night, properly, and the Assistant did not wake the Keeper up, as the Keeper was awake when the assistant called at the house.

The assistant's statement that the Keeper slept on watch, which he found out in this manner, is therefore a prevarication and it is the Keeper's belief that it was deliberate.

/sig/ PAYNE

Keeper

"B"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

Copy - GWC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND DISTRICT

Boston Light Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 25, 192 8.

Supt. of Lighthouses,

Chelsea, Mass.

1928 AUG 17 PM 12 12 LIGHTHOUSES

1. Subject; report of F.J. Ponte 1st Asst. Keeper as requested.

2. When being called 3 a m April 23/28 started to speak to him regarding poor light left first part of night, not giving me any chance to explain, I was accused of being a G - d - D-m liar and of being full of sh-t shouting and repeating same many times awakening my family, also that I had nothing to say about his being here, was here before me and I could have nothing to say about his going.

/sig/ BABCOCK Keeper.

(COPY-GWC)

"B"

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND DISTRICT

Baker's Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

May 6, 1928.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

Chelsea, Mass.

Through Keeper:

When I called Mr. Babcock at 3 A.M. April 23/28, he told me that I was careless and that I left a poor light, and he started to shout at me and told me that he would have me suspended. All he has against me is a personal grudge. Because I lit up that night and the light was perfect, and when I turned the watch over to Mr. Lane at 7.00 P.M. it was perfect. What right has he to blame me for the light going bad at 8.15 P.M. I was'nt on watch, Mr. Lane was on watch. And I can prove it by Mr. Lane himself, because he told me himself that the light was running good at 7.00 P.M. I called him a liar when he told me that I left a poor light, because I did not leave a poor light. And he told me that he would have me suspended without pay, and thats' when I told him that Supt. Eaton hired me and he was the one who could suspend me. I don't see how Mr. Babcock could blame me, because the light went bad on another man's watch. I was off duty at the time. I never did leave a poor light for another man since I've been in the service.

Frank J. Ponte.

Asst. Keeper.

Bakers Island L. H.

Payne
Keeper.

"B"

(COPY)

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND DISTRICT

Boston Light Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

May 12, 1928

Supt. of Lighthouses,

Chelsea, Mass.

1 In reply to letter dated May 7/28, Subject:- reply to letter from F.J.Ponte former 1st Asst. Keeper at this Station.

2 I did accuse Mr. Ponte of leaving bad light on night of April 22/28 and changed vaporizer myself, lights being out from 8:45 p.m. to 9:05 a.m. being the second time this happened within a month, with his light up.

3 No matter who relieves him of his watch I don't consider such trouble necessary, if a light is in good condition on the start, the shouting he speaks of being done, by himself.

4 By the book of instructions I consider I have had the right to suspend Mr. Ponte on several occasions, but only remember of making the threat when he threatened to give me a pair of black eyes the morning after the investigation of Aug. 1927.

5 I have no personal grudge against Mr. Ponte and did every thing in my power to instruct and help him for his own good, also the good of the service.

6 His argument has always been that the fault was in the apparatus and not himself, under the conditions I could never reason with him as he refused to listen and showed insolence in many cases.

7 The watches on night in question were as follows:

"B"

(COPY) Page 2.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE
SECOND DISTRICT

(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

....., 192

Ponte 1st Asst. 12 noon to 7 p.m.

Lane 2nd " 7 p.m. to 12 md.

Ponte 1st " 12 md. to 3 a.m.

Babcock Keeper 3 a.m. to 7 a.m.

(signed) BABCOCK, Keeper

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

July 1, 1928.

Mr. Frank J. Ponto,

Through the Chief, Bureau of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that under the Welch Act your compensation has been changed as indicated below, effective July 1, 1928.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

EDW. J. GARDNER,

Chief of Appointment Division.

From: $1080

To: $1200

11—9564

2

CARDED

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
JUL 2
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
1928 JUN 6 PM 4 02

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
JUN 12 1928
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

GEE-HL

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
37 MARGINAL STREET
CHELSEA, MASS.

June 5, 1928

REC'D JUN 9 1928

Letter of Caution

CHIEF CLERK
5
1928 JUN 8 PM 3 38

Frank J. Ponte,
Asst. Keeper, Bakers Island Light Station:
(Through the Keeper)

1. Referring to complaints made against you by your former senior, keeper of Boston Light Station, as to inefficiency in maintaining the light and to your general conduct as assistant keeper, and especially to the language used by you when your attention was called to the above infractions of the Regulations, you are hereby cautioned against repetition of such actions.

2. Your present senior has been instructed to report to this office as to your general conduct and ability and you are warned that a repetition of occurrences at the Boston Light will lead to preferring of charges against you.

3. You should at all times be governed by Instructions to Employees as to the proper manner of conduct and carrying out the duties of an assistant keeper and complying strictly with the spirit of the Regulations.

4. This letter has been made a part of your official record, a copy of same being forwarded to the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

EATON
Superintendent.

CARDED

COPY FOR COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
JUN 7 - 1928

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information

N. B. Bowlsman

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Form A-38

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

WASHINGTON

April 27, 1928.

M r. Frank J. Ponte,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that your compensation has been changed as indicated below, effective May 1, 1928.

No new appointment will be issued to you as a result of this change, and an oath of office is not required.

By direction of the Secretary.

Respectfully,

EDW. J. GARDNER

MAY 4 - 1928

Acting Chief of Appointment Division.

From: $1140 per annum.

To: $1080 per annum.

Service and grade: Field.

Appropriation (unit):

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED MAY 5 1928 1888 ON JOURNAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

C
2

CARDED

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 11—9051

Form 73
TAL-RMC

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1928 APR 27 AM 10 45 CHIEF CLERK

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, Second DISTRICT,

LIGHTHOUSES

Chelsea, Mass., April 24, 1928
(City.) (Date.)

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

1928 APR 25 AM 11 58

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE APR 27 1928 APPOINTMENT DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MAY 2 1928 APPOINTMENT DIVISION

Action recommended, Transfer and reduction in salary.

Name, Frank J. Ponte — Request

Legal residence, Massachusetts

Position, (Assistant) Keeper — 2 Rpr Stas - Quarters

Salary, $1080 per annum. ($1080-1440)

Location, Bakers Island Light Station.

Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses. Such

Effective May 1, 1928.

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

3 Typ Stas - quarters

Former position, (1st Assistant) Keeper

Former salary, $1140 per annum. ($1140-1500)

Location, Boston Light Station.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN APR 4 - 1928

Previous incumbent, Harold L. Havender 1080 Services terminated April 30, 1928.

Reason, Resigned.

Members of family in Government Service, None

Date of birth, October 18, 1899.

Remarks: A letter from Mr. Ponte indicating his desire for transfer to this position, which involves a reduction in pay, is enclosed. Action recommended is not in violation of Section 2, Civil Service Rule I. Quarters are provided for families of keepers at this station. Mr. Ponte entered on duty prior to receipt of Department authority as this case was considered an emergency involving the protection of life and property.

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

Direct.

Secretary, *Civil Service District.*

Superintendent.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

APR 25 1928

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

8/2-28
4-27-28

Action O. K.

Chief Clerk

O. S. CONWAY
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses

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

11—2314

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHELSEA, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SECOND DISTRICT

Boston Light.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Aug 20, 1927.

Supt.
1st Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Draftsman
Junior Engr.
1st Clerk
2nd Clerk
3rd Clerk
4th Clerk
5th Clerk
Messenger
Depot Kpr.

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES 2ND DIST. CHELSEA, MASS. AUG 26 1927

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Sir —,

In regard to the recent circular letter recieved requesting a list of desired stations for a transfer. I submit the following:

✓ Eastern Point.	Keeper.
✓ Baker's Island.	1st. Asst.
✓ Gurnet Light.	1st. Asst.
✓ Cape Cod light.	1st. Asst.
✓ Chatham light.	Keeper.
✓ Nobska Point.	1st. Asst.
✓ Palmer Island.	Keeper.

Respectfully Your's,
Frank J. Ponte.
1st. Asst.

Form A-21

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SALARY
KEEPERS—LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

September 25, 1926.

Mr. Frank J. Ponte,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that your salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service has been changed from $1080 per annum to $1140 per annum, effective September 19, 1926.

No new appointment will be issued to you as a result of this change, and an oath of office is not required.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

WM. J. GAYNOR

Acting Chief of Appointment Division.

11—8074 GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

SEP 27 1926

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED SEP 27 1926 ON JOURNAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

P.

2.

CARDED

Form 73

GEE-EJC

LIGHTHOUSES

1926 SEP 23 PM 3 44

1926 SEP 24 PM 4 08

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, Second DISTRICT,

Chelsea, Mass., (City.) September 20th (Date.), 1926.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SEP 27 APPOINTMENT DIVISION

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SEP 28 1926 APPOINTMENT DIVISION

Action recommended, Promotion

Name, Frank J. Ponte Legal residence, Massachusetts.

Position, (First Assistant) Keeper Salary, $1140 per annum (1140-1360)

Location, Boston Light Station, Mass. Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective September 19, 1926. {'the actual date of entrance on duty, or ~~as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.~~

Former position, (Second Assistant) Keeper Former salary, $1080 per annum (1080-1320)

Location, Boston Light Station, Mass.

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

Previous incumbent, John E. Poyner 1200 Services terminated, September 18, 1926.

Reason, Resigned.

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Date of birth, October 18, 1899.

Remarks: Mr. Ponte entered on duty prior to receipt of Department authority as this case was considered an emergency involving the protection of life and property. Mr. Mr. Ponte is a capable employee and deserving of this promotion.

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

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN SEP 27 1926 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Secretary, Civil Service District. Superintendent.

8/9-25-26

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON

SEP 24 1926

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

APPROVED:

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply

11—2314

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REPORT ON PROBATIONARY APPOINTEE.
(This report to be made at expiration of fifth month of service.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APR 13 1926
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

CHIEF CLERK
1926 APR 12 PM 3 26

5

LIGHTHOUSES
1926 APR 10 PM 3 50

Lighthouse Service, 2nd Dist.,
(Bureau)

April 9, 1926.
(Date)

The Secretary of Commerce,
(The Chief of Appointment Division):

The probationary period of the person named below expires at the close of business on May 8th, 1926.

The conduct and capacity of this employee have been _____satisfactory* during the probationary period, and (he) ~~(she)~~ is _____ considered qualified for absolute appointment.

Name Frank J. Ponte,

Position Second Assistant Keeper

Salary $1080 per annum

Appropriation Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

Station Boston Light Station

Date of entrance on duty November 9, 1925.

Remarks:

James L. Hart.
(Signature of immediate superior.)
Keeper, Boston Light Station.

SUBMITTED:

Geo E Eaton
(Head of Bureau or Office.)
Superintendent.

(*If unsatisfactory, recommendation for discontinuance under the provisions of paragraph (c) of section 1 of civil service rule VII, should immediately be forwarded to the Department.)

EK
SUBMITTED: APR 12 1926

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

STANDARD FORM NO. 6
(Approved by the President March 28, 1924)

LIGHTHOUSES

PERSONAL HISTORY

(Statement to be prepared by appointee in his own handwriting)

1925 NOV 11 PM 12 22 CLERK
1925 NOV 17 AM 11 32

Bureau, division, or office Lighthouse Service 2nd District

1. Name in full Frank James Ponte.

2. Legal (voting) residence Mass. 10th Res (State and Congressional District) Bristol (County) New Bedford (City or town)

3. Where born? Mass. (State or foreign country) New Bedford (City or town) When born? Oct 18, 1899. (Date)

4. If foreign, state whether naturalized or alien A

5. Indicate sex, marital condition, and race by check, thus: √

SEX		MARITAL CONDITION				RACE. (If other, state which)		
Male √	Female	Single	Married √	Divorced	Widowed	White √	Colored	

6. A complete record of your past civil service for the United States Government:

BRANCH OF SERVICE AND PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	POSITION	SALARY	DATE APPOINTED			DATE SEPARATED		
			Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year
None.								

CARDED

7. Military and naval record. If any, check (√) to indicate branch and other information and give dates of enlistment and discharge:

None	Army	Navy	Marine Corps	Coast Guard √	War Veteran	Pensioner	Veterans' Bureau beneficiary

Enlisted Jan 25, 1924. Discharged Jan 25, 1925. Enlisted ____ Discharged ____

Organization ____ Organization ____

8. EDUCATION (Circle number of years)

Common school								High school				College				Degrees, if any
1	2	3	4	5	6	(7)	8	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	

9. State special qualifications ____

10. Name, relationship, and address of person to be notified in case of emergency:

Mr. Joseph Ponte. (Name) Father. (Relationship)

211 So. Second St. (Post office address) New Bedford.

DEPARTMENT OF
NO 28
DIVISION

I certify that the foregoing answers are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Frank J. Ponte.
(Name as usually written and which will be used as official signature)

Nov. 9, 1925. (Date)

Present address 211 So. Second St New Bedford, Mass.

10—1659

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

CHIEF CLERK 1925 NOV 11 PM 5
LIGHTHOUSES 3
38
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NOV 12 1925 ACCOUNTMENT DIVISION
1925 NOV 11 PM 12 22

I, Frank J. Ponte +

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.

☞ Frank J. Ponte.
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 9th day of November, A. D. 19 25.

(Affix official seal here)

[4](Name) E. W. Lawyer

(Official title) Chief Clerk.

My commission expires

CARDED

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present 2nd Asst. Keeper	$1080 per annum	Boston Light Station, Mass.
Former[5]		

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

Office of Superintendent of Lighthouses, Second District

Boston, Mass., (Address) November 9th, 1925. (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on November 9th, 1925. (Date)

Fred Reeton
(Signature, followed by title)
Superintendent.

[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 on or after the effective 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 superintendent of lighthouses 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 superintendent of lighthouses 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.

C. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 11—944

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
BOSTON, MASS.
GEE-EJC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

CHIEF CLERK

1925 DEC 1 PM 4 3

LIGHTHOUSES

1925 NOV 28 PM 3 55

5

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 2D DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
BOSTON, MASS.

November 27th, 1925.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Appointment certificate, Frank J. Ponte, Keeper, (2nd Dist.)
Boston, L.S.

Reference: Bureau's endorsement Nov. 23, on Appointment Division Letter, Nov. 20, 1925.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE APPOINTMENT DIVISION DEC 2 1925

Returned herewith is Certificate of Probationary Appointment of Frank J. Ponte as Keeper at $1080 per annum, in this district, for insertion of effective date (November 9, 1925).

CARDED

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DEC 2 1925 ACTION TAKEN

Superintendent.

EK
Incl.

- - - - - -

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.
December 1, 1925.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce in accordance with Department letter of November 20, 1925, in the matter.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION DEC 5 1925 ON JOURNAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

12-2-25 B

040

NOT TO BE ACCEPTED AS AUT[redacted] FOR INVESTIGATION OPERATIONS UNLESS ACCOM[redacted] BY OFFICIAL CREDENTIALS

CERTIFICATE OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

November 13, 1925.

Mr. Frank J. Ponte,

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 One Thousand and Eighty dollars per annum, effective on the date on which you entered upon duty in the above-mentioned position. (November 9, 1925)

By selection from certificate of eligibles (No. .....) issued by the Secretary, First Civil Service District.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED NOV 16 1925 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

CARDED

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation: Such appropriation to which under the provisions of Section 5678, R. S., the duties performed may be properly chargeable.

Vice: John E. Poyner.

Legal Residence: Massachusetts.

Form A-14 (See reverse side.) 11—5950

CARDED

November 20, 1925.

Chief Clerk, Bureau of Lighthouses:

It is requested that the probationary appointment certificate issued to Frank J. Ponte as Keeper at $1080 per annum in the Second District be returned in order that the effective date (November 9, 1925) may be inserted therein.

By direction of the Secretary:

EDW. J. GARDNER

Acting Chief of Appointment Division.

C

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES 1925 NOV 12 PM 3 36

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, Second DISTRICT.

Boston, Mass., (City.) November 9th 1925. (Date.)

CHIEF CLERK NOV 13 11 37

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Probationary appointment.

Name, Frank J. Ponte — Legal residence, Massachusetts.

Position, (Second Assistant) Keeper — Salary, $1080 per annum (1080-1320)

Location, Boston Light Station, Mass. — Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective November 9th, 1925. — {'the actual date of entrance on duty, ~~or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.~~

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

Location, ---

Rank on eligible list, 1 — Rating, Asst. Light-house Keeper (Station with quarters) — Percentage, 97 — , Other eligibles considered:

Bruce Newton, D; Harry N. Larrabee, FR; F.M. Freitas, C; W.E. Wheeler, C.

Previous incumbent, John E. Poyner — Services terminated, October 31, 1925.

Reason, Promoted.

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Date of birth, October 18, 1899.

Remarks: Mr. Ponte entered on duty prior to receipt of Department authority as this case was considered an emergency involving the protection of life and property. He appeared at this office and showed clear record in previous employment. He served in the U. S. Coast Guard from January 25, 1924 to January 25, 1925. Quarters are provided at this station for families of keepers.

Selection regular, ~~subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission~~, NOV 11 1925, 19

Harry A. Dutton
H. A. Dutton
Acting Secretary, First Civil Service District.

For and in the absence of the Superintendent. E W Sawyer
Chief Clerk.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

NOV 12 1925

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

J Dewey
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

P 11-13-25

¹Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314