FEB 10 2025 AM09:12

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

Date: 1/28/2025

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
Powell, Jessie E.		

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: KNFGBB

CIVILIAN SERVICE

(Agency & Location): Lighthouse Service
From: To:

(Agency & Location): Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse, FL
From: 5/11/1919 To: 9/16/1920

(Agency & Location)
From: To:

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

This Space Intentionally Left Blank

STAFF USE ONLY

Appointment Time and Date:

Additional Researchers: ☐ Yes ☐ No

CMRS Service Request Number: 2-305883740 40

Attendant Signature:

CMRS Search Request Number(s):

Remarks:

'25 FEB 26 PM12:13:56

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:

1042

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE/LIFESAVING SERVICE—RECORDS CHECKED

Employee Name: POWELL, JESSIE L **DOB:** 2/17/1884

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: _____

Jesse E. Powell

Jesse E. Powell

LEGAL RESIDENCE
Florida

INACTIVE

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SALARY	BUREAU OR OFFICE	DATE OF EFFECT OF ACTION AUTHORIZED
Keeper Hillsboro Inlet Fla.	660	L.H.	May 11, 1919
" " " "	$720	"	Nov. 20, 1919.
Suspended from charges not exc 90 days etc.			
Dismissed close Sept 16, 1920.			

INACTIVE

11—1248

Form 73 ·EMK

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
OFFICE OF ~~LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR~~ 6th DISTRICT.

Charleston, S. C., April 19, 1919.
(City.) (Date.)

APPOINTMENTS 1919 APR 29 AM 10 CHIEF CLERK

1919 APR 29 AM 9

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Probationary appointment.

Name, Jesse E. Powell. Legal residence, Florida.

Position, Keeper Salary, $660 per annum, base.

Location, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla. Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective May 11, 1919, {~~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, 2d Rating, Asst. Kpr. Percentage, 83.20, Other eligibles considered:

Edward H. Moessner (D), Julian N. Youmans (C)

Previous incumbent, Robert Niven (temporary) Services will terminated At the close of May 10, 1919, or thereabouts.

Reason, Expiration of temporary appointment.

Members of family in Government Service, None
Quarters are provided by the Government.
Remarks: The only eligible on the list ahead of Powell wishes consideration only for Mosquito Inlet Light Station, Fla., and not before May 1, 1919.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, APR 25 1919, ~~191~~

J. M. Weiss
ACTING Secretary, Fifth Civil Service District.

O. K. Beck
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

APR 28 1919

1919 APR 28 PM 4 01

N. B. Bowerman
Acting Commissioner

APPOINTMENT DIVISION APR 29 1919 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

CERTIFICATE OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1919.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,

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 Six Hundred and Sixty dollars per annum, effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

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

By direction of the Secretary:

CARDED

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

D
G

Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Robert Nivius.

Legal Residence: Florida.

(See reverse side.)

6th

C. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

11—5080

APR 29 1919

MAY 19 1919 8 47 AM

5

LIGHT HOUSES MAY 19 1919

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

EMK

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

APPOINTMENTS MAY 19 1919

CHIEF CLERK

I, Jesse E. Powell,

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.

1919 MAY 18 PM 2 12

Jesse E Powell
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 14 day of May 14, A. D. 1919

(Affix official seal here)

DEERFIELD FLA. MAY 14 1919

[4] (Name) Mae E Shartle

(Official title) Postmaster

My commission expires

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present Keeper	$660.00 pa Base.	Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.
Former [5] ----	----	----

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

EMK

CARDED

Office of ~~Lighthouse Inspector~~ Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th District

Charleston, S.C., (Address) May 16, 1919. (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on May 11, 1919. (Date)

1919 MAY 19 AM 10 49

W. H. Beal
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

[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

C. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

1919 MAY 19 PM 2 55

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMEN
MAY 20 1919

LIGHT
MAY 19 1919
HOUSES

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.)

Mr. Jesse Everett Powell

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

Jesse E. Powell

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

Lighthouse (Bureau or Service.) Hillsboro Inlet Light Station Fla. (Place (city, town, station, or vessel).) 6th. (District.)

4. Position to which appointed Keeper (2nd. Asst)

5. Compensation $660.00 per annum, base.

6. Appropriation from which paid Sal. 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.)

From Asst. Kprs. examination, 6th Dist., April 10, 1919

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

Sebastion (City or town.) Fla. (State or Territory.) St. Lucie (County.) 4th (Congressional district.)

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

CARDED

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

11. Where were you born? Bronwood Ga

12. When were you born? February (Month.) 17th (Day.) 1884 (Year.) (1884)

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

14. What is your marital condition? Married

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

Mrs. Jesse E. Powell (Name.)

Sebastion (City or town.) Florida (Number and street. / State or Territory.)

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.)

No

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

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

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

No.

20. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during any war? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) Yes

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.
Co. "B" 305 Bn T.C	May 29/18	Feb. 14/19	War Dept. order

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.
Troop "F" 14. Cav.	Nov. 15/1905	Nov. 14th 1908	expiration of enlistment

22. Are you the widow or orphan of an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? Yes (If answer is "Yes," give the information called for by the blanks below.)

Relationship (widow or orphan) Orphan.

Name under which soldier or sailor rendered service Ambrose Clay Powell

Company and regiment, or vessel.	Date enlisted.
see note attached	

My Father was honorably discharged from the United States army at the close of the civil war. And

My Father was honorably discharged from the United States army at the close of the civil war. And I think in 1866, but do not know the date of his enlistment, discharge or the organization he served in but he drew a pention for many years and after he died my mother received pention which she draws at present time

Jesse E. Powell

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, 21.)

Gas engine mechanic and boat builder

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

High School

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

Mechanic

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

Asst Keepers. 6th Dist April 10. 1919

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, May 14, 1919.

Witness (in case signature is by mark):

(Signature) Jesse Edwin Powell

P. O. Address: Sebastian
City or town.

Number and street.

Florida
State or Territory.

X

(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.)

EMK

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded May 16, 1919.

Typewritten part filled in by this office.

(Signature) H. L. Beck

(Official title) Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th Dist.

Form 73

NOMINATION

EMK

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE
Superintendent of Lighthouses,
OFFICE OF ~~LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR~~, 6th DISTRICT.

LIGHT NOV 12 1919 HOUSES

Charleston,S.C., November 10 PM 4 55, 1919.
(City.) (Date.)

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Promotion

Name, Jesse E.Powell.

Legal residence, Florida.

Position, Keeper

Salary, $720.00 per annum,base.

Location, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station,Fla.

Appropriation, Salaries,Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective November 20,1919, {~~the actual date of entrance on duty,~~ or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Same

Former salary, $660.00 per annum,base.

Location, Same

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN NOV 18 1919 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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

Previous incumbent, Reinhard Heisser

Services will terminated, Close of November 15,1919, or thereabouts.

Reason, Transferred and promoted.

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Remarks: Quarters are provided by the Government.
Powell is the best qualified second assistant keeper at present available for promotion.
It is recommended that a notice of change in salary be issued to cover this promotion.

JOS 11/14/19.

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

H. L. Beck
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Secretary, Civil Service District.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

NOV 12 1919

1919 NOV 13 PM 3 58

Conway
Acting Commissioner

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

11—2314

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SALARY
KEEPERS -- LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

M

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

November 18, 1919.

r. Jesse E. Powell.

You are advised that your salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service has been changed from $ per annum to $ per annum, effective

Sir:

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

660. 720.

November 20, 1919, or as soon thereafter as you enter on duty at the increased rate of pay.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

CARDED

M
C
6th

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED NOV 18 1919 DEPT OF COMMERCE

U. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONSS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES

JAN 22 1920 9 AM

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
CHARLESTON, S. C.

EMK

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Advance.
Engr. Corps.
Mar. Engr.
Storekeeper
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Commr
Repair

LIGHT
JAN 22 1920
HOUSES

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6th DISTRICT
~~OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 6TH DISTRICT~~

CHARLESTON, S. C.
January 20, 1920.

1920 JAN 24 CHIEF CLERK
1920 JAN 23 PM 4 11

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Jesse E.Powell,1st Asst.Keeper.
Reference: Notice of Change in salary dated Nov.18,1919.

1. The above named employe entered upon duty as 1st assistant keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station November 20,1919, at a salary of $720 base per annum, having been promoted from the position of second assistant keeper at the same station, salary $660 base per annum.

H. L. Beck

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

CARDED
U. S. REPORTS
ENTERED

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

HLB-JFS

1920 SEP 20 AM 8 20

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

SECRETARY

Sept. 18, 1920.

1920 SEP 24 AM 11 57

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell.

Reference: My letter of September 17, 1920.

Inclosure: 1 - Copy of letter of Sept. 16, 1920, from Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.
2 - Copy of my letter of this date to Jesse E. Powell.

CHIEF CLERK

1920 SEP 23 PM 3 17

1. In view of the report submitted by Mr. Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, a copy ofwhich is inclosed, I now have to recommend that the resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell, First Assistant Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, be not accepted. It is evident that Mr. Powell left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station with the intention of not returning because of the fact that he took his family and his household goods with him. He left without due notice.

APPOINTMENTS

1920 SEP 23 PM 4 1

2. Inclosure 2 is a copy of my charges against Powell for having left the station without due notice and having offered his resignation on such short notice as to prevent action thereon by the Department.

H. C. Beck

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JEH-Hol.
Inclosures.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.
September 22, 1920.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information, and with recommendation that Jesse E. Powell, first assistant keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla., be suspended from duty and pay for a period not to exceed ninety days, effective September 16, 1920, pending action on charges preferred against him, in accordance with Regulations for the Lighthouse Service 1918, Art. 412.

1920 SEP 23 PM 1 22

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
NECESSARY
ACTION TAKEN
SEP 27 1920
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPROVED: 1920 SEP 24 PM 12 22

Secretary of Commerce.

9/24/20

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
CHARLESTON, S.C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6th DISTRICT

HLB-JFS

~~Office of Inspector, 6th District~~
CHARLESTON, S. C.

Sept. 18, 1920.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
First Assistant Keeper,
Hillsboro Inlet Light Station,
P.O. Box 395,
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

1. Mr. Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, reports that you left the station at 10:00 o'clock a.m., Sept. 16, 1920, on your house-boat with your family and household goods on board. He further reports that you notified him that you were leaving about thirty minutes before you left the station. It does not appear from the report that you requested the Keeper's permission to leave. After reaching Fort Lauderdale you telegraphed me as follows: "Please accept my resignation effective immediately." On Sept. 17, 1920. I replied to you as follows: "Consider yourself on leave without pay pending Department action your resignation." On account of the fact that when you left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station you took your family and household goods with you, it is evident that you left with the intention of not returning. Further proof that you left with the intention of not returning is the fact that you submitted your resignation after reaching Fort Lauderdale.

2. Paragraph 46 of Instructions to Employees of the U. S. Lighthouse Service, 1915, reads as follows : "Any person who leaves the service without due notice or offers his resignation and leaves the service without action thereon on such short notice as to cause embarrassment to the service shall be recommended for dismissal unless he can give satisfactory reasons for his action." You are hereby charged with having violated the regulation just quoted, and are given three days after receipt of this communication to state cause why I should not recommend your dismissal from the Lighthouse Service.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

September 16, 1920.

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th L.H.District,

Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sir:-

Jesse E. Powell, 1st Asst. Keeper, left his station at 10 o'clock A.M. September 16, 1920. He left on his house-boat with family and household goods on board.

Mr. Powell notified me that he was leaving about thirty minutes before he left station.

He gave me his address as follows; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Box 395.

Respectfully,

(Sgd) Thos. Knight,

Keeper.

September 27, 1920.

Sir:

In view of a report to the effect that you left the service without due notice in advance, the Department, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, has suspended you from duty as Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station at $720 per annum, for a period not to exceed ninety days, pending the disposal of formal charges that have been preferred against you.

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

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
Through the Commissioner
of Lighthouses.

P
C
6th

CARDED
APPOINTMENT BRANCH SUN
SEP 28 1920
DEPT. OF COMMERCE
REPORT DATA ENTERED
U. S.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HLB-JFS

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

Sept. 8, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Charges against Keeper Thomas Knight.

Inclosure:
(1) Copy of letter of Aug. 6, 1920, from Jesse E. Powell, 1st Asst. Keeper Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.
(2) Copy of my letter of Aug. 9, 1920, to Mr. Thomas Knight.
(3) Copy of Keeper Knight's letter of Aug. 12, 1920 denying charges.
(4) Copy of letter of Aug. 12, 1920, from Keeper Thomas Knight.
(5) Copy of telegram of Aug. 23, 1920, from Jesse E. Powell.

1. I inspected Hillsboro Inlet Light Station on Sept. 1, 1920, and while there made an investigation of the charges preferred against Keeper Thomas Knight by First Assistant Keeper Jesse E. Powell. I devoted about two hours to the investigation, and gave Mr. Powell an opportunity to talk a great deal and he took advantage of the opportunity. 2d Assistant Keeper Dossy M. Davis was called in as a witness during the course of the investigation.

2. It will be noted that Mr. Knight in his letter of August 12th made a general denial of the charges preferred against him. He could do no more at that time as the First Assistant Keeper's charges were general in the first instance and were not made specific until the time of the investigation. Mr. Knight did not know until that time what the charges were in detail.

3. At the investigation I considered separately each of the paragraphs of Instructions to Employees of the U. S. Lighthouse Service, 1915, which Mr. Powell claimed had been violated by Mr. Knight. I made no notes at the time and had no one with me who could do so. I find now upon attempting to advise the Bureau specifically wherein Mr. Powell claims certain paragraphs of instructions have been violated that in many instances his charges were so utterly trivial and inconsequential that I am unable to recall what they were. As to paragraph 8, I believe his charge was that the Keeper had permitted the United States flag to remain up on several occasions until after sun-down, when it was hauled down by the Keeper's son. Powell claimed that this showed a lack of patriotism on the part of the Keeper, and was a reflection on his personal character. Mr. Knight freely admitted that occasionally the flag had not been hauled down until after sun-set through oversight. As to paragraph 9, it was claimed by Powell that Mr. Knight was not familiar with the illuminating apparatus at the station and that when he requested certain information from the Keeper he was erroneously informed, but that later when he obtained a blueprint of the apparatus from the Keeper, after much difficulty, he obtained the correct information. As I recall the matter the question had reference to the proper method of dismantling the mercury float, something which probably would never be done by the keepers. Mr. Knight admitted that he gave the First Assistant an erroneous answer in the first place but that when he looked into it he saw at once how the apparatus should be dismantled, as any one else would who has any knowledge of such matters, and makes a proper investigation. He did not give the blueprint to the First Assistant when the latter first asked for it but did give it to him at his con-

venience. As to paragraph 34, Powell claims that the Keeper made a false entry in the station journal relative to the time that a boat grounded on the bar at the entrance to Mosquito Inlet. This was the boat which was later found by the keepers to be loaded with intoxicating liquors and was seized by First Assistant Keeper Powell. The entry in the journal states that the boat grounded on the bar at 5:00 p.m. First Assistant Keeper Powell and 2d Assistant Keeper Davis both claim that it was grounded on the bar some hours earlier. Keeper Knight stated that he was in his dwelling with his wife who was sick at the time, and that when he wrote up his journal he recorded the time when it was reported to him which was about 5:00 o'clock. I am inclined to the opinion that the boat did ground earlier than 5:00 o'clock, but the exact time is of no consequence. So far as I can see the Keeper could have had no object whatever in making a false entry, and I do not believe for an instant that he did so. It was also claimed in connection with this charge that the Keeper's second son, a boy about twelve years of age, was on the boat when it came into the Inlet. This fact was apparently cited as being a reflection on the Keeper's character. The facts appear to be that the boy was on the boat but without the Keeper's knowledge until some time after. It appears that when the boat grounded the boy went out to it as he would have gone to any other boat grounded on the bar. It is not at all probable that he had any knowledge whatever of the nature of the boat's cargo. As to paragraph 42, it was claimed that Keeper Knight had violated the game laws of the State of Florida, and Powell produced a marked copy of these game laws. He claimed that Mr. Knight had used a gill net in catching fish, a violation of the Florida game laws. Mr. Knight admitted having used a gill net but he stated that he did not know it was against the law at the time. As to paragraph 69, it was claimed that improper use had been made by the Keeper of gasoline and kerosene allowances. Much talk in this connection was indulged in by both the First Assistant Keeper and the 2d Assistant Keeper, but the charge was not substantiated. It was also claimed that the Keeper had permitted his brother who lives near by, to take a small quantity of dry red lead and also a small quantity of lime. The Keeper admitted having permitted his brother to take a small quantity of dry red lead to mix with some putty, also a small quantity of lime. He had also permitted his brother to use two scantlings which had been at the station for many years to construct a net rack. He knew perfectly well that it was technically wrong to permit this. In partial extenuation Mr. Knight stated that he had not infrequently paid for materials out of his own pocket for use at the light station, and this I believe to be a fact. Paragraphs 70 and 75 are covered by the foregoing remarks. As to paragraphs 121, 122 and 125, I did not find the charges substantiated. As to paragraph 130, I did not find any violation of it.

4. Mr. Powell's "specification 3" in his letter of August 6th, has been covered by the foregoing. His "specification 4" was not proved. The Keeper denies any knowledge of a conspiracy to chase the First Assistant Keeper away from the station, and states that he does not know of any parties in the neighborhood of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station who are directly or indirectly interested in smuggling.

5. At the beginning of the investigation I informed Mr. Powell and later I informed Mr. Davis, that I had known Keeper Knight for about five and a half years, and that I had never had occasion to doubt his word. He has been regarded as a very efficient keeper. He has never had any trouble with other subordinates to my knowledge, and furthermore employees still in the service who are now at other stations speak of him in the highest terms of praise. I informed Mr. Powell that he has been in the service only a comparatively short time, and that I have seen him only once before and have never before seen Mr. Davis. I told them that in case of a conflict in statements I would naturally be inclined to place the greater reliance on the word of the Keeper. Mr. Powell showed a disposition to catechise me in an effort to ascertain my attitude in regard to various questions. At the end of the investigation he asked me what con-

clusion I had reached. I replied that I was not disposed nor prepared to tell him all of my conclusions, but that one conclusion was that he held entirely too good an opinion of himself and was of the opinion that he would make a better keeper than Mr. Knight. This he emphatically denied and I told him that I was of the same opinion still. He is an imperfectly educated man who is very self important and opinionated. I believe that he will be a trouble maker any where. Mr. Charles Seabrook who is now Keeper at Jupiter Inlet Light Station, was Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station for a few months during the time that Powell has been First Assistant Keeper at the same station. Mr. Seabrook had difficulty in avoiding trouble with Powell and would be strongly opposed to having Powell assigned to duty under him again.

6.. This is a matter of opinion but I am thoroughly convinced that Powell and Davis have entered into a combination to give the same testimony relative to trumped up charges against the Keeper in an effort to have him discharged from the service, thinking that if this could be effected they would benefit thereby. In this respect they have undoubtedly violated paragraph 11 of Instructions to Employees. In my presence they treated Mr. Knight with contempt and were disrespectful to him in manner and deportment. With a look of the utmost fury on his face, Powell spoke to Mr.Knight in a sneering, contemptuous manner. When I asked Mr. Knight in the presence of 2d Assistant Keeper Davis who has been at the station only a few months, whether or not the latter performed his duties in a satisfactory manner, Mr. Knight replied that he did. Although Mr. Knight is an experienced keeper, Davis is a young man with only a few months experience in the Lighthouse Service, he turned to Mr. Knight and said that he could perform any work in connection with the station better and quicker than the Keeper himself could do it. He is a bumptious trouble maker. "Violation of this regulation will be cause for the dismissal of the offendant." I am also strongly of the opinion that Powell and Davis have violated paragraph 14 of Instructions to Employees by making false statements reflecting on the character and conduct of their superior. This also is considered cause for dismissal.

7. Relative to Powell's telegram stating that he had been compelled to take his children out of school, I found that such was not the case. A public school is being conducted at the station. The teacher told me that she did not know why Powell had taken his children out of school. He claimed that it was on account of treatment they had received at the hands of Keeper Knight's children and that when he spoke to Mr. Knight in regard to the matter he received no satisfaction. The fact remains that he was not compelled to take his children out of school, and his having sent such a telegram is enough to discredit his other statements.

8. Referring to Keeper Knight's letter of August 12th in which he claims that on July 27th Powell endeavored to induce him to sign a statement admitting the truth of certain charges promising not to prefer the charges if he would do so: I have to state that Powell denies the truth of Mr. Knight's statement and contends he only wanted him to sign a pledge to keep peace. This was a case where the testimony of the two men was in direct conflict and there was no way to verify the truth of either. I am of the opinion that Mr. Knight's statement is true and that the act of Powell in endeavoring to induce him to sign the statement as reported is another evidence of his duplicity.

9. I do not favor reprimands, transfers, or any other disciplinary measures except the dismissal from the Lighthouse Service of First Assistant Keeper Powell and 2d Assistant Keeper Dossy M. Davis. It seems hardly probable that the Bureau will feel inclined to recommend such drastic action to the Department when the reason for doing so would be based on the opinion of one person. I therefore have to recommend that before taking final action in the matter an independent investigation be made at the

station by the Superintendent on general duty or some Bureau official, or if none of these be available that the Superintendent of the Seventh District be furnished with a copy of Powell's charges against the Keeper and instructed to proceed to Hillsboro Inlet Light Station for the purpose of ascertaining the facts for reaching a conclusion. Action should be taken at a very early date as conditions at the station are almost intolerable for Mr. Knight.

H. L. Beck

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.,
Aug. 6, 1920.

From: Jesse E. Powell, 1st Asst. Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

To: Superintendent of Light Houses, Charleston, S. C.

Subject: Charges against Keeper, Mr. Thos. Knight and others.

Specification 1. Owing to the very unpleasant, unfair and antagonistic management of this station it becomes my unpleasant duty for the benefit of the service to prefer the following charges against the Keeper, Mr. Thos. Knight and others.

Specification 2. Besides the violation of paragraphs 2, 8, 9, 34, 42, 69, 70, 75, 121, 122, 125, 130 and others of "Instruction to Employees 1915" there is a tendency to antagonize the subordinates and their families especially by the Keepers family.

Specification 3. Supplies are not properly perpotioned or issued.

Specification 4. There exists a conspiracy to chace me away from this station by parties who are interested directly or indirectly in smuggling.

(Sgd) Jesse E. Powell
1st Asst. Keeper
Hillsboro Inlet Lt.Sta., Fla.

Through Keeper.
Thomas Knight
Keeper.

JFS (COPY)

HLB-EMK

August 9, 1920.

Mr. Thomas Knight,
Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station,.

Subject: Charges.
Inclosures: Copy of charges preferred to Mr. Jesse E. Powell.

1. As provided in "Instructions to Employees of the U.S.Lighthouse Service, 1915", paragraph 45, there is forwarded to you herewith a copy of charges preferred against you by Mr. Jesse E.Powell, 1st assistant keeper, dated August 6, 1920. You will be given three days after the receipt of this letter to prepare and mail to this office your written reply to these charges.

2. At a convenient time after the receipt of your reply I shall make a personal investigation of this matter at the station.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.
August 12, 1920.

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th L.H.District,
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sir:-

I herewith acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 9, 1920 - Subject, Charges. I am also in receipt of copy of Charges made against me by 1st Assistant Keeper, Jesse E. Powell.

I was threatened on July 27, 1920, by Mr. Powell with charges he expected to make against me as stated in letter on separate sheet.

In reply to charges made against me, - Specifications, 1,2,3 - I have managed this station and all work connected with it since October 16, 1919, just as I have managed it since I took charge of this station as Keeper on August 1, 1911, and as the keepers under whom I served as Assistant Keeper managed their station.

I respectfully ask that the 1st Assistant Keeper substantiate his charges. I do not understand wherein he is justified in making such charges.

Specification 4 - I am not aware of any conspiracy to chase the 1st Assistant Keeper away from this station, nor do I know of any parties in this neighborhood who are directly or indirectly interested in smuggling.

Respectfully,

(Sgd) Thos. Knight

Keeper.

JFS (COPY)

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.
August 12, 1920.

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th L.H.District,
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sir:-

In the forenoon of Tuesday, July 27, 1920, I was painting on my dwelling, when the 1st Asst. Keeper, Jesse E. Powell, came over and requested me to go up in watch-room with him. He said that he wanted to have a talk.

I went up with him. He stated that he had certain charges against me that would convict me if he filed them. If I would sign these charges stating that they were correct, he would not file them, otherwise he would be compelled todo so.

I did not read Charges, but I refused to sign them.

When we were coming down from watch-room he said, "I will not file these charges just yet."

Respectfully,

(Sgd) Thos. Knight,
Keeper.

(COPY) JFS

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

1588 J 19 6 EXTRA

FT'LAUDERDALE FLO 140P AUG 23 1920

SUPT OF LIGHT HOUSE

CHARLESTON SC

COMPELLED TO TAKE MY CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL TODAY WILL APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE ACTION

JESSE E POWELL

FIRST ASST KEEPER HILLSBORO INLET LIGHT

216P

COPY:LON

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HLB-JFS

Office of Superintendent
6th District,
Charleston, S.C.,

Sept. 17, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell.

Reference: My report of Sept. 8, 1920, on the subject of charges against Keeper Thomas Knight.

1. Jesse E. Powell is First Assistant Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Florida. I have heard nothing from Keeper Knight or either one of the assistant keepers at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station relative to conditions at that station since I visited it on Sept. 1, 1920, This morning I received a telegram from Jesse E. Powell dated Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Sept. 16, 1920, reading as follows: "Please accept my resignation effective immediately." I replied as follows: "Consider yourself on leave without pay pending Department action your resignation."

2. The simplest and easiest way to get rid of Powell who, in my opinion, is not at all a suitable person to be retained in the Lighthouse Service, would be perhaps to accept his resignation but I hesitate to recommend that it be accepted. In view of the present status of affairs at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and the nature of the report and recommendation made by me under date of Sept. 8, 1920, I can not recommend that Powell's resignation be accepted, but if in view of all the circumstances the Bureau deems it advisable to dispose of the matter by accepting his resignation I have no objection to offer. It is recommended that the Bureau advise this office promptly of its action with respect to this matter.

H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Fort Sauderdale Fla.
Sept 3rd. 1920

LIGHTHOUSES

Commissioner of Light Houses
Washington D. C.

1920 OCT 6, AM 8 41

Received

Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Accounts.
Chf. Clk.
Comnr.

Sir.

Received notice today of my suspension from the Lightthouse service, and have the following to submit in defence.
On the 6th of August I prefered charges against my superior officer. the Keeper Mr. Thos Knight through the channels and on Sept. 1st or 2nd the Superintendent investigated those charges. when I proved several charges and the Keeper acknowledged violating several including violating state fish laws. misappropriating government property and misusing

the flag. or allowing the latter by his family. the Keepers family, especially his wife is very much to blame for some of the trouble. as she insists on running the whole station.

Notwithstanding these condition I was told by the Superentendent to the effect that I would have to get along with the Keeper or get out. and that I was not considered short of contempt-able for apasing my Superior, that my word was no good etc. and in general repremanded for doing my duty by reparting crime committed against my country. so upon not being able to aprove of the conduct

of the Keeper after the investigation which was in some ways worse than before I just did as I was told or given the understand by the Superintendent. I got out for the simple reason that I could not and will not remain a part to any such unamerican practice as is continually kept up by the Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Station. as his brother and himself are interested in the smuggling of liquor. his brother lives right along side the station and he and his wife are almost always on the station. he moving government property such as paint. red lead, oil lumber etc. just as he sees fit. the

Keeper only issues a part of the supplies that his subordinates are entitled to. the remainder he and his brother uses. Yet I was reprimanded for complaining and instructed to the effect to either get along or get out. I did the latter and now I am I supose recomended for dismissal from the service..

I would ask that the commissioner obtain a copy of the charges I prefered and have them investigated then if there is any grounds for my dismissal I will be perfectly satisfied to accept it withdrawing my resignation until this investigation is completed

Very Respectively

Jesse E. Powell (Fla)

Box 395 Ft. Lauderdale

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

WASHINGTON

LIGHTHOUSES

1920 OCT 16 20 AM 8 41

September 27, 1920

Sir:

In view of a report to the effect that you left the service without due notice in advance, the Department, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, has suspended you from duty as Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station at $720 per annum, for a period not to exceed ninety days, pending the disposal of formal charges that have been preferred against you.

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

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

Clifford Hasley

Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
Through the Commissioner
of Lighthouses.

P
C.

LIGHTHOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1920 OCT 6 AM 8 41

SIXTH DISTRICT

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.
(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

Aug. 6, 1920

From. Jesse E. Powell, 1st. Asst. Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station Fla.
To. Superintendent of Light Houses, Charleston S.C.
Subject. Charges against Keeper, Mr. Thos. Knight and others.
Specification 1. Owing to the very unpleasant, unfair and antagonistic management of this station it becomes my unpleasant duty for the benifit of the service to prefer the following charges against the Keeper, Mr. Thos. Knight and others.
Specification 2. Besides the violation of paragrophs 2, 8, 9, 34, 42, 69, 70, 75, 121, 122, 125, 130 and others of Instruction to employes 1915. there is a tendency to antogonize the subordinates and their families especially by the Keepers family.
Specification 3. Supplies are not properly perpotioned as issued
Specification 4. There exists a conspiracy to chase one away from this station by parties who are interested directly or indirectly in smuggling

Through Keeper.
Thos. Knight Keeper

Jesse E. Powell
1st. Asst. Keeper
Hillsboro Inlet St. Sta. Fla.

Ord 1 C to office
1 C to Keeper
1 C Retained

a true copy. Jesse E. Powell

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

1920 OCT 1 AM 11 57

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

HLB-JFS

Sept. 30, 1920.

CHIEF CLERK

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Jesse E. Powell, First Assistant Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Florida,- Dismissal recommended.

1920 OCT 20 AM 9 24

Reference: Bureau letter of Sept. 17, 1920.

Inclosure: 1 - Copy of my letter of Sept. 18, 1920, preferring charges against Jesse E. Powell.
2 - Original and copy of Jesse E. Powell's letter of Sept. 26th in answer to my charges.

APPOINTMENTS

1920 OCT 20 PM 12 56

1. Powell has admitted that he left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station without permission of the Keeper with the intention of not going back. He offered his resignation and left the service without action thereon.

2. It is recommended that Jesse E. Powell be dismissed from the Lighthouse Service effective at the close of Sept. 16, 1920.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
NECESSARY
ACTION TAKEN
OCT 22 1920
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

H. L. Beck
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JEH:LON
Inclosures

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D.C.,
October 18, 1920.

1. Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information, attention being invited to Bureau indorsement of Sept. 22 on the 6th Superintendent's letter of Sept. 17, 1920. Inclosed are the Superintendent's reports of Sept. 8 and Oct. 4, 1920, together with copy of his report of Sept. 17, 1920. Also inclosed is letter dated Sept. 3, 1920, received from Jesse E. Powell. After consideration of the reports in this case the Bureau concurs in the views of the Superintendent, and recommends that Jesse E. Powell, Keeper (first assistant) of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, be dismissed from the Service effective at the close of Sept. 16, 1920.

2. Attention is invited to Bureau recommendation of this date relative to Dossy M. Davis, Keeper (second assistant) Hillsboro Inlet Light Station. Recommendation concerning Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, will be submitted to the Department upon receipt of report from the 6th Superintendent. Attention is invited to copy of letter dated Sept. 29, 1920, from Senator Fletcher accompanying the Superintendent's report of October 4. Should there be no objection thereto, the Bureau will advise Senator Fletcher at the proper time of the action taken in this matter.

1920 OCT 19 AM 10 12

1920 OCT 21 PM 1 05

APPROVED:

Acting Secretary of Commerce.

JFS (COPY)

LIGHTHOUSE

1920 OCT 1 AM 11 5.

HLB-JFS

Sept. 18, 1920.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
First Assistant Keeper,
Hillsboro Inlet Light Station,
P. O. Box 395,
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

1. Mr. Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, reports that you left the station at 10:00 o'clock a.m., Sept. 16, 1920, on your houseboat with your family and household goods on board. He further reports that you notified him that you were leaving about thirty minutes before you left the station. It does not appear from the report that you requested the Keeper's permission to leave. After reaching Fort Lauderdale you telegraphed me as follows: "Please accept my resignation effective immediately." On Sept. 17,1920, I replied to you as follows: "Consider yourself on leave without pay pending Department action your resignation." On Account of the fact that when you left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station you took your family and household goods with you, it is evident that you left with the intention of not returning. Further proof that you left with the intention of not returning is the fact that you submitted your resignation after reaching Fort Lauderdale.

2. Paragraph 46 of Instructions to Employees of the U. S. Lighthouse Service, 1915, reads as follows: "Any person who leaves the service without due notice or offers his resignation and leaves the service without action thereon on such short notice as to cause embarrassment to the service shall be recommended for dismissal unless he can give satisfactory reasons for his action." You are hereby charged with having violated the regulation just quoted, and are given three days after receipt of this communication to state cause why I should not recommend your dismissal from the Lighthouse Service.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Copy forwarded Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station for his information, files and guidance.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Fort Sauderdale Fla.
Sept. 26th. 1920

SUPT.
LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.
SEP 29 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

Mr. H. L. Beck
Superentendent of Lighthouses
Charleston S.C.

Sir.

In reply to yours of the 18th inst will state that I left the Station with a difinate entention of not going back and without obtaining permission from the Keeper. and my only reasons for so doing were that conditions on the station were even worse after a year were there than before and I could not remain longer and as I had been informed by yourself to the effect that I would have

to get along as get aint. and I found
that any award was not considered so
there was no use trying further to correct
the corrupt practice there I just left.
and as I do not consider the Keeper
at all put out by my leaving and as he
and friends were so very much
more interested in otherthings than
the service I cant apologise for not
apraising him sooner. or waiting
longer to leave. for every charge
I made against him is true and
others as well. for he and his
brother are interested in smuggling
and are in partnership or otherwise
connected with the Witheocks of

Palm Beach, and I refuse to be
an accomplice to any such practice
and would have to be if I remained
there among them. And am only writing
this because it happens to be[illegible] with
with no expectation or interest in
your believing it. but Mr. Knight is
a crook, liar and thief and all the you
claim to believe and swell-headed
over my job I am frank to inform
you that there is not anything that
will make me become a traitor
to my country, and I have the same
contempt for the toleration of such
crimes as I have for the one com-
mitting of them if not more

I have a clear conscience and present a clear record and if I am to be recomended for dismissal for violating Paragraph 47. while Mr. Knight is to openly to be complimented for the violation of some dozen or so of real criminal ones. then I am sure the 6th dist at least of the Light House service is absolutely no place for a white man and especially an American, but if this decision is as unfair and unamerican as the so called investigation at the station there is no use expecting justice any more than in a Mexican Court. so just suit yourself and do as you like

but whether you recommend dismissal
or approve my resignation I consider
myself out of the service now, and ask
that my final statements be mailed
to me as soon as pasible, whether
favorable or unfavorable.
The same spirit which caused me to go into
the service during the war voluntarily,
caused me to report Mr. Knight for committing
crimes against my country. and some day
I will meet you and in a civil way
show you I am worthy of consideration
I hope. so do you duty to me if not to
the other party. and if you think best do
the worst.

I will remain the same

Jesse E. Powell

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

HLB-JFS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
1920 OCT 6 AM 8 46

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

October 4, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Jesse E. Powell - Charges against.

Inclosure: Letter from Senator Fletcher to Commissioner dated Sept. 29, 1920, with attached letter from Powell to Senator Fletcher.

1. In compliance with instructions contained in Bureau indorsement of October 1 on the inclosure, I have to submit the following report and recommendation.

2. Relative to Bureau indorsement of Sept. 22, 1920, I have to state that I have preferred charges against Jesse E. Powell and have submitted his reply together with my recommendation to the Bureau. In this connection attention is invited to my report of Sept. 30, 1920, recommending the dismissal of Powell. It will be noted that my charges against Powell had no connection with the matters brought out in the investigation which I held at the station on Sept. 1, 1920. Under date of Sept. 8, 1920 I made a report to the Bureau in regard to the investigation held at the station. Mr. Powell had no knowledge of the nature of this report and under the circumstances was not justified in assuming that Mr. Knight had been or would be exonerated and that he, Powell, would be recommended for dismissal. I preferred charges against Powell for what practically amounted to desertion at a later date, and I recommended his dismissal for that reason. I adhere to my recommendation.

3. I have deferred the matter of preferring charges against Second Assistant Keeper D. M. Davis because of the fact that it was deemed desirable to assign another assistant keeper to duty at the station before doing so. I feared that if charges were preferred against Davis he too would desert his post of duty and leave the principal keeper without any help. An additional keeper has just been sent to Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and charges will now be preferred against Davis.

H. L. Beck

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

Duncan U.Fletcher,Florida
Chairman.
William L.Hill,
Secretary.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Committee on
Transportation Routes to the Seaboard.

10/1/20 Ack

Sept. 29, 1920.

Hon. G. R. Putnam,

Commissioner, Bureau of Lighthouses,

Department of Commerce,

Washington, D.C.

ack 6th if recpt
J SC Oct 1
6th final rept
not yet rec
Per says
P C
10/1

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am handing you herewith a letter just received from Jesse E. Powell, P.O.Box 385, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

I have had some previous correspondence with Mr. Powell, and from all I gather that he was employed in the Service at some point on the East Coast of Florida, and that charges were filed against him--the substance of which I have never been advised. Of course, I know nothing whatever regarding the facts, etc. and only ask that a careful review be made of the matter, and, if possible--in view of the fact he has resigned, I hope it will not be necessary to dismiss him from the service.

When you have time to look into this carefully, please advise me fully.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd) Duncan U. Fletcher

Encl.

730-Hol. Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington,D.C.,October 1,1920.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C., for report and recommendation. See previous correspondence, especially Bureau indorsement of September 22, 1920.

(Sgd) Putnam
Commissioner of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,
Sept. 25, 1920.

Mr. Duncan U. Fletcher,
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

Reference my letter of Aug. 6 I would greatly apreciate you obtaining a fair and empartial envestigation of this case, as the so called investigation was the most unfair piece of administration I have ever witnessed in the United States and I have resigned and left the station and the account of not being able to remain where the federal Employees were committing such crimes against the government and insulting the flag as was the practice of Mr. Knights family.

The same feeling that caused me to tear myself away from my family and volentarily enlist in the service and later serve in the Tanks, caused me to report Mr.Knight for committing crimes against my country and cant accept punishment for doing my duty and all I ask is an honorable discharge from the Light House service and Mr.Knights conduct envestigated, as he acknowledged misapropiating government property, violating the state laws by draging sene in Hillsboro Inlet, and various other crimes but denighed any interest in smuggling but he and his brother are interested in smuggling and openly co-operate with parties actively engaged in it as a livelihood.

It will be nessicary for amediate action in order to keep me from being dismissed from the service which I will thank you to take.

Thanking you in advance for your amediate action in this matter, I remain,

Yours for Americanism,
(Sgd) Jesse E. Powell
Box 395
Ft.Lauderdale Fla.

October 21, 1920.

Sir:

In view of the fact that you left your station without permission and tendered your resignation without due notice in advance, as required by the regulations, the Department has dismissed you from the position of Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Florida, at $720 per annum, effective at the close of business on September 16, 1920.

By direction of the Secretary:

CARDED

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

S
C

OCT 21 1920

U. S. REPORT DIVISION ENTERED

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C
MAR 13 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Dep
File

EOP May 11, 1919

SIXTH DISTRICT
336
Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.
(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

Mar. 10. 1920

From: Jesse E. Powell. 1st. Asst. Kpr. Hillsboro Light. Fla.
To: Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston S. C.
Subject: Physical Examination.

LIGHT
MAR 15
LIGHTS

For the following reasons it is next to impossible for me to take the examination at this time.

1. I can not remain in the service at this station longer than next August, on account of no school here and the conditions at present there is no prospects of a school that I can see, and I will not keep my boys out of school longer.

2. should I be able to transfer in the Summer to a suitable place where I can school my boys. I could take the examination without much if any additional cost. if pasible to wait

3. I figure the trip will cost me ($50.00) Fifty dollars. and as I am having to figure very closely to exist on my salary. I cant feel justified in spending this amount with the outlook as it is as local prices of everything keeps advancing.

4 should I be compel to leave the service in order to get my children in school, or to make a living, the Examination would be of no avail so I leave it up to the office.

Thron Keeper

Through Keeper,

Very Respectfully

Jesse E. Powell
1st. Asst. Keeper Hillsboro Light.

MAR 15 1920 10 ½ AM

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
CHARLESTON, S. C.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
MAR 15 1920
HOUSES

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6TH DISTRICT

HLB-JFS

Aydcog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Construction
Insp. Clk.
Insp. Constr.
Engineer.

~~Office of Inspector, 6th District~~
CHARLESTON, S. C.

Commissioner of Lighthouses. March 13, 1920.

SUBJECT: Expense to keepers in connection with taking physical examination.

INCLOSURE: Letter from 1st Asst. Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

1. Mr. Jesse E. Powell entered on duty at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station on May 11, 1919. He is now first assistant keeper. He has twice had his attention called to the Act of Congress of August 28, 1916, authorizing medical relief for light keepers but he has not yet taken the physical examination.

2. The enclosed letter from Mr. Powell explains his reason for not having taken the examination. There is no doubt that it would be burdensome to him to be required to take the examination while assigned to duty at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station. I have advised him that he will be retained in the Service notwithstanding the fact that he has not taken the examination, and have informed him that he will not be entitled to the benefits of free treatment by the public Health Service. I have also informed him that should he be transferred to another station where the cost of taking examination will not be so burdensome as to be practically prohibited he will be expected to take it.

3. This matter is being brought to the attention of the Bureau for the purpose of showing that it is practically impossible on account of the expense involved for some keepers in the Lighthouse Service to take advantage of the Act of August 28, 1916.

N. L. Beck

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Rec. file. No action required by Bureau.

3/30/20

3/31

9/17/20. Wrote 6th Supt.
Memo for Chief

In view of Supt's report the charges made by 1st asst Kpr. Powell against keeper Knight seem trivial, and indicates insubordination. The charge of giving away some Govt paint lumber and lime, which the keeper admits, should have been reported when it occurred, but think Keeper should be reprimanded for this.

Before taking action against the 1st and 2d asst kprs., as rec. by 6th Supt., would suggest that Bur. direct Supt. to prefer charges against these two employees in accordance with procedure outlined in Regs. 1918, art. 413, and submit the asst kprs' replies to Bur. with rec.

There seems to be some lack of discipline at station which should be taken into consideration.

JB 9/14

Rec'd. in Personnel Section 9/16/20.

JEH-Hol. September 17, 1920.

Thomas Knight,
charges.

Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C.

1. Referring to your letter of September 8, 1920, relative to charges preferred against Thomas Knight, keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, by Jesse E. Powell, first assistant keeper.

2. Before taking action in this matter you are requested to prefer charges against First Assistant Keeper Powell and Second Assistant Keeper Davis, in accordance with Regs. 1918, Art. 413, and to submit their replies, together with copies of the charges, to the Bureau with recommendation.

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
CHARLESTON, S. C.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6th DISTRICT

1920 SEP 20 AM 8 26

~~Office of Inspector, 6th District~~

CHARLESTON, S. C.

HLB-JFS

Hydrog.
Engr. Comm.
Mar. Engr.
~~Surveyor~~
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comm.
Commr.

10/18/20 Ltr to Dept on Supt's letter Sept 20

Sept. 17, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

10/20/20 Wrote Cong. Fletcher Copy to Supt.

Subject: Resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell.

Reference: My report of Sept. 8, 1920, on the subject of charges against Keeper Thomas Knight.

1. Jesse E. Powell is First Assistant Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Florida. I have heard nothing from Keeper Knight or either one of the assistant keepers at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station relative to conditions at that station since I visited it on Sept. 1, 1920. This morning I received a telegram from Jesse E. Powell dated Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Sept. 16, 1920, reading as follows: "Please accept my resignation effective immediately." I replied as follows: "Consider yourself on leave without pay pending Department action your resignation."

2. The simplest and easiest way to get rid of Powell who, in my opinion, is not at all a suitable person to be retained in the Lighthouse Service, would be perhaps to accept his resignation but I hesitate to recommend that it be accepted. In view of the present status of affairs at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and the nature of the report and recommendation made by me under date of Sept. 8, 1920, I can not recommend that Powell's resignation be accepted, but if in view of all the circumstances the Bureau deems it advisable to dispose of the matter by accepting his resignation I have no objection to offer. It is recommended that the Bureau advise this office promptly of its action with respect to this matter.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JEH-Hol.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.
September 22, 1920.

Returned to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C. Attention is invited to Bureau letter of September 17, 1920, requesting that charges be preferred against First Assistant Keeper Powell and Second Assistant Keeper Davis. Your letter of September 18, has this date been submitted to the Department with recommendation that Powell be suspended from duty and pay for a period not to exceed ninety days, effective September 16, 1920, in accordance with Regs. 1918, Art. 412. Upon receipt of replies to charges submit all papers to the Bureau with report and recommendation.

J. F. C.

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
CHARLESTON, S.C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Hydrog.
Engr. Coms.
Mar. Engr.
~~Personnel~~
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comm.
Commr.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6th DISTRICT LIGHTHOUSES

~~Office of Inspector 6th District~~
CHARLESTON, S. C. 1920 SEP 20 AM 8 20

HLB-JFS

10/25/20 Wrote Capt. Fletcher, copy to 6th Supt.

Sept. 18, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Dept rec suspended same way

Subject: Resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell.

Reference: My letter of September 17, 1920.

Inclosure: 1 - Copy of letter of Sept. 16, 1920, from Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.
2 - Copy of my letter of this date to Jesse E. Powell.

1. In view of the report submitted by Mr. Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, a copy ofwhich is inclosed, I now have to recommend that the resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell, First Assistant Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, be not accepted. It is evident that Mr. Powell left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station with the intention of not returning because of the fact that he took his family and his household goods with him. He left without due notice.

2. Inclosure 2 is a copy of my charges against Powell for having left the station without due notice and having offered his resignation on such short notice as to prevent action thereon by the Department.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JEH-Hol.
Inclosures.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.
September 22, 1920.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information, and with recommendation that Jesse E. Powell, first assistant keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla., be suspended from duty and pay for a period not to exceed ninety days, effective September 16, 1920, pending action on charges preferred against him, in accordance with Regulations for the Lighthouse Service 1918, Art. 412.

J. P. S.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6TH DISTRICT

1920 SEP 20 AM 8 20

HLB-JFS

10/26/20 Wrote Corp. F. Ogley. Copy to Keeper.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR 6TH DISTRICT

CHARLESTON, S. C.

Sept. 18, 1920.

Hydrog.
Engr. Gens.
Mar. Engr.
~~Personnel~~
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Commr.
Commr.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
First Assistant Keeper,
Hillsboro Inlet Light Station,
P.O. Box 395,
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

1. Mr. Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, reports that you left the station at 10:00 o'clock a.m., Sept. 16, 1920, on your houseboat with your family and household goods on board. He further reports that you notified him that you were leaving about thirty minutes before you left the station. It does not appear from the report that you requested the Keeper's permission to leave. After reaching Fort Lauderdale you telegraphed me as follows: "Please accept my resignation effective immediately." On Sept. 17,1920, I replied to you as follows: "Consider yourself on leave without pay pending Department action your resignation." On account of the fact that when you left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station you took your family and household goods with you, it is evident that you left with the intention of not returning. Further proof that you left with the intention of not returning is the fact that you submitted your resignation after reaching Fort Lauderdale.

2. Paragraph 46 of Instructions to Employees of the U. S. Lighthouse Service, 1915, reads as follows: "Amy person who leaves the service without due notice or offers his resignation and leaves the service without action thereon on such short notice as to cause embarrassment to the service shall be recommended for dismissal unless he can give satisfactory reasons for his action." You are hereby charged with having violated the regulation just quoted, and are given three days after receipt of this communication to state cause why I should not recommend your dismissal from the Lighthouse Service.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

LIGHTHOUSES

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

September 16, 1920.

1920 SEP 20 AM 8 20

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th L.H.District,

Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sir:-

Jesse E. Powell, 1st Asst. Keeper, left his station at 10 o'clock A.M. September 16, 1920. He left on his house-boat with family and household goods on board.

Mr. Powell notified me that he was leaving about thirty minutes before he left station.

He gave me his address as follows; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Box 395.

Respectfully,

(Sgd) Thos. Knight,

Keeper.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1920 OCT 1 AM 11 57

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6th DISTRICT
~~Office of Inspector, 6th District~~
CHARLESTON, S. C.

HLB-JFS

Hydrog.
Engr. Case.
Mar. Engr.
~~Personnel~~
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comsr.
Comsr.

Sept. 30, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Jesse E. Powell, First Assistant Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Florida,- Dismissal recommended.

Reference: Bureau letter of Sept. 17, 1920.

Inclosure: 1 - Copy of my letter of Sept. 18, 1920, preferring charges against Jesse E. Powell.
2 - Original and copy of Jesse E. Powell's letter of Sept. 26th in answer to my charges.

1. Powell has admitted that he left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station without permission of the Keeper with the intention of not going back. He offered his resignation and left the service without action thereon.

2. It is recommended that Jesse E. Powell be dismissed from the Lighthouse Service effective at the close of Sept. 16, 1920.

H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

LIGHTHOUSES

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,
Sept 26th, 1920. OCT 1 AM 11 57

Mr. H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses,
Charleston, S. C.

Sir:

In reply to yours of the 18 inst will state that I left the Station with a definate entention of not going back and without obtaining permission from the Keeper, and my only reasons for so doing were that conditions on the station were even worse after you were there than before and I could not remain longer and as I had ben informed by yourself to the effect that I would have to get along or get out, and I found that my word was not considered so there was no use trying further to correct the corrupt practice there I just left, and as I do not consider the Keeper at all put out by my leaving and as he and friends were so very much more enterested in other things than the service I cant apolyise for not apraising him sooner, or waiting longer to leave, for every charge I made against him is true and others as well, for he and his brother are interested in smuggling and are in partnership or otherwise connected with the Hithcocks of Palm Beach, and I refuse to be an accomplice to any such practice and would have to be if I remained there among them, and am only writing this because it happens to be facts with no expectation or interest in you believing it, but Mr. Knight is a crook, liar and thief and altho you claim to believe me swell-headed over my job I am frank to inform you that there is not anything that will make me become a traitor to my country, and I have the same Contempt for the toleration of such crimes as I have for the one committing of them if not more. I have a clear contience and to present a clear record and if I am to be recommended for dismissal for violating paragraph 42, while Mr. Knight is to aparantly to be complimented for the violation of some dozen or so of real criminal ones, then I am sure the 6th Dist. at least of the Light House service is absolutely no place for a white man and especially an American, but if this dicision is as unfair and unamerican as the so called envestigation at the station there is no use expecting justice any more than in a Mexican Court, so just suit yourself and do as you like but whether you recommend a dismissal or aprove my resignation I consider myself out of the service now, and ask that my final statements be mailed to me as soon as posible whether favorable or unfavorable.

The same sperit which caused me to go into the service during the war volentarily, caused me to report Mr. Knight for committing crimes against my country, and some day I will meet you and in a civil way show you I am worthy of consideration I hope, so do your duty to me if not to the other party, and if you think best do the worst.

I will remain the same

(Sgd) Jesse E. Powell.

JFS (COPY)

JFS

Sept. 18, 1920.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
First Assistant Keeper,
Hillsboro Inlet Light Station,
P. O. Box 395,
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

1. Mr. Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, reports that you left the station at 10:00 o'clock a.m., Sept. 16, 1920, on your house-boat with your family and household goods on board. He further reports that you notified him that you were leaving about thirty minutes before you left the station. It does not appear from the report that you requested the Keeper's permission to leave. After reaching Fort Lauderdale you telegraphed me as follows: "Please accept my resignation effective immediately." On Sept. 17,1920, I replied to you as follows: "Consider yourself on leave without pay pending Department action your resignation." On Account of the fact that when you left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station you took your family and household goods with you, it is evident that you left with the intention of not returning. Further proof that you left with the intention of not returning is the fact that you submitted your resignation after reaching Fort Lauderdale.

2. Paragraph 46 of Instructions to Employees of the U. S. Lighthouse Service, 1915, reads as follows: "Any person who leaves the service without due notice or offers his resignation and leaves the service without action thereon on such short notice as to cause embarrassment to the service shall be recommended for dismissal unless he can give satisfactory reasons for his action." You are hereby charged with having violated the regulation just quoted, and are given three days after receipt of this communication to state cause why I should not recommend your dismissal from the Lighthouse Service.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Copy forwarded Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station for his information, files and guidance.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

TSC-Hol.

October 1, 1920.

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Fletcher:

1. Referring to your letter of September 29, 1920, relative to suspension from duty of Jesse E. Powell, first assistant keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

2. You are respectfully informed that this matter has recently been under investigation by the Bureau, and careful consideration is being given the case. The Bureau will be pleased to advise you further in regard thereto at a later date.

Very truly yours,

WCB

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Bill TC

TC

Subject: Letter, Senator Fletcher, Sept. 29, 1920, suspension, Jesse E. Powell.

TSC-Hol. Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C., October 1, 1920.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C., for report and recommendation. See previous correspondence, especially Bureau indorsement of September 22, 1920.

W C B

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Tempo. TC

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6th DISTRICT

HLB-JFS

Byaron.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Sup. Stores.
Insp.

1920 OCT 6 AM 8 46
CHARLESTON, S. C.

10/18/20 Ind to Dept on Supts letter Sept 30

October 4, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

10/25/20 Wrote Cong. Fletcher, Copy to 6th Dist.

Subject: Jesse E. Powell - Charges against.

Rec Dept. denies Death

Inclosure: Letter from Senator Fletcher to Commissioner dated Sept. 29, 1920, with attached letter from Powell to Senator Fletcher.

1. In compliance with instructions contained in Bureau indorsement of October 1 on the inclosure, I have to submit the following report and recommendation.

2. Relative to Bureau indorsement of Sept. 22, 1920, I have to state that I have preferred charges against Jesse E. Powell and have submitted his reply together with my recommendation to the Bureau. In this connection attention is invited to my report of Sept. 30, 1920, recommending the dismissal of Powell. It will be noted that my charges against Powell had no connection with the matters brought out in the investigation which I held at the station on Sept. 1, 1920. Under date of Sept. 8, 1920 I made a report to the Bureau in regard to the investigation held at the station. Mr. Powell had no knowledge of the nature of this report and under the circumstances was not justified in assuming that Mr. Knight had been or would be exonerated and that he, Powell, would be recommended for dismissal. I preferred charges against Powell for what practically amounted to desertion at a later date, and I recommended his dismissal for that reason. I adhere to my recommendation.

3. I have deferred the matter of preferring charges against Second Assistant Keeper D. M. Davis because of the fact that it was deemed desirable to assign another assistant keeper to duty at the station before doing so. I feared that if charges were preferred against Davis he too would desert his post of duty and leave the principal keeper without any help. An additional keeper has just been sent to Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and charges will now be preferred against Davis.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

As memo of mine 10/12 on Gatch's 9/30 PC 10/12

DUNCAN U. FLETCHER, FLORIDA.
CHAIRMAN.

WILLIAM J. HILL,
SECRETARY.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION ROUTES TO THE SEABOARD.

LIGHTHOUSES

1920 SEP 30 PM 3 15

Sept. 29, 1920.

10/1/20 Ack.
10/25/20 Ans. Copy to 6th Supt.

Hon. G. R. Putnam,

Commissioner, Bureau of Lighthouses,

Department of Commerce,

Washington, D. C.

LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S.C.
OCT 4 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Cold Clerk
2nd. Supt.
Voucher

1920 OCT 6 AM 8 46

Hydrog.
Engr. Corps.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comms.
Comms.

Ack to date if appt
Pt set!
Both final reply
not yet received
Pursue
P
10/1

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am handing you herewith a letter just received from Jesse E. Powell, P. O. Box 385, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

I have had some previous correspondence with Mr. Powell, and from all I gather that he was employed in the Service at some point on the East Coast of Florida, and that charges were filed against him--the substance of which I have never been advised. Of course, I know nothing whatever regarding the facts, etc., and only ask that a careful review be made of the matter, and, if possible--in view of the fact he has resigned, I hope it will not be necessary to dismiss him from the service.

When you have time to look into this carefully, please advise me fully.

Very truly yours,

Duncan U. Fletcher

Ecl.

TSC-Hol. Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C., October 1, 1920.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C., for report and recommendation. See previous correspondence, especially Bureau indorsement of September 22, 1920.

Putnam
~~Acting~~ Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: 6th Supt's. letter, Sept. 30, 1920, Jesse E. Powell, charges.

JEH:LON
Inclosures

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D.C.,
October 18, 1920.

1. Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information, attention being invited to Bureau indorsement of Sept. 22 on the 6th Superintendent's letter of Sept. 17, 1920. Inclosed are the Superintendent's reports of Sept. 8 and Oct. 4, 1920, together with copy of his report of Sept. 17, 1920. Also inclosed is letter dated Sept. 3, 1920, received from Jesse E. Powell. After consideration of the reports in this case the Bureau concurs in the views of the Superintendent, and recommends that Jesse E. Powell, Keeper (first assistant) of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, be dismissed from the Service effective effective at the close of Sept. 16, 1920.

2. Attention is invited to Bureau recommendation of this date relative to Dossy M. Davis, Keeper (second assistant) Hillsboro Inlet Light Station. Recommendation concerning Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, will be submitted to the Department upon receipt of report from the 6th Superintendent.

Attention is invited to copy of letter dated Sept. 29, 1920, from Senator Fletcher accompanying the Superintendent's report of October 4. Should there be no objection thereto, the Bureau will advise Senator Fletcher at the proper time of the action taken in this matter.

Fort. Lauderdale Fla.

Sept. 25 1920

10/25/20 Wrote Cong. Fletcher Copy to Cl. Supt

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C OCT 4 1920 1st. Asst. Supt. Chief Clerk Asst. Supt. Voucher ~~Personnel~~ Property Proposals File

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher

Washington D.C.

Honorable Sir

Reference my letter of August 6.

I would greatly apreciate you obtaining a fair and impartial investigation of this case, as the so called investigation was the most unfair piece of administration I have ever witnessed in the United States and I have resigned and left the station on the account of not being able to remain where the federal Employees were committing such crimes against the goverment

and insulting the flag as was the practice of Mr. Knights family.

The same feeling that caused me to tear myself away from my family and voluntarily enlist in the service and later serve in the Tanks caused me to report Mr. Knight for committing crimes against my country and cant accept punishment for doing my duty and all I ask is an honorable discharge from the Light House service and Mr. Knights conduct investigated as he acknowledged misappropiating government property, violating the state laws by draging seine in Hillsboro Inlet and various other crimes but

denighed any interest in smuggling but he and his brother are interested in smuggling and openly co-operate with parties actively engaged in it as a livelihood.

It will be necessary for immediate action in order to keep me from being dismissed from the service which I will thank you to take.

Thanking you in advance for your immediate action in this matter I remain

Yours for Americanism
Jesse E. Powell
Box 395
Ft. Lauderdale Fla.

JEH-Hol.

October 25, 1920.

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Fletcher:

1. Referring again to your letter of September 29, 1920, relative to suspension from duty of Jesse E. Powell, first assistant keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

2. You are respectfully informed that Mr. Powell left his station and later tendered his resignation, without giving due notice in advance, which action is contrary to the Regulations for the Lighthouse Service, Art. 476, which reads, in part, as follows:

> "Any person who leaves the Service without due notice or offers his resignation and leaves the Service without action thereon on such short notice as to cause embarrassment to the Service shall be recommended for dismissal, unless he can give satisfactory reasons for his action."

3. In view of Mr. Powell's violation of the above-quoted regulation, the Secretary of Commerce, after careful consideration of the case, dismissed him from the Service, effective at the close of September 16, 1920.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

JEH-Hol.
Inclosure.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.,
October 25, 1920.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C., for his information, guidance, and files, attention being invited to his report of October 4, 1920, and to previous correspondence. Inclosed, for delivery to Powell, is Department letter (in duplicate) of October 21, 1920, dismissing him from the Service, effective at the close of September 16, 1920.

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

HLB-JFS

March 13, 1920.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
1st Asst. Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station,
Ponce Park, Fla.
(Through the Keeper.)

SUBJECT: Physical examination.

REFERENCE. Your letter of March 10, 1920.

1. In view of the statements made in the reference you will be retained in the Service for the present notwithstanding the fact that you will be unable on account of the expense involved to be examined by the U. S. Public Health Service. However until such time as you are examined by the U. S. Public Health Service you will not be entitled to the benefits of free treatment by that Service.

2. Should you be transferred to another station where the expense of taking the examination will not be so burdensome you will be expected to arrange to take it.

3. If you can arrange for an exchange of positions with an assistant keeper at another station where there are school facilities such an exchange will meet with my approval. It is suggested that you take the matter up with the 1st Assistant Keeper at Jupiter Inlet Light Station. It is my recollection that he has no children of school age.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Powell was dismissed from the Lt. Service close Sep. 16, 1920.
The physical exam. by P. H. S. was not taken by Mr. Powell

JFS

Commissioner of Lighthouses. March 13, 1920.

SUBJECT: Expense to keepers in connection with taking physical examination.

INCLOSURE: Letter from 1st Asst. Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

1. Mr. Jesse E. Powell entered on duty at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station on May 11, 1919. He is now first assistant keeper. He has twice had his attention called to the Act of Congress of August 28, 1916, authorizing medical relief for light keepers but he has not yet taken the physical examination.

2. The enclosed letter from Mr. Powell explains his reason for not having taken the examination. There is no doubt that it would be burdensome to him to be required to take the examination while assigned to duty at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station. I have advised him that he will be retained in the Service notwithstanding the fact that he has not taken the examination, and have informed him that he will not be entitled to the benefits of free treatment by the public Health Service. I have also informed him that should he be transferred to another station where the cost of taking examination will not be so burdensome as to be practically prohibited he will be expected to take it.

3. This matter is being brought to the attention of the Bureau for the purpose of showing that it is practically impossible on account of the expense involved for some keepers in the Lighthouse Service to take advantage of the Act of August 28, 1916.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Powell dismissed Sep. 16, 1920.

JFS COPY.

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

March 10, 1920.

From: Jesse E. Powell, 1st Asst. Kpr.Hillsboro Light, Fla.

To: Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C.

Subject: Physical Examination.

For the following reasons it is next to impossible for me to take the examination at this time.

1. I can not remain in the service at this station longer than next August, on account of no school here and the conditions at present there is no prospects of a school that I can see, and I will not keep my boys out of school longer.

2. Should I be able to transfer in the summer to a suitable place where I can school my boys, I could take the examination without much if any additional cost, if possible to wait.

3. I figure the trip will cost me($50.00) Fifty dollars, and as I am having to figure very closely to exist on my salary. I cant feel justified in spending this amount with the outlook as it is as local prices of everything keeps advancing.

4. Should I be compelled to leave the service in order to get my children in school. or to make a living, the Examination would be of no avail so I leave it up to the office.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd) Jesse E. Powell.
1st Asst.Keeper Hillsboro Light.

Through Keeper.

Powell discharged Sep. 16, 1920

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C. MAR 13 1920 1st. Asst. Supt. Chief Clerk Asst. Supt. Voucher Personnel Property Proposals Depot File 1920

SIXTH DISTRICT

336

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

March 11 1920

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th L. H. District,
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of letter dated March 6-1920, from Surgeon in Charge U. S. Public Health Service, Mayport, Fla. in which he states "that any day will be convenient but Sunday, March 14, noon would suit me best."

I am endorsing letter from J. E. Powell, 1st Asst Keeper.-

Respectfully-

Thos. Knight
Keeper.

Powell discharged March 16, 1920. Jes.

Mr.Jesse E.Powell, 1st Asst.Kpr. February 26, 1920.

(Through the Kpr.of Hillsboro Inlet Lt.Sta.)

1. Referring to Form No.206, "Record of Physical Examination of Light Keeper or Assistant Light Keeper," forwarded to you under date of May 22, 1919.

2. The time has come when it will be necessary for this office to report to the Commissioner of Lighthouses, Washington, that you have not taken the physical examination, as stated in paragraph 2 of the letter of May 22.

3. It is requested that you give this matter immediate consideration and make every effort to take the examination at an early date. It is suggested that the Keeper again write to the Public Health Officer, Mayport, Fla., asking when it will be convenient for him to examine you. If no reply is received within a reasonable time, four or five days, inform this office and the matter will be taken up by this office.

4. This office would prefer that you take the examination and avoid the necessity of a special report in your case to the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

H.L.Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Powell dismissed

4. Two forms No.206 are enclosed, the original is to be returned to this office after having been filled out by the medical officer; the other is to be retained by the officer. This examination need not be taken immediately, but may be taken within the next three or four months. The keeper will fill in the color of eyes and hair and distinguishing marks, and must also sign as witness to your signature.

5. The Keeper will inform this office when you will probably tske the examination, submitting Form 76 at the proper time to cover necessary leave. This leave will not be charged against you.

6. In order that you may go to Mayport at the proper time it is suggested that the Keeper communicate with the Public Health Officer at that place and ascertain from him when it will be convenient for him to examine you.

7. The receipt of this letter is to be acknowledged by the Keeper, advising this office as directed in paragraph 5 of this letter.

Powell dismissed

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Jesse E.Powell, May 22, 1919.
Asst.Kpr.,
(Through the Kpr.of Hillsboro Inlet Lt.Sta.)

1. The following is quoted for your information:

"Act of August 28,1916, authorized medical relief for Light Keepers as follows:

"That hereafter light keepers and assistant light keepers of the Lighthouse Service shall be entitled to medical relief without charge at hospitals and other stations of the Public Health Service under the rules and regulations governing the care of seamen of the merchant marine; Provided, That this benefit shall not apply to any keeper or assistant keeper who receives an original appointment after the passage of this Act, unless the applicant passes a physical examination in accordance with the rules approved by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Treasury."

2. If you do not take this examination you will not be entitled to the benefit of the Public Health Service free of charge, and your retention in the Lighthouse Service after failure to pass the physical examination shall be made the subject of a report by the Superintendent to the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

3. The nearest Public Health Officer to Hillsboro Inlet Light Station is at Mayport, Fla., and it will be necessary for you to go there for the examination. The examination will be free of charge but no part of your expenses will be paid by the Government.

4. Two forms No.206 are enclosed, the original is to be returned to this office after having been filled out by the medical officer; the other is to be retained by the officer. This examination nmad not be taken immediately, but may be taken within the next three or four months. The keeper will fill in the color of eyes and hair and distinguishing marks, and must also sign as witness to your signature.

5. The Keeper will inform this office when you will probably tske the examination, submitting Form 76 at the proper time to cover necessary leave. This leave will not be chargod against you.

6. In order that you may go to Mayport at the proper time it is suggested that the Keeper communicate with the Public Health Officer at that place and ascertain from him when it will be convenient for him to examine you.

7. The receipt of this letter is to be acknowledged by the Keeper, advising this office as directed in paragraph 5 of this letter.

Appointment

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

FILE NO. 8

OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF LIGHT KEEPER OR ASSISTANT LIGHT KEEPER

IN CONNECTION WITH MEDICAL RELIEF BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th DISTRICT,

PLACE, Charleston, S.C.,

DATE, May 22, 191 9.

To the MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE,
U. S. Public Health Service,

Bayport, Fla.

SIR:

Please examine James H. Powell,

nativity, American; age, 35; height, 5 feet, 9 inches;

weight, 165 pounds; color of hair, ; color of eyes,

distinguishing marks,

as to eyesight, hearing, and physical condition.

When the examination has been completed the findings should be recorded on this blank and the blank returned to the applicant.

Respectfully,

H.L.Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses, *Lighthouse Inspector.*

(Signature of applicant:)

(To be signed in the presence of the officer issuing this blank or witnessed by a designated employee of the Lighthouse Service.) Witness:

U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, Key Williams Lake Light Station, Fla.

PLACE,

DATE, , 191

To LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR,

SIR: This certifies that I have this day examined the eyesight, hearing, and physical condition of , and find him physically { disqualified / qualified* } in accordance with rules approved by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce, respecting the treatment by the Public Health Service of light keepers and assistant light keepers of the Lighthouse Service pursuant to the Act of Congress approved August 28, 1916.

Passed examined Jan 16 1920

He is disqualified for the reasons shown on page 3.

Surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service.

* If qualified, strike out the word "disqualified" and the paragraph following.

11—5999

Memorandum- August-November 1920.

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

Charges of 1st Asst.Kpr.Jesse E.Powell against the Keeper.Thos.Knight.

Charges of 6th Supt.against 1st Asst.Kpr.Powell and 2d Asst. Kpr. Dossy M. Davis.

See personnel folder of each of the above.

Powell dismissed for leaving station without permission and tendering resignation without giving sufficient notice in advance- close of September 16,1920.

Davis transferred as 2d Asst.Kpr.St.Augustine Lt.Sta.,Fla., November 1,1920.

Knight- Charges against him not sustained.

SUPT.
LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.
OCT 28 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief C.
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Dept.
File

1920 OCT 23 8 27

October 21, 1920.

Sir:

In view of the fact that you left your station without permission and tendered your resignation without due notice in advance, as required by the regulations, the Department has dismissed you from the position of Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Florida, at $720 per annum, effective at the close of business on September 16, 1920.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

S
C

(COPY)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

JEH-Hol.

October 25, 1920.

LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S.C.
OCT 28 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Fletcher:

1. Referring again to your letter of September 29, 1920, relative to suspension from duty of Jesse E. Powell, first assistant keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

2. You are respectfully informed that Mr. Powell left his station and later tendered his resignation, without giving due notice in advance, which action is contrary to the Regulations for the Lighthouse Service, Art. 476, which reads, in part, as follows:

> "Any person who leaves the Service without due notice or offers his resignation and leaves the Service without action thereon on such short notice as to cause embarrassment to the Service shall be recommended for dismissal, unless he can give satisfactory reasons for his action."

3. In view of Mr. Powell's violation of the above-quoted regulation, the Secretary of Commerce, after careful consideration of the case, dismissed him from the Service, effective at the close of September 16, 1920.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

JEH-Hol.
Inclosure.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.,
October 25, 1920.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C., for his information, guidance, and files, attention being invited to his report of October 4, 1920, and to previous correspondence. Inclosed, for delivery to Powell, is Department letter (in duplicate) of October 21, 1920, dismissing him from the Service, effective at the close of September 16, 1920.

Conway

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Committee on
Transportation Routes to the Seaboard.

October 4, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Jesse E. Powell - Charges against.

Inclosure: Letter from Senator Fletcher to Commissioner dated Sept. 29, 1920, with attached letter from Powell to Senator Fletcher.

1. In compliance with instructions contained in Bureau indorsement of October 1 on the inclosure, I have to submit the following report and recommendation.

2. Relative to Bureau indorsement of Sept. 22, 1920, I have to state that I have preferred charges against Jesse E. Powell and have submitted his reply together with my recommendation to the Bureau. In this connection attention is invited to my report of Sept. 30, 1920, recommending the dismissal of Powell. It will be noted that my charges against Powell had no connection with the matters brought out in the investigation which I held at the station on Sept. 1, 1920. Under date of Sept. 8, 1920 I made a report to the Bureau in regard to the investigation held at the station. Mr. Powell had no knowledge of the nature of this report and under the circumstances was not justified in assuming that Mr. Knight had been or would be exonerated and that he, Powell, would be recommended for dismissal. I preferred charges against Powell for what practically amounted to desertion at a later date, and I recommended his dismissal for that reason. I adhere to my recommendation.

3. I have deferred the matter of preferring charges against Second Assistant Keeper D. M. Davis because of the fact that it was deemed desirable to assign another assistant keeper to duty at the station before doing so. I feared that if charges were preferred against Davis he too would desert his post of duty and leave the principal keeper without any help. An additional keeper has just been sent to Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and charges will now be preferred against Davis.

H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

ner, Florida,
n.
Hill,
retary.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Committee on
Transportation Routes to the Seaboard.

9/1/20 Ack.

Sept. 29, 1920.

Hon. G. R. Putnam,

Commissioner, Bureau of Lighthouses,

Department of Commerce,

Washington, D.C.

Ack 6th if copy
J SC Oct 1
6th final rept
not yet rcd
Per says
P. L.
10/1

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am handing you herewith a letter just received from Jesse E. Powell, P.O.Box 385, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

I have had some previous correspondence with Mr. Powell, and from all I gather that he was employed in the Service at some point on the East Coast of Florida, and that charges were filed against him--the substance of which I have never been advised. Of course, I know nothing whatever regarding the facts, etc. and only ask that a careful review be made of the matter, and, if possible--in view of the fact he has resigned, I hope it will not be necessary to dismiss him from the service.

When you have time to look into this carefully, please advise me fully.

Very truly yours,

Ecl. (Sgd) Duncan U. Fletcher

TSC-Hol. Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D.C., October 1, 1920.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C., for report and recommendation. See previous correspondence, especially Bureau indorsement of September 22, 1920.

(Sgd) Putnam
Commissioner of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,
Sept. 25, 1920.

. Duncan U. Fletcher,
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

Reference my letter of Aug. 6 I would greatly apreciate you obtaining a fair and empartial envestigation of this case, as the so called investigation was the most unfair piece of administration I have ever witnessed in the United States and I have resigned and left the station and the account of not being able to remain where the federal Employees were committing such crimes against the government and insulting the flag as was the practice of Mr. Knights family.

The same feeling that caused me to tear myself away from my family and volentarily enlist in the service and later serve in the Tanks, caused me to report Mr.Knight for committing crimes against my country and cant accept punishment for doing my duty and all I ask is an honorable discharge from the Light House service and Mr.Knights conduct envestigated, as he acknowledged misapropiating government property, violating the state laws by draging sene in Hillsboro Inlet, and various other crimes but denighed any interest in smuggling but he and his brother are interested in smuggling and openly co-operate with parties actively engaged in it as a livelihood.

It will be nessicary for amediate action in order to keep me from being dismissed from the service which I will thank you to take.

Thanking you in advance for your amediate action in this matter, I remain,

Yours for Americanism,
(Sgd) Jesse E. Powell
Box 395
Ft.Lauderdale Fla.

LIGHTHOUSES

1920 SEP 29 AM 9 210

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C.

SEP 30 1920

1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

September 27, 1920.

Sir:

In view of a report to the effect that you left the service without due notice in advance, the Department, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, has suspended you from duty as Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station at $720 per annum, for a period not to exceed ninety days, pending the disposal of formal charges that have been preferred against you.

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

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
Through the Commissioner
of Lighthouses.

Chief of Appointment Division.

P
C.
6th

JFS (COPY)

HLB-JFS

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,
Sept 26th, 1920.

Mr. H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses,
Charleston, S. C.

Sept. 30, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Jesse E. Powell, First Assistant Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Florida,- Dismissal recommended.

Reference: Bureau letter of Sept. 17, 1920.

Inclosure: 1 - Copy of my letter of Sept. 18, 1920, preferring charges against Jesse E. Powell.
2 - Original and copy of Jesse E. Powell's letter of Sept. 26th in answer to my charges.

1. Powell has admitted that he left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station without permission of the Keeper with the intention of not going back. He offered his resignation and left the service without action thereon.

2. It is recommended that Jesse E. Powell be dismissed from the Light-house Service effective at the close of Sept. 16, 1920.

H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JFS (COPY)

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,
Sept 26th, 1920.

Mr. H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses,
Charleston, S. C.

Sir:

In reply to yours of the 18inst will state that I left the Station with a definate entention of not going back and without obtaining permission from the Keeper, and my only reasons for so doing were that conditions on the station were even worse after you were there than before and I could not remain longer and as I had ben informed by yourself to the effect that I would have to get along or get out, and I found that my word was not considered so there was no use trying further to correct the corrupt practice there I just left, and as I do not consider the Keeper at all put out by my leaving and as he and friends were so very much more enterested in other things than the service I cant apolyise for not apraising him sooner, or waiting longer to leave, for every charge I made against him is true and others as well, for he and his brother are interested in smuggling and are in partnership or otherwise connected with the Hithcocks of Palm Beach, and I refuse to be an accomplice to any such practice and would have to be if I remained there among them, and am only writing this because it happens to be facts with no expectation or interest in you believing it, but Mr. Knight is a crook, liar and thief and altho you claim to believe me swell-headed over my job I am frank to inform you that there is not anything that will make me become a traitor to my country, and I have the same contempt for the toleration of such crimes as I have for the one committing of them if not more. I have a clear contience and to present a clear record and if I am to be recommended for dismissal for violating paragraph 42, while Mr. Knight is to aparantly to be complimented for the violation of some dozen or so of real criminal ones, then I am sure the 6th Dist. at least of the Light House service is absolutely no place for a white man and especially an American, but if this dicision is as unfair and unamerican as the so called envestigation at the station there is no use expecting justice any more than in a Mexican Court, so just suit yourself and do as you like but whether you recommend a dismissal or aprove my resignation I consider myself out of the service now, and ask that my final statements be mailed to me as soon as posible whether favorable or unfavorable.

The same sperit which caused me to go into the service during the war volentarily, caused me to report Mr. Knight for committing crimes against my country, and some day I will meet you and in a civil way show you I am worthy of consideration I hope, so do your duty to me if not to the other party, and if you think best do the worst.

I will remain the same

(Sgd) Jesse E. Powell.

...TIONS TO
...IGHTHOUSES
...N, S. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

...LB-JFS

1920 SEP 20 AM 8 26

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 6TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, S. C.

Sept. 17, 1920.

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.
SEP 25 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell.

Reference: My report of Sept. 8, 1920, on the subject of charges against Keeper Thomas Knight.

1. Jesse E. Powell is First Assistant Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Florida. I have heard nothing from Keeper Knight or either one of the assistant keepers at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station relative to conditions at that station since I visited it on Sept. 1, 1920. This morning I received a telegram from Jesse E. Powell dated Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Sept. 16, 1920, reading as follows: "Please accept my resignation effective immediately." I replied as follows: "Consider yourself on leave without pay pending Department action your resignation."

2. The simplest and easiest way to get rid of Powell who, in my opinion, is not at all a suitable person to be retained in the Lighthouse Service, would be perhaps to accept his resignation but I hesitate to recommend that it be accepted. In view of the present status of affairs at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and the nature of the report and recommendation made by me under date of Sept. 8, 1920, I can not recommend that Powell's resignation be accepted, but if in view of all the circumstances the Bureau deems it advisable to dispose of the matter by accepting his resignation I have no objection to offer. It is recommended that the Bureau advise this office promptly of its action with respect to this matter.

N. L. Beck

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JEH-Hol.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.
September 22, 1920.

Returned to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Charleston, S. C. Attention is invited to Bureau letter of September 17, 1920, requesting that charges be preferred against First Assistant Keeper Powell and Second Assistant Keeper Davis. Your letter of September 18, has this date been submitted to the Department with recommendation that Powell be suspended from duty and pay for a period not to exceed ninety days, effective September 16, 1920, in accordance with Regs. 1918, Art. 412. Upon receipt of replies to charges submit all papers to the Bureau with report and recommendation.

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

HLB-JFS

Sept. 18, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell.

Reference: My letter of September 17, 1920.

Inclosure: 1 - Copy of letter of Sept. 16, 1920, from Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.
2 - Copy of my letter of this date to Jesse E. Powell.

1. In view of the report submitted by Mr. Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, a copy ofwhich is inclosed, I now have to recommend that the resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell, First Assistant Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, be not accepted. It is evident that Mr. Powell left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station with the intention of not returning because of the fact that he took his family and his household goods with him. He left without due notice.

2. Inclosure 2 is a copy of my charges against Powell for having left the station without due notice and having offered his resignation on such short notice as to prevent action thereon by the Department.

H. L. Beck,

RETURN RECEIPT.

LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S.C.
SEP 27 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Vouchers
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.

Jesse E. Powell
(Signature or name of addressee.)

(Signature of addressee's agent.)

Date of delivery, 9/25, 19 20

Form 3811

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S.C. SEP 18 1920

1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

SIXTH DISTRICT

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station Fla.

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

September 16, 1920

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th L. H. District,
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sir:-

Jesse E. Powell, 1st Asst. Keeper, left this Station at 10 o'clock A. M. September 16, 1920. He left me his house-boat with family and house-hold goods on board.

Mr. Powell notified me that he was leaving about thirty minutes before he left Station -

He gave me his address as follows,

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Box 395.

Respectfully -

Thos. Knight
Keeper.

HLB-JFS

Sept. 17, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Resignation offered by Jesse E. Powell.

Reference: My report of Sept. 8, 1920, on the subject of charges against Keeper Thomas Knight.

1. Jesse E. Powell is First Assistant Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Florida. I have heard nothing from Keeper Knight or either one of the assistant keepers at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station relative to conditions at that station since I visited it on Sept. 1, 1920. This morning I received a telegram from Jesse E. Powell dated Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Sept. 16, 1920, reading as follows: "Please accept my resignation effective immediately." I replied as follows: "Consider yourself on leave without pay pending Department action your resignation."

2. The simplest and easiest way to get rid of Powell who, in my opinion, is not at all a suitable person to be retained in the Lighthouse Service, would be perhaps to accept his resignation but I hesitate to recommend that it be accepted. In view of the present status of affairs at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and the nature of the report and recommendation made by me under date of Sept. 8, 1920, I can not recommend that Powell's resignation be accepted, but if in view of all the circumstances the Bureau deems it advisable to dispose of the matter by accepting his resignation I have no objection to offer. It is recommended that the Bureau advise this office promptly of its action with respect to this matter.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

IDENTIFICATION CARD NO._____

...R'S No.	TIME FILED	CHECK PAID, GOVERNMENT RATE

...IAL BUSINESS—EXEMPT FROM TAX

CHARLESTON S C SEPT 17, 1920
(Place and date)

...END TO JESSE E POWELL
FORT LAUDERDALE FLORIDA

CONSIDER YOURSELF ON LEAVE WITHOUT PAY PENDING DEPARTMENT ACTION YOUR RESIGNATION

BECK

Confirmation to Mr. Thomas Knight, Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Deerfield, Florida.

H. L. Beck,

CHARGE BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES, WASHINGTON, D. C.
APPROPRIATION FOR "GENERAL EXPENSES, LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE."

ATTEST:

H. L. Beck,
(Name)

Superintendent of Lighthouses.
(Title)

11—4649

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

JFS

CHARLESTON, S. C.

Sept. 18, 1920.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
First Assistant Keeper,
Hillsboro Inlet Light Station,
P.O. Box 395,
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

1. Mr. Thomas Knight, Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, reports that you left the station at 10:00 o'clock a.m., Sept. 16, 1920, on your house-boat with your family and household goods on board. He further reports that you notified him that you were leaving about thirty minutes before you left the station. It does not appear from the report that you requested the Keeper's permission to leave. After reaching Fort Lauderdale you telegraphed me as follows: "Please accept my resignation effective immediately." On Sept. 17,1920, I replied to you as follows: "Consider yourself on leave without pay pending Department action your resignation." On account of the fact that when you left Hillsboro Inlet Light Station you took your family and household goods with you, it is evident that you left with the intention of not returning. Further proof that you left with the intention of not returning is the fact that you submitted your resignation after reaching Fort Lauderdale.

2. Paragraph 46 of Instructions to Employees of the U. S. Lighthouse Service, 1915, reads as follows: "Any person who leaves the service without due notice or offers his resignation and leaves the service without action thereon on such short notice as to cause embarrassment to the service shall be recommended for dismissal unless he can give satisfactory reasons for his action." You are hereby charged with having violated the regulation just quoted, and are given three days after receipt of this communication to state cause why I should not recommend your dismissal from the Lighthouse Service.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Copy forwarded Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station for his information, files and guidance.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 6th DISTRICT

~~Office of Inspector, 6th District,~~

CHARLESTON, S. C.

August 9, 1920.

Mr. Thomas Knight,
Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

Subject: Charges.
Inclosure: Copy of charges preferred by Mr.Jesse E.Powell.

1. As provided in "Instructions to Employees of the U.S.Lighthouse Service, 1915," paragraph 45, there is forwarded to you herewith a copy of charges preferred against you by Mr.Jesse E.Powell, 1st assistant keeper, dated August 6, 1920. You will be given three days after the receipt of this letter to prepare and mail to this office your written reply to these charges.

2. At a convenient time after the receipt of your reply I shall make a personal investigation of this matter at the station.

H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

See Personnel file Thomas Knight for complete correspondence.
See also file Daisy M. Davis, then 21-A-Kpr. Hillsboro, as he was connected with the case.

Copy

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C. AUG 9 1920

1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

SIXTH DISTRICT

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.
(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

Aug 6 1920

From Jesse E. Powell, 1st Asst. Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station Flo.

To. Superintendent of Light Houses: Charleston S.C.

Subject. Charges against Keeper Mr. Thos: Knight & others.

Specification 1 Owing to the very unpleasant, unfair & antagonistic management of this station it becomes my unpleasant duty for the benifit of the service to prefer the following charges against the Keeper Mr. Thos Knight and others

Specification 2. Besides the violation of paragraphs 2, 8, 9, 34, 42, 69, 70, 75, 121, 122, 125, 130. & others of "Instructions to Employees 1915" there is a tendency to antagonize the subordinates & their families especially by the Keepers family.

Specification 3. Supplies are not properly perpotioned or issued

Specification 4. There exists a conspiracy to chace me away from the station by parties who are interested directly or indirectly in smuggling.

Through Keeper.

Thomas Knight.
Keeper

Jesse E. Powell
1st. Asst. Keeper
Hillsboro Inlet Light Sta. Fla.

O and I Q to office
1 Q to Keeper
1 Q Retained

JOHNSON BROTHERS
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
FERTILIZER AND SEED

W. M. JOHNSON

...S-JFS

DEERFIELD, FLORIDA, 114 192

Sept. 8, 1920.

Messrs. Johnson Bros.,
Deerfield, Fla.

Sirs:-

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of Sept. 4th, 1920, in regard to failure of Jesse E. Powell, First Assistant Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, to pay his grocery bill. Mr. Powell's letter to you dated August 17, 1920, is returned to you herewith.

2. It is suggested that you comply with the two requests contained in Mr. Powell's letter to you dated August 17th at once, and then if payment is not made within a very short time advise this office to that effect.

Respectfully,

H. L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JOHNSON BROTHERS
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
FERTILIZER AND SEED

DEERFIELD, FLORIDA, 9/4 192

W. M. JOHNSON
SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.
SEP 7 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Vouchers
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

Supt. 7 Light Houses
6th Light House Distrcit
Charleston S.C.

Gentlemen—

Some time ago I wrote the department in regards to Jesse E. Powell assistant Keeper at Hillsboro Light-house Not paying his grocery bill with us. after reporting him, Mr Powell paid 3 payments, the bill at that time being $63.70 having reduced it to $30.00 But he hasn't paid anything with in the last sixty days.

Some days ago I sent Mr Powell a statement by one of the boys from Light house and insisted on payment, the letter I wrote was very courteous more than I remarked, that

W. M. JOHNSON

JOHNSON BROTHERS
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
FERTILIZER AND SEED

DEERFIELD, FLORIDA, _____ 192__

If he didnt pay me I would be compelled to take up the Matter again with Department.

Enclose you will find Mr Powells reply- To our certain knowledge he is able to pay this bill at once.

Any thing you can do to help us in regards to this Matter will be greatly appreciated-

Very truly Yrs.
Johnson Bros

P.S. In regards to an itemized statement We use the McCaskey register System and Mr Powell got a duplicate slip with every order of goods from us.

JFS (COPY)

Hillsboro Light Sta.,
Aug. 17, 1920.

Johnson Bros.,
Deerfield, Fla.

Gentlemen:

Received yours of the 14th inst., by hand and ask two favors of you.

1st please render me complete itemized statement and 2nd please use Post Office as your past means of communication is objectionable to me and think I am due this courtesy.

Will pay you just as soon as I can and the "Department" has been informed the same.

Respectfully,

(Sgd) Jesse E. Powell.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SIXTH DISTRICT

August 3, 1920.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
Through the Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

Subject: Request for copies of letters
Reference: Your letter of July 28.

1. The request contained in the reference is not approved. The letter to you from this office dated April 23, 1920, gave you the essential information as to the nature of Johnson Bros. letters.

2. I do not find two letters from the keeper dated March 24. He forwarded one from you dated March 24 but without comment.

H.L. Beck,
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Not approved. So advise.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C. AUG 2 1920

1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

SIXTH DISTRICT

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.
(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

July 28 1920

From Jesse E. Powell, 1st. asst. K/pr. Hillsboro Inlet Light Station Flo.
To Superintendent of Light Houses, Charleston S. C.
Subject. Request for copies of letters

Respectfully request copies of following letters if such can be furnished one within conformity of regulations and customs of the service. Thery are Johnson Bros. letters of April 9th and 21st. and the Keepers two letterd of Mar. 24

Thos Keeper

Jesse E. Powell
1st Asst Keeper
Hillsboro Inlet Light Station

Thomas Knight
Keeper

Not approved, So advise.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

J. E. Powell

LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C. JUL 27 1920 Asst. Supt. Chief Clerk Asst. Supt. Voucher Personnel Property Depot

SIXTH DISTRICT

August 3, 1920.

Mr. Thomas Knight,
Keeper Hillsboro Inlet Light Station,
Deerfield, Fla.

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

July 25 1920

Subject: Station records.
Reference: Your letter of July 25, 1920.

1. You are not "required to permit the assistant keepers to read the station journal whenever they may feel disposed to do so and make notes from same." You are keeper of the station. Use good judgment and exercise your own discretion as to whether or not such requests are reasonable. Permit no copies to be made of any records without authority from this office. The making of a copy of an official record is a very different matter from permitting or requiring an employee in his official capacity to familiarize himself with the proper work of a station by merely reading the records.

2. Try to compose your differences with the 1st Assistant. There has been too much correspondence already about him and between him and this office.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th L. H. District,
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dated July 25, 1920,
read letter, paragraphs 151 & 152 re
"Instructions to Employees 1915" also Re-
Station Journal,
He read the letter and paragraphs
151 & 152 and notated letter. He read Re-
Station Journal and Rem asked for Letter
File - after reading these, he went to his
dwelling and got pencil and paper - He then
made notes from Journal and Letter File
containing Official Correspondence,
I have read your letter carefully as to
paragraphs 7, 151, 152, and 245 re
Instructions to Employees, 1915 -
I wish to know, if same regard

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C. JUL 27 1920

1st. Asst. Supt. / Chief Clerk / Asst. Supt. / Voucher / Personnel / Property / Proposals / Depot / File

SIXTH DISTRICT

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

July 25, 1920

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 6th L. H. District,
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sir:-

In compliance with your instruction in letter dated July 21, 1920, I asked Jesse E. Powell, 1st Asst. Keeper to read letter, paragraphs 151 and 152 in "Instructions to Employees, 1915" also the Station Journal.

He read the letter and paragraphs 151 and 152 and initialed letter. He read the Station Journal and then asked for Letter File. After reading these, he went to his dwelling and got pencil and paper. He then made notes from Journal and Letter File containing Official Correspondence.

I have read your letter carefully also paragraphs 7, 151, 152 and 245 in "Instructions to Employees, 1915".

I wish to know, if I am required

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SIXTH DISTRICT

Gilsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

July - 25, 1920

to permit the Assistant Keepers to read the Station Journal and Letter File of Correspondence when ever they feel disposed to do so and make notes from same.

Respectfully,

Thos. Knight,

Keeper.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUP. LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S.C. MAY 3 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

Advise Johnson Bros. HFB.

SIXTH DISTRICT

335

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

April 30, 1920

n. Jesse E. Powell. 1st. Ast. Keeper Hillsboro Inlet Light

o. Superintendent of Light Houses. Charleston S. C.

Subject:- Reply to letter of 28th inst.

I am indebted to Johnson Bros. of Deerfield Fla and expect to pay them every cent I owe them and can assure the office that I have an honest desire to pay my honest debts. but owing to most unreasonable prices locally I have to buy elsewhere.

Jesse E. Powell

1st. Ast. Keeper. Hillsboro Light

Through Keeper.

Thos. Knight Keeper

PE-JFB

Office of Superintendent of Lighthouses,
Charleston, S. C., May 3, 1920.

Johnson Bros.,
Deerfield, Fla.

Sirs:-

The above is a copy of letter received from Jesse E. Powell, 1st Assistant Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station. The same is forwarded you for your information, Respectfully, H. L. BECK Superintendent of Lighthouses

JOHNSON BROTHERS
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
FERTILIZER AND SEED
DEERFIELD, FLORIDA

April 23, 1920.

...sse E. Powell,
Asst. Keeper, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.
...rough the Keeper.)

of Deerfield, Fla.

This office has received a communication from Johnson Bros., stating that you owe them a bill amounting to $63.73, part of which has been standing for ninety days, and have requested this office to call your attention to this matter. The following regulation of the Lighthouse Service with regard to employees paying their just and honest debts is quoted for your information:

> "Payment of debts.--All persons in the Lighthouse Service must pay their honest, just, and legal debts; failure to do so will be considered cause for dismissal."

You are instructed to furnish this office a statement whether or not you are indebted to Johnson Bros., and if so, what steps you propose to take to settle this account.

For and in the absence of the Superintendent of Lighthouses.

T. H. GREGG,
1st Assistant Superintendent.

B

W. M. JOHNSON

JOHNSON BROTHERS
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
FERTILIZER AND SEED

DEERFIELD, FLORIDA, April 21 1920

SUPT.
LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.
APR 22 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

Superintendent of Lighthouses
Charleston S.C.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of 12th inst to hand and contents carefully noted.

We would be pleased to have you call Mr. Powell's attention to the fact that we are complaining about his attitude toward this account and also quote him the regulation of the Lighthouse Service in regard to Payment of debts, but refrain from mentioning Mr. Knight's name.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness in this matter, we beg to remain,

Yours very truly
Johnson Bros.

April 12, 1920.

Johnson Bros.,
Deerfield, Florida.

Sirs:-

Referring to your letter of April 9, 1920, relative to an account owed you by Jesse E. Powell, Assistant Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station:

I have to state that there is no way that this office can collect a debt from a Government employee nor can salary be withheld and paid to a creditor. The salary of a Government employee has to be paid him direct. The following is quoted from the Regulations of the Lighthouse Service:

"Payment of debts.-All persons in the Lighthouse Service must pay their honest, just, and legal debts; failure to do so will be considered cause for dismissal."

In view of the next to the last paragraph of your letter in which you state

"Please do not mail this letter to Mr. Powell as we do not care to cause any friction between he and Mr. Knight, and for Mr. Powell to suspect that we know his plans"

I am uncertain whether you desire this office to take up the matter at once with Mr. Powell. Please advise this office promptly whether it is your desire that this office take up the matter with Mr. Powell. If you do I will write a letter calling Mr. Powell's attention to the regulation quoted, and if his explanation is not satisfactory report will be made to the Commissioner of Lighthouses in Washington.

It appears from your letter that you fear that Mr. Powell is going to leave the service without paying you, and that you do not care to have your letter frowarded to him. If you have a just and legal claim against Mr. Powell there is no reason why you cannot take legal steps locally to attach his boat if you care to do so. This office and the principal keeper at the light station cannot compel Mr. Powell to pay this debt nor can they hold his property.

Respectfully,

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Deerfield Fla
4/9/20

Capt. 7th Dist. Light Houses
Charleston S.C.

SUPT
LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S.C.
APR 12 1920
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

Gentlemen:- We wish to inform you that your assistant Keeper Jesse E Powell, owing us the amount of $63.73 Part of this bill is ninety days old, and the last item is sixty day. He refuses to give us any satisfaction what ever about it. After Mr Powell had traded 1 Month and left that bill unsettled he was trying to trade another month we were compelled to cut it off. The only reason he gave

settling this account is, that
is continued giving him credit.
We are of opinion that Mr Powell
is going to leave the service, and
trying to get away with out paying this
bill. This opinion, being based on
information given by Mr Knight
the keeper. If you can secure this,
money for us, or compell him to pay
it would greatly appreciate it.
We understand that Mr Powell has
a launch also a house boat. that he
has recently purchased on the government
reservation. Is there any place where
we could get authority to attach these
boats in case he tried to leave.

do not mail this letter to Mr Powell
we do not care to cause any friction
between he and Mr Knight. and for
Mr Powell to suspich that we know
his plans.

Trusting that you can aid
us in this matter. and thanking you
in advance. We remain

Very truly yours
Johnson Bros.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Letter #2

SIXTH DISTRICT

March 29, 1920.

Mr. Jesse E. Powell,
1st Asst. Keeper,
Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.
(Through the Keeper.)

SUBJECT: Permission to work on boats etc.

REFERENCE: Your letter of March 24, 1920.

1. The questions brought up by you in the reference are fully covered by Instructions to Employees of the Lighthouse Service, 1915. In this connection your particular attention is invited to paragraphs 24, 25, and 26 on page 11 of the above mentioned publication.

2. At present there appears to be no objection to your doing the kind of work suggested on a lot adjoining the Lighthouse reservation provided the work be done in your spare time when you are off duty.

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Letter # 2

SIXTH DISTRICT

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.

(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

Mar. 24, 1920

SUPT LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S. C. MAR 26 1920

1st. Asst Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File ✓

From. Jesse E. Powell. 1st. Ast. Kpr. Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

To. Superintendent of Lighthouses. 6th Dist

Subject. Permission to do work on boats etc.

Would like permission to build and repair boats on station during spare time with understanding that such work is not to conflict with any work or duty on Station. as 1st. Ast. Keeper. Reg. 359 Inst #250 26

2. If not posible to grant me permission to do this work on station I can arange to use a lot joining N.W. corner of Reservation - if that will be permissable

3. I will have to do something it seems in order to help out my salery, and I believe I can get work of this nature to do.

Jesse E. Powell
1st. Ast. Kpr. Hillsboro Inlet Light Station
Deerfield Fla.

Thro' Keeper

Through Keeper
Mrs. Knight

January 20, 1920.

missioner of Lighthouses.

Subject: Jesse E.Powell,1st Asst.Keeper.
Reference: Notice of Change in salary dated Nov.18,1919.

1. The above named employe entered upon duty as 1st assistant keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station November 20,1919, at a salary of $720 base per annum, having been promoted from the position of second assistant keeper at the same station, salary $660 base per annum.

H.L.Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SALARY
KEEPERS -- LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
NOV 19 1919
HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

SUPT.
LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.
NOV 22 1919
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

M

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

November 18, 1919.

r. Jesse E. Powell,

You are advised that your salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service has been changed from $ per annum to $ per annum, effective

Sir:

No new appointment will be issued to you as a result of this change, and an oath of office is not required. 720.

November 20, 1919, or as soon thereafter as you enter on duty at the increased rate of pay.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

M
C
6th

Considered he entered on duty Nov. 20/19

Hillsboro

Entered on card Clerk. Jan. 20/1920

November 10,19 9

Mr.J.E.Powell,2d Asst.Kpr.
(Through the Kpr.of Hillsboro Inlet Lt.Sta0

1. You have been nominated for promotion to the position of 1st Assistant Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, at a salary of $720 per annum,base, effective on November 20,1919.

2. Notice of change in salary will be sent to you as soon as the same is received at this office.

H.L.Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
OFFICE OF ~~LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR~~, 6th DISTRICT,

Charleston, S.C., November 10, 1919.
(City.) (Date.)

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Promotion

Name, Jesse E. Powell. Legal residence, Florida.

Position, Keeper Salary, $720.00 per annum, base.

Location, Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla. Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective November 20, 1919, {1 ~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Same Former salary, $660.00 per annum, base.

Location, Same

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

Previous incumbent, Reinhard Heisser Service will terminated, Close of November 15, 1919, or thereabouts.

Reason, Transferred and promoted.

Members of family in Government Service, None.

Remarks: Quarters are provided by the Government. Powell is the best qualified second assistant keeper at present available for promotion.

It is recommended that a notice of change in salary be issued to cover this promotion.

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

H. L. Beck,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Secretary, Civil Service District.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

---

1 Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

Copy

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.)

Mr. Jesse Everett Powell

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

Jesse E.Powell

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

Lighthouse (Bureau or Service.) Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla. (Place (city, town, station, or vessel).) 6th (District.)

4. Position to which appointed Keeper (2d Asst.)

5. Compensation $660.00 per annum, base.

6. Appropriation from which paid Sal.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.)

From Asst.Kprs.examination,6th Dist.,April 10,1919.

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

Sebastian, (City or town.) Fla. (State or Territory.) St.Lucie (County.) 4th (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? Bromwood, Ga.

12. When were you born? February (Month.) 17 (Day.) 1884. (Year.)

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

14. What is your marital condition? Married

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

Mrs. Jesse E.Powell (Name.) (Number and street.)

Sebastian, (City or town,) Fla. (State or Territory.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPT LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S C
MAY 16 1919
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File, 1919

SIXTH DISTRICT

Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, Fla.
(Depot, Vessel, or Station)

May 13th, 1919

Superintendent of Light Houses
6th District
Charleston S.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the leaving of Mr. Robert Simons 2nd Asst Keeper on May the 10th at 12 M. - Also the arrival of Mr. Jessie E Powell. who reported for duty on May the 11th at 10.30 A.M.

Enclosed are Mr. Powells Oath of Office and 2 personal question sheets filled in & Signed as directed.

Very Respectfully
Charles Seabrook
Keeper

SUPT LIGHTHOUSES CHARLESTON, S C
MAY 16 1919
1st. Asst. Supt.
Cshief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Lighthouse Service
(Branch of service or department.)

Hillsboro Inlet Light Sta. Fla., (State.)
(Name of city.)

May 14 1919

DECLARATION OF APPOINTEE.

This form must be executed by the appointee before he enters on duty. ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO THE PROVISIONS OF LAW AS QUOTED ON ATTACHED FORM. False personation in an examination is a criminal offense, and will be prosecuted accordingly.

Questions.	Answers.
1. What was your age on your last birthday and what was the date of your birth?	35 years. Feb. 17, 1884
2. Where were you born?	Bronwood Ga.
3. What were the names of the persons who signed the vouchers to your application?	H. D. Ruffner, T. B. Hicks M. M. Miller S. A. Parks and E. W. Vickers
4. In what city or town, and in what building were you examined?	Charleston S. C.
5. To what position have you been appointed? State the salary. If temporary, so state.	2nd. Asst. Keeper $660.00. per annum

6. Are any members of your family or relatives (either blood or by marriage) in the U. S. Government Service? Answer "yes" or "no" No. If so, fill in the following blanks. If additional space is necessary use back of this sheet.

Name.	Post-office address. (Give street No. if any.)	Position and department or office in which employed.	Relationship.	Married or single.
		Position Department or office		
		Position Department or office		
		Position Department or office		

7. Have any of the above-named persons entered the Government service since the execution of your application for examination? ____ If so, give the name of each such person ____

8. Will you inform yourself of and observe the provisions of the civil service law and rules and Executive orders concerning political activity, political coercion, political assessments, use of influence to secure promotion, etc., as quoted on the attached form? Yes.

I hereby certify that the answers to the foregoing questions are true in every particular.

X Jesse E. Powell
(Signature.)

Sebastian Fla.
(Give here your present post-office address, city and state, including street and number.)

The officer before whom the above certificate is made is requested to sign the following:

If the answer to question 6 includes two or more names, and is not IDENTICAL in every respect with answer to similar question in the application, this form must be submitted for approval before appointment is made.

The above certificate was executed before me, in his own handwriting, by the identical person who has reported for assignment to duty.

Was photograph of appointee furnished you? No. If so, is it a correct likeness of the person who executed this form? ____

This is to be signed by an officer of the department or bureau to which the appointee belongs, not by a notary public, and does not need to be sworn to.

Charles Seabrook
(Signature.)

Keeper
(Official title.)

6—4556

(The paper should be returned to the District Secretary when completed.)

SUPT.
LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C
MAY 10 1919
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

Sebastian Fla
May 8. 1919

Superintendent of Lighthouses
Charleston S. C.

Dear Sirs.

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of instruction dated the 2nd. inst. I inform you that your instructions will be carried out

Respectfully.
Jesse B. Powell

APR 30 1919 3 00 PM

OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

LIGHT APR 30 1919 HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1919.

se E. Powell,

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 Six Hundred and Sixty dollars per annum, effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

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

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS
Chief of Appointment Division.

D
C

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.
Vice: Robert ~~Hivius~~ Niven.
Legal Residence: Florida.
(See reverse side.)
6th

Date of Oath.... May 14, 1919
EOD..... " 11, "
Oath & PQS forwd.Bu: 16 "

11—8080

W. J. Conners Farms

FLORIDA VEGETABLES AND OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS
CAR LOT GROWERS AND DEALERS
WEST PALM BEACH, FLA

May 2, 1919.

Jesse E. Powell,
Sebastian, Fla.

1. Referring to your letter of April 27, 1919, stating that you would be ready to report for duty when directed by this office to do so.

2. Please report to the Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, postoffice address Deerfield, Fla., for duty as Second Assistant Keeper on May 11, 1919.

3. It is suggested that you write the Keeper of the station, Mr. Charles Seabrook, Deerfield, Fla., and find out from him when he could meet you with the station launch.

4. Your appointment and other papers have been forwarded to the station and will be given to you by the Keeper when you report for duty.

5. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter, stating that you will carry out above instructions. You will have to pay your own traveling expenses to the station.

In the absence & by direction of Supt.of Lighthouses.

T. H. Gregg.

First Assistant Superintendent.

Copy to the Keeper of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, for information and guidance. Report to this office by letter the date on which Mr.Powell enters on duty. Mr.Nivens' temporary services will terminate on May 10,1919, or as soon thereafter as Mr.Powell reports for duty, but Nivens' services must terminate at the close of the day before Powell enters on duty so as to have no conflict in the services of the two men.

Oath of Office is enclosed which Mr.Powell will sign before a Notary Public with a seal, or if taken before the Postmaster or Assistant no charge will be made. Name to be signed "Jesse E.Powell," and nothing to be written on the oath below the pencil cross.

Personal Question Sheet is enclosed, (2) both of which are to be returned to this office, one copy has been filled out as far as possible by this office as a guide, and may be copied, but all questions must be answered. Be sure and have Mr.Powell write out his full name, including the middle name which must be given in full and not by initial. He must also sign the Declaration of Appointee where indicated, you signing near the bottom of the sheet where indicated. The second sheet to be detached and kept by appointee. Appointment is also enclosed for delivery.

Return the Oath of Office, two Personal Question Sheets, and Declaration of Appointee to this office as soon as practicable after Mr.Powell enters on duty. Later Mr.Powell will be required to take the physical examination by the Public Health Service in order that he may receive free medical treatment but he will be later advised relative thereto.

For & in the absence of the Supt.of Lighthouses,

Gregg,

1st. Asst. Supt.

W. J. Conners, Sole Owner and Proprietor

W. J. Conners Farms

FLORIDA VEGETABLES AND OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS
CAR LOT GROWERS AND DEALERS

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

SUPT. LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.
APR 29 1919
1st. Asst. Supt.
Chief Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Voucher
Personnel
Property
Proposals
Depot
File

April 27th.1919

Supereintendent of Lighthouses

Charlston S,C.

Dear Sir.

Received notice of nomination as Second Assistant Keeper at Hillsboro Inlet Light Station Fla. And will be ready to report to the Keeper for duty as directed.

Notify me by letter at Sebastian Fla.

Respectfully

Jesse E. Powell

DIAMOND Conners BRAND

SUPT.
LIGHTHOUSES
CHARLESTON, S. C.
APR 26 1919
1st. Asst. Supt.
Clerk
Asst. Supt.
Personnel
Property
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File

...il Service Commission,
...IL SERVICE DISTRICT,
...FFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

ATLANTA, GA., April 25, 1919.

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...adam):

You are respectfully advised that the ...ination of Powell and Moessner ...s a keepers in your office has this day been approved and forwarded to the proper Department.

Respectfully,

L. E. Adams

Secretary, Fifth District.

6—2271