'26 MAR 10 AM11:59:59

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

Date: 03/06/2026

REQUESTER INFORMATION

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

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

Name used in Service (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Service Number/SSN	Date & Place of Birth
Preston, R.T.		

MILITARY SERVICE

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

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

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

Date & Place of Death:

State of Residence (upon entry into service):

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

Researcher Signature: Andrew Burns

CIVILIAN SERVICE

(Agency & Location)		
Lighthouse Service (VA)		
From: 1919	To: 1921	
(Agency & Location)		
From:	To:	
(Agency & Location)		
From:	To:	

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

This Space Intentionally Left Blank

STAFF USE ONLY

Appointment Time and Date:

Additional Researchers: ☐ Yes ☐ No

CMRS Service Request Number: C-0007115924

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

Attendant Signature:

Remarks: P 23

'26 MAR 19 AM10:13:37

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:

Robert T. Preston

LEGAL RESIDENCE
Virginia

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SALARY	BUREAU OR OFFICE	DATE OF EFFECT OF ACTION AUTHORIZED
Keeper Dansemond River L.S. Va.	720	L. H.	April 8, 1919
" Wolf Trap L.S. Va.	780	"	June 1, 1919
	Dismissed close of Feb 28, 1921.		

Robert T. Preston

11—1248

APR 3 1919 9 00 AM

Form 73

NOMINATION

5

MEM

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SPECIAL

FOURTH DISTRICT
MAR 29 1919
Received

Supt.
OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, Fifth DISTRICT,

Baltimore, Md. (City.) March 28, 1919 (Date.) 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:
(Thro' Sec'y, 4th Civil Service District)

Action recommended, Probationary appointment

Name, **Robert T. Preston** Legal residence, **Va.**

Position, **Keeper** Salary, **$ 720. p.a.**

Location, **Nansemond River Light Station, Va.** Appropriation, **Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses**

Effective **April 5, 1919** { ~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

LIGHT
APR 3 1919.
CHIEF CLERK

Former position, Former salary,

1919 APR 4 AM 11 43

Location,

Rank on eligible list, 3 Rating, Kpr Percentage, 86.6, Other eligibles considered:
Alex. B. Curtis - 89.-C
Sam'l C. Toler - 87.2-C

APPOINTMENTS

Previous incumbent, Seldon K. Warren Services terminated, Close of March 31,1919

1919 APR 4 PM 12 04

Reason, Resigned

Members of family in Government Service, bro. - Keeper, L.H.S.

Remarks:

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, 4-2, 1919

For and in the absence of the Superintendent.

L.H. Fisher

Secretary, 4th Civil Service District.

Dicerson

Asst. Supt.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

APR 3 - 1919

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

APR 4 - 1919
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Acting Commissioner

1919 APR 4 AM 10

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

11—2314

CERTIFICATE OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1919.

Mr. Robert T. Preston,

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 Seven Hundred and Twenty 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, Fourth Civil Service District.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

CARDED

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS
Chief of Appointment Division.

D
G

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Seldon K. Warren.

Legal Residence: Virginia.

5th

(See reverse side.)

APPOINTMENT DIVISION APR 5 - 1919 DEPT. OF COMMERCE

11—5080

U. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

Form 111

APPOINTMENTS APR 21 1919

APR 21 NOV 10 30 AM

5

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT APR 21 1919 HOUSES

I, Robert T. Preston

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.

CHIEF CLERK

1919 APR 21 AM 11 46

Robert T. Preston

(Appointee signs here)

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

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) J. Addison Willett Jr.

(Official title) Notary Public

My commission expires 14 Day Dec 1919

Official Title	Rate of Pay (base)	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present Keeper	$ 720. p.a.	Nansemond River Light Station, Va.
Former [5] - - - - - - -	- - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -

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

CARDED

Office of Lighthouse ~~Inspector~~ Supt., 5th District

Baltimore, Md. (Address), April 19,1919 (Date)

U. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on April 8,1919 (Date)

1919 APR 21 AM 11 39

(Signature, followed by title) Supt. 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

APR 21 1919 9 35 AM

5

SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES APR 15 1919 BALTIMORE, MD.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1919 APR 22 PM 1 36

APPOINTMENTS

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET

1919 APR 22 PM 4

26

LIGHT HOUSES APR 21 1919

(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.)

Robert Thomas Preston

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

3. Bureau or Service, place, and district in which employed: Lighthouse Service; Hammond River Light Station c/o Ordinance Branch, Portsmouth, Va, 14th District.

CHIEF CLERK

1919 APR 22 PM 3 19

4. Position to which appointed: Assistant Lighthouse keeper

5. Compensation $720 Per Annum base or $40 Per Annum actual Pay

1919 APR 22

6. Appropriation from which paid: Salaries keepers of Lighthouses

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

By Appointment dated april the 10th 1919

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

Mobjack (City or town.) Virginia (State or Territory.) Mathews (County.) First (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

Supt.
1 A Supt.
Chief Cl.
2 A Supt.
3 A Supt.
4 A Supt.
Mech.
1 Dftsm.
2 Dftsm.
Helper.
Apprentice
Ordering
Storeroom
Gen'l Inspr.
Insp. Clk.
Stenogr.
Messenger
Fmn.

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

11. Where were you born? Mathews Co Va

12. When were you born? Oct (Month.) 15 (Day.) 1898 (Year.)

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

—

14. What is your marital condition? Single

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

Mrs Ada Virginia Preston (Name.) (Number and street.)

Mobjack (City or town.) Mathews Co (State or Territory.) Virginia

11—1434

16. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States? Yes

(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.
B.D. Arrison	Fortress Monroe, Virginia	Position: Asst Lt Ht Mgr. Department or office:	Brother	Single
		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.)

Department.	Bureau or Service.	Position.	Salary.	Appointed.	Separated.
Commerce	Lighthouse	Insp	$175 per mo	June 1916	Jan 15th 1917
	(no record, this district)			July 16th 1918	Aug 7th 1918

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.)

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

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

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

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

Relationship (widow or orphan)

Name under which soldier or sailor rendered service

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

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

Seaman on Engineer of U.S.R.C.S. Newport News Va

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.)

Co Fifth Grammer grade Newpoint High school
Molarum Mathews Co Va

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.")

First class seamen

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

None - Keeper - Mar. 1918

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, April 14, 1919

Witness (in case signature is by mark):

(Signature) Robert T. Preston

P. O. Address: Molarum
City or town.
Mathews Co
Number and street.
Virginia
State or Territory.

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

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded April 19, 1919, 19

(Signature) H. D. King

(Official title) Supt. of Lighthouses 3rd

11—1434

Form 73

NOMINATION

MEM

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Supt.

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE ~~INSPECTOR~~, Fifth DISTRICT,

Baltimore, Md. (City.) May 12, 1919 (Date.), 191

APPOINTMENT

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Transfer

1919 MAY 19 PM 4 50 CHIEF CLERK

Name, Robert T. Preston — Legal residence, Va.

Position, Keeper — Salary, $ 780. p.a.

1919 MAY 19 PM 3 13

Location, Wolf Trap Light Station, Va. — Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

Effective June 1, 1919 — [1] ~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Keeper — Former salary, $ 720. p.a.

Location, Nansemond River L.S., Va.

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

Previous incumbent, William H. Etheridge — Services terminated, Close of May 31, 1919

Reason, To be transferred

Members of family in Government Service, Bro. - Kpr. L.H.S.

Remarks: Above nomination made at nominee's request after correspondence between him and Second Asst. Kpr. at Wolf Trap L.S. in reference to exchange of positions.

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

Secretary, Civil Service District.

Supt. of Lighthouses.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

5-30-19

MAY 17 1919

1919 MAY 19 PM 3 05

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION MAY 20 1919 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Acting Commissioner

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

11—2314

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SALARY
KEEPERS -- LIGHTHOUSE SERVIC[redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON May 20, 1919.

r. Robert T. Preston,
M

Sir: Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

You are advised that your salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service has been changed from $ 720 per annum to $ 780 per annum, effective June 1, 1919, or as soon thereafter as you enter on duty at the increased rate of pay.

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

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

CARDED (SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS
Chief of Appointment Division.

R
C

5th

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED MAY 20 1919 DEPT. OF COMMERCE

C. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

(Cross Reference)

February 27, 1920, the following named employee of Lighthouses

E. O. D. on the date indicated June 1. 1919 by Ivanfer

Name R J Burton

See original letter in the file of ~~Julius Ellestad~~.

James B Canady

JEH-OWR

(COPY)

5

CHIEF CLERK

APPOINTMENT DIVISION APR 3 PM 2 26

April 1, 1920.

APR 3 PM 3 43

R. T. Preston,
2nd Assistant Keeper, Wolf Trap Light Station, Va.
(Through Superintendent of Lighthouses, Baltimore, Md.)

1. Referring to report of the Superintendent of the Fifth Lighthouse District in regard to failure to return to your station with part for signal apparatus for which you were sent by the keeper, thereby causing the fog signal to be out of commission until March 3.

2. You are hereby severely reprimanded for dereliction of duty in not returning to your station with mail, for which you were sent ashore on February 28, or for not notifying the Superintendent's office in case you were unable to do so, also in not returning on March 3, as instructed by the 1st assistant keeper, in order that report could be sent as directed in the Superintendent's letter of February 26, all of which is in violation of Instructions to Employees, 1915, paragraph 11, Obedience to orders. The fact that you have been reprimanded will be noted on the records as part of your official history.

(Signed) S. C. Putnam
Commissioner.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
Apr. 1, 1920.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information. The 5th Superintendent has been directed to submit further report in this case at the expiration of six months.

S. C. Putnam
Commissioner.

1920 APR 3 PM 1 19

File
Link

IN REPLYING ADDRESS
COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES
AND REFER TO DATE OF THIS LETTER
AND FILE NO.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON

JAH:LON

May 28, 1920.

1920 JUN 2 AM 9 13

(COPY)

R. T. Preston,
2nd Assistant Keeper, Wolf Trap Light Station, Va.
(Through Superintendent of Lighthouses, Baltimore, Md.)

APPOINTMENTS

1920 JUN 2 AM 10 27

Referring to letter of reprimand addressed you on April 1, 1920, it has come to the attention of the Bureau that the part for signal apparatus referred to in paragraph one of that letter was not received by you until March 2, instead of February 27, as previously understood. The degree of your dereliction of duty and your responsibility for delay in the restoration of fog signal to service condition are correspondingly less. The fact that repremand of April 1 has been modified by this letter will be noted on the records as part of your official history.

(Signed) G R Putnam

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
MAY 28 1920

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information.

S Cruzen
Acting Commissioner

File

Hmlo

Form 73

MEM

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 5 DISTRICT,

Baltimore, Md. (City.) November 6, 1920. (Date.) 19

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

LIGHTHOUSES

1920 NOV 8 AM 8 34

Action recommended, Transfer

Name, Robert T. Preston — Legal residence, Va.

Position, Keeper — Salary, $ 660. p.a.

APPOINTMENTS

Location, Cedar Point L.S.,Md. — Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Light Stations.

CHIEF CLERK

Effective December 1,1920 1920 NOV 9 AM — ~~the actual date of entrance on duty, or~~ as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

1920 NOV 9 AM 9 24

Former position, Keeper — Former salary, $ 780. p.a.

Location, Wolf Trap L.S.,Va.

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

Previous incumbent, William W.Bozman — Services terminated, (X Close of Nov. 15/1920 July 24 ord.)

Reason, To be transferred to (Craighill Rear L.S. Lows Pt.)

Members of family in Government Service, Bro. - Kpr.,L.H.S.

Remarks: Transfer made at request of nominee and in the best interest of the Service. Mr. Midgett, present Add'l Kpr., detailed at Cedar Point L.S., will be detailed at Wolf Trap L.S. until other arrangements can be made.

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

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN NOV - 9 1920 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

11/9/20

Secretary, Civil Service District.

King

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

NOV 8 1920

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

1920 NOV 8 PM 4 03

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

[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

November 1, 1920.

Mr. Robert T. Preston,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that your salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service has been changed from $780 per annum to $660 per annum, effective December 1, 1920, or as soon thereafter as you enter on duty.

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

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS
Chief of Appointment Division.

CARDED

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NOV 01920

E. T. REPORT DATE

P
5th

LIGHT
DEC 8 1920
HOUSES

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SALARY
KEEPERS--LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

November 9, 1920.

Mr. Robert T. Preston,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that your salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service has been changed from $ 780 per annum to $ 660 per annum, effective December 1, 1920, or as soon thereafter as you enter on duty.

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

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

Clifford Harding

Chief of Appointment Division.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
BALTIMORE, MD.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT NOV 30 1920 HOUSES

MEM

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT 5TH DISTRICT
BALTIMORE, MD.

Engrg.
Engr Const.
Mar. Engr.
~~Personnel~~
Accounts.
Contracts.
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Collr.
Comr.

November 29, 1920.

1920 DEC 7 AM 8 08

Commissioner of Lighthouses,
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Leave without pay, Robert T.Preston, (2 Asst) Kpr., Wolf Trap L.S.

APPOINTMENTS

1920 DEC 7 AM 10 16

1. At Mr. R.T.Preston's request he was transferred from Wolf Trap Light Station to Cedar Point Light Station, to be effective on December 1. Upon learning that Cedar Point has no quarters for a family he has requested that his transfer request be withdrawn, as his expenses would be entirely too heavy to meet, inasmuch as he helps support his mother and sister. He has requested one year leave without pay, but three months leave without pay has been granted him, with a promise of possible further extension upon a letter from him at the proper time.

2. The vacancy at Cedar Point will be filled by selection from register of eligibles. Additional Keeper has been detailed there and will remain until December 1, when he will report at Wolf Trap Light Station for detail.

W. D. King

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Noted

12/1/20.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington.
DEC 4 - 1920

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information.

1920 DEC 6 AM 11 43

Acting Commissioner

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
BALTIMORE, MD.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT HOUSES DEC 8 1920

CHIEF CLERK

MEM

Hydr.
Eng'r Corps.
Mar. Engr.
Accounts.
Contracts.
Ofr. Dis.
Dep. Comr.
Comr.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 5TH DISTRICT
BALTIMORE, MD.
1920 DEC 9 PM 2 28

December 7, 1920.

1. Respectfully returned to the Commissioner of Lighthouses for cancellation. Mr. Preston has been granted three month's leave without pay beginning December 1, at his request for one year's leave. In this connection reference is made to letter addressed to the Bureau on November 29 on this subject. Enclosure was issued in connection with transfer of Mr. Preston from Wolf Trap to Cedar Point Light Station, but will not now take effect.

SUPERINTENDENT
1920 DEC 9 PM

For and in the absence of the Superintendent.

Current

Assistant Superintendent.

CARDED

Enclosure

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington.
DEC 8 - 1920

12/10/20

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommended for approval.

Acting Commissioner.

DEC 11 1920
ON JOURNAL
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. REPORT DATA
ENTERED

January 27, 1921.

Sir:

It having been charged that you violated the regulations governing leave of absence, and conspired to falsify official records so as not to show excess leave taken, the Department, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, has dismissed you from the position of Keeper (Second Assistant) of Wolf Trap Light Station, Maryland, at $780 per annum, to take effect at the close of February 28, 1921, the charges having been established in a degree sufficient to warrant such action.

CARDED

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

JAN 27 1921

Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. Robert T. Preston,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.
C-P.

U. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

Cross reference.

February 14, 1921. The Department approves the recommendation dismissing from the service, Hurst, Montague, and Preston effective at the close of February 28, 1921. and states that the regulations ni regard to excess leave be waved to the extent that each keeper may be a lowed 40days' additional leave with pay during the calender year 1920.

See File James B. Hurst.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
BALTIMORE, MD.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
1921 FEB 15 AM 8 39

HDK-MEM

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 5TH DISTRICT
BALTIMORE, MD.

2/19/21 ind. to Dept.

February 14,1921

Mr. R.T.Preston,
Laban, Va.

Subject: Dismissal.from Service.
Reference: Your letter February 10.

1. Your letter of February 10 relative to dismissal from the Lighthouse Service received and forwarded to the Commissioner of Lighthouses for his information. It does not appear that any statement in this letter alters the fact that you violated the regulations as to leave of absence.

H. D. King

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Aydreg.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
[redacted]
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comms.
Comm.

Office of Superintendent of Lighthouses
Baltimore, Md., February 14,1921.

1. Copy to Commissioner of Lighthouses, Washington, D.C., with enclosure. No further recommendation is made in this case.

Superintendent of Lighthouses

See file James B Wenat,

[redacted]

LIGHTHOUSE

February 10 1921

Lyons Va

1921 FEB 15 AM 8 39

Supt of Lighthouses

Balto. Md

Sir

Subject to your letter that
I Was dismissed from from
duty at Wolftrap Lighthouse Va
as I Was Willing to hold the
Watch book open, I Was not. I am
innocent of it for I told the
First asst Keeper time and time again
That I had rather close the Watch book
up I dident think it Was my duty
To tell the Keeper for I dident feel
as if it Were my duty to go above
The first asst Keeper after I had
Told him I thought it Was ~~his~~
His duty to take it to the

Harper I Will send you a few
names of Mr. Montague [redacted]ybars
and you can Write them and
Get their information Whether I
had as many trips ashore as they
Did. Mr C. F. Hudgins Mr W. J. Diggs
Mr J. M. Diggs. Post master of
Laban. Va. Mr Ray Hudgins
if you Wish to show me justice
please Write to those name at
Laban. And if you Want my
Recomendation you can Write to
Please names Mr. A J Diggs.
Laban. Va Mr. C. F. Hudgins Laban
Capt. C. M. Forrest Diggs
Capt is a a outter Portsmouth
Va c/o Navy yard owner &
Rumsead owner. Va. I dont
Ask you to belive me but Write
and ask others about me and I

Also Will send you a copy of a Letter that the Keeper sent me by Montague about the boat and I hope you will look over this and give me justice as Capt Wilber Outten of the Polly have promised me the first Vacancy on deck. after she comes out so please let me here from you as soon as you can about this matter. Respectfully

R. J. Fuston

Labanza

See file James B. Hurst.

a copy from the Keeper about the book

Supt.
1 A Supt.
Chief Cl.
2 A Supt.
3 A Supt.
4 A Supt.
Mech.
1 Drafts
2 Drafts
Hydrog.
Accounts
Ordering
Personnel
Cost Kpr.
File Clk.
Stenos.
Messenger
File

Wolf Trap Light Sta
Dec 1/20

SUPT. O
FEB
14
1921
BALTIMORE, MD.

Robbie Montague informs me that the blank book that he had in his closet upstairs has been misplaced by some one as he has searched for same and cant find it now I have not had my hands on it if you have put it in any place or have it in your possession you will return it to this station by Montague as it is the property of this station and I am carrying it on my property list you know the book I have reference to because I have seen you with it Respectfully J. B. Hunt. P.

This is a copy of What
The [redacted] Written me you can
send him this if you wish
Too as I am keeping this copy
To clear my self he tried his
Very best to get the book before
he reported it to the ~~station~~ office I refuse
To give it to the last act and after
He Went Ahead the Keeper came
after it And I refuse to let him
have it for I knew they had done
Wrong and were trying to get out of
It so I Will leave All of it to
The office for them to consider over
And give me justice

Respectfully

R. J. Preston

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
BALTIMORE, MD.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1921 MAR 2 AM 8 41

HDK-MEM

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 5TH DISTRICT
BALTIMORE, MD.

APPOINTMENTS

February 28,1921.

Mr. R.T.Preston,
Motorun, Va.

1921 MAR 7 PM 3

CHIEF CLERK

1921 MAR 7 PM 3 00

Subject: Request for reconsideration of dismissal.
Reference: Your letter February 24.

1. Above reference has been forwarded to the Commissioner of Lighthouses for his information in connection with separation from the Lighthouse Service, effective today.

2. If you had reported to this office voluntarily your excess of absence over the allowable amount at the proper time, there would have been no occasion for disciplinary action in your case, but under the circumstances through which the matter came to the attention of this office, it does not appear that any recommendation can be submitted for reopening the case.

H. D. King

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Ayres.
Engr. Comr.
Mar. Engr.
[redacted]
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comr.
Engineer.

HDK-MEM

Office of Superintendent of Lighthouses
Baltimore, Md., February 28,1921.

1. Copy to Commissioner of Lighthouses, Washington, D.C., with Mr. Preston's letter of February 24 attached, for the Bureau's information.

King

Superintendent of Lighthouses

Hol-EK
1 inclosure.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.
March 5, 1921.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information, together with R. T. Preston's letter of February 24, 1921. The Bureau concurs in the views of the Fifth Superintendent.

1921 MAR 7 PM 1 53

3/1/21. File

From the 28th of Feb until the 3th day of
March 1928 [redacted] and after I got your letter about
Refusing duty I told him I was going to
Write you and state the matter to you
as I had reported to the station With
part of machinery so the Keeper said
He would write about the matter. I
Dont ask you to take my Word what
I had to put up with you can Write
To those Who have been under —
Mr. Montague Mr. W. J Diggs. Laban
Mr. Broom Keeper Smith point Mr.
John. morgan Keeper point no point.
as the office thinks it Was my
Wishes to break the laws of
The Government Write to —
Mr. J. T. Ripley. Keeper Nansemond
River Light station about my
Reccomendation and see What he
Will say about me. and if you are
Holding me for responsible of holding
The books open and think I am a thief
I Am willing to pay back for What
over time I have got from the office
And if you look over the absent
Reports you will see Where I Was
detained by Winds and sickness
of my Wife as if you will give

Motorum Va
Feb 24 1921

Supt. ✓
1 A Supt.
Chief Cl.
2 A Supt.
3 A Supt.
4 A Supt.
Mech.
1 Drafts
2 Drafts
Hydrog.
Accounts
Ordering
Personnel
Cost Kpg.
File Clk.
Stenog.
Messenger
File

Supt. of Lighthouses
Balto md

SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES FEB 26 1921 BALTIMORE, MD.

1921 MAR 2 AM 8 41

Dear Sir

Subject to your letter of Feb 19
that my letter didnt alter
the fact that I Were willing
To hold the watch back open
it Was against my wishes
To hold the watch back open
For I told the first asst Keeper and
The Keeper also that my Wishes
Was to close the watch box and
after I told them they tried
their best to get me out the
Service if you havent forgot
The Keeper reported me for keeping
The fog signal out of comission

The Another reason I cannot explain
Which not have any thing
any more if you should Want me
To explain to Why I kept engineer
as Asst Asst Keeper on 2nd asst keeper at
the end of my leave I Was de-graded to
Do so on any other station that is
convenient to me as I am not
The Here from your regards to
Ellis matters Your Loving Servant dale
Respectfully Yours
W. F. Preston
Motorum Va

Motorum Va
Feb 24 1921

Supt. of Lighthouses
Baltimore Md

Dear Sir 1921 MAR 2 AM 8-41

I received your letter relative to my last letter advising you that I have allowed the watch hours open at Wolf Trap against my wishes & to hold the watch hook open for a total six hours per day. I also advising you that I have allowed the watch hours open at Wolf Trap against my wishes & to hold the watch hook open for a total six hours per day. The Keeper also stated that he was to close the watch hours after I told them they had been sent to get me out of the service if you haven't forgot the Keeper reported me for keeping the fog signal out of commission

Supt.
1 A Supt
Chief Cl
2 A Supt
3 A Supt
4 A Supt
Mech.
1 Drafts
2 Drafts
Hydrog.
Accounts
Ordering
Personnel
Cost Keeping
File Cl.
Stenog.
Messenger
File

LIGHTHOUSES SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES BALTIMORE, MD. FEB 26 1921

Now I will agree you will not have any trouble with me any more if you should want me to report to Wolf Trap Light station as first asst keeper or 2nd asst keeper at the end of my leave I will be glad to do so or any other station that is convenient to me so please let me here from you regards to this matter at your earliest date

Respectfully Yours
R. T. Preston
Motorum. Va