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

2026 AUG 27 AM10:19:39
Date: 08/28/2026

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
Trainor, William, J.		

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)	From:	To:
Lighthouse Service (CT/NJ/NY) 3rd District	1923	1926
(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-00081149323

Attendant Signature:

CMRS Search Request Number(s): Submitted to Arc. search 9/8/26 SRR

Remarks: T 6 6

2 folders

2026 SEP 11 AM11:41

SCREENING NOTES

☒ Reviewed and Nothing Removed

☐ Items Removed and User Informed

Hold Requested: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total Requests:

Screened Items:

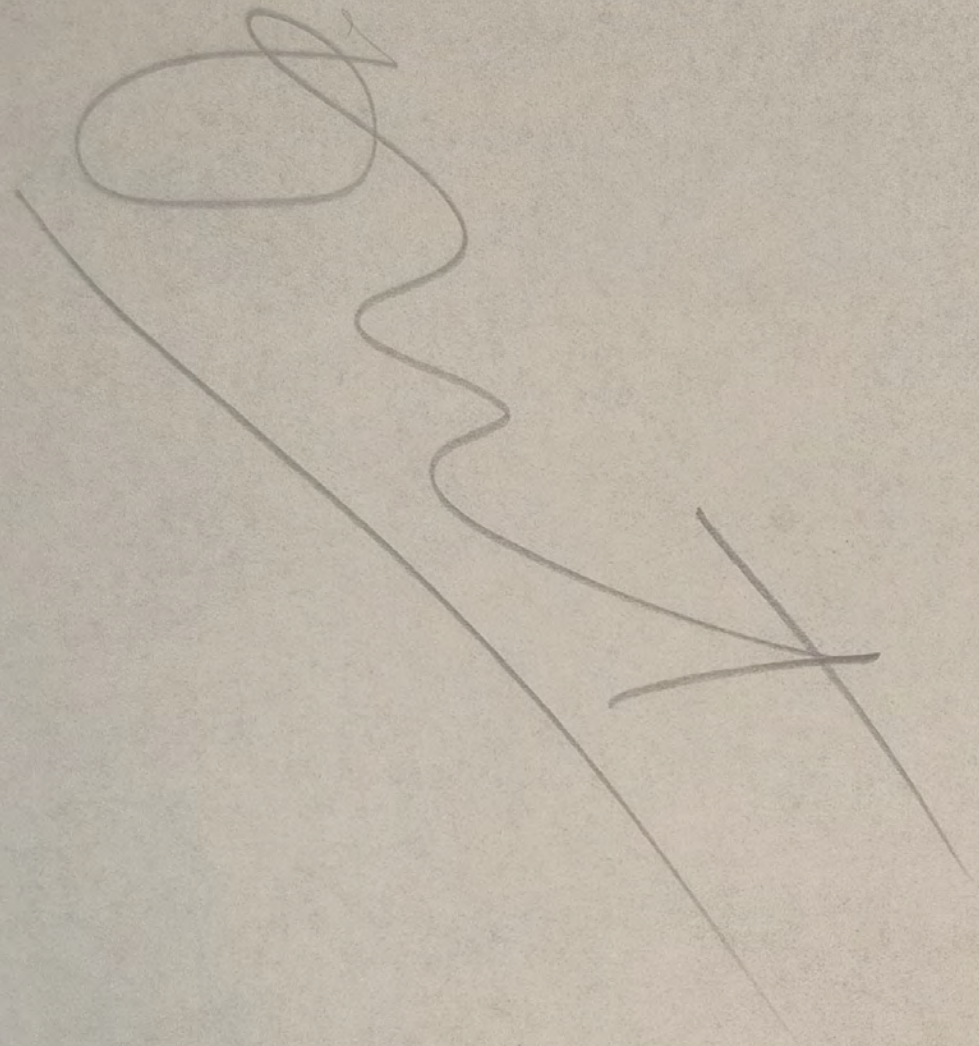
☐ Additional charge outs and signatures on reverse side

Time Out:

Final Return:

OUT FILES

WILLIAM J. TRAINOR.





WILLIAM J. TRAINOR.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1924 MAY 7 AM 8 46

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

FWO-JHG

MAY 7 - 1924

Hydro
Radio
Engr. Corps
Insp. Engr.
Financial
Law and Prop.
Adm. Asst.
Insp. Constr.
Constr.

Commissioner of Lighthouses,

May 6,1924

SUBJECT: Transfer and promotion of Wm.J.Trainor, Keeper.
REFERENCE: Form 73 of this date.

1. Referring to Form 73 forwarded to the Bureau this date recommending the transfer and promotion of William J. Trainor from the position of 2nd Assistant Keeper of Southwest Ledge Lt.Sta.,Conn. to the position of Keeper of Execution Rocks Lt.Sta.,N.Y., vice Samuel L. Fuller transferred; in explanation of the matter of selecting Mr.Trainor, 2nd Assistant Keeper of Southwest Ledge Lt.Sta. for the position of keeper of Execution Rocks Lt.Sta.,it may be stated that the services of William F.Rhodes as 1st assistant keeper at Execution Rocks Lt.Sta. have not been satisfactory during his short period of service at that station, due to the fact that he has seen fit to question or take exception to orders and instructions given him by the Keeper, and in view of this condition it is not considered desirable to promote him to the position of keeper of the station.

J. T. Yates

X

Washington D C May 8 1924

Lighthouse Superintendent Saint George N Y

Transfer and promotion / trainor approved

Putnam

to Execution Rocks L.S.

Approved.

Commissioner of Lighthouses

To Dept. Operation
4:15 p.m. 5/8/24
SBT

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
1925 MAY 21 AM 8 49

FWO-JHG

TELEGRAPHIC REPLY IS DESIRED

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

Commissioner of Lighthouses; May 20,1925

5/23/25 2nd to Insp
5/1/25 Issued 3d.

SUBJECT: Execution Rocks Lt.Sta.

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

a - Copy of phone message received May 11,1925.
b - Copy of report of Asst.Supt.Ockenfels, dated May 12th.
c - Copy of letter of charges dated May 14th addressed to Keeper William J. Trainor.
d - Keeper Trainor's reply to charges dated May 18th.
e - Copy of letter of charges of May 14th addressed to 1st Asst.Keeper William F. Rhodes.
f - Mr.Rhodes' reply to charges dated May 16th.
g - Copy of Memo dated May 19th re call at office of 2nd Asst.Keeper Sherwing.

Hydro
Radio
Engr. Corps
Mar. Engrs
Personnel
Financial
Law and Prop.
Adm Asst.
Opn. Insp.
Code.

2. The reply to charges of Keeper Trainor is not considered satisfactory or acceptable in any respect. In reference to excessive absence he states "on May 9th I went fishing at New Haven and whether I strained my back rowing or caught cold was unable to leave bed until following Thursday", this with the evident intention of showing that he was unable to return to duty at the proper time on account of illness. In this connection it is to be noted that Trainor signed for no watches on April 29th, 30th, May 1st and May 2nd, and attention is invited to enclosed portion of letter dated May 1 written to Keeper by 1st Asst. Keeper Rhodes, either of which is sufficient to show that Keeper Trainor left the station sometime before May 1st, and had already exceeded the monthly leave allowance of 8 days when he went fishing at New Haven on May 9th. The excuse given for failing to notify either the station or this office of the reason for excessive absence on the date he expected to return to duty is not acceptable, as such a report could have been forwarded had he any real desire to do so, or if he had any sense of responsibility as keeper of an important station. His reply to charges of making false entries in the station records concedes that it was the practice to sign for watches that were not actually stood.

Two dismissals, Trainor, Rhodes X Recommend to Dept as per RFT-1

OK Mowatt

3. Mr.Trainor has exceeded the monthly leave allowance without proper authority or justification, and without even attempted explanation until his conduct was discovered, thereby neglecting his duties as keeper of the station and demonstrating that he is not a reliable person to be entrusted with the responsible duties of a keeper of a light station.

GPO

It is therefore recommended that William J. Trainor be dismissed from the position of Keeper of Execution Rocks Light Station, New York, effective at the close of May 31,1925.

4. Deduction will be made from salary due Mr.Trainor for any excess leave taken by him.

5. The reply of 1st Asst.Keeper Rhodes is not considered satisfactory in that it does not justify his action in leaving the station with the result that the 2nd Assistant Keeper was left alone to operate the light and fog signal from the afternoon of May 10th to the morning of May 12th when the condition was accidently discovered. If the condition had not been discovered on May 12th it is impossible to predict what damage or disaster might have resulted as the 2nd Assistant Keeper had then been on continuous watch for 48 hours and was on the verge of collapsing, and the keeper did not return until May 15th. If, as alleged by Rhodes, the keeper wrote him from New Haven to start his leave on May 10th, Mr.Rhodes was not justified in leaving the station until the keeper actually returned; such action is entirely inexcusable in view of the fact that Mr.Rhodes has heretofore served as keeper of a station, and is well aware of the Regulations and requirements of the service. In this connection particular attention is invited to the fact that Mr.Rhodes was dismissed from the position of Keeper of Greens Ledge Light Station May 12, 1921, as the result of various charges which included leaving the 2nd Asst. Keeper alone to operate the station for periods ranging from a few days to two weeks. (See Department letter of May 4,1921 and previous correspondence.) The present occurrence is simply a repetition of that of 1921, and plainly indicates that the man is unreliable and not suitable for continued employment as assistant lighthouse keeper. The charge of signing for watches not stood is conceded without satisfactory explanation. It is therefore recommended that William F. Rhodes be dismissed from the position of 1st assistant keeper of Execution Rocks Light Station, effective at the close of May 31,1925.

6. It may be stated that in cases such as this where keepers are found to neglect their most important duties, deliberately violate the regulations, and show that the responsibilities of their positions are treated indifferently, it is essential that prompt and drastic action be taken if stations are to be efficiently and reliably operated and discipline maintained.

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

8. The approval of the recommendations for the dismissal of Mr. Trainor and Mr.Rhodes will not be in violation of Section 2 of Civil Service Rule I relative to political or religious opinions or affiliations.

J. T. Yates

EG-EK
Incls.

May 23, 1925.

SUBJECT: 2d Supt's. letter, May 20, 1925, and incls., dismissal Keepers William J. Trainor $1680 p.a., and William F. Rhodes, $1500 p.a.

1. Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommended for approval, the Bureau concurring in the views of the Superintendent.

2. Keeper Trainor entered the Service December 1, 1922, and the record does not indicate previous disciplinary action or commendation. His present pay is $1680 per annum.

3. Keeper Rhodes entered the Service October 26, 1911, was dismissed May 12, 1921, for offenses similar to those in the present instance, and again entered the Service by probational appointment November 21, 1922; he was commended by the Department on May 16, 1915 for assisting two men whose canoe had capsized, again commended September 28, 1915 for similar assistance, was reprimanded November 15, 1915 for absence from station in violation of regulations, was commended January 18, 1917 for assisting in putting out a fire on an oyster boat, was reprimanded September 29, 1920 for violation of fishing laws.

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

RG-EK

May 23, 1925.

Secretary of Commerce:

It is requested that the Bureau be loaned the folders of Keepers William J. Trainor and William F. Rhodes, both stationed at Execution Rocks Light Station. The Bureau desires to consider their records in connection with proposed disciplinary action and will return them promptly.

By direction of the Commissioner:

Acting Chief Clerk, Bureau of Lighthouses.

Returned 5/28

PF

Form 84

LIGHTHOUSES
1925 JUN 1 AM 9 28

FWO-JHS

Marine
Radio
Mar. Cons.
Mar. Eng.
Personnel
Financial
Law and Prop.
Adm Asst.
Dep. Comr.
Comr.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 3rd Lighthouse DISTRICT.

Staten Island, N.Y. May 29, 1925

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES,
Washington, D. C.

No reply has been received from the Bureau to communication (letter)
from this office dated May 20, 1925 on the subject of recommending dismissal from service of Wm.J.Trainor, Keeper, and William F.Rhodes, 1st Asst.Keeper, of Execution Rocks Lt.Sta., N.Y.

JUN 1 - 1925

For and in the absence of the Superintendent.

F. W. Ockenfels

1st Asst.Supt.

To be forwarded in duplicate. Indicate in blank space inclosed in parentheses character of the communication, that is, whether letter, indorsement, Form 80, Form 97, etc.

11—6303

MK

Washington D C JUN 1 - 1925

Lighthouse Superintendent Saint George N Y

Dismissal Trainor and Rhodes approved

Putnam

- - - - - -

Commissioner of Lighthouses

Commissioner of Lighthouses

JUN 1 - 1925
Approved

To Supt ops
Upon
6/1/25
2327

RY

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES
1925 JUN 13 AM 8 56

FWO-JHG

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

Commissioner of Lighthouses; June 12,1925

SUBJECT: Execution Rocks Lt.Sta.
REFERENCE: Letter from this office May 20,1925.

1. Department letters, each dated May 25,1925, dismissing William J. Trainor from the position of Keeper, and William F. Rhodes from the position of 1st Assistant Keeper, of Execution Rocks Light Station, New York, effective at the close of business on May 31,1925, are herewith returned with recommendation that the effective date be amended to read at the close of June 10,1925, which was the actual time of the termination of their services. The Bureau's telegram of June 1st advising that the dismissal of Trainor and Rhodes had been approved, was not received until 6:30 P.M. June 1st, and the Department letters were not received until June 3rd, and it was of course then impossible to make the dismissal of these two employees effective at the close of May 31st,1925. These two men were advised by letters of June 3rd of action taken in their cases, and their last day of service was June 10,1925.

Hydro
Radio
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Financial
Law and Prop.
Adm Asst.
Dep. Comr.
Comr.

J. T. Yates

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J Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C. June 13, 1925.
Incls.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce together with Department notices of dismissal of Keeper Rhodes and Trainor, with recommendation that the effective dates be amended to read at the close of June 10, 1925 for the reasons stated by the Superintendent. If impracticable to amend same at this date, it is recommended that the employment of keepers Rhodes and Trainor be authorized for the period in question.

R9
H7820

H. B. BOWERMAN
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

GPO