'26 JUL 14 AM10:16:24

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

Date: 07/24/2026

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
Watson, William		

MILITARY SERVICE

Branch of Service:

☐ Air Force ☐ Army Air Corps ☐ Army Air Force
☐ Army ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Navy
☐ Coast Guard ☐ Unknown

Type of Rank:

☐ Enlisted
☐ Officer
☐ Unknown

Service Period (Check all that apply):

☐ 1939 & Prior
☐ 1940 - 1950
☐ 1950 & After

Date & Place of Death:

State of Residence (upon entry into service):

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

Researcher Signature: Andrew Burns

CIVILIAN SERVICE

(Agency & Location)		
Lighthouse Service (NJ) 4th District		
From: 1919	To: 1920	
(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-0007792638	Attendant Signature:
CMRS Search Request Number(s): Submitted to Arch Search 7/15/26 RLH	Remarks: Soundex: W325

SCREENING NOTES

☑ Reviewed and Nothing Removed CMM ☐ 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:

'26 JUL 22 PM 2:58

William Watson

LEGAL RESIDENCE
Del.

INACTIVE

William Watson

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SALARY	BUREAU OR OFFICE	DATE OF EFFECT OF ACTION AUTHORIZED
Keeper Brandywine Shoal L.S. Dely.	$840	L.H.	April 11. 1920
Suspended pending charges off clos June 17/20.			
		Dismissed clos June 18, 1920	
		INACTIVE	

11—1248

Form 73

NOMINATION

JAH
Pers.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, Fourth DISTRICT,

Philadelphia, Penna., March 30, 1920. 191x
(City.) (Date.)

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Probationary appointment.

Name, William Watson. Legal residence, Delaware.

Position, Second Assistant Keeper. Salary, $840.00 per annum.

Location, Brandywine Shoal Light Station, Delaware Bay, Delaware. Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective April 11, 1920. {~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, x x x Former salary, x x x

Location, x x x

Rank on eligible list, 1 Rating, Kpr. & Asst. Kpr. Percentage, 89, Other eligibles considered: J. J. Downs, (C); Frank Carpenter, (C).

Previous incumbent, Frank S. Palmer. Services terminated, March 31, 1920.

Reason, To be promoted and appointed first assistant keeper of Brandywine Shoal Light Station, Del., at $900.00 per annum, effective April 1, 1920.
Members of family in Government Service, One.

Remarks: Quarters not furnished by government for family.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, MAR 31 1920, 191

Stewart Wilson
Secretary, 3rd Civil Service District.

R R Downes
Superintendent, 4th Lighthouse District

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved. APR 2 1920

Acting Commissioner

1 Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

CERTIFICATE OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1920.

M r. William Watson,

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 Eight Hundred and Forty 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 of the Third Civil Service District.

By direction of the Secretary:

CARDED

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

APPOINTMENT DIVISION RECEIVED APR 5 - 1920 DEPT. OF COMMERCE

S
C

Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Frank S. Palmer.

Legal Residence: Delaware.

Fourth District

(See reverse side)

U. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

11—5080

Form 111

APR 14 1920

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

APR 12 1920 SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES PHILADELPHIA

APPOINTMENTS APR 31 1920

LIGHT HOUSES APR 14 1920

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

I, William Watson,

do solemnly [1] swear (See below) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So HELP ME GOD.

☞ William Watson
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 14th day of April, A. D. 1920

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) Nathaniel B. Register

(Official title) Notary Public

My commission expires March 30-1923

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present 2nd Asst. Keeper	$840 per annum	Brandywine Shoal Light Station, Del. Bay, Del.
Former [5]		

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

Office of Lighthouse Supt., Fourth District

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 12, 1920.
(Address) (Date)

CARDED

U. S. REPORT DATE ENTERED

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on April 11, 1920.
(Date)

R B Darrow
(Signature, followed by title) Superintendent Lighthouse District

[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

Noted 4/12/20

Notified 4/12/20

APR 14 1920 9 AM

II

APR 12 1920 PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET

APPOINTMENT APR 15 1920

LIGHT APR 14 1920 HOUSES

This form shall be furnished for each person appointed in the service of the Department immediately upon entrance on duty.

The information called for in Part I shall be filled in by the Bureau or Office to which the employee is assigned, after which the form shall be transmitted to the employee for answers to the questions in Part II. The completed form shall be indorsed by the proper Bureau officer and forwarded to the Department for file.

PART I.

CHIEF CLERK

1. Name of employee William Watson

2. Position to which appointed 2nd Asst Keeper (Lighthouse Service) APR 15 1920

3. Bureau or Service Dept of Commerce, District 4th

4. Place of duty Delaware Bay. (Brandywine Sh. Light Station, Del. Bay, Del.)
(City, town, station, or vessel.)

5. Salary $840 per annum.

6. Appropriation from which paid Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

7. Manner of appointment. (Examples: "From stenographer and typewriter examination, ——, 19—;" "Without examination;" or "By reinstatement;" or "By transfer from ——," stating Department, Bureau or Service, position, and salary, if known).

From examination for Keeper and Asst. Keeper, March 27, 1920.

PART II.

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE TO BE ANSWERED BY THE EMPLOYEE:

The statement should be signed by the employee, or, 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, so state.)

William Edward Watson.

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

William Watson

CARDED

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

Delaware (State or Territory.) Sussex (County.) Lewes (City or town.) At Large (Congressional district.)

4. If the legal residence given in answer to question 3 is not the same as that stated in the certificate of appointment, the difference should be explained.

(Does not differ)

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

11—6023

6. Where were you born? Lewes Delaware

7. When were you born? December (Month.) 23rd (Day.) 1886 (Year.)

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

9. What is your marital condition? (Answer "single," "married," "widowed," or "divorced.") Married

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

Connie Watson (Name.) (Number and street.)

Lewes (City or town.) Delaware (State or Territory.)

11. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States? (Answer "yes" or "no.") Yes If so, state 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.
William Spear	Pennsgrove, New Jersey	Position Keeper Department or office	Brother in Law	(married)
		Position Department or office		
		Position Department or office		

12. Have you any physical disabilities? (Answer "yes" or "no.") No If so, describe fully. (If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.)

13. Do you hold any State or municipal office? (Answer "yes" or "no.") No If so, state name of such office and compensation attached.

14. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during any war? (Answer "yes" or "no.") No If so, state in blank spaces below the information called for by the headings.

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

15. 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.

16. Have you ever held any other position in the civil service of the United States? (Answer "yes" or "no.") No If so, state in blank spaces below the information called for by the headings.

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

11—6022

11

17. Are you the widow or orphan of an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? (Answer "yes" or "no.") No If so, state in blank spaces below the information called for by the headings.

Name under which soldier or sailor rendered service.	Relationship to you.

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

18. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States 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 13, 14, 15, and 16.)

Machinist Operator - Ammonia and Ice Machinery Operator

19. What education have you received? (State the grades of schools you have attended, and, if 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., 1910; Columbia University, LL. B., 1913.)

Sixth Grade. Public School

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

Carpenter

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

~~None~~, (U. S. Examination for Keeper & Asst. Keeper, Mar. 24, 1920)

22. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (Answer "yes" or "no.") No If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.

N. B. Register Lewes - Del

Date, 4-10-, 1920

Witness (in case signature is by mark):

(Signature) William Watson

(Present address)

Lewes (City or town.) Delaware (State or Territory.)

(Number and street.)

INDORSEMENT.

(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 APR 12 1920, 19

(Signature) B B Dorry

(Official title) Superintendent, 4th Lighthouse District

11—6923

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT, 4TH L. H. DISTRICT
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
GCW/D

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT HOUSES JUL 1 19

CHIEF CLERK

5

1920 JUL 3 AM 11 35

OFFICE OF ~~INSPECTOR~~ 4TH DISTRICT
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
June 30, 1920.

SECRETARY

SUBJECT: William Watson, suspension.

1920 JUL 6 PM 2 30

Commissioner of Lighthouses,
Washington, D. C.

1. There is enclosed herewith a copy of letter of even date addressed to Mr. Wm. Watson, (2d Assistant) Keeper of Brandywine Shoal L. S., Delaware, suspending him from duty effective at the close of June 18, 1920 for the reasons stated therein. Charges have been preferred against Mr. Watson this day.

2. It is requested that Departmental approval of this suspension be obtained, and a full statement of the case will follow as soon as Watson's reply to the charges shall have been received.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
NECESSARY
ACTION TAKEN
JUL 8 - 1920
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

JOB 7/3/20.

Enclosure

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
JUL 2 - 1920

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommended for approval.

1920 JUL 6 PM 4 09

Acting Commissioner.

APPROVED:

1920 JUL 6 PM 4 15

Secretary of Commerce.

COPY

LIGHT HOUSES JUL 1 1920

June 30, 1920

Mr. Wm. Watson,

Lewes, Delaware.

1. You are hereby suspended from duty as 2d Assistant Keeper at Brandywine Shoal L. S., effective at the close of June 18, 1920, that being the date on which all shore liberty due you expires and you having failed to return to duty on or about June 24, 1920 when there was an opportunity to do so.

2. This suspension shall be with lawful pay if you are exonerated of the charges which will be preferred against you, 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 substantiated in a degree sufficient to warrant such action.

R. B. DORRY

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

July 8, 1920.

Sir:

Upon recommendation of the Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses, the Department has confirmed the action of the Fourth Superintendent in suspending you from duty as Keeper (2nd assistant) of Brandywine Shoal Light Station, Delaware, at $840 per annum, effective at the close of June 18, 1920, pending the disposition of charges of neglect of duty.

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 sufficient to warrant such action.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

CARDED REPORT DATA ENTERED

Mr. William Watson,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

C-S

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR PHILADELPHIA, PA.

LIGHT JUL 13 1920 HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO.

5

SCW/H

Subject: William Watson, 2nd Asst.Kpr., Brandywine Shoal Light Station, Del., Charges, etc.

1920 JUL 16 AM 10 48

Supt.,
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR 4TH DISTRICT
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

July 12, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses, Washington:

1. I enclose herewith a copy of charges preferred against Mr. William Watson, Second Assistant Keeper of Brandywine Shoal Light Station, Delaware Bay, Delaware, and his reply thereto, and other exhibits in the case, lettered consecutively from "A" to "C".

APPOINTMENTS

2. This man went on regular shore liberty on June 7, 1920; claimed special business for remaining on shore when his liberty was up, and upon the date for the next boat to the station refused to return and tendered his resignation, effective the same day.

1920 JUL 16 PM 12 29

3. In the letter transmitting his appointment (dated April 8, 1920), the following paragraph appears:

> "For your information, you are informed that resignation on less than thirty days' notice will be regarded as tending to the embarrassment of the service and may be construed as warranting dismissal for cause, under Paragraph 476; Regulations, 1918."

APPOINTMENT BUREAU ACCESSORY ACTION JUL 20 1920 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

4. On a recent visit to Lewes, Delaware, I personally investigated the circumstances surrounding this man's failure to return to station and learned that while on shore he accepted a position at better pay, which he kept for a few days and then relinquished for reasons unknown. The date and address of his reply to charges (July 2, 1920) show that he was still in Lewes, Delaware, on that date and not on the farm he refers to in his letter. At last report he still was in Lewes, Delaware, unemployed.

5. To permit this man to resign would be to render the notice served upon him with his appointment of no effect, and would seriously interfere with the good order of the district and discipline of the personnel. I therefore recommend his dismissal, effective at the close of June 18, 1920, on which date he was on shore and had used up all shore liberty due him under the Regulations, and from which date his suspension is effective.

JOS 7/14/20.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington.
JUL 15 1920

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommended for approval.

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

APPROVED:

1920 JUL 16 AM 10

Acting Secretary of Commerce.

1920 JUL 19 PM

Acting Commissioner.

GCW/D

Subject: Charges.

Supt.,

June 30, 1920.

Registered.

Mr. Wm. Watson,
Lewes, Delaware.

1. You are hereby charged with neglect of duty in failing to return to your station at the close of your shore liberty, and with resigning without notice to the embarrassment of the service.

2. The facts on file in this office and since reported show that you came ashore in the Lewes Depot boat on June 7, 1920, and that the shore boat was to return on June 16, 1920. On that date you wrote this office stating that you had business in Wilmington and would not be able to return to the station until the next shore boat.

3. On June 24, 1920, just before this boat was due to return, you tendered your resignation to take effect on that date. In the letter transmitting your appointment the following paragraph appears:

> "You are informed that resignation on less than 30 days' notice will be regarded as tending to the embarrassment of the service, and may be construed as warranting dismissal for cause, under paragraph 476, Regulations, 1918."

4. In view of the fact that you informed this office on the 16th instant that you would return by the next boat, and that you later tendered your resignation instead of carrying out your agreement to return, you are deemed guilty of neglect of duty and are so charged, to which charge you are required to reply in writing within three days upon receipt of this registered communication.

5. If you do not desire to reply you should so state in a letter addressed to this office within the time-limit stated.

E. B. DORRY

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

406

EXHIBIT "A"

Lewes. Delaware

July 2nd 1920

To the Superintendent of L.H.

Referring to your letter of June 30. 1920 Inregards. to my Resigned was phoned for to come to Wilmington as my Father was unable to look after the farm which belongs. to my uncle and he sent for me and wants me to look after it for him I had no Intentions of Resigned What Ever When I left the Light on my Liberty

Respectfully
Wm Watson

EXHIBIT "B"

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHT HOUSES JUL 6 1920 PHILADELPHIA
LIGHT JUL 13 19[illegible] HOUSES.

Lewes. Delaware

June 24 1920

To the Superintendent of Light Houses. Philadelphia Pa.

Dear Sir:

Please accept my Resignation as 2nd. asst. kpr. Brandywine Shoal Light House to take Effect on the 24 of the present month

yours Respectfully

William Watson

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES JUN 26 1920 PHILADELPHIA.

EXHIBIT "B"

July 23, 1920.

Sir:

It having been charged that you tendered your resignation and left the service without notice in advance as required by the Regulations, to the embarrassment of the service, and the charges having been established in a degree sufficient to warrant such action, the Department, upon recommendation of the Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses, has dismissed you from the position of Keeper of Brandywine Shoal Light Station, Delaware, at $840 per annum, effective at the close of June 18, 1920, the date on which you were suspended from duty.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

C. S. REPORT DIV. ENTERED

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

Mr. William Watson,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.
C-M