LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE/LIFESAVING SERVICE—RECORDS CHECKED

Employee Name: WILLS FLETCHER **DOB:** 1870

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: _____

Form 73

ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, OR TRANSFER OF APPOINTEE

BUREAU OF LIGHT-HOUSES
AUG 21 1911
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Department of Commerce and Labor
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT,

San Francisco, Cal., August 14, 1911. 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

The following recommendation is submitted:

Action proposed, Probationary appointment of

Name, Fletcher Wills. Legal residence, California.

Position, Third Assistant Keeper Salary, $516. per annum.

Location, Point Sur Light-Station, California.

Effective August 9, 1911. ~~on~~ the actual date of entrance on duty.

Former position, Former salary,

Location,

Rank in list of eligibles, No.2 Class 2. Rating, Asst.Keeper Percentage, 90.2

Other eligibles considered, Charles McCarthy and William Ryan.

Letters of declination inclosed, Charles McCarthy.

Previous incumbent, Albert J. Scott Services terminated, July 31, 1911.

Reason, Transfer.

Remarks:

W. A. Mayhew
Commander U.S.N., Inspector 18th L.H.Dist.

Department of Commerce and Labor
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

ONE inclosure WASHINGTON AUGUST 21, 1911.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, approved.

11—2314

C A Loeroer
ACTING COMMISSIONER.

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT—PRIOR DATE

Department of Commerce and Labor
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
Washington

Sir: August 23, 1911.

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Third Assistant Keeper of Point Sur Light Station, Cal.,

in the Lighthouse Service,

at a salary of Five Hundred and Sixteen dollars

per annum, for a probationary period of six months, effective

beginning August 9, 1911, on and after which date you have

continuously served in the above-mentioned position.

Retention in the service after the expiration of your probationary period shall be equivalent to absolute appointment.

(Vice Albert J. Scott.)
(Civil-service certificate No. .....)

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

(Signed) A. GORDON-CUMMING
Acting Chief Clerk.

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Appropriation:

Lo
D

11—3893

Form 73

ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, OR TRANSFER OF APPOINTEE.

BUREAU OF LIGHT-HOUSES ☆ NOV 13 1911 ☆ DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th L.H. DISTRICT.

San Francisco, Cal, November 7, 1911. , 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

The following recommendation is submitted:

Action proposed, Promotion of

Name, Fletcher Wills, Legal residence, California.

Position, Second Assistant Keeper Salary, $552. per annum.

Location, Point Sur Light-Station, California.

Effective on the actual date of entrance on duty.

Former position, Third Assistant Keeper Former salary, $516. per annum.

Location, Point Sur Light-Station, California.

Rank in list of eligibles, Rating, Percentage,

Other eligibles considered,

Letters of declination inclosed,

Previous incumbent, Herbert C. Trotter Services terminated, about Nov.30,1911.

Reason, Recommended for transfer & promotion.

Remarks: To be paid from appro: "Salaries of Keepers of Lighthouses."

W. A. Moffett,

Commander U.S.N., Inspector. O.K.G.

Department of Commerce and Labor

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON

NOV 13 1911

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, approved.

11—2314

Acting Commissioner.

WBS 7pk

GENERAL APPOINTMENT—FIXED DATE

Department of Commerce and Labor
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
Washington

November 14, 1911.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office, and to actual entrance upon duty (unless on authorized leave) on the date indicated, ~~Second Assistant Keeper~~ in the Lighthouse Service at a salary of ~~Five Hundred and Fifty-two~~ dollars per ~~annum~~, effective on the actual date of entrance on duty.

(By promotion from third assistant keeper at $516 per annum.)

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(Signed) A. GORDON CUMMING

F
D

Acting Chief Clerk.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Herbert C. Trotter.

Legal Residence: California.

11—1393

Form 73a

Per

REPORT OF TRANSFER OF APPOINTEE

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HWR-CHT

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT

BUREAU OF LIGHT-HOUSES
NOV 29 1912
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

San Francisco, Cal., November 22, 1912. , 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

The following-named employee has been transferred as indicated, and entered upon duty at his new station on ~~the date stated~~: November 16, 1912.

Name, Fletcher Wills

Position, Second Assistant Keeper

From Point Sur Lightstation, Cal.

To Punta Gorda Lightstation, Cal.

Previous incumbent, Leopold Jordan

Services terminated, November 15, 1912

Reason, Transfer at his own request.

Rhodes.

Inspector.

11—4598

Department of Commerce and Labor

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON

DEC 3 - 1912

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor for his information.

Acting Commissioner

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT APR 7 1914 HOUSES

HWR-CHT

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT,

SPECIAL 4/8/14 Hdqrs

San Francisco, Cal., (City.) April 1, 1914 (Date.), 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Transfer of

Name, **Fletcher Wills** Legal residence, **California**

Position, **Second Assistant Keeper** Salary, **$540 per annum**

Location, **Humboldt Lightstation, California.** Appropriation, **Salaries of Keepers of Lighthouses.**

Effective **April 8, 1914.** {1 ~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, **Second Assistant Keeper** Former salary, **$552 per annum**

Location, **Punta Gorda Lightstation, California.**

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

Previous incumbent, ✓ **Edward D. McCrea** Services terminated, **March 31, 1914.**

Reason, **Resignation.**

Relatives in Government Service, **None**

Remarks: **Request notification by wire when appointment is made.**
This transfer, involving a reduction in Mr. Wills' compensation, is made in accordance with the inclosed request (copy telegram)

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

Rhodes.
Inspector.

Secretary, Civil Service District

Changed in Dm

1 Inclosure

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

APR - 8 1914

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

C
Acting Commissioner

1 Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

GENERAL APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

LIGHT HOUSES APR 10 1914

April 9, 1914.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,
Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

~~Second Assistant Keeper~~

in the ~~Lighthouse Service~~

at a salary of ~~Five Hundred and Forty~~ dollars per ~~annum~~,

effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

(By transfer from second assistant keeper at $552 per annum.)

April 14 1914

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) GEO. W. LEADLEY

M
C

Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Edward D. McCrea.

Legal Residence: California.

11—3692

APR 11 1914

Washington D C April 9 4

Lighthouse Inspector San Francisco California

Authority granted design Villa Moeller Chanate Humboldt Points

San Nicolas Gulf Safety or entrance Harbor

[illegible]

[illegible]

Sent to Tel. operator 4:40 pm
16mr

ln Journal

2/

HBM

LIGHT
JUL8 1914
HOUSES

C
O
P
Y

Punta Gorda Light Station,
Petrolia, Cal. Nov. 16, 1913.

Inspector, 18th Lighthouse District,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:-

I respectfully request that I be granted a transfer to any station in this District that has a school nearby as soon as possible, as I am unable to stand the conditions of this station and the actions of the Keeper.

I respectfully request that this letter will not be considered as official, as I do not want to create a disturbance or cause trouble in any way.

I am sending you a very poorly kept diary, but I hope you will read it, as it will give you some idea of the way things are at this station. You will notice on last page the number of days the Keeper has been absent and no absence of less than 8 hours is counted, and I am of the opinion that he falsifies his monthly reports.

The Keeper neglects his duties, and then swears and talks to me like I was a dog and tries to blame me when the fault is more his than mine. He goes away, and 1st Assistant tells me that he never says where he is going or when he will return, so a person never knows when his duties are done.

I dont remember of ever signing the report for September, and I believe he forged my name. I could tell if I could see the September report.

The Keeper does very little of the station work. 1st Assistant looks after the signal and I the tower. He is unfit to be Keeper, as he knows nothing and has to depend on the assistants, and then nags and nags a person for everything he can possibly find an excuse.

My life here is almost unbearable and, under the circumstances, I hope a station can be found for me that will be more pleasant, and where I can send my children to school.

Very respectfully,
(sgd) FLETCHER WILLS,
2nd Assistant.

COPY

LIGHT
JUL 8 1914
HOUSES

Copy of letter written to Mr W.P.Holmes, by J.F.Wills

Loleta, Cal.
June 23, 1914.

Mr W.P.Holmes,
Petrolia, Cal.
Dear Sir.

This is in part to thank you for your kindness in sending me the watch and to kindly request you not to write any of the lies you hear at Pt Gorda about us to this end.

I wish I could tell you what kind of people you have to deal with at Pt Gorda, but it would take too much time and again you ~~would~~ might not appreciate it, but you may need a friend some time, who knows things as they are at Pt Gorda and when you do call on me. Do you have to do all the cleaning in the tower while H. goes to town or does his house work, I had to and so did Mr Jordan the man before me. If you will play ignorant and keep your eyes open you will learn things that will help you in the future. I was compelled to report H. to the Inspector and he (the Inspector) knows him (H) from start to finish, but I requested the Inspector to not consider it official, for I didnt want to make him trouble on account of his wife and boys.

H. used to be at this station & I have heard enough of him to fill a news paper, & nothing to his credit either. The last time the Inspector was at Gorda he gave H. orders to change work from one man to another instead of having one man do all the tower work another the signal work, while he done nothing. H.falsifies his reports & is crooked all around, he is absent twice as much as the office knows anything about, so if you are wise keep count on him, & play ignorant. You should know what Mr Jordan told me about H. & I found every word true and more.

Well as this may be tiresome to you I'll close by again thanking you for sending the watch as it is an old keep sake of my wife.

Your friend
(Signed) J.F.Wills

P.S.
If you write to me send it in an envelope addressed to Mr Lind or mail it yourself.

COPY

LIGHT
JUL 8 1914
HOUSES

Punta Gorda

June 25 1914

The Light-House Inspector

18th District

San Francisco, Calif

Sir

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter written by Mr J.F.Wills, 2nd Asst. Humboldt Light, and formerly at this station, to Mr. W.P.Holmes.

Mr Wills during his service at this station created continual strife and dissension and now that he has left here seems to figure on continuing to do the same thing, in interfering and causing trouble between the keepers on this station.

I would respectfully request that steps be taken to put a stop to this maliciousness and draw attention to paragraph 3 page 144 Instructions to Light Keepers.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully,

(Sgd) Fred A. Harrington
Keeper

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
JUL 8 1914
HOUSES

incls.

HWR-IG.

Dep. Commr.
Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Examiner.
Personnel.
Accounts.
Contracts.
Chf. Clk.
Commr.

Second Asst. Keeper Wills,
Recommended dismissal.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
ANSWERED
JUL 1914
23
DEPT. OF COMMERCE

July 3d, 1914.

The Commissioner of Lighthouses.

1. There is inclosed for the Bureau's information a copy of a letter just received from the Keeper of the Punta Gorda Light Station, together with a copy of its inclosure (a letter from the Second Asst. Keeper at the Table Bluff Light Station to the present Second Asst. Keeper at the Punta Gorda Light Station.

2. On November 16th, 1913, Wills, who was then serving as Second Asst. Keeper at the Punta Gorda Light Station, addressed a letter to the Inspector (copy inclosed) containing certain rambling and indefinite charges against the Keeper. This letter was accompanied by a diary kept by Wills in which there were numerous notes relative to delinquencies by the Keeper. The delinquencies as charged were chiefly in the nature of prolonged absences from the station, and of assigning to the said Wills more work than he seemed to think was his due.

3. A personal investigation of Wills' statements indicated that his grievances were chiefly imaginary. There had no doubt been some slight delinquencies on the Keeper's part in the matter of the work at the station and at the following inspection of the station he was given certain verbal instructions in regard to the work and his own conduct with a view to improving the general conditions at the station.

4. Wills is one of those unfortunate individuals who is suspicious

of all of his associates, and as the diary and letter which he forwarded to the Inspector, as above reported, as well as the other letter inclosed are both malicious in intent and cowardly in conception, and it is recommended that he be dismissed for the good of the Service.

5. No charges have been filed against Wills other than those contained in the Keeper's letter inclosed, but that letter and his letter of November 16th, 1913, to the Inspector, above referred to, together with the diary forwarded with it are conclusive evidences of his guilt.

Rhodes.

MCC-WRS.

July 23,x1914.

SUBJECT: Fletcher Wills, charges against.

Returned to Lighthouse Inspector, San Francisco, California, with instructions to prefer charges against Wills in writing, giving him a sufficient time to answer same, and forward the papers together with Wills' reply & your recommendation to the Bureau, in accordance with page 91 of the Regulations, 1911, "Changes against Employees". Your charges should be based upon malicious talebearing, detrimental criticism, etc., in violation of the Instructions for the Personnel, page 144, of the Regulations, 1911.

M

TS e

L

McC

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Department of Commerce and Labor
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
AUG 24 1914
HOUSES

1 incl.

HWR-IC.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

August 4, 1914.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

2nd Assistant Keeper, Humboldt Light Station.

(Through the Keeper).

There is inclosed for your information a copy of a letter addressed by you on June 22, 1914, to Mr. W. P. Holmes, 2nd Asst. Keeper at the Punta Gorda Light Station.

It appears from this letter that you have been guilty of malicious tale bearing and criticism detrimental to an employes of this service; you are directed to submit such reply to these charges as you may desire, and to show cause why you should not be dismissed from the service for violating the instructions for the personnel, page 144 of the Regulations, 1911.

Rhodes.

COPY....

LIGHT
AUG 24 1914
HOUSES

Humboldt Light Sta.,
Loleta, Cal.
August 12, 1914.

Lighthouse Inspector,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

In answer to your letter and charges of Aug. 4", I respectfully beg to plead not guilty.

Instructions for the personnel page 144 of the regulations 1911 states Malicious talebearing to officers in authority. My letter was to Mr. Holmes and not to an officer in authority.

I admit that I done wrong in writing to Mr. Holmes as I did and I would never have done so if I had thought that it would have been made public but I did not mean any malicious criticism detrimental to Mr. Harrington. If I had wanted to injure Mr. Harrington, I would have done so while I was stationed at Punta Gorda. I felt grateful to Mr. Holmes for sending the watch and my excuse for writing as I did was in hopes that he would not be imposed upon and have to stand the abuse that I did, and not that I wanted to injure Mr. Harrington.

I am guilty of no malicious intent and if I am dismissed from the service I think my punishment would be much greater than my offense.

I respectfully request that these charges be withdrawn or that no further action be taken on them until you visit this station again for I am in no condition to leave the service as I am in debt, with a large family to support, and no prospects of finding another position.

Very respectfully,

Fletcher Wills,

2d Asst. Keeper.

Forwarded:

J. E. Lind
Keeper.

McC.

September 4, 1914.

Subject: Fletcher Wills, reprimand.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce concurring in the recommendation of the Inspector that Wills be not dismissed from the Service at this time, but that a severe letter of reprimand be addressed to him by the Bureau, and that a further report and recommendation be made in his case at the end of three months by the Inspector. If this recommendation be approved, a copy of the letter of reprimand will be furnished the Department for its files, and report and recommendation made in the case upon receipt of the Inspector's report.

HBB.

Acting Commissioner.

LIGHT
SEP 10 1914
HOUSES

September 10, 1914.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Receipt is acknowledged of the Bureau's communication of the 4th instant, and enclosures, relative to the case of Fletcher Wills, second assistant keeper of Humboldt Light Station, California, against whom charges of malicious talebearing and detrimental criticism of another employee were preferred by the Eighteenth Inspector on August 4, 1914.

Upon consideration of all the correspondence in the case, the Department has approved the Bureau's recommendation to the effect that no action be taken at this time further than to address him a severe letter of reprimand and to request the Inspector to observe Mr. Wills' future conduct and make further report and recommendation at the end of three months. It is noted that a letter of reprimand will be prepared by the Bureau and that a copy will be furnished the Department for its files.

By direction of the Secretary:

(signature) Chief Clerk.

2 Incls

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington,
SEP 14 1914
Acting Chief Clerk.

To Lighthouse Inspector, San Francisco, Cal
for his information, guidance, and files of office. Attached are Copy and original of reprimand to Wills Make further report and recommendation at end of 3 mos.

C-M

Acting Commissioner

HRW-McC.

Repri-
mand.

September 14, 1914.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,
Second Assistant Keeper, Humboldt Light Station, Cal.
(Through Lighthouse Inspector, San Francisco, Cal.)

It appears that on June 22, 1914, you wrote a letter to Mr. W. P. Holmes, second assistant keeper, Punta Gorda Light Station, Cal., reflecting upon the official conduct of the keeper of that station. Your attention is therefore invited to page 144 of the Instructions for the Personnel, 1911, which provides that malicious talebearing, or detrimental criticism, whether orally or in writing, will be considered cause for the dismissal of the offender. While you have not violated the letter of those Instructions, you have violated the spirit. You are therefore reprimanded for your actions, which indicate malicious intent and a desire to stir up trouble between the keepers at the Punta Gorda Light Station, thereby tending to weaken the lawful authority of the keeper or to lessen the respect due to him, and warned that a repetition thereof will probably result in more severe measures being taken in your case. It further appears that while second assistant keeper of the Punta Gorda Light Station you made certain indefinite charges against the keeper which, upon investigation, were found to be chiefly imaginary.

Your future conduct will be carefully observed, and a further report and recommendation made in your case at a later date, and the fact that you have been reprimanded will be noted on the records as part of your official history.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
SEP 14 1914

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information. See Dept letter of Sept 10-1914.

Acting Commissioner.

Acting Commissioner.

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT HOUSES DEC 10 1914

HWR-CHT

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

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

December 5 1914

Fletcher Wills:
report & recommendation.

Commissioner of Lighthouses,

1. Referring to Bureau indorsement of September 14 1914 on Department letter of September 10 1914, calling for further report and recommendation in the case of Fletcher Wills, second assistant keeper of Humboldt Light Station, California, against whom charges of malicious talebearing and detrimental criticism of another employee were preferred.

2. The Bureau is advised that no further information of malicious talebearing by Mr Wills has been received at this office, and it is recommended that no further action be taken in this matter.

Rhodes.
Inspector

McC.

Bureau of Lighthouses,
December 14, 1914.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommending that, in view of the statements of the Inspector, no further action be taken in the case of Wills at this time.
See Department letter of September 10, 1914.

LIGHT
DEC17 1914
HOUSES

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

December 17, 1914.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Receipt is acknowledged of the Eighteenth Inspector's report of the 5th instant, forwarded by the Bureau on the 14th instant, in the case of Fletcher Wills, second assistant keeper of Humboldt Light Station, California, who was reprimanded under date of September 14, 1914, for malicious talebearing and detrimental criticism of another employee.

In view of the fact that it appears that Mr. Wills' conduct has been satisfactory since the receipt of the letter of reprimand referred to, the Department has approved the Bureau's recommendation to the fact that no further action be taken at this time.

By direction of the Secretary:

SIGNED) T. J. FITZGERALD

Acting Chief Clerk.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington.
DEC 18 1914

To Lighthouse Inspector, San Francisco, Cal.,
for his information, guidance, and files of office.

C-R

Acting Commissioner.

Form 73

NOMINATION

HWR-CH

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT HOUSES NOV 18 1916

11-20-16 Wired 18

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT.

San Francisco, Cal., November 13, 1916, 191
(City.) (Date.)

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Promotion of

Name, Fletcher Wills — Legal residence, California

Position, First Assistant Keeper — Salary, $600 per annum

Location, Humboldt Lightstation, Cal. — Appropriation, Salaries of Keepers of Lighthouses

Effective November 20, 1916 — {[1] ~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Second Assistant Keeper — Former salary, $540 per annum

Location, Humboldt Lightstation, California.

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

Telegram to notify

Previous incumbent, Thomas G. Thomson — Services terminated, about November 19, 1916

Reason, Transfer

Members of family in Government Service, None

Remarks: Request notification by wire when appointment is made

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

H. W. Rhodes.

Secretary, Civil Service District. — Inspector

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

NOV 28 1916

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

C

Acting Commissioner

Cat

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

11—2314

X

HB

GENERAL APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

LIGHT HOUSES NOV 21 1916

November 20, 1916.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

First Assistant Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Six Hundred dollars per annum,

effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

(By promotion from second assistant keeper at $540 per annum.)

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS
Chief of Appointment Division.

Eod Nov 25

L

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Thomas G. Thomson.

Legal Residence: California.

11—3692

NOV 22 1916

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HWR:AMG

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

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

May 26, 1920

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Subject: F. Wills - Charges against

1. There are enclosed, in duplicate, 18 copies of letters in correspondence pertaining to misconduct charged against F. Wills, 1st Assistant Keeper of the Table Bluff Light Station.

2. A final report and recommendation in this matter has been delayed pending the outcome of attempts to obtain further evidence. It now appears that no further evidence can be obtained, and the matter is forwarded for the Bureau's consideration.

3. The only charge which has been proven against Wills is that he was caught in very suspicious circumstances in a barn on a ranch adjacent to the reservation at about 3:00 A.M. in February, 1917. It is the opinion of this office that while Wills has been guilty of unbecoming conduct on many occasions, he is not guilty of the other charges preferred against him, and there is considerable evidence in the light of recent events to indicate that the Keeper has endeavored to trump up charges against Wills for the purpose of having him dismissed from the Service.

4. Wills' record in the Service has not been a satisfactory one. He was reprimanded by the Bureau on Sept. 14, 1914 for his conduct while at the Punta Gorda Light Station, and he has been in trouble with the Keeper and Assistant Keepers at Table Bluff during a large part of his term of service there. He is unsuited by temperament to fill a position in the Lighthouse Service, as he believes that all of his fellow-workers are plotting to injure him, and he always has a long tale of woes, chiefly imaginary, to relate at every inspection of his station. He has a large family to support, and it is clear that he is unable to properly support them on his salary. He has undertaken every possible expedient to increase his income by raising hogs and vegetables, and by himself doing laundry work for the Radio Service on the reservation.

5. In view of Wills' heavy responsibilities and the improbability of his being able to properly support his family at present in case of his discharge from the Service, it is recommended that he be severely censured for his absence from the station under suspicious circumstances in February, 1917, and that he be demoted and transferred as 3rd Assistant Keeper to the Pt. Arena

LIGHT
JUN 2 1920
HOUSES

Light Station with base pay at the rate of $660.00 per annum (which includes $60.00 longevity), and that he be warned that any further misconduct on his part will result in his being immediately dismissed from the Service.

6. There are forwarded herewith nominations providing for the demotion and transfer of Wills to Pt. Arena, for the demotion of Bruehl to 1st Assistant Keeper at the Table Bluff Light Station, and for the transfer of B. H. Linne, 1st Assictant Keeper at Pt. Reyes Light Station to the position of Keeper of the Tablo Bluff Light Station.

H. W. Rhodes.

Rec. ok. & Dept as per Supt's. recommendation. Gov 6/10/20.

OK HTBB June 11/20

6/10

JHH.
Inclosures.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.,
June 11, 1920.

1. Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information and with recommendation that the Bureau be authorized to address a letter of reprimand to Wills, copy thereof to be furnished the Department for its files, and that he be demoted and transferred to the position of 3rd assistant keeper at Point Arena Light Station at $660 per annum, base pay.

2. Nomination for the demotion of Wills is submitted to the Department this date.

HTBB

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light

Aug. 5th, 1919.

Superintendent of Lighthouses

San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:-

In passing the Indian Reservation today, I was requested by the Chief of tribe to bring to your attention that on last Saturday at about 10 P. M. Mr. Wills was seen around there and they have missed seven different articles. Mr. Wills was not on liberty at the time.

This is the second time I have brought petty thieving and absence without leave by him to your attention.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. C. Bruehl

Keeper.

COPY - LS

Aug. 7, 1929.

Keeper, Table Bluff Light Station.

1. Referring to your letter of August 5th, reporting Mr. Wills off station without liberty at about 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, the 2nd inst., and also intimating that he is responsible for certain thefts committed on the adjacent Indian Reservation.

2. You are advised that your letter does not constitute charges against Mr. Wills except to the extent that he was absent from the station without permission, and there is enclosed a letter requesting him to report on this point.

3. The fact that certain articles were missed from the Indian Reservation can have no bearing on Mr. Wills' absence from the station and presence in the vicinity of the Reservation beyond surmises unless some additional evidence is offered. If you are able to furnish any additional evidence tending to implicate Mr. Wills, you are directed to submit it immediately.

4. Mr. Wills was verbally reprimanded for his previous absence from the station without permission, but he offered a plausible excuse for his presence at the ranch where he was seen and there was no evidence to implicate him in any reported thefts in that vicinity.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes.

COPY - LS

HWR:AMG

Aug. 7, 1919.

Mr. F. Wills, 1st Asst. Keeper,
Table Bluff Light Station.

(Through the Keeper)

1. It has been reported to this office that you were absent from your station without authority at about 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 2nd, and that you were seen at that time in the vicinity of the Indian Reservation near your station.

2. At the last inspection of your station you were reprimanded for a similar absence at night and warned that you should not leave the station at any time and particularly at night without notifying the Keeper in the manner prescribed by the Regulations.

3. You are directed to report immediately the reason of your absence from the station at the time mentioned and also to state why you did not report your intended absence to the Keeper.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes.

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light Station,

Aug. 11th, 1919.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

San Francisco, Cal.

(Thru the Keeper)

Sir:-

In answer to your letter of the 7th inst., relating to the report of my being absent from my station on August 2nd at about 10 p. m. without the permission of the Keeper, I have the honor to respectfully inform you that I was not absent at that time nor at any previous or subsequent time and that the report is a malicious falsehood told not only to make me trouble but to make it appear that I am associating with disreputable characters thereby ruining my reputation at your office.

I have not been absent from my station after dark but twice in over two years - once to a red cross meeting in Loleta and to visit Eureka on June 30th last.

I never leave my sta. for any purpose whatever not even to go to the nearest neighbor to use the telephone without first asking the Keeper's permission.

I was on watch duty Aug. 2d. from 8 p.m. to 12 mid. and the Indian reservation is at least 1/2 mile from the sta. and I think I should be credited with having more sense than to leave my sta. so far while on watch duty, during the fogy season especially.

In your letter you state that I was reprimanded at your last inspection of this sta. for a similar absence at night as though I had been guilty of that offence.

I respectfully wish to state that I was not aware that I had been considered guilty of that charge or that I had received a reprimend.

I stated to you at that time and I wish to state so again that I was not guilty of that charge any more than I am guilty of this one.

Mrs. Wills sat up with me until 11 o'clock Aug. 2d and knows that I was not absent from my duty or station.

I respectfully request that I be informed of who is sending in these malicious and false charges against me so that I may be better able to defend myself.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. Wills

1st Asst. Keeper.

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light

Aug. 12th, 1919.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:-

Enclosed please find a statement of Mr. Matyschok of Loleta. I first heard of this affair about 8 months ago and attributed it to ordinary gossip, but on questioning the man today, I am convinced that it is the truth. Mr. Matyschok is very anxious that his name should not be mentioned as he is afraid of trouble, Mr. Wills might make for him.

Since I have been Keeper here, Mr. Wills has never asked to be absent over night until recently; consequently, it proves beyond a doubt that he is untruthful. It seems very peculiar to me that a man should go in a neighbor's barn at 3 A. M. to inquire about mushrooms. I also wish to remind you that I informed you on your last inspection that two of the men of the Radio Station had seen him about a 1/4 mile from this station at 10 P. M. during his watch. I am also sending you a list of articles missing from the Indian Reservation given to Mr. Branard the Indian Chief by tribesmen who blame Mr. Wills for the disappearance of same but who are not able to or unwilling to make a written statement as they say he carries a gun.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. C. Bruehl,

Keeper.

COPY - LA

Loleta, Calif.,

Aug. 12th, 1919.

This is to certify that about 2-1/2 years ago while working for Mr. Hendrickson on ranch adjoining the lighthouse, I caught Mr. Wills crawling through the manure hole in the barn about 3 or 3:30 A. M.; on asking him what he was doing he stated he was looking for Sam to ask him where the good place was to pick mushrooms. At the time the barn door was closed and there were no lights in barn! He also begged me not to tell the Keeper about his visit as he was supposed to be on watch at the time.

N. B. This statement is made with the understanding that it is not to be given out any further; to avoid trouble and complications.

(Signed) Iver Matyschok

COPY - LS

HWR:AMG

Aug. 15, 1919.

Keeper, Table Bluff Light Station:

1. Referring to your letter of August 12th, enclosing a statement by Mr. Matyschok to the effect that he saw Mr. Wills at the barn on the ranch adjoining the station at about 3:00 a.m. while employed at that place about 2-1/2 years ago.

2. You are informed that while this statement will be valuable in the way of corroborating evidence it is not in itself conclusive for the reason that while he asserts it to be the truth, Mr. Wills has denied it.

3. In order to determine whether Mr. Wills' statements are true regarding his absence from the station, it is requested that, if practicable, you obtain written statements from the two radio men who saw him about 1/4 mile from the station at 10:00 p.m. on a certain date when he was supposed to have been on watch. If for any reason you cannot obtain the written statements of these men at this time, you should submit any other positive evidence which you may have tending to show that Mr. Wills has ever been absent from his station at night without proper authority.

4. Mr. Wills' letter of August 11th was received at this office in the same mail with your letter of August 12th, but while it bears the address "Thru the Keeper", it is not endorsed for forwarding by you, and you are requested to state at this time whether Mr. Wills handed the letter to you for forwarding or whether he forwarded it directly to this office.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes.

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light,

Aug. 25th, 1919.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:-

I beg to inform you that the enclosed two letters were not sent through me and if you obtained same enclosed in an Official envelope it was stolen from my desk. I think that the request of Mr. Wills for a timeclock is absurd and unnecessary.

I am also enclosing the written statement from the Radio men which seems to prove that Mr. Wills is not very reliable; during the last few months, at least 20 different parties have requested or suggested his departure, and I recommend his removal to some other station for the good of the service.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. C. Bruehl,

Keeper.

COPY - LS

U. S. NAVAL RADIO STATION

EUREKA, Calif.

August 20, 1919

From: H. L. Coleman, Ships Cook 1st class U. S. Navy.
To : Officer in charge.

Subject: 1st Assistant Lighthouse Keeper, Statement re.

1. While returning from evening mail trip to Loleta in company with J.I.E.Lind Elect. 2c (RO) U.S.N. we passed Mr. Wills about three quarters of a mile distant from the reservation.

2. I am unable to fix definitely the date of this occurrance, but it was either the latter part of February or during the first week of March this year.

3. While it was after dark, I am positive of the identification as the man was in the full glare of the automobile headlights for sufficient time for both of us to recognize him.

(Signed) H. L. Coleman.

- -

1st Endorsement
U.S. Naval Radio Station
Eureka, Calif., 22 August 1919.

From: Officer in Charge.
To : Keeper, Table Bluff Lighthouse.

1. Forwarded.

2. The above statement is correct as reported to me at the time of the occurance. Due to the fact that Lind and Coleman were not aware that Wills was supposed to be on duty at this time the matter was not brought to my attention for some time afterwards.

3. As I stated to you at the time, I overheard their conversation on the matter, and knowing of Wills' being on duty came at once to you with the matter, but as at least an hour and a half had elapsed between the time he had been seen and the time I came to you, he was by that time on the reservation again.

(Signed) J. B. Dofflemeyer.

COPY - LS

HWR:AMG

Sept. 19, 1919.

Mr. F. Wills, 1st Asst. Keeper,
Table Bluff Light Station.

(Through the Keeper)

1. By letter from this office dated August 7, 1919, you were directed to report the reason of your absence from your station at about 10:00 p. m. on the night of Saturday, August 2nd, 1919, and instead of offering any explanation for your absence in your reply dated August 11th, you have denied your absence from the station on the dates mentioned and also on previous dates when you have been reported absent from the station at night without proper authority.

2. In view of your statements and of the evidence at present on file in this office, you are charged with neglect of duty and violation of the Regulations of the Lighthouses Service in that you were absent from your station without proper authority at about 10:00 p. m. on Saturday, August 2nd, 1919, at which time you were seen in the vicinity of the Indian Reservation at a distance of one-half mile or more from your station.

3. You are also charged in having been absent from your station without permission on or about the 1st of March of this year at which time you were passed on the road at a distance of 3/4 of a mile from the Lighthouse reservation at about 10:00 o'clock in the evening by H. L. Coleman, Ships Cook 1st Class, U. S. Navy, and J.I.E.Lind, Electrician 2nd class, U.S.Navy, who were at the time returning from Loleta to the station by automobile.

4. You are further charged with being absent from your station without proper authority at about 3:00 o'clock or 3:30 o'clock A. M. in February, 1917, at which time you were accosted by an employee of Mr. Hendrickson, who operated a ranch adjacent to the lighthouse reservation, while you were in the act of entering the barn through one of the small rear doors and on which occasion you requested the man who discovered you not to report the matter as you were supposed to be on watch at the time.

5. You are directed to submit such reply as you desire to make to these charges in writing within a reasonable time, transmitting your reply through the Keeper.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light Sta.
Sept. 24, 1919.

Mr. H. W. Rhodes,

San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Please pardon me for addressing you, but I think it my duty in the interest of my husband, Mr. Wills, to try and explain a few things regarding the accusations or charges against him.

There was a plot laid when Mr. Doffelmeyer first came here between him and Mr. Bruehl to get Mr. Wills out of the servous. Mr. Wills knew of it, and knew if they could anything on him they would make trouble for him. So he was especially careful to observe the smallest rule. And was very diligent when on watch, hardly taking his eyes off the light, and in watching for fog.

And knowing this how unreasonable it is to think he would leave the station and go half a mile away and allow himself to be seen. When he knew that the Radio truck came from town between ten and eleven almost every night. I am up until after ten o'clock every night and know positively that he never left the station on any night. And would take an oath to that effect if it would be considered.

And Mr. Coleman has never saw Mr. Wills closer then from here to the Radio Station. And I know from experience that a person cant be seen well enough to be recognized if they were to meet in the day time. And how could he be recognized at ten o'clock at night.

Mr. Doffelmeyer and Mr. Bruehl came over here and Mr. Doffelmeyer talked so insultingly to Mr. Wills, just because his and Mr. Bruehls girls came from school and told that our little girl called his a german. And she didn't do it.

And I heard Mr. Doffelmeyer make the remark that "He would run Mr. Wills all right"and words to the effect that he would get him out of the servous.

It is awful to accuse him of such things when he is as innosent as a baby of those things.

And probably cause him to lose his position after puting up with what we have had to.

And with six small children depending on him and me at present in very delicate health.

It seems there is no justice in the world any more.

A person that tries to live and do right is crushed and the wicked flourish

There is not a word of truth in any of the charges against Mr. Wills except when he went to see the man at Mr. Hendricksons.

And I pray to God that for mine and the children's sake that you will not believe the reports about him.

Yours respectively,

(Signed) Mrs. Dora Wills

(COPY)

TABLE BLUFF LIGHT STATION, CALIF.,
September 24, 1919

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
San Francisco, Calif.

(Through the Keeper)

Sir:

In answer to your letter of September 19, 1919, I respectfully wish to make the following statement:

In Par. 1 I am told that I was directed by letter from your Office to report the reason of my absence from my station at about 10.00 P.M., Saturday, August the 2nd, 1919, and instead of offering any explanations of my absence in my reply of August 11, I denied my absence on the date mentioned and on previous dates mentioned that I have been reported absent.

I respectfully state that it is impossible for me to offer any explanation of why I was absent when I was not absent. As stated in my letter of August 11th, 1919, I so state again that I have not been absent from my station after dark but twice in over two years and that was with permission of the Keeper, and I will take an oath before God that I am stating nothing but the truth.

On Aug. 2nd, 1919, I was sitting in the kitchen with my wife on watch duty from 8 PLM. to 12 midnight.

In reply to Par. 3 in that I am charged with being absent from my Station without permission on or about the 1st of March of this year and that I was passed on the road by H. L. Coleman ship's cook and J. I. Lind, Electrician. I respectfully wish to state that Mr. Doffelmeyer of the Radio Station stated to me that he would get me fired out of the Service so far that I would never get back and it is my honest opinion that it is a put up job by him to get me out of the Service because as he said that I had been writing letters calling Mr. Bruehl pro-German. I never met Mr. Coleman in my life and would not know him if I met him face to face. The charges in both Par. 1 and 3 are as false as false can be and made purely for revenge and spite.

In regard to Par. 4 in that I am charged with being absent from my Station without proper authority at about 3:30 A.M., February 1917, I respectfully wish to state that I did not deny this charge to you when you asked me about it at your last inspection of this Station and I do not deny it now nor never have denied it to anyone.

As I stated to you at your last inspection of this Station I went down to Mr. Hendricksons barn between 3:30 and 4:00 A.M. to see one of his hired men.

I opened the side door went in and talked to him for about 10 minutes then returned to the Station.

This barn is not over 200 yards from the Center of this reservation and I could see the light the entire time. It is true that I requested the man to say nothing to Mr. Bruehl about me being there because I was on watch at the time, and that I didn't want to get a call down for leaving the light that far.

If this reservation was large enough nothing would be thought of me going 200 yards from the light and I was not neglecting my duty when I went to Mr. Hendrickson's barn because I could see the light as well from there as I could from my own quarters.

Since starting this letter I went to see the old Indian man Bill Brainard who was supposed to have seen me at the Indian reservation on the night of August 2, 1919, and he stated to me that he did not see me and had never daid that he had, but stated that he had heard some one and thought it was me because he had been told that it was me.

I am as innocent of any wrong intent as any man can be and if these charges against me are considered true after all my protestations of innocence it will be an awful miscarriage of justice.

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) F. WILLS

1st Ass't. Keeper

Received and Forwarded
12:30 P.M., Sept. 26, 1919
C. C. BRUEHL, Keeper

(COPY)

TABLE BLUFF LIGHT STATION, CALIF.,
September 26, 1919

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:

1. Regarding attached letter from Mr. Wills, I beg to say that the men employed at the ranch mentioned do not start to work until 5 A.M., and the man that caught Mr. Wills crawling through the manure hole in barn was detailed to watch and catch the party who had been coming there to steal potatoes and mill feed stored there; the action of Mr. Wills in going there at that hour of the night look peculiar to say the least; especially as Mr. Mytershock stated to me that there had been a trail of potatoes from the barn to Mr. Will's house; on page 4 he states that he informed you that he was absent; to me he has always denied being absent, until last week when I gave him the copy of charges sent by you; he also states on page 4 that he talked to the man about 10 minutes; according to Mr. Mytershock the party that caught him, he was told to beat it before the shotgun went off that he was carrying for people that come visiting at such a time. Mr. Wills has been a constant source of annoyance, trouble, and official correspondence since he has been here and I understand the same thing occurred at Pt. Gorda his previous station. It is at present common gossip from here to Loleta how the Lighthouse men steal from the neighbors; consequently I urgently suggest the removal of Mr. Wills to some other station for the good of the Service.

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) C. C. BRUEHL,
Keeper

COPY - LS

HWR:LS

October 4th, 1919.

Keeper, Table Bluff Light Station.

1. The reply by F. Wills, 1st Assistant Keeper at your station, dated September 24th, to charges previously preferred against him, and which reply was forwarded by your endorsement of September 26th, denies the charges of unauthorized absences from his station, except the one which it was charged, occurred in February, 1917. Mr. Wills freely admits this charge, but claims that the purpose of his visit was an innocent one.

2. Mr. Wills emphatically denies the charge that he was absent from the reservation at about 10 P. M., on Saturday, August 2nd, 1919, and also that he was absent on or about March 1st of this year, as charged in your letter and corroborated by H. L. Coleman, Ship's Cook, 1st Class, U. S. Navy, in a letter to the officer in Charge of the Navy Radio Station, dated August 20th, 1919.

3. The establishment of this letter and most serious charge against Wills is now a matter of evidence. As the case stands now, Coleman states he saw Wills three-quarters of a mile distant from the Reservation at the time stated while Wills emphatically denies the charge. In order to prove this charge, it will be necessary to obtain more evidence, and you are directed to obtain the sworn or certified statement of J. I. E. Lind, Electrician 2 c. (R.O.) U.S.N., who was reported to have been with Coleman when he saw Wills off station, during the latter part of February or the first week of March of this year.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

(COPY)

SUPERINTENDENT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Table Bluff Light Station,
October 8, 1919

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:

In reply to attached letter beg to state that Mr. Lind whose statement you wish, is no longer at this station his enlistment having expired. I however will vouch for his truthfulness as he would gain nothing by such a statement. Mr. Wills admits his guilt of being absent in February 1917 while on watch, furthermore does it look reasonable for a man to go and leave a Light at 2:30 A.M. and visit neighbors by climbing through a manure hole in a barn when everybody is sleeping; such prodeeding do not look innocent as Mr. Wills had plenty of time, and opportunity, during daytime for visiting if you condone such actions it will be impossible for me to keep discipline.

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) C.C.BRUEHL, Keeper

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HWR:AMG

SUPERINTENDENT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Oct. 20, 1919

MEMORANDUM

1. On October 11, 1919, after inspecting the Table Bluff Light Station, proceeded to a ranch on the Eel River, about 8 miles distant from the station, and interviewed Iver Matyschok relative to his written statement of Aug. 12, 1919, concerning F. Wills, 1st Asst. Keeper of the Table Bluff Light Station.

2. Matyschok confirmed his written statement of August 12th, and in further explanation stated that on the night in question he had remained up for the purpose of shooting two hogs belonging to his employer, Mr. Hendrickson. These hogs had been running wild for sometime on an inexcessible part of the ranch but came to the barn in the night in search of grain and other food. The night was cold and threatening, and about 3:00 A.M. he went inside the barn for shelter and to get warm. After being inside for a few minutes, he heard someone entering through a small aperature in the rear of the stable, which was attached to, and formed a part of the barn. He waited until the person had entered the barn and then suddenly hailed him, at which time he discovered that the intruder was Wills, whom he knew well. Matyschok stated that Wills had every appearance of a man apprehended in a guilty act and that he begged him not to report the matter to the Keeper. Matyschok stated that he had no proof that Wills had ever stolen anything from the ranch premises, but that supplies had frequently been missed and that after the occurrence in question he believed in his own mind that Wills was guilty. Wills' excuse for entering the barn was that he was looking for a man called "Sam" to inquire where he might find mushrooms, although Matyschok stated that Sam was not due to appear at the barn for at least two hours from the time at which Wills visited it.

H. W. Rhodes.

COPY - LS

HWR:LS

October 22nd, 1919.

Mr. J. E. Lind,
c/o F. Scofer,
5313 Locksley Ave.,
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Sir:-

1. It has been reported to this office that, while stationed at the Table Bluff Radio Station, you saw Mr. F. Wills, 1st Assistant Keeper of the Table Bluff Light Station off of the reservation at about 10 p. m. sometime during the past year.

2. In order that charges now pending against Assistant Keeper Wills may be justly disposed of, will you kindly give me any information which you have regarding his absence from the reservation at night at any time during the past year, and also state if, to your knowledge, any other person has information concerning Mr. Wills' reported absence from the reservation.

3. An early reply will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

COPY - LS

Nov. 4, 1919

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

Mr. H. W. Rhodes,

Dear Sir:-

Yours of Oct. 22nd received but unable to answer before due to my being at sea.

But in reply will say that one evening about ten p.m. while returning from Loleta to Table Bluff, I saw a man on the roadside whom the man driving the station truck claims was Mr. Wills, but myself could not say who it was as I was sitting on the opposite side.

For full information write H. L. Coleman, 61 Shotwell St., San Francisco, as he was the man driving.

Truthfully,

(Signed) J. E. Lind

c/o F. Schafer, 5313 Locksley Ave.,
Oakland, Calif.

JMH: LON

Washington D C June 15 1920

Lighthouse Superintendent San Francisco California

Recommendations Brushl Wills approved

CONWAY

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Dept. approved
JHV
6/15/20.

6/24/20 Reprimanded Wills
Copy to 18th Light.
" " Dept.

JUN 17 1920 9 29 AM

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

Ayres.
Engr. Cons
Mar. Engr
Accounts.
Contracts

LIGHT
JUN 17 1920
HOUSES

June 16, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

For the reasons stated in the Eighteenth Superintendent's letter of the 26th ultimo, forwarded by the Bureau on the 11th instant, the Department has approved the recommendation that Fletcher Wills, Keeper (first assistant) of Table Bluff Light Station, California, at $720. per annum, be reprimanded and demoted to the position of Keeper (third assistant) of Point Arena Light Station, California, at $660. per annum. It is noted that a copy of the letter of reprimand will be furnished the Department for its files.

By direction of the Secretary:

Clifford Harding

Chief of Appointment Division.

C-S

JEH: LON

June 24, 1920.

Fletcher Wills, 1st Assistant Keeper,
Table Bluff Light Station.
(through Superintendent of Lighthouses, San Francisco, Calif.)

1. Referring to charges preferred against you on September 19, 1919, by the Superintendent of the Eighteenth Lighthouse District.

2. You are hereby reprimanded for absence from your station without proper authority in February, 1917, which is contrary to Instructions to Employees, 1915, Paragraph 6, and demoted and transferred to the position of 3d assistant keeper, Point Arena Light Station, at $660 per annum, base pay.

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

JEH: LON
Enclosure

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D.C.,
June 24, 1920.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, San Francisco, Calif., for the files of his office. Inclosed is Department notice of change in salary addressed to Wills. See Bureau Telegram of June 15

By direction of the Commissioner:

Chief Clerk.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington JUN 24 1920

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information.

Acting Commissioner

Reno

Form 73 AMG

JUN 2 1920 3 24 PM

NOMINATION

5

LIGHT JUN 2 1920 HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 18th DISTRICT,

1920 JUN 14 AM 10 03

San Francisco, Cal. (City.) May 26 (Date.) 1920

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Transferred and demoted

Name, Fletcher Wills

Legal residence, California

Position, Keeper (3rd Asst.)

Salary, $660.00 (includes $60.00 longevity)

Location, Pt. Arena Light Station Cal

Appropriation, Salaries of Keepers

Effective June 16, 1920

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

Former position, Keeper (1st Asst.)

Former salary, $720.00 (includes $60.00 longevity)

Location, Table Bluff Light Station Cal.

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

Previous incumbent, Gustav W. Gjesdahl Services terminated, Apr. 30, 1920

Reason, Resigned

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN JUN 16 1920 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Members of family in Government Service, None

Remarks: See report on charges dated May 26, 1920

JOS 6/14/20

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

H. W. Rhodes.

Secretary, Civil Service District. Superintendent of Lighthouses

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON JUN 11 1920

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

H. B. Bowerman
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 June 16, 1920.

H. Fletcher Wills,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that your salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service has been changed from $ 660. per annum to $ per annum, effective June 16, 1920 or as soon thereafter as you enter on duty at the changed rate of pay (including $60. per annum longevity 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,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

Cancelled

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED JUN 17 1920 DEPT. OF COMMERCE

CARDED

C. S. REPORT DATE ENTERED

18th district
S
C

June 16, 1920.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

For the reasons stated in the Eighteenth Superintendent's letter of the 26th ultimo, forwarded by the Bureau on the 11th instant, the Department has approved the recommendation that Fletcher Wills, Keeper (first assistant) of Table Bluff Light Station, California, at $720. per annum, be reprimanded and demoted to the position of Keeper (third assistant) of Point Arena Light Station, California, at $660. per annum. It is noted that a copy of the letter of reprimand will be furnished the Department for its files.

By direction of the Secretary:

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

C-S

AMG
Enc.

Form 93

NOTICE OF RESIGNATION OR DEATH

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1920 JUL 8 AM 9 23

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT,

San Francisco, California June 28, 1920

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Herewith is transmitted the resignation of the following-named employee:

Name, Fletcher Wills Position, Keeper (1st Asst.)

Legal residence, California Station, (Table Bluff Light Station)

Salary, $720. per annum (Includes $60.00 longevity)

The acceptance of this resignation is recommended effective at the close of June 30, 1920

This employee has not taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

Remarks:

See copy of Superintendent's letter of this date to Wills attached.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN JUL 9 - 1920

APPOINTMENT DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN JUL 10 1920 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

H. W. Rhodes.
Superintendent of Lighthouses

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

JUL 6 1920

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

11—4623

1920 JUL 7 PM 2 52

Conway

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

SUPERINTENDENT
JUN 28 1920
SAN FRANCISCO

LIGHT
JUL 6 1920
HOUSES

Table Bluff Light Sta.
June 24th 1920

Superintendent of Lighthouses.
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:-

I again respectfully wish to state that I am as innocent of the charges for which I am being punished as a man could posibly be, and if nothing can be done to mitigate this punishment, in view of the fact of my innocence, the humiliation placed upon me, and the injustice done me, please accept this as my resignation to take effect June 30th 1920 or as soon thereafter as convenient to you.

Respectfully.

S. Wills.

1st Asst Keeper.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HWR:AMG

LIGHT
JUL 1 1920
OUSES

SUPERINTENDENT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

June 28, 1920.

Mr. F. Wills, 1st Asst. Keeper,
Table Bluff Light Station.

(Through the Keeper)

1. In reply to your letter of June 24th, you are informed that by indisputable evidence and by your own confession, you are guilty of the charges for which you are being punished.

2. The charges of being off the reservation made by certain men in the Radio Service were not considered by the Bureau in authorizing your transfer to the Point Arena Light Station.

3. The charges on which you were found guilty were that you were found under suspicious circumstances in a barn on an adjacent ranch at about 3:00 A.M. on a morning when you were on watch duty at the reservation. It appears that you failed to realize the seriousness of this offense and ~~that~~ in the majority of cases it would be considered grounds for immediate dismissal. On account of your family and your recognized obligations to them, action in your case has been delayed until the present time, as it was understood you could not conveniently move your large family at an earlier date.

4. You are informed that ever since you went to the Punta Gorda Light Station, where you were reprimanded by the Bureau on Sept. 14, 1914, you have been the cause of contention and strife in the Lighthouse Service and that you have occasioned this office more trouble through charges and counter-charges and petty complaints than any other man in the Service.

5. It appears that your temperament is such that you are not well suited to the Lighthouse Service as you are unable, in the majority of cases, to get along peacefully with your associates in the Service, and it is, therefore, considered for your best interests as well as the interests of the Lighthouse Service that your resignation be accepted. Your letter of June 24th has, therefore, been forwarded to the Bureau of Lighthouses with the recommendation that your resignation be accepted effective on June 30th.

6. As your quarters will be required on July 1st, you are directed to remove from them not later than that date.

H. W. Rhodes.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

July 10, 1920.

r. Fletcher Wills,

M Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir: Through the

The Department is in receipt of your resignation from the position designated below, and has accepted the same, upon recommendation of the Bureau, to take effect at the close of business June 30, 1920.

on

Bureau Lighthouse Service

Station Table Bluff Light Station.

Position Keeper

Salary $720 per annum

CARDED

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

JUL 14 1920

REPORT DATA
MARKED
JUL 8, 20

S
C
18th district

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SALARY
KEEPERS--LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
AUG 3 1920
HOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1920.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that your salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service has been changed from $ 720. per annum to $ 660. per annum, effective June 16, 1920 or as soon thereafter as you enter on duty at the changed rate of pay (including $60. per annum longevity 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,

Clifford Harding

Chief of Appointment Division.

S/C

JUN 18 1920 9 29 AM

LIGHT JUN 19 1920 HOUSES

JUL -1 1920 SAN FRANCISCO

LIGHT AUG 3 1920 HOUSES

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SALARY
KEEPERS--LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1920.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that your salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service has been changed from $720. per annum to $660. per annum, effective June 16, 1920 or as soon thereafter as you enter on duty at the changed rate of pay (including $60. per annum longevity 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,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS

Chief of Appointment Division.

18th district
S
C

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

AMG
Enc.

LIGHT AUG 3 1920 HOUSES

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

July 28, 1920

APPOINTMENTS

1920 AUG 5 AM 9 18

1920 AUG 4 PM 4 06

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

1. Department letter, in duplicate, dated June 16, 1920, advising Fletcher Wills that his salary as keeper in the Lighthouse Service had been changed from $720. per annum to $660. per annum, effective June 16, 1920, or as soon thereafter as he entered on duty at the changed rate of pay (including $60. per annum longevity pay), is returned for cancellation.

2. The Bureau is informed that Fletcher Wills did not enter upon duty as keeper with salary at the rate of $660. per annum. This rate of pay would have become effective July 1, 1920, but Wills resigned at the close of June 30, 1920, while still receiving pay at the rate of $720. per annum.

In the absence and by direction of the Superintendent

Otter.

CARDED

tcd 8/5/20

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington.
AUG 4 1920

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommended for approval.

1920 AUG 4 PM 3 06

E.C. Gillette
Acting Commissioner

C. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED AUG 5 - 1920 DEPT. OF COMMERCE

COPY - LS

Aug. 7, 1929.

Keeper, Table Bluff Light Station.

1. Referring to your letter of August 5th, reporting Mr. Wills off station without liberty at about 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, the 2nd inst., and also intimating that he is responsible for certain thefts committed on the adjacent Indian Reservation.

2. You are advised that your letter does not constitute charges against Mr. Wills except to the extent that he was absent from the station without permission, and there is enclosed a letter requesting him to report on this point.

3. The fact that certain articles were missed from the Indian Reservation can have no bearing on Mr. Wills' absence from the station and presence in the vicinity of the Reservation beyond surmises unless some additional evidence is offered. If you are able to furnish any additional evidence tending to implicate Mr. Wills, you are directed to submit it immediately.

4. Mr. Wills was verbally reprimanded for his previous absence from the station without permission, but he offered a plausible excuse for his presence at the ranch where he was seen and there was no evidence to implicate him in any reported thefts in that vicinity.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes.

COPY - LS

HWR:AMG

Aug. 7, 1919.

Mr. F. Wills, 1st Asst. Keeper,
Table Bluff Light Station.

(Through the Keeper)

1. It has been reported to this office that you were absent from your station without authority at about 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 2nd, and that you were seen at that time in the vicinity of the Indian Reservation near your station.

2. At the last inspection of your station you were reprimanded for a similar absence at night and warned that you should not leave the station at any time and particularly at night without notifying the Keeper in the manner prescribed by the Regulations.

3. You are directed to report immediately the reason of your absence from the station at the time mentioned and also to state why you did not report your intended absence to the Keeper.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes.

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light Station,

Aug. 11th, 1919.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

San Francisco, Cal.

(Thru the Keeper)

Sir:-

In answer to your letter of the 7th inst., relating to the report of my being absent from my station on August 2nd at about 10 p. m. without the permission of the Keeper, I have the honor to respectfully inform you that I was not absent at that time nor at any previous or subsequent time and that the report is a malicious falsehood told not only to make me trouble but to make it appear that I am associating with disreputable characters thereby ruining my reputation at your office.

I have not been absent from my station after dark but twice in over two years - once to a red cross meeting in Loleta and to visit Eureka on June 30th last.

I never leave my sta. for any purpose whatever not even to go to the nearest neighbor to use the telephone without first asking the Keeper's permission.

I was on watch duty Aug. 2d. from 8 p.m. to 12 mid. and the Indian reservation is at least 1/2 mile from the sta. and I think I should be credited with having more sense than to leave my sta. so far while on watch duty, during the fogy season especially.

In your letter you state that I was reprimanded at your last inspection of this sta. for a similar absence at night as though I had been guilty of that offence.

I respectfully wish to state that I was not aware that I had been considered guilty of that charge or that I had received a reprimend.

I stated to you at that time and I wish to state so again that I was not guilty of that charge any more than I am guilty of this one.

Mrs. Wills sat up with me until 11 o'clock Aug. 2d and knows that I was not absent from my duty or station.

I respectfully request that I be informed of who is sending in these malicious and false charges against me so that I may be better able to defend myself.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. Wills

1st Asst. Keeper.

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light

Aug. 12th, 1919.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:-

Enclosed please find a statement of Mr. Matyschok of Loleta. I first heard of this affair about 8 months ago and attributed it to ordinary gossip, but on questioning the man today, I am convinced that it is the truth. Mr. Matyschok is very anxious that his name should not be mentioned as he is afraid of trouble, Mr. Wills might make for him.

Since I have been Keeper here, Mr. Wills has never asked to be absent over night until recently; consequently, it proves beyond a doubt that he is untruthful. It seems very peculiar to me that a man should go in a neighbor's barn at 3 A. M. to inquire about mushrooms. I also wish to remind you that I informed you on your last inspection that two of the men of the Radio Station had seen him about a 1/4 mile from this station at 10 P. M. during his watch. I am also sending you a list of articles missing from the Indian Reservation given to Mr. Branard the Indian Chief by tribesmen who blame Mr. Wills for the disappearance of same but who are not able to or unwilling to make a written statement as they say he carries a gun.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. C. Bruehl,

Keeper.

COPY - LS

Loleta, Calif.,

Aug. 12th, 1919.

This is to certify that about 2-1/2 years ago while working for Mr. Hendrickson on ranch adjoining the lighthouse, I caught Mr. Wills crawling through the manure hole in the barn about 3 or 3:30 A. M.; on asking him what he was doing he stated he was looking for Sam to ask him where the good place was to pick mushrooms. At the time the barn door was closed and there were no lights in barn! He also begged me not to tell the Keeper about his visit as he was supposed to be on watch at the time.

N. B. This statement is made with the understanding that it is not to be given out any further; to avoid trouble and complications.

(Signed) Iver Matyschok

COPY - LS

HWR:AMG

Aug. 15, 1919.

Keeper, Table Bluff Light Station:

1. Referring to your letter of August 12th, enclosing a statement by Mr. Matyschok to the effect that he saw Mr. Wills at the barn on the ranch adjoining the station at about 3:00 a.m. while employed at that place about 2-1/2 years ago.

2. You are informed that while this statement will be valuable in the way of corroborating evidence it is not in itself conclusive for the reason that while he asserts it to be the truth, Mr. Wills has denied it.

3. In order to determine whether Mr. Wills' statements are true regarding his absence from the station, it is requested that, if practicable, you obtain written statements from the two radio men who saw him about 1/4 mile from the station at 10:00 p.m. on a certain date when he was supposed to have been on watch. If for any reason you cannot obtain the written statements of these men at this time, you should submit any other positive evidence which you may have tending to show that Mr. Wills has ever been absent from his station at night without proper authority.

4. Mr. Wills' letter of August 11th was received at this office in the same mail with your letter of August 12th, but while it bears the address "Thru the Keeper", it is not endorsed for forwarding by you, and you are requested to state at this time whether Mr. Wills handed the letter to you for forwarding or whether he forwarded it directly to this office.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes.

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light,

Aug. 25th, 1919.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:-

I beg to inform you that the enclosed two letters were not sent through me and if you obtained same enclosed in an Official envelope it was stolen from my desk. I think that the request of Mr. Wills for a timeclock is absurd and unnecessary.

I am also enclosing the written statement from the Radio men which seems to prove that Mr. Wills is not very reliable; during the last few months, at least 20 different parties have requested or suggested his departure, and I recommend his removal to some other station for the good of the service.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. C. Bruehl,

Keeper.

COPY - LS

U. S. NAVAL RADIO STATION

EUREKA, Calif.

August 20, 1919

From: H. L. Coleman, Ships Cook 1st class U. S. Navy.
To : Officer in charge.

Subject: 1st Assistant Lighthouse Keeper, Statement re.

1. While returning from evening mail trip to Loleta in company with J.I.E.Lind Elect. 2c (RO) U.S.N. we passed Mr. Wills about three quarters of a mile distant from the reservation.

2. I am unable to fix definitely the date of this occurrance, but it was either the latter part of February or during the first week of March this year.

3. While it was after dark, I am positive of the identification as the man was in the full glare of the automobile headlights for sufficient time for both of us to recognize him.

(Signed) H. L. Coleman.

- -

1st Endorsement
U.S. Naval Radio Station
Eureka, Calif., 22 August 1919.

From: Officer in Charge.
To : Keeper, Table Bluff Lighthouse.

1. Forwarded.

2. The above statement is correct as reported to me at the time of the occurance. Due to the fact that Lind and Coleman were not aware that Wills was supposed to be on duty at this time the matter was not brought to my attention for some time afterwards.

3. As I stated to you at the time, I overheard their conversation on the matter, and knowing of Wills' being on duty came at once to you with the matter, but as at least an hour and a half had elapsed between the time he had been seen and the time I came to you, he was by that time on the reservation again.

(Signed) J. B. Dofflemeyer.

COPY - LS

HWR:AMG

Sept. 19, 1919.

Mr. F. Wills, 1st Asst. Keeper,
Table Bluff Light Station.

(Through the Keeper)

1. By letter from this office dated August 7, 1919, you were directed to report the reason of your absence from your station at about 10:00 p. m. on the night of Saturday, August 2nd, 1919, and instead of offering any explanation for your absence in your reply dated August 11th, you have denied your absence from the station on the dates mentioned and also on previous dates when you have been reported absent from the station at night without proper authority.

2. In view of your statements and of the evidence at present on file in this office, you are charged with neglect of duty and violation of the Regulations of the Lighthouse Service in that you were absent from your station without proper authority at about 10:00 p. m. on Saturday, August 2nd, 1919, at which time you were seen in the vicinity of the Indian Reservation at a distance of one-half mile or more from your station.

3. You are also charged in having been absent from your station without permission on or about the 1st of March of this year at which time you were passed on the road at a distance of 3/4 of a mile from the Lighthouse reservation at about 10:00 o'clock in the evening by H. L. Coleman, Ships Cook 1st Class, U. S. Navy, and J.I.E.Lind, Electrician 2nd class, U.S.Navy, who were at the time returning from Loleta to the station by automobile.

4. You are further charged with being absent from your station without proper authority at about 3:00 o'clock or 3:30 o'clock A. M. in February, 1917, at which time you were accosted by an employee of Mr. Hendrickson, who operated a ranch adjacent to the lighthouse reservation, while you were in the act of entering the barn through one of the small rear doors and on which occasion you requested the man who discovered you not to report the matter as you were supposed to be on watch at the time.

5. You are directed to submit such reply as you desire to make to these charges in writing within a reasonable time, transmitting your reply through the Keeper.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light Sta.
Sept. 24, 1919.

Mr. H. W. Rhodes,

San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Please parden me for addressing you, but I think it my duty in the interest of my husband, Mr. Wills, to try and explain a few things regarding the accusations or charges against him.

There was a plot laid when Mr. Doffelmeyer first came here between him and Mr. Bruehl to get Mr. Wills out of the servous. Mr. Wills knew of it, and knew if they could anything on him they would make trouble for him. So he was especially careful to observe the smallest rule. And was very diligent when on watch, hardly taking his eyes off the light, and in watching for fog.

And knowing this how unreasonable it is to think he would leave the station and go half a mile away and allow himself to be seen. When he knew that the Radio truck came from town between ten and eleven almost every night. I am up until after ten o'clock every night and know positively that he never left the station on any night. And would take an oath to that effect if it would be considered.

And Mr. Coleman has never saw Mr. Wills closer then from here to the Radio Station. And I know from experience that a person cant be seen well enough to be recognized if they were to meet in the day time. And how could he be recognized at ten o'clock at night.

Mr. Doffelmeyer and Mr. Bruehl came over here and Mr. Doffelmeyer talked so insultingly to Mr. Wills, just because his and Mr. Bruehls girls came from school and told that our little girl called his a german. And she didn't do it.

And I heard Mr. Doffelmeyer make the remark that "He would run Mr. Wills all right"and words to the effect that he would get him out of the servous.

It is awful to accuse him of such things when he is as innosent as a baby of those things.

And probably cause him to lose his position after puting up with what we have had to.

And with six small children depending on him and me at present in very delicate health.

It seems there is no justice in the world any more.

A person that tries to live and do right is crushed and the wicked flourish

There is not a word of truth in any of the charges against Mr. Wills except when he went to see the man at Mr. Hendricksons.

And I pray to God that for mine and the children's sake that you will not believe the reports about him.

Yours respectively,

(Signed) Mrs. Dora Wills

(COPY)

TABLE BLUFF LIGHT STATION, CALIF.,
September 24, 1919

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
San Francisco, Calif.

(Through the Keeper)

Sir:

In answer to your letter of September 19, 1919, I respectfully wish to make the following statement:

In Par. 1 I am told that I was directed by letter from your Office to report the reason of my absence from my station at about 10.00 P.M., Saturday, August the 2nd, 1919, and instead of offering any explanations of my absence in my reply of August 11, I denied my absence on the date mentiáned and on previous dates mentioned that I have been reported absent.

I respectfully state that it is impossible for me to offer any explanation of why I was absent when I was not absent. As stated in my letter of August 11th, 1919, I so state again that I have not been absent from my station after dark but twice in over two years and that was with permission of the Keeper, and I will take an oath before God that I am stating nothing but the truth.

On Aug. 2nd, 1919, I was sitting in the kitchen with my wife on watch duty from 8 PLM. to 12 midnight.

In reply to Par. 3 in that I am charged with being absent from my Station without permission on or about the 1st of March of this year and that I was passed on the road by H. L. Coleman ship's cook and J. I. Lind, Electrician. I respectfully wish to state that Mr. Doffelmeyer of the Radio Station stated to me that he would get me fired out of the Service so far that I would never get back and it is my honest opinion that it is a put up job by him to get me out of the Service because as he said that I had been writing letters calling Mr. Bruehl pro-German. I never met Mr. Coleman in my life and would not know him if I met him face to face. The charges in both Par. 1 and 3 are as false as false can be and made purely for revenge and spite.

In regard to Par. 4 in that I am charged with being absent from my Station without proper authority at about 3:30 A.M., February 1917, I respectfully wish to state that I did not deny this charge to you when you asked me about it at your last inspection of this Station and I do not deny it now nor never have denied it to anyone.

As I stated to you at your last inspection of this Station I went down to Mr. Hendricksons barn between 3:30 and 4:00 A.M. to see one of his hired men.

I opened the side door went in and talked to him for about 10 minutes then returned to the Station.

This barn is not over 200 yards from the Center of this reservation and I could see the light the entire time. It is true that I requested the man to say nothing to Mr. Bruehl about me being there because I was on watch at the time, and that I didn't want to get a call down for leaving the light that far.

If this reservation was large enough nothing would be thought of me going 200 yards from the light and I was not neglecting my duty when I went to Mr. Hendrickson's barn because I could see the light as well from there as I could from my own quarters.

Since starting this letter I went to see the old Indian man Bill Brainard who was supposed to have seen me at the Indian reservation on the night of August 2, 1919, and he stated to me that he did not see me and had never said that he had, but stated that he had heard some one and thought it was me because he had been told that it was me.

I am as innocent of any wrong intent as any man can be and if these charges against me are considered true after all my protestations of innocence it will be an awful miscarriage of justice.

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) F. WILLS

1st Ass't. Keeper

Received and Forwarded
12:30 P.M., Sept. 26, 1919
C. C. BRUEHL, Keeper

(COPY)

TABLE BLUFF LIGHT STATION, CALIF.,
September 26, 1919

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:

1. Regarding attached letter from Mr. Wills, I beg to say that the men employed at the ranch mentioned do not start to work until 5 A.M., and the man that caught Mr. Wills crawling through the manure hole in barn was detailed to watch and catch the party who had been coming there to steal potatoes and mill feed stored there; the action of Mr. Wills in going there at that hour of the night look peculiar to say the least; especially as Mr. Mytershock stated to me that there had been a trail of potatoes from the barn to Mr. Will's house; on page 4 he states that he informed you that he was absent; to me he has always denied being absent, until last week when I gave him the copy of charges sent by you; he also states on page 4 that he talked to the man about 10 minutes; according to Mr. Mytershock the party that caught him, he was told to beat it before the shotgun went off that he was carrying for people that come visiting at such a time. Mr. Wills has been a constant source of annoyance, trouble, and official correspondence since he has been here and I understand the same thing occurred at Pt. Gorda his previous station. It is at present common gossip from here to Loleta how the Lighthouse men steal from the neighbors; consequently I urgently suggest the removal of Mr. Wills to some other station for the good of the Service.

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) C. C. BRUEHL,
Keeper

COPY - LS

HWR:LS

October 4th, 1919.

Keeper, Table Bluff Light Station.

1. The reply by F. Wills, 1st Assistant Keeper at your station, dated September 24th, to charges previously preferred against him, and which reply was forwarded by your endorsement of September 26th, denies the charges of unauthorized absences from his station, except the one which it was charged, occurred in February, 1917. Mr. Wills freely admits this charge, but claims that the purpose of his visit was an innocent one.

2. Mr. Wills emphatically denies the charge that he was absent from the reservation at about 10 P. M., on Saturday, August 2nd, 1919, and also that he was absent on or about March 1st of this year, as charged in your letter and corroborated by H. L. Coleman, Ship's Cook, 1st Class, U. S. Navy, in a letter to the officer in Charge of the Navy Radio Station, dated August 20th, 1919.

3. The establishment of this letter and most serious charge against Wills is now a matter of evidence. As the case stands now, Coleman states he saw Wills three-quarters of a mile distant from the Reservation at the time stated while Wills emphatically denies the charge. In order to prove this charge, it will be necessary to obtain more evidence, and you are directed to obtain the sworn or certified statement of J. I. E. Lind, Electrician 2 c. (R.O.) U.S.N., who was reported to have been with Coleman when he saw Wills off station, during the latter part of February or the first week of March of this year.

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

(COPY)

SUPERINTENDENT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Table Bluff Light Station,
October 8, 1919

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:

In reply to attached letter beg to state that Mr. Lind whose statement you wish, is no longer at this station his enlistment having expired. I however will vouch for his truthfulness as he would gain nothing by such a statement. Mr. Wills admits his guilt of being absent in February 1917 while on watch, furthermore does it look reasonable for a man to go and leave a Light at 2:30 A.M. and visit neighbors by climbing through a manure hole in a barn when everybody is sleeping; such prodeeding do not look innocent as Mr. Wills had plenty of time, and opportunity, during daytime for visiting; if you condone such actions it will be impossible for me to keep discipline.

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) C.C.BRUEHL, Keeper

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
~~LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR~~
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HWR:AMG

SUPERINTENDENT
OFFICE OF ~~INSPECTOR~~ 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Oct. 20, 1919

MEMORANDUM

1. On October 11, 1919, after inspecting the Table Bluff Light Station, proceeded to a ranch on the Eel River, about 8 miles distant from the station, and interviewed Iver Matyschok relative to his written statement of Aug. 12, 1919, concerning F. Wills, 1st Asst. Keeper of the Table Bluff Light Station.

2. Matyschok confirmed his written statement of August 12th, and in further explanation stated that on the night in question he had remained up for the purpose of shooting two hogs belonging to his employer, Mr. Hendrickson. These hogs had been running wild for sometime on an inexcessible part of the ranch but came to the barn in the night in search of grain and other food. The night was cold and threatening, and about 3:00 A.M. he went inside the barn for shelter and to get warm. After being inside for a few minutes, he heard someone entering through a small aperature in the rear of the stable, which was attached to, and formed a part of the barn. He waited until the person had entered the barn and then suddenly hailed him, at which time he discovered that the intruder was Wills, whom he knew well. Matyschok stated that Wills had every appearance of a man apprehended in a guilty act and that he begged him not to report the matter to the Keeper. Matyschok stated that he had no proof that Wills had ever stolen anything from the ranch premises, but that supplies had frequently been missed and that after the occurrence in question he believed in his own mind that Wills was guilty. Wills' excuse for entering the barn was that he was looking for a man called "Sam" to inquire where he might find mushrooms, although Matyschok stated that Sam was not due to appear at the barn for at least two hours from the time at which Wills visited it.

H. W. Rhodes

COPY - LS

HWR:LS

October 22nd, 1919.

Mr. J. E. Lind,
c/o F. Scofer,
5313 Locksley Ave.,
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Sir:-

1. It has been reported to this office that, while stationed at the Table Bluff Radio Station, you saw Mr. F. Wills, 1st Assistant Keeper of the Table Bluff Light Station off of the reservation at about 10 p. m. sometime during the past year.

2. In order that charges now pending against Assistant Keeper Wills may be justly disposed of, will you kindly give me any information which you have regarding his absence from the reservation at night at any time during the past year, and also state if, to your knowledge, any other person has information concerning Mr. Wills' reported absence from the reservation.

3. An early reply will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

(Signed) H. W. Rhodes,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

COPY - LS

Nov. 4, 1919

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

Mr. H. W. Rhodes,

Dear Sir:-

Yours of Oct. 22nd received but unable to answer before due to my being at sea.

But in reply will say that one evening about ten p.m. while returning from Loleta to Table Bluff, I saw a man on the roadside whom the man driving the station truck claims was Mr. Wills, but myself could not say who it was as I was sitting on the opposite side.

For full information write H. L. Coleman, 61 Shotwell St., San Francisco, as he was the man driving.

Truthfully,

(Signed) J. E. Lind

c/o F. Schafer, 5313 Locksley Ave.,
Oakland, Calif.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HWR:AMG

LIGHT JUN 2 1920 HOUSES

SUPERINTENDENT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

May 26, 1920

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Subject: F. Wills - Charges against

1. There are enclosed, in duplicate, 18 copies of letters in correspondence pertaining to misconduct charged against F. Wills, 1st Assistant Keeper of the Table Bluff Light Station.

2. A final report and recommendation in this matter has been delayed pending the outcome of attempts to obtain further evidence. It now appears that no further evidence can be obtained, and the matter is forwarded for the Bureau's consideration.

3. The only charge which has been proven against Wills is that he was caught in very suspicious circumstances in a barn on a ranch adjacent to the reservation at about 3:00 A.M. in February, 1917. It is the opinion of this office that while Wills has been guilty of unbecoming conduct on many occasions, he is not guilty of the other charges preferred against him, and there is considerable evidence in the light of recent events to indicate that the Keeper has endeavored to trump up charges against Wills for the purpose of having him dismissed from the Service.

4. Wills' record in the Service has not been a satisfactory one. He was reprimanded by the Bureau on Sept. 14, 1914 for his conduct while at the Punta Gorda Light Station, and he has been in trouble with the Keeper and Assistant Keepers at Table Bluff during a large part of his term of service there. He is unsuited by temperament to fill a position in the Lighthouse Service, as he believes that all of his fellow-workers are plotting to injure him, and he always has a long tale of woes, chiefly imaginary, to relate at every inspection of his station. He has a large family to support, and it is clear that he is unable to properly support them on his salary. He has undertaken every possible expedient to increase his income by raising hogs and vegetables, and by himself doing laundry work for the Radio Service on the reservation.

5. In view of Wills' heavy responsibilities and the improbability of his being able to properly support his family at present in case of his discharge from the Service, it is recommended that he be severely censured for his absence from the station under suspicious circumstances in February, 1917, and that he be demoted and transferred as 3rd Assistant Keeper to the Pt. Arena

CHIEF CLERK
5
1920 JUN 14 AM 10 03
LIGHT
JUN 2 1920
HOUSES

Light Station with base pay at the rate of $660.00 per annum (which includes $60.00 longevity), and that he be warned that any further misconduct on his part will result in his being immediately dismissed from the Service.

6. There are forwarded herewith nominations providing for the demotion and transfer of Wills to Pt. Arena, for the demotion of Bruehl to 1st Assistant Keeper at the Table Bluff Light Station, and for the transfer of B. H. Linne, 1st Assistant Keeper at Pt. Reyes Light Station to the position of Keeper of the Table Bluff Light Station.

H. W. Rhodes.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
NECESSARY
ACTION TAKEN
JUN 16 1920
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

JEH
Inclosures.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.,
June 11, 1920.

1. Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information and with recommendation that the Bureau be authorized to address a letter of reprimand to Wills, copy thereof to be furnished the Department for its files, and that he be demoted and transferred to the position of 3rd assistant keeper at Point Arena Light Station at $660 per annum, base pay (incl $60 long pay) vice O. M. Bjesdahl

2. Nomination for the demotion of Wills is submitted to the Department this date.

Salaries, Kpr's of L.H.

H. B. Bowerman
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

JOS 4/14/20

APPROVED:

Acting Secretary of Commerce.

COPY - LS

Table Bluff Light

Aug. 5th, 1919.

Superintendent of Lighthouses

San Francisco, Calif.

Sir:-

In passing the Indian Reservation today, I was requested by the Chief of tribe to bring to your attention that on last Saturday at about 10 P. M. Mr. Wills was seen around there and they have missed seven different articles. Mr. Wills was not on liberty at the time.

This is the second time I have brought petty thieving and absence without leave by him to your attention.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. C. Bruehl

Keeper.

USE TYPEWRITER—SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK.

UNITED STATES
BUREAU OF EFFICIENCY.
FORM 8.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.
8—4789-1

MAKE NO ENTRIES IN THIS COLUMN.

LIGHT HOUSES OCT 30 1916

RECORD OF CIVIL EMPLOYEE.

JULY 1, 1916.

1. Name: (Surname first. Given name in full. For women write Miss or Mrs. before given name.)

Wills, Fletcher

2. Department:

Commerce

3. Bureau, office, or service:

18th Lighthouse District

4. Designation of position:

Second Assistant Keeper

5. Occupation (if not clearly shown by answer to question 4):

See 4

6. Annual earnings:

$540.

7. Kind of appropriation:

LS

8. Present rate of pay:

$ AS

9. Initial rate of pay:

$ 516.PA.

10. Total length of service (give the total of ALL U. S. GOVT. SERVICE with the exceptions stated on the back of this card)—

Years: 4 Months: 10

11. State, Territory, or foreign country of birth (do not give town):

West Virginia

12. Race:

W

13. Sex:

Male

14. Date of birth—

Month: August Year: 1870

15. Kinds of schools attended, years attended, and degrees taken:

E8

16. Marital condition:

M

17. War veteran?

No

18. Appointed from—

Congressional district and State: 11 California County: San Bernardino

19. Civil service status:

C

20. Method by which classified status was obtained:

CE

21. Place of employment—

City: Humboldt L.S. (Dolete) State: California

DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD.

11—6869

GENERAL APPOINTMENT—FIXED DATE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

November 18, 1918.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,
Through
the Commissioner of Lighthouses,

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office, and to actual entrance upon duty (unless on authorized leave) on the date indicated, Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Seven Hundred and Twenty dollars per annum,

effective November 1, 1918.

By promotion from 1st. assistant keeper at $600 per annum.

(The above rate of pay includes longevity pay of $60.)

CARDED

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Clifford Hastings
Chief of Appointment Division.

W
Rc

Appropriation:
Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice:
New position. (By increase in compensation.)

Legal Residence:
California.

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

RECEIVED
DEC 11 1918
Lighthouse Inspector
SAN FRANCISCO

5

I, Fletcher Wills

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.

DEC 26 1918
LIGHT
HOUSES

Fletcher Wills
(Appointee signs here)

DEC 26 1918 10 35 AM

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 9th day of December, A. D. 1918

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) W. F. Lee

DEC 27 AM 11 44

(Official title) Notary Public

My commission expires Sept. 28 - 1919

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present Keeper	$720 per annum	Table Bluff Lightstation, Cal.
Former [5] 1st Asst. Keeper	$600 do	do

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

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT

San Francisco, Cal., (Address) Dec. 19, 1918. (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on November 1, 1918 (Date)

In the absence and by direction of the Superintendent

CARDED

W. J. Otter.
(Signature, followed by title)

1st Asst. Superintendent

[1] Insert here "swear" or "affirm," as the case may be.
[2] Insert here "sworn to" or "affirmed," as the case may be.
[3] The oath may be taken any time 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

COPY



Punta Gorda

June 25 1914





The Light-House Inspector

18th District

San Francisco, Calif

Sir

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter written by Mr J.F.Wills, 2nd Asst. Humboldt Light, and formerly at this station, to Mr. W.P.Holmes.

Mr Wills during his service at this station created contilual strife and dissension and now that he has left here seems to figure on continuing to do the same thing, in interfering and causing trouble between the keepers on this station.

I would respectfully request that steps be taken to put a stop to this maliciousness and draw attention to paragraph 3 page 144 Instructions to Light Keepers.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully,

(Sgd) Fred A. Harrington
Keeper

COPY





Copy of letter written to Mr W.P.Holmes, by J.F.Wills

Loleta, Cal.
June 22, 1914.

Mr W.P.Holmes,
Petrolia, Cal.
Dear Sir.

This is in part to thank you for your kindness in sending me the watch and to kindly request you not to write any of the lies you hear at Pt Gorda about me to this sta.

I wish I could tell you what kind of people you have to deal with at Pt Gorda, but it would take too much time and again you ~~would~~ might not appreciate it, but you may need a friend some time, who knows things as they are at Pt Gorda and when you do call on me. Do you have to do all the cleaning in the tower while H. goes to town or does his house work, I had to and so did Mr Jordan the man before me. If you will play ignorant and keep your eyes open you will learn things that will help you in the future. I was compelled to report H. to the Inspector and he (the Inspector) knows him (H) from start to finish, but I requested the Inspector to not consider it official, for I didnt want to make him trouble on account of his wife and boys.

H. used to be at this station & I have heard enough of him to fill a news paper, & nothing to his credit either. The last time the Inspector was at Gorda he gave H. orders to change work from one man to another instead of having one man do all the tower work another the signal work, while he done nothing. H.falsifies his reports & is crooked all around, he is absent twice as much as the office knows anything about, so if you are wise keep count on him, & play ignorant. You should know what Mr Jordan told me about H. & I found every word true and more.

Well as this may be tiresome to you I'll close by again thanking you for sending the watch as it is an old keep sake of my wife.

Your friend
(Signed) J.F.Wills

P.S.
If you write to me send it in an envelope addressed to Mr Lind or mail it yourself.

September 10, 1914.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Receipt is acknowledged of the Bureau's communication of the 4th instant, and enclosures, relative to the case of Fletcher Wills, second assistant keeper of Humboldt Light Station, California, against whom charges of malicious talebearing and detrimental criticism of another employee were preferred by the Eighteenth Inspector on August 4, 1914.

Upon consideration of all the correspondence in the case, the Department has approved the Bureau's recommendation to the effect that no action be taken at this time further than to address him a severe letter of reprimand and to request the Inspector to observe Mr. Wills' future conduct and make further report and recommendation at the end of three months. It is noted that a letter of reprimand will be prepared by the Bureau and that a copy will be furnished the Department for its files.

By direction of the Secretary:

(SIGNED) F. J. FITZGERALD
(SIGNED) GEO. W. LEADWICK

Acting Chief Clerk.

C-M

Copy

NRT-McC.

Repri-
mand.

CHIEF CLERK
SEP 15 1914
5

September 14, 1914.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,
Second Assistant Keeper, Humboldt Light Station, Cal.
(Through Lighthouse Inspector, San Francisco, Cal.)

APPOINTMENTS
SEP 15 1914

It appears that on June 22, 1914, you wrote a letter to Mr. W. P. Holmes, second assistant keeper, Punta Gorda Light Station, Cal., reflecting upon the official conduct of the keeper of that station. Your attention is therefore invited to page 144 of the Instructions for the Personnel, 1911, which provides that malicious talebearing, or detrimental criticism, whether orally or in writing, will be considered cause for the dismissal of the offender. While you have not violated the letter of these Instructions, you have violated the spirit. You are therefore reprimanded for your actions, which indicate malicious intent and a desire to stir up trouble between the keepers at the Punta Gorda Light Station, thereby tending to weaken the lawful authority of the keeper or to lessen the respect due to him, and warned that a repetition thereof will probably result in more severe measures being taken in your case. It further appears that while second assistant keeper of the Punta Gorda Light Station you made certain indefinite charges against the keeper which, upon investigation, were found to be chiefly imaginary.

Your future conduct will be carefully observed, and a further report and recommendation made in your case at a later date, and the fact that you have been reprimanded will be noted on the records as part of your official history.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
SEP 14 1914

J. S. Conway
(Signed)
Acting Commissioner.

File
Encl

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information.
See Sept letter of Sept 14 1914

Conway
Acting Commissioner.

Department of Commerce and Labor
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT HOUSES DEC 10 1914

DIVISION OF APPOINTMENTS ANSWERED DEC 17 1914 DEPT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

CHIEF CLERK DEC 15 19[illegible]

5

Fletcher Wills:
report & recommendation.

December 5 1914

4.10 APPOINTMENTS DEC 15 914

CHIEF CLERK DEC 16 1914

APPOINTMENTS DEC 17 1914 9.10

Commissioner of Lighthouses,

1. Referring to Bureau indorsement of September 14 1914 on Department letter of September 10 1914, calling for further report and recommendation in the case of Fletcher Wills, second assistant keeper of Humboldt Light Station, California, against whom charges of malicious talebearing and detrimental criticism of another employee were preferred.

2. The Bureau is advised that no further information of malicious talebearing by Mr Wills has been received at this office, and it is recommended that no further action be taken in this matter.

Rhodes.

Inspector

McC. Bureau of Lighthouses,
December 14, 1914.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce recommending that, in view of the statements of the Inspector, no further action be taken in the case of Wills at this time.
See Department letter of September 10, 1914.

G V L Putnam

December 16, 1914.

APPROVED:

E. F. Sweet

Assistant Secretary.

√C-R

December 17, 1914.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

Receipt is acknowledged of the Eighteenth Inspector's report of the 5th instant, forwarded by the Bureau on the 14th instant, in the case of Fletcher Wills, second assistant keeper of Humboldt Light Station, California, who was reprimanded under date of September 14, 1914, for malicious talebearing and detrimental criticism of another employee.

In view of the fact that it appears that Mr. Wills' conduct has been satisfactory since the receipt of the letter of reprimand referred to, the Department has approved the Bureau's recommendation to the fact that no further action be taken at this time.

By direction of the Secretary:

(SIGNED) T. J. FITZGERALD

Acting Chief Clerk.

C-R

Form 73

NOMINATION

HWR-CHT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT NOV 18 1916 HOUSES

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN NOV 20 1916 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT,

San Francisco, Cal., November 13, 1916, 191
(City.) (Date.)

CHIEF CLERK NOV 18 1916

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Promotion of

Name, Fletcher Wills — Legal residence, California

Position, First Assistant Keeper — Salary, $600 per annum

Location, Humboldt Lightstation, Cal. — Appropriation, Salaries of Keepers of Lighthouses

Effective November 20, 1916 — {1 ~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

APPOINTMENTS NOV 18 1916

Former position, Second Assistant Keeper — Former salary, $540 per annum

Location, Humboldt Lightstation, California.

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

Previous incumbent, Thomas G. Thomson — Services terminated, about November 19, 1916

Reason, Transfer requested

Members of family in Government Service, None

Remarks: Request notification by wire when appointment is made

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

H. W. Rhodes
Inspector

Secretary, Civil Service District.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

NOV 18 1916

11-30-16

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

J. Conway
Acting Commissioner

1 Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

GENERAL APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1916.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

First Assistant Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Six Hundred dollars per annum,

effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

(By promotion from second assistant [illegible] per annum.)

CARDED.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED NOV 20 1916 ON JOURNAL DEPT OF COMMERCE

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) CLIFFORD HASTINGS
Chief of Appointment Division.

L

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Thomas G. Thomson.

Legal Residence: California.

CHANGE REPORTED NOV 27 1916 U. S. COMMISSION.

11—3692

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR NOV 25 1916 SAN FRANCISCO

LIGHT DEC 4 1916 HOUSES

I, Fletcher Wills

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.

Fletcher Wills
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this[3] 23 day of November, A. D. 1916

(Affix official seal here)

[4](Name) W H Hammond

(Official title) Notary Public

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment
Present 1st Asst.Keeper	$600 per annum	Humboldt Lightstation, Cal.
Former[5] 2nd Asst. Keeper	$540 per annum	Humboldt Lightstation, Cal.

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

CARDED.

Office of Lighthouse Inspector, 18th District

San Francisco, Cal., (Address), November 28, 1916 (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on November 25, 1916 (Date)

H. W. Rhodes, Inspector
(Signature, followed by title)

[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, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a collector of customs, as he has no 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.

[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

DEC 16 1916

November 27, 1916.

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

For the reasons stated in the Eighteenth Inspector's communication (Form 70) of the 8th instant, and in accordance with the Bureau's recommendation of the 24th instant, the Department hereby grants authority to change the name of Humboldt Light Station, California, to Table Bluff Light Station, California.

In view of the foregoing, the Department hereby changes the designation of the position of keeper, first and second assistant keeper of Humboldt Light Station, California, to keeper, first and second assistant keeper of Table Bluff Light Station, California, without change in the rates of pay, effective on the date the change in name of the station is made.

The Bureau's form 70 is returned herewith, as requested.

(Signed) E. F. Sweet
Assistant Secretary.

File #646

Enclosure 1037.

C-L

Jan 23/17 - Effective Jan. 1, 1917

File 64

McC.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

CHIEF CLERK SEP 5 1914

September 4, 1914.

MEMORANDUM WRITTEN. SEP 8 1914

Subject: Fletcher Wills, reprimand.

10.50 APPOINTMENTS SEP 5 1914

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce concurring in the recommendation of the Inspector that Wills be not dismissed from the Service at this time, but that a severe letter of reprimand be addressed to him by the Bureau, and that a further report and recommendation be made in his case at the end of three months by the Inspector. If this recommendation be approved, a copy of the letter of reprimand will be furnished the Department for its files, and report and recommendation made in the case upon receipt of the Inspector's report.

DIVISION OF APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN SEP 10 1914 DEPT OF COMMERCE

H. B. Bowerman
Acting Commissioner.

MCC-WES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON

LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
JUL 28 1914
SAN FRANCISCO CAL.

AUG 4 - LIGHT
AUG 24 1914
HOUSES

Hydrog.
Engr. Cons
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Asst. Commr.
Commr.

July 23, 1914.

Dept Bu concurs 18th to make putta rept req rec @ end 3 mos MCKay 24

SUBJECT: Fletcher Wills, charges against.

Returned to Lighthouse Inspector, San Francisco, California, with instructions to prefer charges against Wills in writing, giving him a sufficient time to answer same, and forward the papers together with Wills' reply to your recommendation to the Bureau, in accordance with page 91 of the Regulations, 1911, "Charges against Employees". Your charges should be based upon malicious talebearing, detrimental criticism, etc., in violation of the Instructions for the Personnel, page 144, of the Regulations, 1911.

Putnam

HWR-IC.

San Francisco, Cal. Aug. 19,1914.

Returned to the Commissioner with copy of charges preferred against Wills dated August 4th, and copy of Wills' reply thereto dated August 12th, 1914.

Notwithstanding the excuses offered by Wills, there is no doubt that the letter written by him to the Second Asst. Keeper at Punta Gorda was malicious in intent, and that his object was to work injury to the Keeper of the Punta Gorda Station.

In consideration of the fact that the family of this Keeper would probably be made to suffer severely in case of his dismissal, it is recommended that he be severely reprimanded by the Bureau, and notified that anyfuture complaints regarding his conduct in the service will be considered cause for very drastic action by the Department.

Rhodes.

COPY....

LIGHT
AUG 24 1914
HOUSES

Humboldt Light Sta.,
Loleta, Cal.
August 12, 1914.

Lighthouse Inspector,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

In answer to your letter and charges of Aug. 4", I respectfully beg to plead not guilty.

Instructions for the personnel page 144 of the regulations 1911 states Malicious talebearing to officers in authority. My letter was to Mr. Holmes and not to an officer in authority.

I admit that I done wrong in writing to Mr. Holmes as I did and I would never have done so if I had thought that it would have been made public but I did not mean any malicious criticism detrimental to Mr. Harrington. If I had wanted to injure Mr. Harrington, I would have done so while I was stationed at Punta Gorda. I felt grateful to Mr. Holmes for sending the watch and my excuse for writing as I did was in hopes that he would not be imposed upon and have to stand the abuse that I did, and not that I wanted to injure Mr. Harrington.

I am guilty of no malicious intent and if I am dismissed from the service I think my punishment would be much greater than my offense.

I respectfully request that these charges be withdrawn or that no further action be taken on them until you visit this station again for I am in no condition to leave the service as I am in debt, with a large family to support, and no prospects of finding another position.

Very respectfully,

Fletcher Wills,

2d Asst. Keeper.

Forwarded:

J. E. Lind
Keeper.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Department of Commerce and Labor
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
AUG 24 1914
HOUSES

1 incl.

HWR-IC.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

August 4, 1914.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

2nd Assistant Keeper, Humboldt Light Station.

(Through the Keeper).

There is inclosed for your information a copy of a letter addressed by you on June 22, 1914, to Mr. W. P. Holmes, 2nd Asst. Keeper at the Punta Gorda Light Station.

It appears from this letter that you have been guilty of malicious tale bearing and criticism detrimental to an employee of this service; you are directed to submit such reply to these charges as you may desire, and to show cause why you should not be dismissed from the service for violating the instructions for the personnel, page 144 of the Regulations, 1911.

Rhodes.

incls.

HWR-IG.

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT
JUL8 1914
HOUSES

LIGHTHOUSE
INSPECTOR
JUL 28 1914
SAN FRANCISCO
CAL.

LIGHT
AUG241914
HOUSES

Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Commr,
Commr.

Second Asst. Keeper Wills,
Recommended dismissal.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 18TH DISTRICT
CUSTOMHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

July 3d, 1914.

The Commissioner of Lighthouses.

1. There is inclosed for the Bureau's information a copy of a letter just received from the Keeper of the Punta Gorda Light Station, together with a copy of its inclosure (a letter from the Second Asst. Keeper at the Table Bluff Light Station to the present Second Asst. Keeper at the Punta Gorda Light Station.

2. On November 16th, 1913, Wills, who was then serving as Second Asst. Keeper at the Punta Gorda Light Station, addressed a letter to the Inspector (copy inclosed) containing certain rambling and indefinite charges against the Keeper. This letter was accompanied by a diary kept by Wills in which there were numerous notes relative to delinquencies by the Keeper. The delinquencies as charged were chiefly in the nature of prolonged absences from the station, and of assigning to the said Wills more work than he seemed to think was his due.

3. A personal investigation of Wills' statements indicated that his grievances were chiefly imaginary. There had no doubt been some slight delinquencies on the Keeper's part in the matter of the work at the station and at the following inspection of the station he was given certain verbal instructions in regard to the work and his own conduct with a view to improving the general conditions at the station.

4. Wills is one of those unfortunate individuals who is suspicious

of all of his associates, and as the diary and letter which he forwarded to the Inspector, as above reported, as well as the other letter inclosed are both malicious in intent and cowardly in conception, and it is recommended that he be dismissed for the good of the Service.

5. No charges have been filed against Wills other than those contained in the Keeper's letter inclosed, but that letter and his letter of November 16th, 1913, to the Inspector, above referred to, together with the diary forwarded with it are conclusive evidences of his guilt.

Rhodes.

LIGHT
JUL8 1914
HOUSES

C
O
P
Y

Punta Gorda Light Station,
Petrolia, Cal. Nov. 16, 1913.

LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
JUL 28 1914
SAN FRANCISCO CAL.

Inspector, 18th Lighthouse District,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:-

LIGHT
AUG241914
HOUSES

I respectfully request that I be granted a transfer to any station in this District that has a school nearby as soon as possible, as I am unable to stand the conditions of this station and the actions of the Keeper.

I respectfully request that this letter will not be considered as official, as I do not want to create a disturbance or cause trouble in any way.

I am sending you a very poorly kept diary, but I hope you will read it, as it will give you some idea of the way things are at this station. You will notice on last page the number of days the Keeper has been absent and no absence of less than 8 hours is counted, and I am of the opinion that he falsifies his monthly reports.

The Keeper neglects his duties, and then swears and talks to me like I was a dog and tries to blame me when the fault is more his than mine. He goes away, and 1st Assistant tells me that he never says where he is going or when he will return, so a person never knows when his duties are done.

I dont remember of ever signing the report for September, and I believe he forged my name. I could tell if I could see the September report.

The Keeper does very little of the station work. 1st Assistant looks after the signal and I the tower. He is unfit to be Keeper, as he knows nothing and has to depend on the assistants, and then nags and nags a person for everything he can possibly find an excuse.

My life here is almost unbearable and, under the circumstances, I hope a station can be found for me that will be more pleasant, and where I can send my children to school.

Very respectfully,
(sgd) FLETCHER WILLS,
2nd Assistant.

Form 2

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

INCORPORATED

25,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA — CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD

THEO. N. VAIL, PRESIDENT — BELVIDERE BROOKS, GENERAL MANAGER

LIGHT HOUSES APR 7 1914

RECEIVER'S No.	TIME FILED	CHECK

SEND the following message subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to } (COPY) 191

To

Received at S.E.Cor.Pine and Montgomery Sts., San Francisco. 1616

31H RY ~~12 Govt~~

Eureka Cal Mar 30 1914

Lighthouse Inspector Custom House San Francisco Cal

Offer transfer Table Bluff accepted

(Signed) Wills

327P.M.

GENERAL APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1914.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Second Assistant Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Five Hundred and Forty dollars per annum,

effective on the date on which you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position.

(By transfer from second assistant keeper at $552 per annum.)

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED APR 9 1914 DEPT JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

(SIGNED) GEO. W. LEADLEY,

M
C

Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

CHANGE REPORTED APR 1914 U. S. COMMISSION.

Vice: Edward D. McCrea.

Legal Residence: California.

11—3692

Form 111

Per

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT APR 30 1914 HOUSES

CHIEF CLERK MAY 11 1914

I, Fletcher Wills

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.

Fletcher Wills
(Appointee signs here)

APPOINTMENTS MAY 13 1914

[2] Sworn To (See below) and subscribed before me, this[3] 20th day of April, A. D. 1914

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) John N. Gaarden

(Official title) Notary Public in and for County of Humboldt, State of California

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment
Present 2nd Asst. Keeper	$540 per annum	Humboldt Lightstation, Cal.
Former 2nd Asst. Keeper	$552 per annum	Punta Gorda Lightstation, Cal.

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

CARDED.

Office of Lighthouse Inspector, 18th District

San Francisco, Cal., (Address) April 25, 1914 (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on April 14, 1914 (Date)

H. W. Rhodes - Inspector
(Signature, followed by title)

[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, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a collector of customs, as he has no 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.

[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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

CHIEF CLERK
SEP 1 0 1914

September 8, 1914.

WRCTE BUREAU
SEP 1 0 1914

The Acting Secretary:

There is attached hereto communication dated the 4th instant from the Bureau of Lighthouses, transmitting correspondence from the Inspector of the Eighteenth District relative to the case of Fletcher Wills, against whom charges of malicious talebearing and detrimental criticism of another employee were preferred on August 4, 1914.

Mr. Wills formerly served as second assistant keeper of Punta Gorda Light Station, California, and it appears that he requested a transfer because of the fact that he was dissatisfied with conditions at that station and with the treatment which he alleged was accorded him by the keeper, Fred A. Harrington. Mr. Wills was accordingly transferred to Humboldt Light Station, California, on April 14, 1914. The malicious talebearing and detrimental criticism referred to by the Inspector was contained in a letter addressed by Mr. Wills to his successor, William P. D. Holmes, at Punta Gorda Light Station which the latter transmitted to the Inspector.

In replying to the charges preferred against him, Mr. Wills claimed that the statements made in his letter to Mr. Holmes were not written with malicious intent and requested that clemency be shown him. The Inspector recommends that no action be taken at

this time other than to severely reprimand Mr. Wills and notify him that any future complaints against him with respect to his conduct in the service will be considered cause for more drastic action, in which recommendation the Bureau concurs. The Bureau states that in the event of departmental approval of its recommendation a letter of reprimand will be prepared in the Bureau and a copy furnished the Department for its files; also that further report and recommendation will be made in the case at the end of three months.

Geo. W. Ramsey

APPROVED:

E. F. Sweet

Acting Secretary.

√C-M

Fletcher Wills

Fletcher Wills

LEGAL RESIDENCE
Cal.

INACTIVE

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SALARY	BUREAU OR OFFICE	DATE OF EFFECT OF ACTION AUTHORIZED
3rd Asst. Kpr. Point Sur L.S. Cal.	$516.	L.H.	Aug 9 1911
2nd " " " " " "	$552	"	Dec 9, 1911.
" " " Punta Gorda " "	552	"	Nov. 16, 1912
2nd asst. Kpr. Humboldt L.S. Cal	540.	"	Apr. 14, 1914.
1st " " " " "	600.	"	Nov. 25, 1916
1" " " Table Bluff L.S. Cal	600	"	Jan. 1, 1917
Keeper " Increases	720	"	Nov 1, 1918.
~~" Trans Pt. Arena L.S. Cal.~~	~~660~~	"	Canceled.

RESIGNED CLOSE OF June 30 1920

INACTIVE

11—1248

Form 73

ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, OR TRANSFER OF APPOINTEE

BUREAU OF LIGHT-HOUSES AUG 21 1911 DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK RECEIVED AUG 22 1911 DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT,

San Francisco, Cal., August 14, 1911. 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

The following recommendation is submitted:

RECEIVED AUG 22 1911 DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Action proposed, Probationary appointment of

Name, Fletcher Wills. Legal residence, California.

Position, Third Assistant Keeper Salary, $516. per annum.

Location, Point Sur Light-Station, California.

Effective August 9, 1911. ~~on~~ the actual date of entrance on duty.

Former position, Former salary,

Location,

Rank in list of eligibles, No.2 Class 2. Rating, Asst.Keeper Percentage, 90.2

Other eligibles considered, Charles McCarthy and William Ryan.

Letters of declination inclosed, Charles McCarthy.

Previous incumbent, Albert J. Scott $ 42.50 mo Services terminated, July 31, 1911.

Reason, Transfer.

Remarks:

8/22/11 MCB

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK FORWARDED TO AUG 22 1911 APPOINTMENTS DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

W. A. Moffett

Commander U.S.N., Inspector 18th L.H.Dist.

Department of Commerce and Labor

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON

ONE inclosure AUGUST 21, 1911.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, approved.

11—2314

Lewis

ACTING COMMISSIONER.

Sent duplicate to Cruiser

DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR AUG 22 1911

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT—PRIOR DATE

Department of Commerce and Labor
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
Washington

Sir: August 23, 1911.

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Third Assistant Keeper of Point Sur Light Station, Cal.,

in the Lighthouse Service,

at a salary of Five Hundred and Sixteen dollars

per annum, for a probationary period of six months, effective

beginning August 9, 1911, on and after which date you have

continuously served in the above-mentioned position.

Retention in the service after the expiration of your probationary period shall be equivalent to absolute appointment.

[Vice Albert J. Scott.]

(Civil-service certificate No. _____)

CARDED.

CHANGE REPORTED
AUG - - 1911
C. S. COMMISSION.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION.
REPORTED
AUG 24 1911
TO DISBURSING CLERK
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

Mr. Fletcher Ville,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Acting Chief Clerk.

Appropriation:

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 1757, REVISED STATUTES)

RECEIVED OCT 3 1911 DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

BUREAU OF LIGHT-HOUSES SEP 13 1911 DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHT-HOUSE ESTABLISHMENT

I, Fletcher Wills,

do solemnly [a] 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.

Fletcher Wills
(Appointee signs here.)

Sworn to (See below.) and subscribed before me, this 7th day of September, A. D. 191 1

(Affix official seal here.)

[c] (Name:) Jas Stacker Jr

(Official title:) Notary public in and for the County of Monterey State of California, U. S. A.

Official Title.	Pay.	Name of Station.	State or Country in which born.	State or Territory from which last appointed.
Third Assistant Keeper	$516.p.a.	Point Sur, Cal.	~~N. Va.~~	~~California~~

(The above should be filled in by the district officer.)

OFFICE OF THE Inspector., 18th LIGHT-HOUSE DISTRICT,

San Francisco, Cal. (Address.), September 13, 1911. (Date.)

CARDED.

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on August 9, 1911. (Date.)

(Signed:) W. A. Moffett,

Commander U.S.N., Inspector.

[a] Insert here "swear" or "affirm," as the case may be.

[b] Insert here "Sworn to" or "Affirmed," as the case may be.

[c] This oath should be taken before a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, Judge, Clerk of a Court, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a Collector of Customs, as he has no 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.

RECEIVED OCT 3 - 1911

NOTE CAREFULLY.

The oath may be taken any time prior to the payment of compensation, but no compensation shall be paid until the oath is executed in proper form.

A letter of transmittal (use Form 95) should accompany oath, stating the **exact** date of the entrance on duty of the appointee and the above blank also filled out and properly signed by the district officer.

Failure to fill out this oath properly will result in its return for correction.

11—944

Rec'd OCT 2 1911

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET

BUREAU OF LIGHT-HOUSES
SEP 19 1911
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Department of Commerce and Labor

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
RECEIVED
SEP 20 1911
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

May 15, 1909.

To the Chiefs of Bureaus of the Department of Commerce and Labor:

For the purpose of enabling the Department to maintain a complete record of its officers and employees, you are requested to have every person hereafter appointed or employed in your Bureau, immediately upon his entrance on duty, answer each of the questions in Part I of this form and sign the same. The information given in Part I should be reviewed and approved in accordance with instructions. The information in Part II should be supplied as indicated and the form forwarded to the Department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
FORWARDED
SEP 20 1911
APPOINTMENTS
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Charles Nagel
Secretary.

DIVISION OF APPOINTMENTS
RECEIVED
SEP 20 1911
G
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

PART I.

(Part I should be filled out by the appointee or employee; but, if he is unable to write legibly, another person may write the answers at his dictation. In either case the statement should be signed by the appointee or employee. If he is unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness. If he is unable to answer any question, he should indicate that fact.)

1. What is your full name? (Do not use initials, but spell out each name and state whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. Example: Mr. John Richard Doe.) Mr Fletcher Wills

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

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

City or town.	State or Territory.	County.	Congressional district.
Sur	California	Monterey	6"

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

5. Where were you born? Nicholas Co. W. Va.

6. When were you born? Aug (Month.) 22d (Day.) 1870 (Year.)

7. Are you pensioned by the U. S. Government? (Answer "Yes" or "No.") No

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

Mrs. Dora Wills. (Name.) — (Number and street.)

Sur P O (City or town.) — California (State or Territory.)

9. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below their names, relationships, the Departments and Bureaus or Services in which they are employed, and the positions they occupy.)

Name.	Relationship.	Department.	Bureau or Service.	Position.
No				

10. If you were appointed through a civil service examination, state, as near as you recollect, the name and date of the examination. If not so appointed, state how you entered the service. (Examples: "By reinstatement," or "by transfer from ——," stating Department, Bureau or Service, position, and salary, if known.)

Assistant Keeper Lighthouse Service Oct 15" 1910. $516 per A

11. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.)

None to my knowledge

12. 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.
Calif	G.M.D.	Temporary Messenger	$720 per annum	Dec 16" 1909	mar 31" 1910

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

No

14. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil or Spanish-American War? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.)

Regiment and company, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.
Co G 10" Inf	1893	1898	Expiration of Term of Service
Co G 10" Inf	1898	1901	" " " " "

15. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States at any time other than during the Civil or Spanish-American Wars, indicate such service in the spaces below.

Regiment and company, or vessel.	Date enlisted.	Date discharged.	Cause of discharge.
Co G 10" Inf	1890	1893	Par 2. S.O. #79 Hdqrs Dept of Arizona 1893
Co G 10" Inf	1901	1904	Par 157 & 158. Army Regulations as per par 3 S.O. #23 War Dept June 28" 1904

16. 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 12, 13, 14, and 15.)

Guard California State Prison.
Machinists Trade and Engineer {Stationary}

11—1434

17. 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.)

Public School

18. 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").

Machinist

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

Messenger June 15" 1909.
Lighthouse Sept 20" 1909. Oct 15" 1910.

20. 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

21. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. Sept 6", 1911.

Witness:

(Signature) Fletcher Willis

P. O. Address: Ione
City or town.

Number and street.

California
State or Territory.

In case signature is by mark.

(Where the appointee is to be employed outside of the District of Columbia the information given in Part I should be reviewed and approved by the officer in immediate charge before forwarding to the Bureau. Where he is to be employed in the District of Columbia, Part I should be reviewed and approved by the officer who executes Part II.)

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded September 13, 1911.

(Signature) W. A. Moffett,

(Official title) Commander U.S.N.
Inspector,
C.H.G.

11—1434

PART II.

(Part II should be executed by the executive officers of the various Bureaus of the Department, or, at their direction, by some official who can give the information desired. If unable to answer any question, indicate that fact.

1. State the Bureau or Service, place, and district in which the person who answered the foregoing questions is employed
Lighthouse Service. (Bureau or Service.) Point Sur Light-Station, Cal. (Place (city, town, station, or vessel.)) 18th (District.)

2. To what position has he been appointed? 3d Asst. Keeper Point Sur Light-Station, Cal.

3. State the date of appointment. August 23. 1911.

4. State the date the appointment was effective. (If appointment was made to take effect on date of oath, so state.)
August 9. 1911.

5. State the date of the oath. September 7, 1911.

6. State the date the employee entered on duty. August 9. 1911.

7. What is his salary? $516. per annum.

8. From what appropriation is he paid? Salaries of Keepers of Lighthouses.

9. Is the position excepted, competitive, or unclassified under the civil service rules? Competitive.

10. If classified, state the date of classification. May 6. 1896.

11. In what manner did the employee enter the service? (Examples: "From stenography and typewriting examination;" or "without examination;" or "by reinstatement;" or "by transfer from ——," stating Department, Bureau or Service, position, and salary, if known.)
Selected from Eligible List.

12. Is the employee required to give bond? No.

13. When the legal residence given in answer to question 3, Part I, differs from that given in the certificate of appointment, the discrepancy should be explained.

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded to the Department.

(Signature) W. F. Maggett

(Official title) Commander U.S.N., Inspector.

Date: September 13, 1911.

11—1434

Form 73 ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, OR TRANSFER OF APPOINTEE

BUREAU OF LIGHT-HOUSES
NOV 13 1911
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
RECEIVED
NOV 14 1911
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Department of Commerce and Labor
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th L.H. DISTRICT.

San Francisco, Cal, November 7, 1911. , 191

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

The following recommendation is submitted:

Action proposed, Promotion of

Name, Fletcher Wills, appr in any'll if not reported Legal residence, California.

Position, Second Assistant Keeper Salary, $552. per annum.

Location, Point Sur Light-Station, California. vice H6. Jr

Effective on the actual date of entrance on duty.

Former position, Third Assistant Keeper Former salary, $516. per annum.

Location, Point Sur Light-Station, California.

Rank in list of eligibles, Rating, Percentage,

Other eligibles considered,

Letters of declination inclosed,

Previous incumbent, Herbert C. Trotter Services terminated, about Nov.30,1911.

Reason, Recommended for transfer & promotion.

Remarks: To be paid from appro: "Salaries of Keepers of Lighthouses."

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
RECEIVED
NOV 13 1911
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

W. A. Mahsett,
Commander U.S.N., Inspector.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
FORWARDED TO
NOV 14 1911
APPOINTMENTS
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Department of Commerce and Labor
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

NOV 13 1911

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, approved.

11—2314

11-14-11

A Meeuwer
Acting Commissioner

GENERAL APPOINTMENT-FIXED DATE

Department of Commerce and Labor
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
Washington

November 14, 1911.

Mr. Fletcher Wills,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office, and to actual entrance upon duty (unless on authorized leave) on the date indicated, Second Assistant Keeper in the Lighthouse Service at a salary of Five Hundred and Fifty-two dollars per annum, effective on the actual date of entrance on duty.

(By promotion from third assistant keeper at $516 per annum.)

CHANGE REPORTED
NOV -- 1911
C. S. COMMISSION.

CANCELED.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

Acting Chief Clerk.

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Vice: Herbert C. Trotter.

Legal residence: California.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
REPORTED
NOV 16 1911
TO DISBURSING CLERK
DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

11—1300

Form 111

OATH OF OFFICE

(Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes)

Department of Commerce and Labor

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES DEPT OF COMMERCE DEC 18 1911
LIGHT HOUSE INSPECTOR 18 DIST DEC-5-1911 SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
RECEIVED DEC 26 1911 LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR

CHT.

I, Fletcher Wills.

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.

Fletcher Wills.
(Appointee signs here.)

Sworn to (See below.) and subscribed before me, this[3] 4th day of December, A. D. 191[illegible]

(Affix Official seal here.)

[4](Name) Ted Duce J.

(Official title) Notary public in and for the County of Monterey State of California.

Official Title.	Rate of Pay.	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Second Assistant Keeper	$552.per annum	Point Sur Light-Station, California.

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

DIVISION OF APPOINTMENTS RECEIVED DEC 26 1911 DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Office of Lighthouse Inspector, 18th District

San Francisco, Cal., (Address.), December 13, 1911. (Date.)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on December 9, 1911. (Date.)

W. C. Moffett
(Signature, followed by title.)
Commander U.S.N., Inspector.

WW

[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, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a collector of customs, as he has no 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.

Failure to fill out this oath properly will result in its return for correction.

DEC 23 1911

Form 73a

REPORT OF TRANSFER OF APPOINTEE

Department of Commerce and Labor
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES NOV 29 1912 DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT

San Francisco, Cal., November 22, 1912. 191

CHIEF CLERK RECEIVED DEC 4 1912 COMMERCE AND LABOR

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

The following-named employee has been transferred as indicated, and entered upon duty at his new station on the date stated: November 16, 1912.

Name, Fletcher Wills — Position, Second Assistant Keeper

From Point Sur Lightstation, Cal. — To Punta Gorda Lightstation, Cal.

Previous incumbent, Leopold Jordan

Services terminated, November 15, 1912 — Reason, Transfer at his own request.

$552. p.a.

CHIEF CLERK FORWARDED TO DEC 4 1912 APPTS. COMMERCE AND LABOR

Rhodes.

Inspector.

NW

11—4598

APPOINTMENTS RECEIVED DEC 5 1912 COMMERCE AND LABOR

9.16

CARDEL

Department of Commerce and Labor
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

DEC 3 - 1912

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor for his information.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION REPORTED DEC 5- 1912 TO ISSUING CLERK DEPT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

S Conway

Acting Commissioner

12-5-12

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHT APR 7 1914 HOUSES

HWR-CHT

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR, 18th DISTRICT,

SPECIAL

San Francisco, Cal., April 1, 1914, 191
(City.) (Date.)

THE COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

CHIEF CLERK APR 8 1914

5

Action recommended, Transfer of

Name, **Fletcher Wills** Legal residence, **California**

Position, **Second Assistant Keeper** Salary, **$540 per annum**

Location, **Humboldt Lightstation, California.** Appropriation, **Salaries of Keepers of Lighthouses.**

APPOINTMENT DIVISION APPOINTMENT WRITTEN APR 9 1914 DEPT. OF COMMERCE

APPROVED APPOINTMENTS APR 9 1914

Effective April 8, 1914. {~~the actual date of entrance on duty, or~~ as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Second Assistant Keeper Former salary, **$552 per annum**

Location, **Punta Gorda Lightstation, California.**

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

Previous incumbent, Edward D. McCrea Services terminated, **March 31, 1914.**

Reason, **Resignation.**

Relatives in Government Service, None

Remarks: Request notification by wire when appointment is made.
This transfer, involving a reduction in Mr. Wills' compensation, is made in accordance with the inclosed request (copy telegram)

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

Rhodes.
Inspector.

Secretary, Civil Service District.

* Changed in Bureau

/ Inclosure

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

APR - 8 1914

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

4/9/14 MMC

Commissioner

* Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314