

RG 26 RECORDS OF THE U.S.  
COAST GUARD

Lighthouse Service

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE  
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE, 1829-1900

Miscellaneous

July 1872- May 1873

Vol. 315

Box ~~111~~

NC-31  
Entry 36

L. H. B.

MISCELLANEOUS

JULY, 1872

TO

MAY, 1873.

315



Indian River [burnt]  
August 10<sup>th</sup> [burnt] [1872]

Sir

This will inform you not as an informant but as Dept. Agent for Underwriters &c. that the Light House Keeper at Jupiter Light House does in no manner as his duty and is a man totally unworthy of so vital and important a situation. The Light of late is frequently out long before day light whilst this man Armour is away at Sand Point charging most of the time often as long as six weeks at a time. He has just left here when his first Asst Charles Carlin comes up. If this is in accordance with the regulation for Board these worthies spend their principal time on the beach wrecking that is the assistants whilst only one watch is kept. This man Armour also barter off the oil and it is now high time it should all be stopped.

This man Armour the Keeper was tried at Key West for piracy by the U.S. gov. convicted for 2 years by some turn he got out and is a man of the very worst character and should be removed at once. This letter is wrote on no [burnt] but one of justice to the government and those who go by the sea. I can send for affidavits if you desire of these facts and I would refer you to Senator Orborne, Hon. Charles St. John on N.Y., also Hon. L. D. Shoemaker, Pa.

Yours respectfully,  
Henry T. Titus

Titus Ville, Fla.  
Indian River  
August 10, 1872

Reporting L. H. Keeper at Jupiter Inlet.

Write to Inspector to further address that if he has implicit confidence in his ill, &c. will send him to investigate the charges; if he has not however he may wait until he returns to his Dist when he will personally examine & report.

Answ'd August 22/72



Indian River

August 18<sup>th</sup>

This will inform you Not as an agent  
but as an Agent for the Government  
The Light House keeper at Indian  
River does in his manner as his duty  
and is a man totally unworthy of so  
important a situation The Light  
keeper is frequently out long before day light  
while the man Armon is away at some  
times Arriving most of the time late as  
being as long as a time He has just  
left him when he finds that Charles Carter  
comes up If this is in accordance with  
the law then you know these worthy. Some  
times principal time on the Black Wharfing  
is the Assistants while only one trusted  
to keep the man Armon also but  
the oil and is now high time it  
should all be stopped  
The man Armon the keeper was tried  
for Piracy by the U.S. Gov  
for 2 years by some time  
and is a member of the very



most Character and should be  
once this letter is written on the  
one of Indian to the Government  
What go for the Land I can send  
my affidavits of your claim of them  
And I would like you to send  
them Charles B. Johns of N.Y. the  
Hon. Lt. Shammater pa.

Yours Respectfully  
Henry J. John

The Bill File  
Museum from  
August-10 1872



Titus. H. T.  
Indian River Fla

Augt 10. 1872

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Reporting L.H. Keeper at  
Feyter Inlet.

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Write to Insd to wish  
address that if he has im-  
phat confidence in his  
all, he will send him to in-  
vestigate the whages;  
if he has not however he  
may wait until he returns  
to his Dist. when he will  
personally examine &  
report

Record August 22/72.



Titus Ville Sept [23, 1872]  
Volusia County Florida

President of the Light House Board  
Washington, D. C.

Sir,

The request for affidavits in regard to the Light House Keeper at Jupiter Light is herewith inclosed. They are just and right and the evil should be removed as soon as possible for there is to great a risk to the lives & property depending upon this important Light House. You will please understand that I have no motive in this compromise other being a Special Agent of the Underwriters and a supporter of General Grant and to see all things appertaining to the Government in accordance with the Laws.

Yours Respectfully,  
Henry T. Titus  
Special Agent for Underwriters

I refer you to Senator [Thomas Ward] Osborn

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H. T. Titus  
Titusville Fla.  
Sept. 23 . 72

Rel. Keeper of Jupiter Light

Send copy of this to Gordon Kuntz and direct him report and say if the removal of the Keeper would not be for the benefit of Com. . . & Can

J B

Sent Insp. 7' Dist  
Oct. 9 '72



Titus Vello Sept  
Volusia County Fla  
President of the Light House Board  
Washington D.C.

In  
The request for affidavits in regard to the  
Light House Board at Jupiter Light is being  
enclosed they are just and right and the  
one should be removed as soon as possible  
for there is to great a risk to the lives &  
property depending upon this important Light  
House for will please understand  
that I have no motive in this compromise  
other than a special Agent of the Government  
and a Director of Genl. Land and to see  
all things as per coming to the Government in  
accordance with the Law

Yours Respectfully  
Henry J. Titus Special  
Agent for Land

I refer you to Senator Osborn





H. J. Titus.

Titusville Fla.

Sept-23. 72

Rel. Keeper of

Jupiter Light.

Send copy of  
this to Gordon  
Rantz, and direct him  
reproduction say  
if the removal of the  
Keeper is possible or  
Sept. Inst. for  
the City of the  
City of Comm. & Co.

C22



Titus Ville Fri Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> [1872]

Personally appeared before me Daniel O'hara who being duly sworn upon his oath avis [burnt] that he has been employed by James Armour the light house keeper at Jupiter Light on the coast of Fla as assistant light keeper with a man by the name of O. P. Barnes that on several occasions and [?] times we have been sent on the beach to pick up wreck goods and wreck vessels whilst the said James Armour took care of the light. He only giving such a flow of oil so it would burn out the night and that I have as well as O. P. Barnes been absent from the light on several times for two or three days. No one being at the light but the said James Armour. It was understood that the goods when to be divided between us and further says that James Armour often leaves the light house for six weeks at a time which the said light house is left in charge of the two assistants and that the two assistants also go away frequently and begone from the post for weeks. He also states the he was employed with O. P. Barnes about one year at said light house. [burnt] states that this James Armour was [burnt] and convicted for felony & piracy and [?] during the war and sentenced to two years imprisonment but go out after being freed sometime and that his present assistant is one Charles Carlin a foreign man not a citizen of the United States all of which is sworn to this day September 25<sup>th</sup> in the year of our lord one thousand and seventy-two (1872) before me.

Daniel O'Hara

J. C. C. Feaster  
Justice of the Peace

We the citizens also make affidavit that the character of Daniel O'Hara is good and reliable.

Henry T. Titus  
J. D. Parkinson  
J. C. C. Feaster



Stillsville <sup>the</sup> Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>

personally appeared before me Daniel O'Connell  
who being duly sworn upon his oath Adm  
that he has been employed by James Ammon  
the legal Heir as Justice Light on the  
part of H<sup>is</sup> As Assistant Light Heir in  
H<sup>is</sup> name by the name of O P Barnes that  
on several occasions and at various times he has  
gone on the beach to pick up snail shells  
and small pieces whilst the said James Ammon  
was out of the light the only going was a  
line of oil so it would burn out the night  
that I have as well as O P Barnes Ammon  
burn the light on several times for two or three  
days no one being at the light but the  
said James Ammon It was understood that  
he goes when he is around between  
and further says that James Ammon often  
the legal Heir for he was at a  
where the said Light is kept in charge  
the two Assistants And that the two  
also go away frequently once  
from there Thus proof for H<sup>is</sup> He also  
that he was employed by O P Barnes  
at said legal Heir



State that this James Armons was  
convicted for Felony & Piracy and  
sentenced to live  
during the war and sentenced to live  
in prison but got out after being  
some time and that this prison-  
er is our Charles Curtis a Foreign  
and not a citizen of the United States -  
of which is sworn to this day September 28<sup>th</sup>  
of the year of our Lord one thousand and  
eighty two (1872) before me

Don't O'Hara

J. C. C. Feaster  
Justice of the Peace

We the citizens also make affidavit that the  
Character of Daniel O'Hara is good and reliable

Henry J. Sims  
J. D. Parkinson  
J. C. C. Feaster



Titusville Jan [burnt 1873]

A. S. Johnson  
Chief Clerk of  
Light House Board  
Washington

In sometime since I reported to your board the outrageous acts of the Jupiter Light House Keepers on this coast but no notice of it has been taken of it and now report to you the facts beyond any controversy and if some notice is not taken of it through your Board then I shall take another course. For I cannot conceive for a moment that the government of the United States employs men to steal goods from stranded vessels on the coast. And as Light Keepers spend their time at this place a distance of 150 miles from the Light trading and selling goods taken from the steamer Victor. Mr. Amour the Chief Light Keeper was here and frequently stays here for a month . He returns then [burnt] The Asst. Light Keeper Charles [burnt] [Carlin] is now here and has been [burnt] [absent] from the Light House over 20 days. [burnt] in accordance with the Light [burnt] of the Law and the rule of the Light House Board.

I stated to your Board in a previous letter the character of the men. They say that the Conductor at Key West is their friend and they an[burnt] ask any [?]. I have reported all of these fact to Mr. J. D. Jones Pres. of the Board of Underwriters at New York and unless men in the employ of the United States Government are prevented from by example to the lawless men of this section there is but little use for any person in my position to try to carry out their orders in regard to property belonging to the underwriters.

Yours Respectfully,  
Henry T. Titus  
Special Agent for Underwriters

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I respectfully before the Light House Board to Sen. Osborn<sup>1</sup> in SS from this State and the Hon. St. John from New York m/c of what I dng to be time since can be proven.

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas W. Osborn, born in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, was a Union colonel in command of an artillery brigade at the battle of Gettysburg. Appointed assistant commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau in Florida 1865-66. Served in the Florida state senate in 1868 and the from June 1868 to March 1873 in the U.S. Senate.



7  
Situate Little Port

A. S. Johnson  
Chief Clerk of  
Light House Board  
Washington

In some time since I reported to  
you Board the outrageous acts of the  
Indian Light House Board in this case  
but no notice of it has been taken of  
and now report to you the facts  
beyond any controversy and if  
some notice is not taken of it through  
your Board then I shall take  
another course for I cannot leave  
for a moment that the Government of  
the United States may perhaps miss the  
steal goods from Steamship docks on  
the Coast and as light House Board some  
time at this place a distance  
of 150 miles from the Light House Board  
and finally goods taken from the  
Steamship Victor Mr. Ammon the  
Chief Light House Board was here and  
frequently stays here for a month



At a time he believes that  
the Ass' Light Reaper can  
is now here and has been  
from the light on 20 days  
in accordance with the Agreement  
of the Law and the Rule of the  
Honor Board  
I stand to your Board in a  
person with the Character of the  
man. They say that the Committee  
they wish is thin fund and they are  
able any more. I have expressed all  
of this fact to Mr. J. J. Jones. As of  
the Board of the document at Mr. Gork  
and which man the money of  
the United States Government are permitted  
from by it under the Law has been  
of this Section there is but little use  
for any person in my position to  
try to carry out these orders in regard  
to property belonging to the Indians

Yours Respectfully  
Henry J. Smith Special  
Agent for Indians



To I hope may see the  
Light House Borne to in some  
is from the State under the  
the other from New York W.C. of  
what is my to be time and then  
in months