

## KEEPERS OF THE CAPE LOOKOUT LIGHT

(Alphabetical Order)

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Silas Blunt		27 Sep 1859 - 17 Jul 1860 (Resigned) [Ref. 1,2,6]		<p>Silas was the son-in-law of Head Keeper John R. Royal (he married Hetty Ann Royal, John R. Royal's daughter, in 1857).</p> <p>Silas' surname was spelled "Blunt" in both the 1860 census and his 1857 marriage record. However, in some records it is shown as "Blount". In the 1860 census, Silas' occupation is listed as "mariner".</p> <p>Both Silas Blunt and Abner Parker Guthrie were appointed as "assistants" on 27 Sep 1859. After Silas Blunt resigned in 1860, Joseph Royal took his place. We do not know who was 1st Assistant vs. 2nd Assistant during this period, though the 1859 "Official Register of the United States" lists A.P. Guthrie's name first, perhaps indicating that Blunt was 2nd Assistant.</p>
Joseph Merritt Burrus		20 Jan 1912 - Feb 1912 [Ref. 1]  1913 [Ref. 6]		Joseph Merritt Burrus was born in 1879 Dare County, North Carolina and died in 1951 at Ocracoke, Hyde, North Carolina. He married Eleanor Bridgeman Oden in 1900.

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	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
				Joseph Burrus also served at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, the Diamond Shoals lightship, and as the last keeper (1926-1946) at the Ocracoke Lighthouse.
Alton Leon Chadwick		Nov 1948 - 5 May 1950*		<p>Alton Chadwick was the last assigned USCG assistant keeper at Cape Lookout. In 2009, he reported that he lived in the upstairs unit of the 1873 keepers quarters.</p> <p>New power lines from the Coast Guard Station were installed and the light was automated in 1950, eliminating the need for resident keepers.</p> <p>Alton Chadwick was born in 1928 in Carteret County, North Carolina and currently resides in Marshallberg, Carteret, North Carolina</p>
Gayer Chadwick II	24 Feb 1863- 24 May 1864 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]			<p>Gayer Chadwick (at the age of 63) was appointed keeper when the temporary 3rd Order lens was installed at Cape Lookout after the lighthouse was re-captured by Federal troops.</p> <p>He was born in 1797 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died there in 1879. He married Caroline Hellen in 1821.</p> <p>In addition to his service at Cape Lookout, Gayer Chadwick was Keeper of the Harbor</p>

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
				Island Lightship (located between Core and Pamlico Sounds) 1849-1853 and again in 1867 at the newly constructed Harbor Island Lighthouse.
Charles W. Clifton	2 Oct 1909 - 1921+ [Ref 1,2,5,6]			<p>Charles W. Clifton was born in 1877 in Camden County, North Carolina and died in 1942 in Carteret County, North Carolina.</p> <p>In 1910, the census lists Charles' occupation as "L.H.K., U.S." and the 1920 census lists his occupation as "light keeping". Only his wife Amy appears the 1930 census, living on Ann Street in Beaufort, Carteret, North Carolina.</p> <p>Prior to serving at Cape Lookout, Clifton was keeper of the Wade Point Light Station.</p>
John Daniel Coble		1938 - 1941 [Ref 8]		<p>John D. Coble was born in 1912 and grew up in Wilmington, New Hanover, North Carolina. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1929.</p> <p>While in the Navy, John D. Coble was assigned as a radio operator at Cape lookout about 1936. He resigned from the Navy and was appointed assistant keeper about 1938, working for the U.S. Bureau of Lighthouses. He chose to remain a civilian working for the Coast Guard after the merger and retired in 1941.</p>

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Benjamin Perry Davis			4 May 1870 - 16 Jul 1872 (Removed) [Ref 1,2,5]	<p>Benjamin P. Davis was born about 1814 in Carteret County, North Carolina. He listed in the 1870 census as "Asst. Light House Keeper".</p> <p>Benjamin Davis was the uncle of Martin Van Buren Davis, Melvin Jennings Davis Jr., and Thomas Clifford Davis II. He was born in 1814 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died there. In 1837, he married Roda Willis.</p>
James Luther Davis		1 Jan 1901 - Jun 1903 [Ref 1,2]	15 Aug 1895 - 10 Apr 1900 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]	<p>James Luther Davis was the son of Otway Burns Davis. He was born in 1877 at Smyrna, Carteret, North Carolina and died there in 1930.</p> <p>James may have been "acting" between 15 Aug 1895 and 28 Aug 1895 and between 1 Jan 1901 and 7 Feb 1901.</p> <p>Evidently, James never married.</p>

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Martin Van Buren Davis		Appointed acting 14 Dec 1880, confirmed on 28 Feb 1881  Served until 5 Apr 1883 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]		Martin Van Buren Davis was born in 1831 in Marshallberg, Carteret, North Carolina and died in Davis, Carteret, North Carolina in 1906. He married Anne Hazeltine Judson Davis in 1853.  He was the brother of both Thomas Clifford Davis, II and Melvin Jennings Davis, Jr., who were also keepers at Cape Lookout.
Melvin Jennings Davis, Jr.	Appointed acting keeper on 22 Aug 1876  Confirmed as Head Keeper in Mar 1877.  He served until 11 Jul 1878 (Removed) [Ref 1,2]			Melvin Davis was born in May 1845 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died there about 1907. In 1872, Melvin married Hannah Frances Lewis.  He was the brother of Thomas Clifford Davis II and Martin Van Buren Davis, who were also keepers at Cape Lookout.

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Otway Burns Davis		22 Feb 1893 - Nov 1900 [Ref 1,2]	Appointed acting on 12 Aug 1886, confirmed on 11 Sep 1886	Otway Burns Davis was born in Carteret County, North Carolina about 1842 and died there sometime after 1910. He married Mary "Polly" D. Lewis in 1867 (after posting a marriage bond in 1863).
			Served until 22 Feb 1893 (Promoted) [Ref 1,2]	He served in Company A, 1st North Carolina Light Artillery Battery during the Civil War.  The 1880 census lists Otway Davis as a "deputy sheriff" in Carteret County, North Carolina and, in the 1900 census, Otway B. Davis is listed as "Light House Keeper".
Thomas Clifford Davis II	22 Feb 1893 - 1900 [Ref 1,2]	21 May 1869 - 4 Mar 1874 (Resigned)	Appointed acting on 8 Jun 1883	Thomas Clifford Davis II was born about 1835 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died there before 1900. He married Polly Ann Wade in 1856.
		26 Jul 1886 - 22 Feb 1893 (Promoted) [Ref 1,2]	Confirmed on 12 Jun 1885	He was the brother of both Melvin Jennings Davis, Jr. and Martin Van Buren Davis, who were also keepers at Cape Lookout.
			Served until 26 Jul 1886 (Promoted) [Ref 1,2]	The 1870 census lists Thomas Davis as "Asst. Light House Keeper".

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Wallace P. Fulcher		17 Apr 1874 - 19 Aug 1876 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]		Wallace P. Fulcher was born in North Carolina in May 1832 and died in Carteret County, North Carolina before 1910. He married Martha W. Lewis in 1859 in Carteret County, North Carolina.
James Martin Fulford	2 Jun 1812- 27 Jan 1828 [Ref 1,2,6]			<p>In 1804, Congress authorized a lighthouse at Cape Lookout, and in February, 1805, a four-acre plot of land was deeded to the government by Joseph Fulford and Elijah Piggot for \$1.00..</p> <p>Getting construction for the lighthouse underway took some time, though, and it wasn't until 1812 that the first Cape Lookout Light was completed, at a cost of \$20,678.54.</p> <p>James Fulford was appointed by President James Madison and given a salary of \$300 per year. James Fulford was the son of Joseph Fulford, who sold the land for the 1812 lighthouse, and his wife Mary Martin.</p> <p>James was born in Carteret County, North Carolina in 1755 and died there in 1839. He married Rebecca Harker in 1785 in Carteret County, North Carolina</p>

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
William Fulford	28 Jan 1828- 16 Jan 1854 [Ref 1,2,5,6]			<p>William Fulford was the son of James Fulford and Rebecca Harker, born in Carteret County in 1786. He married Syvil Pigott in 1822 and died in Carteret County, North Carolina in 1864.</p> <p>The 1850 census finds the family in the Shackleford Banks and Harkers Island Township, Carteret, North Carolina and lists William (at age 64) as "keeper of light house". In 1860, the family is living in Beaufort, Carteret, North Carolina.;</p> <p>In 1850, William Fulford reportedly described the lighthouse as having 13 oil lamps. Oil was stored in a small oil shed. At that time, William had to continually remove sand from the front side of the keeper's house. "The sand banks are now higher than the tops of the windows, and only a few feet from them, at high water mark. On the sea side, it has washed away about 100 feet last year by abrasion and sea flows."</p> <p>(The town of North Miami Beach, Florida was called Fulford until 1931. It was settled by William Hawkins Fulford, son of William Fulford and Syvil Pigott Fulford. When he moved to South Florida, William Hawkins Fulford was the Keeper of the Biscayne House of Refuge, a lifesaving station on Miami Beach.)</p>



Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
James Wilson Gillikin	1 Jun 1900- 1 Nov 1903 [Ref 1,2]	1 Oct 1905 - 15 Sep 1909 [Ref 1,2]  Oct 1923 - Feb 1925 [Ref 1,2]		<p>James Wilson Gillikin was a long-term U.S. Lighthouse Bureau employee, His career with the U.S. Lighthouse Service spanned 40 years. In addition to his service at Cape Lookout, he served as keeper at Cape Hatteras Light-house (1897-1900) and was assigned to the Roanoke River Light (1885-1888). In addition, he served at the Laurel Point Light, Harbor Island Bar Light, and Ocracoke Light.</p> <p>James was born in 1859 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died there in 1925. He married Anna Wilson Davis about 1887.</p> <p>During his stint as 1st Assistant Keeper in 1923-1925, James kept detailed journals of life at Cape Lookout.</p>
Abner Parker Guthrie		27 Sep 1859 - Jun 1861 [Ref 1,2,5,6]		<p>Abner Parker Guthrie was born in 1830 on Shackleford Banks, Carteret, North Carolina and died in 1893 on Bogue Banks, Carteret, North Carolina. Abner married Hancy Jane Moore in 1849.</p>

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
			19 Mar 1864 - 28 Jul 1864 [Ref 1,2]	<p>Abner was the brother of Joseph Ross Guthrie and William Henry Guthrie.</p> <p>The 1860 census lists Parker Guthry living in Carteret County, North Carolina and working as "Ast. L.H. Keeper."</p> <p>Both Silas Blunt and Abner Parker Guthrie were appointed as "assistants" on 27 Sep 1859. After Silas Blunt resigned in 1860, Joseph Royal took his place. We do not know who was 1st Assistant vs. 2nd Assistant during this period, though the 1859 "Official Register of the United States" lists A.P. Guthrie's name first, perhaps indicating that he was 1st Assistant.</p>
John Wallace Guthrie			16 Jul 1863 - 19 Mar 1864 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]	<p>John Wallace Guthrie was born about 1819 at Diamond City, Shackelford Banks, Carteret, North Carolina and died in 1888 in Carteret County, North Carolina. John married Hope Ann Willis in 1849.</p> <p>John Wallace Guthrie was a distant cousin of Abner Parker Guthrie, Joseph Royal Guthrie, and William Henry Guthrie.</p>

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Joseph Royal Guthrie		19 Mar 1864 - 16 Jul 1864 [Ref 1,2]		Joseph Royal Guthrie was born in 1822 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died after 1880 there. In 1847, he married Parley Willis.  Joseph was the brother of Abner Parker Guthrie and William Henry Guthrie.
William Henry Guthrie		16 Jul 1864 - 3 Aug 1865 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]		William Henry Guthrie was born about 1818 in Diamond City, Shackleford Banks, Carteret, North Carolina. He was the brother of Abner Parker Guthrie and Joseph Royal Guthrie.  William married Elizabeth "Betsy" Willis in 1854 in Carteret County, North Carolina.
Benjamin Lloyd Harris	1 Jul 1933 - 1936* [Ref 3]			Benjamin Lloyd Harris was born in 1879 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died in 1939 in Pamlico County, North Carolina. He married Connie Woodard.  From letters he signed as "Keeper", we know Benjamin Lloyd Harris served as Keeper at Cape Lookout until at least 7 Oct 1936.  Harris served the Bureau of Lighthouses from 1914-1938. Prior to his service at Cape Lookout, Benjamin Lloyd Harris was Keeper at the Tangier Sound Light Station, Virginia and he also served on numerous light vessels: LV46

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
				(1915-1917), LV101/WAL624 (1917), LV72 (1917), LV52 (1917, 1920-1922), LV91/WAL515 (1919), LV105/WAL527 (1926).
W. S. Harrison		9 Aug 1905 - 30 Sep 1905 [Ref 1,2]		
William Fuller Hatsel	12 Jul 1878 - 24 Nov 1880 (Removed) [Ref 1,2,5]			<p>William Hatsel was born in North Carolina about 1828 and married Rebecca S. Pigott in Carteret County, North Carolina in 1855.</p> <p>Before transferring to Cape Lookout, William Hatsel was the principal keeper at the Bodie Island Lighthouse 1872-1878 and assistant keeper at Point of Shoals, Virginia 1870-1872.</p> <p>Two different 1880 census records from Carteret County, North Carolina list W.F. Hatsel as "U.S. Light House Keeper".</p>
Thurston Hill			1942 - 1944*	Interviews with the daughters of James Milford Newcomb confirm that Thurston Hill was 2nd Assistant in 1942-1944, though his actual period of service may have been longer.

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	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Alfred B. Hooper	1 Nov 1903 - 10 Feb 1909 [Ref 1,2,6]			<p>Alfred B. Hooper was born in 1863 in Kennekeet Banks, Dare, North Carolina and died in 1914 in Carteret County, North Carolina. He married Maria Annie Cooper.</p> <p>Alfred B. Hooper's family were the first to occupy the Principal Keeper Quarters that was constructed in 1907. At that same time, the 1873 keepers quarters was remodeled into a duplex, with one assistant keeper family living upstairs and one downstairs.</p> <p>After leaving Cape Lookout, Alfred transferred to the Ocracoke Lighthouse and the 1910 census lists him as "light keeper, light house", living in Ocracoke, Hyde, North Carolina.</p> <p>Sometime between 1910 and 1914, he returned to Carteret County, North Carolina, and was living in Beaufort at the time of his death.</p>
Franklin Pierce Lewis			4 May 1893 - 6 Dec 1894 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]	<p>Franklin Pierce Lewis was born in 1852 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died in Marshallberg, Carteret, North Carolina in 1920. He married Martha W. Fulford in 1876.</p> <p>Franklin Pierce was the brother of Martin Mathew Lewis.</p>

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
John M. Lewis			Appointed acting on 27 May 1875, confirmed on 16 Apr 1876  Served until 19 Aug 1876 (Removed) [Ref 1,2]	John M. Lewis was the brother-in-law of Wallace P. Fulcher. He was born in 1850 at Harkers Island, Carteret, North Carolina and died in 1916 in Morehead/Newport, Carteret, North Carolina. He married Mary Francis Dixon in about 1875.
Martin Matthew Lewis		22 Aug 1876 - Mar 1877 (Transferred) [Ref 1,2]		Martin Matthew Lewis as born in 1844 on Bogue Banks in Carteret County, North Carolina. He died in 1901 in Beaufort, Carteret, North Carolina. Martin married Sally Ann Salter in 1872.  Martin Matthew Lewis was the brother of Franklin Pierce Lewis.
Charlotte Ann Mason			22 Aug 1872 - 27 May 1875 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]	Charlotte Ann Mason was the only female keeper at Cape Lookout.  She was the daughter of Manie Mason and his wife Sidney, born in 1854 in Carteret County, North Carolina. She married Alfred Moore in 1877 and died in Carteret County, North Carolina in 1929.

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	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Manaen Washington Mason	21 May 1869 - 19 Aug 1876 (Removed) [Ref 1,2]			<p>In 1873, Manaen "Manie" Mason was the first keeper to live in the new keepers quarters constructed that year and he (and his assistants) painted the distinctive "checkers" daymark that identifies the Cape Lookout tower today.</p> <p>During early 1875 there were several reported instances when the light was not in operation. During the summer and fall of that year, there was discussion by the Lighthouse Board concerning whether Manaen Mason should be removed. While the initial decision was against removal, on August 19, 1876 a order was issued removing Manaen and both of his two assistants.</p> <p>Manaen W. Mason was born in Carteret County, North Carolina in 1821 and died there in 1883. While Manaen's pedigree is unknown, researchers seem to agree that he is not related to the large Mason family that settled at "Hunting Quarters", today's Atlantic, in Carteret County, North Carolina, and that his family may have originated in Virginia.</p>
Arthur Matholemew Midgett		17 Nov 1903 - 3 Aug 1905 [Ref 1,2]		<p>Arthur Midgett may have been "acting" from 17 Nov 1903 until confirmed on 7 Dec 1903.</p> <p>As best can be determined, the "Arthur Midgett"</p>

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
				<p>listed in lighthouse records was Arthur Matholemew Midgett, who was born in 1875 at Buxton, Dare, North Carolina and died there in 1943. In 1898, he married Nettie Victoria Barnett.</p> <p>In addition to serving at Cape Lookout, apparently his first light keeping assignment, Midgett was a career keeper assigned to several sound and river lights in North Carolina, including the North River Lighthouse (around 1910) and the Harbor Island Bar Lighthouse in Carteret County (1918-1922, at least).</p>
James Milford Newcomb		1942 - 1945*		<p>In interviews with several of his daughters, it was confirmed that James Milford Newcomb served as 1st Assistant in 1942-1945 and that the family lived upstairs in the 1873 assistant keeper's quarters.</p> <p>James Milford Newcomb was born in 1908 in Wayne County, North Carolina. He died in 1981 in Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina.</p>
James Archie Newton	About 1936 - 1945*			<p>In 1939, James Archie Newton was Keeper at Cape Lookout. Since the United States Coast Guard took over operation of all coastal lights that year, James Archie Newton transferred to the Coast Guard and was assigned as the</p>



Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
				<p>USCG's "Officer in Charge", the equivalent of keeper, at Cape Lookout.</p> <p>Interviews with the daughters of James Milford Newcomb confirm that James Archie Newton was "head keeper" in 1942-1944.</p> <p>James was born in Carteret County, North Carolina in 1883 and died in Pamlico County, North Carolina in 1959. He married Sarah "Sadie" Lincoln about 1908. Sometime after her death in 1945, James married Grace Nowell.</p>
John Todd Brem Noe		<p>Appointed acting on 5 Apr 1883, confirmed on 17 May 1883</p> <p>Served until 26 Jul 1886 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]</p>	<p>Appointed acting 14 Dec 1880, confirmed on 28 Feb 1881</p> <p>Served until 5 Apr 1883 (Promoted) [Ref 1,2]</p>	<p>John T. B. Noe was born in 1844 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died there in 1903. He married Susan N. Stanton in Carteret County, North Carolina in 1868.</p> <p>He served in Company A, 1st North Carolina Light Artillery Battery during the Civil War.</p>

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	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Charles Oden Peele			8 Sep 1911 - 21 Jan 1912 [Ref 1,2]	<p>Charles "Charley" Oden Peele was born in 1886 at Hatteras, Dare, North Carolina, the son of surfman Eugene H. Peele. He married Anna Howard Rollinson, sister of William Gibbons Rollinson in 1907 at Frisco, Dare, North Carolina.</p> <p>Most of his life, as evidenced by census records, Charley was a surfman, first for the U.S. Life Saving Service and then for the U.S. Coast Guard.</p>
Charles W. Pugh			5 Sep 1898 - 17 Jun 1901 [Ref 1,2]	<p>Charles "Charley" W. Pugh was born in 1878 in Dare County, North Carolina and died at Nags Head, Dare, North Carolina in 1938. He married Delphine "Dell" Daniels about 1895.</p> <p>In 1900, the census lists Charles W. Pugh living in Nags Head, Dare, North Carolina as "Asst Keeper U.S. Lighthouse". From this, it appears that while Pugh was assigned to Cape Lookout, his family remained in Nags Head.</p> <p>(A Charley Pugh also served as an assistant at Bodie Island Lighthouse, appointed in 1886...perhaps this Charley's father.)</p>

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	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
John Bunyan Quidley			16 Oct 1905 - Jul 1907 [Ref 1,2]	<p>John Bunyan Quidley served as 3rd Assistant at the Caper Hatteras Lighthouse in 1904-1905 before taking a position at Cape Lookout and as 1st Assistant at Hatteras 1909-1911. He also served at the Cape Hatteras Light, Bodie Island Light, and Cape Charles (Virginia) Light.</p> <p>John was born in 1877 in Hyde County, North Carolina and died in 1924 in Dare County, North Carolina. John married Celia R. Miller before 1900. After her death, John married Emma Hill Midgett in 1903 in Dare County, North Carolina.</p> <p>In 1918, he registered for the WWI draft ion Beaufort, Carteret, North Carolina. and listed his occupation as "U.S. Light Keeper." John lived most of his life in Dare County, North Carolina, but did live in Beaufort, Carteret, North Carolina from about 1915 until just before his death.</p>
William Gibbons Rollinson			1 Jul 1903 - 15 Oct 1903 [Ref 1,2]	<p>William was born in 1873 in Frisco, Hyde, North Carolina and died in 1959 at Portsmouth, Virginia. He married Mariah D. Whidbee.</p>
			1 Aug 1906 - 7 Sep 1911 [Ref 1,2,5,6]	<p>According to NPS (CAHA) research, he served as 3rd Assistant at Cape Hatteras Lighthouse 16 Oct 1905-11 Jan 1906 and 1st Assistant there 16 Oct 1909-31 Mar 1911. These last dates conflict with Ref. 6.</p>
			1913	

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
			{Ref 6]	He is listed as "L.H.K., Asst. U.S." in the 1910 census for Carteret County, North Carolina. In 1918, he registered for the WWI draft in Frisco, Dare County, North Carolina and listed his occupation as "U.S. Lighthouse Service at Hatteras Inlet". The 1920 census for Dare County, North Carolina lists him as "U.S. Lighthouse Keeper", but his assignment at that time is unknown.
John Ross Royal	17 Jan 1854 - Jun/Sep 1861 (Civil War) [Ref 1,2]5,6]			John Royal was keeper at Cape Lookout during two significant periods: (1) the transition from the 1812 light tower to the 1859 light tower and (2) the Civil War and its aftermath. John was born in Carteret County, North Carolina in 1806 and died there in 1883. The 1860 census listed John Royal as "Keeper L. House".
	25 May 1864 - 21 May 1869 (Removed) [Ref 1,2]			John Royal was the first keeper with assistants, the first appointed in 1859 and the second in 1860.
				After the light at Cape Lookout was dismantled and placed in storage in Aug/Sep 1861, John Royal and his assistants were out of job. John was re-appointed Keeper in 1864, but both he and his assistants were removed on 21 May 1869. (In the 1870 census, John Royal is found

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
				living in Morehead City, Carteret, North Carolina and working as a "dry good grocer".)
Joseph Royal		17 Jan 1860 - Jun/Sep 1861 (Civil War) [Ref 1,2,5,6]		Joseph was John R. Royal's son. The 1860 census records him as "Assist. L.H. Keeper". Joseph was born about 1844 in Carteret County, North Carolina.
		3 Aug 1865 - 21 May 1869 (Removed) [Ref 1,2]		In 1860, the census lists Joseph living with his parents and his occupation as "Asst. L.H. Keeper". He married Melissa Willis about 1871 and the family lived in Morehead City, Carteret, North Carolina all their lives.
				Both Silas Blunt and Abner Parker Guthrie were appointed as "assistants" on 27 Sep 1859. After Silas Blunt resigned in 1860, Joseph Royal took his place. We do not know who was 1st Assistant vs. 2nd Assistant during this period, though the 1859 "Official Register of the United States" lists A.P. Guthrie's name first, perhaps indicating that Blunt was 2nd Assistant, the position taken by Royal.

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Martin Thomas Royal			28 Jul 1864 - 21 May 1869 (Removed) [Ref 1,2]	<p>Martin T. Royal was John R. Royal's son, born in 1848 in Carteret County, North Carolina. Martin died in 1919 in Carteret County, North Carolina. In 1867, he married Ann Maria(h) Harris.</p> <p>From 1870 until their deaths, Martin and Ann Royal lived in Smyrna, Carteret, North Carolina.</p>
Denard Rumley	<p>Promoted to 1st Assistant and appointed acting keeper on 14 Dec 1880, confirmed on 28 Feb 1881</p> <p>Served until 21 Feb 1893 (Deceased) [Ref 1,2,5]</p>		<p>30 Jul 1878 - 14 Dec 1880 [Ref 1,2]</p>	<p>Denard Rumley was born about 1844 in Beaufort, Carteret, North Carolina and died in Beaufort, Carteret, North Carolina in 1893 while serving as Keeper at Cape Lookout.</p> <p>In 1868, he married Mary E. Perry and the 1870 census finds the couple living in Wilmington, New Hanover, North Carolina where Denard is a "customs house collector". Denard returned to Carteret County before 1878 and the 1880 census finds the family living in Beaufort, Carteret, North Carolina and lists Denard's occupation as "keeping light-house".</p>
Boyd Monroe Smith		<p>1936 - 1939+* [Ref 3]</p>	<p>Apr/May 1932- 16 Feb 1936* [Ref 3]</p>	<p>On 16 Feb 1936, Boyd Monroe Smith apparently was promoted from 2nd Assistant to 1st Assistant. At that time, he had 3 years 8 months of service with the Bureau of Lighthouses at that time, indicating that his service began in April or May 1932, evidently at Cape Lookout.</p>

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	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
				<p>Smith voluntarily requested transfer to the USCG on 11 Jun 1939. At that time, he was 1st Assistant at Cape Lookout.</p> <p>Boyd Smith was born in 1911 in Anderson County, South Carolina and died in 1966 in Polk County, Florida.</p>
Victor Lawson Watson		1 Oct 1909 - 5 Jan 1912 [Ref 1,2,5,6]		<p>Victor Lawson Watson was appointed on 1 Oct 1909, but his pay records don't begin until the second quarter of 1910, indicating that he was not actively serving until then.</p> <p>Victor Watson was born in Hyde County, North Carolina in 1874. He died in 1925 in Hyde County, North Carolina. He married Lena Reid Trotman about 1909.</p> <p>He is listed as "L.H.K., Asst. U.S." in the 1910 census for Carteret County, North Carolina.</p> <p>Prior to serving at Cape Lookout, Victor Lawson Watson served at Bodie Island Lighthouse 1906-1907 and at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse 1907-1909.</p>

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	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Joseph Blunt Whitehurst			6 Apr 1877 - 27 Jul 1878 (Transferred) [Ref 1,2]	Joseph B. Whitehurst was born about 1835 in Beaufort, Carteret, North Carolina and died in 1881 in Craven County, North Carolina. He Married Nancy Elizabeth Duncan in 1855 in Carteret County, North Carolina.  Joseph B. Whitehurst served as an assistant at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse after he left Cape Lookout.
Alpheus B. Willis		1 Jul 1903 - 9 Nov 1903 [Ref 1,2]  Appointed acting on 16 Sep 1909, confirmed on 20 Nov 1909  Served until 23 Apr 1911 (Transferred) [Ref 1,2,5,6]	1 Nov 1901 - Jun 1903 (Promoted) [Ref 1,2]	Alpheus B. Willis was born in Dare County, North Carolina about 1868 and died there in 1924. He married Elizabeth "Eliza" Allen Stoew in 1887.  The 1910 census lists Alpheus B. Willis living in Hatteras, Dare, North Carolina and his occupation as "Keeper, U.S.L.H.E.", indicating that he maintained his home at Hatteras while serving at Cape Lookout.  Alpheus B. Willis served as 1st Assistant at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse 1 Dec 1905-20 May 1907 and 24 Apr 1911-30 Sep 1912.



Name	Dates of Service		Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	
Elijah Willis	After the light at Cape Lookout was dismantled and placed in storage in Jun/Sep 1861, Elijah Willis was paid through the end of that year to serve as caretaker of the light tower and keeper's quarters. There were two Elijah Willis' living in Carteret County during this period...one born in 1817 living in Smyrna in 1860 and one born in 1822 living in Straits in 1860. Both were fishermen.		
Isaiah Farren Willis		5 Apr 1883 - 8 Jun 1883 (Resigned) [Ref 1]	Isaiah Farren Willis was born about 1837 at Davis Shore, Carteret, North Carolina and died about 1915 there. He was the son of Thomas Willis and Elizabeth Fulford and is buried at the Murphy Family Cemetery.  He married Lucetta Styron on 24 Mar 1861 in Carteret County, North Carolina.
Isaac Van Willis, Jr.	1915 - 1918 [Ref 6]  1920-1923 [Ref 6]	2 Feb 1912 - 1915 [Ref 1,2,,6]  June 1918- August 1920 [Ref 1,2,5]	Isaac Van Willis, Jr. was born in 1883 in North Carolina and died in 1948 in Carteret County, North Carolina.  Prior to his serving at Cape Lookout, Willis was 2nd Assistant at the Thimble Shoal Light Station in Virginia in 1909.  In 1918, Isaac registered for the WWI draft in Carteret County, North Carolina and listed his occupation as "Light House Keeper, Government". In 1920, the census lists Isaac Willis at Harkers Island, Carteret, North Carolina, with occupation "Light House, 2nd Keeper."

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
Josephus S. Willis		21 May 1869 - 5 Apr 1870 (Resigned) [Ref 1,2]		Josephus Willis was born 1828 in Carteret County, North Carolina and died there in 1910. When not working at the lighthouse, Josephus was a fisherman.
		25 Mar 1877 - 24 Nov 1880 (Removed) [Ref 1,2,5]		Both "Josephus" and "Joseph" were used in various historical records. His middle name was probably "Styron".  The 1880 census lists Josephus Willis as "Asst Light House Keeper".  (His son Josephus Willis, Jr. was a sea Captain and well known whaler off Shackleford Banks. He was best known as Captain of the "red oar" whaling crew in which his six sons served as his crew. They successfully landed the Mayflower whale, whose skeleton is on display in the North Carolina Natural History Museum.)
Millard Fillmore Willis			22 Aug 1877 - ? [Ref 1,2]	There are two Millard Fillmore Willis' that may have served at Cape Lookout...we don't know which is correct:  1. Millard Fillmore Willis, the son of Johan Abram Willis and his wife Mary Ann, who was born in Morehead City, Carteret, North Carolina about 1857 and died there before 1900. He married Cora Virginia Arthur about 1884.

Name	Dates of Service			Notes
	Keeper	1st Assistant	2nd Assistant	
				2. Millard Fillmore Willis, son of David W. Willis and Jane Eliza C. Davis, who was born in Symrna, Carteret, North Carolina in 1857 and died in Straits, Carteret, North Carolina in 1917. He married Maude Chadwick about 1884.

### 3rd Assistants

For a short period during 1901-1904, the Cape Lookout Lighthouse was assigned 3rd Assistant Keepers. The roles of these keepers is not clear.

James Wilson Gilliken		? [Ref 7]	See above.
Joseph Royal Guthrie	Jan 1901 - 3 Oct 1901 [Ref 7]		See above.
Jones Lawrence		Abt 1903 [Ref 7]	Jones Lawrence is buried at the Lawrence - Gillikin Families Cemetery, located at on the east side of Harkers Island Road (SR 1332) at the corner of Elnora Jones Lane.
Isaiah Farren Willis		Abt 1900 [Ref 7]	See above.

\*The service records for lighthouse keepers and assistants from about 1912 until 1950 when the lighthouse was automated and the keepers were no longer assigned, are incomplete. The information listed here has been developed from letters, interviews with retired keepers and keepers' descendents, etc. and may or may not be correct. Research continues.

In addition to the keepers and assistants identified above, there are several others that may or may not have served at Cape Lookout:

**Homer Tredwell Austin II:** In a 2007 interview, John Daniel Coble mentioned a Homer Austin whom he knew as a keeper while at Cape Lookout. Homer, whose father was a lighthouse keeper from 1907 until his retirement, was born on 15 Oct 1925 in Dare County, North Carolina. He died there on 9 Feb 1998. Homer served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 29 years, joining during WWII, and retired as a Lt. Commander. He may have been assigned during the 1940s at Cape Lookout.

**James E. English:** From a 1979 interview with his daughter Evelyn, the Park Service determined that James E. English served as 1st Assistant at Cape Lookout lighthouse from Jun 1918 through Aug 1920.

The daughter's report was that the family lived downstairs in the 1873 quarters when she was about 10 years old. In this oral history, she reported that Isaac Van Willis, Jr. was 2nd Assistant living downstairs and that the keeper was "Capt. Meekins". There are a number of problems with this report.

1. There is no written record of James E. English serving at Cap Lookout. From Ref. 6 we learn the following:
  - a. He was appointed to the Lighthouse Service in Carteret County and that he tended the beacon lights of Core Sound, stationed at Sea Level, Carteret, North Carolina.
  - b. In 1917, he was the assistant keeper of the Harbor Island Light Station in Core Sound, North Carolina.
  - b. In 1919, he is not listed as employee of the Lighthouse Service. (He may have served in the Coast Guard or been in service in WWI.)
  - c. In 1921, he was keeper of the Thomas Point Shoal Light, Virginia.
2. Ref. 6 indicates that Isaac Van Willis, Jr. did serve as 2nd Assistant at Cape Lookout 1912-1914 and 1918-1920, he was 1st Assistant 1915-1918 and 1920-1923.
3. The "Capt. Meekins" from the oral history probably refers to Ephraim Meekins, who had a long tenure with the Lighthouse Service and was keeper of the Cape Hatteras Light 1900-1906.

While it is possible that English served as 2nd Assistant during 1918-1920, more research is required to confirm this service.

**William Luther Geaslen:** In a 2007 interview, John Daniel Coble mentioned a Homer Austin whom he knew as a keeper while at Cape Lookout. This individual appears to be William L. Geaslen. Bill was born on 30 Jun 1909 in Massachusetts and died in Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina on 5 May 1997. His death certificate identifies his occupation as "bridge, lock, and lighthouse tenders" and there are anecdotal references to him serving at Cape Lookout and at Cape Henry in Virginia.

**Joseph Lemuel Willis:** A reference to a Joseph Willis appears in a pay record for Cape Lookout Light Station. This appears to be Joseph Lemuel Willis, was born at Hunting Quarters [Davis], Carteret, North Carolina on 12 Apr 1879 and died at Sea Level, Carteret, North Carolina on 29 Dec 1973. He was a self-employed commercial fisherman and may have worked at Cape Lookout as 2nd Assistant in 1912.

#### **Sources and References:**

1. McCloud, Ellen, "Lighthouse Keepers Of Cape Lookout Lighthouse 1845 -1912", transcriptions of Microcopy Film 1373 (1850-1912), Roll 3, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC [Available online at <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/c/l/o/Ellen-F-Cloud/FILE/0031page.html>.]
2. Genealogical and family history research by Sandy Clunies, Genealogist, National Park Service (2009), with additional research by Ellen F. Cloud.
3. Service records.
4. Interviews with descendents of keepers.
5. U.S. Census records for Carteret County, North Carolina, 1850-1930 and family trees posted on Ancestry. com.
6. "The Official Register of the United States", U.S. Government Printing Office, 1816-1924.
7. Pay logs.

8. "John Coble, Cape Lookout U.S. Lighthouse Keeper", Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, *Lighthouse News*, Spring, 2007, pgs 6-9 [Available online at <http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org/Documents/oblhs-spring-newsletter-07.pdf>.]