

BUREAU OF ETERNAL COMPLIANCE

Form WR-7 - Field Examiner Standing and Witness Classification

PUBLIC COPY - RECORD DELAYED BY ONE HUNDRED FORTY-TWO YEARS

SUBJECT NAME: Edmund Charles Pemberton

ALIASES OF RECORD: Mr. Pemberton; Examiner Pemberton; the examiner in the western crypt

FORMER POSITION: Senior Compliance Field Officer, Subdivision Seven

ORIGINAL ASSIGNMENT: Pre-audit inquiry concerning the Drakenfeld household and outstanding matters arising from the Wallachian engagement

DISPATCHED: 1884

RETURNED: Pending

CURRENT STANDING: Witness-of-Record, Subdivision Seven

STATUS: STILL ON ASSIGNMENT

I EXECUTIVE FINDING

The Bureau dispatched Mr. Pemberton to Blackthorn Estate in 1884. His inquiry was expected to require approximately six weeks. The estimate did not survive contact with the household's correspondence, filing habits, or understanding of mortal time.

Mr. Pemberton remained at his assigned desk in Blackthorn's western crypt, maintaining a legible, continuous ledger while the calendar advanced without him. When informed that the year was 2026, he received the information as a procedural change: with composure, a small inclination of the head, and an immediate need to revise the file.

REVIEWING CONCLUSION: Subject demonstrates exceptional continuity of method, professional restraint, and tolerance for administrative conditions the Bureau declines to classify as acceptable precedent.

II MORTAL HOUSEHOLD RECORD

Edmund Charles Pemberton maintained a household at 11 Beaufort Gardens, Knightsbridge, London. At the time of dispatch he was forty-seven years old, had served the Bureau for sixteen years, and was described by his immediate superior as a thorough man.

He travelled with a photograph of Mrs. Pemberton in a silver frame, a personal case darkened by years of use, and a child's drawing folded into the case despite three unsuccessful attempts to leave it behind. The photograph is dated 1881. The drawing has been retained under family-correspondence protections.

The subject promised to return by 17 December 1884. The household had committed to a Christmas goose. No evidence indicates that the promise was made lightly.

III ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSATLANTIC DISPATCH

Pemberton received his Pennsylvania assignment on 3 October 1884. He prepared for nine days and departed London carrying one Bureau case, one personal case, a letter of credential, a clean ledger, two notebooks, three pencils sharpened to the same length, a small calendar, a Bureau seal, and the standard field kit.

The official purpose was a routine pre-audit inquiry into unresolved matters arising from the Wallachian engagement. Surviving instructions anticipated an ordinary examination of documents. They did not anticipate the scale of the Mihalovich correspondence, the disposition of Blackthorn, or the household's understanding of the phrase ready access.

IV ARRIVAL AT BLACKTHORN

Pemberton arrived in November 1884 and presented himself at the front door with professional credentials and a request for a small room, sufficient lamps, access to the relevant documents, and the household's preferred arrangements for meals and tea.

He was directed to the western crypt. Tea was discussed. Tea was not brought.

INITIAL ESTIMATE: Six weeks. **ACTUAL ELAPSED TIME:** One hundred forty-two years.

V THE WESTERN CRYPT INQUIRY

The workspace supplied to the examiner contained a stone floor, three lamp brackets, approximately forty nearly full shelves, one writing desk, one wooden chair, one pencil, and no prepared index. The household identified several walls of correspondence as the relevant file.

Pemberton arranged his materials, placed the ledger to the right of the desk, aligned his pencil parallel to it, and began with the first envelope. The method did not materially change thereafter.

His ledger remained maintained, legible, and continuous. The House preserved the crypt, the desk, and the examiner. Whether this preservation constituted assistance, detention, hospitality, or an architectural interpretation of assignment terms remains under review.

VI RECOVERY INTO THE PRESENT YEAR

Upon discovery, Mr. Pemberton introduced himself as Senior Compliance Field Officer, Subdivision Seven, and extended his hand in accordance with the professional conventions of the 1870s. He then requested assistance determining how long he had occupied the basement.

Asked what year he believed it to be, he answered 1884. Informed that it was 2026, he displayed no panic and no disbelief. He reviewed the information, acknowledged it, and asked whether it might be possible to come upstairs.

The request was granted.

VII OBSERVED CAPABILITIES

RECORD CONTROL: Exceptional. Subject can maintain a working ledger across conditions that would defeat most institutions and all ordinary stationery.

INTERVIEW PRACTICE: Precise, courteous, and difficult to evade without becoming conspicuous.

PROFESSIONAL COMPOSURE: Unusually durable. Temporal displacement was treated as an amendment requiring notation.

EVIDENTIARY DISCRETION: High. Subject continues to distinguish information appropriate for conversation from information appropriate for the file.

HANDWRITING: Neat, small, Victorian, and perfectly steady.

VIII CURRENT RELATIONSHIP TO BLACKTHORN

Pemberton's standing within the household is unresolved but no longer temporary. He has been given access to the library, the current audit materials, and the practical assistance of persons who have not historically excelled at practical assistance.

The House appears to recognize him as part of its long memory. It closed the western crypt behind him after his departure from the basement. No request was made. No explanation was supplied.

Valerius Drakenfeld has acknowledged responsibility for the examiner's prolonged assignment. Mr. Pemberton received the apology without making it more difficult than necessary. The Bureau notes that this does not constitute a waiver of claims, findings, reimbursement, or tea.

IX WITNESS-OF-RECORD STANDING

Pemberton was dispatched to investigate unresolved affairs connected to the Wallachian episode. His original inquiry predates the current audit and concerns materials that remain disputed, restricted, or strategically misplaced.

His ledger and direct recollection make him a witness-of-record rather than merely a missing employee. He is not to be returned to Bureau custody until the contents of his file, the Bureau's file, and the household's version of both have been compared by competent counsel.

ACCESS NOTE: Questions concerning the Wallachian episode are to be put in writing. Answers may be delayed, redacted, redirected, or met with an expression of professional concern.

X HABITS AND RECURRING IRREGULARITIES

Aligns pencils with the edge of the ledger before beginning work.

Records failures of hospitality with the same calm used for evidentiary findings.

Refers to major supernatural disruptions as matters to be examined.

Accepts unfamiliar technology only after determining its filing purpose.

Regards a tartan chair introduced during his absence as a development requiring notation.

XI ASSOCIATED PERSONS

MARGARET PEMBERTON: Wife; household correspondent; photograph retained among subject's personal effects.

EDMUND PEMBERTON JUNIOR: Son; author of one surviving travel drawing; requested information concerning American trains and bald eagles.

AMELIA HARKER: Paralegal; first modern professional to interview the subject; currently treating him as a protected witness rather than misplaced inventory.

VALERIUS DRAKENFELD: Original subject of inquiry; responsible for access, documents, tea, and several failures involving all three.

AMBROSE: Household scholar; remembers that Pemberton drank a great deal of tea and that no farewell tea occurred.

THE HOUSE: Premises, witness, custodian, and possible party to the examiner's preservation.

XII CURRENT ASSESSMENT

CLASSIFICATION: Mortal-origin field examiner; temporally displaced; administratively active

THREAT LEVEL: Low physical aggression; high evidentiary consequence

PRIMARY STRENGTH: Patience reinforced by method

PRIMARY VULNERABILITY: Family history remains unresolved and protected

RECOMMENDED INTERVIEW PRACTICE: Ask a direct question, allow a direct answer, and do not confuse courtesy with uncertainty

Final reviewing note: Mr. Pemberton has not, in the strictest procedural sense, returned from his assignment. He has instead become the most complete surviving record of it.

FILE STATUS: OPEN - WITNESS PROTECTION REVIEW

PUBLIC RELEASE NOTICE

Field Examiner Record WR-7

CENTRAL RESOLUTION MATERIAL OMITTED

I MATERIAL WITHHELD

The public copy excludes the final disposition of the current audit, sealed testimony concerning the Wallachian engagement, and any finding whose disclosure would reveal the novel's central resolution.

II MATERIAL RETAINED

This record preserves Pemberton's identity, original posting, professional standing, conditions of discovery, witness classification, and the documented fact that the household failed to bring tea for one hundred forty-two years.

III READER ADVISORY

The full subscriber archive contains family details, field-kit irregularities, unfiled observations, and recovered fragments judged too intimate, too strange, or too likely to generate correspondence for public circulation.

END OF PUBLIC FILE