

LORIMER RICH, ARCHITECT - CITY PLANNER
215 MONTAGUE STREET - BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

January 28, 1943

To Whom it May Concern:

It has come to my attention that George Rockrise is making preliminary application for an ensign's commission in the United States Navy. Because of a certain confusion in the registry of the birth of George Rockrise, and the fact that I am familiar with the details of this matter, I wish to make the following statement:

Thomas S. Rockrise (the father of George) was a native of Japan, and an old and valued friend of mine. We attended Syracuse University at the same time. Thomas graduated from the Department of Architecture in 1911. Soon after, he married Agnes Asbury of Brooklyn, New York. Agnes Asbury was a former pupil of my sister in Girl's High School, Brooklyn, New York. They had one son---this George Rockrise. George should now be about twenty-four years old. When his birth was registered in New York City, his father registered it under his Japanese name--Tsumanuma--instead of his Anglicized name---Rockrise. Unfortunately, no note was made of this fact on the birth certificate. This, therefore, has caused George much embarrassment in securing a proper birth certificate. His father's Japanese name was Iwahiko Tsumanuma. Throughout his college days and afterwards, as a practicing architect in New York City, he used the name Thomas S. Rockrise because of the simpler pronunciation for American friends and clients. Rockrise is a translation of Iwahiko, the father's given name.

This will certify that George Rockrise is the same person whose birth was registered as George

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Tsumanuma, and that his mother is Agnes A. Rock-
rise and his father was Thomas S. Rockrise.
These facts I know from long association with
the principals mentioned.

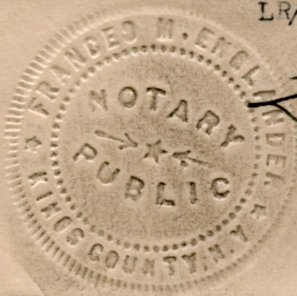
May I also take the occasion to state that I have
known George Rockrise since his birth. He is a
man of intelligence and education, a most per-
sonable young man and a loyal American citizen.
I am sure that he would be, in every way, a cre-
dit to our armed forces.

Very truly yours,

Lorimer Rich

LORIMER RICH

LR/js



Frances M. Englander

FRANCES M. ENGLANDER
NOTARY PUBLIC Kings County N. Y.
Kings Co. Clerk's No. 32 Reg. No 4035
Commission Expires March 30, 1944