

husband and wife, and where and in what States said cohabitating
subsisted subsequent to the inception of their relations and
until the soldier's death.

This with a view to determining whether or not it
was possible for the relation which the soldier sustained with
the claimant's mother to become matrimonial in any jurisdiction
other than the States of North Carolina and Maryland, where
marriage as at common law is not recognized as valid, and also
to definitely determine whether or not the relation at its in-
ception was covered by the Act of the North Carolina legislature
validating slave marriages.

AGJ/mek

W. H. Harrison
Chief, Law Division.