

DEPOSITION *A*

Case of John Smothers Inv.Ctf. , No. 1,046,814

On this 17th day of August, 1911, at
Baltimore, county of _____
 State of Md., before me, L.S.Perkins, a
 Special Examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, personally appeared
John Smothers, who, being by me first duly sworn to
 answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this special
 examination of aforesaid claim for pension, deposes and says:

1 I was seventy-six years of age at my last birthday, July 3rd;
 2 p.o.address No. 619 north Bethel street, Baltimore, Md.; drive a
 3 lumber wagon and do general hauling, for a living.

4 I am pensioned at twelve dollars per month as of Co. G, 9th
 5 U.S.C.Inf., and am applying for an increase of pension on account
 6 of my age. I am old enough to get twenty dollars a month, according
 7 to the law, so far as I know.

8 I was born near White's Hill, in Prince George's Co., Md., on
 9 July 3rd, 1835. My father was Phil. Smothers, and my mother was
 10 Catherine, but I do not know her maiden name. After my father was
 11 sold away from the farm, my mother married Elijah Johnson. After
 12 his death she married a Coates, and then, a Liverpool. She died
 13 in February of last year in Philadelphia, Pa., in her ninety-sev-
 14 enth year. I was her first child.

15 I enlisted in the army at Benedict, Charles Co., Md., on Oc-
 16 tober 20, 1863, in Co. G, 9th U.S.C.Inf., and was discharged at
 17 Federal Hill in this city on December 24th, 1866. I had no other
 18 service, military or naval. I have lived in Baltimore ever since
 19 discharge. I have been drawing a pension nine years. I put in a
 20 claim for increase when the new age law was first passed, but it was
 21 turned down because I did not prove my age to the satisfaction of
 22 the government.

23 Q. Did you not have a record to prove ^{your} age by?

24 A. None except a Bible record, but as that was not called for,
 25 I did not use it in my first claim. I had a copy made of it for
 26 this present claim.

27 I show you the record:

28 (Family Bible shown; imprint "American Bible Society, 1859;"
 29 on page devoted to space for family record, at top of page, ap-
 30 pears the entry: "John Smothers, Born July 3, 1835, statement
 31 from owner, Mrs. Miburn richardson." Ink appears still fresh,
 32 and the writing may have been done within ten years, especially