

30 the date, which appears to be much fresher than the name. AA sig-  
 31 nificant fact is that this entry is at the top of the page, out-  
 32 side and above the title "family record," below which title there  
 33 are several entries bearing dates ranging from 1870 to 1877, in  
 34 which the ink appears to be decidedly faded. This lower record it-  
 35 self might have been written within twenty years, altho it concerns  
 36 births occurring between 1870 and 1877. The record of birth of John  
 37 Smothers may possibly have been written (especially that part relat-  
 38 ing to date---within the past five or ten years. A very careful  
 39 inspection of the sheet, held up before the light and also examined  
 40 by a magnifying glass, fails to reveal any erasure or alteration of  
 41 the writing. The date itself runs into the border lines surround-  
 42 ing the page, and just above the title line, and said line would  
 43 show any attempt made to alter the writing thereon.---L.S.P., Spl.  
 44 Ex'r.)

45 I bought this Bible after the war, when I went to housekeeping  
 46 with my first wife. I cannot read nor write, and had "first one and  
 47 then another" to write the record in it as births and deaths oc-  
 48 curred.

49 Q. Who wrote the record of your birth in the Bible?

50 A. Sarah Gale, a niece of my first wife. Saarah died 25  
 51 years ago. No, I cannot swear that I saw her write it in the Bible,  
 52 but I know I gave her a letter from my old mistress, Mrs.  
 53 Milburn Richardson, of Woodville, Md., which stated my age. I  
 54 called on Mrs. Richardson for my age so as to present it to the  
 55 election authorities of Baltimore, they having demanded that I prove  
 56 my age before they would register me. This was about five or six  
 57 years after my discharge from the army. I do not know what has be-  
 58 come of the letter of my old mistress.

59 Q. Will you swear that the record of your age was written in that  
 60 Bible over twenty years ago?

61 A. No, I will not swear that.

Q. You have stated that your wife's niece, who died in 1886,  
 died that writing; how about that?

A. I said I requested her to put the record in the Bible for

Witnesses to mark  
 Thomas H. Hains  
 Evan L. Brigham

John <sup>his</sup> Smothers  
 mark Deponent.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
 1911, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent  
 before signing.