

Office Masonic Temple,
Thos. J. Shryock,
Grand Master
of Masons of Maryland.
Baltimore, U.S.A.

I, Thos. J. Shryock, am personally acquainted with John Chase, late a soldier of Company A, 4th. Regiment, United States Colored Troops, whose pension claim is, No. 703512. I have known this man personally for the past twenty five years. He is a man of excellent reputation and character ; has been working around the wharf, doing little odd jobs for that length of time almost every day under my personal notice. His case is a most deplorable one ; he having a running wound in his right breast, which has, practically, incapacitated him for work, although he has always been willing to do anything that his strength would allow. He is now in most distressing circumstances, being very poor, and a care upon the charity of myself and the world generally. Had not some of our charitable merchants helped him along, he would have been in the grave or poor house. His claim has been pending for sometime, but owing to an error in the papers has been delayed. I now urge that this case be made special, as the applicant has but a short time to live, and should, at least, enjoy some of the benefits for the sacrifice he made to assist in the preservation of the Union. I have personally taken this man to one of the most reputable physicians of the City, Dr. Wm. H.