

3-1876

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF PENSIONS
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

Baltimore Md, August 3, 1915.

Hon Commissioner of Pensions,
 Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to return the letter of Chief, Law Division, dated July 30, 1915, relative to claim No 739,553, Minors of Joseph Cornish, Co B 39 U.S. Col Inf, Mary R. Cornish of Baltimore Md, guardian, and to submit this report on the matter referred to therein.

I had considerable difficulty locating this guardian and believed for awhile that she was avoiding me, aided and abetted by other occupants of the house at 661 West Mulberry St, Baltimore, where she is supposed to reside, but she came to the Custom House today to see me and explained that she was working in the country temporarily, her exact location unknown to relatives, until one of them finally reached her by phone.

This guardian has converted to her own use the pension heretofore paid in this case with the exception of small amounts spent on her children, irrespective of their age or title, and abandoned the minor Thelma L at Cape May N.J in October 1914, having sent but three dollars to the said minor since that date, according to her confession herewith. The guardian pleads ignorance of the law and swears that she understood the pension was for her own use as soldiers widow, and for the care and maintenance of the minor children, and that the attorney David L. Stanton so informed her at the allowance of the claim. The guardian has made no report to the Orphans Court, has kept no accounts of expenditures, or taken vouchers, etc, and has no money on hand. She is of fair intelligence but without education, and unable to write except to sign her name, and barely able to read print. I interviewed the

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