

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

Date February 12, 1935.

From A. W. Dewling, Field Examiner
 To John Baylor, Chief Attorney
 Subject BENNETT, Charles WC 939 224
615-320

The above cited case came to the attention of this office by a letter from the Director, Widows' & Dependents' Claims Service, dated July 24, 1934, with copy of letter dated June 30, 1934, from Harriet Bennett, which correspondence reached the undersigned about August 1, 1934. There has since been received letter of January 23, 1935, from the Director, Widows' & Dependents' Claims Service, with copy of letter from Mrs. Florence Williams, 1525 East Chase Street, this city.

The widow, Sarah Jane Bennett, died on January 28, 1935. Transcript of certificate of death dated February 8, 1935, and No. 6846, is attached. Information of the death of the widow was first received by the undersigned by telephone from Mr. Frank Settelman, a grocer with whom the widow dealt and with whom the undersigned had been in touch off and on from within a few days after this case first came to his attention. Mr. Settelman resides at 938 Sterling Street (Telephone: Wolfe 6876). On January 28th, the following radiogram was sent to the Director, Widows' & Dependents' Claims Service, Washington, D. C. "Sarah Bennett Nine Thirty Seven Sterling Street Baltimore Maryland, Widow of Charles Bennett, WC Nine Three Nine Two Two Four Died Today January Twenty Eighth Stop Payment of Pension Check Letter Follows." Mr. Settelman had telephoned particularly for information as to whether or not the Government would furnish any funds for the burial of this widow, as she had died leaving only as assets her equity in pension check for the month of January and about \$38.00 insurance. Mr. Settelman was properly advised regarding this matter and by cooperation with the Contact Section, the widow was buried in the grave of her husband at the National Cemetery here on January 31, 1935. The telegram above quoted was sent in order to prevent the January pension check falling into the wrong hands and so that the proceeds thereof may become available for funeral expenses.

Contacts on this case were made within a few days after the receipt of letter dated July 24, 1934, from the Director, Widows' & Dependents' Claims Service, and it was thought best in the interest of the widow for me to keep in personal touch off and on with the situation before definitely deciding on what recommendation to make relative to the appointment of a committee.

Inquiry in August 1934, developed that Harriet Bennett who addressed the U.S. Pension Bureau at Washington on June 30, 1934, is a step-daughter of the veteran's widow. Harriett Bennett has every symptom of being a moron and was found to be living openly with a man of the same type named Dennard Hughes, to whom she was not married. They have no visible means of support and unquestionably desired to take the widow with them/^{in order} to reap the benefit