

of the family and they all agree that Elvora has been dead 18 or 19 years. None of them knew the exact date of her death, however.

I was unable to find any death records in the office of the clerk of Middlesex Co. Va.

It is shown that Henry Bates had a lawful wife living when he was married to Elmt. in Aug. 1872, his wife died Feb 5, 1876 and he continued to live with Elmt in the relation of husband and wife until the fall of 1881. I am not informed as to whether under the laws of the State of Md. a common law marriage would arise in such a case, and I therefore recommend that the claim be submitted to the Law Div. for an opinion.