

This is made more sure by the fact that I again went over the indices of both parts of the Circuit Court of Baltimore, the only courts handling cases of insanity and also of divorce for this jurisdiction, assisted by deputy clerks, in order to ascertain whether a Committee had ever been appointed for Margaret. Nowhere did her name appear, altho the search covered the period from 1854, when the indices began, till the present time. So that it may be taken as a certainty that Margaret Chambers never applied for a divorce in this jurisdiction, nor was a Committee or Guardian ever appointed for her here. As the evidence shows that she has been in the asylum practically ever since she was separated from the soldier, the possibility of her ever having applied for a divorce is practically precluded.

Herewith will be found the testimony of a sister of Margaret and of a sister of the soldier, as well as that of two persons not related to either, tending to show that neither Margaret nor the soldier was ever married prior to their union with each other, and that they were competent to enter such union.

The witness Millie Hall is bitterly prejudiced against the soldier and the claimant Alice, and there is no sisterly feeling in the bosom of Christina Clark for the said Alice. The latter claimant, to whom I imparted the evidence secured, takes the matter philosophically, saying that she willingly gives up hopes of the pension, and she exhibited to me a balm for her wounded feelings in the shape of a letter which she said contained an offer of marriage from one of the swellest and richest negroes of Baltimore. So that Alice E. has no evidence in rebuttal, no protest and no remarks to make in the premises. I am convinced that she believed herself to be the lawful widow of the soldier when she filed claim for pension, the alleged certificate of divorce which she handed me having given color to that belief, altho the soldier himself, as it is shown in evidence, stated shortly before his death that he knew he was not properly divorced from Margaret.

Some days ago I forwarded, for consideration of Chief of Law Division, a communication from the alleged Committee, Ada Chambers, in which she set forth that she was appointed Committee by "Parlett Lloyd" of this city, and ^Isuggesting that she be informed by the Bureau of the requirements of the position sought by her.

I recommend reference of all papers in this case to Chief of Law Division for consideration.

Very respectfully,

L. S. Perkins

Special Examiner.