

Baltimore, Md.,

September 24, 1910.

The Commissioner of Pensions,

Sir:

The claim, Wid. Orig. No. 937,042, of Ada Chambers as Committee of Margaret Chambers, insane; and of Alice E. Chambers, Wid. Orig. No. 925,-932, contesting widows of George Chambers, late of Co. G, 19th U.S.C.Inf., were referred for special examination to determine which, if either, of the contesting claimants for pension is the lawful widow of the soldier, and whether any law has been violated in connection with the prosecution of either claim.

I made a report in this case in July, forwarding the papers for further examination in Somerset Co., Md., where the claimant Margaret is confined in an asylum. Ada Chambers, who filed the claim for her mother as Committee, could not be found at the time of making my report, ~~she~~ has since been heard from at No. 135 E. N.Y.Ave., Atlantic City, N.J. However, it has developed thru correspondence with the said Ada that she is not the legally appointed Committee of her mother, and I do not delay action in the claim on her account.

The claimant Margaret was interviewed by Special Examiner R.P.Fletcher and he secured evidence in the claim under instructions contained in a letter from Chief of Law Division which appears as an exhibit in Mr. Fletcher's report.

Said letter also directed that after investigation in Somerset county, the papers should be returned to this district in order to determine whether soldier or the claimant Margaret had been previously married, and whether they were competent to marry; also, whether a Committee was ever appointed for Margaret in this jurisdiction; and whether Margaret ever prosecuted a suit for divorce against the soldier.

On making my initial report in this case, I set forth in the summary that I had made a careful search of the indices of both Courts No. 1 and No. 2 of Baltimore, covering the period from 1885 to date, and had found no reference to the Chambers divorce case other than that covered by the copy of the record appearing as an exhibit in my report. Every title of Chambers was then carefully examined, and nowhere did the name of Margaret Chambers appear. The divorce suits of both Margaret and George would have appeared under the title of Chambers. The court record indices for Baltimore are very complete, and the alphabetical subdivisions of titles have been arranged to facilitate rapid and accurate search. So that there is no likelihood that a suit filed by Margaret would have been overlooked.