

ROOM 17 CUSTOM HOUSE, 1  
BALTIMORE, MD.

March 11th, 1912.

The Commissioner of Pensions,

Sir:

The claim, Wid. Orig. No. 955,385 of Eliza J. Nicholson for pension as th<sup>e</sup> widow of Benjamin Nicholson, late of Co. E, 30th U.S.C.Vol.Inf., was referred for special examination to determine whether claimant is the soldier's legal widow.

The usual formal notice was given the claimant, and her rights and privileges explained to her. She was present during the taking of the testimony.

Claimant is a quiet, intelligent, and decent old colored woman of fairly good standing, and told a straight story of her life. She admitted having had a child by one John Jackson, a negro, when a girl, but denies marriage to him, and her denial is borne out by the only witnesses available on that point. Her non-divorce from soldier is established by a certificate from the records already in the brief jacket, and that point is also touched upon in the testimony taken. The children of the soldier by a former marriage testify as to their father's marital history, and establish the fact of death of former wives. Their mother died before death records were kept in the city of Baltimore.

I recommend reference of papers to Chief of Board of Review for consideration.

Very respectfully,

L. S. Perkins

Special Examiner.

P.S. The claimant and her witnesses are all negroes of the better class, and impressed me favorably by their appearance and manner of testifying.

L.S.P.  
Spl-Exr.