

3-1876

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Baltimore Md, August 14, 1919

The Commissioner of Pensions.

Sir:

I have the honor to return the letter of the Law Clerk, dated July 3, 1919, relative to claim No 325,892 Mary M. Bowen, widow of James E. Bowen, Co I 7 U S C Inf, and to report that I have ascertained by careful inquiry at Turners Station Md where pensioner resides that she has not remarried since soldier's death or violated the provisions of the Act of August 7, 1882 and that the charges brought against her by William H. Reddick are false.

Upon the receipt of this case I wrote to W. H. Reddick and requested to be informed as to the place of his residence and where he was employed, etc, as I would call upon him at an early date, and Reddick, without answering my letter, called at the Custom House in Baltimore to see me and stated that he desired his connection with this matter kept a secret and I took his deposition as his allegations against pensioner's moral character seem to indicate a violation of the Act but when I went to Turners Station I soon learned that Reddick had sworn falsely regarding the relations of pensioner and George W. Williams as no person I interviewed seemed to think that there is a criminal intimacy existing between them and Williams has never been seen eating at her table or frequenting her premises under suspicious circumstances and pensioner does not cook his meals. Pensioner lives in three rooms with her mother Ellen Kell and Williams lives alone in a back room of the same house which has no connecting door or window with pensioner's rooms and a close inspection of the rooms occupied by pensioner failed to show any of Williams' personal effects or signs that he lived to any extent with pensioner and her mother, and the latter seemed to be a straightforward old woman and truthful in this matter and she seemed considerably astonished at my inquiries and denied the

4