

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF PENSIONS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Room 17 Custom House  
Baltimore Md, February 28, 1922

The Commissioner of Pensions.

Sir:

I have the honor to return the papers in claim No 1177807 Annie M. Heath, widow of Jacob Heath, Co C 19 U S C Inf, and to submit my report thereon. This claim was referred to the S E Division to determine legal widowhood, and it was taken up after the usual notice to the applicant with an explanation of her privileges during the examination all of which were freely waived. The evidence was read to claimant.

Claimant is of fair repute and seemed truthful in testifying. She has not remarried since soldier's death or forfeited title by misconduct, and careful inquiry was made on the latter point. Claimant lives on one of the most respectable streets in the colored section of Baltimore in a house luxuriously furnished, and soldier was a thrifty shoe maker and sometimes sold fresh vegetables in the streets of Baltimore. I have failed to learn of but three prior marriages of soldier and believe the evidence filed as to that phase of the case is correct. And it seems probable that claimant was never united to her former consort Charles R. Dailey by ceremony or with license. Dailey seemed to be disinterested and truthful in testifying. I have known of cases in Baltimore where colored people forty or fifty years ago went through a marriage ceremony with a minister without a license from the clerk of the common pleas court yet it cannot be shown to have occurred in the case of claimant and Dailey.

William Hall I consider to be a truthful old darkey and his motives the best in calling my attention to this claim in September 1921 but it looks as if he was mistaken and his information based on the gossip of men at the Bethel M E Church in Baltimore of which soldier was a member.