

Baltimore, Md. Feb. 25, 1898.

Sir:

I have the honor to return herewith the papers in the claims of Matthews and Olga Ross, controlling witnesses, claiming priority on account of the service of Joseph Ross, H. 30 U. S. A. Regt., Nos. 604,737, and 659,012. The claims were referred for special examination to determine which was the legal holder, and the date of birth of the minor children, and came to me for initial examination.

The certificates were properly received and advised as to their right. First saw Matthews, and as will appear by his statement herewith, she distinguishes her claim to priority, and claims her application with them. She is fully aware that she is not entitled, and I have no further attention to her claim during the examination.

The testimony herewith was all read to Olga before her final statement was taken. The same notice of further examination.

It appears to be doubtful and whether it appears from the testimony herewith.