

3-1876

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Baltimore Md, Dec 27, 1915.

Hon Commissioner of Pensions,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to return the papers in claim No 1,013,895 Lavinia Bennett, widow of Robert Bennett, Co D 7 U.S.C. Inf, and to submit my report thereon. This claim was referred to the S.E. Division to determine legal widowhood, and taken up after the usual notice to claimant and explanation of privileges, claimant being present when several witnesses testified at Cambridge and heard the remainder of the evidence taken there read before giving her final statement, waiving notice of the examination at Baltimore.

Claimant is of slightly better reputation than the average of her race in Cambridge Md and for that reason I have rated her as good. The witnesses showed no undue bias in her behalf.

A transcript of the records of Bayview Asylum reached the case before it came to the field, as I found it among the loose papers, and I have attached it to this report. I went to Bayview and personally searched their records for additional information regarding claimants former husband William Williams who died therein, and found the following: "William Williams, residence Baltimore, age 44 years, habits temp, occupation laborer, admitted June 28, 1881, died July 5, 1881, insane, B (said to mean black-W.H.S. Spl Exm.) notify Abraham Wagner 13 Saratoga Street." Williams served in the 2 U.S. Col Cav under the name of George Burk, and probably in Co M. I also searched death records at Baltimore but failed to find his name, Bayview Asylum not being within the corporate limits of Baltimore, though a city institution, and the records did not at that period show deaths which incurred therein, as at present, the practice having been changed so the custodian of the said records informed ^{me} Public death records were not kept in Dor-