

## NEIGHBORS AFFIDAVIT.

For the testimony of EMPLOYERS or NEAR NEIGHBORS of soldier (other than relatives,) who have known him before his enlistment, or since his discharge and return from the army.

State of Maryland County of Washington, ss:

In the matter of the application for pension of Matilda Cole widow of Joseph Cole, died, late Co F 2 USC Inf - No 561,388

ON THIS 18th day of November A. D., one thousand eight hundred and Ninety two, personally appeared before me, a Clerk Circuit Court in and for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer oaths Jacob F.

Wheaton aged 53 years, a resident of Hagerstown

in the County of Washington and State of Maryland

whose Post Office address is Hagerstown Md. and Louisa

Gaskins aged 59 years, a resident of Hagerstown

in the County of Washington and State of Maryland

whose Post Office address is Hagerstown Maryland

well known to me to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who being duly sworn declare in

relation to the aforesaid case as follows: That we have been well and personally acquainted

with Matilda Cole widow of Joseph Cole for 40 years, and 50

years respectively, and that we were also very well acquainted

with her deceased husband, Joseph Cole. we

both remember when they were married. we were

present and saw them married. They were

married in May, 1857, by the Rev. Thomas Henry

in the house of Mrs Harriet Lyggett on North Jonathan

street, Hagerstown, Maryland. Rev Thomas

Henry was the pastor of the Bethel Church, of

Hagerstown, Maryland, and he is long since

dead. Neither the soldier, Joseph Cole nor

Matilda Cole, were previously married before

their marriage above mentioned. They have no

children or children under the age of sixteen years.

Neither the said Joseph Cole, the soldier,

nor the said Matilda Cole, were at any

time slaves, but were free persons.

#### Instructions—Read Carefully.

The witnesses must state:  
1st. Their respective ages and occupation; the length of time they have known the soldier, and in what year or years of the said period they have employed, worked with or for him, or lived in the same neighborhood with him, and how near to him.

2d. If they knew him before his enlistment, what his physical condition was at that time, that he was then sound and free from disability, and especially free from the diseases for which he claims pension.

3d. If they have employed or worked with him since his return from the army, they should state where it was, and at what business, or if they have known him as neighbors only they should state about what distance from him they lived; how frequently, on an average, each week, month, or year, they saw him and conversed with him, and how intimate they were with him during this time, and from what disease or disability he has suffered during all the time they employed him, worked with him, or lived near him, and how severely; whether at any time during this period he was obliged to stop work, was confined to his bed or house, or was wholly unable to do any manual labor because of his alleged disabilities, and give dates as near as recollected when such attacks occurred, how long they lasted, and how severe they were. In this connection, if the witnesses have been his employers, or have worked with or for him, they should state about what proportion of a sound able-bodied man's work he was able to do—whether  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , or as the case may have been; what his actual earnings were, and whether or not the wages paid him were less in amount, and how much less on account of his inability to labor, than were paid to others physically sound, and doing the same kind of work.

They should also state how they are able to say what his disabilities have been and are now, and they should describe fully and clearly the symptoms as they appear to them in his case; in fact, describe his physical condition fully during each year of their acquaintance with him.

neither; neither; no minor.  
not slaves.