

LAW DIVISION

3-1865

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

W O 1134289

Annie E. Wilson

as wid of

James Wilson

Co H 7 U S C Inf

(W O 1165252

(Agnes Wilson

(Contesting wid

December 20, 1921.

Marriage

District of Columbia

and

Maryland

The Chief of the
Board of Review

Sir:

Herewith are returned the papers in the claim above designated, which were referred to this division for an opinion as to whether the claimant Agnes can be accepted as the legal widow of the soldier.

The soldier died December 5, 1918. Annie E. Wilson filed a claim for pension as his widow January 14, 1919, alleging that she was married to him at Baltimore, Md., May 6, 1880. Agnes filed a claim October 29, 1920, alleging that she was married to him in this city in the year 1873.

The evidence filed in connection with that obtained by special examination shows that while there was no record of the alleged marriage of the soldier to Agnes, there is a record of the issuance of a license therefor on December 13, 1870, and two reputable persons have testified that they were present at and eye-witnesses of the marriage ceremony. There can be no question as to the fact of the marriage, or as to its validity, the evidence showing that neither of the contracting parties had been married before. They lived together only a few months. The claimant says he put her out of the house and took another woman in her place. There is other evidence to show that he was ill-tempered and disagreeable, and very promiscuous in his relations with other women. After his separation from Agnes, he lived with one Sallie Curtis for a time and had children by two other women, but so far as known was not married again until May 6, 1880, when he married the claimant Annie at Baltimore, Md. The record of this marriage gives the name of the bride as Agnes Mason