

3-446.

DEPOSITION *L*Case of *Eliza Ross*, No. *659.012*

On this *26* day of *Feb.*, 1898, at
Bowie, county of *Prince George*
 State of *Md.*, before me, *N. N. Hill*, a
 special examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, personally appeared

Maria Pratt *colt*, who, being by me first duly sworn to
 answer truly all interrogatories propounded to her during this special
 examination of aforesaid claim for pension, deposes and says: That her
 age is *52* years; post-office address, *As above*
 ; occupation, *widow*

Joseph Ross was my brother-in-law. He married
 my sister *Ellen Tyler* as his first wife. They were
 married over near *Savannah* river. I think I was 9 or 10
 years of age when that marriage took place. They
 were married at some church over there but I have
 forgotten the name of it. I have also forgotten the
 name of the preacher who married them. I
 remember *Leason Johnson*, a colored preacher, but
 cannot recall whether he married them or not. He (Joseph)
 was a slave of *Stephen Beard*. I think *Stephen*
Beard was above them and gave his consent to
 the marriage. They lived up there a few years
 then moved to *Annapolis*. They separated there in
Annapolis after some years. They had four children
 - three are living. I do not know the cause of their
 separation or just the date. *Ellen* lived some
 years after they separated. He died on the 6 of Nov.
 6 years ago. He married *Eliza Bush*, but I do
 not know her - never saw her. I do not know whether
 she was ever before married.

I always heard that *Joseph Ross* and *Ellen* were
 married by ceremony and that the marriage was
 legal in those days and they lived together a good
 many years and raised a family, and were looked
 upon by their friends and acquaintances as
 husband and wife. They were never divorced.

I have understood your questions and my