

3-446.

DEPOSITION ECase of Hester A Bowman, No. 358.469

On this 26 day of May, 1899, at
Hagerstown, county of Washington
 State of Md, before me, W E Clapp, a
 special examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, personally appeared John
W Coakley, who, being by me first duly sworn to
 answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this special
 examination of aforesaid claim for pension, deposes and says:

I am 68 years of age; my post-office address is Hagerstown
Md. I have no occupation at present.
 I formerly lived in Shepherdstown
W Va up to eight years ago. I knew
 an old colored woman there who
 lived in the same neighborhood with
 me named Hester Bowman. She
 is now the widow of an old colored
 preacher, named Jeffries Bowman.
 She has always been considered a
 very respectable old woman. After
 her husband's death she owned the
 house she lived in, and the lot
 surrounding it worth altogether I
 suppose about \$500. Not more. She
 had no means of support. I knew
 of except what she got going out
 nursing, and taking in washing.
 I don't know whether she was married
 to any person other than Bowman
 and I only know that she was married
 to him, by his telling me so. They
 had several children.

Q Did you ever meet a son of her's
 by a prior marriage?

A I know that a tall white man
 used to come to Shepherdstown to
 visit her named George I think
 who she claimed was her son, but