

Baltimore, Md. Dec. 23, 1899.

Sir:

I have the honor to return herewith the papers in the claim of Hester A. Bowman, of Shepherdstown, West. Va. mother of Geo. W. Harris, late Co. C. 4 U.S.C. Lt. #358469.

The claim was referred for special examination to determine relationship; date of death of the soldier's wife; date of claimant's marriage to Bowman; whether the soldier left any child or children surviving, and the soldier's physical condition from discharge to death, and came to me for further examination, notice waived. The soldier lived and died in this city.

Witnesses are all colored, and some of them careless and slovenly in giving testimony, and the testimony is therefore somewhat contradictory, especially relative to the soldier's physical condition from discharge to death.

2 I have not, up to this time, been able to locate James Lee, W. H. Butler and Peter Summers, all of whom testified in the case; nor have