

DEPOSITION *RF*Case of LAVINIA BENNETT, No. 1,013,895On this 23 day of DECEMBER, 1915, atCAMBRIDGE, county of DORCHESTERState of MARYLAND, before me, W. H. STOVALL

a Special Examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, personally appeared GEORGE W. BELL, 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:

1 I am 69 years old, occupation Janitor, and post office address
2 307 High St, Cambridge Md, and I have lived in Dorchester^{Co} all of
3 my life and in this town thirty five years. I have known Lavinia
4 Bennett about forty years, her home being here and in Baltimore
5 during this period, and she has had only one husband to my knowl-
6 edge and that was Robert Bennett of Cambridge who lived with her
7 as her husband for years and years and died at her house, and they
8 were never divorced. I dont know anything about a husband she
9 might have had in Baltimore. Robert Bennett is the only man Lavinia
10 has had in Dorchester County is what I am testifying to. I may
11 have seen her when she was down from Baltimore on visits but never
12 in that city. I have known Lavinia close on to forty years but am
13 not able to give the exact year our acquaintance began, it was before
14 I moved into town from Church Creek thirty five years ago.
15 I knew Robert Bennett from in time of the Civil War. I saw him
16 before he joined the army as he was the slave of old man Billy
17 Goldsborough of Horns Point while I belonged to Mr James Gore of
18 Salem Md, eighteen miles from Bennetts place. I knew of no wife
19 Robert Bennett may have had prior to Lydie Bennett who died down
20 the road from me a mile and I was one of her pall bearers, the date
21 of her death I am wholly unable to give and there is nothing in my
22 memory to fix the time by, but I can say this: Lydie had been dead
23 quite a while when Bennett was married to Lavinia Williams. Ben-
24 nett had no wife or mistress in slavery, he had none after the war
25 until he married Lydie Bennett. He was the father of no children
26 to my knowledge except the two Lydie Bennett had by him. Bennett
27 did not remarry between the death of Lydie Bennett and his marriage