

3-1876

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## BUREAU OF PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Room 17 Custom House  
Baltimore Md, June 27, 1921

The Commissioner of Pensions.

Sir:

I have the honor to return the papers in claim No 1165252 Agnes Wilson, widow of James Wilson, Co H 7 U S C Inf, and to submit my report thereon. The papers in contesting claim No 1134289, Annie E. Wilson, are also returned herewith - and these claims were referred to the S E Division to determine which of the claimants is soldiers legal widow. Annie E. Wilson died in an insane hospital in Anne Arundel county in November 1920.

The claimant Agnes Wilson was served with the usual notice and her privileges during the investigation fully explained and same were freely waived. She is of fair repute at present and seemed truthful, and has not attempted to marry since her separation from soldier though two illegitimate children were born to her in Baltimore some years ago. She has not forfeited title by misconduct since soldiers death. This claimant became separated from soldier nearly fifty years ago and been known by her maiden name of Agnes Mason since the separation and in all probability has given no thought to the soldier on his remote farm in Calvert county until the pension be commenced to buz in her bonnet. Whether she was ceremonially married to soldier will have to be determined in Washington D C.

Soldier cohabited with numerous women during the period he was living apart from Agnes but seems to have gone through the marriage ceremony with only one - claimant Annie E. Wilson - and the use of the name of the former when a license was procured in Baltimore with which to marry Annie E seems to have been a cunning trick on the part of soldier or some other person who got the license for him (possibly with the idea of a defense against the charge of bigamy if prosecuted).