

as the only way to definitely settle the question is to ascertain if Bates did have a legal, lawful wife at the date of his marriage to claimant, as I am certain they were never divorced.

I think further effort to obtain the testimony of Thomas Talbot useless, and if obtained it would be of no benefit.

I know of no further testimony here that is material.

Very respectfully,

*W. H. Harshbarger*

Special Examiner.