

DEPOSITION *RJ*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<sup>Co</sup> 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