

## DEPOSITION

Case of LAVINIA BENNETT, No. 1,013,895

On this 23 day of DECEMBER, 1915, at

CAMBRIDGE, county of DORCHESTER

State of MARYLAND, before me, W. H. STOVALL

a Special Examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, personally appeared MATILDA BOULDEN, who, being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to her during this special examination of aforesaid claim for pension, deposes and says:

1 I am fully 75 years old, was a widow when the war started, and my  
 2 post office address is 229 High St. Cambridge Md. Am the wife  
 3 of John Boulden, farmer, and have lived in Cambridge all my life,  
 4 and knew Robert Bennett in slavery as he belonged to William T.  
 5 Geldsborough of this town and I to his relative John C. Henry.  
 6 I know that Bennett was married but twice in his life, knew Bennett  
 7 from his boy days. His first wife was Lydie Bennett who died on  
 8 the Horns Point road near this town but I am unable to fix the  
 9 date of her death, she had been dead several years before his next  
 10 marriage which was to Lavinia Williams of Baltimore who is this  
 11 applicant for pension, and Lavinia and Robert were never divorced  
 12 or separated I am positive. I was at the burial of Lydie Bennett  
 13 and helped to lay her out, I attended her at the birth of her chil-  
 14 dren by Mr Bennett both of whom are dead. Robert Bennett has had  
 15 no other children, he has not lived with any other woman in the  
 16 marriage relation, he was quite young when he went to the war.  
 17 Well as to Lavinia Bennett I have known her since some time after  
 18 her first marriage, and she has been but twice married since our  
 19 acquaintance began. I saw her former husband Williams half a  
 20 dozen times probably, it happened here and in Baltimore, and knew  
 21 of his death but was not present as it occurred in Baltimore, and  
 22 I have no idea as to the date of his death. Lavinia wrote me of  
 23 his death. Williams was dead at the time of her marriage to Mr  
 24 Bennett I have no doubt, he had been dead quite a while then.  
 25 Lavinia Bennett never had a child in her life. She has not lived  
 26 with any fellow without being married to him since I have known  
 27 her. I believe she has been respectable all of her days. I am