

were recognized by their respective owners as man and wife from a period of several years before the war until their death - there being no period of separation except while soldier was in the service.

I recommend that the papers be referred to the Chief of the Board of Review for consideration.

Very respectfully
R. P. Fletcher
Spl 4²

P.S.

I will add that I called at the Clerk's office at the County seat but was told there was no record of marriage of soldier and claimant. My experience has been that no record of marriage in the Eastern Shore Counties of Maryland of colored people exists prior to 1865 - except in cases of "Free Negroes" and then the record merely shows license issued.

R. P. F.