

ROOM 17 CUSTOM HOUSE,
BALTIMORE, MD.

December 21, 1910.

The Commissioner of Pensions,

Sir:

The claim, Min. Orig. No. 921,659 of Sallie Brown for pension as guardian of the minor children of George Preston, late of Co. F, 30th U.S.C.Inf., was referred for special examination to determine the date of birth of said minor children; also, the question as to prior marriage of soldier, and, incidentally, the correct name of the guardian.

I called upon the claimant, gave her the usual formal notice of special examination, explained to her what her rights were in the premises and took her statement as to what she knew upon the points at issue, which was of but little value.

Eliza White, the midwife who attended the mother of minors at their birth, proved to be a rather intelligent witness for one of her class, but her daughter-in-law, Mary Matthews, gave a much more lucid and convincing statement, which I deem worthy of full confidence in the case.

According to the evidence adduced herewith, I believe the following dates of birth may be accepted as correct:

Ida Preston, now an inmate of the Industrial Home for Colored Girls at Melvale, Baltimore Co., Md., was born on March 4th, 1894.

Daniel Preston, now an inmate of the Home for Friendless Colored Children at No. 1624 Druid Hill ave, Baltimore, Md., was born on March 12th, 1896. I saw this boy, and he looks to be fully one year older than the record, March 12, 1897, makes him to be.

Della Preston, now in the care of the guardian at Oella, Baltimore Co., Md., whose post-office address is Ellicott City, Howard Co., Md., R.F.D.No. 3, born on May 10th, 1902. I saw this child. She is rather small to be eight years of age, but the date of her birth is well established by the evidence.

I did not go out to Melvale to see the girl Ida, but telephoned out there this morning, and was assured by the matron of the institution that she (Ida) was alive and well.

The fact and dates of death of the two other children, Dora and Reba, are fully covered by the evidence in the case, and I did not deem it necessary to obtain certificates of the same from the