

Edwin Wright Widow Pension

Deposition of Lavinia S. Wright

Deposition 4A

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

to avenge his death; in a an unnatural way [next word crossed out] I could could [sic] tell when his fits of lunacy [sic] were coming on from his being despondent; He commonly talks to me just before having a spell and attempting his life, in a more tender moving and with seemingly more solicitude for my welfare [sic] than usual and the night before he died, I conceived the idea that he was going to have one of those spells and attempt his life and I called attention to the fact seeing it in the light I did I was at the time bedfast but noticed the usual symptoms and I saw him pass through the house to the back porch the next day with a white paper in his hand and I knew it was poison and I called to those in the house but he had taken the powder before they reached him and died three hours afterward was unable to rescue him on account of being sick & prostrate in my bed.

My said husband never received any injury prior to during or subsequent to his service except he was slightly wounded by a ball in one leg, flesh wound, very slight and the he had a shock from a canon shot from the enemy while on scout [crossed out] foraging expedition which knocked him and his horse both down and he come into camp hatless. I was in camp at the time he came into camp and I inquired for his hat & he told me of his adventure I do not remember whether he did or did not complain of his head at that time. That was some time between the date of the battle of stone river [sic] and the date of his Resignation. Can not fix the date

Q in a statement filed with the papers of your claim you set forth the facts that you are afflicted so as to be unable to earn a lively hood by labor, have no one to rely upon for support and your property is incumbered [sic] and asking that your claim be made official.

Will you please state the amount of the incumbrancion [sic] your home and its nature and the amt of your income from all sources and value of your property both

Lavinia S. Wright

Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of Jan 1888, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing

C.M. Sallee

Special Examiner

Deposition of Allen T. Barnes M.D.

Deposition A

Case of Lavinia S. Wright No. 348661

On this 21 day of January, 1888 at Bloomington, County of McLean State of Illinois, before me, Madison Owen, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared Allen T. Barnes M.D., who, being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says: My name is Allen T. Barnes – my age is 55 years, Occupation a Practicing Physician, P.O. Address Bloomington McLean Co. Ill. I have been engaged in the practice of medicine about 35 years. I graduated at the Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville Kentucky in 1855. I practiced my profession in Centraillia Ill. from about 1865 to 1873.

Q Were you acquainted at or near Centralia Ill. with one Edward M Wright an Ex Soldier?

A Yes sir, I have treated him professionally. I was one of his family physicians, I treated him off and on up to the time of his death. I was not with him when he died.

Q Please describe the ailments for which you treated soldier together with the symptoms observed by you during your acquaintance with him.

A It was been a good while ago but my recollection now is that I treated him for some trouble of the head, I was his physician up to the time of his first attempt to commit suicide and treated him afterward up to the time of his successful attempt to take his own life. I remember no particulars of his ailments, except that I was fearful that his mind was not just right. I was with him at one time after he had taken enormous dose of opium. I remained with him one entire night and was with him off and on for a day or two until he recovered from it. I succeeded in saving him. I administered sulphate [sic] of zinc to him in place of water as he supposed the result was that he threw up large quantities of undissolved opium. Some time after that I was sent for to visit him when in the country. They got Dr Marshall and on my return I called to see him but he was already dead.

Q Was any post mortem examination held after the death of soldier concerning cause?

A No I think not

Q Can you give any of the symptoms observed by you during the treatment of soldier?

A He complained to me some of his head which is about all that I recollect. He belonged to the artillery branch of the service and he thought that the effects of heavy firing may have had some effect on his head. He thought it had injured him in that way. My opinion is based upon what soldier told me and I think it probable that such may have been the case.

Q Was there any predisposition to family – hereditary in soldier's family?

A I know only what I have heard, I was personally acquainted with but one sister of the soldier's, I have heard that some of the family had committed suicide before him but do not now remember the source.

Q In what manner did soldier eventually end his life?

A I understand it was by morphine

Q Did soldier have any domestic or financial troubles which would have been likely to have prompted him to suicide?

A he had had financial troubles Drank intoxically [sic] to excess but he still complained of being injured in the head by his service. I do not think he had any domestic troubles. I think his death occurred some time in 1869.

I am of no kin to claimant and am not interested in the result of this claim. May say in regard to the domestic affairs of soldier that I think they were very pleasant. His wife seemingly to be very much devoted to him. That is about all that I know of his case.
Q Do you thoroughly understand and comprehend the questions asked you during this examination and have your answers thereto been correctly

General Affidavit by Harriett Saques

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

In the matter of the claim of Mrs. E. M. Wright I, Harriet M. Saques, a resident of Ottawa in the County of LaSalle, State of Illinois on oath depose and say that I was well acquainted with Edward M. Wright, deceased, late First Lieut. Battery "C" 1st Ills. Vol. Art. That his first wife was a full sister of this affiant, that she died in Ottawa, Illinois, April 19th 1860, leaving her surviving one infant son, who died June 27th 1860 aged a little over two months, that she left no other children or descendants of declared children, and that I was personally present at the death and burial of both of the above mentioned persons.

I have no interest whatever in this claim and am not related to the claimant [illegible]

Harriet M. Saques 1888

Two Witnesses when signed by mark

Michael Hanifer

S. R. Blanchard

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of June 1887 at Ottawa in the county of LaSalle State of Illinois. I certify that I am disinterested, that the affiant is to me well known, and worthy of full credit as a witness and that the contents of the above affidavit were made known to her before execution.

S.R. Blanchard

Notary Public

Note – This should be sworn to before a Clerk of Court, Notary Public, or Justice of the Peace. If before Justice or Notary, the Clerk of County must add his certificate of character hereon and not on a separate slip of paper unless said Justice or Notary already has a certificate on file in the Pension Office showing official capacity. If such be the case he must say so in his Jarat.

General Affidavit of Matilda Nells

General Affidavit

State of Illinois

County of Lasalle

In the matter of Mrs. E M Wright – Widow of Edward M Wright – late first Lieut Co. C 1st Regt Ill Light Art

Personally came before me, a Notary Public in and for aforesaid County and State, Matilda Nells, aged 64 years and [blank] aged [blank] years citizen of the Town of Ottawa, County of Lasalle, State of Illinois, well known to me to be reputable and

entitled to credit, and who being duly sworn, declare in relation to aforesaid case, as follows:

That she was well and intimately acquainted with Mariah A Brown who married Edward M Wright the aforesaid Soldier and was his first wife, and that there was born into them from this union on child which died at the age of about two months, and that Mariah A Brown the aforesaid soldiers first wife is deceased that she died April 19th 1860 in the City of Ottawa County of Lasalle, State of Illinois affiant was personally present when said Mariah Brown died said soldiers first wife died and testifies from personal knowledge and that affiant attended the funeral of the aforesaid Mariah A Brown, said soldiers first wife.

She further declare that she has no interest in said case, and is not concerned in its prosecution.

1

2

Signature of Affiants Matilda Mills

Note – In the execution of papers and evidence, whenever a person or witness signs by mark (1) two persons who [page torn] must attest the signature by signing their names opposite.

The official before whom papers are executed is not a competent witness to a mark.

Deposition of Lavinia S. Wright Exhibit "A"

Claimants Deposition Exhibit "A"

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 3rd day of Jany, 1888, at Centralia, County of Marion State of Ills, before me, C. M. Sallee, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared Lavinia S. Wright, who being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to his dating this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and say: My age is 62, I am a housekeeper and reside in Centralia Marion County Ills. I am the widow of Edward M. Wright who was 1st Lieut in Co. "C" 1st Regt ill Lt Arty in the late war, I never having Remarried since my said husbands death, which occurred Sept 9, 1869 at Centralia Ills in this house where I now reside

I claim a pension on account of the fact that he died of suicidal insanity origininating [sic] in the military service of the United States and in the line of his duty. He was in command of the battery at the battle of stone river [sic] Tenn and many of the men of his battery was captured & killed and wounded, forty five in number. The Capt Houghtling was in command the first day of the battle and he was wounded in the early part of the engagement and the command then devolved upon my husband during the remainder of the engagement. The command of the Battery had landed upon him in several lighter engagements and he always become excited . I saw my husband some three perhaps all of four weeks after the battle of stone river [sic]. He was with the command in camp at Murfreesboro Tenn & was the commanding officer at that time and he was destitute of an overcoat. I was selected and sent to Cairo Ills at the beginning of the war about the 19th April 61, by the Presbyterian Church at Chicago as nurse of the military hospital and at the time of the battle of stone river I was at home in Chicago on

leave to recuperate my health & rest and I hearing of the battle started at once to the command. And when I reached the camp his health was good and he always enjoyed good health, but he looked fatigued and worn. I noticed nothing at that time indicating that there was any thing wrong with his mind. I think it was in two or three weeks after I reached him he waked up during the night and imaged that he was commanding a brigade and sought to kill me to keep me out of the engagement. It was simply a threat to kill me for that purpose but did not put his hands on me. He was very much excited and nervous

Lavinia S Wright
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made know to deponent before signing

C M Sallee
Special Examiner

Deposition 4A of Lavinia Wright

Deposition 4A

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

and reached out through the camp rallying the forces and they had to put a guard around the tent that night until morning and the next morning he was quiet. He made no attempt on his own life that night but he made several attempts to take his own life after the war. In the month of April 1864, I think it was, he went on a survey on the Atchison & Pikes Peak R.R. and returned in about two months I think, and said his mind was not cleared he was emaciated and all broke down in the health and said he had been poisoned but I was afterwards convinced that he had attempted to poison himself. I saw him take poison twice in his house. The first time crude opium & I wrested about half of it from him before he took it. He was at the pump and had let off & I snatched the remainder from him. The next time was morphine. The first time he took poison was after his return from the surveying expedition. Dr. A. T. Barnes now of Bloomington Ills was the first physician who treated my husband for insanity. Dr. D.H. McCord, now dead, was my husbands family physician before Dr Barnes treated my husband but McCord never treated my husband for any sickness.

Q Did your husband have any spell in the service except the one you have described?

Ans No not to my knowledge. I learned from Capt Jack of my husbands actions in the battle and I learned that my husband in the said battle ordered his men to retreat and save themselves and they did retreat and he remained until the horse was shot from under him and then attempted to cut the saddle from his horse. The men spoke of his daring and wrecklessness [sic] on that occasion. The peculiarity of his mania was that his violence and attempts to do himself personal injury was of very short duration. He was despondent at times not all the time. Those attacks come on him when it seemed

to me there was the least cause for it. He never attempted violence violence [sic] on any one except himself only one night when he

Lavinia S Wright
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made know to deponent before signing

C M Sallee
Special Examiner

Deposition H of Harley S. Sherwood

Deposition H

Case of Lavania S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 4th day of Jan 1888, at Centralia, County of Marion State of Ills, before me, C.M. Sallee, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared Harley S. Sherwood, who being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says: my age is 56 18 Inst. Occupation I trade in implements & carriage P.O. Centralia Ills. I was enlisted a private in Co. "C" 1st Ills Lt Artillery and was discharged as Q.M. Sergt. I did not know Lieut Edward M Wright prior to his enlistment.

Q Did he at any time during his service received an injury or have any sickness?

Ans I dont know of him ever being sick. I joined the Co. 1st March 1862 and then become acquainted with Lieut Wright the C. had been organized nearly a year. I was taken prisoner on the 1st day of Jany 1863, at the battle of stone river [sic] in the afternoon, Lieut Wright was in command of the battery that day the bigger portion of the day. He was still in command when I was captured. I saw him during the battle several times.

Q Did he receive any injury or shock during that battle?

Ans I dont [sic] know that he did

Q Did he conduct the movements of the battery intelligently & calmly?

Ans I think he was the best officer

Deposition 4A continued

Reproduced at National Archives

Deposition 4A

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

attempted his life with a revolver I wrested it from him. I think he intended violence to me as well as to himself at that time. My husband manifested no evidence of insanity before the battle of stone river [sic] that I ever knew or heard of formed his acquaintance at Cairo Ills while he was in the three months service and we were married on the 30 June 1862. I had not been married previous to my marriage with Mr Wright. My husband had been previously married to Maria Brown Ottawa LaSalle Co. Ills who died

previous to his and my intermarriage and I furnished two affidavits to the fact and date of her death and also as to the death of the only child. He was only married the one time previous to my marriage and left no child at his death surviving him.

Q At the time your husband came home after his resignation what was the state of his mind and health?

Ans His health was good and he was unsettled and apparently unhappy and was anxious to go back to the army, and the fact that he was superceded [sic] by a junior officer seemed to affect him. He never referred to it often but when he did it was with marked feeling and indignation. I advised him to resing [sic] on account of his threat to destroy himself. After a Junior officer was recommend to an appointment to supercede [sic] my husband he tented his resignation to Col. Bradley who commanded the 3rd Brig 3rd Div Sherdian's [sic] 14 or 20 Army Corps [Lt Col 51st Ills is written in the space above this last line] and there was some delay in accepting his resignation and my husband wrote me that if his resignation was not accepted he would take his own life. He made no statement as to the cause of his intended act, he said he was tired of the service and was going to get out of it, if not in an honorable way in a dishonorable way. That letter was destroyed during my husbands service I saw him several times after the battle of stone river unnaturally excited. He at one time heard of the death of his brother Charly who was in the army of the Potomac and he become very much excited and swore

Lavinia S Wright
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made know to deponent before signing
C.M. Sallee
Special Examiner

Deposition of Washington J. Woodward

Deposition E

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

W. J. Woodward continued was dancing all the way to the grove and back and we had to hold him down. He was talking about the battle stone river & other battles and full of war and was telling what he wanted done with him when he died and telling about the risks he had run in the army and about his bravery. No I don't remember that he referred to the fact that he had been superceded [sic] in the army. He talked a great deal.

No He was not always cheerful he looked melancholy and morose at times. He had spells on him when he would not speak to me.

He told him that if he could go off and live poor & chop wood & go ragged he would be better off. This was his opinion of himself.

Q Di you ever know him to attempt self destruction or threaten it?

Ans I remember one time he took some poison opiate and they were chasing him about the house to keep him awake. I think that was about a year before he died. I was

present and saw them chasing him and working with him and he then said if they did not let him die he would kill himself hereafter. He assigned no reason for wanting to die. I had a conversation once in which he said he had rather cut his own throat. We were talking about some trivial matter but I do not remember what it was. He told me he would rather be enormously rich or worth nothing and said he was going to bit rich or nothing. That was just after he had run through all his property. I never made an affidavit in this claim. I am not related to claimant and in no way interested in this claim.

X examined

In the trade for the lot referred to. I do not believe he knew the state of his own business. He said his business was so "damerededly [sic] mixed" mixed up that he did not know what he was doing. I did not think he was trying to take advantage of me: The conversation at the funeral referred to was wild and unreasonable, as wild as his actions

Washington J Woodward
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4 day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made know to deponent before signing

C.M. Sallee
Special Examiner

Deposition 4A of Lavinia Wright continued

Deposition 4A

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

real & personal?

Ans. The incumberance [sic] is seven hundred dollars borrowed from the Building and loan association at Centralia Ills. My house & lot I consider worth \$2000 or \$2500. I realize ten dollars a month from rent of rooms and this is all the income I have from any source. I have not money or cash notes and I am in debt about \$200 borrowed money, which I borrowed to pay the taxes on the property and to pay my installments in the building association it cost about \$200 ever year to do this in order to save my home. My left hand is disable from bone [illegible?], and my right hand is disable from [serloners?] palsy [or pen?] paralysis, which prevents me from sewing, [illegible], or doing any light work such as women follow and my ankles are afflicted with a [dropsical ?] [illegible] around the joints which are muscle swollen and my toes have running sores & owing to my increase of weight to 200 lbs it is with difficult that I walk about. I formly [sic] kept boarders for a living but on account of my affliction I am not able to get around sufficiently well to keep boarders and do not attempt it now. I have no one to look for a support.

Q Do you considers your circumstances are such that your claim should take precedence over others & ordinary claims?

Ans I certainly did or I would not have asked it to be made special.

Q Who was present when you husband died?

Ans Mrs David Blythe Mr Patrick of Carlile Ills Dr E.B. Marshall of Centralia Ills & perhaps others.

Q Is there any church other public record of your husbands death?

Ans I know of none

Q Who was the undertaker?

Ans Mrs Hausler furnished the casket.

Q By whom can you show the state of your husbands mind while in the service?

Ans Capt James S. Jackson of Salem, Ill, officiant [sic], Harley Sherwood of Centralia “ “

Lavinia S Wright

Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made know to deponent before signing

C.M. Sallee

Special Examiner

Deposition 4A

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

Q By whom an you show the state of your husbands mind at the date of his discharge?

Ans I cant think of any one: there were several who are now dead. Mr W I Woodward of Centralia Ills would know the state of his mind when we moved to Centralia about one month after my husbands resignation.

Q Please say by whom you could & desire to show the state of your husbands mind from the date of his discharge?

Ans Mr W I Woodward, Centralia, Ills

Q Do you desire to be present in person or by attorney or both during this special examination of your claim?

Ans Not in person. I would like for Mr. E. L. Stokes of Centralia Ill to be with you while taking testimony in Centralia but not elsewhere

Q Do you thoroughly understand and comprehend the questions asked you and have your answers to them been correctly recorded in this desposition

Ans yes sir

Lavinia S. Wright

Supplemental Deposition 4A

Case of Lavinia S. Wright No 348661

On this 6th day of Jay, 1888 at Centralia, County of Marion State of Ills, before me, C.M. Sallee, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared Clmt Lavinia S. Wright who, being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to h [blank] during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says:

Mrs Wright; regarding yourself as under oath administered at the time your former statement was made will you please state where your husband was from the time he resigned up to the time he moved to Centralia

Ans When he resigned he started for home reached Nashville and heard there was a battle pending at Chattanooga Ten & he went to the fornt and was at Chattanooga &

carried Col Bradley & Maj Johnson of the 22nd Ill ([Illegible] I carried from my husband,) off the battle field, and Maj Johnson told me the same thing. He PO is Hughey Ills and I understand from my husband that he remained with Maj Johnson & Col Bradle caring for them until he left from Chicago they having been wounded as I understand. I joined my husband at Chicago late in Oct 1863 and we come direct from Chicago to Centralia landing here on the first of Nov 1863.

By reference to my bible record of death of my said husband I find that he died no the 10th day of Sept 1869 instead of the 9th as hereto fore stated by me. I did not have the bible record before me but testified from memory and I had the date of my husbands resignation confused with the date of his death.

My recollection is that my husband carried Col Bradley & Maj Johnson off the battle field of Chickamauga and not at Chattanooga.

Lavinia S. Wright
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6 day of Jany 1888, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing.

CM Sallee
Special Examiner

Deposition of Samuel P. Tufts

Deposition D

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 4th day of Jany, 1888 at Centralia, County of Marion State of Ills, before me C.M. Sallee, a Special Examination of the Pension Office, personally appeared Samuel P. Tufts, who being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and say: my age is 61 28 inst I am past master at Centralia Ills I know claimant Mrs Wright and knew her husband Edward M Wright. I formed his acquaintance at Birds Point Mo in the fall of 1861 while he was in the U.S. Service as an officer in a battery known as Houghtalings Battery and said Wright seemed to be a healthy cheerful man at that time and I think was the active officer of the battery at that time. I was 1st Lieut Co "H" an independent Co but part of the 1st Ills [illegible]. The battery & our Co were quartered near each other and we became quite well acquainted with each other. I don't think I saw Lieut Wright after we separated at that point [illegible] service unless it was incidentally. Our whole Co were discharged in July 1862 and I returned to Centralia Ill where I enlisted and I have lived here ever since. I met Lieut Edward Wright soon after they come to Centralia after he came out of the army. I think I met them right away right away after they came here. I boarded in his family come two or three months while my wife was away on a visit, in the spring or summer and I think it was the year succeeding the year he come out of the army. Our families were more or less intimate all the while. While boarding with the family he would have spells and every thing would go wrong and he would become upset, and his actions left the impression on the minds of those

who were acquainted with him that there was something wrong with his mind. I noticed it on him in our intercourse before I boarded with him and very soon after he came from the army. So, I should say that there was nothing in the family regulations of the family [last three words crossed out], that would likely produce such a state of mind. Yes I heard him speak of his army service frequently very soon after his discharge there seemed to be something unpleasant to him connected with his service which caused him to resign. I can not now fix the cause definitely. It was I think something connected with an officer superceding him. It is my impression that he spoke of the matter with feeling and manifested dissatisfaction with it. He never seemed to be the same man after his army service that he was when I knew him at Birds Point in 1861.

S.P. Tufts
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing.

C.M. Sallee
Special Examiner

Deposition D

Case of Lavinia S. Wright No. [blank]

On this Samuel P. Tufts continued his conduct and actions were very different.

Q Did you know of him attempting self destruction or thereafter to at any time while you were boarding in his family or prior threats?

Ans No I think not. I think his attempts of that kind were subsequent to that time. It is rather my impression that he made an attempt on his life the same but after I left his house and that it was not talked of much. It is my dim recollect that he was off from home for two or three days with a view of self destruction and that his family thought he was away on business.

Q Did he have any financial losses that troubled his mind?

Ans Yes almost any thing trouble his mind during those years. He engage in oil speculations in Pa & I understand he made money at that which was I believe shortly after his army service. In almost all of his transactions here he appeared erratic.

Q Did you ever know of claimants husband said Wright attempting suicide or threaten so to do any time if so when?

Ans I know it this way I was called upon to sit up with him and I was with him one night and saw him through one of those spells and no one doubted that he had taken poison. His appearance and conversation would lead one to believe he had taken something. He seemed not to care to live those times. When he had those spells he seemed to want to take his life. I can not fix the year that I was with him at night as stated but it was while he was living where his widow now lives and I think likely D Barnes was his physician.

Q Would you think his state of mind was produced by his financial troubles or from some cause originating in the army or some other cases?

Ans I dont [sic] think it was caused by financial troubles for this reason when he came out of the army he was not well fixed financially and these symptom were there. The trouble in his mind was there before he engaged in financial speculations and I should
S P Tufts
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing.

C.M. Sallee

Deposition D

Case of Lavinia S. Wright No. [blank]

On this Samuel P. Tufts continued: think his financial reverses might be traced to the state of his mind. When he would make a trade his friends would object and advise him not to trade but he would disregard their advise. He made a horse trade while I was boarding with him contrary to the advise of his friends which was a bad trade. I looked upon him from the time he came out of the army as partially of unsound mind

X examined

I mean when I say his mind was partially unsound, that at times his mind appeared to be sound and no evidence of insanity an at times his mind seemed to be deranged and it seemed to grow on him as time passed on. At Birds point when I knew him in 1861 he seemed to be a bright vigorous man both mentally and physically. He was a good drill officer and I think Houghtaling was not and it seems that the fact that he had taken so much pains to drill and organize the command and then to be superceded [sic] caused his intense feeling: It is a notorious fact that said Wright died of poison self administered. I sat up with the body but think I was not present when he died. I can not tix the date of his death.

Re Examined

I thoroughly understand the questions and my answers are correctly recorded here in. I paid pretty close attention to the manner of preparing my answers and I heard them read.

S.P. Tufts

Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing.

C.M. Sallee

Deposition of Washington J. Woodward continued

Deposition E

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 4th day of Jan, 1888 at Centralia, County of Marion State of Ills, before me, C.M. Sallee, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared W.J. Woodward, who being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says: my age is 52, occupation plasterer by trade. My post office address Centralia Ills, I know Mrs Lavinia S. Wright and live near neighbor to her and have since she first moved to Centralia. I was acquainted with her before I was married and I was married in 1864. I also knew her husband Edward M. Wright from the time they moved to Centralia

Q What is the present condition of Mrs Wrights health?

Ans I consider her health poor. She has a great trouble with her feet and has had for several years, so that she cant walk well. She for years could not walk to church: I don't know of her living afflicted with her hands, yet I do know too that years back she made carpets or of late she has complained to my wife that she could not make carpets on account of some trouble with her hands, and had to quit it. I don't think she has any source of income except she owns a home here and I think she rents out some of the rooms. I understand her home is mortgaged. I know of no source of income that she has except her home. I could almost say positively she has none.

Q. What if any thing do you know relative to the state of mind of claimants husband Edward M. Wright during his life time?

Ans I always looked upon him as and would call him a war lunatic he was wild, but he was a smart keen fellow. He had no balance wheel, the least thing would throw him off his balance, prosperity [illegible] I called him a ware lunatic and was so considered by those who knew him best. It was discussed among the people. I remember that I traded him a piano forte for a lot in Centralia & when I came to investigate I found he had no title and I accused him of being off in his mind and he replied that if I had been shot at as close to the head as he had I would be off too that was about 1865 or 1866. It was considered among us folks that his mind was injured in the service. It always has been the impression I remember going to a funeral of a soldier and he

Washington J Woodward
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing.
C.M. Sallee

Deposition of Harley Sherwood

we had.

Q Did you up to the time you were captured perceive any indications that his mind was out of order in any way?

Ans No never did up to that time

Q When did you see Lieut Wright the next time after you were captured?

Ans At Murfreesboro Tenn I think the 1st July 1863, when were exchanged.

Q Was he there apparently in good health and of sound mind?

Ans I thought so, yes sir I never thought of any thing else.

Q Did you at any time during service observe any symptom of his mind being out of order

Ans After we had been moving from different point and while at Bridgeport Ala Lieut Prescott the Jun Lieut was promoted over Lieut Wright IN Sept or Oct 636 I think some time after that, after we had moved toward Atlanta and before the Battle Chickamauga he resigned. After the promotion of Lieut Prescott it worried him very much and it had a great effect over his mind. Between

Harley S Sherwood
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4 day of Jan 1888, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing

C. M. Salle
Special Examiner

Reproduced at National Archives
Deposition H

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

Harley S. Sherwood continued : the time of Lieut Prescotts promotion and Lieut Wrights resignation said Wright acted a little queer and was very excitable and before that he had always been very cool.

Q Did he at any time attempt or threaten to take his own life while in the service?

Ans I dont [sic] remember any thing about that. He never did in my presence. I may have heard of it.

Q Do you remember that Lieut Wrights wife, the claimant herein was with him at camp at any time?

Ans Yes sir I remember when they married near Corinth Miss.

Q Was she with hi a short time after the battle of stone river at Murfreesboro?

Ans I could not tell you for I was not there.

Q Claimant speaks of Lieut Wright arousing from his sleep one night and rushing through camp rallying the troops under an illusive belief that a battle was in the progress and of him being very much excited and of a guard being placed over his tent do you know of any such an incident while you were with the command?

Ans I may have heard of it but was not present when such a thing took place. I was with the command when Lieut Wright resigned. He was wild with excitement at the least thing he would get turned over he did not act rational. I was there Q.M. Sergt & it was my business to take care of the casons and Lieut Wright would rush back to where the casons were and act very strange and give orders and we would laugh at him. He would want the wagons ahead of the casons, this was a short time before he left the command while on the march toward Chicamauga he was away from the command several days before I knew he had resigned. Capt Prescott was in command before Wright resigned and Wright could not stand to be command by Prescott. I think Prescott was in command from the time we left Bridgeport. The first time

Harley S Sherwood
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4 day of Jan 1888, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing

C. M. Salle
Special Examiner

Deposition H

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

Harley S. Sherwood continued I saw Lieut Wright after he left the command was here in Centralia Ills when I came home from the army in April 1865.

Q Was he at that time well physically and sane apparently?

Ans He seemed physically well. There were times Wright had wild spells and visionary in speculation and lost his money in speculation.

Q Did his actions and conduct portray any want of sanity if so please state what symptoms you observed to indicate unsoundness of mind giving dates of same as near as you can?

Ans I cant [sic] give you dates. My observations are these that there was no stability of mind about him in business: In 1867 he commenced and introduced the marsh harvester and I helped him to set them up and what we sold we sold at good profits and before we got through his orders were so unreasonable & unbusiness like that he got tired & sick and quit and I took them off his hands. He was queer about his business ways and changeable in his plans: what he would want done to day he would change tomorrow.

Q Did you ever hear him threaten his own life attempt self destruction?

Q I don't think I ever heard him threaten his own life, and never saw him attempt suicide. He was frequently despondent, some day she was bright & cheerful and then he would be despondent & gloomer He was very unbalanced in his mind I think.

Q Did he have time of despondency prior to the time of your capture at stone river?

Ans I think not, he was always of an even temper and a cool and really the best officer in the company. I was not at his house when Lieut Wright died. I hear of him attempting to take his own life several times.

Q What do you know if any thing relative to Mrs Wrights physical ability to earn a living?

Ans I think her health is very poor. I think she is disabled with her limbs some way and I know she complains a great deal with her feet and

Harley S Sherwood
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4 day of Jan 1888, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing

C. M. Salle

Special Examiner

Deposition of Samuel Johnson

Deposition I

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

Samuel Johnson continued Nashville Tenn and Col Bradley was able to and did go on to his home in Chicago and I went to hospital and there Dr. Wombo [sic] a citizen come & took me to his house and Lieut Wright waited on me until my wife come to me in I would judge about five or six days and he then left me.

Q What was the state of his health and mind while he was attending you after the battle of Chickamauga?

Ans The state of his health was good. I never knew any thing to the contrary. I cant [sic] say that there was any thing wrong with his mind at least I cant [sic] say that I detected any thing the matter with his mind at that time.

Q Did he appear natural every way?

Ans I think so, I dont [sic] remember any thing wrong with his mind I never thought of such a thing. Yes I remember a circumstance

Deposition of Harley S. Sherwood

Deposition H

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

On this Harley S. Sherwood concluded: I think there is some trouble with her hands and she is not in good health. I lived in the house with her a year, about two years ago we left her house. I heard my wife speak of her affliction frequently and she was not able to work much but would work as long as she was able to set up; there is one incumbrance [sic] on her home as I have heard but I do not know how much. I know of no source of income that she has except her labor. I made an affidavit in this claim I believe. It may have been the 31st day of Dec instead of Jany 1st that I was captured I am not certain which day.

I thoroughly understand and comprehend the questions asked me and my answers thereto are correctly recorded in this deposition.

Harley S Sherwood

Page 46 Deposition H

Deposition of James S. Jackson

Deposition G

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 5th day of Jany, 1888 at Salem, County of Marion State of Ills, before me, C.M. Sallee, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared James S.

Jackson, who being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says: my age is 56. I am by profession an atty at law. Post Office address salem ills, I was Capt of Co "G" 22 Ills Vols during the late war. I knew Lieut Edward M Wright

who was an officer in Houghtailings Battery 1st Ill Bat Lt Arty. Had a slight acquaintance with him prior to his enlistment I met him at Centralia and I became intimate with him while in the service before the battle of stone river.

Q Was he a man apparently of sound mind and good judgement up to that time?

Ans I never saw any evidence of insanity up to the battle of stone river. He was a man well balanced and always jolly.

Q Was he easily excited prior to that battle?

Ans I never saw him show any undue excitement until that battle. He was a very gallant officer and used to drill the Co and I never knew or heard of any thing and saw no indications that his mind was not properly balanced. At the battle of stone river our Regt was supporting Houghtalings Battery and I think I was in thirty steps of the battery and Lieut Wright was in the command of the battery and the destruction of horses and men was fearful, they were under cross fire from two Rebel batteries and my attention was called to Lieut Wright during the engagement: his eyes were gleaming and his face was begrimed with powder and he was shouting like a mad man. My attention was called to his appearance & actions by Capt McAdams Regt and we talked about it at the time. Lieut Wright stood up in front with his sword drawn and gesticulating and giving orders in the midst of the hottest of the battle. His excitement appeared unnatural. His eyes had an unnatural gleam; the men and horses being shot down around him seemed to make his excitement more intense. His battery was firing very rapidly, but finally the battery was captured. The entire battery was captured I think.

Q In your intercourse with him after that battle did you observe any change in his mind?

Ans Yes sir I did. I never thought he was right after that battle. It was thought after that battle that he ought not to be

James S Jackson

Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5 day of Jan 1888, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing

C. M. Sallee

Special Examiner

Deposition G

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

On this Capt Jas S Jackson continued: trusted with the command of the battery. He always talked wild and incoherently after that battle.

Q Did he reproach himself for any thing connected with his service?

Ans I did not hear any thing of the kind. Yes he resigned as I understood some time after. I dont [sic] know as I ever talked with him about his resignation I could not give the reason for his resignation. I was satisfied he was not fit to command. It was remarked among the officers that Wright was rattled but I do not remember talking to any particular officer about it except Capt McAdams. I think Lieut Prescott a Junr officer superseeded [sic] Lieut Wright. I think he Wright was not so popular with the men after the battle of stone river as before. The impression seemed to be shared among the men that Wright ought not to be trusted with the command on account of the state of his

mind. I met him soon after my return from the army in March 1865 at Centralia and he was evidently in a worse condition than I had ever seen him. He would not talk but little on the same subject and was wild & flighty in his conversation I saw him just before he resigned I do not remember the exact time he did resign; and he was that way always after his resignation when I would meet him and the last time I saw him in the army. After the war he seemed to grow worse. And I was not surprised when I heard he had committed suicide. I have no personal knowledge of said Wright attempting self destruction but I heard of it. I made an affidavit in this claim I fully understand and comprehend the questions asked me and my answers are correctly recorded herein.

General Affidavit of James S. Jackson

General Affidavit

State of Illinois County of Marion S.S.

In the matter of application for pension of Lavinia S. Wright widow of Edward M. Wright late Lieut Co. C 1st Reg Ill Light Artillery Vols on the 23rd day of December A.D. 1886 personally appeared before me County Clerk in and for the county aforesaid duly authorized to administer oaths Jas S Jackson aged 55 years a resident of Salem Illinois County of Marion well known to me to be reputable and entitle to credit and who being duly sworn declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows that he [affiant] was Capt. Co. G 22nd Ill Vols in the war of the rebellion that as such he was well and personally acquainted with the said Edward M Wright at and previous to the battle of stone river Jan'y 1st 1863 that at said battle affiants regt was called upon to support said Battery and that during the progress of said battle the command of said Battery devolved upon said Lieut Edward M Wright and was exposed to the converging fires of two rebel Batteries at once and the same time of a most destructive charter disemboweling horses and killing and wounding a great many men that affiants attention was called at the time to the appearance of Lieut Wright who seemed to be laboring under the most tremendous excitement shouting his commands in almost uncoherent language exposing himself with utter recklessness and his eyes gleaming Over

with an insane expression affiant further says he [illegible] said Lieut Wright frequently after said battle and in conversation w/ him became convinced [illegible] fact his mind had become unsettled in consequence of the terrible strain and responsibility incurred by him during said battle..”

JSJ believed & said so that EMW was incapacitated from further command in consequence of said [illegible] of mind.

5-9-87 JSJ restates earlier facts corrects STRI date from 1-1-63 to 12-31-62 converging fire of 2 rebel batteries EMW laboring under the most overpowering excitement for fact he seemed almost [illegible] himself shouting incoherently at the men exposing with utter recklessness his face begrinned w/ powder and smoke and seeming to have true gleam of insanity in his eye.

Deposition of Samuel Johnson

Deposition I

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 9 day of Jany, 1888 at Huey, County of Clinton State of Ills, before me C.M. Sallee, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared Samuel Johnson, who being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says: my age is 59 I am a farmer by occupation & real estate agent. I was Major of the 22 Ill Vols Inft and well know Edward M. Wright who was 1st Lieut of Capt Houghtaling's Battyr Ills Artly I formed his acquaintance in the service at Birds Point Mo in 1861. He was a brave and gallant officer and a very officious one during his service. It was my opinion that he was a bright and intellectual man and o Judgement I thought and I think good the majority of the officers of our Brigade thought so and we had a meeting of the officers of the Brigade after his resignation and passed resolutions indorsing him as an officer and in honor of his services and regret for his being superceded by a Junior officer. I understood his letter tending his resignation was abrupt and the resignation was accepted not in the very best of feeling and not such as we in the meeting thought he was entitled to this was the feeling of the officers in the meeting but I never saw the resignation. This was just before the battle of Chickamauga. It was my recollection that his resignation was accepted for the good of the service and I think with loss [~~some~~] pay [~~an account of it~~] and I am certain that this is what called the officers together in a meeting. After his resignation he heard of the Battle of Chickamauga and come back to Chattanooga and he met me there after the battle of Chicamauga [sic] and after I had been wounded in that battle and Col Bradley of 51 Ills was also wounded in that battle we were together when Wright come to us the day after the battle and he attended Col Bradley & myself at Chattanooga and went with the ambulance that carried Bradley & me and footed it over the mountain and Bradley, Wright & I went in the same box car to

Sam Johnson
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing
C.M. Sallee
Special Examiner

of Lieut Wright while attending me at Nashville he went out for some ice or something else for me and when he came in he laughed and said he had gone into the wrong house. I do not know how he appeared to make the mistake whether or not he was absent minded.

I dont [sic] remember seeing said Wright at the battle of stone river. I saw him after service and he was at my house and I loaned him money to go to Penn on. I think in latter part of the winter of 1863, while I was at home on leave I cant [sic] say as to whether his mind was right then or not. I never detected any thing wrong with his mind at that time. After he had returned and bought property West of Centralia I was at his

house and I was led to believe then that he was not exactly right. That was I guess in 1865 or 1866. I was led to think that from him buying the place, stock, and every thing in a [illegible] and he was sludging around droll in his dress and his pants ripped and he had always been fond of appearing

Sam Johnson
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing

C.M. Sallee
Special Examiner

Deposition I

Case of Lavinia S Wright, No. 348661

On this Maj Johnson concluded: well before that. He was in a better condition financially then then [sic] he ever had been but dressed like a tramp. I told him if good fortune had the affect to make a man dressed as he was I did not want it and he replied that he had bought a farm now and had to put on farm clothes but I never from that suspected any thing wrong.

I want to correct one statement I made. I am not positive that Lieut Wrights Battery was at Bird's Point or that there is where I formed his acquaintance.

I fully understand the questions and my answers are correctly recorded here in.

He told me he had \$10000 and bought the farm & every thing in a lump except the wardrobe for \$20 000 or \$25 000 and that they carried off the silverware he expected to be included in the deed and he had the [best?] made [illegible] for his wife.

Saml Johnson
See above
Deponent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of Jany 1888 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing

C.M. Sallee
Special Examiner