

## Summary of Wright Cherry Pension File Documents in Chronological Order

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- August 6, 1890 Wright filed for Pension Benefits under the Pension Act of June 27, 1890. Wright's declaration stated he was partially unable to earn support by usual manual labor by reason of piles and a tumor on the neck that developed during his military service. His attorney is Joseph H. Hunter, Washington, DC. Assigned Case Number 839.037.
- March 5, 1891 The War Department stated that confirmation of Wright's service could not be found on the roles of Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment, United States Colored Troops (USCT).
- April 4, 1891 Wright filed an Affidavit as to Subsequent Service reporting he had been discharged from Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment, USCT on December 11, 1865 and had no subsequent service.
- April 29, 1891 Surgeon's Certificate of H. V. Dunston for examination same date concluded no disability of any kind exists. Surgeon observed Wright was 52 years old, 5 feet 7 inches, weighing 151 lbs.
- June 27, 1891 Wright writes to his attorney, Joseph Hunter, that he enlisted at Newbern, NC as a Sergeant on March 1, 1864 in Company A, USCT Heavy Artillery, commanded by Maj. T. C. Jameson, who was court-martialed and reduced in rank. He stated Walter Poor took command and Nurse was his Captain. He said he was afterwards promoted to Regimental Sergeant and discharged on December 11, 1865 at Fort Macon, NC. He reported he had sent his discharge papers to one Holmes in Washington, DC to collect his bounty which he received soon after. He said he had never been able to get the discharge papers back but would forward Holmes' receipt.
- Undated A description of Wright Cherry's military service in Wright's handwriting and signed by Wright stated he was born in Bertie County, NC and enlisted at about age 22 under the same name on March 1, 1864. He was discharged on December 11, 1865. He reported no hospitalizations and the only battles he participated in were skirmishes around Newbern, NC. He said his Captain was named Nourse and his Lieutenant was named Wheaton. He stated his wife is named Malinda Gilliam, who is un-divorced. He stated he had no prior marriages. He said the names of his comrades were a former Sgt., A. Jackson, Col. Walter S. Poor, and Adjutant Eldings. He described himself as 5'7" in height, Colored (light), with black hair and gray eyes.
- December 15, 1891 The War Department acknowledged Wright's service with Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment, USCT and his transfer to Headquarters as Commissary Sergeant on May 14, 1865.

January 25, 1892 Wright's Pension Benefit application rejected after referral to the Medical Referee because he had no ratable disability under the Pension Act of June 27, 1890.

February 27, 1892 In a Physician's Affidavit, Dr. W. S. Gurley of Windsor, North Carolina, stated he had been acquainted with Wright for 12 years and that Wright has rheumatism of both shoulders, tumor on the left side neck, weakness of both legs and knees and is unable to stand long, has the piles which he has treated Wright for various times, and Wright is disabled about one third of the time from hard manual labor. Filed by L. W. Pulles, 522 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NW; LeDroit Building; Lock Box 445; Washington, DC.

February 14, 1893 Bureau of Pensions stated it rejected Wright's application on January 25, 1892 because he showed no ratable disability and their physician's testimony fails to discern a notable degree of disability under the new law.

March 25, 1893 Dr. W. S. Gurley filed a Physician's Affidavit indicating he had known Wright for about 15 years and that Wright had a tumor on the left side of his neck, slight deafness on the same side of the head, constantly bleeding piles caused by diarrhea ever since contracted in the service; rheumatism of the right leg such that he cannot move about without the use of a cane; and partial blindness in the left eye caused by an injury from a lick from a lash. He said all of which disables Wright about 9/18 of the time. He reported these disabilities were not caused by vicious habits and Wright is gradually getting more and more disabled from hard manual labor. Filed by L. W. Pulles, Room 6, 609 F Street, Washington, DC

April 19, 1893 Wright files Declaration for Invalid Pension alleging he is now three quarters unable to earn support by manual labor because of a tumor on the left side of his neck, deafness in his left ear, bleeding piles, rheumatism, contracting muscles and tendons in the right leg and lameness from same, demise of his left eye causing partial blindness. Filed by L. W. Pulles, Room 6, 609 F Street, Washington, DC.

April 24, 1894 Pension Bureau noted Wright filed new application with testimony and stated the previous decision is to remain undisturbed.

August 17, 1894 Report of Pension Bureau indicating no other medical records were found from Wright's military service.

September 12, 1894 Surgeon's Certificate for examination conducted September 1, 1894 by the Board of Surgeons at Elizabeth City, NC concluding Wright is three-quarters disabled for manual labor on account of rheumatism and its effects.

December 22, 1894 Wright's Pension Application approved for six dollars per month commencing on April 19, 1893 based on rheumatism, piles, disease

causing loss of sight in the left eye resulting in blindness, neck tumor, contracting muscles and tendons in the right leg causing lameness, and deafness in the left ear. The approvals are dated December 17, 1894 and December 22, 1894.

- August 14, 1897 Wright files a Declaration for Increase and Additional Pension Due to deafness, tumor on his neck, and disease in the small of his back. His witnesses are Marcus Butler and Lewis Roulhac. His attorney is Joseph H. Hunter, Solicitor of Pension and Patent Cases, Washington, DC.
- July 30, 1902 Approval granted for increase in invalid pension to eight dollars per month commencing same date based on rheumatism and loss of sight in eye.
- July 30, 1902 Surgeon's Certificate filed for examination conducted July 30, 1902 in Aulander, NC.
- February 3, 1903 The Bureau of Pensions requested a description of when, where, and what circumstances Wright incurred injury to his left eye, testimony of credible witnesses about the injury or statement of critical witnesses who have known him from a time antedating the occurrence of the injury, and testimony of credible witnesses showing whether the injury to the left eye was caused by vicious habits.
- February 16, 1903 Wright files a General Affidavit to support his claim for pension increase. He stated he sustained an injury to his left eye in September 1870 in Bertie County while on his way to Windsor. He said he was driving a mule hitched to a cart and that he had a lash with which to drive his mule. He said he struck at his mule with the lash that flicked back and struck his left eye. He said the injury caused him to be unable to let his left eye be exposed to the sun or light for 12 months and has been for many years unable to see from the left eye. He emphasized the injury was not caused by vicious habits. He said he was treated for the injury from time to time by Dr. W. S. Gurley of Windsor, NC. The affidavit was filed by Attorney Joseph H. Hunter of Washington DC.
- February 16, 1903 A General Affidavit is filed by Turner Gilliam, age 68, resident of Powellsville, NC; and Alexander Cherry, age 29, resident of Askewville, NC. They attest they have known Wright for 50 and 29 years respectively and that Wright's injury to his eye is not the result of vicious habits. They stated they had been hearing him complaining of injury to his left eye since September 1870. They said they were not present when he was injured but saw him soon after it happened. They said he told them he had hurt his eye with his lash while driving his mule to Windsor and that the lash flew back and struck him in the left eye causing the injury. They noted he suffered from the injury a great deal and believe the injury was permanent which disables him from earning support by hard manual labor

half of the time. They stated they have lived within 3 and 2 miles of Wright since they have known him and that he is a man of good character, sober, does not drink a drop of whiskey, is a good citizen, and is so regarded by all who know him. A. B. Roulhac attested the signature mark of Turner Gilliam. The affidavit was filed by Attorney Joseph H. Hunter of Washington DC.

- March 14, 1903 A General Affidavit filed by George Eason of Windsor, NC, states he has known Wright personally for 50 years. He corroborates the statements of other affiants and adds the injury has caused Wright to become totally blind. He said he was able to see Wright every week from the time he came home from the Army of the Rebellion until two or three years ago. He says he sees him several times a month now. Affiant gives P.O. Box of Lewis Roulhac as address. The affidavit was filed by Attorney Joseph H. Hunter of Washington DC.
- March 7, 1907 Joseph H. Hunter, Attorney, files a Declaration for Pension under the Pension Act of February 6, 1907. The Declaration describes Wright as 5'7" in height, bright complexion, gray color eyes, black color hair, farming occupation, birthday January 30, 1839. The Declaration witnesses are William Davis and Solomon Cherry, of Windsor, NC who state they have known Wright for 40 and 48 years, respectively.
- March 13, 1907 Wright is approved for a pension increase to \$12 per month.
- February 6, 1909 Wright files a Declaration for Pension for an increase under the Pension Act of February 6, 1907.
- February 9, 1909 Wright is approved for a pension increase to \$15 per month.
- March 8, 1909 Certificate issued noting Wright's service unit, Certificate Number and stating he has been pensioned about 14 years and his discharge papers were lost.
- March 13, 1909 Certification issued by the War Department that Wright was age 25 when he enlisted.
- June 15, 1912 Wright files a Declaration for Pension for an increase under the Pension Act of May 11, 1912.
- May 8, 1913 Wright writes the Commissioner of Pensions a letter asking when he will get his increase and states he thought he should have had it by now.
- January 30, 1914 A reissue under the Act of May 11, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 14, 1913 states Wright's pension was increased to \$21.50 per month beginning June 18, 1912 and to \$27 commencing January 30, 1914.

April 27, 1918 Bureau of Pensions requests information concerning Wright's marriage. He replies his wife's full and maiden names are Malinda Gilliam Cherry. He said they have never been married to anyone else. He stated they were married on December 28, 1869 by Rev. John Mitchell at James S. Mitchell's in Bertie County. He lists the names and birth dates of their children.

July 26, 1923 Wright files a Declaration for Pension for an increase under the Pension Act of May 1, 1920. He stated he requires regular personal aid and attendance of another person on account of weakness from old age and partial blindness. He stated he is now a pensioner under Certificate Number 880888. He stated his wife is Malinda Gilliam Cherry and they were married on December 29, 1869 by Rev. John Mitchell at Nash Mitchell's farm in Bertie County. He says the marriage records were recorded in the courthouse at Windsor, Bertie County, NC.

July 26, 1923 Thomas A. Cherry attests he is son of Wright Cherry and the principal attendant for Wright; and that while Wright is not confined to his home or bed all the time, he (Thomas A. Cherry) has to be with him to lead, direct and wait upon him.

August 27, 1923 In a Physician's Affidavit J. B. Ruffin, MD stated that since May 1, 1920, Wright has been unable to dress himself or attend to the call of nature unaided. He stated Wright requires another person all the time and is not able to be left alone. He said Wright cannot see but very little and is what you might call an invalid.

September 11, 1923 Wright is directed to report to J. B. Ruffin of Powellsville, NC for examination. J. B. Ruffin attested Wright was examined on September 18, 1923.

September 18, 1923 A Civil Surgeon's Certificate is entered for Wright by J. B. Ruffin who described his disabilities as kidney disease (Bright's Disease), eyesight almost gone, and a condition that requires someone to assist him all the time. He stated Wright cannot dress and undress himself and his condition is such that makes it unsafe for him to go alone or unattended at any time. He noted Wright's age is 84.

October 15, 1923 Wright's petition for an increase under the Act of May 1, 1920 commencing July 26, 1923 of \$72 per month is approved based on his medical examination.

August 7, 1925 A Drop Report is filed to remove Wright from the pension roles because of his death on July 25, 1925.

July 31, 1925 A widow's pension for Malinda Cherry is approved for \$30 per month. Her attorney is John W. Morris, 614 F St., N.W., Washington, DC.

- August 2, 1925 Wright's Death Certificate is filed. His date of birth is indicated as January 1835, age 87 years and six months. The name of his father is unknown. His mother's name is Julia Outlaw. The physician indicated he attended Wright from June 1, 1925 to July 1, 1925 and the cause of death is old age (senile decay). The recorded date of death is July 25, 1925. The informant is Wright Cherry, Jr. of Ahoskie, NC.
- August 7, 1925 An Affidavit by P. L. Raynor of Powellsville, NC, age 59, states he has known Wright and Malinda Cherry all of his life, knows they always lived together, and has every reason to believe they were legally married. A. S. Wynns stated the same. They both stated the marriage certificate could be obtained from the Register of Deeds, if necessary. J. W. Raynor, Notary Public, age 52, who notarized the affidavit, stated the same. The Affidavit was filed by Attorney John W. Morris.
- August 7, 1925 Attorney John W. Morris filed Malinda Cherry's Widow's Application for Accrued Pension. P. L. Raynor and A. S. Wynn attested Malinda's signature mark.
- September 14, 1925 S. W. Kenny, Register of Deeds of Bertie County, NC certified the following marriage records of the county: "I, John Mitchell, hereby certify that I solemnized the rights of matrimony between Wright Cherry and Malinda Gillam on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, A. D. 1869." (Signed) John Mitchell
- September 15, 1925 J. W. Herring, Registrar of Vital Statistics, Bertie County, NC certified a transcript of the Death Certificate of Wright Cherry, deceased, and date of death was July 25, 1925.
- September 22, 1925 Pension Commissioner Winfield Scott requested attorney Morris provide additional evidence because the testimony of affiants Raynor and Wynn is not sufficient to tell whether the claimant and soldier were ever divorced and how long they lived together as husband and wife as said affiants failed to state from what date the soldier and claimant had so lived together.
- October 22, 1925 Accrued Pension of Wright Cherry, deceased, is approved for admission.
- October 26, 1925 Pension issued for Malinda Cherry, widow, at the rate of \$30 per month commencing July 31, 1925.
- February 13, 1929 Malinda Cherry files a Claimant's Affidavit in Support of Burial Expenses in the amount of \$167.50 through John W. Morris, Attorney. The witness to Malinda's signature is Joanna Askew, Powellsville, NC; and the notary is J. W. Raynor.

- February 13, 1929 Malinda Cherry files an Affidavit Supporting Burial Claim which states that Wright left no cash money, was due \$50 in accrued pensions, left personal property of not over \$20, and that no real property was left after its sale upon Wright's death because there was an indebtedness of \$2,275 and that was all the sale brought. She stated the property owned consisted of a house and land which was claimed as the home of the deceased at death. She said Wright was 86 when he died and was buried at home by a Hertford County undertaker, J. W. Weaver, Manager, of Winton, NC.
- March 9, 1929 Malinda Cherry filed an affidavit affirming David King Cherry is her son. She stated the expense of Wright's burial was paid out of her money, but he paid the amount because he could read and write, and she could not. She said David King Cherry always attended her business ever since the death of his father and even before his father died he attended to the most of his business especially after Wright Cherry got so infirm as to be unable to get out or attend his own business. She affirmed she is the person that would be entitled to be reimbursed and is making the affidavit for the purpose that she may receive what rightfully belongs to her.
- April 29, 1929 US Veterans Bureau requested information from the War Department concerning the Civil War service of Wright Cherry. The confirming information was returned on May 4, 1929.
- May 4, 1929 US Veterans Bureau replies to John Morris, Attorney-At-Law, acknowledging receipt of his inquiry about Malinda Cherry's claim for burial allowance and stated he will be advised as fast as can be determined.
- May 16, 1929 US Veterans Bureau issues voucher for payment of burial expenses in the amount of \$107 to Malinda Cherry.
- May 28, 1929 US Veterans Bureau, Awards Division, replies to Attorney John Morris that Malinda Cherry's claim for burial expenses was adjudicated on March 23, 1929.