

February 3, 1999



Betty, Jim, and Gib, and Mary Ann:

While doing some research for our 1997 Chickamauga anniversary program, I looked at the pension file of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ed. M. Wright of Battery C (Houghtaling's), 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Light Artillery and read with interest the tragic story of the affect of the Battle of Stones River on Wright, the actual commander of the battery on that fateful December day when it lost all its guns (Houghtaling was serving as Sheridan's chief of artillery). During that brief trip to the National Archives (I could only squeeze out one day there during that vacation trip), I was only able to take notes from the file. Subsequently, in 1998, on another vacation trip, I went back and looked at the file again and copied the important parts. Enclosed is a copy of those parts for you all's Battery C, 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Light Artillery file; in light of the new emphasis on so social history in the Park Circus, here's a tragic, but great story. Hope you all can use it.

Ogden

Supt. UMB 2/8  
✓ Chief Ranger UMB 2/8  
Staff Ranger \_\_\_\_\_  
ENP&MA \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm Off \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm Clerk \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Maint \_\_\_\_\_  
Maint Wkr-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Maint Wkr-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
✓ File \_\_\_\_\_  
✓ Library \_\_\_\_\_  
Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Edward M. Wright.

He died in 1869 9-9 or 10, - 1869 Centerville  
 she died 8-18-1908 Centerville 711.  
 she filed claim <sup>mentally</sup> <sup>for balance</sup>  
 claim based on suicidal mania caused by  
 service → STRZ

Deposition of Lavinia S. Wright.

"He always complained of his head  
 ever after the war. He had  
 received no injury to head  
 that I know of the  
 nearest to            war by the  
 concussion of a cannon ball  
 in the ~~army~~ <sup>army</sup> where he lost  
 his hat + his horse was  
 knocked down.

Charles  
 83  
 of  
 85th  
 Pa.

Dr. Watts, Inf. Lt. Centerville  
 Emory told him the trouble  
 w/ Emory's head war due  
 to "Comrades of the Artillery"

several businesses after army  
 all in Pa, store Centerville, Beech press  
 farm

4

DEPOSITION of A

Case of Louisa S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 2nd day of Continued, 1888, at  
County of \_\_\_\_\_

State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_,  
who, being by me first duly sworn to answer  
truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of afore-  
said pension claim, deposes and says: To avenge his death;

in an unnatural way and  
I could ~~never~~ could tell when  
his fits of lunacy were coming on  
from his being dependent;  
He commonly talked to me just before  
having a spell and attempting his  
life, in a more tender manner and  
with seemingly more solicitude for  
my welfare 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 <sup>the next day</sup> 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 afterwards  
I was unable to rescue him



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 then he had a shock from a Cannon shot from the enemy while on scout foraging expedition which knocked him and his horse both down and he came into camp hatless. I was in camp at the time he came into camp and I enquired 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 and the date of his Resignation. Can not fix the date -

gr. 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 wage by labor, have no one to rely upon for support and your property is incumbered. And asking that your claim be made specific; Will you please state the amount of ~~the~~ incumbrance on your home and its nature and the amt of your income from all sources and value of your property both

Lewis S. Wright  
Deponent.



DEPOSITION ACase of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1888, at  
Bloomington, County of McLean  
 State of Illinois, before me, Madison Over, 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.

Graduated at the Kentucky School  
of Medicine at Louisville Kentucky  
in 1855-56. I practiced my  
profession in Centralia Ill.  
from about 1863 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 soldiers  
together with the Bojourners

Page 5 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 an 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 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



what soldier told me, and I think it probable that such may have been the case.

Q Was there any predisposition to insanity - hereditary in Soldier's family?

A I know only what I have heard. I was personally acquainted with but one sister of 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 understood 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 intoxicants 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. I

may say in regard to the domestic affairs of Soldier that I think they were very pleasant. His wife seeming to be very much  
That is about



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 she was well acquainted with  
Edward M. Wright deceased, late First Lieut.  
Battery "C" 5th 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 July 27th  
1860 a few days less two months, that she  
left also other children of descendants of dis-  
signed children, and that she was personally present at  
the death and burial of both of the above mentioned  
persons.

NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881
NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881
NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881
NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881
NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881
NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881
NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881
NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881
NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881
NOV 11 1883	VALID	NO.	1881

I have no interest whatever in this claim, and she not related to claimant.

Harriet M. Saques Harriet M. Saques

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT.

State of Illinois } ss.  
County of Sasalle }

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

Personally came before me, a Notary Public, in and for aforesaid County and State, Matilda Wells, aged 64 years and

citizen of the Town of Ottawa, County of Sasalle, State of Illinois, Post Office Address.

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 unto them from this union one child which died at the age of about two months and that Mariah A. Brown the aforesaid Soldier's first wife is deceased that she died April 19th 1860 in the City of Ottawa County of Sasalle, State of Illinois Affiant was personally present when said Mariah Brown said Soldier's first wife died and testifies from personal knowledge, and that affiant attended the funeral of the aforesaid Mariah A. Brown, said Soldier's first wife.

When the notary public of this State is called upon to act as a notary in a foreign country, he shall be deemed to be acting as a notary in this State.



Claimant's DEPOSITION Philbert "A"

Case of Lavinia J. Wright, No. 348661

On this 3rd day of January, 1888, at  
Centralia, County of J. Marion  
State of Ills, before me, L. M. Gallee, a  
Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared  
Lavinia J. Wright, who, being by me first duly sworn to answer

truly all interrogatories propounded to her during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says: 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 Cavalry in the late war, I never having remarried since my said husband's death, which occurred Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 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 originating 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 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 ~~the~~ was wounded in the early part of the engagement and the command then devolved upon my husband during the



lighter engagement and he always become excited - I saw my husband some three or perhaps all of four weeks after the battle of Stone River; 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>the battle</sup> ~~my husband's~~ & started at once to the Command. And when I reached the Camp his health was good and <sup>he</sup> 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 imagined 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.

2

DEPOSITION *E. A.*

Case of *Louisia S. Wright*, No. *348661*

On this *Clmt.* *continued* day of \_\_\_\_\_, 188\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_

State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, 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: *and rushed out through*

*the Camp rallying the forces and they had to put a guard around <sup>the tent</sup> 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 - ~~about~~ In the month of April 1864, I think it was, he went on a survey on the ~~San~~ Atchison & Pikes Peak RR, and returned in about two months I think, and said his mind was not clear and he was emaciated and all broke down in 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 ~~for~~ it from him before he took it. He was at the pump and had hit it off & I snatched the remainder from him & the next time was morphine - The*



of Bloomington Ills was the first physician who treated my husband for insanity. Dr. D. H. McLeod now dead, was my husband's family physician before Dr. Barnes treated my husband but McLeod never treated my husband for any sickness.

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

A. No, not to my knowledge. I learned from Capt Jackson, ~~the~~ of my husband's 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 recklessness 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 times - These attacks come on him when it seemed to me there was the least cause for it - He never attempted violence on any one except himself only one night when he

Lemuel S. Wright

Deponent.



DEPOSITION *E. A.*Case of *Louvinia S. Wright*, No. 348661

On this *12th* day of *October*, 188*8*, at  
*Continued*, County of \_\_\_\_\_  
 State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a

Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, 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: *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.*

*Q. My husband manifested no evidence of insanity before the battle of Stone River that I ever knew or heard of.*

*I formed his acquaintance at least 20 years 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 La Salle Mills 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 <sup>status of the</sup> 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*

and was anxious to go back to the army and the fact that he was superseded by a junior officer seemed to offend him. He never referred to it often but when he did it was with marked feeling and indignation. I advised him to resign on account of his threat to destroy himself. After a junior officer was recommended to an appointment to supersede my husband he tendered his resignation to ~~Col~~ Col Bradley who commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brig 3<sup>rd</sup> Div Shendon's ~~Div~~ <sup>14<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> Army Corp</sup> 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 <sup>life</sup>. He made no statement as to the cause of his intended act, he said he ~~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 husband's service I saw him several times after the battle of Stone River remarkably excited. He at one time heard of the death of his brother Charley who was in the army of the Potomac, and he became very much excited and swore

Lavinia S. Whipple  
Deponent.



4

DEPOSITION *Y A*Case of *Louisa S. Wright*, No. *348661*On this *21st* day of *Continued*, 188*8*, at  
County of \_\_\_\_\_State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_,  
who, being by me first duly sworn to answer  
truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of afore-  
said pension claim, deposes and says: *to avenge his death;**in an unnatural way and*  
I could ~~not~~ *could* tell when  
his fits of lunacy were coming on  
from his being despondent;He commonly talked to me just before  
having a spell and attempting his  
life, in a more tender manner and  
with seemingly more solicitude for  
my wellfare 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, saying it in the light I did -  
I was at the time bed fast but  
noticed the usual symptoms and  
I saw him pass through the house to the  
back porch <sup>the next day</sup> 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 ~~after~~ *afterward*  
I was unable to rescue him



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 then he had a shock from a Cannon shot from the enemy while on scout foraging expedition which knocked him and his horse both down and he came into camp hatless. I was in camp at the time he came into camp and I enquired 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 and the date of his Resignation. Can not fix the date -

gr. 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. And asking that your claim be made special. Will you please state the amount of these incumbrances on your home and its nature and the amt of your income from all sources and value of your property both

Lewis S. Wright  
Deponent.

DEPOSITION *F.*Case of *Lavinia S. Wright*, No. 348661

On this *4<sup>th</sup>* day of *Jan*, 1888, at  
*Centralia*, County of *Marion*  
 State of *Ills*, before me, *G. 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 afore-  
 said pension claim, deposes and says: *my age is 56. 18. Last*

*occupation. I trade in implements & Carriage*  
*P.O. Centralia Ills. I was enlisted as a*  
*private in Co. "C" 1<sup>st</sup> Ills. Lt Artly and*  
*was discharged as G. M. Sgt. I did not*  
*know ~~Capt~~ <sup>Capt</sup> Edward M. Wright prior to*  
*his enlistment.*

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

Ans. I dont know of him ever being sick.

I joined the Co. 1<sup>st</sup> March 1862 and  
 then became acquainted with Lieut Wright  
 the Co. had been organized nearly a year.

I was taken sick prisoner on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 day of Jan 1863, at the battle of Stone River  
 in the afternoon, Lieut Wright

was in command of the battery that day  
 the bigger portion of the day. He was  
 then 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. I suppose 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 know that he did.



SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
1967 MAR 13 3-4167

DEPOSITION

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 20 day of November, 1888, at  
Woodward County of  
Continued State of Alabama, before me,

W. J. [unclear], a  
 Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared  
 who, being by me first duly sworn to answer  
 truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of afore-  
 said pension claim, deposes and says: was dancing all the way

to the grove and back as soon as we had  
to hold him down. He was talking  
about the battles, Stone River &  
other battles and full of war  
and was telling what he wanted  
done with him when he died  
and how was he telling about  
the risks he had seen in the army  
and about his brove of  
no I don't remember that he referred  
to the fact that he had been  
dispossided in the army.

He talked a great deal -  
so. He was out always cheerful.  
He looked melancholy and  
morose at times. He had spells  
on him when he wouldn't  
speak to me.

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

Dr. Did you ever know him to  
attempt self destruction or threaten

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 be big 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 lat referred to, I do not believe he knew the state of his own business. He said his business was so "damnedly 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.



3

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
(3-416)

DEPOSITION E. A.

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 21st day of October, 1888, at  
Centerville, County of \_\_\_\_\_  
 State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me,

a  
 Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_  
 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: real & personal, ?

Ans. The incumbrance is seven hundred dollars borrowed from the Building and Loan Association at Centerville Ill. 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 ~~other~~ source - I have no 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 every year to do this in order to save my home.

My left hand is disabled from bone &ry sif-  
 icles, and my right hand is disabled  
 from palsy or penparaly-  
 ses which prevents me from sewing  
 sewing or doing any light work  
 such as women follow and my  
 ankles are afflicted with a dropsical effusion  
 around the joints which are much

difficulty that I walk about -  
I formerly kept boarders for a living  
but on account of my affliction  
I am not able to get dressed  
sufficiently well to keep  
boarders and do not attempt  
it now - I have no one to look  
to for a support.

Q. Do you consider your circum-  
stances are such that your claim  
should take precedence over other  
or ordinary claims?

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

Q. Who was present when your husband  
died?

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

Q. Is there any church or other public  
record of your husband's 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  
husband's mind while in the service?

Ans. Capt James S. Jackson of Salem Ill. off out,  
Barley Showers of Centralia " "

Louisa S. Whiff  
Deponent.



6

DEPOSITION *E. A.*

Case of *Lavinia S. Wright*, No. *348661*

On this *Contm* day of \_\_\_\_\_, 188*8*, at  
*Continued* \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_

State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
 Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_,  
 who, being by me first duly sworn to answer  
 truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of afore-  
 said pension claim, deposes and says:

Q. By whom can you show the state of your  
 husband's mind at the date of his discharge?  
 Ans. I can't think of any one; there were several  
 who are now dead - Mr W. J. Woodward  
 of Centralia Ill. would know the  
 state of his mind when we moved  
 to Centralia about one month after  
 my husband's resignation.

Q. Please say by whom you could desire  
 to show the state of your husband's  
 mind from the date of his discharge?  
 Ans. Mr W. J. Woodward, Centralia Ill.

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. S. 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

Supplemental DEPOSITION of "A"

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1888, at  
Centralia, County of Marion  
State of Ills, before me, C. M. Dallen, 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 her 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 when 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 &  
he went to the front and was at  
Chattanooga & Corried <sup>Col</sup> Bradley  
& Maj Johnson <sup>of the 2<sup>nd</sup></sup> I left as I learned  
from my husband, off the battle  
field, and Maj Johnson told me the  
same thing. His P. O. is Huges  
Iles and I understood from my husband  
that he remained with Maj  
Johnson & Col Bradley covering  
for them until he left from  
Chicago they having been  
wounded as I understood.  
I joined my husband at Chicago late  
in Feb 1863 and we came direct from



death of my said husband I find that he died on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 1869 instead of the 9<sup>th</sup> as heretofore stated by me. I did not have the bible opened before me but testified from memory and I had the date of my husband's resignation confused with the date of his death.

My recollection is that my husband Corcoran Col Bradley & Maj Johnson off the battle field of Chickamauga and met at Chatanooga,

Lavinia S. Wright

DEPOSITION

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1888, at Centralia, County of Marion State of Ills, before me, G. M. Sallee, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared

Samuel P. Truitt, 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 61. 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  
of an a Battery known as Houghtaling's  
Battery, and said Wright seemed to be  
a healthy cheerful man at that time  
and I think was the acting officer of  
the battery at that time. I was 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut  
Co "K" in an independent Co but part of  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Ills Co only - 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,  
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 came to Centralia after he  
came out of the army. I think I  
met them right away after they came



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 his  
 an our intercourse before I boarded  
 with him and very soon after he  
 came from the army, I should say  
 that there was nothing in the family  
 regulations, ~~of the family~~, 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 <sup>something</sup> 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 superseding  
 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 Bird's Point in 1861,

J. K. Trafts

Deponent.

DEPOSITION D

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. \_\_\_\_\_

On this Samuel P. Lusto day of Antinew, 1888, at  
 \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_  
 State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a

Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, 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: his conduct and actions were very different -

Q. Did you know of him attempting self destruction or threaten to, at any time while you were boarding with his family or prior thereto?

A. 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 year but after I left his house and that it was not talked of much. It is my dim recollection that he ~~was~~ 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?

A. Yes. Almost any thing troubled his mind during those years. He engaged in oil speculations in Pa. & I understood he made money at that, which was I believe shortly after his army service.



said Wright attempting suicide or threaten to do at 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 Dr. 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 cause?

Ans. I don't 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 symptoms were there; the trouble in his mind was there before he engaged in financial speculations and I should

J. T. Tuft

DEPOSITION *D*

Case of *Lavinia S. Wright*, No. *348661*

On this *Samuel P. Lupton* day of \_\_\_\_\_, 188\_\_\_\_, at  
*Continued* \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_  
 State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
 Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ who, being by me first duly sworn to answer  
 truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of afore-  
 said pension claim, deposes and says: *think his financial reverses*

*would 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 bad*  
*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 Hammit.*

*I mean, when I say his mind was*  
*partially unsound, that at times his*  
*mind appeared to be sound and*  
*no evidence of insanity and at*  
*times his mind seemed to be*  
*deranged and it seemed to*  
*grow on him as time passed -*  
*At Bird's point when I*  
*knew him in 1861 he seemed to be*  
*a bright and vigorous man both*  
*mentally and physically - He was*



so much pains to drill and  
organize the Command and then  
to be superseded Caused him  
& 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  
fit the date of his death.

Re Examined

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

S. P. Luff

Deponent.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
SERIALS ACQUISITION (3-116)

DEPOSITION 8

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of Jan, 1888, at  
Centralia, County of Marion  
 State of Ills, before me, E. 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 afore-  
 said pension claim, deposes and says: My age is 52, occupation

- Plasterer - By trade. My Past office address  
Centralia, Ills - I have seen Mrs Lavinia  
S. Wright and live near neighbors  
 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  
Wright's health?

A. I consider her health poor. She has  
 a great trouble with her feet, and has  
 had for several years, so that she  
 can't walk well, she for years could not  
 walk to Church; I don't know of her  
 being afflicted with her hands. Yet  
 I do know too that years back she  
~~used~~ made Carpets & of late she  
 has complained to my wife that  
 she could not make Carpets on  
 account of <sup>some</sup> trouble with  
 and had to quit it. I don't think  
 she has any source of income  
 except she owns a home here



of no source of income that she has except her home. I could almost say positively she has none.

Q. What if anything do you know relative to the state of mind of Claimant's husband Edward M. Wright during his life time?

A. Yes, 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 which the least thing would throw him off his balance. Prosperity especially I called him a war 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 Centratia & 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.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
SERIALS ACQUISITION DIVISION (3-116)

DEPOSITION

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 29 day of November, 1888, at  
Woodward County of  
Continued State of Alabama, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
 Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ who, being by me first duly sworn to answer  
 truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of afore-  
 said pension claim, deposes and says: was dancing all the way

to the grove and back and we had  
to hold him down. He was talking  
about the battles, Stone River &  
other battles and full of war  
and was telling what he wanted  
done with him when he died  
and how many he telling about  
the risks he had seen in the army  
and about his brave of  
no I don't remember that he referred  
to the fact that he had been  
repeatedly in the army.

He talked a great deal-  
so. He was not always cheerful.  
He looked melancholy and  
moose at times. He had spells  
on him when he would not  
speak to me.

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

Q. Did you ever know him to  
attempt self destruction or threaten



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 be big 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 Yaminis

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 "damnedly 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.



DEPOSITION *J.*

Case of *Lavinia S. Wright*, No. *348662*

On this *4<sup>th</sup>* day of *Jan*, 1888, at  
*Centralia*, County of *Marion*  
 State of *Ills*, before me, *L. M. Dallee*, 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 as a*  
*private in Co "B" 1<sup>st</sup> Ills Lt Artly and*  
*was discharged as G. M. Supt. I did not*  
*know ~~Capt~~ <sup>Supt</sup> Edward M. Wright prior to*  
*his enlistment.*

*Q. Did he at any time during his service*  
*receive an injury or have any sickness?*

*Ans. I dont know of him ever being sick.*

*I joined the Co 1<sup>st</sup> March 1862 and*  
*then became acquainted with Lieut Wright*  
*the Co had been organized nearly a year.*

*I was taken sick prisoner on the 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*day of Jan 1863, at the battle of Stone River*  
*in the afternoon, Lieut Wright*

*was in command of the battery that day*  
*the bigger portion of the day. He was*  
*sen 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. I suppose 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 know that he did.*



we had.

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

Ans. No I never did up to that time.

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

Ans. At Murfreesboro Tenn I think the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1863, when we were discharged.

Qr. Was he then apparently in good health and of sound mind?

Ans. I thought so. Yes Sir I never thought of any thing else.

Qr. Did you at any time during service observe any symptoms of his mind being out of order.

Ans. After we had been ~~been~~ moving from different points and while at Bridgeport Ala. Lieut Prescott the Jun Lieut was promoted over Lieut Wright, in Sept or Oct. 63, I think.

Some time after that, after we had moved toward Atlanta and before the battle Chickamaug he resigned. After the promotion of Lieut Prescott it worried him very much and it had a great effect over his mind - Between

Warley S. Sherwood

Deponent.

DEPOSITION *H*Case of *Lavinia S. Wright*, No. 348661

Harley S. *Shaw* day of \_\_\_\_\_, 188\_\_\_\_, at  
 On this \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Continued, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
 State of \_\_\_\_\_, Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_

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: The time of *Lieut Prescott's* promotion and *Lieut Wright's* resignation said *Wright* acted a little queer and was very excitable and before that he had always been very cool *Gr.* Did he at any time attempt or threaten to take his own life while in the service?

Ans. I don't remember anything about that. He never did in my presence - I may have heard of it.

*Gr.* Do you remember that *Lieut Wright's* wife, the *Clamant* woman was with him at Camp at any time?

Ans. Yes. *Sir* - I remember when they were near Corinth Miss.

*Gr.* Was she with him a short time after the battle of Stone River at Murfreesboro?

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

*Gr.* *Clamant* speaks of *Lieut Wright* crossing from his sleep one night and rushing through



of him being very much excited and  
of a quarrel being placed over the  
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 <sup>place</sup>. 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 rationally. I was then  
J. 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 commanded by  
Prescott. I think Prescott was  
in Command from the time we  
left Bridgeport. The first time

Harley S. Sherwood

Deponent.

RECORDED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
SERIALS ACQUISITION DIVISION  
146

3

DEPOSITION A

Case of Livinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this Harley S. Sherwood day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1888, at  
County of \_\_\_\_\_

State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_

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: I saw Lieut Wright

after he left the Command was here in  
Australia Ills when I came home  
from the army in April 1865.

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

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

Q. ~~How~~ his actions and conduct  
betray any want of sanity, if so  
please state what symptoms you  
observed to indicate insanity  
of mind, giving dates of same  
as near as you can?

A. I can't give you dates. My observa-  
tions are these; that there was no  
stolidity of mind about him in  
business; In 1866, he commenced and  
introduced the Marsh Harvesters 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



his business ways and Chorogahli  
in his plans, what he would want  
done to day he would change  
tomorrow

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

A. I dont think I ever heard him threaten  
his own life, and never saw him  
attempt suicide - He was frequently  
deppondent, some days he was bright  
& cheerful and then he would  
be deppondant & gloomy.  
He was <sup>never</sup> unbalanced in  
his <sup>mind</sup> ~~thought~~.

Q. Did he have times of deppondency  
prior to the time of your  
capture at Stone River?

A. I think not. He was always of  
an even temper and a cool and  
really the best officer in  
the Conspiracy. I was not at his  
house when Linnt Wright  
died - I heard of him attempting to take  
his own life several times.

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

A. 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.

DEPOSITION *F*

Case of *Lavinia S. Wright*, No. *348661*

On this *Harley S. Sherwood* day of \_\_\_\_\_, 188*8*, at \_\_\_\_\_  
County of \_\_\_\_\_

State of \_\_\_\_\_, *Concluded*, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, 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: *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. But she was not able to work much but would work as long as she was able to set up; there is an incumbrance on her home, 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 31<sup>st</sup> day of Dec instead of Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 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*



DEPOSITION 9

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1888, at  
Salina, County of Marion  
 State of Ills, before me, L. M. Ballew, 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 afore-  
 said pension claim, deposes and says: my age is 56. I am

by profession an Atty at Law. Post office  
 address Salina 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  
 Houghtaling's Battery 1<sup>st</sup> Ill Bat Lt  
 arthy. 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.

Qr Was he a man apparently of sound  
 mind and good judgment 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.

Qr 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 indi-  
 cations that his mind was not properly

Steps of the battery and Lieut Wright was in command of the Battery and the destruction of horses and men was fearful. They were under ~~and~~ 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 ~~of the~~ 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 gloss; 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?

A. 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.



SEARCHED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
SERIALIZED 446  
RECORDED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

2

DEPOSITION 4

Case of Lorenna S. Wright, No. 345661

On this 1st day of June, 1888, at  
Jackson County of

State of Arkansas, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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: 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?

A. No. I did not hear any thing of the  
kind. Yes, he resigned as I understood  
some time after. I don't 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 officers about  
it except Capt. McAdams. I think Lieut  
Prescott a junior officer superseded Lieut  
Wright. I think <sup>Wright</sup> he 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

Page 57 on the same subject  
and was mild & 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 <sup>not</sup> find 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 and my  
answers are correctly recorded herein

## General Affidavit.

State of Illinois, County of Marion, S.S.

In the matter of a application for pension of Lavinia S. Wright widow  
of Edward M. Wright late Supt. Co. E. 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. Ill. Light Artillery, Vols.  
on this 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 entitled to  
credit and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case  
as follows: that he affiant was Capt. Co. B. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 1863, that at said battle affiant's regt. was called upon to  
support said Battery and that during the progress of said battle the  
command of said Battery devolved upon said Supt. Edward M. Wright  
and was exposed to the converging fires of two rebel Batteries at



with an insane expression. a friend  
further says he never said that weight  
frequently after said battle and in conversation  
later on he became convinced that  
his mind had become unclouded in consequence  
of the terrible strain and responsibility  
incurred by him during said battle. ...

JSS believed & said so that Ewert as  
incapacitated from further command in  
consequence of said condition of mind.

5-9-87 JSS restates earlier facts - corrects  
STARZ date from 1-1-63 to 12-31-62

converging fire of 2 rebel batteries

Ewert "laboring under the most  
overpowering excitement, for fact  
he seemed almost beside himself  
shouting in cheer and at the  
men exposing with utter recklessness  
his face begrimed w/ powder  
and smoke and seeming to have  
the gleam of insanity in his

## DEPOSITION

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this 9 day of January, 1888, at  
Haverhill, County of Caledonia  
 State of Vt., before me, C. M. Dallee, 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<sup>nd</sup> Ill  
 Cal. Inf. and well know Edward  
 M. Wright who was 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut of Capt  
 Houghtaling's Battery Decs artly  
 I formed his acquaintance in the  
 service at Bird Point Mo in  
 1861. He was a brave and gallant  
 officer. Had a very efficient  
 one during his service.

It was my opinion that he was  
 a bright and intellectual man  
 and of good judgment I thought, and  
 I think 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 endorsing  
 him as an officer and in  
 honor of his services and regret  
 for his being superseded by  
 a junior officer. I understood  
 his letter tendering his resignation  
 was abrupt and these resolutions  
 was accepted not in the very  
 best of feeling and not in the



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 is my recollection that his resignation was accepted for the good of the service and I think I saw the pay and account of it, and I am certain that this is what called the meeting of the officers together in a meeting - After his resignation he heard of the battle of Chickamauga and came back to Chattanooga and he met me there after the battle of Chickamauga 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 night came 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 posted it over the mountains and Bradley night & I went in the same hot car to Chattanooga.

W. Johnson

Deponent.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of January 1886 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing.

C. M. Sallee

Special Examiner.

DEPOSITION

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 348661

On this Samuel Johnson day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1887, at  
 State of Continued, County of \_\_\_\_\_, before me,  
 Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, a  
 who being by me first duly sworn to answer  
 truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of afore-  
 said pension claim, deposes and says: Joshua Linn

and Eal Brodley was able to and  
 did go on to his home in  
Chicago and I went to hospital  
 and then Wormbo a citizen  
 came & took me to his house  
 and Lieut. Wright waited on  
 me until my wife came  
 to me. 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 Chicka-  
 mauga?

A. Ans. The state of his health was  
 good. I never knew any thing  
 to the contrary — I can't say  
 that there was any thing wrong  
 with his mind, but least I can't  
 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 don't remember  
 any thing wrong with his mind  
 I never thought of such a thing  
 eyes. I remember a Circumstance



of Luit Wright white attending me at Ashville. He went out for some <sup>or something else</sup> ice for me and when he came in he laughed and said he had gone into the wrong house. I do not know how he happened to make the mistake whether he was or not absent minded.

I don't 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 Centralia Penn on. I think in latter part of the winter of 1863 while I was at home on leave I can't say as to whether his mind was right then or not - I never detected any thing wrong with his mind at that <sup>time</sup> 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 that from him buying the place, stock and every thing in a lump and he was bludging around in a droll in his dress and his pants ripped and he had always been fond of appearing

Wm. Johnson

Deponent.

Given to and subscribed before me this 9 day of Jan'y 1880, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing.

C. M. Sallee

Special Examiner.

DEPOSITION

Case of Lavinia S. Wright, No. 345661

On the May day of 188, at Johnson County of

State of Concluded, before me, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared

\_\_\_\_\_, 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: well before that

was in a better condition financially than that we had and but dressed like a tramp. I told him if good fortune had the effect to make a man dressed as he was I did not want it, and he replied that he had bought a farm now and that he put on farm clothes but I never from that suspected any thing wrong. I want to correct in state against I made. I am not positive that \_\_\_\_\_ Wright's battery was at \_\_\_\_\_ Point or that there is where I formed his acquaintance.

I fully understood the questions and my answers are correctly recorded herein. He told me he had \$10000. and bought the farm & every thing in a lump except the woodshed for \$20000 or \$25000 and that they carried off the silver

\_\_\_\_\_ which he picked up in the deed



to had the bill made  
and put it for his wife's name

Wm. Johnson

See above

Deponent.

I sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of January 1886, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing.

N. M. Salce

Special Examiner.