

Case of Caroline Carson,

No. 1066,472.

On this 7th day of May, 1918, at Lake Providence
county of East Carroll, State of La. before me,
J. B. Steed, a Special Examiner of the Bureau of Pensions,
personally appeared Caroline Carson, who, being by me first
duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to her
during this special examination of aforesaid claim for pension,
deposes and says:

6-5121

1 I am about 78 years old, and can't see good and can't
2 hardly walk. I live right here in this home with Clora
3 Atlass and her husband, King Atlas. I stay some in town
4 with Sheridan Turner and his wife Caroline.
5 I claim pension as the widow of Lewis Carson and he died in
6 Lake Providence, La., some time in April 1916, and I was with
7 him when the last breath went out of his body. Dr. Brown
8 was his doctor when he died and he knows the date my old man
9 died. Elder Jack Williams preached his funeral and I got the
10 coffin from Mr. Williams, the undertaker there in Providence.
11 I do not know what company and regiment my husband served in
12 but I heard him say many times. I think he was in the 50th
13 regiment, but my mind is almost gone and cant say for certain
14 about his service. My husband was drawing a pension when he
15 died and after he died I put in my claim for for a widow's
16 pension but I haven't got any thing yet.
17 The only name my husband ever had, to my knowing, was Lewis
18 Carson. I never knew him by any other name.
19 I first knew Lewis Carson upon the Elton plantation above
20 Lake Providence on the Mississippi River, and about three
21 miles from Providence. I never knew my old man before the
22 Civil War, and the first time I met him was in 1866, and soon
23 after he came out of the army and the same year he came out
24 of the army he and I got married and he told me when he asked
25 me to marry him, that he had never had any family and that I
26 would be his first wife. He told me that he had never lived
27 in the home with any woman before he married me. He lived in

Alabama/

28 I think before and at the time he went in the army.

29 I think he said he lived at one time in South Carolina and
30 went from there to Alabama and there he lived some place when
31 he went in the army. He told me he never went back to Alabama
32 after muster out. When he was mustered out of the army he come
33 up the river from Vicksburg and he landed there at Elton place
34 and got off the boat there and he lived there till he married
35 me. We were married there on Elton and William Smith, a colored
36 man and an officer of the law, married us. We were married in
37 the home of John Crawford a colored man. William Smith got
38 killed there in Providence many years ago. John Crawford is
39 dead and so is his wife Rachel Crawford dead. Yes, they had
40 some children and I think they had five in all, Frank, Boss
41 Alice, Eliza and Clarisay Crawford. They are scattered up the
42 river those of them are not dead. I do not know where the children
43 are and they were not old enough to know much about my marriage.

44 No, I do not know where the Crawford children are-they have been
45 gone away from here for years. Yes, the Crawford children were
46 present at my marriage to the soldier. There were a heap of
47 people there but most of them are dead. I do not know of but
48 two people now living who saw me married to soldier and they
49 are Dennis Wilkerson and Dan Lewis and they were right there and
50 saw us married. Yes, they were there when the colored officer
51 -justice of the peace-married us and they heard him read over
52 the ceremony to me and my husband. This colored man had the
53 right to marry us for he was the officer of the law and he
54 married a right smart of colored folks in his day and time. No,
55 we did not have any license to marry with and Bill Smith said
56 he could not get any license for us and he just married us
57 without any license. No, we were never married over after that
58 and we considered our marriage a good one. We were married in
59 the night time and some after dark came on. We had no dance
60 or wedding supper and it was a quiet sort of wedding. No, I do
61 not know of any white folks that knew about our marriage but
62 there was a white man there in the quarters with us but I

Witness.

--- R. B. Hillas ---
--- Sure atlas ---

her
Caroline X Carson.

mark.

Deponent

Case of Caroline Carson,

, No. 1066,472.

Deposition of Claimant

No. 2

, continued, sheet

6-5120

1 but I forget his name and do not know where he is. I think he
2 lived in the hills some where. All the white folks are dead out.

3 No, I cannot think of any others now living that witnessed
4 my marriage. No, I do not know of any women now living who
5 were at my wedding. Rachel Crawford was there but she is dead.

6 No, the soldier and I had never lived together any before we
7 were married. We just got married and went right to living
8 together and we lived together as man and wife till the last
9 breath went out of his body. No, we never did separate for one
10 day after we married. Well, we were married in the month of
11 October or November and about the 15th day of the month.

12 Q. How are you able to fix the date of your marriage?

13 A. I just recollect the date from memory. No, I have not got
14 any record of our marriage- just fix it from memory that's all.
15 I think it was in November though when we married. I know that
16 it was the first year Mr. Carson came out of the army that he
17 and I were married. We had four children but they are all dead
18 -died before their daddy died. All the children were still born
19 to us but one, Norah Carson, and he died at the age of ten years.

20 Yes, I had some children in Reb time. I had four children in
21 Reb time, but they are dead long ago. I was not married to the
22 father of the children I had before the war. Yes, all my children
23 born to me before I married soldier were born before the war came
24 on and I was not married to the father of the children. Lewis
25 Campbell was the father of my Reb time children, but he died
26 before the war came on. He died there on Bellmead place before
27 the war came on. We stayed together some before the war and he
28 got sick and could not work for nearly two years before he died.

29 Some old white doctor waited on Lewis Campbell before he died.

30 Yes, Lewis Campbell and I were living together when he died
31 and I saw his body after he died. He was buried on Bellmead
32 place. No body preached his funeral and I did not go to the
33 grave yard with his body. The only person now living that
34 knows about Lewsi Campbell's death is Charlott Jenkins and

35 she was living with me when Lewis Campbell died and she saw
 36 his dead body. Charlott Jenkins lives in Providence and all
 37 the rest of the old folks are dead. He died two years before
 38 the Civil War came on, and it has been so long that all the
 39 old folks have died out.

40 I do not know where I was born, and my Misses that owned me
 41 never told me where I was born. Some said I was born in the
 42 city of Baltimore but I don't know where I was born. My father
 43 was John Russell, and my mother was Margaret Russell and they
 44 died years ago. Mother did not raise me for I was raised up
 45 motherless so they always told me. I had one sister, Susan
 46 Evans but she died years ago. She married a man named Evans and
 47 he is dead too. I had no brothers as I know of. When I can
 48 first remember I was living at Port Gibson, Miss., Lucindia
 49 Bush, a white woman had me there in her home and she took me to
 50 Yazoo county, Miss., and my misses brought me to Bellmead some
 51 time before the war came on. I lived with Mrs. Bush until she
 52 told me I was free and then I, soon after that, met my old man
 53 and we got married. Lucindia Bush has been dead for years.

54 Mrs. Bush had a husband, Major Grace, but he is dead. She had no
 55 children. Q. The soldier in answer to questions history sheet
 56 dated April 2, 1915, stated that he was married to you in the
 57 year 1871, while you claim to have been married in 1866?

58 A. Well, he just got the date wrong and should have known better
 59 and it may be that they put his answers down wrong. I am sure
 60 that we married the same year he came out of the service. I do
 61 not think I am wrong about that, for we used to talk a right
 62 smart about our being married the year he came out of the army.
 63 I have heard my rights explained and I waive them all. If I have
 64 an attorney I don't know it. I have heard this statement read
 65 and so far as I know it is correct.

66 Witness

L. B. Altar
Sure altar

her
 Carolin X Carson.
 mark.

68
 69 Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 7, day of May 1918,
 70 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to
 deponent before signing.

J. P. Stead
 Special Examiner.