

ANDERSON, JOHN B.

MD

Invalid Application Number: 20845

Certificate Number: 13828

Widow Application Number: 1133734

Landsman: U.S.S. Santee and Constitution

Record Group 24, Bureau of Naval Personnel:

Muster Rolls of the U.S.S Constitution

1 October, 1868, marked page "20"

"Complete Descriptive Muster Roll of the Crew of the U.S....."

Anderson, J.B. rate: landsman
enlisted 13 feb, 1865 for 2 years in Newport RI,
from the U.S.S. Santee
aboard 1 July, 1866
born in West River, MD
31 years old
carpenter
negro, 5'4 3/4"

DEPOSITION A

Case of John B. Anderson hw. Chf., No. 13,828

On this 19 day of January, 1912, at
Annapolis, county of Anne Arundel
 State of Md., before me, L. S. Perkins
 Special Examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, personally appeared
John B. Anderson, who, being by me first duly sworn, to
 answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this special
 examination of aforesaid claim for pension, deposes and says:

1 I am about 76 years of age, p.o. address No.
 2 149 St. John street, Annapolis, Md.; am a carpenter
 3 and laborer.

4 I am pensioned at \$12 per month, as of the
 5 United States, and am an applicant for increase on
 6 account of age.

7 I was born on the farm of Stephen Lee, near
 8 this city, on December 22, 1835. My father (I
 9 am told) was Benjamin Anderson, and my mother
 10 was Nancy (Briggs) Anderson. There were
 11 fourteen "head" of children, of my parents, and
 12 I am the only one living.

13 I was raised in this neighborhood, and was
 14 free born. My mother was a free woman, but
 15 my father was a slave and belonged to Alfred
 16 Sellman.

17 My first service was in the army. The 30th
 18 U.S.C. Infantry, which was encamped at College Green,
 19 Annapolis, was ordered to Alexandria, Va., in March,
 20 1863. I wanted to enlist in that regiment, but
 21 my mother would not let me, although I had two
 22 brothers-in-law, Isaiah Snowden and William Con-
 23 nett, in the regiment; I think Snowden was in
 24 Co. C and Connor in Co. D. I ran away from
 25 home and went to Washington, D.C., intending to enlist
 26 there, but the 30th had gone to Alexandria, Va.
 27 and from there to the Battle of the Wilderness.
 28 At Alexandria I fell in with the 75th Mass.
 29 (colored) Infantry, with whose colonel, - Putnam,

DEPOSITION

Case of John B. Anderson vs. G. No. 13,838

On this 19 day of January 1912, at Annapolis, county of Anne Arundel, State of Md., before me, L. S. Perkins, Special Examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, personally appeared Claimant, ~~continued~~, who, being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this special examination of aforesaid claim for pension, deposes and says:

1 with him till he died. His home was across the
2 river from Philadelphia, and on the way to Cape May.
3 I now remember that he died at Camden, N. J.
4 Col. Putnam's wife gave me a discharge from the
5 army, and I went on home to Annapolis, arriv-
6 ing here on January 2, 1864.

7 I stayed around here till February, 1864,
8 when I went to work at the Army Yard, and
9 worked there for a year, loading cars of pro-
10 visions and ammunition. A man named Blodgett was
11 quartermaster. Then I went to Newport, R. I., and
12 on February 12, 1865, I enlisted in the U. S. Navy,
13 first going the U. S. S. "Savannah." was enlisted
14 as a landsman for the term of 2 years. I
15 served on her and the "Santee" for a little
16 while I was on the "Dale" and the "Winnipeg."
17 Was discharged from the "Santee" at the Annap-
18 olis Naval Academy on February 12, 1867,
19 at noon. These are the only services I ever
20 had, military or naval.

21 Q. Under what names did you enlist in
22 Co. A, 75th U. S. C. Inf.?

23 A. I am not able to state whether I gave
24 my name as John B. or as simply John An-
25 derson.

26 Q. What became of the other Anderson who
27 was in your company?

28 A. I don't know. I lost sight of him when
29 we had a skirmish at Tenallytown near Washington.

30 I had become acquainted at Annapolis. Col. Put-
 31 nam asked me what I was doing there. I told
 32 him I wanted to join the 30th colored reg-
 33 iment. He told me they had left there a day
 34 or two before, and that I could join his
 35 regiment (the 70th). I enlisted then in Co. A,
 36 70th colored infantry. I cannot recall the names
 37 of any of the officers of that company, nor any
 38 member of it, except that there was another An-
 39 derson (I think his first name was William) who
 40 marched to my right hand, in ranks. We went
 41 out to Alexandria and down on the peninsula,
 42 and lay in camp, but I don't remember the
 43 name of the place. After I had been in ranks
 44 for about a week, Col. Putnam made me his
 45 mounted orderly.

46 A ball struck me in the lower part of the
 47 spine while on the way to Harper's Ferry, one dark
 48 night, after I had been in the 70th regiment
 49 for 6 months. The wound healed up and gave
 50 me but little trouble, then. Since the war,
 51 it has pained me a good deal in cloudy weather.
 52 I was put into the ambulance and taken to
 53 Harper's Ferry, where I went on duty again.

54 From Harper's Ferry we went to Fairfax coun-
 55 ty, Va. where there was an explosion where
 56 the Confederates blew up the railroad and hurt
 57 and killed a trainload of their own men. We
 58 remained in camp near Fairfax till December,
 59 1863, when Col. Putnam went home on sick leave
 60 and died near Philadelphia of yellow jaundice.
 61 I went to his home with him, and stayed

John B. Anderson
Deponent.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19 day of January
 1912, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent
 before signing.

L. S. Perkins
Special Examiner.

80 D.C. in September, 1863.

81 My height is 5 feet, 5 1/2 inches, complexion
82 light bronze, hair and eyes black (now growing
83 grey). I gave my age as 30 years at enlist-
84 ment in the Army, altho I believe I was then
85 about 29. I have lived around Annapolis ever
86 since my discharge.

87 My birth record was written into my mother's
88 family Bible by Mrs. James O'Hara of the South
89 River section when I was a baby. I was
90 taught to read by Col. Putnam while in the
91 army, and after my discharge from the Army
92 I could read the family Bible, and saw the
93 record of my birth. That book was destroyed
94 by a fire which burnt up my house in 1869,
95 and my Army and Navy discharges were burnt
96 up at the same time.

97 I have heard you read the various state-
98 ments as to my age which occur in my
99 applications, and in my statements to examining
100 surgeons. I cannot account for these discrep-
101 ances, except to say that in some cases
102 the persons who did the writing failed to
103 correctly record what I said. Commissioner
104 Bruner made one of these mistakes in making
105 up my application. I called his attention
106 to a mistake he had made in my age, he
107 said it would not be noticed. I wanted him
108 to write an explanation, but he declared it
109 would make no difference. In making my
110 statements as to age, I did not say how old I
111 was, but stated the year I was born in, and

John B. Anderson

Deponent.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of
1911, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent
before signing.

DEPOSITION

Case of John B. Anderson vs. et al No. 13,828

On this 19 day of January, 1912, at
Annapolis, county of Anne Arundel
 State of Md., before me, L. S. Parker,
 Special Examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, personally appeared
Sladmon, continued, who, being by me first duly sworn to
 answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this special
 examination of aforesaid claim for pension, deposes and says:

1 let them figure it out themselves. I am
 2 not very good on figures.

3 Two old colored men, Nelson Wells and
 4 Philip Boston, knew me when I was a boy.
 5 Wells was a fellow-slave with my father, owned
 6 by Sellman, as was also Boston. They live
 7 4 miles south of Earth near in the county.
 8 I know of no one else who can testify
 9 to my age. These men are 6 or 7 years
 10 older than I.

11 I do not care to be present or represented
 12 at any further examination of my claim.

13 Q. If you were in the military service,
 14 why did you state in your various applications
 15 for pension that you had no service prior to
 16 February, 1865?

17 A. I did not know that such statement
 18 was in the applications. Later on, Commissioner
 19 Julian Brewer told me that the Government
 20 had found that the name John B. Anderson
 21 was not on the army rolls; so, he said the
 22 army service might as well be left out, as it
 23 would add anything to my case.

24 I have ^{had} two different wives. My first one,
 25 Lavinia Smothers, I married in Annapolis on March
 26 22, 1859. She died in December 10, 1873. In
 27 December, 1889, I married Mary Satterfield, in
 28 this city. The ceremony was performed by Father
 29 Miller. Mary had not been previously married.

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30 She ran away from me on September 10,
 31 1896. She took up with black man
 32 named Manuel Stewart; they were
 33 sponging around Annapolis last week.
 34 I filed application for divorce from Mary
 35 in the spring of 1910, but my attorney,
 36 Harrington Thompson, misappropriated
 37 the money I paid him to have the suit
 38 filed, but I am going to get a divorce
 39 from her as soon as possible.

40 My first wife, Lavinia, died here in
 41 Annapolis. Her death could be proved by
 42 Catharine Tiden, of Camp Parole. But I
 43 fear insult for Mary to have a red coat
 44 of my pension.

45 I have heard you read the foregoing;
 46 have understood your questions, and my
 47 answers are correctly recorded.

48 John B. Anderson
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Deponent.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19 day of January
 1912, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent
 before signing.

L. S. Perkins
 Special Examiner.

DECLASSIFIED

NAF 893123

LAJ

5/26/77

ELIHU S. RILEY
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
ARUNDEL BUILDING, WEST STREET

Navy--13,828.

ANNAPOLIS, MD., July 28,

1917.

To the Honorable
the Commissioner of the Pension Bureau:-
Dear Sir:-

I trust I will not offend by
"stirring up your pure mind" in regard to
the Claim of John B. Andersen, colored, of
Annapolis, "d.", whose present pension No.
is--"Navy. 13,828."

The new claim of John B. Andersen is
that, under the Act of 1912, he is entitled
to an increase of pension on account of his
age. His age and his service will appear in
his Pension Papers in your office, under
the above number, to which I respectfully
refer you.

I am sure that your Department is
crowded with business matters, yet I cannot
well refuse the old veteran the help of
another letter from me to the Bureau. He
comes in the office with almost periodic re-
gularity to know what I have heard in his
behalf, and his observations are both quaint
and pathetic when he finds that his plea
for the advance in his pension is still
marking time in the work of the Department.

If you can advance the aged soldier's
case, kindly favor both the petitioner and
the writers by giving this aid to his appa-
rently just request.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Elihu S. Riley