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OFFICE OF  
FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

3-1902.

MPS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

BUREAU OF PENSIONS,

WASHINGTON,

January 5, 1906.

Mrs. Emma K. Tourgee,

2015 Kalorama Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Tourgee:

Your note of the 2d instant came promptly to hand, and I would have answered it sooner but to do so I wanted to see the papers in your claim for pension and also examine those in your late husband's claim. I have not had an opportunity to do so until today.

It goes without saying, Mrs. Tourgee that I would be glad to see you at any time. It would not be necessary to make an appointment, but come to the Bureau at any time during office hours and I will certainly see you.

So far as your claim is concerned, I find that you have furnished very little evidence. There is the statement of a physician in France relative to the date and cause of your husband's death, and upon this depends a great deal. In your claim it is necessary to show that Mr. Tourgee died of disability incurred in the service and line of duty. I am going to have the claim considered by the Medical Referee to settle this question now, if possible. I do not find any proof in the case of your marriage, which of course will be necessary and which I see has been called for; at least the endorsement on the papers shows that on September 23, 1905, you were called upon for evidence of non-

prior marriage, non-divorce, date and cause of death, etc. The evidence of date and cause of death has been filed.

I find another thing, in the case of your husband,-- that he was pensioned at \$30 a month as a non-commissioned officer. I note that in one of your letters you state that you claim a pension as an officer's widow. I have to state that if the disability which caused your husband's death was incurred while he was a non-commissioned officer you can receive only the pension given for such rank.

I really wish you would come down to see me about the matter, and I hope that before you come I may be able to get an opinion from the Medical Referee as to accepting the death cause as due to the disability for which your husband was pensioned.

I remain

Yours sincerely,

  
Acting Commissioner.