

Ottumwa, Iowa.

May 21st, 1917.

Hon. C.W. Ramseyer,
Washington,
D.C.

Dear Sir:-

Some time since I asked you to send me some blanks for pension business, which you did. Please accept thanks for them. And at the same time you told me that you would assist in any manner you were able, in prosecuting any claim. So now, I am going to ask if you will ascertain for me just what has been done in the way of getting a pension for Sarah Jane Norton. Her husband died the 3rd day of January. The day following his pension came, but of course had to be returned to Washington. Shortly after his death a lady living here, by name of Adler, came to Mrs. Norton, and got her to sign up an application for pension. Now the husband of Mrs. Adler is an ex-rebel major, or at least passes as such. He has been barred from acting as pension attorney for some very glaring irregularity, and his wife has since conducted the business. I must say, however, that she does not inspire very much confidence. At the time she procured the consent of the widow in question, the widow was very ill. They are needing their money badly. I know that there is an immense amount to do in the pension department, but as I have told you, this woman is not the kind that one expects very much of. She has possession of the marriage certificate of Mrs. Norton, and it seems that she has had papers before that she claims has been lost, for other people. When the widow gets a little bit too anxious, or a little impatient, Mrs. Adler says that "she can keep her out of her pension for two years, if she is so minded". I guess that she will be so minded, if she gets peeved enough, and it is in her power to do so.

Will you please see if she has entered all of this claim, the accrued pay of the dead husband, and the original claim of the widow? We Daughters of Veterans, and Ladies of the G.A.R. do not feel like sitting by and seeing that kind of treatment dealt out to soldiers and their dependent ones. I was talking to Mrs. Norton yesterday. She is eighty years old, and very frail. It looks as if there will not be need of a pension very many years. Naturally, as she is in rather reduced circumstances, she feels a good deal of anxiety about the pension. It was her belief that his check would come back to her right soon after it was returned to Washington.

Mrs. Adler may be doing all right, but her treatment of the widow, and other things that we have knowledge of here, does not as I say, inspire much confidence. We are told to watch as well as pray, so we can pray, and I am asking you to watch this claim.

Very truly yours.

Eva H. Daugherty

CONGRESSIONAL