

15 Curtis St.
West Somerville
Massachusetts
Dec 16, 1911

Honorable Samuel H. McCall
Representative to Congress, Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:

I have been advised to write to you to see if anything could be done in regard to a government ruling which has brought hardship to me and to others similarly situated. My father, Charles H. Tracy, died on Sept 12, 1911. He served his country in the Civil War in the 37th Mass. Inf., enlisting in Aug. 1862 and being discharged July 4, 1865. He was severely wounded at Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865, one wound necessitating the amputation of his right leg above the knee. He was promoted for his bravery and afterwards was awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor. He was a constant sufferer as a result of his war service and for five years had been as helpless as a child. He was unable to take a step without two canes and only with the greatest difficulty. Many days he had to be lifted from his chair and he always required help in dressing and undressing. I gave up my position as book keeper in Boston and took the entire care of him night and day until a few days before his death when it was necessary to have a nurse to assist me. The

pension was used solely for his comfort and for doctor's bill. Personally I had one suit in five years. When he died there was due him nine days pension - \$18.00. I was told to apply for it at the State Pension Office but when I did so I was informed that I would have great difficulty in getting it. It would be necessary for me to have both doctor's bills, both undertaker's bills and the nurse's bill made out to me, - three creditors to make a written statement that they held me responsible for the payment of the bills. These bills must be taken to the pension office and I must swear that he didn't leave enough to pay the bills, and two witnesses must testify as to the truth of this statement. He did leave a little bit more than enough for these bills so I could not take such an oath. I am told that a widow simply is required to prove her identity.

Why am I not entitled to that money? If my father had been a government clerk serving in ease and comfort would his daughter have been so humiliated if she applied for salary due? I think not. It was not my father serving the government every day in pain and suffering? I need the money too for when a woman reaches the age of 40 and has been out of business for five years there are no avenues of employment open to her, to say nothing of the condition of

the nerve strain incident to the constant
care and lifting of an invalid. I have given
the best years of my life for his care and
while I was glad to do my duty as a
daughter should, it seems unfair that I
should be denied what, it seems was as
much a part of his estate and belonged
to him as much as if it was the salary
of any government official.

I can give you, if necessary, incontrovertible
evidence of the truth of my statements, and
I should be very glad to receive any help
in the matter that you could give me.

Very Respectfully
(Miss) Nellie A. Tracy
15 Curtis St.
West Somerville
Massachusetts.

