



Minnesota Office of the Adjutant  
General: Civil War Pension Files of  
Pension Agent Charles J. Stees

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Oxlando Port-right

Residence - Minn. Soldiers Home

Private - Co G 50<sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.

Original Invalid Pension

Claim - No 369625.

Chronic Diarrhoea, Disease Spine & Kidneys

Claim Filed Nov. 10 '88. Allowed Aug 14 '90.

\$200 Paid on Fee - For 2 Years' work.

August 24.

mm stees if i had got  
a larger pension i sent  
you more money my  
pension is small

fitzgerald got 15<sup>00</sup> more  
out of me and i still  
feel poor

Orlando Coatsworth

\$2 - Enclosed for 2 years work.

Rec. Aug. 26. '90.

Mummehake soldier home aug 18

dear sir i am verry thankful  
to git my fennion and git  
a little money but money  
is verry clort with me now  
and i cant come to st paul  
untill i bave the soldier  
home

and my health is so good  
at the present time it be  
no to try and git an incenes  
I will come and see you be  
fore i leave the state an send  
you a little money

Wesley Truley

Orlando Costright

Soldiers Home

Aug. 24. 90.

Cortright, Orlando

Enclosed \$ 2. for two  
years work.

COPY

Indianapolis, Ind.  
Aug 12. 1890.

Orlando Cortright -

Pension claim allowed.

+ + + +  
Rate \$2. pr mo from June 15. '86.  
And \$4 " " May 7. 1890.

Payable Milwaukee Pension Agency

Orlando Cortright, Member of  
Co "G" 50<sup>th</sup> Regt. Wis. Vol.

Certificate No 491 973 -

Disability - "Disease of rectum."

+

+

+

+

Very respectfully -

P. H. Fitzgerald.

Note -

above rec'd to my care  
August 14. 90.

Original forwarded to Cortright  
Soldiers Home, same date.

Janua 26 90

Minnitoko fall Minn

Cap stees Eszy

Dear sir

Did you write to  
Fitzgerald and get a  
answer and what  
was his reply

I dont expect you can  
do any thing with him  
for he is a very selfish  
man

yours truly

Orlando Coutright

Soldiers Home,  
Minnehaha.  
Jan. 26. 90.

Cortright, O.

Asks if we heard  
from Fitzgerald.

Rec. Jan. 27. 90.

Soldier's home minn

Janue 13 1890

Let me f stay on  
One ciada used  
and i think and i dont  
have any thing this winter  
from my pension  
and i think it best for  
you to write to him fitzger  
about the pension buisness  
and have him understand  
that he will git his pay  
when the pension is granted  
and have him let stark weath  
help git the pension granted  
and then i will pay  
you extra for your  
work

Orlando Conright

Rec. Jan. 14. 90.

Ans. Feb. 1. 90.

Soldiers Home

Jan. 13. 90.

Fortnight, O.

Writes - "better let  
Starkweather help Filz  
- would get his pension."

Rec. Jan. 14,  
Ans. Feb. 1, } 90.

Copyright.

When I write  
to him again,  
ask him if  
he gave Fitzgerald  
Ten dollars,

if so

he can get the  
same back  
by notifying  
the Comm<sup>r</sup>  
of Pensions

8

Tell him a big  
Pension is coming  
to him

READ THIS.

Owing to the extensive business carried on by our house, correspondents are respectfully requested to refer to the date of the letter received from us, and also to the BOOK and PAGE GIVEN just BELOW. With such reference, your letter will at once be placed in the hands of the clerk who has charge of your case, and an answer will be given without delay.

Law and Collection Offices

—OF—

✻ P. H. FITZGERALD, ✻

No. 68½ EAST MARKET STREET,



Send for a Pamphlet of Laws, free.

IMPORTANT.

Your Case is Recorded

in Book... 11... on

Page... 318...

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 12, 1889.

In reply to yours of.....

Mr. Chas. J. Stees,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 5th inst. and the order for Colands Castrights examination duly received, and in reply you are informed that we have this day returned the examination order to the Commissioner of Pensions and requested an order before the Board of Surgeons at St. Paul, Minn. and will send claimant the same as soon as we receive it.

Very respectfully

Indianapolis, Ind.  
Aug 12, 1889.

Fitzgerald + Powell

Receives Copyrights

Ex. order + forwils sent to  
Washington + asks for ones  
for St Paul, Minn.

Rec. Aug. 14. 89.  
Forw'd Aug. 15. 89.

of Minn. - County of Ramsey, 55:  
In the matter of the original invalid pension  
claim No 369625 of Orlando Cortright private of Capt  
Geo R. Clemens Co. 4<sup>th</sup> 50<sup>th</sup> Regt Wis. Vols. enrolled Feb 12 '65 & was  
discharged June 14 '66 at Madison Wis. Mason expir. term serv.  
On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. A. D. 1888; personally

appeared before me a Clerk of the District Court  
in & for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to  
administer oaths, Orlando Cortright aged 52 years,  
a resident of St Paul, Ramsey, Minn. & & being duly  
sworn & & my Post office address is No 447 St. Peter St.  
St Paul, Ramsey Co. Minn. Since my discharge from  
serv. since on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 1866; I have resided  
in Taylor Falls one year; In 1867 I went to Montcalm  
Montcalm Co. Mich. where I resided 9 years -  
In 1876, I went to Black-brook, Wis. where I resided  
2 years. In 1878 I went to Clear Lake, Polk Co. Wis. &  
resided there 3 years: In 1881, I went to Cumberland, Barron  
Barron Co. Wis. & resided 3 years: In 1884 I went to  
St Paul, Ramsey Co. Minn. & have resided there ever  
since.

My occupation has been that of a farmer & & pension  
claimed arises from Chronic Diarrhoea & disease of  
spine & kidneys & since making my first application  
for a pension (about 1877) I was <sup>ordered</sup> before the Examining  
Board Surgeons of St Paul, Minn. Drs. Murphy, Hild  
& Smith (in Dec 1884) I was suffering from Ulcerated  
(blind) inward piles in addition & was supported by  
them. -- which was contracted about Aug 1865, while on  
the march crossing the plains in Dakota from  
from drinking alkali water, by over exertion in  
marching & from the heavy load carried producing  
piles & passage of blood

From said discharge to present time recd Medical  
treatment for said disease - In 1867, in Montcalm, Mont  
calm Co. Mich, I employed a Doctor to treat me for about  
9 years, he left the state afterwards & I forget his name  
(much medicine has made my memory treacherous.)

In 1878 a Doctor from Hudson, Wis. came to Black  
brook, Wis. & assisted Dr Crommet from Jewel town  
Star Prairie, Wis. to perform an operation, cut a  
Fistula from me. Dr Crommet attended <sup>me</sup> for 2 years.

141 State of Minnesota  
vs  
Richard Erdenberger.

1867 Egan.

*Leopry.*  
*Henry Claim's Disability.*  
*No 369625*

142 State of Minnesota  
vs  
Charles Peavsck.

1868

*Claim of*  
*Orlando Cortright*  
*late Private*  
*J. J. Egan.*  
*Co G 50<sup>th</sup> Wis. Vols*  
*for*  
*Pension*

143 State of Minnesota  
vs  
John Lindstead.

1869

*Enlisted Feb 12 '65.*  
*Discharged June 14 '66.*  
*J. J. Egan.*  
*Filed Nov. 10. 88.*

144 State of Minnesota  
vs  
William Theobald.

1870

*Filed by*  
*John L. Starkweather*  
*J. J. Egan.*

145 State of Minnesota  
vs  
Henry Thier.

1871

J. J. Egan.

146 State of Minnesota  
vs  
L. Roole No. 1.

1872

J. J. Egan.

147 State of Minnesota  
vs  
Joseph Austett.

1873

J. J. Egan.

COPY.

St Paul, Minn.  
August 14. 1890

Sir: Good news has come at last -

Enclosed

Papers were rec'd from Fitzgerald this morning stating your pension had been allowed for "Disease of rectum" at the rate of \$2.00 per month from June 15<sup>th</sup> 1886, and \$4.00 do do

do do May 7<sup>th</sup> 1890 - <sup>Parasitiously small, but better than nothing - why not</sup> allow the \$4.00 from the start -?

White You will receive your official notification from Washington in a day or two - if you have not already done so - with the proper vouchers & Treasury receipts for you to sign & forward to Milwaukee Pension Agency, for your money

Immediately upon the receipt of your money I would advise you to apply for an <sup>under the New Law</sup> increase which guarantees you not less than \$6.00 nor over \$12.00 per mo.

It is refreshing to ~~hear~~ <sup>read</sup> Fitzgerald's talk <sup>of</sup> how hard he worked to get your Pension, after letting it run over 4 yrs. If it had not been for my efforts, he would be still <sup>over it</sup> sleeping. If you have paid him \$10.00 or if you don't ~~want~~ <sup>have</sup> need to pay him full fee of \$25.00 - and can prevent him collecting the same by writing to the Pens. Claim Agt at Milwaukee - to that effect.

I would advise you to come to St Paul as soon as you get this letter. I have some things to say to you that I don't care to write on paper, don't show the enclosed papers to any one nor speak of your pension until you see me - Yours truly

Chas. J. Bliss.

To -  
Frankfort, Wis.,  
Soldiers Home.

St Paul, Minn  
Aug. 14. 90.

Steele, C. J.

Writs to Cortright: Pension  
Cert. # 491973, allowed for  
Disease of Rectum 74 per mo.

\$2<sup>00</sup> from June 15th. 1886.  
\$4<sup>00</sup> do May 7<sup>th</sup> 1890.

Mailed Aug 14. 90

Clear Lake February 25<sup>th</sup> 1889

Mr Stees dear sir

I havent heard from you  
since i left St Paul  
In december

my ankle is not much  
better and i cant step on  
it and i dont know when  
i shal come to St Paul  
and have you got any  
fresh news about my  
pension the three months  
is a bout up that you was  
to git my pension for me  
please answer this letter  
address Orlando Conright  
Clear Lake north Wis

Rec'd Mar 1  
Ans'd Mar 5-1889.

Clear Lake, Wis.  
Feb'y 25 '89.

Cortright, O.

Inquirer about his  
pension

Rec'd Mar 1 '89.

Ans. Mar 5 '89.



June, 10. 89.

Capt. Charles J. Stees,

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find your letters of June 5<sup>th</sup> with Father's endorsements thereon. In Cortright's claim we await an answer etc., from the Dept. We could not hear yet. Will inform you when we do.

Yours respectfully,  
J. M. Starkweather.

Washington, D.C.  
June 10 '89.

Starkweather.

Encloses my letters of  
June 5<sup>th</sup> with endorsements

Refers to Copyright Claims

June 13 '89.



COPY.

Washington Dec  
Dec 26 '88.

Starkweather, J.C.

Power of Attorney + Fees  
Agreement of Mandate Courtright  
received + filed.

Rec'd Dec 29 '89.

for

June 4

mmekeha mimesata

Captain Read sir when you  
was down here at the soldier's  
home that some of the  
penetor was going a way  
at mimesota's and i am

getting over my lameness  
and i wish that you would  
look after that situation  
for me you see that i  
can fill the bill

and let me see a part  
the same and the time

Calando Contright

St Paul, Minn,

June 10<sup>th</sup> 1889.

Dear Sir/Comrade:

Your letter enclosing one from Fitzgerald & Powell with card for examination before Board of Surgeons received.

As you have given Gen. Starkweather a Power of Attorney the matter is in his hands - and after Fitzgeralds long neglect he now wants to ~~to~~ take up your case again because we have about brought your claim to a close.

I will forward your papers to Gen Starkweather & ask his advice in regard to the matter & have him send you an order to appear before the St Paul Board of Examining ~~Board of Surgeons~~

I will attend ~~of~~ the situation of Janitor for you.

Wanda Cortright,  
Minn. Soldiers Home -  
Minnehaha, Minn.

Yours fraternally  
C. J. S. R & P & N. P.  
MVCor 7<sup>th</sup> & Minn.

52- Paul, Minn.

June 10' 1889.

Steele, C. J.

Receives Cortright's letter  
June 4<sup>th</sup> containing Fitzgerald  
& Powell's letter - also -  
Surgeons Examining Board.  
He asks for a Janitors place.

Rec'd 10 June '89.

Mailed June 10 '89.

Headquarters Acker Post, No. 21.

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA.

Copy.

Grand Army of the Republic.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER, 376 JACKSON STREET.

W. C. GRIBBEN, Adjutant.

F. A. KECH, Quartermaster.

St. Paul, Minn. Oct 31<sup>st</sup> - 1888

Book # 11 -  
Page # 318 -  
W of Claims  
# 369 - 825 -  
# 369 625 -

Orlando Cortright late of Co. G., 50 Regt Wis  
Vols says he has furnished all the evidence  
called for by the Dept of the Interior  
Pension office and that he has in his  
possession an inquiry paper dated Washington  
DC March 6<sup>th</sup> 85 which has been  
fully complied with and also an inquiry  
letter bearing date the latter part of July  
A. D 1887 from Albion Mich as further  
testimony in his case said papers as  
he supposed were forwarded to Washington  
DC by P. N. Fitzgerald & Co Atty  
Indianapolis Ind

He has been before the  
examining board of Wisconsin twice  
at Osceola & Clear Lake and also the  
examining board of St Paul Minn

To Gen. Jno. C. Starkweather,  
Washington, D. C.

Respectfully Yours,  
Chas. J. Stees,  
#321 Wabasha St.

Orlando Cortright,  
447 St. Peter St.

St Paul, Minn

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 1888.

Slees, C. J.

Forwards Fee Agree-  
ment of Orland Coast right  
private Co<sup>y</sup>" 50<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin  
Infantry

No of Certificate 369625.

Mailed-

Oct. 31'88.



November 7, 1888.

Dear Sir:

I have received yours of the 31st ult. enclosing fee agreement from Orlando Cortright. Have been filled up and execute the enclosed power of attorney and history affidavit, not forgetting to enter the number of his claim on the power of attorney. Let him send me the letters he has from the Department in regard to his claim, and also \$100 for expenses.

Yours Truly

John C. Starkweather

P.S. It will never do for claimants to give your office as their <sup>Post office</sup> address

Washington, D. C.  
Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 1888.

Starkweather, J. C.

Receives Corbridge's  
Fee Agreement + encloses a  
Power of Attorney + History blank  
for him to fill up.

Rec'd Nov 10 '88.

READ THIS.

Owing to the extensive business carried on by our house, correspondents are respectfully requested to refer to the date of the letter received from us, and also to the BOOK and PAGE GIVEN just BELOW. With such reference, your letter will at once be placed in the hands of the clerk who has charge of your case, and an answer will be given without delay.

Law and Collection Offices

—OF—

✱ P. H. FITZGERALD, ✱

No. 68½ EAST MARKET STREET,



Send for a Phamplet of Laws, free.

IMPORTANT.

Your Case is Recorded

in Book... 11... on

Page... 3/8...

Indianapolis, Ind., June 7, 1889.

In reply to yours of.....

Mr. Orlando Cartright,  
Minnehaha, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Yours received and in reply you are informed that the Commissioner of Pensions recognizes us as your attorneys and informs us of just what your claim requires without the consultation or knowledge of your Washington attorney. It is necessary that you should be examined by a Board of Examining Surgeons to determine the rate of pension to which you are entitled, and for that reason the Commissioner has sent us the enclosed order. We would advise you to appear for examination at an early date as possible and return the order to us after you are examined, as further action can not be taken in your claim until you are examined. If it is too far for you to go to Cumberland, Wis., please inform us with the return of the

order, and we will get another one for you near your house.

Your attorney in Washington D. C. has not, nor will not (unless through a mistake) be given any information in regard to your claim as long as we use the recognized attorneys. and we will be recognized as long as we do not neglect your claim. and as we have no intention of being negligent, it certainly would be best for you to follow our directions and assist us in bringing your claim to an early settlement.

Very respectfully

Fitzgerald & Powell

Indianapolis Ind  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 1889.

Fitzgerald & Powell,

Letter to Orlando Corbridge  
informing him that they are the  
recognized attorneys by the Comms  
of Pensacola. That he shall be  
examined by the Examining Board  
of Surgeons - That they will be  
the recognized attorneys as long as  
they do not neglect his claim re.

St Paul, Minn.  
June 10<sup>th</sup> / 889.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find papers in regard to Orlando Cortright's claim which will explain themselves - they were forwarded to me by Cortright at the Mining <sup>Society's</sup> Home. They were sent to Cortright by Fitzgerald + Powell + Co - enclosed them to me. Please return the same with instructions How to act in the matter. I suggest you ask for an <sup>order for</sup> examination of Cortright before the Board of Examining Surgeons in St Paul.

It seems hard, after working up this case & bringing it to a finality that another party < Fitzgerald + Co > should step in & skim of the cream leaving us the milk.

This is the case referred to you by Com. Pers. Tanner which you forwarded to me for information & which you now gave me the result of the investigation.

I should judge from the enclosed that Cortright has been in communication with Fitzgerald, but he has not ~~acknowledged~~ the fact.

Jos. Martin - Private Co R 3<sup>d</sup> V<sup>o</sup> Colo. Claim No 67135B. was in & states that it is utterly impossible to produce the evidence last called for - and

St Paul, Minn.  
June 10 '89.

Steele C. J.

Enclosure to Starkweather,  
Fitzgerald + Powell's papers  
to Cortright + asks for  
instructions.

Missed June 10 '89.

To J. Starkweather  
#426 Mt Ave  
Washington DC

1865-

that it materialize on the hill from to date  
the case. The camp you should inquire for  
the anyone who remembers him at the time  
of his enlistment at Banking, It is in spirit

Yours truly  
Chas. J. Steele  
R. B. P. C.

Walter J. + Minn.



Headquarters Acker Post, No. 21.

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA.

# Grand Army of the Republic.

C. D. PARKER,  
COMMANDER.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER, 376 JACKSON STREET.

WM. O'GORMAN,  
ADJUTANT.  
F. A. KRCH,  
QUARTERMASTER.

St. Paul, Minn. July 16<sup>th</sup> 1889

Dear Sir:

The papers which you received from Fitzgerald & Powell sent me, I forwarded to my agent at Washington, D. C. which he returned to me to day with the enclosed letter - which please return to me after you have read the same, it will explain itself.

While Fitzgerald & Powell were sitting on their backsides doing nothing & we were hard at work on your claim, just as soon as we "run the game to cover" - they jumped up & claimed the same. It seems hard after working up your case & bringing it to a finality that another party should step in & get all the credit & pay for the same. Your pension is not far off now & you will get it soon after a long & weary waiting & you have me to thank for croaking it up for you.

I see you are ordered before a Board of Examining Surgeons in Cumberland, Barron County, Wis.: You can have that changed to St Paul, Minn. if you so desire: If you wish to do so & want me to write to Fitzgerald & Powell, for you to have the change made to St Paul, I will do so. Please answer by return mail & also return the enclosed letter.

To -  
Orlando Cortright -  
Minn. Soldiers Home,  
Minneapolis,  
Minn.

Yours truly,  
Chas. J. Steer,  
N. W. Cor. 7<sup>th</sup> & Minnie old Streets.

St Paul, Minn.  
July 16<sup>th</sup> 1889.

Steele, C. J.

Writes Cortright that  
the papers he - C - received from  
Fitzgerald + Powell - he - S - forward  
to Starkweather, who returns the  
same + Steele forwards letter to  
Cortright.

Mailed July 17<sup>th</sup> 89.





June, 13, 89.

Capt. Charles J. Stees,

Dear Sir,

Enclosed find papers in Cortright's case. Our work has brought about a settlement but we cannot take any benefit from it unless the claimant will pay you when he gets his pension money.

---

In Martin's case all that is now required is to get testimony (Capt. Comrades & neighbors etc. with anybody) showing that Martin was a healthy man when he enlisted & was

Extracted

afflicted with Rheumatism.

Yours truly,  
John C. Starkweather,  
By Son.

Recd June 16, 89.

Returne Certificate papers  
& declare all our work in that  
quality as "in the count."

Starkweather.

Washington, D.C.  
June 13, 89.

DR. C. B. MARSHALL,  
SECOND ST., OPPOSITE POST OFFICE,

Stillwater, Minn., Nov 6 1888

Orlando Cowbright  
Dear Sir

All the records that I  
made while at St. Paul, were  
long ago sent to Washburn  
I can not give you  
any data.

Yours Respect  
C. B. Marshall

Stillwater, Minn.  
March 26<sup>th</sup> 1888.

Marshall, Dr. C. B.

Letter to Cortright - all  
records made at Osceola  
were sent to Washington, D.C.

Rec'd Mar 28 '88.

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA.

# Grand Army of the Republic.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER, 376 JACKSON STREET.

C. D. PARKER,  
Commander.

W. C. GRIBBEN,  
Adjutant.  
F. A. KRCH,  
Quartermaster.

St. Paul, Minn. 188.

## Power of Attorney

Know all men by these presents That I Orlando Cortright  
Late private of Company "G" 50th Wisconsin Volunteers of  
St Paul in the County of Ramsey and State of Minnesota  
have made constituted and appointed and by these presents  
do make constitute and appoint Genl. John B. Stausweather  
of Washington D C my true and lawful Attorney for me and  
in my name place and stead hereby annulling and revo-  
-cating all former Powers of Attorney whatever in the premises  
to prosecute for me and in my behalf my pension claim  
No 369645 Book 11. Page 318. My said Attorney is hereby further  
authorized and empowered to prosecute for me and in my name  
and in my behalf the pension claim which I may have and  
for each purpose I will execute all necessary papers that my  
said attorney may wish executed to carry out this power of Att-  
-orney from time to time and to furnish any further evidence  
necessary or that may be demanded giving and granting to  
my said attorney full power and authority to do and perform  
all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite and neces-  
-sary to be done in and about the premises as fully to all intents  
and purposes as I might or could do if personally present at the  
doing thereof with full power of substitution and revocation

Quarters Acker Post, No. 21.

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA.

# Grand Army of the Republic.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER, 376 JACKSON STREET.

C. D. PARKER,  
Commander.

W. C. GRIBBEN,  
Adjutant.  
F. A. KRCH,  
Quartermaster.

St. Paul, Minn. \_\_\_\_\_ 188\_\_\_\_\_

hereby ratifying and confirming all that my said attorney  
or his substitute may or shall lawfully do or cause to be  
done by virtue hereof  
My Post Office address is 447 St Peter St. St Paul Minn  
In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand  
and Seal this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November Eighteen Hun-  
-dred and Eight Eight

Wm H Gibson  
N. E. Solomon  
(Witnesses)

Orlando Cortright  
(Signature of Claimant)

State of Minnesota County of Ramsey - ss Be it known  
that on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year Eighteen Hundred  
and Eight Eight before me the undersigned a Notary Public  
in and for the County and State, personally appeared Orlando  
Cortright to me well known to be the identical person who  
executed the foregoing Letter of Attorney and the same having  
been first fully read over to him and the contents thereof  
duly explained acknowledged the same to be his act and deed and  
that I have no interest present or prospective in the claim  
In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed  
my Seal of office the day and year last above written

Seal

Beun Davis,  
Notary Public  
Ramsey County Minnesota

Headquarters Dept Post No 51.

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA.

Edward A. Ross of the Nebraska.

F. V. KRCH  
W. C. GIBBEN

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER, 218 JACKSON STREET.

C. D. PARKER  
Commandant

Edwards W. Sims

188

COPY.

POWER OF ATTORNEY.

No. 369625.

CLAIM OF

Orlando Cortright,  
Private Co "G" 50<sup>th</sup> Reg't  
Wisconsin Infantry Vols.

For  
Pension.

Enlisted Feb 12 '65.

Discharged June 14 '66.

Filed Nov. 10 '88.

Filed by  
Capt. Chas. J. Stees,  
Pension Claim Agent,  
Real Estate and Notary Public,  
N. W. Cor. 7<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

*[Faint handwritten notes and signatures on the right page, including a circled name 'Steas' and a signature 'Chas. J. Stees']*

Nov 10 '88. Power Atty.

St Paul, Minn.  
May 18 '89.

W. Starkweather,

<sup>5 p m</sup> All the explanation I have to make is that -  
in Oct. 1888 Cortright came to my office & said - Some  
10 or 15 yrs ago he applied for a pension under Fitzgerald  
& that furnished all evidence called for since which  
time he had heard nothing from the same & was tired  
waiting & wished me to take the case - I told him  
I could not do so unless he gave me a power  
of attorney & agreement papers - which he  
did & I forwarded the same to you & you  
acknowledged - see your letter Nov. 5 1888. And Dec  
26 '88 you write - x x x "In case of Orlando Cortright  
I filed Power Atty & Fee Agt. - 3<sup>d</sup> inst. - I have heard nothing  
since - regarding the case - to Brown & Co." The Power of Atty  
was made Nov. 10 '88. Which I thot gave us legitimate right to

Take the case -



May 13. 89.

Charles J. Steer, Esq.

Dear Sir:-

Please  
return the enclosed with  
an explanation to me.

Yours truly,

John C. Starkweather.

Son,

Rec'd May 16  
Ans'd May 18 } 1889.

St Paul, Minn.  
May 18 '89.

Stees, C. J.

Explains to Starkweather  
how he came to take Orlando  
Cortright's Case.

Rec'd May 16 '89.

Ans'd May 18 '89.

St. Paul Minn  
Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 89.

Sir: You ask me in your last letter for an explanation - Well I wrote as plain as English could make it, now I will write as plain as I know how.

No! I did I not say I got your Pension - I said I worked up your claim down to the point where "a settlement had been asked" which means the last call had been made & your pension was soon to be allowed when up stepped Fitzgerald & Powell & claimed that they were the Attorneys for Orlando Cortright & had never surrendered their claim.

So - as I said in a previous letter after we had worked up your case & brought it to a Final Settlement they step in & claim the fees - in plain English [ Stees & Starkweather have done all the work & Fitzgerald & Powell get all the pay - unless you see fit to allow me something for my labor, time & expenses - such as Stamps, envelopes & Stationery.

I have written to Fitzgerald & Powell stating you had been paid up. before board Surg<sup>ys</sup> but if necessary to go again would prefer St Paul Board & they should send you a card to that effect yours truly  
Orlando Cortright?  
C. J. S. 747 Minn

St-Paul, Minn.  
Aug 5 '89.

Stuo C. J.

Writes to B. Cortright  
+ tries to enlighten him upon  
the contents of a letter previously  
written + writes "he did not say  
he got Cortright's pension for him  
but he brought <sup>it</sup> to a settlement."

Has written to Fitzgerald  
+ Powell, to change Cortright's  
examination from Cumberland  
to St Paul, Minn.

Mailed Aug 5 '89.

St Paul, Minn.,  
August 5-189.

Gents:  
Comrade Orlando Cortright requests me to write  
to you + say that he has been before an  
Examining Board of Surgeons, already -  
~~but~~ if necessary will go again but would  
prefer being ordered before the St Paul Board  
as he is very lame + requires crutches to  
get around.

Enclosed please find order for examination  
before the Board of Examining Surgeons  
at Cumberland Barron Co. Wis.  
which I return at his request  
You can forward the order for Ex-  
amination before the St Paul Board to Cortright  
in my care as he may be in St Paul or send the same to him  
direct - Care - Minnesota Soldiers Home  
Munnahaha, Minn.

Yours truly,  
Chas. J. Stees,  
N. W. Cor. 7<sup>th</sup> + Minnesota  
St

To -

Messrs. Fitzgerald + Powell,  
U. S. Claim Attorneys,  
Indianapolis,  
Ind.

#66 E. Market St. }

St Paul, Minn.  
Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 1889.

Stus, P. J.

Write to Fitzgerald &  
Powell for Orlando Corbight &  
ask them to have his orders  
changed so he can appear  
before an Examining Board of  
Surgeons at St Paul, Minn.

Mailed Aug. 5 '89.

Orlando Cortright  
Miner Soldiers Home  
Miner Falls, Hennepin Co

St Paul, Minn.  
July 16<sup>th</sup> 1889.

Dear Sir =

Miner.

The papers which you recd from  
Fitzgerald & Powell & sent me I forwarded  
to my agent at Washington, D.C. which he  
returned to me today with the enclosed letter  
which please return to me after you have  
read the same - it will explain itself.

While F & P were sitting on their  
backsides doing nothing and we were  
hard at work on your claim, just as  
soon as we "run the game to cover" they  
jumped up & claimed the same. It seems  
hard after working up <sup>your</sup> case & bringing it to  
a finality that another party should step in &  
get all the credit & pay for the same.

If you are ordered before a Board  
of Examining Surgeons in Cumberland, Barron  
County Wis. You can have that changed to  
St Paul, Minn. if you so desire. If you wish  
to do so & want me to write to Fitzgerald & Powell  
to have the change made to St Paul - I will  
do so - Please answer by return mail &  
also return the enclosed letter.

Your pension is not far off now &  
you will get it soon after a long & weary waiting &  
you have me to thank for working it up for you

Yours truly  
C.T.B. - N.Y.C. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Min.

St Paul Minn  
July 16 '89.

Stees, C.F.

Writes to Cortright  
+ refers to papers sent him  
by Fitzgerald + Powell.

Mailed July 16 '89.

July 26 Chas stees sir i' munder by the way  
that your letter sed that you had got my  
pension for me for you sed that your woulk  
had brought a bout a settlement  
and i' dont no as i' have to go bebone the  
examining board again or not i' wish that  
you let me know at wonce and if i' have  
I wish that you would write to Fitzgerald  
and have the order change to st paid  
examining board at wonce so that the pension

will move a long  
and now write me and explain matter  
to me so that I will understand  
every thing (and will be obliged)

Minw. Soldiers' Homes,  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
July 26 '89.

Copyright: O.

asks for explanation  
to a previous letter  
written him by Stee.

asks Stee to write to  
Fitzgerald & Co. to have  
his examination before  
a Board of Surgeons, changed  
to St Paul, Minn.

Recd July 29 '89.

Ans. July 29 '89.

2<sup>d</sup> Ans. Aug 5 '89.

Orlando Cortright  
Changed residence to  
#31 Forbes St.

Again -  
Changed P. O. address  
from #31 Forbes St. to  
Clear Lake, Wisconsin.

again -  
Minnesota Soldiers' Home  
Minnichaha, Minn.

No. 5916

Saint Paul, Minn.

188

The Savings Bank of St. Paul

Pay to the order of

Dollars

\$

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

HENRY A. CASTLE, President, St. Paul.  
R. R. HENDERSON, V-President, Minneapolis.  
L. A. HANCOCK, Red Wing.  
WM. P. DUNNINGTON, Redwood Falls.  
T. F. COWING, Fergus Falls.  
THOS. H. PRESNELL, Duluth.  
J. A. PARSHALL, Faribault.  
O. M. SAWYER, Secretary, Minneapolis.

# The Minnesota Soldiers' Home.

THOMAS McMILLAN, Commander.

*Minnehaha, July 25 1889*

As has stees sir i havent recived any more  
papers in behalf of my pension ~~secs~~  
cents it was brought to a settlement  
only that letter you sent to me  
I want you to send me a dollar please and  
when i get my papers i am coming to  
st paul to live then i will pay it back  
to you Orlande Conbright

Miner's Soldiers' Home.

Minnehaha, Minn.

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1889.

Cortright, Orlando.

Wants to borrow a  
dollar in advance "on his  
< pension > expectations."

Rec'd July 27 '89.

Ans'd Aug 5 '89.

Unlabeled Copyright  
by the letter that you got - from Stan Kneather  
that it was dated June 13 did you get -  
that letter last - month or this month  
what shall I look for next - a letter from  
~~a letter~~ Washington to come here on to St Paul  
I want you to keep me posted in the pension  
I am pleased to no that Fitzgerald has to take back  
sect

and is it right for him to keep that ten dollars  
from me

Mr. Taylor also in a recent letter

kindly and warmly thank to you for

forming my former to a settlement

I had made in my mind of late a resolution

that is to say you have done the far thing and

will do the same by you and I see

Minnesota Soldiers' Home,  
Winnebago, Minn.  
July 19<sup>th</sup> 1889.

Cortright, Orlando.

Write thanks for buying  
his pension to a settlement. "You  
have done the fair thing + I will  
do the same by you."

"Pleased to know Fitzgald  
has to take a back seat."

"And is it right for him  
to keep that ten dollars from me."

Rec'd July 22 '89.

Aug Rec'd 5 '89.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

*St. Paul* \_\_\_\_\_

*188* \_\_\_\_\_

**THE St. Paul National Bank**  
OF ST. PAUL MINN

*Pay to* \_\_\_\_\_

*or order*  
*Dollars*

Minnesota soldiers home July 17 1889  
Mr Stees sir as i havent any thing a  
bout my pension of late i will write you  
have you herd any thing about it  
In the last month i expected to git  
my pension last winter if i put my  
claim in your hands and now i  
think you should git my pension  
this summer to do the pens. thing  
by me i would like to here from  
in regard to this matter on cards brought

Winn. Soldier's Home,  
Munnichau, Minn.  
July 17 '89.

Cortright, O.

Writes + makes injurias  
about his Pension.

Rec'd July 18 '89.  
ans July 29 '89.

" Witnesses,  
 " Defendant, Orlando Corbright-  
 " Witnesses, 18 66 Mustered out.  
 Commitment, 18 67 Went to Montcalm, <sup>Michigan</sup> staid 9 yrs. Dr treated me 9 yrs.  
 Order to Bring up Deft. 18 76 Black brook, <sup>Wisconsin</sup> 2 yrs - Crommet performed operation in 1878  
 Order to Discharge, 18 78 Clear Lake, <sup>Wisconsin</sup> 3 yrs -  
 Paying Costs, 18 81 Cumberland, <sup>Wisconsin</sup> 3 yrs -  
 Entering Judgment, 18 84 St Paul 4 yrs -

" " Subpoenas In 1884, Dr Leasure St Paul, Minn. & now dead, attended me for Kidney  
 In 1885, I went back to <sup>for the doctors</sup> Gates & ~~John~~ Goodwin for treatment - who attended me  
 at Clear Lake, Wis. for 3 years. temporarily for Kidney complaint & piles, he was one  
 of the board of Sp. Surgeons at that place  
 In 1887, I went to Osceola, Mills, Wis, when I was treated by ~~Dr. Marshall~~  
~~I think his name was.~~ Dr. Marshall for Kidney complaint &  
 In Sept. 1888, Dr Ancker of St Paul, Minn. treated me for 3 weeks.

The above dates for medical treatment doesn't jibe with dates given for residence. Stee.

Order to Plaintiff, 18 67 Montcalm staid 9 yrs - Doctor, don't know his name &  
 Witnesses, treated, <sup>for</sup> Chronic Diarrhea, <sup>disease ulcer</sup> Kidney & Piles.  
 Defendant, 18 76 Black brook - 2 yrs - Dr. Crommet treated for same complaint  
 Witnesses, 18 78 Clear Lake - Drs Gates & Crommet treated me 3 yrs.  
 Paying Costs, 18 81 Cumberland - Drs Marshall & Peabody treated me 3 yrs.  
 Entering Judgment, 18 84 St Paul - Dr Leasure, now dead, & Dr Ancker treated to date  
 Satisfaction, 1888

6. I was a Farmer but was prevented from following my usual occupation ever since left Army. Some tanning about 3 yrs, but had to give it up, then kept Restaurant & afterwards rented rooms & such light work, am now doing nothing.

" Witnesses,  
 " Defendant,  
 " Witnesses,  
 Commitment,  
 Order to Bring up Deft.  
 Order to Discharge,  
 Taxing Costs,  
 Entering Judgment,  
 Fees on Warrant,  
 Subpoena to Defendant,  
 Filing do.  
 Oath to Plaintiff,  
 " Witnesses,  
 " Defendant,  
 " Witnesses,  
 Taxing Costs,  
 Entering Judgment,  
 Satisfaction,  
 Con's Fees on Summons,  
 " " Subpoenas,

~~I changed a doctor that me in 1868, most certainly  
 and he left the state and a short number  
 his name Dr. Cromb from South town, Star Point, Mo.  
 I had doctor Cromb from South town  
 1879 doctor from South town  
 had doctor gales and doctor goodwin at Clear Lake  
 1872 Mr. I think his name was Miller  
 had doctor and in the town  
 in 1888  
 can remember the doctor~~

Orlando Corbridge  
M E M O R A N D A .  
Those resided  
and what  
Physicians Attended  
SINCE  
MUSTERED OUT.  
1866 to 1889.

*Low* Division.

Claim No. *269625*

Department of the Interior,

PENSION OFFICE,

Washington, D. C., June 1, 1881.

SIR:

Since the passage of the Arrears Act, January 25, 1879, the claims presented for pensions have been so numerous that it has been impossible for the Adjutant and Surgeon Generals of the Army, with the facilities at their command, to examine and report to this Office the military and hospital records as rapidly as the cases come forward.

Of the 199,500 claims filed since that date requiring such records in their settlement, not more than 83,000 have been reported upon, leaving unreported 116,500, to which about 2,500 new cases are added monthly.

In order that claimants might be saved unnecessary trouble and expense in procuring their evidence, and the Office might know precisely what point in each case remained to be established or supported by the testimony of witnesses, notwithstanding any record which might exist, it has hitherto been the practice to await the receipt of the information contained in the War Department records before giving the claimant information in regard to the additional evidence required. Since the Arrears Act the delays attending this practice have increased to such an extent that the interests of both the claimants and the Government are liable to be seriously prejudiced thereby, because the deaths which occur among the claimants and witnesses, together with the lapse of time, greatly increases the obscurity of the facts upon which the pensions depend and add to the difficulties in ascertaining the truth.

To the end, therefore, that material evidence now obtainable to support the claims may not be lost while waiting for the records from the War Department, the following general instructions are given to enable you as far as may be to preserve the evidence in your claim and prepare it for adjustment.

In proving your claim the following points must be established either by the records of the War Department or other testimony:

1. That you were in the military service as alleged in your application.
2. That you were disabled for the performance of manual labor in, or as a result of, said service as alleged.
3. The extent or degree of your disability from time to time from its incurrence down to the date of the settlement of your claim.

Your service will probably be fully shown by the records of the War Department, and it will therefore not be necessary to furnish testimony upon that point until especially requested to do so.

Upon the second and third points observe the following:

*First.* Make your own statement, under oath, of your place or several places of residence and what was your occupation for five years next preceding your enlistment and since your discharge to the present time, also a full and circumstantial history of your disability and of its incurrence from the time it first appeared, mentioning all medical treatment, and the names and residences of your physicians, and which, if any of them, have died. If you have suffered from any acute or other disease since your discharge, when, what was its character and violence, and by whom were you treated for the same? State also whether you have performed any manual labor since discharge; what kind, and whether at any time you have been prevented by your disability from following your usual occupation, how often, and for what periods?

*Second.* You should furnish the best evidence attainable to establish the fact of having incurred your disability in, or that it was the result of, your military service, and also to show its extent or degree from time to time since its incurrence or development.

The best witnesses will be the surgeons and physicians who have treated you, and your officers or comrades and near neighbors who know of your wound, injury, or disease, and have been well acquainted with your disability.

Each of your witnesses should state what he knows about your case, very fully and with great particularity, also how he knows the facts to which he testifies, and also the length of time he has been acquainted with you; and if any of them are in any way related to you, whether by blood, or marriage, or in business, that relation should be stated.

If you are unable to furnish the evidence of physicians or surgeons who have treated you upon the point of the incurrence and continuance of your disability, or of officers or comrades as to incurrence in the service, your explanation, under oath, of the reason why, should accompany the secondary evidence which you may be able to furnish to cover the same ground.

When an affidavit is sworn to before a notary public, clerk of the court, or other officer having a seal, no notification of his official character is necessary, but if sworn to before a justice of the peace, or other magistrate who has no seal, the official character of such magistrate should be properly certified.

Testimony which you have filed conforming substantially to these instructions need not be duplicated. You will also be ordered for examination before a surgeon appointed by the Commissioner of Pensions for that purpose.

Justice among the claimants whose cases remain unsettled requires that the claims should be taken up for examination and settlement in the order of filing, unless the circumstances of a claimant are so extraordinary that if the facts were known to the other claimants they would consent to the examination of his claim out of its order, and this rule will be observed as nearly as possible, notwithstanding any inquiries which may be made by or in behalf of claimants. They may, however, greatly hasten the adjustment of their claims by filing as promptly as possible the necessary evidence described in this circular, and thus prepare their claims, as far as may be, for settlement upon the first examination after the receipt of the War Department records. When your claim is reached for settlement in its order it will be examined, and, if found complete, will then be settled; if additional evidence should be necessary upon any point, you will be notified of the further requirements, and until then inquiries by you, or in your behalf, will not advance the adjustment of your claim, but, on the other hand, by increasing the office correspondence, will tend to delay its settlement.

Very respectfully,

J. A. BENTLEY,

*Commissioner of Pensions.*

*Claimant*

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Headquarters Acker Post, No. 21.

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA.

Grand Army of the Republic.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER, 376 JACKSON STREET.

W. C. GRIBBEN, Adjutant.  
F. A. KRCH, Quartermaster.

C. D. PARKER, Commander.

copy

St. Paul, Minn. 188

3-440

West Division  
Gen Exr

Department of the Interior  
Pension office

Washington DC Mar 6/1885

Sir

In reply to your inquiry relative to the pension  
Claim No 369,625 of Orlando Cartright  
late of Co G. 50<sup>th</sup> Regt Wis Vols  
you are informed that it awaits evidence  
of your Regt Surgeon as to treatment for  
alleged chronic diarrhoea and disease  
of spine and kidneys and of your physicians  
as to treatment for and degree of disability  
resulting from said diseases during each  
year from discharge untill 1875

called for in a communication from this office under  
date of Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 84 and addressed to P. H. Fitzgerald  
Esq attys.

Very Respectfully  
O. P. H. Clarke  
Commissioner

Orlando Cartright  
St Paul  
Minn