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Zacheus Copeland

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ZACHEUS COPELAND.

MAY 11, 1836.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. E. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the petition of Zacheus Copeland, of Tennessee, report:

That after narrating his services in the American revolution, he states, that in 1793 or '4, he turned out to serve a three months' tour of duty under the command of Lieutenant William Henderson, to guard the frontier from the inroads of the Cherokee Indians, and he was stationed at Willson's station at the forks of Little Pigeon river, where he served as a sergeant. He says, when he was there, he volunteered to march against the Cherokee towns, under General John Sevier, in a company commanded by Captain Robert Carson, and in September, 1793, was in the battle of Hightower, where the enemy was defeated, and he thinks he was discharged in October; he says he sent his discharge to the paymaster, at Knoxville, by a man by the name of John Browdon, who is since dead; but instead of receiving his pay as a sergeant, his discharge was returned to him, written on the face of it fraudulent, and afterwards he was informed that it was in consequence of the two tours being a part of them performed in the same time; but he says he served out his tour of three months by his substitute, John Bradford, whom he paid; and that he served the tour with Sevier, personally. His discharge is lost, and he does not know how much his pay was, but he thinks between thirty and fifty dollars. He is old and infirm, and asks relief.

John Cowan, senr. testifies that he served the three months' tour mentioned by the petitioner, and was at Willson's station; and he recollects to have seen the petitioner the fore part of the tour, and he believes he served the latter part of the time by his substitute, John Bradford. He says the petitioner is a man of truth and veracity.

George Turnby, testifies he was in the campaign under General Sevier, and as well as he recollects, the petitioner was in said service. He speaks of him as being a good soldier, and a man of truth and veracity. He thinks the statement made by the petitioner is true. The committee asked information of the Secretary of War, as to the services mentioned.

The answer to the Third Auditor states, "that the rolls of that early period having been destroyed in the burning of the public buildings, it is impracticable to ascertain any thing in relation to the services of Zacheus Copeland, or of his substitute. Some books, however, have been pre-

served, in which balances found due dead and discharged soldiers, on the settlement of the paymaster's accounts, have been entered, which have been referred to; but the name of Zacheus Copeland is not returned thereon, as having any balance due to him."

The committee think, after this lapse of time, that the testimony is not sufficient to substantiate the claim. It appears from the petitioner's own statement, that his claim was rejected soon after the services were rendered, on account of fraud. If it was a fair claim, he had it then in his power to have removed all doubts. Having omitted to do it, the committee consider it would be dangerous to recommend the payment of an antiquated claim, on the frail recollections and impressions of witnesses.

Resolved, The prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

REPORT

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PETITION OF ZACHEUS COPELAND, FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BALANCE DUE HIM AS A SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

The petitioner, Zacheus Copeland, is a native of the State of New York, and was born on the 10th day of March, 1758, at the town of Westerlo, in the county of Schoharie. He was educated at the common schools of his native town, and at the academy at Westerlo, where he received a liberal education. He was a member of the Continental Congress, and served in the Revolutionary War, under the command of General John Sullivan, in the campaign of 1778, and in the battle of Red Bank, on the 12th day of December, 1777. He was wounded in the battle of Red Bank, and was taken prisoner by the British, and confined in the prison at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for a period of several months. He was liberated by the French, and returned to his native town, where he resided until his death, which occurred on the 10th day of March, 1848, at the age of 90 years.

The committee have examined the petition of the petitioner, and the evidence in support thereof, and find that the petitioner is entitled to the payment of the balance due him as a soldier of the Revolutionary War. The committee therefore recommend that the balance due the petitioner be paid out of the Treasury of the United States.