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### Zacheus Copeland

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H.R. Rep. 664, 24th Cong., 1st Sess. (1836)

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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

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

The petitioner's evidence in the American Revolution, he states that in 1783 or '4 he entered into a three months' tour of duty in the Department of Lieutenant William Haskins, to guard the frontiers of the Cherokee Indians, and he was stationed at a post situated at the fork of Little Pigeon river, where he served as a private. He says, when he was first, he volunteered to march against an Indian town under General John Sevier, in a company sent by General Robert Watson, and in September, 1783, was in the line of march, when the enemy was defeated and he thinks he was captured by the Indians; he says he sent his baggage to the paymaster, at the house of John Haskins, who is now dead; that he received the pay as a sergeant, his baggage was returned to him on the bank of it, and afterwards he was returned to the company of the two tour being a part of their pay, and he says he served on the tour of duty under the command of John Haskins, whom he paid; and that he does not know how much he received. His baggage is lost, and he does not know how much he received. He says he thinks between thirty and fifty dollars. He is not sure, and says so.

John Sevier, your witness that he served the three months' tour near the petitioner, and was at William's station; and he recollects to have seen the petitioner the last part of the tour, and he believes he served the last part of the time by his side, John Haskins. He says the petitioner is a man of faith and veracity.

George Haskins, your witness that he was in the campaign under General Sevier, as well as he recollects the petitioner was in said service. He says that he found a good soldier, and a man of faith and veracity. He thinks the petitioner is true. The committee would recommend that he be paid the sum of \$100, as in the report mentioned.

The report of the Joint Auditors states, "that the rolls of that early period have been destroyed in the burning of the public buildings; it is therefore impossible to ascertain any thing in relation to the services of Zacheus Copeland, or his stipend. Some books, however, have been preserved, which show that he was in the service of the State of Tennessee, and that he was discharged in 1783. The committee are of opinion that the petitioner's claim is not supported by the evidence, and they do not recommend the payment of the same."