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John McCormick

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JOHN McCORMICK.

JANUARY 19, 1837.

Read, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Mr. MORGAN, from a minority of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to which had been referred the petition of John McCormick, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to which were referred the papers of John McCormick, of Pennsylvania, have considered the same, and report:

That the said petitioner alleges that in October, 1776, he entered the service of the United States as a lieutenant, at Pine creek, (now Lycoming county,) Pennsylvania, as a volunteer, and marched to the junction of the north and west branches of the river Susquehannah, under Captain Cook. From thence he was immediately ordered back to Great island, to a fort which had been previously erected. From the time he returned to this fort, he was continually engaged with scouting parties in the neighborhood of Big island, until the spring of 1778. In the spring of 1778, a reinforcement of men was sent to their assistance.

That, in consequence of certain massacres which were perpetrated by the savages in the neighborhood of Wyoming, Col. Hunter (his commander) ordered the entire military force, with the women and children, to be removed to Fort Augusta; at which place they arrived about the 7th July, 1778. He then returned at the head of a party to Big island, and brought to Augusta the cattle which had been left behind.

He was then ordered by Colonel Hunter to head another party, and to bring back certain horses which had been driven off by the Indians, which he did accordingly. From that time till the cessation of hostilities he was continually engaged in boating provisions and munitions to the forts on the branches of the Susquehannah river. Was born in Ireland, in 1750. He never received a commission, but acted as a volunteer; and did not receive a discharge.

Sworn to, and certified in proper form, in the court of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, on the 12th September, 1832.

On the 30th April, 1833, he made a supplemental declaration in the following words: By reason of old age, and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below:—for *two years and three months* as lieutenant in the com-

pany mentioned in his declaration; viz: from October, 1776, to January, 1779. Sworn to and subscribed in due form.

The only witness introduced is Mr. Robert Covenhaven, of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, who swears that he "has been well acquainted with said petitioner since the year 1774; that they both lived in the country now called Lycoming county; that the said petitioner and the deponent volunteered and marched to Northumberland; that the petitioner was sent back to the island to prepare the militia to meet the attacks of the Indians; that during the fall of 1776, and the years 1777 and 1778, this deponent frequently met with the said petitioner, when carrying expresses, and engaged in boating provisions and munitions to the different forts on the north and east branches of the Susquehannah."

The Hon J. B. Anthony certifies "that he has been intimately acquainted with Robert Covenhaven, the above-named witness, nearly nineteen years, having lived all that time within fourteen miles of him; and he has no hesitation to declare that he is a man of truth and veracity, and that his statement is entitled to credit."

The applicant having claimed a pension as a lieutenant, (having acted as such, but not having been commissioned,) could not be allowed under the act of 7th June, 1832. The proof of his services by Robert Covenhaven, who is himself a pensioner, and certified to be a man of veracity, is considered by a minority of the committee sufficient to entitle him to a pension as a private.