

2-12-1846

On the Case of M. Wets

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 12, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Louisiana, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate instructing the committee to inquire into the expediency of allowing a pension to Mrs. Mary Jane West, widow of the late Lieutenant James West, of the United States army, report :

That it appears from a letter addressed to Mrs. Mary Jane West, dated 15th October, 1845, signed by several officers of the United States army, that her late husband, Lieutenant James West, of the seventh regiment United States infantry, accompanied the late General Henry Leavenworth, as aid-de-camp, from Fort Gibson, West Cherokee Nation, in June, 1834, on an expedition with the first regiment of dragoons into the great western prairie, to establish an intercourse with the Camanche and other roving tribes of Indians; that he was taken ill, of fever on that expedition, returned from it very ill, and died at Fort Gibson, from that attack, on the 28th September, 1834.

The committee are satisfied that Lieutenant West was a gallant officer and enjoyed the confidence of his commanding general and other officers of the army, and that he died in the performance of his military duty. The widow now asks a pension; but there is no act of Congress providing for such a case. The law extends to no widow of an officer of the present military establishment, unless he died of a wound or wounds received in battle. The committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

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

Ritchie & Heiss, print.