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George C. Thomas. (To accompany bill H.R. no. 271)

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GEORGE C. THOMAS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 271.]

MAY 9, 1850.

Mr. HAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of George C. Thomas, late a first lieutenant in the army of the United States, report:

That the said Thomas was graduated at West Point in the artillery corps in 1836, and the same summer, in obedience to orders, proceeded to the Creek nation, in Georgia and Alabama; in October of the same year, he accompanied his regiment to Florida. In February, 1837, he was the adjutant of Colonel Fanning at Fort Mellon; and, for his participation in this the hardest fought battle of the war, he was twice honorably mentioned in orders. He remained in the service at the south until 1839, when his regiment was ordered to the northwest frontier. In the summer of 1840, he was in the field against the Pottawatomies. In November or December, 1839, whilst engaged in drilling his company at light infantry drill on the Cass farm, near Detroit, he was ruptured by a violent shock received from suddenly stepping into a hole covered by snow. This rupture was at first slight, and caused but little inconvenience; and, by wearing a truss, the petitioner was enabled to perform all his ordinary duties. But the injury increased, and he was obliged to resign his commission in the army. Within the past two years, the rupture has so increased as to prevent his wearing a truss.

The pension law of 1808 requires the affidavits of the commanding officer of the regiment and the captain of the company. In this case, the colonel (Fanning) is dead, and the petitioner was himself in command of the company—the captain being absent on leave. The certificate of the then post surgeon, Dr. Archer, (now of Richmond, Virginia,) and the affidavit of the orderly sergeant, in the absence of any commissioned officer, have been duly furnished.

The petitioner says, “the intervention of a foreign war since that period, and the lapse of time, would make it difficult for me to find any of my old soldiers, whose evidence I might avail myself of, and would also have the effect of obliterating from their memory an accident *then* so trifling, and of a nature to court concealment.” And he adds that he has not “applied sooner for a pension, thinking the disability would be slight and temporary. I now find it a total disability to pursue my profession, painful in its nature, increasing and permanent.”

The committee think Mr. Thomas entitled to relief, and report a bill accordingly.