

2-25-1851

Report : Memorial of J. Irwin

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 25, 1851.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COOPER made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 481.]

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of Jane Irwin, asking compensation for services rendered and losses sustained by the memorialist's father, Colonel Jared Irwin, beg leave to report:

That the memorialist is the only daughter and heir-at-law of Colonel Jared Irwin, of the State of Georgia. It was in evidence before the committee, that Colonel Irwin engaged in the revolutionary contest at the beginning, as a lieutenant or captain in the Georgia State troops; that he served with distinction through the whole of the war, participating in a number of battles, especially in those of Camden, Briar Creek, Black Swamp, and the siege of Augusta, in all of which he behaved with great gallantry and skill. During the war, he suffered many hardships and privations, and endured considerable losses. It is distinctly proved that he lost two valuable negroes, several horses, and a number of cattle, for none of which, it is believed, he ever received any compensation from the government of the United States or the State of Georgia, except a tract of land from the latter, such as was allowed to all officers of the like grade.

After the close of the Revolution, during which he rose to the rank of colonel, he removed to the frontier settlements of Georgia, which were for many years subject to Indian depredations and hostilities, which he was always among the foremost to repel. Being a man of considerable wealth, his means were freely expended in supporting the troops sent to the frontiers to repress the Indian inroads, which were frequent and bloody; and for the provisions furnished on such occasions, it does not appear that he ever received any pay. That he was a sincere patriot and brave soldier, is clearly proved by the evidence furnished the committee. That he was a meritorious citizen, is attested by the fact that he was several times elected governor of the State of Georgia.

That the case thus presented does not fall within the provisions of any of the laws passed by Congress, the committee are aware. But in view of the important services rendered by Colonel Irwin, and the losses which he sustained in serving his country, and of the fact that his only child is now in indigent circumstances, the committee believe that justice, gratitude, and sound policy all unite in requiring at the hands of the government some acknowledgment of services so signal. It is not distinctly

proved when Colonel Irwin died; but that he lived at least twenty-five years after the close of the war, is certain. The committee, therefore, report a bill allowing to the memorialist the half-pay of a captain from the end of the war to the death of Colonel Irwin, her father—say twenty-five years.

REPORT

The committee on the memorial of Mrs. Irwin, do hereby report, that she is the widow of Colonel Irwin, who served in the army during the late war, and that she is now a widow, and has no other means of support. The committee are of opinion, that it is just and equitable, that she should be allowed the half-pay of a captain from the end of the war to the death of her husband, which is now twenty-five years. The committee therefore recommend, that a bill be introduced into the House of Commons, for that purpose.