

3-12-1860

## Report : Petition of M. Guthrie

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 12, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FITCH made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 268.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Mary K. Guthrie, widow of Captain Presley N. Guthrie, praying for a pension, beg leave to report :*

That it appears from the roll that the husband of the petitioner was appointed captain of the 11th regiment of infantry, 16th February, 1847; brevetted major "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles Contreras and Cherubusco," 20th August, 1847; distinguished and severely wounded in the battle of El Molino del Rey; was disbanded in August, 1848; appointed captain of 9th infantry 3d March, 1855; died at Newport, Kentucky, 29th December, 1857.

The petitioner prays a pension on the ground that her husband died of disease contracted while in the line of his duty in the service of the United States, and produces the following evidence :

George Suckley, late surgeon United States army, testifies that Captain Presley N. Guthrie "was taken ill while in the line of his duty, from the effects of which he died;" that in the latter part of February, 1856, he was ordered from Fort Steilacoom, Washington Territory, to proceed into the Indian country; that his march was made through a hard country during a rain storm; "that this exposure induced in Captain Guthrie a severe cold accompanied by fever, and forty hours thereafter a severe and complete paralysis of one side of his body supervened;" that he was the only medical officer of the army in attendance upon the captain; and that he was then, and is still, fully persuaded that the exposure to cold and wet that he had just undergone was the proximate cause of his attack of palsy; and that, in his opinion, the feebleness of body, caused by the paralysis, hastened, perhaps, induced the disease which destroyed his life.

William J. Barry, late a surgeon in the United States army, testifies that he held daily and hourly intercourse with Captain Guthrie during the campaign of 1847 and 1848, in the war with Mexico; that his disease was consumption, and being attacked with pulmonary hem-

orrhage, he was ordered home; that he never doubted Captain Guthrie entered the Mexican territory in perfect health; and that he believes that he contracted the disease there in consequence of the exposure which his duty imposed.

Upon a careful examination your committee believe this to be a meritorious case, and beg leave to report a bill for her relief.