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On the Case of W. Gaines

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 3, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. RANDOLPH, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2902.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2902) to place William Gaines, late ordnance sergeant, United States Army, on the retired list, beg leave to report as follows:

The act provides for placing William Gaines on the retired list of the Army, with the full pay and allowances of an ordnance sergeant, for and during his natural life, for the reason that the said Gaines has served, faithfully and honorably, more than fifty-one years in the Army of the United States, having been ordnance sergeant over thirty-three consecutive years of said service.

As the facts in the case are clearly set forth in the report of the Military Committee of the House for the present session of Congress, the report is adopted, which reads as follows:

William Gaines was born in Frederick City, Md., in 1799, and when a mere boy removed to the State of Kentucky. When twelve years of age he was present with his uncle at the battle of Tippecanoe, and in 1812, when but thirteen years of age, he enlisted as a drummer-boy in Captain Armstrong's company of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, at Knoxville, Tenn. After serving against the Creek Indians, he marched with his company through the States of Kentucky and Ohio; was engaged in the defense of Forts Meigs and Stephenson in July and August, 1813, and took part in the battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813. After the declaration of peace he was engaged on recruiting service in the city of New York, and on the 23d of November, 1816, re-enlisted in the Army. His record in the Adjutant-General's Office commences from that date, and it shows that he served continuously until his final discharge in 1866, a period of over fifty-one years. For over thirty-three years he served as an ordnance sergeant, holding that rank at the date of his discharge. He is now an occupant of the Soldiers' Home, near this city, and he is believed to be the only survivor of the gallant defenders of Fort Stephenson, under Colonel Croghan.

In March, 1879, an act was approved placing Lewis Leffman, ordnance sergeant, on the retired list, with full pay and allowances after forty years' continuous service as such ordnance sergeant, and fifty-three years' service in the Army; and in view of this precedent, as well as the long and faithful services of Sergeant Gaines, your committee recommend the passage of the bill.