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Amanda J. McFadden

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AMANDA J. MCFADDEN.

FEBRUARY 20, 1880.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. GEORGE R. DAVIS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2075.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill H. R. 2075, having had the same under consideration, respectfully submit the following report:

We find upon an examination of the papers originally filed in the pension claim of the petitioner at the Pension Office that she is the wife of George McFadden, who was a soldier in the Black Hawk war in 1832 (captain of the Illinois Mounted Volunteers); that he was wounded by the hostile Indians June 24, 1832; that he was discharged from service June 29, 1832; that he died April 20, 1852; that he was pensioned for his wound, and received such pension up to the time of his death.

The widow's application was filed October 31, 1853, and was completed March 4, 1879. The case was rejected by the Pension Office on the opinion of the medical referee of that office that the disease from which the soldier died was not the result of the wound he received in battle.

Your committee find that the evidence in the case shows that the wound received by the soldier was a gunshot above the ankle, which fractured the bone and caused the leg to become much shorter than the other; the bone was rendered "carious"; and that the wound remained unhealed, and as a running sore, up to a few years before the soldier died.

The evidence of neighbors and associates shows that he was much afflicted, but that his health was better before the wound healed than afterwards; that after the healing of the wound his health became very poor, and he was affected in various ways. The medical evidence in the case, as to death, is that of Dr. William W. Fox, submitted May 22, 1879, who says: "While he could not state positively that the death, which occurred in the prime of the soldier's life and while he was under his care, was directly the result of the wound in his leg, he can state that the said wound troubled him a great deal, and did not heal up until a few years previous to his death; and after said wound healed up, his general health never was as good as it was previous. He was troubled with dyspepsia, which was attributable to the healing up of the wound. The dyspepsia continued, and ultimately, what seemed to be cancer of the stomach, became fully developed, and after a lingering illness caused his death. There is no doubt that had his death not been so hastened he would have continued to receive his pension until the present time."

Your committee, upon the evidence of the facts in the case, are constrained to believe that the death of this soldier was in a manner attributable to his wounding, and that, notwithstanding the technical objection of the Pension Office, the petitioner is properly entitled to the consideration of Congress. They therefore report favorably upon the petition, and recommend the passage of the bill (H. R. 2075) granting a pension to Amanda J. McFadden.

Q