

University of Oklahoma College of Law
University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

2-3-1882

Elizabeth S. M. Finley.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indian and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 214, 47th Cong., 1st Sess. (1882)

This House Report is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact darinfox@ou.edu.

ELIZABETH S. M. FINLEY.

FEBRUARY 3, 1882.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. JOYCE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 3867.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3867) granting a pension to Elizabeth S. M. Finley, widow of Clement A. Finley, late Surgeon-General and brigadier-general, United States Army, having duly considered the evidence in the case, beg leave to submit the following report:

That the said Clement A. Finley entered the service of the United States under an appointment as surgeon's mate to the First Regiment of Infantry on the 10th day of August, 1818.

That he died on the 8th day of September, 1879, from disease of long standing, incurred while in the service of the United States.

That during the whole of the said period of upwards of sixty-one years he was in the service of the United States—a career with few parallels in the military and naval history of the country.

That during the greater part of that period, to wit, from August 10, 1818, till April 14, 1862, a space of upwards of forty-three years, he was in active service.

That during that period he served actively and efficiently—

As medical director in the field with General Winfield Scott, in the Black Hawk war of 1832, called the "Cholera Campaign," from the fact that that disease, which had but a few months before appeared in the United States, broke out in General Scott's command, at Rock Island, Ill., and raged with great violence and fatality. With a force of medical officers reduced by death and disease, General Finley, by his own personal efforts and energetic action, broke up the epidemic and saved the Army from destruction, for which service he received the official thanks of General Scott.

As medical director in the field with General Jesup during the Florida war (1836 to 1838).

As medical director in the field with the army of invasion in Mexico, under General Zachary Taylor, in 1846, accompanying the army to Monterey.

As medical director in the field with the army of occupation in Mexico, under General Scott. After the landing of our troops at Vera Cruz, the yellow fever broke out among them, and General Finley, though medical director in the field, was detained at Vera Cruz by order of General Scott, probably because of his long experience with that disease. Al-

though prostrated with the fever himself for a time, he was successful in preventing it from becoming epidemic.

As president of eight Army medical examining boards.

Appointed Surgeon-General, U. S. Army, May 15, 1861, to fill the vacancy created by Surgeon-General Thomas Lawson's decease, and served as such until April 14, 1862, when he was retired from active service on his own application.

Having been retired from active duty, on his own application, after forty-three years' continuous service, he was appointed by President Lincoln, in 1865, brigadier general by brevet "for long and faithful services in the Army."

That the whole of the adult life of the Finley having been given to the public service, he was precluded from engaging in any civil or remunerative employment, and at his death left an estate totally inadequate to the maintenance of your petitioner and of the children and orphan grandchild of said Finley, who are dependent on her for support.

The evidence shows that the claimant is in very straitened circumstances.

In consideration of all the facts, the committee recommend the passage of the accompany bill.