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Fannie E. Evans

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FANNIE E. EVANS.

FEBRUARY 17, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4426.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4426) for the relief of Fannie E. Evans, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to submit the following report:

The soldier in this case, George S. Evans, served during the Mexican war in Ben. McCollough's company, participating in the battle of Monterey and minor engagements under General Taylor, and was discharged at the close of the war.

He entered the Union service during the late war, with the rank of major in the Second California Cavalry, on the 16th of October, 1861. He was promoted to lieutenant-colonel on December 1, 1861, and to colonel February 1, 1863, and brevetted brigadier-general for meritorious services. In May, 1864, he was appointed adjutant-general of the State of California, which position he held for nearly four years. He was absent on a scouting expedition in 1862, and in command of the expedition to Owens Lake in July and August, 1862, and was in the various Indian engagements at the Spanish Fort and other places. During the spring of 1863 he tendered his resignation, and it was accepted on the 23d of April, 1863. In his General Order No. 14, dated at Camp Douglas, Utah Territory, May 31, 1863, he alleges as the cause of his resignation serious physical injuries, induced by exposures of nearly two years of military life, constantly in the service, on the march, or in the field, which had to a certain extent invalidated his performance of further military duty.

Dr. Robert K. Reid testifies under oath that he was a surgeon during the late war, and that during the battles at Spanish Fort, Utah Territory, General Evans incurred a double hernia, incapacitating him for further performance of his duties and necessitating his resignation.

Dr. I. S. Titus in a letter to Dr. Reid, dated January 29, 1884, states that he attended the soldier at intervals during the last twelve years of his life, and can account for many of the symptoms, which were hard to diagnose during his life. Is satisfied that much of the sciatic pains of which he complained was incident to unusual pressure of his truss necessary to keep the hernia reduced, and binding him fast across the abdomen, always preventing him from any physical exertion or labor. This, connected with his tendency to obesity, kept up a certain stasis of circulation to a tendency of determination of the blood to the brain, which

was an immediate factor in inducing his attack of cerebral apoplexy, from which his death resulted.

This claim was rejected by the Pension Office on November 17, 1884, upon the ground that there was no connection as to cause and effect between the hernia incurred by General Evans in the service and the cerebral apoplexy of which he died. It is, however, shown in the papers in the case, the most important of which are cited as above, that General Evans did contract an incurable disability while in the service, and taking for granted that the physician who testifies to his death and who is of an unimpeachable character properly diagnosed this case, and believing, as your committee do, that the statements that the soldier died of cerebral apoplexy superinduced by the effects of hernia are true, your committee are clearly of opinion that the meritorious services of General Evans during two wars merit some recognition from his country, and it is therefore recommended that the bill do pass after amending same by striking out all after word "cavalry" in line 6 and inserting the words "subject to the conditions and limitations of the pension laws."