

12-11-1889

Petition of A. Spalter

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 11, 1889.—Presented by Mr. Chandler, referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, and ordered to be printed.

[To accompany bill S. 1085.]

PETITION OF ALBERT D. SPALTER, HEIR OF LIEUT. MOSES CHILD,
DECEASED, PRAYING COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES REND-
ERED BY SAID MOSES CHILD IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

*To the honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled :*

May it please your honorable bodies, your memorialist hereby humbly and respectfully represents :

That Lieut. Moses Child, his maternal grandfather, was a prominent citizen of the colony of Massachusetts,* and afterwards of the State of New Hampshire,† and that he held the rank of lieutenant, and performed active service during the French and Indian war, under the governor of Massachusetts Colony, a commission for which is preserved in the archives of the Historical Society of Maine; ‡

That the said Lieutenant Moses Child held the same rank and served under General George Washington throughout the War for Independence; §

That the said Lieutenant Moses Child was with the American forces at the capture of General Burgoyne; ||

That the said Lieut. Moses Child, on account of his prudence, daring, and patriotism, was selected and commissioned by General George Washington, under his own hand, of date November 24, 1775, ** to proceed forthwith, at that inclement season, to the then remote and almost inaccessible colony of Nova Scotia, and perform the important, difficult, and hazardous undertaking of obtaining reliable information concerning the fortifications, dock-yards, the number of soldiers, sailors, and ships of war there, the quantity of the war-like stores, the disposition of the inhabitants towards the American cause, and make due report thereof, at the earliest time possible, to General Washington; ††

That Lieut. Moses Child, who had, as above, been so highly honored in having such confidence placed in him by General Washington,

* History of Groton, Mass., p. 292; Genealogy of Child family, pp. 545, 546.

† History of Temple, N. H., pp. 24, 25, 210, 211. History of Groton, Mass., p. 123.

‡ History of Temple, N. H., pp. 210, 211; commission dated March 7, 1760.

§ Genealogy of the Child family, p. 19.

|| Genealogy of the Child family, pp. 210, 211.

** Genealogy of the Child family, pp. 210, 211 (this commission, signed by the hand of the immortal Washington, is owned by your memorialist); History of Temple, N. H., p. 25; Genealogy of Child family, pp. 210, 211.

†† A most hazardous undertaking.

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executed the said important and perilous mission to the entire satisfaction of the Commander-in-Chief of the United Colonies:

That the said Lieut. Moses Child, in many other ways beside the foregoing, proved himself a devoted patriot, a brave soldier, and a valiant officer; that he endured great hardships, and encountered many dangers, bringing privations upon himself and his family; in short, that he sacrificed his all upon the altar of his and our country's most precious freedom and independence;*

That the said Moses Child never received therefor a pension, nor has any one of his family received such, nor any gratuity, or other like pecuniary compensation or recompense, from either the State or National Government; and therefore your memorialist, as the surviving grandson and lineal legal heir of Lieut. Moses Child, humbly petitions the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives favorably to consider what is herein set forth, and as has been done heretofore in the cases of others similarly circumstanced, that you will, in due public recognition of such hitherto unacknowledged, and unrewarded patriotic services and heroic sacrifices, grant to your memorialist such gratuity or other like financial compensation as in your wisdom a patriotic sense of duty shall dictate.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioner will ever pray.

ALBERT D. SPALTER,
Rumney, Grafton County, N. H., United States of America.

* Genealogy of the Child family, p. 545, History of Temple, N. H., p. 211; History of Groton, Mass., p. 392.