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Lucy, widow of Muck-Apecwak-Ken-Zah

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LUCY, WIDOW OF MUCK-APEOWAK-KEN-ZAH.

FEBRUARY 7, 1889.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BLISS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill H. R. 12420.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12420) granting a pension to Lucy, widow of Muck-a-pec-wah-ken-zah, or "John," etc., have considered the same and report as follows :

The present Congress at its first session granted a pension to Muck-a-pec-wah-ken-zah, the late husband of the claimant. The act became a law August 28, 1888, but the certificate of pension did not reach the beneficiary during his life, he having died on September 20, 1888. He left a widow, who is the present applicant, but no children. Lucy was married to Muck-a-pec-wah-ken-zah in 1860, under the name of "Tatigio," according to the Indian custom, and again married to him on March 14, 1875, according to the laws of Wisconsin. She is now over fifty-five years of age and in needy circumstances, with no one upon whom she can depend for a living.

Drs. J. C. Fitch and William Thorne, who treated the husband during his life and attended him in his last illness, certify that his death was due to tetanus, which was probably induced by a small wound upon the ball of the foot while the patient was in a very debilitated condition from chronic bronchitis and rheumatism, the result of exposures and injuries received during his service.

The services of the husband are shown in the report of this committee, which accompanies the bill for his relief, as follows :

[House Report No. 2856, Fiftieth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6764) granting a pension to "Muck-a-pec-wah-ken-zah" or "John," an Indian who aided in saving the lives of many white people in the Indian outbreak in Minnesota in 1862, have considered the same and report :

That it conclusively appears that this Indian performed important and valuable services in behalf of the whites during the Indian outbreak, and subsequently was on the frontiers of Minnesota and Dakota, in the years 1862-'63, as a scout and under the command of General H. H. Sibley, then in command of that district; and that, while defending the whites he received injuries at the hands of hostile Indians and from exposure while such scout which have permanently disabled him and injured his health.

The following is a memorial from General Sibley to this Congress in behalf of this Indian, and shows him to be worthy of a pension from this Government :

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

The memorial of the undersigned, late brigadier-general and brevet major-general U. S. Volunteers, in command of the military district of Minnesota, respectfully represents: That Muck-a-pec-wah-ken-zah, commonly known as "Indian John," was employed by me, during the outbreak and subsequent war with Dakota or Sioux In-

dians on the frontiers of Minnesota and Dakota in 1862-'63, as a scout, and in that capacity rendered essential service, and was instrumental in saving the lives of white women and children; that while in the service he received injuries from exposure and violence at the hands of hostile Indians which have permanently affected his health and prevented him from properly supporting his family; that he and they are utterly impoverished, and have to depend for subsistence on the charity of the whites; wherefore your memorialist respectfully recommends and urges that your honorable body pass an act for the relief of the said Muck-a-pec-wak-keu-zah, in view of his helpless condition and former meritorious services to the Government, granting him such provision per month during his natural life as will enable him and his family to live in comparative comfort.

And your memorialist will ever pray, etc.

HENRY H. SIBLEY,

Late Brigadier and Brevet Major-General, U. S. Volunteers.

SAINT PAUL, MINN., March 21, 1888.

The additional evidence submitted to the committee shows that this Indian is a full-blood Sioux and now of the age of seventy-five years; that he was living at Redwood, on the Sioux Indian Reservation, at the time of the outbreak; that he did all in his power to induce the Indians not to rise up against the whites, but failed; that in aiding a mother and four children (the husband and father having been killed) to escape he was followed by other Indians and while protecting said mother and children was struck in the breast with a musket and knocked down, and his ribs were broken; that after many difficulties he succeeded in getting the mother and children to his tent, where he kept them for about four weeks; that he rescued others in the same manner and guarded them until General Sibley came and rescued the white prisoners which the other Indians had, when he and those whom he had defended returned with General Sibley to Fort Snelling.

Drs. Adams and Haws testify that his disability totally incapacitates him for manual labor of any kind. Other witnesses testify sustaining our conclusions.

Your committee regard this as a truly meritorious case, and, inasmuch as this Indian is uneducated, and will find it difficult to understand all the proceedings necessary to enable him to secure a pension in the regular way, we deem it but just that he should be granted a pension without being required to undergo further medical examination to establish his disability.

We therefore recommend that the bill be amended so as to specify the amount of pension which he is to receive, and that that amount be fixed at the sum of \$15 per month, and that as so amended the bill do pass.

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill, amended by changing the word "Muck-a pec-wah-ken-zah" to "Muck-a pec-wak-keu zah," wherever it appears in the bill.