

3-17-1896

Benjamin Franklin Dowell

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



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

Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 496, 54th Cong., 1st Sess. (1896)

This Senate 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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 17, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 714.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 714) granting a pension to Benjamin Franklin Dowell, of Oregon, for services with the Oregon Volunteers in the years 1853, 1854, 1855, and 1856, have examined the same and report:

The claimant makes oath that he was one of the chief packers in the Rogue River Indian war of Oregon from about the 5th day of August, 1853, to the end of war, under C. S. Drew, quartermaster and commissary during said war; with Jesse Walker's company from the 5th day of August, 1854, to the 6th day of November, 1854, under the same quartermaster and commissary; that he was chief packer under Al Zeber and J. W. Drew from about the beginning of the Oregon and Washington Indian war to some time in February, 1856; that in 1853 he was in a battle with the Indians on Evans Creek, in Jackson County, Oreg., in which about half of the party was killed or wounded; that in 1854 he was in a battle with the Modoc Indians near Lost River, and that in December of the same year he was in a four days' fight with Colonel Kelly on Walla Walla River, in Washington Territory. The above allegations are substantiated by the affidavit of George Hunter, a comrade of the claimant, who was in the same service.

The records on file in the Pension Bureau show that the claimant was employed as a pack master with his train of fifteen pack mules for the use of the volunteers called out to suppress Indian hostilities in the Rogue River Valley, in Oregon, for which service he was paid by the United States. It also appears that the claimant was given bounty land of 160 acres under the act of March 3, 1855. While the claimant was not a regularly enlisted man, his service to the Government has been recognized by granting the bounty land.

It appears from evidence on file that the claimant is nearly 78 years old; that he is badly ruptured, and has the rheumatism so that he can hardly walk, and that he was paralyzed in 1893. It is also shown that he is a man of truth and veracity.

Your committee think that equity requires that the claims of persons who rendered service to the Government on the frontier during the various Indian wars should receive consideration, especially when the service has been faithfully and efficiently rendered, and the disability of the claimant, owing to his great age and feeble health, is almost total.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DOWELL.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Washington, D. C., March 4, 1896.

SIR: In response to your request—with return of papers—for a statement as to whether a land warrant was issued to Benjamin F. Dowell, packmaster, Major Drew's command, Oregon Volunteers, I have to inform you that warrant No. 61244 was issued April 30, 1857. The papers are returned herewith as requested.

Very respectfully,

WM. LOCHREN, *Commissioner.*

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,
United States Senate.

(Under authority of act of March 3, 1855, United States Statutes No. 10, p. 701.)

