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Invalid pensioners [to accompany bill H.R. no. 79].

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INVALID PENSIONERS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 79.]

DECEMBER 23, 1833.

Mr. EVANS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made reports in the following cases :

MANUEL CRECY.

FEBRUARY 15, 1832.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Manuel Crecy, report :

The petition sets forth that, during the last war, the petitioner served as a private in the company commanded by Captain L'Espeusse, in the winter of 1814, 1815, at New Orleans. That, in consequence of exposure to the weather, he contracted an inflammation in his eyes, which disorder has rendered him totally blind. It is satisfactorily proven, by documents accompanying the petition, that the petitioner is now blind, and that his exposure while in the army, in the winter of 1814, 1815, at New Orleans, was the cause of his complaint; and that the petitioner is entirely destitute of property. The committee consider him entitled to relief, and report a bill accordingly.

JOSEPH TRIMBLE.

FEBRUARY 15, 1832.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, which was instructed by a resolution of the 16th January, ultimo, to inquire into the expediency of placing the name of Joseph Trimble on the roll of invalid pensioners, report :

That said Trimble was called into the service of the United States by order of William Clark, acting Governor of the then Territory of Missouri, in the year 1814, upon a call for militia and volunteers under authority from the President of the United States. Said Trimble was serving on board a gunboat at Prairie du Chien, and about 22d July, 1814, was wounded by a musket ball in the right arm and right side, in an action between the United States troops and the British and Indians; which wounds disable him from procuring subsistence by manual labor. Believing the facts to be clearly proved, the committee recommend that he be placed on the pension list, and, therefore, report a bill for that purpose.

LEVI BROWN.

FEBRUARY 15, 1832.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Levi Brown, report :

That the petitioner was ensign in a company of New York militia, in the 37th regiment and 40th brigade, when called into service for the defence of Plattsburg, in the autumn of 1814, of which company he had the command, there being no superior officers in commission. That, in the skirmish of the 6th September, 1814, in order to make good his retreat, he was obliged to ford the river Saranac, whilst in a state of high perspiration, in consequence of which, and other exposure, he caught a violent cold, which brought on a permanent deafness ; which is certified under oath by Alexander Murse and William Greene, practising physicians in the county of Essex, in the State of New York, to render him two-thirds disabled, including all the disadvantages concomitant to said misfortune. The committee report a bill.

MARTIN PARKER.

APRIL 3, 1832.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Martin Parker, report :

That the petition was presented to the last Congress, and a bill reported in favor of the petitioner by the Committee on Military Pensions. The committee have examined the report, and, being satisfied with its justice, adopt the same, and report a bill granting a pension to the petitioner.

MAY 3, 1830.

The Committee on Military Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Martin Parker, of Yorktown, in the county of Westchester, and State of New York, respectfully report :

That the petitioner states his enlistment in the army of the United States on the 11th August, 1823, and served therein until discharged on the 20th May, 1829, and that, in the month of January, 1828, whilst he was engaged in extra service in the said army, and in consequence of such extra service, he contracted a sickness or disease, to which he has ever since been, and is now subject : that he is poor, and, by reason of his illness, is unable to labor.

The facts stated in the said petition are proven, 1st, by this petitioner's own affidavit ; 2d, by the discharge under the hand of Lieut. Col. Alexander Cummings ; 3d, by the certificate of Joseph P. Russel, assistant surgeon United States army, who states that the petitioner, in consequence of being employed on extra service in the quartermaster's department, in the sawing of lumber, was greatly exposed to the inclemencies of the weather and storms of rain, in consequence of which he contracted a severe catarrh, from which he did not recover, and which has terminated in a confirmed phthisis pulmonalis. The opinion of the committee is, that the facts stated in this petition are sustained by proof, and that they do entitle the petitioner to be placed on the pension list as for total disability.

WILLIAM COLLINS.

FEBRUARY 15, 1832.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition of William Collins, report :

It is satisfactorily proven that the petitioner, in March, 1813, enlisted into the United States service in the 23d regiment of infantry. That, at the time of enlistment, he was a healthy, able-bodied man ; that, shortly after, while on the march to the frontier, he was taken sick, and continued so until fall, when he returned home on furlough, with orders to make monthly reports of his health to his commanding officer ; that he continued to make his monthly reports until he heard the news of peace, his health in the mean time continuing gradually on the decline ; that, shortly afterwards, he proceeded to Sackett's Harbor, where his regiment was stationed, for the purpose of procuring his discharge ; that, on his arrival there, he was ordered by the surgeon to the hospital, where he remained about two months, when he was discharged. His present disability has accrued in consequence of a fall received by him in the spring of 1813, shortly after he was taken sick, being then out of the hospital, by order of his surgeon, to take air and exercise.

By his fall a rupture was produced, and he was otherwise seriously injured. From those injuries he has never recovered.

The petitioner proves, by the certificates of two practising physicians, that his present disability arises from the injuries above mentioned ; and, from the facts stated, the committee believe the disability to be total.

 JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

FEBRUARY 2, 1832.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Joseph Chamberlain, report :

In the case of Joseph Chamberlain, it appears by his statement, under oath, made before competent authority, that he was a lieutenant in the army of the United States in the late war ; he entered the service in the spring of 1814, in Colonel Fenton's regiment of militia. On his march to the Canada lines, he was taken sick at Pittsburg, where he was left on that account by the regiment ; but recovering, in some degree, his health, he proceeded on the march, and joined the regiment at Erie. He was in the battles of Chippewa and Bridgewater. Shortly after, he was taken sick again, and, his disease falling into his limbs, he was obliged to leave the army. He has continued in that condition ever since, and is now totally unable to work, or even to walk, without great difficulty. Samuel Blythe, a lieutenant, and John McMillan, a captain in the same regiment, fully prove the service, sickness, and consequent disability of the said Chamberlain. Two surgeons, certified to be respectable in their profession, prove the disability to be partial paralysis of the lower limbs, and that he is totally disabled. It is therefore

resolved, by the committee, that the said Chamberlain is entitled to have his name placed on the pension roll of the United States, as of the 1st day of January, 1832, at the rate of nineteen dollars per month.

JESSE CUNNINGHAM.

JANUARY 19, 1832.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Jesse Cunningham, report :

The petitioner has furnished satisfactory evidences that, in August, 1814, he was detailed as a militiaman from the twentieth brigade of Virginia militia, from Randolph county, and proceeded, under the command of Captain Jonathan Wamsly, to Norfolk, where he was attached to the 6th regiment of Virginia militia in the United States service, commanded by Colonel Henry E. Colman : that in this service he was called to perform severe fatigue duty, under great exposure, in the month of November ; and, whilst suffering under a severe cold, was attacked by the measles, from which he but partially recovered—the disorder settling in his shoulder and right arm, which became palsied, and so continues to this day, by which he has been disabled from performing manual labor. Owing to the loss of a law suit, the petitioner has become destitute of property, with a large and helpless family. The committee report a bill in his favor.

FRANCOIS DUCOING.

JANUARY 10, 1832.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Francois Ducoing, report :

That this petition was presented to the last Congress, and was referred to the Committee on Military Pensions, by whom a report was made favorable to the petitioner, accompanied by a bill for his relief. The committee are satisfied with that report, which they adopt, and accordingly report a bill.

The Committee on Military Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Francois Ducoing, a soldier of the late war, report :

That the petitioner sets forth in his petition that, during the invasion of Louisiana in 1814-'15, he was attached to Captain St. Gene's company, Major Plauche's battalion ; that, while in actual service in the defence of New Orleans, he received a wound in his right leg, which has, for some time past, so disabled him that it is completely out of his power to pursue his trade, or gain a subsistence in any other way ; that he has a family of six small children dependent on him for their daily support, and who are, at this time, in a state of extreme want.

In corroboration of this his statement, he produces a certificate signed by a number of the officers of high grade and standing who were engaged in the service with him, stating that they knew him to have received a wound in his right leg while engaged in the service, and, from information, have reason to believe has disabled him ever since from working at his profession to sustain a numerous family.

He also produces the certificate of the sergeant major of the 1st battalion

Louisiana militia during the invasion of the English in 1814-'15, employed in active service under the command of General Jackson, who states that he knew the petitioner to be wounded on the 1st January, 1815, in the attack of the English on our retrenchments, in the right leg, by the explosion of a shell; notwithstanding, he remained at his post in despite of his advice. For six months he suffered excruciating pain in the wounded part; the pains have never left him, and have ever since rendered him unfit for action. He is unable to stand on his leg, whereby he is wholly disabled from exercising his profession.

The wound is now more serious: notwithstanding the best surgical aid, it may require amputation. His sufferings are great, and he is utterly unable to attend to his business, and frequently compelled to keep his bed for whole months. He gives it as his opinion that the petitioner is in a condition of entire disability.

In addition, we have the letter of the Hon. E. D. White, in which he states that he knows the handwriting of the most of the gentlemen who signed the certificate, and that they are all men of high character, and who served with distinction in the war. The committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to his prayer, for which they report a bill, at eight dollars per month.

THOMAS MITCHELL.

FEBRUARY 15, 1833.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Thomas Mitchell, praying for an arrearage of pension, report:

That it is satisfactorily proven that the petitioner, in the year 1813, was a private soldier in Captain Wright's company, in the 30th regiment of infantry; that while stationed at Burlington during the month of August of that year, and while employed on fatigue duty in making a road from the camp to a spring near by, in removing a stump that stood in the way, a root of the stump struck him across the eyes, and put out one, and nearly destroyed the sight of the other eye; that he shortly after, from the injury aforesaid, became totally blind, and has ever since remained so. On the 23d of August, 1832, the petitioner was placed on the pension list by the Secretary of War, at eight dollars per month. Until that period, the petitioner never applied for a pension. The reason assigned by him in his petition why he did not apply for a pension at an earlier day, is, that up to that time he supposed, unless a person received his injury in battle, he was not entitled to a pension; that, on being informed to the contrary, he at once applied to the War Department, and was, without any loss of time, placed on the pension list. He now asks that he may be allowed an arrearage of pension from August, 1813, up to the 23d of August, 1832, at the rate of eight dollars per month. The committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to relief to the extent he prays for.