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Francis A. Field.

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FRANCIS A. FIELD.

FEBRUARY 8, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 2984.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2984) for the relief of Francis A. Field, submit the following report:

It appears that Francis A. Field enlisted in the Army of the United States on the 19th day of August, 1859, and was assigned to the Eighth Regiment United States Infantry; was appointed first sergeant Company F of said regiment, and served in that capacity until April 14, 1862, when he was promoted to a second lieutenancy in the Eleventh United States Infantry, and was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant June 20, 1863. He was again promoted, to the rank of captain, November 23, 1868, and brevetted to date from July 2, 1863, for "gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Gettysburg, Pa."

In connection with the above, it also appears that said Field served as adjutant of the provost guard, headquarters Army of the Potomac, from April 14, 1862, until July, 1862, and that he was engaged in the first battle of Bull Run, Va., the battle of the Peninsula, Seven Days' fight, Malvern Hill, Gettysburg, second Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, and others, serving throughout the war as regimental and battalion adjutant.

Under the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1869, he was, without any wish or desire on his part, placed on waiting orders because of the consolidation of the Eleventh and Thirty-fourth Regiments of Infantry, under the provisions of General Orders of the War Department, No. 16, of 1869, rendering him supernumerary. He, however, requested to be assigned to duty, and was placed on the staff of General Ames, and by him was ordered to duty as military mayor of Jackson, Miss., and served as such until August, 1869, when, at his own request, he was relieved from said duty and ordered to the Indian Territory as agent of the Creek tribe of Indians. While performing the duties of agent of said tribe he was, under date of August 30, 1870, honorably discharged under the provisions of the act approved July 15, 1870, the same to take effect October 1, 1870, or such time thereafter as he should be relieved from said duties or the exigencies of the service demanded, but was not finally discharged until April 10, 1871.

Said Field entered the service of his country at the age of 17 years, fully intending to adopt the service as a life profession, and after an honorable and faithful service of over twelve years, which unfitted him for the performance of other avocations, was discharged, but not because of any fault or improper conduct or wish or desire on his part.

In order that the Congress may be fully conversant with the military record of this gallant officer, there is submitted, in connection with this report, an exact copy of the records of the War Department; also the letter of the Honorable Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, setting

forth the satisfactory manner in which he rendered service during the period he acted as Indian agent.

Your committee are fully impressed with the belief that great injustice has been done this officer, and have no hesitation in recommending his reinstatement to the service in the same rank as he held at the date of his discharge, he to receive no pay for any period prior to his reinstatement under the provisions of this act. There are many precedents for such action which need not be enumerated in this report, and this appears to be one of the most deserving of such cases.

The reinstatement of this man, who seems to have rendered efficient and valuable services, was strongly recommended by Hon. Benjamin Harrison, of Indiana, afterwards President of the United States, in a letter dated November 8, 1886, which letter is a part of the papers in the case.

Hon. S. B. Elkins, under date of June 17, 1892—he then being Secretary of War—says, after detailing somewhat at length Captain Field's services:

Under the circumstances, I am of the opinion that the case of Captain Field involves special merit, which would seem to appeal for the favorable consideration of the bill now pending before your committee for his relief.

This bill also received a favorable report in the Fiftieth Congress. The committee recommend that the bill do pass.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 19, 1888.

Statement of the military service of Francis A. Field, of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office:

He served as a private, corporal, sergeant, and first sergeant of Company F, Eighth United States Infantry, from August 29, 1859, to May 8, 1862, when he was discharged for promotion.

He was appointed second lieutenant Eleventh United States Infantry, to rank from April 14, 1862; was promoted first lieutenant June 20, 1863; served as regimental adjutant from December 5, 1863, to December 5, 1866; and captain, November 23, 1868. He received the brevet of captain July 2, 1863, "for gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Gettysburg, Pa."

He served with his regiment in the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac from May, 1862, to January, 1864; at Fort Independence, Mass., to March, 1866; at Richmond, Va., to March, 1869, and in Mississippi to April 11, 1869, when he became unassigned by reason of the consolidation of his regiment; was on reconstruction duty in the Fourth Military District (Mississippi) to July 24, 1869, and as Indian agent at the Creek Indian Agency, Ind. T., to April 10, 1871.

At his own request, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 15, 1870, section 3, he was honorably discharged from the service of the United States, to date October 1, 1870, "or as soon thereafter as he can be relieved from duty as Indian agent."

R. C. DRUM, *Adjutant-General.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, May 22, 1888.

SIR: The records in this office show that you filled the position of acting agent for the Creek Indians from the fall of 1869 up to the middle of April, 1871. Your accounts appear to have been rendered promptly, and I see no evidence other than that your services were entirely satisfactory to this Department. You were relieved from duty on your own repeated and earnest request, and a copy of office letter of April 18, 1871, herewith, shows that all exceptions to your accounts up to the commencement of the fourth quarter, 1870, were satisfactorily explained, and the books here show that no exception was taken to your account from the beginning of said fourth quarter, 1870, up to the termination of your service as acting agent, viz, April 10, 1871.

Respectfully,

A. B. UPSHAW, *Acting Commissioner.*

Capt. FRANCIS A. FIELD,

Ex-United States Acting Indian Agent, Indiana.