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William L. Quinn.

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WILLIAM L. QUINN.

APRIL 16, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7080.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7080) entitled "A bill granting a pension to William L. Quinn," beg leave to submit the following report and recommend that said bill do pass, with an amendment fixing the rate of pension at \$12 per month.

The claimant is a Sioux Indian of mixed blood, whose father, Peter Quinn, was a distinguished Sioux interpreter at the Fort Snelling, Minn., Indian Agency, and who was killed in the terrible Indian massacre of August 18, 1862. The son, William L. Quinn, who is an educated man and a citizen of St. Paul, Minn., makes the following statement:

[Law office of E. H. Wood, 110½ East Fourth street, St. Paul, Minn.]

In the matter of the application of William L. Quinn, late guide and scout in the United States Army, to be placed upon the pension roll.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, *County of Ramsey, ss:*

I, William L. Quinn, who, being first duly sworn, do depose and say that the following is a true statement of my service as guide and scout in the military service of the United States, and upon which I base my claim to be placed upon the pension roll of the Government by reason of House file —, now pending in the House of Representatives:

I.

That heretofore, during the sessions of the Fiftieth and Fifty-first Congresses, I forwarded to the Hon. Edmund Rice and Hon. S. P. Snider, respectively, members of said Congresses from the Fourth Congressional district of Minnesota, as the basis and in support of a bill for my relief as a pensioner introduced in the lower House of Congress by them, affidavits and letters of the following-named persons, to wit: Gen. Henry H. Sibley, General (late Colonel) William R. Marshall, Seventh Minnesota Infantry Volunteers; Gen. C. P. Adams, Major Kimball, assistant quartermaster, now all deceased; and Lieutenant-Colonel Pfaender, Second Minnesota Cavalry; Col. William Crooks, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and Capt. J. C. Whitney, Company D, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, who were either my commanding officers or were associated with me, and had personal knowledge of me and my military services rendered to the Government. These affidavits and letters are, or should be, in the files in the custody of the file clerk of the House, and would materially aid my case if considered by the present Committee on Pensions, to whom the bill now pending in my behalf and for my relief, has been referred:

II.

In August, 1862, I was ordered by General Sibley to report to him for duty as scout, and remained on duty with him until November, 1862, when I was ordered by him to report to Col. Stephen Miller, colonel of the Seventh Minnesota Infantry and now deceased, at Mankato, Minn., for duty, which I did without delay, and was

assigned to duty by him as scout at the post commanded by Capt. C. Cutler, Company A, Seventh Minnesota Volunteers, at Fairmount, Blue Earth County, Minn., where I remained on duty till about the last of January, 1863, when I was relieved by order of General Sibley and ordered to report to him at St. Paul. In February, 1863, I was ordered to report to Col. William Pfender, Second Minnesota Cavalry, at Fort Ridgley, as chief of scouts at that post. My squad consisted of about 20 men, and I remained at this post until June, 1863, when I was ordered by General Sibley to report at Camp Pope, the place of rendezvous for the troops constituting his command for the Indian expedition in pursuit of the hostile Sioux toward the Missouri River.

I was assigned to duty as one of the guides and scouts of that expedition, and was ordered to remain at Camp Atchison, one of the camps en route, with detachments that detoured to Devils Lake under command of Capt. W. H. Burt, Company C, Seventh Minnesota Volunteers. On this expedition to Devils Lake I captured and brought into camp young Little Crow, the son of the noted Sioux chief of that name who led the Indian outbreak of 1862, and he reported the killing, by a scouting party of our troops, of his father, which was the first reliable information of the place and manner of the actual death of that chief. In the fall, after the return of General Sibley's expedition, I was appointed guide to conduct a supply train of about 150 wagons from Mankato, Minn., to Fort Thompson (now Crow Creek Agency), on the Missouri River, with Henry Beland as my assistant. (See letter of Major-General Pope to the War Department October 21, 1863, in regard to this expedition.) The military escort consisted of Companies E, D, and H, of the Sixth Minnesota Infantry, under command of Capt. J. C. Whitney, Company D, Sixth Minnesota Infantry.

The command had arrived at Lake Shtetec under John Dooley as guide, but owing to his lack of sufficient knowledge of the country to be traversed, Mr. Beland and myself were ordered to his assistance to guide the expedition. I joined the command about November 20, 1863, guided the entire distance of 500 miles by compass, as the country had never been traversed before by white men. We arrived at our destination about the first of December, 1863; the weather was exceedingly cold all the way and very many hardships and much suffering were endured by the entire command, as was the case on the return march which was completed January 15, 1864. The trip was called by the soldiers "the expedition to Moscow." On the return trip, the thermometer ranged below zero, most of the time and often as low as 35° below, and our shelter was only small tents. Hon. Charles W. Johnson, late Secretary of the United States Senate, was one of the soldiers who made this march and knows of its terrible exposure, hardships, and sufferings.

In February, 1864, I was ordered to report to Maj. E. A. C. Hatch, commander of Hatch's Battalion, at Pembina as scout, where I remained on duty until May 5, 1864, when the command was ordered to Fort Abercrombie, where I remained on scout duty until the fall of 1865, which ended my service for the Government until 1867, when I was employed as guide and scout at Fort Wadsworth, where I remained until 1870. Col. S. B. Haynes, Tenth United States Infantry, was in command when I first arrived at the fort, and was afterwards succeeded by Col. J. C. Bates, of the Twentieth United States Infantry. This, in brief, constitutes the history of my service, and gives the various commanders under whom it was rendered.

III.

My father, Peter Quinn, was interpreter at Fort Ridgely at the time of the Indian outbreak, and was killed at Redwood Agency while with Capt. John F. Marsh, Company B, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, August 18, 1862, and, as an interpreter, was accompanying him to the agency. Captain Marsh and nearly every one of his men were killed at the same time. My father was ordered by post commander to accompany the soldiers in order to interpret for them, but they were all ambushed at the ferry right at the agency, but everybody at the agency had been killed by the Indians before they arrived to aid them. The Indians waited till the soldiers got on to the ferryboat and in the act of crossing the river, then opened fire upon them from the high grass and underbrush, with the result before stated.

IV.

I am now 67 years old, and outside of an occasional employment as an interpreter with those having business with the Indians, I am unable to perform any manual labor by reason of my declining health and strength, occasioned in great part by the many hardships and exposures from camp life, which I have endured during nearly ten consecutive years of very hard service. My special disabilities are complete loss of sight of right eye and the impairment of the sight of the left, and chronic rheumatism in

my hips and lower limbs. My eyes were overstrained by constant use in scouting, and rheumatism occasioned by the exposures on the Fort Thompson expedition in 1863 and 1864 before referred to.

V.

Though never regularly mustered into the military service of the United States, I have exposed my life and health and endured all the hardships of a soldier, and I believe more so than the most of them, and am conscious of having performed my duties, so far as was in my power, loyally to the Government and its interests, and as directed by my superior officers at all times. I have contributed honorable service in the saving of the lives of our people and soldiers when greatly endangered by hostile Indians, and to support this statement my commanding officers and associates to whom I have herein referred have filed their written testimony, and hundreds of soldiers now living, besides many citizens and their wives and children, will bear witness to its truthfulness. Whatever may or may not be done for me, in my old age and poverty, by the Government, I can console myself with the thought that I have tried to do my duty to my country by often risking my own life, and only regret that I could not have done more.

WILLIAM L. QUINN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of March, A. D. 1896.

[SEAL.]

E. H. WOOD,
Notary Public, Ramsey County, Minn.

The following report from the War Department shows what the records contain relative to the claimant's service:

SPECIAL ORDERS, } No. 154. }	HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA, DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTHWEST, St. Paul, Minn., March 2, 1863.
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William Quinn, having tendered his services to the Government as scout, will proceed without delay to Fort Ridgely, and report in person for further orders to the commanding officer of that post, who will place him on duty in accordance with instructions received from these headquarters, contained in dispatch of February 19. Captain Carling, A. Q. M., U. S. A., will furnish William Quinn with transportation to Fort Ridgely.

By command of Brigadier-General Sibley:

R. C. OLIN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } No. 204. }	HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA, DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTHWEST, St. Paul, Minn., April 16, 1863.
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1. Lieut. T. E. Potter and scout William Quinn, having reported at these headquarters in charge of a prisoner, are hereby ordered to report in person to the commanding officer at Fort Ridgely, on or before 21st instant. The Quartermaster Department will provide the necessary transportation.

By command of Brigadier-General Sibley:

R. C. OLIN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } No. 242. }	HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA, DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTHWEST, St. Paul, Minn., May 18, 1863.
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II. William L. Quinn, scout at Fort Ridgely, has leave of absence until 27th instant, to attend to his claim against Sioux Indians before the United States commissioners now in session.

By command of Brigadier-General Sibley:

R. C. OLIN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 251. }

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA,
DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTHWEST,
St. Paul, Minn., May 28, 1863.

VII. The following individuals are hereby designated as scouts to accompany the expedition, to wit:

* * *
William Quinn.

VIII. The assistant quartermaster of the expedition will bear the names of the scouts on his rolls in accordance with this order, and will furnish horses and equipments to such as do not furnish their own horses.

IX. The pay of the chief scout is fixed at \$3 per day, and of the scouts at \$2 per day, while in actual service, commencing on 1st June next, or from the day thereafter on which they may reach Camp Pope. Those who furnish horses themselves will receive 50 cents extra per day, but the horse will be at their own risk.

By command of Brigadier-General Sibley:

R. C. OLIN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 253. }

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA,
DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTHWEST,
St. Paul, Minn., May 30, 1863.

IV. Lieutenant-Colonel Pfaender will furnish Scout William Quinn one horse and equipments complete, together with such arms as he may need, and take his receipt for the same.

By command of Brig. Gen. H. H. Sibley:

R. C. OLIN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 360. }

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA,
DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTHWEST,
St. Paul, Minn., November 10, 1863.

I. William Quinn is hereby designated and employed as one of the guides for the escort to the expedition destined to the Indian reservation on the Missouri River. He will be furnished with a horse, arms, and equipments by the assistant quartermaster, or other proper officer, at Mankato, and he will be paid \$3 per day and receive one ration while actually employed in the public service.

By command of Brig. Gen. H. H. Sibley:

R. C. OLIN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS }
No. 361. }

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA,
DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTHWEST,
St. Paul, Minn., November 11, 1862.

VI. The acting ordnance officer at Fort Snelling will furnish to William Quinn and * * * guides to the expedition, 1 Smith's carbine and equipments, and 1 revolver with equipments, and 100 rounds of cartridges each, and take duplicate memorandum receipts for these articles, one of which will be inclosed by him to the acting assistant quartermaster of the escort. Said guides will be held accountable for the safe return of such arms and equipments.

By command of Brig. Gen. H. H. Sibley:

R. C. OLIN,
Assistant Adjutant-General

The accompanying affidavit, sworn to by ex-Governor William R. Marshall, of Minnesota, also shows the facts:

STATE OF MINNESOTA, *County of Ramsey :*

In the matter of the application of William L. Quinn, late scout in the military service of the United States, to be placed upon the pension roll.

Now comes William R. Marshall, late governor of the State of Minnesota, and late colonel of the Seventh Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and states in behalf of the above-named applicant, William L. Quinn, as follows:

That he is personally knowing to the fact that William L. Quinn did faithful and efficient service as a scout and guide under the command of Gen. H. H. Sibley during the Indian campaigns of 1862, 1863, and 1864; that said Quinn is a Sioux mixed blood, but is educated and a citizen, and was at the time he rendered said service a citizen of the United States by birth, and was the son of Peter Quinn, who was a distinguished Sioux interpreter of the Government service at the Fort Snelling Indian Agency forty-five years ago, when deponent first came to what is now the State of Minnesota, and who was killed while serving in the same capacity, August 18, 1862, at the Redwood Ferry while with Captain Marsh's command, at the beginning of the terrible massacre of that week.

That he knows the applicant to be a most deserving person, and believes him to be, by reason of his long and faithful service, highly entitled to be placed on the pension roll. That he was greatly exposed to both personal danger and to great personal hardship in making long rides in the most important service. That in October, 1862, deponent, then in the military service of the United States, captured a camp of hostile Sioux, having made a long and rapid march with his command, and was out of supplies for his command on the James River, Dakota Territory; said Quinn, after prominently participating in the capture, rode over 100 miles to General Sibley's camp inside of twenty-four hours to order supplies sent to the relief of deponent's command. That in 1863 claimant made another scouting trip under deponent's orders, riding 80 miles without stopping. That claimant, by reason of his hard service and many hardships endured, is now much broken down in health, and by reason thereof and by reason of his advanced age is unable to do much, if any, manual labor for the support of himself and family, and most earnestly recommends Congressional action for his relief.

WM. R. MARSHALL,
Late Colonel Seventh Regiment Minnesota Volunteers, etc.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of July, 1892.

[SEAL.]

E. H. WOOD,
Notary Public, Ramsey County, Minn.

