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Mary Vockey.

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S. Rep. No. 708, 55th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1898)

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MARY VOCKEY.

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MARCH 22, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4526.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4526) granting a pension to Mary Vockey, have examined the same, and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

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HOUSE REPORT.

The claimant is the widow of Theodore Vockey, who served under the name of Theodore Bird as a sergeant in Company H, First United States Dragoons, from October 17, 1846, to October 17, 1851.

The soldier filed a claim under the Mexican war act of January 29, 1887, and the same was allowed by the Pension Bureau. Subsequently, however, there was a change of rulings, and when the widow made application after the soldier's death her claim was disallowed on the ground "that the soldier was not in Mexico, on the frontier thereof, nor en route thereto sixty days during the war with that country."

The records show that much of the soldier's service was rendered at Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation, and on escort duty at Fort Washita. This service is believed to have been rendered in connection with the war then in progress in Mexico, and similar service (notably that rendered by Powell's battalion of Missouri volunteers and Gray's battalion of Arkansas volunteers) has been recognized by Congress as giving a just title to a Mexican war pension.

Mrs. Vockey has fully established her legal widowhood and has been allowed the accrued pension due upon her deceased husband's certificate. A number of affidavits accompanying the bill show that she is 79 years old, in feeble health, with a crippled son dependent upon her for support, and with but little income from which to maintain herself.

The passage of the bill is recommended.

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