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Bettie Gresham.

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BETTIE GRESHAM.

MAY 10, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 3596.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3596) granting a pension to Mrs. Bettie Gresham, 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, after being amended as follows:

In line 4, after the word "roll," insert the words "subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws."

In line 5 strike out the word "Mrs."

In lines 7 and 8 strike out the words "and allow the said Mrs. Bettie Gresham a pension rated at eight dollars per month," and insert in lieu thereof the words "and pay her a pension at the rate of eight dollars per month."

Also amend title by striking out the word "Mrs."

The claimant is the widow of Davis C. Gresham, who is alleged to have served as a substitute for one Obediah Warner in the company commanded by Capt. Richard S. Sloan, Georgia Volunteers, Creek Indian war of 1836.

Such records of Captain Sloan's company as are on file at the War Department do not bear the name Obediah Warner nor Davis C. Gresham, but a copy of the company roll, certified to under seal by J. W. Warren, secretary executive department, State of Georgia, bears the name Obediah Warner.

Benjamin Williams, whose name is also borne on the company roll, swears that Davis C. Gresham was a member of the company; and in this Williams is corroborated under oath by Felix Watts, who swears that he was engaged by said Davis C. Gresham as cook and servant while on duty in the Creek Indian war of 1836; that he accompanied the said Gresham to West Point, Ga., in June, 1836, where Gresham was mustered into service as a substitute for Obediah Warner, who was a delicate man, while Gresham was in the full flush of youthful manhood, and eager to face the dangers and adventure anticipated in the campaign. That the said Gresham was a well-known favorite in the company, and long remembered by his old com-

rades in arms. That he remained with the company under command of Captain Sloan for several months.

Mary J. Hill, of Meriwether County, Ga., testifies to having been a witness to the marriage of Davis C. Gresham to the claimant in 1846, and that Obediah Warner, in whose stead Gresham is said to have served in the Creek Indian war, was her uncle, and she personally knows that said Warner was drafted for service in said war, but that he did not go, he having furnished a substitute.

William T. Revill swears that he boarded in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Gresham, at intervals, from 1856 to 1865, and often heard Gresham and Lieutenant Folds, of Captain Sloan's company, talk over their experiences in the Creek war; and he also heard an uncle of his, now deceased, who knew all the facts, speak of Gresham's service as a substitute for Obediah Warner.

Mr. Revill also testifies to the legal widowhood of the claimant, and that she is old and infirm and sadly in need of help; that she has an invalid daughter, and it is only by the aid of charitable friends that they obtain a scanty subsistence.

A careful search has been made at the Pension Bureau for a bounty land or pension claim based upon the service of Obediah Warner or Davis C. Gresham, but none has been found.

Your committee believe, after a careful review of the evidence, that Gresham rendered the alleged service; and, in view of the advanced age and needy circumstances of his widow, the passage of the bill is respectfully recommended, with an amendment striking out the word "twenty," in line 8, and substituting therefor the word "eight," so as to fix the rating at \$8 per month.

