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Clarissa Collins Moore.

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CLARISSA COLLINS MOORE.

JANUARY 21, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

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

[To accompany S. 3238.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3238) granting a pension to Clarissa Collins Moore, have examined the same, and report:

The following article, taken from the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Eagle of August 3, 1897, fully explains the services of the soldier, and presents an unanswerable argument why pension should be granted to the venerable widow:

A veteran officer, who was undoubtedly the oldest soldier in the Army of the United States, died of extreme old age at his home in this city yesterday. Lieut. Michael Moore, although on the retired list since 1872, in common with all those on the retired list, was still considered to be one of the Government's military force, and his death ends a career in the nation's Army which extends over a period of eighty-five years. Lieutenant Moore was in his ninety-eighth year. He was born in New York City on Independence Day, 1800. He came naturally by his desire for military life, as his father was a member of the Revolutionary Army, and took part in the memorable surprise of the Hessians at Trenton.

During his boyhood young Moore saw New York City in its primitive state. He was an active participant in the youthful pastimes of the day, and often went fishing in a creek which flowed where Canal street now is. When the oppression of Great Britain was stirring the republic to its depths, and preparations for a second conflict with England were being made on every hand, Moore, in company with an older brother, left home and enlisted in the Regular Army. To do this the youths were obliged to make their way on foot to Albany, where Col. Peter B. Schuyler commanded the Thirteenth Regiment of Infantry.

Moore's first appointment was that of a drummer boy in the company of Capt. John Sproull. He was of a hardy constitution, and had no difficulty in accustoming himself to the life of a soldier. When the war of 1812 finally broke out, his regiment participated in the assault and capture of Fort George, Upper Canada, on May 27, 1813. This was the first important engagement in which Lieutenant Moore figured. He served in the battle of Stony Creek in June of the same year, and embarked the following October in Commodore Chauncey's squadron, bound for Sackett Harbor. He was connected with the army of Major-General Wilkinson in its movements down the St. Lawrence, and witnessed the fiasco which Commander Wilkinson was responsible for in his attempt to capture Montreal.

During the last year of the war Lieutenant Moore served in many of the battles in the Northwest and fought in the defense of Sacketts Harbor until the news of the treaty of peace was spread abroad. After the conclusion of the war of 1812 he immediately reenlisted in the Regular Army, becoming a member of the Second Regiment

of Infantry, commanded by Col. Hugh Brady. In 1821 his regiment was detailed to Sault Ste. Marie, and in 1826 he was a member of Cass's expedition for the purpose of negotiating a treaty of peace with the Indians.

His experience in Indian warfare was extensive both in the West and in the South. He was prominent in the Black Hawk war, and five years later in the conflict with the Seminoles in Florida. During this time he was never even scratched in conflict with the red men, and his sole wound was one received in the arm at Fort George early in the war of 1812. After three years of service in Florida his term expired, and he again received honorable discharge. Still desiring to lead a military life, he remained in the Army, and was stationed at the Bedloes Island recruiting agency in 1841. There he remained until January, 1869, when he received his commission as second lieutenant. Three years later he retired to private life in this city.

Lieutenant Moore was one of the original members of the Military Society of the War of 1812 and an honorary member of the Military Order of Foreign Wars. He remained in retirement, although enjoying the best of health until a few years ago, when an attack of grip seriously reduced his strength. A bad fall at his home resulted in a broken hip, and since that time he was seldom able to leave his residence. He would have celebrated the sixty-third anniversary of his wedding next September had he lived, as Mrs. Moore is still alive. The couple celebrated their golden wedding thirteen years ago. Lieutenant Moore's death was due to extreme old age. Lieutenant Moore was twenty-two years older than General Grant, twenty years older than General Sherman, twenty-four years older than General Hancock, thirty-one years older than General Sheridan, and twenty-seven years older than General Slocum. He was nine years older than Gladstone, and had been a soldier three years when Bismarck was born.

The deceased soldier's widow is 81 years old.

Under date of January 12, 1898, claimant wrote to the chairman of this committee as follows:

I am not the young wife of an old soldier, but am 82 years old, and if Lieutenant Moore had lived one month more we would have been married sixty-three years. If the pension is granted, it will not be for long, as I am twelve years past the allotted fourscore and ten.

Lieutenant Moore's services having been in the early wars of the country, it is impossible for the widow to prove that death resulted from pensionable causes, and hence she can not secure relief through the Pension Bureau. However, the case is one of unusual merit, and your committee are of opinion that she is entitled to the pension of a second lieutenant's widow, and accordingly recommend the passage of the bill.