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Susan E. Fielder.

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 1011, 55th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1898)

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SUSAN E. FIELDER.

APRIL 7, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7506.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7506) granting a pension to Susan E. Fielder, have considered the same and respectfully report as follows:

The claimant is the widow of Alvin A. Fielder, who is alleged to have served as a private soldier for the period of about three months in Capt. William H. House's company of Alabama Volunteers in the Creek Indian war of 1836.

The soldier filed an application in his lifetime under the Indian war act of July 27, 1892, and furnished in support thereof the testimony of John W. Trammell and John M. Phillips, who swear that they served in the same company with him, messing and drawing rations together, and that all three came home together after discharge.

These witnesses explain that Fielder was not mustered into the service, for the reason that he was a minor, about 18 years old, and ran away from home to serve. The names of the witnesses, Phillips and Trammell, are borne on the rolls of Captain House's company, on file at the Treasury Department, but Fielder's name could not be found, and therefore his application for pension was rejected. He died September 26, 1893, and his widow, the beneficiary under the bill, filed a claim at the Pension Bureau, which was also rejected on the ground of no record of service.

The soldier was granted a bounty land warrant under the act of 1855 because of the above service, and the testimony before your committee is clear and convincing that he participated, as alleged, as a soldier in the Indian war of 1836.

The claimant's legal widowhood is fully established by the testimony. She married the soldier in June, 1838, and she is now about 77 years old, a cripple from a broken hip, and in dependent circumstances.

The passage of the bill is recommended with the following amendments:

Change the initial "R" in the soldier's name to "A."

In line 8, strike out "Houser" and substitute therefor the name "House."

In line 10, strike out the word "thirty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "eight."