

University of Oklahoma College of Law

University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

1-27-1899

George Brown.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 1863, 55th Cong., 3rd Sess. (1899)

This House Report is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu.

GEORGE BROWN.

JANUARY 27, 1899.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10385.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10385) granting a pension to George Brown, have considered the same and respectfully report as follows:

The claimant enlisted August 21, 1878, in Company M, Ninth United States Cavalry, and was honorably discharged August 20, 1883. A prior service in the Regular Army covered the period from August 20, 1872, to June 1, 1877. He also alleges service in Company A, One hundred and fourteenth United States Colored Troops, during the civil war, but of this there is no record.

He filed an application at the Pension Bureau declaring that in New Mexico, in April, 1882, he incurred chronic rheumatism and piles.

He also alleged gunshot wound of left breast and dislocation of right ankle incurred in line of duty. The wound of breast is alleged to have been received at Nashville, Tenn., in 1864, but, as stated above, no record of his service in the civil war can be found. He declared further that in 1882, in an engagement with the Indians, he was shot through the penis and thigh.

The hospital records of the Regular Army show treatment for rheumatism, piles, contused wounds, and other disabilities in the service; and testimony of comrades also shows that he suffered from these disabilities during his terms of enlistment, and it appears from medical and other proof that he has been disabled to a considerable extent from the date of his discharge to the present time.

The record also shows treatment at one time for venereal disease in its primary form; but the Pension Bureau in the rejection of the case holds only that a disability in a pensionable degree is not established, and makes no contention that venereal disease exists as a ground for disallowance. The reports of medical examination fail to reveal any marked signs of any disease attributable to vicious habits.

Notwithstanding the decision of the Bureau that a ratable disability has not been shown, your committee is convinced, from the mass of tes-

timony submitted for its consideration, that a marked degree of disability has been established, due to rheumatism, heart disease, and piles, and that the claimant is entitled to a pension for the same. Dr. O. A. Taylor, of Topeka, Kans., swears that the claimant is wholly unfit to perform any kind of manual labor by reason of the above-named diseases, and that the claimant is a man of good moral and sober habits, and his testimony as to the serious extent of the claimant's disabilities is corroborated by the affidavit of Dr. Samuel Ashmore and several other witnesses.

Further evidence of the soldier's condition is contained in the following letter from Hon. Charles Curtis, a Representative in Congress from Kansas:

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., January 27, 1899.

GENTLEMEN: I have known Mr. George Brown, of Topeka, Kans., for whose relief I have introduced H. R. 10385, for the last fifteen years. He came to Topeka shortly after he left the Regular Army, and has lived there ever since. During the last two years he has been very broken in health, and for the last year, to my personal knowledge, he has been compelled to use a cane while walking. He looks and acts as if he were a very sick man. I am more than satisfied that he is unable to perform any manual labor whatever. He is in destitute circumstances. I know these facts to be true, because we live in the same ward in the city of Topeka, and when I am at home I pass him on the streets almost daily.

Very truly, yours,

CHARLES CURTIS.

The COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS.

After carefully weighing the large amount of testimony on file your committee are of the opinion that the claimant is justly entitled to the rate of pension provided in the bill, and the passage of the bill is therefore recommended with an amendment changing the title so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to George Brown."