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Nancy A. Dowell.

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NANCY A. DOWELL.

JANUARY 19, 1899.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1907.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1907) granting a pension to Nancy A. Dowell, have examined the same and report:

Claimant is the widow of the late Benjamin Franklin Dowell, of Oregon, a veteran of the early Indian wars of the then Territories of Washington and Oregon, for pensioning whom a bill was introduced at the first session of the Fifty-fourth Congress and favorably reported by this committee. Following is a copy of said report:

The claimant makes oath that he was one of the chief packers in the Rogue River Indian war of Oregon from about the 5th day of August, 1853, to the end of war, under C. S. Drew, quartermaster and commissary during said war; with Jesse Walker's company from the 5th day of August, 1854, to the 6th day of November, 1854, under the same quartermaster and commissary; that he was chief packer under Al Zeber and J. W. Drew from about the beginning of the Oregon and Washington Indian war to some time in February, 1856; that in 1853 he was in a battle with the Indians on Evans Creek, in Jackson County, Oreg., in which about half of the party was killed or wounded; that in 1854 he was in a battle with the Modoc Indians near Lost River, and that in December of the same year he was in a four days' fight with Colonel Kelly on Walla Walla River, in Washington Territory. The above allegations are substantiated by the affidavit of George Hunter, a comrade of the claimant, who was in the same service.

The records on file in the Pension Bureau show that the claimant was employed as a pack master with his train of fifteen pack mules for the use of the volunteers called out to suppress Indian hostilities in the Rogue River Valley, in Oregon, for which service he was paid by the United States. It also appears that the claimant was given bounty land of 160 acres under the act of March 3, 1855. While the claimant was not a regularly enlisted man, his service to the Government has been recognized by granting the bounty land.

It appears from evidence on file that the claimant is nearly 78 years old; that he is badly ruptured, and has the rheumatism so that he can hardly walk, and that he was paralyzed in 1893. It is also shown that he is a man of truth and veracity.

Your committee think that equity requires that the claims of persons who rendered service to the Government on the frontier during the various Indian wars should receive consideration, especially when the service has been faithfully and efficiently rendered, and the disability of the claimant, owing to his great age and feeble health, is almost total.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Washington, D. C., March 4, 1896.

SIR: In response to your request—with return of papers—for a statement as to whether a land warrant was issued to Benjamin F. Dowell, pack master, Major Drew's command, Oregon Volunteers, I have to inform you that warrant No. 61244 was issued April 30, 1857. The papers are returned herewith as requested.

Very respectfully,

WM. LOCHREN, *Commissioner.*

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,
United States Senate.

(Under authority of act of March 3, 1855, United States Statutes No. 10, p. 701.)

The bill to pension claimant's husband, failing of passage in the Fifty-fourth Congress, was again introduced at the first session of the present Congress, and the committee was about to make a favorable report thereon when advised of the veteran's death.

Your committee having recognized the justice of this veteran's claim to a pension, it is deemed proper to accord his widow the recognition which he would have received but for his death.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended, when amended as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the words:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Nancy A. Dowell, widow of Benjamin F. Dowell, late pack master, Major Drew's command, Oregon Volunteers, and pay her a pension at the rate of eight dollars per month.

Also amend title so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to Nancy A. Dowell."

