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Portius F. Parsons.

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PORTIUS F. PARSONS.

AUGUST 20, 1842.

Mr. TRIPLETT, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Portius F. Parsons, beg leave to report :

That the petitioner states that Eli Parsons, in the year 1776, received a commission as second lieutenant, in the regiment commanded by Colonel James Clinton, and, in 1777, was commissioned as first lieutenant, in a regiment of artillery commanded by Colonel John Crane, and received several wounds (one of them severe) at the battle of Germantown, which disabled him from doing further duty in the line, and, in consequence, he was appointed an issuing commissary, in the spring of 1778, and was attached to General Knox's brigade until he received permission to retire, from General Washington, in May, 1779; that said Eli Parsons, at the suggestion of Colonel Charles Stewart, was induced to remain in the service, and take charge of a magazine of provisions, near Wyoming, for the supply of General Sullivan's expedition against the Indians; that on the settlement of his accounts, *about* that time, with Colonel Stewart, the commissary general, he received a *certificate* stating there was due the said Eli Parsons and *his assistants*, while in that department, the sum of eighteen hundred dollars; that Parsons paid his assistants out of his private funds, under the confident expectation that, at some time, he would receive the same from a generous and liberal public; and that neither said Eli Parsons, in his lifetime, nor his administrator or heirs, have received the said eighteen hundred dollars; and that said Eli Parsons departed this life the 25th of September, 1830.

The prayer of the petition asks for the wages of said Eli Parsons while engaged in the revolutionary war, and for the principal and interest of the \$1,800 certificate.

It is a fair presumption that Lieutenant Parsons received his wages or pay for the time of his service in the war of the Revolution, at the time of his quitting the service; and this presumption is strengthened by *his* failing, for fifty-one years, to make application himself for any arrears. An acquiescence for such a length of time, in the lifetime of the party whose children now make the application, should be rebutted by *strong* testimony of the justice of the original claim, as well as reasons for the delay, neither of which are offered in this case.

The same reasons apply with greater force to the application for pay of

the \$1,800 certificate. The certificate itself is not produced; no proof is made of its ever having been issued; none of its destruction or loss, or any testimony to rebut the fair presumption (leaving the length of time out of the question) that, if ever issued by any competent authority, it has been paid by the Government. The committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

REPORT

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, appointed by the House of Representatives, in the following

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of ...

The petitioner states that Ed Parsons in the year 1775 ...

The petition of the petitioner asks for the wages of ...