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John McKinley.

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JOHN MCKINLEY.

AUGUST 20, 1842.

Read, and laid upon the table.

MR. WILLIAM O. GOODE, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of William McKinley, for himself and on behalf of others, have had the same under consideration, and make the following report:

The petitioner represents that he, and those whose interest he advocates, are the heirs-at-law and legal representatives of Thomas McKinley, deceased, who was sole heir of Captain John McKinley, deceased, who "entered the service of his country at an early period of our revolutionary struggle, and ended his services with his life in the unfortunate campaign of 1782, along with the lamented Colonel Crawford."

As it is insisted that nothing has been paid by Government for account of the services and death of Captain McKinley, except the bounty land of a lieutenant, the prayer is for commutation pay and the bounty land of a captain, "or such other relief" as Congress may deem right. If any thing be allowed, it is presumed it would be the seven years' half pay, as it is asserted by the petition that McKinley was slain by the Indians before the close of the war; and whether this be allowed is to be resolved on the following summary of facts:

Thomas Mills, aged 68 years last August, deposes that he well knew Captain John McKinley in 1777; that he commanded a company in the 13th Virginia regiment on continental establishment. Deponent names the officers of the company particularly, together with the colonel who commanded the regiment, viz: Colonel John Gibson, Lieutenant Thomas Hayward, and Ensign Anthony Razor. He deposes that Captain McKinley was in the expedition against the Indians commanded by Colonel William Crawford, in 1782, and that he was killed in the month of June, of that year.

Doctor John Knight, of Shelby county, Kentucky, deposes that he became acquainted with Lieutenant John McKinley, who belonged to the 13th Virginia regiment, commanded by John Gibson, and reduced to the 9th after the battle of Germantown, in 1777, at which time the regiment was serving in the Eastern department. The deponent does not recollect to have seen McKinley from 1777 to 1782, when he met with him on an expedition commanded by Colonel William Crawford, against the Indians,

on the plains of Sandusky. An engagement commenced on the 11th of June, and Crawford commenced a retreat on the night of the 12th of June. The deponent, Colonel Crawford, Captain McKinley, and many others, were taken prisoners by the enemy. Crawford was burnt at a stake, the head of Captain McKinley was cut off with an axe by a squaw, and the deponent escaped. He was 82 years old in 1834.

Uriah Springer, who signs himself as late a captain in the Virginia continental line, *certifies* that John McKinley entered into the service of the United States early in 1776, as a sergeant or soldier in Captain Stephen Ashby's company of Virginia troops, and served in it until December following. He was then commissioned a lieutenant in the 13th Virginia regiment, and marched with a part of said regiment to the headquarters of the United States army. Early in 1778 he obtained permission to join the other part of said regiment, then serving in the Western department, where he served "until he left the service in that regiment;" but at what particular period he left the army the witness states that he could not certainly say, though he believes he served in the Virginia line three years and more. He further *certifies* that said John McKinley was in the unfortunate expedition of 1782, under Colonel William Crawford, against the Indians, where he was killed.

The name of Captain John McKinley is not found on any of the rolls or arrangements in the possession of the committee; yet it cannot be doubted that he was in the service on continental establishment, as stated by the witnesses, and that he was captured and destroyed by the Indians in 1782. But it is shown, by the evidence now introduced to support the claim, that he had left the Virginia regiment on continental establishment some time before the close of the war; and the relation borne to the army by the armed force commanded by Colonel Crawford, in the expedition in which McKinley was killed, is not known to be such as to authorize the committee to report a bill compensating services rendered under his command.