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Israel Bayless

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H.R. Rep. No. 451, 30th Cong., 1st Sess. (1848)

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Report No. 451.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 331.]

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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ISRAEL BAYLESS.

MARCH 30, 1848.

Mr. W. T. LAWRENCE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions,  
made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Israel Bayless, beg leave to report:*

That your petitioner, in the spring of 1813, in the county of Harrison, in the State of Kentucky, was drafted into the service of the United States, as a private soldier, in the company commanded by Captain Thomas, in Colonel Boswell's regiment. Your petitioner first rendezvoused at Cynthiana, and thence proceeded by land and water to the head of the Rapids of the Maume, above Fort Meigs, where he was joined by Colonel Dudley's corps, where they took possession of the British batteries opposite Fort Meigs, and spiked the cannon; then pursued the Indian force, but was obliged to retreat, and the American force were taken prisoners on, he thinks, the 5th May. Being stripped of most of his clothes, and \$60 in money, he, with the rest, were sent down the river to a British station. Here a massacre of the American prisoners was commenced by the Indians, which was stopped by the Indian chief, Tecumseh, riding up and preventing further progress in. Your petitioner was then taken possession of by an Indian, and bound for two nights and a day, and then, around by water in a canoe, transported to Detroit; thence, by a travel of seven or eight days, westerly, to an Indian settlement. He remained in possession of this Indian till the latter part of December, when he was brought to Detroit, and delivered to the American Colonel Butler, on, as he thinks, the 1st January, 1814, and soon after started for home, in company with one John Hamilton, another released prisoner. On his return home he drew, at Frankfort, Kentucky, the pay due

him. During his imprisonment he was hard treated, abused, beaten, and wounded by the Indian, so that, although of a healthy and strong constitution previous to his entry into the service of the United States, he is, since his capture, unable to labor but in a very limited degree. The fact of his good health before, and feeble condition since his service, is confirmed by Jane Woods, who has known Bayless for 36 or 37 years, and says that the physician who was employed by her husband to attend him said the spasms, and other afflictions to which Bayless was subject, were caused by exposure and abuse. His continued debility from immediately after the war is also stated by other witnesses. Harvey Humphreys and William Needham, the physicians who attended him shortly and for some time after his return, are long since dead. Doctors Rowland Willard, and Zenas C. Johnson, have frequently examined Bayless professionally for the last seven or eight years, during which they have known him, and they consider his inability to labor total in consequence of his impaired constitution; and they assert that his disability appears to be of long standing. Your committee, deeming your petitioner entitled to the bounty of his country, have reported a bill for his relief.