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CAPTAIN SAMUEL RANSOM—HEIRS OF.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 194.]

MARCH 28, 1850.

Mr. C. BUTLER, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

R E P O R T :

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of George P. Ransom and others, surviving children of Captain Samuel Ransom, report:*

That the petitioners claim seven years' half-pay due Captain Samuel Ransom, who was an officer in the war of the Revolution, and killed in the battle of Wyoming, on the 3d day of July, 1776. The committee, on examining the resolutions of the old Congress, find that, on the 15th of May, 1778, it was resolved that all military officers commissioned by Congress, who now are, or hereafter may be, in the service of these United States, and shall continue therein during the war, &c., shall, after the conclusion of the war, be entitled to receive annually, for the term of seven years, if they live so long, one-half of the present pay of such officers. They find also that, on the 24th of August, 1780, it was resolved "that the resolution of the 15th day of May, 1778, granting half-pay for seven years to the officers of the army who should continue in the service to the end of the war, be extended to the widows of those officers who have died, or shall hereafter die, in the service—to commence from the time of such officer's death, and to continue for the term of seven years;" or, if there be no widow, such half-pay is to be given to the children, &c.

The facts relied on to bring the petitioners within the provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, are these: it appears on the records of Congress, volume 1, page 453 of the Journal; that Congress, on the 23d of August, 1776, "resolved that two companies on the *continental establishment* be raised in the town of Westmoreland, and stationed in proper places for the defence of the inhabitants of said town and parts adjacent, till further orders of Congress; the commissioned officers of the said two companies to be immediately appointed by Congress; that the pay of the men to be raised as aforesaid commence when they are armed, &c., &c.; and that they be liable to serve in any part of the United States when ordered by Congress; that said troops be enlisted to serve during the war, unless sooner discharged by Congress."

On the 26th of August, 1776, Congress proceeded to the election of the officers, when Robert Durkee and Samuel Ransom were elected captains of these two companies thus raised. As soon as information was received of these doings of Congress, rendezvous for the enlistment of men on the

term prescribed were opened by Captain Durkee and Captain Ransom, and it is a historical fact, that, in less than sixty days, both companies were full, numbering about 84 men each. It is also a matter of history, that, at this time, the army under Washington was much weakened and reduced, and the affairs of the country generally were much depressed. Washington was compelled to retreat through the Jerseys. "The commander-in-chief," says Marshall, "found himself at the head of this small force—less than three thousand soldiers—dispirited by their losses and fatigues, retreating, almost naked and barefooted, in the cold November and December, before a numerous, well-appointed, and victorious army, through a desponding country, much more disposed to obtain safety by submission than to seek it by manly resistance."

On the 8th of December, General Washington crossed the Delaware, and Congress took measures to retire from Philadelphia. At this moment of peril, they resolved, December 12, "that the two companies raised in the town of Westmoreland be ordered to join General Washington with all possible expedition."

"Promptly obeying the order," says Miner's History of Wyoming, "the two companies hastened their march, and before the close of the month and year were upon the lines, under the command of their beloved Washington." These companies were in the battle at Millstone; they were also at Bound Brook; at Brandywine, at Germantown, and at Mud Fort. In October, 1777, Captain Ransom's company mustered still sixty-two men. They continued with the continental army until the threatened invasion of Wyoming by the British and Indians in 1778, when Captain Ransom, with others, hastened to the defence of their families and homes. Some of them arrived in time to participate in the bloody fight of July 3, 1778; and many of them, among whom was Captain Ransom, lost their lives in the battle.

These companies, having been raised by Congress and placed on the continental establishment, the officers having been elected by Congress, having served in the continental army, and been killed in battle with the common enemy, are, in the opinion of the committee, entitled to the benefits of all the resolves and promises made by Congress to the most favored of the revolutionary officers and soldiers. It appears, too, that neither the seven years' half-pay nor the five years' commutation has ever been paid to Captain Ransom, or to any one in his right. The committee, therefore, are of the opinion that the heirs and legal representatives are entitled to seven years' half-pay due to Samuel Ransom as a captain on the continental establishment, and report a bill accordingly.