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Report : Mr. Brodhead

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 30, 1852.—Submitted and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRODHEAD made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. 569.]

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of George Morris, report:

The petitioner states that he enlisted as a private soldier in the army of the United States in February, 1812, and was attached to the 17th infantry, under the command of Captain Hightower; that his regiment formed a part of the northwestern army under General Winchester; that he served in the battles at the river Raisin, where he was taken prisoner; that he was claimed by one of the Indians and given up to him; that he was held a prisoner by the Indians, and subjected to great labor, suffering and hardship until 4th September, 1816, when he was finally released. He further states that he has received no compensation from the government for his services or sacrifices, except the bounty and clothing that he received upon his enlistment.

The facts of the enlistment, service, and capture, are fully sustained by the affidavit of General Wm. O. Butler, who was an ensign in Captain Hightower's company. He adds, that Morris was in every way a "most exemplary soldier," and enumerates several circumstances which go to corroborate the statement of Morris. Two of his neighbors, David Noble and Robert Miller, testify to his enlistment and to his absence from home for three or four years; and that it was generally understood and believed that he was taken prisoner at the battle of the river Raisin, and had been held in captivity by the Indians.

General Butler says it is probable that Morris was returned as killed, "from the well known fact that many were murdered after the surrender." He says further: "There seems to have been a compact between the British and Indians in these battles, that all the persons taken by the latter were to be their exclusive property, and disposed of at their will. As a proof of this fact, many were bound in the immediate presence of the whole British army, and marched off by the Indians without the slightest opposition."

Under these circumstances, the committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to his pay as a private during the time of his service and captivity, at the rate of eight dollars per month, and a commutation at the rate of twenty dollars a year in lieu of clothing. They accordingly report the accompanying bill and recommend its passage.