

RUTH ELLEN GRELAUD.

FEBRUARY 18, 1875.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MARTIN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill H. R. 4779.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Ruth Ellen Grelaud, widow of Capt. John H. Grelaud, late of the United States Army, for a pension, having had the same under consideration, submit the following report :*

It appears from the evidence before this committee that the petitioner was married to the late Capt. John H. Grelaud, at Boston, on the 30th day of November, 1850 ; that her said husband graduated at West Point June 23, 1843 ; was appointed brevet second lieutenant February 17, 1845, and served without intermission from that time to the date of his death ; that he died in the discharge of his duties under the following peculiar circumstances, as set forth in a letter from the Commissioner of Pensions, dated January 19, 1874, which is herewith presented and made part of this report.

Captain Grelaud was stationed at Fort Dulaney, Penita Lake, Florida, where he was attacked by bilious remittent fever of a congestive form ; there being no medical officer at this post, he did not receive medical treatment until the eighth day after he was attacked with the disease ; that as soon as his case was reported he was visited by a medical officer, and soon after removed to Fort Myers, and died on the 17th day of August, 1857, being the twelfth day after he was taken sick.

This young officer was stationed at a fort in the swamps of Florida ; was taken sick ; no medical officer having been provided for this fort, or if provided was absent, he dies, as it appears, for want of proper medical treatment, and while in the discharge of his duties as a good and brave officer.

The general laws making no provision for cases of this kind, your committee are of opinion that the pension should be granted, and earnestly recommend the passage of the accompanying bill for relief of petitioner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, PENSION-OFFICE,  
Washington, D. C., January 19, 1874.

SIR : I have the honor to inclose the papers in the case of Mrs. Ruth Ellen Grelaud, widow of John H. Grelaud, deceased, who was captain in the Fourth Regiment Artillery. From a statement obtained from the Surgeon-General, December 18, 1858, it appears that Captain G. was stationed at Fort Dulaney, Penita Lake, Florida,

where he was attacked with bilious remittent fever, of a congestive form. There being no medical officer at the post, he did not receive medical treatment until the eighth day of his disease; that as soon as his case was reported he was visited by a medical officer, and soon after removed to Fort Myers, August 14, 1857, where he died on the 17th of that month, being the twelfth day of his sickness. It is also stated that at the time Captain G. died, the troops in Florida were actively engaged in hostilities with the Seminole Indians.

No application appears to have been made to this Office for a pension by his widow; but the general laws made no provision for the widow or children of an officer of the United States Army who died of a disease contracted while in the service since the close of the Mexican war, and up to the war of the rebellion.

Very respectfully,

J. H. BAKER,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,  
*United States Senate.*