

Report No. 84.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 780.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DANIEL WILSON.

FEBRUARY 13, 1849.

Mr. WILEY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition and papers of Daniel Wilson, of Du Page county, Illinois, having had the same under consideration, ask leave to submit the following report:*

It appears, from evidence satisfactory to the committee, that the petitioner, in 1814, enlisted as a private in the service of the United States, as one of the New York six months' volunteers, under Captain A. Mattison, at Batavia, N. Y., in the regiment under the command of Colonel Philetus Swift; was afterwards under the command of Captain Moody R. Freeman, same regiment, and was honorably discharged on the 8th day of November, 1814. That the regiment to which he belonged soon marched to the Canada frontier; that on the night of the 24th of July, 1814, he crossed from the Canada side of the Niagara river to Lewiston, about eleven o'clock, p. m.; that he was put on guard, and was not relieved till the sun was two hours high the next morning, (the 25th.) He then returned to camp, and was preparing his breakfast when the alarm was given that the enemy (British and Indians) was approaching in force, supposed to be 1,000 men, while the American party was not more than 200 men. That orders were at first given to parade, but the enemy were so near that a retreat was immediately ordered. It was soon perceived that the Indians had flanked them, and they were ordered to take a circuitous route up

a steep hill to Schlosser. The Indians pursued and occasionally fired upon them.

The party was much fatigued, and almost melted by the extreme heat, but found no refreshment except water, having lost all their provisions in the retreat. They did not arrive at Schlosser till nearly night, the petitioner having eaten no food for nearly twenty-four hours. The next day, although quite feeble, he marched with the company to Batavia East, where he obtained a furlough to go home. That he was soon taken sick, and was not able to return to his company till some time in October following, still feeble. On the 8th of November he was discharged by Colonel H. W. Dobbin, to whose regiment the company then belonged. Petitioner swears that this discharge was afterwards destroyed by the burning of his dwelling.

The petitioner swears that all the commissioned officers of the regiment are long since dead, or removed to parts unknown to him; that he has been very feeble ever since the said 25th of July, 1814, and had frequent fits of sickness, especially in the war season, so that he is unable to procure a livelihood for himself and family dependent on him for support.

The enlistment, service, &c., were proved by a number of privates who were in the same company and knowing to the circumstances. The state of the petitioner's health, ever since the disability occurred, is proved by his family physician. Two other physicians certify that petitioner is totally disabled from the performance of manual labor. They state that the disease is such as would arise from overheating and great exertion, viz: derangement in the functions of the stomach, liver and spleen.

It is shown to the satisfaction of the committee that the petitioner enjoyed good health previous to the service, and his health has not been good since, and that the disability had its origin in the cause assigned. They therefore report a bill for his relief.