

MARGARET E. WEST.

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JANUARY 9, 1880.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 3263.]

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3263) granting a pension to Margaret E. West, widow of Robert M. West, late colonel of the Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report:*

A bill similar to the present one was passed by the House of Representatives in the Forty-fourth Congress, on February 4, 1876.

A reference to the petition of the claimant, supported by affidavits, and to the certificates and testimonials thereto appended (Mis. Doc. No. 44, 1st session 44th Congress), discloses the fact that Colonel West's record for military service during the late rebellion was conspicuous for marked attention to his duty in camp and on the field, earning frequent promotions and honorable mention in many reports from commanding generals.

In 1868, in a campaign on the frontier against the Indians, he was subjected to hardships and exposures of the most extreme character. These undermined a naturally iron constitution, and with his earlier experience in the malarial swamps of the peninsula during the rebellion were the ultimate cause of his death, and this conclusion seems to be fully borne out by the records. Colonel West's death occurred at the house of a private citizen, near Fort Arbuckle, and entirely away from a surgeon or other medical attendance.

For these reasons the proper technical medical evidence cannot be obtained to bring the case within the strict requirements of the rules of the Pension Department.

In view of the facts above stated, the committee recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.

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