

SARAH LUMPKIN MERCHANT.

FEBRUARY 7, 1882.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1435.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1435) granting a pension to Sarah Lumpkin Merchant, widow of the late Charles Spencer Merchant, colonel and brevet brigadier-general in the United States Army (retired), at the rate of \$50 per month, have had the same under consideration, and find the following to be the facts in the premises:

That the said Charles S. Merchant's military service was continuous for nearly seventy years, having entered West Point in 1810; received his first commission as third lieutenant of First United States Artillery March 11, 1814, serving during the second war with England until 1818, when he was in command at Eastport, Me., sent there under the Boundary Treaty to relieve the British commandant, witnessing the departure thence of the last hostile British troops from the soil of the United States. In 1832 he was a brevet captain, in command of Fort Moultrie, under special orders during the nullification acts of South Carolina. During the years 1835, 1836, and 1837, he was a participant, serving with distinction in the Seminole Indian war in Florida, at Picolata, Black Creek, and Fort Drane. In 1838 Captain Merchant was ordered thence to Fort Niagara during threatened anti-masonic troubles, remaining on duty at the forts in New York State, and at Fort Adams, Rhode Island, during the "Dorr" troubles, until 1847, in which year he served with distinction in Mexico and Texas under General Taylor. In 1853 Major Merchant, under orders, went with his regiment of artillery to California; was shipwrecked off Hatteras, the steamship, San Francisco, being a total wreck. Major Merchant was one of the few persons rescued by the ship Three Bells. He subsequently continued his journey from San Francisco, remaining there until 1861, in which year, August 28, he became colonel of the Fourth United States Artillery. After this he was in command at Fort Washington and Fort Wood, New York Harbor, and on court-martial duty until 1863, when he was retired with the rank of colonel, and was brevetted brigadier-general. He died on the 6th day of December, 1879. He was married in the year 1818 to the said Sarah. She is now about 80 years old, and has no property, but is dependent upon her children for her support. These facts that are not

obtained from the military records are verified by the oath of witnesses. The claimant has not applied to the department for a pension.

In view of all the foregoing facts, your committee recommends the passage of the bill, with this amendment, striking out the word "fifty" in line 7 of said bill, and inserting instead thereof the word "thirty."

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