

LAURA L. WALLEN

MARCH 20, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. RUSSELL, of Connecticut, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5593.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5593) increasing the pension of Laura L. Wallen, having considered the same, submit the following report:

That Laura L. Wallen is the widow of Henry D. Wallen, who, at the time of his death, December, 1887, was colonel of Second Infantry. The records of the War Department show that Colonel Wallen was appointed in 1836 and served in the Mexican war, and in each grade of promotion upon the frontier, until his death, which was from disease contracted upon the frontier of Arizona. The most notable service of Colonel Wallen's life, in obedience to orders, most distasteful to an officer anxious for military distinction and rank, was performed during the late war. His knowledge of the Indian tribes and his great tact and judgment in dealing with them pointed to him as a man suited to the arduous and delicate task of dealing with the warlike tribes of Apaches and Navajoes on the frontier of New Mexico. Though averse to this service in the condition of the country, as his letters to the War Department, to President Lincoln, and to the Military Committee of the Senate show, he complied with the orders of the Secretary of War with such zeal and energy that though commanding but three companies of his regiment, composed of fresh volunteers, he kept the frontier, that for a century had been exposed to the violence of savage tribes, in a condition of peace that it had rarely known.

About 9,000 Indians were brought into a reservation, disarmed, and induced to labor, land was reclaimed by irrigation, crops planted and harvested in peace while all the energies of the Government were engaged in the prodigious work of war. The value of this frontier service can scarcely be overrated; but for the discretion and executive ability of Colonel Wallen the whole frontier of New Mexico would have blazed with the fires of savage warfare, and the Government embarrassed at a time when it had no forces to spare.

This continuous service in a hot and unhealthful region broke down Colonel Wallen's health, and after years of suffering he died, leaving a widow, advanced in years, and an invalid daughter dependent upon a pension of \$30 per month.

In view of Colonel Wallen's services, and the present condition of his widow, the committee recommend the passage of the bill.