

PETER THOMPSON.

APRIL 24, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1997.]

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1997) granting a pension to Peter Thompson, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to submit the following report:*

The report of the Senate Committee on Pensions is as follows:

Claimant enlisted in the Black Hawk war, in Capt. Jeremiah Smith's company, Second Regiment Illinois Mounted Militia, as a sergeant, April 20, 1832, and was discharged with the company May 27, 1832.

The claim was rejected May 23, 1884, on the ground of no record evidence and claimant's inability to furnish satisfactory testimony connecting the alleged rheumatism with the service and line of duty.

The testimony in the claim is as follows:

The claimant states that he is now seventy years of age, and is suffering from sciatic rheumatism contracted by exposure in the service, in line of duty, May or June, 1832; that he is unable to furnish testimony showing origin of rheumatism in the service for the reason that he has been unable to ascertain the whereabouts of either the officers or enlisted men of his company; that the rheumatism was contracted by sleeping on the ground in wet weather, and mainly affects his left leg; that his occupation is that of a farmer, and he is unable to do but little work of any kind; that he is credibly informed that all of the officers of his company are now dead.

In affidavit filed September 25, 1883, John W. West, of Lamonte, Mo., testifies that claimant is the identical Peter Thompson who served in Captain James's company of Illinois Volunteers in the Black Hawk war.

Millie Boon, of Barnetts, Mo., testifies that claimant was lame upon his return home from the war, caused by exposure incident to the service; that his lameness was caused by sciatic rheumatism, which has continued to the present time.

Thompson M. Howser, of Eldon, Mo., testifies that he has been acquainted with claimant since 1850, and that the said claimant has suffered from injury in the left hip during all the time of his acquaintance with him.

Malinda Howser, of Aurora Springs, Mo., testifies to a crippled condition of claimant's leg since 1850.

G. M. Bandy, of Eldon, Mo., testifies that claimant has been lame in his left leg from rheumatism contracted in the Black Hawk war since 1854.

Henry Wrafford, of Litchfield, Ill., testifies to continuance of chronic rheumatism since 1858.

Howard Jackson testifies to the continuance of rheumatism since 1867, greatly disabling claimant for manual labor.

Moses Kelsy, of Eldon, Mo., testifies that claimant has been disabled for manual labor since 1867, by reason of disability causing lameness.

Samuel T. Harrison corroborates the testimony of Moses Kelsy.

Dr. L. M. Camp, of Aurora Springs, Ill., in affidavit filed May 26, 1886, testifies that he has known claimant for four years; that upon examination finds the joints of his left leg quite stiff and growing worse all the time, incapacitating him for manual labor, and that the said stiffness of joints is caused by chronic rheumatism.

The examining surgeon, under date of September 5, 1883, gives claimant a total rating for disability caused by rheumatism.

Although there is no evidence showing the existence of rheumatism in the service, it is quite clearly established that claimant was affected by rheumatism on his return from the war in 1832, and has suffered from the same disability to the present time.

The facts in the case seem to warrant favorable action, and your committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the bill.

Your committee concur in the conclusion reached therein, and return the bill with the recommendation that it do pass.