

JOHN A. MINER.

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JULY 25, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BLISS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2739.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2739) granting a pension to John A. Miner, have considered the same and report as follows:*

The claimant was a sergeant in Company A, Third United States Infantry, from January 22, 1838, to January 22, 1841, when he was honorably discharged. His whole service was in the Florida Indian war.

In his claim for pension, before the Pension Bureau, he alleged that he contracted disease of the eyes while scouting in Florida about December, 1840. His claim was rejected by the Pension Bureau on the ground that there is no record of the alleged disease of eyes, and soldier's inability to prove it as the result of his service. The office was not in possession of the addresses of any officer or comrade who served with him in 1840 and 1841. Since the rejection of the claim, the soldier has found a comrade who served with him at that time. This comrade, Thomas Grover, aged eighty-two, testifies that he well remembers that at or near the Saffron River, Florida, in the autumn of 1840 the claimant contracted sore eyes while scouting for Indians.

Bennett Quinlan testified that he worked with claimant in the tannery business from 1841 to 1853, and that during that period he was disabled by disease of the eyes; and Nicholas Flagler testifies that he employed claimant during that period of time and knows that he had sore eyes all the time, which he claimed he contracted while in service.

Other good and reliable witnesses testify to the continued existence of disease of eyes each year since 1853.

This claimant is seventy years of age, and would be entitled to pension for his services in the Florida war if the general bill favorably reported by this committee for the relief of the survivors of that war becomes a law.

Your committee recommend the passage of this bill, amended, however, by striking out the word "Mexican" in line 7, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "Florida."