

STEPHEN C. SLAYTON.

—
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. 55.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 55) granting a pension to Stephen C. Slayton, have had the same under consideration and respectfully submit the following report:

That Stephen C. Slayton was mustered into the United States service as first lieutenant and enrolled October 26, 1837, at Bellefonte, Ala., in Captain Armstrong's company, Colonel Snodgrass's regiment of Alabama Volunteers; that he served in the Army during the Florida war, and was mustered out of the service at Fort Mitchell, Ala., April 14, 1838; that in December, 1837, while in the line of duty in the military service of the United States, he contracted disease of the kidneys and rheumatism. The medical testimony filed with the papers in the case shows that at the time of his enrollment he was a sound man; that his said disease of the kidneys and rheumatism is attributable to exposure in Florida during his service in the Army, and that his said physical disability has been continuous, and that it still exists. He is now over seventy years of age, almost helpless, and is in needy circumstances.

His application for pension was rejected October 23, 1883, by the Pension Office on the alleged ground of disloyalty. Your committee, after an examination of the evidence submitted by Mr. Slayton, filed with the papers in the case, is of the opinion that he was not disloyal to the United States Government during the late war.

Slayton states that in order to avoid the conscript officers of the Confederate service he connected himself in January, 1862, with the Second Tennessee Cavalry, with which regiment he remained about two months, doing no duty, nor did he render any service whatever to the Confederate cause, not even drawing an army gun; and he left this regiment as soon as he could. He was never enrolled, as appears by a letter from Secretary of War Robert Lincoln to the Commissioner of Pensions, dated April 28, 1883, who certifies "that his name does not appear on any of the rolls of the organization in question on file in the archive branch of the War Department."

Slayton, under oath, states—

That he did not vote for secession or hold office in the Confederate service; that after the war broke out he was an open and avowed Union man, and that he did not directly or indirectly do anything in aid of the Confederate Government, except to pay taxes, and that for his refusal to enter the Confederate service threats were made to take his life.

Allen Lea, ex-Union officer, William Dean, Hugh Brandon, and Ellias Killiam, citizens of Alabama, all of whom were loyal to the United States Government during the war, under oath declare in substance and to the effect that Slayton was a Union man during the war, and that he rendered no service to the Confederate cause.

Moreover, this claimant, by reason of his advanced age and of the duration of his service in the Indian war, is deemed by your committee as a proper beneficiary for a service pension, and comes within the service pension bill now on the Calendar of the House, in which class of legislation for all old wars the question of the loyalty of the claimant during the late rebellion, raised by section 4716, Revised Statutes, has been excluded.

Your committee, for the reasons stated, recommend that the bill do pass.

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