

MESSAGE
FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RETURNING

Senate bill No. 1957, with his objections thereto.

JUNE 20, 1888.—Read and referred to the Committee on Pensions and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate :

I return without approval Senate bill number nineteen hundred and fifty-seven, entitled "An act granting a pension to Virtue Smith."

The beneficiary named in this bill is the widow of David M. Smith (incorrectly named David W. Smith in the bill), who served as a bugler in a Minnesota regiment from August 22, 1862, to September 28, 1862, in a campaign against the Sioux Indians.

He received a gunshot wound in the right elbow, for which in 1867 he was granted a pension of six dollars a month, which was very soon thereafter increased to eight dollars, and in August, 1875, said pension was further increased to ten dollars a month, which he received to the date of his death.

He died in the city of Washington on the 22d day of January, 1880.

He obtained a position in the Second Auditor's office of the Treasury Department in 1864, and worked steadily there until about six months before his death.

Medical examinations had from time to time up to 1877 seem to have found him in excellent physical condition except the wound in his right elbow, which caused stiffness and an injury to his left forearm not received in the Army.

In 1879 he was examined by a physician of this city who stands among the best in the profession, and found in the last stages of consumption, and this physician declares he died from that cause. A female physician certified that the cause of death was "wounds in the Army."

The pensioner was sixty-four years old at the time of his death.

I am perfectly satisfied from the medical testimony and from other facts connected with this case that the death of the husband of the beneficiary was in no manner related to his military service.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, June 19, 1888.

[Fiftieth Congress of the United States of America, at the first session, begun and held at the city of Washington, on Monday, the 5th day of December, 1887.]

AN ACT GRANTING A PENSION TO VIRTUE SMITH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to place on the pension-roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension law, the name of Virtue Smith, widow of David W. Smith late a private in Company A, of the First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers, and to pay her a pension from and after the passage of this act.

JOHN G. CARLISLE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JOHN J. INGALLS,
President of the Senate pro tempore.

I certify that this act originated in the Senate.

ANSON G. MCCOOK,
Secretary.

