
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 21, 1892.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 4809.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4809) granting a pension to James Smith, have had the same under consideration and do hereby approve the report of the House in said case, which report is hereto attached and made a part of this report, and the committee do recommend the passage of the bill.

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4809) granting a pension to James Smith, have considered the same and report:

The service of the claimant is shown by the following report from the War Department.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 29, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith request of the chairman of Committee on Pensions, House of Representatives, requesting a report of the service of James Smith, late orderly sergeant Company F, Sixth Infantry, during the Seminole Indian war, and in reply to report that the records of this office show that Sergeant James Smith, Company F, Sixth Infantry, enlisted June 22, 1838, at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and was discharged June 22, 1841, at Fort Harrison, east Florida, by expiration of service. He served in Florida from December, 1838, to date of discharge.

Very respectfully,

J. C. KELTON,
Adjutant-General.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

On September 24, 1881, Mr. Smith filed an application for pension at the Pension Office, declaring that while in Florida during said service he injured his spine by being thrown from a horse, and injured his right hand while building officers' quarters. It also appears from subsequent statements made by him that he was twice wounded by Indians during the Florida campaign—once in the knee and once in the neck.

Reports on file at the Pension Office from the rolls of the company show that the claimant was under treatment in hospital during a part of his service, but the nature of his disabilities not being shown by the records, and the testimony filed in the claim not being regarded as sufficient by the Commissioner of Pensions, the claim was rejected August 24, 1882, on the ground of "no record of origin of alleged disabilities in the service and line of duty and inability (on the part of claimant) to furnish satisfactory evidence to establish the facts."

Subsequently additional testimony was filed and the claim was specially examined to determine its merits, but the testimony adduced upon special examination was

also regarded as insufficient, and the claim was again rejected on substantially the same grounds as above stated.

During the pendency of the claim at the Pension Office it was made "special" on the ground of the applicant's destitution, decrepitude, and old age. He is now in the neighborhood of 78 years old, and an inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Washington, D. C.

In view of the soldier's long service and his feeble and destitute old age, your committee think he can properly be granted a pension, and the passage of the bill is recommended with an amendment fixing the rate of pension at \$15 per month.

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