

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 28, 1891.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 13270.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 13270) granting a pension to Peter William Frederick, private Company A, Fifth Regiment United States Infantry, have examined the same and report:

This case is clearly stated in the appended House report, and is adopted as the report of this committee.

[House report No. 3875, Fifty-first Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 13270) granting a pension to Peter William Frederick, have considered the same and report:

The Adjutant-General of the U. S. Army states that Peter W. Frederick enlisted November 19, 1856, in Company A, Fifth Regiment U. S. Infantry, and was discharged November 19, 1861, at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., by expiration of service. During this period of service the company is shown to have at one time been engaged with the Seminole Indians in Florida, and at another time was in the field scouting.

The following is the applicant's sworn statement, and also the statement of Messrs. Alexander, Dawson, Luckett, and Neal respecting the applicant's reputation for truth and veracity:

LECOMPTE, LA., November 27, 1890.

Hon. N. C. BLANCHARD,  
Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: I was a soldier in the regular Army of the United States between the years 1856-1861.

I was enlisted on the 19th day of November, 1856, and was assigned to Company A, Fifth Regiment of U. S. Infantry, to serve 5 years, and was honorably discharged by expiration of term of service on the 19th day of November, 1861. I hold certificates of honorable service and discharge.

I was with Sydney Johnston in his expedition against the Mormons, and helped to bury the victims of the famous Mountain Meadow massacre. This took place in the fall of the year and the bodies lay unburied till the next spring. I took up a quantity of hair from the heads of the women, combed it out, and the officer sent it on to Washington.

We started from Fort Leavenworth, Kans., on the 3d of July, 1857, and arrived at Salt Lake City on the 2d of July, 1858, spending 1 year on the route, a portion of which, however, was spent at Fort Bridger, where the army came near starving to death because part of our supply trains were burnt by the Mormons on Green River, and our cattle and horses all froze to death. Each company of soldiers hitched themselves into wagons and went through the snow to haul wood a distance of 10 miles to keep from freezing to death.

Starvation stared us in the face. Gen. Sydney Johnston called for volunteers to carry dispatches giving information of the state of affairs to Fort Laramie, where were commissary supplies.

Myself and another man volunteered to go. We started on mules with 6 days' rations. The snow was from 3 feet to 25 feet deep. We got as far as Harris Fork;

one of our mules froze to death at night. We left next morning for Green River, a distance of 35 miles. It took us 2 days to make the trip. Staid at a ranch that night; next morning left for Sweetwater; lost the other mule that night—froze to death. We had been 5 days on the route; then had 1 day's rations left. My partner decided that he could endure his sufferings no longer and would return to Fort Bridger. He accordingly left me next morning and set out on his return trip. He was never heard of afterward. He doubtless perished from cold and hunger.

Cutting a piece of flesh from the body of the dead mule, I put it in my haversack and started out alone, after having divested myself of all my arms (I had 3 pistols and a Navy 6), except 1 pistol, determined to reach Fort Laramie or perish in the attempt. There were no houses and no landmarks between Green River and Fort Laramie. Everything was covered with snow and I had to rely solely on my compass. After some days I reached the top of the Black Hills, having gone far out of my course. I was then in sight of Fort Laramie; camped there that night; was too worn out with fatigue and hunger to go farther; had had nothing to eat for 3 or 4 days, except sedge bush and small twigs of wood; saw no game at all, as it had all gone to winter quarters.

I was picked up next morning in a state of unconsciousness by a squad of soldiers from Fort Laramie. Searching my pockets they found the dispatches, placed me in a hospital, where I was kindly cared for, and by the time the supply train was ready to move for the relief of Fort Bridger I was sufficiently recovered and returned with them, having accomplished the expedition on which I set out. \* \* \* I am now old, disabled, and dependent.

PETER W. FREDERICK.

Sworn to and signed before me this 6th of January, 1891.

D. D. ARDEN, J. P.

We are personally well acquainted with Mr. P. W. Frederick and take great pleasure in certifying that he is a person of good repute as to truth and veracity in the community in which he lives.

Rev. R. F. ALEXANDER.  
J. H. DAWSON.  
R. L. LUCKETT.  
GEO. T. NEAL, *Agt.*

Henry A. Boyce, of Boyce, La., and Rev. George Jackson, of Lecompte, La., also certify to the claimant's good character and reputation for reliability and truthfulness. These witnesses are all given the highest standing by Hon. N. C. Blanchard, who knows them personally.

Dr. Ira Bowman testifies that he has examined the applicant and finds him suffering with two inguinal hernias, necessitating the constant wearing of a truss; also that he finds evidences that the applicant's skull has once been broken. The applicant, who is only about 56 years old, has the appearance of being nearly 70, and he looks as though at some time in the past he had undergone some great physical hardship.

The applicant, in a letter dated Lecompte, La., January 6, 1891, states that both of the disabilities named had their origin in the service and line of duty.

The passage of the bill is recommended.

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