

JOHN B. CHAUDONIA.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 433.]

MAY 11, 1846.

Mr. MORRIS, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Public Lands, to which was referred the petition of Mary L. Chaudonia, of the county of St. Joseph, Indiana, praying Congress to pass an act granting to her and her two children a section of land, for services rendered by her husband to the United States prior to and during the late war, have had the same under consideration, and now report:*

That, from the petition and papers in this case, it appears that, upon the petition of John B. Chaudonia, a half-breed Pottawatomie Indian, the Committee on Indian Affairs in the Senate, in 1832, reported a bill granting a section of land to the petitioner, in consideration of his services rendered to the United States during the late war, but upon which no further action has been had.

Previous to the late war, at the massacre of the whites by the Indians at Chicago, where an indiscriminate butchery of them took place, without regard to age or sex, Chaudonia, by his humane exertions, saved the life of the captain in command at this post, and the life of the captain's lady also. He espoused the cause of the United States at the commencement of our difficulties with Great Britain, and continued in the service of this country (with the exception of a few months while he was in a British prison) until the close of the war; and, after the war was ended, he rendered very important services to the United States on different occasions.

Chaudonia, at the commencement of the late war, being young, active, enterprising, and daring—understanding well the manners and customs of the Indians—being well skilled in their mode of warfare, admitted into their secret councils, and possessing an influence over them that no one else, who favored the American cause, did—all these circumstances combined gave him the power of rendering to the United States greater services than any one else at that time, which he at no time omitted to exercise when it was necessary to save either the lives of the citizens of the United States, or their property, from destruction. During the existence of the war his life was devoted to our cause, and his property freely sacrificed for the safety and protection of our citizens.

Since the death of the said John B. Chaudonia, which occurred in the year 1837, his widow, for herself and children, petitions Congress to pass

an act granting to them a section of land, for and in consideration of the services rendered by her late husband to the United States.

The committee being well satisfied of the truth of all the facts above stated—regretting that so just a claim should have been so long neglected—thereby permitting the widow and children of so meritorious a man to drag out a life in penury and want—hereby report a bill for their relief, and recommend its passage without delay.