26th Congress, 1st Session. | Rep. No. 172. | Ho. of Reps.

CAPTAIN JAMES HUNTER—WIDOW OF.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 183.]

March 5, 1840.

Mr. S. Williams, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom were referred the petition and papers of the late Captain James Hunter, for the use and benefit of his widow, report:

That, upon an examination of the case, the committee agree in a report made to the House of Representatives on the 21st day of December, 1838, and adopt said report, and accompany it with a bill for the benefit of his widow.

December 21, 1838.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Captain James Hunter, have adopted, in part, the report presented on the 1st of February, 1837.

That, in the fall of 1811, the petitioner, Captain James Hunter, volunteered as a private in the company of Captain Frederick Gueser, of Jefferson county, Kentucky, which proceeded to join General Harrison at headquarters; that, after his arrival, General Harrison appointed him adjutant, with the rank of lieutenant, to the battalion of Major Wells; and in the battle of Tippecanoe, on the morning of the 7th November, 1811, he was wounded in the right shoulder with an Indian arrow, the spear of which (an inch and three-fourths long, and one inch wide) remained in his arm until May, 1824, when it was extracted by Doctor Brashier. In May, 1812, he was commissioned as captain in the 17th regiment, commanded by Colonel Wells, and continued in that station in the army till the latter end of 1814. In the defence of Fort Stephenson he was second in command, and for his gallantry on that occasion his Government presented him a sword.

The petitioner, on oath, states that he was not apprized of the act of Congress under which he would have been entitled to a pension, till in 1833; and that, on application, he was placed on the pension-roll by the War Department, his pension to commence on the 4th March, 1834. He also

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states that he is upwards of sixty-eight years of age, is poor, and rendered less able, by cause of said wound, to support himself and family. He asks Congress to pass a law authorizing him to receive arrears of pension from 13th January, 1813, till 4th March, 1834.

Although this committee have usually admitted invalid pensions, in consequence of wounds received in the late war with Great Britain, to commence only at the time they have been applied for, yet, in consequence of the very meritorious services of Captain Hunter, first displayed at the battle of Tippecanoe, and afterwards in the memorable defence of Fort Stephenson, (for which he received a vote of thanks and the presentation of a sword from Congress,) and for the devotion he evinced by continuing his service in the army from 1811 to 1814, inclusive, together with the consideration that the petitioner did not know of the existence of the law allowing him a pension until a short time previous to his making application, in 1834, the committee, not altogether in violation of rules laid down for their action, and considering the whole matter of pension for recent services as a gratuity, are willing also to allow Captain Hunter the more solid honors of arrearages of pension from the 1st of January, 1815, to the 4th of March, 1834, at the same rate of pension as he now receives; it being eleven dollars and thirty-three cents per month.