

STEPHEN HOWARD.

JUNE 14, 1850.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. EVANS, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Stephen Howard, asking compensation in land for the services of his father in the war of the Revolution, report:*

That they find nothing in this case to distinguish it from ordinary cases in which compensation is sought by the descendants for the revolutionary services of the ancestor.

The petitioner sets out that his father, Jonathan Howard, served in the war of the Revolution; and that in the year 1823, the said Jonathan made an affidavit before an Onondaga court, setting out his revolutionary services, and at which time he produced and exhibited a discharge in writing, dated at Fort Constitution, December 1, 1776, certifying that "Jonathan Howard, a private in Captain Bentley's company, in Colonel Humphrey's regiment, was lawfully discharged, having duly served his time as a good and faithful soldier; signed Moses R. Van Konka, lieutenant." The petitioner further states that the said affidavit and discharge, with evidence in support of the same, were sent to the War Department, but that the said Jonathan never obtained a pension, but died in October, 1828, aged about 75 years, leaving a widow, who died about a year after her husband, about the same age; that they had been, and were poor, and were maintained by the petitioner, and that he is poor and owns no land, and asks a grant in land for these considerations.

Your committee have no doubt that the revolutionary patriots have left behind them many poor, honest, and meritorious descendants, who have suffered much in consequence of, and received no pecuniary profit from, the services of their ancestors in that patriotic struggle, but they doubt the policy of attempting to remunerate all such by pensions or pecuniary grants by special legislation; and as the case of the petitioner is but a common case in that numerous class, they cannot recommend to Congress the granting of the prayer of the petition. They ask to be discharged from its further consideration, and recommend that it be laid upon the table.

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