36TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT No. 358.

CAROLINE E. CLARK.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 592.]

APRIL 6, 1860.

Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Caroline E. Clark, report:

From the petition and evidence in this case it appears that Ransom Clark enlisted as a private in company B, 2d regiment United States artillery, on the 9th day of August, 1833, for three years; that he served faithfully until the 28th day of December, 1835, when, at a place called Dade's battle ground, and near the river Withlacoochee, in East Florida, while in the service of the United States, and in the line of his duty, he was severely wounded in his right shoulder, forever depriving him of the use of his right arm; also in the right thigh, and in the right arm above the elbow; also in the right temple, and in the back, in consequence of which wounds he was discharged for a pension, on a surgeon's certificate of total disability, at Fort Brooke, East Florida, on the 29th of April, 1836. The certificate of disability is signed by John M. Cuyler, assistant surgeon United States army, and his discharge by William Lindsay, colonel, commanding 2d artillery. Previous to his being wounded he was taken and held in captivity by the Indians for about eight months; and on the occasion of his being wounded all his party were massacred by the Indians, and he only escaped death by feigning it. From an abridged history of the United States, by Mrs. Emma Willard, page 321, she says: "In the afternoon Osceola and his mounted party returned triumphant from the massacre at Camp King, and attacked with whoop and yell the enclosure of the thirty survivors; one by one, bravely fighting, the officers and soldiers fell. The narrator, Ransom Clark, who was wounded, and escaped death by feigning it, and then almost by miracle working his way through the woods. He eventually died of his wounds, and thus every one of Dade's army was killed on that fatal field."

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He was placed on the roll of invalid pensioners, at $8 per month, to commence on the 23d day of June, 1836, and received such pension

up to the period of his death. He was married at Albany, N. Y., in November, 1838, to Eunice Luceba French, and she remained his wife until the 18th day of November, 1840, when he died in York, Livingston county, N. Y., aged about twenty-eight years, of the aforesaid wounds; his death being more immediately caused from fever produced by the rifle ball which lodged and remained in his shoulder.

The historical fact and testimony of Nathan B. Clark leaves no doubt that the premature death of said Ransom Clark was caused by the aforesaid injuries, which he received while in the line of his duty, and in the service of the United States.

The said Eunice Luceba Clark became a widow at his death, and remained such widow until the 2d day of August, 1853, when she married Gideon Knokes, and is now living with him as his wife. That said Ransom Clark left him surviving one child only, Caroline E. Clark, who was born on the 24th day of August, 1839. That she applied for a pension as the minor child of Ransom Clark, under the acts of July 3, 1853, and other acts, but her claim was rejected on the ground (see Commissioner's letter of April 27, 1857) that she was not a minor child under sixteen years of age at the time of her application. The aforesaid widow of said Ransom Clark never applied for nor received a pension, but by an assignment in writing duly executed and acknowledged, has transferred all her right to such pension to the aforesaid Caroline E. Clark, the petitioner.

Your committee are of opinion that, under the peculiar circumstances of this case, the petitioner is entitled to a pension of four dollars per month from her father's death, November 18, 1840, until the 2d day of August, 1855, when she was sixteen years of age, and accordingly report a bill and recommend its passage.

See acts of March 19, 1836, July 4, 1836, July 21, 1848, February 22, 1849, and February 3, 1853.