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Sarah White: April 26, 1848.

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Revolutionary Pensions.

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Report No. 518.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 446.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SARAH WHITE.

APRIL 26, 1848.

MR. SIDNEY LAWRENCE, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Sarah White, of Belmont county, Ohio, praying for a pension, as the widow of Thomas White, a captain in the Virginia line during the revolutionary war, made the following report:

That from the evidence presented to the committee, it appears that the petitioner's husband, Thomas White, entered the service of the United States, at Leesburg, Loudon county, Virginia, on the 5th of June, 1777, as an ensign of Captain Thomas's company Virginia militia, consisting of sixty men, having been appointed as such by Governor Dunmore, of Virginia. The company marched to a place called Fredericktown, in Maryland, where Ensign White was appointed captain of said company, in the place of Capt. Thomas, who was discharged from incapacity and intemperance, and marched from thence through York and Lancaster to Dunningstown, Pennsylvania; and a few days before the battle of Brandywine, he joined the main army under General Washington, and was with his company stationed on the right wing of the army during said conflict, which took place on the 11th of September, 1777. He was afterwards ordered to Germantown, and placed in the left wing of the army, and participated in the engagement at that place, on the 4th of October of that year. He afterwards retreated, under General Crawford, to the wet encampment, in Pennsylvania, and remained there several days, (while the British had possession of Philadelphia;) and from thence crossed the Schuylkill, near Val-

ley Forge, and received orders to join Potter's brigade, near Chester, Pennsylvania. About that period, the main army of General Washington went into winter quarters at Valley Forge, and Captain White was discharged from further service, and marched his company to Leesburg, where he arrived on the 28th of March, 1778, having served *nine months and twenty-three days*.

He afterwards commanded a company of Virginia militia, under Colonel Holmes, at Winchester, Virginia, from April 4 to July 1, 1778, during the sickness of Captain Joseph White. This service is estimated at two months and twenty-seven days.

That he served a tour, as captain, near Hillsboro', Virginia, from September 21 to October 19, 1778, twenty-eight days. This service was performed with Lieutenant Samuel Potts, Ensign John Peterson, and sixty privates. On the 1st of September, 1781, the said Captain White and his company, under a call for the Virginia militia, set out to join the main army, and crossed the Rappahannock and James rivers; and, after marching some distance, received intelligence of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, and that the militia then on their way could return home; he accordingly turned towards home, where he arrived with his company on the 28th of October, 1781, having been in service one month and twenty-eight days. The whole time in which Captain White was in actual service is estimated at fifteen months and sixteen days. He applied for a pension, under the act of June 7, 1832, on account of the aforesaid services, and was placed on the pension roll, at the rate of \$275 per annum, on the — day of —, 1832, and received a pension until the period of his death, which took place in Carroll county, Ohio, on the 10th day of September, 1839. It is also satisfactorily proven, that the marriage of the petitioner (whose maiden name was Sarah Keyes) with the above named Captain Thomas White, was solemnized at Keyes's ferry, Berkley county, Virginia, on the Shenandoah river, on the thirteenth day of October, seventeen hundred and eighty-three. By the death of the aforesaid Captain White, the petitioner became, and still remains, a widow. On the 20th of October, 1841, she made her declaration to obtain a pension, under the act of July 7, 1838; and, again, on the 4th of April, 1843, she made an additional declaration in the room where her husband died. Her applications were refused by the Commissioner of Pensions, who required her to produce fresh evidence of her husband's services; hence her application to Congress. From the strong corroborating evidence accompanying the declaration of Captain White, upon which his pension was granted, the committee are satisfied that his pension was properly allowed, and they are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to the benefit of the commissioner's decision upon the merits of her husband's claim.—(See act of Congress, 1847, chapter 13, section 10, as to evidence on the part of widows of pensioners.)

The proof of marriage in this case consists of the affidavits of cohabitation, made by persons acquainted with the parties, a marriage bond, dated October 13, 1783, and a record of the birth of their children, made by Captain White in his hand writing,

in which the petitioner is designated as the *wife* of the said Thomas White, and from which it also appears that their oldest child, Elizabeth, was born on the 8th day of June, 1785, and Sarah, their second child, was born on the 17th of February, 1787. This record, and other evidence in the case, afford the strongest legal presumption in favor of the marriage.

The committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petitioner ought to be granted, and therefore report a bill for her relief.