

# JORDAN KIDWELL

FEBRUARY 1, 1927.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. VINSON of Kentucky, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 15487]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 15487) to correct the military record of Jordan Kidwell, having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

Page 1, line 9, after the word "the," insert the word "first," and after the word "of" insert the word "April, 1865."

Hon. Harry C. Canfield made a statement and submitted affidavits to your committee which outlined the record of this soldier in connection with his service record. Mr. Canfield made a very careful investigation of the case and outlined the case of Mr. Jordan Kidwell as follows:

Mr. Kidwell was born and reared in Henry County, Ky. He enlisted as a private in Company G, Fifty-fourth Infantry, Kentucky Volunteers, on September 22, 1864. His regiment was stationed near New Castle, in Henry County, Ky. Mr. Kidwell remained at that place with his regiment until the 20th of November, 1864. Just before that date he became ill with what was pronounced rheumatism. At that time there was a great deal of illness in the regiment and a temporary hospital was improvised, using a church in the town of New Castle as the hospital building. The accommodations in this improvised hospital were very poor, and it was overcrowded with the soldiers that were ill. Mr. Kidwell lived with his father and mother, William and Parathenia Kidwell, about 8 miles from New Castle. It was suggested that he go home to be cared for at his father's house where he could have the nursing and attention of his mother. To this, his colonel, Harvey Buckley, assented and told him he would be glad if he would do so as it would leave more room in the hospital for the other soldiers who were ill and who were too far away from their homes to go home. The colonel gave him a written furlough permitting him to go to his home and he returned to his father's home and continued there for several months ill, and for part of the time under the care of a doctor.

During the months of November, December, and January and perhaps February he was visited from time to time by members of his company and by non-commissioned officers of his company who came at the instance of his captain to

inquire about his physical condition. The visits on the parts of his comrades and the reports as to his condition by them continued as long as his regiment remained at New Castle, Ky.

During the winter the regiment was removed from New Castle, Ky., to Pleasureville, Henry County, Ky. After that he was no longer visited by any of his comrades for the purpose of ascertaining and reporting upon his physical condition.

In April, 1865, his father, William Kidwell, visited the colonel of his regiment, Harvey Buckley, and reported that his son was still sick and unable to rejoin the regiment. At this time the colonel, Harvey Buckley, gave him a paper in writing extending his furlough.

The regiment disbanded shortly after this date. The war having ended by reason of the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Some time after that it is thought about the month of September, 1865, the regiment was mustered out of service.

Jordan Kidwell remained ill and was unable to rejoin his regiment until after it was informally disbanded in the spring of 1865. He was not notified and did not know the date nor the place where said regiment was formally mustered out. The officers of his regiment, at all times, knew where he was and were within easy reach of him.

Jordan Kidwell never knew that he was reported as a deserter until 1892 when he made application for a pension and learned from the Pension Department of the United States Government for the first time, that he was listed in the War Department as a deserter.

Jordan Kidwell filed various papers pertaining to various applications for pension during the period of time beginning in 1892 until 1914 and as a result of the papers and evidence furnished by him, the War Department corrected this record on file, therein, and granted him a discharge, dated March 28, 1914, and stamped on the back thereof April 30, 1914, and recites that he is discharged from service as of the date November 20, 1864.

Jordan Kidwell believes and knows that he was held and regarded by the officers of his company and regiment as a member of said company at least as late as the month of April, 1865, and believes that he was so held and regarded by them as a member of said company and said regiment from and until same was mustered out of service.

Mr. Kidwell states that the furlough given to him by the colonel, Harvey Buckley, on November 20, 1864, when he went home sick, and the furlough given to his father in April in 1865 were kept and preserved by him in his father's house until August 8, 1871, when they were destroyed by a fire which burned and completely consumed his father's house.

By the War Department dating his discharge to take place from November 20, 1864, he is given only 59 days of actual service in the Army, and because of such short time in service is unable to procure a pension.

Mr. Kidwell feels that a great injustice has been done him and he believes that the records should be corrected so as to show the date of his discharge at least as late as April 1, 1865, or the date on which his regiment was mustered out of service.

Mr. Kidwell is now an old man in feeble health, unable to work, in poor financial circumstances, has no property and is dependent upon the public for a livelihood.

The fact that Jordan Kidwell was not notified when his regiment was to be mustered out should not be permitted to do so great a wrong to a good man and a good soldier. If he was entitled to an honorable discharge as of November 20, 1864, he is surely entitled to one as of April 1, 1865, for the fact that he was visited by the noncommissioned officers of the regiment, at the orders of his captain, and given an extended furlough in April, 1865, should at least entitle him to a discharge dated as late as April 1, 1865.

I therefore respectfully urge that justice be done Mr. Jordan Kidwell by granting him an honorable discharge dated April 1, 1865.

HARRY C. CANFIELD.