

GEORGE S. CLAFLIN.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 166.]

MAY 2, 1850.

Mr. JAMES L. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of George S. Claflin, beg leave to report:*

That your petitioner enlisted on the 29th or 30th day of August, 1814, in the service of the United States, and was a sergeant in Captain Hugness's company of New York militia, over whose regiment Major Burr and General Porter were in command; and, having volunteered to cross into Canada, was stationed at Fort Erie. In a sortie from Fort Erie, under General Porter, your petitioner and 195 others became separated from the rest of the regiment, and were taken prisoners by the British. They were marched immediately to Kingston, and thence carried to Quebec, from whence they arrived at Halifax, after a boisterous passage of 28 days; during which they suffered severely from close confinement, and from bad and deficient provisions, causing the death of many during and shortly after the passage.

On their arrival at Halifax, on the 3d December, 1814, the prisoners, to the number of 840, were confined of nights to one room, of about 100 by 200 feet; and in the day time driven out in the yard, where they were obliged to remain during the whole day, except at meal times. By this exposure, two of the men, who had got behind some boards, were frozen to death, and your petitioner had both feet frozen; and, by the extremes of a hot room, with the breath and perspiration of more than 800 men for the night, and sudden exposure of mid-winter for the day through, many of the men, among whom was your petitioner, were attacked with inflammation of the lungs, producing severe and permanent affections of those organs, with generally impaired constitution, so that, in the few months of their imprisonment, the 195 of his comrades were reduced 56 by death.

Your petitioner further states that, previous to his enlistment, he was of particularly robust constitution, and has been in feeble health ever since; so that he is incapable of much labor, and is poor and unable to obtain the means of support for himself and family.

Amos Dawley had been in the habit of employing Claflin previous to his enlistment, and has known him ever since his return, and confirms the facts of his previous strong condition and latter feebleness. And there is added the certificate of fifteen citizens of Mendon, in Monroe

county, New York, where Claflin resides, stating that they have known him for several years, and that his character for honesty and truth is without stain or reproach.

Doctor Henry J. Hickok, by affidavit, who has known Claflin for 40 years or more, and Doctor George W. Hanna, by certificate, state, the first from the close of the war, that Claflin has been continually in feeble health; frequently attacked with severe sickness. That they have examined him, and found indications of a diseased state of the lungs; derangement of the digestive organs, and general debility of his system; his constitution being broken down, and there being no probability that he will ever recover. The hardships and exposures he endured during his imprisonment, they consider a legitimate cause of these disorders. They state, also, that your petitioner is temperate and honest, and industrious, as far as his ability will allow.

Your committee, deeming your petitioner a proper subject for the bounty of his country, have brought in a bill for his relief.