

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 8, 1862.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MITCHELL, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1422.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1422) granting a pension to Mary Wade, mother of Jennie Wade, who was killed at Gettysburg, Pa., while in the act of baking bread for the Union soldiers, having carefully examined the same, submit the following report:

That it appears from the evidence filed in this case that Mary Wade was the mother of the said Jennie Wade, a resident of Gettysburg, on Friday, the 3d day of July, 1863, the day of the battle at that place; that long prior to this time, to wit, ten years, the husband of said Mary Wade was confined as a lunatic in Adams County poor-house, where he continued up to the time of his death; that the family of the said Mary Wade consisted of three boys, a married daughter, and the said Jennie Wade; that the said mother received nothing towards the support of the family from the boys or the married daughter, but was dependent upon the help and assistance of the said Jennie Wade, to a very great extent.

The mother, in an affidavit under date April 4, 1878, makes oath—

That seven days previous to the death of the said Jennie Wade, she, the said Mary A. Wade, had gone to nurse, take care of, and stay with her eldest daughter, George Anna, intermarried with John Lewis McClellan, for her said daughter George Anna was confined in childbirth, and her said husband, John Lewis, was away in the nine months' service; that she remained there till after the battle, but on the 1st day of July, 1863 (being the first day of the battle), becoming anxious and concerned about the safety of her said daughter Jennie, sent home for her, and had her come out to where she was staying; that from that time, viz, the 1st day of July, A. D. 1863, to the 3d day of July, A. D. 1863, she, the said Mary A. Wade, and her two daughters, the said George Anna and the said Jennie, staid in the same house, and that said house was situate near the extreme south end of Baltimore street, in the said borough of Gettysburg, on the east side of the street, near the top of Cemetery Hill, and was just within the Union lines, and was occupied during the battle by Union sharpshooters; that on Thursday, the 2d day of July, A. D. 1863, all the bread in the house had been given away to and eaten by Union soldiers; that on Friday, the 3d day of July, 1863, the said Jennie Wade was making up a large batch of bread for the Union soldiers, and the family; that she had just finished making the bread, and was standing in the kitchen with her back to the door opening from the kitchen into the yard on the south side of the house; that she had just taken out some more flour and turning to her mother, the said Mary Wade, had said, "Mother, I am going to make some biscuit now; won't they be nice for the boys?"—meaning by the term "boys" the Union soldiers—when she was shot. The ball passed through the outside kitchen door and a door leading from the kitchen to the dining-room, which door was standing open, and entered the small of the back just below the left shoulder blade. She expired instantly.

That upon hearing the shot the said Mary A. Wade turned and saw her daughter, the said Jennie, sinking to the floor. On running to her and lifting her up, she found that her daughter was already dead. That finding her dead, she, the said Mary A. Wade, with the assistance of some Union soldiers, put a quilt over the dead body, and put it on a lounge in the room, but afterward removed it to the cellar. That her said daughter Jennie was killed about eight o'clock on the morning of the 3d day of July, 1863, and was buried in a hole in the garden back of the house, about three o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th day of July, 1863, but was afterwards removed to the cemetery.

She further states that at this time, in the month of July, 1863, her husband, John Wade, was living, but that for ten years previous to this time, and at this time, and ever after till the time of his death, he, the said John Wade, was, and continued so to be, an inmate of the Adams County poor-house, being confined there as a lunatic; that at this time, and for many years previous the support of her family, and the partial support of the said Mary A. Wade's mother, depended upon the labor of the said Mary A. Wade and her daughter Jennie; * * * that she and her daughter, the said Jennie, supported the family by taking in sewing; that the said Jennie was a stout, healthy girl of twenty years of age, and was at the time of her death, and had for some years previous thereto, contributed materially to the support of the family; that the said Jennie was very faithful, steady, and expert with the needle, and was of great aid to the mother, the said Mary A. Wade, and in her death, the said Mary A. Wade lost her main support; that since the death of her said daughter Jennie she has been thrown upon her own labor for support; that she is now fifty-six years of age, and has no family or relations to support or maintain her; that she is dependent for her living upon the labor of her own hands and the charity of her friends; and that in addition there has of late years been thrown upon her hands the support of her now aged mother.

The said Mary A. Wade in a subsequent affidavit says:

She is poor, and owns no property whatever, real or personal, except a little furniture, not exceeding in value \$40. She further states under oath that her daughter, who was killed as above stated, was a tailoress by trade, and with her assistance your affiant was barely able to make a living.

In a later affidavit the said Mary A. Wade swears as follows:

* * * She says further that the making of the bread was begun at the request of the soldiers there, who at that time were unable to go out of the house for fear of being shot by rebel sharpshooters who were not over 300 or 400 yards away. * * * That she had not before furnished any during that day, and had not received any pay or demanded any within her hearing or to her knowledge for anything done by her for Union soldiers. * * * We gave them nearly all we had to eat without asking or thinking of reward.

Mrs. Catharine Bushman makes affidavit substantially as follows: That she has known Mary A. Wade and her daughter, the former for forty years; that Jennie was a tailoress, and supported the family by working at her trade. That for about thirty years Mary A. Wade has been generally broken down; and for several years prior to Jennie's death Mrs. Wade could not have supported herself and her children without Jennie's assistance.

A. W. Fleming swears:

I know Mrs. Mary A. Wade, and knew her daughter Jennie, who was killed during the battle of Gettysburg by a bullet. I saw where the bullet came out. It came out on the left side in front, about the heart or just below it. She was buried just as she fell. I saw the dough on her hands, and flour and blood on her clothes. I took her body up from the garden where she was buried by the soldiers, and I buried her in the cemetery in this place. I knew her before she was killed, and identified the body as that of Jennie, Mrs. Mary Wade's daughter.

Julia Ann Fleming, in an affidavit, corroborates the general facts in the case.

Emanuel P. Bushman, Catharine A. Bushman, Annie R. Feistel, John M. Reiding, and Samuel Bushman, who were neighbors, living on the same street with Mrs. Mary A. Wade at the time of her daughter's death, make oath as to the general facts in the case.

Edward Meuchly and Peter Warren make oath as to the facts alleged, and that Mrs. Mary A. Wade is in destitute circumstances.

J. H. Skelly and W. T. King make oath "that they have been residents of Gettysburg, respectively, forty-five and thirty-seven years." They swear that during that time they have been merchant tailors; that both Mary A. Wade and her daughter Jennie worked for them at tailoring; that they don't believe, from their acquaintance with Mrs. Wade and their knowledge of the amount of tailoring done by her, that she could have supported herself and family without the assistance of Jennie.

The evidence in this case proving the facts to have been as alleged is unquestionably conclusive. The House of Representatives have, at the present session, passed the bill giving Mrs. Mary A. Wade a pension of \$8 per month from and after the passage of the act. And your committee concur in the belief that Mrs. Wade should receive this pension, and accordingly report the bill (H. R. 1422) back, with a recommendation that it pass.