

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

State of _____, County of _____, ss:

In the matter of _____

ON THIS _____ day of _____, A. D. 18____, personally appeared before me _____ in and for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer oaths

aged _____ years, a resident of _____ in the County of _____, and State of _____

whose Post-office address is _____

_____ , aged _____ years, a resident of _____

_____ , in the County of _____,

and State of _____, whose Post-office address is _____

well known to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows: _____

(NOTE.—Affiants should state how they gain a knowledge of the facts to which they testify.)

My claim against the U.S. is for three years service as nurse and cook in hospitals, and as commander of General Men (Eight or nine) as scouts during the late war of the Rebellion, under directions and orders of Edwin M. Stanton Secretary of War, and of several Generals.

I claim for my services above named the sum of Eighteen hundred dollars.

The annexed copies have recently been read over to me and are true to the best of my knowledge information and belief.

I further declare that I have ~~no~~ interest in said case and ~~am~~ *am* not concerned in its prosecution. and allowance.

Ann M. Carty
W. Elsie M. Carty

Harriet Davis
Sate Harriet Tubman
mark

(If Affiants sign by mark, two witnesses who write sign here.)

(Signatures of Affiants.)

SERENO E. PAYNE, Chairman.
 George D. Perkins. William S. Boeze.
 Albert J. Hopkins. John F. Fitzgerald.
 John Simpkins. W. Jasper Talbert.
 Philip B. Low. Henry D. Clayton.
 James R. Young. Samuel T. Baird.
 Archibald Lybrand. Levin Irving Handy.

Committee on
 The Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
 House of Representatives U. S.,

Dict. by S. E. P. to B. Washington, D. C., Feb. 5, 1898.

Hon. George W. Ray,

Chairman Com. on Invalid Pensions,

City.

Dear Sir:-

I hand you herewith papers in the claim of Harriet Tubman Davis,
 a Bill for the relief of ^{Whom is} ~~a woman~~ before your Committee. Mrs. Davis
 is now receiving a pension at \$8. per month as widow of her husband.
 Claim for increase is because of her own personal services in the war.
 She was employed as nurse, ~~cooking~~ in the Hospital, and ~~spy~~ during
 nearly the whole period of the war. I know her personally, and she
 is a most interesting old colored woman, I should judge nearly eighty
 years of age; having been born a slave, she does not know her age.
 And about the year 1876, as well as prior thereto, a bill for her
 relief went to the Committee on War Claims, and all her papers,
 copies of which are presented herewith, were referred to that
 Committee by Gen. McDougall, who then represented our District in
 Congress. The history of her case was written up by Charles P.
 Wood, ^{now deceased} of Auburn, N. Y., and is presented herewith. Her affidavit is
 also presented as to the truth of the history written out by Mr. Wood.
 For all her services she only received about \$200. during the entire
 war. She rendered very valuable aid as the letters, copies of
 which are herewith presented, will show. I am told by Gen. McDougall
 that he filed the originals of these papers and he believes the
 account of her services is correct. It seems to be a very deserving
 case. I thought it much better to introduce a bill for the in-

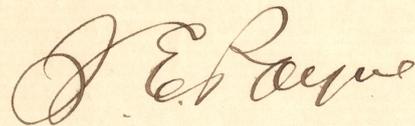
SERENO E. PAYNE, Chairman.
George D. Perkins. William S. Booze.
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Committee on
The Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
House of Representatives U. S.,
Washington, D. C.,

G. W. R. #2.

crease of her pension, that she might have the enjoymeny of it during the remainder of her life, which certainly, in the course of nature, cannot last long, instead of asking a lump sum and trying to get it in as a claim on account of money equitably due her from the Govern-ment for services. I think her case is exactly parallel to one passed in the House yesterday for a war nurse increasing her pension although the case of Mrs. Davis seems to me much stronger. If this case can have the early attention of the Committee, I shall be very much gratified.

Yours very truly;



H. R. 4982.

[Report No. 1774.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DECEMBER 14, 1897.

Mr. PAYNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions and ordered to be printed.

JANUARY 19, 1899.

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House, and ordered to be printed.

[Amend the title.]

A BILL

Granting a pension to Harriet Tubman Davis, late a nurse in the United States Army.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby,
4 authorized and directed to place upon the pension roll of the
5 United States the name of Harriet Tubman Davis, late a
6 nurse in the United States Army, and pay her a pension at
7 the rate of twenty-five dollars per month in lieu of all other
8 pensions.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Harriet Tubman Davis."

HARRIET TUBMAN DAVIS.

FEBRUARY 7, 1899.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4982.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4982) granting a pension to Harriet Tubman Davis, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives is as follows:

The effect of this bill is to increase from \$8 to \$25 per month the pension of the beneficiary, Harriet T. Davis, of Auburn, N. Y.

Mrs. Davis is the widow of Nelson Davis, who served under the name of Nelson Charles as a private in Company G, Eighth United States Colored Infantry, from September 25, 1863, to November 10, 1865, and was honorably discharged. She also served long and faithfully as an army nurse.

Soldier died October 14, 1888, and the widow filed a claim as such July 24, 1890, under the act of June 27, 1890, and is now pensioned under said act at \$8 per month. It is not shown that the soldier's death was due to his military service. It is shown, however, by evidence filed with this committee, that the claimant was sent to the front by Governor Andrew, and acted as nurse, cook in hospital, and spy during nearly the whole period of the war.

The following is a copy of the letter from Secretary Seward:

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 25, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR: Harriet Tubman, a colored woman, has been nursing our soldiers during nearly all the war. She believes she has claims for faithful service to the command in South Carolina with which you are connected, and she believes you would be disposed to see her claim justly settled. I have known her long as a noble high spirit, as true as seldom dwells in the human form. I commend her, therefore, to your kind attention.

Faithfully, your friend,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Major-General HUNTER.

Gen. Rufus Saxton, in a letter referring to Mrs. Tubman, says:

"She was employed by General Hunter, and I think both by Generals Stephens and Sherman, and is as deserving of a pension from the Government for her service as any other of its faithful servants."

In a letter to Brigadier-General Gilmore, from Headquarters Colored Brigade, St. Helena Island, South Carolina, July 6, 1863, Col. James Montgomery, commanding brigade, said:

"I would respectfully recommend to your attention Mrs. Harriet Tubman, a most remarkable woman, invaluable as a scout."

These testimonials sufficiently show the character and value of the service rendered by Mrs. Davis during the war.

She now is about 75 years of age, physically broken down, and poor.

This woman has a double claim on the Government. She went into the field and hospitals and cared for the sick and wounded. She saved lives. In her old age and poverty a pension of \$25 per month is none too much.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass.

The papers in this case show that a claim for this woman was once presented to the House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on War Claims. Manifestly that would be the better way to reimburse her for her alleged services to the Government, but her advanced years and necessitous condition lead your committee to give the matter consideration. There is, however, a strong objection to the bill in its present form. The number of nurses on the pension roll at a rate higher than \$12 per month is very few indeed, and there are no valid reasons why this claimant should receive a pension of \$25 per month as a nurse, thus opening a new avenue for pension increases. She is now drawing pension at the rate of \$8 per month as the widow of a soldier, and in view of her personal services to the Government Congress is amply justified in increasing that pension.

The passage of the bill is recommended after being amended as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Harriet Tubman Davis, widow of Nelson Davis, late a private in Company G, Eighth Regiment United States Colored Infantry, and pay her a pension at the rate of twenty dollars per month in lieu of that she is now receiving.

Handwritten initials



DEPT. OF STATE

MAR-1, 3.03 PM 1899

CHF. CLKS. OFFICE

Private No 188

Fifty-fifth Congress of the United States of America;

At the Third Session,

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fifth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

AN ACT

Granting an increase of pension to Harriet Tubman Davis.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Harriet Tubman Davis, widow of Nelson Davis, late a private in Company G, Eighth Regiment United States Colored Infantry, and pay her a pension at the rate of twenty dollars per month in lieu of that she is now receiving.

Thomas B. Reed

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Garret A. Hobart

Vice-President of the United States and

President of the Senate.

*Approved
February 28, 1899*

William M. McKinley