

WEALTHY BARKER, WIDOW OF ISAAC BARKER, DEC'D.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 142.]

MARCH 5, 1840.

Mr. STEENROD, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Wealthy Barker, widow of Isaac Barker, agree to the report made to the 2d session of the 25th Congress, [on the petition of Isaac Barker,] and report :*

“That the petitioner, in his declaration, deposes that, in December, 1776, the British took possession of Rhode Island. The deponent lived on his farm in Middleton, about three and a half miles from Newport, in Rhode Island. Immediately after the invasion by the British, all communication with the main land was cut off, and the most rigorous measures taken to prevent the inhabitants from giving any intelligence of the movements of their troops. In April or May a regiment of this army was stationed near the farm of the petitioner. That he was permitted to remain on his farm, and maintained a constant communication with the American army on the main land, by means of signals mutually agreed upon between him and Lieutenant Cheffee, a service which was acknowledged by General Gates to have been of great importance; and that he continued in this service fourteen months from August, 1778, without intermission. This applicant's farm was about a mile from the shore, and in plain sight of the American army stationed on the eastern shore of Narragansett bay, whereby he was enabled to give almost daily intelligence of what was passing in the British camp. Had he been discovered, he would have lost his life. He volunteered under Lieutenant Cheffee and General Gates, who was succeeded by General Sullivan; is eighty-one years of age; has no documentary evidence, but offers the evidence of Gideon Barker, Nicholas Ward, and the honorable D. J. Pearce, who severally testify that they have long heard of the services of Isaac Barker, as stated by him; that he is a man of truth and respectability, and they have no doubt of the service having been performed by him as he has related it.

“The petitioner also adduces the evidence of Hezekiah Barker, a native, and formerly a resident of Middleton, in Rhode Island, but now of Pomfret, in the State of New York, aged seventy-six years, who testifies that, from his earliest recollection, he has been acquainted with Isaac Barker, of Middleton, aforesaid; that while the British had possession of Rhode Island, in the war of the revolution, the said Isaac Barker and this deponent served together in the said war, under the orders and directions of