C/C 5929

No 2832

M. E. Morrell

Application
For Land

Filed by

Chambers County
State of Texas

To the Commissioner of Claims.

The petition of M E Morrell of aforesaid County Respectfully Represents, That he was born in New Jersey. AD 1790 — That in April 1836 he was employed in New Orleans, under Capt. Irvin, recruiting for the Regular service of Texas, which service being performed, we was ordered to the Encampment on the Navidad — Here in the capacity of 1st Sergeant, your Petitioner remained one year —

The Government having purchased vessels of War and not having inducements for foreign seamen to man them, Congress passed an act, authorizing Sailors in the Army to supply their wants — This was cheerfully complyed with, and on our own resources, without any Officer we wended our way to the then sand bank of — now — the City of Galveston — Our party 6th in number was then distributed to the Schooners Invincible and Brutus, on board the former I was ordered, and after cruising for seven months living on the spoils of ~~Green Turtle~~ the enemy Green Turtle and Bean, We sailed for the harbor of Galveston. On our arrival the tide being low the Invincible being encumbered with plunder taken from the enemy, could not cross the Bar — The Brutus being lighter succeeded, and we came to Anchor — Next Morning at 10 - P M, we was greeted with the appearance of two Mexican Brigs Mounting 36 Guns — We only 7 — having made the Signal to the Brutus, she receiving

all the Physical force of the Island armed to the teeth, and attempted to come to the apparent conflict — But owing to the confusion of so many volunteers, and their anxiety to aid us, the pilots voice — Hitchcock's — could not be heard — and she grounded — In the meantime, all hands was called, in our Capt, and the resolution formed of resisting, (though 39 in number) to the last — Having been deceived by our Maneuver, and no Brutes after receiving their fire for half an hour, we was compelled to run her on shore — Two at a time, we embarked, and landed safely on the beach — I have often seen records of valor, but here I was an eye witness of one, and all hands, the Commodore & Secretary of the Navy, were recipients of it — It was of 3d Lieut Smith, who with the assistance of one man, rescued us all at the peril of his own life — Col. Lynch then commanding on the Island, was on the beach untill all were landed, and by his invitation we went into the encampment on the Point

Early the next Morning your petitioner while leaning against a Tent listening to the conversation of its inmates was run through both thighs with a bayonet by one Hogan a Soldier of Capt Thorny's company — This was done without any provocation on my Part, as I never saw the man untill he had committed the act — Considerable liquor having come ashore from our vessel, and he having obtained a large portion, was the cause of his attack. For after his assaulting me, he pursued other

CIC5929

and for their preservation, and by Command of Col. Lynch was shot, having no medical aid, I was ordered to the Houston Hospital here without any nourishment, laying under a tree for one Month, (the Hospital being full) Shavings for pallet and sticks for pillow, I was visited by that friend of the ~~of the~~ friendless, Gen. Rusk — He seeing my situation, and that of my other fellow sufferers, that same day procured a Passage for the erection of a comfortable building, in which by the aid of my Bounty land and Dr. Watson, in three months I was able to walk — Since I have served under Commodore E. W. Moore, in whom I have found a friend, and under whose orders I have sailed during his Command — while not employed in the service of the Republic — I have sustained myself by instructing the youth of several Counties, and that with considerable eclat — I am now 78 years old and my former exertions, are failing me, the weakness of my legs, is increasing from the effects of my wounds, and an act being passed by the Government for the aid of those injured while in their service, I come a humble Petitioner seeking this aid — I am aware that vouchers will be asked for, but with the exception of one, they are all dead — Those who were present at the time, was — Col. Lynch, Com. Thompson Capt. Turner, Dr. Brumline, James Duncan now living) and 500 Soldiers — Had the U States passed the Pension Bill, I should

not have been a petitioner — Should the recommendation of all the Old Citizens of Galveston be required they could be obtained vouching for my services and Character —

I was at the time of my confinement in the Hospital compelled to sell my Bounty land to obtain my daily food, as the provision of the Government was miserable — To this assertion Dr Ashbel Smith will cheerfully subscribe —

I believe I have been longer in the service of Texas than any living man in it, and have alway received honorable discharge, with their approbat

Furthmore, the Petitioner saith not, but humbly pray his petition may be considered and some appropriation made to make him comfortable and sustain him in his Old age —

M E Morrell

C/C5929

H-3