

[written 24 January 1880, Duval, Florida. Transcribed by Jonathan Webb Deiss after reproductions obtained at the NARA 19 January 2001]

Affidavit of Lorin Webb
Invalid Pension claimant No 286.543

[sic] the Honorable Commission of Pensions

Washington, D.C.

In accordance with the Instructions of your letter dated June 14th – I herewith make the following statements.

First.

From April to August 1858, I resided at Roscoe, Goodhue Co., Minnesota, occupation farming. In August of that year I moved to Illinois, Madison Co. near Edwardsville engaged in farming until Jan 1st 1859. From that date to April 1st I taught school near Troy, same co. From April 1st to Jan 1st, 1860 my residence was at Brighton, Magoupin Co., Ill. Occupation farming and selling pumps. Jan 1st 1860 I entered McKendree College at Lebanon, St. Clair Co. Ill continued two (2) terms. From Sept to April 1861 taught school near Mascoutah, Ill. When I enlisted at said place.

Second. My disability began from the terrible exposure incident to the investment and taking of Fort Donaldson [sic] in 1862.

Rapid changes of weather from warm to cold accompanied by rain, snow and sleet were upon us for two (2) days and nights and we were without shelter. I was subjected to especial exposure from the fact that my colored servant to whom I had entrusted care of my blankets and haversack took himself hurriedly away at the firing of the first gun and did not return to me for three (3) days.

After we were in possession of the fort there was much labor to be performed and all although I was unfit for duty for duty [sic] from my exposure.

There were but six (6) to eight (8) officers of the line reported for duty in the regiment and feeling myself the stronger man I gave myself to duty as the necessity demanded and I thought probably without medical aid I might overcome my cold.

For several days in succession I was on duty and most of the time in the rain. I continued to keep up for two (2) weeks and until some of the others had reported for duty when I reported sick and was relieved from duty.

For four (4) weeks I was under care of surgeon Hammond of our Regiment though I remained with my Company and did not go to a Hospital as we were much of the time on steamboats and moving from place to place.

During these four (4) weeks I had almost constant fever and lost 20 lbs or more in weight.

From this time forward I became conscious of very great loss of endurance. The march of 12 or 15 miles was all I could endure and more discharging and exhausting to me than twice the distance previous to my exposure.

In July following I resigned my Commission such was the sense of my debility that I knew to remain in the army was but to sacrifice my health and I hoped by attending to this matter in time to regain my former strength.

Matters in connection with my Father's affairs required my assistance and gave me valid reason for offering my resignation.

I offered such as my reasons for resignation by my personal feelings and desires were to secure an opportunity to save my health.

I remained from Sept 1862 to the following July at McKendree College endeavoring to pursue my studies but found myself unable to endure close application to them. Observing that my health was not improving I went to Minnesota for the benefit of the climate which greatly benefited me. I resided at Red Wing and did what studying I could till April. From that time till August I preached at Farabo, Rice Co., Minn when under the earnest solicitation of citizens I recruited a Company, entered the Eleventh (11) Minnesota Regiment and commanded the same.

Most of the year was spent in stockade service and we were mustered out of service in July 1865 at Ft. Snelling, Minn.

I again returned to my studies at Hamline University, Red Wing, Minn but was compelled to abandon my hope of graduating by advice of the faculty. My health not permitting me to continue my studies for three or four months.

May 1866 finds me at Danbury, Conn where I undertook to preach for the M. E.. Church but after a little over two months effort I had to stop on account of inflamed throat. I remained in Danbury engaged in no special pursuit but attending to my health until spring. My throat being greatly improved after much persuasion I again entered the Ministry. Received my first appointment at Collinsville, Conn.

Very soon my throat difficulty returned upon me so that I preached but once per Sabbath for several months. In April in 1868 I took charge of the Church of Essex, Middlesex County, Conn. In Feb 1870 at this place my throat again drove me from my occupation.

I preached no more until April at which time I had removed to Forestville, Hartford Co., Conn, the change from sea-side to highland seemed to greatly benefit me and I succeeded in passing through the year until Feb. 1871 when my throat again compelled me to cease preaching. I was able to have over sight of my church services until in April, when instead of reviving by the coming of spring, I had to yield to a severe attack of Lung Fever. After several weeks of confinement to house and bed I convalesced sufficient to go to Minnesota for change of climate where I spent the summer, returning in October. (when) I was attacked immediately with profuse Hemorrhage of the lungs which continued for several days and placed me beyond the hope of recovery in the judgment of Physicians and friends but I rallied and came to Florida 1872.

Hemorrhage and prostration have returned upon me in several instances and as often as I attempted any kind of labor so that from April 1871 to the present time I have been a confirmed and total invalid.

Third I was treated in my attack of Lung Fever and also in my Hemorrhage following in the fall by one Dr. Austin of Bristol, Conn since deceased. I have had no attacks since my overthrow in 1871 but such as an incident to a person in my state of prostration.

Fourth. Have performed no manual labor except such as a man would perform about his own house preparing fuel and tending small vegetable garden. Prevented from following my occupation as follows was unable to proceed with my college pursuits and abandoned them in 1866. Prevented from preaching at Danbury, Conn. From Sept 1866 to the following spring. Again very much hindered during the year at Collinsville. There prevented from preaching during Feb. and March in 1871 at Essex. Again disabled in Feb. 1871 at Forrestville, Conn. From which in April following came my total disability which has continued to the present.

My tenacity of life in enduring disease surprises both physicians, my friends and my self and indicates how sternly and harshly it contended against the poison that was seeking my destruction for so many years before conquering after the incurrance of my disability in 1862. Doubtless this is traceable to my inheritance of a constitution of much physical and vital force and entirely untainted by any hereditary disease whatsoever.

State of Florida } Loren Webb
County of }SS
Duval }