

Portland Jan'y 1st 1863

John L. Hodsdon

Adj't Gen of Maine

Charles Pettis a discharged soldier of Capt George P. Sherwood's Co. 5th Regt of Maine Vols. Enrolled on the 24th June 1861. to serve three years is now in confinement at Augusta as a deserter as I am informed. The facts are these so far as they have come to my knowledge. Chas Pettis was discharged on the 20th Feby 1862 as will appear by the copy herewith sent, for reason of disability, he having lost two of his fingers of his left hand in the line of his duty. In March 1862, Pettis made an application for an Invalid Pension but his papers were delayed waiting for a certificate of the Commanding Officer of his company as to the nature of his disability. In the meantime Pettis not being able to get any work offered himself as a recruit and was allowed by the recruiting officer to sign his Roll. He then informed me that I had better file his declaration, I did so, Pettis afterwards

came to me for his discharge saying that the Col of the Regt wished to know whether the words "No objection &c" were erased. I informed him those words were erased. He then said the discharge would be of no use to him and left without his discharge. I forwarded his declaration, certificate of discharge, Surgeons certificate and that of Lt Nathan Walker who commanded the Co when Pettis was injured, to the Commr of Pensions Dec 12th 1862. It strikes me that the poor fellow presents a strong case for release and, if the above statements comprise all that Pettis has done, (and nothing more has come to my knowledge) he is unjustly detained. He and his family are poor and one of his sisters has just heard of the death of her son who was mortally wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg. He is needed at home.

Very Respectfully
Freeman Bradford

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