



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON D.C. 20548

PLM-2
Browne

18483

In reply refer to:
B-202895

June 16, 1981

~~Do not make available to public reading~~

The Honorable Gary A. Lee
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Lee:

This responds to your letter of April 7, 1981, regarding the effect of the statute of limitations on the pension of Ms. Harriet Tubman. Sections 71a and 237 of Title 31, United States Code (1976), prohibit the payment of any claims filed against the United States which were not received in the General Accounting Office within six years of the date the claims accrued. Similarly, 28 U.S.C. 2401 (1976) bars jurisdiction in Federal Courts for actions filed six years after the cause arose. In addition, the act of December 22, 1911, 37 Stat. 49, specifically barred claims for "arrears of pay, bounty, or other allowances growing out of the service of Volunteers who served in the Army of the United States during the Civil War" which were filed after December 31, 1912. Thus, no consideration may now be given to her entitlement to compensation. Attempts were made to compensate Ms. Tubman for services she performed through private relief bills during her lifetime. For example, Representative MacDougall introduced a bill on March 30, 1874, for the relief of Harriet Tubman. H.R. 2711, 43d Cong., 1st Sess. (1874). Similarly at this time the only remedy available would be through private relief legislation.

We do not have ready access to the materials referred to in Ms. Jones' letter. However, they would be available to your Office through the Library of Congress. We regret that we are unable to be of more assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Milton J. Fowler

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

[Applicability of Statute of Limitations on Pension]

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