

3-22-1852

On the Case of Survivors of Gen. Belknap

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S. Rep. No. 139, 32nd Cong., 1st Sess. (1852)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 22, 1852.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GEYER made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 302.]

The Committee on Pensions, who were instructed by the resolution of the Senate of the 14th of January, 1852, "to inquire into the justice and propriety of awarding a pension to the widow of the late Brevet Brigadier General Belknap," report:

That a joint certificate, signed by Assistant Surgeons E. J. Bailey, A. B. Nasson and J. F. Brown, and dated "Camp Belknap, Red Fork of Brazos river, Texas, November 2, 1851," states the health of General Belknap to be such at that time, as not to permit him to proceed to the Rio Concho on the duty to which he had been assigned; and that his disease was "a camp dysentery, which threatened to assume a chronic character." Eight days after the date of this certificate, General Belknap died in an ambulance while endeavoring to reach Fort Gibson, as shown by the certificate of Surgeon J. M. Wells, dated December 6, 1851, who adds, "of disease contracted in the line of his duty, to wit: establishing posts on the Brazos, Upper Texas."

A letter from R. Jones, Adjutant General, dated January 21, 1852, in reply to inquiries made by the Commissioner of Pensions, briefly states the services of General Belknap; from which it appears that he has ably and faithfully served his country in the army for thirty-nine years, during which time he has been promoted, in the line, from a lieutenancy to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and brevetted as follows: on the 1st of February, 1832, major by brevet "for faithful service ten years in one grade;" on the 15th of March, 1842, lieutenant colonel by brevet "for general good conduct in the war against the Florida Indians, and for securing by military operations and negotiations a large number of Indians;" on the 9th of May, 1846, colonel by brevet "for gallant and distinguished services in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma;" and on the 23d February, 1847, brigadier general by brevet "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Buena Vista, Mexico." The Adjutant General further states, that at the time of his death, "General Belknap was in command of his regiment and of the 7th Military Department, and was charged with the establishment of a line of posts from the western frontier of Arkansas in the direction of Doña Ana, Mexico;" and adds at the conclusion of his letter, that General (then Lieutenant) Belknap participated in most of the battles of the Niagara fron-

tier in 1814, and received a wound during the night attack on Fort Erie, (August 15, 1814.)

In view of the long and faithful services of her husband, and his gallant in action, and believing that he lost his life by disease contracted while the performance of special duties which had been assigned to him, the committee have deemed it both just and proper to grant the widow of the late Brevet Brigadier General Belknap a pension, and herewith report a bill for that purpose.

REPORT

Faint, mostly illegible text, likely a continuation of the report or a separate document. The text is too light to transcribe accurately but appears to contain several paragraphs of text.