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Report : Petition of M. Worth

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 4, 1886.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BLAIE, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2030.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2030) granting a pension to Miss Margaret Stafford Worth, have examined the same and report:

The claimant, Miss Margaret Stafford Worth, is the only surviving unmarried daughter of the distinguished Maj. Gen. William J. Worth. She is now living in the city of Washington, with seven of her father's grandchildren to support, in great poverty and without adequate means of subsistence. She has until now managed to support herself and these children, with some assistance, but is now confined to her bed and dangerously ill, so that she will henceforth be dependent on charity. It is a shame that the daughter of one of the most distinguished generals who ever served this Government, and who gave his life to her support, should be reduced to such an extremity in her old age. Congress has granted such relief in many cases of far less merit than this, and your committee think that it would be a fitting tribute to the memory of one of our bravest soldiers.

The following papers show the principal facts of this case, and your committee report back the bill and recommend that it do pass:

Petition of Margaret S. Worth to the United States Senate and House of Representatives for a pension.

William Worth, great-grandfather of Maj. Gen. W. J. Worth, U. S. Army, left Devonshire, England, on account of religious persecution, landed on the New England coast in 1640. Having protected and sheltered a Quaker, he, with two others, took refuge in a small boat, put to sea without chart or compass, and drifted to the island of Nantucket. There they soon became land owners, and resorted to the sea as a profession. Thomas Worth, his grandson, in time became an owner of ships, and moved to Hudson, N. Y., where he married, and there William J. Worth was born.

At an early age William J. Worth placed himself in the large mercantile house of Starr & Sheldon, in Albany, N. Y., where he served as clerk until, the war of 1812 breaking out, he was offered and accepted the position of private secretary to General Morgan Lewis.

Desiring more active service, he sought and received a commission as lieutenant in the United States Army, serving in every grade and always receiving the commendation of his superior officers and of his countrymen.

At the battle of Lundy's Lane he received a wound from which he never entirely recovered, and twice within your petitioner's memory the opened wound, after exposure in the field, produced inflammation and danger to life.

At the close of the war of 1812, with the brevet rank of major, he was ordered to West Point, where, for nine years, he bent all his energies to raising the standard of the institution to a point never before attained. While at West Point Major Worth

married the daughter of Mr. John Stafford, whose ancestors came to America in 1605, a descendant of the family of Stafford of Warwick, England.

Col. Joab Stafford, Mrs. Worth's grandfather, was severely wounded in the Revolutionary war, and his son was in the battles of Crown Point and Bennington.

Major Worth's next post was Fortress Monroe, where he was instructor in artillery. While there he was sent with the Black Hawk expedition to quell the Indian troubles in the Northwest.

From Fortress Monroe he was transferred to the Ordnance Corps, and made inspector, which duty gave him an annual ride over the Alleghanies, at a period when such a journey was attended with peril. He was then ordered to arrange for the transfer of the Cherokee Nation to its new home on the Arkansas River.

In 1837 he was made colonel of the new regiment, the Eighth Infantry.

The Patriot war breaking out on the Canada border, he was instrumental in effecting an amicable settlement of the disturbance.

He was then ordered to Florida, placed in command, conducted the campaigns against the hostile Seminoles, and after many perils, from the climate as well as the military operations, in which he had five engagements with the Indians, he effected a peace, which had until that time been fruitlessly sought by his predecessors, and removed the Indians from the territory to their new home west of the Arkansas.

While on this duty the little fortune which he had hoped to leave for the support of his family had, by the dishonesty of his attorney, been swept away. After the peace he desired to return to the North and endeavor to reclaim something out of the wreck, but being ordered to Mexico he was prevented from executing this intention, and his family never recovered a cent.

In Mexico he led his division in the battles of Monterey, Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, the advance on Puebla, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, Churubusco, the Garita of San Cosme, and was the only general officer who slept within the city gate on that memorable night.

He was the first to land at Vera Cruz and the last to leave Mexican soil.

After the close of the war he was ordered to Texas, where the cholera was raging, and there he died, at the post of duty.

I, Margaret Stafford Worth, the only unmarried daughter, having seven of my father's grandchildren almost entirely dependent upon me for support, petition the gentlemen of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to grant me a pension of \$50 a month.

BATTLES IN WHICH GENERAL WORTH WAS ENGAGED.

Chippewa, Niagara, Fort Erie, Lundy's Lane, five battles in Florida, Monterey, Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Puebla, Churubusco, Chapultepec, Molino del Rey, battles of the City of Mexico, San Antonio, Garita of San Cosme.

Received the thanks of Congress, State of New York, State of Louisiana, State of Texas, State of Florida.

He received a sword from Congress, from the State of New York, the State of Louisiana, city of Hudson.

A monument worthy of the city of New York was erected to his memory by its citizens.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 15, 1886.

Statement of the military service of William J. Worth, late of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office.

He was appointed first lieutenant Twenty-third Infantry, March 19, 1813; promoted captain, August 19, 1814; retained as captain, Second Infantry, May 17, 1815, in the reorganization under the act of March 3, 1815, and as captain of the First Artillery, June 1, 1821, in the reorganization under the act of March 2, 1821; appointed major of ordnance, May 30, 1832, and colonel Eighth Infantry, July 7, 1838.

He was brevetted captain, July 5, 1814, "for his gallant and distinguished conduct on the said 5th of July, in the battle of Chippewa;" major, July 25, 1814, "being the day of the battle of Niagara, in which Captain Worth was distinguished by his gallantry and good conduct;" lieutenant-colonel, July 25, 1824, "for ten years' faithful service in the grade of brevet major;" brigadier-general, March 1, 1842, "for gallantry and highly distinguished services as commander of the forces in the war against the Florida Indians," and major-general, September 23, 1846, "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the several conflicts at Monterey, Mexico."

On May 2, 1847, he was presented by Congress with a sword of honor, "in testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his gallantry and good conduct in storming Monterey."

He served in the war of 1812-'15 with Great Britain, as aid-de-camp to Major-General Lewis, from some time in 1813 to April 6, 1814, and as aid-de-camp to Brig-Gen. Winfield Scott, also acting brigade-major in the campaign on the northern frontier until severely wounded in the battle of Niagara, July 25, 1814; absent wounded to December, 1814; aid-de-camp to Maj-Gen. Winfield Scott, commanding the tenth military district to April 6, 1815; on leave to August, 1815; with regiment, in garrison, at Sackett's Harbor, Greenbush, Plattsburg, N. Y., to August, 1819; on recruiting service to March 16, 1820; commandant of cadets and instructor of infantry tactics at the United States Military Academy to December 2, 1828, with regiment at Fort Monroe, Va, and on detached duty at that post, as director of the Artillery School of Practice, to May, 1832; commanding Fort Monroe Arsenal, Virginia, Frankford Arsenal, Pennsylvania, and Watervliet Arsenal, New York, to June, 1838; commanding his regiment at Madison Barracks, Albany and Ogdensburg, N. Y. (also from January to December, 1839, the Northern Department), to May, 1840; in Wisconsin Territory to July, 1840; *en route* and in the Florida war against the Seminole Indians (being also in command of the district of Tampa from January to May, 1841; of the army of Florida from May, 1841, to July 25, 1842, and of the Ninth Military Department embracing Florida, to August 22, 1842, and from October 31, 1842, to September 14, 1845; was absent with leave from August 22 to October 30, 1842), to September 26, 1845; commanding the First Brigade of the Army of Occupation in the war with Mexico, to April 8, 1846; on leave to May 27, 1846; commanding the First Brigade of the Army of Occupation, to July 27, 1846, the Second Division of that army to February 23, 1847, the First Brigade, First Division of Regulars in the Army of Invasion, to April 1, 1847, the First Division to June 21, 1848, being engaged in the battle of Monterey, September 21-23, 1846; siege of Vera Cruz, March 9-29, 1847; battle of Cerro Gordo, April 17, 18, 1847; capture of San Antonio, August 19, 20, 1847; battle of Churubusco, August 20, 1847; of Molino del Rey, September 8, 1847; of Tacubaya, September 12, 1847, and of Chapultepec and San Cosme, September 13, 1847, also in the assault and capture of the City of Mexico September 13, 14, 1847.

He commanded the army in Mexico from June 21 to July 15, 1848, and the Eighth and Ninth Military Departments, comprising Texas and New Mexico, from November, 1848, to May 7, 1849, upon which date he died at San Antonio, Tex.

J. C. KELTON,
Acting Adjutant-General.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 22, 1886.*

The petitioner, Miss Margaret S. Worth, the daughter of Major-General Worth, who for many years was one of the senior officers of our Army, is now advancing in years, is in failing health, and is no longer able to earn sufficient for her support.

Being now thrown upon her own resources she is at present in almost destitute circumstances.

If Congress, in view of the distinguished services of General Worth, should deem it proper to extend the charity for which Miss Worth petitions they could not find a more worthy object.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

SAINT LOUIS, *April 24, 1886.*

I commend the foregoing petition to all generous men who love their country and its heroes.

General Worth was one of the most brilliant and conspicuous officers in the war of 1812, Mexican war, and Florida war. He died in the military service on the frontier. I know the petitioner to be his daughter, the only one, I believe, who never married, who has been toiling for years to support herself and help her sister's children. She is now old and feeble, and it will be a graceful act for Congress to recognize her as the orphan of the nation.

W. T. SHERMAN.

[Office of the Attending Surgeon, U. S. Army, No. 1733 G street northwest.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 20, 1886.*

The COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,
United States Senate:

GENTLEMEN: I have learned with pleasure that a bill has been introduced into the Senate conferring a pension on Miss Margaret S. Worth.

The services of her distinguished father are a part of the history of the country.

Miss Worth has been my friend and patient for a long time. I know that her means are narrow, and that her health is much impaired. She is suffering under profound nervous exhaustion, from which there is little or no probability of her recovery. Therefore she is not likely to ever be able to carry on the clerical work on which she has depended for a livelihood.

Trusting that Miss Worth's case may receive your favorable action,
I remain, your obedient servant,

R. M. O'REILLY, M. D., U. S. A.,
Attending Surgeon.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 20, 1886.*

GENTLEMEN: I desire to state that I have known Miss Margaret Worth, daughter of the late General Worth, United States Army, for some years, and have, upon several occasions, been called upon to prescribe for her, and know that her present state of health is very precarious; in my opinion, she is physically unfitted to discharge the duties of her office, and that a due regard for her health demands, for some time or permanently, absolution from those duties.

She is of a delicate, nervous organization, and confinement to business has been and must be injurious to her.

In view of the distinguished services of her father, and her present enfeebled condition preventing her from earning a proper livelihood, I think the granting of a pension would be most meritorious and deserved.

I am, very respectfully,

D. L. HUNTINGTON,
Surgeon, United States Army.

To the COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,
United States senate.

WAR DEPARTMENT, SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 22, 1886.

To the Committee on Pensions, United States Senate:

I take the liberty of addressing you in advocacy of the application for pension made for Miss Margaret Worth, eldest daughter of the late Maj. Gen. W. S. Worth, United States Army.

I have known Miss Worth over thirty years, and know that her life has been devoted to the care and support of dependent descendants of General Worth, her sisters, nieces, and nephews. For some years she has labored as a clerk in a public office. Her health is now very much impaired, and she is almost incapacitated for further work.

I would most respectfully urge that a pension may be granted her.

I have the honor to be, very truly and respectfully,

R. MURRAY,
Surgeon-General United States Army.

It seems like presumption in me to bear testimony to the services of Major-General Worth, to whom the Congress of the United States and the legislatures of four States have voted their thanks and presented swords of honor; and to whose memory the great city of New York has erected a stately monument inscribed with the principal events in his distinguished career; his wounds, his battles, his commands from the war of 1812, as a mere lad, to his death nearly forty years after from cholera, at his post, as much a martyr to duty as if he had been shot on the field of battle.

His successful termination of the Florida war, as a general-in-chief, his brilliant services, as a general of division, in Mexico, are matters of history; but there were incidents with which history does not deal and which are known to me. He was habitually at the point of danger. This characteristic enabled him to snatch victory from three times his force at Molino del Rey, when a disastrous defeat seemed imminent, from mere force of numbers. He was the first general and one of the first persons in the City of Mexico when the gates of that town were carried by assault, and he was not only the last general, but the last person, in the Army to leave it at the end of the war. There were signs of serious disturbance and riot amongst the "lepers," the lowest order of the inhabitants, and he saw every soldier, woman, and child safely out of the gates before he himself left the city.

If it is possible for any man to establish such a claim on the gratitude of his country as to entitle a daughter to aid in her distress, then General Worth has established such a claim.

HENRY I. HUNT,
Brevet Major-General, U. S. Army.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 7, 1886.*

It was not my privilege to know General Worth personally as he died in the year in which I entered the Army. He died at his post of duty from a disease to the fatal effects of which the requirements of the public service compelled him to expose himself. Every officer who entered the Army about my own time can testify to the marks of high tone and elevated soldierly ideas which were impressed upon our small Army by his instruction, and his bearing as commandant of cadets, and by his distinguished conduct on many fields of battle in the interest of our country. He was the type of a soldier on which the heroes of the Mexican war, and those of our later struggle, on either side, tried to model themselves. If we were asked to grant a pension to the daughter of Andrew Jackson, I do not think there would be a dissenting voice in the nation, and I do not think there ought to be one to granting to the daughter of General Worth, who is in need of a slight tribute, in recognition of the distinguished services of her father.

A. BAIRD,
Brevet Major-General.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 31, 1886.*

The honorable Committee of Pensions, United States Senate:

I do not know well enough the pension laws to know whether Miss Worth is under them entitled to any pension arising out of her father's (General Worth) very distinguished and well-known services. I presume that it can be granted only by a special law.

When I went to West Point, 50 years ago, as a cadet, no name, except General Scott's, was more often spoken of by officers of the army. I grew up in admiration of his eminent qualities and high deeds as a soldier in the war of 1812 on the Niagara frontier, when he excited the admiration of his comrades, many of whom I learned to know.

He served with equal distinction through the war with Mexico, and died full of honors, and left little, I think, to his family except name and reputation. I shall be glad to learn that if Miss Worth, his daughter, needs it, she succeeds in obtaining a pension from the country he served so well in its and in his youth and manhood.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General retired, Brevet Major-General U. S. Army.

The late General William Worth was a very distinguished officer in the Army of the United States, as his record will show. His eldest daughter, Miss Margaret Worth, now of this city, who is in feeble health, is applying for a pension, which I sincerely hope may be granted her.

D. H. RUCKER,
Brigadier-General U. S. Army, retired.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 22, 1886.*

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