

5-8-1888

Report : Petition of B. Clements

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 8, 1888.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2549.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2549) for the relief of Belle R. Clements, have examined the same and report:

A pension of \$25 per month was granted to Mary I. Clements, widow of Bennett A. Clements, late a surgeon, with rank of major, U. S. Army, from November 30, 1886, the date of filing application.

The bill referred to your committee authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to increase the pension of Belle R. Clements, widow of the late Bennett A. Clements, surgeon, U. S. Army, to \$50 per month.

There is no evidence in the case showing that the pensioner, Mary I., is identical with the claimant Belle R. Clements. In the application upon which pension was granted claimant signs her name Mary Isabella Clements, and a copy of the marriage certificate shows that Mary Isabella Clements was married to the late Surgeon Bennett Augustine Clements, October 26, 1871.

Bennett A. Clements was appointed assistant surgeon, U. S. Army, November 4, 1856; became captain and assistant surgeon November 4, 1861, and was promoted major and surgeon February 27, 1863. He served in the Seminole Indian campaign, in Florida, from November, 1856, to September, 1857; with troops en route to and at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., to November, 1857; Fort Belknap, Tex., to March, 1858, and at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., to May, 1858; with the Seventh Infantry en route to and at Camp Floyd, Utah, to May, 1860; en route to and at Fort Fauntleroy, N. Mex., to September, 1861; in the field, New Mexico, participating in operations against the enemy, and at Fort Craig, N. Mex., until June, 1862; in charge of the sick and wounded from New Mexico at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., to July, 1862; on hospital duty in the defenses of Washington, D. C., to November, 1862; on duty with the Army of the Potomac to December 3, 1863 (November to December, 1862, as medical director, Third Corps, and to November, 1863, as assistant to the medical director, Army of the Potomac); under medical treatment at Washington, D. C., December 3 to December 30, 1863—no certificate on file. In charge of the Central Park General Hospital, New York City. On sick leave in December, 1864, which was extended to May, 1865, and again to September 20, 1865; sick in hospital at David's Island, New York Harbor, to January, 1866; examiner of recruits at New York City to April, 1867; post surgeon at Jackson

Barracks, New Orleans, La. (sick at that place with yellow fever in September, 1867), to July, 1872; at St. Louis Barracks, Mo. (on leave September 25 to October 12, 1873), to June, 1870; at Fort Sanders, Wyo., (participating in the Big Horn expedition from July to October, 1876), to November, 1877, and Fort Douglas, Utah, to September 14, 1879; on leave to January 6, 1880; post surgeon at Willets Point, N. Y., to June, 1881; attending surgeon at New York City to June, 1884; post surgeon at the Leavenworth Military Prison, Kansas, to October 20, 1886, and sick at that place to date of death; died at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., November 1, 1886. He was treated December 13, 1864, for internal hemorrhoids; May, 1865, for hemorrhage and nervous prostration; August 11, 1865, for general debility, cephalia, and neuralgia. His fatal disease was paralysis of the lungs.

The late surgeon left two minor children surviving him, viz: Lucille R., born December 30, 1872, and Maude H. Clements, born September 12, 1874, each of whom is now receiving a pension of \$2 per month.

There is no testimony on file showing that the pension she is now receiving is not adequate for the present support of claimant, and her own statement that she is entitled to \$50 per month on account of her late husband's long and faithful service is not deemed sufficient to warrant favorable action.

Your committee therefore report adversely.