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[Adelaide Morris]

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 22, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 757.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 757) granting an increase of pension to Adelaide Morris, have examined the same, and report:

A bill passed the Senate at the last session of Congress making an increase in the pension of claimant, but it failed to be acted upon in the House of Representatives. A reexamination of the military record of Captain Morris reveals the fact that it was one of extraordinary merit, full of hardships and exposure.

The former report was as follows:

STATEMENT IN RELATION TO SERVICES OF THE LATE ARTHUR MORRIS, MAJOR,
FOURTH ARTILLERY, U. S. A.

At the battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862, Lieutenant Morris's battery was so hotly engaged that its captain (Hazard) was killed and half its men were sacrificed. Lieutenant Morris distinguished himself greatly in this action. The battery was saved by his bravery, and he was rewarded for his gallantry by receiving the brevet rank of captain before he was 19 years of age.

In the action at Charlestown, Va., Lieutenant Morris volunteered for the occasion. In this engagement Lieutenant Morris narrowly escaped with his life, being struck by a spent ball, the mark of which he carried to his grave. He was personally congratulated on the field of battle for his bravery by General Hancock, who was in command.

From November, 1863, to August, 1865, Lieutenant Morris was on staff duty at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md. In 1865-1867 he was on duty at the following posts: Fort Brown, Tex.; Reynolds Barracks, Washington, D. C.; Fort Washington, Va.; Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md., and in 1869 on recruiting duty in New York City.

In 1869 Lieutenant Morris was transferred to Fort Riley, Kans. While there he was sent with Light Battery B, Fourth Artillery, serving as cavalry, on the Salmon River Indian campaign, and was on scouting duty all the summer of 1870.

From Fort Riley Lieutenant Morris was again ordered to Fort McHenry, Md., and remained there from 1871 to 1872. From May, 1872, to June, 1873, Lieutenant Morris served at the artillery school at Fort Monroe, Va.

In June, 1873, he was transferred to the Pacific Coast, and was stationed successively at Alcatraz Island, Black Point (San Francisco Harbor), Fort Canby, Oreg.; Sitka, Alaska; again at Fort Canby, Oreg., and again at Alcatraz Island.

Besides serving at these different posts while on the Pacific Coast, Captain Morris took a very active part in the Modoc campaign in the winter of 1873, and in the Nez Percés campaign in 1877. In the latter campaign he was engaged in the battle of the Clearwater, Idaho, July 11 and 12, under Gen. O. O. Howard. In the reports of this battle made by General Howard Captain Morris is mentioned in the following terms:

"Capt. Arthur Morris, Fourth Artillery: This officer had command of his company in the final charge on the Indian position at the battle of the Clearwater on the 12th

of July. He behaved most gallantly, keeping himself in advance of the line of his company, leading and urging his men forward. Throughout the campaign he was always energetic and cheerful in the discharge of his duties."

At that time no brevets were allowed for Indian service, but May 2, 1890, after the act allowing such brevets was passed, General Howard included Captain Morris in his recommendations, as follows:

"Capt. Arthur Morris, Fourth Artillery: For gallant service in action against the hostile Nez Percés Indians during the battle of the Clearwater, Idaho, July 11 and 12, 1877, particularly the final charge, I recommend the brevet of major."

During Captain Morris's service on the Pacific Coast he was one of the many officers who suffered severely from the great depreciation in currency, the officers receiving their monthly pay from the Government in greenbacks when everything at that time was on a gold basis throughout California.

Lieutenant Morris received his promotion as captain, Fourth United States Artillery, on January 10, 1877, while stationed at Sitka, Alaska.

When his regiment was ordered East, in 1881, Captain Morris was first stationed at Fort Warren, Mass., where he remained until September, 1882. He was then ordered to Fort Adams, Newport, R. I., and remained there until his retirement, October 5, 1887.

Major Morris was attacked by rheumatism while in active service as first lieutenant, and suffered from it during the remainder of his life. His physicians attributed to it the disease from which he died, September 26, 1892.

From the time of his retirement, October 5, 1887, to the time of his death, September 26, 1892, Major Morris was continuously ill and under very heavy expense on account of his illness, and he was unable to do anything for the aid of his family.

On account of the original disease having shown itself while Major Morris was a first lieutenant, his widow has only been allowed the pension of a first lieutenant, viz, \$17. a month, although he held the rank of captain and brevet major at the time of his death, and had devoted twenty-five years of his life to faithful, arduous, and meritorious service to his country.

Major Morris was a member of the military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and after his death that organization paid him a high tribute at a meeting held in New York City December 15, 1892, from which the following is extracted:

On January 12, 1863, he was appointed aid-de-camp on the staff of his father at Fort McHenry, the headquarters of General Morris, then commanding the separate defenses of Baltimore. He was promoted first lieutenant November 12, 1863, and received his full captaincy in the regular line of promotion January 10, 1877.

After the Peninsular battles, General Hancock recommended Captain Morris for major, which was confirmed by Congress, but the commission was not issued until after his engagement in the Nez Percés campaign. He also served in the Modoc campaign with distinguished bravery. After a long period of service on the frontier in Oregon and Alaska, he was compelled from ill health contracted in the field, to be placed on the retired list October 5, 1887, at the age of 43. At the close of the civil war General Hancock recommended Major Morris for a brevet lieutenant-colonelcy, but the War Department had stopped giving brevet rank for war services before action was taken.

Major Morris came of military stock. His ancestor, Lewis Morris, of Morrisania, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, commanded the Westchester Militia in 1776 in the war of the Revolution. His grandfather, William Walton Morris, served during the Revolution on the staff of Gen. Anthony Wayne, and was afterwards in the Corps of Artillerists. His father, above referred to, Bvt. Maj. Gen. William Walton Morris, a graduate of West Point in 1819, was a distinguished officer of the Regular Army, who served in the Seminole war in Florida in 1836, throughout the Mexican war, under General Scott, and later in the civil war. Major Morris's brothers were both in the service, one in the Army and one in the Navy, during the late war, and all his associations were military from his birth. Physically he was an ideal soldier, being over 6 feet in height and of commanding presence, and while a great stickler for discipline on duty, he was, in private life, as genial and simple as a child. His modesty was proverbial, and as a brother officer wrote of him, "Truth with him was axiomatic, and rugged virtue an unvarying rule." Years of suffering and a consciousness of the hopelessness of ultimate recovery had prepared his mind for the end, and with no hesitation, no vain misgivings, no regrets, he has been ushered into the fathomless, unknown world, prepared by honesty of purpose to meet the reward of a gentleman and soldier.

By virtue of his Revolutionary descent Major Morris was a member of the New York branch of the Order of the Cincinnati. He was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Lafayette Post 140, and the Military Service Institution of New York.

Major Morris especially distinguished himself in the siege of Yorktown, from April 12 to May 4, 1862, and in the battles of Fair Oaks, Virginia, May 31 and June 1, 1862; Peach Orchard and Savage Station, Va., June 1, 1862; Glendale and White Oak Swamp, Virginia, June 30, 1862; Antietam, Md., September 16 and 17, 1862; Charlestown, Va., October 16, 1862, and Fredericksburg, Va., December 11 to 15, 1862. He also participated in the battles of Williamsburg, Malvern Hill, and Second Bull Run.

There are many precedents for this legislation, and in view of the extraordinary service of this officer and the necessitous condition of the widow your committee report the bill back favorably and recommend its passage.

