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Cornelia de Peyster Black.

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## CORNELIA DE PEYSTER BLACK.

FEBRUARY 27, 1894.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

## REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 3156.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3156) granting a pension to Cornelia de Peyster Black, have considered the same, and the majority respectfully submit the following report:

The claimant is the widow of the late Col. Henry M. Black, U. S. Army, whose military record, as reported by the War Department, is as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, December 20, 1893.

*Statement of the military service of Henry M. Black, of the U. S. Army, compiled from the records of this office.*

He was a cadet at the U. S. Military Academy from July 1, 1842, to July 1, 1847, when he was graduated, and appointed brevet second lieutenant, Fourth Infantry, July 1, 1847; second lieutenant, Seventh Infantry, August 20, 1847; first lieutenant, Ninth Infantry, March 3, 1855; captain, September 10, 1856; colonel, Sixth California Infantry, February 1, 1863; honorably mustered out October 27, 1865; major, Seventh Infantry, July 25, 1863; lieutenant-colonel, Fourth Infantry, October 7, 1868; unassigned March 15, 1869; assigned to Eighteenth Infantry July 1, 1870; colonel, Twenty-third Infantry, February 6, 1882.

He received the brevet of lieutenant-colonel and colonel March 13, 1865, for faithful and meritorious services during the war.

## SERVICE.

He joined his regiment December, 1847, and served with it in Mexico to July 7, 1848; at Jefferson barracks, Mo., to August 31, 1849; in Florida to June 15, 1850; at Jefferson barracks, Mo., to August 14, 1850; at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., to September 15, 1850; at Jefferson barracks, Mo., to April 17, 1851; at Fort Gibson, Ind. T., to May, 1855; at Fort Monroe, Va., to July, 1855; on recruiting service to April, 1856; with regiment in Washington Territory to May, 1856; on recruiting service to May, 1857; with regiment in Washington Territory to May, 1859; in Oregon to June, 1861; at Fort Vancouver to November, 1861; in California to January 1, 1863; organizing and commanding Sixth California Volunteers, in California, to August, 1864; commandant of cadets at the Military Academy, West Point, N. Y. (mustered out of volunteer service October 27, 1865), to July 1, 1870; on delay to November 1, 1870; with regiment at Atlanta, Ga., to January 9, 1871; at Charleston, S. C., to April 10, 1871; at Columbia, S. C., to January 1, 1876; member of board at Philadelphia, Pa., to June 7, 1876; with regiment at Columbia, S. C., to July 24, 1877; at Grafton, W. Va., and Allegheny arsenal, Pa., during labor strikes, to November 1, 1877; at Atlanta, Ga., to April 12, 1879; at Fort Assiniboine, Mont., to October 1, 1879; and in command of regiment and that post to June 2, 1881; commanding depot at Davids Island, N. Y., to June 14, 1882; on delay and on leave to October 16, 1882; commanding regiment and post of Fort Union, N. Mex., to June 2,

1884, and at Fort Wayne, Mich., to November 10, 1884; on court-martial duty at Washington, D. C., to February 24, 1885; commanding regiment and post of Fort Wayne, Mich. (being a member of court of inquiry at Fort Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, March 7 to April 19, 1887, and president of board of judges at national drill encampment, Washington, D. C., May 15 to June 4, 1887; also in command of international encampment at Chicago, Ill., September 27 to October 21, 1887), to May 8, 1890, and post of Fort Sam Houston, Tex., to January 15, 1891, when he was retired. Unemployed to August 5, 1893, on which date he died at Chicago, Ill.

GEO. D. RUGGLES,  
*Adjutant-General.*

As will be seen from the foregoing official report the active service of Col. Black covered a period of nearly half a century. The distinguished character of this long service is fully attested by the record and also by Gen. D. S. Stanley, U. S. A. (retired), and others who appeared personally before your committee.

Mrs. Black is now well advanced in years and without sufficient property or income to provide her with a comfortable support. She has an unmarried daughter dependent upon her and there is no one upon whom she can legally rely for a maintenance. In addition to being the widow of a distinguished officer, Mrs. Black is the daughter of the late Col. Joseph Plympton, U. S. A., who entered the service in 1812, and who after serving in the war of 1812, the Seminole and Black Hawk Indian wars and the Mexican war, died in 1860.

It may be said that Mrs. Black is in all respects a military woman; she was born in a military post, and two of her three daughters are the wives of officers of the Army.

There are many precedents for the granting of relief in cases of this character, and in the light of all the facts and circumstances your committee recommend the passage of the bill, with an amendment striking out the words "one hundred" in line 8 and substituting in lieu thereof the word "fifty."



## CORNELIA DE PEYSTER BLACK.

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MARCH 10, 1894.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. TAYLOR, of Indiana, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following as the

### VIEWS OF THE MINORITY:

[To accompany H. R. 3156.]

The views of the majority of the Committee on Pensions, respecting the propriety of the passage of the bill granting a pension to Cornelia de Peyster Black, are, for the following reasons, respectfully dissented from:

There are several general acts of Congress under which Mrs. Black can make application to the Pension Bureau and be allowed a pension. She would probably have no difficulty in substantiating a claim under the Mexican war pension act of January 29, 1887, or, if for any reason she could not meet the requirements of that act, she could still (if her circumstances are as represented) have recourse to an application under the late war act of June 27, 1890. The only reason given why this method of securing relief has not been followed is that the rating allowed by these acts is not large enough, but if this reason is to be accepted as sufficient to warrant the allowance of an original pension by special act in this case there is no just ground upon which similar action can be denied in thousands of other cases.

It is neither shown nor claimed that Col. Black's death was due to wounds or disease originating in the service, yet the bill as reported grants the widow a higher rate of pension than is allowed by law to the widows of officers of similar or higher rank who die in the service and line of duty.

The distinguished character of the service of the soldier is fully understood, but no especially urgent necessity or unusual circumstance is advanced as good ground upon which to base the proposed action in the case of the widow. She has no young children to support, and she has some \$4,000 from which to derive an income; and this income can be materially increased through an application to the Pension Bureau under one of the acts above cited.

If there is any justice in the granting of these large pensions to the widows of regular Army and Navy officers, to the exclusion of the widows of the volunteer soldiers who lost their lives in defense of the Union, the allowance should be made by general enactment, and thus relieve Congress of the necessity for giving time and labor to the consideration of bills framed in the interest of a favored class.

ARTHUR H. TAYLOR.  
CHAMP CLARK.