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Adelaide Morris

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 22, 1895.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2519.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2519) granting a pension to Adelaide Morris, report the same with an amendment as follows:

Amend by striking out the word "fifty," in line 8, wherever it occurs, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "twenty-five."

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 Percé 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 Percé 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 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 of his country.

Your committee, in view of the fact of the assurance of several Senators as to the needy circumstances of the petitioner, are favorable to an increase to \$25 per month, not feeling justified in granting the amount of \$50 asked for in the bill, as soldier's rank was that of captain and brevet major.