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Elizabeth W. Sutherland.

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ELIZABETH W. SUTHERLAND.

FEBRUARY 26, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1420.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred Senate bill 1420, granting an increase of pension to Elizabeth W. Sutherland, have considered the same, and respectfully report as follows:

Said bill is accompanied by Senate report No. 172, this session, and the same fully setting forth the facts, is adopted by your committee as their report, and the bill is returned with a favorable recommendation.

[Senate report No. 172, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1420) granting a pension to Elizabeth W. Sutherland, have examined the same, and report:

Mrs. Sutherland is the widow of the late Brig. Gen. Charles Sutherland, who served as Surgeon-General of the United States Army with distinguished ability, and whose death occurred May 10, 1895. The widow was left with eight children, their ages ranging from 20 to 8 years.

The following is the record of the military services of Dr. Sutherland:

Appointed assistant surgeon, August, 1852; after examination served as an acting assistant surgeon for ten months prior to being commissioned.

First service was at Fort Monroe, Va., and remained there six months, 1851 and 1852.

In the spring of 1852 served at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. While stationed there an epidemic of cholera prevailed.

In summer of same year on duty with a military exploring party that located the present site of Fort Riley, Kans., and shortened the wagon trail to Santa Fe, N. Mex.

Served in the Department of New Mexico for five years, and stationed during that time at Forts Webster, Fillmore, Craig, Stanton, and Santa Fe. Took part at times with troops serving in that department in engagements with Apache and Comanche Indians. Transferred to the Department of Texas, and served there two years and a half. Stationed at Forts Davis and Duncan. Was serving at the latter post when the State of Texas seceded from the Union. Left the State without being captured, and reported at Washington, March, 1861. Sailed one week after by command of General Scott on a secret expedition to Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa Island, Florida. The troops composing this expeditionary force were among the first to take an active part in the war, sailing from New York and arriving at their destination prior to the first call for volunteers issued by President Lincoln. Remained at Fort Pickens one year on hospital duty. While there participated in two bombardments between United States troops and the enemy on the mainland; also in an attack made by Confederates on United States volunteers near hospital.

Commended for conduct and services on those occasions in the reports made by General Brown, commanding, since published in Official Records of the Rebellion.

Commissioned as surgeon, with the rank of major, April, 1862.

Relieved from duty at Fort Pickens and ordered to Fort Warren, Boston Harbor. This fort contained several hundred Confederate officers as prisoners, and was garrisoned by a regiment of volunteers.

In summer of same year ordered again to the field and reported to General Halleck, in command at Corinth, Miss.

Was selected to act as medical purveyor for the armies then concentrated near that center of military operations.

Subsequently, at Columbus, Ky., fitted out large warehouses for the storing and distribution of medical supplies for 200,000 men, the estimated strength of the army under General Halleck.

At Memphis, Tenn., established and organized a second large depot for distributing supplies.

At the same place fitted out nine general hospitals, capable of containing 3,000 patients, for the accommodation of the sick and wounded serving on the Mississippi River.

Assisted in equipping a floating hospital capable of holding over 800 beds for the use of the army under General Grant, stationed at Millikens Bend, near Vicksburg. Was attached to the headquarters of General Grant and selected as assistant medical director and also as inspector of camps and transports of the Army of the Tennessee, and continued on that duty until the surrender of Vicksburg, July, 1863.

Was engaged in the battles of Jackson and Champion Hill, and assisted in locating the field hospitals.

During siege, actively engaged in examining camps, transferring wounded to transports for Northern hospitals, and also in keeping departments supplied with medicines and stores. General Grant in the first volume of his personal memoirs, alluding to his campaign against Vicksburg in the winter of 1862 and 1863, writes that it was one of great hardship to all engaged in it:

"Troops could scarcely find dry ground on which to pitch tents. Malarial fevers broke out among the men. Measles and smallpox also attacked them. The hospital arrangements and medical attendance were so perfect, however, that the loss of life was much less than might have been expected."

After surrender of Vicksburg, appointed medical director of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, under the command of General Foster, at Fort Monroe, Va. In this department, besides troops in the field, had supervision of five large general hospitals.

Owing to change of commanders a new staff was created; transferred to Annapolis, Md., and appointed medical director of hospitals and parole camp located in and near that city.

Member of retiring board at Wilmington, Del.

When General Grant moved with the Army of the Potomac, in the spring of 1864, was specially detailed by the Secretary of War to act as medical purveyor to supply that command, as well as the hospitals located in the city of Washington. There were twenty general hospitals, capable of holding over 30,000 patients. The Army of the Potomac was composed of at least 150,000 men. The supplying of these large establishments and the army in the field was faithfully maintained for over a year and until the close of the war. Spacious buildings in the city were kept filled with medical supplies of every description ready for immediate use, and a large force employed for prompt distribution of the same. Disbursed when on this duty over \$4,000,000 without loss to the Government and to the satisfaction of the accounting officers.

For these services when surgeon and major, without solicitation on his part, and on the recommendation of General Grant, then Commanding General of the Army, as well as of Surgeon-General Barnes, was appointed, by President Johnson, assistant medical purveyor, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, to fill an original vacancy. Four other medical officers were similarly appointed, the present Surgeon-General being one of the number. This office was held until June, 1876, when it was vacated by receiving the appointment of surgeon, with the rank of colonel.

Member of retiring board convened in consequence of a reduction of the Army.

Served as medical director of the division of the Pacific at San Francisco, Cal., for five years.

President of a board of medical officers selected from the Army, Navy, and staff Marine Service, by direction of President Arthur, to designate a proper site for a quarantine station at San Francisco, Cal.

An act of Congress, session 1884, directed that all medical officers of the Army should take place in their several grades on the Army Register according to date of commission. This prevented any application for the position of Assistant Surgeon-General, to which the senior surgeon was, under the usual custom, entitled, and which was vacant at that time. If Dr. Sutherland had received the appointment and not promotion (being already a colonel) in accordance with this law he would have been transferred from the head of the list of colonels and lowered in rank four files, and instead of being the ranking colonel would be occupying an anomalous and degrading place at the foot. This law destroyed the value of the office of Assistant Surgeon-General as a promotion or as a stepping place to the higher grade of Surgeon-General, and bestowed only a title to any who should receive it, with no privileges or importance attached thereto. The vacancy was subsequently filled by

promoting the senior lieutenant colonel of the corps, and the War Department, recognizing the provisions of the law, placed the office at the foot of the list, where it belonged.

Served as medical director of the division of the Atlantic.

Was brevetted twice during the rebellion—lieutenant-colonel for services in the campaign and siege of Vicksburg, and colonel for diligent discharge of duties in the war.

Was appointed Surgeon-General, with rank of brigadier-general, in 1890 (being then the ranking officer of his corps); served in that capacity until his retirement for age.

[Extract from indorsement by General Grant, when Commanding General of the Army, to President Johnson, January 7, 1866, recommending Surgeon Sutherland for the appointment of assistant medical purveyor, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, for services rendered during the war.]

As to Dr. Sutherland, I know of my own knowledge that he has performed satisfactorily about the most important and responsible duties in the field and out of it that it has been possible for any officer of his corps to render during the rebellion.

U. S. GRANT, *General*.

[Extract of letter from Surg. Gen. J. K. Barnes, U. S. A., to Senator E. Cowen, of Pennsylvania.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January, 1866.*

During the war Colonel Sutherland disbursed millions of money; was medical purveyor in the field to the great Army of the Southwest, and subsequently had charge of the great depot of the Army of the Potomac.

His qualifications are eminent, and his character, both public and private, unimpeachable.

He has served as surgeon, inspector, purveyor, and medical director. His duties have been of the most extensive character, as well as of vast responsibility.

J. K. BARNES, *Surgeon-General, U. S. A.*

[Letter of Surg. Madison Mills, afterwards medical inspector-general, United States Army, on file in Surgeon-General's Office.]

ST. LOUIS, MO., *March 8, 1866.*

Surg. Charles Sutherland was my principal assistant during the entire campaign—Vicksburg—and was constantly under fire in the discharge of his duties in the field, superintending the removal of the wounded as fast as they fell. I beg leave to recommend him for a brevet of lieutenant-colonel, to date from the 16th May, 1863, the battle of Champion Hill, when he was eight hours under fire in the discharge of his duties. I would also recommend him for the brevet of colonel, to date the 4th of July, 1863, the surrender of Vicksburg.

MADISON MILLS,

*Surgeon, U. S. A., Medical Director, Army of the Tennessee.*

SURGEON-GENERAL UNITED STATES ARMY,  
*Washington, D. C.*

[From General Sherman.]

ST. LOUIS, MO., *June 27, 1866.*

DEAR SUTHERLAND: I have received your letter of the 23d instant, and assure you of my hearty sympathy in your claim to the vacancy soon to occur in the office of Surgeon-General by reason of the retirement of my good old friend Dr. Murray.

Of your services at Vicksburg, I can recall that we were attended by surgeons of great skill and administrative ability, of which you were one, and now I hesitate to attempt any discrimination. \* \* \*

I trust this important fact will be understood, that you are the first on the list of army surgeons, with the experience of a lifetime, in sound physical health, and in every way qualified for the office to be filled.

Wishing you success, I am, sincerely, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN.

Major-General McDowell, Major-General Schofield, and Major-General Pope also wrote letters highly commending the services of Surgeon-General Sutherland.

It will be observed that Dr. Sutherland served his country for forty years, gaining the admiration of our leading military men and working his way up to the high position of Surgeon-General by acknowledged ability and unimpeachable integrity. The country owes a debt of great gratitude to such men, whose brilliant achievements in surgery would have won them undying fame and large wealth had they devoted themselves to private and hospital practice.

Mrs. Sutherland is in receipt of a pension of \$30 per month, and as before suggested she has a large family of children to support and educate. She is a cultured, modest, unassuming lady, who in view of her husband's distinguished services naturally and properly turns to Congress for some measure of relief.

Your committee cordially recognizes the merit of this claim, and recommends the passage of the bill after being amended by striking out the words "one hundred," in lines 8 and 9, and substituting instead thereof the word "seventy-five."