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Anna B. S. Phillips.

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ANNA B. S. PHILLIPS.

MAY 23, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BAKER, of Kansas, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7585.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7585) to increase from \$30 to \$50 per month the pension of Anna B. S. Phillips, widow of Col. William A. Phillips, having carefully considered the facts presented, respectfully report:

William A. Phillips was appointed colonel Third Regiment Indian Home Guards Volunteer Infantry June 2, 1862, and was mustered out June 10, 1865. During his service he commanded a brigade over two years, and was commander of the western division of the Department of the Missouri a considerable portion of the time. The committee append a history of a portion of his military record, which illustrates his soldierly qualities, bravery, and aptitude for the position to which he was assigned and in which he acquitted himself with gallantry and merit.

Colonel Phillips was pensioned from February 23, 1892, at \$30 per month for disease of respiratory organs, up to November 30, 1893, when he died of catarrhal pneumonia, as result of disease contracted in service in line of duty.

His widow, the applicant, was pensioned at \$30 per month from December 1, 1893.

The military and civil career of Colonel Phillips were remarkably brilliant. A braver man never lived. He was wounded three times in battle and had four horses killed under him in time of battle. He refused to leave his command to accept the nomination as governor of Kansas, and refused a position of \$10,000 a year offered him by the New York Tribune during the war, as he felt his first duty to be in the Army. He was elected to Congress in 1872 and served three successive terms with distinction. He was attorney for the Cherokee Indian Nation a number of years, representing their interests in Departments and the courts.

At time of applicant's marriage with soldier she was possessed of two brick houses in Washington, D. C., and sufficient means to support her comfortably. All this was sacrificed to pay interest on mortgages of her husband, and after his death all his property was taken to satisfy debts, and she and his dependent daughter were left destitute. His ill health during the latter years of his life, due to army service, prevented him from taking care of his property and giving attention to business, and the panic of 1893 engulfed him in financial ruin, while his

wife's health was seriously broken down by the constant care and nursing which he required, and she and his dependent daughter are now left to be maintained by the pension which she is receiving.

The testimony shows that claimant's health was such that since her husband's death she had to be treated in a sanitarium for over one year, and that the soldier's dependent daughter is an invalid, and in frail and delicate health all her life, and is dependent upon claimant for maintenance and education.

The committee, therefore, recommend that the bill be amended by inserting after the word "Phillips," in line 5, "late colonel Third Regiment Indian Home Guards Volunteer Infantry;" also, amend by striking out "one hundred," in line 6, and insert "fifty;" also, amend title of bill so as to read: "Granting an increase of pension to Anna B. S. Phillips," and as amended, urgently recommend the passage of the bill

APPENDIX.

Items from the military record of Col. William A. Phillips, brigade and division commander, late war of 1861 to 1865.

[In reference to bill to increase the pension of the widow of Colonel Phillips. Colonel Phillips served three terms as a Member of Congress, and these notes were prepared when his friends were going to make an effort to have his name placed on the retired list of the Army.]

In the summer of 1861, with considerable effort and expense, aided by Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson and Maj. William Weer, he raised the Third Kansas and tendered it to the President for service. After consolidation of parts of said command with the Tenth, Fifth, and Sixth, Colonel Phillips was commissioned by Abraham Lincoln as major First Indian Regiment, June, 1862. Served with expedition to Indian Territory, participated in several skirmishes and the fight and capture of Clarkson, July 3, 1862; commanded at Locust Grove, being present with the attacking party and at surrender.

July 7, brought in from a scout the Third Indian or Cherokee Regiment,* which had enrolled and mustered for the service to date; July 11, 1862, was mustered as its colonel; Lewis Downing, lieutenant-colonel; John A. Foreman, major.

On the arrest of Colonel Weer by Solomon, at Flat Rock, and retreat of white troops, the three Indian regiments and a section of Parrot guns were left 18 miles from Arkansas River. (See p. 511, Rebellion Records, vol. 13.) As result of council of officers, under direction of Colonel Furness, First Indian Regiment, ranking officer, Colonel Phillips, with the two pieces of artillery and twelve men from the three regiments, proceeded to Park Hill and thence to Fort Gibson. One column of 500 men, with the two pieces of artillery, under Foreman, went down west side of Grand River, the design being to open on that side while Colonel Phillips attacked from the northeast.

On the 26th of July the enemy came out and attacked his force 8 miles from Gibson, but after a sharp action, contested over several miles of ground, he drove the enemy from the field with the loss of 100 men, Colonel Taylor, Confederate, being killed in the action.

The enemy abandoned Fort Gibson and retreated across the Arkansas River. Fight mentioned in volume 13, pages 181 and 183, series first, Rebellion Records, and in Count de Paris's History of the Civil War.

Colonel Phillips was engaged continuously in the field during the rest of the war with the command, sometimes as regimental and sometimes as brigade commander, or with column of detachments from different regiments, feeling the enemy in advance. Held the town of Neosho, Mo., for two weeks, holding the forces of Rains, Coffee, Cooper, and Shelby in check until division came down, skirmishing and repulsing attacks every day. (See pp. 532, 614, 615, 622, and 627, vol. 13, Rebellion Records.)

Next engagement, battle of Newtonia, Colonel Phillips commanded the left wing of division. General Salmons (see p. 287, vol. 13, Rebellion Records), in his report, says:

"An attempt to force our left flank was nobly repulsed by Colonel Phillips's Third Indian."

* This regiment, composed of mixed Cherokees, had been raised for home duty, but forced into the Confederate service.

Colonel Phillips's wing fought for two hours and forty minutes, losing 2 captains, killed, major [Foreman] severely wounded, and 40 men killed and wounded. Held his ground until dusk, and when out of ammunition fell back on General Salmon, then retreating. Had horse killed in action.

"Took part in the active work that fall, and the second fight at Newtonia, when the rebels were driven out by Schofield and Blunt. Advanced with the division into Arkansas. Was sent from Bentonville with a column of 1,600 men to the Arkansas River, having detachments from Sixth Kansas, First, Second, and Third Indian, and section howitzers. Below Webbers Falls routed force of the enemy and drove them over the river. The rebel forces having marched past me north, under General Marmaduke, followed him up the line road, attacking him at Dutch Mills, driving him 8 miles to Cane Hill, and seizing his military train of 22 wagons. Learning that Hindman, with infantry, was only 15 miles distant, on Cove Creek road, retreated 30 miles on Blunt's division, with captured train and prisoners.

"Took active part in fight at Fort Wayne." (See p. 327, vol. 13, Rebellion Records.)

"Division under General Blunt marched forward, a day or two later fighting the battle of Cane Hill and Prairie Grove, in both of which actively participated. At the first had a horse killed under me charging up the mountain. Senator Plumb, who was there, will remember it. I quote from a part report, page 45, volume 13, Rebellion Records:

"Next followed Third Indian Regiment, under command of Col. William A. Phillips, and its other field officers, Lieutenant-Colonel Downing and Major Foreman, voluntarily assisted by Major Van Antwerp, of my staff, and the Eleventh Kansas, under Col. Thomas Ewing, jr., Lieut. Col. Thomas Moonlight, and Maj. P. B. Plumb. The resistance of the rebels was stubborn and determined. The storm of lead and iron hail that came down the side of the mountain, both from small arms and artillery, was terrible, yet most of it went over our heads without doing much damage. The regiments just named, with a wild shout, went up the steep acclivity, contesting every inch of ground, and steadily pushing the enemy before them, when the crest was reached and the rebels again fled in disorder. Four howitzers and Rabb's battery were now brought up the mountain and the pursuit renewed. The Third Indian and the Eleventh Kansas on the right and left of the road, advancing in line through the woods, while the four howitzers occupied the road in front, with the Second and Sixth Kansas and Rabb's battery in the rear. About every half mile the enemy made a stand, when the four howitzers, and the Eleventh Kansas, and Third Indian would as often put them to flight, leaving more or less of their dead and wounded behind them. Thus the fight continued for about 3 miles."

After the battles of Cane Hill and Prairie Grove, Colonel Phillips was sent forward into the Indian Territory with detachments from the Sixth Kansas, First and Third Indian Regiments, and two Parrot guns, 1,800 men. He cleared the north bank of the Arkansas River of the enemy and crossed the river, destroying their supply station at Fort Davis, on the south bank.

Letter from Major-General Curtis to General Halleck, at Washington, mentions the expedition thus (vol. 22, Correspondence, p. 7, Rebellion Records):

"JANUARY 2, 1863.

"General Blunt reports that Colonel Phillips's Third Indian Regiment, whom he sent out with cavalry, drove Coffee, Stand Waitie, and other forces over the Arkansas at Fort Gibson, destroying fortifications, barracks, and commissary building of Fort Davis, and the buildings used for stores. The Indians under McIntosh and Stand Waitie express a desire to surrender and return to their allegiance of our Government.

"The destruction of boats, forts, and barracks must greatly incommode the enemy. We can not easily obtain supplies for operations in western Arkansas.

"SAMUEL R. CURTISS, *Major-General.*"

In volume 22, Reports, page 172, Rebellion Records, General Hindman, Confederate, in the report to department headquarters at Little Rock, says: "That he was informed by General Cooper that on the 28th of December a Federal cavalry force of three or four regiments with artillery, under Colonel Phillips, had crossed to the south side at Fort Gibson on the preceding day."

On January 3, 1863, the army of the frontier was divided. General Schofield took a portion to operate on or east of the Mississippi River, one brigade was stationed at different points in southwest Missouri, and Colonel Phillips was left with the remainder in northwestern Arkansas. General Schofield reports to General Curtiss January 6:

"I have reorganized the Kansas Division, making the Third Brigade to consist of the three Indian regiments and some howitzers, under Colonel Phillips. I propose to send Colonel Phillips into the Indian Nation, to leave the Arkansas cavalry here." (P. 22, vol. 22, Correspondence, Rebellion Records.)

A day or two afterwards a battalion of the Sixth Kansas Cavalry and Hopkin's battery of brass guns were added to Colonel Phillips's command and the larger portion of other two cavalry regiments, the Ninth Kansas and the Third Wisconsin, were added to guard supply train. On the 13th of January, 1863, under General Orders, No. 6, Headquarters Department, St. Louis, Mo., the following order was issued:

"III. The Eighth and Ninth districts, Department of Missouri [western Arkansas and the Indian Territory], will, until further orders, be under command of Colonel Phillips, Third Regiment, Indian Brigade.

"By command of Major-General Curtiss:

"H. Z. CURTISS,
"Assistant Adjutant-General."

The command included a brigade at Fayetteville, composed of the First Arkansas Cavalry, the First and Second Infantry, the Tenth Illinois, and a battery. This gave Colonel Phillips a major-general's command on the field as a separate, independent command to handle.

During the winter and spring of 1863 Colonel Phillips held his command in the field, moving from camp to camp as the exigence required, but steadily approaching Arkansas River. The Confederates had sent home or into the localities where required a considerable portion of their men, and these, besides subsisting themselves, acted as guerrilla commands, ranging from 25 to 500 men. During these months there were innumerable skirmishes and fights between these and Colonel Phillips's command, detachments from which scoured the country, and large numbers from the Confederate bands were taken and destroyed. As it was impossible to haul forage from base of supplies, 150 miles distant, all forage was obtained from the country, and about half of the rations and supplies of the men, or beef and flour, every available mill being kept running by the Federal commander. I quote from instructions of General Schofield, page 33, volume 22, Correspondence, Rebellion Records:

"It is impossible for me to give you very definite instructions for your guidance. Much must be left to your discretion. I desire to give you full powers, and leave you free to carry out, as far as practicable, the general policy, which I have explained as follows: To occupy, if practicable, the line of the Arkansas River, and the Indian Territory northwest of it," etc. * * * "Your force must be held as much concentrated as practicable to prevent being overpowered, and must be held in readiness to join the army in Arkansas [eastern] or Missouri whenever your assistance may be needed."

"Please keep me informed of all your movements and the result of your operations. You will draw your supplies from Fort Scott independently of the rest of the Army, for which purpose a train has been placed at your disposal."

On page 127, volume 22, Correspondence, Rebellion Records, in an abstract of return from the Department of the Missouri, of date February, 1863: "District of Northwest Arkansas, Col. William A. Phillips, 5,109 men."

On page 115, same volume, General Curtiss, to his adjutant: "Better telegraph Phillips to hold back," and on page 153, of same volume, Correspondence, Rebellion Records:

"DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
"March 12, 1863.

"WM. A. PHILLIPS,

"Colonel Commanding, Eighth and Ninth Districts, in the Field:

"You should not fight a battle; yours an outpost duty; so fall back or dash forward, striking the enemy only where he does not expect you, and never waiting for an attack."

Orders were given very shortly afterwards to move forward to the Arkansas River.

On page 188, volume 22, Correspondence, Rebellion Records, in abstract of returns, appears: "Districts of Western Arkansas and Indian Territory, Col. William A. Phillips, commanding, Camp Pomeroy, March 31, 4,973 men, 6 guns."

In the same volume, page 196, Major-General Heeron, from Rolla, Mo., writes:

"With Phillips on the line of the nation, and the First Arkansas Cavalry and the First Arkansas Infantry at Fayetteville, I believe that section of country to be perfectly secure."

And on page 197 Colonel Harrison writes:

"Colonel Phillips moved to Cincinnati, 25 miles west of this, and expects to move on Fort Smith in a few days. I can not assist for want of supplies, and must fortify here."

On April 17, 1863, General Blunt, from Leavenworth, telegraphed to General Curtiss:

"Recent telegraphic dispatches from Colonel Phillips report that he has had two skirmishes with the enemy this side of Arkansas River, completely routing them, killing their leader and a number of men, and driving them all across the river. Colonel

Phillips is now occupying Fort Gibson." (Vol. 22, Correspondence, Rebellion Records, p. 223.)

Colonel Phillips was considerably embarrassed at that time, as he had to report to General Curtiss, department commander, also to General Blunt, commanding Army of Frontier, at Leavenworth, whose orders conflicted. He was also directed by General Curtiss to aid the Interior Department in returning to their homes and protecting the Indian refugees, and as soon as he had done so was ordered to retreat by General Curtiss, as his position was too far advanced, while General Blunt ordered him to hold his position; but the department commander finally directed him to remain if he could. He did so. The Confederate commanders in their reports in the Rebellion Records have many references to his command in the winter, spring, and summer of 1863. I copy a few from volume 22, Correspondence, page 801:

"The Indian brigade from Maysville is beginning to give me some trouble, and will, I fear, give me more. * * * Colonel Phillips, of the Indian brigade, is in command of two districts, West Arkansas and the Indian Territory."

On page 816, same volume, General Steele writes:

"Phillips's forces have moved westward, and to-day I have received two expresses from the upper river, giving information that bodies of the enemy were at Fort Gibson and Websters Falls, and that about 1,500 had crossed the river and were moved down."

And on page 827, same volume:

"Phillips, the Federal commander, is moving about the country north of the river, with about 2,000 troops of all kinds, doing us much damage * * * while I, with two brigades, on paper, am kept uneasy for the safety of our depots."

General Cabell writes to General Steele, page 829, same volume:

"I did not take the place, and if I had had with me every man that I had on paper I could have done no more. I made an honest effort to take the place, and have given them a severe blow, and one that will prove to be a good one in the end, as it will curb their utter lawlessness and put a stop to Phillips's further progress in the Indian country."

On April 24, 1863, General Steele wrote to General Cooper, page 830, same volume:

"You can take all the Cherokee [Confederate] troops, which, when confederated with Martin's and De Morse's regiments [Texas] will give a force sufficient to hold Phillips in check until after troops can be brought forward."

And on page 834, to Kirby Smith:

"I have been urging these troops up as rapidly as possible, fearing that Phillips, who is at Tahlequah, might push down and interrupt my communications with northern Texas and destroy my depot of subsistence."

On page 842, General Steele writes to General Cooper, May 18:

"If Phillips goes up and crosses the Arkansas above you I am afraid we shall have to fight him before we are ready to do so."

General Steele, writing to Gen. Kirby Smith, commanding the Transmississippi Department, on page 862 of same volume as above, says:

"As the lieutenant-general has referred to the necessity of taking General Spaight's command, I will state the results as they appear at present upon the Indian country. Colonel Phillips, the Federal commander, has had time to fortify himself at Fort Gibson, a central position in regard to the Indian tribes, from which he can put his well-clothed and equipped Indians in contrast with the poorly clothed and equipped Indians who have remained true to the South. * * * Phillips is now entrenched in a manner which will, I fear, enable him to hold his position against the small guns at my command. * * * General Holmes, under date of May 2, advised me that if [General] Spaight's command had arrived it would be a good time to strike Phillips, as all the troops that could reinforce him had been drawn off to oppose Marmaduke."

To General Cabell, General Steele wrote, June 16, page 874, same volume:

"Bring together as soon as you can all the detached battalions and companies that can be made available, and by spies or small parties try to ascertain when a train will be going down; then move upon it and capture it, and destroy if there is any risk of a recapture. It is believed that Phillips can not stay long at Gibson unless he receives supplies."

This reference paper would be much too long to quote all the "mentions or reports in the Rebellion Records of the Transmississippi Department." These were made alike by friend and foe, and Colonel Phillips can point to all as a record of faithful, unbroken service. He remained in the service until the close of the war. His brigade or wing of 3,100 men fought the hardest part of the battle of Honey Springs. When General Banks went up Red River, he, under instructions, took a column of 2,000 mounted men and four pieces of artillery into northern Texas, repulsed the enemy as he met them, and only fell back to Fort Gibson under positive orders, after Banks was driven back, but left the country in the Indian Territory between Arkansas River clear. He was not relieved from active duty until August, 1865, thus doing

in all some four years' service. During more than two years of that period he was acting brigadier and major general with a colonel's pay of \$2,200. All he would likely receive on the retired list could not much exceed what he would have received if he had held the proper rank. At one time in the Department of Kansas and Nebraska, besides General Curtiss there were two other major-generals and seven brigadier-generals with some 3,000 men in detachments or at posts, while Colonel Phillips had upward of 5,000 men before the enemy. At one time and another he aided in securing more than 2,000 recruits for whom no recruiting expenses were charged. As an administrator of public business his record can fearlessly challenge criticism.

Of all the officers on the retired list, there are only a few who can point to a record of more useful service.