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Lucy Ord Mason.

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LUCY ORD MASON.

APRIL 12, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 2113.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2113) granting an increase of pension to Lucy Ord Mason, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

Mrs. Mason is the daughter of the late General Ord, and the widow of First Lieut John S. Mason, jr., the military record of the soldier being as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 8, 1896.

Statement of the military service of John S. Mason, jr., late of the United States Army compiled from the records of this office.

He was appointed second lieutenant, First Infantry, September 1, 1879; first lieutenant April 20, 1886.

SERVICE.

He was on duty with the Tenth Infantry at San Antonio, Tex., October 28 to November 10, 1879.

He joined the First Infantry November 25, 1879, and served with it at Fort Hall, Dak., to May 26, 1880; at San Antonio, Tex., to November 15, 1880; on detached duty at headquarters Department of Texas and San Antonio, Tex., to May 4, 1881.

With regiment at Fort Davis, Tex., to May 1, 1882, and in Arizona to September 11, 1882; on leave to September 21, 1882; on duty at Columbus Barracks, Ohio, to September 25, 1883.

He rejoined his company September 27, 1883, and served with it at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., to September 29, 1885; at Fort Verde, Ariz., to July 12, 1886; at San Diego Barracks, Cal., to March 9, 1887; at Angel Island, Cal., to July 8, 1889; at Monterey, Cal., to September, 1889; at Benicia Barracks, Cal., to December 4, 1890; in the field in South Dakota, during the Sioux campaign, until he died at Pine Ridge Agency, S. Dak., February 13, 1891.

W. P. HALL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Senator Mills, of Texas, is personally acquainted with Mrs. Mason, and vouches for her in the following letter:

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D. C., February 3, 1896.

DEAR SIR: I inclose papers in reference to increase of pension for Mrs. Lucy Ord Mason, and cordially commend her application to your favorable consideration. I know General Ord and all his family, and am personally acquainted with Mrs. Mason, and I hope the committee will grant her the increase she asks for.

Yours, truly,

R. Q. MILLS.

Hon. J. H. GALLINGER,
Chairman Committee on Pensions.

Senator Mills also submits to the committee the following letter from a leading lawyer of San Antonio, Tex., who has knowledge of Mrs. Ord Mason's financial condition:

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., January 27, 1896.

MY DEAR SIR: I write for the purpose of earnestly requesting your assistance, if you can consistently give it, in the passage of a bill, which I understand Judge Noonan has introduced or will introduce in the House, to increase the pension of Mrs. Lucy Ord Mason, the relict of Lieut. John S. Mason, who died from exposure while in active service on the North western frontier.

Mrs. Ord Mason is the only surviving daughter of the late General Ord, and has no means of support for herself and three young daughters excepting a pension of \$17 per month, but is mainly dependent upon the small contributions which her brother, Second Lieutenant Ord, is able to give her from his salary.

The inclosed copy of Colonel Shafter's order will more fully explain who Lieutenant Mason was and the circumstances of his death. If convenient, I would be pleased to have you confer with and assist Judge Noonan in this matter.

Very truly, yours,

C. UPSON.

Hon. ROGER Q. MILLS,
United States Senate.

Colonel Shafter's order was in these words:

ORDERS, No. 13.]

HEADQUARTERS FIRST INFANTRY,
Pine Ridge, S. Dak., February 13, 1891.

It is with great sorrow that the regimental commander conveys to the regiment the intelligence of the death of First Lieut. John S. Mason, jr., who died at this camp to-day at 12.30 p. m., after a very brief illness, of inflammation of the brain. He was sick less than three days, during the greater part of which time he remained unconscious.

Lieutenant Mason was born at Benicia Barracks, Cal. (which was his station at the time of his death), on the 26th of April, 1856. He was appointed second lieutenant First Infantry September 1, 1879, and promoted to first lieutenant April 20, 1886, and served actively with his regiment on the Western frontier nearly the whole time from his appointment until his death.

Lieutenant Mason's service was conspicuous for the high sense of honor, courage, and integrity that stamped his every official act. No duty required of him was regarded as so trivial that he failed to bring to its execution the most careful and painstaking labor.

In his personal relations Lieutenant Mason was a man of high moral character, a congenial companion, true friend, gentle in nature, and kindly disposed toward all. In him the regiment loses a valuable officer, and unites in extending to his family heartfelt sympathy.

As a mark of respect to his memory the officers of the regiment will wear the prescribed mourning for thirty days.

By order of Colonel Shafter:

F. DE L. CARRINGTON,
First Lieutenant and Adjutant First Infantry.

Mrs. Mason married the deceased officer in 1879, and she has three young daughters, born, respectively, in 1880, 1883, and 1885, depending upon her for support, and in view of the fact that the soldier had fourteen years' honorable and arduous military service, dying at his post, and that the widow and her three young daughters are destitute, your committee report the bill back favorably, with a recommendation that it do pass.