

University of Oklahoma College of Law
University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

6-29-1897

Elizabeth S. Roberts.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>

 Part of the [Indian and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 225, 55th Cong., 1st Sess. (1897)

This Senate Report is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact darinfox@ou.edu.

ELIZABETH S. ROBERTS.

JUNE 29, 1897.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1087.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1087) to increase the pension of Elizabeth S. Roberts, have examined the same, and report:

A similar bill was introduced in the Senate during the Fifty-fourth Congress, passed the Senate, and was reported favorably by the House. The Senate report was as follows, which your committee adopt, and recommend the passage of the bill:

Mrs. Roberts is now in her eighty-second year, and has been confined to her room by paralysis for over four years, and requires the constant service of a nurse. She has no means beyond her pension of \$30 a month, her entire fortune not exceeding \$500. Mrs. Roberts is the widow of Gen. Benjamin S. Roberts, United States Army, who served through the Mexican war, coming out with the rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel, having been brevetted for gallantry and bravery in the action with the enemy at Matamoras. He also served during the late civil war, at the close of which he was brevetted major-general, United States Volunteers, for gallantry and meritorious conduct in the battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia, and in the battle of Manassas, Va., August 29 and 30, 1862.

During the late war Mrs. Roberts was actively engaged in the work of the Sanitary Commission, being corresponding secretary of the Central Society in New Haven, Conn., of which there were eighty branches in different parts of the State. Previous to the war she spent nearly her entire married life on the frontier with her husband, having made marches with troops in wagon trains from Fort Leavenworth, Kans., to Fort Laramie, Wyo., and from Fort Ringgold, Tex., to Fort Leavenworth, Kans., besides other shorter marches. She was exposed to all the vicissitudes and hardships incident to the frontier life of that day, and the present condition of her health is in a large measure due to her hard work and exposure at that time.

The military record of General Roberts is appended, together with a certificate of Dr. J. Morris Brown, lieutenant-colonel and deputy surgeon-general, United States Army, showing Mrs. Roberts's present condition.

Military record of the late Gen. Benjamin S. Roberts, United States Army.

Benjamin S. Roberts; born in Vermont; appointed from Vermont.

Military history.—Cadet at Military Academy July 1, 1830, to July 1, 1835, when graduated and promoted in the Army to brevet second lieutenant First Dragoons July 31, 1835. Served on frontier duty at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, 1835-37, Fort Leavenworth, Kans., 1837-38, and Osage County, 1838. Second lieutenant First Dragoons May 31, 1836. First lieutenant First Dragoons July 31, 1837. On recruiting service 1838-39. Resigned January 28, 1839; reappointed in United States Army, with rank of first lieutenant Mounted Rifles, May 27, 1846. Served on recruiting service 1846, in war with Mexico 1846-47, being engaged in siege of Vera Cruz, skirmish of Puente del Medio, March 24, 1847 (captain Mounted Rifles February 16,

1847); battle of Cerro Gordo, April 17-18, 1847; skirmish of San Juan de los Llanos, August 1, 1847; battle of Contreras, August 19-20, 1847; battle of Churubusco, August 20, 1847; storming of Chapultepec, September 13, 1847 (brevet major September 13, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec).

Assault and capture of City of Mexico September 13-14, 1847, and action of Tlascala November 10, 1847. On recruiting service 1847-48. (Brevet lieutenant-colonel November 24, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the action with the enemy at Matamoras November 23, 1847, and at the pass of Galaxara, Mexico, November 24, 1847.)

Frontier duty at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and Fort Laramie, Dakota, 1848-49. Absent on surgeon's certificate of disability 1850-52, and again 1853-54. Frontier duty in Texas and New Mexico till breaking out of civil war.

Major Mounted Rifles May, 1861, which became Third Cavalry August, 1861.

Operations in New Mexico in command of southern district August 10, 1861, to April 18, 1862, and of northern district April 18 to June 1, 1862; engaged in defense of Fort Craig, January-February, 1862; combat of Valverde February 21, 1862, (Brevet-colonel February 21, 1862, for gallant and meritorious services at battle of Valverde.)

Skirmish before Albuquerque April 8-9, 1862, and action of Peralta April 15, 1862; as chief of cavalry July 20 to September 3, 1862. (Brigadier-general, United States Volunteers, July 16, 1862.)

Acting inspector-general, August 26 to September 3, 1862, of Army of Virginia, being engaged in the skirmishes in front of Cedar Mountain, August 7 and 8, 1862; battle of Cedar Mountain, August 9, 1862; actions at Rappahannock Station, August 21-22, and at Sulphur Springs, August 23-24, 1862; and battle of Manassas, August 29-30, 1862. Acting inspector-general of the Department of Northwest, September-November, 1862, being engaged in command of an expedition against the Chippewa Indians in the Mille-Lacs country, November, 1862; in command of upper defenses of Washington, D. C., February-March, 1863, and of independent brigade in operations in western Virginia, March 23 to May 23, 1863; in command of district of Iowa, June 8 to December 2, 1863; at Davenport, Iowa, awaiting orders, December 2, 1863, to February 12, 1864; in command of district of Carrollton, La., March 8 to April 7, 1864; of forces at Pass Caballo and Matagorda Island, Texas, April 7 to June 18, 1864, and of first division of Nineteenth Army Corps, district of Carrollton, La., 1864; as chief of cavalry, Department of Gulf, October 26, 1864, to January 24, 1865; in command of district of west Tennessee, February 3 and March, 1865; in command cavalry division district of west Tennessee, May 15 to July 11, 1865.

(Brevet brigadier-general, United States Army, for gallant and meritorious services at battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia.)

(Brevet major-general, United States Volunteers, March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious conduct in battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia, August 9, 1862, and in battle of Manassas, Va., August 29 and 30, 1862.)

Mustered out of volunteer service January 15, 1866. Lieutenant-Colonel Third Cavalry, July 28, 1866.

Served on recruiting and frontier duty subsequent to war, and as professor of military science at Yale College August 8, 1868, to December 17, 1870. Retired from active service on his own application, after thirty years' continuous service, December 15, 1870. Died January 29, 1875, at Washington, D. C., aged 64 years.

Received, January 15, 1849, a sword of honor for his Mexican war services from the legislature of the State of Iowa.

FORT WAYNE, MICH., *February 3, 1897.*

I have been in attendance on Mrs. E. S. Roberts, widow of the late Gen. B. S. Roberts, since about the middle of September, 1893, the date of my arrival at this post.

Mrs. Roberts is suffering from paralysis, and during the whole time that I have been in attendance has required the constant services of a nurse.

J. MORRIS BROWN,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Deputy Surgeon-General, U. S. A.