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Ada J. Schwatka

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

AUGUST 3, 1894.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2056.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2056) granting a pension to Ada J. Schwatka, widow of the late Lieut. Frederick Schwatka, have examined the same and report:

The military record of Lieut. Schwatka is fully set forth in the following communication from the War Department:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, June 16, 1894.

Statement of the military service of Frederick Schwatka, late of the U. S. Army, compiled from the records of this office.

He was graduated from the U. S. Military Academy, and appointed second lieutenant Third Cavalry June 12, 1871; promoted first lieutenant Third Cavalry March 20, 1879; resigned January 31, 1885.

He joined his regiment November 28, 1871, and served with it in Arizona and Nebraska to August 13, 1874; on duty with the Big Horn and Yellowstone expedition to October 2, 1874; with regiment in Nebraska and Wyoming to May 18, 1876; in the field on Big Horn and Yellowstone expedition to October 27, 1876; on duty at Camp Sheridan, Wyo., to November 25, 1877, and at Spotted Tail Agency, Dak., to March 6, 1878.

He left his post in Dakota on the latter date, on leave of absence granted him for the purpose of taking command of the expedition to Lady Franklin Bay to search for the papers of Sir John Franklin's expedition, etc., and was absent on this expedition until September 29, 1880. He was on special duty in New York City from that date until January, 1881; was absent on account of sickness and subsequently on leave of absence until October 21, 1881; served as aide-de-camp to Gen. Miles until May 8, 1884, and in the meantime, while on Gen. Miles's staff, was in command of an exploring expedition in Alaska from May 20 to October 12, 1883. He rejoined his regiment in Arizona in May, 1884, and was on leave from September 6, 1884, until his resignation took effect, January 31, 1885.

During his service he was on leave of absence for the following periods in addition to those above specified:

From September 24, 1875, to March 24, 1876, and from February 28 to September 24, 1882.

J. C. GILMORE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

It will be remembered that in addition to his military services Lieut. Schwatka rendered the Government valuable service as chief of the expedition in search of the relics of the Sir John Franklin party. In

Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Vol. v, p. 433, the following appears:

Schwatka, Frederick, explorer, born in Galena, Ill., 29th September, 1849. After graduation at the U. S. Military Academy in 1871 he was appointed second lieutenant in the Third Cavalry, and served on garrison and frontier duty until 1877. He also studied law and medicine, and was admitted to the bar of Nebraska in 1875, and received his medical degree at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, in 1876.

On hearing the story of Capt. Thomas F. Barry, who, while on a whaling expedition in Repulse Bay, in 1871-1873, was visited by Eskimos who described strangers that had traveled through that region several years before and who had buried papers in a cavern, where silver spoons and other relics had been found, Lieut. Schwatka determined to search for traces of Sir John Franklin's party, and, obtaining leave of absence, fitted out an expedition on the 19th of June, 1878, and, accompanied by William H. Gilder as second lieutenant in command, he sailed in the *Eothen* for King William's Land. The party returned on the 22d of September, 1880, having discovered and buried many of the skeletons of Sir John Franklin's party, and removed much of the mystery of his fate. Lieut. Schwatka found the grave of Lieut. John Irving, third officer of the *Terror*, and, in addition to many interesting relics, a paper, which was a copy of the Crozier record that was found in 1859 by Lieut. William R. Hobson, of Sir Leopold McClintock's expedition, and which contained two records, the latter, under date of 25th of April, 1848, stating the death of Sir John Franklin on the 7th of June, 1847.

The expedition was also marked by the longest sledge journey on record—3,251 statute miles—during which a branch of Back's River was discovered, which Lieut. Schwatka named for President Hayes. Afterward he explored the course of the Yukon River in Alaska, and rejoined his regiment in July, 1884. In August of that year he resigned the commission of first lieutenant, Third Cavalry, to which he had been appointed in March, 1879.

He commanded the New York Times Alaskan exploring expedition in 1886.

Lieut. Schwatka has received the Roquette Arctic medal from the Geographical Society of Paris, and a medal from the Imperial Geographical Society of Russia, and is an honorary member of the geographical societies of Bremen, Geneva, and Rome. He is the author of *Along Alaska's Great River* (New York, 1885); *Nimrod in the North* (1885), and *The Children of the Cold* (1886). See Schwatka's Search, by Col. William H. Gilder (New York, 1881); *The Franklin Search* under Lieut. Schwatka (Edinburg and London, 1881), and *Als Eskimo unter den Eskimo*, by Henry Klutschak (Leipsic, 1881).

Lieut. Schwatka died about three years ago at Portland, Oreg., leaving the claimant (his widow) and one child wholly dependent on Mrs. Schwatka's father for support. Since then her father has deceased, and she is left without any means whatever for the support of herself and child. This fully appears by affidavits on file with your committee.

In view of all the circumstances, your committee report back the bill with the following amendment:

Strike out the word "fifty" in line 7 and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

And as so amended your committee recommend the passage of the bill.