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Gen. David McMurtrie Gregg.

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GEN. DAVID McMURTRIE GREGG.

MAY 16, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. McDONALD, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1747.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1747) for the relief of Gen. David McMurtie Gregg, report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

The facts in the case are clearly shown by the report of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, hereto annexed and made a part of this report.

[Senate Report No. 564, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 1747, having had the same under consideration, report it back with the recommendation that it do pass as amended.

The military record of David McMurtie Gregg is that of a distinguished officer who served his country faithfully and gallantly, first in a military academy and in the Regular Army for more than ten years, during which time he was engaged in Indian wars in the Northwest and participated in several actions with the Indians. During 1861 he served with the troops in the defense of Washington, and was mustered into the volunteer service as colonel of Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry January 24, 1862, serving during the war, till his resignation in 1865. During his service in the volunteer forces he was colonel, brigadier-general, and brevetted major-general, and engaged in more than forty important engagements, including Gettysburg and many other notable battles.

General Gregg received high commendations from Generals Sheridan, Meade, Grant, and Hancock, and, added to the letters of recommendation from the above, was favorably mentioned in the battle reports of Generals Pleasanton, Stoneman, Warren, and Parke. In fact, he was commended by some of the above a number of times with reference to different engagements.

While the reappointment and retirement of officers should not be the rule, yet an examination of General Gregg's record and case notes a peculiarly justifiable exception.

It is sought by the bill to give him only the rank he had in the Regular Army before the civil war, and specifically denies him any compensation prior to appointment under this act, as well as any pension after its passage.

The legislature of Pennsylvania has passed a joint resolution praying Congress for

the passage of the bill (S. 1747), which is submitted herewith, and also the War Department official army record and the statement of the voluntary military service of General Gregg.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Executive Chamber, Harrisburg, June 3, 1897.

SIR: Pursuant to the provisions of a concurrent resolution of the general assembly of Pennsylvania, approved this day, I have the honor to forward you the attached self-explanatory copy thereof.

I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL H. HASTINGS.

Hon. BOIES PENROSE,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *May 31, 1897.*

Whereas there is pending in Congress Senate bill No. 1747, which provides for the reappointment and retirement of David McMurtrie Gregg, late captain, Sixth United States Cavalry, and brevet major-general of United States Volunteers, with the rank and grade of captain; and

Whereas in consideration of the long and faithful military services of this distinguished son of Pennsylvania before and during the late war of the rebellion, especially for gallant conduct at the battle of Gettysburg, we ask proper recognition at the hands of the Government he so faithfully served, and that the acknowledgment thereof may be testified by the prompt passage of said bill: Therefore,

Be it resolved (if the senate concur), That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to support and use their utmost efforts to effect the speedy passage of said bill reappointing and retiring General Gregg.

Resolved further, That a copy of the above preamble and resolution be sent by the governor of this Commonwealth to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

JERE B. REX,
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

IN THE SENATE, *June 1, 1897.*

The foregoing resolution concurred in.

E. W. SMILEY,
Chief Clerk of the Senate.

Approved the 3rd day of June, anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven.

DANIEL H. HASTINGS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 7, 1897.

Statement of the military service of David McM. Gregg, of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office.

REGULAR ARMY RECORD.

He entered the United States Military Academy July 1, 1851, was graduated July 1, 1855, and received subsequently the following appointments and promotions:

Brevet second lieutenant, Second Dragoons, July 1, 1855; second lieutenant, First Dragoons, September 1, 1855; first lieutenant, March 21, 1861; regimental adjutant, April 12 to May 14, 1861; captain, Sixth Cavalry, May 14, 1861.

SERVICE.

He was on duty at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., September 30 to October 14, 1855; at Columbus, N. Y., to November 6, 1855; conducting recruits to New Mexico to February 2, 1856, when he joined his regiment and served on frontier duty at Fort Union, N. Mex., to August, 1856; on the march to California and at various frontier posts in California, Washington, and Oregon to July, 1861, being engaged in the Spokane

expedition in 1858, and in actions against Indians at To-hots-nim-me May 17, 1858; Four Lakes, Washington, September 1, 1858; Spokane Plain, September 5, 1858, and Spokane River, September 8, 1858.

He joined the Sixth Cavalry August 21, 1861, and commanded his troop in the defenses of Washington to January 24, 1862, when mustered into the volunteer service, and continued in that service until he resigned, February 3, 1865.

W. P. HALL, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Statement of the volunteer military service of David McM. Gregg, brevet major-general of volunteers, late colonel Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and brigadier-general of volunteers.

The records on file in this office show as follows:

David McM. Gregg is reported as mustered into service as colonel, Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry Volunteers, January 24, 1862, to serve three years. He was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers November 29, 1862, to rank from the same date; accepted the appointment January 17, 1863; was brevetted major-general, United States Volunteers, to date August 1, 1864, "for highly meritorious and distinguished conduct throughout the campaign, particularly in the reconnoissance on the Charles City road, Virginia," and was assigned to duty according to his brevet rank December 29, 1864. His resignation as captain, Sixth United States Cavalry, and brigadier-general of volunteers, tendered because of pressing private duties and business imperatively demanding his continued presence at home, was accepted, to date February 3, 1865, in special orders from this Department; and he was finally relieved from duty February 9, 1865.

During his service General Gregg was on duty in the Army of the Potomac, and held commands as follows: January 24, 1862, to December 13, 1862, Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry Volunteers; December 13, 1862, to February, 1863, cavalry division, Left Grand Division; February 12 to June 12, 1863, Third Division, Cavalry Corps; June 12, 1863, to January, 1864, Second Division, Cavalry Corps; January 22 to February 12, 1864, Cavalry Corps; February 12 to March 24, 1864, Second Division, Cavalry Corps; March 24 to April 6, 1864, Cavalry Corps; April 6 to July, 1864, Second Division, Cavalry Corps; July 31 to August 8, 1864, Cavalry Corps; August 8, 1864, to February 9, 1865, Second Cavalry Division.

He participated in battles as follows: Yorktown, Va., April 5 to May 4, 1862 (siege); New Kent Court-House and Bottoms Bridge, Va., May, 1862; Fair Oaks, Va., May 31, 1862; Savage Station, Va., June 29, 1862; White Oak Swamp, Va., June 30, 1862; Malvern Hill, Va., July 1, 1862; Antietam, Md., September 17, 1862; Philmont, Va., November 1, 1862; Barbers Cross Roads, Va., November 5, 1862; Fredericksburg, Va., December 13, 1862; Rappahannock Railroad Bridge, Va. (skirmish), April 14, 1863; Brandy Station, Va., June 9, 1863; Aldie, Va., June 17, 1863; Middleburg, Va., June 19, 1863; Upperville, Va., June 21, 1863; Aldie, Va. (skirmish), June 22, 1863; Gettysburg, Pa., July 2-3, 1863; Charleston, W. Va., July 14, 1863; Shepherdstown, W. Va., July 16, 1863; Muddy Run, Va., August 5, 1863; Culpeper, Va., September 13, 1863; Rapidan Station, Va., September 14, 1863; Jefferson (or Sulphur Springs), Va., October 12, 1863; Auburn, Va., October 14, 1863; New Hope Church, Va., November 27, 1863; Parkers Store, Va., November 29, 1863; Todds Tavern, Va., May 5-6, 1864; New Market, Va., May 9, 1864; Ground Squirrel Church (Yellow Tavern), Va., May 11, 1864; Meadow Bridge (inside of rebel intrenchments), Va., May 12, 1864; Haws Shop, Va., May 28, 1864; near Gaines Mill, Va., June 2, 1864; Trevillian Station, Va., June 11, 1864; St. Marys Church, Va., June 24, 1864; Proctors Tavern, Va., July 12, 1864; Deep Bottom, Va., July 28 and August 13 to 20, 1864; Reams Station, Va., August 23-25, 1864; Vaughn Road, Va., September 29, 1864; Poplar Spring Church, Va., September 30, 1864; Vaughn Road, Va., October 1, 1864; Boydton Plank Road, Va., October 27, 1864; Weldon Railroad (expedition), December 7-12, 1864; Hatcher's Run, Va., February 5-7, 1865.

General Gregg's promotion to the grade of brigadier-general of volunteers was based on his record as colonel Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry and on a letter from Governor A. G. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, to the President, dated October 21, 1862, as follows:

"I ask that Col. D. M. Gregg, of the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry, be promoted to a brigadier-generalship. He served in the Army with distinction, and was relieved to command the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry at my request. It is not invidious to say that no regiment behaved better and that no colonel of cavalry won more distinction in the battles on the Peninsula and before Richmond.

"Colonel Gregg is my relative, and I earnestly ask his promotion as a personal favor."

General Gregg's promotion to the grade of brevet major-general of volunteers was made at the urgent request of distinguished citizens of Pennsylvania, including the Hon. John Covode, Hon. Samuel S. Blair, Hon. J. K. Morehead, and others, and was based on the recommendations of Maj. Gens. W. S. Hancock, P. H. Sheridan, and George G. Meade, and Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant.

General Sheridan's letter of recommendation, dated July 10, 1864, addressed to the Secretary of War, is as follows:

"I have the honor to respectfully recommend the promotion of Brig. Gen. D. McM. Gregg, commanding the second division cavalry corps, to the rank of major-general of volunteers.

"General Gregg has for a long period commanded with merit and ability a division of cavalry of the Army of the Potomac. His gallantry, good judgment, and skillful management of his command during the present campaign is beyond praise, and justly entitles him to the reward of increased rank.

"During the present campaign, at the cavalry engagements of Todds Tavern, Yellow Tavern, inside the rebel intrenchments at Richmond, Va., Haws Shop, Trevillian Station, and St. Marys Church, his conduct was that of an able and skillful cavalry general."

General Meade's indorsement, dated July 20, 1864, on this and other recommendations for promotion, is as follows:

"The within list of nominations for promotion is respectfully forwarded for the action of the lieutenant-general commanding, in accordance with the indorsement of the 6th instant on the returned nominations of Major-General Sheridan. Such of these promotions as there are now vacancies for it is earnestly urged should be made without delay, and where there are no vacancies it is most respectfully submitted that appointments by brevet and assignment with brevet rank while in the field would be only simple justice to many most meritorious officers.

"I consider it of the highest importance that faithful services and gallantry in the field should be promptly rewarded. The tone and efficiency of this army would be greatly improved if services such as are herein recorded were promptly acknowledged."

General Grant's indorsement, dated July 22, 1864, is as follows:

"Respectfully forwarded, with the remark that the officers herein recommended are worthy, meritorious, and deserving of promotion, or to fill any vacancies that may exist." * * *

General Hancock's letter of recommendation is dated August 30, 1864, and General Gregg is therein recommended for promotion, by brevet or otherwise, for highly meritorious and distinguished conduct throughout the campaign, particularly for the reconnoissance on the Charles City road and at the battle of August 25, at Reams Station, Va.

General Gregg's name was also included in a list of officers entitled to brevet rank submitted by General Meade under date of September 19, 1864, and approved and forwarded by General Grant September 25, 1864. He was also recommended by General Meade for brevet appointment of major-general of volunteers November 2, 1864.

General Gregg is favorably mentioned in battle reports as follows:

(1) Report, dated August 20, 1862, of Brig. Gen. A. Pleasonton, commanding the Second Cavalry Brigade, of the operations of that brigade, August 14 to 19, 1862:

"In conclusion, General, permit me to recommend to favorable notice the important services that have been rendered by the following-named officers, viz, Col. D. McM. Gregg, * * * of the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry." * * *

(2) Report, dated November 17, 1862, of Brig. Gen. A. Pleasonton, commanding the cavalry division, of the operations of that division from October 26 to November 17, 1862:

"I respectfully submit to the favorable consideration of the Major-General Commanding and the Government the following-named officers, for distinguished gallantry and good conduct throughout the campaign: * * * Col. D. McM. Gregg, Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry." * * *

(3) Report, dated May 13, 1863, of Maj. Gen. George Stoneman, commanding the cavalry corps, of the operations of that corps from April 27, 1863, to May 13, 1863:

"To Generals * * * Gregg, * * * and the officers under them, I render my warmest thanks for their hearty cooperation in the execution and carrying out of all my orders and the implicit confidence with which they honored me throughout the whole operations. Nothing was asked of them but what was freely given and promptly and thoroughly executed."

(4) Report, dated June 15, 1863, of Brig. Gen. A. Pleasonton, commanding the cavalry corps, of the part taken by a detached portion of that corps at the action at Brandy Station, Va., June 9, 1863:

"I have the honor to recommend Brigadier-Generals * * * Gregg for promotion for the gallantry and ability with which they fought their respective commands."

(5) Report of General Pleasonton, dated June 22, 1863, of the action at Upperville, Va., June 21, 1863:

"I especially commend Brigadier-Generals Gregg * * * for their gallant zeal and efficiency throughout the day."

(6) Report of Maj. Gen. P. H. Sheridan, commanding the cavalry corps, to General Meade, dated May 13, 1864, of the operations of his command from May 9 to 13, 1864:

"I am very much indebted to Generals Gregg, * * * division commanders. * * * Their services are worthy of the very highest praise."

(7) Report of General Sheridan to General Rawlins, chief of staff, dated May 13, 1866, of the operations of the cavalry corps from April, 1864, to August, 1864:

"To Gens. D. McM. Gregg, * * * to the gallant officers and men of their commands, and to the officers of my staff, I return my sincere thanks."

(8) General Gregg was also complimented by Major-General Warren, commanding the Fifth Army Corps, in general orders from that command, dated December 13, 1864, as follows:

"The command having returned from its late expedition after accomplishing successfully its mission—the destruction of the Weldon Railroad as far as Hicksford—making forced marches during six days and nights in the most inclement weather, the major-general commanding considers it his duty to express to his division commanders, Brevet Major-General Gregg, commanding Second Cavalry Division, * * * his high appreciation and commendation of their performance of the instructions issued to them by him."

The following indorsement, under date of January 26, 1865, by Maj. Gen. John G. Parke, commanding, on that date, the Army of the Potomac, appears on General Gregg's letter of resignation:

"The eminent services rendered by Major-General Gregg are well known to this Army and country. His resignation will be a serious loss to the service, but under the circumstances it is approved and respectfully forwarded for the decision of the Department."

F. C. AINSWORTH,

Colonel, United States Army, Chief Record and Pension Office.

RECORD AND PENSION OFFICE,

War Department, May 18, 1897.

DAVID McMURTRIE GREGG.

MAY 16, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following as the

VIEWS OF THE MINORITY.

[To accompany S. 1747.]

The minority of the Committee on Military Affairs, having carefully considered the bill (S. 1747) authorizing the President to appoint and retire David McMurtrie Gregg, late captain, Sixth United States Cavalry, and late brevet major-general of United States Volunteers, with the rank and grade of captain, recommend that the bill do not pass.

The minority of your committee are by no means inclined to disparage the military record of General Gregg, which was in all respects meritorious, but it should be remembered that he is only one among thousands of gallant officers and men who performed honorable and valuable service to the country in its time of need, and who are now just as deserving of special favors at the hands of Congress as General Gregg. Besides, this officer voluntarily severed his connection with the Army before the close of the war, namely, by the tender of his resignation in January, 1865, which was accepted on the 3d day of the following month. The restoration to the Army and retirement of officers who voluntarily surrendered their commissions is a species of favoritism which the country does not look upon with approval, to say the least, and the continuance of such legislation must eventually render the law providing for a retired list of officers of the Army very unpopular.

The attention of Congress is hereby called to the already enormous and growing expense of the retired list of officers of the Army.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, the appropriation for the retired list of officers of the Army was \$1,148,594.88. The appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, is \$1,570,000, while the Department estimate was \$1,674,342.98. The cut of \$104,342.98 will no doubt come up in the general deficiency bill in the end, to meet the Department estimate.

The minority of your committee make no invidious distinction in opposing this particular bill, but they believe the principle involved to be radically wrong and its practice pernicious.

LUCIEN J. FENTON.
N. N. COX.
M. A. SMITH.
JOHN J. LENTZ.