

SARAH L. MERCHANT.

JANUARY 7, 1881.—Committed to the Committee of the whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COFFROTH, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 3812.]

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the memorial of Sarah Lufkin Merchant, widow of the late Charles Spencer Merchant, colonel and brevet brigadier-general in the United States Army (retired), asking for a pension of \$50 per month, to date from the passage of this bill, report:*

The memorialist, in her petition filed in this case, together with the report of the Adjutant-General United States Army, sets forth sufficient grounds upon which the favorable action of this committee is based, which are briefly mentioned as follows:

The said Charles S. Merchant's military service was continuous for seventy (70) years, he having entered West Point in 1810—received his first commission as third lieutenant of First United States Artillery March 11, 1814, serving during the second war with England until 1818, when he was in command at Eastport, Me., sent there under the boundary treaty to relieve the British commandant, witnessing the departure thence of the last hostile British troops from the United States soil.

In 1832 he was a brevet captain in command of Fort Moultrie, under special orders during the nullification acts of South Carolina.

During the years 1835, 1836, and 1837 he was a participant, serving with distinction in the Seminole Indian war in Florida, at Picolata, Black Creek, and Fort Drane.

In 1838 Captain Merchant was ordered thence to Fort Niagara to our northern frontier during threatened antimasonic trouble, remaining on duty at the forts in New York State, and at Fort Adams, Rhode Island, during the "Dorr" troubles, until 1847, in which year he served with distinction in Mexico and Texas under General Taylor.

In 1853 Major Merchant, under orders with his regiment of artillery to California, was shipwrecked off Hatteras, the steamship, the San Francisco, being a total wreck. Major Merchant was one of the few persons rescued by the ship Three Bells. He subsequently continued his journey to San Francisco, remaining there until 1861, in which year, August 28, he became colonel of the Fourth United States Artillery. From this time he was in command at Fort Washington and Fort Wood, New York Harbor, and on court-martial duty, until 1869, when he was

paced on the retired list with rank of colonel and brevet brigadier-general, and who died on the 6th of December, 1869.

Your committee, in view of the above-recited seventy years of honorable and distinguished services rendered by the said Charles S. Merchant, unanimously recommend the passage of this bill.



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
IN SENATE CONFIRMED

AND THE SENATE,  
MAY 1870

RESOLUTION

TO GRANT A PENSION TO

CHARLES S. MERCHANT,  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Resolved, That there be paid to the said Charles S. Merchant, or to his legal representatives, a pension of \$100 per annum, to be paid quarterly in advance, commencing on the 1st day of January, 1870, and continuing until the death of the said Charles S. Merchant.

That the said pension be paid out of the contingent fund of the Treasury, and that the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is authorized to issue the necessary orders for the payment of the same.

Approved, May 18, 1870.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,  
IN SENATE CONFIRMED