

MRS. ELIZA W. THORNBURGH.

FEBRUARY 7, 1885.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 7655.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7655) to increase the pension of Mrs. Eliza W. Thornburgh, beg leave to report:*

That her late husband, Maj. Thomas T. Thornburgh, had a military record that would be a credit to any officer fifteen years in the Army, doing active, laborious, and dangerous duty. He acquired a reputation truly enviable early in the war with the seceding States.

When a boy he volunteered as a private in the Sixth Tennessee Infantry, was in the battle of Stone River and in several other engagements, in which he won distinction, and for his good conduct and great gallantry he was commissioned captain, and as captain his fine judgment and superior intelligence attracted the attention of his commanding officers, and he was made adjutant-general and placed on General Spears's staff. After this he was admitted as a cadet in the Military Academy at West Point, and graduated with distinction on the 17th of June, 1867, and was appointed second lieutenant, Second Artillery, and for his good conduct and efficiency he was promoted to first lieutenant, Second Artillery, April 21, 1870.

Served as professor of military science at East Tennessee University. He was appointed paymaster of the United States Army with the rank of major, which office he filled with credit, being honest, industrious, and faithful.

On May 23, 1878, he was transferred to the line as major of the Fourth Infantry at his own request, and placed in command at Fort Fred Steele, and was killed at the head of his command at the crossing of Milk Creek while under orders. He was *en route* from Fort Fred Steele to the agency of the White River Utes with a command of four companies to protect their agent and to preserve order among them. He had orders not to attack, but he was attacked by the Utes in overwhelming numbers. In defense of his command he made one of the most gallant charges ever recorded in the annals of war.

General Crook, in General Orders No. 23, uses this language:

As an officer, Major Thornburgh was active, ambitious, and actuated by a high sense of duty. His private life corresponded with his official reputation. It was unexceptionable and without a blemish.

General Sherman, in his report, says he was a young officer of excellent judgment and of high promise; brave, skillful, and efficient; a gentleman of fine instincts and a high sense of honor; an officer of

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whom we had reason to be proud. No man could have done better in life, nor met death with more heroism. (The exact language not given; we quote from memory.)

General Schofield testifies to his bravery, intelligence, and faithfulness in performing his duty in the Army, giving him great praise.

He was kind and tender to his men, while exacting strict obedience, and they all loved him and promptly obeyed him. He kept his men clean, healthy, cheerful, and always ready to fight. He was admired and beloved by all his brother officers. He was 6 feet 2 inches high, and every inch a soldier. He had high social qualities, was kind and generous to his friends, and loved his wife and children well. His widow, a lady every way worthy of him, is poor and has two of his children to support.

Your committee therefore report the bill with an amendment: Strike out the word "fifty" and insert the word "thirty," and with this amendment recommend that the bill pass.