
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 11457.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill granting an increase of pension to Mary Y. Dewees, widow of Thomas B. Dewees, late major, Ninth United States Cavalry, have examined the same and report:

That they have carefully examined the case and find the facts as stated in the House report, and adopt the views therein expressed as the views of the committee.

[House Report No. 3120, Fifty-first Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11457) granting an increase of pension to Mary Y. Dewees, submit the following report:

The beneficiary named in the bill is the widow of Thomas B. Dewees, late major of the Ninth Regiment of United States Cavalry, who died in Philadelphia, Pa., on the 5th of July, 1836, from disease resulting from wounds, hardships, and exposure in the line of duty, after a continuous service in the Army of twenty-eight years.

Thomas B. Dewees was born at Bridgeport, Pa., July 6, 1834.

He enlisted as a private in the Second Dragoons in March, 1858.

At the breaking out of the war he had risen to the rank of first sergeant, and in October, 1861, he was commissioned second lieutenant of the Second Cavalry, the regiment in which he had enlisted. On July 7, 1862, he was commissioned first lieutenant in the same regiment. In June, 1863, he was brevetted captain "for gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Beverly Ford, Virginia." In that battle his face was split open by a saber wound. He was captured at Brandy Station, Va., June 9, 1863; taken to Richmond, Va., and confined in Libby Prison, June 14, 1863; admitted to hospital, and then returned to prison. From Libby he was taken to Macon, Ga., thence to Columbia, S. C. He escaped from Columbia November 4, 1864. With four other escaped prisoners he walked barefooted from Columbia to Knoxville, Tenn., 336 miles, and reported for duty to the provost-marshal-general. He rejoined his regiment in December, 1864. July 10, 1864, he was made captain of the Second Cavalry. At the close of the war he was ordered West, and rendered valuable service in Indian campaigns under Generals Crook, Custer, Miles, Merrit, and Howard. In the campaign against the Sioux Indians under Sitting Bull his face was frozen, and he was crippled by inflammatory rheumatism, but he never left the field.

In October, 1881, he was commissioned major of the Ninth Cavalry. He was placed in command at Fort Reno, Ind. T., and subsequently at Fort Robinson, Nebr. While in command at Reno he rendered valuable service in keeping Payne's "Boomers" out of Oklahoma.

In 1885, while commanding officer at Fort Robinson, he was stricken with a fatal disease, stricture of the œsophagus, which resulted in cancer of the cardiac orifice of the stomach. His sufferings were intense and agonizing. At the same time he suffered from inflammatory rheumatism. He continued in command until ordered East for medical treatment, then a dying man.

He died in Philadelphia July 5, 1886.

General Hatch thus speaks of Major Dewees :

"As an enlisted man he was such a good soldier as to win for himself a commission in his own regiment during the early part of the war, and later the proud distinction of being one of the *beau sabreurs* of the Army. His career during the civil war was most eventful, and in Southern prisons he sowed the seeds of an insidious disease to which his splendid physical manhood finally succumbed. The regiment loses one of its favorites, the Army a gallant soldier, and the world at large a true and whole-souled man."

Mrs. Dewees is now in receipt of a pension at \$25 per month under the general pension laws, but it is conclusively shown by the sworn statements of A. C. Strite, Richard R. McMahon, and the claimant that she has no other source of income and no property of any kind. Her pension is insufficient to supply the actual necessities of life, and she therefore asks the increase contemplated by the bill.

Congress has in several instances increased the pensions of the needy and deserving widows of soldiers of the rank held by this claimant's husband to \$40 per month, and your committee recommend the passage of this bill with an amendment to fix the rate of pension at \$40 per month.

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