General James Scott Negley
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By ALFRED P. JAMES

The subject of this sketch was of Swiss German ancestry. Originally the family name was spelled Nagéli, and in Switzerland it has furnished more than one person of high distinction. A member of this Swiss family migrated to eastern Pennsylvania in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. His son, Alexander Negley later moved westward, first to the neighborhood of Ligonier, Pennsylvania and later, in 1778, to what is now the Highland Park section of Pittsburgh. Alexander Negley, the pioneer, is thus the founder of the Negley family of Pittsburgh history. Of his numerous children, Jacob Negley was the grandfather of James Scott Negley. By marriage with a Winebiddle heiress, and by purchases Jacob Negley added to his inherited landholdings until he was in possession of approximately three thousand acres of land, then farm and pasture land, but now a populous part of Pittsburgh. Of the children of Jacob Negley, an elder son, Jacob Negley Jr., was the father of James Scott Negley; while a younger son, George G. Negley, long a prominent figure in that section of the region, was the father of several children still living in the neighborhood; and Sarah Jane Negley became the wife of Judge Thomas Mellon and the ancestress of the well-known Mellon family of Pittsburgh.¹


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James Scott Negley, son of Jacob Negley, Jr., and Mary Ann Scott Negley, was born in what is now East Liberty, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on December 22, 1826. His parents having died while he was yet a child, he was reared in the home of the Baum family, one of whose members, Mrs. Kate Baum Shillito, survived until October 7, 1930, when she passed away at the advanced age of eighty-five years.

At local public schools, this young scion of the Negley family secured the elementary and secondary education necessary for college entrance. For collegiate studies he entered the Western University of Pennsylvania, the institution now known as the University of Pittsburgh.

At a very young age the future general appears to have become interested in militia service, and it is said that he joined the Duquesne Greys while only a college youth. With the outbreak of hostilities with Mexico in the early summer of 1846, this company as a part of the First Pennsylvania Regiment was called into service. Young Negley, enrolled on December 8, 1846, was mustered into service on December 16, 1846. He is said to have served through the remainder of the war, participating in the battles of Cerro Gordo, La Porta, Las Vergas, and Puebla.

2. *Year Book of the Pennsylvania Society of New York*, Published by the Society, 1902, p. 75. Though they are probably not independent of each other, there is unanimous agreement on this item in the half dozen or more biographical sketches found in various biographical encyclopedias, albums and dictionaries.

3. Information furnished by Miss Georgina C. Negley, and Mr. James R. Mellon.

4. Obituary statement in *Pittsburgh Press*, October 8, 1930, p. 5. It was a misfortune that an interview was not obtained with Mrs. Shillito, before her death.

5. This information is found in several biographical sketches of General Negley, some of them published during his lifetime, and presumably is correct. It is interesting that the Alumni Secretary does not have a record of him.

6. *The Year Book of the Pennsylvania Society of New York*, 1902, p. 75, says he did that at the age of seventeen. Other biographical sketches put the date two years later.


On June 1, 1848, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. According to the Pittsburgh Morning Post, July 18, 1848, "J. S. Negley returned in good health." The young sergeant, not yet twenty two years old, received his discharge from military service on July 25, 1848.

On his return to civil life, James Scott Negley, having now reached his majority and with the larger part of his life before him, engaged for a time in manufacturing pursuits. But he soon left this field of activity and took up farming and horticulture, attaining a reputation as one of the most skilled horticulturists in the whole country. From 1856 to 1861 he is annually listed in the Pittsburgh directories as "horticulturist.

But the young farmer and horticulturist evidently retained his interest in military life and his touch with the local militia. Even before the outbreak of the Civil War he seems to have risen to the rank of brigadier general, in connection with the Eighteenth Division of the Pennsylvania militia. It seems to have been well understood in the winter of 1860-'61 that his services were at the disposal of the state of Pennsylvania. The natural result was that on April 13, 1861, the day after the firing on Fort Sumter,

11. Ibid.
13. Jordan, loc. cit. Dr. Wllijam J. Holland is authority for the fact that Mr. Negley maintained throughout life a great interest in flowers. Mr. P. W. Siebert, in comments made on hearing this paper read, stated that as a boy he used to get flowers at Mr. Negley's gardens.
14. Copies of the directories for these years are in the Central Carnegie Library at Pittsburgh.
15. Jordan, loc. cit. – The Pittsburgh Post, August 15, 1859, mentions "Brigadier General Negley" as in charge of arrangements for a militia encampment. This paper two days later gives his General Orders No. 4, and praises his management and ability in highest terms. This praise is repeated, August 18, 1859.
16. Ibid. According to The Post, February 14 and 16, 1861, Brigadier General Negley commanded "the military and civic procession" on President-elect Abraham Lincoln's famous arrival in Pittsburgh on February 15, 1861 and on his departure for Cleveland the following morning.
Brigadier General Negley received a telegraphic dispatch from Governor Curtin requesting his immediate attendance at Harrisburg. Leaving that afternoon, Saturday, Governor Curtin had put him in command of military affairs in the district and made him responsible for raising, equipping, and forwarding troops from this area. According to the local newspapers, the promptness and energy displayed by General Negley in getting his command into service met widespread local approval. Within ten days, characterized by great and successful activity, he had accomplished the work assigned him. On April 24, 1861, he and the regiments which he had gotten ready, were called away to Harrisburg and the eastern part of the state. Here General Negley’s troops became a part of the force acting under the direction of Major-General Robert Patterson.

“On the twenty-ninth of April, General Negley issued his first General Order, assuming command of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Regiments.” Moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he was placed in command at Camp Johnston. As late as May 11, 1861, his command lacked the necessary equipment for field service.

Early in June a circular of General Patterson, directing army movements, instructed General Negley to “move by rail as rapidly as possible and be established on the Hagerstown and Williamsport turnpike.” On June 17,

17. The Pittsburgh Dispatch, April 15, 1861, p. 3; The Pittsburgh Post, April 15, 1861, p. 1.
18. Ibid.
19. The Dispatch, April 16, 1861, p. 3.
20. Information based on local newspapers, April 16, 24, 1861.
21. The Pittsburgh Dispatch, April 18, 1861; The Pittsburgh Gazette, April 23, 1861, p. 3.
22. The Pittsburgh Gazette, April 25, 1861; The Pittsburgh Post, April 25, 1861.
25. War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington, D. C., Govt. Printing Office, 1880-1901, II, 635. Where, as in this case, the series is not given, it must be understood that the reference is to Series I. This publication will hereinafter be cited as “Rebellion Records.”
26. Ibid., 679, June, 1861.
1861, General Negley was ordered to advance to Williamsport, but three days later he received an order commanding him to veer to the right and march to Sharpsburg. While on this station, in the very first weeks of his service in the field, General Negley showed an uncanny ability to learn what the enemy were doing, a feature which characterized his entire career in the Civil War.

At early dawn of July 2, 1861, General Patterson crossed the Potomac river with all the forces under his command. General Negley's brigade evidently reached Martinsburg, Virginia during the course of the day. Here he remained for more than a week, for in a council at this place on July 9, 1861, General Negley, with other subordinates of General Patterson, advised a move to Charles-town, Harper's Ferry and Shepherdstown with the purpose of outflanking General Joseph E. Johnston in command of the Confederate forces in the Shenandoah valley. And with his brigade, General Negley took part in the skirmishes and futile manoeuvres of General Patterson during the military operations of the next two weeks. But his troops were three months' volunteers whose term of service had expired, and most of them marched back to Harrisburg, where late in July they were disbanded.

General Negley, it seems, returned to Pittsburgh early in August and began to raise new companies of volunteer infantry. On August 28, 1861, he received authorization from the War Department to raise and organize two regiments of infantry for three years or the length of time of the war. By the middle of October he had evidently succeeded in raising an entire brigade. A message from Louisville, Kentucky, on October 16, 1861, sent by Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, asking for re-enforcements at

27. Ibid., 699.
28. Ibid., 709.
29. Ibid., 728, Negley to Porter, June 28, 1861.
32. Ibid., 164.
33. Ibid., Series III, Volume I, 358, Curtin to Cameron, July 27, 1861.
34. Ibid., 407, August 13, 1861, instructions from Washington, D. C., mentioning "such companies of volunteer infantry as may be presented to you by Brigadier-General Negley."
35. Ibid., 464.
that point, \textsuperscript{36} was promptly followed by orders to General Negley to move his command at once to General Sherman at Louisville. \textsuperscript{37} Governor Curtin in person received Negley's brigade and presented the standards to them on the afternoon of October 17, 1861 and reported he found the regiments full, the men fully equipped and in excellent condition. \textsuperscript{38} In five days, the brigade, 2,800 strong, \textsuperscript{39} reached their destination by water transportation. \textsuperscript{40} It was immediately sent to the camp on Nolin River, Kentucky, where it became a part of the forces under Brigadier-General McCook, operating against the Confederate line in the southern part of that state. \textsuperscript{41} At this time the brigade of General Negley consisted of the 77th, 78th, and 79th Pennsylvanavianna regiments and two batteries, \textsuperscript{42} a body of volunteer troops drawn mainly from Western Pennsylvania.

At the end of November, by order of General Buell, a reorganization of his forces was made. General Negley's old Fourth Brigade was broken up. He was assigned to the new Seventh Brigade, composed of the 38th Indiana, 78th Pennsylvania, 79th Pennsylvania, and 1st Wisconsin regiments, \textsuperscript{43} the beginning of a process which eventually was to leave General Negley with few if any Pennsylvania troops under his command.

For nearly four months General Negley was stationed in southern Kentucky. \textsuperscript{44} Then came the collapse of the Confederate front on the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in the middle of February, 1862. Though specific references are lacking, it is evident that General Negley took part in the general advance of Buell's troops at this time. Late in March, his brigade reached Franklin, Tenn.

36. Ibid., Series I, Volume IV, 308.
37. Ibid., V., 621, Thomas A. Scott to Negley, October 16, 1861; IV, 309, Scott to Negley, October 17, 1861.
38. Ibid., Series III, Volume I, 578, Curtin to Scott. On this review consult The Pittsburgh Gazette, October 18, 1861.
39. Ibid., Series I, Volume III, 548, L. Thomas to Cameron, October 21, 1861.
40. Ibid., Series III, Volume I, 578, Curtin to Scott, October 17, 1861; ibid., Series I, Volume II, Sherman to L. Thomas, October 22, 1861.
41. Ibid., Series I, Volume IV, 318, Sherman's Special Orders No. 67, October 22, 1861; Series I, Volume II, 332, Sherman to L. Thomas, November 4, 1861.
42. Ibid., II, 333.
43. Ibid., VII, Special Orders, No. 16, November 30, 1861.
44. Ibid., VII, 938. Buell to McCook, February 13, 1862.
essee, " and he was in command in Maury County, Tennessee, early in April. " In the absence of any record of his participation in the battle of Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing, seventy-five miles to the southeast, one week later, it is evident that General Negley's brigade remained in the reserves in occupation of central Tennessee during that famous conflict. For more than a month, General Negley seems to have remained in the vicinity of Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee. "

When in May, 1862, General Buell began to move southward and eastward up the Tennessee river into northern Alabama, General Negley's brigade was pushed forward in the movement. " By his forced marches and quick strokes in this campaign in the middle of May, General Negley won high praise for himself and his command. "

In the first week of June, General Negley was in command of a raid which beginning on the first of the month, plunged eastward from Fayetteville, Tennessee. " Surprising and scattering the intervening Confederate troops, he advanced to the neighborhood of Chattanooga, the strategic point in Confederate territory and, on June 7th and 8th, actually bombarded the city from across the Tennessee river. " The capture of Chattanooga, which would have been a major stroke in the war, was threatened; but General Negley's forces were inadequate to hold the city if captured; his position was too extended and adequate support was not available, so he was withdrawn by his superiors with the sanction of General Buell. "

From the records of the summer of 1862, it appears that General Negley, like General Sherman, had a severe attitude toward the hostile civilian population of the South. An accusation of pillage and robbery of the civilian population was made against his troops in connection with the ex-

45. Ibid., X, Part II, 71, Buell to Mitchel, March 27, 1862.
46. Ibid., 86, Buell to Negley, April 1, 1862.
47. Ibid., 161, Matthews to Campbell, May 4, 1862.
49. Ibid., 892, Mitchel's report, May 15, 1862.
50. Ibid., Part II, 257, Mitchel to Buell, June 4, 1862.
51. Ibid., Part I, 920, Negley's reports.
52. Ibid., 53, 54, 57, 62; Part II, 282, Buell to Halleck, June 9, 1862, 283, 288, 633, 634.
pedition in June against Chattanooga. According to his own contemporary correspondence, General Negley instituted "most vigorous and determined measures against non-combatant secessionists" in his neighborhood. The activities of guerillas against his forces in Maury County, Tennessee, probably caused this harsh attitude.

In the middle of August, 1862, a sudden change came over military affairs in Tennessee. General Bragg had initiated his remarkable campaign from Tupelo, Mississippi, via Chattanooga against Tennessee and Kentucky. More than seven months of comparative inactivity on this front had doubtless led to some laxity among the union forces. In the confusion in August, General Buell directed a complaint to General Negley for lack of adequate guards at important bridges and the absence of officers from his command. When, however, General Bragg advanced into central Tennessee, orders from General Buell bade General Negley to fall back rapidly upon Nashville. A concentration of all the forces under the command of General Buell was made, with Nashville as the point of concentration.

But Bragg slipped away through Tennessee toward Kentucky and it was necessary for General Buell to move rapidly to Louisville, Kentucky to prevent the capture of that strategic point. On his departure he left General Negley in command at Nashville. General Buell's order to General George B. Thomas on September 13, 1862, instructed him to "leave the siege artillery and most of the cavalry with Negley." These orders also said, "Post Negley at the defensible works and positions and at the capital and bridge and direct him to have twenty days rations at each for its garrison. He must defend his position to the last extremity." And having assumed command on September 14, 1862, General Negley did defend his position to the

53. Ibid., XVI, Part II, 40, Greene to Fry, June 20, 1862.
54. Ibid., 300, Negley to Fry, August 9, 1862.
55. Ibid., Part I, 842-843, 859, reports of General Negley, August 11, 1862 and August 14, 1862.
56. Ibid., Part II, 340-41, Fry to Negley, August 15, 1862.
57. Ibid., 355, Buell to Negley, August 18, 1862; 378, Buell to Negley, August 20, 1862; 397, Fry to Negley, August 23, 1862. See similar orders, ibid., 398, 430, 437.
58. Ibid., 511, Fry to Thomas.
59. Ibid., 989.
last extremity. The vigor of his procedure was such as to arouse the antagonism of Andrew Johnson, the war governor of Tennessee, and cause him to request General Negley's removal from command. But the important post was held against strong Confederate attempts to capture it in the absence of General Buell's main army. Early in October, General Negley in a dashing raid against La Vergne, 15 miles east of Nashville, broke up a concentration there of Confederate forces gathering under Generals S. R. Anderson and Bedford Forrest and Governor Harris for assault on Nashville. In the middle of the month he was able to make a favorable report to General Buell. Nevertheless General Negley's situation in an exposed and threatened position seems to have caused alarm.

But General Negley seems to have been fully equal to the responsibilities placed upon him. When early in November attacks were made upon the fortifications of Nashville, they were sharply repulsed. In the language of an observer, General Negley "did everything that occurred to him as a vigilant officer to do . . . . The city was thereby held until the arrival of this army." It seems safe to say that this particular service of holding Nashville in the autumn of 1862, was one of the most important of General Negley's military career.

During December the Union army at Nashville, now under General Rosecrans, who had succeeded General Buell, found itself almost face to face with the Confederate army of Bragg, who had returned via Chattanooga and approached as near Nashville as Murfreesborough on the Stone River. On the severe Union defeat at Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 12, 1862, strong pressure was brought to bear upon General Rosecrans to restore the lost prestige by a vigorous campaign against the Confederate army of General Bragg. This Rosecrans proceeded to do during the Christmas week of 1862. One of the bloodiest encounters of the entire war was the result. In this encounter Gen-

60. Ibid., 583, J. F. Boyle to Abraham Lincoln, October 7, 1862.
61. Ibid., Part I, 1020-21, Negley's report, October 9, 1862.
62. Ibid., Part II, 619, Negley to Fry, October 15, 1862.
63. Ibid., 611, Buell to Halleck, October 13, 1862; ibid., 636-7, Buell to Halleck, October 22, 1862.
64. Ibid., XX, Part I, 3-4, Negley's reports.
65. Ibid., XVI, Part I, 253, Testimony of Major Sedell, December 25, 1862.
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eral Negley commanded the troops in the center of the Union line. By heroic service on December 30, 1862, he prevented the line from being shattered and broken. 65 On the following day he was compelled to give away in orderly retreat. 66 On New Year's Day there was quiet along the battle front, but on January 2, 1863, the Confederates having decided to fall back to Shelbyville, General Negley took part in a general advance. 67 The campaign ended with the retirement of General Bragg's army and the occupation of the immediate region by Union troops.

In a letter to President Lincoln, February 24, 1863, General Rosecrans recommended that seven of his brigadier-generals, among them General Negley, be raised to the rank of major-general. 68 Probably in response to this recommendation, there appears in the abstract from returns of the Department of the Cumberland . . . for the month of March, 1863, the item, "Second Division, Maj.-Gen. James S. Negley." 69

It seems that for more than five months, General Negley's Second Division of the Fourteenth Army Corps remained in the neighborhood of Murfreesborough. 70 But Rosecrans was planning an advance against Bragg whose forces had been depleted by troops sent to take part in the Vicksburg campaign. On June 8, 1863, Rosecrans consulted his subordinates about the wisdom of an aggressive move against Bragg's army. 71 General Negley advised against such an advance, unless all the forces could be thrown forward and cooperation secured from General Burnside in command of Union troops in eastern Tennessee. 72

In the military operations of July, August, and September, by which General Rosecrans outflanked General Bragg's positions and forced him back from Tullahoma through Chattanooga into Georgia, General Negley and his division played an important role. In the second week of September, while advancing in mountainous territory, his division

67. Ibid.
68. Ibid., 408.
69. Ibid., XXIII, Part II, 83.
70. Ibid., 196.
71. Ibid., Part I, 442-44, report of July 8, 1863.
72. Ibid., Part II, 394-95.
73. Ibid., 407, June 9, 1863.
was attacked by an overwhelming force and he was compelled to fall back temporarily. " The enterprise was becoming more difficult and dangerous and General Rosecrans began a hurried concentration of his badly scattered forces.

In the famous battle of Chickamauga, September 20, 1863, General Negley again found himself near the center of the line of battle. His division was stationed on the extreme left of the right wing of General Rosecrans' army. The battle began on the Union left wing. Some of General Negley's brigades were proceeding to the aid of the badly pressed Union left wing, when the Confederates found a hole in the line on the Union right wing, poured through, broke up the organization of the opposition and swept the larger part of Rosecrans' right wing back toward Missionary Ridge. General Negley with considerable artillery and a few disordered infantry regiments was caught in the milling crowd and pushed back to Rossville Gap. But so also were Generals Rosecrans, McCook, Crittendon, and Sheridan.

Criticism accompanies failure and disaster. Some fellow officers sharply criticized General Negley, * and General Rosecrans evidently listened to the accusations. He was in none too good a position himself and he probably was searching for scapegoats among his subordinates; C. A. Dana, on September 27, 1863, notified Stanton that Rosecrans would proceed against Negley. " On October 4, 1863, Dana reported to Stanton that both he and Rosecrans thought Negley should be shot, and that he would be relieved of his troops, " a report the tenor of which was repeated on October 17, 1863. " And General Negley was relieved of his command, issuing his farewell address to his division on October 10, 1863. " In reporting the matter to the War Department, General Rosecrans said that General

75. *Ibid.*, Part I, 1016, 1043, Court of Inquiry proceedings and finding. Negley's critics were Generals John M. Brennan and Thomas J. Wood.
Negley left the battlefield "without orders."  He added, "The general has always been an active and efficient commander . . . . but an impression that he left the field on Sunday without orders or necessity having made its way through this army" he had been given a leave of absence of thirty days.  General Negley, quite properly in my opinion, made a complaint to Secretary Stanton of the War Department.  And on the expiration of his leave of absence, he appears to have reported for duty in his old command, for C. A. Dana, on November 18, 1863, sent a message to Secretary Stanton, saying, "General Negley having reported to Thomas for duty from Nashville, Thomas replied that he could not give him a command until a court had cleared him from charges of cowardice and desertion at Chickamauga."  In another dispatch four days later, Dana reported to Stanton, "Negley replied to Thomas' suggestion that he should demand court of inquiry on imputations of cowardice and desertion, that he had fully satisfied you these charges were erroneous, and you had thereupon ordered him back to this department," and according to this despatch, "Thomas then ordered him to remain in Nashville till further orders." But General Grant one month later was even less considerate and courteous than General Thomas had been.  In Special Orders No. 26, from Nashville, Tennessee, December 22, 1863, a part of the orders reads as follows, "Maj. Gen. James S. Negley, U. S. Volunteers, is hereby directed to proceed to Cincinnati, or to any point outside this military division, and report by letter to the Adjutant-General of the Army for orders."  Against these orders, as casting reflections upon him, General Negley made strong complaint to General George H. Thomas, in a letter of January 11, 1864.

In the Court of Inquiry before which General Negley was tried, late in January, 1864, his actions at Chickamauga were fully explained and he was completely exonerated of

80. Rebellion Records, XXX, Part I, 333, Rosecrans to L. Thomas, October 14, 1863.
81. Ibid.
82. Ibid., 362, Negley to Stanton, October 29, 1863.
83. Ibid., XXXI, Part II, 60.
84. Ibid., 63-64.
85. Ibid.
86. Ibid., LII, Part I, 506.
87. Ibid., XXX, Part I, 362.
all charges, while one of his accusing critics, Brigadier-General Wood, was sharply censured for his own shortcomings on the battlefield of Chickamauga. 

But exoneration was not followed by restoration to command in the field. In vain General Negley held himself in readiness. From Louisville, Kentucky, on March 30, 1864, he wrote General Sherman as follows: "General: Encouraged by your former kindness to me, and the fact that you are familiar with my services and efficiency as a commander, I am induced to solicit a command in your department. I am confident that if you make the request it will be granted. You are doubtless aware of the injustice I have suffered and that I fully vindicated my reputation before the court of inquiry. Your friendly consideration of this request will place me under personal obligations." Since there is no record of a reply to this letter and General Negley was never restored to command, it is apparent that the injustice done him was never remedied.

It is possible and even probable that General Negley's treatment was a result of that well-known rivalry of West Pointers and civilian commanders which has characterized all the warfare of the United States since the establishment of that famous academy. For example, General Sheridan, a West Pointer, suffered no such treatment as General Negley although his behavior at Chickamauga was somewhat identical. Certainly in later life General Negley was bitter against West Point influence in the army and on politics.

88. *Ibid.*, 1004-1044, record of the Negley Court of Inquiry, January 29, 1864. The verdict is found on the last two pages.
90. I have been informed by Dr. William J. Holland of Pittsburgh who knew him well, that General Negley ever afterward cherished the sense of grievance at the injustice which he felt had been done him.
91. This assertion is based not only on the records of this case but on familiarity with many other cases.
93. In Congress, March 10, 1870, Congressman Negley made a bitter sarcastic speech on West Pointers, *Congressional Globe*, 41st Cong., 2nd Sess., p. 1850 f. The prompt rejoinder of Congressman Slocum, *ibid.*, must have indicated the futility of this procedure.
On his retirement to Pittsburgh and private life, General Negley resided for a year in Collins township. In 1865, his residence was on Center Avenue, near Shady Side, East Liberty. In Shadyside he continued to reside during the remainder of his residence in Pittsburgh. From 1869 to 1886 he appears to have resided on Ellsworth Avenue, but in the latter year he changed his residence to Fifth Avenue, near Highland Avenue.

General Negley's untoward fate in the army does not appear to have injured his standing with his fellow citizens in Western Pennsylvania. In 1868 he was nominated and elected to Congress on the Republican ticket. On taking his seat in the Forty-first Congress, he was, in its first session, placed on the Committee on Enrolled Bills. Very early in the session he introduced a bill to reduce the number of officers in the Army of the United States, a matter which indicates both his attitude toward the army and his support of efficiency and economy. In such a matter he was carrying over into his legislative career the influence of his experience in military life.

In politics, Congressman Negley was a stout upholder of the policies of the post-bellum Republican Party and an earnest advocate of the interests of his constituency. In the second session of the Forty-first Congress, he presented a large number of petitions from his constituents. The most significant of these were those in favor of the maintenance of a protective tariff on iron products and those against imported cigars. The suspicion is inescapable that not all such petitions were wholly voluntary, that some of them were instigated. Mr. Negley's own support of the protective tariff policy is demonstrated by a long speech in its defense, March 17, 1870, and by a shorter speech of

94. Directory . . . 1864-65, p. 239.
95. Consult the Pittsburgh directories. Miss Georgina Negley says the Ellsworth Avenue site is now occupied by the Georgian Court Apartments.
96. Directory . . . 1869-'70, p. 332; Directory . . . for 1886, p. 704. Miss Georgina Negley is certain General Negley never lived on Fifth Avenue, near Highland.
98. Ibid., p. 505, April 5, 1869.
99. Ibid., 2nd Sess., p. 1,166; 1,232; 1,387 f.; 1,623; 1,855; 2,083; 2,339; 2,416; 3,582.
100. Ibid., p. 2,043.
the same type about one month later. But in this same session he manifested an interest in commerce and transportation, subjects in which he was to retain interest during the remainder of his life. He also worked for a soldier's monument in Allegheny Park, and, as occasion offered, was active in the interests of disabled soldiers.

In the first session of the Forty-second Congress, the main activity of Congressman Negley was the presentation of a bill to make Pittsburgh a federal port of entry. Passage of the bill was refused and the bill was referred to the Committee on Commerce. Congressman Samuel J. Randall, the famous Pennsylvania Democrat, was largely responsible for this setback, but the bill was the forerunner of important activities along this line by Congressman Negley in later sessions.

A total of thirty-two bills were introduced by Mr. Negley in the second session of this Congress. On one day, January 15, 1872, among other bills, he submitted a bill for the purchase of a suitable site and the erection of a satisfactory federal building in Pittsburgh; a bill for the establishment in Pittsburgh of an adequate marine hospital; a bill for the improvement of the Ohio river; and a bill for the improvement of the Monongahela river. In this session, he also presented numerous petitions from members of his constituency, of which petitions eighteen or more were in support of the protective tariff, several in favor of relief from restrictions on steam pressure in the boilers of towboats, and two or more in behalf of bounty legislation for federal soldiers.

On February 29, 1872, he made a short but strong speech defending Colonel T. A. Scott, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad (and the friend of Andrew Carnegie) against criticism made upon him by a congressional speaker. At this time, Mr. Negley was seemingly on the Com-

101. Ibid., p. 2,772.
102. See long speech in the Appendix of this session, p. 334-340.
104. E.g. ibid., p. 1163-64.
105. Ibid., 42nd Cong., 1st Sess., p. 188, March 20, 1871.
106. Ibid.
107. Consult, ibid., Index, p. CCXLV.
108. Ibid., 2nd Sess., p. 393.
109. Ibid., p. 836; 976; 1962.
110. Ibid., p. 1,310.
committee on Commerce. Early in March he reported from this committee a bill moderating restrictions on steam pressure in the boilers of tow-boats not carrying passengers. With much difficulty he succeeded in having the bill called up for consideration on March 25, 1872, and after serious debate and many amendments, kept on the schedule. A week later he secured the passage by the House of Representatives of a bill, reported from the Committee on Commerce, providing for improvements in the Ohio river in aid of navigation. In the midst of this activity in regard to transportation he found opportunity to make a brief protective tariff speech on May 16, 1872. While, in this session, he failed to secure the passage of the tow-boat steam-pressure bill, he did secure the passage of a bill appropriating $300,000 for the purchase of a site for a new federal building at Pittsburgh.

In the third session of the Forty-second Congress, Mr. Negley introduced seven bills, among them illustrating his interest in transportation, a bill, on December 9, 1872, to complete a waterway from tidewater on the James River to the Ohio River at the mouth of the Kanawha, and, on December 16, 1872, a railroad bill. On the latter date he also presented a memorial on the improvement of the Ohio river. In addition he secured consent to print a long speech on internal navigation in which he set forth vigorously the advantages of water way competition with railroads.

In the Forty-third Congress, Mr. Negley was again put on the Committee on Commerce and also placed upon the Committee on Mines and Mining. In the first session he introduced thirty-one bills, among them a bill for a marine hospital at Pittsburgh, a bill for improving the Monongahela River, and a bill for improving the Ohio River. Among the twenty-one petitions from his consti-

111. Ibid., p. 1,400.
112. Ibid., p. 1,961.
114. Ibid., p. 2,205, April 5, 1872.
115. Ibid., p. 3,513.
116. Ibid., 4,462.
117. Ibid., 3rd Sess., p. 221.
118. Ibid., p. 1,336. The speech is in the Appendix, p. 52 f.
119. Ibid., 43rd Cong., 1st Sess., p. 75.
120. All found, Ibid., p. 62.
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... presented by him, were a petition from druggists in favor of the repeal of stamp taxes on medicines, a petition of 900 church members for an investigation of the liquor trade, and six protective tariff petitions. Mr. Negley in this session of Congress was one of those who upheld the act of the previous session which increased the pay of members of Congress, an act commonly known as the "salary grab." A matter of bitter recrimination in Congress and in the newspapers of the time, this act has usually, though not always, been condemned by historians.

However, apart from some attention to land grants and mining rights in the West, resulting from one of his committee appointments, Congressman Negley's main interest remained that in commerce and transportation. On December 8, 1873, he secured the passage of a bill permitting 150 pounds instead of a maximum of 110 pounds steam-pressure on tow-boats. On March 30, 1874, he made a short speech in behalf of a canal on the Ohio River at the falls near Louisville, Kentucky. In May, 1874, he made a long speech in relation to security of life on steam vessels in which remarks he displayed not only great knowledge of the problems of shipping on inland rivers, but considerable familiarity with legal precedents bearing on the matter. A bill dealing with such shipping was finally carried through the House of Representatives, on May 13, 1874. Mr. Negley was also instrumental in this session in securing the passage of a bill giving the Allegheny Valley Railroad right of way through the grounds of the United States Arsenal at Pittsburgh.

In the second session of the Forty-third Congress, Mr. Negley introduced eleven bills, among them three for im-

121. Ibid., p. 1,016, January 31, 1874.
122. Ibid., p. 1,255, February 5, 1874.
124. Ibid., p. 60; 109; 113-14.
126. Ibid., p. 91.
127. Ibid., p. 2,627.
128. Ibid., p. 3,851. As bearing on his legal knowledge, his daughter writes in 1930, "The City of New York employed him as an expert witness to fight railroad encroachments. He used to get large fees for his legal testimony, being considered an authority on such matters."
129. Ibid., p. 3,862.
130. Ibid., p. 5,403, June 22, 1874.
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provements of the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers; 131 two in regard to a railroad in Utah; 132 one for the construction of a bridge at St. Louis, Missouri; 133 and another for the construction of a bridge at Monroe, Louisiana. 134 Among other petitions he presented two from Pittsburgh in regard to improvements on the rivers, 135 and one for the repeal of the 10% reduction in tariff duties, which had been made in 1872. 136 Against his protests the bill for a bridge at St. Louis was severely amended; 137 and nothing came of his work for his other bills. In keeping with his strong Republican party principles, when the famous Force Bill in regard to federal supervision of elections came up at this session, Mr. Negley spoke in its advocacy. 138 But for a decade he was to be absent from the halls of Congress, and his first period of Congressional service came to an end with the expiration of the session in March 1875.

The retired general and ex-Congressman was for the next ten years a prominent citizen of Pittsburgh, mainly engaged in business but not without interest in other local matters. It was during this period that, in 1877, he served in command of local armed forces organized in Pittsburgh for the control of the mobs in the famous railroad riots. 139 According to one of the many accessible biographical sketches of General Negley, "In the early seventies, General

131. Congressional Record, 43rd Cong., 2nd Sess., p. 70, December 14, 1875.
132. Ibid., p. 358, January 8, 1875.
133. Ibid., p. 701, January 25, 1875.
134. Ibid., p. 1,033, February 6, 1875.
135. Ibid., p. 567, January 18, 1875; p. 905, February 2, 1875.
136. Ibid., p. 905.
137. Ibid., p. 702.
138. Ibid., p. 1,742, February 24, 1874.
139. The rioting in Pittsburgh began on Saturday, July 21, 1877, and was in full flame on Sunday. On Monday a meeting of citizens at the Chamber of Commerce called upon General Negley for his cooperation, Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette, July 21, 1877. A motion by Mr. Littell in the City Councils put him in control of the armories in the city, The Daily Post, July 24, 1877. According to these papers, he was active the remainder of the week. His Veteran Reserve Corps, numbering about six hundred was disbanded at the end of the week. James A. Henderson, "The Railroad Riots in Pittsburgh," W. Pa. Hist. Mag. XI (1928), 196.
140. These sketches are by no means independent of each other. A comparison of them is an interesting study in the demerits of some historiography.
Negley turned his attention to business affairs. He conceived and planned the Pittsburgh and Western railroad, was interested in the construction of the Nickel Plate railroad and a smaller railroad in Ohio. Negley, O., through which one of his railroads runs, was named after him. In 1878, General Negley is listed in the Pittsburgh Directory as “vice pres’t. Pitts. New Castle & Lake Erie R. R. Seventh Av. and Smithfield.” In 1882, he is listed as “Pres’ t. N. Y. P. & C. Ry. Co., Seventh Av. and Smithfield.” In addition, during the period from 1878 until 1885, General Negley held the position of gas inspector in Pittsburgh. Assisting him in his railway enterprises during these years, was his son, James S. Negley Jr., who served as secretary for one of the railroads in which his father was interested.

In 1884, General Negley was again elected to Congress. Almost his first activity in the first session of the Forty-ninth Congress was the introduction of bills for the improvement of the Allegheny, Ohio and Monongahela Rivers. In April, he made a stout effort to secure by amendment an increase from $40,000 to $140,000 in the appropriation for improvement of the Allegheny River, but without success.

In this Congress, in keeping with his military record, Congressman Negley was put on the Com-

141. In obituary statement, Pittsburgh Post, August 8, 1901. The Pittsburgh and Western became a part of the B. & O. R. R. It was earlier called the Pittsburgh, New Castle & Lake Erie R. R. The family tradition is that General Negley lost much money in railroad building.


143. Directory . . . 1882-83, p. 568. Poor’s Manual of Railroads of the United States for 1882, p. 354, mentions a new railroad, the New York, Pittsburgh and Chicago Railway of which Jas. S. Negley was a director and “President” and J. S. Negley, Jr., Treasurer. General Negley held the same positions in 1885, but the road was absorbed by the Pittsburgh, Marion and Chicago in 1886, and General Negley no longer appears on its official list.

144. Consult the directories.

145. Consult the directories.

146. Congressional Record, 49th Cong., 1st Sess., p. 475, January 6, 1886.

147. Ibid., p. 2,742, April 22, 1886.
mittee on Military Affairs. As in former sessions of Congress, Mr. Negley stands forth from the records, a champion of stalwart Republicanism and of the interests of his constituency. He presented a petition against the passage of the Morrison tariff bill and no less than nine petitions of window glass workers against the revision of the existing tariff. His vote was regularly cast against any motion intended to facilitate revision of the existing tariff. In keeping with the Republican principle of the sacredness of private property, General Negley made a vigorous but vain effort to secure federal compensation to James Mellinger of Pittsburgh for property which was destroyed in Nashville, Tennessee during the Civil War. He also vigorously opposed a bill which would have taken over the works of the Monongahela Navigation Company at $20,000, or less, and voted against a bill to forfeit land grants to the Northern Pacific Railroad. For some reason which is not clear, General Negley made a long speech against the Congressional bill for the relief of General Fitz John Porter from the charges made against him in 1862, and voted with the minority against the bill at the time of its passage.

But the two most notable aspects of the activity of Congressman Negley in this session are the accentuation of his interest in old soldiers and an interest in progressive social legislation. He introduced a bill to compensate the national Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Phoebus, Virginia, for losses due to a bank failure in Norfolk, Virginia, and finally secured the passage of the bill by the House of Representatives. And he introduced a bill constituting ten hours a day's work for all conductors and drivers employed on the street railways in the District of Columbia.
In the second session, Congressman Negley presented at least four petitions asking for the reduction or repeal of internal taxes. He voted against measures bearing on tariff reduction. His old interests are seen in his bill permitting the construction of the Hotel Chamberlain at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, and his bill granting a right of way and other privileges to the Hampton and Old Point Railroad Company. His interest in old soldiers was maintained. But in line with his interest in reform, he presented a petition "for national aid to common schools, from citizens of Pittsburgh, Pa." and voted in favor of the bill for the establishment of a Department of Agriculture in the federal government.

But General Negley's days in Congress were already numbered and coming to an end. In the nomination convention of 1886 he had been defeated by John Dalzell, who was elected from the Twenty-second District in November and continuously re-elected for the next quarter of a century.

On his retirement from Congress, General Negley appears to have quickly given up residence in Pittsburgh. In connection with his railroad interests, he seems to have organized the Railroad Supply Company and moved his headquarters to New York City. His home was made in Plainfield, New Jersey, from which he went daily to his offices in Liberty Street, New York. And in Plainfield, New

161. Ibid., p. 269, December 18, 1886.
162. Ibid., p. 1,264.
163. Ibid., p. 1822, February 16, 1887.
164. Ibid., p. 611.
165. Ibid., p. 792, January 19, 1887.
166. Ibid., p. 542, January 11, 1887.
167. I am informed by Mr. Robert Garland, who was present on the occasion that in his opinion this was the work of Christopher Magee. This information has been confirmed by others.
169. Congressional Record, passim. Also the testimony of Dr. William J. Holland of Pittsburgh.
170. His name ceases to appear in the city Directory after the end of the Directory year closing with June 1, 1887.
171. Pittsburgh Post, August 8, 1901.
172. Ibid.
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Jersey, he died on August 7, 1901. The date is important, for on his splendid tombstone in the Allegheny Cemetery, it is erroneously inscribed that he "Died August 12, 1901." Even tombstones do not seem to be absolutely reliable historical evidence.

His body was brought back to Pittsburgh. The funeral services were conducted by Dr. William J. Holland, formerly the pastor of the Bellefield Presbyterian Church, and burial took place in the Negley family burial plot in the Allegheny Cemetery.

In an obituary it is stated that "General Negley was a man of large physique, being six feet high and well built." It is also said that "He was an indefatigable worker and carried to success everything he undertook." It is the testimony of those who knew him well, that General Negley was urbane, polite and gentlemanly, but affable and friendly; moderately well-to-do, but not rich; independent in spirit but loyal to his friends and constituents; and withdrawal a striking man in personal appearance. As an indication of his esteem among his contemporaries, it may be noted that "For fifteen years he was one of the managers of the National Home for Volunteers; he was president of the National Union League of America, and was active in Grand Army and other military organizations."

General Negley was twice married. In 1848, he married Kate Losey by whom he had three sons, Clifford, James S., and George. If the date on the tombstone be accurate, his first wife died November 30, 1867. None of his three sons by his first wife survived General Negley. In mid-

174. Statement of Dr. Holland.
175. *Pittsburgh Post*, August 8, 1901. Mr. James R. Mellon of Pittsburgh describes the relief on his tombstone as one of the finest sculptured likenesses he has ever seen.
177. Dr. William J. Holland, Mr. James R. Mellon, and Miss Georgina Negley, all of Pittsburgh.
178. *Year Book of the Pennsylvania Society of New York*, Published by the Society, 1902, p. 75.
dle life he married Grace Ashton, who was twenty-three years his junior, by whom he had three daughters, Grace, Edith, and Mabel. Of these daughters, Grace married Enoch S. Farson and had two sons, James Negley Farson and Enoch S. Farson. According to the inscription on the tombstone, his second wife survived him by a quarter of a century, dying July 1, 1927. His descendants still living no longer reside in Pittsburgh. But many collateral relatives continue to live in the old family neighborhood, some of whom yet remember one of their most distinguished members. And wherever his relatives may be, they have in General Negley's record little for which to apologize, nothing which is inexplicable, and much of which to be proud.

180. Ibid.