

A CENTURY AND A HALF
OF
PITTSBURG AND
HER PEOPLE

GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS OF THE LEADING FAMILIES
OF PITTSBURG AND VICINITY, COMPILED
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(V) Major-General James Scott Negley, son of Jacob Negley, Jr., was for many years a conspicuous personage in the history of Pittsburg. He had an enviable record for heroism in both the war with Mexico and the Civil war and was promoted to the rank of Major-General after the battle of Stone river. He was born December 22, 1826, at East Liberty, Pennsylvania, and was edu-

cated at the public schools and at the Western University of Pennsylvania, but before his graduation he enlisted in the Duquesne Grays, which organization became a part of the First Pennsylvania Regiment. He participated in the siege of Vera Cruz and battles of Cerro Gordo, La Perote and Las Vegas, and was at the siege of Puebla. After this war ended he returned to Pittsburg and for a time engaged in manufacturing pursuits, but soon began farming and horticulture. He became one of the most skilled horticulturists in the whole country. While thus engaged and prior to the Civil war, he took a deep interest in the military matters of his state, and was chosen brigadier-general of the Eighteenth Division of the state militia. Foreseeing the civil conflict coming on, he as early as December, 1860, made formal offer of an organized brigade to the governor of Pennsylvania, but it was not until the President's first call for troops, April 17, 1861, that authority was given him, after having been summoned to Harrisburg by the governor, to recruit and organize volunteers. He was mustered in as brigadier-general of volunteers and placed in command of the state encampment at Lancaster. General Patterson chose him to lead one of his brigades in the Shenandoah campaign during the early part of the rebellion. He was prominent at the engagement at Falling Waters, Virginia, and after his three months' term had expired he was placed in command of the volunteer camp at Harrisburg and later, with his brigade, joined General Sherman's command in Kentucky. Under General Rosecrans, General Negley became quite prominent again in the operations of the Tennessee campaign. He led the forces against Morgan's command at Shelbyville; was at the battle of Lavergne, October 7, 1862, and defeated the Confederates under Anderson and Forrest. At the battle of Stone river, in front of Murfreesboro, he commanded the Eighth Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, and throughout that never-to-be-forgotten campaign performed heroic services of which the government was not unmindful. He drove Breckenridge from the intrenchments and insured final success to the Union army. For this valor and gallantry in this signal victory, he was promoted to the rank of major-general of volunteers. He led the advance at Lookout Mountain and drove the enemy from its position and skilfully saved General Thomas' corps from an overwhelming defeat at Davis' Cross Roads. At Chickamauga, Rossville and Chattanooga his services make for him, indeed, a proud record. In one of the descriptions of the engagement at Chattanooga the writer speaks of General Negley in these words: "Negley was in the thick darkness with his noble Eighth Division, beating back the relentless tide. Johnson appeared, too, with the remnant of his command. Rousseau was sent into the fiery cauldron to extricate his struggling division comrade. The lines had been broken at every point on the right; the center, under General Negley, struggling fiercely, must be swallowed up; the left and all would be gone unless the destroying tide could be stayed, no one could do it save he, though all were manfully fighting. Negley, unprotected on his right, was fighting an overwhelming enemy on three sides of him, and was holding them stubbornly. Like Sheridan's division, it waded through fire without breaking and the men marched proudly among their companions in arms to take new positions."

Soon after this engagement General Negley resigned, took leave of his command and returned to Pennsylvania. In 1868 he took an active part in politics and was in the campaign of "Grant, Colfax and Peace," and elected to a seat in the Forty-first congress from the Twenty-second congressional district

of Pennsylvania, by almost five thousand majority. He was reëlected to the Forty-second and Forty-third congresses, and again in 1874 was elected to congress as well as to the Forty-ninth congress, after which he retired, and in New York city embarked in railroad enterprises. While in congress he conceived the idea of making Pittsburg a deep water harbor and obtained the first appropriation for this purpose. He also aided Ohio river and other river and harbor enterprises. He was largely interested in Mexican railway building. At one time he was president of the Union National League of America; member of the Grand Army of the Republic; Scott Legion; Masonic fraternity; National Board of Steam Navigation; Shipping League, etc., holding official places in all. Pittsburg will long remember his work in securing the appropriation for the Davis Island Dam.

General Negley was twice married, first to Kate Losey, in 1848. She died November 29, 1867. The children born of this union were: Clifford DeN., born September 8, 1851, deceased. James S., died February 15, 1889. George, died November 29, 1867. Later Mr. Negley married Grace Ashton, by whom was born the following children: Grace, who married Enoch Farson and had two children. They reside at West Chester, Pennsylvania. Edith, residing in New York city. Mabel, residing in New York city.

General Negley passed from the scenes of earth August 7, 1901, and was laid to rest in the Negley family lot in Allegheny cemetery with military honors.