

[Schoeffel, John B.]

COL. J. B. SCHOEFFEL OF FREDONIA DIES IN WASHINGTON

Retired Army Officer to Be Buried In Arlington National Cemetery

Washington, D. C., Feb 27.—Col. John B Schoeffel, retired army officer of Fredonia, N.Y., died at the Walter Reed hospital here at 11:05 p.m. yesterday.

Funeral services will be held at Fort Myer chapel at 10 a.m. Friday with burial following in Arlington National cemetery with full military honors. The body is now at the Tabler funeral home, 4217 Ninth street, N.W.

Col. John B. Schoeffel was one of comparatively few regular army officers who reached a colonelcy from the ranks. He began his army career when he enlisted as a private, passing through various non-commissioned grades during his 40 years of army service until his retirement with the rank of colonel. He saw service in the Spanish-American war, the Philippine insurrection, the Boxer trouble in China and in the World war in training work in this country.

Son of A Soldier

The colonel was the son of Col. Francis Anthony Schoeffel, a federal officer during the Civil war, and Sarah Cawthra Schoeffel, and was born in Rochester March 14, 1874. He was educated in the public schools and the Free academy high school of his home city and later attended the West Texas Military academy and the University of Rochester. During his army service he graduated from the General Staff college at Fort Leavenworth in 1903 and from the infantry school at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1923.

He first enlisted in the army at Fort Bliss, Tex., June 26, 1894 and was assigned to Co. C, 18th infantry. He was discharged at Fort Sam Houston Sept. 25, 1897; re-enlisted Dec. 16, 1897 at Madison Barracks, N.Y; Co. B, 9th infantry; was promoted to lance corporal in January 1898 and corporal the following April. He served in Florida and Chicamauga Park and at Fort Leavenworth where on June 22, he was made a second lieutenant following his examinations. The commission was approved July 7 and he was ordered to Tampa, Fla. On July 18 he was married at Fredonia to Jessie Morian.

Various promotions from that time until his final rank of Colonel were as follows: First lieutenant, March 2, 1899; captain, May 25, 1903; major, May 15, 1917; lieutenant colonel (temporary), August 5, 1917; colonel national army, June 3, 1918 and colonel regular army, July 1, 1920.

Sent to the Philippines

In March, 1899 he was attached to the 9th infantry and sent to the Philippines just after his promotion to first lieutenant. Arriving at Manila April 26, 1899, he was soon in active service in the battles and skirmishes in June and near San Fernando in July and August, and in various actions through the fall. He was wounded slightly in the fighting in June.

In the summer of 1900 the subject of this sketch was sent to China with American forces during the Boxer rebellion, and saw exciting service in the fighting near Peking [now Beijing], the Imperial city, the Forbidden City gate and expedition to Paia Chow temples during the summer of 1900. He was hit and knocked from his horse in action August 15 but was not seriously injured.

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In May, 1901 Schoeffel was ordered back to the Philippines where he served until the following May, when he was returned to the United States.

After attending the staff college he was assigned to Alaska during the next five years. In 1911 he saw service on the Mexican border. After a tour of recruiting service he was attached to the 19th infantry and later the 11th. In 1916 he was ordered again to China assigned to the 27th infantry, returning to the states as the United States was entering the World war.

World War Service

During that period he was in command of the 8th ammunition train in California and then after his promotion to colonel, he commanded the replacement and training camp at Camp Pike, Ark., until November 1918 when he became executive officer of the camp. During most of 1920, he was on the staff of General Blatchford as educational officer at the Presidio, San Francisco.

Col. Schoeffel commanded the 24th infantry at Fort Benning, Ga., for about two years. Among his later assignments were instructor 44th division, National guard, Trenton, N.J., 1923 and chief of staff, 44th division, April 22, 1924; executive officer, 418th infantry, Bridgeport, Conn., March 1925; chief of staff, 76th division, Hartford, Conn., October 1930, and commandant, general depot at Schenectady, May, 1934, until his retirement on Oct. 1, 1934, due to physical disability.

He was a member of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Dragon, the Military Order of the Philippines, Fredonia Rotary club, Shorewood Country club, United Spanish War Veterans, New York Society of Military and Naval Officers of the World war, Chautauqua Historical society and also the First Universalist church of Rochester, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Returns to Fredonia

Not long after his retirement from active service, Colonel and Mrs. Schoeffel returned to Fredonia and remodeled the old Morian home on the VanBuren road at VanBuren station, which they occupied in the fall of 1935. The house had been in the Morian family for several generations.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Jessie Morian Schoeffel of Fredonia; two daughters, Mrs. Donald McGowan of Trenton, N.J., wife of Lieut.-Col. McGowan, and Mrs. Charles Mudgett of Siver Springs, Md. Mrs. Mudgett's husband is a captain in the U.S. Medical service at Walter Reed hospital. There are also six grandchildren; two brothers, George and Frank Schoeffel, and two sisters, Mrs. Fred Frost and Mrs. Jane Cowley, all of Rochester.

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Transcribed on 19 Jul 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY