

APPENDIX H

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF BRIGADIER GENERAL IRVING HALE

Irving Hale was born at North Bloomfield, New York, August 28, 1861. In 1865 his parents took him to Colorado. They crossed the plains in a prairie schooner, being forty days enroute from St. Joseph, Mo. to Denver. From 1865 to 1873 he lived in Central City, Colorado, receiving his early schooling under his father Dr. Horace M. Hale, whose life was devoted to educational work, and who was Superintendent of Public Instruction for Colorado from 1873 to 1877 and President of the State University from 1887 to 1891.

In 1873 the family moved to Denver where they lived for five years. While attending High School he was employed as a newspaper carrier by both morning and evening papers. As the papers had to be folded by hand and as he had a "pony route" this work required all of his spare time and he was obliged to prepare all of his lessons during school hours. In 1877 Irving graduated from East Denver High School at the head of the first class which left that institution.

The summer of 1878 he, with a school mate, A. Phimister Proctor the sculptor, tramped over the Middle Park region covering nearly 1,000 miles and encountering numerous hardships and dangerous experiences. The following year he conceived the idea that it would be profitable experience to run an express line through the almost impassable country between Central City and Grand Lake.

On these trips he took his books and studied as he drove along the road in preparation for the competitive examination for appointment to West Point. On the last trip out of the park, on his way to take the examination the heavy timber on the Berthoud Pass Road was found to be on fire for miles and he was obliged to take the abandoned and almost impassable Boulder Pass Road which was in such condition that at several places it was necessary to remove everything from the wagon and carry the load up the hill by hand. He succeeded however in reaching the appointed place in time for the examination, passed the highest and received the appointment to West Point.

Entering the academy in June 1880, he was graduated at the head of his class in 1884 with a total of 2070.4 points out of a possible 2075. This is the highest record that has been made in the entire history of the United States Military Academy.

He was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, and for three years took a post graduate course in torpedoes, and in civil and military engineering at the School of Application, Willets Point, also serving during this time as Quartermaster and Instructor in Electrical Engineering. He represented the Battalion of Engineers at the army rifle competition at Fort Niagara 1888, winning the first division gold medal for the best four days competition and the first division skirmish medal. The latter part of that year he was transferred to West Point as an Instructor in Engineering.

At the age of twenty-seven he obtained a six months leave of absence and returned to Denver to supervise and outline the installation of the first successful electric street railroad in this city, the railroad making its first run on Christmas day 1889.

His resignation from the Army followed this accomplishment and he became associated with the Edison, afterward the General Electric Company. He devoted his spare time to writing articles on scientific subjects and delivering lectures at Yale, Cornell and the University of Colorado.

General Hale renewed his interest in the service by becoming Lieutenant Colonel of the Colorado National Guard in 1897. In a short time he was promoted to Colonel and in December was appointed Brigadier General, Commanding the 1st Brigade of the Colorado National Guard. Regimental schools were established. Drill regulations, and guard and outpost duty were all carried out under the plans of the West Point system.

Out of this trained group of men, shortly after the outbreak of the Spanish American War the First Colorado Infantry U. S. V. was formed and Hale was appointed Colonel by Governor Alva Adams. His men followed him through Camp Adams, Denver, thence to Camp Merritt, San Francisco, before going to the Philippines. This outfit was the only group of volunteers that went into camp fully equipped for field service. This was credited to the accomplishments of Colonel Hale as a leader, a disciplinary officer and one who always gained the confidence and respect of his men.

One of the outstanding records he made in the Islands was in the offensive against Manila on August 13, 1898, when he won a promotion to the rank of Brigadier General of volunteers in command of the Second Brigade of the Second Division of the Eighth Army Corps.

A lasting memorial that will stand for all times to the memory of General Hale as an executive, soldier and officer is contained in the following recommendation for promotion. (From report of General Greene).

"For gallant and distinguished services in constructing the trenches, personally reconnoitering the ground in front, clearing the ground during the night preceding the attack and leading his regiment during the assault of August 13, Colonel Hale of the 1st Colorado Infantry is well qualified by ability, education and experience for the rank of brigadier general * * *.

"He has maintained his regiment in a high state of efficiency and discipline and has taken the lead in reconnaissance, constructing trenches and other military work of preparing for the attack to which in a large measure is due the result of capturing Manila with such slight loss."

On March 26, 1899 at Meycauyan he was wounded in the knee while endeavoring to ascertain the position of the enemy and to locate and sight a cannon. At this time his aide was killed. Hale's wound, though painful, was not serious and after receiving first aid, he continued in action.

For valor during the Philippine insurrection General Hale was awarded a silver star which was accompanied by a citation "for gallantry in action against insurgent forces near Calumpit Luzon, P. I., April 25, 1899."

He was recommended to be Major General by brevet for, "gallant and meritorious services throughout the campaign against Filipino insurgents from Feb. 4 to July 5, 1899, particularly for skill, zeal and courage in conducting the operations of his brigade in the movements from Malolos to Calumpit, Island of Luzon April 23-27, 1899."

When the U. S. Volunteers were recalled in the Fall of 1899, General Otis recommended that General Hale be commissioned Brigadier General in the new

Volunteer Army that was to replace the State Volunteers, but as his health was much impaired by the hard campaign he was not able to accept this honor.

He was honorably mustered out of the Army on October 1, 1899 and returned to civil life, resuming his profession of Electrical Engineering.

On December 12, 1899 he organized the Veterans of Foreign Wars and he was also very active in other patriotic societies, being President of the Colorado Society of the Sons of the American Revolution 1899-1902.

In 1906, at the centennial celebration in Colorado Springs, General Hale, representing the United States Army, officially christened Pike's Peak.

In recognition of his scientific work he received the degree of E.E. from the School of Mines and the honorary degree of LL.D. from the University of Colorado. During the twelve years after his return to Denver, in addition to the exacting duties of his profession he was constantly engaged in serving on civic committees, giving lectures on scientific and patriotic subjects and otherwise using his energy, unselfishly for the community. This so undermined his health that on September 29, 1911 he suffered a paralytic stroke from which he never recovered, passing away July 26, 1930.