

## MAJOR-GENERAL A. W. GREELY, U. S. A.

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Adolphus Washington GREELY, whose death was recently announced, was born in Massachusetts in 1844, and in 1867 joined the Signal Corps of the regular army. In 1881 he was placed in command of the United States expedition to Lady Franklin Bay, Smith Sound, which was one of the two American circumpolar stations in connexion with the first International Polar Year.

A station named Fort Conger (81°44' N., 64°44' W.) was erected. Although Admiral NARES had taken the *Alert* farther north, off the same coast, in 1875, the relief ship failed to arrive and a second winter had to be spent at Fort Conger.

In 1882 Lieut. LOCKWOOD made a sledge journey along the north of Greenland, on which he discovered and charted about 125 miles of new coastline, beyond the farthest point reached by the NARES Expedition. LOCKWOOD reached the record latitude of 83°24' N. in long. 40°46' W. GREELY himself made even more interesting discoveries in the interior of Ellesmere Land.

In April 1883, LOCKWOOD followed GREELY westwards, completely crossing Ellesmere Land to Greely Ford. As the ship again failed to arrive, the outlook was serious and a retreat southwards was begun on August 18. News was found that the ship had been lost. GREELY's party reached Cape Sabine on October 12 with very little food, and in this district game was scarce. In November the rations were reduced to 14 oz. a man a day, and in January 1884 the first man died. LOCKWOOD kept his meteorological record until April 7 and died two days later. On May 24 all the food was finished, except for seaweed and shrimps, though the men became too weak to procure them. One man had to be shot for stealing on June 6. The seven survivors, including GREELY, were rescued on June 22.

GREELY gave the results of the expedition in his *Three Years of Active Service* (2 vols., 1886). In 1909 he published a *Handbook of Polar Discoveries*; in 1912: *True Tales of Arctic Heroes*; in 1927: *Reminiscences of Adventure*; and in the following year: *The Polar Regions in the Twentieth Century*. In 1923-24, D. B. MACMILLAN placed a tablet on Cape Sabine in memory of the disaster; and in 1934 GREELY was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour. The Royal Geographical Society recognised his services by the award of the Founders' Medal in 1886. He was one of the founders of the AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

