~~bxxd~~ "descendants" has an accurate legal definition, and is not synonymous with "heir". They are defined to be "those who have issued from an individual, including his children, grandchildren, and their children to the remotest degree." See Bouv Dict. By the use of this term, the Legislature has manifested a purpose to take this class of claims out of the ordinary rules of statutory descent and distribution, and to restrict their heritable qualities only to the wife or the heirs of the body of the veteran. See also Sec 5.

It is urged by the applicant that at the date of the death of William Simmons, a right was vested in him by law, to the amount of ~~xxxxxx~~ accrued pension under the act of 1911; that this right constituted a claim against the State, which descended as a fixed of his estate; and that the Act of 1914, in so far as it attempts to restrict the ordinary rules of descent is violative of both Constitutions, State and Federal. I cannot concur in this view. The grant of a pension by a State to one of its citizens does not come within the scope of a contract, nor does it carry with it the usual incidents of a contract. It is a bounty or pecuniary ~~xxxxx~~ favor emanating from the State, not upon consideration deemed technically valuable in law, but proceeding from motives of grace and beneficence. It is competent for the State to withdraw it at any time, or to qualify or restrict its operation at