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Winfield Scott Hancock Illustration and Biography

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Wm. S. Hancock

MAJ. GEN. W. S. HANCOCK.

WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK.

Volunteers. During the Maryland campaign of 1862, he was at "Crampton's Pass," and in the battle of Antietam was selected to command the First Division, Second Army Corps, after its commander was mortally wounded. In November, 1862, he was promoted to be Major-General of Volunteers. At the great and decisive battle of "Gettysburg," July 1, 1863, he was (after the fall of Reynolds) directed by General Meade, then commanding the Army of the Potomac, to assume command of all the national forces on the battle-field, First, Third, and Eleventh Corps, and Buford's cavalry. On July 2d and 3d he commanded the left centre of our army, and on the 3d his troops repulsed the grand final assault of Lee, capturing 5,000 prisoners, 30 stand of colors, and many thousand small arms. At the moment of victory he was desperately wounded. It was many months before he could again take the field. Congress, by joint resolution, thanked him "for his gallant, meritorious, and conspicuous share in that great and decisive victory."

Upon his return to active duty in May, 1864, he took part in several successful engagements, and in the famous assault at Spottsylvania, May 12, captured more than 4,000 prisoners, 20 pieces of artillery, 30 stand of colors, and two general officers; but his old wound soon compelled him to obtain leave of absence for a short time. In June he rejoined the army and was engaged in several battles. Promoted to be a Brigadier-General in the Regular Army, he was, in November, 1864, called to Washington to organize a Veteran corps of 50,000 men. He was brevetted a Major-General for gallant and meritorious services at Spottsylvania, and on July 26, 1866, promoted to be a Major-General U.S.A. His subsequent military service was in command of various geographical commands, until called, during reconstruction times, to the command of the important Fifth Military District, with his headquarters at New Orleans. Relieved at his own request, his subsequent duty was in the Northwest until called to command the great Military Division of the Atlantic, with his headquarters at Governor's Island, N. Y.

His administration of affairs in the South during reconstruction, and his subsequent utterances at Chicago during internal revenue complications, and on other occasions, as to the due subordination of the military to the civil authority, taken in connection with his splendid military record, have caused his name to be prominently mentioned in connection with the presidency.

It has fallen to the lot of few men to render such continued and valuable service to his country.

WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK.

MAJOR-GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, February 14, 1824. Having graduated at West Point, June 30, 1844, he was appointed Brevet Second Lieutenant in the Sixth U. S. Infantry, and promoted to Second Lieutenant in the same, June 18, 1846. After two years' service in the Indian Territory, he accompanied his regiment to Mexico, and was conspicuous for gallantry in the actions at the "National Bridge," San Antonio, Churubusco, Molino del Rey, and assault and capture of the City of Mexico. He was brevetted First Lieutenant, August 20, 1847, for "gallant and meritorious conduct at the battles of Contreras and Churubusco," and was Regimental Quartermaster, until appointed Adjutant of his regiment, October 1, 1849. Promoted to First Lieutenant, January 27, 1853, and Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U.S.A., November 7, 1855, he served from June, 1855, as Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the West, Headquarters at St. Louis, Mo. He was in Southern Florida during the last Indian war, 1856, and in Kansas during the "troubles" there in 1857, and with the Utah Expedition in 1858, and then marched to California, where the outbreak of the Rebellion found him on duty at Los Angeles.

Upon being relieved, at his own request, he hastened to Washington, and was appointed by President Lincoln a Brigadier-General of Volunteers, September 23, 1861, and assigned to a brigade of the Army of the Potomac, and was stationed near Lewinsville, Va., during the fall and winter of 1861-2. In March, 1862, he proceeded to the Peninsula with the army, and was engaged in the siege of Yorktown from April 5th until its evacuation, May 4th. On the following day he led the brilliant charge at "Williamsburg," capturing Fort Magruder, several hundred prisoners, and one battle flag. For this gallant service he was specially complimented by General McClellan in his dispatches. His conspicuous services at "Golding's Farm," June 27, 1862, "Garnett's Hill," June 28th, "Savage's Station," June 29th, "White Oak Swamp," June 30th, and other battles on the peninsula, led the General-in-Chief to recommend his promotion to Major-General of