



The Signal Flag



BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Campaign # 24

Skirmish # 3

November 2010

From the Rear Ranks:

From Gettysburg National Military Park – November '01

(November 19, 2001 marks the 138th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address)

Shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg, Governor Andrew Curtin commissioned David Wills, a local attorney, to purchase land for a cemetery for the Union dead. Wills bought 17 acres adjoining the private Evergreen Cemetery on Cemetery Hill and employed a noted landscape artist, William Saunders, to lay out what was to become a national shrine. To give the dead equal honors Saunders devised a plan with a section for each state radiating from a central point, like segments of a pie.

In early autumn 1863, thought the task of transferring more than 3,500 dead from their battlefield graves was far from completed, a committee began planning a dedication service. Edward Everett, an outstanding orator of the day, was to make the principal speech. At his request, the date was set for Thursday, November 19, 1863. Almost as an afterthought, as a gesture of courtesy, President Abraham Lincoln was invited to “make a few remarks.” To the committee’s surprise Lincoln accepted. Seeing an opportunity to state what he felt underlay the Union’s purpose in the war, the president spent much time and thought in preparing his speech.

Lincoln arrived in Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. The next day, after an elaborate procession to the cemetery, Everett delivered his eloquent, 2-hour speech from a platform erected at the northwest edge of the burial ground. When the applause died, Lincoln, a tall, shambling figure in black broadcloth, rose and adjusted his spectacles, took out two sheets of paper, and began reading with his deliberate, high-pitched Western twang. Some in the audience, restive after two hours of standing, failed to appreciate his words, and rumors persist that President Lincoln sat down after perfunctory applause, deeply disappointed at what he felt was a failure. But contrary to legend, the speech was received enthusiastically and some perceptive reporters immediately recognized its significance.

The theme of the Gettysburg Address was not entirely new. President Lincoln was aware of Daniel Webster’s statement in 1830 that the origin of our government and the source of its power is “the people’s constitution, the people’s government; made for the people, made by the people, and answerable to the people.” Lincoln had read Supreme Court Justice John Marshall’s opinion, which states: “The government of the Union . . . is emphatically and truly a government of the people. . . . Its power are granted by them and are to be exercised directly on them, and for their benefit.” In a ringing anti-slavery address in Boston in 1858, Rev. Theodore Parker, the noted minister, defined democracy as “a government of all the people, by all the people, for all the people.” On a copy of this address in Lincoln’s papers, this passage is encircled with pencil marks. But Lincoln did not merely repeat this theme; he transformed it into America’s greatest patriotic utterance. With the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln gave meaning to the sacrifice of the dead – he gave inspiration to the living.

*I remain your most obedient servant,
Robert Sprague*

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Unsolicited articles from our members are welcome.
Please contact Lynne!

**We are wheelchair assessable*

What is the BVCWRT all about???

We were founded in 1987. According to our by-laws, "the purpose of the Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table shall be to provide a congenial medium through which persons having a common interest in the events of the American Civil War - its causes and effects, engagements, personages, units, armaments and other things pertaining thereto - may satisfy their interest and broaden individual knowledge through discussion, lectures, field trips and the exchange of books, paper and other data. The purposed is also to consider the preservation and protection of the battlefields, sites, landmarks, relics and collection of the period."

In plain English, we are an organization of diverse people brought together by our common interest in the American Civil War. This interest can range from the casual to the obsessive. We intend to tailor our activities and presentations to appeal to all our members, novice or expert.

Welcome New Members & Reenlistments

The Round Table welcomes our new members since our last meeting. Please welcome them and share your Civil War enthusiasm.

New Members:

Welcome to all new and returning members





Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table
Come to our next meeting
November 3, 2010

Speaker: Bruce Stocking
Topic: "Major General Winfield Scott Hancock"
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

Norristown, Pennsylvania, the hometown of Civil War, Major general Winfield Scott Hancock is also the residence of Bruce Stocking, historian of the W.S. Hancock Society, a non-profit historical preservation and public educational organization dedicated to preserving the history and memory of the General that bears its' name. Mr. Stocking has studied Winfield Hancock for numerous years which has served to fuel the portrayal of W.S. Hancock that he has done for the past fourteen years at a variety of National Parks (Gettysburg National Military Park, Richmond Battlefield Park, etc.), as well as, Civil War reenactments and historical functions on the east coast. The 135th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg gave Bruce the opportunity to depict the intrepid Hancock and recreate his role during the famous July 3rd battle of "Pickett's Charge."

A 36 year veteran of Civil War reenacting and historical interpretation, Bruce has served as the Union commander for a number of reenactments. To his credit, he was the organizer of the 125th Anniversary of the Grand Review held in Washington D.C. in 1990, responsible for the creation of the annual reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek, held on the original battlefield in Middletown, Virginia, as well as, reorganizing and commanding the Union forces for the reenactment of the Battle of New Market, also held on the actual battlefield in New Market, Virginia each year.

His film credits include: "Winfield Scott Hancock...Thunderbolt of the Army of the Potomac," History Channel productions of "Civil War Combat" where he portrayed Major-general Hancock in two programs, "Gettysburg... The Wheatfield" and, "The Battle of Fredericksburg" and, most recently, "Gettysburg...Boys in Blue and Gray" and "Gettysburg...Three Days of Destiny." Along with his work in historical documentary films, Bruce also worked on and served as one of the Union Corps Commanders for the movie "Gettysburg."

After 30 years of service with the National Park Service, Bruce retired in 2007 and now serves full time as the historian for the W.S. Hancock Society making him the most likely candidate to lecture on the General's life at numerous Civil War Round Tables, museums, and civic organizations. His contributions assisting authors, historians, and film makers with historical background and information on the life of General Hancock also warrant recognition. His attention to detail and authenticity offer a wide scope to his audiences allowing them to be privy to even the smallest details of history. He teaches adult evening courses on the American Civil War, the life of General Hancock, the history of cemeteries and funeral customs, and the history of the Nation's founding document - The United States Constitution, round out his list of accomplishments.

Execution of Lincoln assassination conspirators



The execution of the Lincoln assassination conspirators, July 7, 1865

At the close of the war, Hancock was assigned to supervise the execution of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. Lincoln had been assassinated on April 14, 1865, and by May 9 of that year, a military commission had been convened to try the accused.^[48] The actual assassin, John Wilkes Booth, was already dead, but the trial of his co-conspirators proceeded quickly, resulting in convictions. President Andrew Johnson ordered the executions to be carried out on July 7. Hancock was directed to supervise the executions of those condemned to death.^[49] Although he was reluctant to execute some of the less-culpable conspirators, especially Mary Surratt, Hancock carried out his orders, later writing that "every soldier was bound to act as I did under similar circumstances."^[50]

- 48[^] Trefousse, pp. 211–212; Jordan, pp. 176–177. 49[^] Jordan, p. 177. 50[^] Jordan, pp. 179–180; Tucker, p. 272.
- Jordan, David M. *Winfield Scott Hancock: A Soldier's Life*. Bloomfield: Indiana University Press, 1988. [ISBN 0-253-36580-5](https://www.indiana.edu/~pubs/ISBN_0-253-36580-5).



Special Framed Print Raffle.

Collapse of the Peach Orchard Line

**Gettysburg: The Inevitable
Confrontation**

by Bradley Schmehl

Special Limited Edition Print

**Raffle Chances are \$5 each, with the
final drawing at the Banquet**

Print Description (July 2nd, 1863 – 2:30 pm)

We are standing on the Emmitsburg Road facing west/northwest with Seminary Ridge in the distance. Directly in front of us is Joseph Sherfy's home, canning house, corn crib (small structure at the extreme left) and, beyond the first line of Confederates, a portion of his orchard. The Confederates closest to us are the 18th Mississippi, of Barksdale's Brigade; beyond them are the Georgians of Wofford's Brigade. Both brigades are of McLaws' Division, Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.

The colorful zouave troops closest to us belong to the 114th Pennsylvania, Graham's Brigade (1st Brigade, First Division, III Corps, Army of the Potomac). The captain at the right has ordered the color guard to fall back a distance up the Emmitsburg Road, the regiment's only route of escape, since at this point the Confederates are not only in their front, but on their left flank and rapidly gaining their rear. The rest of the regiment will fall back to their colors, and the maneuver will be repeated several times until the regiment has arrived safely at Cemetery Ridge and the main Union line.

The dead horses and solitary Yankee corpse in the middle distance, between the two opposing lines of troops, are from Bucklyn's Battery (also known as Randolph's Battery), Battery E, 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery, whose right gun was posted in the area a short time before. The Sherfy home and outbuildings were occupied by Federal soldiers who sniped at the oncoming Confederates from the windows of the home's south side. We can see the damage done by Confederate returned fire. The smoke we observe in the distance, from behind the trees just beyond and to the left of the wood-sided canning house is from the guns of Patterson's Confederate Battery.

The two flags carried by the 114th Pennsylvania's color bearer differ, though it is hard to see. The flag at the left carries a Pennsylvania state seal in the midst of a blue field. (Some of the seal's scrollwork is barely visible.) The flag on the right is a regular Union flag. The colors were not captured in this battle. The farmyard fence has been trampled down, probably by the skirmishers of the 63rd Pennsylvania, who were ordered forward and retreated when their ammunition ran out earlier in the day.

Books for Raffle:

We are still looking for Books for our Raffle. If you would like to donate any we will be very happy to collect them. Please remember all the money we raise from the monthly raffle goes right to battlefield preservation.

Minutes of the October 6, 2010 Meeting

BVCWRT

Submitted by Lynne Fulton

Chip Crowe lead the meeting in Bob Sprague absence

Chip introduced the print that we are raffling off at the banquet this year. It is called "*Collapse of the Peach Orchard Line Gettysburg: The Inevitable Confrontation*" by Bradley Schmehl Special Limited Edition Print. Raffle Chances are \$5 each, with the final drawing at the Banquet.

Treasurer's Report: (Dave Walter):

The balance of treasury is \$2943. Donations: \$325. Raffle and Book:\$85. Donation to CWPT:\$600. Supplies: \$30.80 There are 64 Members at this time. Dave estimated last month that we need 80 dues paying members if we are to reach a goal of \$2000.00 donation for preservation for the 10/11 campaign.

Preservation Committee: (Bob Sprague) **no report this month**

Social Committee (Flo Williams) Due to Flo's unavailability there will be no Christmas Social this year, however in February we will combine the Christmas and Spring Socials together for President's month.

Field Trip (Greg Buss)

Greg presented three candidates for consideration for the field trip to be held this campaign (date to be determined). The candidates were (1) Gettysburg – the second day, (2) Harpers Ferry with a concentration on John Brown's Raid or (3) Arlington Cemetery with the possibility of laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknowns. Greg asked that those who might have an interest in the field trip to rank these candidates in order of preference. The cost of the field trip is estimated to be \$75.00. This includes the fee for the guide. Those who choose to drive themselves and join the group for the tour will pay a portion for the guide fee. Any surplus from this trip will be donated to preservation.

Officers and Committee Members for the 2010/2011 Campaign

Anyone interested in assisting on a Committee or may be interested in serving as an Officer for the next campaign can see Vince Carosella, who is on the Nominating Committee, or any member of the Executive Board.

Special Announcements:

Gene McIlhone - told us about a Civil War Seminar in Chambersburg "Lee Retreat" with Ed Bearss and James McPherson

Roger Arthur – mentioned National Archives holds Civil War Symposium on Saturday, Nov 20th 9:30 -5:30. Fee is \$50. There were 500 seats left. More information to follow next page.

Dave Cashin – told us about a small living history event in Mullica Hill, NJ on Saturday Oct 9th near the church.

Speaker for the Evening: Jerry Carrier – "Meet John Hay, a One-Man Historical Presentation"

National Archives to Hold Civil War Symposium

Washington, DC. . . The National Archives observes the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War with a day-long symposium, *The Civil War: Fresh Perspectives* on Saturday, November 20, 2010 from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. The symposium will feature three panel discussions related to themes found within the National Archives special exhibit, *Discovering the Civil War*. Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero, will make opening remarks. Keynote remarks will be presented by Edward Ayers, President of the University of Richmond.

Note: The symposium is open to working press, but due to a limited number of press passes, pre-registration is required before October 15. Contact Public Affairs at: public.affairs@nara.gov.

Advanced registration is required along with a fee of \$50. Registration opens to the public on October 1. Register online at: www.archives.gov, or by phone at (877) 444-6777.

Summary of Panels: Welcoming and Keynote Address, 9 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

The Home Front, 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

How did the Civil War impact everyday life, and how did people confront the challenges of living in a nation at war? A distinguished panel discusses the home front in both the Union and the Confederacy and how daily life was affected. Moderated by **Gary W. Gallagher**, John L. Nau III Professor of History, University of Virginia, panelists include **J. Matthew Gallman**, Professor of History, University of Florida; **Thavolia Glymph**, Associate Professor of African & African American Studies and History, Duke University; **James Marten**, Professor and Chair of History, Marquette University; and **Amy Murrell Taylor**, Associate Professor, University of Albany, SUNY.

A Global War: International Implications, 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Through diplomatic negotiations and naval conflicts, the Civil War's impact extended far beyond U.S. borders. While Union and Confederate troops battled on American soil, a global diplomatic battle ensued. Moderated by **Edward Ayers**, President of the University of Richmond, panelists include **Richard J. M. Blackett**, Andrew Jackson Professor of History, Vanderbilt University; **Howard Jones**, University Research Professor, University of Alabama; **Phillip E. Myers**, former Director of Administration, Western Kentucky University Research Foundation; and **Brian Schoen**, Assistant Professor of History, Ohio University.

The Nation Before and After, 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

What was the state of our nation before and after the Civil War? Before the war, as southern states were seceding from the Union, few Americans could have imagined a war that would last four years, destroy much of the South, and free four million slaves. How did our injured nation begin to create a new social, political and economic order? Moderated by **Eric Foner**, Professor of History, Columbia University, panelists include **Paul A. Cimbala**, Professor of History, Fordham University; Elizabeth R. Varon, Professor of History, Temple University; **Eric H. Walther**, Professor of History, University of Houston; and **Joan Waugh**, Professor of History, UCLA.

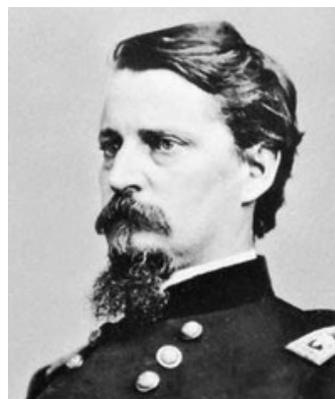
Reception, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

The symposium will be held in the William G. McGowan Theater of the National Archives Building located at Constitution and 7th St., NW. Use the Special Events entrance. Metro accessible on the Yellow and Green lines, Archives/Navy Memorial station. *Presented in partnership with the Foundation for the National Archives, the University of Richmond, the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, and the Civil War Roundtable of the District of Columbia.*

For press information contact the National Archives Public Affairs staff at 202-357-5300. If any have an interest, I plan to go. Roger Arthur- BVCWRT

Winfield Scott Hancock

HANCOCK, Winfield Scott, soldier, born in Montgomery Square, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, 14 February, 1824; died on Governor's Island, New York harbor, 9 February, 1886. His grandfather, Richard Hancock, of Scottish birth, was one of the impressed American seamen of the war of 1812 who were incarcerated in Dartmoor prison in England. His father, Benjamin Franklin Hancock, was born in Philadelphia, and when quite a young man was thrown upon his own resources, having displeased his guardian by not marrying in the Society of Friends. He supported himself and wife by teaching while studying law, was admitted to the bar in 1828, and removed to Norristown, where he practiced his profession forty years, earning the reputation of a well-read, judicious, and successful lawyer. Winfield S. Hancock had the combined advantages of home instruction and a course in the Norristown academy and the public high school. He early evinced a taste for military exercises, and at the age of sixteen entered the United States military academy, where he was graduated, 1 July, 1844. He was at once brevetted 2d lieutenant in the 6th infantry, and assigned to duty at Fort Towson, Indian Territory. He received his commission as 2d lieutenant while his regiment was stationed on the frontier of Mexico, where the difficulties that resulted in the Mexican war had already begun. He was ordered to active service in the summer of 1847, joined the army of General Scott in its advance upon the Mexican capital, participated in the four principal battles of the campaign, and was brevetted 1st lieutenant for gallant and meritorious conduct in those of Contreras and Churubusco. From 1848 till 1855 he served as regimental quartermaster and adjutant, being most of the time stationed at St. Louis. On 7 November, 1855, he was appointed assistant quartermaster with the rank of captain, and ordered to Fort Myers, Florida, where General William S. Harney was in command of the military forces operating against the Seminoles. He served under this officer during the troubles in Kansas in 1857-'8, and afterward accompanied his expedition to Utah, where serious complications had arisen between the Gentiles and the Mormons. From 1859 till 1861 Captain Hancock was chief quartermaster of the southern district of California. At the beginning of the civil war in 1861 he asked to be relieved from duty on the Pacific coast, and was transferred to more active service at the seat of war. In a letter to a friend at this time he said: "My politics are of a practical kind--the integrity of the country, the supremacy of the Federal government, an honorable peace, or none at all." He was commissioned a brigadier-general of volunteers by President Lincoln, 23 September, 1861, and at once bent all his energies to aid in the organization of the Army of the Potomac. During the peninsular campaign under General McClellan he was especially conspicuous at the battles of Williamsburg and Frazier's Farm. He took an active part in the subsequent campaign in Maryland, at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, and was assigned to the command of the 1st division of the 2d army corps, on the battle-field, during the second day's fight at Antietam, 17 September, 1862. He was soon afterward made a major-general of volunteers, and commanded the same division in the attempt to storm Marye's Heights, at the battle of Fredericksburg, 13 December, 1862. In this assault General Hancock led his men through such a fire as has rarely been encountered in warfare. He commanded 5,006 men, and left 2,013 of them on the field. In the three days' fight at Chancellorsville, in May, 1863, Hancock's division took a prominent part. While on the march through western Maryland in pursuit of the invading army of General Lee, on 25 June, he was ordered by the president to assume command of the 2d army corps. On the 27th General Hooker asked to be relieved from the command of the Army of the Potomac; and orders from the war department reached his headquarters near Frederick, Maryland, assigning Major-General George G. Meade to its command. On 1 July the report reached General Meade, who was fifteen miles distant, that there was fighting at Gettysburg, and that General Reynolds had been killed. General Meade, who knew nothing of Gettysburg, sent General Hancock with orders to take immediate command of the forces and report what should be done; whether to give the enemy battle there, or fall back to another proposed line. Hancock reported that he considered Gettysburg the place to fight the coming battle, and continued in command until the arrival of Meade. In the decisive action of 3 July he commanded on the left centre, which was the main point assailed by the Confederates, and was shot from his horse. Though dangerously wounded, he remained on the field till he saw that the enemy's assault was broken, when he dispatched his aide-de-camp, Major W. O. Mitchell, with the following message: "Tell General Meade that the troops under my command have repulsed the enemy's assault, and that we have gained a great victory. The enemy is now flying in all directions in my front." General Meade returned this reply: "Say to



General Hancock that I regret exceedingly that he is wounded, and that I thank him in the name of the country and for myself for the service he has rendered today." In a report to General Meade, after he had been carried from the field, he says that, when he left the line of battle, "not a rebel is in sight upright, and if the 5th and 6th corps are pressed up, the enemy will be destroyed." Out of fewer than 10,000 men the 2d corps lost at Gettysburg about 4,000 killed or wounded. I captured 4,500 prisoners and about thirty colors. General Hancock at first received but slight credit for the part he took in this battle, his name not being mentioned in the joint resolution passed by congress, 28 January, 1864, which thanked Meade, Hooker, Howard, and the officers and soldiers of the Army of the Potomac generally. But justice was only delayed, as, on 21 April, 1866, congress passed a resolution thanking him for his services in the campaign of 1863.

Disabled by his wound, he was not again employed on active duty until March, 1864, being meanwhile engaged in recruiting the 2d army corps, of which he resumed command at the opening of the spring campaign of that year, and bore a prominent part in the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania, where the fighting was almost continuous from the 5th to the 26th of May. In the engagement at Spottsylvania Court House, General Hancock, on the night of the 11th, moved to a position within 1,200 yards of General Lee's right centre, where it formed a sharp salient since known as "the bloody angle," and early on the morning of the 12th he gave the order to advance. His heavy column overran the Confederate pickets without firing a shot, burst through the abates, and after a short hand-to-hand conflict inside the entrenchments, captured "nearly 4,000 prisoners, twenty pieces of artillery, with horses, caissons, and mate-rim complete, several thousand stand of small-arms, and upward of thirty colors." The fighting at this point was as fierce as any during the war, the battle raging furiously and incessantly along the whole line throughout the day and late into the night. General Lee made five separate assaults to retake the works, but without success. In the subsequent operations of the army, at the crossing of the North Anna, the second battle of Cold Harbor, and the assault on the lines in front of Petersburg, General Hancock was active and indefatigable till 17 June, when his Gettysburg wound, breaking out afresh, became so dangerous that he was compelled to go on sick-leave, but resumed his command again in ten days. He was appointed a brigadier-general in the regular army, 12 August, 1864, "for gallant and distinguished services in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, and Cold Harbor, and in all the operations of the army in Virginia under Lieutenant-General Grant." On 21 August the 2d corps was brought to Petersburg by a long night march, and on the 25th occurred the only notable disaster in Hancock's career. While he was entrenched at Ream's Station on the Weldon railroad, which the corps had torn up, his lines were carried by a powerful force of the enemy, and many of his men captured. The troops forming the remnants of his corps refused to bestir themselves, and even the few veterans left seemed disheartened by the slaughter they had seen and the fatigues they had undergone. General Morgan's account of the battle describes the commander, covered with dust, begrimed with powder and smoke, laying his hand upon a staff-officer's shoulder and saying: "Colonel, I do not care to die, but I pray to God I may never leave this field." In the movement against the South Side railroad, which began 26 October, General Hancock took a leading part, and, although the expedition failed, his share in it was brilliant and successful. This was his last action. On 26 November he was called to Washington to organize a veteran corps of 50,000 men, and continued in the discharge of that duty till 26 February, 1865, when he was assigned to the command of the Middle military division, and ordered to Winchester, Virginia, to relieve General Sheridan from the command of the Army of the Shenandoah. The latter, set out the next morning with a large force of cavalry on his expedition down the Shenandoah Valley. General Hancock now devoted himself to organizing and equipping a force as powerful as possible from the mass at his command; and his success was acknowledged in a dispatch from the secretary of war. After the assassination of President Lincoln, General Hancock's headquarters were transferred to Washington, and he was placed in command of the defenses of the capital. On 26 July, 1866, he was appointed a major-general in the regular army, and on the 10th of the following month he was assigned to the command of the Department of the Missouri, where he conducted a successful warfare against the Indians on the plains, until relieved by General Sheridan. He was transferred to the command of the 5th military district, comprising Texas and Louisiana, 26 August, 1867, with headquarters at New Orleans. At this time he issued his "General Order No. 40," which made it plain that his opinion as to the duties of a military commander in time of peace, and as to the rights of the southern states were not consistent with the reconstruction policy determined upon by congress. He was therefore relieved at his own request, 28 March, 1868, and given the command of the Division of the Atlantic, with headquarters in New York city. After the accession of General Grant to the presidency, he was sent, 5 March, 1869, to the Department of Dakota; but on the death of General Meade, 6 November, 1872, he was again assigned to the Division of the Atlantic. General Hancock's name was favorably mentioned in 1868 and 1872 as a candidate for

presidential honors, and he was nominated the candidate of the Democratic Party in the Cincinnati convention, 24 June, 1880. On the first ballot he received 171 votes, in a convention containing 738 members, and Senator Bayard, of Delaware, 1531. The remainder of the votes were scattered among twelve candidates. On the second ballot General Hancock received 320 votes, Senator Thomas F. Bayard 111, and Speaker Samuel J. Randall, of the House of Representatives, advanced from 6 to 128-1/2 votes. On the next ballot General Hancock received 705 votes, and the nomination was made unanimous. The election in November resulted in the following popular vote: James A. Garfield, Republican, 4,454,416; Winfield S. Hancock, Democrat, 4,444,952; James B. Weaver, Greenback, 308,578; Meal Dew, Prohibition, 10,305. After the conclusion of the canvass General Hancock continued in the discharge of official duty. His last notable appearance in public was at General Grant's funeral, all the arrangements for which were carried out under his supervision. The esteem in which he was held as a citizen and a soldier was perhaps never greater than at the time of his death, he had outlived the political slanders to which his candidacy had given rise, and his achievements in the field during the civil war had become historic, His place as a general is doubtless foremost among those who never fought an independent campaign, he was not only brave himself, but he had the ability to inspire masses of men with courage. He was quick to perceive opportunities amid the dust and smoke of battle, and was equally quick to seize them; and although impulsive, he was at the same time tenacious, he had the bravery that goes forward rapidly, and the bravery that gives way slowly. General Grant says: "Hancock stands the most conspicuous figure of all the general officers who did not exercise a separate command. He commanded a corps longer than any other one, and his name was never mentioned as having committed in battle a blunder for which he was responsible. He was a man of very conspicuous personal appearance. Tall, well-formed, and, at the time of which I now write, young and fresh-looking, he presented an appearance that would attract the attention of an army as he passed. His genial disposition made him friends, and his personal courage and his presence with his command in the thickest of the fight won him the confidence of troops serving under him." To a reporter in search of adverse criticism during the presidential canvass of 1880, General Sherman said: "If you will sit down and write the best thing that can be put in language about General Hancock as an officer and a gentleman, I will sign it without hesitation." See "Life of General W. S. Hancock," by Junkin and Norton (New York, 1880); "Addresses at a Meeting of the Military Service Institution in Memory of Hancock" (1886) Francis A. Walker's "History of the Second Corps" (1887); and "In Memoriam: Military Order of the Loyal Legion" (1887).

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From: <http://www.famousamericans.net/winfieldscotthancock/>



Marriage and peacetime

Hancock served in a number of assignments as an army quartermaster and adjutant, mostly in Fort Snelling, Minnesota and St. Louis, Missouri.^[21] It was in St. Louis that he met Almira ("Allie") Russell and they married on January 24, 1850.^[22] Allie gave birth to two children, Russell in 1850 and Ada in 1857, but both children died before their parents.^[23] Hancock was promoted to captain in 1855 and assigned to Fort Myers, Florida.^[24] Hancock's young family accompanied him to his new posting, where Allie Hancock was the only woman on the post.^[25]

Hancock's tour in Florida coincided with the end of the Third Seminole War. His duties were primarily those of a quartermaster, and he did not see action in that campaign.^[26] As the situation in Florida began to settle down, Hancock was reassigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.^[26] He served in the West during the partisan warfare of "Bleeding

Kansas", and in the Utah Territory, where the 6th Infantry arrived after the Utah War.^[8] Following the resolution of that conflict, Hancock was stationed in southern California in November 1858.^[27] He remained there, joined by Allie and the children, until the Civil War broke out in 1861, serving as a captain and assistant quartermaster under future Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston.^[1] In California, Hancock became friendly with a number of southern officers, most significantly Lewis A. Armistead of Virginia.^[28] At the outbreak of the Civil War, Armistead and the other southerners left to join the Confederate States Army, while Hancock remained in the service of the United States.^[29]

24. [^]Jordan, p. 24. 25. [^]Jordan, p; Hancock, pp. 24–27. 26. [^]^a [^]^b Jordan, p. 25.

27. [^]Jordan, pp. 26–27. 28. [^]Jordan, pp. 28–32. 29. [^]Jordan, pp. 33–34.

- Jordan, David M. *Winfield Scott Hancock: A Soldier's Life*. Bloomfield: Indiana University Press, 1988. [ISBN 0-253-36580-5](#).



Monument to General Hancock on Cemetery Hill in Gettysburg



General Winfield Scott Hancock



After serving his country in the American Civil War, Winfield Scott Hancock would continue in the military and eventually run for President of the United States on the Democratic ticket in 1880.

In his personal memoirs, General Ulysses S. Grant would say of Hancock, "Hancock stands the most conspicuous figure of all the general officers who did not exercise a separate command. He commanded a corps longer than any other one, and his name was never mentioned as having committed in battle a blunder for which he was responsible. He was a man of very conspicuous personal appearance. Tall, well-formed and, at the time of which I now write, young and fresh-looking, he presented an appearance that would attract the attention of an army as he passed. His genial disposition made him friends, and his personal courage and his presence with his command in the thickest of the fight won for him the confidence of troops serving under him. No matter how hard the fight, the 2d corps always felt that their commander was looking after them." ^[46] General Hancock died February 9, 1886 and is buried in the Montgomery Cemetery in West Norristown, Pennsylvania.

"The great principles of American liberty are still the lawful inheritance of this people, and ever should be. The right of trial by jury, the habeas corpus, the liberty of the press, the freedom of speech, the natural rights of persons and the rights of property must be preserved. Free institutions, while they are essential to the prosperity and happiness of the people, always furnish the strongest inducements to peace and order."

Winfield Scott Hancock, *General Order Number 40* November 29, 1867. ^[60]



Scheduled Speakers for 2010 - 2011

- Sep 1, 2010:** Roger Arthur – “Meet Colonel Roosevelt”
Oct 6, 2010: Jerry Carrier – “John Hay”
Nov 3, 2010: Bruce Stocking – “Maj Gen Winfield Scott Hancock”
Dec 1, 2010: Dick Simpson – “Battle of Franklin”,
Jan 5, 2011: Mike Kochan – “CSS Hunley”
Feb 2, 2011: Charlie Zahn – “Civil War Music” and Social
Mar 2, 2011: Hugh Boyle – “Dan Sickles”
Apr 6, 2011: Roger Arthur- “The Secession Crisis”
May 4, 2011: John Walls – “Admiral David Farragut”
May 2011 : Banquet – Speaker Professor Carol Berkin – “Civil War Woman”
TBD Field Trip

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