

Winfield Scott Hancock
(1824-1886)



WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK, MAJOR GENERAL U.S.A.

I, Winfield Scott Hancock and my twin brother, Hilary, were born in 1824 in Pennsylvania. When I was sixteen years old I entered the Military Academy in 1840, from which I graduated in 1844. I was with the 6th United States Infantry in Mexico until the War with Mexico ended in 1848.

When the Civil War started in 1861, I was granted permission to leave his quartermaster post in California to offer my services defending the Union. I was put in command of a brigade at the Battle of Williamsburgh in 1862. The commanding officer said I was superb in battle, and nickname me "Hancock the Superb". I was in many difficult situations with the Army of the Potomac. I was in command of the 1st division during the Battle of Fredericksburg and the Battle of Chancellorsville, and then was sent to Gettysburg to take command. I played a significant role in the fighting at Gettysburg, establishing the Union battle line known as the "Fish Hook." I commanded three-fifths of the Army of the Potomac at Gettysburg when "Pickett's Charge" took place on July 3, 1863. There I was wounded in battle and in much pain, but continued to direct the battle and encourage my men until the Confederates were driven back.

I dedicated my life to the Union and the United States. I am remembered as "Hancock the Superb" and "Thunderbolt of the Potomac." I was described by former President Rutherford B. Hayes as, "through and through pure gold," and, "the Hero of Gettysburgh." I remained on active duty until the age of sixty-two.