

John Fulton Reynolds

By COL. JOHN FULTON REYNOLDS SCOTT

(U. S. Army, retired)

Grand-nephew of General Reynolds

I CAME here to give a talk on John Fulton Reynolds, and as I have sat here this evening I really feel superfluous. The students of this school have certainly outdone themselves in their essays on that subject, and I feel that what I may add is more or less duplication. For the sake of the record I will do my best to make a brief talk, and to try to fill in some of the gaps in Reynolds' life which have been left out because some of them have not yet been published.

As you have heard, John Reynolds was the second son of the nine children of John Reynolds and Lydia Moore. Lydia Moore's ancestry was entirely Irish. Her father came from Rathmelton, Ireland, served as a captain at Brandywine with the 3rd Pennsylvania Infantry of the Continental Line, where he was wounded; also served at Germantown and at Valley Forge, and was then retired. Her mother was Irish on both sides of her family, and the Reynolds family itself was Irish, but, of course, the Huguenot strain came in through John Reynolds' own mother, who was a LeFever and a great-granddaughter of Madam Ferree of Paradise.

Our subject was born on September 21, 1820, at 42 West King Street, Lancaster, and subsequently went to the celebrated school at Lititz, conducted by the grandfather of the presiding officer of this meeting, Dr. Herbert H. Beck. I have a letter written by John F. Reynolds from that school, at the age of twelve, to my grandmother (who was then six), saying he had now mastered the subject of electricity according to Franklin, and would be glad to give his sister instructions on his return home. The Reynolds

boys were later sent for a year to a school outside of Baltimore (Long Green); subsequently John Reynolds was tutored in Lancaster, and then entered West Point through the kind offices of Mr. James Buchanan. His brother, William, was previously commissioned in the Navy through Mr. Buchanan. John Reynolds, Sr., was very intimate with Mr. Buchanan, and they were closely associated until the death of the former in 1853.

In the Mexican War

At West Point John F. Reynolds was a mediocre student, graduating in the middle of his class of 1841, and was assigned to the 3rd Artillery in Florida toward the termination of the Seminole War. He did various tours of garrison duty throughout the eastern seaboard, and went with Taylor's Column in the Mexican War. Taylor, for some unknown reason, left Bragg's Battery, in which John Reynolds was then a lieutenant, at what is now Fort Brown, which is outside of Brownsville, Texas, and marched the remainder of his forces twenty miles away to Point Isabel. As a consequence, Taylor's troops had to fight two bitter battles to relieve Fort Brown. Their army then went into Mexico, and I find among Reynolds' papers a map copied by him from a map captured from General Aristo of the Mexican Army. Our armies were so poorly equipped they did not have maps of Mexico. Fortunately for our forces they obtained this map, so were enabled to march down to Monterey. It might interest you to know that I took that map, several years ago, to our Intelligence Office in the Eighth Corps Area Headquarters and had them check it, and they found it absolutely accurate. Battery H, 3rd Field Artillery, to which Reynolds was assigned, fought in the engagements at Monterey and that battery fought as a somewhat independent unit, being split up into sections that operated separately during the two-day fight. Reynolds apparently distinguished himself by the handling of his section and was brevetted a captain for this affair. In both this fight and at Buena Vista the Mexicans had their best troops, who invariably greatly outnumbered our forces.

The army subsequently moved south, and Santa Anna attacked them at Buena Vista with great vigor and outnumbered our forces five to one. John Reynolds, with two guns, was assigned on a separate mission to support the 2nd Cavalry and repel mounted



General John Fulton Reynolds
when serving in the 3rd Artillery.

Mexican attacks, and with the aid of these guns was able to assist in the repulse of the Mexican Cavalry and accomplish his mission. He was highly commended in the report of the commanding officer of the 2nd Cavalry, Colonel May. For that he was brevetted major.

Reynolds' letters from Monterey and from Buena Vista are quite enlightening. The troops had a pretty difficult time, with not too much ammunition or clothing, and apparently little equipment, and the volunteer regiments usually ran away. Up to and including the time that the Battle of Buena Vista was fought the American Forces met the best that the Mexicans had. Subsequent to that battle you will recall that Taylor's Army remained at Saltillo until the end of the war.

After the return of the army to the north, Reynolds served in several garrison posts, and subsequently went on the first Mormon Expedition to Salt Lake City where he developed a strong dislike for Mormons.

Subsequent to that expedition Reynolds commanded Battery H of the 3rd Field Artillery (formerly Bragg's) and marched from Utah to the Pacific Coast, went from San Francisco to San Diego by boat, and made an astonishing march of about one hundred and fifty miles across what is now called the California Desert or Imperial Valley, much of it over one hundred feet below sea level, and with temperatures well over 120°, to Fort Yuma, opposite Yuma, Arizona, on the Colorado River. His diary is very interesting. With a horse-drawn field artillery battery they marched under greatest difficulties, and dug eight hours for water one night to get enough to care for the animals. At that period he got quite disgusted with Yuma and with the army in general.

He had previously served as a lieutenant under Captain T. W. Sherman (a brother of William Tecumseh Sherman, who also had been in the 3rd Artillery) and Captain Braxton Bragg (later a lieutenant general, C.S.A.). Both these officers were of most peculiar dispositions and of uncertain tempers, and one gathers Reynolds did not enjoy his service under either. Promotion was exclusively by regiment, and regimental officers senior to one had to resign, retire or die in order to move up the officers junior to them. In addition there was no required age for retirement, and there were, prior to the Civil War, colonels commanding regiments

so old they had to be lifted into their saddles. So matters were discouraging for junior officers. It was during this period that McClellan, Grant, W. T. Sherman and others resigned and returned to the army only when war broke.

After a year in Yuma, John Reynolds came back to the east and subsequently participated in the second Mormon Expedition in 1858. At the end of that affair his battery was sent to the northwest, marching seventy-one days to take part in the war against the Rogue River Indians, in Oregon and Washington. That march was one of over eight hundred and fifty miles. For his service in this campaign he was twice commended in General Orders of the Army.

In the Civil War

At the beginning of the Civil War Reynolds was promoted lieutenant colonel of the 14th Infantry, a new regiment, and detailed on recruiting duty in New England. McClellan then requested his services and he was promoted brigadier general and was sent to Camp Pierrepoint, Virginia, on the chain Bridge-Leesburg road about six miles from Washington, where was being assembled what eventually became the Army of the Potomac. At the request of Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin of Pennsylvania, Reynolds was assigned to command a brigade of the Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps, the other two brigades being under George G. Meade and Edward O. C. Ord, and the division itself under McCall. From his Mexican War experiences Reynolds had no use for volunteer troops and did not in the least welcome this assignment, but by hard work and careful training this unit became one of which he was very proud, and in it and later in the First Corps he had supreme confidence which proved justified.

At that time, and all through the war, there were a great many officers in the army who were doing considerable lobbying for themselves, going to Washington frequently and telling the Congressional Committee on the War exactly what they thought should be done and trying to impress politicians with what fine soldiers they themselves were, or thought they were. One of the men who took no part in that was John Reynolds. He attended to his business and troops, and he required them to soldier. I have been impressed in rereading recently "Lee's Lieutenants," Vol. III, by Freeman. There he speaks of the general officers of the



THE BIRTHPLACE OF JOHN FULTON REYNOLDS

This photograph, taken in 1868, shows the large, three-story home in which General Reynolds and his brother, Rear Admiral William Reynolds, were born. In it, their father published the *Lancaster Journal* from 1820 to 1836. The upper portion of the building, now known as 42-44 West King Street, stands but slightly altered to this day. Note Jacob S. Kauffman's Lamb Hotel; Philip H. Fisher's Saddle, Harness, Collar, Trunk and Valise Manufactory, displaying horse collars; John Stein and M. C. Harnish's Wholesale and Retail Dry Goods Store showing blankets and coverlets.

Confederacy who looked after their men, saw to it that they got food, clothing, equipment, ammunition, instituted strict but fair discipline, and who in general were what we call good officers. A lot of officers considered their duty was only to lead men in battle, and ignored good administration. He remarked that the general officers of the Confederacy, who so looked after their men and had strong discipline, were always leaders of good fighting troops. I think it can be safely said that John Reynolds was one such. Reynolds stayed with his troops, criticised none publicly and avoided Washington completely, which apparently was a somewhat unusual attitude for that period.

In the Seven Days' fighting around Richmond the ranks of Reynolds' brigade broke and ran; at Glendale the ranks of Reynolds' brigade broke under heavy enemy attack. The duties of a general then and today are quite different. In those days except for aides and quartermaster, a general often was his own staff. He followed the vague and often sketchy orders from higher authority generally, but he had to be right up on his own firing line, choosing ground to be held, changing the position of his troops frequently to deal with new situations, and exercising close control over his entire unit at all times. Personal leadership was of paramount value from corps commanders to second lieutenants. When his troops retreated John Reynolds seized a regimental color, galloped along the line and rallied his men, so that they reformed and advanced instead of retreating. To show their appreciation for his leadership, the Pennsylvania Reserves subsequently asked Reynolds to accept as a present a saber, which he agreed to do on the stipulation that officers should not subscribe. The enlisted men of the brigade bought a very handsome and expensive presentation sword. Afterwards a committee representing each of the three regiments was designated to present it and had it stored in an ambulance at the Battle of Gettysburg, awaiting an opportunity to present it when John Reynolds was killed.

He further participated in the battles of Gaines' Mill and Mechanicsville. While reforming his troops at Gaines' Mill the Confederates infiltrated his lines, his horse was shot, and he and his aide captured and sent to Libby Prison in Richmond. During the six weeks spent there Reynolds occupied his time in drafting a report of his brigade's actions; he was subsequently exchanged

for Gen. William Barksdell, who was killed at Gettysburg leading the element of Pickett's charge that struck the Union line at the "High-water Mark." Reynolds apparently was quite bitter over some of his experiences in prison and never discussed this matter even with his family.

About two months before his capture Reynolds had been, for several weeks, the military governor of Fredericksburg, Virginia, a town completely southern in its sympathies. So well had he apparently handled his duties there that on news of his capture that city sent two of its citizens to Richmond with a petition signed by thirty-five of the leading citizens asking that special treatment be given General Reynolds, and that he be exchanged as soon as possible.

Upon Reynolds' exchange he reported at once to the Army of the Potomac and was given command of the Division of Pennsylvania Reserves. He participated in the Second Battle of Bull Run where his troops made an enviable record. Major General Abner Doubleday in 1884 stated that on the second day of that battle (August 30, 1862) Reynolds "rendered special service to the army by making a dangerous personal reconnaissance in advance of his pickets. He found to his astonishment that a large force of the enemy under Longstreet was impending on our left with a view to seize the stone bridge and cut us off from Washington. The knowledge thus obtained by him enabled General John Pope to retain his communications and check the enemy by successive resistance." Subsequently at Fredericksburg it was Reynolds' division that broke through Lee's line of defenses on the Confederate right, but due to lack of support was unable to hold their advantage. Shortly prior to this Reynolds had been promoted to major general. He did not participate in Antietam as he had been temporarily put in command of the Pennsylvania Militia at Chambersburg, but did participate in Chancellorsville.

If you have read the recent book, "Lincoln's War Cabinet," you will get a most unusual picture of the situation in Washington during the war. Politics ruled the day. It was the primary interest among most of the officials, and the war was secondary. You will find that Lincoln tried to make a coalition cabinet, and all he got was a riot of politics and differing politicians. He practically had to make his war decisions himself. There was



Portrait by Ole Peter Hansen Balling (born in 1823 at Christiania (Oslo, Norway), who fought in Civil War as Lieut. Colonel 145th New York Regiment.

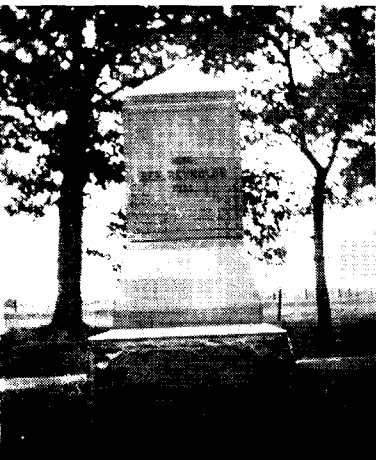
also a group of gentlemen in Congress trying to discredit Lincoln and the war, continually calling before them various officers to demand why they did this and that. John Reynolds was before them twice. I have copies of the testimony and they are quite interesting. His statements were very brief, purely factual and without comment or criticism. The only criticism I have ever been able to find in his papers occurred in January, 1863, to his family: "We are now stuck in the mud, unable to get up our artillery or supplies, and Burnside goes to Washington to know what to do! If we do not get someone soon who can command an army without consulting Stanton and Halleck I do not know what will become of this army. No one general I can find approves of this move and yet it was made." Lincoln was desperate. You will recall he tried several commanding officers, most of them were inadequate, but they were all hamstrung in Washington by one definite thought. You could not move as any commanding officer would move, you must always interpose the Army of the Potomac between the Confederate forces and Washington, and about every move and plan of the commanding general was either dictated or changed by the War Department though utterly ignorant of the actual situation at the front. No commanding officers of the Army of the Potomac prior to Grant had a chance to develop their own strategy or exercise normal command.

On the 2nd of June, 1863, John Reynolds was called to Washington to the White House and Mr. Lincoln offered him the command of the Army of the Potomac. Reynolds asked if he could deal with the campaign as he believed best, and without interference, and when told he unfortunately could not, he declined. He recommended Meade to Lincoln and that was the end of the conference. That is not well known. John Reynolds went to his sister's in Baltimore and told it there to other members of his family present on the same night the offer was made and declined.

The Gettysburg Campaign

The change in command from Hooker to Meade was made four days before Gettysburg. Lee had started to strike northward, and strangely enough neither army knew where the other was before July 1. The Union cavalry were insufficient. The movements were started, and when Meade took command he and Reynolds engaged in a long conference at Frederick, Maryland;

Reynolds continued as commander of the First, Third and Eleventh Corps, known as the Left Wing of the Army of the Potomac. Lee was moving through the Cumberland Valley with the hope of dividing the North at Harrisburg; Jeb Stuart was raiding around Hanover and Carlisle, and neither had definite information where the other was nor the exact location of the Union Army. Meade was moving north also but on the east side of the South Mountain, with his corps marching separately, ten or more miles apart. Ahead of the leading Corps (the First) was Buford with about 6000 cavalry—he reached Gettysburg the afternoon of June 30, found Confederate troops had been there ahead of him but had left that morning. His patrols reported enemy concentrations on the Cashtown Road, or Chambersburg Pike, now Lincoln Highway, which runs due west from Gettysburg over South Mountain. Leaving his troops to watch that area, Buford rode some five miles back that afternoon to Marsh Creek and reported his observations to Reynolds, and on returning to his command took with him one of Reynolds' aides, Captain J. G. Rosengarten, who returned late that night with the latest news from Buford's front. Reynolds summoned General Howard, commanding the Eleventh Corps, for a long conference that night. At daylight Confederate infantry started to push back the cavalry patrols, and as it was plain to Buford that this was an attack in force he dismounted his men and used them as infantry to endeavor to hold in check a vastly superior force. His first messenger to Reynolds caused the latter to put the First Corps in motion and ordered the Third and Eleventh to push on to Gettysburg as fast as possible. Reynolds and staff moved on rapidly to Buford, Reynolds pointing out to an aide Cemetery Ridge (which was Meade's defensive position later) and stating that was the point where he would fall back and hold if driven from Buford's position. At 8:35 A. M. Reynolds and Buford observed the field from the cupola of the seminary. It was apparent Seminary Ridge must be held as long as possible before any retirement to Cemetery Ridge. Confederate attacks were nearly overwhelming the Union cavalry when the leading elements of the First Corps (Wadsworth's Division) arrived on the field at 9:15. Reynolds then sent his last message to Meade. He sent his aide, Captain Weld, with the following message: "Ride at once at your utmost speed to General Meade, tell him the enemy are



"Here
Gen. Reynolds
Fell"

The statue made by John Quincy Adams Ward (1830-1910) was unveiled at Gettysburg in 1872. Ward was born near Urbana, Ohio.



General John F. Reynolds
National Cemetery at Gettysburg
Statue by Ward



"Major Gen.
John F. Reynolds
commanding
Left Wing 1st 3rd & 11th Corps
Army of the Potomac
July 1st 1863
Erected by the
State of Pennsylvania
July 1886"

advancing in strong force, that I fear they will get to the heights beyond the town before I can. I will fight them inch by inch and if driven into the town, I will barricade the streets and hold them back as long as possible." He added to Williams, "Kill your horse if you have to."

The Confederates, who then or shortly after numbered 18,000 troops, were rapidly pushing back Buford's cavalry and had nearly succeeded in capturing the ridge. Reynolds ordered each unit of the First Corps to charge as it arrived, and himself led each charge part way. Archer's Confederate brigade was in McPherson's Woods, to the south of the Cashtown Road, and Reynolds ordered his "Iron Brigade" to charge and again led them part way. As he halted and his infantry had gone forward he had no one with him but an eighteen-year-old sergeant orderly named Vail, who noticed that as the General turned his head to look back he fell from his horse and failed to move. Vail dismounted and as he could see no wound he thought Reynolds had been stunned by a spent bullet. Actually the bullet entered the back of the neck and probably glanced down as there was no sign of the bullet's exit, but the collar of his blouse covered the wound. Failing to get the body on his own horse, and Reynolds' horse having run away, Vail carried the body on his back until he found help. At one time Confederates were so close they shouted to Vail to drop the body. Archer's brigade was captured and sent to the rear, and with them went Reynolds' body, wrapped in a blanket slung between muskets borne by soldiers.

It might be of interest to note here that Reynolds' family expressed their gratitude to Vail with a gold watch and a sum of money. Later two of the General's sisters had an interview with President Lincoln and asked a commission for Vail. Lincoln gave them a letter to Stanton approving this request and Stanton issued to Vail a commission as second lieutenant in the regular army and assigned him to the 5th Cavalry. At the end of the war Vail was a major and remained in the army until 1871, when he resigned, and died at his home in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, about 1912.

Reynolds' body was shipped to Baltimore and was brought to Philadelphia, where it was discovered that General Reynolds' class ring was missing, and that he had a woman's ring on a chain around his neck. A Miss Catharine Hewett of New York appeared

at the funeral on July 4, and was definitely his fiancée. She had met him in 1860; they became engaged; she had his class ring and he wore her ring, and they planned to be married at the end of the war. She spent considerable time with General Reynolds' sisters, eventually entering a convent at Emmittsburg, Maryland, but, changing her mind before she took her final vows, left and later established a school on the Hudson, and died some years later.

The devotion of the First Corps to Reynolds was very deep. They erected a dismounted statue of him in the Gettysburg Cemetery, cast from Confederate cannon, and presented West Point with an oil portrait. The corps flag was given to his family shortly after July 1. Incidentally, they went into the Gettysburg fight with 8,000 men and lost over 6,000 there.

There were, of course, various tributes to General Reynolds subsequent to his death. Meade paid a very beautiful tribute when he said, "Reynolds was the noblest, as well as the bravest gentleman in the army; when he fell at Gettysburg the army lost its right arm."

The remarks of the Comte de Paris, who wrote one of the most authoritative contemporary histories of the war were, "Reynolds was undoubtedly the most remarkable man among all the officers that the Army of the Potomac saw fall on the battlefield during the four years of its existence. The confidence he inspired alike in his inferiors, his equals and his commanders, would no doubt soon have designated him for the command of one of the Union Armies."

I might remark the most significant tribute was paid by General Henry Heth, who was the Confederate general in command of the forces Buford and Reynolds encountered on the morning of July 1, 1863. He spoke in Boston on September 17, 1877, as follows: "Immediately in my front, and early in the day, fell the gallant Reynolds, at whose loss a nation might well mourn, and in so doing honor herself. As soldier or as gentlemen, few were his peers. Before leaving those memorable hills I would be false to history, and do injustice to his memory, were I not to state what I know to be a fact. As my command, by one of those strange accidents of war—brought on accidentally this battle—I was in a position to know that Reynolds in sacrificing his life saved at that time this battle to his country."

Further Notes on the Life of Reynolds

Compiled by the Editor

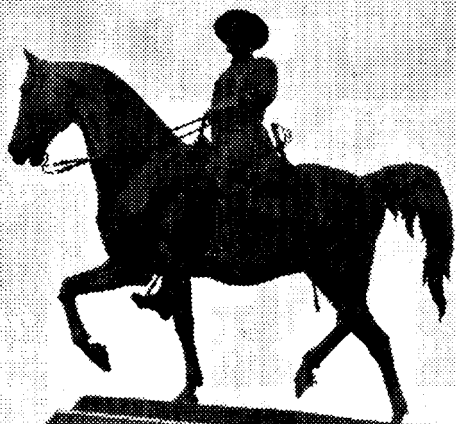
MEMORIALS. A bronze statue by John Quincy Adams Ward (1830-1910) was placed on the battle field (National Cemetery) at Gettysburg in 1872, and a portrait by Alexander Laurie, who served under Reynolds, placed in the library at the West Point Military Academy, by the men of the First Corps. Another portrait of Reynolds, painted by Balling,¹ was presented March 8, 1880, to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. In 1884, a bronze equestrian statue by John Rogers (1829-1904), a gift of Joseph E. Temple, was placed on the north plaza of City Hall, Philadelphia. In July, 1886, the State of Pennsylvania placed a granite monument on the spot where Reynolds fell, July 1, 1863. An equestrian statue of the major general was unveiled on McPherson's Ridge, July 1, 1899, after an address by H. S. Huidekoper. A fine marble shaft marks General Reynolds' grave on the family plot in the Lancaster Cemetery.

In the battle of June 30, 1862, near the Chickahominy River in Virginia, when the troops on the right of Reynolds' Reserves gave way "the gallant Reynolds, observing that the flag-staff of the Second Regiment had been pierced by a bullet and broken, seized the flag from the color-bearer, and dashing to the right, rode twice up and down his entire division line, waving the flag above his head and cheering on his men. The effect upon the division was electrical; the men, inspired by the intrepidity of their leader, rent the air with cheers, plied their tremendous musketry fire with renewed energy and vigor; and in a few moments the thinned ranks of the rebel regiments gave way before the steady and unrelenting volleys poured upon them." (From "History of the Pennsylvania Reserves.")

Taken from the body of General Reynolds, suspended by a string about his neck, was found a ring (now in the possession of Colonel J. F. R. Scott) belonging to Miss Catharine Hewitt, of New York City, who, it was supposed, was the fiancée of the General. Does this blast the romantic rumors ever floating about the Millersville State Normal School which linked the name of the General with that of Miss Anna Lyle, teacher of history? Perhaps much of it was the result of wishful thinking. But H. S. Huidekoper was led to say, "General Reynolds was never married. His first sweetheart was his profession and his only love his country, and in his fidelity to these may his example be a rich inheritance to the young of the present and future generations."

Few were the times that Reynolds visited his old home town after his departure for West Point in 1837. One such occasion occurred during the Christmas vacation in 1848, when Major Reynolds was tendered a dinner by prominent citizens of Lancaster "as a small token of regard and admiration for brave and meritorious conduct in the several battles, including that

¹ Ole Peter Hansen Balling was born April 23, 1823, at Christiania (Oslo), Norway; served as lieutenant colonel of the 145th New York Regiment in the Civil War.



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN FULTON REYNOLDS

This equestrian statue of the General was unveiled at McPherson's Ridge near Gettysburg. on July 1, 1899, following an eloquent address by H. S. Huidekoper.

of the memorable Buena Vista." The dinner was to be held at the famous White Swan Hotel, but Reynolds was obliged to decline the honor.

The General gave his life on the field of battle just fifty-three miles from his home, yet the fortunes of war caused the body to be taken on a circuitous route to its homeland. "It was first taken to the Seminary, and when the fortune of the day was turning against us it was taken through the town [Gettysburg] to a little house on the Emmitsburg Road, where it remained until the final retreat of our forces was ordered, and then it was taken in an ambulance to Meade's headquarters and to Uniontown [Maryland], whence it was brought by rail to Baltimore, on the next day to Philadelphia, and on Saturday, the 4th of July, to Lancaster where it was quietly interred alongside of his father and mother. Sixteen years later the body of his elder brother, Admiral William Reynolds, was brought to the same spot." (Rosengarten.)

"Each year pupils of the John Fulton Reynolds Junior High School place flowers in solemn dedication to the man for whom their school is named." (Susan Willet, eighth grade.)

The horse that General Reynolds rode was a big bay. After Reynolds was killed, the horse was brought to Lancaster and spent his last days in a meadow in Manheim Township on the Fruitville Pike at Groff's Corner, where the Neffsville Road crosses. (Beck.)

ALL

There hangs a sabre, and there a rein,
With a rusty buckle and green curb chain;
A pair of spurs on the old gray wall,
And a mouldy saddle—well, that is all.

Come out to the stable—it is not far;
The moss-grown door is hanging ajar,
Look within! There's an empty stall,
Where once stood a charger, and that is all.

The good bay horse came riderless home,
Flecked with blood-drops as well as foam;
See yonder hillock where dead leaves fall;
The good bay horse pined to death—that's all.

All? O God! it is all I can speak;
Question me not—I am old and weak;
His sabre and saddle hang on the wall;
And his horse pined to death—I have told you all.

—ANONYMOUS.

Essays on the Life of General Reynolds

When it was learned that Colonel John Fulton Reynolds Scott, grand nephew and namesake of the General, would address our February meeting, the Program Committee decided to invite the scholars of the John Fulton Reynolds Junior High School to write essays on the life of the General, with

an offer of a five-dollar cash prize for the best paper submitted by a scholar in each grade—seventh, eighth and ninth. By this contest further interest was created in our meeting, and the pupils learned much about the character of the man whose name adorns their school building. The thirty-five papers submitted in the contest were admirably written, and gave the judges considerable trouble in choosing the most meritorious papers.

The afternoon meeting on February 6 in the school auditorium was most inspiring. The scholars sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," a Civil War favorite, in a thrilling manner. After a program of scripture reading, prayer, salute to the flag, and singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," Mr. William A. Sohl, principal of the school, introduced Colonel Scott, who after making a few remarks presented the school with a framed picture of the General, his autograph, and a photostatic copy of his commission as major general signed by Abraham Lincoln and Edwin M. Stanton; Colonel Scott also exhibited a beautiful sword, purchased by the common soldiers of the First Corps, which was made for presentation to the General.

The public meeting at the school in the evening was addressed by Colonel Scott, and the writers of the best essays were then presented with prizes. The three winners were Anne E. Arey, daughter of Mrs. Helen Arey, 431 West Walnut Street, for the seventh grade; Shirley Lutz, daughter of Mrs. Catherine Lutz, 616 North Jefferson Street, eighth grade; and Paul Hoh, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Ernest J. Hoh, 546 West Walnut Street, ninth grade.

Honorable mention was given to Catherine Baldwin, seventh grade; Phyllis Peters and Gloria Collier, eighth grade; Aileen Malone and Ruth Fitz, ninth grade.

M. Luther Heisey was in charge of the contest and presented the prizes on behalf of the Historical Society, and the judges from the Historical Society were Herbert H. Beck, president, Miss S. Grace Hurst, financial secretary, and Miss Elizabeth C. Kieffer, of the Program and Publication Committees.

The essays follow:

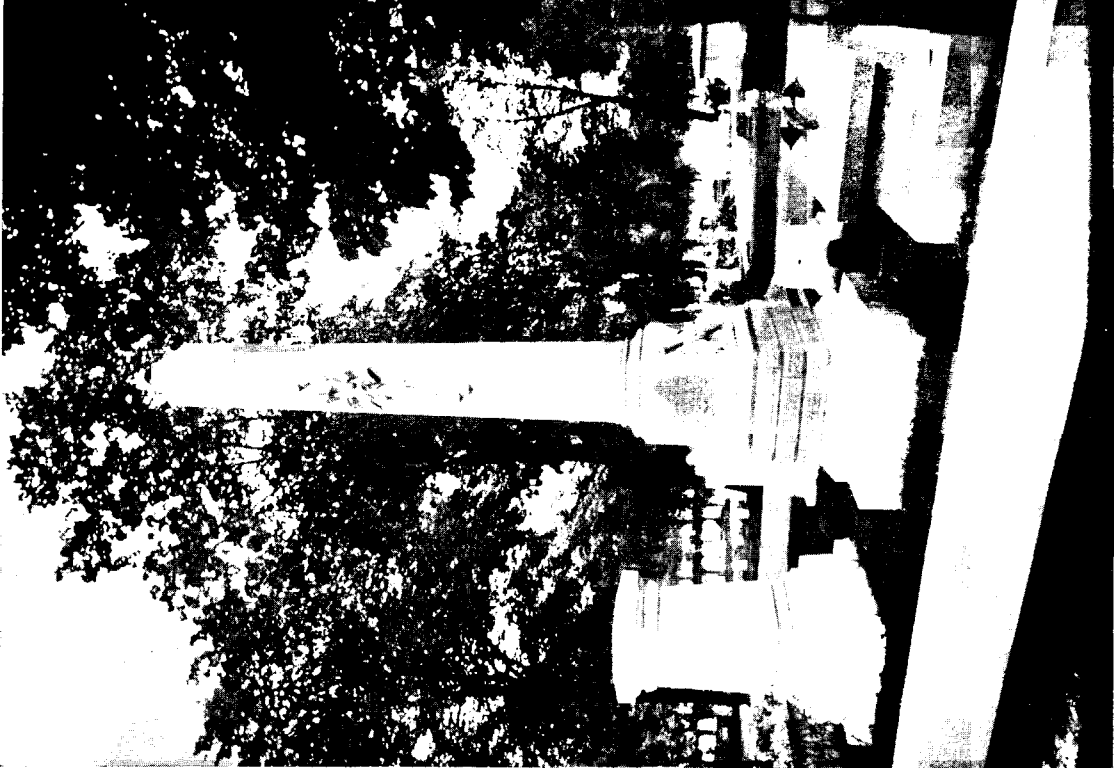
THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL JOHN FULTON REYNOLDS

By Anne E. Arey, Seventh Grade

Major General John Fulton Reynolds was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on September 21, 1820. He was the son of John Reynolds and Lydia Moore Reynolds.

His father was born near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1787, and was apprenticed to Archibald Bartram, a Philadelphia printer. Before he reached manhood, he became a partner in the firm of Bartram and Reynolds. Returning to Lancaster, he became active and prominent in many fields of service. From 1820 to 1836 he owned the *Lancaster Journal*. For a short time he was a member of the State Legislature.

General Reynolds' grandfather, William, kept the tavern, "Sign of the Indian King," at Leaman Place, and his grandmother, Catharine Lefevre Reynolds, was a great-granddaughter of Mary Ferree, a French Huguenot, who settled in this county in 1712.



Monument
General John Fulton Reynolds
in Lancaster Cemetery.

The General attended the Lancaster public schools; in 1837 was appointed a cadet at West Point and was graduated in 1841. In July of the same year he was appointed brevet second lieutenant in the Third Artillery, and was ordered to Fort McHenry, Baltimore; three months later he was promoted to a second lieutenancy. Early in 1843 he was ordered to St. Augustine, Florida, and at the close of the year was transferred to Fort Moultrie, South Carolina. In 1845 he was sent to Corpus Christi, and afterwards to Fort Brown, both in Texas.

In June, 1846, he was promoted to first lieutenant, and marched into Mexico, engaging in the Battle of Monterey. Two days thereafter he was brevetted captain for gallant conduct. On the 21st of February, 1847, he was in the battle of Buena Vista, and received the brevet of major for meritorious services. At the close of the Mexican War he was sent to the forts on the coast of New England, where he remained four years, when he was appointed a staff officer to General Twiggs. In 1853 he went to New Orleans but in the following year returned to the east, and was stationed at Fort Lafayette until he was attached to an expedition which was sent across the plains to Utah. He reached Salt Lake City in August, 1854; in March, 1855, he was promoted to a captaincy, and sent across the mountains to California. During the year he remained on the Pacific Coast, he engaged in expeditions against the Indians, commanded posts, and at one time was on a board to examine candidates for admission into the army from civil life. In December, 1856, he arrived at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, and in the summer of 1858 was placed in command of Battery C, of the Third Regiment. In September, 1860, Major Reynolds was appointed commandant of cadets at West Point.

In May, 1861, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Fourteenth Infantry. In August he was promoted brigadier general of volunteers and at the request of Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin, General Reynolds was assigned to the command of the first brigade of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps. He marched and fought with his brigade on the peninsula up to Glendale, June 30, 1862, when he was captured. He was exchanged August 8, 1862, in time to command a division at the Second Bull Run, August 29 and 30, where, by his personal gallantry, he prevented the Union defeat from turning into a rout.

General Pope said of him, "Brigadier General John F. Reynolds, commanding the Pennsylvania Reserves, merits the highest commendation at my hands. Prompt, active and energetic, he commanded his division with distinguished ability throughout the operations, and performed his duties in all situations with zeal and fidelity."

It became apparent that the enemy contemplated an invasion of Maryland, and probably of Pennsylvania. Governor Curtin, therefore on the 4th of September, 1862, issued a proclamation calling out 75,000 of the State Militia, and on the 12th General Reynolds was relieved from the command of the Reserve Corps, and ordered to proceed to Harrisburg, to organize and command these forces. He received the men, organized them into brigades and marched them up the Cumberland Valley to protect the borders of the

state. After the battle of Antietam the militia was disbanded, and General Reynolds rejoined the Army of the Potomac, and assumed command of the First Corps; he rendered distinguished service at the battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and carried the enemy's works on the left. He was appointed military governor of that city, and his administration of affairs was so vigorous and equitable, that the loyal citizens rejoiced in the establishment of the authority of the United States in their midst. His troops were present, but were not called into action at the battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia.

When General Meade moved the army from Frederick, Maryland, into Pennsylvania, expecting each hour to encounter the rebel forces, he selected General Reynolds, his bosom friend, and the man of all others in whom he reposed the most implicit confidence, to lead the advance wing composed of three corps, the First, Third, and Eleventh.

On July 1, 1863, General Reynolds himself saw to the posting of a large force in a piece of woods between the forks of two roads that approached Gettysburg from the west beyond Seminary Ridge. Filled with anxiety for fear his troops should not be at the front in time, he frequently exposed himself by turning his head in the direction from which his men were to come upon the field. While thus looking, he was shot in the back of the head by a Confederate sharpshooter, a lad from North Carolina, and instantly killed. He was buried in the Lancaster Cemetery where his family erected a handsome, substantial marble monument.

The state erected a granite monument on the spot where he fell. The men of his command erected a heroic Reynolds statue on the battlefield; and in 1884 a statue of General Reynolds on his horse was unveiled at City Hall Plaza, Philadelphia. Our school can be considered a memorial to General Reynolds as it is now called John Fulton Reynolds Junior High School.

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JOHN F. REYNOLDS

By Shirley Lutz, Eighth Grade

John F. Reynolds (Sept. 21, 1820, July 1, 1863), a Union soldier, son of John and Lydia (Moore) Reynolds, was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was of Irish and French Huguenot ancestry because his grandfather, William Reynolds, came to America in 1762 from Ireland. His early education was received in the John Beck's school in the Moravian village of Lititz, Pennsylvania, and a school at Long Green, Maryland, conducted by the Rev. Mr. Morrison in an old colonial mansion of the Carrolls, and returned later to enroll in the Lancaster County Academy. He entered the United States Military Academy in 1837, from which he graduated in 1841. He was the



Colonel J. F. R. Scott presents picture of General Reynolds with autograph, and copy of his commission as major general, signed by President Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, to Thomas Hendrix of the student body, as Mr. Boardman, Mr. Sohl, Dr. Smith, Dr. Beck and Charles Heaps look on.

twenty-sixth in a class of fifty-two. He was brevetted second lieutenant in the Third Artillery and received his regular commission on October 23, 1841. He served in Florida in 1843; at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina, in 1844; in 1845 at Corpus Christi and Fort Brown, Texas. He was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant the following year and accompanied General Taylor to Mexico. He was brevetted captain for bravery, and on February 23, 1847, was brevetted major for special gallantry in action at Buena Vista. He did garrison duty in various New England forts, at New Orleans for several years and at Fort Lafayette, New York, he accompanied an overland expedition to Salt Lake City in the summer of 1854. March 3, 1855, he was promoted captain and was commended for his service against the Rogue River Indians in Oregon. He arrived at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, in December, 1856, remaining there until 1858, when in the campaign against the Mormons he crossed the plains again. In 1859-60 he was stationed at Fort Vancouver, Washington, and in September, 1860, he was appointed commandant of cadets at West Point, where he also served as instructor in artillery, cavalry, and infantry tactics.

In the beginning of the civil war he was ordered to New London to recruit his regiment after he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and assigned to the Fourteenth Infantry. On August 20, 1861, he was made

brigadier general of volunteers, and was assigned to the Pennsylvania Reserves. He was made military governor of Fredericksburg in May, 1862. He participated in the fighting at Mechanicsville and later at Gaines' Mill, where he was taken prisoner, and sent to Richmond on June 28, 1862. He was exchanged for General William Barksdale, through the efforts of the civil authorities of Fredericksburg, after spending six weeks in Libby Prison. On August 8, he rejoined the army and was assigned command of the Third Division of the Pennsylvania Reserves. On August 21, 1862, he joined General Pope on his march to Warrenton, and engaged in fighting on August 29 and 30. When Pope's forces retired to Washington, Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin requested Reynolds assignment in command of the Pennsylvania Militia to withstand the expected invasion. Then he later returned to the Army of the Potomac in command of the First Army Corps. He was appointed major general of volunteers on November 29, 1862. In the Rappahannock Campaign he participated, and at Fredericksburg his corps and Meade's division broke the enemy line, but receiving no support, could not hold the gain. He urged Hooker to attack the enemy's left flank, and had his plan been executed the Union forces might as well have triumphed at Chancellorsville, on May 2 and 3, 1863. He was promoted to the rank of colonel in the regular army on June 1, 1863.

Reynolds was assigned the left wing of the army and ordered to prevent



WINNERS OF THE ESSAY CONTEST
left to right, Anne E. Arey, Paul Hoh, Shirley Lutz.

Longstreet from striking Washington, when it was apparent that the Confederates would force a decisive battle on Northern soil. Sharp engagements accomplished this goal at Thoroughfare Gap and Aldie, Virginia. Meade succeeded Hooker in command and immediately ordered Reynolds to occupy Gettysburg on June 28, 1863. Reynolds set his three corps, First, Third and Eleventh, in motion. Starting Wadsworth's division along with him and assigning command of the First Corps to Abner Doubleday, Reynolds set out from Red Tavern on the morning of July 1, 1863. He found the cavalry, under Buford sorely pressed, at Gettysburg about nine o'clock in the morning, and therefore hurried back to speed up Wadsworth's division. Returning to the battlefield at the head of the Second Wisconsin Regiment, Reynolds turned to them as they reached the woods and called out "Push forward men and drive those fellows out of the woods." A sharpshooter's bullet killed him a moment later. His body was carried from the battlefield in a blanket swung between soldiers' muskets, and on July 4, 1863, he was buried in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

He never married and was survived only by his three brothers, of whom one was Admiral William Reynolds. Fully six feet in height, with dark hair and eyes, very erect in carriage, he was a commanding figure. A monument erected to his memory stands on the spot where he fell on the battlefield of Gettysburg.

THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF GENERAL JOHN FULTON REYNOLDS

By Paul Hoh, Ninth Grade

Ever since writing came into existence, the literate percentage of the human race have been able to record the deeds of the great men of their day, and the rest of the literate population have been able to read about those deeds. Facts have been recorded since 4,241 B. C., but still mankind has seemed incapable of putting into black and white the inner feelings—the character and personality—of the men who have been its heroes.

I cannot hope to convey the impressions I received as I read account after account of the exploits of General Reynolds. Still, I feel that the deeds of any man are but reflections of his soul and mind. I believe that it is the soul of a man that is most important—that it is a hero's spirit that makes him what he is—that no man can be truly great without a warmth of feeling within him. I feel that it is not the mere deed of valor, but the spirit behind the deed which makes it last in the minds of all men.

Therefore, it is not enough to say, "The men he commanded loved him dearly." I am going to try to impart to you the character of a man so great that those he was in charge of would gladly lay down their lives at his command. I cannot say it in words; I hope you can read between the lines—to grasp the impressions—to take a look inside the soul of this man, Major General John Fulton Reynolds.

Reynolds, born September 21, 1820, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, went to a Lititz school when he was about thirteen. Mr. John Beck, a remarkable

educator, was at the head of the school. John Reynolds and his brothers found there a real love of work, and the Reynolds boys learned to take a hearty interest in everything they did. They were very good students, and got in that humble, yet deservedly popular and successful, school a good, practical education. No doubt but that his early schooling gave Reynolds the training that enabled his mind to work so quickly and brilliantly during the days of the war.

I would like to quote a school-mate of Reynolds', who gave this opinion of him: "He was a general favorite; of a kindly, but very lively temperament, he attracted sympathy and love with all, and was held in high esteem—his happy and joyous face showed that he belonged to a race of hardy scholars, working and playing in earnest."

At seventeen he entered West Point Military Academy, graduating four years later with honors. In a few years he was given a chance to show the military genius that later made him famous. A war with Mexico had started, and Reynolds could be seen in the thick of the fighting at the defense of Fort Brown, and in the battles at Monterey and Buena Vista, always showing a spirit—a personal force—that carried his comrades with him to victory.

For his outstanding display of bravery and courage in the Mexican campaigns, Reynolds was brevetted three times—a fitting honor for this gallant officer who wished to have for reward only the respect of his brother officers. He had it—all through his life. No one could help but admire this figure who played such an important part in so many of the great battles of this period.

He took a position as commandant at West Point which he held at the outbreak of the Civil War. The militarists had begun to realize his ability, and he was made a brigadier general of volunteers in August, 1861, and received a brigade of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps.

In the many famous battles which were fought in the succeeding months, Reynolds' name appears. He was in the fore during the seven-day battle of Richmond, showed "brilliant tactics" at Beaver Dam Creek, acted so fearlessly—possibly a little recklessly—at Gaines' Mill that he was captured, but later exchanged.

His soldier nature would not let him be still, and he took an active and leading role in both the Peninsular and the Northern Virginia campaigns.

A turn of the battle during the Maryland campaign put Reynolds, then commanding the Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia, in the defense of his native state. Here also, he did his duty with his characteristic zeal.

In November, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of a major general of volunteers, receiving command of the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

General Reynolds seemed to be where the need was greatest. At Fredericksburg, Reynolds led the attack on the Confederate left. He was also in the thick of the fighting at Chancellorsville, still showing his great genius, though often suppressed by superiors.

On the morning of July 1, 1863, General Buford was keeping the Confederates at bay when General Reynolds rode onto a knoll overlooking the

battlefield at Gettysburg. What a figure he was—six feet tall, dark hair and eyes, sitting erect in the saddle as his eyes swept the field. He was a true defender and champion of his nation's liberties!

Immediately his keen eyes, trained to flash every detail back to his mind, told him what was needed. Without hesitation he launched his attack, leading it himself, always urging on his men, showing an unsurpassed example of courage.

As he led another charge for a better position, a Southern sharpshooter, recognizing the outstanding figure, shot Reynolds, killing him instantly. But this could not stop the fury of the battle; in fact, it increased as the men, incensed by his death, rode on to victory.

I salute General Reynolds as being a great general, a true soldier, a real man! His spectacular service and death raised General Reynolds on a pinnacle of fame for all the world to see; and the world can never forget him; he will live for all time in the hearts of all patriots!