OBITUARY OF GENERAL FRANKLIN
by
General O. O. Howard

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General Wm. H. French whose death has been recently announced to the Army and his country, was appointed a cadet in the United States Military Academy and entered that institution July 1st, 1833. He graduated July 1st, 1837 and received the commission of Second Lieutenant in the First Regiment of U.S. Artillery.

This class of 1837 bears a number of names which are very familiar to our Army, several of whom enjoy a national reputation, as those of Generals W. B. Bember, Brayton Brazee, A. B. Ripley, Israel Noyes, Thomas Williams (Killed in his defense of Baton Rouge, Aug. 5, 1862), J. H. Townsend, Hubbard, Early, John Sedgwick (Killed in a reconnaissance near Petersburg, May 9, 1864), G. B. Pemberton and Joseph F. Foster. Notice also the name of Colonel Edward O.

Sedgwick in this same class, whose record is familiar in Indian Warfare. With the above generals or against whom General French fought had a long & still known service. In the Florida & Seminole or Seminole war, in the Cherokee removal of Indians, in the various battles of the Mexican war, we find...
His prominence among his companions in arms. He served four in different capacities, sometimes as adjutant general, sometimes on staff as an aide-de-camp and for the greater part of the time as an artillery officer in charge of artillery and troops. He was breveted twice for gallant and meritorious service in Mexico, the highest grade being that of major. Just at the close of the Mexican campaign he was promoted to a captaincy in his regiment.

His crowning act was accomplished during the rebellion of the southern states. He joined, on the frontier at Fort Duncan, Texas. He served his command from the enemy by abandoning their host and marching his force to the mouth of the Rio Grande as early as February 1861 when he succeeded in capturing it and distributing it to the troops on the Florida coast. He was next in Key West, at Fort Jefferson, from November 1861. Of his name, Major General, ability to command was always noted for he received in September 1861 a promotion to his rank of brigadier general of volunteers and was placed in charge of the defenses of Washington. During the fall and winter of 1861-1862 he had a brigade in General Sumner’s Division in front of Alexandria. This he diligently reorganized.
preparing discipline & drill for the
upcoming eventful year. General
Sumner had great confidence in
General Franklin's excellent military
judgment. His wide experience & thorough
military knowledge especially fitted
him to organize & discipline
the new regiments eventually
in his care. Early in March 1862, Sumner's
command began its advance. The
retirement of the enemy from his front
at Centreville ensured his advance
which had for its object to determine
certainly the fate of the retreat or to
pursue Stuart's cavalry beyond the
Rappahannock. All this was preparatory
to following the remainder of McClellan's
army as a rear guard by means of
Transportation to the Peninsula of Virginia.

Gen. French bore an active &
distinguished part in these preliminary
operations. Then followed that series of
battles after the siege of Yorktown. McClellan
had orders to march north to Malvern Hill.

Gen. French kept his advanced lines at
for the 2nd day of their attack or seven times
as the Confederates called the battle. He was
even marked that day when he received the
Order of Lieutenant Colonel in the Regular Army.
for gallant and meritorious conduct in his action. The conflict was for a part of this day as bitterly contested and his health as seriously endangered as any other place during the war. The operations of Sumner's Corps, consisting of two of which Gen. Hancock commanded certainly saved the left of the Olehman Army from a terrible defeat. Hancock's Brigade occupied a most important position in Sumner's advance and did cheery and gallant service.

It would require more space than is given to this paper to follow General Hancock through his career, which was rich in battles of the Army of the East in which he was actively engaged during the Rebellion. At Chancellorsville his Division, the second day, was deployed and put into action to form the Chancellorsville line. It was formed in an opening and marched into a wood where, at first, under constant and keen fire, the bullets were seen to cross between the trees with fearful effect. It was noticed that not one of Hancock's gallant Division was struck or fell out from the ranks, like the
The wounding or the death of the
made vacant places. The division
forced forward with the least action
till its own commander
to do most effective work in
checking the progress of the
methods successful as candidates.
For his active general Hancock
was beheaded a long time to
his regret. Among his branch was
served followed by that of
Major General for gallant
musterous service during the
Rebellion.

The subject of this sketch becam
Colonel of the 2nd Artillery before
his retirement from the active service.

He was a large man
about six feet in height, in
his later life quite fleshy. He was
of marked presence, evidently a
man of strong intellect, very
passionate in his convictions and faithful
to his ideas of duty. He was one of
our strong, patriotic friends. He never
for the country owed its very existence.
Mr. Hancock is now with us,
remembering him with esteem and
affection, and he justly holds an
high place